

Weekly Current Affairs (5-11 March - 2017)

Summary

- Cricketer-turned-commentator Aakash Chopra released his latest book 'Numbers Do Lie' at an event in Delhi.
- Former IFS and MP Syed Shahabuddin dies at the age of 82 after suffering from prolonged illness.
- The Hon'ble President of India and Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, Shri Pranab Mukherjee awarded the Prestigious President's Standard and Colours to 125 Helicopter Squadron and Mechanical Training Institute (MTI) respectively, during a grand ceremonial parade held at Air Force Station Tambaram.
- The United States and South Korean troops started their large-scale annual military drill named Foal Eagle.
- Bharti Airtel and Millicom International Cellular have entered into an agreement to merge their respective units in Ghana to create the second-largest mobile carrier in the African country.
- The Assam government led by Sarbananda Sonowal decided to make Sanskrit along with computer education, a permanent subject in the state schools.
- American multinational corporation Cognizant has pocketed a deal to acquire Japanese digital firm Brilliant Service Co which is specialized in intelligent products and solutions, digital strategy, product design and engineering, the Internet of Things, and enterprise mobility.
- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee granted official status to the Kurukh language spoken by Oraon and Kisan tribes, and the Rajbanshi-Kamtapuri language spoken by the Koch Rajbanshi community, to mark International Mother Language Day
- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) under the Ministry of Environment and Forests coordinated nationwide 'Operation Thunder Bird' from January 30 to February 19, 2017 to combat illegal trade of wildlife animals in the country.
- The Centre and States approved the model draft Bills for Centre and Integrated goods and services tax (GST).

Weekly Current Affairs (5-11 March - 2017)

- Sam Querrey wins ATP Mexico Open.
- INS Viraat, Indian Navy's flagship aircraft carrier, will retire from service. The aircraft carrier which holds the Guinness Record for the oldest carrier in service was inducted into the Indian Navy on May 12, 1987.
- The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved proposals to rename the Vijayawada Airport and the Tirupati Airport.
- Rs 10,000 penalty for bank branches refusing to exchange soiled notes.
- Social networking site Facebook on Wednesday launched a new initiative, SheLeadsTech, to support women-founded or co-founded startups.
- A Tirtha Darshan scheme, under which senior citizens of the state will be able to go on pilgrimage within the country on government expenses, was announced in the Haryana Assembly.
- SBI to penalize non maintenance of monthly average balance in accounts from 1st of April.
- Tribal festival 'Bhagoria' begins in MP.
- Out of favour with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) due to differences in opinion, former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia is no longer advisor to both the AIFF and President Praful Patel.
- Rabi Ray former Lok Sabha speaker passes away.
- Eminent Malayalam author and journalist M P Veerendra Kumar was today presented the 30th Moortidevi award by Bharatiya Jnanpith organization.
- Andy Murray wins Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship for the first time.
- India to supply additional 60 MW power to Bangladesh.
- The Centre has launched the first ever across-the-river survey in the Ganga to determine the population of aquatic life, including that of the endangered Gangetic dolphin.
- Cabinet approves India-Portugal MoU on renewable energy.
- Sri Lanka won the "Most Popular Tourism Destination Award" at the Guangzhou International Travel Fair (GITF) in China.
- The popular singer Rihanna has been named the 2017 Harvard University Humanitarian of the Year, and will come to campus to accept the Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award at a ceremony.
- Govt nod for strategic sale of 3 SAIL plants.

Weekly Current Affairs (5-11 March - 2017)

- Himachal Pradesh state cabinet on Thursday approved Dharamsala, situated in the snow-capped Dhauladhar range, as the second capital of the hill state.
- Lalji Singh, former Director, the center for cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has been selected for the award of SERB Fellowship.
- HDFC bank launches chatbot Eva for customer services.
- Pakistan's seasoned diplomat Amjad Hussain B Sial today assumed office as the new Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- OPPO wins Indian cricket team sponsorship rights for 5 years.
- GMR's Hyderabad International Airport has secured first position in the world in the prestigious Airports Council International (ACI)-Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey in the 5-15 million passengers per annum (MPPA) category for the year 2016.
- Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali inaugurated the first smart tribal model village 'Hubbi' in Rajouri district of the state.
- Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti inaugurated a national conference on Jal Kranti Abhiyan in New Delhi.
- Aishwariya Rai Bacchan wins best actress award for Sarbjit at International Film Festival.
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore has become the first Indian educational institution to make it to the top 10 of a global ranking for universities.
- China overtakes eurozone as world's biggest bank system.
- A joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran-Xi' between India and Nepal began in Pithoragarh area of Uttarakhand.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released a commemorative postage stamp on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India.
- International Yoga Fest to begin in New Delhi.
- SBI launches 'Work From Home' facility for employees.
- The Union cabinet on Monday approved India's accession to the Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention).
- International Women's Day was observed on 8th March.

Weekly Current Affairs (5-11 March - 2017)

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) on Monday notified the Trademark Rules, 2017. The Rules bring about two major developments- they slash the number of trademark application forms from 74 to 8, and hike the fee for trademark application.
- Cuevas wins Brasil Open Tennis title.
- The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Anil Madhav Dave, launched the web portal for obtaining Coastal Regulation Zone clearances.
- To keep pace with technology across the globe, Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) today launched three technology services for the benefit of customers: FASTag, UPI and BBPS.
- A 14-day joint training exercise of the armies of India and Oman began at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh.
- Chandigarh hosted a three-day long 'Destination North East' 2017 event, aimed at showcasing North East as a potential destination for investment.
- PM Modi to inaugurate India's longest cable bridge in Gujarat.
- Europe launched the fifth of its Sentinel Earth observation satellites on Monday as part of its multi-billion-euro Copernicus program to provide speedy images of land, oceans and waterways.
- Vice president Hamid Ansari Attends IORA Summit in Jakarta.
- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaia launched a comprehensive web-based platform- PRATIBIMBA showcasing the government's performance and achievements to the citizens.
- The Indian duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja on Wednesday became the first set of spinners to be jointly ranked number one in the ICC Test rankings for bowlers.
- IDFC Bank launched the biometric-based Aadhaar Pay payment system.
- Veteran Journalist Arvind Padmanabhan passed away.
- The AIADMK IT Wing has launched the first-of-its-kind women safety application in Tamil Nadu. The app is called 'Ammavin Aran' meaning 'mother's fortress'.
- For better targeting of central subsidies, the government has made Aadhaar mandatory for a host of schemes under the agriculture ministry, from soil health card and horticulture development to the Prime Minister's flagship crop insurance scheme launched last year.
- A 360-foot high (110 metres) flag post, the country's tallest, was inaugurated at the Indo-Pak Attari Border, just a stone's throw from Pakistan.

Weekly Current Affairs (5-11 March - 2017)

- IBM announced it has created the world's smallest magnet using a single atom – and stored one bit of data on it. Currently, hard disk drives use about 100,000 atoms to store a single bit.
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a 24X7 toll free helpline number 181 for distressed women on the occasion on International Women's Day.
- Mohan Bhagwat conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Science.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh launched mobile App and website 'Mera Hunar HP', a first of its kind in the country.
- Viola Davis, the popular actress, producer, director, activist, businesswoman, and philanthropist, has been named the 2017 Artist of the Year.
- The Ford Foundation appointed Pradeep Nair as regional director for India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- Tamil Nadu launches Rs 1580 crore housing scheme.
- Air India says it has become the first airline to fly around the world with an all-female crew.
- NTPC commissions 45MW of Bhadla solar plant.
- Hawaii has become the first state to file a lawsuit against Donald Trump's revised travel ban, saying the order will harm its Muslim population, tourism and foreign students.
- Parliament passes bill to raise maternity leave to 26 weeks.
- The mega cultural festival 'India by the Nile' got off to a colourful start at the foot of the Pyramids with a Crafts Mela, showcasing joint handicraft exhibition of India and Egypt.
- Eminent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has been honoured with the Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel Hawthan. The award comprises a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh and a citation.
- INS Tillachang commissioned to Indian Navy.
- 46th National Safety Day/National Safety Week Campaign commenced on 4th March 2017 and concluded on 10th March 2017.
- The commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps announced that the Iranian military successfully test-fired a Hormuz-2 ballistic missile this week.
- Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) has developed the first genetically modified (Bt) cotton seeds that can be reused, resulting in saving of input cost to farmers.
- Goa election: Francis D'Souza (BJP) wins from Mapusa.

Weekly Current Affairs (5-11 March - 2017)

- In a bid to make transactions through e-wallets safer and strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism for consumers, the government has released a set of guidelines for wallet firms.
- Paddleboarder makes world's first Atlantic crossing
- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 12th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in New Delhi.
- Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) cannot lend more than Rs 25,000 in cash against gold, as stated by RBI.
- Indian cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar was announced as the official ambassador of Women's Cricket World Cup 2017 by the International Cricket Council (ICC)
- CBSE makes 6 subjects mandatory for class X board exams.