

1-5 October 2017



1) President Ram Nath Kovind on 2 October 2017 constituted a 5-member commission to examine the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Who was appointed head of this commission? – **Justice G. Rohini**

Explanation: A 5-member commission under Justice G. Rohini, Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, was constituted by President Ram Nath Kovind to examine the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The commission has been asked to submit its report in 12 weeks.

– Justice G. Rohini, who became the first woman chief justice of the Delhi High Court in April 2014, is no stranger to the issue of reservation for the backward classes. She was part of the bench at the Andhra Pradesh high court that permitted the state government to appoint special officers to panchayati raj institutions, and to fix quotas in such institutions for backward classes.

– The constitution of this commission is significant as it aims to give greater representation to the less dominant OBC groupings and also work towards inclusion for all.



2) Which temple of south India was adjudged the best 'Swachh Iconic Place' (clean place) in India, as announced by the Union Ministry for Drinking Water and Sanitation on 1 October 2017? – **Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple (Madurai)**

Explanation: The famed Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple in Madurai (Tamil Nadu) was adjudged the best 'Swachh Iconic Place' (clean place) in India. The Union Government had identified ten spots as part of the 'Swachh Iconic Places' initiative earlier this year.

– As part of the recognition as Swachh Iconic Place, the Madurai City Corporation has conceived a project to clean the periphery of the temple. The project is in the early stages and is slated to be completed by March 2018. The project is estimated to cost Rs.11.65 crore and has been sponsored by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) activity.

3) The Union Government on 2 October 2017 launched a six-year project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India. What is the name of this ambitious project? – **'SECURE Himalaya'**

Explanation: An ambitious project named 'SECURE Himalaya' was launched by the Union environment minister Harsh Vardhan in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 2 October 2017. The term SECURE stands for securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems.

– The project is meant for specific landscapes. It includes Changthang (**Jammu and Kashmir**), Lahaul – Pangi and Kinnaur (**Himachal Pradesh**), Gangotri – Govind and Darma – Byans Valley in Pithoragarh (**Uttarakhand**) and Kanchenjunga – Upper Teesta Valley (**Sikkim**).

– Protection of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats is one of the key components of the project which will

also focus on securing livelihoods of the people in the region and enhancing enforcement to reduce wildlife crime.

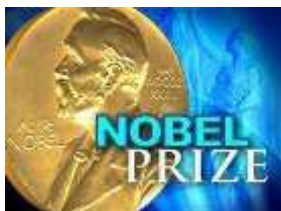


4) Which Indian was appointed the Deputy Director General for programmes (DDP) of World Health Organisation (WHO) on 3 October 2017? – **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**

Explanation: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), was appointed the deputy director general for programmes (DDP) of World Health Organisation (WHO). This announcement was made on 3 October 2017 by WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

– Dr. Swaminathan, a pediatrician by speciality, has more than 30 years of experience in clinical care, research and translating those findings into programs. She is a globally recognized researcher on tuberculosis and HIV. She holds an MBBS degree from Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) in India, MD degree from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

– Her father M.S. Swaminathan is considered the pioneer of Green Revolution in India and mother Mina Swaminathan is a known educationalist.



5) Scientists Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish and Kip Thorne won the 2017 Nobel Prize for Physics for their contribution in which area of the subject? – **Gravitational waves**

Explanation: US scientists Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish and Kip Thorne were chosen for the 2017 Nobel Prize for Physics for their pioneering role in the detection of gravitational

waves. This was announced by the Nobel Prize committee on 3 October 2017.

– Triggered when super-dense black holes merge, the waves were detected using laser beams at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).

6) The Nobel Prize for Medicine for 2017 will be shared amongst which three American scientists for their research on the internal clock of living organisms, as was announced by the Nobel Prize committee on 2 October 2017? – **Jeffrey C Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W Young**

Explanation: The Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine has been awarded to a trio of American scientists (Jeffrey C Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W Young) for their discoveries on the molecular mechanisms controlling circadian rhythms. These molecular mechanisms are in simple words known as the 24-hour body clock.

– These three scientists were recognised for their discoveries explaining “how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronised with the Earth’s revolutions.”

7) Three European-born scientists – Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson – were awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, as was announced by the Nobel Prize committee on 4 October 2017. What is the area of work for which they were chosen for this prestigious award? – **For developing a new way to assemble precise three-dimensional images of biological molecules like proteins, DNA and RNA**

Explanation: The winners of Nobel Prize for Chemistry for 2017 are Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson. Their work has helped scientists decipher processes within cells that were previously invisible, and has led to better understanding of viruses like Zika. In the future, their techniques could offer road maps in the development of drugs to treat diseases.

– Jacques Dubochet is a retired biophysicist at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. Joachim Frank is a professor at Columbia University in New York and Richard Henderson is a scientist at the British Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England.

ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.

6-7 October 2017



2) Who was awarded the 2017 Nobel Literature Prize, as announced by the Swedish Academy on 5 October 2017? – **Kazuo Ishiguro**

Explanation: Japan-born British author Kazuo Ishiguro, best known for his novel 'The Remains of the Day', won the 2017 Nobel Literature Prize. This was announced by the Swedish Academy on 5 October 2017.

– 64-year-old Ishiguro was born in Japan and his family moved to the United Kingdom when he was five. His most renowned novel, *The Remains of the Day* (1989), was turned into film with Anthony Hopkins as the butler Stevens.

– He has written eight books, as well as scripts for film and television. The themes most associated with him are – memory, time, and self-delusion.



1) What is the name of the coalition of NGOs that was chosen for the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize on 6 October 2017 for its efforts to abolish nuclear weapons? – **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**

Explanation: International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a coalition of non-governmental organisations from over 100 countries around the globe with its headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland), has been awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. This was announced by the Nobel Prize committee on 6 October 2017.

– ICAN describes itself as a coalition of grass roots non-government groups in more than 100 nations. It began in Australia and was officially launched in Vienna in 2007. It is presently led by Beatrice Fihn.

– According to the prize committee ICAN has been the leading civil society actor in the effort to achieve a prohibition of nuclear weapons under international law. It was chosen for this prestigious award for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its



3) India made its debut in a football tournament of truly global appeal as India hosts any FIFA tournament for the first time in the form of FIFA U-17 World Cup from 6 October 2017. India faced which country in its inaugural match? – **USA**

Explanation: Football made a grand entry into India with the inauguration of the 2017 FIFA under-17 World Cup at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on 6 October 2017. This is the 17th edition of the prestigious tournament

and was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

– The first match of the tournament was held between Ghana and Colombia and was won by Ghana (1-0). India's inaugural match was held with the USA. USA dominated the match and defeated India convincingly by 3-0. It is worth mentioning that India is taking part in a FIFA tournament for the first time and this is due to it being the host country.



4) Who was appointed the new Chairman of India's largest commercial bank State Bank of India (SBI) to take over from Arundhati Bhattacharya who retired on 6 October 2017? – **Rajnish Kumar**

Explanation: 59-year old Rajnish Kumar is the new Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI). He succeeds Arundhati Bhattacharya whose tenure ended on 6 October 2017. He is the senior most of the managing directors at SBI. He is the 25th Chairman of the bank. He joined the bank as a probationary officer in 1980 and served in positions including head of SBI Capital Markets Ltd, the bank's investment banking unit.

– His appointment comes at a time when SBI's profitability is under strain because of ballooning bad loans and sluggish credit growth. At the end of June, the bank was weighed down by gross non-performing loans of Rs. 1.88 trillion.

– Arundhati Bhattacharya, who was the first woman chairperson of the 200-year-old state-owned bank, was instrumental in the merger of SBI's associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank with SBI. In her tenure, the bank saw the listing of its life insurance subsidiary, the first among public sector banks.

5) President Ramnath Kovind visited which country as his first official overseas visit on 4 October 2017? – **Djibouti**

Explanation: On 4 October 2017 African country Djibouti became President Ramnath Kovind's first official overseas destination after assuming the charge of President of India during July 2017. He also became the first Indian leader to visit the country.

– During his first overseas visit, the President is also visiting Ethiopia as the second leg of the visit.

8-10 October 2017



1) Who won the 2017 Nobel Prize for Economics as was announced by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences on 9 October 2017? – **Richard Thaler (US)**

Explanation: American economist Richard Thaler has won the 2017 Nobel Prize for Economics 'for his contributions to behavioural economics'. The prize worth 9 million Swedish crown (\$1.1 million) is being given to Thaler's contributions in building a bridge between the economic and psychological analyses of individual decision-making.

– The economics prize, officially called the 'Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences' in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was established in 1968. It was not part of the original group of awards set out in dynamite tycoon Nobel's 1895 will.

2) A group of ministers (GoM) was constituted by the Union Government on 6

October 2017 to make the GST composition scheme more attractive and also revisit GST rates on restaurants. Who is heading this GoM?
– **Himanta Biswa Sarma**

Explanation: A group of ministers (GoM) under Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was constituted by the GST Council on 6 October 2017 to make the composition scheme more attractive and also revisit GST rates on restaurants. It will submit its report within 2 weeks.

– The other members of the GoM are Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi, Jammu and Kashmir Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal and Chhattisgarh Minister of Commercial Taxes Amar Agrawal.

– With only 15.50 lakh businesses out of the total 98 lakh registered under the goods and services tax (GST) regime opting for the composition scheme, the GST Council has decided to set up the GoM to examine measures to make it more attractive.

– The GoM has also been tasked with revisiting the tax structure of different categories of restaurants with a view to rationalising or reducing the rates. Currently, GST is levied at 12% on non-AC restaurants while it is 18% in air-conditioned ones.

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3) Which private sector bank on 9 October 2017 became the fourth banking entity of the country to achieve Rs. 2 trillion market capitalization for the first time? – **Kotak Mahindra Bank**

Explanation: Private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd on 9 October 2017 crossed Rs. 2 trillion market capitalization for the first time, making it only the fourth listed bank and 21st company to achieve this milestone in India.

– The three banking entities to cross Rs. 2 trillion market capitalization mark are HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India (SBI). Currently, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is the most valued company in India with a market

cap of Rs. 5.29 trillion, followed by TCS and HDFC Bank with market cap of Rs. 4.70 trillion and Rs. 4.64 trillion, respectively.

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4) What is India's place in Brand Finance's *Nation Brands 2017* rankings of world's most valuable nation that was released during October 2017? – **Eighth**

Explanation: India went down one spot to be ranked at eighth place in Brand Finance's *Nation Brands 2017* rankings of world's most valuable nation. India switched places with Canada and its brand value dropped by one percentage point while that of Canada's rose 14%.

– The list was topped by the United States while China, the fastest growing nation brand in 2017, saw valuation grow 44%, to be ranked at second place. China is also the fastest growing nation brand in absolute terms.



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5) Veteran film director Kundan Shah, who passed away on 7 October 2017, was most famous for which of his film? – **'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro'**

Explanation: 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro' (1983), which went on to become the cult classic of Indian cinema, was the most famous and iconic work of Kundan Shah. He had studied direction at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune and made this film as his maiden film.

– The film did not become a box office success but later went on to become one of the most

celebrated dark satirical comedies in the history of Indian cinema.

– Other important works of Kundan Shah were ‘Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa’ (1993) with Shahrukh Khan and ‘Kya Kehna’ (2000) with Preity Zinta and Saif Ali Khan. He made his directorial debut on television in 1986 with the popular series ‘Nukkad’. In 1988, he directed the sitcom, ‘Wagle Ki Duniya’, based on cartoonist R.K. Laxman’s character, the common man. He was 69.

11 October 2017



1) Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI), that aims to immunize every child under two years of age and pregnant women left uncovered, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8 October 2017 at which place? – **Vadnagar (Gujarat)**

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) in Vadnagar, Gujarat on 8 October 2017. This new mission aims to reach every child under two years of age and pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the government’s routine immunisation programme against preventable diseases.

– The special drive will focus on select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% of children and pregnant women by December 2018. The target of at least 90% coverage was to have been achieved by 2020. With the launch of IMI, the date has now been advanced.

2) The first-ever disaster management exercise of BIMSTEC countries commenced at which place from 10 October 2017? – **Delhi**

Explanation: The first edition of BIMSTEC disaster management exercise started from 10 October 2017 in Delhi. This exercise will share best practices on all aspects of disaster risk reduction and strengthening regional response and coordination for disaster management among BIMSTEC countries.

– BIMSTEC stands for Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and involves countries in South and South East Asia. These member nations are: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.

– The exercise will test the region’s preparedness and resilience towards effective activation of inter-governmental interaction, dialogue and agreements for immediate deployment of regional resources for disaster response. This exercise will conclude on 13 October 2017.

3) Which Indian telecom major during October 2017 announced its decision to shut its operations resulting in probable termination of around 5,000 of its employees? – **Tata Teleservices Limited (TTSL)**

Explanation: Tata Teleservices Limited (TTSL), the telecom unit of diversified conglomerate Tata Sons, is shutting its operations. This was confirmed on 10 October 2017. Tata Docomo is the flagship company of TTSL, while other subsidiaries are T24 Mobile, Wireless Tata Telecom Infrastructure Limited and Virgin Mobile India Pvt. Limited.

– The company is preparing an exit plan for most of its 5,000-odd employees, which includes a notice of three to six months, severance packages for those willing to leave earlier, a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) for elders, while transferring only a small part of its employees to other group companies.

– This is Tata Group’s biggest decision related to termination of employees on such a massive

scale, as never before in their 149 year old history, so many employees are being fired en masse.



4) Which country on 9 October 2017 created history by qualifying for the final stage of the FIFA World Cup and thus becoming the smallest country to achieve this? – **Iceland**

Explanation: Iceland became the smallest country ever to qualify for the final stage of the FIFA World Cup for 2018 as it topped their qualifying group by defeating Kosovo 2-0 on 9 October 2017. This is the first time Iceland has ever qualified for a FIFA world cup tournament.

– The 2018 FIFA World Cup will be played in Russia. Iceland has a population of just 3,34,000 and has almost 20,000 registered football players. Last year Iceland played its first major tournament in the form of UEFA European Championship, where the team defeated England and had reached the quarter-final stage.



5) What is the name of the Facebook India and South Asia Managing Director who announced his resignation on 10 October 2017? – **Umang Bedi**

Explanation: Umang Bedi, the India and South Asia Managing Director (MD) of social media giant Facebook announced that he is resigning.

– Bedi joined Facebook in July 2016. Prior to that, he was the managing director – South Asia at Adobe Systems Inc. As a part of the Asia Pacific leadership team, his role was to lead the company's business operations in the

South Asia region.

– Sandeep Bhushan, Director, consumer and media, Facebook South Asia will be the interim MD as the company searches for a full-time successor to Bedi.

12-13 October 2017



1) What is India's rank in the 2017 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report that was released by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on 12 October 2017? – **100**

Explanation: With a Global Hunger Index (GHI) score of 31.4, India was placed at a lowly 100th place out of 119 developing countries in the 2017 GHI Report. India has thus declined three places from 2016 when it was ranked 97th. The report was released by Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on 12 October 2017.

– The GHI score is a multidimensional index composed of four indicators – proportion of undernourished in the population, prevalence of child mortality, child stunting and child wasting.

– Data from the report showed that India's rank (100) was lower than all its neighbours -Nepal (72), Myanmar (77), Bangladesh (88), Sri Lanka (84) and China (29) – except Pakistan (106). Even North Korea (93) and Iraq (78) fared better in hunger parameters and GHI rankings.

– According to the report, more than one-fifth of Indian children under five weigh too little for their height and over a third are too short for their age. India is at the high end of the

“serious” category given that three quarters of South Asia’s population reside in India.

– While countries like Chile, Cuba and Turkey have a GHI score of less than 5 and ranked the best among developing nations, nations like Chad and Central African Republic fare the worst with a score of 43.5 and 50.9, respectively.

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2) The largest ever public issue by an insurance company in India (worth \$1.7 billion) opened on 11 October 2017. Which general insurance company brought this IPO? – **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)**

Explanation: General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)’s initial public offering worth almost Rs. 11,000 crore opened on 11 October 2017. It is the largest ever public issue by an insurance company in India. GIC intends to utilise net proceeds of the fresh issue towards augmenting the capital base to support growth of business and to maintain current solvency levels; and general corporate purposes.

– GIC is the largest reinsurance company in India in terms of gross premiums accepted in fiscal 2017, and accounted for approximately 60% of the premiums ceded by Indian insurers to reinsurers during fiscal 2017.

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3) The United States (USA) announced its withdrawal from prominent UN agency on 12 October 2017 accusing it of “continuing anti-Israel bias”? – **UNESCO**

Explanation: The United States on 12 October 2017 announced its withdrawal from the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), accusing it of “continuing anti-Israel bias”. The U.S. withdrawal will take effect on 31 December 2018 and until then it will remain a full member of the body.

– UNESCO is the first U.N. agency that has admitted Palestine as a full member, in 2011. U.S. laws bar funding to any U.N. agency that recognises the Palestinian state.

– The U.S. had earlier once withdrawn from the UNESCO, in 1984, under President Ronald Regan who accused it of favoring the Soviet Union. Under President George W. Bush, Washington rejoined the organisation in 2002.

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4) Which telecom entity will acquire Tata’s consumer mobile business (Tata Teleservices Limited) as was announced on 12 October 2017? – **Bharti Airtel**

Explanation: Bharti Airtel will acquire the Tata Teleservices Limited, the entity that constitutes Tata Sons’ consumer mobile business. Tata had earlier announced that it is quitting the telecom business due to continuous losses.

– The deal will be done on a “debt-free cash-free” basis. As part of the deal, Tata’s mobile customers in 19 service areas will move to Bharti Airtel along with airwaves that Tata had purchased. The deal will thus give Airtel a major subscriber base boost for virtually free and stem the bleed for Tata Group from a loss-making venture.

– Tata Teleservices and Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. have more than 40 million subscribers and rank ninth in India’s telecom market, which had a total of 1.2 billion mobile subscriptions at the end of July 2017.

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5) Who was appointed the new Chairman of Pune-based Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) by the Union Government on 11 October 2017? – **Anupam Kher**

Explanation: Noted actor Anupam Kher was appointed the new Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune on 11 October 2017. Kher replaces Gajendra Chauhan, who had a controversial tenure as head of the institute.

– Chauhan’s appointment was met with strident opposition from students, faculty and many in the film fraternity as they felt that he lacked the credentials for the post.

– Kher who has appeared in over 500 films is a recipient of the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts. The veteran star has won many national and international awards including two National Film Awards of Govt. of India.

14-20 October 2017

1) Which airport was ranked the best airport in the category of 2-5 million passengers in Airport Council International (ACI’s) Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Survey? – **Jaipur**



Explanation: Airport Authority of India (AAI)-owned Jaipur airport was ranked first in Airport Council International (ACI’s) Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Survey in the small aerodrome category (2-5 million passengers per annum category).

– This is for the second consecutive time that Jaipur Airport has been rated the Best Airport in the World in this category. Jaipur was ranked as the Best Airport in the World catering to a traffic volume of 2 to 5 million passengers per year in 2016 also. Srinagar was ranked at second place in this survey.

– Since its inception in 2006, the ASQ awards have become the world’s leading airport

passenger satisfaction benchmark with over 300 airports participating in it. The above-said survey measures passengers’ views on

34 key performance indicators, including airport access, check-in, security screening, restrooms, stores and restaurants.



2) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19 October 2017 celebrated Diwali with the jawans of Indian Army and BSF at which place near the LoC? – **Gurez Valley**

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated Diwali with the jawans of Indian Army and BSF, in the Gurez Valley, near the Line of Control (LoC), in Jammu and Kashmir. This was the fourth successive Diwali that the Prime Minister has celebrated with jawans on the border.

– The PM spent two hours with the jawans and addressed them after sharing sweets with them. The Chief of Army Staff, Gen. Bipin Rawat, and other senior Army Officers were present on the occasion.

3) The world’s largest combustion research centre was established in which Indian institution during October 2017? – **IIT Madras**

Explanation: The world’s largest combustion research facility was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras on 13 October 2017. The centre is expected to give a major fillip to the Indian scientific community.

– The facility named the National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD), was inaugurated by NITI Aayog member V.K. Saraswat. It is the largest grouping of academic combustion researchers globally and will cover automotive, thermal power and aerospace

propulsion, besides fire research and microgravity combustion to minor extent.

– The facility is supported by the state-run Science and Engineering Research Board of Department of Science and Technology (DST).



4) Veteran filmmaker Lekh Tandon, who passed away on 14 October 2017, had given the first break to superstar Shahrukh Khan through which TV serial? – **'Dil Dariya'**

Explanation: Veteran filmmaker Lekh Tandon, who directed iconic film like *'Amrapali'*, passed away on 14 October 2017 at the age of 88.

– Born in Lahore in 1929, Tandon directed many Bollywood stalwarts like Shammi Kapoor, Rajender Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Hema Malini, Shabana Azmi, Rekha and Rajesh Khanna. His *'Amrapali'* (1966), featuring Sunil Dutt and Vyjayanthimala, was selected as Indian entry for the best foreign language film at 39th Academy awards.

– He directed his first television serial *'Dil Dariya'* in 1988 through which he was also credited for discovering Shah Rukh Khan. He also acted in films like *'Swades'*, *'Chennai Express'*, and *'Rang De Basanti'* among others.



5) Who won the Man Booker Prize for 2017 on 17 October 2017? – **George Saunders (US)**

Explanation: George Saunders (United States) won the 2017 Man Booker Prize for his first full-length novel, *'Lincoln in the Bardo'*. He was conferred the prestigious award carrying cash

prize of £50,000 on 17 October 2017 by the Duchess of Cornwall.

– Saunders' novel *'Lincoln in the Bardo'* is based around a real event: the night in 1862 when Abraham Lincoln buried his 11-year-old son Willie in a Washington cemetery.

– Saunders is the second American in a row to win the Booker prize, after last year's winner Paul Beatty. Saunders' win falls four years after eligibility rules were changed to allow writers of any nationality writing in the English language and published in the UK. There has been fierce criticism of the rule change.

6) Which commodity exchange opened its gold options trading on 17 October 2017? – **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)**

Explanation: Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) launched its options trading on 1-kg futures contracts of gold on 17 October 2017 on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras.

– MCX is India's first ever commodity options contract. To boost participation in options contracts, MCX has decided to waive transaction charges until 31 December 2017.

7) The Ministry of Women and Child Development on 17 October 2017 launched which new online campaign in an attempt to end gender bias in women against women? – **#IamThatWoman**

Explanation: In an attempt to end gender bias in women against women, the Ministry of Women and Child Development on 17 October 2017 launched an online campaign with tagline *#IamThatWoman*.

– Through the campaign, the Ministry seeks to highlight the various aspects of women standing 'by' and 'for' women. The ministry has urged people to shun stereotypes associated with women harming other women.

– Twitter and Facebook users have been encouraged to tag and share stories of women helping women with a photograph and post online with the hashtag #IamThatWoman.

8) Who was chosen for the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015-16, as announced by the Prize Committee on 14 October 2017? – **T.M.**

Krishna (Carnatic vocalist)

Explanation: Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna was chosen for the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015-16 for his services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country. The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh and will be conferred on 31 October 2017 by Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

– T.M. Krishna had won the Ramon Magsaysay award for bringing “social inclusiveness in culture” in 2016. He is not only one of the prominent vocalists in the rigorous Carnatic tradition of Indian classical music, but also an activist who has worked on creating egalitarian spaces for music and breaking down caste-barriers in the form.

– He was also part of a movement to help the Tamil-dominated and war-ravaged northern province of Sri Lanka rebuild its classical music traditions.

9) Who was elected as the next UNESCO chief on 14 October 2017? –

Audrey Azoulay

Explanation: Audrey Azoulay, a former French culture minister, was on 14 October 2017 elected the next chief of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). She narrowly defeated Qatar’s Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari in the final 30-28 vote after she won a runoff with a third finalist from Egypt on 13 October 2017.

– If confirmed by UNESCO’s 195-member General Assembly during November 2017, Azoulay will succeed outgoing Director-General Irina Bokova of Bulgaria, whose eight-year term was marred by financial woes.

– Azoulay was born in Paris to a Moroccan Jewish family from Essaouira, and is the daughter of Andre Azoulay, an adviser to King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

21-23 October 2017



1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 October 2017 inaugurated the first phase of Ro-Ro (Roll on, Roll off) ferry service in Gujarat which is claimed to be South Asia’s first world-class Ro-Ro ferry service. This prestigious ferry service connects which two places? – **Ghogha and Dahej**

Explanation: The Ro-Ro (Roll on, Roll off) ferry service between Ghogha and Dahej in Gujarat is claimed as South Asia’s first world-class Ro-Ro ferry service. The first phase of this ferry service was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra on 22 October 2017.

– The 31-km ferry service will cut travel time from nearly eight hours to one and hugely benefit the people working in the diamond-cutting and polishing hub of Surat. The on-road distance between the two towns will be down from 360 km to 30 km.

– The ferry service has been funded partly by the Gujarat government and the Sagarmala project of the central government. The project

has been constructed and designed by Essar Projects, the EPC arm of the Essar Group.

– By linking South Gujarat and Saurashtra and allowing vehicles with passengers aboard, the ferry service will save travel time and fuel and clear congested roads. It will also give a boost to the entire Saurashtra economy. Transporters and travellers could simply reach Ghogha port, drive their vehicles inside a Ro-Ro ferry and reach Dahej within 90 minutes flat for the onward journey.

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2) Union Government during October 2017 came up with which new notification associated with Small Savings schemes? – **It allowed banks to accept deposits under Small Savings schemes**

Explanation: In order to encourage savings, the Union Government during October 2017 allowed banks, including top three private sector lenders, to accept deposits under various small savings schemes like National Savings Certificate (NSC), recurring deposits and monthly income plan. Until now, most of the small savings schemes were sold through post offices. Increased outlets for selling small savings scheme would result in higher mobilisation under the scheme.

– According to a recent government notification, banks can also sell National Savings Time Deposit Scheme 1981, National Savings (Monthly Income Account) Scheme 1987, National Savings Recurring Deposit Scheme 1981 and NSC VIII issue.

– As per the notification, all public sector banks and top three in the private sector (ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank) to receive subscription from the expanded portfolios. So far, these banks were allowed to receive subscription under Public Provident Fund, Kisan Vikas Patra-2014, Sukanya Samridhi

Account and Senior Citizen Savings Scheme-2004.

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3) What is the name of the Solicitor-General of India who resigned from his post on 20 October 2017? – **Ranjit Kumar**

Explanation: Ranjit Kumar, the Solicitor-General of India, which is the second highest ranking law officer of the government, resigned with immediate effect on 20 October 2017.

– He had joined the government’s team of law officers in the Supreme Court in 2014. His tenure of three years as Solicitor General had ended on 6 June 2017, but the government had extended the tenure on an ad hoc basis.

– Earlier Mukul Rohatgi had quit as Attorney-General of India in June 2017 and had returned to private practice.

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4) India defeated which country in the finals on 22 October 2017 to win the 2017 Asia Cup Hockey title? – **Malaysia**

Explanation: India on 22 October 2017 ended their 10-year wait for continental triumph when they beat a gutsy Malaysia 2-1 in a nail-biting final to clinch their third Asia Cup hockey title. India had last won the title in 2007 in Chennai.

– Pakistan won the bronze medal after edging out Korea 6-3 in the third-fourth place play-off match earlier in the day. The top-ranked Indians finished unbeaten in the tournament, having won all their matches except for the 1-1 draw against Korea in the Super 4 stage. They had humiliated Pakistan by 4-0 in the semi-finals.

– The 2017 Asia Cup was held in Dhaka (Bangladesh).

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5) Which Indian player won the men’s singles title of 2017 Denmark Open badminton

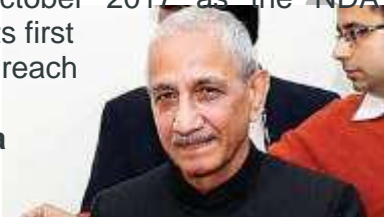
Super Series on 22 October 2017? – **Kidambi Srikanth**

Explanation: Indian ace Kidambi Srikanth registered a comfortable 21-10, 21-5 victory over his opponent Lee Hyun-Il of South Korea to win the men's singles title of 2017 Denmark Open Super Series. Lee had no answers to Srikanth's razor-sharp smashes and cross court returns as he won the final in just 25 minutes.

– This was Srikanth's third Super Series title this year after Australian Open and Indonesian Open. Earlier, 2013 World Champion Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand) produced another gritty display to stave off the challenge from World No. 5 and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan 14-21, 21-15, 21-19 to win her first title of the season.

24 October 2017

1) Who was appointed as Union Government's interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir on 23 October 2017 as the NDA government made its first concrete attempt to reach out to Kashmiris? – **Dineshwar Sharma**



Explanation: Former chief of the Intelligence Bureau Dineshwar Sharma was on 23 October 2017 appointed Centre's interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir. The government also gave him "complete freedom" to talk to all groups and individuals" including Kashmiri separatists.

– A third-generation police officer, Dineshwar Sharma, 63, retired in December 2016 after leading the domestic spy agency, the Intelligence Bureau, for two years.

– This is the first concrete attempt by the NDA government to reach out to Kashmiris and comes after a particularly-focussed offensive by security agencies to crack down on foreign funding for separatists and local commanders of terrorist groups active in the Kashmir Valley.

– In 2010, the Manmohan Singh government too had appointed a group of three interlocutors led by eminent journalist Dilip Padgaonkar who had given their final report in a year. But most recommendations that called for review of laws that give security forces immunity from prosecution without the government's approval and allow detention of people for years on suspicion, were not accepted.

2) During October 2017 the Union Government made it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to check the original identification documents of individuals dealing in cash above the prescribed threshold, to weed out the use of forged or fake copies. What is this prescribed threshold? – **Rs. 50,000**

Explanation: The Department of Revenue in the Finance Ministry during October 2017 issued a gazette notification making an amendment to the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Act (PMLA). The new rule now requires the reporting entity to compare "the copy of officially valid (identification) document so produced by the client with the original and recording the same on the copy" when doing cash transactions over Rs. 50,000.

– Intermediaries like stockbroker, chit fund company, cooperative bank, housing finance institution and non-banking finance companies are also classified as reporting entities.

– It is worth mentioning that PMLA forms the core of the legal framework put in place by India to combat money laundering and generation of black money.

3) India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) for Skilling in smart cities was inaugurated at which place on 23 October 2017? – **New Delhi**

Explanation: India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) for Skilling in smart cities was inaugurated in New Delhi on 23 October 2017 by Union Minister Rajnath Singh.

– National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), an executive arm of Skill Development Ministry, has collaborated with New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Smart City Limited for setting up this PMKK for smart cities.

– This centre located at Mandir Marg, leverages NDMC's infrastructure for skilling initiatives.

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4) Who was appointed the new CEO of India operations of Hong-Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd (HSBC) on 23 October 2017? – **Jayant Rikhye**

Explanation: Jayant Rikhye has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the India operations of Hong-Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd (HSBC), the bank announced on 23 October 2017. He will replace Stuart Milne on 1 December 2017.

– Rikhye has worked across various divisions at HSBC including corporate banking in Taiwan, institutional fund services in Hong Kong and head of securities services for the Middle East and North Africa, based in the United Arab Emirates.

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25 October 2017



1) Union Government on 24 October 2017 announced how much outlay for road construction which is the largest ever single outlay for road construction in India till date? – Rs. 6.92 trillion (Rs. 6,92,000 crore)

Explanation: Union Government announced an outlay of 6.92 trillion for building an 83,677 km road network over the next five years on 24 October 2017. The outlay includes the

Bharatmala Pariyojana with a Rs. 5.35 trillion outlay for 34,800km while the state-run National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will spend Rs.1.57 trillion for 48,877 km of roads.

– The almost Rs. 7 trillion investment in road construction is the largest ever single outlay for road construction in India till date. This is expected to generate 142 million man-days of jobs.

– This huge road construction outlay came in the backdrop of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government implementing the goods and services tax (GST) which aims to create a common market by dismantling inter-state tariff barriers. A robust road infrastructure will help in that direction.

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2) The Finance Ministry on 24 October 2017 announced how much funds for recapitalization of state-owned banks that have been weighed down by bad loans? – **Rs. 2.11 trillion**

Explanation: The Union Finance Ministry announced a Rs. 2.11 trillion bank recapitalization plan for state-owned banks. With this the government seeks to help banks that have been weighed down by bad loans and to stimulate the flow of credit to spur private investment.

– Of the total bank recapitalization outlay, Rs1.35 trillion will come from the sale of recapitalization bonds and the rest through the Indradhanush plan and fundraising from the markets. The bank recapitalization would ensure genuine borrowers get adequate funding.

– The government is seeking to kick-start the private sector investment cycle to boost the Indian economy that grew 5.7% in the quarter ended June, the slowest pace in three years.

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3) Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Girija Devi passed away at the age of 88 at a hospital in Kolkata on 24 October 2017. Associated with the Seniya and Banaras gharanas, Girija Devi was the leading exponent of which nuance of Hindustani music? – **Thumri**

Explanation: Girija Devi was often known as ‘Thumri Queen’ as she helped elevate the status of the typical ‘Thumri’ style of singing. She was known for her melodious renditions of classical and light classical compositions.

- Girija Devi was born in Varanasi in 1929 but had settled in Kolkata. She took lessons in singing khayal and tappa from vocalist Sarju Prasad Misra in early childhood. She worked as a faculty member of the ITC Sangeet Research Academy, Kolkata in the 1980s and of the Banaras Hindu University during the early 1990s.
- She had received Padma Shri in 1972, Padma Bhushan in 1989 and the Padma Vibhushan, India’s second highest public award, in 2016.



4) Mayors of 12 cities on 23 October 2017 signed an ambitious declaration vowing to buy only zero-emissions buses from 2025 and to make major areas free of fossil fuel emissions by 2030. Which are these cities? – **London, Paris, Los Angeles, Cape Town, Copenhagen, Barcelona, Quito, Vancouver, Mexico City, Milan, Seattle and Auckland**

Explanation: Meeting during two days in Paris as part of the C40 cities network, the mayors of London (UK), Paris (France), Los Angeles (UK), Cape Town (South Africa), Copenhagen (Denmark), Barcelona (Spain), Quito (Ecuador), Vancouver (Canada), Mexico City (Mexico), Milan (Spain), Seattle (US) and Auckland (New Zealand) on 23 October 2017 signed a historic declaration with the vow to buy only zero-emissions buses from 2025 and to make major areas free of fossil fuel emissions by 2030.

- C40 is a network of the world’s megacities committed to tackling climate change.
- The ultimate goal of this declaration is not only to limit air pollution and counter global warming, but implement the 2015 Paris climate agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

5) The Union Government on 24 October 2017 raised the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat by how much, which is the highest in six years for the crop? – **Rs. 110 per quintal**

Explanation: The Union Government raised the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat, the main winter crop, by Rs. 110 per quintal to Rs. 1,735 per quintal on 24 October 2017. This is the highest MSP increase for wheat in last 6 years.

- Alongside wheat, the MSP for gram or chickpeas, a major winter pulse, was raised by 10% to Rs. 4,400 per quintal, while the support price for mustard, a winter oilseed, was raised by 8% from Rs. 3,700 to Rs. 4,000 per quintal.
- The increase in MSP came after months of protests by farmers across several states with demands for remunerative crop prices, and after the estimated production of summer (kharif) crops fell 2.8% year-on-year in 2017-18, following an uneven south-west monsoon.

28-31 Oct 2017



1) Indian Railway's first set of solar plants with a total capacity of 5 megawatt peak (MWp) was launched on 27 October 2017. These first-of-its-kind solar plants have been installed in which railway stations? – **New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin and Anand Vihar**

Explanation: The ambitious project of installing and commissioning of first-of-its-kind solar plants on the roof tops of 4 railway stations (New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin and Anand Vihar) was launched on 27 October 2017 by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal. These 4 solar plants will generate 76.5 lakh units of solar power cumulatively per year and shall meet about 30 per cent of the energy requirement of these stations.

– The project was awarded in December 2016. The cost of the project is Rs. 37.45 crore and has been bought in by the developer under the PPP model. Through the project, the railways will save Rs 421.4 lakh annually and will reduce 6082 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

– This project is a part of the government's National Solar Mission in which Indian Railways plans to commission 1000 MWp solar plants across its network.



2) Which country won its maiden FIFA U-17 Football World Cup title by winning the final of the 2017 edition held in Kolkata on 28 October 2017? – **England**

Explanation: England made a remarkable comeback from two goals down to outclass three-time runners-up Spain 5-2 and clinch their maiden FIFA U-17 World Cup at a packed Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium) in Kolkata on 28 October 2017.

– England scored five goals through Rhian Brewster (44th), Morgan Gibbs White (58th), Phil Foden (69th, 88th) and Marc Guehi (84th). Earlier Spain had taken a 2-0 lead by 31st minutes thanks to two goals by Sergio Gomez.

– It was a sweet revenge as England had lost to Spain in the U-17 European Championship, earlier this year. England has now done a FIFA double in the same year, having won the FIFA U-20 World Cup in June 2017.

– Earlier Brazil beat Mali 2-0 in the third-place playoff to earn a consolation after they lost to England in the semi-final.



3) Which player was named the Best Player of the FIFA U-17 Football World Cup that concluded on 28 October 2017? – **Phil Foden (England)**

Explanation: English player Phil Foden was named the best player of the FIFA U-17 Football World Cup that took place in India between 6 and 28 October 2017. Apart from scoring two goals in the final, Foden played very important role in England's aggressive approach during the tournament.

– English striker Rhian Brewster, who scored the highest number of goals (8) in the tournament, was awarded the

“Golden Boot” award for being the leading scorer of the tournament.

– Brazilian goalkeeper Gabriel Brazao was awarded the “Golden Glove” award for being the best goalkeeper of the tournament. Fair Play Award was also given to the Brazilian team.

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4) Which commodity became the first consignment to use the new route via Iran’s Chabahar to access Afghanistan, as India began its shipment from 29 October 2017? –

Wheat

Explanation: In a landmark moment, India on 29 October 2017 began shipment of wheat to Afghanistan through the Iranian port of Chabahar. This shipment has paved the way for operationalization of the Chabahar port as an alternative, reliable and robust connectivity for Afghanistan.

– This shipment was part of India’s commitment to send 1.1 million tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan on grant basis.

– The shipment indicates that Chabahar, which India has been developing for some years, will soon be fully operational. India had earlier sent goods through the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas in 2003 as Pakistan had not eased land access to Afghanistan.

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5) ICG Vikram, the first Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) to be designed fully by an Indian private sector for Indian Coast Guard, was launched on 27 October 2017. Which private entity has manufactured this OPV? – **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**

Explanation: Indian Ministry of Defence in March 2015 had awarded private-sector based construction and engineering giant Larsen &

Toubro (L&T) the order to design and build seven OPVs for an order value of Rs. 1432 crore.

– L&T launched ICG Vikram – the first of the series of seven OPVs for the Indian Coast Guard on 27 October 2017 at L&T’s Kattupalli port near Chennai. It is the first 100% in-house designed and manufactured OPV made by an Indian private sector for Indian Coast Guard.

– ICG Vikram is 97m long, 15m wide, has 3.6m draught, 2140 T displacement with a range of 5000 NM and is built for attaining sustained speeds of up to 26 knots. The entire design and construction processes of the ship have undergone dual certification from American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) and Indian Registrar of Shipping (IRS) and the project is being overseen by the Indian Coast Guard’s resident team at Kattupalli shipyard.

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