



Dear aspirants,

This Monthly GK Digest is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in a month of March 2017. We have compiled important & expected questions, which can be asked in upcoming SBI(PO), NICL AO, Bank of Baroda PO, Banking interviews and all upcoming Banking & Insurance exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. The online marketplace arm of One97 Communications Pvt. Ltd 'Paytm E-Commerce' has launched a mobile app and online shopping portal \_\_\_\_ Paytm Mall.

**Note:**

➤ Paytm Mall will allow customers to shop from 68 million products across categories such as fashion, electronics, consumer durables and home furnishings, from about 140,000 sellers.

2. The loan amount has been sanctioned by the World Bank (WB) for the Tejaswini project \_\_\_\_ \$63 million.

**Note:**

➤ The Tejaswini project will be delivered in 17 districts of Jharkhand.

3. Bajaj Auto Ltd. has presented a cheque to the union Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar as a donation to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) \_\_\_\_ One Crore.

**Note:**

➤ This Financial assistance is provided to needy Ex-servicemen, widow and their dependents out of AFFDF for healthcare, disability, children education, penury, house repair, ESM funeral, daughter's marriage etc.



4. According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Penalty will be imposed on banks if they refuse to exchange soiled or scribbled currency notes from people\_\_\_\_\_ Rs. 10,000.

5. The Reliance General Insurance (part of Reliance Capital) has tied up with a Bank to expand its distribution network\_\_\_Catholic Syrian Bank.

**Note:**

➤ RGI will offer its general insurance products to Catholic Syrian Bank's 1.5 million customer base spread across its 430 branches in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra.

➤ This tie-up will enable RGI to leverage Catholic Syrian Bank's unparalleled retail and SME customer base.

6. The World Bank has announced an assistance programme of over \$1 billion in the areas of urban transport and climate resilient agriculture over the next 2-3 years\_\_\_\_\_ Maharashtra.

7. The country's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI) has decided to reintroduce penalty on non-maintenance of minimum balance in accounts from \_\_\_\_\_1st of April 2017.

**Note:**

➤ The bank will now permit savings bank account holders to free of charge cash deposit only three times a month and levy Rs. 50 plus service tax on every transaction beyond that.

➤ In metropolitan branches (100 plus service tax), if the balance falls below 75 % of the minimum account balance of 5,000 rupees),

➤ In rural branches (Rs. 50 plus service tax), if balance falls below Rs. 1000.

➤ Withdrawal of cash from ATMs will also attract a charge up to 20 rupees if the number of transactions exceeds three from other bank's ATMs in a month and 10 rupees for more than five withdrawals from SBI ATMs.

8. The Trade Mark Rules, 2017 have come into effect which replaced the erstwhile Trade Mark Rules \_\_\_\_\_2002.

**Note:**

➤ It will streamline and simplify the processing of Trade Mark applications.

➤ Now, the fees for Individuals, Start-ups and Small Enterprises have been reduced to 4,500 rupees for e-filing of the trade mark applications.

9. A global leader in payment solutions has launched an electronic payment platform linked to corporate card, Buyer Initiated Payments (BIP) to eliminate payment through cheques or drafts\_\_\_\_\_American Express.

10. Who has launched an artificial intelligence based chatbot, EVA (electronic virtual assistant) for customer services in India\_\_\_\_\_ HDFC Bank.

**Note:**

➤ Eva is India's first AI-based banking chatbot and can answer millions of customer queries across multiple channels instantly.

➤ Now, Eva can assimilate knowledge from thousands of sources and provide answers in simple language in less than 0.4 seconds.

11. As per Global rating agency Fitch, India's GDP forecast for FY 17 \_\_\_\_\_7.1%.

**Note:**

➤ The Global rating agency Fitch has forecasted India's GDP growth for FY 17 to 7.1% and for both FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 to 7.7%.

➤ Fitch Ratings Inc. is one of the three nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (NRSRO) designated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in 1975.

12. The Bank is now the first bank in the country to launch Aadhaar Pay\_\_\_\_\_IDFC Bank.

**Note:**

➤ The Aadhaar Pay service is for merchants which will enable them to receive Aadhaar-enabled payments by passing credit and debit cards, pin and password.

13. The public-sector bank has launched "Work from Home" facility for employees\_\_\_\_\_ State Bank of India (SBI).

**Note:**

➤ SBI will use mobile computing technologies and shall have continuous control over all the enabled devices centrally to manage and secure the data and applications on the mobile devices.

14. Who has withdrawn the 2 % fee on adding money to mobile wallets using credit cards, after introducing the levy\_\_\_\_\_Paytm.

**Note:**

➤ The company had introduced the fee after finding multiple users using its platform to get free credit by using credit cards to top up their mobile wallets and then transferring the money back to their bank accounts at zero transaction cost.

➤ Paytm was founded and incubated by One97 Communications in 2010 as a prepaid mobile recharge website.

15. Who has been appointed the new Deputy Governor in Reserve Bank of India (RBI)\_\_\_\_\_ BP Kanungo.

**Note:**

➤ He has been appointed the new Deputy Governor in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a period of 3 years and will succeed R. Gandhi.

16. According to the RBI, the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) cannot lend more than how many Rs. in cash against gold\_\_\_\_Rs. 25,000.

**Note:**

➤ The earlier provision for NBFC was that high-value loans against the gold of Rs. 1 lakh and above must only be disbursed by cheque.

➤ The decision was taken in the backdrop of government's focus on less cash economy and promoting digital payments.

17. Who has announced Oppo Mobiles India Pvt Ltd. will be the new team sponsor of the Indian cricket team from 1st April 2017 for five years\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

**Note:**

➤ The sponsorship rights include the title of official team sponsor and the right to display a commercial logo in the kits of the India men's, women's, A and Under-19 teams.

➤ The Minimum reserve price was set by the BCCI at Rs. 538 crores, OPPO Mobiles will pay Rs. 1079 crore for the duration of their contract.

18. The bank who topped the list of banks that witnessed the most number of frauds during April to December period of 2016 \_\_\_\_ICICI Bank.

**Note:**

➤ During the first nine months of the current fiscal, as many as 455 fraud cases, involving 1 lakh rupees and above, were detected in ICICI Bank, closely followed by SBI with 429, Standard Chartered with 244 and HDFC Bank with 237.

➤ The frauds involving Rs. 2,237 crore were reported in SBI, followed by Punjab National Bank with Rs. 2,250 crore rupees and Axis Bank with 1,998 crore rupees.

19. The bank has launched an instant digital Loan Against Securities (LAS) facility\_\_\_\_ HDFC Bank.

**Note:**

➤ The HDFC bank has launched an instant digital Loan Against Securities (LAS) facility in collaboration with the National Securities Depository (NSDL), which allows customers to avail loans in less than 3 minutes.

➤ The service will also be available to customers with no credit history.

20. The bank has signed MoU with CREDAI to work towards providing housing for all \_\_\_\_\_ State Bank of India (SBI).

**Note:**

➤ State Bank of India(SBI) will be a national partner for all CREDAI activities and both will jointly work together for various marketing activities like conclaves, seminars, exhibitions, campaigns and CSR activities as well.

21. The Indian bank has launched a mobile banking app “Mera iMobile” for rural customers \_\_\_\_\_ ICICI Bank.

**Note:**

➤ This app will allow them to access banking services as well as information on agriculture services.

➤ The app can also be used by non-ICICI Bank customers as well.

➤ The Mera iMobile app provides around 135 services, available in English and 11 Indian languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu).

22. Bandhan Bank Ltd. has signed an agreement with a payment solution provider in Kolkata \_\_\_\_\_ India Avenues India Pvt Ltd.

**Note:**

➤ The agreement was signed to provide the merchants with seamless access to the point- of- sale (POS) and the payment gateway products.

➤ The partnership will help merchants to have a faster and more direct access to POS machines, payment gateways, and competitive financing options.

23. The Union govt. has swapped the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of \_\_\_\_\_ Indian Bank & IDBI Bank.

**Note:**

➤ Managing Director & CEO at Indian Bank Mahesh Kumar Jain has been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of IDBI Bank.

➤ IDBI Bank CEO Kishore Piraji Kharat has been appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Bank.

24. The Union cabinet clears how many GST supplementary legislations for introduction to parliament \_\_\_\_four.

**Note:**

- The four supporting legislations, the Compensation Law, the Central-GST (C-GST), Integrated-GST (I-GST) and Union Territory-GST (UT-GST) would be introduced as Money Bill.
- Once approved by Parliament, the states would start taking their State-GST (S-GST) bill for discussion and passage in the respective state assemblies.

25. The Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) has merged with the country's largest lender \_\_\_\_State Bank of India (SBI).

**Note:**

- SBI has already announced the merger of its five associates- State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore.
- Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh inaugurated Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) on 19th November 2013.

26. The loan amount has been approved by the World Bank (WB) for the National Hydrology Project of India\_\_\_\_\$175 million

27. The bank has launched a mobile banking app 'Mera iMobile' for rural customers \_\_\_\_ICICI bank.

**Note:**

- This app will allow them to access banking services as well as information on agriculture services.
- The app can also be used by non-ICICI Bank customers as well.
- The Mera iMobile app provides around 135 services, available in English and 11 Indian languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu).

28. The State bank of India has launched a unique credit card to spread credit inclusion \_\_\_\_Unnati.

**Note:**

- 'SBI Unnati card' is a credit card offered those SBI customers who have a minimum account balance of Rs. 25,000 in their accounts.
- The annual fee of Rs.499 is waived off for the first four years.

29. India's rank in the 2017 Human Development Index (HDI)\_\_\_\_ 131.

**Note:**

➤ India has ranked 131 out of 188 countries in the 2016 Human Development Report (HDR) in the latest released report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

30. The World Bank (WB) has signed an agreement with Uttarakhand to improve quality of health care services \_\_\_\_ USD 100 million.

31. India's rank in the global Energy Architecture Performance Index (EAPI) 2017 \_\_\_\_ 87th.

32. Who has acquired 4G business of Tikona Networks including the Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) business \_\_\_\_ Bharti Airtel.

**Note:**

➤ Tikona has 20 MHz spectrum in the 2300 MHz band in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh (East), Uttar Pradesh (West), Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh circles.

➤ After the deal, Airtel will have 30 MHz in the 2300 MHz band in 13 circles.

33. The Union Government has imposed import duty on wheat and tur dal to protect farmers' interest amid projection of a record crop this year \_\_\_\_ 10%.

34. The bank has digitally inaugurated 40 'Ananya' transformed branches to enhance customer experience, improve sales focus, and improve digital transactions through a dedicated digit zone \_\_\_\_ Syndicate Bank.

35. Who has adjudged the 'Best Small Bank for 2016' \_\_\_\_ Karur Vysya Bank.

**Note:**

➤ Karur Vysya Bank is an Indian private-sector bank, headquartered in Karur in Tamil Nadu.

➤ It was set up in 1916 by M. A. Venkatarama Chettiar and Athi Krishna Chettiar.

36. The bank has launched "Money Plant Rupay International Platinum Debit Card" to provide more privileges to its premium & HNI customers \_\_\_\_ Karnataka Bank.

37. The first Indian state to carry financial inclusion and extend banking services to un-banked areas through Self Help Groups (SHGs) \_\_\_\_ Odisha.

38. Truecaller has partnered with the ICICI Bank to launch its UPI-based mobile payment service \_\_\_\_ Truecaller Pay.

**Note:**

➤ Truecaller was developed by True Software Scandinavia AB, a privately held company in Stockholm, Sweden founded by Alan Mamedi and Nami Zarringhalam in 2009.

39. The USA based e-commerce giant made its entry in UAE by acquiring the Middle East's largest online retailer Souq.com \_\_\_\_Amazon.

**Note:**

- The agreement brings Amazon into a fast-growing market as it expands into a wide range of services.
- It is estimated deal's specific value between 650 million USD to one billion USD.
- The website (Souq.com) was founded by 'Ronaldo Mouchawar' in 2005 as an auction site linked to internet portal Maktoob.

40. The first e-commerce company to take membership of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)\_\_\_\_ Paytm.

## **New Appointments**

1. Who has taken charge as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes Chairperson (NCST) in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_Sri Nand Kumar Sai.

**Note:**

- Sai succeeds Rameshwar Oraon, whose tenure had ended on 31st October 2016.
- NCST investigates and monitors all matters related to safeguards provided for Scheduled Tribes under the constitution or under law or under any order of the Government.

2. Who has become the new Secretary-General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)\_\_\_\_ Amjad Hussain B Sial (Pakistan).

**Note:**

- Earlier, Outgoing Secretary General Arjun Bahadur Thapa (Nepal) had completed his term on Feb 2017.
- Sial served at SAARC Secretariat as director in Kathmandu.

3. Who has become the 9th Chairman of markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) \_\_\_\_ Ajay Tyagi.

**Note:**

- Ajay Tyagi (1984 batch IAS officer) of the Himachal Pradesh cadre succeeded U K Sinha.
- The chairman of SEBI receives a consolidated pay package of Rs. 4.5 lakh per month.



4. Who has been appointed as India's permanent representative to World Trade Organization (WTO)\_\_\_\_  
J S Deepak.

**Note:**

- Telecom Secretary J S Deepak (IAS officer -1982 batch Uttar Pradesh) was named India's next Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from June 2017.
- Deepak is an MBA degree holder from Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad.
- The WTO is a global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

5. Who has been appointed as new Chief Secretary of Maharashtra\_\_\_\_Sumit Mullick.

**Note:**

- Senior IAS officer (1982-batch) Sumit Mullick has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra.
- He will succeed Swadheen Kshatriya, who was due for retirement on 31st of January but was given a month's extension.

6. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the country's largest commercial enterprise Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)\_\_\_\_Sanjiv Singh.

**Note:**

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved his appointment for a period of five years.
- Singh is at present the director of Refineries at the IOCL.
- He will be assuming the charge on or after 1st June 2017.

7. Who is the newly appointed Prime Minister of Republic of the Sudan\_\_\_\_Bakri Hassan Saleh.

**Note:**

- Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has named Hassan Saleh to the newly-created post of Prime Minister.
- It is the first-time Sudan has a prime minister since Bashir came to power in a 1989 Islamist and military-backed coup.
- Saleh is a retired army general and former defense, interior and presidential affairs minister.

8. Who has been appointed as the head coach of the Indian Under-17 team for the FIFA Under-17 World Cup\_\_\_\_Luis Norton de Matos(Portugal).

9. Who has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of MTNL\_\_\_\_ P K Purwar.

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**Note:**

➤ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of 'P K Purwar' as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for five years.

➤ Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is a state-owned telecommunications service provider in the metro cities of Mumbai & New Delhi in India and in the island nation of Mauritius in Africa.

10. Who has been elected 76th Mayor of Mumbai, with the support of the BJP\_\_\_\_ Vishwanath Mahadeshwar.

➤ He defeated Congress nominee 'Vitthal Lokare' by the 171-31 margin.

➤ The election result of Bombay Municipal Corporation had thrown up a hung verdict with the Shiv Sena winning 84 seats and the Bharatiya Janata Party winning 82 seats out of 227.

11. Who has been appointed as the new chief Financial Officer of Adidas\_\_\_\_ Harm Ohlmeyer.

**Note:**

➤ Ohlmeyer will replace Robin Stalker, who served the organisation for 16 years.

➤ Earlier, Kasper Rorsted was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Adidas.

12. Who has been appointed as the Regional Director of Ford Foundation for India, Nepal and Sri Lanka\_\_\_\_ Pradeep Nair.

**Note:**

➤ He will replace David Hulse.

➤ Nair will guide Ford foundation's operations in New Delhi.

13. Who has been re-elected as European Council's President\_\_\_\_ Donald Tusk.

**Note:**

➤ Tusk has been re-elected for a term of two and a half year by 27 to one votes.

➤ He'll take over the office from 1st June 2017.

➤ The European Council is the institution of the European Union (EU) that charged with defining the EU's overall political direction and priorities.

14. Indian cricketer has been appointed UNICEF and Cricket for Good Ambassador for the ICC Women's World Cup 2017\_\_\_\_ Sachin Tendulkar.

15. Who gets additional charge of Defence Ministry\_\_\_\_Arun Jaitley.

**Note:**

➤ The union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has given the additional charge of the Defence Ministry after Manohar Parrikar resigned to take on the new role of Goa Chief Minister.

16. New Ambassador of India to Nepal\_\_\_\_ Manjeev Singh Puri.

**Note:**

➤ He will succeed Ranjit Rae.

17. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Central Water Commission\_\_\_\_Narendra Kumar.

**Note:**

➤ Narendra Kumar is a Central Water Engineering Service Officer of 1979 batch and he became a member of CWC (River Management) in October 2014.

➤ He took over G. S. Jha, upon his superannuation.

18. Who takes charge as the Acting Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court\_\_\_\_Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar.

**Note:**

➤ President Pranab Mukherjee appointed Sudhakar as the acting chief justice as per the provisions conferred by Section 100 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir.

19. Who has appointed Chairman of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis\_\_\_\_ Manhar Valji Bhai Zala.

**Note:**

➤ The purpose of the Commission is to study, evaluate and monitor the implementation of various schemes for Safai Karamcharis as an autonomous organisation and also to provide redressal of their grievances.

20. Who has become the new Chief Minister of Punjab\_\_\_\_Captain Amarinder Singh.

**Note:**

➤ Congress secured 77 out of the 117 assembly seats thus leading to a comfortable victory.

21. Who has become the new Chief Minister of Manipur\_\_\_\_\_Nongthombam Biren Singh.

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**Note:**

- This is the first time when BJP has formed government in Manipur.
- National People's Party's Y. Joykumar was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister.

22. Indian personality has become the Vice-President (VP) of the Local Organising Committee (LoC) of the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017 \_\_\_\_\_Babul Supriyo.

**Note:**

- A FIFA team is scheduled to visit India from 21st to 27th March for the final inspection of the facilities in the six cities (Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Kochi, Margao, and Guwahati) which will host matches of the U-17 World Cup.
- For the first time, India to host FIFA U-17 World from 6 to 28 October, 2017.

23. Who has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of Punjab\_\_\_\_\_Karan Avtar Singh.

**Note:**

- He succeeded Shri Sarvesh Kaushal who was posted as Special Chief Secretary-cum-Director General of the Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration.

24. Who has become the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand \_\_\_\_\_Trivendra Rawat.

**Note:**

- Former Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) pracharak and MLA of Doiwala 'Trivendra Singh Rawat' sworn in as a new Uttarakhand Chief Minister (9th) in the state capital Dehradun.
- In recent Uttarakhand Assembly elections, BJP won 57 of the 70 seats.

25. Who has become the new Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh\_\_\_\_Yogi Adityanath.

**Note:**

- Yogi Adityanath took oath as the chief minister (21st) of Uttar Pradesh along with Keshav Prasad Maurya (State BJP-chief) and Dinesh Sharma (Lucknow Mayor) as deputy chief ministers of the state.
- Adityanath is the five-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Gorakhpur and also the 'Mahant' of a Hindu temple 'Gorakhnath Math' in Gorakhpur.

26. Who took oath as the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court\_\_\_\_\_Justice Navniti Prasad Singh.

**Note:**

➤ Justice Singh is the former judge in the Patna High Court.

27. The Snapdeal has appointed 'Jason Kothari' as the Chief Executive Officer of \_\_\_\_\_ FreeCharge.

**Note:**

➤ He will continue his key leadership role as Chief Strategy & Investment Officer at Snapdeal.

➤ FreeCharge was started in August, 2010 by Kunal Shah and Sandeep Tandon.

28. Who has been appointed as the full-time Interim Director General (IDG) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) \_\_\_\_\_ Upendra Tripathy.

**Note:**

➤ He served the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy as its secretary from 1st April 2014 to 31st October 2016.

➤ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched on 30th November, 2015 as a coalition of the solar resource rich countries on the first day of the Paris Climate Conference(CoP21).

29. The new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of International Cricket Council (ICC)\_\_\_\_\_ Ankur Khanna.

**Note:**

➤ He will join the ICC headquarters in Dubai at the end of March 2017.

➤ Presently, he is serving Air Asia India as the Chief Financial Officer.

30. The sports entrepreneur and philanthropist has been appointed the new member of Sports Authority of India (SAI) \_\_\_\_\_ Siddhartha Upadhyay.

31. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court \_\_\_\_\_ Navniti Prasad Singh.

**Note:**

➤ He succeeded Justice Thottathil B Radhakrishnan.

32. Who has been appointed as the new Whole-Time Member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) \_\_\_\_\_ Madhabi Puri Buch.

**Note:**

➤ Currently, she is working at the BRICS Development Bank in Shanghai, China.

➤ She will have the tenure of 3 years.

33. Who has appointed as the new Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi\_\_\_ Randeep Guleria.

**Note:**

➤ He succeeds Dr. M C Misra who retired in, January 2017.

➤ Guleria is the head of the Department of Pulmonology and Sleep Disorders at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (India's first center) New Delhi.

34. The first woman to head 'The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' \_\_\_\_\_Vanita Gupta.

**Note:**

➤ Gupta will also lead its sister organization 'The Leadership Conference Education Fund'.

➤ She will succeed Wade Henderson, who is stepping down after more than two decades of service in the organization.

35. Who has unanimously elected speaker of Punjab Assembly\_\_\_ Rana Kanwar Pal Singh.

**Note:**

➤ Former Punjab Youth Congress President Rana K P Singh is elected from the Anandpur Sahib constituency for the third time.

36. The Border Security Force (BSF) has received its first woman field officer after 51 years\_\_\_ Tanushree Pareek.

**Note:**

➤ She started training in the year 2016 in a 52-week Assistant Commandant training programme with the 40th batch of the BSF Academy.

37. Who has appointed as the chairman of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)\_\_\_\_\_ Sharad Singh Negi.

38. Who has been appointed as the new executive director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP)\_\_\_\_\_ David Beasley.

**Note:**

➤ The WFP is the world largest humanitarian organization that provides food assistance to an average of 80 million people in 75 countries each year.

39. The first woman Chief Executive (CE) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region \_\_\_\_ Carrie Lam.

40. Who has been elected as the speaker of UP legislative assembly \_\_\_\_ Hriday Narayan Dikshit.

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**Note:**

➤ Dixit has been the party's spokesperson in the state for several years and was minister for parliamentary affairs and Panchayati raj in the previous BJP government in UP.

➤ In the recent election 2017, Dikshit is the winner of Bhagwantnagar seat of Unnao district.

41. Who has been appointed as the new vice-chancellor of Nalanda University (NU) \_\_\_\_ Sunaina Singh.

**Note:**

➤ She succeeded 'George Yeo' who resigned from the post.

➤ At present, Sunaina Singh is the vice chancellor of the English and Foreign Language University (EFLU), Hyderabad.

## **Important News – India**

1. The World's oldest serving aircraft carrier in active service will be decommissioned with a ceremonial send-off in Mumbai \_\_\_\_ INS Viraat.

**Note:**

➤ The longest serving aircraft carrier 'INS Viraat' was commissioned in Indian Navy in 1987, before that the historic ship served Royal British Navy for 27 long years.

➤ 'INS Viraat' was built in 1943, during the Second World War.

2. The largest flag Inaugurated on India's tallest post at \_\_\_\_ Attari Border.

**Note:**

➤ The Flag post measuring 110 metres (360-foot) in length and 24 metres in width with 55-ton weight and built at an approximate cost of 3.50 crore.

➤ The post was a project of the Amritsar Improvement Trust Authority of Punjab Government.

➤ The flag post became attraction for thousands of tourists who were present at Wagha border to watch the Beating Retreat Ceremony during the sunset.

3. Who has launched “Swachh Shakti Saptah” to raise awareness on sanitation and cleanliness in Gurugram, Haryana\_\_\_\_Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar.

**Note:**

➤ The union govt. has decided to observe 'Swachh Shakti Saptah' from 1st to 8th March 2017 across the country.

➤ Around 1,500 women sarpanches of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Gurugram division sarpanches are participating in this event.

4. The Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Parshottam Rupala has launched NDDDB's cattle feed knowledge portal in \_\_\_\_Anand, Gujarat.

**Note:**

➤ The portal will have information on least cost formula for feeds, suppliers of feed ingredients, raw material specifications as well as a discussion forum to share information.

5. The interceptor missile tracked the enemy's ballistic missile and fired from Interim Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha\_\_\_\_Prithvi.

**Note:**

➤ India has become the fourth country (after US, Russia and Israel) in the world to have a ballistic missile defence programme.

6. The city hosted the 4th India-CLMV Business Conclave -2017 \_\_\_\_ Jaipur.

**Note:**

➤ The Conclave was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman and organised by the Department of Commerce and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

7. The International Yoga festival 2017 has started in the state\_\_\_\_ Uttarakhand.

**Note:**

➤ The 29th edition of the International Yoga festival has started in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand from March 1, 2017.

➤ Festival has been inaugurated by the Governor of Uttarakhand K K Paul.

8. The committee has submitted its' report to the Govt. to protect the interests of the migrants\_\_\_\_Partha Mukhopadhyay committee.

9. Who has successfully test-fired an anti-ship missile from an indigenously built INS Kalvari submarine in Arabian sea\_\_\_\_Indian Navy.



**Note:**

➤ The anti-ship missiles will provide the Kalvari class submarines ability to neutralize surface threats at extended ranges.

➤ INS Kalvari is the first of India's six scorpene-class submarines which are being built under the Project 75.

10. The union govt. has approved over 4,000 Post Graduate seats in medical colleges and hospitals across the country for the academic session\_\_\_\_\_ 2017-18.

**Note:**

➤ Now, the total number of PG seats available in the country will go up to over 35 thousand.

➤ This will boost nation's resolve to strengthen tertiary care and improve the medical education in the country.

11. The Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over how many product for induction into the Indian Army in New Delhi\_\_\_three products.

**The three new products are:**

➤ Weapon Locating Radar (WLR), SWATHI: The radar provides fast, automatic, and accurate location of all enemy weapons like mortars, shells and rockets firing within in its effective zone of coverage.

➤ NBC Recce vehicle MK-I: It was developed by the Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (VRDE).

➤ NBC Drugs: The drugs were developed by the DRDO's institute of Nuclear medicine and allied sciences (INMAS)

12. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released commemorative Postage Stamp on 100th Anniversary of the \_\_\_\_\_Yogoda Satsang Society of India.

**Note:**

➤ Yogoda Satsanga Society is a non-profit religious organization founded by Paramahansa Yogananda in 1917.

13. The nationwide "Swachh Shakti Saptah" has been launched from the city\_\_\_\_\_ Gurugram.

14. Who has dedicated to the nation a Petrochemical Complex of ONGC Petro Additions Limited at Dahej\_\_\_\_\_ Narendra Modi.

**Note:**

➤ He will also dedicate a four-lane bridge over the Narmada at Bharuch on NH-8.

➤ The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of Bharuch Bus Port.

15. The week-long 'Bhagoria Haat' festival has begun at different Bhagoria haats (local markets) in \_\_\_\_\_ western Madhya Pradesh.

**Note:**

➤ The festival has been celebrated by the tribal people of the western Madhya Pradesh.

➤ Young tribal men and women, attired in colorful dresses, turn up at the haats with their traditional musical instruments to sing and dance as a part of the festival.

16. Who has inaugurated the two-day International Yoga fest at Talkatora stadium in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ Venkaiah Naidu.

**Note:**

➤ More than 3,500 participants including yoga gurus, yoga masters, scholars, policy makers and representatives from 15- 18 countries has participated in this event.

➤ The fest has organized by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga in association with the Yoga associations.

17. The Union Minister has launched the first of its kind Air Conditioned jacket made of cotton fabric \_\_\_\_\_ Giriraj Singh.

**Note:**

➤ This jacket has been made by a villager of Khanwa of the district through Solar charkha using swadeshi technology.

➤ Climate gear has been fitted in this jacket which controls temperature.

18. Who has introduced a mobile application 'Exam Locator' to help students appearing for class 10th and 12th examinations locate their exam centres \_\_\_\_\_ The Central Board of Secondary Examination (CBSE).

**Note:**

➤ The App will help students to quickly know the exam centre (address, images, and geolocation) on the basis of their roll number.

➤ The user can then access information by selecting the option class X or XII and entering the roll number.

19. Who has extended the last date of submission of digital life certificate through Jeevan Pramaan Patra by 31st March under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS)\_\_\_\_Employees' Provident Fund Organisation(EPFO).

20. The two-day,11th edition of North-East Business Summit (NEBS) has started in the city\_\_\_\_New Delhi.

**Note:**

➤ The North-East Business Summit is an annual flagship event to promote investment and business opportunities in the North-Eastern part of India.

21. Who has launched the web portal for obtaining Coastal Regulation Zone clearances in New Delhi\_\_\_\_Anil Madhav Dave.

**Note:**

➤ The objectives of the web portal includes, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the process of CRZ clearances.

➤ The Portal enables submission of applications for CRZ clearance in a single-window interface.

22. Under the recommendations of the bill, Bill, 2016, working women in all establishments (either public or private) will be entitled to weeks of paid maternity leave\_\_\_\_26 weeks.

**Note:**

➤ If a woman adopts a child below 3 months of age, she will be entitled to 12 weeks leave from the date the child is handed over to her.

➤ This entitlement will be applicable for the first two children. For the 3rd child, any women will be granted 12 weeks of maternity leave.

23. The union ministry has instituted “Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya National Awards” for women handloom weavers and women handicraft artisans\_\_\_\_Ministry of Textiles.

24. Who has launched a mobile app and website ‘MeraHunar HP’or ‘My Talent’ to help skilled and semi-skilled workers find jobs\_\_\_\_Virbhadra Singh.

**Note:**

➤ The mobile app will connect prospective employers with job aspirants as the latter’s resume will contain addresses and contact numbers.

➤ The app can be downloaded from google play or Apple store or from the website, hpmerahunar.com.

25. The first Indian power utility to successfully deploy tele-protection service using Line-Differential Relay (LDR) over an IP/MPLS network\_\_\_\_ The Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited.

26. The committee who has submitted report to the Government of India to strengthen border protection\_\_\_\_ Madhukar Gupta committee.

**Note:**

➤ The committee was constituted to strengthen border protection and address vulnerabilities in fencing along the Indo-Pakistan border.

27. The 6th edition of the International Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS) has started in the city\_\_\_\_\_ Chennai.

**Note:**

➤ It is the largest Engineering sourcing show in India for International visitors, which is organized under the aegis of Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

28. International Buddhist conference has been jointly inaugurated by respected religious leader Dalai Lama and the Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Mahesh Sharma at \_\_\_\_\_Rajgir (Bihar).

**Note:**

➤ More than 1000 delegates from 35 countries including Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Singapore is participating in the event.

➤ The main topic of the conference is Buddhism in the 21st century.

➤ Last year, it was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

29. Who has inaugurated the 5th foundation day function of BIRAC\_\_\_\_Harsh Vardhan.

**Note:**

➤ More than 300 Scientists, Entrepreneurs, Industry Experts, and Policy Makers including,large number of stakeholders both national and international is taking part in the event.

30. The Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has inaugurated a passport seva kendra at a post office in \_\_\_\_Bikaner (Rajasthan).

**Note:**

➤ Similar kendra will be inaugurated in Jhunjhunu, Kota, Jhalawar (RPT Jhalawar) and Jaisalmer by 31st March.

➤ The central government has taken this step of opening passport seva kendras in post offices for people's convenience.

31. The parliamentary committee has suggested merger of state-run telecom firms BSNL and MTNL for their long-term survival\_\_\_\_ Bhagat Singh Koshyari committee.

**Note:**

➤ The merger will create a bigger state-owned telecom company, which would give a tough competition to other private telecom players present in the market.

32. The Court accorded the status of 'living human entities' to the India's most sacred Ganga and Yamuna rivers \_\_\_\_ Uttarakhand High Court.

**Note:**

➤ According to a division bench of Justices Rajeev Sharma and Alok Singh of Nainital High Court "Holy rivers Ganga and Yamuna have been declared to be treated as living human entities".

33. The city is hosting the 15th edition of 'All India Meet of State Legal Services Authorities' \_\_\_\_ New Delhi.

**Note:**

➤ The two-day event is organized by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in collaboration with Delhi State Legal Services (DSLS).

34. The first fully India-made 12-coach train has flagged off between Dadar to Borivali at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai, Maharashtra\_\_\_\_Medha.

35. Who has launched the world's first mobile app on breast health\_\_\_\_ Amitabh Bachchan.

**Note:**

➤ The app will be available in both IOS and Android versions and is free to download.

36. The country is hosting the International Diamond Conference 'Mines to Market 2017' \_\_\_\_ India.

**Note:**

➤ The theme of the conference is "Mines to Market 2017" and is organized by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India (GJEPC).

37. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has unveiled new exam format for \_\_\_\_ Class VI to IX.

**Note:**

➤ The board has replaced Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) which was in place since 2009 with a uniform system of assessment and examination to be followed by its affiliated schools.

➤ There will still be two terms, the written test weightage will be 90% and 10 marks of the 20 marks set aside for periodic assessment in each term.

38. Who has commissioned the world's third largest hypersonic wind tunnel at Thiruvananthapuram's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Kerala\_\_\_\_ ISRO Chairman A S Kiran Kumar.

**Note:**

➤ He commissioned two facilities at the center, one-metre Hypersonic Wind Tunnel, and one-metre Shock Tunnel.

➤ The facilities comprise 500 valves, 2 km long pipelines, 41 electric motors, 35 pumps, 320 instruments and 10 km of cables.

39. Recently, Indian cities were included in the Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites\_\_\_\_ five.

**Note:**

➤ The five Indian cities included in the list are Ahmedabad, Delhi, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar and Mumbai.

40. The union minister has launched an integrated grievances redressal platform for Petroleum and Gas related queries\_\_\_\_MoPNG e Seva.

**Note:**

➤ MoPNG e-Seva is a dedicated grievances redressal platform on Social Media for all queries and grievances relating to Oil and Gas Sector.

➤ The grievances will be dealt on real-time basis.

41. The high-level committee formed to examine working of Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) and Central Council of Homoeopathy \_\_\_\_\_ Arvind Panagariya committee.

42. India's first vertical garden has set up in the state\_\_\_\_\_ Karnataka.

**Note:**

➤ The garden will help to control the pollution level of the city and also act as a sound proofing barrier.

➤ The vertical garden is an automatic drip irrigation system allowing the plants to get water on a daily basis.

43. The surveillance ship was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Port Blair\_\_\_\_\_INLCU L51.

**Note:**

➤ LCU 51 is the first of the eight ships of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk IV Class.

➤ The ship is also equipped with Integrated Platform Management System and Integrated Bridge System for automated controls and quick functioning.

44. The city to host the 105th edition of the 2018- Indian Science Congress (ISC) \_\_\_\_\_ Hyderabad.

**Note:**

➤ The theme of the conference will be 'Science and Technology – Reaching the Unreached'.

45. Who has become the first Indian state to carry financial inclusion and extend banking services to unbanked areas through Self Help Groups(SHG)\_\_\_\_\_Odisha.

**Note:**

➤ The state government has signed an agreement with State Bank of India (SBI) to provide banking facilities to people in unbanked areas.

➤ Gradually it would be extended to 4,000 non-banked panchayats.

46. Who has become the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot "Bhoorsingh the Barasingha" to create a better connection with its visitors\_\_\_\_\_Kanha tiger reserve.

**Note:**

➤ The aims of mascot to present the hard ground swamp deer 'Barasingha' as the spirit of the reserve and spread awareness to save it from possible extinction

47. The union Information & Broadcasting Ministry has launched the online film certification system with an aim to the elimination of middlemen and promote clean cinema\_\_\_\_\_ 'e-CinePramaan'.

## **States News**

1. The state govt. has decided to appoint a teacher in all high-schools to monitor cleanliness \_\_\_\_\_Assam government.

**Note:**

➤ The teachers will be appointed in high-schools under Swachh Bharat Mission and responsible to maintain cleanliness.

2. The state government has signed MoU with Invest India to encourage startups\_\_\_\_\_ Odisha.

**Note:**

➤ The Odisha government has signed an agreement with "Invest India" the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Union ministry of commerce and industries.

➤ They will help the state govt. in achieving the Mission-1000 Start-ups by the year 2020 and help the youth in realising their dreams.

3. The state government has made Sanskrit compulsory up to class eight in all classes \_\_\_\_ Assam.

4. The state govt has extended midday meal scheme for girls up to class 12 \_\_\_\_ Delhi Govt.

**Note:**

➤ Earlier, the scheme covers all primary classes of MCD and government schools and upper primary classes till Class 8th with 16 lakh students.

➤ Schools will start serving midday meal to girl students of class 9th to 12th from 1st of next month.

➤ Now, Delhi state government will become the first state in the country to serve midday meal up to class 12.

5. Who has launched a portal 'ammakalviyagam.in' as a part of 69th birth anniversary celebrations of late chief minister Jayalalithaa Jayaram (known as Amma) \_\_\_\_ O Panneerselvam.

**Note:**

➤ The portal is a hub of learning, interaction, opportunity, and connection.

➤ It will help student assistance from reputed teachers free of cost at the convenience of their homes.

6. Andhra Pradesh Cabinet accepts naming of Tirupati Airport as \_\_\_\_ Sri Venkateswara Airport.

**Note:**

➤ The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet has accepted the naming of "Gannavaram Airport" as "NTR Amaravati Airport" and "Tirupati Airport" as "Sri Venkateswara Airport".

7. The state govt. has signed an agreement to fast-track the completion of 206 megawatt 2,285-crore rupees Shahpur Kandi dam project on the Ravi river in Chandigarh \_\_\_\_ Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.

**Note:**

➤ Shapur Kandi project will be constructed on the canal from Shahpurkandi Barrage to Madhopur headworks, downstream of the existing Ranjit Sagar Dam.

8. The state govt. to introduce the concept of smart classes in government-run schools to see use of information and communications technology (ICT) to impart education \_\_\_\_ Arunachal Pradesh.

**Note:**

➤ In the smart classrooms, the blackboards would give way to digital screens, and pens would be replaced with keyboards.



➤ These classes would be introduced in all 264 government higher secondary and secondary schools across the state from class 9 to class 10 in a phased manner.

9. The state government has recently given official language status to endangered tribal language 'Kurukh' \_\_\_\_ West Bengal.

10. The union minister Jitendra Singh has inaugurated the three-day long 'Destination North East' 2017 in \_\_\_\_ Chandigarh.

**Note:**

➤ The event showcasing North East as a potential destination for investment and organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and an industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

➤ It will see round table discussions and exhibition stalls showcasing various features of the North-East Region.

11. The state govt. has informed that the girl child ratio has increased to 938 per 1000 male children in February in the state \_\_\_\_ Haryana.

➤ In January 2017, the registered girl child ratio was 922.

➤ The gradual increase in the ratio of girl child is the result of effective implementation of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' programme.

12. The state government will organize the first-of-its-kind "Tulip festival" \_\_\_\_\_ Jammu and Kashmir.

**Note:**

➤ The mega tulip festival will be part of Bahaar-e-Kashmir (Spring in Kashmir) event to showcase Asia's largest tulip garden "Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden".

13. The state government has launched "Tirtha Darshan" scheme for senior citizens \_\_\_\_ Haryana.

**Note:**

➤ The senior citizens would be selected for the pilgrimage on the basis of draw of lots.

➤ Over 400 destinations can be visited under the scheme.

14. Former hockey captain has shunned retirement to make a comeback in the Indian team after a seven-month sabbatical \_\_\_\_ Ritu Rani.

**Note:**

➤ Earlier, Ritu had announced her retirement in September last year, post her wedding.

15. The state government has launched web-based platform 'Pratibimba' to project government achievements\_\_\_\_ Karnataka.

16. The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) IT Wing has launched the women safety application in Tamil Nadu\_\_\_\_\_'Ammavin Aran'.

**Note:**

➤ The app will give the user details about the nearest police station and hospital along with map details and phone number.

➤ The app carries an in-built call recorder and 'Tips' icon to provide life- saving information.

17. The state govt. has launched a new scheme 'Adarsh Gram Yojana' to reach the poor people in rural areas of the state to serve them better\_\_\_\_Arunachal Pradesh.

**Note:**

➤ Under the scheme, 123 villages will be developed as “Model Villages” during the FY 17-18.

18. The state government has launched a 24X7 toll free helpline number “181” for distressed women\_\_\_\_ Odisha.

**Note:**

➤ The helpline will facilitate quick response of various services including lodging police complaint to provide medical, legal and counselling to women victims.

19. The state government has launched an Idea2POC fund for women entrepreneurs\_\_\_\_ Karnataka.

**Note:**

➤ The Karnataka government has launched a Rs 10-crore Idea2POC (Idea to Proof of Concept) fund for women entrepreneurs.

20. India's largest floating solar Photo-Voltaic (PV) plant has been installed in the state\_\_\_\_ Kerala.

**Note:**

➤ The National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has recently installed India's largest floating solar Photo-Voltaic (PV) plant at Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant (RGCCPP) in Kerala's Kayamkulam district.

21. The state government will launch “Namma Canteens” to serve cheap food\_\_\_\_ Karnataka.

**Note:**

➤ The Karnataka government has allocated Rs.100 crore for setting up of government subsidized chain of food centres “Namma Canteens” across the state.

➤ Namma Canteens will provide breakfast for Rs. 5 and lunch, dinner for Rs. 10 each to the common man.

22. The first police station in India to be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)\_\_\_\_\_ Shimla.

**Note:**

➤ Under this system, over 200 police posts across the state will be linked.

23. The 2017 National Theatre Festival (NTF) has started in which state\_\_\_\_ Kerala.

**Note:**

➤ The 2017 National Theatre Festival (NTF) has started at Tagore Theatre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

➤ The Festival is organized by the Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Kerala.

24. Recently the state govt. has decided to provide 33% reservation for women in all government jobs\_\_\_\_ Punjab govt.

**Note:**

➤ The cabinet has also decided to increase representation of women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies from the present 33% to 50%.

25. The state govt has notified Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy Medicine Procurement Policy, 2016\_\_\_\_\_ Haryana Govt.

**Note:**

➤ The objective of ensuring uninterrupted supply of good quality AYUSH medicines free of cost to the people through Government Hospitals, Prathmik Swasthay Kendras, Government Ayurvedic, Homeopathic and Unani Dispensaries, Panchkarma Centres and National Health Mission (NHM) Institutions in the State.

26. The state govt. has reserved 93 hectares of land in Lohara MIDC of the district for setting up a “Textile Park” \_\_\_\_The Maharashtra govt.

**Note:**

➤ The Park would ensure large scale employment to the youths of the region besides providing better avenues for the farmers to garner maximum benefit.

27. The first-ever Haryana Sahitya Sangam has started in the city\_\_\_\_ Panchkula.

28. India's first carbon neutral district and as a biodiversity heritage\_\_\_\_\_Majuli.

29. The state govt. has made Aadhaar mandatory to farmers for availing crop insurance schemes from the next Kharif season\_\_\_\_ Maharashtra.

**Note:**

➤ Now, the farmers of the state will have to link it with the Aadhaar number before June this year to avail crop insurance schemes.

➤ The scheme is applicable to food grain and horticulture sectors

30. The 5th edition of '2017 Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) has started at \_\_\_\_\_Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh).

**Note:**

➤ It is organized by the Union Ministry of Culture.

31. The state govt. has signed a MoU with State Bank of India (SBI) to provide Housing and Educational loan at subsidized interest rates to the employees of the state\_\_\_\_The Assam govt.

**Note:**

➤ The state Government will provide interest subsidy at the rate of 3.50% for the housing loan and education loan at 4%.

➤ Maximum limit of Housing Loan is Rs. 15 lakh and the High education loan is Rs. 10 lakh.

➤ There are provisions for the collateral free loan, Zero Margin, Zero Processing Fee with longer repayment tenure.

32. The state Assembly has passed bills for the establishment of four private and two government-run universities in the state\_\_\_\_Gujarat state.

**Note:**

➤ Four new private universities are Swarnim Startup and Innovation University (Gandhinagar), P P Savani University (Surat), Indrashil University (Ahmedabad) and Karnavati University (Gandhinagar).

➤ Two new private universities are Birsa Munda Tribal University at Rajpipla in Narmada district and the Gujarat Organic Agricultural University.

33. The National Commission for Schedule Tribes (NCST) has approved the proposal for additional seats for tribal in the Sikkim Assembly\_\_\_\_five.

**Note:**

➤ The proposal of increasing reserve seats for Schedule Tribes from 12 to 17 in 32 members in Sikkim Assembly and now it would be increased to 40.

➤ The five seats would be reserved for Limbu and Tamang.

34. The state government has launched a program to provide free wifi facilities in educational institutions \_\_\_\_ Bihar.

**Note:**

➤ The purpose of the program is to provide free Wi-Fi facility to help youths to move ahead in life and to become digital smart.

35. The Kerala transport minister has announced his resignation after allegations of misconduct were raised against him \_\_\_\_ A. K. Saseendran.

**Note:**

➤ The minister made the decision following an audio clip hinting at alleged misconduct with a woman was aired by a TV channel.

36. President Pranab Mukherjee has inaugurated India's largest river festival in Assam \_\_\_\_ Namami Brahmaputra.

**Note:**

➤ The basic objective of the festival is to show case the trade and commerce, culture, skill, industry, and tourism of Assam to the world.

➤ A festival to be organized across 21 districts in Assam from 31st March to 4th April, 2017.

37. The popular tribal festival of nature worshipping 'Sarhul' has started in the state \_\_\_\_ Jharkhand

**Note:**

➤ The festival marks the beginning of New Year by worshipping trees.

**Important News – World**

1. Who has attended from India in the Summit of the 21-nation Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in Jakarta, Indonesian \_\_\_\_ Hamid Ansari.

**Note:**

➤ This is the first Summit level conference hosted by Jakarta.

➤ Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) will produce four documents to make Indian Ocean peaceful, stable, and prosperous region.

➤ These four documents are IORA Concord, IORA Action Plan, IORA Declaration on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism.

2. The country to build its' first national under water observatory in disputed South China Sea \_\_\_\_ China.

3. The country who has decided to cancel visa-free entry for North Koreans due to National security reasons from 6th March 2017 \_\_\_\_ Malaysia.

**Note:**

➤ Now, North Koreans will be required to obtain a visa before entering Malaysia for national security reasons.

➤ The move comes two weeks after Kim Jong Nam was killed at the Kuala Lumpur airport with a toxic nerve agent.

4. The country to host 10th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance \_\_\_\_ India.

**Note:**

➤ Three-day ICEGOV conference will be organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in collaboration with United Nations University and UNESCO.

5. The Island country in South Asia has won the 'Most Popular Tourism Destination Award' at the Guangzhou International Travel Fair (GITF) in China \_\_\_\_ Sri Lanka.

**Note:**

➤ Sri Lanka won the award is the testament to the country's growing popularity among Chinese travel enthusiasts for the second consecutive year.

➤ The GITF is South China's leading travel Expo drawing affluent travel enthusiasts every year from mainland China.

6. The two-week long joint military exercise between India and Nepal has begun in Pithoragarh area of Uttarakhand \_\_\_\_ SURYA KIRAN-XI.

**Note:**

➤ Exercise is aimed at training of both the troops in the area of various counter-insurgency operations over a prolonged period.

➤ The Surya Kiran series of exercises are being conducted biannually, alternatively in India and Nepal.

7. Indian and Royal Oman armies has begun joint exercise “Al Nagah-two” in Bakloh area \_\_\_\_ Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh.

**Note:**

- Total sixty contingents from both sides are taking part in the exercise.
- The exercise would be mainly focused on counter-terrorism and forest warfare.
- Earlier this kind of exercise was conducted in the year 2015.

8. The Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) meeting will held in the city \_\_\_\_ Lahore.

**Note:**

- The PIC is a bilateral commission of officials from India-Pakistan, created to implement and manage goals of Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

9. The Constitutional court has removed South Korean President from the office \_\_\_\_ Park Geun-Hye.

**Note:**

- The impeachment was carried out over allegations of corruption and cronyism on Park.
- The new president will now be elected by South Korea within 60 days.
- Hwang Kyo-ahn will serve as the acting president meanwhile.

10. The city is hosting the international conference on e-governance “ICEGOV 2017” \_\_\_\_ New Delhi.

**Note:**

- The 3-day event is organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in collaboration with United Nations University and UNESCO.

11. The cultural festival ‘India by the Nile’ has started in the country \_\_\_\_ Egypt.

**Note:**

- The event is a special moment as this year India celebrates 70 years of independence and also 70 years of its diplomatic relations with Egypt.

12. Who has inaugurated the two-day 12th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in New Delhi \_\_\_\_ President Pranab Mukherjee.

**Note:**

➤ The CII-Exim bank conclave was organized by the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) in partnership with the EXIM Bank of India with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

13. The country who has successfully test fired naval strike ballistic missile 'Hormuz 2' \_\_\_\_\_ Iran.

14. The country hosted the 23rd Conference of Auditors General of Commonwealth Countries and British Overseas Territories \_\_\_\_\_ New Delhi.

**Note:**

➤ The Conference was held in New Delhi from 21-23 March, 2017.

15. The loan agreement has been signed between Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of India to upgrade district roads in Madhya Pradesh \_\_\_\_\_ USD 350 million.

16. The country who has launched a new Peace Education and Reconciliation Unit (PERU) to create awareness on reconciliation among hundreds of thousands of students \_\_\_\_\_ The Sri Lankan.

17. The country is hosting the 3rd edition of World Conference on Environment \_\_\_\_\_ India.

**Note:**

➤ The conference has been organized by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi.

18. According to CEA (Central Electricity Authority), India has exported how many units to Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar during the current FY 2016-17 \_\_\_\_ around 5,798 million units.

**Note:**

➤ The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is the designated authority of the government for cross-border trade of electricity.

## **Books & Authors**

1. The book "The Wrong Turn: Love and Betrayal in the Time of Netaji" has been authored by \_\_\_\_\_ Sanjay Chopra and Namita Roy Ghose.

**Note:**

➤ It is a sweeping tale of passion set against the freedom struggle.

2. The author of the book "Mr and Mrs Jinnah: The Marriage that Shook India" \_\_\_\_\_ Sheela Reddy.

**Note:**

➤ The book provides a comprehensive history of the Jinnahs, its lengthy descriptive passages are spliced with amusing excerpts from Ruttie's letters.



3. The author of the book 'When Crime Pays – Money and Muscle in Indian Politics' \_\_\_\_\_ Milan Vaishnav.

**Note:**

➤ It is the most systematic analysis of corruption and criminalization in Indian politics.

4. The author of the book 'Lincoln in the Bardo' \_\_\_\_\_ George Saunders.

**Note:**

➤ The book draws a parallel line between the lives of Willie's ghost and a similar uncertain state of Lincoln, after the boy's death.

5. The author of the book 'Numbers Do Lie: 61 Hidden Cricket Stories' \_\_\_\_\_ Akash Chopra.

**Note:**

➤ The book combines 7 years of Impact Index's work resulting in a book backed by statistical facts.

6. The author of the book 'When Breath Becomes Air' \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Kalanithi.

7. The author of the book "The Secret Diary of Kasturba" \_\_\_\_\_ Neelima Dalmia Adhar.

**Note:**

➤ The book tries to tell the world what it meant to Kasturba to be wife of Mahatma Gandhi.

8. The author of the book 'From Inside the Steel Frame: The Memoirs of an Administrator' \_\_\_\_\_ Ashok Pandey.

**Note:**

➤ This is an account of his journey from a small village in Bihar to the corridors of powers in Delhi.

9. The author of the book 'Age of Anger – A History of the Present' \_\_\_\_\_ Pankaj Mishra.

10. The author of the book 'The Travelling Belly: Eating Through India's By-Lanes' \_\_\_\_\_ Kalyan Karmakar.

11. The author of the book 'When Breath Becomes Air' \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Kalanithi.

**Note:**

➤ It is a memoir which chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from medical student to neurosurgeon, patient and father before his sad death from cancer while working on this book.

12. The author of the book "So You Want to Know About the Environment" \_\_\_\_\_ Bijal Vachharajani.

**Note:**

➤ The book will make children analyze, explore, love and respect the environment.

13. The author of the book 'The Sleepwalker's Dream: A Novel' \_\_\_\_ Dhrubajyoti Borah.

**Note:**

➤ The author traces the journey of a group of militants towards an elusive freedom and an uncertain future through the book.

14. The author of the book 'Indica: A Deep Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent' \_\_\_\_ Pranay Lal.

**Note:**

➤ This is a book about the Indian subcontinent, its origins and how the land masses around it were formed.

## **Important Day**

1. The Zero Discrimination Day (ZDD) is observed every year on \_\_\_\_ 1st March.

**Note:**

➤ The symbol for Zero Discrimination is the butterfly, widely recognized as a sign of transformation. The 2017 theme is "Make Some Noise for Zero Discrimination".

2. The World Hearing Day (WHD) is observed every year on \_\_\_\_ 3rd March.

**Note:**

➤ The 2017 theme "Action for hearing loss: make a sound investment" draws attention to the economic impact of hearing loss and the cost effectiveness of interventions to address it.

3. The World Wildlife Day (WWD) is observed every year on \_\_\_\_ 3rd March.

**Note:**

➤ The day is celebrated and implemented by the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in collaboration with other relevant United Nations organizations.

➤ The theme of 2017 World Wildlife Day (WWD) Listen to the young voices.

4. The International Women's Day (IWD) is observed every year on \_\_\_\_ 8th March.

**Note:**

➤ The 2017 theme of IWD is “Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030” and its’ campaign theme is “#BeBoldForChange”.

5. The World Day Against Cyber Censorship (WDACC) is observed on \_\_\_\_ 12th March.

**Note:**

➤ The annual event is symbolized by a logo created by Reporters Without Borders consisting of a computer mouse breaking free from a chain.

6. The World Kidney Day (WKD) is observed every year on the \_\_\_\_ 2nd Thursday in March

**Note:**

➤ It is a global health awareness campaign to raise awareness about impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.

7. The 2017 Commonwealth Day is celebrated on \_\_\_\_ 13th March.

**Note:**

➤ The Commonwealth Day is observed every year on the second Monday in March month.

➤ The theme of this year is “A Peace-building Commonwealth”.

8. The World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is observed every year on \_\_\_\_ 15th March.

**Note:**

➤ Theme for World Consumer Rights Day this year is ‘Building a digital world consumers can trust’.

9. The 'International Day of Happiness' is celebrated throughout the world on \_\_\_\_ 20th March.

**Note:**

➤ The day was founded by United Nations adviser Jayme Illien on 28th June, 2012.

➤ This day in UAE is marked by the establishment of the World Happiness Council by His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

10. International Day of Forests observed every year on \_\_\_\_ 21st March.

**Note:**

➤ The theme of 2017 is ‘Forests and energy’.

➤ This global celebration of forests provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of woodlands and trees, and celebrate the ways in which they sustain and protect us.

11. The World Poetry Day observed every year on \_\_\_\_ 21st March.

**Note:**

➤ The World Poetry Day is on 21st March and was declared by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1999.

➤ The purpose of the day is to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world.

12. The World water day is celebrated annually on \_\_\_\_ 22nd March.

**Note:**

➤ The theme of 2017 for World Water Day is 'Why Wastewater?'.

13. The foundation day of Bihar (Bihar Diwas) is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_ 22nd March.

**Note:**

➤ It was on this day when the British carved out the state from Bengal Presidency in 1912.

14. The United Nations' (UN) World Meteorological Day is annually held on \_\_\_\_ 23rd March.

**Note:**

➤ The World Meteorological Organization's establishment on 23rd March in 1950.

➤ The theme of WMD 2017 is 'Understanding Clouds' to highlight the enormous importance of clouds for weather climate and water.

15. The "World Tuberculosis Day" observed every year on \_\_\_\_ 24th March.

**Note:**

➤ The main aim behind the celebration of this day is to fight tuberculosis and eradicate this deadly disease that has been claiming millions of lives.

➤ The theme for World Tuberculosis Day 2017 is 'Unite to End TB'

16. The "International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade" \_\_\_\_ 25th March.

**Note:**

➤ The 2017 theme “Remember Slavery: Recognizing the Legacy and Contributions of People of African Descent”

17. The World Theatre Day (WTD) is observed on \_\_\_\_\_ 27th March.

**Note:**

➤ The day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the world organization for performing arts.

18. The state was formed on 30th March 1949 when ‘Rajputana’ was merged into the Dominion of India \_\_\_\_ Rajasthan.

**Note:**

➤ The annual celebration of the formation of the state ‘Rajasthan Diwas’ is being held today to commemorate the 68th year of Rajasthan’s foundation. Honors & Award

1. Who has been conferred with the 2017 Harvard Humanitarian of the Year award \_\_\_\_ Robyn Rihanna Fenty.

2. Who has won the 2017 Polly Umrigar Award for International Cricketer of the Year \_\_\_\_ Virat Kohli.

**Note:**

➤ Earlier, Kohli had won Polly Umrigar Award in 2011-12 and 2014-15 and becomes the first Indian cricketer to be bestowed the honor on three occasions.

➤ Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has been nominated for the Dilip Sardesai Award.

3. The university who has won the annual Visitor’s Award for the ‘Best University 2017’ \_\_\_\_ Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

**Note:**

➤ The Visitor’s Award for ‘Research’ is jointly won by Shyam Sunder (Banaras Hindu University) and Professor Niranjana Karak (Tezpur University).

➤ The 'Best University' will receive a Citation and Trophy while winners of Visitor's Award for 'Innovation' and 'Research' will receive a Citation and cash award of Rs. one lakh.

4. Eminent Malayalam journalist and author will be presented the 30th Moortidevi award by Bharatiya Jnanpith organization \_\_\_\_ M P Veerendra Kumar.

**Note:**

- He was chosen for the prestigious award for his Malayalam travelogue 'Hymavathabhoovil'.
- The award was presented by Jnanpith laureate M T Vasudevan Nair at a function at the Tagore Centenary.

5. Who has honored with the Harvard foundation 'Artist of the Year-2017 award" in Cambridge\_\_\_\_Viola Davis.

**Note:**

- Harvard foundation award aims to honour the America's most acclaimed artists and scientists each year.

6. Who has become the first Indian educational institution to make it to the top 10 of a global ranking for universities\_\_\_\_The Indian Institute of Science(IISc), Bangalore.

**Note:**

- The IISc has been ranked eighth in the Times Higher Education Rankings, 2017 in the best small universities category.

➤ IISc, a public university for scientific research and higher education, was established in 1909 with active support from Jamsetji Tata and Sir Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, the Maharaja of Mysore.

7. Who has won the best actress award for her performance in Sarbjit at the International Film Festival and Awards of Australia (IFFAA)\_\_\_\_Aishwarya Rai Bachchan.

**Note:**

- The film "Sarbjit" is based on the story of an Indian national Sarbjit Singh (Randeep Hooda) who was punished by Pakistan's Supreme Court on the charges of spying.

➤ Sarbjit's sister Dalbir Kaur (Aishwarya Rai Bachchan) fought for him for years to get him back to the country.

8. How many women were honoured by the Prime Minister for their outstanding work in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan\_\_\_\_10 women.

9. Who has been bestowed with the 2016 Moorti Devi Award\_\_\_\_ M P Veerendra Kumar.

**Note:**

- Kumar is Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Malayalam daily Mathrubhumi and a Rajya Sabha MP.

10. The airport has become the world's number 2 airport in the over 40 million passengers per annum category, as per the Montreal (Canada)-based Airports Council International 2016 rankings\_\_\_\_Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA).

**Note:**

➤ The ranking is based on the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey report 2016.

11. Noted Konkani writer, has been honoured with the 2017 Saraswati Samman for his novel 'Hawthan'\_\_\_\_ Mahabaleshwar Sail.

**Note:**

➤ Mahabaleshwar is best known for his work, 'Paltadcho Munis', which inspired a film by the same name.

➤ The Saraswati Samman is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any Indian language listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.

➤ The Saraswati Samman was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation.

12. Who has been conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) by the city-based Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University\_\_\_\_ Mohan Bhagwat.

**Note:**

➤ Maharashtra Governor Vidyasagar Rao awarded the honorary degree to Bhagwat at the convocation of the varsity.

➤ Bhagwat was honored with the degree for his contribution in the field of veterinary sciences and social work.

13. Indian institute has won the 2017 IEEE Spectrum Technology in the Service of Society Award\_\_\_\_ IIT Madras.

14. Who has been crowned the new Miss International Queen 2016\_\_\_\_ Jiratchaya Sirimongkolnawin.

**Note:**

➤ This 12th edition of beauty pageant was held in Pattaya City, Thailand on March 10, 2017.

15. Who will host the 25th edition of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in April 2018\_\_\_\_ United Kingdom (UK).

16. Who has given its final approval for the withdrawal of Britain from the European Union\_\_\_\_UK House of Lords.

**Note:**

➤ A royal assent is now awaited for the legislation, post which Prime Minister Theresa May would be free to withdraw the country from the world's largest economic union and begin a 2 year negotiation period as mentioned in the Article 50 of European Union's Lisbon Treaty.

17. The city is hosting the International Vision Zero Conference on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)\_\_\_\_ New Delhi.

**Note:**

➤ The conference will provide a forum for promoting safety and health at work by exchanging knowledge, practice and experience.

18. The city has topped the list in the Mercer's 2017 Quality of Living index\_\_\_\_ Vienna.

**Note:**

➤ Zurich is in second place, followed by Munich, Auckland, Vancouver, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt and Geneva

19. The 18th edition of Asia's largest convention on the business of media and entertainment "FICCI Frames-2017" has started in \_\_\_\_\_Mumbai, Maharashtra.

20. As per latest UN report "Women in Politics 2017 Map" India's rank in the world for the number of MPs in Parliament\_\_\_\_ 148th.

**Note:**

➤ India has been ranked 148th out of 193 countries in the world for the number of women MPs in Parliament.

21. The 2017 G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting has started in the country\_\_\_\_ Germany.

**Note:**

➤ The 2-day meeting is an opportunity to discuss developments in the global economy with my international counterparts and decide on actions we can undertake to respond to the major challenges we all face.

22. The two countries have signed two long-term support agreements for the Sukhoi Su-30MKI combat aircraft fleet\_\_\_\_ India and Russia.

**Note:**

➤ The agreements were signed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) with United Aircraft Corporation and United Engine Corporation.



➤ The Pacts were also signed for maintenance and life-cycle support for other Russian-origin platforms, like Mi-17 helicopters, MiG-29K aircraft, INS Vikramaditya and T-90 tanks.

➤ The Su-30MKI was designed and developed by Russia's Irkut Corporation, specifically for India.

23. The country is testing new voice recognition software that can tell which country migrants without documentation come from \_\_\_\_ Germany.

**Note:**

➤ The automated new system would begin within two weeks.

➤ The new software is similar to the voice authentication technology used by banks and insurance companies and is capable of differentiating between dialects.

➤ The aim is to detect Arabic-speaking migrants claiming to be Syrian to increase their chances of asylum.

24. Women in Politics map was jointly launched by UN Women and \_\_\_\_\_ Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU).

**Note:**

➤ It represents the political empowerment of women on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

➤ India stood at 88th position in a list of 186 countries with 18.5% of women appointed in ministerial positions as on 1st January 2017.

25. The SRCC Global Millennium Summit 2017 has started in the city \_\_\_\_ Dubai.

**Note:**

➤ The SRCC Global Millennium Summit 2017 has started in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from March 18 and will continue till March 19.

26. Indian delegation in the 2017 Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) meeting \_\_\_\_ P K Saxena.

27. India's rank in the 2017 World Happiness Index (WHI) \_\_\_\_ 122nd.

**Note:**

➤ India has been ranked at 122nd out of 155 countries in the 2017 United Nations's World Happiness Index (WHI), as per recently released World Happiness Report (WHR) 2017.

28. Who has awarded IEEE's 'Spectrum Technology in the Service of Society' \_\_\_\_ IIT Madras.

**Note:**

- The honour has been presented by Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.
- The award was presented for a solar direct current power unit developed by IIT Madras.

29. Indian-American personality has won the National Science Foundations (NSF)'s Career Award-2017 \_\_\_\_ Anshumali Shrivastava.

30. Who was ranked at 145th position globally in terms of living standards out of the 450 cities \_\_\_\_ Hyderabad.

**Note:**

- Vienna, Austrian Capital has grabbed the top spot, followed by Zurich, Switzerland.
- Singapore is the top Asian city on the list with 25th rank.

31. Who has awarded with 2017 Regeneron Science Talent Search \_\_\_\_ Indrani Das.

**Note:**

- Indrani Das is a 17- year old Indian American student from New Jersey.
- This is the oldest US Science Competition for the students and has been given the name of 'Junior Nobel Prize'.

32. Who has been voted the World's Best Airport by air travellers at the 2017 World Airport Awards for the fifth consecutive year \_\_\_\_ The Changi Airport (Singapore).

**Note:**

- The 2017 World Airport Awards are based on 13.82 million customer nominations across 105 nationalities of air travellers, with 550 airports worldwide.

33. Indian personality has been selected to newly formed United Nations (UN) group on antimicrobial resistance \_\_\_\_ Soumya Swaminathan.

34. The institution has topped the Times Higher Education (THE)'s Asia University ranking 2017 \_\_\_\_ National University of Singapore (NUS).

35. A Canadian teacher has been named the winner of the annual Global Teacher Prize at the Global Education and Skills Forum in Dubai \_\_\_\_ Maggie MacDonnell.

**Note:**

- She received the cash prize of US \$1m from the Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and the Emir of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum.

➤ She teaches at the Ikusik School in Salluit, an Inuit village deep in the Canadian Arctic.

36. Who has won the Abel Prize 2017 \_\_\_\_\_ Yves Meyer.

**Note:**

➤ He has won the prestigious 2017 Abel Prize for his pivotal role in the development of the mathematical theory of wavelets.

37. Renowned photojournalist has conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 6th National Photography Awards organized by the photo division of the I&B ministry in New Delhi\_\_\_\_Raghu Rai.

**Note:**

➤ Rai has also served on the jury of World Press Photo and UNESCO's International Photo Contest.

➤ He is known for his books, Raghu Rai's India: Reflections in Colour and Reflections in Black and White.

38. Who has been honoured with the Kuldeep Nayar journalism award 2017\_\_\_\_Ravish Kumar.

**Note:**

➤ Eminent TV journalist Ravish Kumar has been awarded inaugural 'Kuldeep Nayar journalism award' for his contribution to the field of journalism at the India International Centre, New Delhi.

➤ He conferred with an award plaque along with a cash amount of Rs. 1 lakh.

39. Indian-origin filmmaker has been honoured with the Sikh Jewel Award for 2017\_\_\_\_ Gurinder Chadha.

**Note:**

➤ She received the award from UK Defence Secretary Michael Fallon at the Vaisakhi Dinner organized by the British Sikh Association.

40. Who receives 'Kala Ratan Award' from Vice President\_\_\_\_Anupam Kher.

**Note:**

➤ Earlier, The Government of India honored him with the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts.

41. Whogot the World's 23rd best CEOs list of American financial magazine Barron \_\_\_\_Aditya Puri.

**Note:**

➤ Barron's is America's premier financial magazine, provides in-depth analysis and commentary on the markets, updated every business day online.

42. Professional footballer has banned from their next four competitive internationals for swearing at a match official \_\_\_\_\_ Lionel Messi.

**Note:**

➤ Lionel Messi is an Argentine professional footballer who plays as a forward for Spanish club FC Barcelona and the Argentina national team.

43. The 'Men's Hockey World League Final 2017' and 'Hockey Men's World Cup 2018' will be held in \_\_\_\_\_ Bhubaneswar. India.

**Note:**

➤ The World Cup is scheduled between 28th November to 16th December 2018 and will see 15 teams in action.

44. Who has chosen for the Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year-2017 \_\_\_\_\_ Sitaram Swain.

## **Obituaries**

1. The popular Gujarati writer and noted play writer, has recently passed away in Ahmedabad, Gujarat \_\_\_\_\_ Tarak Mehta.

**Note:**

➤ The popular series 'Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah' is TV adaptation of Padma Shri Taarak Mehta's column 'Duniya Ne Undha Chasma'.

2. Senior Congress leader and the first Manipuri Muslim to be a member of Rajya Sabha from Manipur passed away \_\_\_\_\_ Haji Abdul Salam

**Note:**

➤ Salam represented the Upper House (Rajya Sabha) since 2014 and served as Minister.

3. The French football legend, has passed away in Paris, France \_\_\_\_\_ Raymond Kopa.

**Note:**

➤ He won the European Cup three times with Real Madrid in the 1950s.

➤ Kopa was also the central part of the French side beaten by Pele's Brazil in a classic World Cup semi-final in 1958.

4. Veteran politician and former Member of Parliament, has passed away in Imphal, Manipur \_\_\_\_\_ Yumnam Yaima Singh.

5. The man who performed the world's first liver transplant passed away at home in United States\_\_\_US Thomas Starzl.

6. Noted socialist leader and former Lok Sabha speaker passed away in Cuttack\_\_\_\_\_Rabi Ray.

**Note:**

➤ He was the union minister of health and family welfare in the Morarji Desai ministry and the speaker of ninth Lok Sabha from 1989-1991.

➤ In 1991, he was re-elected to the 10th Lok Sabha from Kendrapada in Odisha.

➤ He was born at Bhanragarh village in Khurda district of Odisha.

7. Kalika Prasad Bhattacharya was the noted folk singer of which language\_\_\_\_\_Bengali.

**Note:**

➤ He was also part of a folk band called “Dohar”, which had as its objective the popularisation of the rustic songs of Bangal and North East India.

➤ Bhattachary had lent his voice in films like Moner Manush (2010), Jaatishwar (2014), and Bhuban Majhi (2017).

8. Former Puducherry Minister has passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu\_\_\_M Chandrakasu.

**Note:**

➤ Chandrakasu. represented Nedungad constituency in the outlying enclave of Karaikal for six terms.

➤ He was Agriculture Minister in the All India N R Congress (AINRC) government formed by N Rangasamy in 2011.

9. Malayalam film director passed away in a private hospital at Kochi\_\_\_\_\_Diphan.

**Note:**

➤ He is survived by his wife and two children.

➤ Diphan is known for his films namely Puthiya Mukham, Hero and SIM.

10. The prolific American author of both adult and children’s books, has recently passed away in Chicago, United States\_\_\_\_\_ Amy Krouse Rosenthal.

**Note:**

➤ She is best known for her memoir “Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life”.

11. Noted Malayalam film director, has recently passed away in Kochi, Kerala\_\_\_\_\_ Diphan Sivakumar.

12. Noted Gujarati poet and ghazal writer, has passed away in Ahmedabad, Gujarat\_\_\_\_\_ Chinu Modi.

**Note:**

- He has made a great contribution to the Gujarati literature with his poetry, plays, novels and stories.
- Chinu Modi had received Sahitya Academy award in 2014.

13. Former national racing champion and his wife Niveditha died in a mishap at MRC Nagar, Chennai\_\_\_\_\_Ashwin Sundar.

**Note:**

- Sundar had won the national title in car racing and two-wheeler events on several occasions and his wife was a doctor in a private hospital in Chennai.

14. A Nobel-prize winning poet, playwright, and painter has passed away at his home in Cap Estate, Saint Lucia\_\_\_\_\_Derek Alton Walcott.

**Note:**

- Walcott known for capturing the essence of his native Caribbean.
- The prolific and versatile poet received the Nobel Prize in literature in 1992 after being shortlisted for the honor for many years.

15. former Rajya Sabha member and founder of the Odisha Jan Morcha passed away at a hospital in Mumbai\_\_\_\_\_Pyari Mohan Mohapatra.

**Note:**

- Mohapatra is widely credited with Biju Janata Dal' unstoppable growth from until 2012 and political advisor of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

16. Former director of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) passed away at Pune\_\_\_\_\_Dev Raj Sikka.

**Note:**

- He was the first to propose a link between the El Nino phenomenon and the Indian monsoon.
- Sikka was honored with the lifetime achievement award by the Indian Meteorological Society (IMD) in recognition of his contribution to Indian meteorology.

17. The well-known Tamil novelist and essayist has recently passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu \_\_\_\_ Thiagarajan.

18. Noted Tamil writer passed away in Chennai after a brief illness \_\_\_\_ Ashokamitran.

**Note:**

➤ He was given the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1996 for his work 'Appavin Snegidhar'(collection of short stories).

19. Eminent Solicitor General of India (from 1996 to 1998) passed away due to illness \_\_\_\_ Tehmtan R Andhyarujina

**Note:**

➤ Andhyarujina was known for his expertise in a branch of constitutional law relating to parliamentary privileges.

20. Noted playwright & Sahitya Akademi Award winner passed away after a brief illness \_\_\_\_ Arun Sarma.

**Note:**

➤ He had written more than 50 plays and books.

➤ Sarma has also won Padma Shri, and Assam Valley Literary.

21. Veteran South African's Indian-origin anti-apartheid activist passed away \_\_\_\_ Ahmed Kathrada.

**Note:**

➤ Kathrada was among eight African National Congress activists sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964.

➤ He was one of Nelson Mandela's closest aides in his struggle to end the white minority

22. Former Punjab minister and senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader passed away at Ludhiana \_\_\_\_ Gurdev Singh Badal.

**Note:**

➤ He was a five-time Member of Punjab Legislative Assembly, representing the Panjgrain constituency in Jalandhar district Punjab.

23. Who has become the first Indian girl swim from Sea Link near Worli Koliwada to the Gateway of India in the Arabia Sea \_\_\_\_ Gauri Singh.

**www.thegkadda.com**

**Note:**

- She took over 6 hours 30 minutes to complete the 36-km long distance route.
- Gauri Singh is a class 8th student from Udaipur (Rajasthan).

## **Sports News**

1. Indian shooter has clinched a silver medal in 50-metre air pistol event of ISSF World Cup in New Delhi\_\_\_\_Amanpreet Singh.
2. Teenage spinner of Bangladesh has won the Debutant of the Year Award for his 19 wickets in the 2 match Test series against England\_\_Mehedi Hasan Miraj.
3. Indian shooter has clinched a gold medal in 50-metre air pistol event of ISSF World Cup in New Delhi\_\_\_\_Jitu Rai.
4. Who has been named as the 'Captain of the Year' at the 10th annual ESPNcricinfo Awards\_\_\_\_Virat Kohli.
5. Who won the 'Test Batting Performance of the Year' \_\_\_\_Ben Stokes (England).
6. Indian grandmaster has won bronze at 2017 Women's World Chess Championship\_\_\_\_\_ Harika Dronavalli.

**Note:**

- She has won a bronze medal at the 2017 Women's World Chess Championship in Tehran.
7. Indian shuttler duo has won the Men's Double title at the 2017 Uganda International Series at MTN Arena Lugogo, Kampala\_\_\_\_ Tarun Kona and Alwin Francis.

**Note:**

- They defeated Aatish Lubah and Georges Julien Paul of Mauritius, 21-8, 21-14.
8. Who has won the ATP Mexico Open hard court tennis tournament at Acapulco in Mexico\_\_\_\_Sam Querrey

**Note:**

- He defeated Rafael Nadal (second-seeded) in straight sets 6-3, 7-6.
9. The Water Resources Minister has inaugurated the day-long national conference on 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' in\_\_\_\_New Delhi.



**Note:**

➤ The objectives of the Abhiyan is strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including panchayati raj institutions and local bodies for participatory irrigation management.

➤ The Ministry of Water Resources and River Development had launched Jal Kranti Abhiyan on June, 2015.

10. Who has constituted a high-level committee to look in to the grievances of women players in New Delhi\_\_\_\_Vijay Goel.

**Note:**

➤ The five- member (two- woman player and one sports journalist) committee will be headed by Joint Secretary of Sports Ministry.

➤ The government will soon start a diploma course for women coaches.

➤ First “Gramin Khel Mahotsav” will be held from 25th to 31st March in New Delhi.

11. Who has won his third consecutive Brazil Open title by beating Albert Ramos-Vinolas\_\_\_\_Pablo Cuevas (Uruguay).

**Note:**

➤ It was Cuevas' sixth career ATP singles title.

12. The Indian cricketer has become the first set of spinners to be jointly ranked number one in the “ICC Test rankings” for bowlers\_\_\_\_Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja.

**Note:**

➤ Jadeja reached the top position for the first time in his career.

➤ Earlier, the two bowlers shared the top spot was in April 2008, when Dale Steyn and Muttiah Muralidaran were at the top.

13. Who has lifted the Men's Singles crown at the All England Open badminton championships\_\_\_\_Lee Chong Wei(Malaysia).

**Note:**

➤ He defeated Shi Yuqi (China) in straight games 21-12, 21-10.

➤ The All England Open Badminton Championships is the world's oldest badminton tournament, held annually in England.

14. Who has become only the second Indian golfer to successfully defend the Hero Indian Open title\_\_\_\_SSP Chawrasia.

**Note:**

- He clinched a seven-stroke win at the redesigned DLF golf and country club in Gurgaon(Haryana).
- The Indian Open, known as the Hero Indian Open due to sponsorship, is a golf tournament on the Asian Tour that is currently held at the Delhi Golf Club.

15. The country to host the 22nd edition of Asian Athletics Championship 2017\_\_\_\_ India.

16. Indian football team has won the 2017 Santosh Trophy football tournament\_\_\_\_ Punjab.

**Note:**

- The Punjab football team has won the 71st Santosh Trophy football tournament by defeating Railways in the final by 2-1 goals in Goa.

17. Indian sportsperson has won silver at 2017 Eden World Women Snooker Championship\_\_\_\_ Vidya Pillai.

18. Who has won the bronze in Asian 20km Race Walk Championships\_\_\_\_K T Irfan.

**Note:**

- National record holder K T Irfan clocked an impressive timing to win a bronze in the 20 kilometer men's event in the Asian Race Walk Championships at Nomi in Japan.
- Irfan finished the race in 1 hour 20 minutes and 59 seconds, a tad slower than his national record timing of 1 hour, 20 minutes, 21 seconds.

19. Who has won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2017\_\_\_\_Tamil Nadu.

**Note:**

- Tamil Nadu Cricket team has won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the fifth time at the 'Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium' in Delhi.
- The Vijay Hazare Trophy (known as the Ranji One-Day Trophy) was started in 2002–03 as a limited-overs cricket domestic competition involving state teams from the Ranji Trophy plates.
- It is named after the famous Indian cricketer Vijay Hazare.

20. Who has won the ATP Indian wells Masters title in California, USA\_\_\_\_Roger Federer.

**Note:**

- He defeated Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland) 6-4, 7-5.
- Federer joined Novak Djokovic as the only man to win five Indian Wells titles.
- Earlier, he has won his 18th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January.

21. The union govt. has designated how many as National Observers in their respective disciplines to assist the Government, Sports Authority of India, and National Sports Federations (NSFs)\_\_\_\_12 Olympians.

**Note:**

- These National Observers will be playing a key role in the implementation of action plans for Mission Olympics 2020, 2024 and 2028.

22. Indian Badminton player has been appointed a new member of the governing body of Sports Authority of India (SAI)\_\_\_\_\_ Jwala Gutta.

23. The new brand ambassador for 2018 ODI Blind Cricket World Cup\_\_\_\_\_ Shahid Afridi.

**Note:**

- The Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) has announced that former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has been appointed as the ambassador for the fifth edition of the Blind Cricket World Cup next year.
- Blind Cricket World Cup will be hosted by PBCC in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Pakistan in January 2018.

24. Who has received the 'Garfield Sobers Trophy' for the 'ICC Cricketer of the Year 2016' as well as the 'ICC Test Cricketer of the Year 2016' \_\_\_\_\_ Ravichandran Ashwin.

**Note:**

- Ashwin has become the third Indian and the 12th player overall to win the award after Rahul Dravid (2004) and Sachin Tendulkar (2010).
- The 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' is a cricket trophy awarded annually by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to its chosen world player of the year.

25. The country is hosting the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games\_\_\_\_\_ Austria.

**Note:**

- The Special Olympics World Games are an international sporting competition for athletes with intellectual disabilities, organized by Special Olympics.
- More than 2,600 athletes from 105 nations are taking part in the event.
- Indian team has won 18 medals (Gold-6, Silver-4, and Bronze-8) in the 2017 Olympics World Winter Games.

26. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has doubled the Annual Retainer ship fee of India's centrally contracted cricketers\_\_\_\_ 32 players.

- Grade-A cricketers (Seven) are skipper Virat Kohli, former captain MS Dhoni, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ravindra Jadeja and Murali Vijay, will be paid two crore rupees annually.
- Grade-B players (Nine) including Rohit Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Lokesh Rahul and Wriddhiman Saha will be paid Rs. one crore per annum.
- Grade-C players (Sixteen) including Shikhar Dhawan, Amit Mishra, and Ashish Nehra, will be paid Rs. 50 lakh annually.

27. Indian Para-athletes bagged medals in the 9th Faza International IPC Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai\_\_\_\_ Eight.

- 3 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze.
- Sundar Singh Gurjar (21-year) won a gold each in men's Javelin Throw F-46 and Discus Throw F-46 competitions.
- The third Indian gold was bagged by Narender Ranbir in men's Javelin Throw F-44 with an effort of 47.75m.

28. Who has won the season-opening Australian Formula One Grand Prix for Ferrari at Albert Park in Melbourne, Australia\_\_\_\_ Sebastian Vettel (Germany).

**Note:**

- Lewis Hamilton finished second and the Briton's Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas into third.

29. Who has won the 71st edition of premier domestic football tournament 'Santosh Trophy' by defeating Goa at Bambolim\_\_\_\_ West Bengal.

**Note:**

- Santosh Trophy is an annual Indian football tournament started in 1941.

➤ It is knock-out competition contested by the regional state associations and government institutions under the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

30. The Australian fast bowler retires from all forms of cricket \_\_\_\_ Shaun Tait.

**Note:**

➤ Tait represented his country in 3 Tests, 35 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 21 Twenty20 Internationals during which he picked up 95 wickets.

31. Indian pair have won the USD 20,000 'Vietnam Open International Challenger badminton title' in Hanoi, Vietnam \_\_\_\_ Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty

**Note:**

➤ They defeated the fifth-seeded Thai duo of Trawut Potieng and Nanthakam Yordphaisong in 17-21, 21-9, 21-15.

32. In the senior Hockey men's category, Indian forward has been named the 'Asian Player of the Year 2016' by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) \_\_\_\_ V Sunil.

**Note:**

➤ The nominations for the awards were made by coaches across the national teams in Asia.

➤ The criteria of nomination based on the performance for the year 2016

33. In the junior Hockey men's category, drag flicker has been named the Asian Promising Player of the Year 2016 \_\_\_\_ Harmanpreet Singh.

34. Who has won the Deodhar Trophy at Visakhapatnam \_\_\_\_ Tamil Nadu.

**Note:**

➤ Tamil Nadu beat India 'B' by 42 runs in the final to clinch the 'Deodhar Trophy' at Visakhapatnam.

➤ The Deodhar Trophy is a List A cricket competition in Indian domestic cricket.

➤ It is named after Prof. D. B. Deodhar and is a 50-over knockout competition played on an annual basis.

