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THE HINDU REVIEW: SEPTEMBER 2017

Banking Current Affairs

- ✦ HDFC Bank topped the list of the country's top 50 brands according to a report released by marketing and advertising conglomerate WPP Plc and Kantar Millward Brown. The bank has retained the top slot for the fourth year in a row. Airtel is at 2nd spot and State Bank of India is at 3rd.
- ✦ According to the RBI Data, India's foreign-exchange reserves rose past \$400 billion for the first time ever, strengthening policymakers' buffers ahead of an expected reduction in US stimulus.
- ✦ Five banks of the BRICS Bank Cooperation Mechanism have agreed to establish credit lines in the national currencies and cooperate on credit ratings. The agreement to this effect was signed ahead of the BRICS Summit in China's Xiamen city. Brazilian Development Bank, Vnesheconombank, Export-Import Bank of India, China Development Bank and Development Bank of South Africa signed the agreement in Beijing.
- ✦ Fincare Small Finance Bank (previously known as Disha Microfin Limited) kick-started its banking operations with about 25 operational branches across Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ Karnataka Bank has bagged the 'best bank' award among small banks for the use of technology for financial inclusion at the 13th IDRBT Banking Technology Excellence Awards 2016-17.
- ✦ RBI included HDFC Bank in the list of 'too big to fail' lenders, referred to as D-SIB or domestic systemically important bank. India's largest lender SBI and private sector major ICICI Bank were classified as D-SIBs in 2015.
- ✦ DBS Bank India, part of Singapore-based financial services group DBS Group Holdings, has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert its existing India franchise to a locally incorporated wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS) in India.
- ✦ Private sector lender IndusInd Bank and India's second largest Microfinance company Bharat Financial Inclusion have signed a confidentiality agreement for the proposed merger between them.
- ✦ Punjab National Bank and state-run firm BSNL teamed up to roll out open mobile wallet Speedpay across 10 states in the country. PNB Speedway wallet will operate like any other mobile wallet for paying bills, recharging phone besides its users will be able to deposit and withdraw money from authorized retail outlets.
- ✦ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a USD 152 million to Nepal for the implementation and enhancement of its power transmission and distribution. ADB and Nepal's Ministry of Finance signed the loan agreement in Kathmandu.
- ✦ Public sector lender Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) has lowered the interest rate on its savings bank accounts by 0.50 per cent to 3.50 per cent with immediate effect.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Vijaya Bank has bagged the first prize under the Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (Region C) for the year 2016-17.
- ✦ Sunil Mittal-driven Airtel Payments Bank integrated the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on its digital platform, allowing customer choice and convenience to facilitate secure digital payments.
- ✦ After a year or more of due-diligence, the RBI has notified that peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms need to be regulated and treated on par with non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). Few important P2P lending platforms in India are LenDen Club, Faircent, Qbera, Lendbox, Rupaiya Exchange and Monexo.
- ✦ Fino Payments Bank has launched its mobile banking app called BPay. Fino aims to make banking easy for millions of underbanked people in India. The upgraded BPay app is available on Android at present.
- ✦ SBI launched the FTSE SBI Bond Index series in partnership with global index provider FTSE 100, which will give tools to investors from India, the UK and globally to analyse India's government bond market, and drive growth in this market.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that Masala bonds will be treated as External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) from 3rd October 2017 thereby freeing up more investments by FPIs. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated overseas bonds.
- ✦ Artificial intelligence banking platform Payjo has launched an AI-powered chat assistant for State Bank of India to addresses customer enquiries. The chat assistant, known as SBI Intelligent Assistant, or SIA, will help customers with everyday banking tasks just like a bank representative.
- ✦ SBI lowered the Minimum Average Monthly Balance (MAB) requirement in a savings account to Rs 3,000 from Rs 5,000 and also revised downwards penalties for not maintaining such a balance.

- ✦ IDBI Bank launched 'Project Nishchay' in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to accelerate its turnaround program and improve financial performance. The project will be led by senior management at IDBI Bank along with BCG.
- ✦ US central bank has fined global banking giant HSBC \$175 million for failing to oversee foreign exchange traders who misused confidential client information and colluded with traders at competing banks.
- ✦ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) registered National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) as an Information Utility (IU) under the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017. With this NeSL has become the first IU registered by the IBBI and the registration is valid for five years from the date of registration.
- ✦ India's largest private sector lender, ICICI Bank announced a new home loan scheme that offers borrowers the benefit of 1% cashback on every EMI, for the entire ten
- ✦ Public sector Syndicate Bank has cut savings account interest rate by 0.50 percent to 3.50 percent for deposits up to Rs 25 lakh. The bank has revised rate of interest on savings bank deposits with effect from October 10 to 3.50 percent from 4 percent existing rate. For the deposits above Rs 25 lakh, the interest rate is unchanged at 4 percent.

Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Union Environment Ministry launched an environment awareness initiative on the occasion of Teachers' Day. Under the initiative, an online environmental quiz competition named Prakriti Khoj will be conducted at the national level.
- ✦ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched two new contraceptives- an injectable contraceptive MPA under the 'Antara' program and a contraceptive pill 'Chhaya' in the public health system to expand the basket of contraceptive choices for couples.
- ✦ 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. Under this scheme, each household in Melaka will get 10 high-quality 9-watt LED bulbs.
- ✦ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched a nationwide Hackathon 'OpenGovDataHack' to support and showcase potential ideas/talent from inner India.

- ✦ 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. The Programme aims at mainstreaming sport as a tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development.
- ✦ Dr. Harshvardhan launched "Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana" which will experiment and endeavour to formulate and implement appropriate S&T Interventions for Sustainable Development through cluster approach in Uttarakhand.
- ✦ 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. Themed 'Nurturing the Nurturer', the campaign was launched by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in partnership with the Apollo Hospitals group.
- ✦ Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan has launched Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat at Mota Ishanpur village in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana or 'Saubhagya', to supply 24/7 electricity supply to poor households. 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.
- ✦ Odisha Government launched 'Sampurna (Sishu Abond Matru Mrityuhara Purna Nirakaran Abhijan) Yojna' scheme for pregnant women, in Odisha. Under the scheme, Odisha government will provide Rs.1,000 as transport cost for pregnant women to travel to the hospital.

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- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched - Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana 'Saubhagya' to provide electricity connections to over 4 crore families in rural and urban areas by December 2018. India will achieve the target of power for all by December 2018, while all villages will be electrified by the end of 2017.
- ✦ Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal at the National Conference on Child Labour organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The PENCIL is an electronic platform that aims at involving Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society and the general public in achieving the target of child labour free society. Shri Rajnath Singh also launched the Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the enforcement of legal framework against child labour.
- ✦ Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched the Web Portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) & "Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System" in New Delhi.

State in News

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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. The main theme of the 'Arogya Bhagya' scheme is "Treatment First and Payment Next".
- ✦ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and UP CM Yogi Adityanath jointly flagged off its commercial run. 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.
- ✦ In a bid to take Internet connectivity to the remotest part of the state, Assam government signed an MoU with Google India.
- ✦ The First water ATM has been inaugurated by Telangana State Home Minister N Narasimha Reddy at Nalgonda X Roads.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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. Tripura High Court is the first high court among 24 high courts of the country that has constituted the family welfare district committees.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Himachal Pradesh government on 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. With this initiative, the state has become the first in the world to ply electric buses at an altitude of 13 thousand feet.
- ✦ ADB has sanctioned a USD 300 million loan facility for carrying forward fiscal reforms in West Bengal. The board of Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of USD 300 million to continue a comprehensive series of fiscal reforms in West Bengal.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah has launched 'Vision-2025' project across the state. It aimed at evolving a draft policy for the development of the state in next seven years by seeking the opinion of the public.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Bilal Dar, a young boy from Srinagar has become the brand ambassador for Srinagar Municipal Corporation. Dar has been contributing to the 'Swachhta Abhiyan' since the age of 12.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Multilateral lending agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of \$80 million (about Rs 524 crore) for the modernization of Himachal Pradesh's technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions.

New Appointments

- ✦ 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. He 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.
- ✦ The outgoing Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi was appointed Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ IAS officer Anita Karwal was appointed as the new Chairperson of Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE. She would be replacing Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Piyush Goyal has been appointed as the Union Railway Minister after being inducted into the Union Cabinet. He replaced former Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu. Nirmala Sitharaman was given the Defence Ministry, becoming only the second woman to hold the post after Indira Gandhi.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ R A Sankara Narayanan has taken charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Vijaya Bank.
- ✦ KV Rama Moorthy has assumed charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank. He succeeds HS Upendra Kamath.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra has been appointed as the first Indian woman ambassador in 'Friends of Australia' (FOA) advocacy panel by Tourism Australia.
- ✦ N Baijendra Kumar, an IAS officer of 1985 batch of Chhattisgarh cadre, has assumed charge as Chairman and Managing Director of NMDC Ltd.
- ✦ Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of the Express Group was elected Chairman of Press Trust of India, the country's largest news agency. Mr. Goenka succeeds Riyad Mathew.
- ✦ Ashish Kashyap resigned as the President and Co-founder of MakeMyTrip with effect from 30 September 2017.
- ✦ Force Motors Chairman Abhay Firodia has been elected as the new president of the automobile industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).
- ✦ Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has sacked his deputy Tourism Minister Arundika Fernando for allegedly defying the party leadership.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Mahendra Pratap Mall was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Ltd.
- ✦ M. Nagaraja Sarma has been appointed the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of the United India Insurance Co. Ltd.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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).
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ President of Peru, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has appointed a former Economy Minister Mercedes Araoz Fernandez as new Prime Minister of Peru. Araoz


replaced Fernando Zavala, who lost the vote of confidence by lawmakers recently.

- ✦ Senior IPS officer Y.C Modi has been named the chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved Mr. Modi's appointment as Director General of the NIA. He will take over from Sharad Kumar after he completes his tenure on October 30.
- ✦ Prime Minister of Iceland Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson has resigned from the post. He lost his nine-month-old, center-right coalition after one party quit.
- ✦ Infosys Senior Vice President Sanjay Rajagopalan has resigned from his post. The decision has come a month after Vishal Sikka stepped down as the company's MD and CEO.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Balraj Joshi was appointed the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of NHPC Ltd, the country's premier hydropower utility. Joshi is at present director (technical) in the organisation. P. Alli Rani has been appointed the CMD of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) Ltd.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Former home secretary Rajiv Mehrishi took over as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. Mehrishi succeeded Shashi Kant Sharma.


- ✦ Shashi Shankar was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of India's biggest oil and gas producer ONGC. He will replace Dinesh K Sarraf.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Tata Capital announced the appointment of Rajiv Sabharwal as Managing Director & CEO designate of the company.
- ✦ Gulf carrier Etihad Airways has appointed former Abu Dhabi airport chief Tony Douglas as its Group Chief Executive Officer following the exit of James Hogan.
- ✦ The Banaras Hindu University has appointed Professor Royana Singh as its Chief Proctor. She will be the first woman to hold the post, as per an official of the 101-year-old central University.

Economy & Business Current Affairs

- ✦ SEBI barred Orion Capital as well as Orion Broking and their partners from the securities markets for 10 years for failing to redress several investor grievances pertaining to non- settlement of funds due to the clients.
- ✦ Reliance General Insurance has received in-principle approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for its initial public offering (IPO).
- ✦ SBI Life Insurance has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India for an IPO (Initial Public Offering) of up to Rs 8,400 crore (\$1.3 billion).
- ✦ ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company has got capital markets regulator SEBI's go-ahead for its estimated Rs 6,000 crore initial public offer (IPO). ICICI Lombard is a joint venture between ICICI Bank and Canada-based Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to raise capital by issuing debt securities. The move will help attract investors to the capital-starved property sector.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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



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(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.

- ✦ 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).
- ✦ Consumer Price Index (CPI) or retail inflation rose 3.36 per cent in August from a year earlier, government data showed. The current rate of inflation is the highest in five months. The rate, however, is still below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term target of 4 per cent.
- ✦ Wholesale inflation rose to a four-month high of 3.24 per cent in August as prices of food articles, led by onions and vegetables, soared.
- ✦ Union Cabinet has given its approval for rationalization/merger and modernization of 17 Government of India Presses (GIPs)/Units into 5 Government of India Presses (GIPs) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Minto Road, and Mayapuri, New Delhi; Nashik, Maharashtra and Temple Street, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ✦ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has downgraded India's growth projection to 7 percent for the current fiscal while lowering its forecast for the next financial year as well.
- ✦ Airtel Business, the B2B arm of telecom major Bharti Airtel, has launched Airtel GST Advantage - a solution designed to enable small businesses and start-ups to file their GST returns "accurately, securely and seamlessly."
- ✦ Airtel has launched 'Office-In-a-Box' for start-ups registered under the Karnataka government's Start-Up Cell initiative.
- ✦ Amazon opened its largest fulfillment center in India on the outskirts of Hyderabad, near the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad.
- ✦ India's second largest software services firm Infosys has completed the acquisition of London-based Brilliant Basics. Through this acquisition, Infosys further expands its worldwide connected network of Digital Studios that are focused on fulfilling the needs of global clients for end-to- end digital transformation solutions.
- ✦ HDFC Bank surpassed Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become the country's second most valued firm in terms of market valuation.
- ✦ Tech giant Google is announced to unveil a digital payment service in India that has been developed for the local market. Google is looking at launching a payment service 'Google Tez', which will include

support for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as well as mobile wallets like Paytm and MobiKwik.

- ✦ Suzuki Motor will invest more than Rs 1,150 crore along with Japanese partners Toshiba and Denso to set up India's first lithium-ion battery facility in Gujarat.
- ✦ Mahindra & Mahindra has entered into a strategic alliance with US car major Ford Motor Company to explore cooperation in the sphere of products, technologies, and distribution.
- ✦ Google Tez has become the latest UPI-based payments app in the country. The new Google Tez app can be used to pay for movie tickets, utility bills, and make other transactions online.
- ✦ London's transport regulator stripped Uber of its licence to operate, affecting over 40,000 drivers in a huge blow to the taxi app.
- ✦ Samsung's Bixby Voice now works in India. Bixby is meant to do additional and on-phone tasks which Samsung hopes will make getting things done faster and easier.
- ✦ Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is the world's third-biggest energy company behind Russian gas firm Gazprom and German utility E.ON, according to Platts Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings.
- ✦ Aeris Communications has entered into a partnership with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to provide packaged Internet of Things (IoT) solutions and services to small, medium businesses and public sector undertakings (PSUs) in India.
- ✦ Telecom equipment and solutions provider VNL has signed an MoU with BSNL to provide solutions for disaster management. The 'Relief 123' service will restore connectivity at disaster sites, help locate the affected and integrate information across platforms to enable informed decision-making for quick relief.
- ✦ Air India has tied up with public sector lender PNB and private lender IndusInd Bank to secure loans to the tune of over Rs 3,000 crore for meeting working capital requirements.
- ✦ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Chinese gear maker ZTE. Both the parties will work together and prove key technologies like Pre5G and 5G wireless systems to make a virtual network architecture of a 5G ecosystem for research and commercialization in India.
- ✦ Twitter has announced a test project allowing tweets to be expanded to 280 characters, double the existing limit in the latest effort to boost flagging growth at the social network. It aims to address a major cause of frustration for many users.

Sports

- ✦ 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.

- ✦ Star India edged out Sony Pictures to secure the Indian Premier League's media rights with a bid of Rs 16,347.50 crore. The bidding for various media rights of the cash-rich league was held in Mumbai for a five-year period from 2018-2022.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Captain of Indian basketball team Amritpal Singh created history by becoming the first Indian player to be signed by an Australian Basketball team.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ India will host the 2019 edition of the Commonwealth (Youth, Junior and Senior) Weightlifting Championships. The current edition of the tournament is being held at the Gold Coast, Australia.
- ✦ World Wrestling Championship in Athens. 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.
- ✦ Women's national hockey coach Sjoerd Marijne was named chief coach of the men's side. He has replaced Roelant Oltmans.
- ✦ The 2017 US Open was the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year. Rafael Nadal was the winner of Men's Singles. Sloane Stephens was the winner of Women's Singles.
- ✦ India has finished fifth in the medals tally with one gold and two silver medals at the Moscow Shotgun World Championships.
- ✦ India has won 2nd South Asian Basketball, SABA, Under - 16 Championship. India defeated Bhutan by 131-50 in its last league match at Kathmandu in Nepal. India remained unbeaten in its all four matches and accumulated 8 points.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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 Ajaonkar.

- ✦ Indian women's boxing's first foreign coach, Stephane Cottalorda, has resigned after just one month of appointment, alleging delay in salary and other payments.
- ✦ India Wrestler Sonam Malik won a gold medal by defeating Japanese Wrestler Sena Nagamoto by 3-1 points on the fourth-day of Cadet
- ✦ Sumit Nagal of India blasted Colin van Beem of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-0 in the singles final to justify the top billing in the 8th MCC - S R Subramaniam Memorial ITF Futures Men's tennis championship in Chennai.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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. 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.



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- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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. The slogan of the tournament "Dare To Shine" reflects the development of football, especially women's football.
- ✦ 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. 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.
- ✦ The first ever Indian squad to participate in the FIFA World Cup, U-17 World Cup Squad has been announced. 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ In the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, India bagged four medals. Sajjan 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. 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 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.

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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. The 5 Indian Shuttlers in the top 20 BWF men's singles rankings are, Kidambi Srikanth(8th), HS Prannoy (15th), B Sai Praneeth (17th), Sameer Verma (19th) & Ajay Jayaram (20th).
- ✦ India will host the South Asian Boxing Championship for the first time in Guwahati from December 6 to 10. RK Sacheti has been unanimously elected as the new Executive Director of Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

National & International Current Affairs

- ✦ 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 inaugurated the centre. HSI-India Managing Director N G Jayasimha has been appointed as the honorary director of the Centre.
- ✦ Asian Development Bank will increase its annual lending to India to a maximum of \$4 billion between 2018 and 2022 to help fasten inclusive economic transformation towards upper middle-income status.
- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind launched a nation-wide campaign Swachhata Hi Sewa from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. 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.
- ✦ Government of India signed a loan deal worth \$76 million with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for a project to upgrade the environment management plan at Alang-Sosiya ship recycling yards.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Sardar Sarovar Dam - the world's second-biggest - on the river Narmada in Gujarat. The 1.2-km-long dam, which is 163 meters deep, will irrigate over 18 lakh hectares in the state, the water from Narmada will flow into over 9,000 villages through a canal network, Sardar Sarovar Nigam Limited (SSNL).
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on the two-day visit to his Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi. In the Visit, he flagged off remotely Varanasi-Vadodara country's third Mahamana Express. He also inaugurated Jal Shabhavan and Jal Ambulance in Varanasi. He has also inaugurated Utkarsh Bank in Varanasi, it specialises in micro-finance to extend assistance to self-help groups.

- ✦ Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate one of the ambitious programmes of the Centre, LPG Panchayat, aimed at encouraging rural communities to turn to clean fuel. The First LPG Panchayat will be held in Gandhinagar, where Pradhan will preside over the interaction between women using LPG under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY) and the companies.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi received his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe at Ahmedabad in Gujarat. Mr. Abe is in India on a two-day visit to attend the India-Japan annual summit meeting. The 12th edition of the summit will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Belarus President Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko in New Delhi and discussed various issues of mutual interest of both countries. A number of agreements were signed in several areas after the talks.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for Ranchi Smart City coming up on the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) land.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Belarus President Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko in New Delhi to discuss various issues of mutual interest of both countries. A number of agreements are expected to be signed in several areas after the talks.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ India has started 'Operation Insaniyat' to provide 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.
- ✦ India launched a campaign to woo Egyptian travellers and make them aware of magnificent holiday options in the country.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Nepal has signed a USD 635 million UN assistance package for 2018-2022 to lay out the country's development strategy for the next five years. The package involves 26 individual UN agencies.
- ✦ China has banned individuals and organizations from raising funds through Initial Coin Offerings (ICO), or launches of digital currencies, saying the practice constituted illegal fund-raising.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Prince Charles, the heir to Britain's throne, became the longest-serving Prince of Wales in history.
- ✦ Russia and Iraq restored scheduled commercial airline services for the first time since 2004. This move has been hailed as a sign of stability returning to the war-torn country.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ World Health Organization (WHO) has released its first tranche of emergency funding of \$175,000 to provide life-saving healthcare to the "vulnerable population" in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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. 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.


✦ In the United States, two influential Democratic lawmakers have introduced a legislation in the House of Representative to support India's permanent membership to the UN Security Council. Introduced by Congressman Ami Bera and Congressman Frank Pallone, the resolution would put the House officially on record in support of India's bid.

Defence Current Affairs

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ The 12th edition of India-Nepal joint military exercise-Surya Kiran XII was held at Nepal Army Battle School (NABS) in Saljhandi, Nepal. The 14-day exercise focused on skills required counter-terrorism and counter-terror, forest fighting and natural disaster management operations.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Indian Navy and Sri Lanka Navy has begun the 2017 Sri Lanka-India Exercise (SLINEX) at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. SLINEX 17 aims at reinforcing strong neighborly ties between both countries underscored by extensive maritime interaction and improved understanding.
- ✦ 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. Navika Sagar Parikrama is the first attempt by an Indian all-women crew to circumnavigate the globe.
- ✦ India's indigenously developed third generation anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) Nag has been successfully flight tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in deserts of Rajasthan, marking the completion of development trials.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Turkey has signed a deal with Russia to buy S-400 missile defence systems in its first major weapons purchase from Moscow, according to the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan.
- ✦ Final development trials of indigenously beyond visual range air-to-air missile Astra were successfully concluded into the Indian Air Force.
- ✦ US Army and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) inaugurated a permanent base In Israel. This is the first

time that a permanent American base has been opened in the Middle Eastern country.

- ✦ 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. 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.
- ✦ US and UAE's ground forces had begun a joint military exercise in Abu Dhabi, as part of efforts to consolidate their bilateral relations and exchange training and military expertise. Code-named Iron Union 5, the drill is an extension of a series of Iron Claw exercises.
- ✦ The first of the Scorpene class submarines, INS Kalvari, was delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- ✦ Saudi Arabia and Britain signed a framework deal for military cooperation. The agreement came after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman discussed security ties with visiting British Defence Secretary Michael Fallon in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah.
- ✦ The joint exercise DRUZBA 2017 between special forces of Pakistan and Russia Armies started in Minralney Vody, Russia.
- ✦ Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a contract with Research Centre Imarat (RCI) for the supply of Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAM) to Indian Army.
- ✦ 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. Group Executive Chairman of Spain's Banco Santander Ana Botín topped the list.



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- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.

Ranks/ Indexes Released

- ✦ 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. The two States also reported the fastest rise in per capita income in the same year. Arunachal Pradesh's gross SDP expanded 16.5 per cent and that of Jammu and Kashmir 14.7 per cent at constant 2011-12 prices.
- ✦ India's largest autonomous public organization Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been ranked ninth in the world, according to the Scimago Institutions ranking World Report 2017. The ranking (Government Institutions) was topped by the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
- ✦ 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).
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Hui Ka Yan, the chairman of big China real estate developer China Evergrande Group, has become Asia's richest man according to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List.
- ✦ 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.

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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. The world's top three competitive economies are: Switzerland, The United States of America & Singapore.
- ✦ 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.

Important Days

- ✦ 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".
- ✦ 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 Bharat Ratna recipient.
- ✦ 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 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.
- ✦ The International Day of Democracy is observed across the world on 15 September. The theme for the year 2017 is 'Democracy and Conflict prevention'.
- ✦ 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'.
- ✦ In line with United Nations' theme for this year's World Tourism Day, cab aggregator Ola kicked off a tourism campaign in the state. The campaign is being carried out in association with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation to promote and raise awareness about responsible tourism named "GhoomoResponsibly".
- ✦ The World Tourism Day is celebrated across the world on 27th of September. The theme for World Tourism Day 2017 is 'Sustainable Tourism - a Tool for Development'.

- ✦ The International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) was observed globally on 28 September 2017. The celebrations and events for the Day are organised by UNESCO. From 27 to 30 September 2017, UNESCO hosted a Conference under the theme "Overcoming Divides and Achieving the SDGs in Africa" in Balaclava, Mauritius.
- ✦ World Rabies Day is celebrated annually to raise awareness about rabies prevention on 28th September. The 2017 World Rabies Day theme is 'Rabies: Zero by 30'.
- ✦ 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'.

Agreement Signed


- ✦ India and Switzerland signed two MoUs in the field of Railways. The first MoU was signed for technical cooperation in Rail Sector. The second MoU which was signed aimed to help the Konkan Railway in establishing the George Fernandes Institute of Tunnel Technology (GFITT) at Goa, especially for assimilation and dissemination of knowledge in the field of tunneling.
- ✦ India and Japan have agreed to collaborate closely in defense production, including on dual-use technologies.
- ✦ State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) entered into an agreement with US-based networking solutions provider Coriant to chart the path to 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) in India.
- ✦ Exide Life Insurance has announced a partnership with Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC Bank) to offer its protection and savings products to the latter's customers.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ India and Afghanistan exchanged four pacts in areas of health, transport, space and new development partnership. The agreements were exchanged after delegation level talks between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani in New Delhi.
- ✦ Maharashtra Government and Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt. Ltd, a subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) have signed a lease agreement to set up a state-of-the-art milk and milk products processing plant.
- ✦ Telecom services provider, Bharti Airtel and SK Telecom of Korea have announced a strategic partnership under which Airtel will leverage the latter's expertise to build advanced telecom network in India.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Payment gateway provider PayU has announced its collaborations with the IRCTC to provide users a safe and secure option to pay for rail tickets booked via the IRCTC website.
- ✦ Pune-based auto firm Force Motors Ltd has entered into a non-binding joint venture agreement with Rolls-Royce Power Systems AG to produce engines for power generation and rail application and complete power generation systems.
- ✦ The defense entity of Hinduja Group flagship company Ashok Leyland had signed an MoU with Rosoboronexport, Russia, to supply tracked vehicle solutions to the armed forces.
- ✦ Corporate Affairs Ministry and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed an MoU for automatic and regular exchange of information to curb the menace of shell companies, money laundering and black money in the country.
- ✦ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) has entered into an agreement with microfinance industry association Sa-Dhan to develop digital ecosystem for India's unbanked segment.
- ✦ Amazon has tied up with Bank of Baroda for the loans, which can go up to Rs. 25 lakh. Amazon(India) plans to provide unsecured micro-loans, as low as 1 lakh, at interest rates as low as 10.45-11 per cent at a short span of 3-5 days.
- ✦ India and Japan signed an agreement that will allow their airlines to operate the unlimited number of flights between the two countries.
- ✦ Tata Steel and Thyssenkrupp of Germany have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a deal that is poised to create one of Europe's largest steel companies. The two partners have been in merger talks for more than a year.
- ✦ Dabur India has tied up with e-commerce major Amazon for an online Ayurveda marketplace which will house all ayurvedic brands and products of the country.
- ✦ Maharashtra government has signed a MoU with South Korea for increased co-operation in infrastructure projects like development of smart cities, roads, airports and metros on the first day of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' visit to that country.
- ✦ India and Norway have extended bilateral cooperation in the health sector through the Norway-India Partnership Initiative for a period of three years

starting 2018. A letter of Intent was signed to this effect in New Delhi between the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Awards & Recognition

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ UNESCO has announced the winners of the 2017 International Literacy Prizes, which honours excellence and innovation in the field of global literacy. This year's Confucius Prize is given to the AdulTICoProgram from Columbia, The Citizens Foundation from Pakistan, and the FunDza project from South Africa. The King Sejong prize is shared by the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance from Canada and the We Love Reading programme from Jordan.
- ✦ Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and Mumbai-born scientist Veena Sahajwalla have been conferred the PLS Alliance Prize.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Guillermo del Toro's 'The Shape of Water' was awarded the Golden Lion at the 74th Venice Film Festival. It's also the first English-language movie to win Venice's top prize since Sofia Coppola's Somewhere in 2010.
- ✦ Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has been awarded National level Rajbhasha Keerti Award for the third consecutive year. MPEDA Chairman A Jayathilak received the award from President Ram Nath Kovind.

- ✦ Bollywood star Salman Khan received a Global Diversity Award at Britain's House of Commons.
- ✦ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu felicitated filmmaker S S Rajamouli with the prestigious ANR National Award for his contribution to the Telugu film industry.
- ✦ 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. Stephen Colbert was the Host of 69th Emmy Awards.
- ✦ Former DIG D Roopa, who highlighted in a report alleged irregularities at the central jail in Karnataka, was conferred the President's Medal.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ A Nigerian, Zannah Mustapha has won the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) 2017 Nansen Refugees Award. He is the Director of Future Prowess Islamic Foundation School. Mr. Mustapha is the first Nigerian recipient of the award.
- ✦ 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.



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- ✦ 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.

✦ Rajkumar 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. Woman of the Year award was won by Anushka Sharma.

Visits

- ✦ President of Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard visited India. India and Switzerland enjoy robust economic ties, with Switzerland being seventh largest trading partner and eleventh largest foreign investor for India.
- ✦ PM Narendra Modi visited China and Myanmar. In the first leg of his three-day tour to China, Mr Modi reached Xiamen to attend the 9th BRICS Summit. Then, the Prime Minister left for Myanmar. This was Prime Minister Modi's first bilateral State visit Myanmar.
- ✦ After attending the BRICS Summit in China, PM Modi left for his three-day visit to Myanmar. He was received by the Myanmar President Htin Kyaw.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived in New York to represent India at the annual UN General Assembly, UNGA, session.
- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind will make his first foreign trip as head of state to the strategically-significant African continent in the first week of October. The President will visit to Ethiopia and Djibouti.

Summits/Events Held

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan is in Astana, Kazakhstan to co-chair the 13th Meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) with Kazakhstan.
- ✦ Ministry of Women and Child Development holds the first ever National Conference in New Delhi on Mission Mode to address Under-Nutrition in the country. This conference is being organized keeping in mind the goal of "Malnutrition Free India-2022".
- ✦ 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. The theme of the 9th BRICS Summit is "Stronger Partnership for a better future".

- ✦ The 9th BRICS Summit was held from 3rd to 5th September in Xiamen, China. The theme of the 2017 BRICS Summit was "BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future".
- ✦ The Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijju attended the first National Canine Seminar organized by National Security Guard (NSG), in NSG Campus, Manesar (Gurugram), Haryana. The theme of the two days National Canine Seminar is 'Canine as Tactical Weapon in Fight against Terrorism'.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India organized the second State Startup Conference in New Delhi. The Minister of State, C.R. Choudhary inaugurated the conference. The conference was held mainly to deliberate on issues including incubation facilities and making regulations easier for budding entrepreneurs.
- ✦ Kochi will host the fifth edition of the 'Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transportation Business Summit 2017'. The summit will be an initiative to explore the immense potential of coastal shipping and waterways as well as an effort to build a shared commitment and decipher the role that each stakeholder will have to play in integrating the coastal and waterways transport infrastructure.
- ✦ Environmental Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a two-day conference on "Sustainable landscapes and forest ecosystems: Theory to Practice". Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the "Wood is Good" campaign on the occasion. Wood is a climate-friendly material, as it is a renewable resource, having zero carbon footprint.
- ✦ Jammu and Kashmir governor N N Vohra inaugurated the second International Yoga Festival and International Yoga Sports Championship 2017. It is being organized by the Yoga Society of Kashmir at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre.
- ✦ 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).
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ For the first time, India, US and Afghanistan will hold a joint trade and investment show in Delhi, as New Delhi steps up to its role of being a bigger development partner to Afghanistan.

- ✦ 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'.
- ✦ Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram inaugurated the National Workshop organized by TRIFED on "Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produces (MFP) scheme - Taking it to the next level for a Fair and Equitable Deal to the Tribals".
- ✦ Minister of Communication Shri Manoj Sinha launched DoT's first ever Mobile, Internet and Technology event in India - India Mobile Congress 2017 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Miscellaneous

- ✦ 'Newton' will be India's official entry for the Best Foreign Film category at the Oscars 2018, according to the Film Federation of India. The movie directed by Amit Masurkar, starring Rajkumar Rao.
- ✦ The government has issued an alert on the spread of new malware 'Locky Ransomware' that can lock computers and demand ransom for unlocking them. 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.
- ✦ The government is moving ahead with linking Aadhaar with mobile SIM cards and all unlinked phones will be deactivated after February 2018.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ The elusive snow leopards, long considered an endangered species, has been upgraded to 'vulnerable'. But experts warned the new classification does not mean they are safe.
- ✦ 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.

Committees

- ✦ NITI Aayog has constituted an Expert Task Force to provide a major thrust to job creation by enhancing India's exports. It will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar.
- ✦ An advisory committee of the Securities and Exchange Board of India is likely to discuss a proposal for extending stock market trading hours. The 19-member committee is led by Jayanth R Varma, professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.
- ✦ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Bihar Deputy Chief

- Minister Sushil Kumar Modi to monitor and resolve the IT challenges faced in the implementation of GST.
- ✦ A Committee on Exports has also been constituted under the convenorship of the Revenue Secretary Dr. Hasmukh Adhia to look at the issues of export sector and to recommend the GST Council suitable strategy for helping the export sector in the post-GST scenario.
- ✦ 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. 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.

Books

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.

Obituaries

- ✦ Pulitzer-prize winning poet John Ashbery, a post-modern American trailblazer, has passed away at age of 90 in Hudson, New York.
- ✦ Arunachal Pradesh Health and Family Welfare Minister Jomde Kena died at a private hospital in Guwahati after a prolonged illness.
- ✦ Frank Vincent, who played tough guys and mobsters in "The Sopranos" and a number of director Martin Scorsese movies, died at age 80.
- ✦ The world's oldest person Violet Mosse-Brown from Jamaica has died at the age of 117. She was born on March 10, 1900, in Jamaica.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Yesteryear Bollywood actor Shakila, known for her work in films like Aar Paar and CID, died after a heart attack.

- ✦ Jake LaMotta, former boxing champion whose life of violence in and out of the ring was portrayed in the movie "Raging Bull," passed away.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Eman Ahmed, the world’s heaviest woman who made news when she arrived in Mumbai earlier this year for a weight-loss surgery, passed away in Abu Dhabi.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Playboy magazine founder and sexual revolution symbol Hugh Hefner has passed away. He was 91. He died at his home of natural causes.

MOM second-year science data from September 24, 2014, to September 23, 2016.

Important Cabinet Approvals: September 2017

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given the following set of approvals. The full list of Cabinet Approvals is given as follows.

1. Enhancement of age of superannuation of doctors other than Central Health Service (CHS) doctors to 65 years,
2. Signing of (i) Inter-bank Local Currency Credit Line Agreement and (ii) Cooperation Memorandum relating to Credit Ratings by EXIM Bank under BRICS Interbank Cooperation mechanism,
3. Agreement on “Cooperation in the field of Information, Communication and Media” between India and Ethiopia,
4. MoU between India and Belarus in the oil and gas sector,
5. Bilateral MoU between India and Afghanistan on Technical Cooperation on Police Training and Development.

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All About the "Power for All - Saubhagya Scheme"

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched - Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana ‘Saubhagya’ to provide electricity connections to over 4 crore families in rural and urban areas by December 2018.
- ii. In India, four crore out of 25 crore families do not have power connection even after 70 years of independence. India will achieve the target of power for all by December 2018, while all villages will be electrified by the end of 2017.

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

The Saubhagya scheme basically means Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana,

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,

Saubhagya Yojana will give access to electricity to all ‘willing’ households in India.

Science & Tech

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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

Static Take Aways from September 2017 Current Affairs

- ✦ Bern is the Capital of Switzerland. Swiss franc is the currency of Switzerland.
- ✦ Girish Sahni was appointed as Director General of CSIR.
- ✦ Chairman of SEBI is Ajay Tyagi. SEBI was set up on 12th April 1988.
- ✦ Harivansh Rai Bachchan was the first recipient of Sarawati Samman award.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Amitabh Kant is the CEO of NITI Aayog.
- ✦ NITI stands for National Institution for Transforming India.
- ✦ Naypyidaw is the Capital of Myanmar.
- ✦ UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. Irina Bokova is the Present Director-General of UNESCO.
- ✦ Mr Gautam Adani is the Chairman and Founder of the Adani Group.
- ✦ Berlin is the Capital of Germany. Angela Merkel is the Chancellor of Germany.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ The Chairman of the National Planning Commission is Swarnim Wagle.
- ✦ Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- ✦ Donald Trump is the Present and 45th President of America.
- ✦ Rajeev Yadav is the CEO of Fincare Small Finance Bank. It is headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✦ Siddaramaiah is the Present CM of Karnataka. Vajubhai Vala is the Governor of Karnataka.
- ✦ Karnataka Bank Headquarters in Mangaluru. Mr. Mahabaleshwara M.S is the MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank.
- ✦ Dr. Harsh Vardhan is the present Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ✦ O. P. Kohli is the Governor of Gujarat.

- ✦ Jagat Prakash Nadda is the Present Cabinet Minister of Health and Family Welfare.



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- ✦ Tamilnad Mercantile Bank is Headquartered in Tuticorin, Tamilnadu.
- ✦ Aditya Puri is the CEO of HDFC Bank. It headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✦ UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- ✦ Irina Bokova is the Present Director-General of UNESCO.
- ✦ Vijaya bank headquarter is in Bengaluru.
- ✦ Malcolm Turnbull is the PM of Australia.
- ✦ Pema Khandu is the Present CM of Arunachal Pradesh. P.B. Acharya is the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✦ PM Modi has recently inaugurated India's Longest Bridge named after Assam Singer Bhupen Hazarika over River Lohit in Assam.
- ✦ Xi Jinping is the Present President of China. Renminbi is the Currency of China.
- ✦ T S Vijayan is the Present Chairman of IRDAI.
- ✦ Bidhya Devi Bhandari is the present President of Nepal. Capital of Nepal is Kathmandu and its Currency is Nepalese Rupee.
- ✦ Nitin Jairam Gadkari is the Cabinet Minister of Road Transport and Highways.
- ✦ Vladimir Putin is the Present President of Russia. Moscow is the Capital of Russia.
- ✦ Kshitij Jain is the MD and CO of Exide Life Insurance.
- ✦ Chairman & Managing Director of BSNL is Shri Anupam Shrivastava.

- ✦ N. Chandrababu Naidu is the CM of Andhra Pradesh. E. S. L. Narasimhan is the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ Mr. Arijit Basu is the MD & CEO of SBI Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
- ✦ Ajay Pandey is the Managing Director and Group CEO of GIFT City.
- ✦ Malcolm Turnbull is the PM of Australia. Canberra is the Capital of Australia.
- ✦ Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar is the present Foreign Secretary of India.
- ✦ Shinzo Abe is the present Prime Minister of Japan. Capital city of Japan is Tokyo.
- ✦ Jeff Bezos was the Founder of Amazon. Amazon is an e-commerce company based in the USA.
- ✦ Ashok Ganapathy is the Director & CEO of Airtel Business.
- ✦ UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- ✦ Irina Bokova is the Present Director-General of UNESCO.
- ✦ Sunil Mehta is the MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank. PNB is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ✦ R. Seshasayee is the present Chairman of IndusInd Bank. It Headquarters in Mumbai.
- ✦ Shri Raghubar Das is the CM of Jharkhand. Smt Droupadi Murmu is the Present Governor of Jharkhand.
- ✦ S Christopher is the chairman of DRDO. DRDO Headquarters in New Delhi.
- ✦ Minsk is the Capital city of Belarus. Its Currency is Belarusian ruble.
- ✦ Vajubhai Vala is the Present Governor of Karnataka.
- ✦ Devendra Fadnavis is the Present CM of Maharashtra. C V Rao is the Present Governor of Maharashtra.
- ✦ DB headquarters in Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is the President of ADB.
- ✦ Hemant Contractor is the Chairman of PFRDA.
- ✦ Kabul is the Capital City of Afghanistan. Ashraf Ghani is the President of Afghanistan.
- ✦ Theresa May is the Present PM of the United Kingdom.
- ✦ Shri Piyush Goyal is the present Minister of Railways.
- ✦ Shri Suresh Prabhu is the present Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- ✦ The capital of Sri Lanka is Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte.
- ✦ Minsk is the Capital city of Belarus. Its Currency is Belarusian ruble.
- ✦ Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad is the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ✦ Athens is the capital of Greece. Alexis Tsipras is the Prime Minister of Greece.
- ✦ Chief Minister of Assam is Sarbananda Sonowal. Banwarilal Purohit is the Present Governor of Assam.
- ✦ Navin Kumar former IAS officer from Bihar cadre, was the first chairman of GSTN.
- ✦ The president of IOC is Thomas Bach.
- ✦ United Nations is Headquartered in New York, United States.
- ✦ World Economic Forum (WEF) is headquartered in Geneva.
- ✦ Vijaya Bank is headquartered in Bengaluru.
- ✦ Head Office of United India Insurance Co. Ltd. is in Chennai.
- ✦ Maneka Gandhi is the Union Minister for Women and Child Development.
- ✦ Osamu Suzuki is the chairman of Suzuki Motor.
- ✦ Nirmala Sitharaman is the newly appointed Defence Minister of India.
- ✦ S. Christopher is the Chief of DRDO.
- ✦ Robert M. Lightfoot Jr. is NASA Acting Administrator. NASA was established in 1958.
- ✦ Haider al-Abadi is the Prime Minister of Iraq. Baghdad is the capital of Iraq.
- ✦ Abu Dhabi is the Capital of United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ✦ Rajni Kant Misra is the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- ✦ Astana is the Capital of Kazakhstan. Nursultan Nazarbayev is the President of Kazakhstan.
- ✦ Manik Sarkar is the Present CM of Tripura. Tathagata Roy is the Governor of Tripura.
- ✦ Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Reuven Rivlin is the Present President of Israel.
- ✦ Ashgabat is the capital of Turkmenistan.
- ✦ Oslo is the Capital of Norway.
- ✦ Krishan Kant Paul is the Governor of Uttarakhand.
- ✦ Natarajan Chandrasekaran is the Chairman of Tata Steel.
- ✦ WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✦ Roberto Azevêdo is the sixth Director-General of the WTO.

- ✦ China has the world's longest high-speed rail network of over 22,000 kilometers, about 60 percent of the world's total.
- ✦ United Nations is Headquartered in New York, United States. Irina Bokova is the Present Director-General of UNESCO.
- ✦ Rishi Gupta is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Fino the Paytech. FINO PayTech is headquartered in Mumbai.
- ✦ Gianni Infantino is the President of FIFA.
- ✦ Sunil Lanba is the Present CNS of Indian Navy.
- ✦ Dr. Harsh Vardhan is the incumbent minister at Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ✦ Mr Vijay Rupani is present Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ✦ Berlin is the Capital of Germany. Euro is the Currency of Germany.
- ✦ Shri E.S Lakshmi Narasimhan is the Present Governor of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ Islamabad is the Capital of Pakistan.
- ✦ General Bipin Rawat is the 27th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army.
- ✦ Headquarters of AIBA is in Lausanne, Switzerland. Thomas Bach is the president of International Olympic Committee.
- ✦ Cairo is the capital and largest city of Egypt.
- ✦ Luanda is the capital city of Angola.
- ✦ O.P. Singh is the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- ✦ Managing Director and CEO of IDBI Bank is Mahesh Kumar Jain. IDBI Bank Headquarters in Mumbai.
- ✦ Janet L Yellen is present Chairperson of Federal Reserve System.
- ✦ Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the CM of Madhya Pradesh. Shri Om Prakash Kohli (Add. Charge) is the present Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ Riyadh is the Capital of Saudi Arabia.
- ✦ HSBC Headquarters in London, United Kingdom.
- ✦ Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the Director-General of WHO.
- ✦ Jack Dorsey is the chief executive officer of Twitter.
- ✦ Dr M. S. Sahoo is the chairperson if IBBI.
- ✦ Girish Chandra Tripathi is the Present Vice-Chancellor of BHU. Founder of BHU is Madan Mohan Malaviya.
- ✦ Syndicate Bank was established in 1925 in Udupi, Karnataka. Mr Melwyn Rego is the Managing Director & CEO of Syndicate Bank. It Headquarters in Manipal, Karnataka.
- ✦ Guwahati is the largest city of Assam and Northeastern India. LGB International Airport - Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, also known as Guwahati International Airport and formerly as 'Borjhar Airport' also situated in Guwahati.



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- ✦ Rajiv Kumar is the Present Vice-Chairman of NITI Ayog.
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