



## CURRENT AFFAIRS (JULY - 2017) :

### National

- ⇒ Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited India recently. This was his first foreign visit as President after winning a controversial referendum. Erdogan was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.
- ⇒ Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe made a five-day visit to India in order to strengthen economic cooperation with India. He met his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and signed an MoU on economic cooperation.
- ⇒ India successfully launched the South Asia Satellite GSAT-9, using its heavy rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV-F09 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at the Sriharikota Spaceport in Andhra Pradesh. The satellite GSAT-9 is India's gift to SAARC countries. The satellite was initially known as the SAARC Satellite. But with Pakistan deciding to keep out, it is called the South Asia Satellite.
- ⇒ China, through its Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui has proposed a four-point initiative to overcome differences and deepen relations with India. They are –
  - To start negotiations on a China-India Treaty of Good Neighbourhood and Friendly Cooperation.
  - To restart negotiation on China-India Free Trade Agreement.
  - To strive for an early harvest on the border issue.
  - To actively explore the feasibility of aligning China's 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR) Initiative and India's Act East policy.
- ⇒ The Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugunauth paid an official visit to India in the last week of May 2017 and met his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. Five agreements were signed including setting up of a civil service college in Mauritius. A decision was taken to extend the operational life of the Coast Guard ship Guardian, that was given to Mauritius by India under a general assistance programme. Mr. Modi, also commissioned the Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Barrakuda', built and financed by India into the Mauritian Coast Guard. India announced a \$500 million line of credit to Mauritius.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest river bridge over the Lohit river, a tributary of the Brahmaputra river. The 9.5 km bridge between Dhola and Sodiya in Assam's Tinsukia district will shorten the distance between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh by 165 km. The 5.6 km long Banda-Worli Sea Link was the previous longest river bridge.
- ⇒ IIT Kharagpur collaborated with British Geological Survey to turn Varanasi into a smart city. Three dimensional geological modelling of the geology under Varanasi will be prepared to help improve the building of new transport and service infrastructure. It would be the first major 3D sub-surface urban study and planning of its kind in India

- ⇒ The 'International Day of Vesak', also called 'Buddha Day' was celebrated in Colombo on May, 29th on Buddha Purnima. The Vesak day is the most important day in the Buddhist calendar, which commemorates Lord Buddha's birth, enlightenment and passing away. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sri Lanka to attend the UN Vesak Day. He also visited and inaugurated the Dickoya Hospital which was built with Indian assistance. Mr Modi also announced a direct flight between Colombo and Varanasi by Air India from August, 2017.
- ⇒ Palestinian President Mohammad Abbas made a four-day official visit to India. He also visited the C-DAC Centre in Noida, taking advantage of India's offer to help build a techno-park in Ramallah.
- ⇒ Punj Lloyd Ltd, an Indian company and its joint venture partner Israel Weapon Industries have inaugurated India's first private-sector small arms manufacturing plant at Malanpur in Madhya Pradesh. The joint venture company named 'Punj Lloyd Raksha System Pvt. Ltd.' will presently manufacture small arms for the Indian defence forces and also for exports.

### International

- ⇒ The Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation was held in Beijing. India boycotted the forum signalling its strong displeasure at the inclusion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as part of the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative since it passes through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK). India also expressed displeasure against China's action of blocking India's membership of the Nuclear Supplier's Group (NSG) and blocking UN sanctions on Pakistan based terrorist Masood Azhar. The One Belt One Road (OBOR) is an ambitious programme of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, which it is stressed, is not about political alliances. At least 29 heads of State attended the OBOR Conference. All of India's neighbours except Bhutan sent high level delegations.
- ⇒ The 43rd G7 Summit (USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Italy and Japan and European Union) was held in Taormina, Sicily, Italy. Russia was also its member, but was suspended in 2014 following its annexation of Crimea. Under pressure from Group of Seven allies, the US President Donald Trump backed a pledge to fight protectionism, but refused to endorse a global climate change accord. He said that he needed more time to decide.
- ⇒ Nepal has decided to become a part of China's ambitious Belt and Road initiative and will sign a framework agreement on the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) programme reflecting Beijing's increasing clout in Kathmandu.

### Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 25.07.2017) are :
  - \* Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 6.25%.



- \* Reverse Repo Rate (*Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the commercial banks deposit their surplus money to the central bank*) : 6%
- \* Statutory Liquidity Ratio (*SLR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks have to maintain with themselves*) : 20%
- \* CRR (*Cash Reserve Ratio is the proportion of deposits which the banks have to keep with the central bank*) : 4%
- \* Bank Rate (*Bank rate is the rate at which central bank, i.e. RBI, rediscounts the bills of exchange of commercial banks*) : 6.5%
- \* MSF (*Marginal Standing Facility is the loan banks are permitted to avail themselves from the RBI on overnight basis, using its SLR securities*) : 6.5%.
- \* Base Rate (*Base Rate reflects the actual cost of banks that has to be covered through lending. Banks cannot lend money below the Base Rate, which varies from bank to bank*) : 9% - 9.55%.
- \* Term Deposit (Fixed Deposit) Rate (more than 1 year): 6.25% - 6.90%.
- \* MCLR: 7.75% - 8.10%.
- (*MCLR, the Marginal Cost of Fund-based Lending Rate, is the new benchmark lending rate at which banks will now lend to new borrowers. Till 31 March 2016, banks used the Base rate as the benchmark lending rate. MCLR is built on four components – Marginal cost of funds, Negative carry on account of CRR, Operating costs and Tenor premium*).
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet approved a long awaited coal linkage policy named Shakti [Scheme to Harness and Allocate Koyla (Coal) Transparently in India]. It aims to auction long-term coal linkages to power companies. With this policy, the government also aims to reduce dependence on imported coal.
- ⇒ India has been ranked at the second spot in the renewable energy country attractiveness index, next only two China. India's target is 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022 with 40% installed capacity from renewables by 2030.
- ⇒ Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has marked the listing ceremony of rupee-denominated **masala bonds\*** in London stock Exchange. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has raised ₹ 3000 crore by selling the rupee-denominated masala bonds. London Stock Exchange is increasingly becoming a hub for masala bond market as large institutions like Housing Development Finance Corporation of HDFC, India's largest mortgage lender, too listed its bonds there earlier.
- ⇒ The government has cleared the National Steel Policy, 2017, which plans to treble India's steel production capacity by 2030 and help the country meet its steel requirements. To achieve the expected demand of 230 million tonnes in 2030-31, steel demand will grow at a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of around 7 to 7.5% during the period, against a CAGR of 305 to 4% over the last five years. In the new steel policy, the government envisaged ₹ 10 lakh crore investment.
- ⇒ Indian steel market, in recent years, have been badly affected by an unprecedented influx of steel imports from countries such as China, Japan and South Korea.
- ⇒ The US based General Motors (GM) has decided to stop selling cars in the Indian market by the end of July, 2017. However, it would continue to support Chevrolet customers and honour warranties.
- ⇒ President Pranab Mukherjee promulgated the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017. This adds sections 35AA and 35AB after section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. These sections will have a direct impact on effective resolution of stressed assets.
- ⇒ India recently imposed anti-dumping-duty on 47 steel products of foreign firms for five years to protect India's steel industry. The anti-dumping duty has been levied on hot rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel, originating in or exported from China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Brazil and Indonesia.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet has launched 'Operation Clean Money Portal' to tab dishonest citizens who are hiding their income to the authorities. The portal is designed by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). It will identify those who have made large deposits as purchases and which are not in line with declared income as a follow up.
- ⇒ According to the global business confidence report of YPO Global Pulse Survey, the confidence level of Indian business leaders is 66, i.e., among the world's top 10 economies. (YPO stands for Young Presidents' Organisation).
- ⇒ The government implemented Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 1, 2017. The GST Council finalised five slabs for goods and services, viz, 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. The government categorised 1211 items under various tax slabs. Highest (43%) items fall under the 18% slab. As many as 81% of the items will attract 18% or less GST. Health care and Education would be exempted from GST.
- ⇒ GST has replaced the previous structure of multiple taxes levied by the State and Central government. It is a consumption based indirect tax which is charged on sale, manufacturing and consumption of goods and services at the national level. Exports and direct taxes like income tax, corporate tax and capital gain tax will not be affected by GST. It has a dual tax system comprising of –
  - 1) Central GST or CGST – To be charged by the Central government.
  - 2) State GST or SGST – To be charged by the State government.
  - 3) Integrated GST of IGST – To be charged by the Central government on the inter-state supply of various goods and services.

\* Masala Bonds are bonds issued outside India but denominated in Indian Rupees, rather than the local currency.



⇒ The NITI Aayog has set a 15-year plan for government actions for achieving social goals such as poverty reduction and improving health and sanitation. India aims to more than triple the size of its economy in 15 years with GDP expected to rise to ₹ 469 lakh crore from ₹ 137 lakh crore in 2015-16.

The 15-year vision document has a seven-year strategy document for 2017-24 as the 'National Development Agenda'. Separately a three year 'Action Agenda' from 2017-18 to 2019-20 is also under work to assess funding requirements.

⇒ The Office of Economic Advisor, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has revised the base year of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from the base year 2004-05 to new Base Year 2011-12. The WPI series in India has undergone six revisions before – 1952-53, 1961-62, 1970-71, 1981-82, 1993-94 and 2004-05. The current series is the seventh revised index. There is an increase in the number of items from 676 to 697.

⇒ Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has recently launched Point of Sale (PoS) 'Saras Nivesh' – the first life insurance product to be approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

⇒ India has imposed anti-dumping duty on a Chinese chemical used in pharma industry and aluminium foil to protect domestic industry from cheap imports.

⇒ Gujarat has topped the annual Discom ranking by the Union Power Ministry for the fifth year in a row. These rankings mean more now as financially beleaguered power utilities undergo restructuring under the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY).

⇒ The Union Cabinet approved the winding up of the 25-year-old Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), which comes under the Finance Ministry's Department of Economic Affairs.

⇒ Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Act has come into effect from May 1, 2017 with all the States strictly following the rules. Stringent action can be taken against the companies and the developers who indulge in unfair means or unethical practices. Some major points –

- Society should be formed once 51% of the flats are booked.

- Plans and layouts can be changed only with the permission from 2/3rds of the buyers.

- Promoters should update the project details in 3 months.

- Open parking cannot be sold.

⇒ The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO; H.Q. – Madrid, Spain) has published its reports. As per the UNWTO definition, International Tourist Arrivals (ITAs) comprises two components – Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) and Arrivals of Non-Resident Nationals. In this barometer India's ranking was 40th in 2015. But now the arrival of non-resident Indians are also considered as foreign tourists and so the rank of India in International Tourist Arrivals (ITA) in 2015 went up to the 24th.

⇒ India emerged as the second largest producer of stainless steel with a total production of 3.32 million tonnes in 2016. China continued to be the largest producer of stainless steel.

⇒ Facebook has launched 'Express Wi-Fi' in four states in India – Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Meghalaya. Express Wi-Fi is a part of Facebook's global initiative to spread internet connectivity, which is currently working in India, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and Indonesia.

⇒ Google has launched a 'Solve for India' initiative that aims to expand and energise the start-up ecosystem in tier II cities across the country. The campaign will mentor and inspire upcoming entrepreneurs who are focusing on building solutions that cater to real needs of India.

⇒ The government of Andhra Pradesh inked a pact with Singapore for developing an area of 7 sq.km. at Amravati as start-up area in phases.

## Sports

⇒ Mumbai Indians, captained by Rohit Sharma, defeated Rising Pune Supergiant, captained by Steven Smith to lift the 10th Indian Premier League title-2017 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. Krunal Pandya of Mumbai Indians was declared the Man of the Final match.

⇒ Bangaluru FC defeated Mohan Bagan to win the Federation Cup football at the Barabati Stadium, Cuttack.

⇒ Real Madrid clinched the 33rd La Liga title (Spanish football league).

⇒ Manchester United clinched the Europa League football championship.

⇒ Barcelona retained Copa Del Rey Cup by defeating Alaves.

⇒ Arsenal clinched the FA Cup beating Chelsea.

⇒ South Korea emerged champion of the prestigious Sudirman Cup (Biennial Mixed Team International Badminton Championship) for the first time.

⇒ R. Vaishali clinched the women's title in the Asian Continental Blitz Chess Championship in Chengdu, China.

⇒ The 22nd Asian Athletics Championship were held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Championships were originally scheduled to be held in Ranchi, Jharkhand. After Ranchi's inability to host the event, Bhubaneswar was selected.

The logo of the championship depicts an athlete crossing the finishing line. The name of the mascot is Olly, a sea turtle of Olive Ridley category.

⇒ Great Britain clinched the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey title after a gap of 23 years when they defeated the defending champion Australia in Ipoh, Malaysia. India defeated New Zealand to win a bronze medal.

⇒ Arjun Maini, the Jenzer Motorsport driver, scripted history by becoming the first Indian driver to win a race in G-P3 series in Barcelona, Spain.

⇒ Kerala successfully organised India's first ever transgender sports meet in Thiruvananthapuram.



- ⇒ The Andhra Pradesh Legislature passed a Bill and amended the State public services Act to appoint the Olympic silver medallist badminton player P V Sindhu a Group-1 officer in the government.

## Awards

- ⇒ The 70th Cannes Film Festival was organised in Cannes, France. Swedish director Ruben Ostlund's 'The Square' was awarded the Palme d'or honour, the top award of the Cannes.
- ⇒ Srinival Kulkarni, an Indian scientist has been awarded with the Dan David Prize for his contribution in the field of astronomy.
- ⇒ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been conferred the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2014. The Chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar received the prize.
- ⇒ The Eritrian-Swedish journalist Dawit Iszaak has been honoured with the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2017 in recognition of his courage, resistance and commitment to freedom of expression.
- ⇒ Former Miss Sri Lanka and Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez has been honoured with the International Humanitarian Award in recognition of her charity and humanitarian works in India and other countries also.
- ⇒ Sudarshan Pattnaik, an internationally renowned sand artist from Puri, Odisha won the jury prize gold medal at the 10th Moscow Sand Art Championship.
- ⇒ Srishti Kaur from Noida, UP was crowned Miss Teen Universe, 2017 in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.
- ⇒ Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling was conferred with the first Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service by the President Pranab Mukherjee in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

## Persons

- ⇒ Emmanuel Macron has been elected new President of France. He replaced Francois Hollande. Mr. Macron is the youngest ever PM of France.
- ⇒ Moon Jae-in has become the new President of South Korea. His predecessor Park Geun-hye was ousted and indicted for corruption.
- ⇒ Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal 'Prachanda' announced his resignation so that the leader of his coalition partner of Nepali Congress may succeed him as per a previous agreement. Sher Bahadur Deuba is the new PM of Nepal.
- ⇒ Ovais Sarmad of India has been appointed Deputy Executive Secretary in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC).
- ⇒ Shobana Kamineni, the Executive Vice Chairman of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited (AHEL), has been appointed First Woman President of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).
- ⇒ Mukesh Ambani has found place in the Forbes magazine's the 'Global Game Changers List, 2017'. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio mobile network entered the country's telecom market with a bang – gaining 100 million customers in six months.

- ⇒ Amitabh Bachchan, a Hepatitis B conqueror, has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the Hepatitis awareness programme in South East Asia region.
- ⇒ VK Saraswat, the former Director General of DRDO has been appointed Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- ⇒ Srichand and Gopichand Hinduja, the Hinduja brothers have topped the 2017 list of the richest people in the UK with a wealth of 16.2 billion pounds.
- ⇒ Justice C S Karman, a judge in the Calcutta High Court has been sentenced to six months of imprisonment by the Supreme Court holding him guilty of contempt of court.
- ⇒ Rifath Sharook, the 18-year-old boy from Tamil Nadu has made a tiny satellite 'KalamSat', which weighs only 64 grams. The satellite will be launched from a NASA facility in Wallops island.
- ⇒ Mahammad Abbas, the Palestine President came to New Delhi on a four-day State visit.
- ⇒ Hassan Rouhani has been re-elected President of Iran.
- ⇒ Braj Bihari Kumar has been appointed Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). He replaced S K Thorat.

## Died

- ⇒ Justice (Retd.) Leila Seth, the first woman Chief Justice of a State High Court (Delhi High Court) and the mother of the celebrated author Vikram Seth passed away.
- ⇒ Dilbagh Singh Athwal, an agriculture scientist of international repute and called 'Father of Wheat Revolution' passed away. He developed world's first grain pearl millet hybrid 'Hybrid Bajra I' in 1965.
- ⇒ Anil Madhav Dave, the Union Minister with independent charge of environment, forest and climate change, passed away.
- ⇒ Roger Ailes, the founder of a politically powerful cable news channel 'Fox News' in the USA passed away.
- ⇒ Reema Lagoo, the Bollywood actress, famous for her mother-role in films like 'Maine Pyar Kiya', 'Hum Aapke Hain Kaun', 'Kal Ho Na Ho', etc, passed away.
- ⇒ KPS Gill, the former Director General of Punjab Police who was credited with rooting out terrorism in Punjab, passed away.
- ⇒ Roger Moore, the British actor who won international fame playing secret agent James Bond, passed away.
- ⇒ Ustad Rais Khan, the India-born legendary sitar player passed away in Pakistan.

## Miscellaneous

- ⇒ Two weeks after the martyrdom of 25 CRPF personnel by the Maoists at Sukma in Chhattisgarh, the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced a new strategy against the Maoists – SAMADHAN. The acronym of SAMADHAN is :-  
'S' – Smart leadership, 'A' – Aggressive strategy, 'M' – Motivation and training, 'A' – Actionable intelligence, 'D' – Dashboard based KPIs (Key performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key result areas), 'H' – Harnessing technology, 'A' – Action plan for each theatre and 'N' – No access to financing.



- ⇒ The Union Minister of Human Resources Development (HRD) Prakash Javadekar launched the Vidya Veerta Abhiyan. A wall of valour will be built in colleges and universities across the country through this campaign. This 15 x 20 feet sized wall will depict the portraits of all the 21 Paramveer Chakra recipients, with the hope that this will help in reviving and re-energising the patriotic fervour in young minds of the country.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Telecommunication launched 'Tarang Sanchar', a web portal for information regarding emanating electromagnetic frequency (EMF) radiations from mobile towers. The portal will empower a common man to know at the convenience of a mouse click about towers working in a particular locality and whether they are compliant to the EMF emission norms defined by the government.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp on 1000th Birth Anniversary of the medieval period sage and philosopher Mamanujacharya.
- ⇒ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda launched the 'Test and Treat Policy for HIV'. India will soon develop a National Strategic Plan for HIV for next 7 years and these 7 years will be crucial for ending AIDS.
- ⇒ The facility has been launched for the subscribers of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to access their statement of transaction (e-SOT) and Permanent Retirement Account Number (e-PRAN).
- ⇒ India has been unanimously elected President of the UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya. UN-Habitat seeks to promote integral and comprehensive approach to human settlements among all countries.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet cleared a proposal to indigenously build 10 atomic reactors of 700 MW each, the largest ever approval granted for such facilities in one go. India currently has installed nuclear power capacity of 6780 MW from 22 operational plants. Another 6,700 MW of nuclear power is expected to be added by 2021-22 (which are under construction).
- ⇒ The International Court of Justice (H.Q.-The Hague, Netherlands) ordered Pakistan not to hang Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Indian Navy officer until final verdict. According to the Court, the stance of Pakistan has been an outright violation of Vienna Convention to which both India and Pakistan are signatories.
- ⇒ The Japanese government has approved a bill allowing the aging Emperor Akihito to step down from the Chrysanthemum Throne, in the first such abdication in two centuries. The 83-year old Akihito desired to step down and hand over the crown to his eldest son. Current Japanese law has no provision for abdication.
- ⇒ The 112 feet tall bust of Adiyogi Lord Shiva at the Isha Yoga Foundation on the outskirts of Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu has been declared the world's largest bust by the Guinness Book of World Records.
- ⇒ Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping has inaugurated India's first Integrated Bio-refinery for renewable Fuels and Chemicals at Rahu in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ⇒ The Telecom Ministry released the coffee scented stamps priced at ₹ 100. Bhutan was the first country to release aromatic stamps in 1973.
- ⇒ The international conference on 'Dara Shikoh : Reclaiming Spiritual Legacy of India' was held recently at the ICCR's Azad Bhawan in New Delhi. The objective of the conference was to present Dara Shikoh's contribution and initiative in bringing about spiritual homogenisation of Hinduism and Islam. Dara Shikoh (1615-1659) was the eldest son and heir-apparent of the fifth Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. But he was killed by his brother Muhiuddin (Aurangzab).
- ⇒ Jordan's Azraq camp has become the world's first refugee camp to be powered by renewable energy.
- ⇒ The United Nations marked the first World Tuna Day on May 2, 2017. Tuna, a salt-water fish is the world's most popular fish to be caught and eaten.
- ⇒ The five-day annual meeting of African Development Bank (AfDB) was held in India for the first time at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It was attended by 54 African regional member countries.
- ⇒ Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off India's first high speed train Tajas Express to run between Chhatrapati Shivaji Station in Mumbai and Karmali in Goa. The train runs at an average speed of 130 kmph and is capable of running at 200 kmph. Its coaches have been manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai.
- ⇒ Taiwan has become the first country in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Narmada Seva Mission in Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, for the conservation of the river Narmada. The MP government declared the 1312-km-long river as a 'Living Entity', having all legal rights that a person enjoys. A month ago, the Uttarakhand High Court declared Ganga, Yumuna and their tributaries as living entities.
- ⇒ Former democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has launched a new political action organisation 'Onward Together' to against various agenda of the US President Donald Trump.
- ⇒ Montenegro, a Balkan nation, joined NATO to become its 29th member.
- ⇒ Indore in Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the cleanest city in India in the third edition of the Swachh Survekshan, 2017. The Survey, under the Central government's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, was conducted over 434 cities. Bhopal was at the second position while Gonda in UP has been rated as the dirtiest city.
- ⇒ According to a survey report released by the Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, Visakhapatnam is the cleanest railway station, followed by Secunderabad. Darbhanga in Bihar is found to be the dirtiest.



# EXCELLENT TUTORIAL

Jadavpur : 9433267091, 033-24187224; Dumdum : 9748326310, 033-25483118

- ⇒ A suicide bomber of the Islamic State blasted a powerful bomb at a musical show of US pop star Ariana Grande at Manchester Arena in Manchester, UK. The blast killed at least 22 persons.
- ⇒ Nauru, a tiny island nation with a population of just 10,200 has become the sixth country to ratify the international Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework pact which was initiated by the Indian and French governments at the climate change summit, Paris in 2015. Headquartered in India, the ISA Framework alliance will turn out to be a legal entity after ratification from at least 15 countries.
- ⇒ After Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand has become the second State in the country to adopt January-December as the fiscal year. The next budget of the States will be presented in December 2017 and run through January-December, 2018.
- ⇒ The Wanna Cry ransomware attack, one of the largest ever cyber attack, shut down tens of thousands of computer systems across 150 countries on May 12. It attacked the computers running the Microsoft Windows operating system. The attackers demanded a ransom of \$300-\$500 per computer via bitcoin.
- ⇒ 'SIMBEX-17', the bilateral naval exercise between the navies of India and Singapore was held at the South China Sea. SIMBEX is an acronym for 'Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise'.
- ⇒ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has shifted its strategic anti-Maoist command headquarters from Kolkata to Raipur.
- ⇒ As per a new research, Henderson Island, a remote place in the South Pacific, has been found to be the most polluted place on the earth with an estimated 37 million pieces of plastic.
- ⇒ The National Mission for Clean Ganga observed 'Ganga Cleanliness Pledge Day' on May 2, 2017.
- ⇒ The Election Commission of India has launched National Contact Centre with toll-free number 1800111950 for any complaint from anywhere in India.
- ⇒ The government has launched a new policy 'Test and Treat' for HIV, under which anyone who tested and found positive will get the necessary treatment free.
- ⇒ The world's largest single location solar park has been inaugurated at Kurnool near Hyderabad.
- ⇒ A latest survey by the think tank Public Affairs Centre, Bangaluru, revealed that Kerala secured the top position in 2017 in public affairs index in governance in States.
- ⇒ The government of Jharkhand and Oracle company signed an MoU intended to improve citizen services and make Jharkhand an attractive destination for start-ups.
- ⇒ India is a founding member of the International North-South Transport Corridor to create transport and logistic infrastructure akin to China's OBOR scheme. It is a 7200 km long multi-mode network of ship, rail and road route for moving freight between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.
- ⇒ India radically improved its position in the global 'ease of getting electricity' ranking. India moved up to 26th spot in global electricity accessibility ranking, moving up from 99th in 2014.
- ⇒ Belgium has become the first country to open an honorary consulate office in Gujarat International Finance Tech-city (GIFT city). Besides the Belgian Embassy in New Delhi, two Consulate-General offices are there in Mumbai and Chennai and an honorary consulate in Kolkata.
- ⇒ Bhilar, a village in the heart of Maharashtra's famous 'Strawberry Country' will soon get another identity as India's first 'Book Village'. Situated near the twin hill stations Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani, the government has decided to convert it into a readers' paradise.
- ⇒ Bhubaneswar has become the first Indian city to win the elusive Pierre L'enfant International Planning excellence award, 2017 by the American Planning Association.
- ⇒ India's first Aquatic Rainbow Technology Park, an ultramodern exclusive facility for ornamental fish is being set up in Chennai.

## **Books & Authors :**

- ⇒ When Crime Pays : Money and Muscle in Indian Politics – Milan Vaishnav
- ⇒ Exit West – Mohsin Hamid
- ⇒ The Queen – Amita Sivakumaran
- ⇒ The Poison of Love – K.R. Misra
- ⇒ The Sun and Two Seas – Vikramjit

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