

## **Monthly Current Affairs**

**1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>th</sup> October - 2017**

Dear readers,

Monthly Current Affairs is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the month (1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>th</sup> October) 2017. These News are highly important for various competitive exams and interviews.

### **Banking & Finance**

#### **1. RBI keeps Repo Rate unchanged at 6%:**

- ✦ In its fourth bi-monthly policy review for 2017-18, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to keep the Repo Rate unchanged at 6% under the liquidity adjustment facility.
- ✦ Repo Rate: It is the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks for shorter duration.

#### **2. Vijaya Bank signs MoU with HPCL for digital payments:**

- ✦ Vijaya Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to enable all the HPCL retail outlets with BHIM/UPI merchant solutions.
- ✦ This move will allow all the petrol pump attendants and LPG delivery personnel to accept digital payments.

#### **3. RBI to launch financial literacy drive in 9 states:**

- ✦ With an aim to educate public on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchase, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is going to launch financial literacy drive on pilot basis in nine states.
- ✦ The 9 states will be Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana and Haryana.

#### **4. IMF lowers India's growth forecast to 6.7%:**

- ✦ World Economic Outlook (WEO) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its October edition has anticipated India's growth at 6.7% for 2017 and 7.4% in 2018.
- ✦ The report has mentioned the impact of Demonetization and implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) as the main reasons behind the expected slowdown during the current and the next financial year.

### **5. Banks to provide funds at 7% to Women SHGs under DAY-NRLM: Central bank**

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India in its new Guidelines has mentioned to provide funds to Women Self- Help Groups (SHGs) at 7% under the DeendayalAntyodyaYojna- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- ✦ RBI has issued these revised guidelines for 21 public sector banks and 19 private banks.

### **6. Kotak Mahindra launches Paymint:**

- ✦ Kotak Mahindra Bank in collaboration with financial technology firm Zeta has launched a multi-wallet digital prepaid solution for salaried employees named Paymint.
- ✦ Through Paymint, corporate entities will be able to manage multiple reimbursements and allowances offered to employees including medical reimbursements, travel allowances etc.

### **7. India signs \$300 Million loan agreement with ADB for West Bengal:**

- ✦ With an aim to achieve targeted comprehensive fiscal consolidation program in West Bengal, the Union Government has inked a \$300 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank.
- ✦ The fiscal consolidation program aims to improve revenue administration, rationalization of expenditure and facilitation of more private investment in the state.

### **8. RBI sets up task force for Public Credit Registry:**

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a high level task force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India. The ten-membered task force will be headed by Y M Deosthalee.
- ✦ Public Credit Registry (PCR) keeps database of credit information which is accessible to all the stakeholders.

### **9. SBI launched 2<sup>nd</sup> Digital Hackathon:**

- ✦ The State Bank of India has launched the second edition of its Hackathon named 'Digitize for Bank'.
- ✦ This Hackathon will focus upon four themes- facial recognition, signature recognition, voice based authentication and cheque truncation value enhancers.

## **National News.**

### **1. NITI Aayog to host Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017:**

- ✦ The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog will host the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 (GES 2017) in Hyderabad from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
- ✦ The theme for this year will be- “Women First, Prosperity for All”.
- ✦ This will be the first time GES being organized in South Asia.

### **2. NHAH launches nationwide free eye check-up campaign:**

- ✦ The Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, NitinGadkari has launched a countrywide free eye check-up campaign to distribute spectacles for truck drivers, cleaners and helpers.
- ✦ The campaign was launched in Nagpur, Maharashtra with an aim to ensure clear vision and safe travel for truck drivers who are the most frequent users of the National Highways.

### **3. Odisha Government creates land bank for industrial allocation:**

- ✦ With an aim to remove red tapism and avoid the local issues in land acquisition, the Odisha Government is going to create 1.2 lakh acre land bank in the state for the industrial sector.
- ✦ The Government has decided to follow plug-and-play kind of model where all the amenities like water, power, roads etc will be provided.
- ✦ State industry department will invest in various sectors like steel, aluminium, IT, food processing etc to further enhance the employment potential of the state.

### **4. Government launches ParyatanParv to promote tourism:**

- ✦ In order to showcase the cultural diversity of India and emphasize on the principle of ‘Tourism for All’ the Union Ministry of Tourism has launched a nationwide ParyatanParv campaign.
- ✦ It was inaugurated at the Humayun’s Tomb and will be held across the country from 5<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017. During this time, ‘Adopt a Heritage’ project will launched by the Ministry will be implemented on key sites.

### **5. India signs agreement with European Investment Bank for Bangalore Metro Phase II:**

- ✦ Union Government has signed an agreement of 300 million euros with European Investment Bank (EIB)for Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II.
- ✦ The project will be jointly financed by EIB and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- ✦ The Project aims to ensure modern transport facility for the commuters.

### **6. CBDT signs 2 more Advanced Pricing Agreements with taxpayers:**

- ✦ With an aim to reduce the burden of litigations, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed 2 more Advanced Pricing Agreements (APA’s) with the Indian taxpayers by providing certainty in transfer pricing.

- ✦ The two APA's are related to Automobile and Healthcare consulting sectors.

### **7. First ASEAN-India Music Festival Begins in New Delhi:**

- ✦ The first ever ASEAN-India Music Festival has been organized by Ministry of External Affairs and Culture Ministry at Purana Quila in New Delhi.
- ✦ The 3 days festival has been organized to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
- ✦ The theme for this commemorative year is- 'Shared Values, Common Destiny'.

### **8. GST council constitutes GoM to review GST Composition Scheme:**

- ✦ Himanta Biswa, the Finance Minister of Assam will head a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the GST Council to make the composition scheme more attractive and review the GST tax rates on restaurants.
- ✦ The composition scheme is an alternative method to levy tax designed for small taxpayers whose turnover is up to Rs. 75 Lakh. Its objective is to bring simplicity and reduce the compliance cost for the small taxpayers.

### **9. PM lays foundation stone for Bhadbhut Barrage:**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for Bhadbhut Barrage to be constructed over Narmada river in Bharuch, Gujarat.
- ✦ He also flagged off the Antyodaya Express between Udhna in Surat and Jaynagar in Bihar.

### **10. Government launches Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme- Series III:**

- ✦ The Union Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the Sovereign Gold Bond 2017-18, series III.
- ✦ These bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporations of India Limited, designated post offices and recognized stock exchanges like National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

### **11. Government receives 260 applications under VAJRA Scheme:**

- ✦ Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme, launched by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology has received 260 applications from foreign scientists.
- ✦ Among 260 applicants, 70 will be shortlisted.
- ✦ The scheme has been launched to attract scientists and research scholars to India so that they can contribute to the country's Research and Development (R&D) programmes.

### **12. NMCG approves eight projects under NamamiGange Program:**

- ✦ The executive committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved 8 projects for sewage management, treatment of drains and surveillance of Ganga River under NamamiGange Program.

- ✦ These projects will be implemented in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

### **13. Global Hunger index 2017: India ranks 100 among 119 countries:**

- ✦ India has secured 100<sup>th</sup> rank among 119 nations on Global Hunger index (GHI) 2017 report released by Washington based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- ✦ It has slipped by three positions as compared to 97<sup>th</sup> rank in 2016 GHI report.
- ✦ The four parameters of GHI are undernourished population, child wasting, child stunting and infant mortality rate.

### **14. India occupies 8<sup>th</sup> slot in 2017 Valuable National Brand List:**

- ✦ According to the Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017 report, India has secured 8<sup>th</sup> rank out of 100 countries on the list of most valuable nation brands.
- ✦ Previously, India was on the 7<sup>th</sup> spot.
- ✦ US has secured the first rank, followed by China and Germany.

### **15. First Meeting of EAC-PM held in New Delhi:**

- ✦ The first ever meeting of newly constituted Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) was recently held at NITI Aayog in New Delhi.
- ✦ It was chaired by Bibek Debroy, member of NITI Aayog.
- ✦ Current economic, fiscal and monetary policy related issues were high on the agenda of the meeting.

### **16. Government launches SampoornaBima Gram (SBG) Yojna:**

- ✦ With an aim to provide affordable life insurance services to people living in rural areas, the Union Government has launched SampoornaBima Gram (SBG) Yojna with expanding the coverage of Postal Life Insurance (PLI).
- ✦ Under the SBG Yojna, at least one village with a minimum of 100 households will be selected in each district of the country to cover all households of the identified village with minimum of one Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy.

### **17. Rajasthan Assembly first in India to call Motions online:**

- ✦ Rajasthan assembly has become the first in India to call attention and adjournment motions online from the members to send them to the state government.
- ✦ The new Digital initiative is expected to save time, labour and use of paper.

### **18. Bureau of Indian Standards Act 2016 comes into effect:**

- ✦ Bureau of Indian Standards Act 2016 which was notified in March 2016 has been brought into effect by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- ✦ The new Act has replaced the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

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**19. Government sets up expert group for AI policy:**

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has set up an expert group to advise the Government the measures to reduce cyber-attacks with Artificial Intelligence (AI). The recommendations of the group will be used to frame the policy for the same.
- ✦ Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a branch of Computer Science that deals with making computers behave like humans.

**20. Jaipur Airport ranked first in ACI-ASQ Survey:**

- ✦ The Airports Council International (ACI) has ranked Jaipur Airport on the first position in its Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Survey.
- ✦ Srinagar Airport got the second position. It is for the second consecutive time Jaipur Airport has been rated the best Airport in the world in the 2 to 5 million passengers per year traffic volume category.

**21. New district in Arunachal Pradesh- Kamle:**

- ✦ Arunachal Pradesh State Assembly has passed the Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organisation of Districts) Amendment Bill 2017 to create a new district named Kamle.
- ✦ It will be the 23rd district of Arunachal Pradesh and has been created by bifurcating the present upper and lower Subansiri districts.

**22. PM dedicates first All India Institute of Ayurveda to Nation:**

- ✦ On the occasion of Ayurveda day (observed on 17<sup>th</sup> October), Prime Minister Narendramodi has dedicated the first All India Institute of Ayurveda to the nation.
- ✦ PM also released Ayurvedic Standard Treatment Guidelines framed by AYUSH.
- ✦ He also presented Yoga Award to Ramamaniyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune.

**23. MCX launches India's first commodity options in Gold:**

- ✦ Multi-Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. (MCX) has launched India's first commodity options in Gold. The gold futures contract will have the bi-monthly duration.
- ✦ MCX's Gold Option Contract is a European styled Gold option with Gold (1kg) futures as underlying asset.

**24. Government sets up expert group for AI policy:**

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has set up an expert group to advise the Government the measures to reduce cyber-attacks with Artificial Intelligence (AI). The recommendations of the group will be used to frame the policy for the same.

- ✦ Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a branch of Computer Science that deals with making computers behave like humans.

### **25. 5-member committee to select editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV:**

- ✦ PrasarBhartiChairrman A Surya Prakash will head a 5-member committee constituted by the Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu to select candidate for the post of editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV.
- ✦ Other members of the committee are- Swapan Das Gupta, ShashiShekharVempati, PPK Ramacharyulu and Rahul Srivastava.

### **26. Government permits banks to sell more small saving schemes:**

- ✦ In order to encourage savings in the country, the Union Finance Ministry has allowed banks, including the top 3 private sector lenders to accept deposits under various small savings schemes.
- ✦ Till now, most of the small saving schemes were sold through the post offices. This decision will result in higher mobilization of money.

### **27. Madhya Pradesh Government launches BhavantarBhugtanYojna:**

- ✦ Providing a helping hand to the farmers, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan has inaugurated the ambitious BhavantarBhugtanYojna.
- ✦ With this initiative, Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to lend money to farmers at zero percent interest.
- ✦ Under the scheme, the Government has approved a number of irrigation projects in the state.

### **28. Rajasthan Government introduces bill prohibiting probes against judges and officers without sanction:**

- ✦ Rajasthan Government has introduced the Code of Criminal procedure (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the state assembly to protect both serving and former judges, magistrates and public servants in the state from being investigated for on-duty action without its prior sanction.
- ✦ The bill will also prohibit media from reporting on such matters until sanction to proceed with the probe is obtained.

### **29. Maharashtra Government releases Rs 4000 crores in Loan waiver scheme:**

- ✦ Maharashtra Government has released a sum of Rs 4000 crores in the first phase of the farm loan waiver scheme worth Rs 34,000 crore.
- ✦ In the first phase of the scheme, more than 8 lakh farmers will be covered.

### **30. South Asia's first Ro-Ro ferry service in Gujarat:**

- ✦ Prime Minister NarendraModi has inaugurated South Asia's first Roll-on, Roll-off ferry service between Ghogha in Bhavnagar district and Dahej in Bharuch district in Gulf of Cambay, Gujarat.

- ✦ Ro-Ro ferry services are vessels which are used to carry wheeled cargo like cars, trucksetc which are driven on and off ferry on their own wheels or using a platform vehicle.

### **31. Sri Lankan Coast Guard commissions OPV SURAKSHA:**

- ✦ Sri Lankan Coast Guard has commissioned Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) SURAKSHA gifted by India at the Colombo Port.
- ✦ It is the first Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Sri Lankan Coast Guard.
- ✦ Earlier it belonged to the Indian Coast Guard and was known as Varuna.

### **32. Government launches website of CIPAM:**

- ✦ Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhudas launched the official website of Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
- ✦ The new website will provide all the updates related to the upcoming events of CIPAM apart from giving information related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

### **33. Ministries of Power and Textiles joint initiative-SAATHI:**

- ✦ Ministries of Power and Textiles have joined hands under SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of Efficient Textile Technologies to Help Small Industries) initiative.
- ✦ Under this initiative, Energy Efficient Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power will procure energy efficient powerlooms and motors in bulk and provide them to small and medium powerloom units at no upfront cost.

### **34. Government appoints its interlocutor in J&K:**

- ✦ With an aim to initiate a sustained dialogue on the rising insurgency and anti-India Protests in Jammu and Kashmir, with all the stakeholders, the Union Government has appointed former Intelligence Bureau Chief Dineshwar Sharma as its representative.

### **35. Start-up Sangam Initiative:**

- ✦ With an aim to develop new business models, technology and innovations in heavy oil and gas industry sector, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched Start-up Sangam Initiative by supporting 30 start-ups.
- ✦ For this 10 oil and Gas PSUs have set up Rs. 320 crore venture capital fund.

### **36. Global Passport Power Rank 2017: India ranks 75**

- ✦ India has secured 75<sup>th</sup> rank among 94 countries in the Global Passport Power Rank 2017.
- ✦ India has secured 3 ranks better than the previous ranking



- ✦ According to the index Singapore is on the top spot becoming the first Asian country to top the index.
- ✦ Singapore is followed by Germany, Sweden and South Korea

### **37. Government announces Bank recapitalization plan for PSB's**

- ✦ The union Government has announced bank recapitalization plan to provide Rs 2.11 lakh crore capital over the next 2 years in public sector banks
- ✦ It has also decided to provide financial support for MSME's in 50 clusters.

### **38. Supreme court bans dirty pet-coke, furnace oil in Haryana Rajasthan and UP**

- ✦ Moving a step further towards its aim of reducing air pollution in Delhi and National Capital region (NCR), the Supreme court has banned the use of pet coke and Dirty furnace oil in Haryana, Rajasthan and UP from 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2017.

## **International News & Foreign Affairs**

### **1. India, Ethiopia sign agreements on trade, communication:**

- ✦ India and Ethiopia have signed agreements on trade, communication and media to boost bilateral ties.
- ✦ The agreements were signed during President Ram Nath Kovind's visit to Ethiopia.

### **2. First Indo-Australian Joint Steering Committee meeting held in New Delhi:**

- ✦ The first Joint Steering Committee meeting between India and Australia was recently held in New Delhi. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the scope of cooperation in counter- terrorism and checking the extremism and radicalization.
- ✦ The delegates of the two countries also discussed the possible measures to check the illegal financial transactions, counterfeiting and cybercrimes.

### **3. First BIMSTEC Disaster Management exercise held in New Delhi:**

- ✦ National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has recently conducted first BIMSTEC Disaster Management exercise-2017 in New Delhi from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October.
- ✦ The exercise aims to provide a platform that will help to strengthen and coordinate the best practices for disaster management among the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) member countries.

### **4. Cabinet approves MoC between India and Japan to establish Liquid, Flexible and Global LNG Market:**

- ✦ With an aim to promote bilateral relations between India and Japan in energy sector, the Union cabinet has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the two countries on establishing a liquid, flexible and Global LNG market.
- ✦ The MoC will provide a platform to allow the two nations to cooperate in establishing the LNG contracts and exploring the possibilities of reliable LNG spot price indices reflecting true LNG demand and supply.

#### **5. G-20 Finance Ministers Meeting in Washington D.C.**

- ✦ The Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has participated in the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in Washington D.C.
- ✦ The agenda of the meeting was global economy and framework for growth, compact with Africa and International Financial Architecture.

#### **6. Hurricane Nate in USA:**

- ✦ Hurricane Nate has made landfall near the mouth of Mississippi river in Louisiana, United States of America. A state of emergency has been declared in four southern US states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

#### **7. World's largest combustion research centre inaugurated at IIT Madras:**

- ✦ National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) has been inaugurated at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras in Tamil Nadu.
- ✦ It is the world's largest combustion research centre.

#### **8. Canada will be the Partner Country for 2017 Technology Summit:**

- ✦ Canada has been chosen as the partner country for the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Technology Summit from 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in New Delhi.
- ✦ The summit is India's largest technology conference which will be jointly organized by the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

#### **9. INDRA 2017: First tri-services military exercises between India-Russia begins:**

- ✦ The first tri-service (Army, Navy & Air Force) exercise INDRA 2017 between India and Russia has begun at the Combined Army Range Sergeevsky and in the sea of Japan.
- ✦ It is the overall 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the exercise and India's first bilateral military exercise with any country involving all three services.

#### **10. India, Brazil and South Africa signs IBSA Fund agreement:**

- ✦ With an aim to fight poverty in the developing countries, India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) have signed the IBSA Trust Fund Agreement.
- ✦ It was signed at the 8<sup>th</sup> IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban, South Africa.

- ✦ In IBSA Fund, each country contribute \$1 million annually which is managed by United Nation's Development Program (UNDP).

### **11. 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting-Plus to be held in Philippines:**

- ✦ Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will represent India in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting-Plus (ADMM)-Plus which will be hosted by Philippines.
- ✦ The representatives of the ASEAN countries will be expected to discuss different measures to enhance defence and security cooperation.

### **12. Second World Congress on Marxism to be held in Beijing:**

- ✦ The second edition of the World Congress on Marxism will be held in Beijing, China in May 2018.
- ✦ The theme of the conference will be: "Marxism and the current world and China".

### **13. Sibi George will be the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland:**

- ✦ Sibi George has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland.
- ✦ He will succeed Smita Purushottam.

### **14. First International Conference on Consumer Protection held in New Delhi:**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the First International Conference on Consumer Protection on empowering consumers in new markets for South, South East and East Asian Countries in New Delhi.
- ✦ The theme of the conference was- "Empowering Consumers in New Markets".

## **Defence and Science-Tech**

### **1. Embryo Transfer Program:**

- ✦ Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has launched Mass Embryo Transfer Program in indigenous breeds under the National Mission on Bovine Productivity Scheme.
- ✦ The program has been launched with an aim to develop and conserve indigenous breeds under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission using Embryo Transfer Technology (EET).

### **2. Global Wildlife Program Conference:**

- ✦ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in association with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has hosted the Global Wildlife Program Conference in New Delhi.

- ✦ The theme of the conference was- “People’s participation in wildlife conservation”.

### **3. 3<sup>rd</sup> India International Science Festival to be held in Chennai:**

- ✦ Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and VijnanaBharti (VIBHA) will organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> India International Science Festival in Chennai, Tamil Nadu from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017.
- ✦ The aim of IISF 2017 will be to showcase India’s contribution to the field of Science and Technology and to promote scientific temper among the masses.

### **4. India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise Mitra Shakti 2017 held in Pune:**

- ✦ The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise Mitra Shakti 2017 was recently held in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ✦ The two weeks long exercise has been conducted for counter terrorism and counter insurgency operations. Infantry companies from both the countries are participating in it.

### **5. Japan launches satellite for high tech GPS:**

- ✦ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has successfully launched Michibiki-4 satellite (QZSS-4) from Tanegashima Space Centre.
- ✦ It was the fourth satellite in the Michibiki series i.e. Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), which is a satellite based high precision Global Positioning System similar to US operated GPS.

### **6. Maharashtra launches Web Portal to provide information on New Government Schemes:**

- ✦ Maharashtra Government has launched a new web portal ‘MahaLabharthi’ to provide information to people about all the Government schemes.
- ✦ People can register themselves on the portal to avail the benefits of different schemes they are eligible for.

### **7. Health Ministry launches Intensified Mission Indradhanush:**

- ✦ With an aim to accelerate the pace of full immunization program, the Union Ministry of Health and family Welfare has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush to provide more than 90% coverage by December 2018.
- ✦ Through this program, the Government wants to provide immunization to each and every child under 2 years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunization program.

### **8. INS Kiltan commissioned into Indian Navy:**

- ✦ INS Kiltan, the indigenously built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette has been commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- ✦ It is India's first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material.

### 9. #IamThatWoman campaign launched:

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched an online campaign #IamThatWoman with an aim to end gender bias in women against women.
- ✦ It also aims to acknowledge the contributions made by women for women.
- ✦ Under the campaign, Twitter and Facebook users will be encouraged to tag and share the stories of women helping women with photograph and post online with hashtag#IamThatWoman.

### 10. Indian Air Force launches Health mobile App 'MedWatch'

- ✦ On the occasion of its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Indian Air Force has launched an Innovative health mobile app named 'MedWatch'.
- ✦ The app will provide authentic health information to the IAF personnel.
- ✦ An important component of the app is a reminder tool that enables timely immunization for the children of IAF personnel.

### 11. Scientists develop RNA editing tool 'REPAIR'

- ✦ Scientists from The Broad Institute and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in US have developed REPAIR (RNA Editing for Programmable A to I Replacement) which is a new gene editing tool that can reverse disease causing mutations in humans.

### 12. Ichthyosaur fossil discovered in India:

- ✦ Geologists for the first time have discovered 152 million years old fossil of Ichthyosaur, an extinct marine reptile in the Kutch desert region of Gujarat.

## Important days

### 1. 30<sup>th</sup> September: International Translation Day:

- ✦ United Nations has observed the International Translation Day for the first time on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- ✦ The day was observed to acknowledge the contribution of the language professionals towards International diplomacy for world peace and security.
- ✦ 30<sup>th</sup> September has been chosen to commemorate St Jerome, who is considered as patron saint of translators.

### 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> October: International Day of Non-Violence:

- ✦ The International Day of Non-Violence is celebrated every year across the globe on 2<sup>nd</sup> October on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to promote the principles of non-violence through education and public awareness.
- ✦ In India, the day is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti.

### **3. 11<sup>th</sup> October : International Day of Girl child:**

- ✦ With the theme- “The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030”, the International Day of the Girl Child has been observed worldwide on 11<sup>th</sup> October.
- ✦ The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face.

### **4. October 13<sup>th</sup>: International Day for Disaster Reduction:**

- ✦ In order to promote risk awareness and disaster reduction globally, the International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed every year on 13<sup>th</sup> October.
- ✦ The day seeks to encourage citizens and governments to take part in building more disaster resilient communities and nations.
- ✦ This year’s theme is “Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement”.

### **5. Indian Air Force celebrates 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

- ✦ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has celebrated its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017.
- ✦ The celebrations turned out to be memorable by number of stellar shows performed by the IAF aircrafts at the Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad.

### **6. October 14: World Standards Day:**

- ✦ With the theme ‘Standards make cities smarter’, the World’s Standards Day was observed on 14<sup>th</sup> October across the world to mark the development of voluntary engineering and scientific standards.

### **7. October 15: International Day of Rural Women:**

- ✦ With an aim to acknowledge the crucial role of women in the society, the International Day of Rural Women is observed world-wide every year on 15<sup>th</sup> October.
- ✦ This year’s theme is- ‘Challenges and opportunities in climate resilient agriculture for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls’.

### **8. 16<sup>th</sup> October: World Food Day:**

- ✦ To commemorate the foundation of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, the World Food Day is observed globally on 16<sup>th</sup> October.
- ✦ This year’s theme is: ‘Change the future of migration, invest in food security and rural development’.

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### 9. October 17: International day for the Eradication of Poverty:

- ✦ With an aim to raise awareness to eradicate poverty, the International day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) is observed worldwide every year on 17<sup>th</sup> October.
- ✦ This year's theme is: "Answering the Call of October 17 to end Poverty: A path towards peaceful and inclusive societies."

### 10. 17<sup>th</sup> October: Ayurveda Day:

- ✦ The Ministry of AYUSH has celebrated this year's second Ayurveda Day on 17<sup>th</sup> October in New Delhi. On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India's first All India Institute of Ayurveda which will be the first medical institute under the AYUSH Ministry.

### 11. 20<sup>th</sup> October: World Statistics Day:

- ✦ With an aim to acknowledge the importance of timely statistics, the World Statistics Day is observed worldwide on 20<sup>th</sup> October.
- ✦ United Nations Statistical Commission has proposed to celebrate 20<sup>th</sup> October as the World Statistics Day.

### 12. 21<sup>st</sup> October: Police Commemoration Day:

- ✦ In order to pay homage to the Police Martyrs, the Police Commemoration day is observed on 21<sup>st</sup> October every year.
- ✦ The day is observed to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of ten policemen while defending the border with China in 1959.

### 13. 24<sup>th</sup> October: World Polio Day:

- ✦ In order to spread awareness against the hazardous Poliomyelitis, the World Polio Day is observed globally on 24<sup>th</sup> October every year.
- ✦ The day is observed to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk who has led the first team of researchers which had developed a vaccine against Polio.

### 14. October 24: World Development Information Day:

- ✦ The World Development Information Day is observed every year on 24<sup>th</sup> October to make the world understand the development problems and necessity of enhancing and strengthening the international cooperation to solve them.
- ✦ On this day, different events are organized that draw attention of the world on the work that UN does particularly in the fields of trade and development.

### 15. 27<sup>th</sup> October: Infantry Day

- ✦ The Infantry Day was recently observed on 27<sup>th</sup> October to commemorate the supreme sacrifices made by Indian Army's Infantry against Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir in 1947.

- ✦ It was the first Infantry action by the Indian Army after the Independence.

### **16. October 27: World day for Audiovisual Heritage:**

- ✦ The World day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed every year on 27<sup>th</sup> October to raise awareness about the significance and preservation risks associated with the recorded sound and audiovisual documents (films, sound and video recordings, television and radio programmes).
- ✦ The theme for this year was- “Discover, remember and share”.

## **Appointments & Persons in News**

### **1. SoumyaSwaminathan new Deputy DG of WHO:**

- ✦ SoumyaSwaminathan has been appointed as the new Deputy Director General by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ✦ This is for the first time that such position has been created within WHO and highest post held by Indian in WHO.
- ✦ She will succeed Dr. AnarfiAsaoma from Ghana.

### **2. NishaBiswal appointed as the new President of USIBC:**

- ✦ Former US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, NishaBiswal has been appointed as the President of US-India Business Council (USIBC).
- ✦ US-India Business Council (USIBC) is a premier business advocacy organization dedicated to strengthen the commercial and economic relations between US and India.

### **3. AnupamKher appointed as the new Chairman of FTII:**

- ✦ Veteran actor AnupamKher has been appointed as the new Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).
- ✦ He has succeeded GajendraChauhan.
- ✦ FTII is the premier institute in the country that provides training for acting, film making, direction and production under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

### **4. HemaMalini's Biography launched:**

- ✦ HemaMalini's biography “HemaMalini: Beyond the Dream Girl” has been launched on the occasion of her 69<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- ✦ The biography has been written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee.

### **5. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber receives Blue Planet Prize:**

- ✦ Environmental scientist Hans Joachim Schellnhuber has received the world's most prestigious award in the field of Environmental Science- Blue Planet Prize.



- ✦ He has been chosen for the award for establishing a new field of science, earth system analysis and introducing the most influential concepts including the notion of tipping elements in the climate system.

## Sports

### **1. India wins 2017 Asia Cup Hockey Title:**

- ✦ India, by defeating Malaysia has won the 2017 Asia Cup Hockey Title in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ✦ This is for the third time India has won this title.
- ✦ The Asia Cup is an International Men's and Women's hockey tournament governed by Asian Hockey Federation.

### **2. Kidambi Srikanth wins Denmark Open:**

- ✦ Kidambi Srikanth of India has won the Denmark Open Title of Badminton in the Men's single category. In the final match, he defeated South Korea's Lee Hyun by 21-10, 21-5 score.
- ✦ It was his third Super Series Premier Title this year. Earlier he has won the Singapore and Indonesia Super Series Titles.

### **3. Amjot Singh becomes third Indian in NBA:**

- ✦ The 6-foot, 9-inch tall Amjot Singh from Chandigarh has become the third Indian to enter into National Basketball Association (NBA) League.
- ✦ Earlier, Satnam Singh and Palpreet Singh Brar have also walked into the NBA.

## Awards

### **1. Nobel Prize 2017 for Medicine:**

- ✦ Three US-born scientists, Jeffrey C Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young have been awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine by the Swedish Nobel Assembly.
- ✦ They have discovered molecular mechanisms controlling circadian rhythm. They have explained how humans, plants and animals adapt their biological rhythm and to synchronize it with the Earth's revolution.

### **2. Gauri Lankesh becomes the first Indian to win Anna Politkovskaya Award:**

- ✦ Late journalist Gauri Lankesh has won the prestigious Anna Politkovskaya Award. She will share this award with a Pakistani Peace activist, Gulalai Ismail who has faced the death threats for speaking against Taliban.

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### **3. Kazuo Ishiguro selected for 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature:**

- ✦ Japanese born English novelist Kazuo Ishiguro has been selected by the Swedish academy for the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature.
- ✦ He has been selected for the award because of his works that carries great emotional force.

### **4. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons selected for Nobel Peace Prize 2017:**

- ✦ International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has been selected by the Norwegian Nobel Committee for the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.
- ✦ ICAN has been selected for the award because of its prolonged campaign against atomic bomb and to organize worldwide campaigns spreading awareness against the catastrophic consequences of using nuclear weapons.

### **5. Richard H. Thaler wins 2017 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences:**

- ✦ Richard H. Thaler, the Professor of Behavioral Science and Economics in America has won the 2017 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for his contribution to behavioral economics.
- ✦ Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, officially known as Sveriges Riksbank prize in economic sciences was established in 1968 in the memory of Alfred Nobel.

### **6. TM Krishna wins Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration:**

- ✦ Famous Carnatic Singer TM Krishna has won the 30th Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for his services for promoting National Integration in the country.

## **Obituries**

### **1. Veteran Actor Tom Alter passes away:**

- ✦ Tom Alter, the veteran theatre, television and film actor passed away at the age of 67 years.
- ✦ He was an Indian actor with American descent.
- ✦ He has been appeared over 300 films.

### **2. Veteran Assamese journalist Bhagawati breathes his last:**

- ✦ Veteran Assamese journalist Radhika Mohan Bhagawati, the editor of several Assamese newspapers and Sahitya Akademi awardee has passed away. He was 84 years old.
- ✦ He was awarded the prestigious Harendra Nath Baruah Award for his journalistic work in 1990.