



1. BRICS Summit begins in Xiamen



The ninth summit of the BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - kicked off in the seaside Chinese city of Xiamen.

- The five emerging nations look to send a strong message on protectionism and globalisation at a time of global uncertainty.
- India will also emphasise its concerns on global terrorism, which will be reflected in the Prime Minister's interventions as well as in the final Xiamen declaration.



2. President lays foundation stone for Link-4 of SAUNI Scheme

President Ramnath Kovind laid foundation stone for link - 4 of Saurashtra Narmada Avataram Irrigation Scheme -SAUNI- Yojana in Rajkot district.



- SAUNI project had been launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat aims to fill up 115 major dams by diverting overflow of water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River.
- Gujarat Governor Mr. O.P.Kohli, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel were present on this occasion.

3. Real-time satellite info to help border forces



The government is mulling a dedicated satellite bandwidth for the Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) for better border surveillance.

- The idea is to enable the border guarding forces to monitor the movement of Pakistani and Chinese troops in real time, track terrorist infiltration, map terrain and communicate effectively in remote areas, besides assessing the strength of soldiers and artillery deployed by neighbours near the border in case of a stand-off.
- India shares over 15,000km of borders with Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar. The armed forces currently use 13 ISRO satellites to watch land and maritime boundaries.
- The Navy has a dedicated military satellite, Gsat-7 or 'Rukmini' which monitors the Indian Ocean Region.



4. Five banks of BRICS nations sign pact for credit lines

Five banks of the BRICS Bank Cooperation Mechanism have agreed to establish credit lines in the national currencies and cooperate on credit ratings.



- The agreement to this effect was signed ahead of the BRICS Summit in China's Xiamen city.

- Brazilian Development Bank, Vnesheconombank, Export-Import Bank of India, China Development Bank and Development Bank of South Africa signed the agreement in Beijing.
- The agreement on credit ratings enables them to share information about internal credit ratings and rating assessment.
- Ahead of the BRICS summit, the New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has approved 1.4 billion US dollar loans for sustainable development projects in India, Russia and China.
- For India, the Bank has approved 470 million US dollars loan for Madhya Pradesh's Multi-Village Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme Project.

5. Fiscal deficit touches 92.4% of budget estimates at July-end



The government's fiscal deficit at the end of July this year touched 92.4 per cent of the budget estimate.

- This was mainly because of front loading of expenditure by government departments.
- In the same period last year, the fiscal deficit was 73.7 percent of the budget estimate of the whole year. During the fiscal year 2017-18, the government has set a target to bring fiscal deficit to 3.2 percent of GDP.
- The fiscal deficit is the difference between the government's expenditure and revenue.



6. Locky ransomware hits Indian cyberspace

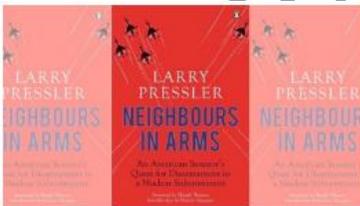
Locky, a deadly "ransomware" has hit India. State-run Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) has issued an advisory on the spreading of Locky ransomware in the country, urging users to not open any emails with attachments from unknown senders.



- CERT-in advised both the citizens and large organizations to not open emails with subjects like "please print", "documents", "photo", "images", "scans" and "pictures".



7. Neighbours in Arms: - Larry Pressler



As chairman of the US Senate's Arms Control Subcommittee, Larry Pressler advocated the now-famous Pressler Amendment, enforced in 1990 when President George HW Bush could not certify that Pakistan was not developing a nuclear weapon.

- In Neighbours in Arms, Senator Larry Pressler reveals what went on behind the scenes in the years when the Pressler Amendment was in force, through a cast of characters that includes presidents, prime ministers, senators and generals in the US, India and Pakistan.

8. Hockey India sacks chief coach Oltmans



Hockey India sacked national coach Roelant Oltmans after a string of unimpressive outings at the international level. High Performance Director David John will be in charge till a suitable replacement is found for a smooth transition of the men's team.

- The decision was taken during the three-day meeting of the Hockey India High Performance and Development Committee.
- While Roelant Oltmans role as Chief Coach in improving the teams' overall fitness and cohesiveness has been appreciated, the results are what matter and the performance of the team has not been consistent or up to the desired levels.
- This move comes before critical tournaments including the Asian Games & World Cup in 2018 and 2020 Olympic Games.

9. M S Dhoni becomes first wicketkeeper to effect 100 stumpings in ODI Cricket

Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the first wicketkeeper in world cricket to affect 100 stumpings in One Day Internationals.

- Dhoni achieved the feat in his 301st ODI in Colombo when he whipped off the bails to remove Sri Lankan batsman Akila Dananjaya off leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal's bowling.



10. US poet John Ashbery dies



John Ashbery, an enigmatic giant of modern poetry whose energy, daring and boundless command of language raised American verse to brilliant and baffling heights, died at age 90.

- Ashbery, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and often mentioned as a Nobel candidate, died at his home in Hudson, New York.
- His 1975 collection, "Self—Portrait in a Convex Mirror," was the rare winner of the book world's unofficial triple crown- the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle prize. In 2011, he was given a National Humanities Medal.