

# NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## **First Edition of the North East Investors Summit Held in Shillong**

- The first edition of the **North East Investors Summit** was inaugurated on January 29, 2017 by the Union Textiles Minister in Shillong.
- Theme is **Exploring Opportunities in North East Region**.
- Aim is to launch **North East Region as a Global destination** for investment by exploring possibilities of attracting the investment especially in textile manufacturing.

## **Karnataka Govt Approves Amending Laws to Lift Ban on Kambala & Bullock Cart Race**

- The Karnataka state cabinet on January 28, 2017 approved amending Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Bill, 1960 Act to legalize the Kambala and Bullock Cart Race which is a traditional festival held annually in Karnataka.
- The amendment Bill will be introduced by the state cabinet in the legislature session.

## **Bombay Natural History Society launches climate change programme in Central Himalayas**

- The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has launched **climate change programme** to assess the status, distribution and conservation of pheasants and finches in the **Central Himalayas**.
- **Aim** is to evaluate the socio-economic activities of local communities and involve them in conservation efforts and sensitize the local forest department staff.
- This program is funded by **Oracle** and facilitated by **CAF-India**.
- It will contribute in
  - Making an inventory of pheasants and finches
  - Documentation of local specific conservation issues
  - Designing local as well as species specific conservation action plan with the community participation.

# INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## **Trump Bans 7 nations from Entering US on Security Issues**

- **Donald Trump** has signed an executive order to temporarily **ban visas for refugees** belonging to seven Muslim-majority countries namely **Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen**.
- The decision aims at protecting United States from the entry of foreign terrorists to keep the nation safe. The ban is not aimed at restricting Muslim countries from entering US.
- As per the order, the travelers including legal permanent US residents residing in any of the seven mentioned countries would be prohibited from entering US for 90 days.

- However, the ban would not apply to diplomats and members of international organizations.

#### **Mauritius & six other countries joins global efforts to curb profit shifting by MNEs**

- Mauritius along with Gabon, Hungary, Indonesia, Lithuania, Malta and the Russian Federation signed the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement for Country-by-Country Reporting (CbC MCAA).
- This agreement will allow signatories to bilaterally and automatically exchange country-by-country reports with each other, as contemplated by Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan.

## **BUSINESS AND ECONOMY**

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#### **FGII Enters Into Bancassurance Tie-Up With Bank Of Maharashtra**

- **Future Generali India Insurance Company (FGII)** announced an agency tie-up with Pune based **Bank of Maharashtra**.
- **Aim** is to immensely benefit our customers by providing them an ease of access while choosing from a diverse range of non-life insurance products, all under one roof.
- It has tie-up with over **100 banks** in India for bancassurance. Now it accounts for **5 per cent** of Future Generali's total business.

#### **Reliance Defence Signs Contract with Ministry of Defence to Construct 14 Fast patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard**

- **Reliance Defence and Engineering Ltd (RDEL)**, a wholly owned arm of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra), has signed a contract with the **Ministry of Defence to design and construct 14 Fast Patrol Vessels for the Indian Coast Guard**.
- The medium range, high speed vessels would be deployed for patrolling within the exclusive economic zone, coastal surveillance, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, search and rescue operations.
- It will also provide support as front-line warships during emergencies.
- RDEL is the first private sector shipyard which has been awarded a contract of designing and building such ships for Indian Armed Forces.

#### **KSEZ, Subsidiary of GMR group Signs MoUs With Firms to Set Up Manufacturing Units at Kakinada SEZ**

- **Kakinada SEZ Ltd (KSEZ)**, a subsidiary of GMR Infrastructure Limited (GIL), signed several MoUs with various companies during the CII Partnership Summit 2017 at Visakhapatnam.
- The MoU aimed at setting up World Class manufacturing units at the Kakinada SEZ in Andhra Pradesh.

- The MoU also aims to develop an all-weather, multi-cargo, deep water port.
- Besides, Oil and Gas PSUs, **Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) & Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** signed an MoU with the **Government of Andhra Pradesh** to set up petrochemicals complex over an area spanning 2000 acres in the state.

## PEOPLE IN NEWS

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### **Dushyant Chautala appointed as New TTFI President**

- **Dushyant Chautala** is elected as youngest president of Table Tennis Federation of India.
- Chautala with two observers are selected for **four years**, extends until 2021.
  1. **Kuldip Vats** – representing Indian Olympic Association
  2. **Ashwani Kumar** – representing the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from the Sports Authority of India.

### **Ashok Amritraj Appointed UN in India Goodwill Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals**

- Film producer and Wimbledon tennis player, **Ashok Amritraj** has been appointed the United Nations in India Goodwill Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- He is responsible to generate momentum and commitment **to achieve the SDGs by 2030** and to foster engagement of new stakeholders in the implementation of these Goals.

### **AP Singh Appointed as the Interim Head of India Post Payment Bank**

- **AP Singh** has been appointed as the interim **Managing Director and CEO** of **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** by the government.
- Earlier, he worked as a **Joint Secretary** in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management. He was one of the **founding members** of the Unique Identification Authority of India.
- IPPB received the final license from RBI to start its operation as payment Bank.

### **Amulya Patnaik appointed as Delhi Police Chief**

- IPS officer from Union Territories cadre, **Amulya Patnaik** is appointed as Chief of Delhi police.

## AWARDS

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### **Madras Engineer Group Adjudged Best Marching Contingent in Services Category**

- In Service Category, **Madras Engineer Group** has been selected as the best marching contingent.
- While in the Para-Military Forces category, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) were adjudged as the best performers.
- In the Category of tableaux, **Arunachal Pradesh** stood first for depicting the Yak dance.
- Among the Tableaux from the 6 Union Ministries/Departments that participated, **Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** won the first prize for depicting the theme 'Transforming India through Skill Development' besides highlighting the achievements of the Ministry.
- The tableau represented by the **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)** on the theme 'Green India-Clean India' won a special prize.
- In Dance category of school children, performance by **Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pitampura, Delhi**, children won the first prize for their dance based on National Flag.

#### **Iris Mittenare of France Crowned Miss Universe 2017**

- **Iris Mittenare of France** was crowned as the **Miss Universe 2017** in the international beauty pageant event held at Manila, **Philippines**.
- The first runner-up was **Raquel Pelissier from Haiti** and second runner-up was **Andrea Tovar of Colombia**.
- **India** was represented by **Roshmitha Harimurthy** but could not make it to the top 12.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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#### **Atomic clocks of Satellite IRNSS-1A Develops Technical Snag**

- The atomic clocks on the first satellite **IRNSS-1A** of the **NAVIC**, an indigenously built satellite system has developed technical complications.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman, A.S. Kiran Kumar** informed that one of the three crucial rubidium clock on IRNSS-1A spacecraft failed six months ago while the other two failed subsequently.
- NAVIC is a constellation of **seven satellites** in the geosynchronous orbit and two backup satellites on ground. Each satellite consists of three atomic clocks. Thus there are total of 27 atomic clock in NAVIC.

#### **INSAT-3DR Satellite to Enable Detecting Farm Fires**

- The Indian Weather Satellite, **INSAT-3DR**, launched by ISRO has led to a remarkable achievement in Indian weather forecasting.

- The Next Generation INSAT-3DR, will enable detecting **Farm Fires**, which was till now only conducted by **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** thus helping in formulating effective measures to deal with the issue.
- INSAT-3DR also enables **night time monitoring** of atmospheric phenomenon like cloud cover, fog, haze and snow among others.

## SPORTS

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### **Supreme Court Appoints Vinod Rai as BCCI Committee's Head**

- Vinod Rai, the former Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) was appointed as the head of the BCCI by the Supreme Court.
- The main aim of the committee would be look after the day-to-day functioning of the board in addition to the proper implementation of the Lodha committees recommendations for the board.

### **PV Sindhu Clinches Her Maiden Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold Title**

- **PV Sindhu** clinched her maiden **Syed Modi International Grand Prix Gold women's singles title** at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow.
- She defeated **Gregoria Mariska** of Indonesia.
- The **Men's Single** title was won by National Champion **Sameer Verma** who beat B Sai Praneeth.
- **Pranaav Jerry Chopra** and **N Sikki Reddy** won their maiden Grand Prix Gold title in **mixed doubles** beating Ashwini Ponnappa and B Sumeeth Reddy.
- The **Men's Double** title was clinched by top seeds **Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen** outclassing Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han.
- Denmark's **Kamilla Rytter Juhl and Christinna Pedersen** surpassed India's Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy to clinch the **women's doubles title**.