INTERNATIONAL

- **China opens its first overseas Military base in Djibouti**
  - ⇨ China formally launched its first overseas naval facility in Djibouti, an East African nation.
  - ⇨ Five Chinese formations and Djibouti's Three Services HonorGuard took part in the launch ceremony on 1 of August 2017.
  - ⇨ The event marked the 90th anniversary of the Chinese military Services.
  - ⇨ Djibouti is a tiny East African nation of around 887,000 people, is between Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia.
  - ⇨ Dijbouti is known as horn of Africa.

- **Peter O'Neill re-elected as Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.**
  - ⇨ Peter O'Neill has been reappointed as **Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.**
  - ⇨ The election has been widely criticized because thousands of voters were excluded and there were blazing abuses of the electoral process.
  - ⇨ He is the leader of the People's National Congress and represents the constituency of Ialibu-Pangia.
- **World breastfeeding week is observed from August 1st to August 7th.**
  - ⇨ **World breastfeeding week**is being celebrated from 1st to 7th August every year.
  - ⇨ The theme for the year 2017 is **"Sustaining Breastfeeding Together".**
  - ⇨ It was first celebrated in 1992 by World Alliance for Breastfeeding World Breastfeeding WeekAction (**WABA)** and is now observed in over 120 countries by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (**WHO)** and their partners including individuals, organizations, and governments.

National

- **e-RaKAM portal has been launched by Government.**
  - ⇨ The government launched a portal, e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi(e-RaKAM), to provide a platform to sell agricultural produce. The portal is a joint initiative by state-run-auctioneer MSTC and Central Warehousing Corporation arm CRWC.
  - ⇨ E-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet and e-RaKAM centres.
  - ⇨ Under this initiative, e-RaKAM centres are being developed in a phased manner throughout the country to facilitate farmers for online sale of their produce.
  - ⇨ Farmers would be paid through e-Payment directly into their bank accounts.

- **Reliance Jio launches world's longest 100Gbps submarine-cable-system.**
  - ⇨ Reliance Jio Infocomm has launched the Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system. It is claimed to be world's longest 100Gbps technology-based.

- **Third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy declared.**
  - ⇨ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced Third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement for current fiscal.2017-18 on August 2, 2017. This time, RBI has cut the policy repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 6 percent.

Repo Rate - 6.00%

Reverse Repo Rate - 5.75%

Marginal Standing Facility Rate - 6.25%

Bank Rate - 6.25%

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) - 4.00%

Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) - 20.00%

- **Union Parliament passes Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Amendment Bill.**
  - ⇨ The Union Parliament passed the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education**(Amendment) Bill, 2017 with Rajya Sabha approving it Lok Sabha
  - ⇨ The Bill amends the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009 by extending the deadline for teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for appointment.

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- **SBI and Samsung collaborate to advance Digital India initiative.**

⇨ The **State Bank of India (SBI)** and Samsung India announced the availability of Samsung Pay for higher variants of SBI debit card to advance Digital India.

⇨ It is currently available on Samsung smartphones. It enables consumers to make offline payments without the need for a physical Card.

⇨ It works on 2.5 million Point of Sale (POS) Card machines across the country through its Magnetic SecureTransmission (**MST**) technology.

- **Araiyavali becomes first dispute-free hamlet in Rajasthan.**

⇨ Araiyavali village in Hanumangarh district has got the distinction of being declared the first "dispute free" panchayat in the state relating to water and revenue disputes. These disputes comprised a major chunk of all litigations taking years to be solved and sometimes even leading to violent crimes like murders.

⇨ The drastic change in social harmony was brought after the setting up of a 'mediation centre' in the area by an NGO.

- **Rajasthan govt seeks Rs 1,550 crore relief for flood-hit people.**

⇨ The state disaster management and relief department has forwarded a proposal for Rs 1,550 crore as relief for the flood affected areas of the state.

⇨ Disaster management & relief department principal secretary Hemant Gera said directions have been given for girdawari to assess the crop loss. He said there are many hamlets in desert areas of Barmer and Jalore, which are in water but administration does not have any information about them.

GUJARAT

- **92.46% Gujarat villages are verified as open defecation free now**

⇨ Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) seemed to have got good response at Mahatma Gandhi's home state- Gujarat in terms of open defecation free villages. As per the figures of union ministry of drinking water and sanitation, 92.46% villages have been verified as open defecation free (ODF) villages.

⇨ Last year, all the cities of Gujarat were declared as open defecation free by the then Union Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu.

⇨ Porbandar, the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi, and all the 180 cities and towns in Gujarat were declared Open Defection Free (ODF) on the birth anniversary of the 'Father of the Nation'.

⇨ It needs mention that the Clean India Mission or Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was initiated on October 2, 2014 with a view to gift a clean country on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

- **Gujarat government begins crop damage survey.**

⇨ The state government claimed that it has rescued 20,000 people stranded in floods and moved 80,000 people to safer places during heavy rains that lashed north Gujarat last week.

⇨ The chief minister said that Rs 1.92 lakh ex-gratia has been given to 34 families and Rs 6.74 in cash doles have been given to 859 people after a survey of 21 villages in Suigam taluka. Some 18,000 food packets, 16,000 water pouches and 2,500 kits of grain have also been distributed to flood-affected people informed the CM.

- **Centre plans to set up petrochemical clusters in Gujarat.**

⇨ The Centre is planning to set up petrochemical clusters in eastern, western and southern India, to spur growth of the sector amid increasing demand.

⇨ Global per capita consumption of polymers is 34 kg and India at 10 kg will see manifold growth by 2030, spurring the growth of the industry.

Maharashtra

- **Govt plans Rs 3 lakh cr highway projs in Maharashtra : Gadkari**

⇨ The government is planning to undertake highway projects worth Rs 3 lakh crore in Maharashtra, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

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⇨ The ministry will provide Rs 1,000 crore. Since the detailed project report for the first phase, which is worth Rs 500 crore, is ready so centre's initial instalment would be of Rs 250 crore.

⇨ The beautification project will change the face of Mumbai.

Madhya Pradesh

- **State government objectioning colonies' regularisation: Madhya Pradesh HC**

⇨ In a petition challenging illegal colonies in the state, the Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh high court was told on Monday that it was the state government who was the one objecting to these colonies' regularization.

⇨ According to the petitioners, the state had raised objections over regularizing these colonies constructed on areas demarcated for green belts and industrial areas. The IMC in its reply has said that for these colonies to be regularised, the state will have to change its master plan accordingly.

Chattisgarh

- **Chhattisgarh tops list of states in issuance of soil health cards**

⇨ Chhattisgarh has topped the list among all the states in the country for having issued over 43 lakh soil health cards (SHCs) to farmers in the past two years.

⇨ The examination of soil samples is being done at 33 permanent laboratories and 174 mini laboratories.

⇨ The soil health cards contain technical and other key information about the cultivation of the land concerned and details of type of soil and proper crops to be cultivated in it.

Bihar

- **65% children not breastfed within one hour of birth in Bihar.**

⇨ The gender resource centre of Women Development Corporation, in association with Unicef, organized an outreach and experience-sharing workshop on 'Sustaining BreastfeedingTogether' to commemorate the World Breastfeeding Week.

⇨ As per National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16), 48 infants per 1,000 births in Bihar die due to various reasons which can be eliminated if they are breastfed. While most of the new mothers start breastfeeding, many depend on formula milk.

⇨ NFHS data on feeding practices and nutritional status of children further suggest that almost two-thirds of them under the age of 3 years in Bihar (65%) are not breastfed within the first hour of their birth.

Jharkhand

- **Jharkhand govt clears bill to ban conversions.**

⇨ The Jharkhand cabinet approved on Tuesday the draft of a bill that will ban religious conversion by force or allurement. The Jharkhand Religious Independence Bill, 2017, was approved at a meeting of the cabinet chaired by chief minister Raghubar Das.

⇨ Anyone found violating the provisions of the bill will be liable for three years imprisonment or Rs 50,000 fine or both (sic).The bill provides for tougher action on forced conversions of minor girls and women from the scheduled tribes. "In this case, the perpetrator would face jail term of up to four years and penalty of Rs 1 lakh or both.

Uttar Pradesh

- **UP government announces free travel for women on Raksha Bandhan**

⇨ The Uttar Pradesh government today announced free travel in government buses for women on 'Raksha Bandhan'.

⇨ The free ride will be available from the midnight of August 6 to midnight of August 7, an official said.

⇨ The chief minister has announced free ride to women in state road transport buses on the occasion of 'Raksha Bandhan'.

- **Uttar Pradesh to set up free kitchens on lines of 'Amma canteens'**

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⇨ Uttar Pradesh is the latest state to consider setting up kitchens on the lines of 'Amma canteens' in Tamil Nadu so that the poor can get "at least one dignified meal" every day.

⇨ The first of such kitchens, known as "Prabhu ki Rasoi," will be inaugurated in Saharanpuron August 9 and will feed 300 poor people, to start with. The food will be offered free.

Uttarakhand

- **Disaster management in Uttarakhand a matter of public welfare: HC**

⇨ The Uttarakhand high court, remarked that disaster management in the region, which is highly prone to natural calamity due to its fragile mountains, tectonic activity and climatic events, was a matter of public welfare. The HC had last month rapped the Centre for its "casual approach" to disaster management and asked it to reply within three weeks on what steps were being taken to monitor Himalayan glaciers and prevent related calamities.

⇨ The Kedarnath tragedy of 2013 shook the whole nation and brought to the notice of the entire country that disaster management techniques are not even up to mark to handle calamities. As stated herein, Uttaranchal is one of most vulnerable states with respect to possible natural disasters.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

- **Himachal Pradesh first in South East Asia to launch electronic health card.**

⇨ Himachal Pradesh chief minister Virbhadra Singh along with health minister Kaul Singh Thakur launched six new health schemes including electronic health card scheme and a scheme for providing free insulin to diabetic patients below 18 years of age under universal immunisation programme in Shimla. State government claimed that Himachal has become first in South East Asia region to launch the same.

⇨ They also launched HP Universal Health Protection Scheme, a health bulletin brochure, a scheme for free treatment of Hemophilic patients and introduction to 'Measles Rubella' (MR) campaign. The health card could be downloaded from google app by the name 'Health Card HP'.

- **Himachal promoting organic farming in a big way**

⇨ A Rs 321 crore project is under implementation in Himachal for diversification of agricultural activities under which the farmers are being motivated to adopt organic farming and grow cash crops.

⇨ The project, being implemented in five districts of the State, has yielded good results and a large number of farmers have come forward to switch over to organic farming and go for off season cash crops cultivation as the state emerges as a front runner in organic farming.

⇨ Nearly 22,000 hectare has been brought under organic farming and 40,000 farmers have got themselves registered under the scheme.

⇨ A target of bringing 2,000 hectare of additional land under organic farming has been set while 200 bio villages have already been set up in the state.

⇨ The state government has announced first, second and third prizes of Rs 3 lakh, Rs 2 lakh and Rs one lakh respectively for the progressive farmers adopting organic farming.

ANDHRA PRADESH

- **e-Pragati will enable real-time governance : AP CM**

⇨ e-Pragati will be the flagship programme that will help the government make a smooth transition from real-time government to real-time governance, said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, at the inaugural of a training programme for officers in the new mode of technology.

⇨ He said e-Pragati was one of the most attractive projects that would transform the governance in the State.

⇨ e-Pragati is State's collaborative drive with the Indian School of Business (ISB), wherein the Digital Transformation in Pubic Governance Certificate programme would be taught to officers of various government departments by globally-renowned resident and visiting faculty from the ISB along with experienced industry experts with relevant subject matter expertise. It's a month-long programme (one week theory and three weeks online).

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- **Wrestling event to be held in Jaipur.**

⇨ The Rajasthan Wrestling Association (RWA) will organise a Junior National Wrestling Championship for boys and girls at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium from January 4 to 7. The decision was taken at the annual general on Sunday.

⇨ About 900 players, including 200 officials, are expected to take part in the tournament. Greco Roman, Free style and women free style event will be held. Last year, the tournament was organised in Patna and for the first time the national championship is being organised in Jaipur.

- **SDRF get ready for mansoon with Hi tech Training**

⇨ With the arrival of monsoon in Rajasthan, the state police have made special arrangements to ensure that any possible contingencies are tackled within minimum time.

⇨ According to senior police officials, eight companies of the state disaster response force (SDRF) have been put on alert to start rescue operations within a short notice.

⇨ In the past one year, members of the Rajasthan SDRF have been receiving training from the national disaster response force (NDRF) as well as the army in various emergency services that are relevant during rescue operations.

Gk byte - **NDRF**

⇨ NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) is India's elite disaster mitigation combat force established under The Disaster Management Act, 2005. It was established in 2006 and is headquartered in New Delhi. It functions under the aegis of Union Ministry of Home Affairs. It main function is to undertake relief and rescue operations in the case of an event of any disaster (natural or man-made), accident or emergency. It is assisted by 11 battalions positioned in various states of country. Of the 11 battalions, 3 are of BSF and CRPF each, 2 are of CISF, ITBP each and one of Sashastra Seema Bal.

GUJARAT

- **SC seeks Gujarat's response on denial of free school seats to children from weaker sections.**

⇨ The Supreme Court sought the Gujarat government's response to a petition accusing schools in the state of denying 25% free seats to children from weaker sections in violation of the 2009 law granting them free admission in schools.

⇨ As many as 9,000 schools in Gujarat had denied admission to 65,000 children into entry level classes, according to official data. "Of the 9,000 schools, as many as 4,000 have shown zero admission to children from weaker sections and backward classes

⇨ ***GK byte***- Enactment of Right of Children to Compulsory Education Act, 2009, made it mandatory for government and private schools to keep aside 25% of seats for children from weaker sections for free admission to entry level classes.

- **President okays Legislative Bill to ban hookah bar in Gujarat.**

⇨ President Pranab Mukherjee has approved a Legislative Bill to ban the hookah bar in Gujarat.

⇨ Earlier in December 2016, the Gujarat government had moved an ordinance to introduce new law and the bill for the same was passed in the state assembly in March.

⇨ There's year 2003 central law - The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 or COTP in which the government of Gujarat has made amendment and included hookah bars in the prohibited category. The bill in this regard passed by the state assembly has got President of India's assent and now the state government will notify it as the new law. On breach of this law, police will take action. Minimum one year and maximum three-year sentence has been prescribed. Provision of Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 fine is also mentioned in this amendment. It will be a cognizable offence."

Gk byte**- Hookah vs. Cigarette (Health impact)**

⇨ A visitor takes 100 to 200 times more smoke compared to cigarette in a hookah bar. While cigarette smoking involves 20 puffs, hookah smoking involves 200 puffs. Carbon monoxide

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