



## CURRENT AFFAIRS (AUGUST - 2017) :

### National

⇒ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its monster rocket GSLV MK III with its first developmental orbital flight (GSLV MK III D-1) along with 3136 kg communication satellite GSAT-19 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. India is planning its first flight with a crew on board after 2020.

⇒ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recently on a tour to four European nations. In the first leg of his six-day trip, he visited Germany and held talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel. Both the countries signed eight bilateral agreements. Germany supports India's stand on granting membership status in NSG (Nuclear Suppliers' Group) and demand for permanent membership in UN Security Council.

Modi's second stop in Europe was Spain. There he met King Felipe VI and also held talks with President Mariano Rajoy. The two countries signed seven bilateral agreements.

The Prime Minister's third destination was Russia where he stayed for three days – the longest period in this tour. He participated in the 18th India-Russia Annual Summit in St. Petersburg with Vladimir Putin. Both the nations agreed to build a military helicopter 'Kamov Ka-226' and hold joint military exercise 'India-2017' in India. Both countries signed five agreements.

The fourth and last stop of the Prime Minister's tour was France. He held talks there with the newly elected President Emmanuel Macron.

⇒ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a four-day visit of three countries Portugal, the USA and the Netherlands. On the first leg, he visited Portugal and met his Portuguese counterpart Antonio Costa in Lisbon. Mr. Costa traced his origin to Goa in India. He sprang a surprise for Narendra Modi when he hosted a special Gujarati vegetarian lunch for him. They launched the India-Portugal International Start-up Hub in Lisbon, a platform developed to strengthen and foster the connection between the start-up ecosystem of the two countries. 11 agreements were signed including cooperation in outer space, double taxation avoidance, science and research, nanotechnology, etc.

On the second leg of his journey, the PM Modi arrived at Washington DC. The meeting between PM Modi and the US President Donald Trump was held at Rose Garden, White House at Washington DC. The US President praised the GST implementation of India and said that he would do the same in his country.

PM Modi then reached Amsterdam and signed three MoUs with his Netherlands counterpart Mark Rutte. Modi thanked him for backing India's Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) membership India joined last year.

### International

⇒ Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Maldives cut of ties with Qatar in a dispute over Qatar's support for terrorists and Islamist groups, in particular the Muslim Brotherhood, which they regard as a political enemy. It is to be noted that Qatar is going to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

India and Qatar have an annual bilateral trade to the tune of \$ 18 billion. Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) to India. It exports 15% of its output to India, which constitutes 65% of India's global LNG imports. There are about 7,00,000 Indians working in Qatar.

⇒ President Donald Trump announced the withdrawal of the USA of 195-nation Paris Climate Change Pact, giving more importance to his 'America First' campaign theme and giving less importance to the threat of global warming. He said participating in the pact would undermine US economy, wipe out jobs, weaken national sovereignty and put his country at a permanent disadvantage. This decision of Trump frustrated all the earth lovers.

⇒ South Korea postponed full deployment of the controversial US anti-missile THAAD system designed to deter a North Korean attack. South Korea agreed last year, under its ex-President Park Geun-Hye to deploy the powerful Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system to guard against threats from nuclear-armed North Korea. But its new President Moon Jae-in postponed any farther deployment till an environment impact assessment is finished.

⇒ The British Parliamentary elections held recently brought a shock for the Prime Minister Theresa May. In the 650-member House of Commons, her Conservative Party won 318 seats, short of the 326 seats they needed for an outright majority. She entered into an understanding with Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which won only 10 seats, to remain in power.

⇒ The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2017 representing the world's largest annual gathering of the 'Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) was held recently in Switzerland. More than 2500 ICT experts around the globe took part in WSIS 2017 and exchanged knowledge and experiences towards achievements of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sustainable Development is a set of 17 'Global Goals' with 169 targets to be achieved by 2020.

⇒ Montenegro joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) as its 29th member.



## Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 30.08.2017) are :
- \* Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 6%.
  - \* Reverse Repo Rate (*Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the commercial banks deposit their surplus money to the central bank*) : 5.75%
  - \* 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% - 6.75%.
  - \* MCLR: 7.75% - 8.1%.
  - \* Savings A/c.: 3.50% - 4.00%.
- (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 Reserve Bank of India's Internal Advisory Committee has recommended 12 non-performing accounts of assets (NPAs) totalling 25% (i.e., 2 lakh crore) of India's gross NPAs, which can be taken up immediately under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- ⇒ According to a World Bank report, India retained the top spot among remittance receiving countries. In 2016 India received a remittance inflows amounting to \$ 62.7 billion. China is at the second position with 61 billion.
- ⇒ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed tighter regulations for participatory Notes (P-notes), an instrument used by foreign investors to take exposure to the domestic market without registering in India. It has proposed to bar p-notes, or offshore derivative instruments from taking speculative positions in the futures and options segment. SEBI has also proposed to levy regulatory fees of \$ 1,000 (₹ 65,000) on every subscriber.
- ⇒ According to the code Compliance Rating of banks done by the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) 2017, IDBI Bank is the only one out of 26 public sector banks to get a 'High' rating.
- BCSBI has been monitoring compliance with the Codes of 'Bank's Commitment to Customers' and 'Banks Commitment to Micro and Small Enterprises' by carrying out visits to select branches. For this purpose, BCSBI's authorised representatives collect information through a structured questionnaire from a few customers and obtain their feedback. For the purpose of rating of the banks, BCSBI has developed a rating model with the help of the rating agency CRISIL. Accordingly, the Branch visit findings and customer feedback by BCSBI personnel are grouped into five main categories and marks are allocated to them. The categories and their weightages are – (i) Information dissemination (20), (ii) Transparency (22), (iii) Customer Centricity (30), (iv) Grievance redressal (15) and (v) Customer feedback (13). Those banks who get 85 and above score get 'High' category.
- ⇒ The petrol and diesel prices, from June 16, 2017 are being fixed on a daily basis matching with the fluctuations in the international oil market. The rates are adjusted to be set at 6am everyday. Till now, prices were revised on the 1st and the 16th of every month based on the fortnightly average of international oil prices and the foreign exchange rate.
- ⇒ The RBI reconstituted five-member Overseeing Committee (OS) headed by Pradeep Kumar (Chairman). The OC will work with an expanded mandate to review cases being restructured under the Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A).
- ⇒ According to the Nikkei Asian Review's second annual Asia 300 Power Performers Ranking, a compilation of the 300 most powerful and valuable listed companies in Asia, as many as three Indian companies have made it to the top 10 list. The list has been topped by Taiwan's Largan Precision, the world's leading maker of lenses for smartphone cameras. Indian IT service provider HCL Technologies came in at the second place, followed by Zee Entertainment Enterprises and Tata Consultancy Services at the third and fourth places respectively.
- ⇒ The government has now made Aadhar mandatory for opening a bank account. The Aadhar will also be needed for any financial transaction above ₹ 50,000. However, those who do not have Aadhar number can still transact or open bank accounts if they provide proof of having applied for Aadhar. They will need to submit the Aadhar number to the bank within six months of opening the bank account.



- ⇒ The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in its 10th edition of the 'Global Innovation Index' (GII) 2017 has ranked India 60th on its list of 130 most innovative countries in the world. The list is topped by Switzerland, followed by Sweden and Netherlands.
  - ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the agro-marine processing scheme SAMPADA to promote food processing and promised to make the North-East the economic hub of 'new India'. The SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing) will include ongoing schemes like mega food parks and cold chain projects as well as three new schemes that the government will launch shortly. To create infrastructure for improving the entire food supply chain, three schemes – 'Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities', 'New Agro-Processing Clusters' and 'Backward and Forward Linkages' are to be launched.
  - ⇒ The government has introduced a minor change to the start-up definition. An entity shall be considered as a Startup up to seven years from the date of its incorporation/registration (earlier it was five years). However, an entity shall be considered as a startup if its turnover is less than ₹ 25 crore will remain unchanged.
  - ⇒ The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs has published its report 'the World Population Prospects : The 2017 Revision'. The current world population of 7.6 billion is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100. Nearly 83 million people are being added to the world population every year. India is currently the second most populous country in the world with 1.3 billion inhabitants, compared to China's 1.4 billion, but India's population is expected to surpass China's by 2024.
  - ⇒ The government has launched 'Vatsalya-Maatri Amrit Kosh', a National Human Milk Bank and Lactation Counselling Centre at the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi. With this donor human milk bank, all newborns in and around Delhi will have access to the life saving human milk regardless of the circumstances of their birth.
  - ⇒ Indian Railways have collaborated with a Mumbai-based firm 'ePayLater' to provide the 'buy tickets now and pay later' service for any express train.
  - ⇒ The government has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all Kharif Crops of 2017-18 season. Further, to incentivise cultivation of pulses and oilseeds in the country, the government has announced a bonus of ₹ 200 per quintal for Arhar (Tur), Urad, Moong, Groundnut-in-shell and Soyabean and a bonus of ₹ 100 per quintal for Sunflower seed, sesamum and Niger seed.
  - ⇒ The Mumbai based private sector lender DCB Bank (Development Credit Bank Limited) launched an ATM that dispenses cash without a debit card as the machine verifies the customer from the Aadhar details like the iris and fingerprint.
  - ⇒ Following the successful functioning of Post Office Seva Kendra (POPSK), the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Posts have decided to another 149 POPSKs. It will take the total number of POPSKs to 235 in the country.
- Sports**
- ⇒ Pakistan clinched the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy by defeating India by 180 runs at the Oval, England. Pakistan defeated South Africa in the semi-final while India defeated Bangladesh in the other semi-final. Sarfraz Khan was the Captain of Champion Pakistan while Virat Kohli was that of India. Fakhar Zaman was adjudged the Man of the Final for his splendid century. Pakistan's Hasan Ali was declared Man of the Tournament. Shikhar Dhawan won the Golden Bat while Hasan Ali won the Golden Ball.
  - ⇒ West Indies Cricket board has renamed itself as 'Cricket West Indies' and their cricket team from now on will be officially known as 'Windies'.
  - ⇒ Muthiah Muralitharan has become the first Sri Lankan cricketer to get into the ICC Hall of Fame.
  - ⇒ Chinese mobile phone manufacturing company Vivo Electronics Crop retained the title sponsorship rights to the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the next five seasons with a whopping ₹ 2,199 crore.
  - ⇒ Defending champion Real Madrid defeated Juventus to retain the Champions League title.
  - ⇒ Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) defeated Punjab and Sind Bank to win the National Hockey Men's Champion A-Division title in Lucknow.
  - ⇒ Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth defeated Jonatan Christie of Indonesia to clinch the Men's Singles crown of the Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold Badminton Championship in Bangkok.
  - ⇒ Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth defeated Japan's Kazumasa Sakai to clinch the Men's singles crown of the Indonesia Open Super Series in Jakarta.
  - ⇒ Kidambi Srikanth defeated Olympic and World Champion Chen Long of China in the final at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre to lift the Men's Single title of the Australian Open Super-series Badminton tournament.
  - ⇒ Rafael Nadal of Spain clinched his 10th French Open Men's Singles title when he defeated Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland at Roland Garros in Paris. Nadal has become the first man to clinch 10 titles at one Grand Slam tournament with this French Open Crown in the open era.
  - ⇒ Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia defeated Simona Halep of Romania to lift the French Open Women's Singles title.



# EXCELLENT TUTORIAL

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

- ⇒ Bhavani Devi struck gold in the Turnoi Satellite Fencing Championship at Reykjavik, Iceland. She has also become the first Indian to win a gold medal in an international fencing event.
- ⇒ India won 13 medals, which include 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 8 Bronze medals in the 2017 Junior Asian Wrestling Championship held in China's Taiwan Province.

## Awards

- ⇒ Azim Premji, the Chairman of Wipro, with 8 others, has been chosen for the coveted Carnegie Medal for his commendable efforts to reform India's public school system through his Azim Premji Foundation. Carnegie Medal is considered the most prestigious award in philanthropy.
- ⇒ Vinod Dua, the veteran journalist was conferred the Red Ink Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award for 2017.
- ⇒ Manushi Chhillar, Miss Haryana was crowned Miss India World 2017 in the Miss India finale held at Yash Raj Studios, Mumbai. Sanu Dua from Jammu & Kashmir was adjudged the first runner-up.
- ⇒ Mohun Bagan striker Jeje Lalpekhlua of Mizoram received the All India Football Federation inaugural Player of the Year 2016 award. Sasmita Malik was adjudged the 2016 AIFF Women's Player of the Year.
- ⇒ Indian agricultural microbiologist Shrihari Chandraghatgi has been conferred the Ministry of Environment Award for 2017 in Japan for developing cutting edge technologies to address burning environmental problems. Chandraghatgi, who is the President and CEO of EcoCycle Corporation, is the first foreigner to be given this award.
- ⇒ Vivid Sydney, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas came to news when their new installation 'Dreamscape' has been awarded the title 'Largest Interactive Lighting Display' by the Guinness World Records.
- ⇒ Israeli author David Grossman has won the Britain's prestigious Man Booker International Prize for his novel 'A Horse Walks Into a Bar'.
- ⇒ Noted Kannada poet and playwright HS Shivaprakash got the prestigious 'Kusumagraja Rashtriya Purashkar', 2017 for his outstanding contribution to social and educational fields.
- ⇒ Soumitra Catterjee has been named for the highest French award Legion d'Honneur.
- ⇒ Jhumpa Lahiri, the professor of creative writing has been chosen for the 2017 PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Stories.
- ⇒ The West Bengal government has been given the 2017 UN Public Service Award for the 'Kanyashree Prakalpa' initiative that sought to reduce the high child marriage rate and low female education rate in the State. The West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee received the award in the Hague, the Netherlands on June 23, the UN Public Service Day.

## Persons

- ⇒ E. Sreedharan, an Indian civil engineer, popularly known as 'Metro Man' has been appointed Chief Advisor for the Lucknow Metro Rail.
- ⇒ Lenin Moreno is the new President of Ecuador. He has become the world's first physically challenged person to be the Head of the State in a wheelchair.
- ⇒ Miroslav Lajcak, the Slovak foreign minister has been elected UN General Assembly President of its 72nd session beginning in September 2017. He will replace Peter Thomson of Fiji.
- ⇒ Sher Bahadur Deuba, the Nepali Congress President has become the new Prime Minister of Nepal. He replaced Puspa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.
- ⇒ Dr. K. Kasturirangan, former Chief of ISRO has been appointed Chairman of the committee tasked with preparing the final draft of the National Education Policy.
- ⇒ Moon Jae-in, the South Korean President has decided to phase out atomic energy and embrace safer and environment friendly power sources including solar and wind power.
- ⇒ Kaushik Basu has become the new President of the International Economic Association (IEA) for a three-year term.
- ⇒ Amitabh Bachchan has been appointed brand ambassador to promote Goods and Services Tax (GST) by the Union government.
- ⇒ Justice C S Karnan of the Kolkata High Court has become the first HC Judge to be arrested for passing untoward comments on the Chief Justice of India. A seven-judge Supreme Court bench passed the arrest order as well as a six-month jail sentence on him.
- ⇒ Preet Kaur Gill of the Labour Party has become the first female Sikh M P to be elected to the UK's House of Commons.
- ⇒ Raj Chari, an Indian-American has been selected by NASA for missions into the Earth orbit and conduct key research for deep space mission.

## Died

- ⇒ Dr. C. Narayana Raddy, the doyen of Telugu literature and a Jnanapith awardee, popularly known as Cinare, died recently in Hyderabad.
- ⇒ Advan Khashoggi, the Saudi arms dealer and once one of the richest men of the world passed away.
- ⇒ Helmut Kohl, the former Chancellor of Germany and the architect of Germany's reunification passed away recently.
- ⇒ S. S. Khaplang, the Chairman of the banned rebel Naga outfit National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) died in Myanmar.
- ⇒ P N Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India passed away.





## Miscellaneous

- ⇒ India and Pakistan got full membership of Sanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at its 17th Summit in Astana (Kazakhstan). Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kazakhstan to attend the Summit. SCO is an important international Organisation under the leadership of China. Its headquarter is in Beijing. Sanghai Cooperation Organisation is considered as an equivalent organisation to NATO.
  - ⇒ The Ministry of Culture has launched the implementation of the 'National Mission on Cultural Mapping of India' from Mathura, UP. The purpose of this mission is that no cultural talent or heritage should remain unattended. If it is a talent, it should be nurtured and if it is a heritage, it should be conserved. The mission is a part of the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtra Bharat' umbrella, which aims at converting the vast and widespread cultural canvas of India into an objective cultural map and preserving the rich cultural heritage of this country in the form of a cultural repository of artists and art forms.
  - ⇒ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the 'Know India Programme' (KIP) for young Overseas Indians. The programme is aimed at promoting awareness of different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields such as economy and education.
  - ⇒ Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu has launched Mission Retro-Fitment to provide a safe and comfortable travel by upgrading the existing field of coaches with better furnishing, aesthetics and amenities. Mission Retro-Fitment is one of the largest retro fitment projects in the world as Indian Railways' 40,000 coaches will be refurnished and retrofitted in the next five years.
  - ⇒ With an aim to make legal aid easily accessible to the marginalised communities and citizens living in rural areas, the union government has launched the 'Tele-Law' initiative. In the first phase, the 'Tele-Law' scheme will be tested across 500 Common Service Centre in Bihar and UP to understand the challenges and make necessary corrections before the scheme is launched across the country.
  - ⇒ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda launched the 'Skill for Life, Save a Life' initiative, which aims to upscale the quantity and quality of trained professionals in the healthcare system.
  - ⇒ Breaking all relations with Taiwan, Panama established formal diplomatic ties with China.
  - ⇒ Lockheed Mortins, a US Company signed an agreement with India's Tata Advanced Systems to produce F-16 fighter planes in India. India's air force needs hundreds of aircraft to replace its Soviet-era fleet. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that foreign supplies would have to make the plants in India with a local partner to help build a domestic industrial base and cut imports.
  - ⇒ Tamil Nadu emerged top as the hot favourite state of India among foreign as well as domestic tourists in the year 2016. Tamil Nadu is followed by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
  - ⇒ Sydney based The Institute of Economics and Peace has published its 2017 Global Peace Index. India has been ranked 137th among 161 countries. Iceland topped the list followed by New Zealand and Portugal.
  - ⇒ The first 50 MW unit of 100 MW Sainj Hydro Power Project on the Sainj river, a tributary of the Beas river has been commissioned by Himachal Pradesh.
  - ⇒ The Meghalaya Assembly unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Centre's notification banning the sale and purchase of cattle at animal markets for slaughter and demanded its withdrawal.
  - ⇒ Odisha State BJP organized a programme called 'Modi Fest' (Making of Developed India Festival) to popularise various welfare schemes of the Narendra Modi-led NDA government at the Centre.
  - ⇒ The first case of Zika virus in India has been found recently in Bapunagar of Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Zika virus was first discovered in Uganda in 1947 and named after Zika forest in Uganda.
  - ⇒ The next BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) summit will be held in China's Xiamen city in September 2017.
  - ⇒ India ratified two key International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions No. 138 and No. 182 on child labour in Geneva. India has become the 170th ILO member to ratify the convention No. 138 which requires States to set a minimum age for employment. At the same time, India has become the 181st ILO member to ratify the convention No. 182 which calls for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour including forced labour, slavery and trafficking.
  - ⇒ The World Health Organisation (WHO), in an effort to curb antibiotic resistance, has divided antibiotics into three categories. The commonly used antibiotics will be under the 'access category'. This includes amoxicillin, a widely-used antibiotic to treat infections such as pneumonia. The second line of antibiotics, slightly more potent, has been categorised under 'watch'. Ciprofloxacin, used to treat cystitis (a type of urinary tract infection) and upper respiratory tract infection follow under this category. Potent drugs to be used only as a last resort fall under the 'reserve' category. The reserve includes antibiotics such as colistin and some cephalosporins should be used in circumstances when all other alternatives have failed, such as for life-threatening infections due to multidrug-resistant bacteria.
- This is the biggest revision of the antibiotics section in the 40-year-old history of the Essential Medicines List (EML).



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- ⇒ The USA has cleared the sale of 22 unmanned Guardian drones to India at a cost of \$ 2 to 3 billion. The Indian Navy had made the request for this in 2016.
- ⇒ The President Pranab Mukherjee launched a mobile application 'Selfie with Daughter'. He also urged people to take photographs with their daughters and upload on the App.
- ⇒ Manoj Sinha, the Minister for Communication released a commemorative postage stamp on completion of 50 years of the Passport Act 1967. The President of India gave his assent to the Passport Act of June 24, 1967.
- ⇒ 30 more cities have been selected under the third round of the government of India's Smart City Mission. Thus the total number of prospective smart cities has become 90. The Smart City Mission is a flagship scheme of the Union government that will cover 100 cities and its duration is five years (i.e., 2015 to 2020).
- ⇒ A stamp on noted playwright and theatre director late Balwant Gargi has been released. Gargi was the founder-director of the Indian theatre Department, Punjab University, Chandigarh.
- ⇒ The Minister for Statistics & Programme Implementation Sadananda Gowda inaugurated the new office building of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) named 'Sankhyiki Bhawan' in New Delhi.
- ⇒ Amitabh Bachchan, the brand ambassador for the Swachh Bharat Mission, has launched an aggressive new campaign of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation called 'Darwaza Band' for promoting of toilet usage across the country's villages.
- ⇒ Suicide bombers and gunmen attacked Iran's Parliament 'Majlis' and the Mausoleum of Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran, killing at least 12 people.
- ⇒ The Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai has got itself trademarked. This makes the 114-year-old building the first in the country to get such a registration. With this trademarking, the hotel building has joined the elite and small club of trademarked properties in the world that includes the Empire State Building in New York, the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Sydney Opera House in Australia.
- ⇒ The government of India has taken up Kaladan as the first major project in Myanmar. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is a joint initiative of India and Myanmar. The project will provide an alternative access route to the North-Eastern region of India and thereby reducing pressure on the Siliguri Corridor. The project will contribute towards the economic development of India and Myanmar.
- ⇒ For the first time in India, a 14-feet high metallic robot has been installed at a busy road intersection in Indore to control traffic.
- ⇒ India's first Public Bicycle Sharing (PBS) system, christened as 'Trin Trin' has been launched in Mysuru by the Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah.
- ⇒ Telengana has become the first Indian State where a special pension scheme for single women has been launched.

## **Books & Authors :**

- ⇒ A Horse Walks Into a Bar – David Grossman
- ⇒ Love for Dancing – Ruskin Bond
- ⇒ Maid in India – Tripti Lahiri
- ⇒ Baaz – Anuja Chauhan
- ⇒ Number Do Lie – Aakash Chopra
- ⇒ The Other Words – Jhumpa Lahiri
- ⇒ The Ministry of Utmost Happiness – Arundhati Roy

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