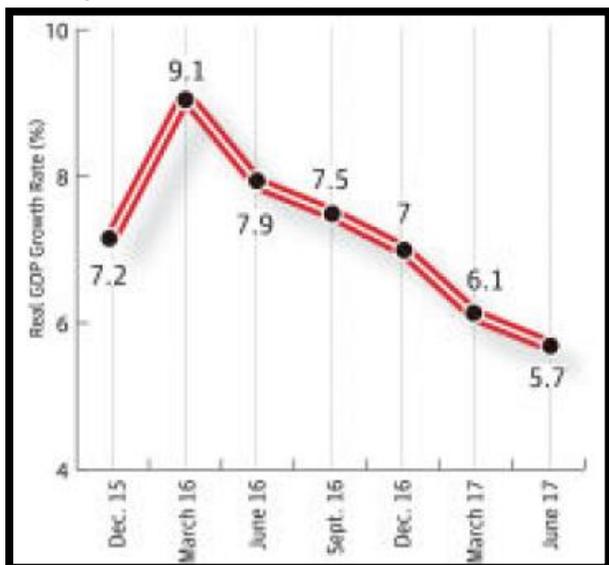


'THE HINDU' HIGHLIGHTS: WEEKLY

1st to 7th September 2017

- ✦ Former Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi was appointed Comptroller and Auditor General of India, while former I&B Secretary Sunil Arora was appointed Election Commissioner to fill the vacancy in the three-member Election Commission.
- ✦ India's GDP grew at 5.7% between April to June this year – the slowest pace recorded in 13 quarters or since the NDA government assumed office in May 2014 – led by a sharp decline in industrial activity. GDP growth in the last quarter of 2016-17 was 6.1%.



- ✦ In a double whammy to the Indian space programme, the PSLV-C39 mission carrying the replacement navigation satellite IRNSS-1H failed. This was the PSLV's first failure – in what was seen as a routine mission – after 39 continuously successful launches and only the second such instance since 1993.
- ✦ A 40-acre garden gifted by the erstwhile Maharaja of Mysore to the government of Karnataka over 70 years ago has been transformed into a beautiful 'mini-Lalbagh'. The garden would be a part of the picturesque landscape of Udthagamandalam, or Ooty as the hill station is known, in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu.
- ✦ Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) picked Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey as the new president of its Uttar Pradesh unit. He is a Lok Sabha member from Chandauli, adjoining Varanasi, and is a Minister of State in the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development. He replaces Keshav Prasad Maurya.
- ✦ 10-year-old Devi Sri Prasad has set four Guinness world records in farthest limbo skating. The boy from

Tirupati made history by skating 115.60 metres under 60 SUVs in Guntur.

- ✦ Health authorities will commence a nationwide programme to test every tuberculosis (TB) patient for signs of resistance to first-line drugs. The new policy, called the Universal Drug Sensitivity Test will be implemented using a molecular diagnostic test called GeneXpert, a U.S.-developed technology tool. It can detect the TB bacterium as well check for resistance to rifampicin, one of the standard key TB drugs, within 90 minutes.
- ✦ India thanked Switzerland for its support in global multilateral organisations. Welcoming the visiting Swiss President Doris Leuthard, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought greater cooperation to ensure bilateral financial transparency and thanked the Swiss government for its support to India's membership bid for the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
- ✦ The government extended by four months the deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar till December 31.
- ✦ Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared the town of Tal Afar "fully liberated" from the IS after a nearly two-week operation.
- ✦ The Centre is pushing for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to enhance its dividend payout to the exchequer for the year 2016-17. RBI transferred just ₹30,659 crore as dividend for the year gone by to the exchequer – less than half the ₹65, 876 crore it had paid in 2015-16.
- ✦ 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 – the difference between expenditure and revenue – was ₹5.04 lakh crore during April-July 2017-18, according to data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). For 2017-18, the government aims to bring down the fiscal deficit to 3.2% of the GDP.
- ✦ India and China have jointly submitted a proposal to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) calling for the elimination of the most trade-distorting form of farm subsidies by the developed countries as a prerequisite for consideration of other reforms in domestic support negotiations.
- ✦ Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has rolled out its first rural digital centre in an unbanked village – Kathirampatti, near Erode District of Tamil Nadu.
- ✦ India and the U.S. are working on establishing a state level engagement mechanism to widen and deepen bilateral trade and investment ties. Towards this

'THE HINDU' HIGHLIGHTS WEEKLY: 1st to 7th September 2017

objective, the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC), will unveil a 'State Engagement Task force' (SET) to ensure American and Indian companies align their interests with the priorities of the State governments of both the countries.

- ✦ Gaurav Bidhuri fought valiantly before losing to a superior opponent, 19-year-old Duke Ragan of the USA, in the 56kg semifinal bout to settle for a bronze medal in the World boxing championships. He became the fourth Indian male boxer to win a Worlds medal.
- ✦ India's basketball captain Amritpal Singh has joined Australian National Basketball League side Sydney Kings signed.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Xiamen, China, to address the BRICS summit, where he is likely to take up regional and global issues. The External Affairs Ministry said India will sign four BRICS-level agreements during the summit.
- ✦ Indian Coast Guard Director- Berhampur General Rajendra Singh inaugurated a multi-mission aircraft hangar at the Coast Guard Air Enclave, giving a boost to the futuristic expansion of ICG's air operation. The ICG's air assets, including two Dornier aircraft, at Bhubaneswar will swiftly respond to maritime contingencies at extended ranges, ensuring the safety and security off the coast of Odisha. The Coast Guard aims to improve its force level to 175 ships and 110 aircraft by 2022.
- ✦ As many as 415 infants and children died at the Baba Raghav Das (BRD) Medical College Hospital in Gorakhpur in August this year.
- ✦ For the first time since 1990, the Assam government issued orders declaring the State a "disturbed area", imposing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) for six months. The Act can be invoked in places "where the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary".

- ✦ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj met Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena and discussed bilateral matters, including the perceived delay in implementing Indiabacked projects on the island.
- ✦ As the Indian Air Force (IAF) gears up to issue a multibillion dollar tender for over a 100 single engine fighter jets, the Adani group announced a collaboration with Swedish defence major SAAB to manufacture Gripen fighter jets in India, if selected. The deal for 100 plus fighter aircraft is estimated to be worth over ₹60,000 crore.
- ✦ J.Y. Pillay, an Indian-origin veteran civil servant, was appointed as Singapore's acting President until a new head of state is sworn in later this month. He took over from Tony Tan Keng Yam.
- ✦ Kenya's Supreme Court nullified President Uhuru Kenyatta's election win citing irregularities and ordered a new poll within 60 days, a rare move in Africa where judicial power is often seen as an extension of government.
- ✦ The new Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar said he was confident that India's growth would rebound to 7%-7.5% in the current quarter after declining for five consecutive quarters.
- ✦ Tax officials should make every effort to bring all traders, including smaller businesses with turnover of less than ₹20 lakh, into the Goods and Services Tax (GST) net, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told taxmen. Currently, traders with less than ₹20 lakh annual turnover have to register under GST only if they are supplying goods to other States.
- ✦ The early conclusion of the proposed Free Trade Agreement(FTA) between India and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as well as an investment protection framework would boost economic ties between the two sides, said Switzerland President Doris Leuthard. EFTA members include Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.
- ✦ Joshna Chinappa has jumped two rungs and is now 12th as per the latest squash rankings released by the PSA. Dipika Pallikal improved to 21 from 22 last month. Among the men players, India's highest ranked player Saurav Ghosal dropped a place to 28.
- ✦ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said the State government has set a target to provide employment to two lakh youth in the State under the 'Saksham Yojana'. He directed officials to recruit youth under the Yojana for various departments where there was shortage of employees. He also inaugurated a 33KV sub-station in Bhoji Khalsa in Indri subdivision. He laid the foundation stone of 33KV sub-station in Gharaunda.
- ✦ Kerala government is exploring the possibility of enacting legislation to punish those who pollute rivers and freshwater sources in the State, Chief Minister

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Pinarayi Vijayan has said. He was inaugurating a snakeboat regatta on the Aadi-Pampa stream with the rhythmic Vanchippattu enlivening the atmosphere. He also launched the second phase of rejuvenation of the Varattar rivulet.

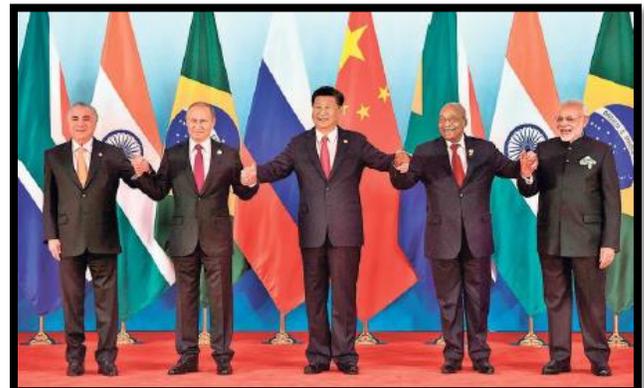
- ✦ The hunt for Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) president Bimal Gurung has triggered a showdown between West Bengal and Sikkim.
- ✦ Kenneth I. Juster, until recently deputy director of the National Economic Council at the White House, was nominated as the next U.S. Ambassador to India.
- ✦ Former England women’s cricket captain Charlotte Edwards has announced her retirement from the professional game after leading Southern Vipers to a runner-up finish in the second Kia Super League.
- ✦ U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he plans to appoint James Bridenstine, a former Navy pilot and Republican congressman, to head the U.S. space agency NASA.
- ✦ North Korea said that it tested a ‘hydrogen’ bomb which it can mount on a missile, declaring its biggest-ever nuclear detonation a “perfect success.” This sparked a strong rebuke from U.S. President Donald Trump who slammed the act “dangerous.”
- ✦ A massive rejig of the Union Council of Ministers saw Nirmala Sitharman being appointed the Defence Minister of India, the first woman to hold the charge full time (late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had held additional charge of Defence twice during her premiership).

project, will be operational for the public from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.

- ✦ India and Nepal began a joint military exercise in Rupandehi district of western Nepal, focusing on counter-terrorism and forest fighting operations. Around 300 troops from both countries will participate in the Surya Kiran exercise.
- ✦ Global brokerage firm UBS has lowered India’s GDP growth forecast to 6.6% for this fiscal from 7.2% earlier.
- ✦ The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was pleased with the appointment of Olympic silver medallist in double trap, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, as Union Sports Minister.
- ✦ Lewis Hamilton won the Italian Grand Prix with a dominant drive that sent him clear at the top of the F1 world championship for the first time in a year.
- ✦ Astronaut Peggy Whitson returned to Earth late wrapping up a recordbreaking flight that catapulted her to first place for U.S. space endurance. Ms. Whitson’s 665 days off the planet—288 days on this mission alone—exceeds that of any other American and any other woman worldwide.
- ✦ The Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping unequivocally named Pakistan-based groups – Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) – as terror organisations, removing a key irritant in ties between New Delhi and Beijing and stepping up the fight against global extremism. A joint communiqué released at the BRICS summit expressed concern about the regional security situation and listed the Taliban, IS/Daesh, Al-Qaeda and its affiliates, including the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, the Haqqani network, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, TTP and Hizb-ut-Tahrir as sources of violence.

Who Gained, Who lost		
 Nirmala Sitharman: Biggest gainer. Her place in history is assured as she is the first woman Defence Minister with exclusive charge	 Nitin Gadkari: Keeps existing portfolios; gets additional charge of Water Resources and Namami Gange programme	 Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi: Minister of state elevated to Cabinet rank, holds charge of the Minority Affairs Ministry
Reduction in rank		
 Dharmendra Pradhan: Elevation to Cabinet rank, and additional charge of another pet project of PM Modi – Skill Development.	 Rajyavardhan Rathore: Olympian silver medallist elevated, given independent charge of sports and youth affairs	 Vijay Goel: Made junior Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics and Programme Implementation
 Piyush Goyal: Ex-Power Minister is now Railway Minister. Gets charge at a time when the Railways face many challenges	 Santosh Gangwar: After demotion earlier, bounces back with independent charge of Labour and Employment	 Uma Bharti: Remains in Cabinet, but loses flagship Namami Gange. Is Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation

- ✦ Divya, the daughter of gynaecologists Jitendra and Namrata Deshmukh, won the World Cadet Chess Championship in the under- 12 category at Pocos de Caldas, Brazil.
- ✦ Union Minister for Civil Aviation P. Ashok Gajapati Raju said the proposed Bhogapuram international airport-Vizianagaram would spur economic activity and industrial growth in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will flag off the maiden run of the Lucknow Metro on September 5. The 8.5-km-long ‘Priority Corridor’ from Transport Nagar to Charbagh, which is part of Phase 1 of the



- ✦ Star India made a strong business statement with its strategic decision to pitch for the Indian Premier League’s global media and digital rights with a single-band sum of ₹16,347.50 crore. Star India, which owns the BCCI’s global media rights for home internationals, the ICC media rights for the 2015-2023

cycle and a number of other sports properties in India. Star India chairman and CEO Uday Shankar expressed delight at bringing the IPL to his channel.

- ✦ To mark the first anniversary of the canonisation of Mother Teresa, the Archdiocese of Calcutta has decided to declare her as its co-patron.
- ✦ Former Union Minister and Trinamool Congress MP from Uluberia in West Bengal's Howrah Sultan Ahmed died. He was a prominent minority leader of the TMC.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and discussed ways to boost bilateral trade and investment, especially in the oil and natural gas sector.
- ✦ Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) has signed a contract for 41 indigenously developed Dhruv advanced light helicopters (ALHs) for the Army and the Navy. Of these, 40 helicopters are for the Army and one for the Navy. T. Suvarna Raju, Chairman and Managing Director, HAL, said this.



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- ✦ Taiwan's Premier Lin Chuan resigned in a move aimed at reviving dwindling public support for the government of President Tsai Ing-wen.
- ✦ Cash-rich Oil and Natural Gas Corp. (ONGC) will raise its first debt ever, of ₹25,000 crore, to part fund the ₹37,000 crore acquisition of government's stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd. (HPCL). ONGC has sought shareholder approval for "borrowing/ raising funds in Indian rupee and/ or foreign currency by issue of debt instruments (including bonds, non-convertible debentures and notes) in domestic and/ or overseas market" of ₹25,000 crore.
- ✦ Singapore-based DBS Bank received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert its India operations into a locally incorporated, wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS).

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India has added HDFC Bank – the second largest private sector lender of the country – in the list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs). State Bank of India and ICICI Bank continue to be in that category.
- ✦ P. R. Seshadri has taken over as the managing director and chief executive officer of Karur Vysya Bank. He succeeds K. Venkataraman.
- ✦ Star India acquired the Indian Premier League's media rights for a staggering ₹16,347.5 crore (\$2.55 billion) for the next five years.
- ✦ Three years after she moved to Bengaluru to train under Vimal Kumar, Saina Nehwal is back at the Gopi Chand Academy.
- ✦ India's Kinsam Ormila Devi bagged a gold medal in 44kg weight category in Commonwealth Youth (boys & girls) weightlifting championships.
- ✦ Walter Becker, the guitarist, bassist and co-founder of the rock duo Steely Dan, one of the most successful and adventurous groups of the 1970s and early '80s, died.
- ✦ John Ashbery, an enigmatic giant of modern poetry whose energy, daring and boundless command of language raised American verse to brilliant and baffling heights, died.
- ✦ Looking beyond the Doklam crisis, India and China decided to open a new "forward looking" round of engagement, anchored by fresh mechanisms to ensure calm at the borders.
- ✦ Nationally renowned journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh, known for her firebrand writing on social issues, was shot dead by unidentified assailants, right outside her residence in West Bengaluru. She was 55. She owned and edited Gauri Lankesh, a renowned Kannada weekly.
- ✦ Regional air connectivity in Odisha is set to get a boost with the Jharsuguda airport likely to be made operational by October 2017. Flights will start operating from Jharsuguda as part of the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), the first among five airports in the State to be selected under the UDAN scheme.
- ✦ The much-awaited Lucknow Metro was finally inaugurated with BJP leaders describing it as a step towards developing the Uttar Pradesh capital as a Smart City. The inaugural journey was flagged off by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitched for a coordinated action on counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and disaster management, as he suggested 10 "noble commitments" through which BRICS could achieve leadership in global transformation.

OICL-AO
Generalist

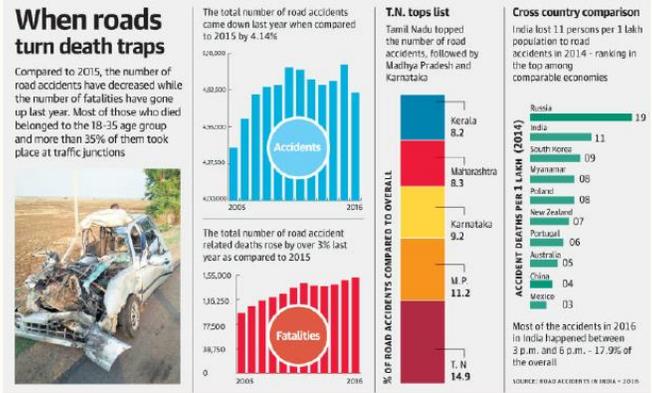
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- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived on his first bilateral visit to Myanmar. Mr. Modi called on President Htin Kyaw and will hold wide-ranging talks with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. He said that India and Myanmar would look at strengthening cooperation in security and counter-terrorism, trade and investment, infrastructure and energy and culture.
- ✦ The Centre told the Supreme Court that K.V. Chowdary was appointed Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), the chief of the country's top anti-corruption body, with the "unanimous consensus" of a high-profile committee led by the Prime Minister in June 2015.
- ✦ The finance ministry has advised all banks to take immediate steps to restrict transactions in bank accounts of more than 2.09 lakh companies, whose names have been struck off the Register of Companies.
- ✦ The government will soon bring out a policy to develop agricultural clusters and boost farm exports, said commerce minister Suresh Prabhu at the 10th Agriculture Leadership Summit 2017.
- ✦ ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company has got SEBI's go-ahead for its estimated ₹6,000 crore IPO, which could be the first by a general insurer in the country.
- ✦ IFC, part of the World Bank Group, said it had invested \$10 million in Power2SME, an e-commerce platform for small and medium firms. It helps them to buy raw materials at bulk prices and get working capital without collateral. IFC will also advise Power2SME to help expand beyond 14 states where it is present, improve its ability to provide working capital to SMEs by adding more banks as partners.
- ✦ Reliance General Insurance has said it had received an in-principle approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India for its initial public offering. The insurance firm, which is a 100% subsidiary of Reliance Capital, is expected to list during the ongoing fiscal.



- ✦ Indian roads became deadlier than ever in 2016, with a total of 1.51 lakh people dying in 4.81 lakh accidents, as per official data released. This denotes a 3% increase in fatalities over the previous year, even as the number of accidents declined by 4.1%, indicating a rise in the severity of accidents. Among States, Tamil Nadu topped the total number of road accidents with a percentage share of 14.9%, followed by Madhya Pradesh (11.2 per cent), and Karnataka (9.2 per cent).
- ✦ Jolted by the military face-off in the Doklam plateau, India and China are rebooting their ties, by opening new channels of official communication to address points of friction before they develop into full-blown crises.
- ✦ India and Japan agreed on a range of initiatives to diversify and deepen their defence cooperation. These include anti-submarine warfare, counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and technological cooperation. Defence Minister Arun Jaitley and his Japanese counterpart, Itsunori Onodera, agreed on this during the annual defence ministerial meeting in Tokyo.
- ✦ A Book named How India Sees the World: Kautilya to the 21st Century India written by former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran was released by the former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.
- ✦ At a time when boardroom tussles at storied companies have put the spotlight on corporate governance, the committee appointed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to look into such issues is all set to submit its report. The committee is chaired by Uday Kotak.
- ✦ The government has warned directors of the 2.09 lakh companies, which have been struck off the Register of Companies, against siphoning funds out of these firms' bank accounts, for, this could attract punishment that includes at least six months up to three years of imprisonment.
- ✦ The NDA government has constituted a new task force led by NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar to recommend measures to increase employment by promoting labour-intensive exports.

'THE HINDU' HIGHLIGHTS WEEKLY: 1st to 7th September 2017

- ✦ A Punj Lloyd JV has won a ₹1,177-crore project in Myanmar from the National Highways Authority of India. "A joint venture between Punj Llyod and Varaha Infrastructure Ltd has won the bid to construct the Yagyi-Kalewa road section in Myanmar,".
- ✦ Reliance Industries Ltd. has emerged as the successful bidder for the assets of Kemrock Industries & Exports, a move that will help RIL enter the composite business. KIEL is a Vadodara-based manufacturer of fibereinforced composite materials.
- ✦ Essar Oil UK plans to invest \$250 million into its refinery at Stanlow, signalling its commitment to the refinery and the British market more widely, in spite of the challenges facing the business including from Brexit and the government's commitment to an electric future for vehicles. The 2018 investment will enable Essar Oil UK to raise its annual production to 75 million barrels from 68 million barrels.
- ✦ M.S. Thejkumar became the first chess Grandmaster from Karnataka, achieving the distinction when he won his two rounds in the Fomento all-India FIDERated chess tournament in Goa. He is India's 50th GM.
- ✦ India will host the 2019 edition of the Commonwealth (youth, junior and senior) weightlifting championships, it was decided by the executive board of Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation at Gold Coast, Australia.
- ✦ India said that it shares Myanmar's concerns over "extremist violence" in the Rakhine State, from where 1,25,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging all stakeholders to find a solution that respects the country's unity. The two leaders (Modi & Suu Kyi) also vowed to combat terror and boost security cooperation.
- ✦ Launching the three-day Jalasiriki Harati programme by inaugurating an anicut across Sarada river , A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu released a G.O. according administrative sanction to the ₹2,022 crore Pedapudi reservoir, under Phase I of the Babu Jagjivanram Uttarandhra Sujala Sravanti.
- ✦ "How can a 13-year-old become a mother?" The question from Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra laid bare the vulnerability of a 13-year-old rape survivor, who was allowed by the Supreme Court to terminate her 31-week-old pregnancy. A Bench of three judges led by Chief Justice Misra, accompanied by Justices Amitava Roy and A.M. Khanwilkar, allowed the termination of pregnancy.
- ✦ **The Cold War: A World History** written by Odd Arne Westad
- ✦ **The Power and the Story: The Global Battle for News and Information** written by John Lloyd
- ✦ **Indian National Security** written by Chris Ogden
- ✦ **Tibetan Caravans: Journeys from Leh to Lhasa** written by Abdul Wahid Radhu
- ✦ **But Seriously: An Autobiography** written by John McEnroe
- ✦ **The Epic City: The World on the Streets of Calcutta** written by Kushanava Choudhury
- ✦ **Bheda** written by Akhila Naik
- ✦ **The Year of the Hawks** written by Kanwaljit Deol
- ✦ **The Ship of Secrets** written by Geronimo Stilton
- ✦ **Forever is a Lie** written by Novoneel Chakraborty
- ✦ **The Last Vicereine** written by Rhiannon Jenkins Tsang
- ✦ **Madras on my Mind: A City in Stories** written by Ed Chitra Viraraghavan & Krishna Shastri Devulapalli
- ✦ **The World's Worst Children 2** written by David Walliam
- ✦ **The Diary of a Nobody** written by George and Weedon Grossmith

Books & Authors

- ✦ **Where India Goes: Abandoned Toilets, Stunted Development and the Costs of Caste** written by Diane Coffey and Dean Spears



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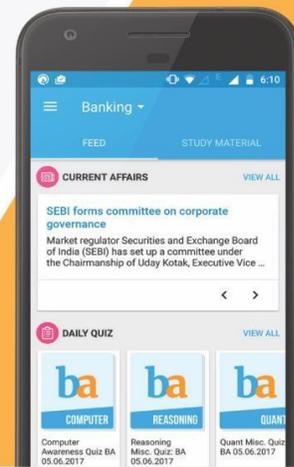
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