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Monthly GK Mania

NATIONAL NEWS

Former Sikkim CM said goodbye to cabinet of life.

On 16th July the former chief minister of Sikkim, Nar Bahadur Bhandari passed away at the age of 77 in Delhi. He worked as a government school teacher before beginning his political career. He founded Sikkim Janata Parishad in 1977. In 1979 he came to power as the Chief Minister of Sikkim for the first time. In 1984, he constituted a new party known as Sikkim Sangram Parishad (SSP) after dissolution of the Sikkim Janata Parishad. In 1985 as well as in 1989, he again became Chief Minister of the state on the ticket of SSP. He worked as the President of SSP till his end. He was the first Gorkha to hold the office of a Chief Minister in the history of Indian Polity.

Book ‘Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives’ came in President’s hand.

On 17th July Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen presented the first copy of book “Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives” to the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee. Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor of JGU University compiled it and Oxford University Press published it. Having the analysis of the academic and research work of scholars, educationists and practitioners from India and abroad, the book presents insight of comparative perspectives on higher education and addresses issues which are faced by Indian Universities.

Swami Smarananandaji Maharaj became President of Ramakrishna Math.

On 17th July Swami Smarananandaji Maharaj got elected as the 16th President of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. The seat of the president which had been vacant since 18th June 2017 has eventually got filled. He has succeeded Swami Atmasthanandaji Maharaj. Swami Smarananandaji Maharaj belongs to Tamil Nadu. He became Trustee of the Ramakrishna Math and member of the Governing Body of the Ramakrishna Mission in year 1983. In April 1995 he became Assistant Secretary in Ramakrishna Math and later in 1997 he became General Secretary of the organisation. Ramakrishna Mission is a registered society in which monks of Ramakrishna Math and devotees conduct various social services across the nation.

Tata Motors gave way to India’s first Bio-Methane Bus.

On 17th July India’s largest Commercial Vehicles manufacturer, Tata Motors unveiled country’s first Bio-CNG (bio-methane) bus at Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas’s ‘Urja Utsav’, the Bio-energy programme. Currently the LCV, ICV & MCV buses can procure the new bio-methane engines (5.7 SGI & 3.8 SGI). Bio-methane is produced out of bio-degradable materials like kitchen waste. The natural degradation process of waste products leads to production of gas which escapes into the atmosphere unused. For the biomethane bus the resultant biogas has been trapped and used in engines. The alternate fuel technology will contribute Government of India’s Smart City initiative. It is good for knowledge that Tata Motors has pioneered the introduction of natural gas vehicles (CNG) in India. It is being credited for introducing various technologies in CNG like gas injection technology, skip fire, plug type coils, long life spark plugs and longer oil drain intervals.

Enlightened nation is lighting abroad !

On 18th July India launched solar project with state-of-the-art technology to electrify the remote village of Agaween in Egypt. The project has begun its walk in the Western Desert in Matrouh Governorate, near the Libyan border. India’s Ambassador to Egypt Sanjay Bhattacharyya and Major General Alla Fathi Abou Zeid, Governor of Matrouh together conducted the inaugural ceremony. This Solar Electrification Project is an off-grid system that is ideal for remote locations. The Egyptian Government provided the location and the Indian government is

providing all the requisite solar panels and sub-systems, machinery, equipment and technical support, as well as training for technicians for this project. This highlights India's technical capabilities, especially in renewable energy. The project is likely to yield total output of 8.8 kilowatt for 40 houses, a school, a mosque and a community centre in the chosen village.

Telangana giving weightage to weight of school bags!

On 18th July the Telangana government has prescribed the upper limit on the weight of bags carried by schoolchildren studying in the primary section to those in Class X in order to prevent the prevalent physical effect and anxiety disorder in students. As per the official notice the maximum permissible weight of a school bag with textbooks and notebooks is 1.5 kg for children in Class 1 and II and 2-3 kg for children studying in Class III, IV and V. The weight limit for bags of students studying in Classes VI and VII is 4 kg while for those in Classes VIII and IX has been sealed at 4.5 kg. In the case of Class X, it should not exceed 5 kg.

WPC Excellence Award slipped on Indian Oil!

In July 2017 Leading oil marketing company Indian Oil captured World Petroleum Congress Award for its innovative and ground-breaking INDMAX technology at 22nd edition of the World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul. The former Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Energy and Industry of Qatar, Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah conferred this award upon Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, IndianOil and SSV Ramakumar, Director (R&D). The company developed LPG by the INDMAX technology which is highly suitable for heavy crude oil contaminated with metals. Besides this, Indian Oil also slided the top honours for the unsurpassed scale of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). Indian Oil had led the distribution of deposit-free LPG connections to below-poverty-line families.

The MCI oversight committee will witness change.

In July 2017, the Apex Court ordered Centre to substitute the oversight committee set up which was constituted to supervise the functioning of the Medical Council of India (MCI) with a fresh panel of five eminent doctors. A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar had issued this order. The Centre has been given the liberty to replace any doctor in the list with another if s/he does not wish to be a part of the oversight committee.

Lok Sabha made (IIIT-PPP) Bill 2017 pass.

On 19th July Lok Sabha approved Indian Institute of Information Technology Public Private Partnership Bill 2017 via voice vote. The approved bill seeks statutory status for the fifteen Indian Institutes of Information Technology in Public Private Partnership and proclaims them as Institutions of National Importance. The Bill authorizes these institutions to grant degrees to their students in the academic courses conducted by them. The privileged institutions will be able to use the nomenclature of Bachelor of Technology (BTech) or Master of Technology (MTech) or PhD degree as issued by a University or Institution of National Importance.

Milk & Milk Products welcomed quality mark logo.

On 20th July Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched National Dairy Development Board's (NDDB) quality mark logo for milk and milk products to signify safe and quality milk and milk products from dairy cooperatives. This launch was aimed at providing brand identity and a competitive edge to dairy cooperatives. The move will fetch process improvement in the entire value chain from producer to the consumers to ensure availability of quality milk and milk products. This new quality mark will be valid for three years.

Bicentenary Celebration of Paika Rebellion of Odisha has begun.

On 20th July Pranab Mukherjee did the inaugural ceremony of Bicentenary Celebration of Paika Rebellion of Odisha which was organized by Union Ministry of Culture. The Paika Rebellion was an armed rebellion against the British East India Company's rule in Odisha in 1817. Under leadership of Bakshi Jagabandhu, the Paikas who were traditional landed militia of Odisha worked as warriors and were charged with policing functions during peacetime. It was a National War waged by ordinary people at the grassroots level for upholding the rights of the Odia people and sovereignty of Odisha. The Paikas projected Lord Jagannath as the symbol of Odia unity. The Britishers arrested the rebellions and awarded sentences of death, transportation and long-term imprisonment to them 200 years ago.

Tata's Advinus Therapeutics is on sale.

Premier preclinical contract research company for regulatory toxicology, CMC services, Analytical R&D Services, 'Tata's Advinus Therapeutics' will soon be an asset of International group of laboratories, 'Eurofins Scientific' as per their 20th July announcement. Advinus has more than 25 years of GLP compliance and certification and its expertise complements Eurofins contract research, development and manufacturing (CDMO) capabilities. Headquartered in Luxembourg, Eurofins Scientific offers testing and support services to the pharmaceutical, food, environmental and consumer products industries. It has more than 20000 employees across 200 sites in 39 nations.

ESMA & SEBI made agreement for info exchange on CCPs.

In July 2017 European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) and Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) inked Memorandum of Understanding under umbrella of the European Markets Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR) for exchanging information about Central Counterparties (CCPs). Central counterparties are establishments that look after clearing and settlement activities. The MoU permits cooperation arrangements viz. the exchange of information regarding Central Counterparties (CCPs) which are established and authorised or recognised in India by SEBI and which have applied for EU recognition under EMIR. It should be noted that EMIR arranges agreements of a cooperation arrangement between ESMA and the relevant non-EU authorities, whose legal and supervisory framework for CCPs have been deemed equivalent to EMIR by the European Commission. And signing of MoU is one of the significant conditions for recognition of third country CCPs by ESMA under EMIR.

President and his people are ready for the show.

On 22nd July Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board Sanjay Kothari got appointed as Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind. He is a 1978-batch IAS officer of Haryana cadre, who got retired in June 2016 as DoPT secretary. Besides him some other secretaries also got appointed. Distinguished Fellow of the Observer Research Foundation and Senior journalist Ashok Malik became Press Secretary to President; Resident Commissioner of Gujarat government in Delhi and Senior Gujarat-cadre forest service officer, Bharat Lal got appointed as the Joint Secretary to Kovind. The appointments were done with consent of the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet which is being headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for upcoming two years.

First R&D facility of nation whistled from Indian Oil Corp (IOC) corridor.

In July 2017 India launched "first-of-its kind" R&D facility for high-end fuels and gas and Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Faridabad in the National Capital Region (NCR) did the inaugural ceremony for the same. The R&D facility will put all types of fuel like petrol, diesel, ethanol-blended petrol, bio-diesel, CNG, LNG, hydrogen-CNG and 2G-ethanol to test and will ensure that they meet the superior BS-VI norms that are to be implemented across the country by April 2020.

Radio broadcasting celebrated 90 years of its completion.

On 23rd July 2017 Radio broadcasting completed its 90 years. On 23rd July 1927 first ever radio broadcast was aired from the Bombay Station by a private company named the Indian Broadcasting Company. On 8th of June, 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service got transformed into All India Radio with the motto “Bahujan Hitaya Bahujan Sukhaya”. And since then AIR has been informing, educating and entertaining the masses. Currently under India's largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bharati, All India Radio, enjoys the distinction of being one of the major broadcasting organizations in the world. AIR's home service has 420 stations across the country, covering 92% area of India and 99.19% of the total population. AIR originates programming in 23 languages and 146 dialects.

GoDaddy appoints Nikhil Arora as VP :

GoDaddy has announced the appointment of Nikhil Arora as Vice President and Managing Director for its India operations. Arora will lead corporate strategy, business development and customer experience for GoDaddy in the country.

FSSAI bans stapler pins in tea bags from January 2018 :

FSSAI bans stapler pins in tea bags from January 2018. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on 24 July 2017 banned the use of stapler pins in tea bags. The decision is effective from 1 January 2018. The FSSAI has deemed the use of stapler pins in tea bag a serious health hazard. The move is expected to affect the fast growing packaged tea business in the country.

Nation celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas :

The country celebrated the 18th Anniversary of 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' on 26 July. At Drass War memorial, in Jammu and Kashmir the celebrations were started on Monday during which various programs have been arranged. Last Sunday Kargil Parakram Rally has been organized at India Gate. On this day in 1999, the Indian Army successfully took control of posts at a treacherous high altitude and glaciated terrain across the Himalayas in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, after fighting for 60 days. More than 500 soldiers from Indian Armed Forces sacrificed their lives during the war. Four Param Vir Chakras, nine Maha Vir Chakras, 53 Vir Chakras and other medals had been awarded to felicitate the Kargil War heroes.

Delhi government constitutes State Names Authority :

The Delhi government on 25 July 2017 constituted the State Names Authority, a separate body mandated to name government roads and institutions under the state purview. The State Names Authority (SNA) will be headed by deputy CM Manish Sisodia. While, Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain will be the Vice-Chairman of the Authority. Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal has gave his approval for the formation of the authority.

Nitish now NDA CM :

JDU President Nitish Kumar took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar and BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi as Deputy Chief Minister on thursday in Patna. He had resigned from the post yesterday evening citing irreconcilable differences with ally RJD on the issue of corruption charges against deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav son of laluyadav. Hours later, JDU President joined hands with BJP to form a new government in the state. BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi later told journalists that a list of 132 MLAs supporting Nitish Kumar was submitted to the governor. These include 71 MLAs from JD(U), 53 from BJP, 2 each from RLSP and LJP, one from HAM and three independents. With the support of 132 MLAs, the NDA enjoys a comfortable majority in 243-member Bihar Assembly where 122 MLAs are required to prove majority. Governor has given Nitish Kumar two days to prove majority on the floor of the assembly.

UAE Central Bank to freeze terror accounts :

The UAE Central Bank has asked all banks and financial institutions in the country to freeze accounts of any individual or entity mentioned in the new terror list declared by Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt on Tuesday. The four Arab countries had added nine entities and nine individuals to their list of terrorist groups, which they said have direct or indirect ties with Qatari authorities.

No immediate arrest under dowry harassment law :

The Supreme Court on 27 July 2017 ruled that the police cannot arrest the accused without conducting a preliminary inquiry under dowry harassment cases. With this, the court puts an end to immediate arrests in dowry harassment cases, under Section 498A of Indian Penal Code (IPC). The ruling was made by a bench of Justices A K Goel and UU Lalit. The court held that arrests in dowry harassment cases, where the maximum punishment is up to 7 years in jail, cannot be made on a belief that the accused may have committed the offence. The bench made it clear that its directions will not extend to cases of tangible injury or death. The court directed states to set up a Family Welfare Committees (FWC) comprising 3 members in every district across the country to keep an eye on the uprightness of each complaint.

India Quake app launched :

Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests & Climate Change, on 27 July 2017 launched an app India Quake for Earthquake Parameter Dissemination. The minister launched the application on the occasion of Foundation Day of Ministry of Earth Sciences in New Delhi. National Centre for Seismology launches app India Quake for Earthquake Parameter Dissemination. The App will make information dissemination faster with no restrictions on the number of recipients.

Lok Sabha passes Companies Act (Amendment) Bill :

The Lok Sabha on 27 July 2017 passed the Companies Act (Amendment) Bill, that seeks to amend Companies Act, 2013 to remove complexities and improve ease of doing business. The bill was passed with a voice vote and was moved by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal. It removes the limit on layers of subsidiaries and intermediaries. This is in line with the Companies Law Committee's (CLC) recommendations which noted that imposing such limits would affect the company's structuring and ability to raise funds. It calls for a group of people who exercise beneficial control (above 25 per cent) in a company to disclose such interest. It removes the requirement of offer letter that is issued to individuals to whom a private offer of shares has been made, but retains the provision related to notifying the Registrar of the return of allotment. It permits an Independent Director to have a financial relationship of up to 10 per cent of his total income with the company.

NITSER amendment Bill passed :

NITSER (National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research) Amendment Bill was passed in Rajya Sabh on 26th July 2017. The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on 28th March 2017. Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister of State (HRD) in Rajya Sabha informed that the Bill proposes to introduce two new Institutions namely Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Tirupati and IISER Berhampur in the Second Schedule of the NITSER Act, 2007. Five IISERs at Kolkata (2006), Pune (2006), Mohali (2007), Bhopal (2008) and Thiruvananthapuram (2008) mandated with promoting quality education and research in the sciences were established. With the establishment of the two new IISERs there are now seven IISERs.

Punjab launches 'Apni Gaddi Apni Rozgar' scheme :

The Punjab government has recently announced the launch of its flagship 'Apni Gaddi Apna Rozgar' scheme by flagging off over 100 uber MOTO bikes. Under the scheme, the state government will be providing commercial two wheelers and four wheelers to unemployed youth at subsidized rates. The scheme aims to generate job opportunities for youth and providing better mobile transport in Punjab. Uber target is to create 10,000 entrepreneurial opportunities in one year and 45,000 in next five years.

India is world's third-biggest beef exporter :

According to recently released OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026 report, India is the world's third-biggest exporter of beef. Brazil was ranked as the world's top beef exporter followed by Australia. India exported 1.56 million tonnes of beef in 2016. It is expected to maintain its position as the third-largest beef exporter, accounting for 16% of global exports in 2026 by exporting 1.93 tonnes that year. India imported 363,000 tonnes of beef in 2016 and the amount was projected to stay the same over the decade. The total world beef exports was 10.95 million tonnes in 2016 and it is expected to increase to 12.43 million tonnes by 2026. Till 2015, India was the world's largest exporter of beef and had extended its lead over the next highest exporter, Brazil.

Rajya Sabha passes Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017 :

The Rajya Sabha today passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Third Amendment) Bill, 2017 with amendments on first august 2017. The bill seeks to create a new commission with constitutional status for the OBCs at par with the National Commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Replying to the discussion, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawar Chand Gehlot allayed Members' concern that the bill will encroach upon the rights of the states. He said, there is no attempt to reduce the rights of states and attack the federal structure.

SC bans use of five metals in firecrackers :

The Supreme Court today imposed a ban on the use of five harmful metals including lead and mercury in firecrackers as they cause enormous air pollution. A bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur prohibited use of lithium, mercury, arsenic, antimony, lead metals which are used in the manufacturing of firecrackers. The order came after the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) Member Secretary told the top court that standards on air pollution caused by the bursting of firecrackers are yet to be laid down and the exercise would be completed by September 15. It is the responsibility of the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO) to ensure compliance particularly in Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu.

Pilot project to encourage use of bicycle :

The Maharashtra state government is planning to create cycle tracks through 'streets with cycle track' project in order to encourage the use of bicycles, to ease congestion and reduce air pollution. The pilot project will be at first implemented in 10 cities across the state including Nagpur, Amaravati, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Solapur, Latur, Jalgaon, Chandrapur and Kolhapur. A government resolution confirming the same was issued recently.

PG Institutes for Yoga will dawn in Haryana & Karnataka:

On 1st August, the Government gave nod to establishment of Post Graduate Institutes for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy at Nalamangala in Karnataka and Jhajjar in Haryana. As per the disclosed information of Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik, the apex body for Research and Education in the field of Yoga and Naturopathy, Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN) under umbrella of Ministry of AYUSH will set up these institutes. Prior to these, CCRYN has set up a Central Research Institute at Rohini, Delhi and it is planning to manifest five more institutes across the nation.

Lt Gen Abhay Krishna family to practice this ancient music of 3rd Century B.C. He was also the President of Dhruvad Society Jaipur and Pune.

Third Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2017-18 released :

On 2 August 2017, the Reserve Bank of India released the Third Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2017-18. After evaluating the current and evolving macroeconomic situation in the economy, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to reduce the policy Repo Rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.0 percent with immediate effect. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 percent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25 percent.

Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017 passed :

On 1st August 2017, Rajya Sabha passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill 2017 that amends Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The Bill extends the deadline for teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for appointment by 4 years. The teachers can get the prescribed qualification using the Swayam portal. Under the scheme 'Swayam Prabha', teachers will not only be trained offline but also online and even through direct-to-home (DTH) television channels.

Famous Scientist Pushpamitra Bhargava passes away :

Pushpamitra (PM) Bhargava, a veteran molecular biologist and an ardent critic of Genetically Modified crops passed away on 1st August 2017 at the age of 89 years. He was the founder-Director of Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB). He was also a recipient of over 100 national and international honours and awards, including the Padma Bhushan in 1986 and the Legion d'Honneur in 1998 of France.

100,000 villages got touched by Saathi :

In August 2017 American Internet giant, Google India touched the milestone figure of 100,000 villages across ten states of India with its Internet Saathi programme. The programme began its journey in July 2015 via Tata Trusts in Rajasthan . It is in process of encompassing villages of Haryana and Bihar.

'All India common test', An ordeal for lower court judges :

In August 2017, the Apex Court ordered introduction of All India common test for selection of judges for lower judiciary. And the bench of Chief Justice J S Khehar, justices A K Goel and A M Khanwilkar further added that centralised mechanism would hold responsibility of appointing competent judges without any delay and would also make way for an effective judiciary. The proposed common test would help preparation of a merit list of successful candidates and the state would be permitted to appoint judges as per their rules.

M. Venkaiah Naidu, the 13th Vice-President of India :

August 2017 proclaimed victory for M. Venkaiah Naidu with 516 votes. It is worth noticing here that this was the highest votes secured by a vice presidential candidate in last 44 years. His opponent Gopalkrishna Gandhi just managed to receive 244 votes. With this win Naidu has become the second BJP member to become Vice-President. Prior to him Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was the man who graced this post after defeating Sushil Kumar Shinde of Congress in year 2002.

7th August loomed as National Handloom Day :

The day was celebrated across the nation to provide momentum to the handloom sector and encourage use of handmade loom. This day was celebrated for the first time in year 2015. On this occasion Union Minister for Textile and Information and Broadcasting, Smriti Irani disclosed that India is leading in getting the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Handloom and handicrafts which will help weavers to earn more price on value addition. And Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal also proclaimed to formulate a Handloom and Textile policy as Assam accommodates 5,000 crore rupees Textiles market. 7th of August holds a special significance in Indian history as on this day the Swadeshi Movement was launched in year 1905. The movement led to revival of domestic products and production processes.

Urdu is all set to step in NEET!

On 8th August, the Apex Court permitted permeation of Urdu in layers of NEET from the upcoming session. Flashback shows that students' body sought conduction of the NEET in Urdu language and had accused the Centre of being "communal" as a result Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar submitted a petition to include Urdu as a language in the NEET, the common entrance test for admission into medical courses, from academic session 2018-19 onwards on behalf of Centre.

Amit Shah, Smriti Irani & Ahmed Patel are all set to roar in Rajya Sabha :

9th August aired news of victory of BJP National President Amit Shah; Union Minister for Textile and Information and Broadcasting, Smriti Irani and Senior Congress leader, Ahmed Patel who received 46, 46 and 44 votes respectively. The trio won the Rajya Sabha elections from Gujarat. Apart from this, Amit Shah completed his 3 years as BJP President. Congress leader Ahmed Patel succeeded to get re-elected in Rajya Sabha from Gujarat for the fifth term.

NITI Aayog is riding on transformation drive :

On 9th August NITI Aayog under its 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital' (SATH) initiative, shortlisted Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka to transform their health sectors and also chose Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha to transform their education sector. The chosen States highlighted the initiatives undertaken by them and their willingness to speed up improvement. And now after selection, the chosen States have committed to time-bound, governance reforms in both sectors. A Program Management Unit to push for efficiency and efficacy in governance structures and service delivery will now be available in the six chosen States for a period of 30 months.

Medical counselling second round results are at the door :

Announcement of results of the second round of counselling for MBBS/BDS seats in deemed/central universities that were supposed to get aired on 8th of August will now echo on Friday i.e. 11th August. Directorate General of Health Services postponed these results by issuing a notice that said, "All the candidates are hereby informed that the result for the deemed/central universities (MBBS/BDS course) 2017 online counselling round-2 will be declared on 11/08/2017 and reporting of candidates to the allotted institute is revised from 12/08/2017 to 19/08/2017. Revised schedule for the same will be uploaded soon." Students can log on <http://www.mcc.nic.in> to see details of allotment.

NCERT gave way to a new web portal :

On 9th August Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Upendra Kushwaha inaugurated a new portal of NCERT which can be assessed at www.ncertbooks.ncert.gov.in. for supply of NCERT Textbooks. The portal is meant to ensure better distribution of textbooks across the nation and address the grievances of schools and

parents, concerning unavailability of textbooks. The schools will log on to the portal, via their respective Boards' affiliation numbers and other details, till 8th of September for placing their orders for the session 2018-19. And pretty soon the portal will also welcome the individual buyers. They will also be able to place their orders on portal, and books will be delivered at their doorsteps with nominal postal charges. The NCERT textbooks can also be downloaded, free of charge, from its website.

SEBI has put the registration for custodians of securities on online mode :

On 10th August Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has inaugurated an online registration mechanism for custodians of securities. The new system will simplify and speed up registration and regulatory filing process. For this all the custodians will submit their applications online via SEBI Intermediary Portal. This has happened as per Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's budget speech for 2017-18.

Davinder Singh Kang gave India a moment of pride :

On 10th August in the ongoing World Athletics Championships, India's Davinder Singh Kang became 1st Indian to qualify for javelin throw final. Despite of a shoulder injury, he managed to clear the automatic qualification mark of 83 meter in his third and final throw after sending the iron spear to a distance of 84.22 meter. This effort has placed him in the 7th position among the final round qualifiers. On the other hand, another Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra failed to succeed in the qualification round.

NEET is enjoying Judicial attention!

On 11th August, the Apex court proclaimed that Overseas Citizens of India who are NEET UG 2017 qualified, are eligible to apply for admission to MBBS/BDS course under management quota seats in the deemed Universities. And they shall be entitled to be treated on par with Non-Resident Indians in the matter of admission to I year MBBS/BDS course for the academic year 2017-18. Besides this, Allahabad High Court ordered CBSE to revise marks of all candidates who appeared in NEET 2017 and decide the 'merit/rank accordingly' in view of incorrect reply for one of the 180 objective type questions provided in the answer key. Allahabad High Court gave this verdict in reply to the petitioner who was "dismayed to see that the official answer to question number 172 of test booklet Y was incorrect" after which he provided a representation against the OMR grading.

IIT-Madras is in form!

In August 2017 IIT-Madras Incubation Cell 'Merkel Haptics' claimed a million dollar order from a Singapore-based company to transfer technology used in its first two products. This newly born start up of IIT-M has made "Laparoscopy Surgical Simulator with Haptics Feedback" and "In-Vitro Fertilisation Training Simulation with Haptics Feedback". This startup combined the concept of laparoscopic surgical simulator along with Haptics feedback and converted it into the Ph.D. thesis. And based on the Ph.D. thesis, a prototype was developed in the Touch Lab for five years. Finally, it was taken to the company 'Merkel' for developing it into a product with an objective to make it commercially useful. This startup came into existence for converting lab work into products, and Touch Lab at the Applied Mechanics Department of IIT Madras emerged to research the sense of touch. The technologies on sale use virtual patients so that actual treatment becomes safer. The technologies used in these two products will revolutionize clinical training in the way doctors are trained to make the patient safer. It is worth registering here that these technologies that integrate virtual reality with haptics cost around Rs 2 crore in the international market. However, these native technologies of IIT-Madras' Touch Lab, will cost around Rs 30-35 lakhs.

What made “The Adivasi Will Not Dance” miss the floor?

On 12th August Jharkhand government banned the Sahitya Akademi award winning writer, Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar’s book “The Adivasi Will Not Dance” for having insulted the women of the Santhal tribe. The book is a collection of short stories which was published in November 2015. The world acclaimed author is a doctor based in Pakur district of Jharkhand who has been charged of objectifying and exploiting Adivasi women. A legal action has already begun against him.

What lured NIT Srinagar towards IIT Jammu?

On 12th August, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar got attached to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu. The Union Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD) dismissed Senior officials including the interim Director, Abdul Rashid Dar along with Registrar of the institute, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, who were found guilty of mismanaging and violating directives issued by the Board of Governors (BOG) of NIT. The deposed officers were said to have “hijacked” the institute and had swindled the financial aid allotted by HRD ministry for ‘Direct Admission of Students Abroad’ scheme which became the reason of NIT’s attachment with IIT Jammu.

Jharkhand sealed the anti-conversion Bill :

On 12th August Government of Jharkhand gave nod to the anti-conversion bill that devised the punishment of imprisonment of three years and fine of Rs 50,000 or both, and four year- imprisonment and Rs 1 lakh fine, or both, if the person is found to be guilty of converting a minor, woman or a member of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. The bill was also heard saying that if a person gets converted willingly then s/he will have to share the details like time, place and the person who administers the conversion proceedings with the Deputy Commissioner. This Religious Freedom Bill-2017 is now on its way to Governor, after whose approval it would go to the President for his assent.

India celebrated its 71st Independence Day :

On 15th August 2017 country celebrated 71st Year of its Independence. India got freedom from the British rule after 200 long years in year 1947. This year was special as Nation observed 75th anniversary of Quit India and 100th anniversary of Champaran Satyagraha. On this occasion, a website <http://gallantryawards.gov.in> was launched to honour all the gallantry award winners since Independence. Not only in India but in United Kingdom as well, hundreds of members of the Indian diaspora participated in the first-ever Freedom Run to mark India’s Independence Day with the one-mile journey beginning from the historic Parliament Square in London. On one hand when entire nation was oozing with patriotic fervour Bareilly’s Barelvi madaras openly defied the Uttar Pradesh government’s directive of mandatory singing of the national anthem at all Islamic educational institutions across the state on the occasion of Independence Day.

India's first online course on Infusion Therapy got infused in curriculum :

In August 2017 a world acclaimed authority, Infusion Nurses Society (INS) launched India's first online course on Infusion Therapy for nurses which has permeated to train more than 3,000 nurses in the significant medical procedure. The initiative is likely to reach nurses in rural parts of India as well. The course has gone viral to enable members to access several infusion therapy modules and presentations through its website. It is worth knowing that the Infusion therapy implies the administration of a drug intravenously, but the term also may refer to situations where drugs are provided via other non-oral routes, such as intramuscular injections and epidural routes.

Indian water sentenced exile to Blue Whale!

On 16th August Indian government asked internet majors Google, Facebook, Microsoft, WhatsApp, Instagram and Yahoo to remove links of dangerous online game “Blue Whale” which has been found guilty of inciting suicidal attempts of children in India and abroad under its challenges. Social media platform has promos of this deadly game in which the player is assigned certain tasks to complete for a period of 50 days and the final task leads to suicide. The player is asked to share photos after completing several levels of the game. Internet Service Provider Association has applauded this move of government.

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17th July got caught as International Criminal Justice Day :

On 17th July 1998 the Rome Statute on, the founding treaty of the ICC, which encourages protection of people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression was adopted. To mark anniversary of this event 17th July is celebrated as Day of International Criminal Justice. On this day all those who wish to support justice, promote victims' rights, and help prevent crimes that threaten the peace, security and well-being of the globe experience unison.

Lilly Singh : UNICEF's Global Goodwill Ambassador :

On 15th July Indian-origin Canadian YouTube star, Lilly Singh became UNICEF's Global Goodwill Ambassador. The vlogger, comedian, writer and actress started her own YouTube channel "IISuperwomanII" in October 2010 and since then her videos have attracted more than 2 billion views, and around 11.9 million subscribers. As a goodwill ambassador she will use her channel to display the UNICEF's work and will encourage millions of her followers to work for children's rights. It is worth remembering among her accomplishments that in year 2016 she was ranked 3rd on the Forbes list of the world's highest paid YouTube stars and in year 2017 she was ranked 1st on Forbes Top Influencers List in entertainment category.

The Brightest Submillimetre Galaxy got telescoped :

As per July 2017 publication of Astrophysical Journal Letters, scientists came across a galaxy which is 1000 times brighter than Milky Way. As per the researchers, it is the brightest of the submillimeter galaxies, a class of ultraluminous infrared galaxies. The galaxy is said to have a high rate of star formation. It is creating stars at a rate of 1000 solar masses per year, compared to the Milky Way, which is forming stars at a rate of some twice a solar mass per year. Scientists used Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) telescope of Spain for studying its nature and properties spectroscopically. They combined the data bases of NASA's WISE satellite and European Space Agency's Planck satellite for labelling it as the brightest submillimetre galaxy.

6 Indian hotels enjoyed place of prominence in World's Best Hotels list :

In July 2017 in survey of Travel + Leisure magazine, the World's 100 Best Hotels list accommodated six Indian hotels. Among the six chosen Indian hotels five are located in princely state of Rajasthan and one of UP is located in Agra. The Oberoi Vanyavilas in Ranthambore was ranked at 16th position, Leela Palace in Udaipur was spotted on 34th position, Rambagh Palace, a Taj Hotel in Jaipur took 43rd position, Oberoi Rajvillas in Jaipur grabbed 68th position, Oberoi Amarvillas in Agra occupied 69th position and Oberoi Udaivilas in Udaipur stood at 84th position. As per the US-based magazine specifications, the hotels were ranked on basis of the available facilities, location, service, food, and overall value plus the hotels were classified as City or Resort based on their locations and amenities.

FINA Short Course is all set to take course along Kazan and Budapest :

On 17th July, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) made announcements about 2022 and 2024 FINA Short Course World Swimming Championships in a meeting at Budapest, the venue of the 2017 World Aquatics Championships. The 2022 Championships will take place in the Russian city of Kazan and the 2024 Championships will sail in the Hungarian city Budapest. The upcoming 2018 Short Course Swimming Championships will be held in the Chinese city of Hangzhou. In context to FINA it is worth remembering that based in Lausanne, Switzerland, it is acknowledged by International Olympic Committee (IOC) for administering international competition in water sports. FINA oversees competition in five aquatics sports viz. swimming, diving, synchronized swimming, water polo, and open water swimming.

18th July: Nelson Mandela International Day :

Entire globe celebrated 18th July 2017 as the 99th birth anniversary of the great South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, and philanthropist as well as the late President of the South Africa, Nelson Mandela on 'Action against Poverty' theme. He was the first democratically elected president of independent South Africa. The African legend was born on 18th July 1918 and was credited for dismantling the apartheid system, fostering racial reconciliation, promoting and protecting human rights, fighting for democracy, gender equality, social justice, promoting humane conditions of imprisonment, raising awareness about prisoners being a continuous part of society and last but not least his outstanding contribution to peace and freedom.

NASA Langley Research Centre turned 100 :

On 17th July NASA Langley Research Centre celebrated 100 years of its establishment. NASA's Langley is being credited for revolutionizing the way astronauts fly, explore space and study Earth. So far it has manifested more than 40 high-tech wind tunnels and supporting infrastructure. On its 100th anniversary, Langley, NASA released a 45-minute documentary that looked back into the time. Under umbrella of National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory was set up near Hampton, Virginia on 17th July 1917 with the purpose of solving fundamental problems of flight. Langley engineers devised technologies for safer, higher and faster air travel. Better propellers, all-metal airplanes, new kinds of helicopters which are faster-than-sound flight are some of the groundbreaking achievements of this aeronautical research centre. It introduced concepts to decrease drag, weight, fuel consumption, emissions and lessen noise. It is worth knowing that by 1958, NACA turned into NASA, and Langley's accomplishments climbed from air into space leading to development of rockets, spacecrafts, satellites and led to numerous space expeditions.

World's first Laser Weapons System was put to test :

On 19th July, the United States Navy succeeded in testing globe's first Laser Weapons System (LaWS). The LaWS has been deployed aboard the USS Ponce amphibious transport ship to attack Persian Gulf. And with its addition, USS Ponce has become the first ship in the world to get deployed with such an advanced weapons system. The LaWS is equipped with multiple unique features viz. It can move at the speed of light in an invisible part of the electromagnetic spectrum. It is silent weapon system which is versatile and it can be used against variety of targets, regardless of whether they are airborne or surface or ground-based. The total expenditure of constructing the weapon is about \$40 million.

Killing two birds with one stone :

In July 2017, as per publication of The Journal of Experimental Medicine, scientists of Washington University School of Medicine have found that a commonly used malaria drug, 'hydroxychloroquine' can prohibit the Zika virus from trespassing the placenta and getting into the foetus and damaging its brain. It is good to know that the consumption of drug hydroxychloroquine is already permissible during pregnancy. The drug is the most effective and safe medicines needed in a health system. And it enjoys a significant place on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines.

Singapore Airlines is world's best airline!

In July 2017 the Travel + Leisure (T+L) magazine rated Singapore Airlines as the best airline in the world. It was followed by Emirates, Qatar Airways, Cathay Pacific, Japan Airlines, Virgin Atlantic, Air New Zealand, Korean Air, All Nippon Airways (ANA) and Eva Air in the top ten international airline list. It is worth registering that Singapore Airlines Limited is the flag carrier of Singapore with its hub located at Singapore Changi Airport. It

began its journey from October 1st, 1972. It has three subsidiaries viz. SilkAir, Scoot and Tigerair. Singapore Airlines will be flying the world's longest flight between Singapore and New York in year 2018.

John R Bass will be Trump's envoy to Afghanistan ;

On 20th July US President Donald Trump chose the current US ambassador to Turkey, John R Bass as his representative to Afghanistan. Bass is a career foreign service official since 1988, who was born and raised in upstate New York. The chosen envoy has previously served as the US envoy to Georgia. This was Trump's first nomination for a South Asian country. The President will soon nominate his envoys for India and Pakistan, the two crucial South Asian countries.

Davies became Chair of UK India Business Council :

On 20th July leading market entry advisory and advocacy consultancy, UK India Business Council (UKIBC) appointed Lord Mervyn Davies as their new chairperson. He will succeed Patricia Hewitt on 1st September 2017 for upcoming three years. UKIBC looks into UK & India trade opportunity. The appointee has been chairman of many key organizations viz. Corsair Capital, a private equity firm specialising in financial services, the Royal Academy of Arts Trustees, the Garden Bridge Trust and the Standard Chartered. He has also served as the Senior Independent Director of Diageo and the Senior Adviser to Teneo. He had also been the UK Minister for Trade, Investment, Small Business and Infrastructure from January 2008 to May 2010.

Fortune 500 list of the world's biggest corporations is out :

On 22nd July, the latest Fortune 500 list of the world's biggest corporations was issued in which Walmart topped the global ranking in terms of revenue with \$482,130 million. It was followed by State Grid (revenue of \$329,601 million) and China National Petroleum (\$299,271 million) at the second and third place respectively. This Fortune list also accommodated seven Indian companies viz. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) at 161st; Reliance Industries (RIL) at 215th; Tata Motors at 226th; SBI at 232nd; Bharat Petroleum at 358th; Hindustan Petroleum at 367th and Oil and Natural Gas, Corporation (ONGC) at 426th position.

Toronto International Film Festival is waiting for Priyanka :

The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) will honour actress Priyanka Chopra at its 42nd edition in upcoming September for her activism. In the gala at Bell Lightbox the Bollywood icon will share insights of her career with festival artistic director Cameron Bailey. After giving Bollywood hits like "Mary Kom", "What's Your Raashee" etc., she stormed into Hollywood with "Baywatch". She had also accompanied "Selma" director Ava DuVernay and fellow actors James Franco and Ben Richardson in panel of jury for a TIFF competition in 2016. Currently the Indian eve also gives time to Unicef as a goodwill ambassador. The Toronto International Film Festival will begin from 7th September and will continue upto 17th September.

Russian-Chinese naval exercise is in session :

Russian-Chinese naval exercises "Maritime Cooperation-2017" began from July 21st and will continue till July 28th in the Baltic Sea. It consists of two stages like coastal stage and an active sea stage. In these drills the Russian and Chinese seamen along with marine aviation crews, will train to organize anti-submarine, anti-aircraft and anti-ship defense, as well as free a vessel from "pirates" and conduct a search and rescue operation to offer help to the vessel in distress in the Baltic Sea. Apart from this the seamen will also train to fire at surface and air targets.

32 year old Microsoft Paint is taking its last breath :

On 24th July Microsoft announced the impending termination of the long-standing basic graphics editing program, 'Microsoft Paint' which came into existence 32 years ago along with the very first version of Windows 1.0 in year

1985. The fading feature began its life as 1-bit monochrome licensed version of ZSoft's PC Paintbrush and it was good enough for scribbling something using mouse or for making a quick cut and paste job. Until 1998 Paint was limited to the bitmap (BMP) and PCX formats. The most recent version of Paint was introduced with Windows 7 but still it lagged behind in comparison to other free alternative viz. the third-party Paint.NET. In April, Microsoft introduced the new Paint 3D, which is installed alongside traditional Paint that has 3D image making tools as well as some basic 2D image editing. But it is not an updation of original Paint. Now Microsoft is on its marks to introduce Windows 10 update, called the Autumn Creators Update, with a variety of new features. The long-standing stalwart of the Windows, Microsoft Paint will eventually get removed like a favourite piece of old furniture from childhood home.

World's oldest emoji discovered :

A team of Turkish and Italian archaeologists have found a pitcher in a burial chamber on the Turkish-Syrian border. It was used for a sweet sherbet-like drink, and dates back to 1700 BC. The site depicts the era of the Hittites, an ancient civilisation and empire that is believed to have existed in the north-central Anatolian region. The ancient 3700-year-old smiley jug will be displayed at the nearby Gaziantep Museum of Archaeology.

Zimbabwe's Parliament passes bill :

Zimbabwe's Parliament passes bill, giving sweeping powers to President Zimbabwe's Parliament on 25 July 2017 passed a bill amending the constitution to give the President sweeping powers to appoint the country's top judges without consulting any other institution. The country's ruling party, the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF) led by President Mugabe enjoys a majority in the 270-seat legislature.

Michael Kors buys Jimmy Choo for USD 1.5 billion :

Global fashion luxury brand Michael Kors on 25 July 2017 announced to buy global luxury footwear and accessories brand Jimmy Choo for approximately USD 1.2 billion. With this, Micheal Kors aims to this coveted global brand to its lot as its own handbag and accessories sales suffer. The transaction was approved by the Boards of Directors of both Michael Kors and Jimmy Choo.

New continent Zealandia discovered :

New continent discovered under New Zealand, mostly submerged unknown continent beneath the South Pacific has been named as Zealandia. Researchers said Zealandia is a distinct geological entity and meets all the criteria applied to Earth's seven other continents- elevation above the surrounding area, distinctive geology, a well-defined area and a crust much thicker than that found on the ocean floor. In a paper published in the Geological Society of America's Journal, GSA Today, Zealandia measured 1.9 million square miles and is 94% underwater. The paper's authors said it had only three major land masses, New Zealand's North and South Islands to the south, and New Caledonia to the north Zealandia.

Rocket designed to carry satellite by Iran :

Iran says, it has successfully launched a new type of rocket designed to carry a satellite into space. The media reported that the rocket can deliver a satellite weighing up to 250 kilograms into a 500-kilometer orbit. Iran successfully launched its first domestically produced satellite in 2009. The country also intends to orbit more satellites for communications and other purposes. The United States is concerned that the development of rockets and ballistic missiles could lead to the production of long-range ballistic missiles.

Ministry of Earth Sciences Celebrates Foundation Day :

Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests & Climate Change Dr. Harshvardhan inaugurated the 11th Foundation Day of Ministry of Earth Sciences in New Delhi on this occasion,

the Minister also launched two Mobile Apps (i) India Quake for dissemination of earthquake parameters and (ii) Sagar Vani to disseminate ocean information and alerts to the user community in timely manner. The Lifetime Excellence Award was presented to Professor K. Gopalan for his significant contribution in the field of isotope geoscience. The National Awards for Ocean Science & technology, Atmospheric Science & technology and Geoscience & technology were given to Prof. P. N. Vinayachandran, Dr. K. Krishnamoorthy and Professor K. S. Krishna respectively. The Young Researcher Awards were presented to Dr. Dhanya C. T. and Dr. Vikram Vishal for their outstanding work in Earth Science & Technology.

Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif resigns :

Pakistan Supreme Court today disqualified Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from holding public office. In a landmark judgment, a five Judge bench unanimously ruled to register a case against Sharif and ordered sending a reference against him and his family to an accountability court. The judges ruled that the Prime Minister had been dishonest to parliament and the courts, and could not be deemed fit for his office. The court also ordered the National Accountability Bureau to file the reference in an accountability court in six weeks and for the case to be wrapped up within six months.

Reince Priebus replaced as White House chief of staff :

US President Donald Trump has replaced his White House Chief of staff Reince Priebus. A day after his new Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci accused Priebus of leaking information to reporters, President Trump in a tweet named General John Kelly as his next Chief of staff. General John Kelly currently heads the Department of Homeland Security. The announcement of Mr Priebus's departure came after three Republican senators defied White House pressure to vote against health care reforms.

North Korea conducts new Missile Test :

North Korea has conducted a new Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Test, second in a month. In a statement, US military said, the latest missile was launched last night from an arms plant in Jagang province and landed about 1,000 kilometers from the launch site. Japan said, the missile is believed to have landed in its exclusive economic zone 45 minutes after the launch. Experts said, the missile had a range of about 10,000 kilometers and is capable of striking Los Angeles and other US cities. Pyongyang's had conducted its first ICBM test three weeks ago.

Arab States ready for dialogue with Qatar :

The four Arab nations boycotting Qatar have announced willingness to initiate a dialogue with the country, bringing the hope of some sort of resolution to the gulf crisis. The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt have expressed readiness to engage in a dialogue with Doha if it agrees to some of their demands including showing genuine willingness to stop funding terrorism. The same was revealed by Bahrain's foreign minister on 30 July 2017, after a two-meet with his counterparts from the other three nations. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain had previously issued a list of 13 demands to Qatar for lifting sanctions placed on it by them. The demands were, however, rejected by the Arab state with the explanation that they were neither reasonable nor actionable.

World Day against Trafficking in Persons :

The United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2017 was observed across the world on 30 July 2017. This year, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) selected 'Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons' as the focus of the Day. The theme emphasizes one of the most pressing issues of the large mixed migration movements of refugees and migrants. The day aims at raising awareness of the plight of human

trafficking victims, and promoting and protecting their rights. It is thought to be one of the fastest-growing activities of trans-national criminal organizations.

World's Longest Suspension Footbridge :

Located in south Switzerland, the steel bridge is 494 metres long and overtakes the "Titan-RT" bridge in Germany as the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge. Located in south Switzerland, the steel bridge is 494 metres long and overtakes the "Titan-RT" bridge in Germany as the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge, according to a press release from Zermatt Matterhorn. It was unveiled on July 29 after a construction period of just 10 weeks, Xinhua news agency reported.

Flexible bio-glue for healing wounds :

Scientists have developed a super strong, flexible adhesive material inspired by the glue secreted by slugs that sticks to biological tissues – even when wet – without causing toxicity. The “tough adhesive” is biocompatible and binds to tissues with a strength comparable to the body’s own resilient cartilage. The key feature of our material is the combination of a very strong adhesive force and the ability to transfer and dissipate stress, which have historically not been integrated into a single adhesive.

Christopher Wray : The new torch bearer of FBI :

On 1st of August US Senate appointed Christopher Wray as the new leader of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Christopher got this appointment by virtue of 92 votes which he received in his favour in the Senate. He has replaced James Comey, who was abruptly fired by President Trump amid the investigation into Russia meddling in presidential election of year 2016. Wray is a former high-ranking official in President George W Bush's Justice Department who looked into investigations of corporate fraud.

China ploughed its first military base in Horn of Africa :

On 1st August China officially opened its first military base in Djibouti, Africa. It chose the 90th Anniversary of establishment of People's Liberation Army for this opening which coincided on 1st of August 2017. Djibouti is located in the Horn of Africa near the Suez Canal which is a corridor for trade of 10% of the world’s sea-borne oil. Djibouti already accommodates many foreign security forces viz. the United States military at Camp Lemonnier, Britain, Japan, and France. In this context the state-run news agency Xinhua said “The Djibouti base has nothing to do with an arms race or military expansion, and China has no intention of turning the logistics center into a military foothold”. The new base is a support center for Chinese peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts in the region. It is worth registering here that China’s first overseas peacekeeping mission was in South Sudan.

Scientist discovered that Sun's Core rotates four times faster than its surface :

Scientists recently made a historic discovery of solar seismic waves which reveals that Sun’s core is rotating four times faster than its surface. Scientist made the calculations using 16 years of observations from an instrument called GOLF (Global Oscillations at Low Frequency) on a spacecraft called Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO). It is the joint project of the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA. For this discovery solar physicists use 'Helioseismology' to probe the solar interior by studying sound waves reverberating through it. The continuous convection of solar material under the surface of the sun constantly generates higher frequency waves or pressure waves (p-waves). These sound waves are easily detected as they boom through the upper layers of the Sun. These waves pass very quickly through deeper layers and are therefore not sensitive to the Sun's core rotation. Scientists have been searching for these mysterious g-waves in Sun for more than four decades.

Peter O'Neill : re-elected Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea :

On 2nd August 2017, the newly elected parliament of Papua New Guinea re-elected Peter O'Neill as the prime minister of the country. He has gained enough support in the parliament to begin a second five year term. He received 60 votes.

Hassan Rouhani Continues to be President of Iran for second term :

On 3rd August Hassan Rouhani sworn in as the President of Iran for a second term. It is worth knowing here that as per Iran's Election Law, a president-elect is required to get the Leader's approval before taking oath in front of the Parliament and Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei granted his official approval for Rouhani's appointment. On 5th August Hassan will present his cabinet for gaining vote of confidence before the parliament. Rouhani had an impressive political career since 1960. He was the man behind landmark nuclear deal in 2015 which concerned the world powers in context to lifting of economic sanctions. He rendered his services as Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Iran's top security post for 16 long years. Apart from this he was the first Iranian leader to converse with the former President of United States Barack Obama in September 2013.

Prince Philip embraced retirement after a 70 years of Public Service :

On 2nd August the Duke of Edinburgh and husband of Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip got retired from the royal services at the age of 96. Recalling his services, it is good to learn that the long serving man had been Captain General of the Royal Marines since 1953 and naval officer during the Second World War in 1939. During his service he had carried out 637 international visits, delivered 5500 speeches, wrote 14 books and had been a patron or a member of more than 780 organisations. He had penchant for scientific and technological research and was an early champion of the conservation movement. On last day of the service he accepted the salute of Royal Marines at Buckingham Palace who ran 2678 km over 100 days to mark the 1664 Global Challenge.

Agreements turning into disagreements!

The United States of America submitted official withdrawal from Paris climate pact as per the press release of 4th August 2017. According to the statement of US state department the 2015 Paris climate agreement would have cost America trillions of dollars, killed jobs, and obstructed the oil, gas, coal and manufacturing industries. It is worth recalling here that the US, under former President Barack Obama, had inked this agreement to cut US greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 28 % to slow global warming.

Paul Kagame is likely to continue as Rwandan President :

Rwandan President Paul Kagame is likely to win the August 2017 presidential elections. As per the 80 % counting of results, the long-time president succeeded in achieving 99 % support. He is likely to defeat his rivals Frank Habineza and Philippe Mpayimana with a big margin. The man had been in power since last 17 years. It is worth registering here that Rwanda's constitution was amended in year 2015, which gave Mr Kagame a chance to stay in power until 2034.

Ethiopia lifted the previously imposed state of emergency :

On 4th August Ethiopian government lifted a state of emergency which it imposed during a deadly stampede that happened at a religious celebration in October. Hundreds of people were killed in anti-government protests. For lifting this ban, the lawmakers in the East African nation have voted to end the emergency law that restricted a number of rights and led to the arrests of more than 21,000 people.

Asia Society Game Changers Award is on its way to Dev Patel.

In November 2017 London-born Dev Patel will be honored with Asia Society Game Changers Award for making a “transformative and positive” difference for the future of Asia and the world. He will become the recipient of this award at a ceremony which will take place in New York, USA. This Indian-origin actor became popular with his debut film Slumdog Millionaire. This new star was recently seen in Garth Davis’ Lion, which fetched him an Academy Award nomination for the best actor in a supporting role.

Qatar aired visa free entries for 80 nationalities :

On 9th August Qatar has announced scrapping of visa requirements for visitors from 80 countries including India to host the Football World Cup 2022. As per the newly introduced policy citizens of 33 nations which will cover most of the European countries can enter without a visa for 90 days in single or multiple trips during a 180-day period. And Americans, Britons, Canadians and citizens of 44 other nations will be able to enter visa-free for an initial 30 days on single or multiple trips, and will also be able to extend that for a further 30 days. It is worth knowing here that this will be the first time the World Cup will be held in the West Asia. This will be the last tournament to involve 32 national teams, including the host nation, as the next one will have 48 teams.

Natural cycles are meant to be respected!

On 9th August the Apex Court of Nepal gave verdict on chhaupadi custom of Nepal in which menstruating women are subjected to isolation. The court has declared this ancient practice of Nepal as a punishable offence and anybody who will banish women during their periods will be imprisoned for three months or will have to give 3,000 Nepali rupee as fine . Chhaupadi is connected to Hinduism and it considers women untouchable when they menstruate and bars women from touching food and religious icons plus they are forced to sleep in basic huts known as Chhau Goth.

NASA's Cassini spacecraft is nearing its final breath :

August 2017 aired news about NASA's Cassini spacecraft which is about to complete its mission on Saturn. The spacecraft has set to begin its final five ultra-close orbits around Saturn and will soon enter the atmosphere of the ringed planet to mark full stop to its 20-year-long epic journey. On 13th August, the spacecraft will enter the final phase of the mission and during these passes it will be 1,630 and 1,710 kilometres above Saturn's cloud tops.

13 August: Organ Donation Day :

Entire nation celebrates Organ Donation Day annually and on this occasion the government organizations and other related professions create awareness about the value of organ donation in the life of an individual and encourage general public to donate the organs. The donated organs are preserved properly for transplanting them into needy patients. Organ donation can save someone’s life.

Uhuru Kenyatta is ready to roar in the second term :

On 12th August 55-year-old businessman Uhuru Kenyatta defeated veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga in Presidential elections of Kenya. The son of the Kenya’s founding President garnered 54.27% votes to secure a second five-year term while Odinga managed to get only 44.74% in preliminary count. In his speech he expressed urge of working with the opposition National Super Alliance (NASA).

China stops imports from Korea :

On 16th August China announced strict ban over imports from North Korea. The banned items include Iron, Iron ore, and seafood as part of new UN sanctions. This move came as a result of U.S. pressure for Beijing to strong

arm Pyongyang over its ally's nuclear programme. China has ignored UN measures in past and accounts for 90% of North Korea's trade. It has imported \$74.4 million worth of iron ore in the first five months of 2017, Fish and seafood imports totalled around \$46.7 million in June, up from \$13.6 million in May.

First South Asian Youth Summit will step in via Indian corridor.

In August 2017 announcements of the first South Asian Youth Summit-2017 were aired. The proposed four-day Summit will be organized in the Bhubaneswar City of Indian state of Odisha from September 17th. Ministers of all eight SAARC member countries viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will address wide range of problems which are being faced by youths of South Asia. Apart from this the Summit will also encompass culture, peace, tourism and infrastructure development in South Asia as well as sustainable development goals of the United Nations.

Sports News

Bharat Arun emerged as Team India's new bowling coach :

On 18th July Board of Control for Cricket in India appointed the 54-year-old former Indian bowler, Bharat Arun as full-time bowling consultant of Team India for upcoming two years while Zaheer Khan will mark his presence for 150 days. It is to be kept in mind that the Indian cricket team sailed without a bowling coach since Arun's contract expired in year 2016. Arun was Shastri's teammate from their Under-19 days.

Sudan Football Association is free from fetters of FIFA ban :

In July 2017 FIFA lifted the previously imposed ban on Sudan Football Association. But this good news showed procrastination in coming their way as the country club won't be able to participate in this season's African club competition. Flashback says Sudan was suspended by FIFA for government interference in the country's football after they suspended the entire Sudanese Football Association board of directors. Al Merriekh and Al Hilal were disqualified from the Champions League and Al Hilal Obeid was removed from the Confederation Cup after the ban.

H S Prannoy emerged as US Open Grand Prix Gold badminton title winner :

On 23rd July Indian Shuttler H S Prannoy outplayed his compatriot Parupalli Kashyap and scripted the US Open Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament title on his name at Anaheim, California. He defeated Kashyap by 21-15, 20-22, 21-12. This was the second time in this season that two Indians competed for the title at international badminton. Prior to this, in April, K Srikanth and B Sai Praneeth had played in the finals of Singapore Open in which Sai Praneeth claimed his maiden Super Series title. In the women's singles of the tournament, Japanese Aya Ohori outshone Michelle Li of Canada in the final.

Kylie Masse wins backstroke world gold :

Kylie Masse of Canada stormed to women's 100m backstroke gold in a new world-record time at the world aquatics championships in Budapest. The 21-year-old clocked 58.10 seconds, breaking Gemma Spofforth's previous mark of 58.12 seconds from the 2009 championships. Kathleen Baker of the United States took silver, at 0.48 seconds back, while Emily Seebohm of Australia brushed off a cold to claim bronze, 0.49 seconds behind.

Ajay Singh wins bronze medal :

India's Ajay Singh has won bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships at Kathmandu, taking India's tally to three. Ajay got third place in 77 kgs men's junior category last evening lifting 143 kgs in snatch and 172 kgs in clean and jerk. On Wednesday S. Nirpupama Devi had won bronze in 69 kgs women youth category. Kansom Ormila Devi had won gold in 44kg weight category on the opening day.

Lovepreet Singh wins bronze :

India's Lovepreet Singh has won bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships at Kathmandu. He got third place in 105 kg men junior category a short while ago. Lovepreet lifted 151 kgs in snatch and 180 kgs in clean and jerk to get the bronze. He lifted total 331 kgs. This is India's fourth medal in the championships.

India bags 24 medals at Jordan Open TT :

India have bagged a rich haul of 24 medals at the Jordan Junior and Cadet Open table tennis tournament. The tally includes seven Gold, seven Silver and 10 Bronze medals. In the event held at Amman, India ended as the second best finishers. In the cadet singles final, Payas Jain had to be satisfied with the silver after going down to Taipei boy Hsu p-Hsuan 4-11, 6-11, 6-11. The team title was denied to India in the cadet section when Payas, Yashansh Malik and Chinmaya Somaiya found the going tough against Hsu Po-Hsuan, Lin Yen-Cun and Peng Chih who claimed the gold.

Indian women's team beat Malaysia :

In football, a double strike from substitute Pyari Xaxa helped a dominant Indian women's team beat Malaysia 2-0 in an international friendly match in Kuala Lumpur on 31 July 2017. After a barren first half, Pyari scored in the 79th and the 86th minutes of the match played at the MP Selayang Stadium. India's dominance was complete throughout the match, except for a brief spell in the second half. Malaysia did not have much to boast about in the match.

Summer Olympics:

Los Angeles agrees to host 2028 Games; Paris gets 2024. Los Angeles formally announced its bid for the 2028 Summer Olympics after agreeing on a deal with the Olympic organizers. This deal with Olympic organizers paves the way for Paris to host the Summer Olympics in 2024. With this Los Angeles will be hosting the games for the third time since it first hosted in 1932. It last hosted Olympics in 1984. Games in Paris, the French capital, marks 100 years since the last time it hosted the Games. Paris last hosted the Olympics in 1924 and had narrowly lost out to London for the right to host the 2012 Games.

Fastest man eventually got slowed at retirement!

On 13th August 2017, the legendary sprinter Usain Bolt participated in the last race of his career in form of men's 4x100m relay race at the World Athletics Championships in London. He suffered cramp on his left hamstring after taking the baton from his Jamaican teammate Yohan Blake which made him fell on ground. Britain claimed the gold in 37.47 seconds while United States got satisfied with silver in 38.01 and Japan had to content itself with bronze in this race. Flashback says that Bolt had set his first world record in year 2008, when he gathered not one, not two but 19 gold medals in 100, 200 and 4x100 meters. And 100 meters race of year 2011 was the only time, when he missed the gold medal for making a false start. With this last race he signed off the epic journey of his racing career.

Two Indian wrestlers wrestled their way in bronze-medal round :

On 1st August two Indian wrestlers, Veer Dev Gulia and Ravinder got qualified for the bronze medal round of their respective weight categories of the Junior World Wrestling Championships in Tampere, Finland. Ravinder will take on Hiromu Sakaki of Japan and Gulia will take on Yamasaki Yajuro of Japan in the upcoming bronze medal bout. On the other hand other Indians like Suraj Aswala in 50kg and Monu in 96 kg category have got out of the tournament.

Khel Ratna Awards are waiting for Devendra Jhajharia :

On 3rd August two-time Paralympic Javelin Throw gold-medallist Devendra Jhajharia became the first paralympian to get recommended for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award. This is for the first time a Para Olympian has been recommended for such award. The awards selection committee, headed by Justice (Retd.) CK Thakkar nominated his name for the coveted award. Besides him, former hockey captain Sardar Singh's name has also been recommended for the nation's highest sporting honour. The awards selection committee recommended 17 other names viz. cricketers Cheteshwar Pujara, Harmanpreet Kaur, golfer SSP Chawrasia, hockey player SV Sunil and Paralympic medallists Mariyappan Thangavelu and Varun Bhati for the Arjuna awards. With that the players are looking at the Sports Ministry for the call.

Indian pair settled for bronze :

On 4th August in the semifinals of the WSF World doubles squash championship, the Indian pair of Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal suffered defeat at hands of English pair Jenny Duncalf and Alison Waters in Manchester. Earlier they defeated Canadians Samantha Cornett and Nikole Todd by 10-11, 11-6, 11-8 to ensure this bronze medal for India.

India showcasing brilliance in Colombo Test series!

On 6th August India defeated Sri Lanka by an innings and 53 runs in the second cricket Test in Colombo to take 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Sri Lanka was all-out for 386 in the second innings despite the twin centuries of Dimuth Karunaratne (141) and Kusal Mendis (110). For India Ravindra Jadeja took five-wickets giving 152 runs. The third and final Test will take place on August 12th in Pallekele. It is worth recalling here that Kohli is the only Indian captain to have won two Test series in Sri Lanka.

England outshone South Africa by 177 runs in fourth Test :

On 8th August Moeen Ali displayed a brilliant campaign with a 5 wicket haul as England defeated South Africa by 177 runs in the fourth Test at Old Trafford to seal a 3-1 series win. South Africa, erected a giant target of 380 for victory, were bowled out for 202 shortly after tea on the fourth day when Ali took two wickets in two balls to dismiss Morne Morkel and Duanne Olivier. That gave the off-spinner a return of 5 for 69 in 19.5 overs and 25 wickets in total in a series where he also scored 252 runs. Moeen Ali was adjudged as both the man-of-the-match and the man-of-the-series. With this win England had claimed their first home Test series against South Africa since 1998.

August 2017 FIFA rankings are out!

On 10th August, latest FIFA rankings were released. Among the best international teams, Brazil, Germany, Argentina, Switzerland and Poland completed the top five list. Canada grabbed 95th Spot on account of their performances in the CONCACAF Gold Cup. India slipped down one place and was spotted on 97th spot. However, with 341 rating points, India managed to grab 12th highest rank among Asian nations. Iran topped the list among

Asian nations. Japan, Australia, South Korea and Saudi Arabia have captured 44th, 45th, 49th and 59th positions respectively.

Ottis Gibson: The new head coach of South Africa :

On 12th August England bowling coach Ottis Gibson got confirmed as the new head coach of South Africa cricket team. He has replaced Russell Domingo. However he is expected to continue as England cricket team coach till the end of the West Indies series that is scheduled to last until September 11. South Africa is expecting the next Test series against Bangladesh from 28th September onwards.

Indian men's hockey team claimed two match series against Netherlands :

On 14th August in the second encounter at Amstelveen, Indian men's hockey team won the two match series against the Netherlands by 2-1. Gurjant Singh and Mandeep Singh scored goals to get an edge over world No. 4 Netherlands. The only goal from the hosts came through Saander de Wijn when he converted a penalty corner in the 58th minute. India had earlier won the first game against the Netherlands 4-3 in the Robo Super series on 13th August. It is worth knowing here that the Robo Super series is part of India's tour of Europe.



CAREER FLIGHT

CURRENT AFFAIRS TESTS

1. The International Youth Day (IYD) is observed every year on _____.
(a) 11th August (b) 13th August
(c) 14th August (d) 12th August (e) 10th August
2. Which among the following state governments has launched mobile therapy vans for elderly people?
(a) Rajasthan (b) Assam
(c) Bihar (d) Madhya Pradesh (e) Kerala
3. I.V. Subba Rao has been appointed as the _____ of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.
(a) Deputy Secretary (b) Secretary
(c) Joint Secretary (d) Chief Secretary (e) None of these
4. David Rasquinha has been appointed as the _____ of Exim Bank of India.
(a) Chief Executive Officer (b) Director
(c) Managing Director (d) Chairman (e) None of these
5. Who among the following wrote the Novel "The Obelisk Gate"?
(a) Nora K. Jemisin (b) Louisa May Alcott.
(c) Mark Twain (d) Norman Mailer (e) Kurt Vonnegut
6. Which Bollywood actress has become the first female actress to hoist the Indian National Flag at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM)?
(a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Deepika Padukone
(c) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (d) Sonam Kapoor (e) None of these
7. Anil Sahasrabudhe has been appointed as the _____ of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
(a) Chairman (b) Chief Executive Officer
(c) Managing Director (d) Director (e) None of these
8. The International Biodiesel Day (IBD) is celebrated every year on _____.
(a) 11th August (b) 12th August
(c) 13th August (d) 10th August (e) 9th August
9. Which company has acquired Bengaluru-based tech startup Creo?
(a) Skype (b) BlackBerry Messenger
(c) Hike Messenger (d) Wechat (e) Line Messenger
10. Who has won the first Kesari Media Award, instituted by the Kesari Memorial Journalist Trust, Thiruvananthapuram?
(a) T R G George (b) K V S David
(c) P D H David (d) T J S George (e) None of these
11. Uhuru Kenyatta won presidential elections of _____.
(a) Tanzania (b) Uganda
(c) Ethiopia (d) Sudan (e) Kenya

12. Who has been appointed as WHO goodwill ambassador in August 2017?
(a) Amitabh Bachchan (b) Virat Kohli
(c) Katrina Kaif (d) Milkha Singh (e) Shah Rukh Khan
13. Which government banned Sahitya Akademi award winning writer Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar's book "The Adivasi Will Not Dance"?
(a) Jharkhand (b) MadhyaPradesh
(c) Rajasthan (d) Bihar (e) Gujarat
14. Who has become the new chief of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in August 2017?
(a) Pahlaj Nihalani (b) Prasoon Joshi
(c) Vidya Balan (d) Leela Samson (e) Sharmila Tagore
15. Which of the following organizations won the first prize of the state level Outstanding Performance Award of NABARD in August 2017?
(a) Corporation Bank
(b) Pragati Grameena Bank,
(c) DCC Bank of Dakshina Kannada District
(d) Greens Neha self-help group
(e) All the above
16. Ottis Gibson will become head coach of _____ cricket team.
(a) England (b) Srilanka
(c) West Indies (d) South Africa (e) Australia
17. Former _____ Minister Gyan Singh Sohanpal died in August 2017.
(a) Maharashtra (b) Gujarat
(c) West Bengal (d) Haryana (e) Punjab
18. SoftBank Vision Fund of _____ made the biggest-ever investment in Indian retail major Flipkart in August 2017.
(a) Norway (b) Denmark
(c) France (d) Japan (e) USA
19. Hamid Ansari became the _____ Vice President of India to complete two terms.
(a) First (b) Second
(c) Third (d) Fourth (e) Fifth
10. Which private bank announced first-of-its-kind Instant Credit Card Service in August 2017?
(a) IDFC bank (b) YES bank
(c) Kotak Mahindra Bank (d) HDFC bank (e) ICICI bank
21. Who will co-host the Global Entrepreneurship Summit with India?
(a) Sweden (b) Denmark
(c) France (d) Italy (e) USA

22. Davinder Kang became the first Indian to qualify for _____ finals at the IAAF World Athletics Championships in London.
(a) Long jump (b) High Jump
(c) Javelin throw (d) Discus throw (e) Marathon
23. What is India's rank in August 2017 FIFA ranking?
(a) 95th (b) 96th
(c) 97th (d) 98th (e) 99th
24. In August 2017, Anti-dumping duty was imposed on 93 products from _____.
(a) Malaysia (b) Pakistan
(c) China (d) Singapore (e) Thailand
25. According to Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2017, Which of the following states emerged as one of the top performers in Swachh Bharat Mission in rural India?
(a) Bihar (b) Sikkim
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh (e) Jharkhand
26. The government's expenditure went upto _____ in April-June of the current Fiscal Year.
(a) 25% (b) 26%
(c) 27% (d) 28% (e) 29%
27. Which of the following nation underwent formation of a new Constitutional Assembly?
(a) Brazil (b) Venezuela
(c) Colombia (d) Peru (e) Bolivia
28. No confidence motion vote against Jacob Zuma, the President of ____ was rejected.
(a) Australia (b) Venezuela
(c) Bolivia (d) South Africa (e) Brazil
29. India signed agreement with _____ for transfer of sentenced persons.
(a) Pakistan (b) Bangladesh
(c) Srilanka (d) Somalia (e) China
30. The Indian men's _____ team got defeated by host Belgium in ongoing tour of Europe.
(a) Football (b) Hockey
(c) Basketball (d) Throwball (e) None
31. Which of the following nations will host Football World Cup 2022?
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Qatar
(c) Bahrain (d) Brazil (e) Argentina
32. Which nation criminalized isolation of menstruating women?
(a) India (b) Nepal
(c) Bangladesh (d) Sri Lanka (e) Malaysia

33. NASA's Cassini spacecraft is on mission of
(a) Venus (b) Mars (c) Jupiter (d) Saturn (e) Uranus
34. Which team topped zone B of Pro Kabaddi League 2017?
(a) Bengaluru Bulls (b) U Mumba (c) Puneri Paltan (d) Bengal Warriors (e) Jaipur Pink Panthers
35. Which High Court extended stay on Centre's order regulating cattle trade in the country?
(a) Madras High Court (b) Delhi High Court (c) Bombay High Court (d) Gujarat High Court (e) Karnataka High Court

CAREER FLITE

ANSWERS

1. (d) The International Youth Day (IYD) is observed every year on 12th August. The theme for year 2017 is “Youth Building Peace”. The main aim to celebrate this day is to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth.
- 2.(c) The Bihar government has launched mobile therapy vans which would provide basic medical assistance to elderly people, widows and other section who requires social security.
- 3.(b) Retired IAS officer I. V. Subba Rao has been appointed as the secretary of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu. He was a 1979 batch IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre.
- 4.(c) David Rasquinha has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Exim Bank of India for the period of three years. Currently, he is Deputy Managing Director of Exim Bank of India.
- 5.(a) The Novel “The Obelisk Gate” is written by Nora K. Jemisin. She received award for the same at the 75th World Science Fiction Convention in Helsinki.
- 6.(c) Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has become the first female actor ever to hoist the Indian National Flag at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).
7. (a) Anil Sahasrabudhe has been appointed as the Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- 8.(d) The International Biodiesel Day (IBD) is celebrated every year on 10th August. The main aim to celebrate this day is to turn the focus on non-fossil fuels.
- 9.(c) Homegrown messaging and social media technology company Hike Messenger has acquired Bengaluru-based tech startup Creo for an undisclosed amount.
10. (d) Veteran journalist T J S George has been chosen for the first Kesari Media Award, instituted by the Kesari Memorial Journalist Trust, Thiruvananthapuram. The award comprises cash of Rs 50,000, citation and a statuette designed by renowned artist Bhattathiri.
- 11.(e) 55-year-old businessman, Uhuru Kenyatta won presidential elections of Kenya for second five year term. He is son of Kenya's founder and first president Jomo Kenyatta(a)
- 12.(d) Legendary athlete Milkha Singh has been appointed as WHO goodwill ambassador in August 2017 for physical activity in the South-East Asia Region.
- 13.(a) Jharkhand government banned Sahitya Akademi award winning writer Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar's book “The Adivasi Will Not Dance”alleging that it hurt the dignity of women of the Santhal tribe.
- 14.(b) Famous Lyricist Prasoon Joshi has become the new chief of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in August 2017 replacing Pahlaj Nihalani.
- 15.(e) All these organizations won joint first prize of the state level Outstanding Performance Award of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in August 2017.
- 16.(d) England cricket team bowling coach Ottis Gibson will replace Russell Domingo and will become head coach of South Africa(a)
- 17.(c) Former West Bengal Minister and freedom fighter Gyan Singh Sohanpal died in August 2017. He entered the West Bengal state assembly in 1969 from the Kharagpur constituency.

- 18.(d) SoftBank Vision Fund of Japan made the biggest-ever investment of \$2.5 billion in Indian retail major Flipkart in August 2017.
- 19.(b) Hamid Ansari became the second Vice President of India to complete two Vice-Presidential terms. His first term started from 11 August 2007 while his second term started in August 2012. The first Vice President to do so was Sarvapelli Radhakrishnan whose two terms were from 13 May 1952 to 12 May 1962.
- 20.(e) ICICI bank announced Instant Credit Card Service in August 2017 which will enable its savings account customers to get a credit card instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner. This is the first-of-its-kind offering in the Indian banking industry.
- 21.(e) The USA will co-host the Global Entrepreneurship Summit with India at Hyderabad from 28th to 30th November this year.
- 22.(c) Davinder Kang became the first Indian to qualify for Javelin throw finals at the IAAF World Athletics Championships in London.
- 23.(c) India stood at 97th rank in August 2017 FIFA ranking. India has 341 rating points.
- 24.(c) In August 2017, Anti-dumping duty was imposed on 93 products from China to protect profitability of the domestic industry from import of cheap Chinese goods.
- 25.(b) According to Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2017, Sikkim emerged as one of the top performers in Swachh Bharat Mission in rural India with 95% rural households having toilets.
- 26.(c) The government's expenditure went upto 27% in April-June of the current Fiscal Year. According to the data, in the April-June quarter in 2017, spending for 32 central ministries have witnessed increase.
27. (b) Venezuela underwent formation of a new Constitutional Assembly. The newly elected body rewrote the 1999 constitution.
- 28.(d) No confidence motion vote against Jacob Zuma, the President of South Africa was rejected. Out of 384 ballots, 177 votes advocated his removal from office while 198 votes were against it.
- 29.(d) India signed agreement with Somalia for transfer of sentenced persons. The agreement with Somalia will facilitate the social rehabilitation of Indian prisoners imprisoned in Somalia or vice-versa to be near to their families, for serving remaining part of their sentence.
- 30.(b) The Indian men's hockey team got defeated by host Belgium by 1-3 in ongoing tour of Europe.
- 31.(b) Qatar will host Football World Cup 2022. This tournament will be the last one to involve 32 national teams, including the host nation, as the next one will have 48 teams.
- 32.(b) Nepal criminalized isolation of menstruating women. Nepal Supreme Court has condemned a custom known as 'chhaupadi' which advocated isolation of menstruating women.
- 33.(d) NASA's Cassini spacecraft is on mission of Saturn. The spacecraft captured details of Saturn and its rings and it is heading towards its end in atmosphere of the planet.
- 34.(a) Bengaluru Bulls defeated Bengal Warriors by 31-25 to top zone B of Pro Kabaddi League 2017.
- 35.(a) The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has extended its stay against the Central Government order regulating cattle trade in the country.