

THE HINDU HIGHLIGHTS: 25th & 26th August 2017

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- In a unanimous verdict, a nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court declared that privacy is intrinsic to life and liberty and an inherent part of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. The court held that privacy is a natural right that inheres in human beings because they are human. "Privacy is the constitutional core of human dignity. Privacy ensures the fulfilment of dignity," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud wrote.
- IT major Infosys announced that its board had unanimously approved the appointment of Nandan Nilekani as nonexecutive chairman of the board, "effective immediately." R. Seshasayee, chairman of the board, along with former CEO and managing director Vishal Sikka, Jeffrey Lehman and John Etchemendy, decided to step down from the board, Infosys said.
- The nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court ripped apart its own judgment of 2014 upholding Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalises consensual sexual acts of adults in private. Bench, led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar, concluded that the 2014 verdict by a two-judge Bench of the court pandered to a "majoritarian" view to deny the LGBT community their inherent fundamental rights of life, personal liberty, equality and gender discrimination.

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- and his Cabinet colleague and Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar as in-charge for Karnataka, and given charge of Himachal Pradesh to Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawarchand Gehlot.
- U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on a visit to Ukraine said Washington would keep up pressure on Russia over what he called its aggressive behaviour and signalled his personal support for providing weapons to Kiev.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will start pumping Rs. 200 notes into the system in a bid to ease cash transactions and make the currency system more efficient. The base colour of the Rs. 200 note will be bright yellow.
- Tata Sons has roped in Everstone Capital's head of research Roopa Purushothaman as its chief economist and head of policy advocacy.
- A Rio de Janeiro judge has sentenced former Real Madrid and Brazil international full-back Roberto Carlos to jail for failing to pay child support.
- Over 30 people were killed and more than 250 injured in Panchkula and other parts of Haryana when supporters of the Dera Sacha Sauda sect went on the rampage after their chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was convicted of rape by a CBI special court.
- The DLF board approved the sale of 40% equity held by DLF's promoters in its rental arm DLF Cyber City Developers Limited to an affiliate of Singapore-based GIC Real Estate for Rs. 11,900 crore, terming it one of the largest private equity transactions in Indian real estate.
- Arundhati Roy's new novel The Ministry of Utmost Happiness, which was published recently to critical acclaim, now has a 'digital companion', the 'Re: Reader'.
- Midway through the government's ambitious Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), which promises housing for all by 2022, the Urban Development Ministry has cut down the scheme's target from 1.87 crore houses to 1.2 crores.
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has imposed a penalty of almost Rs. 3 crore on Idea Cellular for overcharging subscribers for calls they made to two public sector operators — BSNL and MTNL.

- The first sighting of the endangered Irrawaddy dolphins in the Rambha sector of Chilika lake in three decades has brought much cheer to nature lovers.
- The Punjab Cabinet approved the appointment of cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur as a Deputy Superintendent of Police in the State police department.
- Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, will be visiting the Sri Mookambika Temple at Kollur in Udupi district.
- BJP president Amit Shah appointed Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley as poll incharge for Gujarat,

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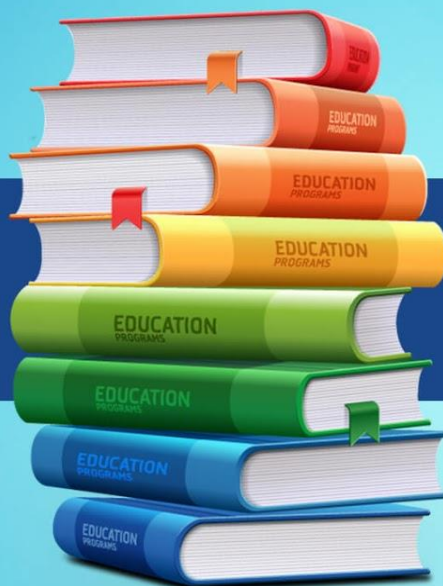
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Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has constituted a Task Force chaired by V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras to explore possibilities to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) for development across various fields.

- The billionaire head of South Korea's Samsung Group, Jay Y. Lee, was sentenced to five years in jail for bribery in a watershed for the country's decades-long economic order dominated by powerful, family-run conglomerates.
- The Centre has approved nine Foreign Direct Investments proposals, including that of Amazon Retail India, envisaging foreign investments of about Rs. 5,000 crore. FDI into the country grew 9% to \$43.47 billion in 2016-17.
- Four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah ended his track career in thrilling fashion with victory in the 5,000m at the Diamond League final while world 100m champion Justin Gatlin slumped to defeat.
- More than 29 lakh businesses have filed their first tax returns under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime before the deadline.



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