



## CURRENT AFFAIRS (OCTOBER - 2017) :

### National

- ⇒ India and Russia will hold a mega war-game 'Exercise India' involving their armies, navies and airforce for the first time from October 19 to 29 in Russia. It will be for the first time that India will participate in a tri-services exercise with a foreign country with such a large scale participation by the army, the navy, and the air force.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court banned a controversial Islamic practice of instant divorce (Talaq) as arbitrary and unconstitutional. Five judges from five different communities heard the triple talaq case in the Supreme Court. They were, Chief Justice J S Khehar (Sikh), Justice Kurien Joseph (Christian), R F Nariman (Parsi) U U Lalit (Hindu) and Abdul Nazeer (Muslim). Two judges, Justice Khehar and Justice Nazeer Upheld the validity of triple talaq while the other three judges opposed the practice and thus defeated it by 3-2 majority.
- ⇒ Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bhadur Deuba visited India recently. Eight agreements were signed including the construction of a bridge over the river Mechi, post earthquake reconstruction package and drug trafficking.

### International

- ⇒ the United States named Pakistan based Hizbul Mujahideen as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group. The US had already named its chief Salahuddin alias Mohammad Yusuf Shah as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.
- ⇒ The United States formally communicated to the UN its intent to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate. The President Donald Trump alleged that the agreement unfairly favoured countries such as India and China at the expense of America. However, the Associated Press said that the earliest the US can be out of the climate agreement is November 4, 2020 – the day after the next presidential election in the USA.
- ⇒ The United Nations Security Council unanimously imposed new sanctions on North Korea over Pyongyang's two inter-continental ballistic missile tests in July 2017. The resolution banned North Korean exports of coal, iron, iron ore, lead, lead ore and sea-food. It also prohibited countries from increasing the number of North Korean labourers working abroad and investment in joint ventures with North Korea. Kim Jong Un, the ruler of North Korea said that his country was ready to teach the US a severe lesson. North Korea is preparing itself for missile attack in Guam, a US Territory in the Western Pacific Ocean, only 3,500 km away from North Korea.
- ⇒ The 15th Ministerial Meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic

Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was held in Kathmandu. The BIMSTEC group comprises Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

### Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 15.10.2017) 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*) : 6.25%
  - \* MSF (*Marginal Standing Facility is the loan banks are permitted to avail themselves from the RBI on overnight basis, using its SLR securities*) : 6.25%.
  - \* 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% - 8.10%.
  - \* 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*).
- ⇒ Union government has revised the base year of All India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to 2011-12.
- ⇒ Canara Bank launched its first 'Digital Banking Branch' in Bangalore titled CANDI, in which the branch will provide an end-to-end digital experience to customers.
- ⇒ The government has constituted a 10-member committee to deliberate on a data protection framework for the country. The committee, headed by Justice B N Srikrishna, will recommend a framework for securing personal data in the increasingly digitised economy as also address privacy concerns and build safeguards against data breachers.



- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India paid ₹ 30,659 crore as a dividend to the Central government for the year ended June 2017. The amount paid is less than half of the ₹ 65,876 crore the RBI transferred to the government last year. The lower dividend this year is directly or indirectly linked to the decision of demonitisation on November 8, 2016. Firstly, the cost of new note printing alone was about ₹ 15,000 crore. Secondly, when people rushed to deposit notes, huge cash came to bank's hands and left the financial system with excess liquidity that could have caused huge inflation. So the RBI was forced to borrow short-term money from the banks to suck out excess liquidity. Thus RBI had to pay huge interest to the banks.
- ⇒ Of the 56 regional rural banks (RRBs) in the country, 49 RRBs recorded a profit in 2016-17 while 7 suffered loss during the period. The three RRBs, promoted by Syndicate Bank – Prathama Bank, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) and Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank (APGB) emerged in the top league of profit making RRBs during 2016-17. Two RRBs – KVGB and APGB notched up a net profit of over ₹ 150 crore each during 2016-17.
- ⇒ The RBI has set up 'Supervisory Colleges' for six Scheduled Commercial Banks which have sizeable international presence. They are, SBI, ICICI Bank, Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank and PNB. the objectives of the colleges are to enhance information exchange and cooperation among supervisors.
- ⇒ RBI recently imposed a penalty of ₹ 1 crore on Union Bank of India for 'non-compliance' of Know Your Customer (KYC) norm.
- ⇒ According to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), as many as 85.77 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) are working in India as on March 31, 2017. They are having a deposit of ₹ 16,114 crore with banks and it is estimated that these SHGs cover more than 10 crore rural households.
- ⇒ Public sector banks have reported that their Gross NPAs rose to ₹ 6.41 lakh crore at the end of March 2017 as against 5.02 lakh crore a year ago.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet approved the scrapping of the 'no detention policy' (NDP) in schools. Once it is passed in the Parliament, schools all over the country will start holding exams in classes VI, VII, and VIII. The NDP Policy was adopted in 2010 to promote students automatically to higher classes every year till class VIII to check the high number of dropouts, especially among the socially and economically disadvantaged sections. But the schools say that due to no detention, the interest of learning among the students has decreased and the dropouts in class IX have increased.
- ⇒ India's trade balance in agricultural and allied products from 2013-14 to 2016-17 has suffered a lot. From a 150% surplus of export over import, it has slipped in four years to near equality. India's export of agri and allied products declined to \$ 24.7 billion in 2016-17 as against \$ 33 billion in 2013-14. In contrast, import of agri and allied products jumped to \$ 23.2 billion from \$ 13.5 billion during the same period.
- ⇒ A Bill to enable the exit of the RBI from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and also increase the authorised capital of NABARD from ₹ 5,000 crore to ₹ 30,000 crore has been passed in the Lok Sabha.  
RBI held 0.4% of the paid-up capital of NABARD and the remaining 99.6% was held by the Central government and this used to cause conflict in the central bank's role as banking regulator and shareholder in NABARD.
- ⇒ The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has introduced a scheme of booking e-ticket online and make payment later through 'ePaylater'. Under this scheme, a customer has the option to pay after 15 days of booking an e-ticket through IRCTC Website.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of Madhyamik and Uchchtaar Shiksha Kosh (MUSK), a corpus fund for secondary and higher education. All the funds collected from the secondary and higher education cess would be credited to the MUSK. However, the funds from the scheme would only be utilised once the budgetary support is exhausted.
- ⇒ The Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a committee on 'fair market conduct', to be headed by T K Viswanathan. The committee has been tasked with suggesting improvements to the existing SEBI norms, including on insider trading and Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices.
- ⇒ Reliance Communications has decided to merge with Aircel to create a more competitive telecom company. With merger, this new company will be called 'Aircom', with both parties having 50% equity stakes.
- ⇒ The Sunil Bharti Mittal-led company Bharti Airtel has been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal to acquire the business of Telenor India for an undisclosed sum.

## Sports

- ⇒ India defeated Sri Lanka in the third and final Test match at Pallekele. The previous two matches were played at Galle and Colombo. India won the series 3-0.
- ⇒ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) defeated Bangaluru Hockey Association to win the All-India MCC Murugappa Gold Cup.



# EXCELLENT TUTORIAL

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

- ⇒ Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched the Bulgarian Open men's Badminton singles title in Sofia.
- ⇒ C. Rahul Yadav clinched the Lagos International men's badminton singles title.
- ⇒ The Indian contingent that participated in the World Dwarf Games in Canada bagged 37 medals including 15 gold, 10 silver and 12 bronze medals.
- ⇒ Neymar became the most expensive player in football history after completing his transfer from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain for 222 million euros (\$ 262 million).
- ⇒ Indian shooter Shapath Bhardwaj has become the country's youngest athlete at the age of 15 to figure in the government's Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme.
- ⇒ Real Madrid defeated Barcelona to win the Spanish Super Cup.
- ⇒ The Netherlands defeated Denmark to win the women's Euro Cup football.
- ⇒ Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt bade an emotional farewell to international athletics at the end of the World Athletics Championship in London.
- ⇒ The World Badminton Championship, 2017 was held in the Emirates Arena in Glasgow, Scotland. Japan's Nozomi Okuhara emerged champion of the Women's Single as she defeated PV Sindhu in the final. This World Badminton event was historic for India as Sindhu won a silver medal while Saina Nehwal a bronze.
- ⇒ Deepan Chakravarthy clinched the National Challengers Chess Championship.
- ⇒ Saurav Ghosal defeated Mahesh Mangaonkar to win the Men's title of the 74th National Squash Championship at the Shiv Nadar University Indoor Complex, Greater Noida. In Woman's final, Joshna Chinappa emerged champion defeated Lakshya Ragavendram.
- ⇒ Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu launched the Union Sports Ministry's 'National Sports Talent Search Portal to discover sporting talents from all across the country. Under the scheme, when a child is over the age of eight, his parents, teachers or coaches can upload his bio-data and videos on the website [www.nationalsportstalenthunt.com](http://www.nationalsportstalenthunt.com).
- ⇒ India will host the Men's World Boxing Championship for the first time in 2021, besides the Women's edition of the event in 2018 in New Delhi.
- ⇒ Future Olympic Games :
  - 2020 : Tokyo
  - 2024 : Paris
  - 2028 : Los Angeles

## Awards

- ⇒ Former India hockey captain Dhanraj Pillay has been honoured with Bharat Gaurav award by the East Bengal football club.

- ⇒ Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards 2017 have been given to Sardar Singh (Hockey) and Devendra Jhajharia (Para athlete).
- ⇒ Real Madrid star forward Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal was crowned UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2016-17. It was Ronaldo's third top UEFA honour. Barcelona's winger Lieke Martens of the Netherlands won the UEFA Women's Player of the Year 2016-17.
- ⇒ Dev Patel, the hero of the film 'Slumdog Millionaire' has been announced one of the winners of the Asian Game Changer award for 2017 by the Asia Society.

## Persons

- ⇒ Sohail Mahmood is Pakistan's new High Commissioner to India. He replaced Abdul Basit.
- ⇒ Praseon Joshi, lyricist, script writer and ad guru, has been appointed Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) Chairperson. He replaced Pahlaj Nihalani.
- ⇒ Justice Dipak Misra has been appointed 45th Chief Justice of India. He succeeded Justice J S Khehar.
- ⇒ Rajiv Kumar is the new Vice-Chairman of the NITI Aayog. He replaced Arvind Panagariya who had resigned on August 1, 2017. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the NITI Aayog.
- ⇒ Venkaiah Naidu is the 13th Vice-President of India. He defeated UPA's candidate Gopalkrishna Gandhi.
- ⇒ Milkha Singh, the sprint legend, also known as 'the Flying Sikh', has been appointed goodwill ambassador for physical activity in South-East Asia Region.
- ⇒ Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has become the first female ever to hoist the Indian National Flag on the occasion of 70 years of Indian Independence at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM). Aishwarya was also bestowed with 'Excellence of Global Cinema' award.
- ⇒ Sahid Khaqan Abbasi is the new Prime Minister of Pakistan. He succeeded Nawaz Sharif.
- ⇒ Darshan Lal, a doctor, has become the first Hindu to be included in the newly elected Pakistan cabinet in 20 years.
- ⇒ Arvind Panagariya has resigned as the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- ⇒ Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon has become the richest person in the world with a net worth of \$ 90.5 billion, ahead of the \$ 90 billion net worth of Bill Gates.
- ⇒ Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, retired from his royal public duty August 2, 2017. He has been captain general of the crops since 1953, taking over from the Queen's father King George VI. He was a patron, president of a member of more than 780 organisations.
- ⇒ Desh Deepak Verma has been appointed Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha. He succeeded Shumsher K. Sheriff.
- ⇒ Vishal Sikka has resigned as the CEO and MD of Infosys.



## Died

- ⇒ Israel Kristal, who lived through both World Wars, died being the oldest person in the world at the age of 116 years.
- ⇒ Dr. Ruth Pfau, a German doctor popularly known as 'Pakistan's Mother Teresa' for dedicating her life to eradicate leprosy in the country, died in Karachi. She founded the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre in Pakistan.
- ⇒ Sitaram Panchal, a Bollywood actor died recently.
- ⇒ Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, the maestro of Dhrupad tradition of Hindustani classical music, passed away.
- ⇒ Santosh Mohan Dev, veteran Congress leader passed away.
- ⇒ Rishang Keising, the former Chief Minister of Maniour passed away.
- ⇒ Haruo Nakajima, the Japanese actor who portrayed Godzilla in the original 1954 classic passed away.

## Miscellaneous

- ⇒ India's first partition museum has been inaugurated in Amritsar to commemorate 70 years of independence.
- ⇒ NITI Aayog has announced partnership with three States each for improvement of Healthcare and Education. Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka have been selected for improvement of health. In Education, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have been selected for support to better learning outcomes.
- ⇒ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an unmanned, remotely operated tank called 'Muntra'.
- ⇒ India's first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing unit has come up near Hyderabad. The manufacturing facility is a joint venture between Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafel Advanced Defence Systems Ltd. The plant will manufacture anti-tank guided missile.
- ⇒ About 20 acres of land which houses around 70 government offices and 45 private buildings in Chhattisgarh's Raipur is being converted into India's first micro-forest. This move is taken mainly to create an oxy-zone in the heart of the city. Oxy-zone is a pollution-free zone comprising water bodies, trees, parks, jogging tracks, etc.
- ⇒ Punjab has launched its flagship health scheme 'Care Companion Programme' which aims to turn hospital wards into classrooms by teaching the patients and their family members medical skills to take care of their loved once in the hospitals and at home.
- ⇒ Mumbai Metro has launched India's first Mobile Ticketing System 'OnGo'. With this, the days of queuing up for tickets, tokens, top-ups and store value passes are gone.

- ⇒ Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) satellite launch capacity will soon get a boost. According to the ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar, the country's solitary launch pad centre at Sriharikota (Satish Dhawan Space Centre) will get a second vehicle assembly building by the end of this year.
- ⇒ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a five-member committee to discuss new measures for maintenance of standards in higher education and look at an overhaul of the present service conditions and appointment rules of teachers and other staff members in universities and colleges. the committee is headed by professor Sunil Kumar Gupta, former VC of Himachal Pradesh University.
- ⇒ American space agency NASA launched Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS-M) atop a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Centre in Florida. The satellite will help astronauts at the International Space Station communicate with the scientists on the earth.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court, in a landmark judgement, stroke out the automatic arrest of the husband and the members of his family, putting an end to the misuse of section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), i.e., dowry-related offences. the Court ruled that every complaint under Section 498A should henceforth be referred to Family Welfare Committees which will decide the course of action.
- ⇒ Europabruecke, the world's longest (1,620 feet) pedestrian suspension bridge has been opened in Randa, Switzerland.
- ⇒ The Delhi Metro has become the world's first ever Metro system to get green certification for all its major buildings and installations.
- ⇒ Isha Foundation has proposed a comprehensive river rejuvenation plan 'Rally for Rivers : India's Lifelines' to reverse the decline and revive our rivers. It involves creating and maintaining tree cover for a minimum of one kilometre on either side of the entire river length and half a kilometre for tributaries.  
Conceived by Sadguru, the rally flagged off from Isha Yoga Centre, Coimbatore and culminated in Delhi covering 13 States and 21 major cities.
- ⇒ The centre approved the proposal of the Uttar Pradesh government to rename the Mughalsarai railway station to Deen Dayal Upadhyay station.
- ⇒ India's first ever heli-taxi service has been inaugurated in Bangaluru to facilitate commuters to Kempegowda International Airport.
- ⇒ The Odisha government and Facebook launched the 'SheMeansBusiness' programme to train women entrepreneurs to expand their trade domain. This programme has been operational in 16 countries across the globe including India.
- ⇒ The India-ASEAN Youth Summit was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.



- ⇒ NASA's Voyager programme employed two robotic probes Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 to study the Solar System in 1977 completed 40 years. At present they are about 12 billion miles away from the earth. Both the spacecrafts are carrying golden records with various sounds of earth and international music, including one from India. The music from India is a Hindustani classical composition called 'Jaat Kahan Ho' sung by Kesarbai Kerkar, a noted Khayal singer.
- ⇒ According to the annual report of the Economist, Melbourne in Australia is the most liveable city in the world. Austrian capital Vienna got the second place out of 140 cities considered. The survey was conducted on five broad categories – stability, health-care, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.
- ⇒ In a bid to curb pollution, the Supreme Court issued a directive that the insurance of a vehicle will not be allowed unless the owner produces Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate.
- ⇒ Dr. Harshvardhan, the Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Science and Environment, Forests & Climate Change launched an Integrated Information Dissemination System (IDS) app named 'Sagar Vani' on the occasion of the Foundation Day of Ministry of Earth Sciences. The 'Sagar Vani' will serve the coastal community, especially the fishermen community with the advisories and alerts towards their livelihood as well as their safety at Sea.
- ⇒ An Indian Army team was crashed out of the international 'Tank Biathlon' held in Russia. The team could not advance to the next level following breakdown of its two F-90 tanks. The Indian Army has been participating in this competition for the past three years. It was for the first time that the Indian team was participating with its own T-90 tanks at the competition.
- ⇒ The 8th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting was held in Manila. India called for expanding the areas of cooperation among the member countries. MGC is an initiative by India and five ASEAN countries Colombia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
- ⇒ The World Bank has allowed India to construct hydro-electric power projects Kishanganga and Ratle on the tributaries of Jhelum and Chenab rivers in Jammu and Kashmir with certain restrictions under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty. Kishanganga project is on the Kishanganga River (which is called Neelum River in Pakistan) and Ratle Project is on the Chenub River.
- ⇒ The Union Agriculture Ministry and the Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) has signed a memorandum of association for setting-up a regional centre of the IRRI in Varanasi.
- ⇒ The game 'Blue Whale Challenge' recently caused havoc to the parents of the children and allegedly claimed over 130 deaths so far in India. The game is spread over 50 days. It instructs and challenges the participants to complete 50 tasks that include self-harm, body mutilation and watching scary videos. As the game progresses, participants reach the final day that supposedly culminates in suicide. The game is believed to have originated in Russia. The problem is, it is virtually impossible to trace the curator or admin for this game because the Blue Whale Challenge is not an app or a service which they download or subscribe to.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a new website in remembrance of heroes who have been awarded gallantry awards since independence. the website gives details of the Chakra Series awardees, i.e., Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.
- ⇒ The survey, conducted by the Quality Council of India (QCI) under the Swachh Bharat Mission in rural India found that Haryana and Kerala had the maximum toilet coverage of 99%.
- ⇒ The Union Home Ministry has issued an order to merge National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).
- ⇒ Hollongi in Arunachal Pradesh has been selected as the site for the first civilian airport in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ⇒ Nepal has launched its climate-smart snow leopard landscape management plan with an aim to safeguard the endangered species. The 'International Snow Leopard Summit and Ecosystem Forum' was hosted by Nepal recently.
- ⇒ Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi inaugurated the 'Indira canteen' in Bangauluru, Karnataka, which aims at serving the poor at subsidised rates. The canteen would serve the migrants who have come to Bangaluru with a dream to build something.
- ⇒ The Goa government passed a Bill which reclassified coconut as a 'tree', ensuring legal protection for it. The previous government had changed classification of coconut tree to a plam.
- ⇒ The Indian Army has developed and launched the 'Humraa' app, through which the soldiers can view their monthly salary slips and the Form 16 (TDS of Income Tax) and also download them.
- ⇒ Madras High Court ruled that 'Vande Matarm' should be sung in all schools and colleges across the state at least once in a week and in all offices, government or private, at least once a month.
- ⇒ The Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched 'Gaj Raj', a nation-wide campaign to protect elephants on the occasion of World Elephant Day (12 August).



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- ⇒ In a major push to competitive and cooperative federalism, the NITI Aayog announced partnership with three states each, to radically transform their Health and Education sectors.  
Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka have been selected to improve healthcare in the states. In education, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have been selected for support to better learning.
- ⇒ Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao sanctioned ₹ 2000 crore to modernise the Sriram Sagar Project on the Godavari river. It has the potential to boost water supply in several districts in the State.
- ⇒ According to the findings released by the Quality Council of India, almost all rural households in Kerala and Haryana had access to toilet while Bihar fared the worst.
- ⇒ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an unmanned, remotely operated tank named 'Muntra'.
- ⇒ Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited (RDEL) has been renamed as Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd. (RNEL), which is situated in Pipavav, Gujarat. It has recently launched two Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs) named 'Shachi' and 'Shruti'. These are the first warships to be launched by a private sector shipyard in India.
- ⇒ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman flagged off Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini) to circumnavigate the globe with an all-women crew from Goa. It has been named Navika Sagar Parikrama and the 6-member crew is headed by Lt. Commander Vartika Joshi. This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court has imposed a ban on the use of five harmful heavy metals – Lithium, Antimony, Mercury, Arsenic and lead in the manufacturing of firecrackers as they enhance air and noise pollution.
- ⇒ Britain announced that it would outlaw the sale of diesel and petrol cars from 2040 in a bid to cut pollution.
- ⇒ More than 60 children, suffering from encephalitis died at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur.
- ⇒ Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU), the country's first aviation university has been inaugurated at Fursatganj, Rae Bareilly in UP by the Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju.

## **Books & Authors :**

- ⇒ The Obelisk Gate – Nora K Jemisin (Hugo Award)
- ⇒ Reflective Shadows – Nagesh Prabhu
- ⇒ Indira Gandhi : A Life in Nature – Jairam Ramesh
- ⇒ India after Gandhi – Ramchandra Guha
- ⇒ The Red Haired Woman – Orhan Pamuk
- ⇒ Jasmine & Jinns – Sadia Dehlvi

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