

# NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## Cabinet Approvals on March 22, 2017

- Approval for development of **403 kms of National Highways in Meghalaya and Mizoram** and also approved the Deepening and Widening of Mumbai Harbour Channel and JN Port Channel (Phase-II) project with fresh estimates.
- **Government** has decided to amend the Constitution for setting up the National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (**NSEBC**) as a constitutional body for socially and economically backward classes.
- The Union Cabinet approved the following proposals with regards to **NABARD Act, 1981** during the cabinet meeting.
- The cabinet approved the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** signed between the **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the **US Homeland Security Department** on cooperation in the field of **Cyber Security**.
- The government gave its approval to amend the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009**.
- Approved the following proposals with regard to the **Fund of Funds of Start-ups (FFS)** which was established in June 2016 with a corpus of **Rs. 10000 crores**.

## Ninth Gorkhas Observes its 200 years of Raising in Secunderabad

- The 9 Gorkha Rifles is a Gorkha regiment of the Indian Army comprising of **soldiers of Nepalese origin** and was initially formed in 1817 by the British government.
- The first battalion of the Ninth Gorkhas was raised by the British government in 1817 as the **'Fatehgarh Levy'**.
- Ninth Gorkha Rifles has a unique honour that all its battalions have been awarded the **Chief of Army Staff's Citation** for exceptional performance in the line of duty.
- The Regiment has been awarded **three Victoria Crosses, five Mahavir Chakras** and seventeen **Vir Chakras** in the two centuries of its existence.
- Some of the Regiments battle honours are Afghanistan, France and Flanders, Mesopotamia, North Africa, Chindits, Burma, Phillora, Kumarkhalli, Dera Baba Nanak and Jammu & Kashmir.

# INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## India Ranks 87 in Energy Architecture Performance Index 2017

- India has been placed at **87th position among 127 countries** in the global **Energy Architecture Performance Index (EAPI) 2017** by World Economic Forum

**Top 5 Countries in EAPI 2017**

Rank	Country
1	Switzerland
2	Norway
3	Sweden
4	Denmark
5	France

- The Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report 2017 ranks 127 countries on their ability to deliver secure, affordable, sustainable energy
- The index ranked 127 countries based on their ability to provide energy across **three dimensions of the energy triangle** namely economic growth and development, environmental sustainability, and energy access and security.

## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

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**Assam govt, SBI sign MoU over housing, educational loan at subsidized interest rates**

- The state government of Assam has signed two MoUs with Mumbai based State Bank of India(SBI) to provide **housing loan and education loan** for its employees
- **Highlights :**
  - i. Housing loan at the interest rates of 5% for women employees
  - ii. Housing loan at the interest rates of 5.5 % for men and
  - iii. Education loan for higher education for their children at 4% interest rate
  - iv. The maximum limit of the housing loan is Rs 15 lakh and Education loan is Rs.10 lakh

**South Indian Bank introduces Aadhar-based payment app**

- **Aim:** To promote cashless digital transactions
- **SIB M-Pay** will enables all bank account holders to send and receive money from their Smartphone without bank account information.
- It required only **Aadhar number** of the beneficiary
- This feature will be a major step towards a 'Cashless Society' and Aadhar ID plays a key role in Digital India initiatives

**India Notifies Amended Tax Treaty With Singapore**

- Government of India has officially notified the third Protocol amending India-Singapore Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)

- The India-Singapore DTAA will provide source based taxation of capital gains arising on sale of shares in a company.
- This will curb revenue loss, prevent double non-taxation and streamline the flow of investments.
- It would facilitate relieving of economic double taxation in transfer pricing cases.
- It also inserts **Article 9(2)** in the DTAA which would facilitate relieving of economic double taxation in transfer pricing cases.

## AWARDS

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### **Frenchmen Yves Meyer Wins 2017 Abel Prize for Wavelets Theory**

- **Yves Meyer**, a French mathematician, was honored with the **2017 Abel Prize**, given by **Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters**.
- He was honored the prestigious award for his contribution in the development of the mathematical theory of wavelets.

### **Ed Sheeran To Receive Songwriters Hall Of Fame 2017 Award**

- English singer-songwriter and record producer Ed Sheeran from UK will be honoured with the Songwriters Hall of Fame's **2017 Hal David Starlight Award**.
- The Hal David Starlight Award was created in 2004 in honor of Songwriters Hall Chairman Emeritus Hal David .

### **Indian Journalist Ravish Kumar Conferred with First Kuldip Nayar Journalism Awards**

- **Ravish Kumar**, the senior executive editor of NDTV India, was awarded the inaugural **Kuldip Nayar Journalism Award** in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the world of Journalism.
- In the event organised by the **Gandhi Peace Foundation**, Ravish was presented the prestigious award by veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar after whom the award has been named.
- Ravish has earlier won several prestigious awards including the Ramnath Goenka Award in 2013. He was also awarded the best journalist of the year 2015 by Mumbai press club.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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### **NASA Plans to Send Futuristic Atomic Clock to Space by 2017 End**

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is set to send its **next-generation atomic clock** into space by the end of 2017 which is a key advance for safely navigating future human exploration of the solar system.
- NASA scientists stated that timekeeping plays a critical role in spacecraft navigation and the atomic clock will be especially important for future deep space missions.

- The atomic clock will enable “**one-way**” tracking so the spacecraft does not need to send the signal back to Earth.
- The Deep Space Atomic Clock would also improve the precision and quantity of the radio data used by scientists for determining a planet’s gravity field and probing its atmosphere.

## ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

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### **Mysterious Night Parrot Sighted in Western Australia for First Time in 100 Years**

- It is the first verified sighting of the bird in WA for almost 100 years. The Night Parrot was **green and yellow with black barred feathers**
- The scientists hope that more such Night Parrot population live in those areas relatively undisturbed by human-caused habitat degradation or feral animals.
- The night parrot with scientific name *Pezoporus occidentalis*, is a small parrot endemic to the continent of Australia.
- It is well known as being one of the most elusive and mysterious birds in the world, with no known sightings of the bird between 1912 and 1979.

## SPORTS CURRENT AFFAIRS

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### **Ankur Mittal Clinches Gold in Double Trap Event in ISSF World Cup Mexico**

- Indian shooter **Ankur Mittal** won the **gold medal** at the **International Shooting Sport Federation Shotgun World Cup** in the men’s double trap event
- With this, India got its first medal of the competition where it has sent a **nine-member squad**.
- Australian James Willet managed 73 to settle for the Silver, while **Chinese Ying won Bronze** shooting a score of 52, before being eliminated after 60 targets.

### **India Bags 8 Medals in IPC Athletics Grand Prix 2017**

- During the course of event, **Indian para athletes** won total **8 Medals** including 3 Gold, 1 Silver and 4 Bronze.
- With this India has been ranked **7th among 48 participating countries** in terms of medal tally.
- **Sundar Singh Gurjar** won a gold in both men’s *Javelin Throw F-46* and *Discus Throw F-46* competitions.
- The third Indian gold was bagged by Narender Ranbir in men’s *Javelin Throw F-44* with an effort of 47.75m.
- Anandan Gunasekaran (Silver) in 400m Men T-42/44/46
- Ramkaran Singh (Bronze) in 800m Men T-13/20
- Surjit Singh (Bronze) in Shotput Men F-40/41/42