NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

India's contribution to UN increases to Rs 244 crore

- India's contribution to the United Nations has increased to **Rs 244 crore** from **Rs 157 crore for 2016-17.**
- Indian government had also made voluntary contributions to the tune of Rs 22 crore to international organizations, including UN agencies.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

China, Saudi Arabia ink deals worth about \$65 billion

- China and Saudi Arabia officials have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) and Letters of Intent(LoI) potentially worth about \$65 billion during Saudi King Salman's visit to China.
- Aim: To promote investment opportunities in the kingdom
- The agreements seeks co-operations in the field of investment, energy, space and other areas.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

HDFC Bank Launches India's First Digital Loans Against Securities

- LAS will reduced the time to disburse the overdraft facility in just **3 minutes** rather than several days previously. This is a first-of-its-kind initiative in India and probably the first in the world as well.
- Under the facility, customers can pledge shares directly through their demat accounts and give necessary approvals while applying for the loan.
- Shares dematerialized by NSDL and executed through HDFC Bank demat account could be used for pledging.
- The bank will instantly approves the loan and the money will be credited to their bank accounts.
 Once shares are pledged, a customer cannot sell them unless the loan against them has been cleared.
- The loan amount ranges from Rs 1 to 20 lakh for a period and every year the loan amount will be reevaluated.

UCO Bank, Future Generali tie up

- Target: To achieve a growth of **80 per cent** by FY18.
- Future General Insurance is a joint venture between India's leading retailer Future Group and Italy based insurance major Generali.

• It offers a wide spectrum of general insurance products like Motor Insurance, Health Insurance, Travel Insurance, Personal Accident & Home Insurance.

PEOPLE IN NEWS

OnePlus India Ropes Amitabh Bachchan as its New Brand Ambassador

- Mr Bachchan is the first major face that OnePlus India is associating with for its latest flagship smartphone, **OnePlus 3T.**
- According to the OnePlus team, Bachchan has been considered since he better represents 'OnePlus' motto 'Never Settle'.
- OnePlus 3T is rated as the best smartphone as compared to other brands based on consumer ratings on Amazon India.

Noted Film Director Diphan Dies At 45

- Well known Malayalam film director Diphan passed away in Kochi after suffering from liver ailment. He was 45
- Diphan has directed **seven films** including Puthiyamukham, D Company, Hero and Leader, Dolphins and SIM.

Justice Sharma sworn in as Upalokayukta of Assam

 Former Judge of the Gauhati High Court Chittaranjan Sharma has sworn in as Assam's Upalokayukta

Babul Supriyo Named Vice-President Of FIFA U-17 World Cup LOC

 Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Babul Supriyo has been named as Vice President of the 2017 U-17 FIFA World Cup organizing committee

AWARDS

Central Bank won Official language policy award

 Mumbai based Central Bank of India won the first prize in the implementation of Official Language Policy in the western region for the year 2015-2016 at the Official Language Conference of Central and Western Regions

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Pakistan successfully test-fires land based anti-ship missile

Pakistan Navy has successfully test-fired ground-to-sea missile from the coastal region

- The trial was witnessed by Vice Chief of Naval Staff Admiral **Khan Hisham Bin Siddique**.
- The missile is equipped with modern technology **avionics**, secured a hit on a target placed at sea with a high degree of accuracy.

