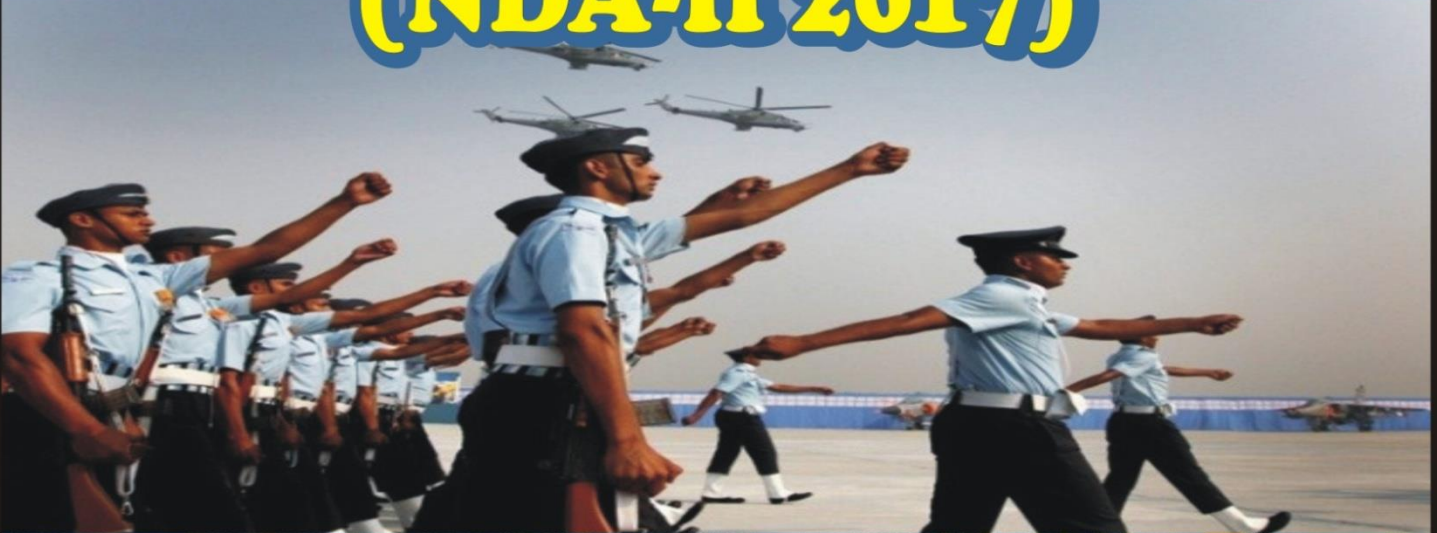




# **Current Affairs Booklet (NDA-II 2017)**



## GIST OR NATIONAL NEWS (CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR NDA-II 2017)

### NATIONAL

Shurhozelie Liezitsu has been sworn-in as the 17th Chief Minister of Nagaland, along with 10 other members of the Council. The 81-year old Naga People's front party President was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor PB Acharya at a ceremony in Kohima. He succeeded TR Zeliang, who resigned as the Chief Minister following widespread protests over reservation to women in local body elections.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has asked hospitals to display revised price list of cardiac stents. In a notification, the authority said that state drug controllers have also been sensitised on this issue and will inspect more hospitals to check the compliance with its price cap order issued. The authority has cut prices of life-saving coronary stents by upto 85 per cent by capping them at 7,260 rupees for bare metal and 29,600 rupees for drug eluting variety. NPPA has said the companies were under legal obligation to maintain smooth production and supply of the stents.


The Union Cabinet has decided to enhance solar power capacity from 20,000 Mega Watt to 40,000 Mega Watt for development of solar parks and ultra mega solar power projects. Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal said, the enhanced capacity will ensure setting up of atleast 50 solar parks each with a capacity of 500 Mega Watt and above in various parts of country. He said, solar parks and ultra mega solar power projects will be set up by 2019-20 with government's support of 8100 crore rupees.

Seven new miniature frog species which can comfortably sit even on a child's thumbnail have been discovered by Indian Scientists in the Western Ghats after five years of extensive exploration. The study conducted by two Delhi University-based researchers in the Western Ghats said that these frogs were overlooked earlier because of their insect-like calls and secretive habitats. Over 32 per cent, that is one-third of the Western Ghats frogs are already threatened with extinction. Out of the seven new species, five are facing considerable anthropogenic threats and require immediate conservation prioritization.

- Indian Navy has successfully test-fired an antiship missile for the first time from an indigenously built **Kalvari class submarine, describing the launch as a significant milestone in enhancing its "sub-surface" warfare prowess**. The weapon was fired from the submarine, the first of India's six Scorpene-class submarines which are being built under the **Project 75, and it "successfully hit" a surface target during the trial in the Arabian Sea**.
- India has successfully test-fired an indigenously developed supersonic interceptor missile capable of destroying incoming enemy ballistic missile at low altitudes. This **Advanced Air Defence (AAD)** missile, which was tested for the second time in less than a month, is part of an effort to put in place a multilayer missile defence system.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru University has won the annual visitor's award for the Best University- 2017**. President Pranab Mukherjee had announced institution of these awards in 2014 with the aim of promoting healthy competition amongst Central Universities and motivating them to adopt best practices from around the world in the pursuit of excellence.
- **National Science Day** was celebrated across the country on February 28 this year. The theme for this year was "Science and Technology for Specially Abled Persons". This day marks the epoch-making discovery of Raman Effect by Indian physicist C V Raman on February 28, 1928. His discovery was awarded with the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.
- The Supreme Court has issued an arrest warrant against serving **Calcutta High Court judge C SKarnan to ensure his presence before it on March 31 in a contempt case**. A seven-judge bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar directed the West Bengal Director General of Police to personally execute the arrest warrant on Justice Karnan to ensure his presence before it on March 31, the next date of hearing. The bench refused to consider a communication, written to apex court registry on March 8, as his response to the notice issued against him earlier.



- **Parliament has passed the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 with the Lok Sabha** approving it on 9<sup>th</sup> March. The Rajya Sabha has already cleared it. **The bill seeks to enhance paid maternity leave for women engaged in organised sector from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for two surviving children. It will be applicable to mines, factories and all establishments employing 10 or more people.** In his reply to the debate on the Bill in the Lok Sabha, Minister of Labour and Employment, Bandaru Dattatreya said the amendment has job, wages and social security aspects as its integral parts. He said violation of the provisions of the amendment bill would attract 3 to 6 months of imprisonment and a penalty of up to Rs 5000.
- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched the **web portal for obtaining Coastal Regulation Zone clearances**. The portal is a web-based system for obtaining clearances required from the Ministry under the by the Project proponents for ease of doing business.
- Indian Navy has **commissioned INS Tillanchang at Karwar, Karnataka. It is a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft** . It is the third ship of four follow-on WJFAC built by the Kolkata based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers. The **first two ships INS Tarmugli and INS Tihayu** which were commissioned in 2016.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

- The world's longest serving **warship INS Viraat was decommissioned by the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard** in Mumbai, Maharashtra after nearly six decades of service. This marks the end of an era of Viraat being the flagship of the Indian Navy as it had provided utmost protection to the country during many tense situations.
- The Union Government has launched the **first ever across-the river survey in River Ganga to determine the population of aquatic life, including that of the endangered Gangetic dolphin**. The survey will create a baseline scientific data for the government to take suitable measures to improve quality of the Ganga's water.
- **Eminent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail was selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman 2016** for his novel Hawthth. His novel was shortlisted out of 22 books written in as many languages. He will receive cash prize of Rs 15 lakh and a citation.
- The newly constructed **Tezu airport will be the first civilian airport of Arunachal Pradesh**. Tezu will smoothen transport to several high-altitude districts near the India-China border. **Tezu is the nearest town to Walong, where a legendary battle between Indian and Chinese soldiers took place in October 1962.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party has declared a landslide victory in crucial assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous state, in a result that is expected to boost his claim to a second term. It said, the month-long, fiercely fought vote in Uttar Pradesh and four other states have been seen as a referendum on PM Modi.

BJP Legislature Party leader **N Biren Singh** was sworn-in as the new **Chief Minister of Manipur** on 15th March, 2017. **Governor Najma Heptulla** administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Singh at Raj Bhavan in Imphal. Eight other MLAs including four from the NPP, one each from BJP, LJP, NPF and one who defected from Congress also took oath as Cabinet Ministers.

Chief Minister of Goa Manohar Parrikar won the vote of confidence during specially convened Goa Assembly by 22 - 16 votes. This was announced by protem speaker Siddharth Kunkolienkar after the vote of confidence on the floor.

Senior Congress leader Captain Amarinder Singh, has taken over as Chief Minister of Punjab and was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor VP Singh Badnore at Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh.


Indian Institute of Information Technology Public Private Partnership (IIIT-PPP) Bill, 2017 was also passed to “grant **statutory status to 15 IIITs set up under the PPP mode and declare them as Institutions of National Importance, to enable them to grant degrees to the students in the academic courses conducted by them**”. It also approved proposal for opening of 50 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) under Civil / Defence Sector in the country keeping in view the high demand for these schools for their quality of education and excellent results.

It also gave its approval for development of the **six laning of Handia-Varanasi section of NH-2 in Uttar Pradesh. This work will be under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase- V.**

- Five-time Parliamentarian **Yogi Adityanath** was sworn in as the **21st Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**. Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma were sworn in as Deputy Chief Ministers. They were administered the oath to the office and secrecy **by Governor Ram Naik** at oath taking ceremony held in Kanshiram Smriti Upvan in Lucknow. Besides them 47-member council of ministers also took oath.
- **Trivendra Singh Rawat** was sworn in as **ninth Chief Minister of Uttarakhand**. He was administered oath to office and secrecy by Governor Krishan Kant Paul at oath taking ceremony held in Parade Ground of Dehradun. Seven Cabinet Minister and two Ministers of State also took oath.
- The Government is considering bringing back import duty on wheat to protect farmers' interest after a bumper harvest in the country. Responding to concerns expressed by the opposition in the Rajya Sabha on farmers being forced to sell wheat below the minimum price, **Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan** said, raising import duty is under consideration and the government will take a decision soon. Mr Paswan said, the crop production this year has been at a record 96.64 million tonnes and 6.5 million tonnes of wheat is already in stock. **The Minister said, in 2015, a customs duty of 25 per cent was levied on wheat which was subsequently cut to 10 per cent** and it was totally removed in December last year.
- Union Cabinet has **approved setting up of National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes as a constitutional body. In this regard, constitutional amendment bill for amending Constitution mainly by insertion of Article 338B will be soon introduced in the Parliament.**
- The **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, NCST** has approved the proposal for **five additional seats for tribals in the Sikkim Assembly**. In its full meeting held in New Delhi, the Commission gave its approval to the proposal of increasing reserve seats for Scheduled Tribes from 12 to 17 in Sikkim Assembly. At present there are 32 members in the Sikkim assembly and now it would be increased to 40. The Tribal Affairs Minister in a release said, out of the proposed additional eight seats, five seats would be reserved for **Limbu and Tamang tribes**.
- Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel has said that **Injectible contraceptive Medroxy Progesterone Acetate (MPA) will be rolled out in the country in a phased manner**. In the Lok Sabha, she said that the government has approved **Injectible contraceptive** for introduction recently under the National Family Programme. It is being introduced first from the government medical hospitals and district hospitals.

- President Pranab Mukherjee has called upon all stakeholders to redouble their efforts for an early achievement of the goal of TB elimination. In his message on World Tuberculosis Day, Mr Mukherjee said, TB continues to be one of the major health challenges of India. **World Tuberculosis Day is observed on 24th March to commemorate the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch discovered the TB bacillus.**
- Rajya Sabha has passed HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014. The Bill seeks to safeguard the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. It aims to prevent social stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.
- The Uttarakhand High Court has recognized the Ganga and Yamuna Rivers as living entities. It is for the **first time any court in India has recognized a nonhuman as a living entity.**
- **History was created when Lok Sabha cleared all the four bills for the launch of the much-awaited Goods and Services Tax (GST), the country's biggest tax reform since Independence. The GST will unify the country into a common market, eliminating a string of central and state levies. Central taxes such as the central excise duty, additional excise duty, additional customs duty and service tax will all be merged into one CGST. State levies such as VAT, sales tax, entertainment tax, purchase tax, mandi tax, luxury tax, octroi and entry tax will be subsumed into SGST. [Important]**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for synergy between various Government Departments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Agricultural Universities to work out efficient cropping patterns and water-use mechanisms in the command areas of irrigation projects. The Prime Minister was reviewing the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, the Government's flagship irrigation programme with the officials of the concerned Ministries in New Delhi.  
The Supreme Court has banned the sale and registration of Bharat Stage III (BS-III) vehicles from April 1, when BSIV emission norms would come into force across the country, saying that health of citizens is more important than commercial interests. A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta said that BS-III vehicles could aggravate the already deteriorating air quality in the country and such a step was needed to handle the menace of pollution.
- Supreme Court has refused to restore administrative and Judicial work to Calcutta High Court Judge CS Karnan and granted him four weeks time to respond to contempt notice. A seven judge bench headed by **Chief Justice J S Khehar took note of personal appearance of Justice Karnan, a first in the history of Indian judiciary, and asked him to respond to the allegations leveled against various judges in his several communications.**
- Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry has launched the **e-Cinepramaan, an online film certification system of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). This initiative was launched on the lines of Union Government's vision of ease-of-doing business and digital India,** to make the entire process transparent and efficient.  
**Indian Air Force has formally launched web based e-billing system Aviation Turbine Fuel Digital Issue and Payment.** It was unveiled by Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa in New Delhi.  
**Kanha Tiger Reserve has become the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot - Bhoorsingh the Barasingha** - to present the hard ground swamp deer as the spirit of the reserve and spread awareness to save it from possible extinction. **Barasingha, or swamp deer, is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh. The Kanha tiger reserve, spread over Mandla and Balaghat districts, is the only place in the world where the species exists.**
- Parliament has unanimously passed the Goods and Services Tax Bills with the Rajya Sabha considering and returning to the Lok Sabha. Before returning these bills, it rejected all the amendments. **The Bills are Central GST, Integrated GST, Union Territory GST and GST Compensation. The Central GST deals with taxation related to Centre, integrated GST deals in taxation of inter-state movement of goods and services while the Union Territory GST Bill covers taxation in Union Territories.** Replying to the debate, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley assured the Rajya Sabha that agricultural produce will not be taxed under the new indirect tax regime. He said, all those items which are exempted as of now will continue to be exempted. On GST network,

- Union Cabinet has cleared approved setting up an independent rail regulator, **named Rail Development Authority** . It will be based in Delhi and will be set up through an executive order.
- **India, along with three other G 4 countries namely Brazil, Japan and Germany, have emphasized the principle of non-discrimination between current and new permanent members in an expanded Security Council of the United Nations.** Replying to supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said, the G4 has emphasized that as a principle, the new permanent members should have all the responsibilities and obligations as well as prerogatives of the current permanent members.
- In a bid to strengthen ties, India and Bangladesh signed nearly two dozen pacts comprising defence and civil nuclear cooperation after successful talks between their Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina who was on a four day visit to India. Mr. Modi held extensive discussions with Ms. Hasina on ways to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.
- The Parliament has passed **the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Prevention and Control Bill, 2017. It is the first national HIV law in South Asia.** The Bill seeks to safeguard the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. It aims to prevent social stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV (PLHIV).

**Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services**

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

- The Nation remembered Dr **Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, chief architect of Indian constitution, on his 126th birth anniversary on 14th April.** President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes at Babasaheb's Statue in the Parliament House Complex in New Delhi. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, chief architect of the Constitution of India, **was born on 14th April 1891 at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, which is now known as Dr Ambedkar Nagar. He was also the first law minister of India.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said the **government's 'DigiDhan' movement for digital payment is a step towards curbing the menace of corruption.** Speaking in Nagpur on the 126th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar on 14th April, Mr Modi launched **two new schemes under the BHIM App for referral bonus to individual users and cash-back for merchants to incentivise them.** Seeking to rope in youngsters to promote cashless transactions, the Prime Minister said any person who introduces someone to BHIM app, that person will get a cash back of 10 rupees and if someone refers 20 people a day, the person can earn 200 rupees. The **Prime Minister felicitated the winners of the mega draw of incentive schemes to promote digital payments – the Lucky Grahak Yojana and DigiDhan Vyapaar Yojana. He asked the awardees to become ambassadors of a less-cash campaign.** Mr. Modi also launched the ambitious **'Home for All by 2022' scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana** by performing ground-breaking for 21 projects coming up in Maharashtra. 42,000 affordable houses are to be built within 36 months in the State.

- **Centre has reduced the number of centrally sponsored schemes from 66 to 28 umbrella schemes, effective from the financial year 2016-17.** These schemes were reduced based on the recommendation of the sub-group of Chief Ministers on rationalisation of centrally sponsored schemes.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tribute to the martyrs who lost their lives in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. In a tweet, Mr Modi said, valour and heroism of the martyrs will never be forgotten. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place on **13 April 1919 when a crowd of nonviolent protesters, along with Baishakhi pilgrims, who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh** in Punjab's Amritsar, were fired upon by troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer.
- **April 13 this year marked the 33rd anniversary of Operation Meghdoot. Operation Meghdoot was an Indian armed forces operation launched on 13 April 1984 to capture the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir.** This military operation was unique because it was the first assault launched in world's highest battlefield.
- **Justice Gita Mittal has been appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court** with effect from April 14. Her appointment comes at the backdrop of the retirement of current Chief Justice Gorla Rohini.
- Union Cabinet has approved setting up of **Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** as Institute of National Importance through an Act of Parliament.
- **April 13 this year marked the 33rd anniversary of Operation Meghdoot. Operation Meghdoot was an Indian armed forces operation launched on 13 April 1984 to capture the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir.** This military operation was unique because it was the first assault launched in world's highest battlefield.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said civil servants should adopt new ways of doing work as per the changing times. Addressing bureaucrats on the 11th civil services day on 21st April.
- The **Union Cabinet has decided to ban the use of red beacons on all VIP vehicles, including those of the President, Vice-President and Prime Minister**, from May 1.
- The Supreme Court has questioned the **Centre for making Aadhaar mandatory for procuring Permanent Account Number (PAN) card. Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Centre, told a bench headed by Justice A K Sikri** that they have found that people were giving details of PAN cards which have been procured on the basis of fake documents. Rohatgi said there were instances that one person was having a number of PAN cards and these fake cards were being used to divert funds to shell companies. To this, the bench asked the Attorney General, whether this was the remedy that one need to have Aadhaar for having PAN. The apex court further asked why has Aadhaar been made mandatory.
- The government has said it would not take a decision on a Law Commission report, which has proposed stringent punishment against lawyers for misconduct, before holding consultations with the legal fraternity. Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters in New Delhi that the government has not taken any decision on the recommendations of Law Commission.
- Information and Broadcasting Ministry has asked the authorized officers to take action against the Multi System Operators and Cable Operators who are still transmitting analog signals on cable TV network. The Ministry, in an advisory issued to States and Union Territories said, every cable operator is mandated to transmit or retransmit programmes in an encrypted form through digital addressable system with effect from the 1st of this month. The advisory came in the wake of complaints about carriage of analog signals by the MSOs and Cable operators.



- The government has directed Internet service providers ISPs to block distribution and transmission of child sexual abuse content by 31st July. In an order, **Ministry of Electronics and IT said, ISPs having cable landing station gateways, international long distance licences in India shall be required to adopt and implement Internet Watch Foundation resources on or before 31st July.** The directive has been issued after the recommendation of an inter-ministerial committee that was constituted to recommend solutions to address the issue of child sexual abuse material following a Supreme Court order.
- **India has finalised its National Action Plan to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR).** This was announced the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, J P Nadda on April 19. Nadda said the government is ready with a **blueprint which meets global expectations and that AMR needs to be addressed comprehensively under the “One Health Approach”.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the maiden flight under the government’s regional connectivity scheme ‘**Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' (UDAN).** The Prime Minister inaugurated Alliance Air’s Shimla-New Delhi flight **from Jubbar Hatti airport near Shimla.** Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Air India, has deployed its 42-seater ATR plane on this sector.. Mr Modi called upon Airlines to start a Sikh circuit connecting important Gurudwaras.UDAN is a first-of-its-kind scheme globally to stimulate regional connectivity through a market-based mechanism. The government aims at connecting 45 unserved and under-served airports and make flying affordable by capping fares at 2500 rupees per seat per hour.
- The Supreme Court has said, Lokpal Bill is a workable piece of legislation and it is not justifiable to keep its operation pending. The apex court had reserved its verdict last month on a batch of pleas seeking the appointment of Lokpal in the country. The plea by NGO, Common Cause had sought a direction to the Centre to make the appointment of chairperson and members of Lokpal as per the amended rules framed under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013. **As per the Act, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha is part of a selection committee which appoints the Lokpal. Other members of the committee are the Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker, Chief Justice of India or his nominee and an eminent jurist.**
- Centre has released around 20 thousand crore rupees so far under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) for Jammu and Kashmir. This was disclosed at a high-level inter-ministerial meeting chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi. In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced a package of 80 thousand crore rupees for the state. An official release said, the PMDP will provide a major development push for Jammu and Kashmir. Besides, the Centre has also approved to provide one lakh jobs for undergraduates and school dropouts **under HIMAYAT scheme.**
- The Supreme Court has dismissed the Centres curative petition seeking a recall of its verdict giving police the liberty to probe the role of armed forces in alleged encounter cases in areas where AFSPA is in force. A bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar said that no case is made out within the parameters indicated in the decision of the apex court. The Centre had moved the Supreme Court on 12th April seeking recall of its verdict in the alleged extra-judicial killings case in Manipur. The Centre said the verdict negated the protection available to the armed forces under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, AFSPA during anti-militancy operations.
- President **Pranab Mukherjee conferred the 52nd Jnanpith Award on eminent Bengali poet Professor Sankha Ghosh at a function in New Delhi.** He was awarded for his outstanding contribution in the field of literature.
- Veteran Actor Vinod Khanna passed away in Mumbai on 27th April at the age of 70. He was suffering from cancer. Khanna was a sitting BJP MP from Gurdaspur constituency in Punjab and was recently admitted to a hospital.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued a contempt notice to Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar on a plea against him for blaming the Centre and the panel for damaging Yamuna floodplains by allowing his NGO to hold a cultural extravaganza. A bench headed by **NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar** issued the notice and sought his reply before the 9th May the next date of hearing.



- **Senior IPS Officer Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar has been appointed as the Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).**
- India has successfully carried out a fresh user trial of 3,000 kilometre range Agni-III ballistic missile from Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.
- The South Asia Satellite has been launched by **the Indian Space Research Organization ISRO successfully. The communication satellite on board the launch vehicle "GSLV F-Zero Nine" lifted off from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota** at 4.57 pm on 5th May and reached the geosynchronous transfer orbit. **The South Asia Satellite has 12 Ku band transponders meant for communication purposes. They can also be used for broadcasting services, tele-medicine, tele-education and disaster management. The total cost of the satellite mission has worked out to be 450-crore rupees including 235 crore rupees for the satellite alone. As Prime Minister Modi had announced earlier, it is a gift by India to its neighbours. Six of India's neighbours including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Srilanka and the Maldives have participated in the project. Pakistan pulled out of the project.** The participating nations would be given at least a dedicated transponder for their exclusive use. The launch is a great boost for South Asian regional cooperation in jointly undertaking development initiatives.
- The **Union Government has declared entire Assam, besides bordering areas of Meghalaya, as a disturbed area, under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), for three more months.** In a gazette notification, the Home Ministry cited violence perpetrated by insurgent groups like ULFA, NDFB and others as the reason for enforcing AFSPA for three more months with effect from the 3rd May.. AFSPA has been continuing in Assam since November, 1990.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

- The Centre has asked the Jammu and Kashmir Government to take immediate steps to stop unauthorised broadcast of Pakistani and Saudi Arabian channels in the state.
- Election Commission has said, it will hold all future elections using **Electronic Voting Machines with Voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT).** Chief Election Commissioner i told this to reporters after holding an all-party meeting in New Delhi on 12th May. **The meeting was convened to discuss the issues relating to the reliability of EVMs and VVPATs and electoral reforms.** Chief Election Commissioner said, the Commission will also offer an opportunity to all political parties to prove that EVMs used in the recently held polls were tampered with or can be tampered.
- **Government has exempted the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Meghalaya and citizens above 80 years from mandatory quoting of Aadhaar to obtain PAN cards and file tax returns. In a notification, the Finance Ministry said, the exemption has been given to an individual who does not possess the Aadhaar number or the enrolment ID.** The exemption will also apply on non-residents and non-citizens. he


government, under the Finance Act 2017, has made it mandatory for taxpayers to quote Aadhaar or enrolment ID of the Aadhaar application form for filing tax returns. Besides, quoting Aadhaar has also been made mandatory for applying for PAN with effect from 1st of July.

- **Supreme Court has said the practice of triple talaq is the worst and undesirable form of dissolution of marriages among Muslims, even though there were schools of thought which termed it as legal.** This observation came on the second day of continued hearing on the matter.
- A seven-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar **has sentenced the Calcutta High Court judge, Justice C S Karnan to six months of imprisonment for repeated incidents of contempt of court.** This is the **first time that the Supreme Court has sent a high court judge to jail on charges of contempt.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Supreme Court's Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS). This digital filing system will mark Supreme Court's first towards becoming a paperless, digital court.
- The Government has said prescription of generic medicines has been made compulsory in government hospitals. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Chemical and Fertilizer Minister Ananth Kumar said the Health Ministry has sent an advisory to the government hospitals in this connection.
- **Light combat aircraft 'Tejas' has successfully test-fired an air-to-air missile paving the way for powering the indigenously-built aircraft with missiles having beyond visual range (BVR) capabilities** The test-firing was conducted on a manoeuvrable aerial target at the interim test range at **Chandipur in Odisha** The Defence Ministry said that the objective was to assess the integration of the BVR missile with avionics fire-control radar launchers and missile weapon delivery system of Tejas The Ministry said all on-board systems performed satisfactorily during the launch and the missile scored a direct hit on the target destroying it completely.
- Election Commission has said, it will hold all future elections using **Electronic Voting Machines with Voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT).** **Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi** told this to reporters after holding an all-party meeting in New Delhi on 12th May. The **meeting was convened to discuss the issues relating to the reliability of EVMs and VVPATs and electoral reforms.** Chief Election Commissioner said, the Commission will also offer an opportunity to all political parties to prove that EVMs used in the recently held polls were tampered with or can be tampered.
- **National Technology Day was observed across India on May 11 to mark India's technological advancements. The theme for National Technology Day 2017 was 'Technology for inclusive and sustainable growth'. The day is commemorated to celebrate the anniversary of first of the five tests of Operation Shakti (Pokhran-II) nuclear test, held on 11 May 1998 in Pokhran, Rajasthan.**
- **Union Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave** passed away on 18th May, 2017. He was 60. Anil Madhav Dave was on July 6, 1956 in Badnagar of Madhya Pradesh. He was a Member of Parliament representing the state. He had also founded an organisation called **'Narmada Samagra'** for conservation of Narmada.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Narmada Seva Mission for the conservation of river Narmada,. The river serves as a lifeline of Madhya Pradesh.** He also released a road map for the series of steps to be taken for the conservation of **Narmada river. The event was organized at Amarkantak in Anoopur district of Madhya Pradesh. The event also marked the conclusion of 'Namami Devi Narmada Seva Yatra'.**
- The National Green Tribunal, NGT has banned open defecation and dumping of waste on the floodplains of the Yamuna. In an order issued on 19th May,. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar also constituted a committee headed by Delhi Jal Board CEO to oversee the execution of work pertaining to cleaning of the river and asked it to submit reports at regular intervals.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a two-part book series written by the eminent agricultural scientist **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. The series is titled - M.S. Swaminathan: The Quest for a world without hunger.**
- **The 24th bilateral exercise involving Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy has commenced in South China Sea. SIMBEX stands for "Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises".**
- **Indian Army will get its first artillery guns called M777 from BAE Systems after almost 30 years after the induction of Bofors howitzers. The Army has not inducted any modern artillery guns** after the induction of Swedish Bofors guns in late 1980s. Indian Army has plans to equip 169 regiments with 3,503 guns by 2020.
- **NITI Aayog held the first Samavesh meeting of the National Steering Group and other knowledge partners.** The meeting was conducted under the co-chairmanship of Amitabh Kant, CEO and Ratan P Watal, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog.
- **Anshu Jamsenpa has scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest for the fourth time. She is a native of Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh. Anshu Jamsenpa who is a mother of two children** had already ascended Mount Everest twice in a season that too taking only a gap of 10 days between the two climbs.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi has said every region of India is important for the NDA government. Addressing a public meeting at Khanapara in Guwahati on 26th May**, marking the third anniversary of NDA government, Mr Modi said the launching and laying foundation for projects worth Rs. 3500 crore shows the commitment and approach of his government which commands public support and is run by public participation. Earlier, he **inaugurated India's longest three lane, 9.15 Kms Bhupen Hazarika bridge over Brahmaputra river.** Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for two key projects an All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Changsari in Kamrup district and an extended campus of Indian Council for Agricultural Research at Gogamukh in Dhemaji district of Assam.
- The Union Government has come up with new regulations that ban the sale of cattle for slaughter. The central regulation for cattle protection has been notified under **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960.**
- A grateful nation paid homage to the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, on his 53rd death anniversary on 27th May. President Pranab Mukherjee offered floral tributes to Pandit Nehru at his memorial Shanti Van in New Delhi
- **Former Punjab Police chief, K.P.S. Gill, who tackled militancy in the state, died of cardiac arrest at Gangaram hospital in Delhi on 26th May.** He was 82. In May 1988, he conducted the **Operation Black Thunder-II with precision and** transparency, without evoking public protest to combat militancy.
- Union Health Minister JP Nadda has said, ensuring quality of healthcare in public and private sector hospitals is Government's key priority. Launching the 10th Common Review Mission report of the National Health Mission Mr Nadda emphasised the need for developing strong healthcare systems for eliminating diseases like leprosy, malaria and kala-azar. He said, innovative strategies and new ideas are needed to take on new challenges in healthcare sector.
- India has successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable **Prithvi-II missile** from a test range in Odisha as part of a user trial by the Army. **The trial of the surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur-on-sea in Odisha.**
- **Shashi Shekar Vempati has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati.**
- The Supreme Court has upheld the validity of the law **making Aadhaar mandatory for allotment of PAN and filing of Income Tax(IT) returns but exempted those without it for now** until the larger privacy issue is decided. In effect, those who possess an Aadhaar card must link it to their Permanent Account Number(PAN) card and those who have enrolled and not yet got their Aadhaar card are also exempted from mandatory linkage and the penalising invalidation of their PANs if they don't link it.



- The second edition of National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga was inaugurated by Minister of State for **AYUSH** (Independent Charge), Shri Shripad Yesso Naik at National Media Centre in New Delhi as a part of celebrations of the 3rd International Day of Yoga on 21st June, 2017. The theme of this year's conference was "Yoga for Health and Harmony". The water storage available in 91 major reservoirs of the country for the week ending on June 08, 2017 was 31.862 BCM, which is 20% of total storage capacity of these reservoirs.
- The **National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in collaboration with key partners organised the conference "Inclusive India Initiative: Towards an Inclusive India" for intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs). The 'Inclusive India Initiative' of National Trust is specifically catering to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; with an objective to include these people in the mainstream and in all important aspects of social life, namely education, employment and community 'Inclusive India' in about changing the attitudes.**
- NITI Aayog has launched **SATH, a program providing 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital' with the State Governments.** This has been launched for furthering the agenda for cooperative federalism. The **vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors.** The program addresses the need expressed by many states for technical support from NITI. **SATH aims to identify and build three future 'role model' states for health systems.**



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

- Union cabinet has approved the Interest Subvention Scheme for farmers for the year 2017-18. The Government has allocated Rs. 20,339 crore for this scheme. Under this scheme, farmers are to given a short term crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh payable within one year at an interest rate of 4% per annum. The scheme will be continued for one year. It will be implemented by NABARD and RBI.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Kochi Metro.. Prime Minister said, the coaches reflect 'Make in India' vision. Kochi Metro Rail Limited is a 50-50 Joint Venture of Centre and the Kerala government.
- Supreme Court has upheld the government's decision and ruled that **it would be mandatory for all Aadhaar holders to link it with the permanent account number (PAN) for filing of income tax returns.** However, the apex court refused to make it compulsory for those people who do not possess an Aadhaar card or have not yet applied for one.
- **President Pranab Mukherjee launched a mobile Application 'Selfie with Daughter' at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The App is aimed at raising awareness among people about female foeticide and sex selection.**
- DRDO has successfully test fired antitank '**Nag**' missile in Rajasthan. **The Nag missile is a third generation antitank guided missile which works on "fire and forget" principle.** The anti-tank missile has been equipped with the highly advanced Imaging Infrared Radar (IRR) seeker.

### National

- June 21st was celebrated across the world as International Yoga Day to promote yoga and make it as a part of people's daily routine. President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated a mass yoga demonstration to commemorate the 3rd International Day of Yoga at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the mass yoga demonstration at the Ramabai Ambedkar Maidan in Lucknow, on the occasion. The Yoga Day's theme for this year was "Yoga for Health".



- NDA Presidential nominee Ram Nath Kovind has filed his nomination for Presidential Election in Parliament House. Three set of nomination were filed on his behalf. Speaking to reporters after filing the nomination papers, Mr Kovind said, office of president is the highest constitutional post and in the past it has been adorned by eminent personalities like Dr Rajendra Prasad, Dr Radhkrishnan, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. Mr Kovind said, he will try constant development of the country to fulfill the aspirations of the people. Opposition parties have fielded former Lok Sabha speaker and senior Congress leader Ms Meira Kumar as their candidate. The election for the President post is scheduled for 17th July and counting of votes will take place on 20th of July.



- ISRO has successfully launched PSLV C-38 putting Cartosat-2 Series remote sensing earth observation satellite and 30 other nano-satellites into their orbits. The fortieth flight of its highly reliable polar satellite launch vehicle lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 23rd June. The satellite is the sixth in the Cartosat-2 series. It is the third earth observation satellite for India in space. It will provide spot-specific pictures in high resolution. Another highlight of the mission was the re-ignition of the rocket's engine during its flight and meticulously reaching all the intended goals of the technology demonstration. This is the third time such a novel experiment has been put to use during ISRO space flights.



- Government has announced the names of another 30 cities for development as smart cities under Smart City Mission. With this the total number of smart cities has gone up to 90. Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala has topped the list. Announcing the new batch of smart cities at a National Workshop on Urban Transformation, in New Delhi, Urban development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu said, 45 cities contested for 40 available smart city slots but only 30 were selected. With this the total investment approved under the smart city plans of 90 cities has gone up to Rs. 1 lakh 91 thousand 155 crore.





- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Communications Minister Manoj Sinha unveiled commemorative postage stamp to mark the completion of 50 years of the Passports Act-1967. Mrs Swaraj said this is an important occasion to introspect. She announced that the government has decided to issue passports in Hindi and English.




- Rural Uttarakhand and rural Haryana have been declared as the Defecation Free States of India under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin. Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala, have already been declared Open Defecation Free.

- Amid current standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in the Sikkim sector, Defence Minister Arun Jaitley has asserted that the situation was triggered by Beijing. Hitting out at China for asking the Indian Army to learn from historical lessons, Mr. Jaitley said that India of 2017 is different from what it was in 1962. He added that Bhutan had made it clear that the land in question belonged to it. Earlier, India expressed deep concern over the construction by China. It also conveyed to China that such a construction will significantly change the status quo with serious security implications for India.
- The Chief Election Commissioner Announced. Counting of votes(VP election) will take place on the August 5 itself. The CEC has said that no party can issue whips for voting. Elected and nominated members of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha vote in the election for the Vice President. **In the Rajya Sabha, 233 elected MPs and 12 nominated MPs will vote, while 543 elected MPs in the Lok Sabha and two nominated members will vote. A total of 790 members are eligible to cast their** votes in the Vice Presidential election.
- Union Minister for Urban Development and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, M. Venkaiah Naidu has announced a new batch of 30 smart cities under Smart City Mission. **The newly selected cities include Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, Naya Raipur in Chhattisgarh, Rajkot in Gujarat, Amravati in Andhra Pradesh, Patna and Muzaffarpur in Bihar among others.**
- Union Ministry of Science & Technology has launched **National Biopharma Mission. It is a first ever Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India.** Under this mission, **the ministry also launched Innovate in India (i3) program** to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector.
- Union HRD ministry has **constituted a new nine-member panel headed by space scientist K Kasturirangan to frame a new National Education Policy.** The other panel members belong to different sections and regions of the country reflecting the diversity of the country.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **centenary celebrations of Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad. The Prime Minister also released the coin and postal stamp in the honour of Shrimad Rajchandraji on his 150th birth anniversary at Abhay Ghat. Shrimad Rajchandraji was the guru to Mahatma Gandhi.**
- President Pranab Mukherjee has given the nod to an order pertaining to implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in Jammu and Kashmir.** The President cleared the order and sent it to Union Home Ministry for further action. The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly had passed a resolution in this regard after which the state cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti cleared a draft order for concurrence of the President. **The presidential order relates to the application of certain provisions of the Constitution of India through an order of the President issued under Article 370 that gives special status to**



the state. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has passed State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) law amid boycott by the opposition.

- The **Supreme Court has stayed the Uttarakhand High Court verdict according to the status of living human entities to rivers Ganga and Yamuna, two of India's major rivers.** A bench comprising Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice DY Chandrachud passed the order on Uttarakhand government's plea against the high court's judgement. **The Uttarakhand High Court had passed an order saying that rivers Ganga and Yamuna were living entities and Chief Secretary and Advocate General, being the senior officers of the State, were the legal faces to protect the rivers. The State Government, in its appeal before the apex court said, the rivers flow through four states, so Uttarakhand High Court alone cannot pass such an order declaring rivers Ganga and Yamuna as living entities.**
- **The Supreme Court has said, that all issues arising out of Aadhaar should be finally decided by its constitution bench. A three-judge bench, comprising Justices J Chelameswar, A M Khanwilkar and Navin Sinha,** asked the petitioners to urge the Chief Justice to set up a constitution bench to decide the issues relating to Aadhaar.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed **election commissioner Achal Kumar Joti as the next Chief Election Commissioner. He will be the 21st CEC and will succeed Nasim Zaidi.** He will continue as CEC till 17 January 2018.


**indus  
academics**

### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

- Senior IPS **officer Sanjay Kumar has been appointed as Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).** Mr Kumar is a 1985-batch Indian Police Service officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre.
- The National Green Tribunal, NGT, has passed a slew of directions to rejuvenate River Ganga. It declared as 'No-Development Zone' an area of 100 metres from the edge in the stretch between Haridwar in Uttarakhand and Unnao in Uttar Pradesh. The NGT, in its 543-page judgment, said, there shall be no dumping of waste of any kind within 500 metres from the edge of the River. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar also declared that an environment compensation of Rs 50,000 will be imposed on anyone who dumps waste in the river.
- **The Government has said that services provided by an educational institution to students, faculty and staff are fully exempt from GST. The Finance Ministry said, there are some reports that 18 per cent GST will be levied on annual subion and fees charged for lodging in hostels, which is not true.** The Ministry said, there is no change in tax liability relating to education and related services in the GST, except reduction in tax rate on certain items of education. It clarified that no GST will be on the annual subion or fees charged as lodging and boarding charges by educational institutions from its students for hostel accommodation.

- President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to **Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2016. Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to formulate a law to punish social boycott.** The presidential assent paves the way for the state to strictly enforce the law to deal with the scourge of social boycott with an iron hand.
- **Indian scientists have discovered an extremely large supercluster of galaxies**, which is as big as 20 million billion suns. **Pune-based Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, IUCAA** team of astronomers has named it **Saraswati. IUCAA said, this is one of the largest known structures in the neighbourhood of the universe.** It is 4,000 million light-years away from Earth and roughly more than 10 billion years old.
- **Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu has dedicated country's first solar powered DEMU train to the nation at an event in New Delhi. The** 1600 Horse Power train with solar powered coaches has special battery bank for use during night hours.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL RELATION + ORGANISATIONS IN NEWS + MILITARY EXERCISES

### GIST OF IMPORTANT NEWS FOR UPSC NDA EXAM

#### MARCH-JULY 2017:

India and China held their first strategic dialogue in Beijing to shore up bilateral ties. In his opening remarks at the dialogue, Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar said, the bilateral relations have really acquired a very steady momentum over many years.

- The United Nations envoy on human rights in Myanmar called for the creation of a **Commission of Inquiry (COI), the UN's highest-level probe**, to investigate abuses in the country. Human Rights envoy Yanghee Lee made the appeal in a report submitted to the UN rights council, currently holding its main annual session in Geneva. She urged the 47-member body to establish a COI to investigate the systematic, structural and institutional discrimination in policy, law and practice, as well long-standing persecution, against the Rohingya and other minorities **in Rakhine State**.
- The **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Leaders' Summit was held from March 5 to 7, 2017 in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia**. The theme of the summit was 'Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indian Ocean'. It was attended by leaders from **21 member states** of IORA. Vice President Hamid Ansari attended the two-day summit.
- The Donald Trump administration has issued a new executive order, temporarily banning travel from six Muslim-majority countries to the U.S., after an earlier order ran foul of the country's judiciary. The new executive order bans travel from six countries - Sudan, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen, **leaving out Iraq that was also in the list of barred countries in the January order**.
- **Pakistan National Assembly** has passed the **Hindu Marriage Bill 2016**, after amendments made by the Senate, to regulate marriages of Hindus in Pakistan.
- **European Space Agency** successfully launched **Sentinel-2B satellite**, fifth of its Sentinel Earth **observation satellites** part of its multi-billion-euro Copernicus observation program.
- **India was ranked 131 in the 2016 Human Development Index (HDI)** among the 188 countries released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). India scored 0.624 and was placed in medium human development category. India's rank was 130 in 2015. Norway Topped the ranking. **The world's top three countries in HDI are Norway (0.949), Australia (0.939) and Switzerland (0.939)**.
- The HDI is a measure for assessing progress in **three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and access to a decent standard of living**.
- **World Meteorological Day was observed on 23rd March**. It marks the establishment of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on this day in 1950. The theme for this year was "**Understanding Clouds**". It seeks to highlight the enormous importance of clouds for weather climate and water.
- **World Water Day was observed on 22nd March** to spread message of preservation and rational consumption of water. The day focuses attention on the importance of universal access to clean



water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in developing countries. It also advocates for sustainable management of freshwater resources. The **theme for this year was “Why waste water?”**

- The **11th edition of the Earth Hour** was observed across the world on **25 March to take** a global call on climate change. To mark this day, cities worldwide turned their lights off from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm local time.
- The **US has carried out a missile attack** against targets in Syria in response to a suspected **chemical weapons attack on a rebel-held town in Idlib province. A Pentagon official said about 50 Tomahawk cruise missiles were** fired from Navy destroyers in the eastern Mediterranean at a Syrian air base.
- India and Israel have signed mega defence deals worth over 2 billion dollar for **advanced surface to-air missile (SAM) systems**, to further tighten the bilateral strategic partnership ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel in July. **The SAM systems are designed to destroy hostile aircraft, missiles and drones at a range of 70- km.** Ministry of Defense sources said the major deal was for the joint project between the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for the **Barak-8 mediumrange SAM** systems to initially include one regiment of 16 launchers and 560 missiles for the Indian Army.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

• **World Health Day** was observed on **7th April**. The **World Health Organisation has led a one-year global campaign on depression which is the leading cause of ill health and disability worldwide**. The goal of the campaign is that more people with depression, everywhere in the world, both seek and get help. **World Health Day is celebrated on 7th of April every year to mark the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization.**


• India has called off maritime security dialogue with Pakistan amid tensions over death sentence being awarded to **Kulbhushan Jadhav on** charges of spying. A delegation led by Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency was to visit New Delhi from 16<sup>th</sup> April to discuss issues related to fishermen and search and rescue operations. Coast Guard sources said, the Ministry of Defence has not given clearance for the delegation's visit. The development comes amid tension between the two countries over Jadhav, a former Indian naval officer, being awarded death sentence by a Pakistani military court. India has said if Jadhav were to be executed, it will be considered as a premeditated murder.

- The United States and Russia have agreed for an international investigation into the suspected chemical weapons **attack in Syria last** week. The joint bid for the United Nations and weapons experts to **investigate the sarin gas attack** came after US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.
- **UN chief Antonio Guterres**(Secretary-General serves as the **chief** administrative officer of the **United Nations. Antonio is 9<sup>th</sup> secretary general**) has named a German with extensive experience at the world organization, **Achim Steiner, as the new administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP). Headquartered in New York City**, the UNDP seeks to reduce poverty, improve social development and encourage women's empowerment.
- India has objected to China renaming six places in Arunachal Pradesh. It said inventing names of states of a neighbour does not make an illegal occupation legal. In reply to a media query, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Gopal Baglay said, Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India and will always remain so.
- China recently announced that it has standardised official names for six places in Arunachal Pradesh and termed it as legitimate action. It came days after Beijing lodged protest with India over Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama's visit to the state.
- Five prominent Madhesi parties in Nepal have united to form a new united party named the **Rastriya Janata Party**. The Rashtriya Janata Party will be the fifth largest party in Nepal's Parliament. This announcement of unification has come ahead of elections to local government bodies scheduled on May 14.
- The UN Security Council has strongly condemned the recent ballistic missile test by North Korea. In a unanimous statement, Security Council members expressed their utmost concern over Pyongyang's flagrant and provocative defiance of U N sanctions. North Korea last Saturday tried and failed to launch a missile from its submarine base at Sinpo off its eastern coast.
- In Germany, lawmakers have partially banned burqa, the Islamic veil, as part of security measures to prevent extremist attacks. The prohibition will apply to public servants, including election officials, military and judicial staff. The measures follow several attacks, including a Berlin Christmas market attack that claimed 12 lives, and come ahead of the September elections.
- NASA's Cassini spacecraft has successfully executed its historic first-ever dive through the narrow gap between the planet Saturn and its rings, marking the beginning of the 'Grand Finale' of the 20-year-long journey. The spacecraft is in the process of beaming back science data collected during its passage, through NASA's Deep Space Network Goldstone Complex in California's Mojave Desert. Cassini was programmed to collect science data while close to the planet and turn toward Earth to make contact about 20 hours after the crossing. Its next dive through the gap is scheduled for May 2nd. Launched in 1997, Cassini arrived at Saturn in 2004.
- Nepal's **first woman Chief Justice Sushila Karki** resumed office after the Supreme Court ordered her reinstatement and directed Parliament to put on hold the impeachment motion against her. The court issued the order saying that the impeachment move was against the spirit of the country's Constitution. The order came in response to a writ petition against the motion. Justice Karki was suspended after an

impeachment motion was registered in Parliament\ by ruling Nepali Congress and CPN (Maoist Centre). They accused her of interfering with the executive and issuing prejudiced verdicts.

- The US House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved a legislation to tighten sanctions on North Korea. The sanctions target shipping industry and companies that do business with Pyongyang. Supporters said, the legislation was intended to send a strong message to North Korea, amid international concern over the escalation of its nuclear programme. Reacting on the legislation, Chinese Foreign Ministry said, Beijing opposes any unilateral sanctions and urged all sides to exercise restraint to avoid any escalation. On the other hand, North Korea has accused the US Central Intelligence Agency of plotting with South Korea to assassinate its leader Kim Jong-Un.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said the biggest challenge to sustainable world peace is from mindsets rooted in hate and violence, and not necessarily from conflict between the nation states. Speaking at the **International Vesak Day celebrations in Colombo**, Mr. Modi said, he firmly believe that Buddhism’s message of peace was the answer to growing arc of violence all over the world. The Prime Minister said, India will continue its development assistance to Sri Lanka in various sectors and would like to see that fruits of fast development in India also reach Sri Lanka.
- India has received a stay order preventing Pakistan from executing the death sentence awarded to the former naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav from the International Court of Justice at The Hague. India's team of lawyers led by senior advocate Harish Salve accused Pakistan of gross violations of international laws. They also pointed out the violations of the Geneva convention that dealswith Consular relations.
- Emmanuel Macron has been elected French President. He defeated Marine Le Pen, a farright nationalist who threatened to take France out of the European Union. Macron,39, will be the youngest president in the French history.
- In South Korea, Moon Jae-in has been declared winner in the presidential election. Moon will replace the ousted President Park Geun-hye, who was ejected from office in March after a corruption scandal for which she’s awaiting trial. **Park was South Korea’s first female President who has been impeached in a corruption scandal.**
- **International Court of Justice at The Hague** has ordered Pakistan not to execute the former Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav for now. Jadhav was convicted by a Pakistan military court on charges of alleged espionage and terrorism. The world court rejected Islamabad’s argument that the UN’s top legal body did not have jurisdiction in the case. In “provisional measures” adopted unanimously, the 12-judge tribunal said it would remain “seized of the matters” in its order until it gives a final judgment.
- **India has boycotted the Belt and Road Forum summit organized by China** owing to sovereignty concerns related to **the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**. Belt and Road Forum is a gathering of world leaders from across the globe, organized by China to showcase its plans to build a network of trade routes under the **One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative**. **As of now, 68 countries and international organisations** have signed belt and road agreements with China.
- China and ten members of the ASEAN grouping have agreed to a framework of a legally binding code of conduct aimed at preventing disputes in the strategic South China Sea. Though the draft of the framework has been finalised, no details about the text of the framework agreement has been released.

- A global cyber-attack crippled nearly hundred countries, including India. A cyber gang called **Shadow Brokers** has been held responsible for this massive cyber-attack. The organisation has carried out the attack by stealing a **hacking tool called 'Eternal Blue'** from the National Security Agency (NSA), America's powerful military intelligence unit.
- **The Juno spacecraft of NASA has** discovered Earth-sized cyclones at the poles of the **Jupiter**. The presence of the storm systems that travel deep into the heart of the planet was unveiled. Both the poles of the Jupiter have been found to be covered with Earth-sized swirling storms which are densely clustered and rubbing together.
- India and Russia have inked 5 pacts after wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Russia. Both countries have also decided to hold the **first tri-Services exercises, named 'Indra-2017'**, this year. Of all the agreements, the agreement on setting up of Units 5 and 6 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu with the Russian help was a much-awaited agreement. Mr Modi also met and interacted with sixteen Governors of various provinces of Russia to envisage a nurturing bilateral relationship.

**Indus Academics: Pathway to  
career in Defence Services**

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

- Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' resigned from his post. He was elected as the 39th Prime Minister of Nepal. Prachanda has stepped down honouring a power sharing agreement entered by him with the ruling partner Nepali Congress on August 3, 2016. Sher bahadur deuba is the current prime minister of Nepal.
- US President Donald Trump has announced that his country is set to withdraw from the historic **2015 Paris Accord (Climate summit: goal was to keep temperature rise below 2 degree centigrade)** as the accord was hurting the U.S. and It's economy very badly. However, he has said that he is open for a "new transaction" on terms that are fair to the US. With the decision to pull out, the United States will join the short list of countries including **Syria and Nicaragua that are not a part of the Paris Accord** which has been signed by 195 countries in 2015. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change came into effect in November last year.
- India has reiterated its commitment to protect climate. On the backdrop of the US, announcing to withdraw itself from the 2015 Paris climate agreement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India is committed to protecting climate, irrespective of whether or not the accord is implemented. He said




exploitation of nature is a crime and country's five thousand years old culture has always emphasized on preserving mother nature.

- In Ireland, a 38 years old Indian origin **Leo Varadkar** has been elected as the new Prime Minister. He will also be the youngest person ever and the first from an ethnic minority background to become the Prime Minister of Ireland.
- India **has been ranked 137th in the Global Peace Index 2017**, which ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peaceful India was ranked 141st in Last year's index.
- **World No-Tobacco Day was observed on 31st May**. This day highlights the health risks associated with consumption all forms of tobacco and advocates for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. World No Tobacco Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the WHO. **The theme for the day this year was "Tobacco – a threat to development."**
- The **17th summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation - SCO began in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan on June 8**. India has been inducted as full member in the SCO comprising six Central Asian Republics, namely **China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**. The Prime Minister participated in the summit deliberations on matters related to peace and security in the Central Asia region and world at large.
- Switzerland has ratified automatic exchange of information (AEOI) sharing with India and 40 other countries to facilitate immediate sharing of details about suspected black money. It, however, sought strict adherence to confidentiality and data security laws. The Swiss Federal Council, the country's top governing body, in a statement said that the protocol will be implemented next year and the first set of information is planned in 2019.
- Legal **expert Neeru Chadha has** been elected to the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Seas (ITLOS)**. **She has become the first Indian women** to win a crucial election to a top UN judicial body that deals with disputes related to the law of the sea. **Neeru is also the first Indian woman to be appointed as a judge at the ITLOS.**
- India has moved up 6 places to reach **60th place among 130 countries in the Global Innovation Index 2017**. It has emerged as the top-ranked economy in Central and South Asia. The index is **jointly prepared by Cornell University, INSEAD and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**.
- The US has designated Hizbul Mujahideen Chief Syed Salahuddin as a global terrorist. The 71-year-old Salahuddin also leads the United Jihad Council, which is an umbrella organisation of militant groups operating in Kashmir.
- Two Indian-Americans, Adobe Chief Shantanu Narayen and former US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy are among 38 immigrants to be honoured this year for their role in helping advance the country's society, culture and economy. Narayen and Murthy will be honoured with the prestigious 'Great Immigrants' annual award on US's Independence day on Tuesday.
- India and Israel inked seven agreements on areas including space, tech and agriculture during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel. **Mr. Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel. Also, the Prime Minister's visit marked the 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relationship between India and Israel.**

- Leaders of the G20 countries agreed for swift action and targeted exchange of information on terrorism and its financing. In a statement released at the end of the first day of the 12th **G20 Summit in Hamburg(GERMANY)**, the member countries decided to take concrete steps to stop funding of the terror activities. The leaders also decided that the private sector will also be involved in the global efforts to counter terror financing.
- During the **G-20 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented 11-point action plan on counter terrorism for the member nations**. It proposes exchange of information on designated terrorists between the G-20 nations. The agenda proposed by Mr. Modi also calls for quick adoption of Comprehensive Convention of International Terrorism. The action plan also underlines the need for concrete action plan on cyber security to counter terrorism.
- External Affairs Ministry has said diplomatic channels will continue to be used for resolving the standoff between the armies of India and China in Doklam area in Sikkim. (Note: Doklam is not an Indian territory. India is only bound to its agreement with Bhutan to protect Aggression.)
- Pakistan **Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has resigned after the Supreme Court disqualified** him in the Panama Papers case. Mr Sharif, his daughter and two sons have been engulfed by corruption charges as pointed in Panama Paper leaks last year. The scandal revealed that Nawaz Sharif's sons, Hassan Nawaz and Hussain Nawaz and his daughter Maryam Nawaz owned offshore companies which managed their family's properties. The judges ruled that the Pakistan Prime Minister had been dishonest to Parliament and the courts, in not disclosing his employment in a Dubai-based company in his 2013 nomination papers, and thus, could not be deemed fit for his office. The court also ordered the National Accountability Bureau to file a reference in an accountability court in six weeks. The Election Commission of Pakistan was also ordered to issue a notification declaring the Prime Minister's disqualification. It is the third time that Nawaz Sharif has been unable to complete his term.
- North Korea has conducted a new Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Test, second in a month. In a statement, US military said, the latest missile was launched last night from an arms plant in Jagang province and landed about 1,000 kilometers from the launch site. Japan said, the missile is believed to have landed in its exclusive economic zone 45 minutes after the launch. Experts said, the missile had a range of about 10,000 kilometers and is capable of striking Los Angeles and other US cities. **Pyongyang had conducted its first ICBM test three weeks ago**. Meanwhile, US and the South Korean military have conducted a live firing exercise using surface-to-surface missiles.
- Sri Lanka's cabinet has cleared a revised agreement for leasing majority stake in **Hambantota port to a Chinese state** owned company. The agreement tries to allay concerns by several other countries saying **Sri Lanka will have control over port activities including security. Under the new deal, the Sri Lankan government has sought to limit** China's role to running commercial operations at the port while it has oversight of broader security. No military ships will be allowed in the port. India had raised concern in 2014 when a Chinese submarine docked in Colombo.
- India has expressed concern over the freedom enjoyed by Jamaat-ud-Dawa Chief Hafiz Saeed and his organisations in Pakistan to conduct terror acts against India and others. Talking to reporters in New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson
- Qatar's Cabinet has approved a draft law making permanent residency available to some non-citizens, marking a partial shift from its reliance on its longstanding visa-sponsorship system. The energy-rich Gulf nation said in a statement that the residency permits could be granted to children of Qatari women married to foreigners, people who "offered valuable services to the country" and those with special skills. As in many Arab countries, a Qatar child's citizenship is granted based on the father's nationality.

- India and other four members of the BRICS grouping members (Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa) have pledged to fight against protectionism. In this regard, the decision was taken at **the two-day meeting of the trade ministers from BRICS nations held at Shanghai, China**. They released a joint statement highlighting various issues and the need to address them collectively.
- ISRO and NASA are jointly working towards realization of NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission by 2021. In NISAR mission, NASA is responsible for development of L-band SAR and ISRO is responsible for development of S-band SAR. The L & S band SAR will be integrated with ISRO's spacecraft and launched onboard India's GSLV.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

## OTHER BILATERAL NEWS/ MAJOR ORGANISATIONS IN NEWS

### India US - India Designated as Major US Defense Partner

#### Context

- Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and United States Secretary of Defence Ashton Carter finalised India's designation as a Major Defense Partner of the United States. This was announced in the India-US joint statement on Carter's visit to New Delhi. India's Major Defense Partner status has, however, been made a part of the India Amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act, 2017 (NDAA), approved by the US Congress to allocate funds annually to the US military. This Bill is expected to be passed shortly which will put a formal, official stamp on India's status.
- Besides recognizing India's status as a Major Defense Partner, the India Amendment will designate an American official to ensure the success of the Framework for the United States-India Defense Relationship which was signed last year, to approve and facilitate the transfer of advanced technology, and to strengthen the effectiveness of the US India Defense Trade and Technology Initiative and the durability of the India Rapid Reaction Cell in Pentagon.

### India Afghanistan - Afghan-India Friendship Dam

#### Context

- Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have inaugurated a multi-million-dollar dam in western Afghanistan that will bring power and irrigation to vast tracts of the war-torn country.

### Salma Dam (Friendship Dam):

- The Afghan-India Friendship Dam in Herat province, which borders Iran, was built with Indian aid at a cost of \$300 million and was under construction for about a decade.

## South China Sea Dispute

### Context

- In July 2016, an international Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in its pronouncement had ruled that China has no legal basis over the entire SCS. However, China has rejected PCA verdict and continue to claim its hold on SCS.
- China while claiming its rights over South China Sea has built artificial islands capable of supporting military facilities that is strategically vital to that region.

### South China Sea

- The South China Sea (SCS) is a controversial region on which China exerting territorial rights over its large part. Some of these territorial claims have been challenged by Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.
- The area is made up of some 200 tiny islands, coral reefs, shoals, sandbanks etc. grouped into three archipelagos of Spratlys, Paracels and Pratas. The South China Sea (SCS) center on two major areas: the Nansha Islands (the Spratly Islands) and the Xisha Islands (the Paracel Islands).
- The **Nansha Islands** consist of more than 230, perhaps as many as over 400, islands, cays, reefs, atolls, banks and shoals, and are dispersed over some 250,000 square km of the South China Sea.
- The **Xisha Islands** consist of more than 20 islands, cays, atolls, reefs banks and shoals lying about 150 nautical miles south of Hainan Island, China.

### Disputes

- None of these islands and other features is permanently inhabitable. Sovereignty over these islands or some of them and other features has been hotly contested by five nations—China (including the local authorities in Taipei), Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.
- Of these contesting parties, China and Vietnam claim sovereignty of the Nansha Islands in their entirety but has been firmly under Chinese control and administration since the battle at sea in 1974 between China and South Vietnam.

## Syria – Battle of Aleppo

### Context

- The conflict began in 2011 with the Arab Spring. Syrians, like other peoples across the region, rose up peacefully against their authoritarian government.

### Aleppo

- In 2011, Aleppo was Syria's largest city, with a population of 2.5 million people. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it has been described by 'Time' as Syria's commercial capital.
- Nationwide protests against President Bashar al-Assad began on 15 March 2011, as part of the Arab Spring. (The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions that spread across the Middle East in early 2011).

### Context

- In a four nation visit to Africa by the Indian Prime Minister on July 2016, India and Mozambique have signed three MoUs in areas of drug trafficking, pulse trading and sports.



### Agreement on Pulse trading

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mozambique for import of pulses either through the private channels or Government-to-Government (G2G) sales through State Agencies nominated by the two countries is a long term agreement.
- According to the agreement, India will encourage greater production of pulses in Mozambique with an assurance that it will be purchased by India at a mutually agreed price.
- The agreement is a win-win for the two countries as India generally has a shortfall of pulses leading to price rise, Mozambique grows the commodity without much consumption locally.
- The agreement enables India to import 100,000 tonnes of pulses in 2016-17 with an option to scale it up to 200,000 tonnes by 2020-21.

## Indus Water Treaty

### About Indus River

The River Indus rises in Tibet, near Lake Mansarowar. Flowing west, it enters India in the Ladakh district of Jammu and Kashmir. Several tributaries, the Zaskar, the Nubra, the Shyok and the Hunza, join it in the Kashmir region. The Indus flows through Baltistan and Gilgit and emerges from the mountains at Attock. The Satluj, the Beas, the Ravi, the Chenab and the Jhelum joins together to enter the Indus near Mithankot in Pakistan. Beyond this, the Indus flows southwards eventually reaching the Arabian Sea, east of Karachi.

### Historical background to Indus Water Treaty


- During the first years of partition the waters of the Indus were apportioned by the Inter-Dominion Accord of May 4, 1948 which requires India to release sufficient waters to the Pakistani regions of the basin in return for annual payments from the Government of Pakistan.
- From the Indian point of view, there was nothing that Pakistan could do to prevent India from any of the schemes to divert the flow of water in the rivers. Pakistan's position was dismal and India could do whatever it wanted.
- In December 1954, the two sides came to the negotiating table. The World Bank proposal was transformed from a basis of settlement to a basis for negotiation and the talks continued, stop and go, for the next six years.
- Finally with the various odds and even, the treaty was signed by the Prime Ministers of both countries in 1960.
- The Indus treaty stands out as the world's most generous water-sharing arrangement by far, in terms of both:
  - a) Water sharing ratio (80.52 per cent of the aggregate water flows in the Indus system reserved for Pakistan).
  - b) Total volume of basin waters for the downstream state (Pakistan gets 90 times greater volume of water than Mexico's share under a 1944 pact with the U.S.).
- The treaty also provides for the partitioning of the rivers by drawing a virtual line on the map of India to split the Indus Basin into upper and lower parts, limiting India's full sovereignty rights to the lower section (the eastern flowing rivers) and reserving for Pakistan the upper rivers of J & K the so called western flowing rivers.
- It is the only inter-country water agreement which has the doctrine of restricted sovereignty; where in the upper riparian state has not to interfere in the downstream state.
- The treaty curbs India's control over the timing and quantum of Pakistan earmarked rivers' trans-boundary flows.

## ORGANISATIONS IN NEWS

### ASEAN 2016 - Summit held in Vientiane, Laos

#### Context

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit was held in Vientiane, Laos from 6th to 8th September 2016.
- The theme of the summit was “Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community”.

**Indus Academics: Pathway to  
career in Defence Services**

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

#### ASEAN

- ASEAN is a group of 10 South Asian nations which came into existence on August 8, 1967 after ASEAN declaration (also known as Bangkok declaration).
- It is a regional organisation comprising that aims to promote intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic integration amongst its members.
- **Founder countries of ASEAN:** Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines and Thailand.
- **Motto:** “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.
- **10 Members:** Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

### ORF (Observer Research Foundation)

#### Context

- ORF in collaboration with MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) organized its second edition of Raisina Dialogue from 19th to 21 January 2017, which is India’s premier foreign policy dialogue.

#### ORF

- Observer Research Foundation (ORF) is an independent think tank based in India. ORF was founded by the Ambani family and is currently endowed by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Group

## Raisina Dialogue

### Context

- The second edition of Ministry of External Affairs' annual Raisina Dialogue was held in New Delhi in Jan 2017.
- Theme: "The New Normal: Multilateralism in a multipolar world".
- The flagship geo-political conference was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi and was attended by delegates from 65 countries.

### About Raisina Dialogue

- Raisina Dialogue is an annual conference held in New Delhi.
- It is envisioned to be India's flagship conference of geopolitics and geo-economics.
- The conference is held jointly by Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), an independent think tank based in India.
- The name of conference comes from **Raisina Hill** which is the elevation in New Delhi where presidential palace of India, Rashtrapati Bhavan is located.
- It is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectorial conclave, involving policy and decision makers, including cabinet ministers from various Governments, high-level Government officials and policy practitioners, leading personalities from business and industry etc.
- It is organized on the lines of the **Shangri-La Dialogue held in Singapore**.

## RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership)

### Context

- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) countries are concerned to give greater market access to Chinese goods without gaining in return. All these countries are also worried about agreeing to eliminate tariffs altogether, a move that will mainly help China.

### RCEP

- RCEP is the proposed mega-regional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between 16 Asia-Pacific countries.
- Member Countries: India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and the 10-member ASEAN bloc.
- The RCEP negotiation process had started in 2013.
- The proposed FTA aims to open up trade in goods and services as well as liberalise investment policies.
- **Objective:** To attain a modern, comprehensive economic partnership that covers not only goods but also trade in services, investments, technical cooperation, intellectual property, dispute settlement and other related matters.

## SCO - Shanghai Cooperation Organization Meet, 2016

### Context

- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in June 2016.
- The 2-day meeting of heads of state of SCO conducted under the presidency of Uzbekistan.

### SCO

- SCO is a Eurasian economic, political and military organisation.

- **Established:** 2001 in Shanghai by the leaders 6 countries viz. China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Now 8 countries. India and Pakistan became member in June 2017.
- **Headquarters:** Beijing, China.
- **Aim:** Jointly preserving and safeguarding regional peace, security and stability and also establishing a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.
- SCO's first enlargement was in 2001 with addition of Uzbekistan and second enlargement was in July 2015 with addition of 2 new members India and Pakistan.
- Presently, it has four observers Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.
- Since 2005, India was having an Observer status of SCO and had applied for full membership in 2014. India and Pakistan are now members of the SCO in June 2017.
- It is an outcome of The Shanghai Five grouping established in 1996 by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan.

## NAM : Meet at Margarita Venezuela

### Context

- The 17th edition of 2016 Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit was conducted at Margarita Island in Venezuela on September 17-18, 2016.
- Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the Vice-President of India, was leading the Indian delegation at the Summit.

### NAM

- The organization was founded in Belgrade in 1961.
- It was largely conceived by India's first prime minister, J. Nehru; Indonesia's first president, Sukarno; Egypt's second president, G.A. Nasser; Ghana's first president Kwame Nkrumah; and Yugoslavia's president, J.B. Tito.
- It is a group of states which are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- All five leaders were prominent advocates of a middle course for states in the Developing World between the Western and Eastern Blocs in the Cold War.
- The phrase itself was first used to represent the doctrine by Indian diplomat K. Krishna Menon in 1953, at the United Nations.

## SENDAI Framework 2015-30

### Context

- India and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction signed a Statement of Cooperation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). It was signed during the second day of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016 held in New Delhi.

### Sendai Framework

- SFDRR is an international Treaty that was approved by UN member states in March 2015 at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan.
- It has framework for 15-year i.e. 2015 to 2030.
- It is a voluntary and non-binding treaty which recognizes that the UN member State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk.



## ADB - Asian Development Bank Approves \$100 Million Loan

### Context

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) the multilateral lending agency has approved 100 million dollars loan to strengthen a key irrigation system and improve water management in the Vennar sub-basin of **Cauvery Delta in Tamil Nadu**.


### About ADB

- ADB is multilateral lending agency based in Manila, Philippines.
- **Established:** 1966.
- **Members:** It is owned by 67 members – 48 from the region including India.
- **Objective:** Reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

## NATO Summit 2016

### Context

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit concluded at the National Stadium in **Warsaw, Poland** in July 8, 2016. It was the 27th formal meeting of the heads of state and heads of government of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

### NATO

- The NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty signed in April 1949.
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium. It consists of 29 independent member countries across North America and Europe. (NOTE: 29th member country is Montenegro (Formerly part of Yugoslavia, Balkan state) which was inducted in June 2017).
- It is based on a system of collective defence whereby its member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.
- The combined military spending of all NATO members constitutes over 70% of the global defence spending.

## SAARC Programming Committee

### Context

- Meeting of SAARC Programming Committee was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- This was the first senior level meeting of Association since postponement of 19th SAARC Summit in November 2016 after four nations Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India had requested for it following escalation of tension between India and Pakistan over the issue of terrorism.
- All eight members participated in the meeting.

### SAARC

- SAARC is regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union in South Asia. It promotes development of economical and regional integration.
- **SAARC Secretariat:** Kathmandu (Nepal).
- **Member Countries:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan (joined in 2007).
- **Nine observer states:** Australia, China, European Union, Japan, Iran, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea, and United States.
- The idea for the SAARC was proposed by Ziaur Rahman, the then President of Bangladesh on May 2, 1980. The seven founding countries had met for first time in April 1981 and then in 1985, they created SAARC Charter. The first SAARC summit was held in Dhaka (Bangladesh) in December 1985.

### BRICS

- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.**
- Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC" (or "the BRICs"), before the induction of South Africa in 2010.
- The BRICS members are all leading developing or newly industrialized countries, but they are distinguished by their large, sometimes fast growing economies and significant influence on regional affairs; all five are G-20 members.
- The ninth BRICS Summit will be hosted by China in Xiamen in September 2017.

## BRICS Bank and India

### Context

- India's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank has inked a MoU with the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) for a partnership in bond issuances, co-financing, treasury management and human resources in May 2016.
- With this ICICI Bank becomes first financial institution in the country to tie up with the BRICS NDB. The MoU was signed by NDB's first President and ICICI Bank veteran KV Kamath and ICICI Bank Chief Chanda Kochhar in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

## New Development Bank

- New Development Bank (NDB) has been established by the BRICS countries.
- Objective: To provide financial support to public and private projects via loans, guarantees, equity participation etc.

## BIMSTEC

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organisation involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia.
- These are: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.

## G 20

- It was started in 1999 as a meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the aftermath of the Southeast Asian (Tiger economies) financial crisis.
- In 2008, the first G20 Leaders' Summit was held in Washington DC, US.
- The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for its members' international economic cooperation and decision-making. It is deliberating on global economic issues and other important development challenges.
- It comprises total 19 countries plus the European Union (EU), representing 85% of global GDP, 80% of international trade, 65% of world's population.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

## Heart of Asia Conference – Istanbul Process

### Context

- The sixth edition of 'Heart of Asia- Istanbul Process of Afghanistan' conference, an annual regional gathering of Asian and other countries was held in Amritsar, Punjab (India). It was inaugurated jointly by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. It concluded with adaptation of Amritsar Declaration with its prime focus on terrorism.

### About Heart of Asia Conference

- HoA conference is a part of the Istanbul Process established 2011 which provides a platform to discuss an agenda of regional cooperation with Afghanistan at its centre.
- The 14 member countries of HoA engage in result-oriented cooperation for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and, by extension, a secure and prosperous region as a whole.
- 14 participating countries: Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Azerbaijan and Turkey.

## JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE IN NEWS

A military exercise is the employment of military resources in training for military operations, either exploring the effects of warfare or testing strategies without actual combat. This serves the purpose of ensuring the combat readiness of deployable forces and ensures the security of our nation.


Exercise Name	Details
<b>AI-Nagah-II 2017</b>	India-Oman joint military exercise Held in Dhauladhar Ranges in Bakloh belt of Himachal Pradesh
<b>CORPAT (India and Indonesia Coordinated Patrol)</b>	India and Indonesia maritime exercise Held in Andaman and Nicobar
<b>EKuverin 2016</b>	India - Maldives joint military exercise Held in Laamu Atoll, Maldives
<b>Hand in Hand</b>	India and China joint military exercise Aims to enhance cooperation and maintain peace and tranquillity along border areas of both countries.
<b>Indra 2017</b>	Joint exercise between India and Russia Army, Navy and Air Force all will take part Held in Russian city of Vladivostok
<b>INDRA NAVY 2016</b>	India - Russia joint navy exercise Held in Bay of Bengal
<b>Konkan 16</b>	Joint Maritime Exercise between Indian and British Navy Held in Mumbai and Goa
<b>Maitree 2017</b>	India-Thailand Military Exercise Held in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
<b>Malabar Trilateral Exercise 2017</b>	Trilateral Naval Exercise between India, USA and Japan Will be held in Bay of Bengal
<b>Mitra Shakti 2016</b>	India and Sri Lanka Joint military exercise Held in Ambepussa, Sri Lanka
<b>Nomadic Elephant 2017</b>	Joint Military Exercise between India and Mongolia Held in Mizorama
<b>PRABAL DOSTYK-16</b>	India, Kazakhstan joint bilateral military exercise Held in Karaganda region of Kazakhstan
<b>SAMPRITI-2016</b>	India and Bangladesh Joint military exercise To practice counter-terrorism and disaster management operations Held in Dhaka, Bangladesh
<b>SIMBEX-2017</b>	India and Singapore Joint Naval Exercise Held in South China Sea
<b>Surya Kiran 2017</b>	India and Nepal Joint military exercise Held in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand Conducted annually alternatively in India and Nepal
<b>TROPEX 2017</b>	TROPEX 17 exercise is aimed at testing combat readiness of the combined fleets of the Indian Navy, and the assets of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard Held on Western Coast
<b>Yudh Abhyas 2016</b>	Joint military training exercise between India and United States Held in Chaubattia in Uttarakhand



## Business & Economy News for NDA 2017

- Revenue Secretary Dr Hasmukh Adhia said, trade and industry will be assigned a 'compliance rating' based on their credibility with regard to timely deposit of taxes to the exchequer and filing of returns under the Goods and Services Tax regime. Mr. Adhia said the Compliance Rating will be put in place so that every trader or businessman can be rated based on their track record. Addressing a Conclave on GST in New Delhi Mr. Adhia said all efforts are being made to rollout GST from 1st of July and the industry too should brace for it.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made substantial changes in the norms for dealing with stressed loans and warned banks they will be penalised for missing Non-Performing Assets (NPA) resolution timelines. RBI, through a notification, eased the decision-making process in the Joint Lenders' Forum and Corrective Action Plan under the 'Framework for Revitalising Distressed Assets in the Economy'. The apex bank also warned that any non-adherence to these instructions and timelines specified under the framework shall attract monetary penalties on the concerned banks. Earlier, the government notified an ordinance empowering the Reserve Bank to issue directions to banks to initiate insolvency resolution process in case of a default under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said that Indian Economy will grow 7.4 per cent this fiscal and 7.6 per cent in the next fiscal. India had grown 7.1 per cent in the previous fiscal. ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada said that reforms like the Goods and Services Tax and the new bankruptcy law will make it easier to do business in India.
- The Reserve Bank of India, RBI has said, the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) will have economy-wide ramifications and holds the best bet for state governments to improve their finances without cutting productive expenditure. The apex bank said this in its report titled, 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2016-17'. It said, GST will have economy-wide ramifications in terms of growth, inflation, government finances and external competitiveness over the medium-term. **The country's largest tax reform is scheduled to be rolled out from 1st of July.**
- The Government has decided to give **preference to domestic producers of LED (light-emitting diodes) lights in procurement for government projects**. LEDs are considered more energy-efficient. Mr S K Marwah, director, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology while speaking at 'LED Summit' in Mumbai said **domestic manufacturers will get 50 per cent preference in government projects. The government is working towards a target of net zero imports by 2020 for electronics sector and to attract investments of USD 100 billion by 2020**
- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley led GST Council has finalised tax rates and has approved all the seven rules for the GST regime that is scheduled to be implemented from July 1. The remaining two rules of the GST pertaining to transition and return is under the examination of the legal committee. In total, the council has fixed the rates of 1211 items. It will decide rates of some other items and services in the coming days.

- Operation Clean Money has been initiated by the Income Tax Department to investigate tax evaders. The government has launched a website on '**Operation Clean Money**' operation as a part of the operation.
- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister has approved a **national procurement policy that gives preference to 'Make in India' in government procurements. The policy aims to maintain the balance between promoting 'Make in India' and ensuring timely, quality and value-for-money products for the procuring government entities.**
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **abolition of 25 years old Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)**. Now, concerned ministries will be responsible for direct approval of foreign investment proposals. The Board was constituted in the mid-nineties under the Prime Minister's Office following economic liberalisation.
- Minister of State for Communications Manoj Sinha has launched three new initiatives. They are BSNL's satellite phone service; Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Telecom Skill Excellence Award Scheme & Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratishthan Scheme.




### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has been given back the power to grant licenses for defence manufacturing. Earlier, a few months back, the Home Ministry was given the responsibility. The decision was taken considering the workload of Home Ministry which has to look after security concerns of the entire country.
- Weak investment activity is likely to restrain economic growth at 6.6 per cent for the quarter ended March 2017, says a Dun and Bradstreet report. Going forward, normal monsoon is expected to provide the requisite boost to demand, while transition to GST regime is likely to create some disruption and impact the short-term sales volume across businesses.
- Government has amended the definition of a Start-Up. **According to the new definition, an entity will be considered as a Start-Up if its turnover is less than Rs 25 crore and has not completed seven years from the date of its incorporation. The time period was five years earlier which has been increased by two years considering the long gestation period involved in establishing Start-Ups. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the nodal body for Start-Up India.**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited global businesses to invest in India, saying its market of 125 crore people provides vast opportunities in the field of railways, infrastructure, organic farming and defence among others. Addressing the plenary session of the **St. Petersburg International economic forum in Russia on 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, as guest of honour**, Mr. Modi told a global audience that the sky is the limit in India and they can venture here in any area they want to do business in. He said that **slew of measures have been adopted for the Ease of Doing Business in the country**.
- The **Government has printed new one rupee note that will be soon put into circulation**. The one rupee note was discontinued in 1994 because it was more expensive to produce such notes when compared to the one-rupee coins.
- India continues to be a favourite FDI destination though tax-related concerns remain a deterrent for some foreign investors. An **UNCTAD report said, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to developing Asia shrank by 15 per cent to 443 billion US dollars in 2016, the first decline since 2012**. This affected three sub-regions, with only South Asia spared. However, **UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2017** said an improved economic outlook in major economies, such as ASEAN, China and India, is likely to boost investors' confidence, propping up the region's FDI prospects for 2017.
- As decided in the **14th Meeting of the GST Council held on 18th-19th May, 2017** in Srinagar, J&K, 18 Sectoral Groups have been constituted representing various sectors of the economy in order to ensure smooth roll-out of GST.
- Government has made **Aadhaar card mandatory for opening a bank account and financial transactions of 50,000 rupees and above. According to a notification issued by the Revenue Department, all existing bank account holders have also been asked to submit Aadhaar to banks by 31st December this year**. The accounts which are not beset with Aadhaar number by due date will become invalid.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to introduce a **Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 which will provide a comprehensive resolution framework for financial sector entities to deal with bankruptcy situation in banks, insurance companies, and other entities**.
- The government has set up a GST facilitation cell in Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion to facilitate the rollout of Goods and Services Tax. The cell is headed by **Economic Advisor Sudhansu Sekhar Das**. The cell will remain in constant touch with major industry and business associations relating to the Department. It will be **the first point of contact for addressing any issue being faced by any sector related to the Department**.
- Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies, Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum have signed an agreement to **jointly set up the world's largest refinery and petrochemical complex in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra**.

### Business & Economy

- GST Council headed by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley comprising of state finance ministers as members have decided to set up a five-member anti-profiteering authority to decide on levying the penalty if businesses do not pass on the benefit of price reduction to consumers under GST regime. The GST Council has also approved the anti-profiteering rules.
 
- In order to ensure smooth GST implementation from 1st July, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched a dedicated Webpage for facilitating taxpayers with regard to addressing issues related to Information Technology Services and Electronics goods. Webpage can be accessed through Ministry's Web Portal [www.meity.gov.in](http://www.meity.gov.in). Individuals, Companies and Entrepreneurs in IT and Electronics sector can visit the webpage for sector-specific information. It also enables filing of grievances in relation to implementation of GST.
- The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) to enable members of its housing scheme to avail subsidy and interest subvention under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Under the housing scheme, the EPFO allows subscribers to withdraw up to 90 per cent of their EPF accumulations to buy homes.
- The Reserve Bank has asked banks to provide "adequate details" of transactions in the passbooks and statements of accounts so that customers can crosscheck them. Earlier, the Apex Bank had advised banks to avoid inscrutable entries in passbooks or statements of account and ensure that brief, intelligible particulars were entered with a view to avoiding inconvenience to depositors. The details to be provided by banks in passbooks should include name of the payee, mode of transaction, nature of the charges like fee, commission, fine or penalty, and loan account number.


- The government has **reduced the GST rate on fertilisers from 12 per cent to 5per cent. The decision was taken by GST Council at its meeting in New Delhion 30th June** which was chaired by Finance Minister ArunJaitley. Besides, therate on some exclusive parts of tractors has also been slashed to 18 per cent.The Council also approved some additional set of rules regarding GST.

- Government has lowered interest rate on small saving schemes by 0.1 per centfor the July- September quarter. The move will prompt banks to lower depositrates. The rates of small saving schemes like PPF, KisanVikasPatra andSukanyaSamriddhi have been lowered across the board compared to theApril-June quarter. Since April last year, interest rates of all small savingschemes have been recalibrated on a quarterly basis.

- The Reserve Bank has said the ongoing acceleratedreform initiatives like Goods and Sevcies Taxand continuing political stability will push the economicgrowth scale to 7.3 per cent in terms ofGross Value Added -GVA in the current fiscal year.The **Financial Stability Report 2017 by RBI**, released on30th June, going forward, reforms in FDI and realestate sector, implementation of GST, and revivalin external demand are likely to contribute to a better growth outlook.



- Centre has launched an app - **GST Rates Finderto verify the accurate tax rate on commodity and services under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.** Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched the app in New Delhi which will empower not only the taxpayers, but every citizen of the nation, to ascertain the correct GST rate on goods and services. Through this app, **user can determine GST rate by entering the name of the commodity or service.** The Minister said, the search result will list all the Goods and Services containing the name which was typed in the search box
- **Vietnam has granted ONGC Videsh a two-year extension to explore oil block 128 in the South China Sea.** The permission was first granted in the year 2006 which is due to expire in mid-June.
- The Wholesale inflation fell to 0.9 percent in June this year as prices of food articles, including vegetables fell. The inflation figure is the lowest in at least eight months since the availability of data for the new 2011-12 base year series. Inflation based on the wholesale price index had stood at 2.17 percent in May this year, and minus 0.09 percent in June last year.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

- The Union Cabinet has given nod to the establishment of International Rice Research Institute set up a regional centre International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), a global rice research institute. It will be **named as IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) and will be set up at campus of National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.** The Lok Sabha has passed a bill to enable exit of RBI from NABARD and increase authorised capital of the development institution six times to Rs30,000 crore. **The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017 also seeks to amend certain clauses in the light of reference of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development Act, 2006 in the proposed legislation.** Minister of State for Finance Santosh Kumar Gangwar said that the law is one of the "major step" towards doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2017 has been passed by the lower house of the parliament. It will replace the Non-Performing Assets Ordinance, which came into effect earlier this year. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had introduced a bill in Lok Sabha to amend the Banking Regulation Act 1949. The measure allows the RBI to initiate insolvency resolution process on specific stressed-assets. The RBI would also be empowered to issue other directions for resolution, appoint or approve for appointment, authorities or committees to advise the banking companies for stressed asset resolution.

- The Lok Sabha has passed two crucial Bills extending the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime to Jammu & Kashmir. The lower house passed the Central Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir), Bill, 2017 and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir), Bill, 2017 after a brief discussion. The two Bills sought to replace ordinances promulgated by the President in July this year.

- The RBI has cut the repo rate by 25 bps to 6%. This was on expected lines as market consensus predicted a 25 bps cut. Reverse repo rate has also been cut by 0.25 per cent to 5.75 per cent.

## OTHER FACTS TO REMEMBER

---

### Tejaswini Project

- “Tejaswini” - Socio-Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project”
- It is World Bank’s first project in India solely focused on the welfare of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged between 14 and 24 .

### National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

- Fund created by the Government of India for enhancing **infrastructure financing** in the country.
- Different from the National Investment Fund.
- It is set up as **Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF)** under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Regulations.
- NIIF is **India’s first sovereign wealth fund**.
- **Objective:** Infrastructure development in commercially viable projects, **both Greenfield and Brownfield**, including stalled projects.

### Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)

- **Uniform license** for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbon.
- **Open acreage policy** - Enable exploration and production (E&P) companies choose the blocks from the designated area.

### Electoral Bonds

- Introduced by Finance Minister during his Budget 2017 speech in order **to bring some transparency to the electoral funding process**.

### Border haats (Border Markets)

- The border haats are markets that aim at **promoting the wellbeing of the people dwelling in remote areas across the borders of two countries**.
- Establishing traditional system of marketing the local produce through local markets.
- The Border Haats allows to people living in border areas to trade in specified products in accordance with the **regulations agreed and notified by both Governments**.
- **Presently 4 Border Haats are already operational along India-Bangladesh border**. They are (i) Kalaichar (Meghalaya). (ii) Balat (Meghalaya). (iii) Kamlasagar (Tripura) (iv) Srinagar (Tripura).

### Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme (SGBs)

- SGBs are **government securities** denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold.
- The Sovereign Gold Bonds will be available both in **demat and paper form**.
- The tenor of the bond is for a **minimum of 8 years** with option to exit in 5th, 6th and 7th years.
- Bonds can be used as **collateral for loans**.
- Minimum - 1 gram, Maximum – 500 grams

### BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money)

- BHIM is **Aadhaar-based payments app** developed by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).
- It can work even on basic phones as it supports USSD payments.
- All major UPI connected Indian banks accept money through BHIM app.
- The app also allows user to scan a QR code. Payment can be done through scanning QR code.

### Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched “Unified Payments Interface (UPI)”.
- The UPI is for **mobile based payment method** that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application.
- It facilitates **‘virtual address’ as a single payment identifier** for sending and collecting money.
- The single identifier will **eliminate the need to exchange sensitive information such as bank account numbers** during a financial transaction.
- UPI is an **advanced version of NPCI’s Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** which is a 24x7 funds transfer service.

### Sagarmala Programme

- The Sagarmala project seeks to develop a string of ports around India’s coast.
- Promote **“Port-led development”** along India’s 7500 km long coastline.
- The **Union Ministry of Shipping is the nodal ministry** for this initiative.
- Sustainable development of the population living in the **Coastal Economic Zone (CEZ)**.
- **Improve port connectivity** through rail corridors, freight-friendly expressways and inland waterways.
- **Develop skills of fishermen and other coastal and island communities.**
- **Three pillars of development:**
  - o Enabling Port-led Development through appropriate policy and institutional interventions.
  - o Modernization and setting up of new ports.
  - o Evacuation to and from hinterland.

### Mission Indradhanush

- Mission Indradhanush aimed to **revamp the functioning of public sector banks** so that PSBs can compete with the Private Sector Banks.
- The mission is a brainchild of **PJ Nayak committee**.
- It is launched by **Ministry of Finance under the Department of Financial Services**.

- The mission includes the **seven key reforms** of appointments, board of bureau, capitalisation, de-stressing, empowerment, framework of accountability and governance reforms.

### Special economic zone (SEZ)

- SEZ is a geographical region that has economic laws different from a country's typical economic laws.
- Usually the goal is to **increase foreign investments**.
- Any **private/public/joint sector or state government or its agencies** can set up an SEZ.
- A SEZ is a designated **duty free enclave** to be **treated as foreign territory** for the purpose of trade operations and duties and tariffs.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

### The main objectives of the SEZ Act are:

- Generation of additional **economic activity**.
- Promotion of exports** of goods and services.
- Promotion of investment** from domestic and foreign sources.
- Creation of employment** opportunities.
- Development of **infrastructure facilities**.

### Diamond Quadrilateral

- The Diamond Quadrilateral is a project of the **Indian railways** to establish high speed rail network in India.
- This quadrilateral will **connect the four metro cities** in India, i.e. **Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai**.
- Six corridors identified are:** (i) Delhi-Mumbai, (ii) Mumbai-Chennai, (iii) Chennai-Kolkata, (iv) Kolkata-Delhi and both diagonals i.e. (v) Delhi-Chennai and (vi) Mumbai-Kolkata routes.
- This project is similar to **Golden Quadrilateral** which is a **roadway project** which connects the four metros by Express Ways.
- The Golden Quadrilateral falls under **National Highways Development Project**.

### Transparency in Power Sector

- In a bid to enhance transparency in power transmission sector of the country, the government has launched the **'TARANG' Mobile App, 'e-Trans' & 'DEEP' e-bidding web portals**.



### DigiLocker

- It is **dedicated personal storage space**, linked to each resident's Aadhaar number.
- DigiLocker can be used to securely **store e-documents** as well as store **Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) link** of e-documents issued by various issuer departments.
- The **e-Sign facility** provided as part of DigiLocker system can be used to digitally sign e-documents.
- DigiLocker is one of the key initiatives under the **Digital India Programme**.
- The initiative was launched by the **Department of Electronics and Information Technology**, under the **Ministry of Communications and IT**.
- Users can store their documents such as insurance, medical reports, PAN card, passport, marriage certificate, school certificate and other documents in the digital format.
- The storage space (maximum 10 MB at the time of launching & now upgraded to 1GB)

### DBT in Kerosene

- **Jharkhand has become the first state** in the country to implement Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Kerosene.
- Under the DBTK Scheme, **PDS kerosene is being sold at non-subsidised price**, and, **subsidy, as admissible, is being transferred to consumers** directly into their bank accounts.
- This initiative was launched by **Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry** on the lines of a similar DBT programme for LPG subsidy.
- It aims at rationalising subsidy based on the **approach to cut subsidy leakages** but not the subsidy.

### National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP)

- The NMEP primarily aims at **accelerating the exploration activity** in the country through **enhanced participation of the private sector**.
- The policy seeks to **uncover full mineral potential** in order to put the nation's mineral resources (non-fuel and non-coal) to best use and maximize sectoral contribution to the Indian economy.
- The **Union Ministry of Mines** will carry out **auctioning of identified exploration blocks** for exploration by private sector.

### Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016

- **Benami Transactions:** The Benami transactions are those transactions in which the **real beneficiary is not the person in whose name the transaction {particularly purchase of property} has been done**.
- A property that is held in the name of spouse or child for which the amount is paid out of known sources of income is **not Benami**.
- Joint property of brothers, sisters or other relatives for which amount is paid out of known resources of income is also **not Benami**.
- Property held by someone in a fiduciary capacity; that is, transaction involving a trustee and a beneficiary is also **not Benami**.
- Benami property may include assets of any kind including **movable, immovable, tangible, intangible, any right or assets or legal documents**. It also includes **Gold and financial security**.
- The **2016 Act seeks to amend and strengthen Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988**.

### National Mission on Bio Economy

- The National Mission on Bioeconomy was **launched in Shillong, Meghalaya** by the **Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD)**.

- The purpose of the mission is to **boost rural economy by utilizing bio-resources**.
- It also focuses on **sustainable utilization of renewable biological resources** for food, bio-energy and bio-based products through knowledge-based approaches.
- Bioeconomy is a new concept and few countries like US, Canada, European Union (EU) and Australia have started initiatives in this field.
- The Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) functions under the **Department of Biotechnology, Union Ministry of Science and Technology**.

#### India INX

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's first international exchange India INX** at the International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) of GIFT (Gujarat International Financial Tech) City Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- India INX is a **wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**. It will enable Indian firms to compete on equal footing with offshore firms.
- It will facilitate international investors and NRIs to trade from anywhere in the world.

#### Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS)

- The Union Cabinet in 2012 approved the M-SIPS to provide a **special incentive package to promote large scale manufacturing in the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector** to boost domestic electronic product manufacturing in the country.
- The scheme **provides subsidy for capital expenditure**. The subsidy is 20% for investments in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 25% in non-SEZs.

#### Demonetisation in India

- It is an act of stripping a currency unit of its status as legal tender.
- The Union Government had announced that Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000 notes will cease to be legal tender.
- The first demonetization in the independent India was done in the year **1946 and another one in the year 1978**.
- The legal basis for the order demonetizing currency can be found in **Section 26 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.


#### Mission Fingerling

- The Union Ministry of Agriculture** has launched Mission Fingerling, a programme to enable **holistic development and management of fisheries sector in India**.
- The mission aims to achieve the target to **enhance fisheries production** from 10.79 mmt (2014-15) to 15 mmt by 2020-21 under the Blue Revolution.
- Government has identified 20 States based on their potential and other relevant factors to strengthen the **Fish Fingerling production and Fish Seed infrastructure in the country**.

#### India's largest Floating Solar PV Plant

- State-run NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited)** has installed India's largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) plant at **Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant (RGCCPP) at Kayamkulam in Kerala**.
- The 100 kWp (kilowatt peak) floating solar PV plant has been **indigenously developed as a part of Union Government flagship 'Make In India' initiative**.

- Floating solar PV systems are fast **emerging as an alternative to conventional ground mounted PV systems** which are land intensive. It can also be installed on **saline water environment**.
- It has various benefits like **conserving water through reduction of evaporation, increased power generation** due to cooling effect on the panels, reduced installation time etc.

**Indus Academics: Pathway to  
career in Defence Services**

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

#### Bharat QR code

- The Union Government has launched **Bharat QR code, a quick response (QR) code to enable digital payments without card swiping machines.**
- It is **world's first interoperable payment acceptance solution** launched by Indian Government to move towards less-cash economy.
- Bharat QR code has been developed by jointly by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Visa, MasterCard and American Express under instructions from Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- It works as **common interface** for the MasterCard/Visa/RuPay platforms and also facilitate acceptance of Aadhaar-enabled payments and Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

#### QR code:

- QR code (Quick Response code) is a **two-dimensional (matrix) machine-readable bar code** made up of black and white square. This code can be read by the camera of a smartphone.
- It is used for **storing URLs or other information** that link directly to text, emails websites phone numbers. It is capable of 360 degrees (omni-directional), high speed reading.
- QR Code can store up to 7089 digits as compared to conventional bar codes which can store max 20 digits. It encodes same amount of data in one-tenth the space of a traditional bar code.
- It **carries information both horizontally and vertically.** It has **error correction capability** and data stored in it can be restored even if it is partially damaged or dirty.

#### Mission 41K

- Union Railway Ministry has unveiled 'Mission 41K' to **save Rs. 41,000 crore on the Indian Railways' expenditure on energy consumption over the next 10 years.**
- This target of 'Mission 41K will be achieved by taking a slew of measures which include **moving 90% of traffic to electric traction** over diesel from present 50% of the total rail traffic.

### Coal Mitra

- The **Union Ministry of Coal** has launched **Coal Mitra**, a **web portal** for allowing **flexibility in utilization of domestic Coal**.
- The Coal Mitra Web Portal aims at **optimum utilisation by private as well as public power companies of the coal**.
- It facilitates **transfer of the coal reserves** to more cost efficient State/Centre owned or Private sector generating stations.

### Google Tax / Equalisation Levy

- It will apply to **payments for online advertisements made by Indian business entities to non-residents** (such as Google, Yahoo, Twitter, Facebook) where the aggregate payment in a financial year to a non-resident exceeds Rs 1 lakh.
- **Only B2B transactions** attract this levy.
- **India became the first country to impose equalisation levy**, popularly being called Google Tax

### FDI Inflows

- According to data released by **Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)**, India attracted \$ 46 billion in 2016 which is 18% higher compared to previous year.
- **Highest FDI included – Services, Telecom, Trading, Computer Hardware and Software.**
- **Bulk of the FDI came from Singapore, followed by Mauritius.**

### Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of **market intervention by the Government of India** to insure agricultural producers **against any sharp fall in farm prices**.
- **Announced** by the Government of India **at the beginning of the sowing season** for certain crops.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, Government of India, **determines the MSP** based on the **recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP)**.
- 26 commodities are currently covered.
- Procurement of agricultural crops is made by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), state agencies and cooperatives.
- A counterpart of the MSP is the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), under which the state government procures perishable commodities like vegetable items.

### Fat Tax


- A **fat tax** is a **tax** or surcharge that is **placed upon fattening food and beverages**.
- **Kerala is the first state** in India to introduce a 14.5% “fat tax” on pizzas, burgers, sandwiches and tacos sold through branded outlets.
- This is in sync with the **World Health Organization’s** advocacy of using fiscal tools to promote healthy eating.

### Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

- In general, reflects the **rate of change in prices of all goods and services** in an economy over a period of time.
- In India, **headline inflation is measured through the WPI** – which consists of 676 commodities (**services are not included in WPI in India**).
- It is **measured on year-on-year basis** i.e., rate of change in price level in a given month Vis a Vis corresponding month of last year. This is also known as **point to point inflation**.



- In India, there are **three main components** in WPI –
  - **Primary Articles** (weight: 20.12%),
  - **Fuel & Power** (weight: 14.91%) and
  - **Manufactured Products** (weight: 64.97)
- This includes **“Food Articles” in the Primary Articles** (14.34%) and **“Food Products” in the Manufactured Products category** (9.97%).
- (WPI) is computed by the **Office of the Economic Adviser in Ministry of commerce & Industry**, Government of India. WPI is **released monthly**.
- Current WPI **Base year is 2004-05**.
- WPI covers **all goods including intermediate goods** transacted in the economy.



**Indus Academics: Pathway to  
career in Defence Services**

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

#### Consumer Price Indices (CPI)

- Consumer Price Indices (CPI) released at national level are:
  - **CPI for Industrial Workers (IW)**
  - **CPI for Agricultural Labourers (AL)/ Rural Labourers (RL)**
  - **CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined)**
- While the first two are compiled and released by the **Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment**, the third by the **Central Statistics Office (CSO) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.
- In India, **RBI uses CPI (combined) released by CSO for inflation purpose**.
- **Base year** for CPI (Rural, Urban, and Combined) is **2012**.
- The number of items in CPI basket include 448 in rural and 460 in urban. Thus, it makes it clear that **CPI basket is broader than WPI basket**.
- CPI covers **consumer goods and consumer services**.

#### Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** is an index for India which details out the growth of various sectors in an economy
- The IIP is compiled and published every month by **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** of the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It covers 682 items comprising **Manufacturing** (620 items), **Mining** (61 items) & **Electricity** (1 item).
- The current **base year is 2004-05**.
- The **eight Core Industries** comprise nearly **38 % of the weight of items included in IIP**.

## Banking Sector

---

### Green Bonds

- A green bond is a **fixed income instrument** for the purpose of raising debt capital through markets.
- Certifies that the proceeds will be used exclusively for **specific “green” purposes**.
- Can provide a long-term source of debt capital for **renewable infrastructure projects**.
- Green bonds are issued by **multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, corporations, government agencies and municipalities**.
- Institutional investors and pension funds also have appetite for such bonds.
- **Axis Bank has launched India’s first internationally-listed certified green bond** to finance climate change solutions around the world at London Stock Exchange (LSE).

### Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

- BBB will be a super authority (**Autonomous Body**) of eminent professionals and officials for public sector banks (PSBs). It will **replace the Appointments Board of Government**.
- It is **part of seven point Indradhanush Mission** to revamp the Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

#### •Functions:

- Give **recommendations for appointment** of full-time Directors as well as non-Executive Chairman of PSBs.
- Give **advice to PSBs** in developing strategies for **raising funds** through innovative financial methods and instruments to **deal with stressed assets**.
- **Guide banks on mergers and consolidations** and also ways to address the bad loans problem among other issues.

- **Former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai** has been appointed as the **first Chairman of Banks Board Bureau (BBB)**.

### Payments Banks

- The **“Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low Income Households”** was set up by the RBI in Sep 2013 under the chairmanship of **Nachiket Mor** recommended creation of Payment Banks.
- Payment banks are non-full service banks, whose main objective is to accelerate financial inclusion.

### Masala Bonds

- The Masala bond refers to a **rupee-denominated bond** through which Indian entities (private and public sector) can raise money from foreign markets in rupee, and not in foreign currency.
- By issuing bonds in rupees, **an Indian entity is protected against the risk of currency fluctuation**, typically associated with borrowing in foreign currency.
- Masala bonds also help in **internationalization of the rupee** and in expansion of the Indian bond markets.
- These bonds are usually traded on the **London Stock Exchange (LSE)** and not in India.
- The Housing Development Finance Corporation (**HDFC**) has become the **first Indian company to issue rupee-denominated bonds “masala bonds”** on London Stock Exchange (LSE).
- **Canada’s British Columbia province** has become the **first foreign government** to issue of masala bonds.

### Non Performing Asset (NPA)

- A non performing asset (NPA) is a loan or advance for which the **principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.**
- In case of **Agriculture/Farm Loans**, the NPA varies for of Short duration crop loan (interest not paid for 2 crop seasons), Long Duration Crops (interest not paid for 1 Crop season).

## External Sector

### Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)

- A DTAA is a tax treaty **signed between two or more countries.**
- Its key objective is that tax-payers in these countries can **avoid being taxed twice for the same income.**
- A DTAA applies in cases where a tax-payer resides in one country and earns income in another.
- DTAA's can **either be comprehensive to cover all sources of income or be limited to certain areas** such as taxing of income from shipping, air transport, inheritance, etc.
- India has DTAA's with more than eighty countries, of which comprehensive agreements include those with Australia, Canada, Germany, Mauritius, Singapore, UAE, the UK and US.

### Money Laundering

- Money laundering is the process by which large amounts of illegally obtained money is given the **appearance of having originated from a legitimate source.**
- What does **Enforcement Directorate** do? Directorate of Enforcement is a **specialized financial investigation agency** under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**, Government of India, which enforces the following laws: –
  - o **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)** – A **Civil Law**, with officers empowered to conduct investigations into suspected contraventions of the Foreign Exchange Laws and Regulations, adjudicate, contraventions, and impose penalties on those adjudged to have contravened the law.
  - o **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)** – A **Criminal Law**, with the officers empowered to conduct investigations to trace assets derived out of the proceeds of crime, to provisionally attach/ confiscate the same, and to arrest and prosecute the offenders found to be involved in Money Laundering.
- The **Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA)** was enacted in 2002, but was amended thrice, first in 2005, then in 2009 and then 2012.

### BRICS Rating Agency

- BRICS has agreed to set up an independent **BRICS Rating Agency** in its efforts to **challenge western hegemony in the world of finance.**
- It was announced during the **8th BRICS summit held in Goa, India.**
- The BRICS Rating Agency will be based on **market-oriented principles** to strengthen the global governance architecture.
- It will assist BRICS and other countries to **rate infrastructure and sustainable projects in the emerging economies.** Thus, it will further bridge the gap in global financial architecture.
- **Three global agencies (S&P, Fitch, Moody's)** based in western countries account for 90% of the rating market.

### Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)

- The FIPB is an **inter-ministerial body** that offers a single window clearance for applications on **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** that are under the approval route.
- The **finance secretary is the chairman** of the FIPB. It is housed in the **Department of Economic Affairs, Union Ministry of Finance**.
- Presently, **FDI proposals up to 3,000 crore rupees are cleared by the FIPB**.
- India allows FDI in most sectors through the automatic route, but in certain segments considered **sensitive for the economy and security, then those proposals first have to be cleared by FIPB**.
- However, those proposals involving FDI of more than 3,000 crore rupees are given final clearance by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** headed by Prime Minister.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

## Reports / Ranking / Committees

### Shankar Acharya Committee

- The finance ministry has set up a **committee under former chief economic adviser Shankar Acharya to examine the desirability and feasibility of having a new fiscal year**.
- Currently, India follows the April-March fiscal year and all macroeconomic and company data
- However, most countries follow a January-December fiscal year.
- In 1867, British set India's financial year from April 1 to March 31.

### Committees headed by Amitabh Kant

- **Transforming India into a cashless economy.**
  - o The Union Government has constituted a new committee to form a strategy to expedite the process of transforming India into a cashless economy.
  - o The committee will be headed by NitiAayog CEO Amitabh Kant. It has been tasked with **identifying various bottlenecks affecting access of digital payments**.
- **Review E-Commerce Rules**
  - o Committee to look at easing the policy regime for e-commerce players, including the rules for **foreign direct investment (FDI)**.



### Ease of doing Business Index

- **India has been placed at 130th position** among the 190 countries in the recently released **World Bank's ease of doing business index** for the year 2017.
- The index was released as part of the **World Bank's annual report Doing Business 2017: Equal Opportunity for All**.
- A higher ranking of country in this list means that its **regulatory environment** is more conducive and favourable for the starting and operation of firms.

### Ease of Doing Business Reforms Ranking 2015-16

- **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana** have jointly topped the Ease of Doing Business Reforms Ranking 2015-16.
- The ranking of the states was conducted by the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and the World Bank**.

### RatanWatal Committee for Digital Payments

- The **Committee on Digital Payments** headed by Ratan P. Watal was tasked to **review existing payment systems in the country and recommend appropriate measures for encouraging Digital Payments**.
- It was having representatives from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), tax department and various industry bodies in the payments space.

### Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee

- The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee is **headed by Shri N.K. Singh**

### Economic Freedom 2017

- **India was ranked 143rd** out of 186 economies in the annual Index of Economic Freedom 2017 that measures the degree of economic freedom in the countries of the world.
- The index was **released by top US based Think Tank, The Heritage Foundation**.
- The Index of Economic Freedom ranks countries based on score ranging 0 to 100, with 0 being the least free and 100 the most free.

### Financial Stability Report

- The **Reserve Bank of India** today releases the Financial Stability Report (FSR) **once in 6 months**.
- The FSR **reflects the overall assessment on the stability of India's financial system** and its resilience to risks emanating from global and domestic factors.

### World Happiness Report 2017

- **India ranked at 122** out of 155 countries in the World Happiness Report 2017 published by the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network** on the eve of International Day of Happiness (20 March).
- The rankings are based on **factors such as inequality, life expectancy, GDP per capita, public trust** (i.e. a lack of corruption in government and business), **and social support**.
- Top three Happiest Countries: Norway (1), Denmark (2), Iceland (3).

## Boards/Departments in News

---

### Happiness Department

- **Madhya Pradesh** has become the first state in the country to set up 'Happiness Department'.
- **Bhutan**, the first country to come up with the concept of Gross National Happiness.
- **The World Happiness Report 2016** by the UN ranks India at 118th among 156 countries.

### Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

- The Central Government had established Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in December 2010 with the **Finance Minister as its Chairman**.
- The idea to create it was first mooted by the **RaghuramRajan Committee on Financial Sector Reforms** in 2008.

### Financial Intelligence Unit

- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.
- To **provide quality financial intelligence** for safeguarding the financial system from the abuses of money laundering, terrorism financing and other economic offences.
- To become a highly agile and trusted organization that is globally recognized as an efficient and effective Financial Intelligence Unit.

### Monetary Policy Committee

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a **committee of the central bank** — Reserve Bank of India, **headed by its Governor**.
- It was set up by amending the RBI Act to provide for a **statutory and institutionalised framework** for MPC.

### Antrix Corporation

- It is the **commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- It functions **under the aegis of Department of Space (DoS)**, an independent Department directly working under the Prime Minister.

### Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- The CCI is **quasi-judicial statutory body** established under The **Competition Act, 2002**.
- It **established in 2003** to eliminate practices that adversely affect competition in different industries and protect interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade.
- Its **predecessor was the MRTPC (Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission)** which was functional prior to 1991 Economic Reforms.

### National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)


- **NPCI is the umbrella organisation for all retail payments system** in India. It is being promoted by the Reserve Bank of India.
- It was founded in 2008 as a not-for-profit organisation registered under section 25 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- It has successfully played pioneering role in the **development of a domestic card payment network called RuPay**, reducing the dependency on international card schemes.

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has **launched “Unified Payments Interface (UPI)”** to revolutionise mobile payment system in the country.
- National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) is the **implementing agency for Lucky GrahakYojana and Digi-DhanVyaparYojana.**

## Miscellaneous

### Enayam – India’s 13th Port

- The Centre has given its ‘in-principle’ approval to set up the **country’s 13th major port** at Enayam, near Colachel in Tamil Nadu.
- Aimed to make India a destination on the global east-west trade route and will help India act as a major gateway container port for cargo that is presently trans-shipped outside the country.
- Projects like Sagarmala will also complement the new port at Enayam.

**Indus Academics: Pathway to  
career in Defence Services**

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

### Insurance Policy to Atomic Power Plant Operator

- India’s 1st insurance policy covering public liability to an atomic power plant operator has been issued to **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).**
- The insurance policy was **issued by** the country’s largest non-life insurer **New India Assurance Company Ltd.**
- The Central government had announced in June 2015 the setting up of the Rs. 1,500- crore India Nuclear Insurance Pool to be **managed by** national reinsurer **General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re).**

### 100 Million for 100 Million

- It is a campaign launched by **Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi.**
- It **targets 100 million youth**, whose idealism, energy and enthusiasm would help **liberate the 100 million children shackled in slavery and poverty** across the world.

### Akodara becomes India’s first Digital Village

- Akodara village in Sabarkantha district of **Gujarat** has earned the coveted tag of becoming India’s first digital village.
- The village was **adopted by ICICI Bank under its D**

## Highlights of Economic Survey 2016-17 AND BUDGET 2017 (*Important*)

- The survey was **prepared by the Finance Ministry's Chief Economic Adviser** Arvind Subramanian.

### Growth

- **2017/18 GDP growth seen between 6.75 and 7.5 per cent** year on year.
- GDP growth rate at constant market prices for the current year 2016/17 is placed at 7.1 per cent.
- The federal statistics office's estimate of 7.1 per cent growth for 2016/17 likely to be revised downwards.
- **Service sector** is estimated to grow at 8.9 per cent in 2016/17.
- **Industrial growth rate** expected to moderate to 5.2 per cent in 2016/17 from 7.4 percent in 2015/16.

### Fiscal Deficit

- Implementation of wage hike, muted tax receipts to put pressure on fiscal deficit in 2017/18.
- **Need for fiscal prudence** for both centre and states for fiscal health of the economy.
- Fiscal windfall from low oil prices to disappear in 2017/18.

### Monetary Policy

- Sharp rise in prices in 2017/18 may cap monetary easing headroom.
- Market interest rates seen lower in 2017/18 due to demonetisation.

### Government Debt

- **Government debt to GDP ratio** in 2016 seen at 68.5 per cent down from 69.1 per cent in 2015.

### Demonetisation

- **Remonetisation** will ensure that the cash squeeze is eliminated by April 2017.
- Supply of currency should follow actual demand and not be dictated by official estimate of desirable demand.
- Government windfall arising from unreturned notes should be deployed towards **capitalspending**.

### Banks

- Suggests setting up **public sector asset rehabilitation agency** to take charge of large bad loans in banks.
- Central agency with government backing could overcome coordination and political issues on bad loans.

### Taxation

- Income tax rates and real estate stamp duties could be reduced.
- Timetable for reducing corporate tax rate could be accelerated.

### Universal Basic Income

- Universal Basic Income (UBI) proposal a powerful idea, but not ready for implementation.
- UBI an alternative to plethora of state subsidies for poverty alleviation.
- UBI would cost between 4 and 5 per cent of GDP.

### Demonetisation

- Demonetisation is expected to have a **transient impact on the economy**.
- Demonetisation is a **bold and decisive measure** that will lead to higher GDP growth.
- The effects of demonetisation will **not spillover to the next fiscal**.

### Agriculture Sector

- A sum of Rs. **10 lakh crore is allocated as credit to farmers**, with 60 days interest waiver.
- **NABARD** fund will be increased to Rs. 40,000 crore.
- Government will set up **mini labs in KrishiVigyanKendras for soil testing**.
- A **dedicated micro irrigation fund** will be set up for NABARD with Rs 5,000 crore initial corpus.
- **Dairy processing infrastructure fund** will be initially created with a corpus of Rs. 2000 crore.
- **A model law on contract farming** will be prepared and shared with the States.

### Rural Population

- The **government targets to bring 1 crore households out of poverty by 2019**.
- During 2017-18, five lakh farm ponds will be taken up under the MGNREGA.
- Over Rs 3 lakh crore will be spent for rural India. **MGNREGA to double farmers' income**.
- Will take steps to ensure **participation of women in MGNREGA** up to 55%.
- **Space technology** will be used in a big way to ensure MGNREGA works.
- The country well on way to achieve **100% rural electrification by March 2018**.
- **Swachh Bharat mission** has made tremendous progress; sanitation coverage has gone up from 42% in Oct 13 to 60% now.

### For Youth

- Will introduce a system of measuring annual learning outcomes and come out with an innovation fund for secondary education.
- **Skill India mission** was launched to maximise potential. Will set up 100 India International centres across the country.

### For the Poor and Underprivileged

- Rs. 500 crore allocated for **MahilaShakthiKendras**.
  - These kendras will provide one stop convergent support services for **empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, health, nutrition and digital literacy**.
- Under a nationwide scheme for pregnant women, Rs. 6000 will be transferred to each person.
- A sum of Rs. 1,84,632 crore allocated for women and children.
- **Affordable housing** will be given **infrastructure status**.
- Owing to surplus liquidity, banks have started reducing lending rates for housing.
- **Elimination of tuberculosis by 2025 targeted**.
- Health sub centres, numbering 1.5 lakh, will be transformed into health wellnesscentres.
- **Two AIIMS will be set up in Jharkhand and Gujarat**.
- Will undertake structural transformation of the regulatory framework for medical education.
- Aadhaar-based smartcards will be issued to senior citizens to monitor health.

### Infrastructure and Railways

- **No service charge on tickets** booked through IRCTC.
- **Raksha coach** with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore for five years (for passenger safety).
- **Unmanned level crossings will be eliminated by 2020**.
- 3,500 km of railway lines to be commissioned this year up from 2,800 km last year.
- SMS-based "**clean my coach service**" is put in place.
- **Coach mitra facility** will be introduced to register all coach related complaints.



- By 2019 all trains will have bio-toilets.
- Five-hundred stations will be made differently-abled friendly.
- Rs. 64,000 crore allocated for highways.
- High speed Internet to be allocated to 1,50,000 gram panchayats.
- **New Metro rail policy** will be announced with new modes of financing.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

#### Energy Sector

- A **strategic policy for crude reserves** will be set up.
- Rs. 1.26,000 crore received as energy production based investments.
- **Trade infra export scheme** will be launched 2017-18.

#### Financial Sector

- **FDI policy reforms** - more than 90% of FDI inflows are now automated.
- Shares of Railway PSE like IRCTC will be listed on stock exchanges.
- **Foreign Investment Promotion Board** will be abolished.
- **Computer emergency response team** for financial sector will be formed.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** lending target fixed at Rs 2.44 lakh crore for 2017-18.
- **Digital India** - BHIM app will unleash mobile phone revolution. The government will introduce two schemes to promote BHIM App - referral bonus for the users and cash back for the traders.
- **Negotiable Instruments Act** might be amended.
- **DBT to LPG consumers**, Chandigarh is kerosene-free, 84 government schemes are on the DBT platform.
- Head post office as the central office for rendering passport service.
- Easy online booking system for Army and other defence personnel.

#### Fiscal Situation

- Total expenditure is Rs. 21, 47,000 crore.
- Plan, non-plan expenditure is abolished; **focus will be on capital expenditure**, which will be 25.4 %.
- Expenditure for science and technology is Rs. 37,435 crore.
- Total resources transferred to States and Union Territories is Rs 4.11 lakh crore.
- **Recommended 3% fiscal deficit for three years** with a deviation of 0.5% of the GDP.
- Revenue deficit is 1.9 %
- Fiscal deficit of 2017-18 pegged at 3.2% of the GDP. Will remain committed to achieving 3% in the next year.

### Funding of Political Parties

- **The maximum amount of cash donation for a political party will be Rs. 2,000 from any one source.**
- Political parties will be entitled to receive donations by cheque or digital mode from donors.
- An amendment is being proposed to the RBI Act to enable issuance of **electoral bonds**. A donor can purchase these bonds from banks or post offices through cheque or digital transactions. They can be redeemed only by registered political parties.

### Tax Proposals

#### • **India's tax to GDP ratio is not favourable.**

- Out of 13.14 lakh registered companies, only 5.97 lakh firms have filed returns for 2016-17.
- Proportion of direct tax to indirect tax is not optimal.
- Out of 76 lakh individual assessee declaring income more than Rs. 5 lakh, 56 lakh are salaried.
- Only 1.72 lakh people showed income of more than Rs. 50 lakh a year.
- Rate of growth of advance tax in Personal I-T is 34.8% in the last three quarters of this financial year.
- Proposal to have a carry-forward of MAT for 15 years.
- Capital gains tax to be exempted for persons holding land from which land was pooled for creation of the state capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- Under the corporate tax, in order to make MSME companies more viable, there is a proposal to reduce tax for small companies with a turnover of up to Rs 50 crore to 25%. About 67 lakh companies fall in this category. Ninety-six % of companies to get this benefit.
- The government proposes to reduce basic customs duty for LNG to 2.5% from 5%.
- The Income Tax Act to be amended to ensure that no transaction above Rs 3 lakh is permitted in cash.
- The limit of cash donation by charitable trusts is reduced to Rs 2,000 from Rs 10,000.

### Personal Income Tax

- Existing rate of tax for individuals between Rs. 2.5- Rs 5 lakh is reduced to 5% from 10%.
- All other categories of tax payers in subsequent brackets will get a benefit of Rs 12,500.
- Simple one page return for people with an annual income of Rs. 5 lakh other than business income.
- People filing I-T returns for the first time will not come under any government scrutiny.

### Tourism Sector

- The Union Budget 2017-18 has announced that Government will set up **five Special Tourism Zones in partnership with States**.
- To boost the image of India in the international travel market **Incredible India 2.0 Campaign** will be unveiled across the world in the financial year 2017-18.
- Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around specific themes under **Swadesh Darshan scheme**.
- 100 crore has been allocated for **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)**.

## SPORTS

India beat South Africa by one wicket in the final of ICC Women World Cup Qualifier 2017 held at Colombo.

The first stage of the **International Shooting Sport Federation, ISSF World Cup Series** kicked off at **Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range** in New Delhi. The World Cup series is slated to take place in 5 stages in five different countries. Besides India, Mexico, Cyprus, Germany and Azerbaijan will play the host to the other four stages. The ISSF World Cup Final at the end of the season will also be held in New Delhi. 452 athletes representing 50 National Olympic Committees are taking part in the competition. For India, Olympic bronze-medallist **Gagan Narang, Olympians Jeetu Rai, Heena Sidhu and Kynan Chenai**, will be spearheading the challenge in the competitions.

### Awards & Honours

- **Academy Awards 2017: The 89th Academy Awards , popularly known as Oscars** was held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles. The award presented in 24 categories by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honouring best films of 2016. Musical drama La La Land won the most number of awards totaling to six at the ceremony after it was nominated into 14 categories. It was followed by Moonlight and Arrival with each being nominated in eight categories : -

**Best Picture:** Moonlight, **Best Actress:** Emma Stone (La La Land), **Best Actor:** Casey Affleck (Manchester By The Sea), **Best Director:** Damien Chazelle (La La Land). He became youngest director to win Oscar at 32, **Best Supporting Actress:** Viola Davis (Fences).

### Sports

India's most successful Badminton Doubles specialist Jwala Gutta has been appointed a member of the governing body of Sports Authority of India (SAI). Two-time Olympian Jwala won the bronze medal at the 2011 World Championships. She is also a 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games champion and a silver medallist at the 2014 Glasgow Games in women's doubles.

**The Indian duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja became the first set of spinners to be jointly ranked number one in the ICC Test rankings for bowlers.**

- Tamil **Nadu has won the Vijay Hazare Trophy** of cricket for record fifth time defeating Bengal. In the final match played at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi they defeated Bengal by 37 runs. It was Tamil Nadu's third victory over Bengal in the final of this competition.

### Sports

- **India has reclaimed the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, beating Australia by eight wickets in the deciding fourth Test at Dharamsala.**

- **West Bengal won the 2017 Santosh Trophy** of football by defeating Goa by 1-0 goals. It was 71st edition of Santosh Trophy and overall record 32nd win of West Bengal.

## Awards & Honors

- The 64th **National Film Awards** for year 2016 has been announced. **Marathi film Kasaav** won the award in the **Best Feature Film** category and **Fireflies in the Abyss** won in the **Non-Feature Film Category**. **Telugu drama film Sathamam Bhavathi** directed by **Satish Vegesna** was selected as the **Best Popular film** providing wholesome entertainment.
- **Rio Olympics silver medallist P V Sindhu** jumped three places to achieve a **career-best world number two ranking** in the latest **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** rankings released this week.
- India and Australia have started a partnership aimed at increasing cooperation in sports, in the presence of visiting Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and batting great Sachin Tendulkar. Sports Minister Vijay Goel was also present at the launching ceremony in Mumbai
- **Shot putter Manpreet Kaur** broke her own 2015 national record at the Asian Grand Prix in Jinhua China. Her performance in the event has helped her to earn a gold medal and qualify for the World Championships to be held in London in August 2017 Her outstanding performance in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix has helped her to reach No. 1 spot in the world rankings.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

- **Indian national football team has secured a 100th spot in the latest FIFA world football rankings. This is the first time in 21 years that India** has been ranked into top 100. India has been placed 100th alongside Nicaragua, Lithuania and Estonia with a total of 331 points. India had ranked 101<sup>st</sup> in the FIFA rankings for April. The team climbed one spot up owing to the recent wins over Cambodia and Myanmar.
- **Harpreet Singh has bagged bronze medal in Greco-Roman weight divisions** in the Asian Wrestling Championship held at the K D Jadhav arena in the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi Harpreet clinched the bronze medal after beating his rival Jun Ji Na of China in 80 kg category.
- **Jhulan Goswami has become the highest wicket-taker** in one-day internationals in the Women Cricket Category Goswami has so far taken 181 wickets in 153 matches She has broken the world record held by Australia **fast bowler Cathryn Fitzpatrick**.

- **Indian cricket team has retained its top position in the latest ICC Test rankings with 123 points.** Indian team is six points ahead of second placed South Africa. Australia has been placed at the third place with 100 points followed by England at 4th, New Zealand at 5th & Pakistan at 6th.

- **Rafael Nadal has beat Dominic Thiem to clinch his fifth Madrid Open title.**

**Ravichandran Ashwin has won the international cricketer of the Year Award** at the CEAT Cricket Rating International awards 2017. Ashwin has taken 99 wickets in the past 12 months.

- Historian **Ramachandra Guha** has tendered his resignation as BCCI administrator citing personal reasons. He submitted his resignation letter to Chairman of the Committee of Administrators of the BCCI Vinod Rai on May 28.

- India's fencer **C.A Bhavani Devi** has become **first Indian to win a Gold Medal** in an international fencing tournament.

**Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli has become the only cricketer to get featured in the top 10 of the ICC Players Rankings for ODIs as he managed to stick to the third spot in the ODI batsman's chart.**

- The International **Olympic Committee has approved new events for the 2020 Tokyo Games**, including a number of mixed gender competitions. The additions include a **mixed team event for judo. Each team will consist of 3 men and 3 women**, all representing different weight classes. Team events have already taken place at the judo world championships, but never on a mixed-gender basis. **Table Tennis will also get a mixed doubles competition.** The **event was featured in the recent world championships in Germany.**

## Sports

- India's **Skipper Virat Kohli has become the quickest batsman to score 8000 runs in one-day international cricket** beating South Africa's AB de Villier's record by seven fewer innings. Virat Kohli has managed to cross the 8000 run mark in his 175th innings during India's match against Bangladesh in ICC Champion's Trophy semi-final in Birmingham.

- Indian shooters **Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu** have won the gold medal in mixed team 10m air pistol event of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup held at Gabala, Azerbaijan.

- **Rafael Nadal of Spain defeated Swiss third-seeded Stan Wawrinka 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 to win his record 10th French Open title.** With this victory, **Rafael Nadal has become the first man or woman in the Open era to clinch a Grand Slam tournament 10 times.**

- **Rohan Bopanna won his maiden Grand Slam title along with his Canadian partner Gabriela Dabrowski by winning the French Open mixed doubles trophy.** With this title win he has become only the fourth Indian to clinch a major, **the other three being Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza who all have won Grand Slam trophies for India.**

■ India crashed out of the Hockey World League after suffering a shocking 2-3 defeat at the hands of Malaysia in the quarterfinals in London with this win, Malaysia have qualified for next year's World Cup to be held in India.





- Indian shooters **Yashaswini Singh Deswal and Anish Bhanwala** has bagged gold in the Women's 10m Air Pistol and Men's 25m Standard Pistol competition respectively in the Junior World Rifle/Pistol Championship held in Germany.
- **World No.11 Kidambi Srikanth** sealed his second successive Super Series win by defeating reigning Olympic Champion Chen Long in **the Australian Open summit** clash in Sydney.
- Sports Minister Vijay Goel has **felicitated wizard of badminton Kidambi Srikanth for his lightning victories and the new-age Dronacharya Coach PGopichand for his great vision.**
- **Manpreet Kaur and Govindan Laxman won gold medals on the opening day of Asian Athletics Championships held at Kalinga Stadium of Bhubaneswar.** Manpreet Kaur threw 18.28m to win a gold medal in the women's shotput event.
- Four-time FIFA World Cup winner Germany won maiden FIFA Confederation Cup Football title by defeating Copa America Champion Chile by 1-0 goals in the final match held at St Petersburg, Russia.
- **Indian captain Mithali Raj has become first player in the history of women's ODI cricket to score more than 6000 career runs. She also became all-time leading run-getter in women's ODI. She achieved the record feat against Australia in the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 match at Bristol.**

**India's Lovepreet Singh won bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships at Kathmandu.**

The world Athletics Championship kicked off in **London on 4th August..** Meanwhile, World record holder Usain Bolt advanced to the semifinals in his last 100 meters race at the World Championships in London.

The National Sports Day is observed every year on 29th August every year to birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand who was born .

#### **ICC women's world cup: (Sachin as brand ambassador)**

England's women's cricket team won 2017 ICC World Cup title by defeating India by 9 runs at Lord's Cricket Ground in London. It was England's fourth Women's World Cup title. [England won the final](#) against [India](#) at [Lord's](#) on 23 July by 9 runs. Besides the inaugural edition in 1973, England had won the World Cup in 1993 and 2009 as well. In this edition of World Cup, Tammy Beaumont of England was awarded Player of the Series title. She had made most runs (410) in the tournament. Dane van Niekerk of South Africa took most wickets (15) in the tournament....

Notably, it was India's second appearance in the Women's World Cup final, having lost to Australia in 2005.



Switzerland's Roger Federer won 2017 Wimbledon title in the men's single category. In the final match he defeated Marin Cilic of Croatia by 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 score.

It was Federer's record eighth Wimbledon title and overall 19th Grand Slam. With this victory, 36-year old Federer also became Wimbledon's oldest champion, succeeding Arthur

Ashe, who was 32 when he won in 1976.

Federer claimed his 19th Grand Slam title beating Cilic 6-3, 6-1, 6-4. The 36-year old Federer is also Wimbledon's oldest men's winner of the modern era, succeeding Arthur Ashe, who was almost 32 when he won in 1976. He also became the first player since Bjorn Borg in 1976 to win Wimbledon without dropping a set in the entire tournament.

#### Other Category winners

##### Women's single

Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain) defeated Venus Williams (United States) by 7-5, 6-0 score to win her first Wimbledon title in the women's single category.



### Indus Academics: Pathway to career in Defence Services

- NDA upcoming batch: Oct 2017
- AFCAT upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- CDSE upcoming batch: Dec 2017
- Scholarships available for wards of Defence Personnel, Economically weaker & students from North-East on FCFS Basis
- Early bird discount for first five registrations & meritorious students in each course.
- Genuine consideration for Board toppers & meritorious students.
- Updated UPSC standard study Material for NDA/CDS/AFCAT/TA .

##### Men's Doubles

Lukasz Kubot (Poland) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil) pair defeated Oliver Marach (Austria) and Mate Pavić (Croatia) pair to win 2017 Wimbledon title in Men's Doubles category.

##### Women's Doubles

Russian pair Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina defeated Chan Hao-ching (Chinese Taipei) and Monica Niculescu (Romania) to win 2017 Wimbledon title in Women's Doubles category.

##### Mixed Doubles

Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland) defeated Henri Kontinen (Finland) and Heather Watson (United Kingdom) to win 2017 Wimbledon title in mixed Doubles category.

### **BCCI appoint shashtri as coach:**



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has named former Indian all-rounder and captain Ravi Shastri as the new chief coach of the Indian cricket team till ICC World Cup 2019. He will succeed Anil Kumble who had resigned from the post after the ICC Champions Trophy 2017.

The decision was announced after the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) zeroed in on his name ahead of other strong contenders, including Virender Sehwag and Tom Moody.

Besides, BCCI also appointed former fast bowler Zaheer Khan as bowling coach for a period of two years. Former Indian Captain Rahul Dravid was also appointed as batting consultant for specific overseas tours.

### **Asian Athletics Championships 2017: Manpreet Kaur and Govindan LaxmanwinsGold**

#### **Asian Athletics Championship**

The Asian Athletics Championships is an event organised by the Asian Athletics Association. The event is held once in every two years. The last episode of the event took place in Wuhan in 2015. The 2017 Asian Athletics Championship is the 22nd edition and will be held from 6 July to 9 July 2017 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Around 800 athletes from around 45 countries are participating in the event, Bhubaneswar is the third Indian city to host this event after New Delhi (1989) and Pune (2013).

#### **Mascot**

Olly, the Olive Ridley sea turtle has been chosen as the mascot for the championship. Olive Ridley Turtles are endangered species that are found in warm and tropical waters, primarily in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Astaranga coast and Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, both in Odisha, are home to Olive Ridley Turtles. These turtles travel to Odisha's Rushikulya and Gahirmatha beaches for its nesting. In India, the turtle has been included in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Four-time FIFA World Cup winner Germany won maiden FIFA Confederation Cup Football title by defeating **Copa America Champion** Chile by 1-0 goals.

International Cricket Council (ICC) has appointed Imran Khawaja as its deputy chairman. Imran Khawaja is Chairman of Associates counties and a veteran . Following his election, Khawaja will deputise the ICC meetings in the absence of chairman Shashank Manohar.