

### 1. National Biodiversity Congress 2017 in Kerala

The Third National Biodiversity Congress (NBC) 2017 held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on February 22, 2017. The NBC is hosted by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board. This year event comprises programmes including conference, Exhibition, capacity building workshops and Children Biodiversity Congress. National Biodiversity Conference, governed by a national advisory committee comprising biodiversity experts on 23rd and 24th February as a part of NBC.



### 2. SC Judge appointed as Chairman of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre has been appointed as the Chairman of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT). He was nominated for the post by Chief Justice J.S. Kehar. The post full vacant following the resignation of Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan. The Govt also proposed to introduce some benches to look into disputes as and when required. Unlike the tribunal, the Benches will cease to exist once the disputes are resolved.

### 3. Chandrasekaran takes the Chairmanship of TATA Sons Ltd

Natarajan Chandrasekaran has become the Chairman of TATA Sons Ltd, the holding company of Tata Sons Ltd announced in January, 2017 the appointment of Chandra, who joined the tata Group in 1987 after obtaining a Masters Degree in Computer Applications from the Regional Engineering College Trichy in Tamil Nadu.

### 4. Union Government launches Bharat QR code

The Union Govt has launched “Bharat QR Code” a quick response (QR) code to enable digital payments without card swiping machines. It is world’s first interoperable payment acceptance solution launched by Indian Government to move towards less-cash economy. Bharat QR code has been developed by jointly National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Visa, Mastercard and American Express under instructions from Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



### 5. India to host 2019 combined World Cup for Shooting

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) announced that India will be hosting the Combined World Cup for Shooting in 2019 during the meeting held in New Delhi. The Combined World Cup will be a qualifying event for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. It will comprise all the three categories shotgun, rifle and pistol

### 6. Mithali Raj, Harmanpreet kaur in top -10 ICC rankings

India’s one day captain Mithali Raj and top order bats woman Harmanpreet Kaur were placed 2nd and 10th in the bats women’s rankings released after World Cup qualifier that ended on 21st February. Meg Lanning of Australia leads the chart with 804 points, while Mithali Raj with 733 points is second in the list. Harmanpreet Kaur, known for her towering sixes has 574 points is last of the list.



### 7. Govt doubles maternity leave for women workers in Industries

The Government doubled the maternity leave for women Working in industries from the existing three months to six months. However, the benefit will be restricted to women who make a monthly contribution to the employees state insurance corpus from their salaries. About 29 lakh Women Working across various industries will be benefitted by the move.

### 8. 7 New Earth - Like Exoplanets Discovered

Nasa Astronomers have discovered not one, not two, but seven earth sized planets orbiting a star called TRAPPIST-1 and announced the discovery of 60 other potentially habitable planets. Three of them have habitable zone where liquid water can exist on the surface of the rocky planets like Earth. “The discovery gives us a hint that finding a second Earth is not just a matter”, said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of the Science Mission Directorate of NASA.



### 9. Suresh Prabhu Unveils Antyodaya Rail Coaches

Equipped with cushioned seats, aluminium composite panels, LED lights of the Antyodaya Express, a newly unreserved train for the common man with specially designed colour full coaches unveiled by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, ready to be pressed “into service on busy routes, the first antyodaya Express will be launched between Mumbai and Tatanagar, and the second will be between Ernakulam and Howrah shortly.