

## AWARDS & HONOURS

Indian captain Virat Kohli and spin ace Ravichandran Ashwin, were honoured for their phenomenal run of form through the season at the **BCCI annual awards**. Kohli won the Polly Umrigar award for best international player of 2015/16, and also became the first player to get the award three times. The BCCI Awards are a set of annual cricket awards given by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The awards were first given in 2006-07. Recipients are :-

- **Col. CK. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award:** Rajinder Goel, Padmakar Shivalkar
- **BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women:** Shantha Rangaswamy
- **BCCI Special Awards:** VV Kumar, Late Ramakant Desai
- **Polly Umrigar Award:** Virat Kohli
- **Dilip Sardesai Award (For India's best cricketer in the West Indies series, 2016):** Ravi Ashwin
- **Lala Amarnath Award (Best all-rounder in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16):** Jalaj Saxena (Madhya Pradesh)
- **Lala Amarnath Award (Best all-rounder in domestic limited-overs competitions 2015-16):** Axar Patel (Gujarat)
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award (Highest scorer in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16):** Shreyas Iyer (Mumbai)
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award (Highest wicket-taker in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16):** Shahbaz Nadeem (Jharkhand)
- **M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (Highest scorer in U-23 Col. CK. Nayudu Trophy 2015-16):** Jay Bista (Mumbai)
- **M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (Highest wicket-taker in U-23 Col. CK. Nayudu Trophy 2015-16):** Satyajeeet Bachhav (Maharashtra)
- **NKP Salve Award (Highest scorer in U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy in 2015-16):** Arman Jaffer (Mumbai)
- **NKP Salve Award (Highest wicket-taker in U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy in 2015-16):** Ninad Rathva (Baroda)
- **Raj Singh Dungarpur Award (Highest scorer in U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2015-16):** Abhishek Sharma (Punjab)
- **Raj Singh Dungarpur Award (Highest wicket-taker in U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2015-16):** Abhishek Sharma (Punjab)
- **Jagmohan Dalmiya Award (Best Woman cricketer (Sr.) of 2015-16):** Mithali Raj (Railways)

- **Jagmohan Dalmiya Award (Best Woman cricketer (Jr.) of 2015-16):** Deepti Sharma (Uttar Pradesh)
- **Best Umpire in Domestic Cricket:** Nitin Menon
- **Best Performance in BCCI Domestic Tournaments:** Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras won the 2017 **IEEE Spectrum Technology in the Service of Society Award** for its solar-direct current (DC) inverter system.
- Noted Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail was selected for the prestigious **Saraswati Samman** 2016 for his novel Hawthth.

## BUSINESS & CORPORATE

**IDFC Bank** became the first bank to launch the biometric-based payment system Aadhaar Pay through its network.

The **BBC** has been banned from filming in tiger reserves in India for five years as its documentary on the Kaziranga National Park "misrepresented" the immunity provided to forest staff as a "shoot-to-kill" policy.

Millicom International Cellular (MIC) announced signing an agreement with **Bharti Airtel** to merge their Ghanaian operational subsidiaries, Tigo Ghana and Airtel Ghana.

**Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory** (DMRL), Hyderabad, a premier research laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Jindal Stainless (Hisar) Limited (JSHL) signed the Licensing Agreement for Transfer of Technology of High Nitrogen Steel (HNS) for armour applications.

India's largest bank **State Bank of India** or SBI announced a one-time settlement scheme for tractor and farm mechanisation loans, which are in the "doubtful or loss assets" category. Loans worth Rs. 6,000 crore would be eligible for the one-time scheme, said Rajnish Kumar, managing director at SBI.

India's largest automobile company by revenues **Tata Motors** and Europe's largest car maker Volkswagen Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore a possible joint technical collaboration or joint venture on vehicle architecture, engines and component sourcing.

## BILLS / ACTS / COMMITTEES / SCHEMES / POLICIES

- The Lok Sabha passed the long-pending Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, which provides power to the government to seize properties left behind by those who migrated to Pakistan or China after wars. The lower house passed the bill through a voice vote after amendments passed by the Rajya Sabha earlier were incorporated. The bill seeks to amend a 49-year-old law, the Enemy Property Act, 1968.
- Parliament passed the Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2016 to raise maternity leave for working women from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for two surviving children.
- The Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Madhukar Gupta, submitted its report to the Government to strengthen border protection and address vulnerabilities in fencing along the Indo-Pakistan border. The Committee gave its recommendations broadly on the issues of Threats and Border Protection, assessment of force level, deployment on the border, infrastructure and technology issues for protection of border and administrative issues.
- The Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) between the Directorate General of Lighthouses & Lightships (DGLL), Ministry of Shipping, Government of India and the Department of Shipping, Government of Bangladesh.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie and Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM).

## ECONOMY & FINANCE

- State-run NTPC installed India's largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) plant at Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant (RGCCPP) at Kayamkulam in Kerala.
- India and Belgium signed a Protocol amending the existing Agreement and Protocol between the two countries for Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes.
- The Union Cabinet approved release of an additional installment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 01.01.2017. It has increased by 2% over the existing rate of 2% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for price rise. This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission. The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs. 5,857.28 crore per annum and Rs.6,833.50 crore in the Financial Year 2017-18 (for a period of 14 months from January, 2017 to February, 2018). This will benefit about 48.85 lakh Central Government employees and 55.51 lakh pensioners.
- Union Cabinet approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Nations Entity of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The proposal seeks to provide technical support to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in strengthening capacities of governance institutions including Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to better leverage opportunities created for gender equality through legislation, policies and programmes. Activities under this MoU will be implemented at the district and sub-district level in six States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Odisha, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- The Union Ministry of Agriculture launched Mission Fingerling, a programme to enable holistic development and management of fisheries sector in India with a total expenditure of about Rs. 52000 lakh converging in the production of 20 lakh tonnes of fish annually, benefitting about 4 million families. Thrust areas have been identified for enhancing fisheries production from 10.79 mmt (2014-15) to 15 mmt in 2020-21. The Department has identified 20 States based on their potential and other relevant factors to strengthen the Fish Seed infrastructure in the country.

## PEOPLE IN NEWS

Senior IAS officer **Ajay Tyagi** took charge as the Chairman of the markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He is the ninth Chairman of the Sebi and took over from U K Sinha, who completed his six-year tenure.

Nigeria's former Minister for Environment, **Amina Mohammed**, was officially sworn in as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

**Amjad Hussain B. Sial**, a special secretary at Foreign Service of Pakistan, was named as the new secretary general of the Saarc—a regional forum of eight South Asian countries.

Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** took additional charge of the Defence Ministry. He held the dual position for around six months in 2014. Mr. Jaitley was given the charge of the Defence Ministry after Manohar Parrikar stepped down from the position to go back to Goa as its Chief Minister.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir appointed **Bakri Hassan Saleh**, a top aide as prime minister, reinstating a post he had abolished after coming to power in a 1989 coup.

The European Council re-elected **Donald Tusk** as its president for a second term of two and a half years, from 1 June 2017 to 30 November 2019. Donald Tusk was also re-appointed as President of the Euro Summit for the same period. He is the second full-time President of the European Council, following the creation of the post on 1 December 2009 under the Treaty of Lisbon.

Telecom Secretary **J S Deepak**, a 1982 batch IAS officer from Uttar Pradesh, was named India's next Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from June this year.

Prof Dr **K Srinath Reddy** was appointed as the adviser to the Odisha government, on proper implementation and smooth delivery of the ongoing health service programmes. The eminent cardiologist, epidemiologist and president of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) would be accorded the rank of a cabinet minister in the state. Reddy, a Padma Bhushan awardee, was the former head of the Department of Cardiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi

**Manohar Parrikar**, who quit as defence minister, took oath as the chief minister of Goa to head a coalition government.

Union Government appointed **Narendra Kumar** as the new chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC).

Ending 15 years of Congress rule in Manipur, BJP leader **Nongthombam Biren Singh** was sworn in as the state's chief minister.

**P K Purwar** was appointed Chairman and Managing Director of state-run telecom major Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

Former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer and parliamentarian **Syed Shahabuddin**, 82, passed away. Shahabuddin had strongly opposed the demolition of the Babri Masjid and was the leader of the Babri Action Committee.

## SPORTS

The **Indian** women's hockey team, led by Rani, continued with their imperious form as they defeated Belarus to register their fourth consecutive victory in the five-match Test series in Bhopal.

Britain's double Olympic gold medallist **Joanna Rowsell Shand** announced her retirement from international cycling. The 28-year-old track cyclist won gold in the team pursuit at London 2012 and Rio 2016.

Malaysia's **Lee Chong Wei** won the 2017 All England Championship Title of Badminton in the men's singles event when he defeated China's Shi Yuqi in the final match.

**Pablo Cuevas** of Uruguay won his third straight Brazil Open Tennis title with a victory against Albert Ramos-Vinolas of Spain.

The Indian duo of **Ravichandran Ashwin** and Ravindra Jadeja became the first set of spinners to be jointly ranked number one in the ICC Test rankings for bowlers. The last time two bowlers shared the top spot was in April 2008 when Dale Steyn and Muttiah Muralitharan were at the top. In the lot for batsmen, India captain Virat Kohli conceded the second rank to England's Joe Root. Root is now one point ahead of Kohli at 848 points.

In a career spanning 10 years, **Rowsell Shand** was a five-time world and four-time European champion.

Punjab won the 71st **Santosh Trophy** football tournament by defeating Railways in the final match.

**SSP Chawrasia** became only the second Indian golfer to successfully defend the Indian Open, clinching a seven-stroke win. He became the third player to win back-to-back Indian Open titles. Jyoti Randhawa (2006, 2007) and Japan's Kenji Hosoishi (1967, 1968) were the other two golfers. Interestingly, this was also the third consecutive win for India at the Indian Open with Anirban Lahiri winning it in 2015 and Chawrasia bagging the title last year.

In a surprise development, **Shashank Manohar** resigned as ICC chairman after merely eight months in office citing personal reasons. Manohar had last year resigned from the BCCI citing his inability to carry out Lodha Committee reforms in toto. His detractors in BCCI at that time had said he left a sinking ship for the safer confines of the ICC. He became the first independent chairman of ICC but had several run ins with BCCI on revenue sharing pattern.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### World

- Employers may bar staff from wearing visible religious symbols, the European Union's top court ruled in its first decision on the issue of women wearing Islamic headscarves at work.
- Britain's House of Lords gave its final approval for a bill empowering Prime Minister Theresa May to trigger Brexit negotiations. The bill now just needs royal assent from Queen Elizabeth II to become law. In June last year, British citizens narrowly voted in favor of the UK leaving the 28-nation bloc.
- Japan announced to dispatch its largest warship on a three-month tour through the South China Sea beginning in May, in its biggest show of naval force in the region since World War Two.
- South Korean President Park Geun-hye was removed from office, as the country's Constitutional Court unanimously upheld a parliamentary vote to impeach her for her role in a corruption and influence-peddling scandal.
- The mega cultural festival 'India by the Nile' got off to a colourful start in Egypt showcasing joint handicraft exhibition of the two countries.

### India

- West Bengal Government gave official language status to endangered tribal language Kurukh, mother tongue belonging to the Dravidian family.
- India's biggest river festival, Namami Brahmaputra, started in Assam.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters announced to award the **Abel Prize** for 2017 to Yves Meyer (77) of the École normale supérieure Paris-Saclay, France “for his pivotal role in the development of the mathematical theory of wavelets”. Yves Meyer was the visionary leader in the modern development of this theory, at the intersection of mathematics, information technology and computational science. The Abel Prize recognizes contributions of extraordinary depth and influence to the mathematical sciences and has been awarded annually since 2003. It carries a cash award of 6 million NOK (about 675,000 Euro or 715,000 USD).

Photojournalist Raghu Rai was conferred with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** by the information and broadcasting (I&B) ministry for “his remarkable contribution to the field.” Rai was honoured with the award by I&B minister M. Venkaiah Naidu at 6th National Photography Awards.

**Maggie MacDonnell**, a teacher from the Canadian Arctic was named as the winner of the annual Global Teacher Prize.

Indian-American Indrani Das (17) won the top prize of \$2,50,000 in the **Regeneron Science Talent Search competition** in the United States (US) for her research on treating brain injury and disease. Regeneron Science Talent Search competition is the oldest science competition in US for students and is nicknamed as the “Junior Nobel Prize”.

## BUSINESS & CORPORATE

The government announced its decision to merge the **Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB)** with the State Bank of India (SBI) to ensure greater banking services outreach to more women. SBI group already has 126 exclusive all-women branches across the country while BMB has only seven. The proportion of administrative and managerial cost in BMB is much higher to reach the same coverage. For the same cost, a much higher volume of loans to women could be given through SBI. In the three years since BMB was set up in 2013, it has extended loans of Rs 192 crore to women borrowers. The SBI group has provided loans of about Rs 46,000 crore to women.

The Union Cabinet approved proposals with regard to the Fund of Funds of **Start-ups** (FFS) which was established in June, last year with a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crores. The FFS is being managed and operated by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

British telecom major **Vodafone Group Plc** announced to combine its Indian unit, Vodafone India Ltd with Aditya Birla Group’s Idea Cellular Ltd., paving the way for creating the country’s largest — and one of the world’s biggest — wireless providers. The merger is a part of the sector-wide consolidation taking place in the Indian telecom space following the arrival of a new entrant, Reliance Jio Infocomm. Jio, a part of the Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd, has captured a significant customer base in a short span of time with its free voice and data services. The Vodafone-Idea merger will create a large, unified telecom operator with a customer base of around 400 million subscribers with a revenue market share of 41 percent and a customer market share of 35 percent.



## BILLS / ACTS / COMMITTEES / SCHEMES / POLICIES

- The Parliament passed The Employees Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2016. The Bill amends the Employee's Compensation Act, 1923. It ensures compensation up to Rs 1 lakh to an employee if injured in an industrial accident and imposes hefty penalty in case of any violation by the employers.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved North East Road Network Connectivity Project (NERNCP) Phase I for development of 403 kms of National Highways in Meghalaya and Mizoram. Out of total 403 km, approximately 351 km will be developed in Mizoram and 52 km in Meghalaya.

## ECONOMY & FINANCE

- India marginally improved its position to 87th place on a global energy architecture performance index, but ranked among the worst for pollution, as per a report released by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF). Switzerland topped the annual list and was followed by Norway, Sweden, Denmark and France in the top five. India's rank improved three places from 90th last year. The report, developed in collaboration with Accenture Strategy and launched at the European Commission, ranked 127 countries based on their ability to provide energy across three dimensions of the energy triangle. Being compiled since 2013, the Energy Architecture Performance Index (EAPI) is a composite index that focuses on tracking specific indicators to measure the energy system performance of 127 countries. It has 18 indicators defined across the three sides of the energy triangle -- economic growth and development, environmental sustainability, and energy access and security.
- The government lowered the interest rates on small savings schemes like PPF, Kisan Vikas Patra and Sukanya. Small saving schemes such as Public Provident Fund and Kisan Vikas Patra will earn lesser return by 0.1 per cent in the new financial year. The Finance Ministry notified the interest rate for small saving schemes for the April to June quarter of 2017-18. The return on the PPF and the Five-Year National Savings Certificate was further lowered to 7.9 per cent from 8 per cent for the first quarter of the fiscal. The interest rate on the KVP was cut to 7.6 per cent from the earlier 7.7 per cent and it will now mature in 113 months as against 112 months previously.
- The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the Nabard (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) Act, 1981, to increase its authorized capital from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore. The Cabinet also approved transfer of 0.4 per cent equity of Reserve Bank of India in Nabard amounting to Rs 20 crore to the Government of India. The transfer of entire shareholding in Nabard held by the RBI to the central government will remove the conflict in RBI's role as banking regulator and shareholder in Nabard. Nabard is an apex development bank of country and is engaged in agricultural credit and other economic activities in rural areas.
- The proposals with regard to the Fund of Funds of Start-ups (FFS) which was established in June, last year with a corpus of Rs. 1,000 crores, was approved by the Government. It was decided that the FFS shall contribute to the corpus of Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) for investing in equity and equity linked instruments of various start-ups at early stage, seed stage and growth stages. The Cabinet approved the proposal for Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) supported by FFS to invest at least twice the amount of contribution received from FFS in qualifying Start-ups. The FFS is being managed and operated by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). FFS contributes to SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) that may go up to a maximum of 35% of the corpus of the AIF concerned.

- The Union Cabinet approved amendments in the Customs and Excise Act relating to abolition of cesses and surcharges on various goods and services to facilitate implementation of GST. The Cabinet approved amendments to the Customs Act, 1962, the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the Central Excise Act, 1944. It also approved repeal of the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 and amendment or repeal of the provisions relating to Acts under which cesses are levied. Following this, the Centre will abolish 16 cesses and surcharges on union excise and service tax as it lays down the path for rolling out Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July. The amendments in the Customs Act, 1962, allow furnishing of information relating to import or export of goods by specified persons to enable analysis and detection of cases of under or over-valuation in imports and exports. Cesses to be abolished include Krishi Kalyan and Swachh Bharat. This would lead to a loss of about Rs 65,000 crore by the exchequer. To make up for this dent, the government would have to find resources from the budget.
- The Loan Agreement for New Development Bank (NDB) financing of US\$ 350 Million for Development and Upgradation of Major District Roads Project in Madhya Pradesh was signed between Government of India and the New Development Bank (NDB). This is the First Loan Agreement for NDB assisted project in India. The objective of the Project is upgradation of major district roads in the state of Madhya Pradesh to improve connectivity of the interior areas of the state with the national and state highway networks. The Project would include upgradation, rehabilitation or reconstruction of approx. 1,500 (One thousand Five Hundred Only) km of district roads to intermediate lane, all-weather standards, with road safety features and improved road asset maintenance & management. The project implementation is 5 years. Government of Madhya Pradesh and the MPRDC are the implementing agencies.
- The government sanctioned 101 new integrated cold chain projects across 20 States. The companies whose proposals were approved include Halidram, Bectors Food, Balmer Lawrie, Cremica and milk cooperatives Kaira, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha among others. Of the 101 cold chains sanctioned, 53 are for processing fruits and vegetables, 33 for dairy products and 15 for meat, marine and poultry items. Close to half of the projects are in three States — 21 in Maharashtra, 14 in Uttar Pradesh and 12 in Gujarat. The cold chain projects will leverage a total investment of Rs. 3,100 crore for creation of modern infrastructure for the food processing sector.
- The World Bank approved a \$175 million loan for the National Hydrology Project to improve India's ability to forecast floods and reduce vulnerability to recurring floods and droughts. The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a six-year grace period in which no interest payments will be due. The loan will mature in 23 years.

## PEOPLE IN NEWS

**Ashokamitran**, one of the most prolific writers who played a key role in contemporary Tamil literature, died at the age of 86.

United Nations announced the appointment of **David Beasley** of the United States as Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP). David Beasley brings to the position extensive experience with key governmental and business leaders and stakeholders around the world, with very strong resource mobilisation skills.

Renowned Meteorologist and former director of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (Pune) **Dev Raj Sikka** passed away at 85. He is famously known as Monsoon Man and the Father of Indian Meteorology.

**Madhabi Puri Buch** took charge as Whole Time Member of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a tenure of three years or until further orders. Prior to joining, Buch served as the Consultant to the New Development Bank in Shanghai and as the Head of the Singapore office of the Private Equity Firm, Greater Pacific Capital. She also served as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at ICICI Securities Limited and as the Executive Director, on the Board of ICICI bank.

Former BJP legislator from Gujarat, **Manhar Valjibhai Zala**, assumed charge as the chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), which was headless for almost a year. The NCSK was established in 1994 to deal with the grievances of persons engaged in manual scavenging.

Dr **Randeep Guleria**, the head of the department of pulmonary medicine, was appointed the director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

BJP leader **Trivendra Singh Rawat** was sworn in as Uttarakhand chief minister after a massive victory in the assembly elections. A former RSS pracharak, Rawat is the fifth BJP chief minister in Uttarakhand.

Mr. **Upendra Tripathy** was appointed as the Interim Director General (IDG) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on a full time basis. Mr. Upendra Tripathy was the Former Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Karnataka Cadre. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched on 30th November, 2015 as a coalition of the solar resource rich countries.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, often labelled a firebrand politician for his hard Hindutva stance, **Yogi Adityanath**, was sworn in as the 21st Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He was elected as a MP of Lok Sabha from the Gorakhpur Constituency, Uttar Pradesh for five consecutive terms (1998, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014).

## SPORTS

The International Hockey Federation and Government of Odisha announced that the Men's Hockey World League Final 2017 and Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 will be held in the Kalinga Stadium at **Bhubaneswar**.

Turkish female distance runners **Elvan Abeylegesse** and Gamze Bulut were stripped of silver medals from the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games after being handed bans for doping.

Bringing more sporting glory to the nation, **India** bagged a total of 73 medals at the Special Olympics Winter Games, which began on 19 March in Austria. Competing against 2700 athletes from 107 countries, the Indian athletes won 37 gold, 10 silver and 26 bronze medals.

Off-spinner **R. Ashwin** was awarded the Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Cricketer of the Year 2016 and the Test Cricketer of the Year trophy.

**Roger Federer** beat Stan Wawrinka in the Indian Wells Masters final. The 35-year-old won the tournament for a remarkable fifth time.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) appointed cricketing legend **Sachin Tendulkar** as the UNICEF Cricket For Good ambassador for the Women's World Cup 2017, which will be hosted in the United Kingdom from 23 June-23 July.

Ferrari driver **Sebastian Vettel** of Germany won the season-opening Australian Formula One Grand Prix in Melbourne, edging out Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes.

**Tamil Nadu** won the 2017 Vijay Hazare Trophy of cricket for record fifth time after defeating West Bengal in the final match.

**West Bengal** won the 2017 Santosh Trophy of football by defeating Goa in the final match. It was 71st edition of Santosh Trophy and overall record 32nd win of West Bengal.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### World

- The finance ministers and central bank chiefs from the Group of 20 economies (G20) met in Baden-Baden in Germany from 17-18 March 2017. The meeting focused on strengthening economic resilience in finance and digitalisation and promoting investment in Africa.

### India

- Odisha became the first state in the country to carry financial inclusion and extend banking services to unbanked areas through Self Help Groups (SHGs). The state government signed an agreement with State Bank of India in this regard.
- All below poverty line (BPL) households in the urban and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh will get free power connection while homes above poverty line (APL) will be given 100 per cent financing option with easy EMIs, as per an announcement by the State Government.
- In a landmark judgement, the Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of "living human entities" to the Ganga and Yamuna, two of India's most sacred rivers.