

25th FEBRUARY to 3rd March 2017 CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT

25th FEBRUARY 2017

1. China steams past U.S., France to be Germany's biggest trading partner

China for the first time became Germany's most important trading partner in 2016, overtaking the United States, which fell back to third place behind France.

- German imports from and exports to China rose to 170 billion euros (\$180 billion) last year, Federal Statistics Office figures showed.

France

- **Capital: Paris** **Currency: Euro, Franc** **Prime Minister: Bernard Cazeneuve** **President: François Hollande**

Germany

- **Capital: Berlin** **Currency: Euro** **Chancellor: Angela Merkel** **President: Joachim Gauck**

2. Pakistan army launches nationwide military operations 'Radd-ul-Fasaad'

Pakistan army has launched nationwide military operation 'Radd-ul-Fasaad' to eliminate terrorists and consolidate gains of its counter-terrorism operations, days after a wave of suicide attacks that killed more than 88 at a Sufi shrine in Sindh.

- 'Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad' — an Arabic word which translates roughly to 'elimination of discord' - has been launched across the country, the army's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement.

Pakistan

- **Capital: Islamabad** **Currency: Rupee** **Prime Minister: Nawaj Sharif** **President: Mamnoon Hussain**

3. Rajasthan 2nd largest crude oil producer in country

Rajasthan has become the second largest crude oil producer in the country after the offshore field Bombay High, Governor Kalyan Singh said in the Assembly, highlighting the achievements of the state government.

4. Maneka Gandhi announces compensation fund for child abuse victims

Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi has announced the setting up of a compensation fund under Nirbhaya scheme to provide financial help to children who are victims of sexual crimes.

- A Central Victim Compensation Fund was set up with an initial corpus of Rs 200 crore in 2015 but has not been operating, the official said.
- POCSO Act or Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act was formulated in 2012 to address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.

5. Andhra Pradesh to develop Vizag as fintech hub, signs MoU with Visa

Andhra Pradesh government has unveiled its plans to develop Visakhapatnam as Fintech hub of the country and signed MoUs with Visa and Thomson Reuters.

- Visa, the leading global payments network, will help transform Vishakhapatnam into India's first "less cash" city.
- This initiative is designed to provide the foundation for the city to emerge as India's Fintech Valley.

6. Somali president names Hassan Ali Khaire prime minister

Somalia's new President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed has chosen political newcomer Hassan Ali Khaire, a former oil company executive, as the country's prime minister.

Somalia

- **Capital: Mogadishu** **Currency: Shilling**

7. Government ropes in Shilpa Shetty as Swachh Bharat brand ambassador

- Shetty is the latest entrant in the list of the mission's ambassadors like Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, Shankar Mahadevan and Sachin Tendulkar.

8. PV Sindhu set to be Deputy Collector – offered by Andhra Pradesh

26th FEBRUARY 2017

1. Venezuela, Libya again lose UN vote rights over dues debts

Venezuela and Libya have been suspended from voting in the UN General Assembly for the second time in two years because of millions of dollars in unpaid dues to the world body.

- The Assembly decided this week that six countries i.e. Sudan, Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, Cape Verde, Libya and Vanuatu would lose their votes in the 2016-2017 session because they're over two years in arrears.

Venezuela

- **Capital: Caracas** **Currency: Bolivar** **President: Nicolas Maduro**

Libya

- **Capital: Tripoli** **Currency: Dinar** **Prime Minister: Fayez al-Sarraj**

2. India, Bangladesh ink MoU for development of Sylhet

India has agreed to provide financial assistance to Bangladesh for the sustainable development of Sylhet, a north-eastern

Bangladeshi city.

- Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed, three development projects would be taken up in Sylhet.
- The MoU was signed by Additional Secretary of the Economic Relations Division Shah Md. Aminul Haque, Sylhet City Corporation CEO Enamul Habib and Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla in Sylhet.

Bangladesh

- **Capital: Dhaka** **Currency: Taka** **Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina**

3. IDBI Bank set to get Rs 3000 crore bailout package from govt

The government is all set to bail out IDBI Bank with a Rs. 3,000-crore capital infusion to help it maintain a healthy capital-adequacy ratio and pursue credit growth.

- The government has already said it is still open to bring down its stake in the bank to below 50 per cent.

IDBI Bank

- **Headquarters: Mumbai** **Founded: 1964** **MD and CEO: Kishor Kharat**
- **Tagline: Banking for All, Aao Sochein Bada**

4. Dena Bank introduces Radio Frequency Identification Card

Public lender Dena Bank has launched an RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) card for its customers to provide prompt and personalized services without any delay.

- The card was unveiled at the hands of Bank chairman and managing director, Ashwani Kumar.
- RFID-enabled banking cards will help Branch/Relationship Manager in identifying a card-holder the moment they enter the branch and complete information of that particular client will pop up on their desktop.

Dena Bank

- **Headquarters: Mumbai** **Founded: 26 May 1938** **Tagline: Trusted Family Bank**

5. Zeliang appointed Finance Advisor to Nagaland govt.

- Mr. Zeliang, appointed by the Governor P.B.Acharya, will receive the pay and allowances and all other facilities admissible to a cabinet minister, an official release said.

6. Vivek Chaand Sehgal named EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2016

Vivek Chaand Sehgal, the 60-year-old chairman of auto parts maker Motherson Sumi Systems Ltd, has been named Indian entrepreneur of the year 2016 by EY.

- Infosys Ltd co-founder Nandan Nilekani was honoured with a lifetime achievement award for spearheading India's Aadhaar project as head of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- Sehgal will get a shot at winning the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year (WEOY) award in June in Monte Carlo where he will compete with business leaders from around the world.

7. ISSF World Cup: Pooja Ghatkar Clinches Bronze in 10m Air Rifle Event

Pooja Ghatkar has clinched the women's 10m air rifle bronze medal with a score of 228.8 in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup.

- China's Mengyao Shi won the gold medal with a score of 252.1, setting a new world record in the event.
- Mengyao's compatriot Dong Lijie bagged the silver with a score of 248.9 on day one of competitions.

8. 'Apollo 13' star Bill Paxton dies at 61

- The versatile Texas-born actor was a familiar face on US movie screens, with a string of memorable credits to his name from a career spanning several decades.

27th FEBRUARY 2017

1. PM unveils 112-foot tall Shiva statue 'Adiyogi'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 112-foot tall statue dedicated to 'Adiyogi' at Coimbatore.

- The statue has been funded by Isha Foundation, founded by the popular yoga guru Jaggi Vasudev.

2. Rajasthan inaugurates medical project RAHAT

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated a medical project Rajasthan Heart Attack Treatment programme (RAHAT), launched by a private hospital.

- The programme is a telemedicine platform that captures and transmits patient's EKG along with clinical history from remote geographical locations to heart command center hub.

3. Mumbai is the richest Indian city

- According to New World Wealth, Mumbai is the richest city in the country followed by Delhi and Bengaluru in the second and third place, respectively.

- The list also includes Hyderabad with a total wealth of \$ 310 billion. Hyderabad is home to 9,000 millionaires and 6 billionaires.

4. NCAER lowers GDP growth forecast to 6.9 pc for FY17

After RBI and IMF, economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has lowered the country's growth forecast to 6.9 per cent for the current fiscal on account of demonetisation.

- A few days before demonetisation was announced, NCAER had projected a growth rate of 7.6 per cent for 2016-17.
- Earlier this week, International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered GDP growth forecast to 6.6 per cent.

5. TCS among top three IT services brands globally

India's largest software services firm Tata Consultancy Services has broken into the list of Top 3 most valuable brands in the IT services industry by Brand Finance, the leading global brand valuation firm.

6. 89th Academy Awards (Oscar Awards)

- Best picture: Moonlight
- Best actor: Casey Affleck (Manchester by the Sea)
- Best supporting actor: Mahershala Ali (Moonlight)
- Best original screenplay: Manchester by the Sea
- Best documentary short: The White Helmets
- Best cinematography: La La Land
- Best song: City of Stars (La La Land)
- Best animated short: Piper
- Best production design: La La Land
- Best film editing: Hacksaw Ridge
- Best costume design: Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
- Best sound editing: Arrival
- Best director: Damien Chazelle (La La Land)
- Best actress: Emma Stone (La La Land)
- Best supporting actress: Viola Davis (Fences)
- Best adapted screenplay: Moonlight
- Best live-action short: Sing
- Best score: La La Land
- Best foreign language film: The Salesman
- Best animated feature: Zootopia
- Best visual effects: The Jungle Book
- Best makeup and hairstyling: Suicide Squad
- Best documentary: OJ: Made in America
- Best sound mixing: Hacksaw Ridge

7. Kalinga Lancers Clinch Maiden Hockey India League Title

Kalinga Lancers came out with a stupendous performance to defeat Dabang Mumbai 4-1 and clinch their maiden Hockey India League (HIL) title in Chandigarh.

- The Lancers, who finished runners-up last season, went one better to clinch the 2017 crown.
- Earlier in the day, Uttar Pradesh Wizards register a 5-4 win over Delhi Waveriders to claim the bronze medal.

28th FEBRUARY 2017

1. Ranks first in having lesser infant mortality rate

While infant mortality rate in the country has been registered at 42 deaths of kids per 1000 births the Union Territory of Puducherry has established a record of having lesser rate of infant mortality.

- Director of Health and Family Welfare Services K V Raman told that Union Territory was having 11 deaths of children per 1000 babies born.
- Puducherry ranked third in the achievement next to Goa and Kerala.

Goa

- **Capital: Panaji** **Chief Minister: Laxmikant Parsekar** **Governor: Mridula Sinha**
- **Formation: 30 May 1987**

2. Minister of Railways Flags off Country's first Antyodaya Express

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu flagged off the fourth Humsafar clan of trains and first Antyodaya clan of trains through video conferencing from Rail Bhawan.

- Speaking on the occasion Ministry of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu said that "This is the fourth Humsafar Express to be launched and it will cross the entire country from North to South.
- Humsafar train is a fully Air Conditioned 3 AC service having facilities like GPS based Passenger Information System, Passenger announcement System, fire and smoke detection and suppression system, CCTVs, comfortable seats, mobile and laptop charging points, integrated Braille display, LCD display above compartment doors in the aisle, Fire retardant curtains, etc."
- He also said that "we are launching the country's first Antyodaya Express to be launched.
- Tejas and UDAY Express will be launched soon.
- Antyodaya Express is a long-distance, fully unreserved, superfast train service, for the common man to be operated on dense routes.

3. Apollo Munich enters into bancassurance tie-up with Dena Bank

Standalone health insurer Apollo Munich Health Insurance said it is expanding its footprint across the country with bancassurance tie-up with state-owned Dena Bank .

Dena Bank

- **Headquarters: Mumbai** **Founded: 26 May 1938** **CMD: Ashwani Kumar**
- **Tagline: Trusted Family Bank**

4. IDBI Bank receives the MSME Excellence Award 2017

IDBI Bank receives the MSME Excellence Award 2017 for outstanding contribution in funding to MSME sector instituted by Federation of Industry Trade and Services.

- The award was received by Smt. Lalita Sharma, Chief General Manager at the hands of Shri Haribhai P. Chaudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India.

IDBI Bank

- **Headquarters: Mumbai** **Founded: 1964** **MD and CEO: Kishor Kharat**
- **Tagline: Banking for All, Aao Sochein Bada**

5. Lakshmi Vilas Bank ties with Centrum for its wealthy clients

South-based Lakshmi Vilas has roped in Centrum group, a leading financial services company, which will now manage the bank's wealthy clients.

- Centrum Wealth Management currently has assets under advise (AUA) in excess of Rs 10,000 crore.
- It offers a bouquet of professional Wealth Management Services which include investment advisory across asset

classes, portfolio management services and family office services including estate and tax planning.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank

- **Headquarters: Chennai** **Founded: 1926** **CEO and MD: Parthasarathi Mukherjee**
- **Tagline: The Changing Face of Prosperity**

6. Birender Singh Yadav appointed as the Ambassador of India to Togo

Shri Birender Singh Yadav has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Togo, with residence in Accra (Ghana).

- Presently he is the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana.

Togo

- **Capital: Lome** **Currency: Franc** **President: Faure Gnassingbe**

7. 10th ESPNcrinfo Awards

- Test Batting Performance of the Year: Ben Stokes (England)
- Test Bowling Performance of the Year award: Stuart Broad (England)
- ODI Batting Performance of the Year: Quinton De Kock (South Africa)
- ODI Bowling Performance of the Year: Sunil Narine (West Indies)
- T20 Batting Performance of the Year award: Carlos Brathwaite (West Indies)
- T20 Bowling Performance of the Year: Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)
- Debutant of the Year: Mehedi Hasan Miraz (Bangladesh)
- Captain of the Year: Virat Kohli (India)
- Batting Performance of the Year (Female): Hayley Williams (West Indies)
- Bowling Performance of the Year (Female): Leigh Kasperek (New Zealand)

8. Former Union Minister P. Shiv Shankar passes away

- Shiv Shankar served as External Affairs and Human Resource Development Minister.
- He first became Governor of Sikkim in 1994 and later was shifted to Kerala in 1995.

9. 'Game of Thrones' actor Neil Fingleton passes away at 36

Neil Fingleton, a 7-foot 7-inch actor who played the giant, Mag the Mighty, in "Game of Thrones" has died at 36.

- Mr. Fingleton was recognized by Guinness World Records in 2007 as the U.K.'s tallest man.

1st MARCH 2017

1. 28 February: National Science Day

National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28 February each year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman on 28 February 1928.

- For his discovery, Sri C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

2. India, Israel celebrated 25 years of diplomatic ties

India and Israel hold a series of events to celebrate 25 years of establishment of their diplomatic ties.

- India is the largest buyer of Israel's military hardware and the latter has been supplying various weapon systems, missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles.

3. RBI sets up panel to review cyber threats

The Reserve Bank has announced setting up of the inter-disciplinary standing committee on cyber security to review the threats inherent in the existing and emerging technology.

- The 11 member committee will also study adoption of various security standards and protocols, interface with stakeholders and suggest appropriate policy interventions to strengthen cyber security and resilience, the central bank said.
- Going forward, the committee headed by Meena Hemchandra, Executive Director, RBI, can co-opt more experts and also operate through a framework of sub-committees to examine specific issues.

4. SIDBI expert panel sanctions Rs 300 cr for startups

An expert committee set up by SIDBI has sanctioned Rs 300 crore to fund managers who would invest in startups, taking the total sanctions so far this fiscal to over Rs 1,100 crore.

- To promote startups, the Cabinet had last year approved the setting up of a 'Fund of Funds for Startups' with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore at SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank).

5. Nand Kumar Sai assumes charge as Chairman of NCST

Senior tribal leader from Chhattisgarh and ex parliamentarian Nand Kumar Sai assumed charge as the chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) today in New Delhi.

- NCST was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.
- The term of office of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and each member is three years from the date of assumption of charge.

6. Sudeep Lakhtakia to hold additional charge as DG CRPF

- He is presently serving as Additional DG, CRPF.

7. R Subramania Kumar to hold addl charge of MD & CEO of IOB

- Kumar is at present Executive Director in the IOB

8. Gopal Baglay appointed MEA Spokesperson

- He is succeeding Vikas Swarup, who was made India's new High Commissioner to Canada.
- Deepak Mittal is the new in-charge of the PAI division.

9. Rangaswamy First Woman to Be Honored BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award

The Indian cricket board i.e. BCCI has nominated Shanta Rangaswamy for lifetime achievement award for her contribution to the women's cricket.

- She will be the first woman to get this award.
- The award will be presented at the BCCI Annual Awards in Bengaluru on March 8.

2nd MARCH 2017

1. 'Swachh Shakti Saptah' launched in Haryana

Launching the 'Swachh Shakti Saptah' in Gurugram, Haryana, union minister Narender Singh Tomar said "swachhta" (cleanliness) has become a movement which now needs to be made a mass movement.

- Three states - Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala - have already declared themselves ODF and Tomar hoped by November 1 this year, Haryana would become the fourth state in this list.

Haryana

- **Capital: Chandigarh** **Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar** **Governor: Kaptan Singh Solanki**
- **Formation: 1 November 1966**

2. Government notifies law to make banned note possession punishable

The government has notified the law that makes holding of more than 10 scrapped notes punishable with a minimum fine of Rs 10,000.

- The Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Act, 2017, was passed by Parliament last month with a view to eliminating the "possibility of running a parallel economy" using the old Rs 500/1,000 notes that have been demonetised.
- The law, signed by President Pranab Mukherjee on February 27, also provides for a minimum fine Rs 50,000 for false declaration by persons who were abroad during the demonetisation period (November 9-December 30, 2016) and given time to deposit such scrapped notes with RBI till March 31.

3. OECD cuts GDP growth forecast to 7% in 2016-17

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has cut its growth projection for India in 2016-17 to 7% from the 7.4% it had projected last year.

- The OECD, in its Economic Survey of India 2017 report, forecast a growth rate of 7.3% for 2017-18 and 7.7% for 2018-19.

OECD

- **Headquarters: Paris** **Founded: 1948** **Members: 35** **Secretary General: Jose Angel Gurría**

4. Axis, HDFC, ICICI to charge Rs. 150 after 4 cash transactions

Some banks, including HDFC Bank, have begun charging a minimum amount of Rs. 150 per transaction for cash deposits and withdrawals beyond four free transactions in a month.

- The new charges would apply to savings as well as salary accounts, leading private sector player HDFC Bank said in a circular.
- These charges are for cash transactions in the branches, and not through ATMs.
- State bank of India will levy a minimum amount of Rs 50 per transaction after three transactions.

5. Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) awards 2015-16

- Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award: Rajinder Goel and Padmakar Shivalkar
- BCCI Lifetime Achievement award for women: Shantha Rangaswamy
- BCCI Special awards: V.V. Kumar and the late Ramakant Desai
- Polly Umrigar award: Virat Kohli
- Dilip Sardesai award (India's best cricketer in the West Indies series, 2016): R. Ashwin
- Lala Amarnath award (best all-rounder in the Ranji Trophy): Jalaj Saxena (Madhya Pradesh)
- Lala Amarnath award (best all-rounder in domestic limited-over competition): Axar Patel (Gujarat)
- Madhavrao Scindia award (highest scorer in the Ranji Trophy): Shreyas Iyer (Mumbai)
- Madhavrao Scindia award (highest wicket-taker): Shahbaz Nadeem (Jharkhand)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (highest scorer in the u-23 Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy): Jay Bista (Mumbai)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (highest wicket-taker in the u-23 Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy): Satyajeeet Bachhav (Maharashtra)
- N.K.P. Salve award (highest scorer in the u-19 Cooch Behar Trophy): Armaan Jaffer (Mumbai)
- N.K.P. Salve award (highest wicket-taker in the u-19 Cooch Behar Trophy): Ninad Rathva (Baroda)
- Raj Singh Dungarpur award (highest scorer in the u-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy): Abhishek Sharma (Punjab)
- Raj Singh Dungarpur award (highest wicket-taker in the u-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy): Abhishek Sharma (Punjab)
- Jagmohan Dalmiya award [(best woman cricketer (senior))]: Mithali Raj (Railways)
- Jagmohan Dalmiya award [(best woman cricketer (junior))]: Deepti Sharma (Uttar Pradesh)
- Best umpire in domestic cricket: Nitin Menon
- Best performance in BCCI domestic tournaments: Mumbai Cricket Association

6. "Lipstick Under My Burkha" Wins Award at Glasgow Film Fest

Indian filmmaker Alankrita Shrivastava's Lipstick Under My Burkha, which has been denied a certificate by the country's movie censor board, has bagged the Audience Award at the Glasgow Film Festival 2017.

- Scottish actor David Tennant presented Shrivastava with the award, which was voted for by the festival's audience.
- The Prakash Jha production, starring Konkona Sen Sharma and Ratna Pathak Shah, chronicles the secret lives of four

women of different ages in a small town in India as they search for different kinds of freedom.

7. **India to host women's Youth World Boxing Championship**

India will host the World Women's Youth Boxing Championship in November this year, the first major international event to be held in the country since 2010.

- In 2010, India had hosted the Commonwealth Championships followed by the Commonwealth Games.
- The country has not hosted a major boxing event since then, primarily because of the administrative turmoil that gripped the sport in 2012.

8. **Jitu Rai wins gold at ISSF World Cup in 50m free pistol**

Shooters Jitu Rai and Amanpreet Singh has won gold and silver respectively in men's 50m free pistol at the ISSF Shooting World Cup.

- Jitu's winning score of 230.1 was a world record, while Amanpreet shot 226.9 to win silver.
- The bronze went to Vahid Golkhandan of Iran, who shot 208.8.

9. **Writer Taarak Mehta passes away**

Popular Gujarati humourist Taarak Mehta passed away after prolonged illness. He was 88.

- Mehta's famous works include "Duniya Ne Undha Chasma", which inspired the hit Hindi sitcom "Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah" on SAB TV.
- He has also written six popular Gujarati plays.
- Born in Ahmedabad on December 26, 1929, Mehta was honoured with Padma Shri in 2015

3rd MARCH 2017

1. **By 2050, India will have most Muslims in world**

By 2050, India will be the country with the world's largest Muslim population, said American think tank Pew Research Centre.

- While Islam is currently the world's second-largest religion after Christianity, it is now also the fastest-growing major religion.
- There were 1.6 billion Muslims in the world as of 2010 - roughly 23% of the global population - according to a Pew estimate.
- Currently, Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population.

2. **Syrian Army recaptures Palmyra from Islamic State**

The General Staff of the Syrian Army said it had recaptured the ancient city of Palmyra from the extremist group Islamic State (IS).

- The city, which is home to Greco-Roman ruins on the United Nations cultural body's World Heritage list, had been the scene of heavy fighting for months.
- The units led by Iranian and Russia entered the city three months after IS took it over.

Syria

- **Capital: Damascus** **Currency: Pound** **President: Bashar al-Assad** **Prime Minister: Imad Khamis**

3. **Australia to introduce world's first cyber crime university course**

Australia said it will offer the world's first university course to train intelligence analysts to fight cyber crime, prompted by innovative methods of money transfer among organised crime and militant groups.

- Justice Minister Michael Keenan said AUSTRAC would start teaching the world's first university-accredited "Financial Intelligence Analyst Course" after 16 law enforcement analysts sat a pilot course.

Australia

- **Capital: Canberra** **Currency: Dollar** **Prime Minister: Malcolm Turnbull**

4. **Ukraine region to use Russian ruble as currency**

- The ruble would be used in the pro-Russian territory as the basic unit of currency as of 1 March 2017, the statement said.

Ukraine

- **Capital: Kiev** **Currency: Hryvnia** **Prime Minister: Volodymyr Groysman** **President: Petro Poroshenko**

5. **Thiruvananthapuram tops city-wide urban governance survey**

Thiruvananthapuram remained at the top of the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS), which highlighted inadequacies in urban governance that could affect public service delivery and quality of life.

- Pune came second in the 2016 survey, rising two spots from the last edition. Bhubaneswar was the biggest gainer, rising eight notches to the 10th spot in the survey.

6. **Kerala tops in GST registrations**

Kerala has achieved the maximum number of registrations under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime with at least 60 per cent of an estimated 2.5 lakh traders migrating to the new platform.

Kerala

- **Capital: Thiruvananthapuram** **Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan** **Governor: P. Sathasivam**
- **Formation: 1 November 1956**

7. **Assam: Sanskrit a must till Class VIII**

- In Assam, depending on the region where the student resides, one of the three languages-Assamese, Bodo or Bengali is taught in state board schools, apart from English that is compulsory.
- Hindi is taught but is optional.

Assam

- **Capital: Dispur** **Chief Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal** **Governor: Banwarilal Purohit**
- **Formation: 26 January 1950**

8. **TN, UP received most number of domestic tourists in 2016**

Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh top a list of states visited by Indian tourists last year, Tourism Ministry said.

9. **Ministry of Women & Child Development leads social media campaign #WeAreEqual**

Leading up to International Women's Day on March 8, 2017, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has initiated a social media campaign - #WeAreEqual - targeted at raising awareness about gender discrimination.

- The campaign will culminate into the celebration of International Women's Day marked by the prestigious Nari Shakti Award ceremony, in which the Hon'ble President will honour individuals and institutions for their exemplary contribution to women's empowerment.
- The #WeAreEqual campaign is gaining momentum with the partnership by prominent personalities such as film actors Mr. Amitabh Bachchan, and Ms. Dia Mirza; sportspersons Ms. Mary Kom and Mr. Sangram Singh and ISRO scientists Ms. K Thenmozhi Selvi, Ms. Subha Varier and Ms. Minal Rohit among others.

10. **DRDO tests interceptor missile successfully**

India's Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) shield got a further fillip with the successful test of an interceptor missile conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- The Advanced Area Defence (AAD) endo-atmospheric missile capable of intercepting incoming target missile at an altitude of 15 to 25 kms range was tested.
- It was launched from the Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast to stop an incoming enemy missile.

11. **Rs 70,000 crore black money detected so far: Justice Pasayat**

Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court- appointed SIT on black money, Justice Arijit Pasayat, said Rs 70,000 crore of black money has been unearthed so far and the sixth report on it will be submitted to the apex court in April.

12. **World Bank offers over \$1-billion loan to Maharashtra**

The World Bank has announced an assistance programme of over \$1 billion in the areas of urban transport and climate resilient agriculture in Maharashtra, over the next 2-3 years.

- This was announced by the World Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Kristalina Georgieva, at the end of a day-long visit to the city.
- Over the last five years, World Bank had invested over \$1.4 billion in Maharashtra in urban transport, rural water supply and agriculture.

World Bank

- **Headquarters: Washington D.C. Founded: 1944 President: Jim Yong Kim Members: IBRD 180, IDA 173**

13. **Reliance General signs bancassurance deal with Catholic Syrian Bank**

Non-life insurer Reliance General Insurance, part of Reliance Capital Ltd said it has signed a bancassurance deal with private-owned Kerala-headquartered Catholic Syrian Bank.

- In a statement, Reliance General Insurance said it would target the 1.5 million-strong customer base of Catholic Syrian Bank spread across its 430 branches in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

14. **J.S. Deepak is India's WTO ambassador**

Telecom Secretary J.S. Deepak has been appointed as country's permanent representative to World Trade Organization (WTO).

- Mr. Deepak will take over his new assignment from June 1, 2017 and till then he will be Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Department of Commerce in the Ministry of Commerce and Industries with immediate effect.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued the order.

15. **AIFF appoints Luis Norton De Matos as head coach of India U-17 Football team**

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has appointed Portugal's Luis Norton de Matos as the head coach of the India U-17 World Cup team.

- He is appointed for the forthcoming FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017.

16. **P K Purwar appointed MTNL CMD**

P K Purwar was appointed Chairman and Managing Director of state-run telecom major Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment to the post for five years, an official order said.
- Purwar is currently working as Director (Finance) in MTNL, which has been without a full-time CMD since May 31, 2014, following superannuation of A K Garg.

17. **Bakri Hassan Saleh sworn in as Sudan's first PM since 1989 coup**

A former army general and top aide to President Omar al-Bashir was sworn in as Sudan's first prime minister since the post was scrapped in a 1989 Islamist-backed coup.

18. **Amjad Hussein B Sial appointed SAARC secretary General**

Pakistan's seasoned diplomat Amjad Hussain B Sial has assumed office as the new Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

- Sial has assumed charge of the office of Secretary General of SAARC from March 1, 2017, according to a press release issued by SAARC Secretariat here.
- He has succeeded Nepal's Arjun Bahadur Thapa, who was appointed the Secretary-General in 2014.
- The Pakistani turn, which is held by rotation, starts from March 1, 2017, and continues till February 28, 2020.

19. **Bishnoi appointed international match referee**

Former India wrestler Kripa Shankar Bishnoi has been appointed an international match referee by United World Wrestling (UWW), the sport's global governing body.

20. **JNU bags 'Visitor's Award' for best university**

Jawaharlal Nehru University has won the annual Visitor's Award for the 'Best University', 2017.

- Dr. Deepak Pant from Central University of Himachal Pradesh won the Visitor's Award for 'Innovation'.
- The Visitor's Award for 'Research' has been jointly won by Dr. Shyam Sunder from Banaras Hindu University and Prof.

Niranjan Karak from Tezpur University.

- The awards will be presented during a function as part of the 'Festival of Innovations'," the statement said.

21. DMRC enters Limca Book of Records

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has entered the Limca Book of World Records for erecting 200 U-shaped girders in a month.

- DMRC successfully executed the task of erecting 200 U-shaped girders on the Noida – Greater Noida corridor in May 2016.
- This is the maximum number of U-shaped girders ever launched on any metro corridor in India within a month.
- Girders bear the load of the metro tracks and help speed up construction work. DMRC chief Mangu Singh said the feat had significantly expedited the progress of construction on the corridor.
- The 30-km-long corridor will be completely elevated and will have 21 stations.

22. Barack Obama named as winner of 'Profile in Courage' award

Former US President Barack Obama has been named as the winner of the 2017 John F. Kennedy 'Profile in Courage' award.

- The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation has honoured Obama "for his enduring commitment to democratic ideals and elevating the standard of political courage in a new century."
- The daughter of late Kennedy, Caroline Kennedy, and her son Jack Schlossberg, will present Obama with the award on May 7 in Boston.

23. INHS ASVINI Mumbai Adjudged best service Hospital in the AFMS

The Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar presented the Raksha Mantri's Trophy and Citation for the best Service Hospital in the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) for the year 2016 to INHS Asvini, Mumbai.

- Commandant of INHS Asvini Mumbai, Surgeon Rear Admiral Ravi Kalra received the awards from the Minister on behalf of the Hospital.

24. Dwayne Smith announces retirement from international cricket

West Indies batsman Dwayne Smith has announced his retirement from all international cricket.

***** ALL THE BEST *****