



Nirmala Sitharaman becomes India's first women new Defence Minister

- ❖ Nirmala Sitharaman was named the first independent woman Defence Minister of India announced on 3rd of Sept 2017. The post of the defence minister fell vacant after Manohar Parrikar joined Goa state politics to become the chief minister of the state. Following this, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley took over. Sitharaman, who earlier held the independent charge of the commerce and industry ministry will now be part of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was the first woman to hold the portfolio as the additional charge till 1982.

Government has issued an alert on the spread of new malware 'Locky Ransomware'

- ❖ The government has issued an alert on the spread of new malware 'Locky Ransomware' that can lock computers and demand ransom for unlocking them. Electronics and IT Additional Secretary Ajay Kumar tweeted that an alert regarding spam spreading Locky Ransomware was issued by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team. Ransomware is a malicious software and the Locky Ransomware is learnt to be demanding the ransom of half Bitcoin, which at present rate is equivalent to over Rs 1.5 lakh.

Five banks of the BRICS Bank Cooperation Mechanism have agreed to establish 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. 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.

Hockey India has sacked national coach Roelant Oltmans

- ❖ Hockey India has 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, which concluded.

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.

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.

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.

Kenneth I. Juster Named U.S Ambassador to India

- ❖ Kenneth I. Juster, deputy director of the National Economic Council at the White House, has been nominated as the next U.S ambassador to India. The appointment will take effect once the U.S Senate confirms him. The post has been vacant since January 20, 2017.

Narendra Modi Cabinet reshuffle with 9 New Faces as Ministers

- ❖ On September 3, 2017, the cabinet got extended and reshuffled for the third time. Modi expanded his council of ministers twice—first on November 9, 2014 and then on July 5, 2016. Nine new Ministers of state were inducted into the Union Council of Ministers. Four Ministers of state were elevated to the cabinet rank. Ministers of State who got into Cabinet Rank. The ministers promoted were Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Dharmendra Pradhan, Piyush Goyal and Nirmala Sitharaman.