

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS OF MARCH 2017**

### **Awards**

The French mathematician who has been awarded the 2017 Abel Prize for his work on wavelets, a mathematical theory with applications in data compression, medical imaging and the detection of gravitational waves – **Yves Meyer**

The Konkani writer who has been awarded the Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel Hawthian – **Mahabaleshwar Sail**

### **Defence**

The first woman to be commissioned as a combat officer in the Border Security Force in its 51-year history – **Tanushree Pareek**

The Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft of the Indian Navy which has been de-inducted at a ceremony held at INS Rajali, Arakkonam – **TU-142M**

The joint military exercise conducted by the armies of India and Oman in Himachal Pradesh from Mar 6 to Mar 19 was named – **Al-Nagah-II 2017**

The 11th edition of 14 day Indo-Nepal Joint Military Exercise being conducted at Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) with the participation of elite DURGA BAKSH Battalion of Nepal and the EKTA SHAKTI Battalion of The Punjab Regiment – **Surya Kiran - XI**

The second edition of joint exercise between the Indian and Oman Army which commenced at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh – **Al Nagah-li 2017**

The Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) developed by DRDO and handed over to Indian Army for induction is named – **SWATHI**

### **Persons**

The former director of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, (he first proposed a link between the El Nino phenomenon and the Indian monsoon and was known as Father of Indian Meteorology), who passed away on 18 March 2017 – **Dev Raj Sikka**

The eminent Indian scientist who has been conferred Honorary D. Litt by Mumbai University (presented by the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee) – **M.S. Swaminathan**

The only black woman to be nominated for three Academy Awards who has been named Harvard's Artist of the Year 2017 – **Viola Davis**

The Telecom Secretary who has been chosen to be India's permanent representative to the World Trade Organisation with effect from 01 June 2017 – **J.S. Deepak**

The American physician and researcher who passed away on 04 March 2017 (He had performed the first human liver transplant in 1963, and the first successful human liver transplant in 1967) – **Thomas E Starzl**

The Pakistan diplomat who has been elected to the post of Secretary General of SAARC succeeding Nepal's Arjun Bahadur Thapa – **Amjad Hussein B Sial**

The columnist, humorist, writer and playwright famous for his column Duniya Ne Undha Chasma in Gujarati who passed away on 01 Mar 2017 – **Tarak Mehta**

### **Sports**

The team which has the 2016-17 Deodhar Trophy cricket tournament defeating Indian B in the finals – **Tamil Nadu**

The team which has won the 71st edition of Santosh Trophy football tournament defeating Goa in the finals – **West Bengal**

The team which has won the 2016-17 Vijay Hazare Trophy defeating Bengal in the finals becoming the only team to win it five times – **Tamil Nadu**

The Indian cricketer who has set a new Indian record for having played the longest innings by facing 525 balls in a test match against Australia (Rahul Dravid held the record of facing 495 balls in 2004) – **Cheteswar Pujara**

The Indian cricketer who has been appointed United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Cricket for Good ambassador for the upcoming ICC's Women's World Cup 2017 which is scheduled from June 24-23 July – **Sachin Tendulkar**

The Chairman of International Cricket Council who has resigned from his post after being in office for less than a year – **Shashank Manohar**

The Indian golfer who has won the Indian Open Golf tournament for the second successive time – **SSP Chawrasia**

The badminton player from Taiwan who has won the All England Open Badminton Championship Women's Singles title – **Tai Tzu-ying**

The Malaysian player who has won the All England Open Badminton Championships Men's Singles title – **Lee Chong Wei**

The former Portuguese footballer who has been appointed the head coach of India's U-17 football team by the All India Football Federation – **Luis Norton De Matos**

### **Places**

The venue of World Conference on Environment 2017 organised by National Green Tribunal from 25 to 26 March 2017 – **New Delhi**

The city in which the Indian Space Research Organisation has commissioned world's third largest hypersonic wind tunnel which will help in the launch of aerospace vehicles at hypersonic speed – **Thiruvananthapuram**

The venue of 3-day International Conference on Buddhism in the 21st Century – Perspectives and Responses to Global Challenges and Crises held from 17 to 19 Mar 17 (Inaugurated by His Holiness Dalai Lama and closing address by the Indian President Shri Pranab Mukherjee) – **Rajgir, Bihar**

The place in Himachal Pradesh at which India's first Pristine air-quality monitoring station has been dedicated to the nation by National Physical Laboratory – **Palampur**

The place in Kerala where NTPC has installed India's largest floating solar photo voltaic plant – **Kayamkulam**

The place in Gujarat where India's longest Extra-dosed bridge (across Narmada) was dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **Bharuch**

The place in Punjab where country's largest national flag measuring 120 x 80 feet has been hoisted atop a 360-feet tall flag post – **Attari (Amritsar)**

The venue of 3 day festival Destination North East 2017 being organised by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region from 6 to 8 March 2017 – **Chandigarh**

The place in Haryana from which Swachh Shakti Saptah was launched by Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar – **Gurugram**

### **Indices and Ranks**

The rank of India in the Global Architecture Performance Index 2017 released by World Economic Forum (Switzerland, Norway and Sweden ranked 1, 2 and 3 respectively) – **87**

India's rank in the World Happiness Report 2017 published by United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (with Norway, Denmark and Iceland in the top 3 positions) – **122**

The rank of India in the Women in Politics (Women in Ministerial Positions) report released by UN Women and Inter-Parliamentary Union recently (first position - Bulgaria) – **88**

The rank of India in the Women in Politics (Women in Parliament) report released by UN Women and Inter-Parliamentary Union recently (frist position - Rwanda) – **148**

### **Days and Themes**

The theme of International Women's Day observed on 08 March 2017 – **Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030; #Be Bold for Change**

The theme of Commonwealth Day observed on 13 March 2017 (second Monday of March) by Commonwealth of Nations – **A Peace-building Commonwealth**

### Miscellaneous

The 85-year old cinema theatre in New Delhi which has closed down permanently on 30 March 2017 with the screening of Raj Kapoor's films Mera Naam Joker and Sangam – **Regal Cinema**

The private sector bank which has launched a mobile banking app for rural customers named Mera iMobile (available in eleven Indian languages) – **ICICI Bank**

The river in New Zealand which has been granted the legal status of a person for the first time in the world – **Whanganui River**

The mission launched by the Central Government to achieve Blue Revolution (development of fisheries) is named – **Mission Fingerling**

The period of maternity leave which has been allowed under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 with the Maternity Benefits (Amendments) Bill, 2016 passed by the Parliament recently – **26 weeks**

The Bengaluru based institution which has become the first Indian institute to be ranked (at 8th position) in the Top-10 list of Times Higher Education list of best small universities – **Indian Institute of Science**

The State which is scheduled to hold India's biggest river festival Namami Brahmaputra from March 31 to April 4 – **Assam**

### Books in News

Rekha - The Untold Story - Yasser Usman

The Rise of Sivagami: Book 1 of bahubali - Anand Neelakanthan

### Important Days of March

<b>Zero Discrimination Day:</b> 01 March 2017 Designated by: UNAIDS Theme: Make Some Noise for #Zero Discrimination First Observed in: 2014	<b>World Wildlife Day:</b> 03 March 2017 Designated by: United nations General Assembly Theme: Listen to the Young Voices First Observed in: 2014
<b>World Hearing Day:</b> 03 March 2017 Designated by: W.H.O. Theme: Action for Hearing Loss, Make a Sound Investment First Observed in: 2007	<b>World Kidney Day:</b> 09 March 2017 Designated by: International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF) Theme: Kidney Disease and Obesity First Observed in: 2006

<p><b>World Consumer Rights Day:</b> 15 March 2017 Designated by: Consumers International Theme: Building a Digital World Consumers can Trust First Observed in: 1983</p>	<p><b>International Day of Happiness:</b> 20 March 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2013</p>
<p><b>International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination:</b> 21 March 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration First Observed in: 1966</p>	<p><b>International Day of Forests:</b> 21 March 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Forests and Energy First Observed in: 2013</p>
<p><b>World Poetry Day:</b> 21 March 2017 Designated by: UNESCO First Observed in: 2000</p>	<p><b>World Down Syndrome Day:</b> 21 March 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: MyVoiceMyCommunity – Enabling people with Down syndrome to speak up, be heard and influence government policy and action, to be fully included in the community First Observed in: 2012</p>
<p><b>World Water Day:</b> 22 March 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Why Waste Water First Observed in: 1993</p>	<p><b>World Tuberculosis Day:</b> 24 March 2017 Designated by: WHO Theme: Unite to end TB: Leave no one behind First Observed in: 1982</p>
<p><b>International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims:</b> 24 March 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2011</p>	<p><b>International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade:</b> 25 March 2017 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Remember Slavery: Recognising the Legacy and Contributions of People of African Descent First Observed in: 2008</p>

### Nari Shakti Puraskar - 2016

Awardee	Brief Details
State of Rajasthan	The State has done lot of work to address the issue of declining <b>child sex ratio</b> during the last one year which has improved from 929 in 2015-16 to 942 (till December, 2016). There had been a successful state-wide awareness and advocacy campaigns for valuing the girl child.
Chhanv Foundation (Sheroes Cafe), Delhi	<b>Sheroes' Hangout Café</b> , started in 2015, is the world's first café run by <u>female acid attack survivors</u> . The Café started up in the city of Agra and serves tea and french fries. It is more than a triumph that Sheroes Hangout has single-handedly generated much-needed awareness of the issue and has since branched out from food and drink. It now houses a library, art gallery and even an activism center. It's set to expand even further.
Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (MHIP), Mizoram	Formed in 1974, it is the biggest women organization in the state of Mizoram, which has made a great impact in promoting the status of

	women in Mizoram Creation of strong political will among the women of Mizoram has been the major achievement of MHIP. These achievements are reflected through 33% of reservation of women in the Aizawl Municipal Council (AMC). Similar is the case in the Local Council (LC) and Village Council (VC) which have been approved by the Government.
Sadhana Mahila Sangha, Karnataka	Sadhana Mahila Sangha works towards the dignity and violence free right to life for all street based women workers with a vision to build a world where all marginalized communities live in an environment of mutual respect and dignity. It has an empowerment initiative for women in sex work in Bangalore, Karnataka. The Sangha has been engaged with street sex workers for over 15 years and addresses issues of health, safety and violence against women working in the street.
Shikshit Rojgar Kendra Prabandhak Samiti, Rajasthan	Established on 15 August 1987 by a group of youths along with Mr. Rajan Choudhary the organization has exclusively promoted girl education, prevented child marriages & fought against dowry practitioners for all these years in Rajasthan.
Tripunithura Kathakali Kendram Ladies Troupe, Kerala	Formed in 1975, the troupe has the record of making 800 performances of <b>Kathakali</b> , which is a male dominated art form.
Ms. Amruta Patil, Goa	Ms. Amruta Patil is a writer, painter and India's <b>first female graphic novelist</b> . Her novel Adi Parva based on the Mahabharat, Puranas and tradition of oral storytellers was selected as one of the year 2012's best graphic novels by comic book historian Paul Gravett.
Ms. Amala Akkineni, Telangana	Ms. Amala Akkineni is co-founder and Chairperson of <b>Blue Cross</b> of Hyderabad, a registered animal welfare organization working since 1993 for the welfare of animals in Hyderabad and extending support to other groups.
Ms. Anatta Sonney, Karnataka	Scientist at ISRO, she is recipient of Astronautical Society of India Team award for her contribution towards Mars Orbiter Mission and ISRO Team Excellence award for 'Chandrayaan-1 Payload Instruments, Science Data center and Mission operations'.
Ms. Anoyara Khatun, West Bengal	Ms. Anoyara khatun, a survivor of trafficking, works towards the prevention of child marriage, child trafficking, child labour and domestic violence. She is popularly known as <b>Malala of Bengal</b> and has been working with the Dahadia Social Welfare Society since 2007.
Ms. B. Codanayaguy, Puducherry	Scientist at ISRO, her specific contributions for PSLV C37 include all the solid motors for the PSLV C37 launch vehicle.
Ms. Bano Haralu, Nagaland	A pioneering television she has been involved with environment conservation since 2010. She pioneered a bird and wildlife survey for the Forest Department leading to the publication of the book on 'Birds of Nagaland'. She along with a team highlighted the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of the migratory Amur Falcons in Pangti under Wokha district, Nagaland. This and other combined efforts led to convincing the Pangti Village Council from enforcing a ban on the killing and trapping of the Amur Falcons.
Ms. Deepa Mathur, Rajasthan	Ms. Deepa Mathur founded an NGO named Quality of Life

	Improvement Society (QUALIS), 2008 in to promote artisans and craftsmen working in Rajasthan.
Ms. Divya Rawat, Uttarakhand	She is a social entrepreneur who promotes mushroom cultivation as a means of sustainable livelihood among villages situated in remote areas of Uttarakhand. She uses mushroom cultivation as a tool to stop migration of people from hills in search of sustainable livelihood.
Dr. Ilse Kihler Rollefson, Rajasthan	Dr. Ilse Köhler Rollefson, a veterinarian who arrived in Rajasthan in 1991 for a research project on animal husbandry, has dedicated her life to the Raikas (Rajasthan's Nomadic Tribe) and camels. She has set up an NGO called the Lokhit Pashu Palak Sansthan (LPPS) in Pali, Rajasthan that serves as an advocacy group for the Raikas and their camels.
Ms. Janki Vasant, Gujarat	She is a founder of nongovernmental organization Samvedana whose motto is "not just education, but quality education is the right of every child". Over the past 14 years, she is working with underprivileged communities and rural areas around the city of Ahmedabad.
Dr. Kalpana Shankar, Tamil Nadu	She is the Chairperson & Managing Trustee of Hand in Hand India, an organization working on women SHGs, livelihoods, child labour, strengthening citizen participation and sustainable development through Natural Resource Management and Solid Waste Management for 21 years in Tamil Nadu.
Ms. Kalyani Pramod Balakrishnan, Tamil Nadu	A graduate of textile design from NID, she has documented the camel belt weaving of Rajasthan, the Bedouin craft of the Middle East. She worked with the Toda's of the Nilgiris and motivated them to present their work at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.
Ms. Mumtaz Kazi, Maharashtra	Ms. Mumtaz Kazi is Asia's <b>first woman</b> who drives a <b>diesel train</b> . She drove her first train only at the age of 20 years. In 1995, her name featured in LIMCA Book of Records as first lady diesel locomotive driver.
Dr. Nandita Shah, Tamil Nadu	Dr. Nandita Shah is a homeopath by profession and founder of Sanctuary for Health and Reconnection to Animals and Nature (SHARAN). SHARAN is a non-profit organization devoted to spreading awareness about holistic health and an ecologically sustainable compassionate lifestyle.
Ms. Pallavi Fauzdar, Delhi	She is an <b>Adventure Motorcyclist</b> . She is the first Motorcyclist in the world to conquer 8 Mountain Passes Above 5000 meters altitude in a single trip covering 3500 kms of tough mountain terrain of Himachal, Leh, Ladakh and Kashmir valley. She has been the first motorcyclist to reach the top of the highest and the toughest mountain pass in the world, The Mana Pass, Uttarakhand at an altitude of 5638 meters or 18774 feet. She is also the First Female Rider to reach the highest lake in the world on motorcycle, the Deo Tal at an altitude of 17950 feet above sea level.
Ms. Pamela Malhotra, Karnataka	She is the co-founder of <b>SAI (Save Animals Initiative) Sanctuary</b> in the Kodagu district of Karnataka. She along with her husband, Dr. Anil Malhotra bought the 55 acres of land and began afforestation

	work which in 23 years has led to the establishment of one-of-its kind wildlife sanctuary spread over 300 acres, the only private sanctuary in the country.
Ms. Qamar Dagar, Delhi	She is a professional <b>Pictorial Calligrapher</b> who has been working to orient people around the art of calligraphy. She is the founder Director of Qalamkaari Creative Calligraphy Trust, Delhi and has organized and curated International Calligraphy festivals "Qalam-Aatma" in Delhi and Jaipur.
Ms. Reema Sathe, Maharashtra	Ms. Reema Sathe is Founder & Director of Happy Roots Foods & Beverages India Pvt. Ltd., a social enterprise that works on socio-economic development and inclusive growth of marginal farmers and rural women in India. She has developed a direct agri-produce sourcing network of 12,000 small and tribal farmers in Maharashtra.
Ms. Ringyuichon Vashum, Manipur	Ms. Ringyuichon Vashum is a Social Activist for Women and Child Rights Issues in Ukhrul District, Manipur. She has been constantly working for empowering the underprivileged women through micro credit by orienting and monitoring their Income Generating Activities (IGAs). She counsels and encourages them for alternative livelihood from growing marijuana/ganja or poppy for opium or illicit sale of narcotic drugs, etc. to handloom weaving, embroidery, food and fruit processing, organic farming, poultry and so on.
Ms. Sangita Iyer, Kerala	Ms. Sangita Iyer is a multiple award-winning nature and wildlife journalist, documentary film maker and biologist. She is the Executive Producer & Director of the internationally acclaimed and United Nations nominated documentary "Gods in Shackles" that reveals the truth behind the glamorous cultural festivals where temple elephants are exploited for profit under the guise of culture and religion.
Ms. Smita Tandi, Chhattisgarh	A constable with Chhattisgarh Police, Smita, along with her friends started a group 'Jeevandeep' in 2015 to provide financial help to poor people in order to enable them to access medical treatment. They collect money through their Facebook page which has 7 lakh followers.
Ms. Sumitra Hazarika, Assam	Ms. Sumitra Hazarika is an international medal winner Athlete and President of Mission for Integration, Gender Equalization, Harmony and Fight against Threat (MIGHT). She is an activist with missionary zeal for eradication of various social ills viz. child marriage, dowry demand, child labour, child and women trafficking, domestic violence and sexual abuses of women at work place etc. She is also an author and writing columns in newspapers and magazines.
Ms. Sunita Singh Chocken, Haryana	She is a die-hard mountaineer with around 10 years of experience in Mountaineering, Rock climbing and water-sports. life or professional. She is the <b>youngest girl of Haryana</b> to have scaled the highest peak, Mt. Everest by 2011.
Ms. Subha Varier, Kerala	Scientist at ISRO, she was instrumental in inducting and globalizing onboard Video Systems in all the ISRO Launch vehicle programmes.
Ms. Tiasa Adhya, West Bengal	A conservationist, she started the Fishing Cat Project in 2010 to conserve Fishing Cats in the human dominated Howrah district in



	West Bengal and to mainstream its conservation. She tried to instill a sense of pride in conserving their State Animal which is threatened due to ongoing habitat destruction.
Ms. V. Nanammal, Tamil Nadu	Ms. V. Nanammal is a Nonagenarian (97 year old) yoga enthusiast. Practicing yoga since she was 8, she has mastered more than 50 kinds of asanas. As many as 600 students of Nanammal are teaching yoga across the world. She has participated in 100 competitions so far.
Ms. Zuboni Humstoe, Nagaland	Ms. Zuboni Humtsoe founded a company named Preciousmelove (PML) in 2011, through Facebook with an initial capital of Rs. 3500, saved from college scholarship money. PML managed by an all girls team is an online fashion brand selling premium Nagaland designs for women, accessories, vintage clothing and handicrafts.

### **National Health Policy - 2017**

National Health Policy - 2017: Specific Goals and Objectives

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in its meeting on 15.3.2017, has approved the National Health Policy, 2017 (NHP, 2017). It aims at achieving universal health coverage and delivering quality health care services to all at affordable cost.

The indicative, quantitative goals and objectives are outlined under three broad components viz. A. Health status and programme impact, B. Health systems performance and C. Health system strengthening.

#### **A. Health Status and Programme Impact**

##### 1. Life Expectancy and healthy life

- (a) Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
- (b) Establish regular tracking of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY) Index as a measure of burden of disease and its trends by major categories by 2022.
- (c) Reduction of TFR to 2.1 at national and sub-national level by 2025.

##### 2. Mortality by Age and/ or cause

- (a) Reduce Under Five Mortality to 23 by 2025 and MMR from current levels to 100 by 2020.
- (b) Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019.
- (c) Reduce neo-natal mortality to 16 and still birth rate to "single digit" by 2025.

##### 3. Reduction of disease prevalence/ incidence

- (a) Achieve global target of 2020 which is also termed as target of 90-90-90, for HIV / AIDS i. e.,- 90% of all people living with HIV know their HIV status, - 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

- (b) Achieve and maintain elimination status of Leprosy by 2018, Kala-Azar by 2017 and Lymphatic Filariasis in endemic pockets by 2017.
- (c) To achieve and maintain a cure rate of > 85% in new sputum positive patients for TB and reduce of new cases, to reach elimination status by 2025.
- (d) To reduce the prevalence of blindness to 0.25/ 1000 by 2025 and disease burden by one third from current levels.
- (e) To reduce premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 25% by 2025.

## **B. Health Systems Performance**

### 1. Coverage of Health Services

- (a) Increase utilization of public health facilities by 50% from current levels by 2025.
- (b) Antenatal care coverage to be sustained above 90% and skilled attendance at birth above 90% by 2025.
- (c) More than 90% of the newborn are fully immunized by one year of age by 2025.
- (d) Meet need of family planning above 90% at national and sub national level by 2025.
- (e) 80% of known hypertensive and diabetic individuals at household level maintain 'controlled disease status' by 2025.

### 2. Cross Sectoral goals related to health

- (a) Relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use by 15% by 2020 and 30% by 2025.
- (b) Reduction of 40% in prevalence of stunting of under-five children by 2025.
- (c) Access to safe water and sanitation to all by 2020 (Swachh Bharat Mission).
- (d) Reduction of occupational injury by half from current levels of 334 per lakh agricultural workers by 2020.
- (e) National/ State level tracking of selected health behaviour.

## **C. Health Systems strengthening**

### 1. Health finance

- (a) Increase health expenditure by Government as a percentage of GDP from the existing 1.15% to 2.5 % by 2025.
- (b) Increase State sector health spending to > 8% of their budget by 2020.
- (c) Decrease in proportion of households facing catastrophic health expenditure from the current levels by 25%, by 2025.

### 2. Health Infrastructure and Human Resource

- (a) Ensure availability of paramedics and doctors as per Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) norm in high priority districts by 2020.
- (b) Increase community health volunteers to population ratio as per IPHS norm, in high priority districts by 2025.

- (c) Establish primary and secondary care facility as per norms in high priority districts (population as well as time to reach norms) by 2025.

### 3. Health Management Information

- (a) Ensure district-level electronic database of information on health system components by 2020.  
(b) Strengthen the health surveillance system and establish registries for diseases of public health importance by 2020.  
(c) Establish federated integrated health information architecture, Health Information Exchanges and National Health Information Network by 2025.

### Visitors Award 2017

Visitor's Award for the Best University 2017 - Jawaharlal Nehru University

Visitor's Award for Innovation - Dr. Deepak Pant from Central University of Himachal Pradesh

Visitor's Award for Research - Dr. Shyam Sunder from Banaras Hindu University and Prof. Niranjan Karak from Tezpur University.

### BCCI Annual Awards 2015-16

Col. CK. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award: **Rajinder Goel, Padmakar Shivalkar**

BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women: **Shantha Rangaswamy**

BCCI Special award: **VV Kumar, Late Ramakant Desai**

Polly Umrigar Award: **Virat Kohli**

Dilip Sardesai award (For India's best cricketer in the West Indies series 2016): **Ravichandran Ashwin**

### Woman Cricketers

Jagmohan Dalmiya Award [Best Woman cricketer (Sr.) of 2015-16]: **Mithali Raj** of Railways

Jagmohan Dalmiya Award [Best Woman cricketer (Jr.) of 2015-16]: **Deepti Sharma** of Uttar Pradesh

Best Umpire in Domestic cricket in 2015-16: **Nitin Menon**

Best performance in BCCI Domestic tournaments of 2015-16: **Mumbai Cricket Association**

### Ranji Trophy

Lala Amarnath Award for the best all-rounder in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16: **Jalaj Saxena** of Madhya Pradesh

Lala Amarnath Award for the best all-rounder in domestic limited-overs competitions, 2015-16: **Axar Patel** of Gujarat

Madhavrao Scindia Award (Highest scorer in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16): **Shreyas Iyer** of Mumbai

Madhavrao Scindia Award (Highest wicket-taker in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16): **Shahbaz Nadeem** of Jharkhand

### **U-23**

M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (Highest scorer in (U-23) Col. CK. Nayudu Trophy 2015-16: **Jay G. Bosta** of Mumbai

M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (Highest wicket-taker in (U-23) Col. CK. Nayudu Trophy 2015-16: **Satyajeet Bachhav** of Maharashtra

### **U-19**

NKP Salve Award (Highest scorer in (U-19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2015-16: **Arman Jaffer** of Mumbai

NKP Salve Award (Highest wicket-taker in (U-19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2015-16: **Ninad Rathva** of Baroda

### **Vijay Merchant Trophy**

Raj Singh Dungarpur Award [Highest **scorer** in (U-16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2015-16]: **Abhishek Sharma** of Punjab

Raj Singh Dungarpur Award [Highest **wicket-taker** in (U-16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2015-16]: **Abhishek Sharma** of Punjab

### **6th National Photography Awards**

Lifetime Achievement Award: **Shri Raghu Rai**

Professional Photographer of the Year: **Shri K.K. Mustafah**

Amateur Photographer of the Year: **Shri Ravinder Kumar**

National Photography Award is an annual event organized by Photo Division a media unit under Ministry of I&B. The theme for this year's awards for Professional category was **Skilled India**, while in the Amateur category the topic was **Swachh Bharat**.

### **Olympians as National Observers**

The Government has designated the following Olympians as National Observers who will play a key role in implementation of action plans for Mission Olympics 2020, 2024 and 2028.

<b>Sports</b>	<b>National Observers</b>
Athletics	Ms. P.T. Usha and Ms. Anju Bobby George
Archery	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh
Badminton	Ms. Aparna Popat
Boxing	Ms. Mary Kom and Shri Akhil Kumar

Hockey	Shri Jagbir Singh
Shooting	Shri Abhinav Bindra
Tennis	Shri Somdev Devvarman
Weightlifting	Ms. Karnam Malleshwari
Wrestling	Shri Sushil Kumar
Football	Shri I.M. Vijayan
Swimming	Shri Khajan Singh
Table Tennis	Shri Kamlesh Mehta

### First Fully Made-in-India Train

On March 18, 2017 the Railway Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu flagged off the first made-in-India rake, **Medha** from **Dadar** to **Borivali**.

Medha rake costs Rs .43.23 crore, which is approximately Rs. 1 crore less than German-made Bombardier rake, which is Rs. 44.36 crore.

Medha has been manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, which has installed LED lighting to reduce energy consumption.

The rake can run at a speed of 110 kmph, whereas local trains don't run above 90 or 100 kmph. Like the existing rakes, this train has cushioned seats in first class and stainless steel seats in general compartments. The rake has a capacity of 6,050 passengers and the number of seats is 1,168.

### New Chief Ministers

1. Uttar Pradesh : Yogi Adityanath
2. Uttarakhand : Trivendra Singh Rawat
3. Punjab : Capt Amarinder Singh
4. Goa : Shri Manohar Parrikar
5. Manipur : Biren Singh

### Operation Thunder Bird

Operation Thunder Bird was an initiative launched by **INTERPOL**. It involved police, customs, border agencies, environment, wildlife and forestry officials from 43 countries and territories. It resulted in a range of seizures including, 60 tonnes of wood and timber, 4,770 birds, 1,240 reptiles including at least 560 turtles and tortoises, 100 wild cats, 2.75 tonnes of pangolin scales, 2.54 tonnes of raw and processed ivory and 25 tonnes of various animal parts, including meat, horns and feathers.

In India, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, coordinated Operation Thunder Bird, from January 30 to February 19, 2017.

A total of 2, 524 Live species of scheduled animals, 19.2 kg of elephant ivory, 1 tiger skin, 9 carcasses of wild animals, 1 organ pipe coral, 1 jar snake venom, 8 leopard skins and 1 Indian Mujtac skin was seized and 71 persons were arrested during the operation.

The operation saw an overwhelming response from the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

### In-Residence programme of Rashtrapati Bhavan

In-Residence Programme was launched by the President of India on December 11, 2013, to encourage the creative and innovative potential of people and open up Rashtrapati Bhavan for greater participation and involvement of citizens in its activities.

Ten Innovation Scholars, two Writers and two Artists selected commenced their stay in Rashtrapati Bhavan on March 3, 2017. They will be in residence till March 18, 2017.

Person	Innovation
Shri Surjeet Singh (Haryana)	Surjeet Basmati 1- a high yielding and salt tolerant paddy variety)
Shri Moa Subong (Nagaland)	Bamhum - an innovative wind musical instrument
Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma (Uttar Pradesh)	Farmer friendly compressor for biogas bottling
Shri Akash Manoj (Tamil Nadu)	A non-invasive self diagnosis of silent heart attack
Shri Girish Badragond (Karnataka)	Low cost bore-well scanners
Shri Mansukhbhai Prajapati (Gujarat)	Mitti cool refrigerator, non-stick clay tawa and clay cooker
Shri Subhash Ola (Rajasthan)	Modified milk boiler
Ms. Shalini Kumari (Bihar)	Modified walker with adjustable legs
Shri Paresh Panchal (Gujarat)	Bamboo strip, incense stick and incense making machine
Smt. Santosh Pachar (Rajasthan)	Laxmangarh selection: improved carrot variety

Writers who are staying at the Rashtrapati Bhavan are **Dr. Ashok Kumar P. Chavda** from Gujarat who is recipient of Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar and Bengali poet, **Shri Prabal Kumar Basu** who received Gouri Bhattacharjee Memorial Award for his first book of poems 'Tumeei Pratham'.

Artists who are staying at Rashtrapati Bhavan are **Shri Rahul Shailendra Kokaste** winner of 50th Maharashtra State Award, 2010 and **Shri Dheeraj Yadav** winner of 57th Lalit Kala Academy 2016 Award.

### INS VIRAAAT DECOMMISSIONED

Formerly known as HMS Hermes

Recommissioned in Indian Navy: 12 May 1987

Decommissioned : 06 March 2017

Guests of Honour at the ceremony: Admiral Sir Philip Jones, KCB, ADC, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff of Royal Navy and Vice Admiral Vinod Pasricha, PVSM, AVSM, NM the commissioning Commanding Officer of INS Viraat.

Chief Guest: Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff

A Special Postal Cover released to commemorate 30 years of Glorious Service to The Nation by INS Viraat

INS Viraat holds the world record as mentioned in the Guinness Book of records for being the longest serving warship of the world.

Under the Indian Flag, the ship has clocked more than 22,622 flying hours by various aircraft in the past three decades and has spent nearly 2252 days at sea sailing across 5,88,287 nautical miles (10,94,215 KM). This implies that Viraat has spent seven years at sea, circumnavigating the globe 27 times.

Aircraft carriers now in Indian Navy: INS Vikramaditya.

To be inducted shortly: INS Vikrant.

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