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MONTHLY HINDU REVIEW

MAY 2017

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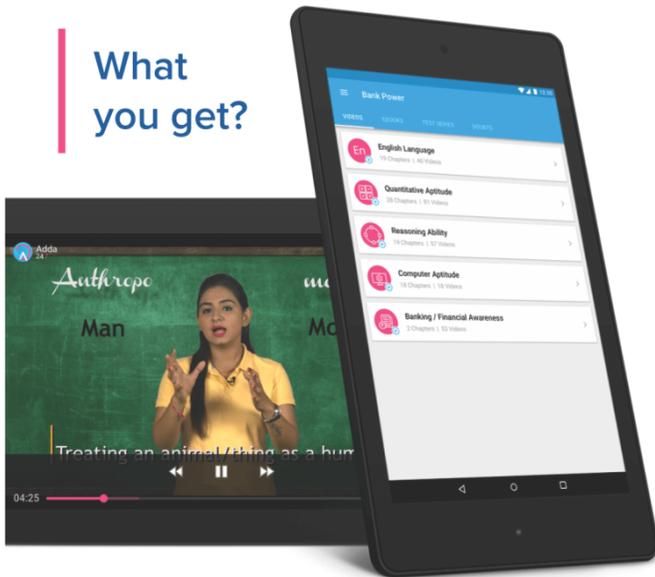
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THE HINDU REVIEW (01 MAY TO 31 MAY)

- ✦ The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) will observe 'Ganga Cleanliness Pledge Day' on 02nd May 2017 at various places in the river's basin states to spread awareness and ensure public participation in the program.
- ✦ India will give Rs 35 crore to children of freedom fighters in Bangladesh in the next five years under the new 'Muktijodha scholarship' scheme.
- ✦ Former Union minister Ashwani Kumar has been selected by Japan for this year's Spring Imperial Decorations, for his contribution to the strengthening of bilateral ties and promotion of friendship between the two countries.
- ✦ International Labour Day, also known as International Worker's Day or May Day is observed on 01st of May every year to promote and encourage the international labour associations.
- ✦ Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was given the ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. The visiting dignitary will hold delegation level talks with PM Modi.
- ✦ Aymanam ward in the Kerala district on became India's first digitalised panchayat ward. Union minister of state for social justice and empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar inaugurated the website of the first digitalised panchayat ward number 15 of Aymanam gram panchayat.
- ✦ Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has inaugurated the State's first automatic weather station at Dongargaon in Vidarbha region.
- ✦ The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) has come into force, aimed to protect the interests of homebuyers across the country and bring transparency.
- ✦ Google has announced the new "Solve for India" initiative, especially for tier-2 cities such as Pune, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kochi, Indore, Nagpur, Nashik, Madurai, Kanpur, and Chennai.
- ✦ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has appointed Syrian refugee and Olympic athlete Yusra Mardini as a Goodwill Ambassador.
- ✦ Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) claimed his first Formula One victory, taking the flag at the Russian Grand Prix.
- ✦ Rafael Nadal won a record-extending 10th Barcelona Open title by defeating Dominic Thiem of Austria.
- ✦ India's top cueist Pankaj Advani lost to China's Lv Haotian in the summit clash of Asian Snooker Championship held in Doha, Qatar.
- ✦ Joshna Chinappa scripted history by becoming the first Indian to clinch the Asian Squash title with a thrilling win over compatriot Dipika Pallikal Karthik in the women's final.
- ✦ Famous Sufi singer and daughter of legendary Sitar Maestro (late) Ustad Vilayat Ali Khan, Begum Yaman K. Khan has passed away after multiple organ failures.
- ✦ India and Turkey have strongly condemned the "use of double standards" in combating terrorism and agreed to strengthen cooperation in effectively dealing with the menace both bilaterally and at multilateral fora.
- ✦ Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya launched two schemes "One IP- Two Dispensaries" and "Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission". One IP- Two Dispensaries scheme has given an option to an Insured Person (IP) to choose two dispensaries, one for self and another for the family through an employer. Under Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission scheme, all EPF Members who have activated their Universal Account Number (UAN) and seeded their KYC (Aadhaar) with EPFO will be able to apply for PF final settlement, Pension withdrawal benefit and PF part withdrawal from their UAN Interface directly.
- ✦ Union HRD Prakash Javadekar launched 'Students for soldiers- a nationwide Vidya-Veerta Abhiyan' to encourage Universities to display portraits of Param Veer Chakra-decorated soldiers. The aim of this Abhiyan is to instill a sense of patriotism and nationalism among students.
- ✦ Mr. Anthony Lianzuala took over as the New Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- ✦ Ms. Shobana Kamineni, Executive VC, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd., assumed office as the new President of CII. She is the first woman President of CII. Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, VC, Bharti Enterprises, is the new President-Designate, CII.
- ✦ Defence Minister (Additional Charge) Arun Jaitley handed-over the devices to NDRF includes 'E-Nasika', a hand-held equipment which is capable of rapid detection of chemical agents well below their toxic limits & to NSG





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- an equipment called 'OTL-300' which can instantly detect partially camouflaged optical elements.
- ✚ Dubai has become the first city in the world to get its own Microsoft font. The font, available in three styles as 'Dubai', 'Dubai Medium' and 'Dubai Light', can be in italics, underlined and bold.
 - ✚ Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu selected for the 'Transformative Chief Minister Award 2017' in recognition for his role in advancing the US-India partnership at the state level.
 - ✚ Bollywood actor Aamir Khan launched renowned actress of her age, Asha Parekh's autobiography "Asha Parekh: The Hit Girl" in New Delhi.
 - ✚ Bharti Enterprises, one of India's leading business groups, has appointed Soumen (Sam) Ghosh as Managing Director of Financial Services.
 - ✚ Every year, 3rd May is celebrated as the World Press Freedom Day. It is celebrated by UNESCO.
 - ✚ The 4th National Standards Conclave held in New Delhi. The objective was to bring awareness and prepare Industries, Central Government Ministries etc on the growing importance of "Standards".
 - ✚ Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to switch to the January-December financial year from the existing April-March cycle.
 - ✚ Manoj Sinha, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Communications and Minister of State for Railways, formally launched the 'Tarang Sanchar portal'. The web portal is for Information sharing on Mobile Towers and EMF Emission Compliances. The portal aims to generate confidence among the public about the effectiveness of the EMF compliance process in India.
 - ✚ Mallikarjun Kharge is the new chairman of the 21-member (14 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha) Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament. The chairman of PAC is appointed by the speaker of Lok Sabha.
 - ✚ Hollywood film The Black Prince, featuring singer-poet Satinder Sartaaj and veteran actress Shabana Azmi, was awarded the Special Jury Remi Award at the 50th annual Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival (WHIFF). The film is Directed by Kavi Raj.
 - ✚ Chairman of Nicco group Rajive Kaul was conferred with the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit Sungnye Medal of the Republic of Korea for his services rendered as honorary consul general of South Korea in Kolkata.
 - ✚ According to the The 'Swachh Survekshan 2017' Survey, Indore in Madhya Pradesh is India's cleanest city while Gonda in Uttar Pradesh is the dirtiest. Gujarat has the maximum of 12 cities among the top 50 clean cities, closely followed by Madhya Pradesh with 11 and Andhra Pradesh with eight. Uttar Pradesh accounted for half of the bottom 50 cities in the cleanliness ranking.
 - ✚ Around two years from now, the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir will be spanned by the world's highest railway bridge that is expected to be 35 metres taller than Paris' Eiffel Tower. It will rise 359 m above the river bed. The 1.315-km- long "engineering marvel" will connect Bakkal (Katra) and Kauri (Srinagar).
 - ✚ Union Cabinet approved Vijayawada Airport as International Airport recently.
 - ✚ Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated two exhibitions namely 'The Highway Saga: Past Present and Future' and 'Safe Road and Inter-State Highways Transforming India (SRISHTI)' at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
 - ✚ As per the UN's 'The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017', India is expected to achieve 7.1 percent growth this year & would edge up to 7.5 percent for 2018.
 - ✚ Chhattisgarh successfully auctioned its third limestone block, Kesla-II to Dalmia Cement with the highest bid received 96.15% of IBM (Indian Bureau of Mines) prices which are 20 times more than the reserve price. Kesla-II block is situated in the Tilda Tehsil of Raipur district of Chhattisgarh and covers over 357 hectares of area with an average grade of 43% CaO.
 - ✚ China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has recently approved USD 160 million loan for a power project in Andhra Pradesh, the first credit from the bank for an Indian project. The objective is to strengthen the power transmission and distribution system in Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✚ Braj Bihari Kumar, the editor of quarterly journals Dialogue and Chintan Srijan, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). ii. He has succeeded famous economist S K Thorat.
 - ✚ CCEA given its approval for restructuring the schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) under new Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. SAMPADA with an allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore is expected to leverage the investment of Rs. 31,400 crore will benefit 20 lakh farmers and generate 5,30,500 direct/ indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20. The objective of SAMPADA is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agri-waste.
 - ✚ Cabinet given its approval for National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017. It seeks to enhance domestic steel consumption and ensure high-quality steel production and create a technologically advanced and globally competitive steel industry. The NSP 2017 aims to achieve 300 million tonnes of steel-making capacity by 2030.
 - ✚ India opened its first private small arms manufacturing plant at Malanpur, Madhya Pradesh in a joint venture with Israel. The plant has been set up as a joint venture Punj Lloyd Raksha Systems between Indian defence conglomerate Punj Lloyd and Israel Weapons Industries (IWI).
 - ✚ India has launched the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F09) carrying the GSAT-9 or the "South

Asia" satellite. The satellite was lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Maldives, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka agreed but Pakistan is not a part of the project that was initially christened the SAARC satellite. The lift-off mass of GSLV-F09 is about 2,230 kg which includes the satellite and its launch vehicle. The mission lifespan is 12 years.

- ✦ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has constituted Technical Committee to lay down Technical Standards for the performance of core services and other services in accordance with Regulation 14 of the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017. The committee will be Chaired by Dr. R. B. Barman.
- ✦ Madhya Pradesh government has passed a resolution granting river Narmada the status of a living entity and committed itself to the protection of its legal rights.
- ✦ Reliance Corporate IT Park Ltd. (RCITPL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with enterprise application software major SAP SE to launch 'SARAL GST' solution for taxpayers.
- ✦ The Indian men's national football team has made it into the top 100 of the FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) world football rankings for the first time in 21 years. As per the updated rankings on May 4, India, with a total of 331 points, have climbed a spot and are now placed 100th.





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- ✦ Thirty-four MoUs amounting to about Rs 2 lakh crores were signed in the three-day India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit that was concluded in New Delhi.
- ✦ Haryana government has decided to open canteens offering meals at subsidized rates to registered construction workers under the "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" at 23 locations in the state.
- ✦ The promulgation of the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 inserting two new Sections (viz. 35AA and 35AB) after Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 enables the Union

Government to authorize the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to direct banking companies to resolve specific stressed assets by initiating insolvency resolution process, where required. The RBI has also been empowered to issue other directions for resolution, and appoint or approve for appointment, authorities or committees to advise banking companies for stressed asset resolution.

- ✦ Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD, and CEO, Punjab National Bank, has been appointed as MD & CEO of Allahabad Bank.
- ✦ Sunil Mehta, Executive Director, Corporation Bank, has been appointed as MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank.
- ✦ Dinabandhu Mohapatra, Executive Director at Canara Bank, as MD and CEO of Bank of India.
- ✦ G Rajkiran Rai, Executive Director at Oriental Bank of Commerce, has been appointed MD & CEO of Union Bank of India, for a period of three years.
- ✦ R Subramaniakumar, Executive Director, Indian Overseas Bank, has been elevated as MD & CEO of the bank.
- ✦ RA Sankara Narayanan, ED, Bank of India, has been appointed MD & CEO of Vijaya Bank.
- ✦ MO Rego, MD & CEO of Bank of India, has been appointed MD & CEO of Syndicate Bank.
- ✦ World Red Cross Day is observed on May 8 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Theme for this year (2017) is "Less Known Red Cross Stories"
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed an Indian heads of mission meet in New Delhi, which is brainstorming key foreign policy issues and challenges including India's engagement with major powers as well as strain in ties with Pakistan and China.
- ✦ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the country's first bio-refinery plant which produces ethanol from the variety of biomass. The project is situated at Rahu in Pune district.
- ✦ Odisha will introduce boat ambulance service in four districts where people face difficulties in getting health service. The boat ambulance service will be available in the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Kendrapara and Kalahandi where people face problems in availing 108 ambulance service.
- ✦ India has organized a cultural festival in Egypt to mark the 156th birth anniversary of the famous Indian poet, Rabindranath Tagore. The Tagore festival is being organized by the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture, the cultural wing of the Indian Embassy in Cairo.
- ✦ The Hinduja brothers have topped the 2017 list of the richest 1,000 people in the UK with an estimated fortune of 16.2 billion pounds, a massive 3.2 billion pound hike in their fortunes over the previous year.
- ✦ Three Indian Scientist have been elected as the Fellows of The Royal Society, a premier scientific academy of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, for their

- “outstanding contributions to science“. Krishna Chatterjee, Subhash Khot & Yadvinder Malhi.
- ✦ Renowned tea planter from Assam Prabhat Kamal Bezboruah has been named the new chairman of the Tea Board of India by replacing Shri Santosh Sarangi.
 - ✦ Pro-European centrist leader Emmanuel Macron has been elected as President of France. Mr. Macron will also become the first President from outside the two traditional main parties since the modern republic's foundation in 1958.
 - ✦ India's cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar plans to support charities and various initiatives to help the under-privileged people. He has received the Fellowship Award at the 7th annual Asian Awards in UK. India's playback singer Adnan Sami won the award for 'Outstanding achievement in Music'.
 - ✦ Kashmir based freelance photographer Saqib Majeed has bagged prestigious 2016 Wisden-MCC (Melbourne Cricket Council) Cricket 'Photograph of the Year' for capturing a stunning image of boys playing cricket at the Nishat garden in the outskirts of Srinagar.
 - ✦ Leila Seth, the first woman judge of the Delhi high court and member of the Justice J. S. Verma committee that was set up to re-look at rape laws in India died of a cardiac arrest.
 - ✦ Legendary sitar player Ustad Raees Khan Passed awayd. He was 77.
 - ✦ Indian boxer Shiva Thapa ended up with a silver medal in the 60-kg category at the Asian Boxing Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
 - ✦ Great Britain beat Australia 4-3 in a thrilling hockey final of the 26th edition of the Azlan Shah Cup at Ipoh, Malaysia. India outclassed New Zealand 4-0 to clinch a bronze medal.
 - ✦ Facebook has launched its 'Express Wi-Fi' commercially in India and the service is now available via 700 hotspots across four states of Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Meghalaya.
 - ✦ India has been unanimously elected as the President of UN-Habitat, an organ of the United Nations Organisation.
 - ✦ Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar has decided to gather a detailed data of every resident and issue a sleek identity for every house in Haryana. The objective of this two-month long data generating exercise, to be launched on June 15, 2017 is to get details of land holdings and status of facilities.
 - ✦ Techmagnate, India's leading Digital Marketing Agency acquired BlogX, India's largest blog conference where bloggers and content managers connect.
 - ✦ India's largest cab aggregator Ola has partnered with Bharti Airtel to launch a range of integrated digital offerings to customers.
 - ✦ The Government of Jharkhand and Oracle signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) intended to improve cloud-based citizen services and to make Jharkhand an attractive destination for start-ups. Oracle will offer its support to the state through its vast portfolio of technology solutions, including Oracle Cloud.
 - ✦ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) have signed an agreement to establish Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISC).
 - ✦ India's growth is expected to rebound to 7.2 percent in the 2017-18 fiscal and 7.7 percent in 2018-19 after disruptions caused by demonetization, as per the IMF (International Monetary Fund) report. According to the report, growth in Asia is forecast to accelerate to 5.5 percent in 2017 from 5.3 percent in 2016.
 - ✦ The government of Pakistan has approved the appointment of Sohail Mahmood as Pakistan's next high commissioner to India.
 - ✦ Edelweiss Tokio launched India's first and the simplest life insurance product that can be bought at a point of sale (PoS) has finally been launched. Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has recently launched PoS Saral Nivesh the first product to be approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) guidelines on point of sale-life insurance products. PoS Saral Nivesh is a non-linked, non-participating endowment life insurance plan which offers both protection and saving.
 - ✦ Jordan and the United States kicked off Eager Lion, an annual military exercise in Jordan with about 7,400 troops from more than 20 nations taking part.
 - ✦ Press Secretary to President Pranab Mukherjee and senior diplomat Venu Rajamony has been appointed India's Ambassador to the Netherlands.
 - ✦ Hollywood actor Emma Watson picked up the first-ever Genderless Acting Award for the Best Actor category for "Beauty and the Beast" at the MTV Movie and TV Awards.
 - ✦ Child actor Sunny Pawar, best known for his performance in the Oscar-nominated film Lion, has been chosen for the Rising Star Award.
 - ✦ "Mukti Bhawan", a movie about a man who accompanies his father on a journey to Varanasi, has won the Best Film at the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF).
 - ✦ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled the logo and mascot of the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships scheduled to be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from July 6 to 9, 2017. The mascot, named Olly Turtle, depicts the Olive Ridley turtles.
 - ✦ Heena Sindhu claimed a bronze medal in the women's 10m Air Pistol as India ended the Grand Prix of Liberation Plezn 2017 Shooting championships in Czech Republic with seven medals.
 - ✦ The World Migratory Bird Day is observed every year on 10 May. The theme of WMBD 2017 is "Their Future is Our Future - A Healthy Planet for Migratory Birds and People".
 - ✦ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced a new strategy against the Maoists—SAMADHAN. The Minister explained the acronym as S-smart leadership, A-aggressive strategy, M-motivation and training, A-actionable intelligence, D-dashboard-based KPIs (key

performance indicators) and KRAs (key result areas), H-harnessing technology, A-action plan for each theatre and N-no access to financing.

- ✦ The Finance Ministry has set up an Investor Facilitation Platform that will provide information about stocks of public sector units. It is set up by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
- ✦ Cashback portal Cashkaro.com has tied up with YES Bank to launch card-linked offers as part of its loyalty programme for both offline and online shoppers.
- ✦ Technology giant Oracle has launched its cloud computing service for India, which aims to support the government's GST rollout in July and plans to open data centres in the country. Oracle's ERP solution aims to provide support for GST Network integration, statutory reporting, payment processing, among others.
- ✦ South Korea's liberal leader Moon Jae-In took the oath as president, tasked with navigating the country out of rising tensions over North Korea's nuclear program and the risk of a rift with the United States.
- ✦ Apple Inc became the first US company to top the \$800 billion mark in market capitalization slightly more than two years after it crossed the \$700 billion thresholds.
- ✦ Jhulan Goswami, India's fast bowler, is now the leading wicket-taker in Women's ODIs, going past Australia's Cathryn Fitzpatrick record of 180 wickets.
- ✦ N'Golo Kante has been voted Footballer of the Year by the Football Writers' Association.
- ✦ India celebrates National Technology Day: 11th May The theme of the function is "Technology for inclusive and sustainable growth".
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the integrated case management system of the Supreme Court in the presence of the Chief Justice of India Jagdish Singh Khehar. The system will help litigants access data and retrieve information online and will be a step towards a paperless Supreme Court.
- ✦ The government of India has set up a high-level task force to compute timely data on employment in the country, a move that will go a long way to help government frame policies and take steps that can create jobs in the country. The task force has been created under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog's vice chairman Arvind Panagariya.
- ✦ Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dimitry Rogozin arrived in New Delhi recently on a one-day visit to attend IRIGC-TEC meeting. India and Russia agreed to work closely in various sectors, including security, nuclear energy, and disaster management.
- ✦ India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT) entered into an agreement with Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) to collaborate on efforts for Skill Development in the field of International Financial Services & Regulations.
- ✦ Dena Bank has become the first lender to classify Videocon Industries as a bad loan. With the default on payments, Dena Bank has declared Videocon Industries

account as non-performing asset (NPA) in the fourth quarter ended March 2017.

- ✦ Markets regulator Stock Exchange board of India (Sebi) allowed investors to buy mutual fund schemes for up to Rs 50,000 through digital wallets, making it easier for them especially the young generation to purchase these instruments.
- ✦ The 29th edition of Co-ordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between India-Indonesia commenced in Port Blair.
- ✦ Two minesweepers of the Indian Navy INS Karwar and INS Kakinada were decommissioned after being in service for over 30 years.
- ✦ Top Indian and American officials discussed ways to strengthen maritime security cooperation during the two-day India-US Maritime Security Dialogue in Rhode Island.





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- ✦ Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is now offering home delivery of rail tickets and will allow passengers to make payment through any payment mode, including cash. It has now introduced pay-on-delivery (PoD) service, allowing passengers to book train tickets online and pay at the time of delivery.
- ✦ The Indian Railways will float global tenders worth over Rs.100 crore for acquiring End of Train Telemetry (EoTT) equipment to run 1,000 trains without guards. This equipment is used to establish communication between the locomotive driver and the last wagon of the train to ensure that the train is running with all coaches/wagons as a complete unit.
- ✦ The government has named Road Transport and Highways Secretary Sanjay Mitra as its new defence secretary in a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle. Mitra will take over as the secretary after the present incumbent, G Mohan Kumar, completes his tenure on May 24, 2017 an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- ✦ Microblogging platform Twitter has elevated Taranjeet Singh as its Country Director for India. Mr. Singh was

earlier leading the charge for sales and marketing support for Twitter's advertisers in India.

- ✦ Konkona Sensharma has been named the best director for her directorial debut 'A Death in the Gunj' and the best actress for 'Lipstick Under My Burkha' at 2017's New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF).
- ✦ In a promising step for Indian basketball, the national Basketball Association (NBA) inaugurated its first ever academy in Greater Noida.
- ✦ Senior NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Arjun Tulshiram Pawar passed away after prolonged illness.
- ✦ ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar has become the first Indian woman to be conferred with the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Corporate Citizenship.
- ✦ Bengaluru named the world's most affordable tech city in the new Savills Tech Cities Index 2017. Overall, Bengaluru ranks 20th among tech cities in the world while Austin topped the list.
- ✦ Prime Minister Modi visited Sri Lanka which is a sign of "strong relationship" between the two countries and brings to the fore the shared heritage of Buddhism. He participated in the International Vesak Day celebrations, the biggest festival of Buddhists.
- ✦ Justice (Retd.) Mukul Mudgal was elected as head of International Federation of Association Football (FIFA's) governance committee at the world football governing body's 67th Congress in Bahrain's capital city of Manama.
- ✦ Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Masala Bond at the London Stock Exchange, UK. LIC Housing Finance launched a new product 'Griha Siddhi' which will offer loans for construction, purchase of the house or flat and repairs or renovation to the existing properties. Under the new product, borrowers will be offered the interest rate of 8.40% up to Rs 25 lakh and for loans up to Rs 1 crore the interest rate will be 8.50% per annum. For women borrowers, the mortgage lender is offering a special interest rate of 8.35% for loans up to Rs 25 lakh.
- ✦ SBI will charged at Rs. 25 per ATM withdrawal charge but this will be applicable only to customers of its mobile wallet State Bank Buddy.
- ✦ RBI put restriction on Kolkata-based PSU UCO Bank's lending and branch expansion plans as the state-run lender made net losses for the two-successive fiscal amid severe stress on asset quality. It has initiated 'Prompt Corrective Action' (PCA) framework on UCO bank on account of high bad loans and negative return of assets. UCO is the second lender after IDBI Bank to face this.
- ✦ HDFC Life has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with Catholic Syrian Bank to distribute its individual life insurance products to the private lender's customers.
- ✦ Digital payment and commerce company Paytm has received the final nod from the Reserve Bank of India

and is set to launch Paytm Payments Bank on May 23, 2017.

- ✦ Softbank has made its biggest investment in an Indian digital enterprise by sealing a funding round of Rs 9,000 crore (\$1.4 billion) in mobile payments provider Paytm.
- ✦ Union home minister Rajnath Singh launched a mobile phone app 'MHA Mobile Application' to remain 'just a click away' from troopers of all central forces to address their grievances. He also launched an app for BSF personnel named 'BSFMyApp'. The app provides the mechanism to address issues related to pay, provident fund, leave or deputation of the personnel.
- ✦ PM Modi launched the Narmada Seva Mission for the conservation of the crucial river, which is a lifeline of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ Telangana introduced a logo for identifying vehicles driven by persons with hearing impairment and has become the first state in the country to do so. It is designed by Hyderabad-based graphic designer Manikanta Annapragada.
- ✦ Ahmedabad in Gujarat will host biggest ever International Yoga Day event on the 21st of June announced by Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev.
- ✦ Two South Indian States - Kerala and Tamil Nadu - secured first and second rankings for the second year in a row and Bihar stayed at the bottom in public affairs index (PAI) in governance in States.
- ✦ Telangana hosted the first outreach program of the Ministry of External Affairs 'Videsh Sampark' to engage the State governments in creating awareness about various programmes of the Ministry. Also, Telangana has become the first state in the country where the pilot 'e-Sanad' project for online attestation of documents, was rolled out.
- ✦ A Mother's Day gift has been given to lakhs of children in schools of Uttar Pradesh in the form of 'Maa' by forming the 'Maa Committee'. It will be a committee of six mothers, from all sections of society according to the UP basic education minister Anupma Jaiswal.
- ✦ Singapore-based Ascendas-Singbridge Pvt Ltd and Sembcorp Development Ltd were awarded a contract by the Andhra Pradesh government to act as the master developer for a start-up area in the capital city of Amaravati. For the speedy implementation of the project, a high-level joint implementation steering committee (JISC) is formed which will be co-chaired by the AP CM chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and S.Iswaran.
- ✦ Vinay Mohan Kwatra currently a joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office has been appointed as the next ambassador to France.
- ✦ Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan has been appointed by the World Health Organisation as its Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis in South-East Asia Region to spread awareness about the disease.
- ✦ Bahamas has elected Free National Movement's Hubert Minnis as its new Prime Minister, defeating incumbent Progressive Liberal Party's leader Perry Christie.

- ✦ France's newly-elected President Emmanuel Macron has named Edouard Philippe as Prime Minister of France. He is from the conservative Les Republicains party.
- ✦ Ovais Sarmad, an Indian has been appointed by the U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to the post of Deputy Executive Secretary, which is a key post in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ✦ M S Boje Gowda took over as the Coffee Board Chairman.
- ✦ Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan was given additional charge of the Environment Ministry following the death of Union Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave.
- ✦ Paytm has announced its long-time executive and vice president Renu Satti will be the CEO of its Paytm payments bank.
- ✦ Andhra Pradesh Legislature passed a Bill to appoint Olympics silver medalist P V Sindhu as a Group-1 officer in the government, by amending the State Public Services Act.
- ✦ The government has exempted the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Meghalaya and citizens above 80 years from mandatory quoting of Aadhaar to obtain PAN cards and file tax returns. The exemption will also apply on non-residents and non-citizens.
- ✦ The government has revised the base year of Wholesale Price Index, WPI and Index of Industrial Production, IIP to 2011-2012 from 2004-05. As per the new series, April WPI inflation stood at 3.85 percent and March IIP at 2.7 percent. The Consumer Price Index-based inflation in April stood at 2.99 percent.
- ✦ VVS Laxman awarded with an honorary life membership by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- ✦ Rafael Nadal beat Dominic Thiem to win his fifth Madrid Open title held in Spain and move into the world's top four.
- ✦ India finished their Asian Wrestling Championship campaign on a resounding note with Sumit winning a silver medal in the 125 kg category. Bajrang Punia defeated Lee Seung-chul of Korea to win the gold medal in the men's 65 kg freestyle category. The Indian wrestlers overall bagged 10 medals comprising a gold, five silver, and four bronze.
- ✦ Arjun Maini, driving for Jenzer Motorsports, created history by becoming the first Indian driver to win a GP3 race.
- ✦ Lewis Hamilton has won the Spanish Grand Prix from pole position in the Formula One championship.
- ✦ India women's cricket team openers Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut became the first-ever pair to share a 300-run stand in a One-Day International.
- ✦ Kerala quartermiler Mohammad Anas smashed the national record in men's 400m race on route to winning a gold medal at the third leg of the Indian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in New Delhi.
- ✦ Election Commission of India launched the National Contact Centre with a toll-free No. 1800111950. Now, the citizens from any part of the country can call 24*7 on this number with any query or complaint at any time of the day.
- ✦ The expanded Preferential Trade Agreement, PTA between India and Chile has come into effect. Under this, both the countries have offered to lower or eliminate duties on a number of items traded with each other.
- ✦ India has taken a new initiative to supply cheap LED bulbs for the citizens of London in the United Kingdom. Taking this process to the final stages India will launch 'UJALA' scheme in the United Kingdom. UJALA is globally one of the largest efficiency programs which is run by Energy Efficiency Services Ltd
- ✦ Cabinet approve signing of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) with Letter of Assurance (LoA) holders of Thermal Power Plants(TPPs), and Introduces a new more transparent coal allocation policy for Power Sector, 2017-SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India). This will ensure that all projects with linkages are supplied coal as per their entitlement.
- ✦ Cabinet has given its approval for signing and ratifying, an agreement between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.
- ✦ Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for construction of 10 units of India's indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR). The total installed capacity of the Plants will be 7000 MW. The 10 PHWR project will result in a significant augmentation of nuclear power generation capacity.




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- ✦ In a survey conducted during March and April 2017, FICCI predicted India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth will be around 7.4% for fiscal 2017-18, with a minimum and maximum level of 7% and 7.6% respectively. ii. Agricultural sector is estimated to clock 3.5% growth in 2017-18. The industry and services sector are expected to grow by 6.9% and 8.4% respectively in 2017-18.

- ✦ Light combat aircraft 'Tejas' successfully demonstrated an Air-to-Air Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile firing capability by releasing Derby Air-to-Air BVR missile in RADAR guided mode. It was conducted on a Manoeuvrable Aerial Target at the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha.
- ✦ India test fired a surface-to-air missile 'Spyder' from a test range at Chandipur in Odisha. Spyder (Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby) is an acquired missile system from Israel which is a short-range quick reaction surface-to-air missile to neutralize enemy targets up to a distance of 15 km and at heights between 20-and-9,000 meters.
- ✦ Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba attended Singapore's first International Maritime Review (IMR) held at the country's prime Changi Naval Base. Mr. Lanba attended the review along with navy ships INS Sahyadri and INS Kamorta.
- ✦ Indian Navy and Ahmedabad- based Space Application Centre (SAC) inked a pact on data sharing and scientific cooperation in the field of meteorology and oceanology.
- ✦ Retail Mogul Yusuff Ali and Pepsico executive Sanjeev Chadha are among the top 100 Indian business leaders in the Arab World 2017. Ali, managing director of Lulu Group International topped the Indian business owners' category and Chadha CEO of Asia, Middle East and Africa at PepsiCo International led the Indian executive's category.
- ✦ India moved up to the 26th spot in the global electricity accessibility rankings of the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index 2016.
- ✦ India has moved up to the second spot from third position in this year's (2017) 'Renewable energy country attractiveness index' released by EY (Earnest and Young). China ranked first.
- ✦ Forbes magazine has named Reliance Industries (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani as the topmost among its "Global Game Changers" who are transforming their industries and changing the lives of billions around the world.
- ✦ The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year. The theme was "Families, education and well-being".
- ✦ India and the UK agreed to sign an MoU in the urban transport sector for cooperation in policy planning, technology transfer and institutional organisation. It was signed during the visit of Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari.
- ✦ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has collaborated with the British Geological Survey to turn Varanasi into a smart city.
- ✦ The Cabinet approved the Signing of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting by India.
- ✦ The Cabinet approved the MoU between India and Australia on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime.
- ✦ The Cabinet approved the Pan-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Program- Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers who are eligible will receive a cash benefit of Rs.5,000/- in three installments.
- ✦ Govardhan Eco Village, set up by the ISKCON in adjoining Thane district, has won a Smart Village award for being a sustainable project in rural Maharashtra.
- ✦ Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling was conferred with the first Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service by President Pranab Mukherjee.
- ✦ Assistant Professor in Department of Biomedical Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology - Hyderabad (IIT-H) Aravind Kumar Rengan has been awarded the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal in the Young Scientist category for 2017.
- ✦ President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas arrived visited India.
- ✦ Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the second meeting of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in New Delhi. The theme 'Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: Making India resilient by 2030'.
- ✦ Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment inaugurated the "15th National Meeting of the State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities (PwD)" to review Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of rights and Full Participation) Act-1995.
- ✦ Jammu and Kashmir government is hosting the 14th Goods & Services Tax (GST) Council meeting in the summer capital Srinagar.
- ✦ A 44-year-old Nepalese mountaineer Lhakpa Sherpa has broken her own world record for the most Everest summits by a woman after scaling the world's tallest peak for the eighth time.
- ✦ Former Puducherry Chief Minister S Ramassamy died after a brief illness, family sources said. He was 80 .
- ✦ Union environment minister Anil Madhav Dave has passed away. He was 60.
- ✦ Veteran actress Reema Lagoo, known for her performance in movies like "Hum Aapke Hain Koun" and "Kal Ho Na Ho", died due to a cardiac arrest in Mumbai. She was 59.
- ✦ IEST has successfully created the country's first smart grid project, which will generate power from renewable sources of energy.
- ✦ Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu announced a round-the-clock Doordarshan channel for Jharkhand. Jharkhand has been given the most film-friendly award by the National Film Awards.
- ✦ The Minister of State for Labour & Employment(IC), Shri Bandaru Dattatreya launched EPFOs Citizens Charter 2017 and e-court management system in Bangalore.
- ✦ India's first Aquatic Rainbow Technology Park, an ultra modern exclusive facility for ornamental fish equipped

with multi-species hatchery and live feed culture units, will become operational at Chennai.

- ✦ Teams of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) would inspect the excavation being carried out at an archaeological site in Haryana's Fatehabad district to verify claims of it being the oldest civilization in the world.
- ✦ USA based SpaceX has launched a communications satellite for Inmarsat, marking its first launch for the London-based mobile broadband company. The Inmarsat-5 F4 satellite is built by Boeing.
- ✦ The US' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will launch the world's smallest satellite named 'KalamSat', it will be the first time ever that it would be piloting an experiment by an Indian student. It is Developed by Rifath Sharook from Tamil Nadu's Pallapatti town, KalamSat weighs only 64 grams. 'KalamSat', named after India's nuclear scientist and former President, APJ Abdul Kalam, will be launched from a Nasa facility in Wallops Island.
- RBI will soon put into circulation currency notes in one rupee denomination. New one rupee notes with predominantly pink-green on obverse & reverse in combination with other colours will be soon put into circulation. There is also a representation of One Rupee coin with rupee symbol having floral design & the surrounding design consists of the picture of 'Sagar Samrat' the oil exploration platform.
- Karnataka Bank Ltd has entered into a MoU with Life Insurance Corporation of India for selling life insurance products of LIC.
- HDFC Life announced the launch of an artificial intelligence-based application 'SPOK' that can automatically read, understand, categorize, prioritize & respond to customer emails sent to the private insurer. 'SPOK', an insurance email bot, can read customer queries within milliseconds & respond to them.
- Federal Bank, in association with Geojit, has launched a new trading platform called "Selfie" for customers. Designed & managed by Geojit, the trading platform will give its users absolute control over their investments with timely research inputs to make sound investment decisions.
- Bank of Baroda (BOB) & IFFCO rolled out their first set of co-branded debit cards for farmers as part of a novel initiative to push digitalisation & cashless economy. The co-branded debit cards, with inbuilt overdraft of Rs. 2,500 in special savings bank account, could be used for purchase of various agri products at IFFCO sale counters.
- Karnataka Bank Ltd has entered into a distribution agreement to sell the mutual fund products of HDFC Capital Asset Management Ltd (HDFCAML) during exchanged the MoU in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- Union Minister of State (I/C) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy & Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal launched the Saral Eindhyan Vitaran Application (SEVA), in News

Delhi. The app is developed in-house by Coal India Limited (CIL) for power sector consumers. It aimed at increasing the Consumer Connect as well as the Transparency & Accountability in Coal dispatch.

- Human Resource Development Ministry & the External Affairs Ministry launched an online verification portal 'e-sanad' to make the document verification process easier for students who planning to study abroad. 'e-Sanad' is an initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in association with two other ministries with the help of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- The government launched new campaign called Darwaza Band for promotion of toilet usage in the rural areas across the country. Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan leads the campaign. It also features actor, Anushka Sharma, who will be seen encouraging women to stand up for this issue in their villages & assume a leadership role.
- ✦ Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar launched an Anti-Ragging Mobile App introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in New Delhi. This mobile app will help students register complaints to counter the menace of ragging.
- ✦ Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa has become the world's first woman to scale Mt Everest twice in five days.
- ✦ Maharashtra government has decided to form 'good morning' squads to monitor & prevent open defecation in villages & districts across the state.
- ✦ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur's Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness has signed an MoU with MP's Rajya Anandam Sansthan' (Department of Happiness) to collaborate on the development of a Happiness Index for measuring the well-being of the people of the state.

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- ✦ In Uttar Pradesh, a massive immunisation drive has been launched in 38 districts to eradicate Japanese

- Encephalitis (JE). CM Yogi Adityanath has launched the drive from Kushinagar district.
- ✚ The Orange City (Nagpur) has become India's first city to have electric mass mobility system. It will have a fleet of 200 electric vehicles including taxis, buses, e-rickshaw & autorickshaws, all of which will be fully owned by cab aggregator Ola.
- ✚ Vadodara, which was declared the 10th cleanest city in the country made a new Guinness world record for the maximum number of people sweeping a single venue. About 5,058 residents of the city came together to achieve the feat at the venue which was a bridge that connected Akota, an urban area.
- ✚ Manipur government has declared Dailong village of Tamenglong district as a Biodiversity Heritage Site of the state.
- ✚ Union Science & Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan was given additional charge of the Environment Ministry following the death of Union Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave.
- ✚ Tata Sons has appointed Saurabh Agrawal, an investment banker who was formerly with the Aditya Birla Group, as its Group Chief Financial Officer. He will join the company from July 2017.
- ✚ Hassan Rouhani was re-elected as the President of Iran after winning Iranian presidential elections 2017.
- ✚ A 43-year-old UK entrepreneur named Rehana Ameer has become the first India-born woman to be elected as a councillor to a ward in the UK.
- ✚ Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has resigned paving way for Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba to become the next PM.
- ✚ After appointing the new Chief Financial Officer Saurabh Agrawal, Tata Sons has appointed Shuva Mandal as the Group General Counsel.
- ✚ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, a former Ethiopian health minister, has been chosen to head the World Health Organisation (WHO) & is the first African to do so since the creation of the United Nations agency in 1948. He replaced Margret Chan.
- ✚ Lenin Moreno was sworn in as Ecuador's president following a tight electoral race that the former vice president won on promises of maintaining the social programs of his leftist predecessor, Rafael Correa.
- ✚ United States Senate has confirmed Indian-American Judge Amul Thapar to a key judicial position on the powerful US court of appeals.
- ✚ Google's vice-president for South East Asia & India, Rajan Anandan has been appointed the new chairman of Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). He will take over from FreeCharge's co-founder & chief executive officer Kunal Shah. MakeMyTrip Chairman & Group CEO Deep Kalra has taken over as vice-chairman from music app Saavn co-founder & president Vinodh Bhat. The tenure of the new Council is for two years.
- ✚ Manipur Governor & former Minority Affairs Minister Najma Heptulla has been appointed as the Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
- ✚ India overtook Japan to become the second-largest steel producer in the world after China in 2016, according to data released by the International Stainless Steel Forum (ISSF).
- ✚ The government has selected five merchant bankers, including Goldman Sachs & Citigroup, to manage the government's 3 per cent stake sale in IOC (Indian Oil Corporation) which could fetch about Rs 6,000 crore to the exchequer. The other bankers who have been selected by the Department of Investment & Public Asset Management (DIPAM) for managing the stake sale are Deutsche Equities, SBI Capital Markets & ICICI Securities.
- ✚ Indian Oil Corporation has overtaken Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to become India's most profitable state-owned company. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries retained the crown of being India's most profitable private company for the third year in a row.
- ✚ Employees Provident Fund Organisation has approved hike in investment limit in exchange traded funds (ETFs) to 15%, from the existing 10%.
- ✚ The government has expanded the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) headed by former comptroller & auditor general Vinod Rai by adding two more members. Former Allahabad Bank chairperson & managing director Shubhalaxmi Panse & private equity player Pradip Shah have been inducted into the board as independent members.
- ✚ Harmanpreet Kaur, the captain of India's T20 team has become the first Indian Women cricketer to play in Kia Super League, the England T20 League.
- ✚ India captain Virat Kohli is the lone cricketer from the country to feature in the top 10 of the ICC Players Rankings for ODIs as he managed to hold on to his third spot in the batsman's chart. The top three batsmen South Africa's AB de Villiers (874 rating points), Australian David Warner (871) & Kohli (852) are separated by just 22 points.
- ✚ Barcelona striker Lionel Messi won the European Golden Shoe for a record-equaling fourth time having scored 37 goals in the Spanish league.
- ✚ Alexander Zverev defeated the world no. 2 ranking player Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-3 to win the Italian Open, 2017. Italian open is also known as Rome Masters & Italian Championship
- ✚ Bengaluru FC defeated Mohun Bagan (2-0) to lift 38th Federation Cup football tournament at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha.
- ✚ Mumbai Indians lifted the 10th Indian Premier League trophy for the third time, as they recorded a scintillating 1-run win against Rising Pune Supergiant in the title clash at Hyderabad during final. Krunal Pandya from Mumbai Indians was named the man of the match.
- ✚ India's R Vaishali won the women's title with eight points from nine rounds in the Asian Continental Blitz Chess Championship in Chengdu, China.
- ✚ Olympic silver medalist P.V. Sindhu became a member of the BWF Athletes' Commission after voting closed for the four places on the representative body.

- ✚ India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin won the coveted International Cricketer of the Year award at the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2017.
- ✚ South Korea won Badminton's Sudirman Cup for the first time in 14 years with 3-2 victory over 10-time champions China at Australia's Gold Coast.
- ✚ Indian fencer C A Bhavani Devi struck gold in the Turno Satellite Fencing Championship at Reykjavik (Iceland).
- ✚ Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel won the 2017 Monaco Grand Prix at the Circuit de Monaco, La Condamine & Monte Carlo, Monaco.
- ✚ India will be having its own GPS system, 'NavIC' that will be operational in early 2018. NavIC or 'Navigation with Indian Constellation' the name given by PM Narendra Modi after the launch of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System IRNSS-1G, is designed to provide accurate position information to users within the country.
- ✚ India & Germany inked twelve memoranda of understanding & agreements following bilateral delegation-level talks presided over by PM Narendra Modi & Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel. The agreements inked included nine joint declarations of intent (JDIs) & three memoranda of understanding. The agreements include collaboration in the field of digitalization, skill development, & cooperation in cyber policy. Besides, the two nations also agreed to resume the free trade talks between India & the European Union.
- ✚ PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the country's longest bridge - the Dhola-Sadia Bridge in Assam. Mr Modi named the bridge after legendary singer Bhupen Hazarika. This three-lane, the 9.15-kilometre bridge has been built over the Brahmaputra river. It links Dhola to Sadia, both in Assam. The bridge will reduce the distance from Rupai on NH- 37 in Assam to Meka-Roing on NH-52 in Arunachal Pradesh by 165 KM.
- ✚ India's state-of-the-art high-speed train Tejas Express, which can run up to the speed of 200km per hour, has made its trip between Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai, & Karmali, North Goa. The 15-coach train has two classes chair car & executive chair car & is equipped with facilities like secured gangways, automatic doors, LCD screens, Wi-Fi, tea-coffee vending machines, magazines, bio-toilets, hand dryers etc.
- ✚ India announced a \$500 million line of credit to Mauritius as the two countries resolved to deepen ties in a range of areas including the maritime domain.
- ✚ Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has closed another major deal worth 630 million US dollar with India to supply advanced long-range air & missile defense systems for four ships of the Indian Navy. According to State-owned IAI, the contract is for supplying Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) systems.
- ✚ Japan's cabinet approved a bill that would allow Emperor Akihito to step down, paving the way for the first abdication by a Japanese emperor in nearly two centuries.
- ✚ Japan is going to build a war museum at the hillock at Maiba Lokpa in Bishnupur district in Manipur where a Japanese camp was located during World War II.
- ✚ The Indian Army received two 155mm/39 caliber Ultra Lightweight Howitzer artillery guns from BAE Systems in the United States of America.
- ✚ As part of 'SIMBEX-17', the ongoing Bilateral Naval Exercise between Navies of the Republic of Singapore & India, Indian Naval Ships Shivalik, Sahyadri, Jyoti & Kamorta are participating. SIMBEX is an acronym for "Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises". This years edition of SIMBEX-17 being held in the South China Sea would be the 24th in the series.
- ✚ Union Defence & Finance Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated the Defence Research & Development Organisation's (DRDO)'s new Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Karnataka. The ATR is a facility under the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) which works on a range of UAVs (unmanned air vehicles).
- ✚ United States has for the first time successfully tested its defence system against an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM). A ground-based interceptor was launched at a California air base & shot down a mock ballistic missile. As per the Pentagon, the test comes after Pyongyang fired its ninth missile this year.
- ✚ India has jumped 16 places in the revised United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) rankings to settle at 24th for 2014 & 2015.
- ✚ The Visakhapatnam railway station is the cleanest, followed by Secunderabad, among the 75 busiest stations in the country. According to a survey, the report of which was released by railway minister Suresh Prabhu, the Jammu railway station occupied the third spot, while the New Delhi station was ranked at 39 among the busiest stations. The survey was carried out by the Quality Council of India. The Darbhanga railway station in Bihar was the dirtiest among the busiest stations.
- ✚ Two Indian cities — Mumbai & Kota — have been named among the world's most crowded in a list topped by Dhaka, according to World Economic Forum (WEF) citing UN-Habitat data. Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is the most crowded city on the planet, followed by India's financial capital Mumbai. Kota in Rajasthan was ranked seventh.
- ✚ Indian tax laws are perceived to be second most complex in the Asia-Pacific region, becoming even less predictable over the last three years, according to Deloitte survey. India ranks only after China in having most complex jurisdiction for taxation & most complicated requirements of tax, the Asia Pacific Tax Complexity Survey conducted by Deloitte.
- ✚ According to India Development Report released by World Bank, India had one of the lowest female participation in the workforce, ranking 120th among 131 countries.

- ✦ May 21st is observed as Anti-Terrorism Day in the memory of former Indian PM Mr Rajiv Gandhi who passed away on this day.
- ✦ Every year, May 22 is observed as International Day for Biodiversity or World Biodiversity Day. The theme for 2017 for World Biodiversity Day is "Biodiversity & Sustainable Tourism"
- ✦ 29 May is celebrated as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The theme for the 2017 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is "Investing in Peace Around the World".
- ✦ World No Tobacco Day is observed around the world every year on May 31. The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2017 is "Tobacco – a threat to development."
- ✦ The Cabinet has approved-
- ✦ Signing of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion & Profit Shifting by India.
- ✦ Construction of 10 units of India's indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR).
- ✦ MoU between India & Australia on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism & Transnational Organized Crime.
- ✦ Faculty Exchange Agreement between National Defence College, New Delhi & National Defence College, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ✦ Pan-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Program- Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers who are eligible will receive a cash benefit of Rs.5,000/- in three installments.
- ✦ Agreement between India & Tajikistan on Cooperation & Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.
- ✦ MoU between India & Bangladesh on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.
- ✦ Raising of Bonds of Rs. 2360 crores for Renewable Energy.
- ✦ Joint Declaration of Intent between Germany & India regarding cooperation in the sector of alternative medicine.
- ✦ Phasing out Foreign Investment Promotion Board.
- ✦ MoU between Spain & India on cooperation in the field of Organ Transplant Services.
- ✦ Setting up of new AIIMS in Kamrup, Assam.
- ✦ The allocation of 2.5 per cent of Central Road Fund for development & maintenance of National Waterways (NWs) by amending the Central Road Fund Act, 2000.
- ✦ State-owned telecom operator BSNL has inked a clutch of agreements with Facebook & MobiKwik as its looks to popularize the internet & its value added services among customers. Under the MoU with Facebook, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) will provide connectivity for the social network's 'Express Wi-Fi Program'.
- ✦ Government-run Prasar Bharati has got into an agreement with Morocco's Societe Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Television (SNRT) to step up cooperation in the broadcasting sector. It was signed

during the fifth India Morocco Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Rabat, Morocco's capital.

- ✦ Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has signed an agreement with ISRO for fodder acreage assessment using satellite observation & space technology. Under the MoU, ISRO will help in identification between food crops & fodder crops at village level & also locate suitable areas of current fallows & cultivable wastelands at village level for green fodder cultivation.
- ✦ The Minister of Defence & National Security of Fiji, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola accompanied by his delegation signed a MoU with the Minister of Defence, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley in New Delhi. An MoU on defence cooperation envisaging several areas of cooperation including in defence industry, military training & humanitarian assistance & disaster management was signed.



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Awards & Recognition

- ✦ Former PM Manmohan Singh presented now the 2014 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✦ Sanjay Gubbi of Karnataka & Purnima Barman of Assam have won the prestigious Whitley Award, popularly known as Green Oscars, for their efforts in wildlife conservation.
- ✦ Cochin Port Trust has received two Best Performance Awards from Ministry of Shipping for the highest growth in operating surplus & also for achieving third highest growth in cargo traffic among the major ports in the year 2016-17.
- ✦ An Indian boy has won the world's largest pre-college science competition, The Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) in the US in the environmental engineering category for his project on bio degradation of pesticides.
- ✦ Thespian Soumitra Chatterjee & Y.C. Deveshwar were conferred the Banga Samman, West Bengal's highest civilian award, by CM Mamata Banerjee.

- ✦ Rohan Chakravarty, a wildlife & environment cartoonist from India, has won WWF International President's Award 2017 for his efforts to change attitudes towards nature.
- ✦ Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Gujarat & ITC Ltd have won the Porter Prize 2017. ITC bags for Excellence in Corporate Governance & Integration & for its contribution in Creating Shared Value.
- ✦ Two Indian peacekeepers Rifleman Brijesh Thapa & Ravi Kumar were among 117 military, police & civilian personnel honoured by the United Nations with a prestigious UN Dag Hammarskjöld Medal which was awarded posthumously for courage & sacrifice in the line of duty.
- ✦ Pune city police have received the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FICCI) Smart Police Award for the year 2017.
- ✦ Satyabrata Rout, a professor from the Department of Theatre Arts, S N School of Arts & Communication, University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar for the year 2016.
- ✦ Uttarakhand Mountaineer Love Raj Singh Dharmshaktu has become the first Indian to summit Mount Everest a record six times.
- ✦ Actress Priyanka Chopra will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Academy Award for being an international icon. 'Internationally Acclaimed Actress' category at a ceremony.
- ✦ In 2017, the Union Health Minister of India Jagat Prakash Nadda is chosen for WHO Director-General Special Recognition Awards for accelerating India's tobacco control initiatives & taking bold measures to protect people against hazards of tobacco use.
- ✦ PM of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth visited India. PM Narendra Modi assured Mauritius of continued Indian support in important sectors including skill development & human resource development. At the conclusion of the talks, both the countries inked four important agreements in the field of education, maritime security, marine science & technology.
- ✦ PM Narendra Modi embarked on a four nation tour. Trade & commerce, economic cooperation & counter terrorism will be high on the agenda during the PM's visit to Germany, Spain, Russia & France. He will be the first Indian PM to visit Spain in almost 30 years.
- ✦ 43rd G7 Summit was held in Taormina, Sicily, Italy. The 43rd G7 summit was the first summit for British PM Theresa May. The theme of the Italian G7 Summit 2017 is-" Building the Foundation of Renewed Trust."
- ✦ CGI (Consulate General of India) Dubai & Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi in partnership with iSPIRIT, a nonprofit think tank will host a two-day "Start-up India Summit" in UAE.
- ✦ With an aim to bring together 32 premier educational & policy research institutions to catalyse the country's development process, government think-tank NITI Aayog hold the first Samavesh meeting.
- ✦ PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) on May 23, 2017. This is the first time in the history of AfDB Group that India would be hosting the Annual Meetings of the bank. The core theme of the event is "Transforming Agriculture for Wealth Creation in Africa".
- ✦ State-owned BSNL started satellite phone service through INMARSAT which will be initially offered to government agencies & later opened for others citizen in phased manner. The service will cover areas where no networks are present & be provided by INMARSAT which has 14 satellites.
- ✦ Turbo Megha Airways has become the first private airline to get a licence to fly under UDAN, the government scheme for subsidized regional flights.
- ✦ PM Modi launched various projects of Kandla Port Trust at Gandhidham in Gujarat. He unveiled plaques to mark the laying of Foundation Stone for the construction of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Convention Centre & the development of the 14th & 16th General Cargo Berth.
- ✦ Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu has inaugurated the WiFi facility from Kudal Railway Station at 28 Railway Stations of Konkan Railway. Indian Railways has tied up with M/s SYSCON/JOISTER for provision of 2 Mbps peer to peer 24 hrs FREE Wi-Fi INTERNET bandwidth at 28 stations of Konkan Railway.
- ✦ Indian businessman Mathunny Mathews died aged 81 in Kuwait after being part of the tiny emirate's fortunes & trials for over six decades.
- ✦ Actor Sir Roger Moore, best known for playing James Bond, has died at age 89.
- ✦ Constantine Mitsotakis, a former PM of Greece remembered for fierce confrontations with Greece's liberal & socialist parties has died.
- ✦ The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh has released the book India 2017 Yearbook authored by the Union Home Secretary, Shri Rajiv Mehrishi.
- ✦ A young Indian IAS officer, Haulianlal Guite, who hails from Manipur state has recently published a book titled "Confessions of a dying mind: the blind faith of atheism" in New Delhi.
- ✦ A new book "Winning like Virat: Think & Succeed like Kohli" by Abhirup Bhattacharya, unravels the secrets of the cricketer's consistent form, while attempting to decode his philosophy towards life.
- ✦ Mann Ki Baat: A Social Revolution on Radio by Rajesh Jain.
- ✦ Marching with a Billion- Analysing Narendra Modi's Government at Mid-term written by eminent journalist Uday Mahurkar.
- ✦ Scientists at NASA have named a new organism discovered by them after the much-loved A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The name of the bacterium is Solibacillus kalamii, the species name is after Dr. Abdul Kalam & genus name is Solibacillus which is a spore-forming bacteria.
- ✦ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to launch its most powerful launch vehicle,

Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III into space.

✚ China launched a national satellite navigation & positioning system which will provide positioning

service to transportation, emergency medical rescue & city planning & management. It is the largest in the country & boasts the widest coverage.

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The advertisement features a smartphone displaying the Adda 247 app interface. The app screen shows a 'BANK PO' section with a 'FEED' tab selected. Under 'CURRENT AFFAIRS', there is a news item: 'ISRO signs an MoU with the Airport Authority of India (AAI)'. Below this, there is a 'DAILY QUIZ' section with three quiz cards: 'SPECIAL', 'QUANT', and 'STATE C'. A hand is shown interacting with the phone screen. The background is a collage of various app screens and the Adda 247 logo.