

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2017

Persons in news – Appointments / Elections

New governors for 5 states: President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Governors in five states. They are

- Arunachal Pradesh: Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd).
- Bihar: Satya Pal Malik.
- Tamil Nadu: Banwarilal Purohit.
- Assam: Jagish Mukhi.
- Meghalaya: Ganga Prasad.

Besides, Devendra Kumar Joshi was appointed as Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar islands.

Rajiv Mehrishi: Former Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi was sworn in as new Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India. He was administered oath of office and secrecy by President Ram Nath Kovind. He succeeded Shashi Kant Sharma.

YC Modi: The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed senior IPS officer YC Modi as Director-General (DG) of National Investigation Agency (NIA). He will succeed Sharad Kumar.

Rajni Kant Mishra: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed senior IPS officer Rajni Kant Mishra (58) as new Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). He will succeed Archana Ramasundaram, who holds distinction of being first woman IPS officer to head a para-military force in the country.

Jit Singh: Senior IAS officer Inder Jit Singh was given the additional charge of post of Chairperson of National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC).

Viveck Goenka: Viveck Goenka, chairman and managing director of Express Group was unanimously elected as Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI). N Ravi, former editor-in-chief of The Hindu was elected vice-chairman.

Nirmala Sitharaman: Nirmala Sitharaman (58) became first full time woman Defence Minister of India after she was promoted to the Union Cabinet. She takes charge of the crucial ministry from Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

Sunil Arora: The Union Government has appointed former Information and Broadcasting secretary Sunil Arora (61) as Election Commissioner.

Rajiv Kumar: Noted economist Rajiv Kumar took over as the Vice-Chairman of government National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. He succeeds Indian – American economist Arvind Panagariya who had resigned to return to academia.

Government Policy and Schemes

Relief 123 service: Domestic telecom equipment provider Vihaan Networks Limited (VNL) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to launch Relief 123 service to provide disaster management in India.

Decline in IMR: According to recently released Sample Registration Bulletin (SRB), India has registered a significant decline of 8% in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in 2016. IMR in India has declined by three points from 37 per 1000 live births in 2015 to 34 per 1000 live births in 2016.

TK Viswanathan Committee Recommendations: An expert committee headed by former Lok Sabha secretary general TK Viswanathan to deal with cybercrimes especially online hate speech has submitted its report to Union Home Ministry. The committee was formed after Supreme Court struck down Section 66 A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 in Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India.

Electoral Bonds Scheme: The Union Government is finalising electoral bonds scheme in order to bring greater transparency in funding of political parties. The scheme was announced in 2017-18 Union Budget as part of certain electoral funding reforms. It will make India first country in the world to have such unique bonds for elections.

Gujarat first big state to use VVPAT: Gujarat will become first big state to use Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) equipped with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in coming Assembly elections to make election process more transparent. It was announced by Election Commission of India. Gujarat will be second state after Goa to use VVPAT system for the Assembly elections in entire state.

Jan Sampark program: The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) launched monthly Jan Sampark program to enable public to interact with its officials to obtain information related to child adoption. The first of its kind programme under it was held recently in New Delhi.

Scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces: The Cabinet Committee of Security (CCS) has approved implementation of umbrella scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) for years 2017 to 2020 to strengthen country's law and order mechanism, modernise police forces and effectively fight against terrorism.

PENCIL Portal: The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment launched Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal at National Conference on Child Labour.

Divyang Sarathi: The Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched Divyang Sarathi—The accessible and comprehensive mobile application for easy dissemination of information to 'Divyangians'.

Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt System: The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched web portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) & Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System under Digital India mission.

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana –Saubhagya: Ministry of Power launched Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana –“Saubhagya” with an aim at providing last mile electricity connectivity to all rural and urban households.

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has constituted Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). The five member of council will be headed by Niti Aayog member Dr Bibek Debroy.

Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat scheme: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched country - wide Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat scheme to distribute LPG connections among rural areas where conventional fuel is used for domestic purposes.

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana: The Ministry of Science & Technology has launched Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana to formulate and implement appropriate S&T interventions for sustainable development through cluster approach in Uttarakhand.

Deendayal Hastkala Sankul: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Deendayal Hastkala Sankul, a trade facilitation centre and Crafts Museum for handicrafts at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

SATH Program: National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's SATH (Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital) Program was launched in Guwahati, Assam.

Special Industry Initiative for J&K- Udaan Scheme: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) extended time period "Special Industry Initiative for J&K" (SII J&K)- Udaan Scheme till December, 2018 without any modification and cost escalation.

Khelo India programme: The Union Cabinet approved revamped Khelo India programme that aims at mainstreaming sport as tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development.

Zero Hunger Programme: India's ambitious Zero Hunger Programme through interventions in farm sector will be launched on occasion of World Food Day (October 16) with focus on agriculture, nutrition and health in a symbiotic manner.

Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana: Jharkhand Government has launched Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana aimed at developing villages of freedom fighters in the state. It was launched from Ulihatu Village, birth place of freedom fighter Birsa Munda.

Northeast Venture Fund: The Ministry of Development of Northeast has invited start-ups from all over country to avail benefits of Northeast Venture Fund in a bid to make Northeast India favourite destination for young Startups.

FSI/FAR norms in mega cities: The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MHUA) has ordered review of Floor Space Index (FSI) and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) norms in mega cities of country.

Composition Scheme: The GST Network (GSTN) has reopened composition scheme window facility for small taxpayers with turnover of up to Rs.75 lakh to opt for composition scheme, which offers easy compliance for business as returns are to be filed only quarterly.

India-Japan Act East Forum: India and Japan have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to set up India Japan Act East Forum to enhance connectivity and promote developmental projects in Northeast India.

Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF): The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) Scheme with an outlay of Rs 10,881 crore to boost dairy sector.

FoSCoRIS: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched 'FoSCoRIS', a nationwide online platform to bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling.

No Fly List: The Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued rules to tackle on-board disruptive and unruly behaviour by passengers. It allows for formation of national, No Fly List of such unruly passengers.

FAME-India scheme: The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has extended the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME)-India scheme by six months to promote electric and hybrid vehicles.

UJALA Scheme: India's zero-subsidy UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme was launched in Melaka State of Malaysia by Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Union Ministry of Power.

Namami Gange programme: The Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has constituted task force for speedy implementation of various ongoing Namami Gange programme.

Awards and Honours

Prof C.N.R. Rao: Eminent Scientist and Bharat Ratna Prof C.N.R. Rao was awarded 2017 Von Hippel Award, the highest international prize in materials research. He is first Indian and first Asian to win this honour.

Newton: The Film Federation of India (FFI) has selected Hindi film Newton, a black comedy on foibles of democracy to represent India in Best Foreign Language category at 90th Academy Awards (Oscars) to be held in February 2018.

Dr. MS Subbulakshmi: Commemorative coins of Rs 100 and Rs 10 denomination were released on the occasion of 101st Birth Centenary of noted Carnatic musician Dr. MS Subbulakshmi by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Swachhta Hi Seva: The Union Government has launched Swachhta Hi Seva (cleanliness is service), a nation-wide fortnight-long sanitation campaign to highlight the government's flagship cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Mission.

Mumbai to Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project: Foundation stone of India's first high-speed rail project (bullet train) project was jointly laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe at Sabarmati Station ground in Ahmedabad.

Project Insight: The Union Finance Ministry is planning to launch 'Project Insight' from October 2017 to monitor high value transactions and detect tax evaders using technology with a view to curbing circulation of black money.

Antara and Chayya contraceptives: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched two new free contraceptives Antara and Chayya in 10 states under Mission ParivarVikas, a central family planning initiative.

Diksha Portal: The Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (HRD) has launched Diksha Portal (diksha.gov.in) for providing digital platform to teacher to make their lifestyle more digital. It will serve as National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers.

Expert Task Force on Employment and Exports: The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has constituted Expert Task Force to provide major thrust to job creation by enhancing India's exports. It will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar.

National Nutrition Strategy The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog launched National Nutrition Strategy aimed at Kuposhan Mukh Bharat. It intends at bringing nutrition to centre-stage of National Development Agenda. It lays down roadmap for targeted action to address India's nutritional needs.

SAUNI Yojana: President Ramnath Kovind laid foundations tone for link – 4 of Saurashtra Narmada Avatara Irrigation Scheme (SAUNI) Yojana in Rajkot district, Gujarat. SAUNI Yojana is multi purpose project that aims to solve water problems of parched Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

#LetsTalkIP Campaign: The Cell for IPR Promotions & Management (CIPAM) under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has launched social media campaign to promote Indian Geographical Indications (GIs).

Locky Ransomware: The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has issued an alert about spread of new ransomware (malicious software) 'Locky' that can lock computers and demand ransom for unlocking them.

Rajaswa Gyan Sangam 2017: The 2017 Rajaswa Gyan Sangam, a two-day annual conference of senior tax administrators was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. It was inaugurated Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Empowered Steering Committee: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has approved constitution of 13-member Empowered Steering Committee (ESC). It will shape and influence India's preparation for multi-disciplinary events, including 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Science, Technology & Environment

1000 electric vehicles Contract: State-run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has announced that it will procure 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs) from Tata Motors. It is world's largest single electric vehicle procurement.

Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017: Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified new Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 to prohibit range of activities in wetlands. The new rules will replace earlier rules notified in 2010.

Fourth wave of Gravitational Waves: Scientists have successfully detected gravitational waves for fourth time coming from merger of two massive black holes. It was for first time, these waves were simultaneously detected by US-based Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) and Italy-based Virgo detectors.

Aquatic Rhabdops: A new species of non-venomous aquatic snake named Aquatic Rhabdops, which was misidentified since 1863, was identified and described as new species from northern Western Ghats in Maharashtra, Goa and North Karnataka. Earlier the new species, Rhabdops aquaticus, was considered as variant of Olive Forest Snake, first described in 1863.

Mangalyaan ISRO's globally acclaimed Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) also known as Mangalyaan completed three years in Martian orbit. It has outlived its original lifespan and is still in good health and continues to work as expected.

Osiris-Rex Spacecraft: NASA's asteroid-chasing spacecraft Osiris-Rex successfully swung by Earth to put it on desired trajectory towards near earth asteroid Bennu using Earth's gravity. It passed within 17,237 kilometres from Earth above Antarctica. During closest flyby, Osiris-Rex's science instruments were tested by scanning Earth and moon as a practice for its operations at Bennu.

Strato launch: The world's largest all-composite airplane Stratolaunch in terms of wingspan successfully completed its initial engine tests. It is designed for launching for sending satellite-carrying rockets into low-Earth orbit.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS): The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and International Road Federation (IRF), Geneva have signed Statement of Intent (SoI) to cooperate in field of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

Molecular Robot: Scientists from University of Manchester have created world's first 'molecular robot' — millionth of a millimetre in size. It can be used to build molecules and may help discover novel drugs.

2006 VW139/288P: International team of astronomers using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have spotted an unusual object called 2006 VW139/288P having two asteroids orbiting each other with comet-like features.

First electric bus service: India's first electric bus service was launched at Rohtang Pass area in Himachal Pradesh. It is first of its kind electric bus service for tourist spot in India and first in world at an altitude of 13,000 feet.

Brahmaputra Biodiversity and Biology Boat (B4) labs: The Union Government is planning to safeguard fast-eroding Majuli island — world's largest riverine island using research carried out on floating Brahmaputra Biodiversity and Biology Boat (B4) labs along Brahmaputra River.

Quantum computers: The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is planning to fund project to develop quantum

computers in order to tap into the next big advance in computing technology.

Optical polarisation phenomenon: Scientists for first time have observed Optical polarisation phenomenon (polarised light emitted by rapidly rotating stars) after it was predicted by Indian astrophysicist and Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar 70 years ago.

Snow Leopard: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has downgraded conservation status of snow leopard from “endangered” to “vulnerable”. It was changed after three-year assessment process by international experts.

Wood is Good Campaign: The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has launched “Wood is Good” Campaign under Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-Plus).

Mouse deer Telangana Forest Department for first time has re-introduced ‘mouse deer’ in the forests of Nallamalla in Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) bred at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad.

Fauna of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve in Indian Sundarbans: Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has published first of its kind compendium titled Fauna of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve in Indian Sundarbans. It has consolidated and updated information of faunal diversity of Sundarbans.

India’s first state of virology laboratory: India’s first state of art virology laboratory was inaugurated at Dr. Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in Kolkata, West Bengal. The lab will play important in developing new drugs and technologies in Homoeopathy to combat emerging challenges of viral diseases.

CARB-X: Recently Bugworks Research, a Bengaluru-based biotech startup, became India’s and Asia’s first to receive the international CARB-X (Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator) grant for its antibiotic research and development.

Labeo filiferus: Researchers have discovered new species of edible fresh water fish in Pampa river in Pathanamthitta, Kerala. It has been named as Labeo filiferus (L.filiferus) and belongs to Labeo genus.

Sahara Forest Project: Jordan, a water-poor country that is 90% desert, has launched Sahara Forest Project near the southern port city of Aqaba to turn desert land into farming land to produce food using sun and sea water.

Methanol: Scientists from Cardiff University, UK have discovered a new way to produce methanol from methane using oxygen from the air. Methanol is an important chemical often used as fuel in vehicles.

Parali I island: According to a study, Parali I island, one of biodiversity-rich uninhabited islands part of Lakshadweep has disappeared due to coastal erosion and another four such islands in Lakshadweep sea are shrinking fast.

Hyperloop project: India’s first Hyperloop project will come up in Andhra Pradesh, connecting its city centres, Vijayawada and Amaravati. In this regard, Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) has inked memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) for developing the project.

Breakthrough Listen project: Breakthrough Listen project has detected 15 fast radio bursts (FRBs) coming from a dwarf galaxy about 3 million light years away from earth. The new detection was made with help of Green Bank Telescope (GBT) in West Virginia.

TRAPPIST-1 dwarf star: According to international team of astronomers , earth - sized planets orbiting ultracool TRAPPIST-1 dwarf star may have substantial amounts of water and could be habitable.

XFEL: World's biggest and powerful X-ray laser gun unveiled: The world's largest and powerful X-ray laser-European X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL) was unveiled in Hamburg, Germany. The first beams from XFEL were accelerated in April 2017 and first x-ray beams were produced in May 2017.

Events & Observances

Global Entrepreneurship Summit: The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in partnership with US Government is going to host 8th annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES 2017) in Hyderabad (Telangana) from November 28 to 30, 2017.

3rd India International Science Festival: The third India International Science Festival (IISF-2017) will be held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu from October 13-16, 2017. It will be organised by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).

30 September: International Translation Day: The International Translation Day was observed by United Nations for first time on 30 September 2017. The observance of day seeks to recognize contribution of unsung heroes behind international diplomacy who work as language professionals to facilitate dialogue and contribute to development and strengthens world peace and security.

September 28: World Maritime Day: The World Maritime Day (WMD) is observed every year on September 28 to highlight importance of shipping safety, maritime security and marine environment and to acknowledge maritime industry.

13th Formation Day of NDMA: The 13th Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was celebrated across the country. The theme of this year's Formation Day was School Safety.

28 September: World Rabies Day: The World Rabies Day is observed every year on 28 September across the world to raise awareness about rabies disease and its preventable measures. The 2017 theme is 'Rabies: Zero by 30'.

27 September: World Tourism Day: The World Tourism Day (WTD) is being observed every year on 27th September to raise awareness about importance of tourism. Observance of day aims to foster awareness among international community of importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value.

VASTRA: The 6th edition of VASTRA– An International Textile and Apparel Fair 2017 (VASTRA 2017) was recently held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It was jointly organised by Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO) and FICCI.

21 September: International Day of Peace: The International Day of Peace is observed across the world on 21 September to acknowledge efforts of those who have strived to end conflict and promote peace. This day is also observed as a day of ceasefire.

16 September: International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer: The International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer (or World Ozone Day) is observed every year on September 16 for the preservation of the Ozone Layer. This year, theme for Day is 'Caring for all life under sun'.

14 September: National Hindi Divas: The National Hindi Divas, an annual literary-day is observed on 14 September in Hindi speaking regions of India and other countries with Hindi speaking population.

8 September: International Literacy Day: The International Literacy Day (ILD) is being observed every year on 8 September to emphasize the importance of literacy to individuals, society and communities.

5 September: National Teachers Day: The National Teachers Day is observed every year on 5th September in India to commemorate birthday of country's first Vice President and second President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

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

Defence Related

ARPAN 3.0: Defence Ministry has rolled out ARPAN 3.0 (Army Record Office Process Automation 3.0), a new automation software for Defence Security Corps personnel to ease personal documentation and all issues related to their progression.

DGQA: The Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) was observed on 28 September 2017 as it completed 60 years of its existence.

DRUZBA 2017: The second edition of DRUZBA 2017 (Friendship-2017), a joint military exercise between special forces of Pakistan and Russia was held in Minralney Vody, Russia. The exercise set the stage for translating political goodwill between both countries into a substantial partnership especially in the field of defence.

INS Tarasa: INS Tarasa (T94), the fourth and last ship in series of Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) was commissioned into Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. It is an improved variant of Car Nicobar-class high-speed offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) built indigenously.

V-409: Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) new interceptor boat V-409 was launched in Mangaluru, Karnataka by Bharathi Defence and Infrastructure Limited (BDIL).

Pralay Sahayam: Multi-Agency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise Pralay Sahayam was recently held in Hyderabad to create public awareness about man-made and natural climate change and urban disasters including flooding.

INS Kalavari submarine: India's first ingeniously built INS Kalavari submarine was handed over to Indian Navy by stateowned Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai, Maharashtra. This is Indian Navy's first new conventional submarine in two decades.

C-433, C-434 boats: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned two high-speed interceptor boats C-433 and C-434 boats at the Dighi Port in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

First BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017: India is going to conduct first BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017 (DMEx-2017) from October 10-13, 2017. It will be conducted by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Yudh Abhyas: The 13th edition Yudh Abhyas 2017, a joint military training exercise between India and United States was held at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, US. Yudh Abhyas is annual bilateral military exercise, alternately held by the two countries.

Advanced towed artillery gun system (ATAGS): The advanced towed artillery gun system (ATAGS) has set world record in terms of range by hitting targets at distance of 48 km during trial firings at Pokhran, Rajasthan. The record of longest ever distance of 48.074 km was achieved by ATAGS with special ammunition high explosive – base bleed" (HE – BB) developed by Kalyani Group.

Astra Missile: The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted developmental trials of indigenously developed Astra beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) over the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha.

ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Team Incident Drill: The ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Team Incident Drill (ACID) was recently held in Hanoi, Danang, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. This year it was 12th year of drills as part of subregion's response to growing cyber challenges witnessed in recent years.

INDRA 2017: India and Russia have begun discussions to work out modalities for conducting their first triservice military exercise INDRA 2017 in October 2017 in Russia. It will be India's first bilateral military exercise with any country involving all three services.

Navika Sagar Parikrama: India's first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition named as Navika Sagar Parikrama was flagged off by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Goa. The crew belongs to Indian Navy and is sailing Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini). It will circumnavigate globe in approximately 165 days and is expected to return to Goa in April 2018.

Nag Missile: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully twice flight tested indigenously developed 3rd generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) Nag in Rajasthan.

Women in military police: The Indian Army has finalised plan to induct women in military police. The plan is seen as major step towards breaking gender barriers in force.

SLINEX 2017: The seventh edition of India-Sri Lanka joint maritime naval exercise SLINEX 2017 was held near Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) in Bay of Bengal. It will be conducted from 7th to 14th September 2017.

Surya Kiran XII: The 12th edition of India-Nepal joint military exercise- Surya Kiran XII was held at Nepal Army Battle School (NABS) in Saljhandi, Nepal.

Finance, Business and Economy

Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) 2017-18: India was placed at 40th spot among 137 countries in World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) 2017-18. India has slipped by one position compared to 39th spot in 2016 GCI.

India ranks third in nuclear power installations: study: According to World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017, India with six installed nuclear reactors ranks third in world, while China is leading at 20 installed nuclear reactors.

FTSE SBI Bond Index: State Bank of India (SBI) along with FTSE Russell, global index and data provider launched FTSE SBI Bond Index series at London Stock Exchange (LSE). It is India's first bond index series for overseas investors.

Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms The Union Government has issued gazette notification, notifying that Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms will be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and thus regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Oil discovery in Mumbai High fields: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has made oil discovery in WO-24-3 well located west of Mumbai High fields in Arabian Sea. The well is estimated to hold in-place reserve of about 20 million tonnes.

Tez digital payment service: Tech Giant Google's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) based digital payment service Tez (meaning fast in Hindi) was launched by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.

Global Human Capital Index 2017: India ranked low 103rd out of 130 countries surveyed on World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Human Capital Index (GHCI) 2017. In the previous edition, India ranked 105th.

Contact@DGFT: The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industries has set up Contact@DGFT, an online service facility for effective resolution of foreign trade-related issues of importers and exporters.

BPCL: State-run oil marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) is all set to become a Maharatna company. Presently it is having Navratna status.

China bans Initial Coin Offering: The People's Bank of China (PBC), central bank of China has banned individuals and organisations from raising funds through initial coin offerings (ICO) saying that practice constituted illegal fund-raising.

Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has added HDFC Bank, the second largest private sector lender of country in list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).

Miscellaneous Terms and Facts

Kandla Port renamed as Deendayal Port: The Union Ministry of Shipping has renamed Kandla Port Trust as Deendayal Port Trust, by exercising powers conferred on it under Indian Ports Act, 1908. It was changed as part of yearlong centenary celebrations of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, who had stood for uplift of poor and weaker sections of society.

Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017: The Union Cabinet has approved introduction of Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Parliament subject to modifications of drafting as may be considered necessary by Legislative Department. The Bill seeks to amend the Dentists Act, 1948 to include certain modifications in order to reduce the redundancy.

Rooppur nuclear power plant: India is collaborating with Russia to build Rooppur nuclear power plant in Bangladesh. It will be first initiative under an India-Russia nuclear deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries. It will also be India's first atomic energy venture abroad.

Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2017: The Union Law ministry has approved Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2017 to empower government to confiscate property of economic offenders and defaulters who flee India. The Bill seeks to deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by fleeing the country.

Sardar Sarovar Dam: Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated interstate multi-purpose Sardar Sarovar Dam (Narmada dam project) at Kevadia, Gujarat to the nation. It is the highest dam ever built in India and second biggest concrete gravity dam in world in terms of volume after Grand Coulee Dam in US.

Alang-Sosiya ship recycling yards: The Union Government signed \$76 million loan deal with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for starting upgradation project related to environment management plan at Alang- Sosiya ship recycling shipyards in Gujarat.

Chakma and Hajong refugees: The Union Home Ministry will soon grant citizenship to early one lakh Chakma and Hajong refugees, who came from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) five decades ago and are living in northeast.

Chennai-Vladivostok sea route: India is planning to launch major connectivity initiative, connecting Chennai with key Russian port Vladivostok via sea route with an aim to harness natural resources from Northeast Asia and Western Pacific region.

Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017: The Union Cabinet has given approved introduction of the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Parliament. The Bill seeks to amend Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

Bali Declaration: India has refused to be a part of Bali Declaration adopted at conclusion of World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development held in Bali, Indonesia to show of solidarity with Myanmar.

The Code on Wages Bill, 2017: The Union Government as part of labour law reforms has undertaken drive to rationalize 38 Labour Acts by framing 4 labour codes viz Code on Wages, Code on Social Security, Code on Industrial Relations and Code on occupational safety, health and working conditions.

Jharkhand Religious Freedom Bill, 2017: Jharkhand Governor Draupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Jharkhand Religious Freedom Bill, 2017. With this Jharkhand, become seventh state in the country to have anti-conversion law. Other six states with similar law are Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

9th BRICS summit: The 9th BRICS summit was held in Xiamen, China. The theme of the summit was “Stronger Partnership for brighter Future”. It was for second time the summit was hosted in China after 2011 summit. At the end of summit, BRICS leaders adopted Xiamen declaration.

Assam for first time extends AFSPA orders on its own: Assam Government has extended term of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 and declared entire state a Disturbed Area for six more months under Section 3 of AFSPA Act.

Ahmedabad's Walled City: The 600-year-old Walled City in Gujarat's commercial capital Ahmedabad was formally accorded status of India's first World Heritage City by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Sports

P V Sindhu: India's ace shuttler P V Sindhu (World no. 4) won women's singles title at 2017 Korea Open Super Series badminton tournament. In summit clash held at Korean capital city Seoul, she defeated Nozomi Okuhara (World No. 7) of Japan in three sets 22-20, 11-21, 20-18.

Rafael Nadal: World number one Rafael Nadal (Spain) won the 2017 US Open title in men's single category. It was his overall 16th Grand Slam title and third US Open title (2010 and 2013).

Persons in news: Died

Tom Alter: Veteran theatre, television and film actor Tom Alter passed away aged 67. He was best known for his performances in “Shatranj Ke Khilari”, “Junoon” and “Kranti”.

Arjan Singh: The sole Marshal of the Indian Air Force (IAF) Arjan Singh passed away following cardiac arrest in New Delhi. He was known for shaping IAF in its early years as well as during some of its most difficult junctures.