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Rajiv Mehrishi Takes Charge of Comptroller and Auditor General

- ❖ Rajiv Mehrishi, who is Former Home Secretary, took over as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. He will succeed Shashi Kant Sharma who retired on September 23 2017. He is the 13th CAG of India. Mehrishi took oath in Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi named among world's top 10 regulators

- ❖ Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi has been named among the top ten regulators in the world, according to a report. Tyagi, who took over the reins of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in March this year, has been ranked at the seventh position among the top 10 regulators worldwide. The ranking was launched by Patrick Young & Exchange Invest. The list of ten regulators is topped by European Union's Commissioner (Competition) Margrethe Vestager.

SBI Launched India's First Bond Index Series

- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) has launched The FTSE SBI Bond Index Series at London Stock Exchange. It is India's first bond index series for overseas investors. It is termed as a first-of-its-kind transparent benchmark for investors in international markets. It will help the investors to analyse India's government bond market. Right now there are no specific products linked to the index as yet, SBI has plans to come out with an exchange-traded fund (ETF) over the next 4-5 months.

Government launches Saubhagya scheme for household electrification

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana or 'Saubhagya', to supply electricity to poor households. The scheme will cover all rural families after electrification of all villages by December end, this year. The government said that states will be required to complete the household electrification by March 31, 2019. The total outlay for the Saubhagya scheme will be Rs 16,320 crore. The outlay for the rural households is Rs 14,025 crore while the GBS is Rs 10,587.50 crore. For the urban households the outlay is Rs 2,295 crore while GBS is Rs 1,732.50 crore. The scheme will be funded by a 60 per cent grant from the government, with the states contributing 10 per cent and the remaining amount will be covered by loans. For special category states, the government will grant 85 per cent of the outlay, with the states contributing just 5 per cent.

India third in nuclear power installations: World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017

- ❖ India has been ranked third in the world with respect to number of nuclear reactors being installed, by the World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017, which was released in September 2017. The lead authors of the report are energy consultants Mycle Schneider and Antony Froggart. India occupies

3rd position in the list with 6 nuclear reactors being installed. China is in the 20th position. In 2016, nuclear power generation increased by 1.4% globally. Wind power generation increased by 16% and solar power generation by 30%.

DRUZBA 2017: Pak, Russia holds joint military drill in Minralney Vody, Russia

- ❖ Pakistan and Russia will hold a two-week long military exercise which mainly focus on counter-terrorism operations. It enhances defence ties between the two countries. The joint exercise DRUZBA 2017 between special forces of Pakistan and Russia Armies started in Minralney Vody, Russia. The joint exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations, hostage and rescue, cordon and search operation. The opening ceremony was attended by senior military officials of special forces of both the countries. The joint exercise will enhance and strengthen military ties between the two countries and share Pakistan Army's experience in war against terrorism.

Government to Launch Mudra Promotion campaigns

- ❖ Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India is launching a Mudra Promotion Campaign on national basis from 27th September to 17th October, 2017 in different parts of the country. The campaign will start on 27th September, 2017 at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh where the Union Minister for Railway and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal will be participating in the function organised on this occasion. Total 50 such Mudra Promotion Campaigns will be organised in different parts of the country where the Union Ministers will be participating among others. State Level Banking Committee (SLBC) of different States will actively participate and coordinate all these Campaigns.

Angela Merkel Wins 4th Term as Chancellor of Germany

- ❖ Angela Merkel won a fourth term as chancellor in Germany elections that lifted the far-right party Alternative for Germany into parliament for the first time since the immediate aftermath World War II. Merkel's Christian Democrat-led bloc took 32.5% to defeat Martin Schulz's Social Democrats, whose 20% is its worst result since the war, the exit polls for national broadcasters ARD and ZDF showed.

India, US, Afghanistan Join Hands for 1st Trade Show in Delhi

- ❖ For the first time, India, US and Afghanistan will hold a joint trade and investment show in Delhi, as New Delhi steps up to its role of being a bigger development partner to Afghanistan. The trade event, sponsored by the US and hosted by India, will be inaugurated by Afghan CEO Dr Abdullah. Abdullah's visit will follow the first visit to India by US defence secretary James Mattis who will be holding high level talks with India on the Trump Administration's new South Asia policy.