

# NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## **Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Three Day Visit to India**

- Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the **Chief Guest at the 68th Republic Day Celebration**.
- **India and UAE Signs 14 Agreements to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation** on elevating bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- India and the UAE committed to further boost wide-range of bilateral engagements in strategic areas of security, defence, energy.
- A Central Power Sector PSU & Central Transmission Utility, **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)**, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Abu Dhabi Water & Electricity Authority (ADWEA)** & its group of companies in Gurgaon, for cooperation in power sector.
- Narendra Modi and the visiting Crown Prince issued a **joint statement to oppose terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever committed and by whomever, and declared that there could be no justification for terrorism anywhere.**

## **Telangana Ranks Second in Walnut's Cashless Score Card**

- Telangana has been ranked at second spot in the 'Cashless India Scorecard', prepared by Walnut app to measure the growth level in digital payments in the country post demonetization.
- The top three states in the scorecard were **Gujarat, Telangana and Haryana** respectively with the highest growth in going cashless.

## **Indian Navy's Theatre Level Exercise, TROPEX 17 Begins**

- The **Theatre Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX)**, an annual Indian Navy exercise kicked started on January 24, 2017 off the **Western Seaboard**.
- The exercise will be conducted in phased manner both in harbour and at sea to undertake tasks of war-fighting and combat operations.
- The exercise will strengthen the inter-operability and joint operations of the Indian Navy in a complex environment.
- **TROPEX 17 exercise** is aimed at testing combat readiness of the combined fleets of the Indian Navy, and the assets of the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard.

## **Andhra Pradesh Launches Rs 100 cr fund of funds for Fintech Startups**

- **Chandrababu Naidu** has announced **Rs 100-crore fund of funds to invest in Fintech startups.**

- Fintech is being seen as a promising space to generate job, thus the state has initiated an industry-academia-government partnership to tap and refine skilled talent available at cheaper costs to develop **Visakhapatnam** into a global fintech hub.
- The stat is making an effort to develop the entire ecosystem needed for development of the fintech sector.

## INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

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### **Surya Namaskar Yajna Recognised in US Congress**

- The annual “Surya Namaskar Yajna” or “Health for Humanity Yogathon” has been recognized in the US House of Representative.
- Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh has organized the “Yoga for Health, Health for Humanity Yogathon to mark Makar Sankranti.
- The 16-day event will raise awareness about yoga and its advantages in achieving a healthy body, mind, and spirit.

### **India Ranks 79th in the 2016 Corruption Perception Index**

List of Top 5 Least Corrupt Nations as released by the Berlin-based corruption watchdog **Transparency International (TI)**.

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Rank	Country	Score (100)
1	Denmark	90
1	New Zealand	90
3	Finland	89
4	Sweden	88
5	Switzerland	86

### **India at Sixth Position among Eight Great Powers of 2017 List by American Foreign Policy Magazine**

**India** has been ranked at the sixth position in the latest annual list of eight great powers for the year 2017 published by leading **American foreign policy magazine**. The list has been topped by **US**.

### **List of Eight Great Powers of 2017**

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- 1 United States

- 2 China & Japan (both share same position)
- 4 Russia
- 5 Germany
- 6 India
- 7 Iran
- 8 Israel

## BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

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### **SBI Launches Wealth Management Product “SBI Exclusif” in Kochi**

- The **State Bank of India** has launched a new **wealth management product** named “**SBI Exclusif**” in **Kochi** launched by Chief General Manager.
- SBI Exclusif is targeted at fast growing affluent and high net worth customer segments of the bank.
- SBI Exclusif offers an electronic wealth center that equips the customers with a convenience and flexibility to track their portfolio, conduct transactions and make investments through digital channels such as internet and mobile.

### **Karnataka Bank Signs MoU with Tirth Agro Technology**

Karnataka Bank Ltd signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the leading agricultural equipment/implements manufacturer **Tirth Agro Technology Pvt Ltd**, Rajkot to finance farmers for agri mechanization.

#### **Aim of the MoU**

- i. To establish a platform for co-operation between the two in identifying farmers in need of buying agricultural implements/equipment and financing them by the bank on its terms.
- ii. To promote agriculture mechanization in India by utilizing bank’s experience in agricultural finance through its branches across India.
- iii. To use expertise of the company in field of manufacturing of high quality agriculture equipment and implements.
- iv. Further enhancement of agricultural finance to the farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers.
- iv. The **Tirth Agro Technology Pvt Ltd** manufactures agricultural implements under the brand name ‘**Shaktiman**’. It has a network of more than 685 dealers and 42 distributors across India.

### **Government to Launch Aadhar Pay for Cashless Transactions through Biometrics**

- The Government informed about its plan to launch the biometric based Aadhaar Pay payment platform in few weeks for BHIM App.
- Aadhaar Pay service will enable people to make and receive payments using their Aadhaar number and biometrics.

### **Nokia Gets Vodafone's 4G contract Worth Rs 3,650 crore**

- Nokia Indian operation has bagged a contract worth \$500 million (Rs 3,650 crore) from Mumbai based Vodafone for deployment and expansion of 4G network in the country.
- With this contract, Nokia India unit aims to expand its network expansion and ramping up capacities to counter the threat from bigger rival Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio.
- Chinese equipment vendor Huawei would supply 4G base stations and other equipment for Vodafone's networks in Karnataka, Kerala and Delhi circles.

### **Aditya Birla Group Plans to Invest Rs 7,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh**

- The Aditya Birla Group plans to invest Rs 7,000 crore in the next two years in Andhra Pradesh.
- The company has set up a cement plant with capacity of 5.6 million tonnes in Andhra Pradesh.

### **HPCL, GAIL sign pact with AP for Rs 40K crore petrochem project**

- HPCL and GAIL India Ltd signed a pact with Andhra Pradesh for setting up a Rs 40,000 crore petrochemical plant in the state.
- The 50:50 joint venture will set up a 1.5 million tons Ethylene Derivatives plant.
- The plant will produce a wide range of petrochemical raw materials for the manufacture of detergents, paints and coatings, cosmetics, textiles and adhesives.
- It will be set up at the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) sites identified by the state government at Kakinada.

## PEOPLE IN NEWS

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### **Meghalaya Governor V Shanmuganathan resigns over sexual assault allegations**

- V Shanmuganathan finally resigned after Raj Bhavan staff accused him of sexual misconduct.

## AWARDS

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### **3 Indian-origin conferred with Australia's highest civilian award**

Three Indian-origin persons have been awarded Australia's highest civilian honor

- **Purushottam Sawrikar**, a Sydney-based medical practitioner, received Order of Australia medal in General division category for his service to medicine, and to the Indian community.
- Sawrikar was a former President of Australian Indian Medical Graduates Association and also founded a community radio called **Akashwani Sydney**.

- **Makhan Singh Khangure** from Perth received the award for his significant service to medicine in the field of neuroradiology, to education, and to a range of professional medical associations.
- **Vijay Kumar** received the award for his significant service to medical research in the disciplines of nuclear medicine and biology, to professional organizations, and to the community.

### **Two Scientists from National Geophysical Research Institute Named for 2016 National Geoscience Award**

- **Dr. A Keshav Krishna**, a scientist at the **National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad** has been selected for the **2016 National Geoscience Award** in recognition of his work in the field of **geo-environmental studies in Applied Geosciences**.
- **Dr. N. Purnachandra Rao**, Chief Scientist at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), has been selected for 2016 National Geoscience Award for recognition of his work in the **field of Geophysics**.

### **3 Soldiers from Rashtriya Rifles Awarded Sena Medal for Encountering Hizbul terrorist Burhan Wani**

- Three personnel of **Rashtriya Rifles** have been awarded the **Sena Medal** on the occasion of Republic Day in New Delhi for gunning down terrorist **Burhan Wani** in **July 2016**.
- The awardees include **Major Sandeep Kumar**, **Captain Manik Sharma** and **Naik Arvind Singh Chauhan**

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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### **ISRO Successfully Tests Cryogenic Engine for Upper Stage of GSLV Mk III**

- ISRO successfully tested its indigenously developed Cryogenic engine designated as C25, for 50 seconds at **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu**.
- The cryogenic engine has been developed for use in the Upper Stage of GSLV Mk III rocket, which is scheduled to be launched within the first quarter of 2017.
- The C25 stage is the most powerful upper stage developed by ISRO and uses Liquid Oxygen and Liquid Hydrogen propellant combination.
- GSLV MkIII is a next generation launch vehicle of ISRO, capable of launching 4 ton class spacecraft in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

## SPORTS

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### **David Boon, Matthew Hayden inducted into Australian Cricket Hall of Fame**

- Two of Australia's greatest top-order batsmen, **David Boon and Matthew Hayden**, and the brilliant women's all-rounder **Betty Wilson** will be inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame (ACHoF) at the 2017 Allan Border Medal ceremony in Sydney.

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