

CURRENT AFFAIRS



JULY 2016

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Current Affairs July 2016

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and big collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **July 2016**. This guide helps you in preparation for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but you are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in precise and interesting way.

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APPOINTMENTS

News 1: Shri D K Hota takes over as the CMD of BEML

Shri D K Hota, Director (Human Resources) of BEML assumed his charge as the Chairman & Managing Director of the Company. He took over from P Dwarakanath who retired on 30th June, 2016.

Prior to joining BEML, Shri Hota served in the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for 30 years. He is an alumnus of St. Stephens, New Delhi graduating in Economic (Honours) and holds an MBA degree in Human Resources from XLRI, Jamshedpur.



BEML, a defence public sector undertaking established in May 1964, is a Mini-Ratna Category-I Listed Company.

News 2: Lt Gen MK Unni Takes over as the new DGAFMS

Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Unni assumed the charge of the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS). He is a graduate from the Armed Forces Medical College AFMC, Pune and has served with the Special Forces as a Regimental Medical Officer of the elite 9 Para Commandos.

He commanded the prestigious Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantt before becoming Director General Medical Services (Army). He has received two Presidential awards, VSM and AVSM. Lt. Gen Unni was appointed as a Honorary Surgeon to the President of India on July 01 2015.



News 3: Madhav Dhekane took over as the Director of ISRO Inertial Systems Unit

Mr. Madhav Dhekane took over as the Director of ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU), Department of Space, at Vattiyookavu in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He is the 7th Director of IISU.



He obtained a B-Tech degree in electrical engineering and an MTech degree in Systems and Control from the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai. He had joined the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in 1983. The ISRO Inertial Systems Unit is a research and development unit of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) that specializes in inertial sensors and systems in satellite technology.

News 4: Shri N. S. Vishwanathan takes over as the RBI Deputy Governor

Shri N. S. Vishwanathan took over as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for a period of three years from the date of his taking over charge of the post on or after July 4, 2016 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He was the Executive Director of the Reserve Bank before being elevated to this post.



Mr. Vishwanathan joined the Reserve Bank of India in 1981. He was also the Chief Vigilance Officer and the Head of Internal Audit, IFCI. He has been associated with various committees, working groups, and task forces.

News 5: Shri Sudarshan Sen takes charge as the new Executive Director at RBI

Shri Sudarshan Sen has taken over as the new Executive Director at the Reserve Bank of India. He will look after the Department of Banking Regulation, Department of Co-operative Banking Regulation and Department of Non-Banking Regulation.



Mr. Sen was in charge of the Department of Banking Regulation before taking over as the Executive Director. He holds an MBA in International Banking and Finance from the University of Birmingham, UK. He also holds a Master's Degree in Mathematics from the University of Delhi.

News 6: MFIN appoints R Baskar Babu as their new President

Microfinance Institutions Network has appointed R Baskar Babu, CEO of Suryoday Micro Finance, as its new President. He has replaced the outgoing President Manoj Nambia, Managing Director of Arohan Financial Services. Mr. R Baskar Babu has 22 years of experience in the financial services and banking segment. He has earlier worked with First Leasing, Cholamandalam, HDFC Bank and GE Capital in various leadership positions.



MFIN has also elected Rakesh Dubey, CEO of SVCL Creditline as its new Vice President. MFIN is an industry association and self-regulatory Organisation for India's micro lending companies.

News 7: K B Koliwad Unanimously Elected as the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker

Senior Congress MLA K B Koliwad was unanimously elected as the 20th Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. The post was vacant after outgoing speaker, Kagodu Thimmappa, was inducted into the Cabinet.



Mr. Koliwad is a five-time MLA from Ranebennur constituency and had served as a Minister in the past. Mr. Koliwad was elected to the House for the first time in 1972. He is also the Chairman of the Joint House Committee on lake encroachments.

News 8: Centre Selected R Thirupathi as the Accountant General of Tamil Nadu

Senior Deputy Accountant General of Agartala, Tripura R Thirupathi Venkatasamy has been selected by the Government as the Accountant General of Economic and Revenue Sector Audit of Tamil Nadu.



He has knowledge and experience in the field of planning and policy formulation, financing and implementation of developmental schemes and general administration. Also, he has worked in various offices of Indian Audit and Accounts Department of different locations.

News 9: S K Kohli takes charge as the Chief Defence Accounts Auditor

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet appointed S K Kohli as the Controller General of Defence Accounts. He has been presently holding position of Indian Defence Accounts Service officer before the decision of this appointment was taken.

Mr. SK Kohli will have responsibility to audit, payment and accounting of all charges pertaining to the armed forces, including bills for supplies and services rendered and for construction and repair works, pay and allowances and pensions, among others.



News 10: Deepak Singhal to take charge as the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh

IAS Officer Deepak Singhal has been appointed the new Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh replacing the 1978 batch officer Alok Ranjan, who retired on 30 June 2016 after a three-month extension of service. He will also hold the additional charge of Principal Resident Commissioner of UP in New Delhi, and Chairman of the Pradeshiya Industrial & Investment Corporation of UP (PICUP).

Mr. Deepak Singhal has previously served as the Principal Secretary to Department of Irrigation under Shivpal Yadav and as the commissioner of Meerut, Agra and Bareilly.



News 11: Debshankar Mukhopadhyay to take charge as the CEO of Zee Learn

Essel Group Branch Zee Learn appointed Mr. Debshankar Mukhopadhyay to join as the CEO of its educational branch Zee Learn. The Essel Group has a diverse portfolio of assets in media, packaging, entertainment, education etc.

Mr. Mukhopadhyay has knowledge and experience of about 20 years in educational and financial sector across South Asia. Prior to joining Zee Learn, he served as the Head of Educational Sales – Financial Services and Insurance at the Manipal Global Education Services.



News 12: Gary Fritz to take charge as the President of Asia Pacific region for TripAdvisor

The popular American travel website TripAdvisor has selected Gary Fritz as its Chief Growth Officer and President of the Asia Pacific region to perform for the company's operations and strategy throughout the Asia Pacific region.



TripAdvisor is bound to capture both inbound and outbound travel throughout the APAC region. Fritz is expected to help the company drive growth and implement the formulated strategies across all brands. Also, he will oversee all operations throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

News 13: Indus Towers appoints former Nokia Executive Tejinder Kalra as their COO

Telecom Tower Company Indus Towers appointed

Bharti Business Global Head Tejinder

Kalra as its Chief Operating Officer. He has an overall experience of 26 years in the telecom and telecom services industries like Reliance Infocomm, Satyam Infoway and Sprint RPG India. Prior to this, he served as Global Head for Bharti business.



With over 26 years of experience in the telecom and telecom services industry, Kalra holds an extensive experience in strategy development, implementation and service delivery across geographies.

News 14: Sushila Karki to take charge as Nepal's first woman Chief Justice

Nepal Parliamentary panel unanimously selected Sushila Karki as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, replacing Kalyan Shrestha. With this decision, she became the first woman Chief justice of Nepal.



Her appointment was delayed due to some technical reasons in formation of the PHSC. The Judicial Council on 10 April 2016 had recommended her for the top judicial post.

News 15: Utpal Bora takes charge as the Chairman of Oil India

The Central Government appointed technocrat Utpal Bora as the new Chairman of Assam based Oil India Ltd, which was suggested by the P K Sinha headed a three-member search-cum-selection committee. Oil India Limited is the second largest hydrocarbon exploration and production Indian public sector company.



Prior to this appointment, Utpal Bora was holding charge as an Executive Director with ONGC and takes care of Mehsana field in Gujarat. He has been appointed to the post for five-year terms.

News 16: Sanjay Gupta takes charge as the CMD of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited

Sanjay Gupta took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), replacing B P Tayal who took retirement in 2015. Prior to this appointment, Sanjay has worked as the Director (Operating & Commercial) of Konkan Railway. He has experience of more than 30 years as a Mechanical Officer of the Indian Railways.



He is the youngest ever Officer to be appointed as the CMD of KRCL.

News 17: Tathagata Roy took oath as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh

The Governor of Tripura, Mr Tathagata Roy has taken over charge as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in the Darbar Hall of Raj Bhavan in Itanagar, followed by the ceremony of Dr. Joram Begi as the Chief Information Officer of Arunachal Pradesh who replaced YD Thongchi. Tathagata Roy, will hold additional responsibility as Arunachal Pradesh governor till JP Rajkhowa returns.



Mr. Roy was sworn in as the Arunachal Pradesh Governor in the presence of Guwahati High Court Chief Justice Ajit Singh.

News 18: Indian-American Professor Dr. Kinshuk selected as the Dean of University of North Texas College of Information

Indian-American Professor Dr. Kinshuk has been selected as the Dean of University of North Texas College of Information in the United States with effect from 15th August 2016.



Prior to this appointment, he was working as Director in the School of Computing and Information Systems. He has a vast experience in teaching, research and information technology. He has also served as an instructor at the Academy of Computer Education in India, as well as a part-time lecturer at the Government Polytechnic College in India.

News 19: IPS officer Ashok Patnaik to take charge as the CEO of National Intelligence Grid

Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) Officer Ashok Patnaik has been appointed as the CEO of the National Intelligence Grid, a robust intelligence gathering mechanism being built up to track terror suspects and incidents. Prior to this appointment, he was serving as the additional director in the Intelligence Bureau.



NATGRID's data sources include records related to immigration entry and exit, banking and financial transactions and telecommunications. The agencies concerned include the Intelligence Bureau, local police and revenue and customs departments.

News 20: D Rajkumar appointed as the CMD of BPCL, Utpal Bora to head Oil India

D Rajkumar and Utpal Bora have been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Oil India Ltd, respectively. Mr. Rajkumar is currently working as Managing Director of Bharat Petro Resources Ltd, a unit of BPCL. While, Mr. Bora is Executive Director in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited. They have been appointed to the posts for a five-year term.



Rajkumar will take over the charge after the current chief S Varadarajan retires in September.

News 21: ACC appoints Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi as the Chairman of CBSE

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi as the Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for a five-year term. The post had been lying vacant since December 2014.



Mr. Chaturvedi is a 1987 batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre. Until now, Joint Secretary of the Union Human Resource Development Ministry Y S K Seshu Kumar was holding the additional charge as the Chairman of the CBSE.

The Government has also appointed IAS officer Vandita Sharma as member (Finance) in the Atomic Energy Commission; Guruprasad Mohapatra as Chairman, Airports Authority of India; BB Mallick as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs; and SP Singh Parihar as chairman, Central Pollution Control Board.

News 22: K V R Murthy appointed as the CMD of the Jute Corporation of India

Mr. K V R Murthy has been appointed as the new Chairman cum Managing Director of the Jute Corporation of India Limited for a period of five years or till the date of his superannuation, whichever is earlier. He took over the position from 2nd July 2016. He was earlier associated with the Eastern Railways in the capacity of a Chief Commercial Manager.



The Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI) is an agency of the Government of India that assists jute cultivators in states where this crop is grown, providing minimum price support.

News 23: Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra appointed as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India

Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra of Orissa and an IAS Officer of the Gujarat Cadre (1986) was appointed as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India. Prior to joining AAI, he worked as a Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce in Government of India. He has extensive experience in the Power Sector, Urban Development and Industry.



He has served as the Managing Director of Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd (GACL), Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company Ltd (GNFC) and as the Municipal Commissioner in Surat from 1999 to 2002.

News 24: World Bank Group appoints Paul Romer as their Chief Economist

The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim announced the appointment of Paul Romer as the World Bank Chief Economist. Mr. Romer is currently a Professor at the New York University (NYU), Director of NYU's Marron Institute of Urban Management, and a Professor of Economics in the NYU's Stern School of Business.



He is also a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Romer's appointment will be effective from September 2016.

News 25: Steve Elworthy appointed as the Managing Director of ICC Cricket World Cup 2019

ECB's Steve Elworthy has been appointed as Managing Director of the ICC Cricket World Cup, which will be held in England and Wales in 2019. He will also have an oversight of the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 and the ICC Women's World Cup 2017, which will both be staged in England and Wales.



Mr. Elworthy has previously been Tournament Director for three different ICC global events. The former South Africa fast bowler has also held senior management positions in Marketing and Communications with both the ECB and Cricket South Africa. In his new role, he will oversee all aspects of the tournament including marketing, logistics, cricket operations, volunteering and security.

News 26: Coca-Cola appoints Sarvita Sethi as the VP (Finance) for India and South West Asia

Beverage Giant, Coca-Cola has appointed Sarvita Sethi as their new Vice President (Finance) for India and South West Asia. She will replace Sanjeev Kumar and will report to Venkatesh Kini, President, Coca-Cola India and South West Asia. Sanjeev is moving to Lagos as Director Finance for Coca-Cola West Africa and will be heading the company's finance operations for 31 countries.



Coca-Cola India and South West Asia business unit includes Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives, besides India. Ms. Sethi has been working with Coca-Cola for the last eight years and was the Commercial Finance Director for Coca-Cola Central & Southern Europe (CSE) business based in Athens.

News 27: Western Union appoints Sohini Rajola as their new Vice President for South Asia

Western Union has appointed Sohini Rajola as their Regional Vice President, India and South Asia. She will be responsible for managing and developing the business across India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives and Bhutan.



Ms. Rajola was earlier the Senior Vice President and Head – Digital Banking at Axis Bank. Previously she was the bank's Head of Cards and Merchant Acquiring where she managed several partnerships and was responsible for the launch of a wide portfolio of electronic card products.

News 28: Ajay Bhushan Pandey appointed as the CEO of UIDAI

The Union Government has promoted Director General and Mission Director of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Ajay Bhushan Pandey, as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the promotion of Pandey with effect from 12 July 2016.



Mr. Pandey is a Maharashtra cadre IAS officer of 1984 batch. He has been involved with the UIDAI established under the Aadhaar Act and implementation of Aadhaar since September 2010. He holds a Doctorate in computer science from University of Minnesota Minneapolis of the US.

News 29: Ganesh Singh appointed as the new Chairperson of JPC on the Land Acquisition Bill

The BJP Lok Sabha member Ganesh Singh has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Land Acquisition Bill. He replaces S S Ahluwalia who became the Minister of the State for Parliamentary Affairs.



Mr. Singh moved a resolution in the Lok Sabha seeking the extension of the term of the panel till the last day of the Winter session. The resolution was passed by a voice vote. The first task at hand for Singh on Friday was to move a resolution in the Lok Sabha seeking the seventh extension of the term of the panel.

News 30: ITC appoints Sanjiv Puri as their COO

The FMCG Major ITC Ltd has re-designated Executive Director Sanjiv Puri as the Chief Operating Officer of the company with immediate effect. ITC had in December 2015, elevated Sanjiv Puri as the Director of its FMCG business replacing P Dhobale.



He is widely seen as a potential successor to chairman YC Deveshwar, who is stepping down in February 2017. Puri is a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He joined ITC in 1986 and has worked with the company in several roles.

News 31: NSE appoints three new Public Interest Directors

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has revamped its board and appointed three new Public Interest Directors including Chairman of the Manipal Global Education Services and Infosys' Former Director Mohandas Pai, Former Secretary at the Ministry of Corporate Affairs Naved Masood and KPMG India's Former Deputy Chief Executive Dinesh Kanabar.



The National Stock Exchange of India board has 10 Directors. Mr. Ashok Chawla, the Former Chief of Competition Commission of India, is the current Chairman. The Former NSE Managing Director and Chief Executive Ravi Narain is the Vice Chairman.

News 32: Justice Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale takes over as the CJ of Allahabad HC

Justice Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale took over as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. The post was lying vacant since May 2016 after former Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, was elevated to the Supreme Court.



He served as the Chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Vice-Chairman of Bar Council of India. He was elevated as a Judge of the Bombay High Court in 2001. Currently, he was serving as the Acting Chief Justice at the Hyderabad High Court.

News 33: Buddha Rashmi Mani appointed as the Director General of the National Museum

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of the former Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) official, Dr. Buddha Rashmi Mani as the Director General of the National Museum. The post has been vacant for a year after the abrupt transfer of Venu Vasudevan in April 2015. The post was being held by Sanjiv Mittal, a Joint Secretary in the Culture Ministry, as an additional charge.



Mani and his team courted controversy in 2003 when their excavation report stated that features of a 10th century temple were found beneath the site where the 16th century Babri Masjid stood until its demolition in 1992.

News 34: Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Patna HC

Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari has been sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Patna High Court by Bihar Governor Ramnath Kovind. Justice Ansari had worked twice as the Acting Chief Justice of Patna High Court since December 2014 before being sworn in as its 39th Chief Justice. He would retire on October 29, 2016.

Justice Ansari was elevated to the bench of the Guwahati High Court as the Judge on March 4, 2002. He joined the Patna High Court on November 11, 2013.



News 35: Shri A.K. Mital reappointed as the Chairman of the Railway Board

The current Chairman of the Railway Board Shri A.K. Mital has been reappointed as the new Chairman, Railway Board for a period of 2 years, with effect from 01.08.2016.

Shri A.K. Mital was appointed as the Chairman of the Railway Board on the 31st December 2014. Prior to this appointment, Shri A.K. Mital was a Member Staff of the Railway Board. Earlier, he served as the General Manager of the South Western Railway – SWR (Headquarters Hubli) and was also looking after the additional charge of being the General Manager, South Central Railway – SCR (Headquarters Secunderabad).



News 36: Senior IPS officer Satish Mathur appointed as the new DG of the Maharashtra Police

Senior IPS officer Satish Mathur has been appointed as the new Director General of the Maharashtra Police in Mumbai. Mr. Mathur is a 1981 batch IPS officer and currently holds the post as the Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Maharashtra. He succeeds Pravin Dixit, an IPS officer of the 1977 batch, who was posted in December 2015.

Mr. Mathur has held several crucial postings in the past, including his tenure with the CBI. He was also the Pune Police Commissioner and served a nearly five-year tenure with Air India on Central Deputation.



News 37: Jagdip Narayan Singh to be the new Chief Secretary of Gujarat

Jagdip Narayan Singh, a 1983 batch IAS officer, will be the new Chief Secretary of Gujarat. Mr. Singh, who currently holds multiple charges in the Gujarat Government including the Additional Chief Secretary at the Finance Department and the Managing Director of the State Energy Major, GSPC Group and its Group companies. He will take charge as the Chief Secretary from July 31. He will replace Mr. Ganga Ram Aloria on his retirement from the service.



Mr. Singh holds a wide and varied experience of having worked in various Departments of Government of Gujarat and Government of India such as Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd.

News 38: Dr. Sanjiv Misra appointed as the AD and NE (Part Time) Chairman at the Axis Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has granted approval to Axis Bank for appointment of Dr. Sanjiv Misra as the Additional Director and the Non-Executive (Part-Time) Chairman of the bank for a period of three years with effect from July 18, 2016, up to July 17, 2019 (both days inclusive).



Dr. Misra was a member of the Indian Administrative Service for over 35 years. He was a Secretary in the Ministry of Finance till his superannuation in 2008. Subsequently, he served as a Member of the 13th Finance Commission, a constitutional position with the rank of a Minister of State.

News 39: Sanjay Gupta appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of the Konkan Railway

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL) has appointed Sanjay Gupta as its Chairman and Managing Director. Prior to this appointment, he was working as the Director (Operating and Commercial) of KRCL and also as the Chief Mechanical Engineer with the Konkan Railways. He has worked for more than 30 years as a Mechanical Officer of the Indian Railways.



Mr. Gupta has worked on several prestigious and coveted posts as well as on various assignments. He has brought about several improvements in all spheres of working of Konkan Railway and has also been instrumental in taking KRCL to new heights.

AWARDS

News 1: President presents B.C. Roy National Awards for years 2008, 2009 & 2010

President Pranab Mukherjee presented the Dr B.C. Roy national awards for 2008, 2009 and 2010 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the occasion of Doctors' Day. The B.C. Roy Awards were instituted by the Medical Council of India in 1976 in memory of the renowned physician and former West Bengal Chief Minister Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.



The awardees for 2010 are: Nikhil C. Munshi, Tejinder Singh, O.P. Kalra, Amrinder Jit Kanwar, Subash Gupta, Rajendra Prasad and Glory Alexander. For year 2009 the awards were given to – K.H. Sancheti, Atul Kumar, Renu Saxena, Kanan A. Yelikar, A.K. Kriplani, G.V. Rao, H.S. Bhanushali, Moti Lal Singh, C.N. Purandare and C.V. Hari Narayan. While the awardees for 2008 are – Mammen Chandy, Rajeshwar Dayal, Rohit V. Bhatt, Neelam Mohan, Mohan Kameswaran, Harsha Jauhari, Gopal H. Badlani and Yash Gulati.

News 2: Radhika Menon first woman to be honored with Exceptional Bravery Award at Sea

The 2016 International Maritime Organisation Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea will be honored to Captain Radhika Menon for her role in the dramatic rescue of seven fishermen from a sinking fishing boat in tumultuous seas in the Bay of Bengal. Captain Menon was nominated by the Government of India in IMO, which is United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping.



Captain Menon is the first woman captain in the Indian Merchant Navy and will be the first woman to receive the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.

News 3: The 2016 Caine Prize honor for South African writer Lidudumalingani Mqombothi

Lidudumalingani Mqombothi from South Africa won '2016 The Caine Prize' for his African Writing on short story 'Memories We Lost'. As a Caine Prize winner, Lidudumalingani will be allowed to take up a month's residence at Georgetown University as a Writer-in-Residence at the Lannan Center for Poetics and Social Practice.



In addition to a money prize of £10,000, he'll also be invited to share few words at the Library of Congress and receive invitations to take part in Cape Town's Open Book Festival, Nairobi's Storymoja and Nigeria's Ake Festival.

His winning story, "Memories We Lost," explains about mental health through the relationship of two sisters in a South African village, one of whom is schizophrenic and the other her protector.

News 4: The President Awarded 51st Jnanpith Award to Dr. Raghuveer Chaudhari

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred the 51st Jnanpith Award on renowned writer, Dr. Raghuveer Chaudhari at an event in New Delhi. Dr. Chaudhari has been an ardent writer of Hindi columns as well, and his literary work has explored varied genre of poetry, prose, novels, and fictions as also commentary on contemporary issues.



Jnanpith award is a ceremony to recall the contributions of Late Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain and Late Smt. Rama Jain, whose efforts in promoting Indian languages and literature and establishing the Bhartiya Jnanpith remain a shining example.

News 5: Advay Ramesh of Chennai wins the Google Community Impact Award from Asia

The 14-year-old Advay Ramesh from Chennai has bagged the prestigious Google Community Impact Award from Asia. The theme based award is a part of Google Science Fair 2016 and honors a project that makes a practical difference in the innovator's community by addressing an environmental, health or resources challenge.



Advay presented his project on creating 'FishErmen Lifeline Terminal (FELT)' to enhance the fishermen safety and productivity using Global Positioning Services (GPS). He won 10,000 US dollars in funding and a year-long mentorship from Scientific American to further help develop his winning project. He has also been chosen among the Top 20 finalists shortlisted to compete for a Grand Prize worth 50,000 dollars in scholarship.

News 6: Nigerian Journalist Didi Akinyelure wins the BBC World News Komla Dumor Award

Nigerian journalist Didi Akinyelure has won the second BBC World News Komla Dumor Award for 2016. She is a prime-time news anchor in Nigeria and presents business news for CNBC, which broadcasts across the continent. She is also the second recipient of the award, which was established to honor Komla Dumor, a presenter for BBC World News, who died suddenly aged 41 in 2014.



As part of her award prize, she will start a three-month placement at the BBC in London in September 2016. The first Komla Dumor Award was won by Ugandan news anchor Nancy Kacungira.

News 7: Kerala Tourism fetched itself two Golds at PATA awards

Kerala Tourism has struck gold at the Pacific Asia Travel Association awards in recognition of its trend setting marketing initiatives.

The two gold medals for 'Marketing Media' are in the categories of 'Travel Advertisement Broadcast Media' and 'E-Newsletter', which were clinched by the successful 'Visit Kerala' television commercial campaign and the popular Kerala Tourism E-Newsletter respectively. Last year, Kerala Tourism was also awarded the PATA Gold in the Heritage and Culture category for the Muziris Heritage Project.



News 8: A. Kanyakumari becomes the first woman violinist to receive the Sangita Kalanidhi Award

Well known Violinist, A. Kanyakumari, became the first female violinist chosen for the Sangita Kalanidhi award by the Music Academy. She will preside over the 90th Annual Conference of the Music Academy scheduled from December 15, 2016 to January 1, 2017.

The Sangita Kala Acharya Awards will go to Rudrapatnam brothers, R.N. Thyagarajan and R.N. Tharanathan and K. Venkataramanan. The TTK awards will be conferred on vocalist Nirmala Sundararajan and Thevaram singer M. Kodilingam. The Musicologist Award will go to Rama Kausalya and the Pappa Venkatramaiah Award will go to violinist Sikkil Baskaran. The Nataya Kala Acharaya Award will be conferred to Malavika Sarukkai.



News 9: Bezwada Wilson, T M Krishna win Ramon Magsaysay Award 2016

Acclaimed Carnatic Musician TM Krishna and Social Activist Bezwada Wilson have made it to the list of the 2016 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees. Other winners are Conchita Carpio-Morales from Philippines, Dompert Dhuafa from Indonesia, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Vientiane Rescue from Laos.

Krishna has been conferred the award for 'Ensuring Social Inclusiveness in Culture'. While, Bezwada Wilson is a campaigner and founder of an organization called the Safai Karmachari Andolan and has been instrumental in bringing down the number of manual scavengers.



News 10: Football Club East Bengal to honor Milkha Singh with the Bharat Gaurav Award

Kolkata's football club, East Bengal, has announced that this year's Bharat Gaurav award (Pride of India) would be conferred to legendary Athlete Milkha Singh. He will be given an award and a cheque of Rs. 2 lakhs.

Special awards along with a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh each will be given to East Bengal greats Shyam Thapa and Shyamal Ghosh. The trophy for the Best Footballer of the Year will be given to the South Korean Midfielder Do Dong Hyun, who will also receive Rs. 50000. Veteran Sports Reporter Debashish Dutta and Photo Journalist Rony Roy will also be receiving awards for their contribution over the years.



News 11: Four new writers get the Jananpith 'Navlekhan' award

Four writers were awarded the Bharatiya Jnanpith's 11th Navlekhan award for the year 2015. These include Amlendu Tiwari and Balram Kawant who were awarded for their respective novels 'Parityakt', and 'Sara Morila'. While, Om Naagar and Tasneem Khan were awarded for their non-fictions 'Nib Ke Chire Se' and 'Yeh Mere Rahnuma' respectively.

The awardees were chosen by a selection panel headed by Senior Writer and Journalist Madhusudan Anand and comprising of eminent literary figures Vishnu Nagar, Govind Prasad and Om Nischal.



News 12: Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award to Srinivasan K Swamy

The Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) conferred its Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. Srinivasan K Swamy. He is popularly known as Sundar Swamy. This award is the highest honor to be given to an individual in India for their outstanding contribution to the advertising industry.

Mr. Swamy is the Chairman of the R.K. Swamy Hansa, a diversified Marketing Communications Group. He is also the Vice Chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) and a Board Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.



News 13: Former India Football Team Captain Syed Nayeemuddin to be awarded the Mohun Bagan Ratna

Former India Football Team Captain Syed Nayeemuddin will be awarded the prestigious Mohun Bagan Ratna (Jewel) this year. He will also be given a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh. He is the 16th recipient of the prestigious award.



Nayeemuddin is the only athlete to have been conferred the Arjuna Award and Dronacharya Award by the Government of India for his contribution to football both as a player and a coach. Late Karuna Shankar Bhattacharya award for best footballer for the year 2015-16 was awarded to Haitian striker Sony Norde and Jeje Lalpekhlu for their outstanding performance during the season.

News 14: Goutam Ghose, Bappi Lahiri honored with Bengal's 'Mahanayak Award'

Music Director Bappi Lahiri and Filmmaker Goutam Ghose have been honored with the 'Mahanayak Award' by the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The award has been conferred to them on the occasion of the 36th Death Anniversary (24th July) of Uttam Kumar.



Director-Actor Kaushik Ganguly was also honored with the award for the best director. Paran Bandyopadhyay and Jishu Sengupta received the best actor awards and Sohini Sarkar received the best actress award. Bengali films "Bela Sheshe" and "Shankhachil" were jointly awarded as the best Bengali films of the year.

DEATHS

News 1: Writer and Futurist Alvin Toffler passed away

Writer and Futurist Alvin Toffler died in his sleep at his home in Bel Air, Los Angeles at the age of 87 years. Toffler was one of the world's most famous futurists who foresaw how digital technology would transform the world.

His million-selling book "Future Shock" anticipated the disruption and transformation brought about by the rise of digital technology. In 2002, the management consultant Organisation Accenture ranked him eighth on its list of the top 50 business intellectuals. His other famous works are The Third Wave, Powershift: Knowledge, Wealth and Violence at the Edge of the 21st Century and Revolutionary Wealth among others.



News 2: Renowned Marathi literary scholar R C Dhere passed away

Eminent Marathi writer Ramchandra Chintaman Dhere passed away following a prolonged illness at the age of 86 years. He is known for his exhaustive research in folk literature and bhakti tradition of Maharashtra.

He is a recipient of the Sahitya Academy Award in 1987 for his book 'Sri Vitthal - A Mahasamanvayak (Lord Vitthal - A Great Coordinator)'. 'Muslim Marathi Saint Poets', 'Dakshinecha Lokdev Khandoba', 'History of Nath Sampraday' and 'Sri Venkateshwara' are some of his other popular works.



News 3: French Ex-Prime Minister Michel Rocard passed away

Former Prime Minister of France, Michel Rocard, passed away in Paris at the age of 85 years. He served as the Prime Minister from 1988 to 1991 under President Francois Mitterrand.

He was regarded as a staunch advocate of the European Union. He spent 15 years in the European parliament until he resigned in 2009. He had also urged Britons to leave the European Union in 2014. His achievements included a minimum welfare benefit in France and reform of the financing of the welfare system.



News 4: 'The Deer Hunter' and 'Heaven's Gate' Director Michael Cimino dead

Michael Cimino, director of the 1978 Vietnam War drama "The Deer Hunter", which won five Oscars, including Best Picture, died at his home in Los Angeles at the age of 77 years. The Deer Hunter won five Oscars including the award for the best film in 1979.



Cimino directed eight films which includes the 1974 box office hit Thunderbolt and Lightfoot, both of which also marked Cimino's directorial debut. In 2001, he published his only novel, Big Jane, a story of the 1950s and the Korean war.

News 5: Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel passed away

Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Elie Wiesel, died at the age of 87 years. The American Romanian-born Jewish writer, academic and political activist fought for peace, human rights and simple human decency. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.



His first book, "Night," was published in France in 1958 based on his experience as a prisoner in Auschwitz, Buna and Buchenwald concentration camps. The book has been translated into 30 languages. By 2008, "Night" had sold an estimated 10 million copies.

News 6: Noel Neill, first actor to play Lois Lane in Superman, passed away

Noel Neill who was the first actress to portray the character of Lois Lane in the Adventures of Superman television series passed away at the age of 95 years at her home in Tucson, Arizona, after a long illness.



Ms. Neill appeared in the "Superman" film serial in 1948 and then played in the "Adventures of Superman" TV show in the 1950s. She later appeared in other Superman films, including the 1978 version as Lois Lane's mother. In the mid-40s, she appeared in a leading role in one of Monogram Pictures' melodramas.

News 7: Veteran CPI leader Romesh Chandra passed away

Veteran Communist leader Romesh Chandra passed away in Mumbai due to old age at the age of 94 years. Chandra had taken part in the freedom struggle as a student leader and had later joined the CPI and went on to become its national executive. He was a recipient of the Lenin Peace Award and had also worked as the editor of CPI's central organ New Age.



He also joined the World Peace Council headquarters in Helsinki (Now in Greece) as its president had addressed United Nations' General Assembly as peace body's leader, the highest number of times as an Indian.

News 8: Veteran Iranian film-maker Abbas Kiarostami passed away

Mr. Kiarostami, one of the famous Iranian directors who always worked on dramas of ordinary people and their problems, passed away due to cancer in Tehran where he approached for the treatment. Some of his popular works are "And Life Goes On" (1992), Through the Olive Trees (1994), Taste of Cherry (1997), Report (1977) and First Case, Second Case.



In 1997, he was honored with prestigious Palme d'Or Award at the Cannes Film Festival for his movie, Taste of Cherry.

News 9: Mumbai based Veteran Music Composer Omi passed away

Mumbai based famous music director Om Prakash Sonik passed away on 7th July 2016 at the age of 77 due to illness. Sonik-Omi was an Indian composer working in duet consisting of Master Sonik (a blind music director) and his nephew Omi.



Some of his best composed music was for films like Mahua (with the haunting *Dono ne kiya tha pyar magar*), Truck Driver, Mehfil, Beti, Dharti Ki God Mein, Dharma (the famous qawwali *Raaz ki baat keh doon to, jaane mehfil me phir kya ho*), Raftaar, Umar Qaid and Chowki No. 11. For the last few years, Omi took retirement from Bollywood but composed certain non-film and private albums, religious music and other genres of music.

News 10: Veteran football coach Amal Dutta passed away

Veteran Indian footballer, Amal Dutta, who was also the first professional football coach of India, passed away due to Alzheimer's Disease and respiratory problems. He was the winner of all major trophies in Indian football and worked as the technical director of Indian national team in late eighties.

He has been part of the India squad in the 1954 Asian Games. As a coach, Dutta had brought new formations including the diamond system in the 1990s. He passed away at the age of 86.



News 11: Veteran Indian Hockey player Joe Antic died due to bad health

Veteran Indian Hockey player, Joe Antic, passed away on 12th July 2016 in Mumbai due to bad health. Joe Antic toured East Africa and Europe with the senior team in the late 1950s and had retired from Western Railway in the mid-1980s.

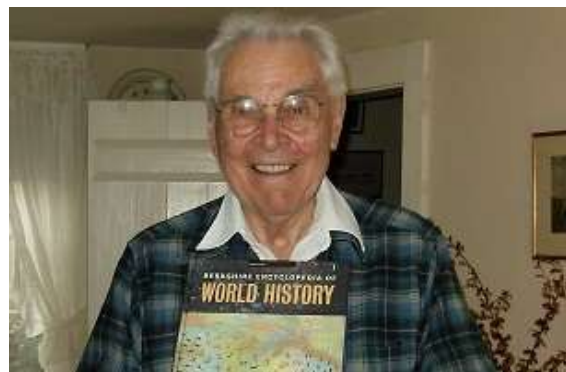
Antic represented the country in the Rome Games against Pakistan. He has also served as the coach of Indian Team's World Cup camp in 1973 and became the national coach of the Oman team that took part in the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi.



News 12: Veteran scholar and author William H McNeill dead at 98

Author of the stories of civilizations, William H. McNeill passed away at the age of 98 years. Some of his best works are "The Rise of the West," published in 1963, 'The Decline of the West', 'The Pursuit of Power', 'The Human Web: A Bird's Eye View of History' and "The Pursuit of Truth.

His writing on Rise of the West won the 1964 U.S. National Book Award in History and Biography. In 2010, he was honored with National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama.



News 13: Legendary playback singer Mubarak Begum passed away

Legendary playback singer Mubarak Begum passed away at her residence in Mumbai after a prolonged illness at the age of 80 years.

She is best known for crooning the title track of 1961 romantic-drama "Hamari Yaad Aayegi". She gave scores of Hindi film songs and ghazals, mainly between the 1950s and 70s. Her career as a playback singer began in 1949 with the film 'Aaiye'. Saanwariya Teri Yaad Mein from 1980 comedy Ramu Toh Diwana Hai was one of her last tracks. In 2011, the Maharashtra government had sanctioned financial aid of one lakh for treatment of the singer.



News 14: Indian Hockey legend Mohammed Shahid passed away

Indian Hockey legend, Mohammed Shahid, passed away due to severe liver condition and kidney failure at the age of 56 years. He was the part of the Indian hockey team that won the gold medal at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Known for his brilliant dribbling skills, Shahid was considered one of India's greatest hockey players. He was also a part of the national team that won a silver medal at the Delhi Asian Games in 1982 and bronze in the Seoul Asiad in 1986. Shahid - who also captained India during the 1985-86 season - received the Arjuna Award in 1981 and was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1986.



News 15: Oldest litigant of Babri Masjid-Ayodhya case, Mohammad Hashim Ansari, dead

Hashim Ansari, the oldest litigant of Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, died due to heart-related complications at the age of 95 years. Ansari was the lone survival among six original plaintiffs of Babri Masjid case fighting for the Mosque title on behalf of Sunni Central Waqf Board since 1961.

Allahabad High Court in 2010 in its majority verdict allotted one-third of the disputed site in Ayodhya to Nirmohi Akahara. The other two-thirds portion has been given equally to be shared by the Waqf Board and the side representing Ram Lalla.



16. Director of 'Pretty Woman', Garry Marshall dead

Famed Director and producer, Garry Marshall, passed away at the age of 81 years. He died at a hospital in Burbank, California of complications from pneumonia following a stroke.

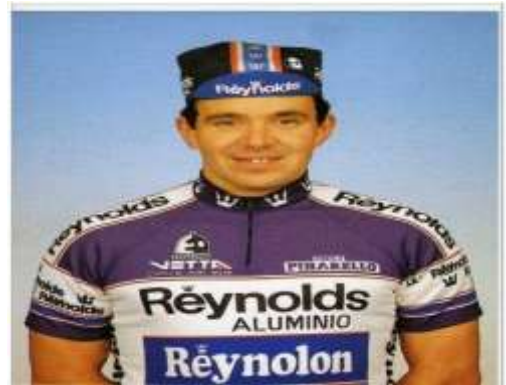
Marshall created some of the most popular 1970's TV shows -- including "Mork and Mindy" and "Happy Days". He directed 18 films, including big screen hits like "Beaches," "Overboard," "Runaway Bride," "Valentine's Day" and 1990's "Pretty Woman". Marshall was born in The Bronx, New York, and graduated from Northwestern University.



News 17: Former French cyclist Dominique Arnaud passed away

Former French cyclist Dominique Arnaud passed away at the age of 60 years. He died after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Arnaud took part on eleven occasions in the Tour de France.

He won three stages in the Vuelta, a stage in the Midi Libre and the Tour du Limousin in 1983. The French cyclist was recently honored at an event in his French hometown of Les Mees. Arnaud won three stages in the Vuelta, a stage in the Midi Libre and the Tour du Limousin in 1983.



News 18: Former Diplomat Arundhati Ghose passed away

Former Indian diplomat Arundhati Ghose passed away at the age of 76 years due to cancer. She was the first Indian Permanent Representative to the UN Offices in Geneva and was the head of the Indian delegation that participated in the CTBT negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in 1996.

She also served as the Ambassador to the Republic of South Korea and the Arab Republic of Egypt. Ms. Ghose was highly admired among the diplomatic circles for her sharp intelligence and plain speak. She was a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) from 1998 to 2004.



News 19: Father of Hybrid Sorghum Dr. NGP Rao passed away

The 'Father of Hybrid Sorghum' in India and noted Agricultural Scientist Neelamraju Ganga Prasada Rao passed away at the age of 89 years. He was well-known for basic and applied research in breeding and agronomy of several dryland crops.

Due to his efforts, Sorghum Hybrids, CSH1 CSH5 and CSH9, became very popular and were cultivated. He also made significant contributions to the improvement of crops like long staple desi cotton, pigeon pea, castor, and novel cropping systems. He was awarded with the SS Bhatnagar Prize for Biological Sciences for his efforts.



News 20: Eminent Littérateur Mahasweta Devi passes away

Eminent Author and Social Activist Mahasweta Devi passed away on 28th July in Kolkata after a multi-organ failure at the age of 91 years. Her writings focused on the marginalized communities in the country and served as the voice of the oppressed which won her a number of awards including the Padma Vibhushan, Magsaysay, Sahitya Akademi and Jnanpeth award. She is also the Ramon Magsaysay winner.

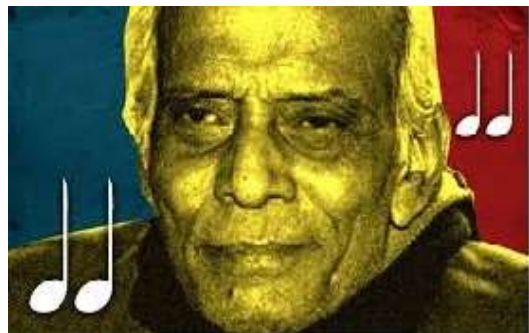
A number of her works have been adapted for the silver screen. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted: "India has lost a great writer. Bengal has lost a glorious mother. I have lost a personal guide. Mahasweta Di rest in peace."



News 21: Noted Tabla Maestro Lachu Maharaj passed away

Noted Tabla Maestro Lachu Maharaj passed away in Varanasi at the age of 73 years. Lakshmi Narayan Singh "Lachu Maharaj" was renowned internationally and belonged to the famous Banaras Gharana.

He lived a simple life and stayed out of publicity, even refusing awards. He was admired by music lovers and has many famous disciples. Other than his professional performances all over the world, he played the Tabla in many Bollywood films as well.



News 22: First Black Writer to win the Pulitzer Prize in fiction, James Alan McPherson, passed away

James Alan McPherson, who became the first Black Writer to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, died at the age of 72 years. He won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his short story collection *Elbow Room* in 1978.

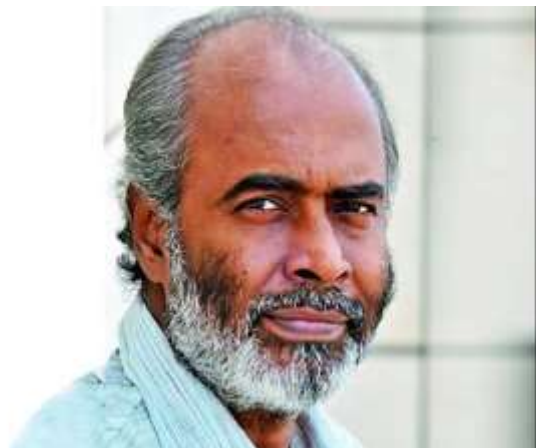
He was the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship in 1981. In year 2000, John Updike selected his short story *Gold Coast* for his collection *Best American Short Stories of the Century*. In October 2011, he was honored as the inaugural recipient of the Paul Engle Award from the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature. He was also a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship.



News 23: DD News Correspondent Sanjiv Thomas died at age of 59

Senior Journalist and Doordarshan News Correspondent Sanjiv Thomas passed away in Hyderabad at the age of 59 years due to ill health. He worked as a Research Associate in the ISRO, Ahmedabad in 1985 and as a News Correspondent since 1986. He was well remembered for his objective stand and unparalleled comments over the political and social developments of the region which he served for over 3 decades.

Several leaders of different walks of life in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh expressed shock over his demise and conveyed condolences. Doordarshan and All India Radio officials and staff expressed their grief. Media persons have also condoled his death.



News 24: Veteran Indian Artist S H Raza passed away

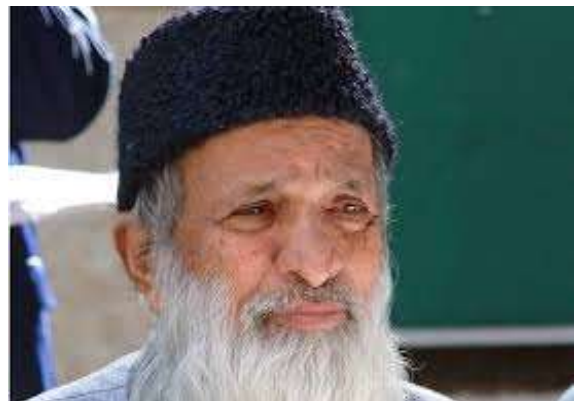
Modern Indian Artist S H Raza passed away due to ill health at the age of 94 years. He was honored with the Padma Shri award. He was born in the Mandala town of Madhya Pradesh. Raza travelled first to Nagpur, then to Bombay as it was known then and finally to Paris due to his art of painting. He was an internationally acclaimed painter. He was one of the legends of our art history.



He lived for six decades in France, where he exhibited his work, and travelled across Europe. In 2015, he was conferred the *Commandeur de la Legion d'Honneur*, the highest French honour for his artistic contributions. However, he never gave up his Indian citizenship and was in constant touch with his contemporaries in India through letters.

News 25: Pakistani Philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi passed away

Famous Pakistani Philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi, also known as Pakistan's 'Father Teresa' died from renal failure at the hospital in Karachi. He was a man of humanity, who had dedicated his life to humanity and serving the poor. Pakistan Government has announced a day of mourning for Edhi, while the provincial Sindh Government has announced three days of mourning.



He was the founder and head of the Edhi Foundation in Pakistan and ran the organization successfully for over 6 decades protecting children, people by providing range of services like ambulance, hospitals, old-age homes, orphanages etc.

News 1: Indigenously built LCA "Tejas" inducted into the Indian Air Force

The first squadron of Made in India Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas' was inducted into No. 45 Squadron of the Indian Air Force at the Aircraft System Testing Establishment in Bengaluru. No. 45 Squadron is also called the "Flying Daggers".

Tejas is the first advance Fly-by-wire (FBW) fighter aircraft designed and developed by the state-run Aeronautical Development Agency and built by HAL at its Bengaluru complex. It is conceived as a MiG-21 replacement and is also pegged to be world's smallest and lightest supersonic fighter jet. Tejas is a 4th Plus generation aircraft with a glass cockpit and with Satellite aided Inertial Navigation System. It has a digital computer based attack system and an autopilot. It can fire Air to Air Missiles, Bombs as well as Precision Guided Munitions.



News 2: Exercise RIMPAC 2016 begins

Indian Naval ship Satpura, an indigenously built guided missile stealth frigate, arrived at Hawaii on 30th Jun 2016 to participate in the 25th edition of Exercise RIMPAC. Exercise RIMPAC is the largest multilateral naval exercise in the world and is held biennially in the Western Pacific Ocean.

The current edition of the exercise is scheduled off Hawaii from 30 June - 04 August 16 and is likely to be attended by 27 countries. The theme of RIMPAC 2016 is Capable, Adaptive, Partners.



News 3: The 4th Follow-on Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (FO-WJFAC), INS TARASA, launched

The fourth in the series of Follow-on Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (FO-WJFAC) called "INS Tarasa" for the Indian Navy was launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata.



These Follow-on Water Jet Fast Attack Craft are powered by the latest MTU engines and can attain a maximum speed of up to 35 Knots. The indigenous CRN 91 Gun with Optronics Pedestal gives the ships the requisite firepower to undertake its role of patrolling at sea effectively.

News 4: India's first Integrated Defence Communication Network launched

Minister of Defence, Manohar Parrikar, dedicated the first integrated defence communication network to the country. The Defence Communication Network (DCN), a strategic, highly secure and scalable system will help enable the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Special Forces Command to share situational awareness for a faster decision-making process. It has a Pan-India reach from Ladakh to the North East to island territories.



The hi-tech, fully secure DCN is the largest single satellite network in the Indian Defence Forces. The network has been fully designed and developed in India by HCL Infosystems under a nearly Rs. 600 crore project.

News 5: Planet HD 131399Ab and its three suns discovered by Astronomers

An Astronomer team from the University of Arizona, using telescope Sphere (Spectro-Polarimetric High-Contrast Exoplanet Research Instrument) discovered a Jovian planet orbiting around a triple star system. This planet is named as HD 131399Ab, located 340 light years from Earth and is at least four times the mass of Jupiter. A three star system experiences triple sunrises and sunsets each day.



Due to its heavier weight, this new planet is considered as the largest planet of the solar system.

News 6: Chief of the Naval Staff commissions INS Karna

Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff, commissioned the Marine Commandos Unit as 'INS Karna' in a solemn ceremony held at the Naval Base at Vishakhapatnam. The Marine Commando Force (MCF), also called as the 'MARCOS', was raised in February 1987 as the Indian Marine Special Force (IMSF), capable of operating in all three dimensions, at sea, in air and on land.



The commissioning of INS Karna, has added a new base to the Special Forces of the Indian Navy as they deploy to safeguard our nation's vast maritime interests.

News 7: INS India, base depot ship of Indian Navy at New Delhi celebrates Platinum Jubilee

INS India, the base depot ship at New Delhi, celebrated its 75th anniversary on 13th July, 2016. The Base Depot ship (stone ship in naval parlance) has the privilege of being the Flagship of the Chief of the Naval Staff.



As a run up to celebrate this grand occasion, a series of events were organized. A Health Run and a Dream Walk was organized. A blood donation camp was also organized.

News 8: DRDO successfully test fired Artillery Gun System

Defence Research and Development Organization successfully conducted proof firing tests of Armament system for 155 mm x 52 caliber New Advanced Towed Artillery gun system. This gun has a firing range of 40 kms and the mechanism to fire 155 mm caliber ammunition. It is designed under the supervision of Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune, a nodal laboratory of DRDO.



This gun system is developed with an aim to meet the requirement of the Indian Army and improve critical defence manufacturing technologies. The gun system is made of all electric drive to make it long lasting and reliable operation over a longer period of time.

News 9: Tata Advanced Systems collaborates with Bell Helicopter

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and US-based Bell Helicopter, a Textron Inc (NYSE: TXT) company have signed an agreement to work together in support of India's aviation and defense modernization initiatives with an emphasis on 'Make in India'.



TASL and Bell Helicopter agreed to jointly develop the helicopter market in India, including potential production and assembly, training, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), research and development (R&D) and technology sharing. Under this agreement TASL and Bell Helicopter will join forces to develop both commercial and government (including military) rotary wing markets in India in the light utility and reconnaissance segments.

News 10: Indian Warships visit Port Kelang, Malaysia

Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch have arrived at Port Kelang on 15th July 2016 on a four-day visit, as part of deployment of the Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea and Western Pacific. The INS Sahyadri is commanded by Captain K S Rajkumar, INS Shakti is commanded by Captain Gagan Kaushal and INS Kirch is commanded by Commander Sharad Sinsunwal.



The current visit seeks to enhance maritime cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy. It will further bolster the strong bonds of friendship between India and Malaysia and contribute to security and stability in this vital part of the world.

News 11: India signs a \$1 billion deal with the US to buy four Poseidon-8I Aircrafts

India and the US signed a deal worth over \$1 Billion for the purchase of four additional Poseidon-8I long range maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft. It takes the total value of arms contracts signed with the US to over \$15 billion in the last 10 years. India has already bought eight P-81 planes in a direct deal with the firm worth \$2.1 billion.



The long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft has an operational speed of 450 miles per hour and a range of 4,500 nautical miles.

India is also working on a deal to get 145 pieces of M777 lightweight howitzers from the US.

News 12: Exercise Maitree 2016: Joint Indo – Thailand Military Exercise Culminates

The Indo – Thailand Military Exercise "MAITREE" concluded at Krabi, Thailand. The exercise had commenced on 15th July 2016 under the aegis of the Royal Thailand Army. About 90 soldiers of the Indian Army and the Royal Thailand Army had participated in this exercise.



This exercise included combined training, familiarization with weapons & equipment used by both the countries, analyzing groupings, drills and tactics while operating in counter terrorism environment and modalities for conduct of Area Domination operations in urban environment apart from operations like Cordon and Search, raids, Seek and Destroy Missions.

News 13: Joint Exercises with Foreign Countries

India conducted a joint Humanitarian Mine Action and Peace Keeping Operations Field Training Exercise under ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting – Plus framework in Pune in March 2016. Over 300 personnel from 17 countries participated in this joint exercise, which was the largest such exercise ever held in India.



The Indian Armed Forces regularly conducts joint exercises in bilateral and other formats with friendly foreign countries, including those in East Asia. In 2015, 28 such joint exercises were conducted.

News 14: Contract for Apache and Chinook Helicopters signed with the US Government

The Contract for Apache Attack Helicopters was signed with the US Government and Boeing at a cost of Rs. 13,951.57 Crores. The contract for Chinook Heavy Lift Helicopters was signed with Boeing, USA at the cost of Rs. 8047.85 Crores.



The delivery of Apache helicopters will commence from July, 2019 and will be completed by March, 2020. The delivery of Chinook Helicopters will start from March, 2019 and will be completed by March, 2020.

News 15: DRDO and IAI to jointly develop the Upgradation of the Barak Missile System

Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) and Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MR-SAM), upgraded version of Barak Missile System, are being jointly developed/produced by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and IAI, Israel.

LR-SAM / MR-SAM can detect any incoming enemy aerial targets i.e. aircraft or anti-ship missile from over 100 kms away and destroy them at a range out to 70 kms and thus provide the air defence capability to the assets of the Indian Armed Forces.



The LR-SAM Project has an estimated cost of Rs. 2606.02 Crores for which the contract was signed on 27th January 2006. It has a range of 70 Kms. The MR-SAM Project has an estimated cost of Rs. 10075.68 Crores for which the contract was signed on the 27th February 2009.

ECONOMIC

News 1: RIL, SBI ink shareholder agreement for Payments Bank Joint Venture

Reliance Industries (RIL) and SBI have signed a shareholder agreement to set up a payments bank joint venture. Reliance Industries will be the promoter with a 70 % equity contribution and SBI as joint venture will have 30 % equity contribution in the payments bank.

RBI granted in-principle approval to RIL as a promoter in September 2015 for the setting up of the payments bank. RIL now will seek all regulatory and statutory approvals for operationalizing the payments bank.



News 2: FPI invests over Rs. 3,700 crores into Indian equities in June

According to the data available with depositories, Foreign portfolio investors have invested a net of Rs. 3,713 crores in the Indian stock market in June, mainly on hopes of a good monsoon.

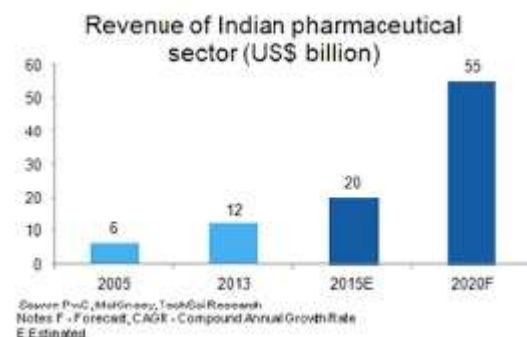
However, they pulled out 6,220 crore rupees from the debt market during the period under review. So far this year, FPIs have invested 20,648 crore rupees in equities while withdrawing 12,105 crore rupees in the debt market, resulting in a net inflow of 8,543 crore rupees.



News 3: Pharma market in India is expected to be worth USD 55 billion by year 2020

The pharmaceutical market in India is expected to be worth 55 billion US dollars by 2020, becoming the sixth largest market globally in absolute size. India is the largest provider of generic drugs globally with the Indian generics accounting for 20% of global exports in terms of volume.

Inaugurating the 34th annual convention of American Association of Physicians of Indian-Origin (AAPI) here yesterday, India's ambassador to the US Arun Singh said the Indian pharmaceuticals market is growing rapidly, from USD 6 billion in 2005 to USD 55 billion by 2020.



News 4: Hero MotoCorp inked a 3-year wage agreement with Gurgaon Workers

Hero MotoCorp Ltd. (HMCL) has signed a wage settlement pact with its permanent workers at the Gurgaon Plant. The company has agreed to provide a hike of Rs. 12,500 spread over three years with retrospective effect starting from 1 August 2015 till 31 July 2018. The previous wage settlement was effective from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2015.



There are about 1400 permanent employees at the company's Gurgaon facility. Hero MotoCorp has four manufacturing facilities: two of these are based at Gurgaon and Dharuhera in Haryana and one each at Haridwar, Uttarakhand and Neemrana, Rajasthan.

News 5: Online pharmacy 1mg Technologies acquired diagnostic lab aggregator Medd

Gurgaon-based online pharmacy 1mg Technologies Pvt. Ltd has acquired diagnostic labs aggregator Medd (HolaMed Healthcare Technologies Pvt. Ltd). The value of the deal was undisclosed. The move is aimed at boosting its diagnostic footprint.



All the three founders of Medd - Arpit Kothari, Anurag Mundhada, and Era Dwivedi, have joined the 1mg team. 1mg also appointed Ankur Gigras, a former marketing head for gastroenterology at healthcare firm Abbott India Ltd, to oversee the diagnostics business.

News 6: Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail partnered with fashion brand Forever 21

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) took decision to do a joint venture with US fast fashion brand, Forever 21, replacing DLF Brands in a 26 million US dollars' deal. The company acquired Forever 21's exclusive offline and online rights in the country, including its existing store network. Aditya Birla Fashion executed a business transfer agreement with Diana Retail, Franchise of Forever 21.



This is the third major brand that DLF Brands have been unassociated with itself. Others include Mango and Sephora. At the moment Mothercare, Sunglass Hut and Claires are the prominent international brands that DLF still has partnered with it.

News 7: Zydus enters into an agreement with Bristol-Myers for Hepatitis C Drug

Drug firm Zydus Cadila entered into a generic manufacturing agreement with the Medicines Patent Pool for manufacturing global pharma major Bristol-Myers Squibbs daclatasvir tablets used in the treatment of Hepatitis C.



The agreement allows Zydus to produce and sell daclatasvir in 112 low and middle income countries. The MPP licence permits generic manufacturers to manufacture fixed-dose combinations that have the capacity to treat all of the six major genotypes of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). Around 130 to 150 million people worldwide are estimated to have HCV.

News 8: Search Giant Google acquires French startup Moodstocks

Google acquired Moodstocks, a startup based out of Paris that develops machine-learning based image recognition technology for smartphones. Moodstocks announced that the company will discontinue API and SDK. Moodstocks to build great image recognition tools within Google.



In the past, Google has made other acquisitions in France, including FlexyCore (also for improving smartphone performance). Some other acquisitions include JetPac and PittPatt for facial recognition, to improve its tech in imaging.

News 9: India's first CoE-IoT start-up warehouse unveiled in Bengaluru by NASSCOM

India's first Centre of Excellence focused on Internet of Things (CoE – IoT) at its Startup Warehouse in Bengaluru, which was unveiled by the National Association of Software and Services Companies to empower start-ups to come up with new techniques on Internet of Things (IoT). It is a joint initiative between the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY), education and research network (ERNET) and the IT industry body.



The Centre of Excellence lab has the capacity to involve up to 40 start-ups. Lab will not only provide funding to start-ups but also guide as a mentor.

News 10: Swiss based Lafarge to sell its Indian assets to Nirma for Rs. 9400 crores

Swiss cement giant LafargeHolcim has entered into a letter of agreement with Nirma Ltd. subject to approval by Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the disinvestment of its interest in Lafarge India for an enterprise value of approximately \$1.4 billion. The disinvestment amount will be used to reduce debt of Lafarge Cement Company.



Ahmedabad-based Nirma has business expansion in soaps, detergents, salt, soda ash, caustic soda, cement, packaging, etc. It has 12 manufacturing facilities in India and the US and has a turnover of over Rs. 7,300 crores.

News 11: BSE introduces 'Paperless SIP'

'Paperless SIP' (Systematic Investment Plans) that will give an option to mutual fund investors to make transactions, or buy units through various modes of payments, is launched by Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). This will facilitate MF distributors to register SIPs for their clients.



Initially, this facility is available only for non-dematerialized transactions and for instalment of amount more than Rs 2 lakh. MF distributors have the facility to register only Exchange SIP (XSIP) for their clients which allows for ECS payment route.

News 12: Wholesale Inflation rose to 1.62% in June

Rising for the third straight month, wholesale inflation climbed to 1.62% in June 2016, from 0.79% in May 2016.

Inflation rose on the back of costlier food and manufactured items. Wholesale food inflation rose to 8.18% while Wholesale inflation in vegetables climbed to 16.91%. Inflation in pulses stood at 26.61%, and in potatoes at 64.48%. But encouragingly, onion prices actually declined 28.60% during the month. In the manufactured items category, wholesale inflation stood at 1.17%.



News 13: E-filing: ATM-based validation facility enhanced

The Income Tax department has widened the ATM-based validation system for filing of online Returns by taxpayers. The department has included Axis Bank to enhance the paperless regime of filing the annual Income Tax returns. Other banks are also expected to join soon.

The new facility is available on the official e-filing portal of the department-incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in. These measures are used to validate the e-ITR so that the taxpayer does not take the trouble of sending the paper-based ITR-V by post for final resolution and processing.



News 14: Industrial production expands 1.2% in May

The country's industrial production grew 1.2% in May 2016, mainly due to an uptick in consumer durables output. Factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production, had expanded 2.5% in May 2015.

The data released by the Central Statistics Office showed that output of consumer durables, which include goods like televisions, refrigerators and washing machines, rose 6% in May this year. The manufacturing sector grew 0.7%, power generation increased 4.7%, and mining sector output grew 1.3% during the month.



News 15: BHEL commissions a 250 MW power plant in Gujarat

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned another 250 MW unit based on eco-friendly Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion (CFBC) technology, using low quality coal (lignite) as the primary fuel at Bhavnagar Energy Company Limited (BECL)'s 2x250 MW thermal power project, located at Padva village in Bhavnagar District of Gujarat.



BHEL had earlier executed the 4x125 MW Surat Lignite Power project at Nani Naroli in Surat, Gujarat, also involving CFBC technology. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat had earlier laid the foundation stone of the supercritical technology-based 1x800 MW Wanakbori project in Gujarat, which is presently being executed by BHEL on Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) basis.

News 16: SIT on black money recommends ban on cash transactions above Rs. 3 lakhs

The Supreme Court constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) on black money, headed by retired Justice M B Shah, submitted its 5th report to the apex court.



The SIT has recommended a ban on cash transactions of above Rs. 3 lakhs and restricting cash holding of an industry or individuals to not more than Rs. 15 lakhs to curb illegal wealth in the economy. In case any person or industry requires holding more cash, it may obtain necessary permission from the Commissioner of Income Tax of that area.

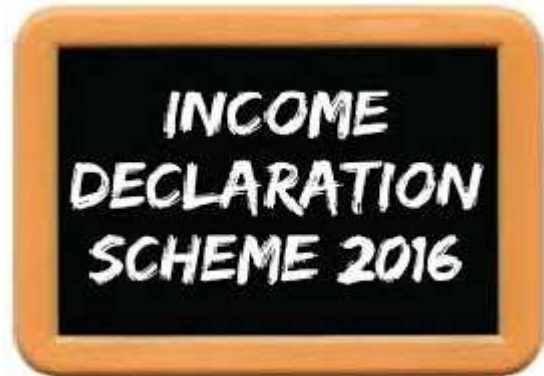
Good to know info: In addition to the SIT, the Union Government has enacted two different laws to curb black money and they are:

- Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015.
- Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Bill, 2015, which the government hopes will get passed in the upcoming monsoon session of parliament.

News 17: Government revised time schedule for making payments under Income Declaration Scheme 2016

The Government has decided to revise the time schedule for making payments under the Income Declaration Scheme 2016 as under:

- A minimum amount of 25% of the tax, surcharge and penalty to be paid by 30.11.2016.
- A further amount of 25% of the tax, surcharge and penalty to be paid by 31.3.2017 and
- The balance amount to be paid on or before 30.9.2017.



The decision was taken following practical difficulties expressed by various stakeholders that the time period available under the Scheme up to 30 November 2016 for making payment of tax, surcharge and penalty is very short.

News 18: Yatra agrees for its merger with Terrapin 3

A merger agreement was inked between Online travel portal Yatra and Terrapin 3 Acquisition Corporation that values Yatra at an enterprise value of \$218 million. Merger decision came after when Yatra wished to get itself listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol "YTRA". Recently, Yatra received honor of most trusted eCommerce travel brand in India.

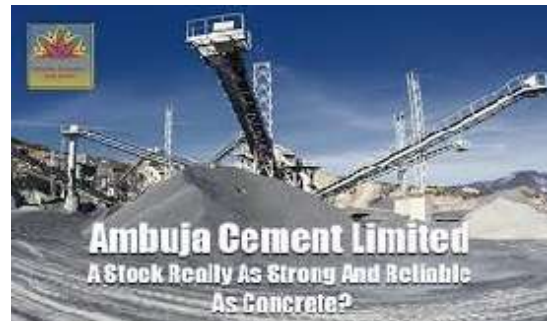
As per the agreed merger terms and conditions, it has been decided that the current shareholders of Yatra will continue to own at least 35% of the issued and outstanding shares in the combined company. Yatra Online will still be under leadership of co-founder and CEO Dhruv Shringi.



News 19: Cabinet approves proposal of M/s. Ambuja Cements Limited for acquisition of 24% shares in its holding Company-Holcim (India) Private Limited

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for M/s. Ambuja Cements Limited for acquisition of 24% shares in its holding Company-Holcim (India) Private Limited from M/s. Holderind Investment Limited and subsequent reverse merger through a share swap. This would entail outflow of Rs. 3500 crores.

These transactions would enable Lafarge Holcim group to create a linear corporate structure (with Ambuja and ACC becoming parent and subsidiary) with a view to harvest significant synergies from India operations.



News 20: Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signs seven Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs)

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into seven (7) Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers. Some of these agreements also have a "Rollback" provision in them. The total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT has reached 77. This includes 3 bilateral APAs and 74 unilateral APAs. In the current financial year, a total of 13 Unilateral APAs have been entered into so far.



The latest APAs signed with taxpayers pertain to various sectors like banking, information technology and automotive. The international transactions covered in these agreements include software development Services, IT enabled Services (BPOs), Engineering Design Services and Administrative & Business Support Services.

News 21: Softbank to Acquire UK Chip Designer ARM Holdings for \$32 billion

Japan's SoftBank has agreed to buy Britain's most valuable technology company ARM Holdings PLC for \$32 billion in an all cash deal. ARM is U.K. based designer of the microprocessors that power more than 95% of the world's smartphones. The deal is SoftBank's largest-ever investment.

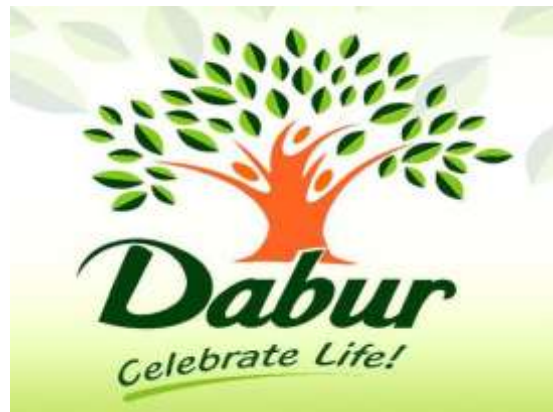
ARM licenses the blueprints to chip makers such as Qualcomm Inc. For 2015, ARM reported revenue of \$1.5 billion and profit of £340 million (\$448.4 million).



News 22: Dabur inks MoU with DRDO for growing medicinal plants in high altitude

Dabur India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defense Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), a part of DRDO, to promote sustainable cultivation of rare medicinal plants in Ladakh.

Under this agreement, both the organizations will educate farmers in the Leh-Ladakh about high altitude medicinal plant species and also help enhance the livelihood of villagers in the cold desert area by involving them in cultivation of medicinal plants. The farmers will also be provided free saplings of rare medicinal plants and herbs.



News 23: Grocery retailer Heritage Fresh ties up with Paytm

Grocery retailer Heritage Fresh has entered into a tie up with Paytm. As a result, payments through Paytm will now be accepted at all 114 supermarkets of Heritage Fresh across Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai.

Heritage Foods Limited is one of the largest private sector dairy enterprises in Southern India and the brand "Heritage Fresh" is a leading food and grocery brand of it. Paytm aims to provide more and more users the convenience and safety of cashless transactions.



News 24: BHEL Commissions a massive 40 MW Hydro Power Plant in West Bengal

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned the third unit of the 4x40 MW Teesta Low Dam Hydro Electric Project (HEP) Stage-IV in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal and is being set up by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), on the River Teesta.

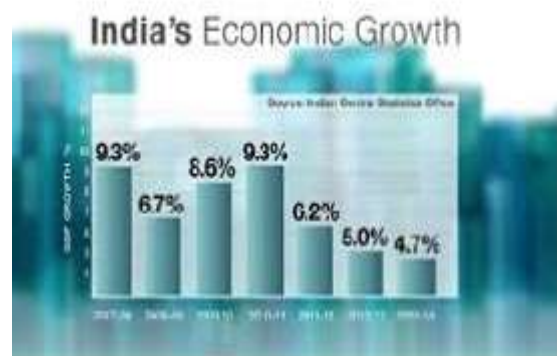
The fourth and final unit of the project is also in advanced stages of execution. BHEL's scope of work in the project comprised design, manufacture, supply, installation and commissioning of complete E&M works including vertical shaft Kaplan Turbines and matching generators.



News 25: World Bank's Report on the Economic growth of India

World Bank's Report on the Global Economic Prospects, published in June 2016, projected that India's growth will be 7.6% in 2016-17 and will improve to 7.7% in 2017-18. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its World Economic Outlook (WEO), published in July 2016, has projected that India will grow by 7.4% in 2016-17, which would be one of the highest growth among the major world economies.

The IMF has indicated that India's growth will continue to be driven by private consumption, which has benefited from lower energy prices and higher real incomes. There is a broad consensus that the passing of the Goods and Services Tax Bill will pave the way for an improvement in the overall economic outcome.



News 26: Government approves setting up Funds for Startups

The Government has approved the setting up of Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) with a corpus of Rs. 10000 crores. Of which Rs.500 crores have been released in the Financial Year 2015-16 to the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to start its operations and Rs.600 crores have been earmarked for Financial Year 2016-17. As a Fund of Funds, FFS would not invest directly in Startups, but would participate in the capital of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered Alternate Investment Funds (AIF).



FFS is designed to support 18 lakh jobs at full deployment. The Startup will act as a catalyst to attract private capital by way of equity, quasi-equity, soft loans and other risk capital for start-up companies.

News 27: NASSCOM ranks TCS as the Top Employer in the IT industry

NASSCOM has ranked software services major, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), as the top employer in the Indian IT industry followed by Infosys, Cognizant, Wipro and Capgemini. Others in the top 10 include HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Genpact, Intelnet Global Services and Aegis.

TCS had a total headcount of 362,000 while Infosys and Wipro had 197,000 and 173,000, respectively at the end of June 2016. The Indian IT-BPM industry's employee base has reached a total of 3.7 million with nearly 1.3 million employed in the sector are women.



News 28: Quikr acquires Hiree, an online recruitment startup

Cross-category classifieds business Quikr has acquired Hiree, an online hiring platform focused on white collar jobs. Hiree will be merged with its jobs vertical QuikrJobs and will operate out of Quikr HQ. The acquisition will further strengthen QuikrJobs' offerings to address recruitment needs for the entire spectrum of job categories across industries.



Hiree was founded in 2014 by former Yahoo executives Manjunath Talwar and Abhijit Khasnis. Hiree has some of the leading IT companies and established start-ups as their client. This acquisition is expected to strengthen QuikrJobs' offerings to address recruitment needs for the entire spectrum of categories.

News 29: Yahoo to be sold to Verizon Communications for nearly \$5 bn

US based Internet Firm Yahoo will be sold to American Telecom Giant Verizon Communications for nearly five billion dollars.



Yahoo, whose search engine and other sites have more than 1 billion monthly users, would make Verizon, a global mobile media company. It comes after Verizon bought AOL, another major internet name, in 2015. The deal, which does not include Yahoo's valuable stake in Chinese Online Giant Alibaba, is expected to close by the first quarter of the next year.

News 30: Flipkart buys Jabong in a \$70 million 'Discount' deal

Flipkart owned online fashion retailer Myntra has acquired Jabong for a reported deal valued at \$70 million. With the acquisition, Myntra looks to strengthen its portfolio in the high margin online fashion retail space. These two sites will now have a combined base of 15 million monthly active users.



Jabong was owned by Global Fashion Group. Jabong reported an operating loss of Rs. 426 Crores in FY15. The revenue growth in FY15 inched up by just 7% to Rs. 866 crores. Some of the well-known global brands that will be exclusive to both the platforms include Dorothy Perkins, Topshop, Tom Tailor, G Raw Star, Bugatti Shoes, The North Face, Forever 21, Swarovski, Timberland and Lacoste.

News 31: Hinduja National Power commissions 1,040 MW thermal power project in Visakhapatnam

Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited (HNPC) has commissioned its 1,040 MW (2 * 520MW) Power project at Visakhapatnam. The entire power generated by this project is being sold to the state owned southern and eastern power distribution companies of Andhra Pradesh.



The project cost is estimated at \$1.25 billion. The project has been allocated coal by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited. Andhra Pradesh has become the first southern State to become power surplus. Andhra Pradesh is implementing 24X7 "Power for All Scheme."

News 32: Vodafone M-Pesa ties up with Punjab Power Utility

Vodafone M-Pesa has tied up with Power Utility Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) to enable consumers pay their electricity bills instantly. Vodafone M-Pesa is a digital wallet service from Vodafone that offers money transfer, bill and utility Pay, merchant payments and business solutions.



The bill payment touch points are easily available at every nook and corner, including all 31 Vodafone brand stores in Punjab. As an added benefit, new users of M-Pesa can earn 5% cashback on the payment made through the App.

News 33: Union Cabinet drops 1% additional tax on inter-state sales from the GST Bill

The Union Cabinet has approved two key changes in the GST Constitutional Amendment Bill. The first one is that they have dropped 1% additional tax levy by manufacturing States and introduced a guarantee of 100% compensation to States for five years to compensate any revenue loss incurred by them due to the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax.



Further, any dispute between states and the Centre will be adjudicated by the GST Council. The existing bill provides that the centre will give 100 percent compensation to states for first three years, 75% and 50% for the next two years.

News 34: A10 Networks acquires cloud firm Appcito

US-based A10 Networks has acquired Appcito, a provider of Software-As-A-Service (SaaS) based, multicloud Application Delivery Controllers (ADC) solutions. A10 Networks is an application networking and security company. In 2015, Gartner named Appcito as one of the "Cool Vendors in Enterprise Networking."



The acquisition positions A10 Networks as a comprehensive secure application services leader. It will help customers become more secure. New A10 "Harmony-based cloud" solution integrating Appcito technology will be available later this year.

News 35: Facebook successfully tests its first Aquila Internet drone flight

In an effort by Facebook Inc. to connect the places which are not yet connected, it successfully tested Aquila, a solar-powered, unmanned plane over Arizona. Aquila is designed to cover an area 60 miles in diameter, reaching some of the 4 billion people that don't have internet access. Prototype was tested over Arizona and plane landed safely after 90 minutes. The Aquila project is part of Facebook's Connectivity Lab, a department creating new technologies including aircraft, satellites and wireless communication systems.



This technology is developed and designed by the Somerset-based company Ascenta, which Facebook bought for around £12.5 million in 2014. Aquila is designed to be hyper efficient and it can fly for up to three months at a time at power consumption of only 5,000 watts.

News 36: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion conducted Startup India States Conference in New Delhi

A State Conference was organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in New Delhi for promoting Startup India in all the states. This conference was presided over by Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

DIPP requested State Governments and Administration of Union Territories to set up a Startup Hub as well as incubators to help Startups during various stages of their development wherein Telangana and Gujarat have already set up T-Hub and iCreate. According to commerce minister, 4,400 technology startups exist in India and the number is expected to reach 12,000+ by 2020.



सत्यमेव जयते

Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Government of India

News 37: Snapdeal partnered with e-ticketing portal BookMyShow

Snapdeal entered into a partnership with e-ticketing platform BookMyShow. With this deal, customers can now book tickets for movies on Snapdeal as well. This will help Snapdeal to achieve its target of 20 million daily transacting users by 2020.

With this partnership with Snapdeal, BookMyShow will benefit its users to meet their movie ticketing needs without having to leave the platform as BookMyShow's e-ticket booking service can be accessed through Snapdeal's app as well.



News 38: Collections under the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme Reach a New High

The amount realized through the 4th tranche of the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme, at around Rs. 919 Crores, is the highest achieved as yet. The previous highest was Rs. 746 Crores in the 2nd tranche when the issue price was only Rs. 2600 per gram of gold. This was mobilized through over 1.95 lakh applications representing around 2.95 tonnes of gold.



The top 5 among the receiving offices were SBI, NSE, Bank of India, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank, in that order. The total subscription in first 3 tranches was Rs. 1318 Crores corresponding to 4.9 tonnes of gold.

News 39: Cabinet increases the limit for foreign investment in Stock Exchanges from 5% to 15%

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for raising foreign shareholding limit from 5% to 15% in Indian Stock Exchanges for a stock exchange, a depository, a banking company, an insurance company, a commodity derivative exchange. The Cabinet has also approved the proposal to allow foreign portfolio investors to acquire shares through initial allotment, besides secondary market, in the stock exchanges.



This move will help in enhancing global competitiveness of Indian stock exchanges by accelerating/facilitating the adoption of latest technology and global best practices which will lead to overall growth and development of the Indian Capital Market.

News 40: Allowing 74% FDI in the Pharma Sector

FDI in Brownfield Pharma Sector has been permitted up to 74% under the automatic route; and FDI beyond 74% and up to 100% is allowed under the Government approval route. The move to permit 74% FDI under automatic route in Brownfield pharmaceutical sector is aimed at attracting required capital, international best practices and latest technologies in the sector. Further, 100% FDI under automatic route is permitted for Greenfield pharma sector.



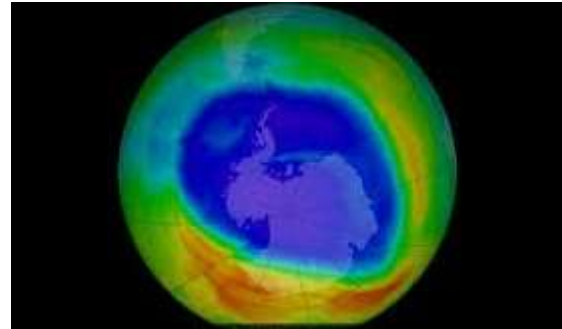
The Government has put in place necessary safeguards by providing that non-compete clause would not be permitted. This will enable Indian promoters to operate in the same line of business in new ventures.

ENVIRONMENT

News 1: Study reveals that the Ozone layer in Antarctic is healing

Scientists say they have found the first clear evidence that the thinning ozone layer over the Antarctic is starting to heal. The hole was around 4 million sq. km smaller than it was in the year 2000 - an area roughly the size of India.

The study attributed the ozone's recovery to the "continuing decline of atmospheric chlorine originating from chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)". Most of the world signed on to the Montreal Protocol in 1987, which banned the use of CFCs.



News 2: The Bornean Orangutan listed under the Critically Endangered Animals

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) announced that the Bornean Orangutan as a Critically Endangered Animal due to various reasons like habitat loss, habitat degradation and illegal hunting. It has been observed that every year 2000 to 3000 orangutans have been killed by hunters or villagers, as a result, there will be further 22% decline in forthcoming years from 2010 to 2025.



Recently, the Whale Shark, the largest fish in the world, was also put by IUCN on the endangered list.

News 3: Rare Marbled Map butterfly sighted in the Eastern Ghats

A Rare Marbled Map Butterfly was sighted by a group of green enthusiasts including N. Chandramohan Reddy, an Indian Forest Service officer, in Eastern Ghats near PM Kota village of Maredumilli Mandal in the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. This is the first time that the Marbled Map butterfly species, usually found in the North-East, was sighted in South India.



The Marbled Map (*Cyrestis cocles*) is listed as a rare butterfly species. Its availability is confined to the forested hills in the region between Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bhutan and Myanmar.

News 4: UNESCO declared Nalanda Mahavihara as the 33rd World Heritage Site in India

Nalanda Mahavihara which is situated 98 kms away from Patna has been announced as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This would be the second UNESCO heritage site after Mahabodhi temple in Bodh Gaya. The ruins of ancient Nalanda Mahavihara known as old Nalanda University of Bihar got inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



The ruins include the archaeological remains of monastic and scholastic institutions dating from the 3rd century BC to the 13th century AD. The ancient Nalanda University was a major Mahavihara or a large Buddhist monastery that also doubled up as a knowledge resource centre from the 5th to 1200 AD in the kingdom of Magadh.

News 5: Nine new World Heritage Sites included by UNESCO

The 40th session of the World Heritage Committee meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey decided to add nine new sites on its World Heritage List, thus making a total of 981 heritage sites both cultural and natural till date.



The nine new World Heritage Sites are:

- The ancient city of Ani
- Nalanda (The Oldest University in The World)
- Ancient Site of Philippi (Greece)
- Stecci Medieval Tombstones Graveyards
- The Persian Qanat, Iran
- Nan Madol (Ancient Ceremonial Centre)
- Antequera Dolmens (Spain)
- Antigua Naval Dockyard and Related Archaeological Sites
- Gorham's Cave Complex (United Kingdom and Northern Ireland)

News 6: India's Chandigarh and Sikkim's National Park now on the UNESCO list

Sikkim's Khangchendzonga National Park and Chandigarh's Capitol Complex are included in UNESCO's world heritage site list. It was announced at the 40th session of the WHC meeting held at Istanbul in Turkey. The KNP is the first 'mixed' category heritage site listed from India to UNESCO list as it possesses qualities of both natural and cultural significance.



Chandigarh's Capitol Complex which comprises the Legislative Assembly, Secretariat and High Court, was designed by French Architect Le Corbusier in 1950 when the city was being developed as a symbol of independent, modern India. India now has 35 sites overall on the list of UNESCO including 27 cultural properties, seven natural sites and one mixed site listed as World Heritage Sites.

News 7: WMO warns that 2016 is set to be the World's Hottest Year on Record

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) announced that 2016 is on the track to be the world's hottest year on record after global temperatures for the first six months of 2016 broke many records. The average temperature in the first six months of 2016 was 1.3°C (2.4°F) warmer than the pre-industrial era in the late 19th century, according to NASA. Carbon dioxide levels, which are driving global warming, have reached new highs.



Two separate reports from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (NASA GISS) both highlighted the dramatic and sweeping changes in the state of the climate.

BANKING

News 1: State Bank to offer Banking Services on Facebook, Twitter

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched "SBI Mingle", allowing its customers to access various banking services via Facebook and Twitter. The customers have to register for this service through a simple one-time registration process using either their account number or their ATM/Debit Card details.

Currently balance enquiry, mini statement, funds transfer within SBI as well as interbank and beneficiary management services are available for Facebook. On Twitter, using hashtags the customers can find out their account balance and view mini statements.



News 2: SBI inks pact with Flipkart for EMI facility

State Bank of India (SBI) partnered with Flipkart to offer pre-approved equated monthly instalment (EMI) facility to the bank's customers. Under this partnership, SBI will provide an overdraft facility to pre-qualified set of customers for transacting on Flipkart for a minimum purchase of Rs. 5,000.

The EMI facility will be available in three tenures - 6, 9 and 12 months - and the bank will not charge any fees to process the facility.



News 3: SBI launches SBI Digital Villages

SBI has launched its new initiative, SBI Digital Villages, aimed at transforming villages into cash less eco-system by adopting them. In its first leg, the bank has adopted 21 villages to be moved on to the digital platform and plans to bring 100 villages under this initiative across the country by the end of FY 17.

Balal village in Kasargode district is one of the 21 villages selected across the country by the State Bank of India. The bank has already installed an ATM, provided free Wi-Fi connection and conducted technology training sessions at Balal village.



News 4: SBI secures \$625 million from the World Bank for their solar program

The State Bank of India has signed an agreement worth 4,200 crore rupees with the World Bank to support its solar program. Under this initiative at least 400 MW solar capacity will be created across the country.



This agreement will help the bank to finance grid connected rooftop solar photovoltaic projects at very competitive rates. The eligible beneficiaries under the facility would be developers, aggregators and end-users, who wish to set up solar projects mainly on commercial, industrial and institutional rooftops.

News 5: CCEA allows Axis Bank to raise foreign shareholding to 74%

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved increase in foreign investment from the current approved level of 62% to 74% of the total paid up share capital of the Axis Bank on a fully fundable basis.



The foreign investment will be by way of Foreign Institutional Investors, Foreign Portfolio Investors, Non-Resident Indians, Foreign Director Investment covering ADRs and GDRs and Indirect Foreign Investment.

With the approval, foreign direct investment to the tune of Rs. 12,973 crores will be received in the country with an estimated creation of 6000 to 7000 jobs over the next three years.

News 6: Cabinet approves interest subsidy of 5% for farmers for the year 2016-17

The Union Cabinet has approved the interest subsidy of 5% for farmers for the year 2016-17. It will help farmers to get a short term crop loan of up to Rs. 3 lakhs payable at 4% of interest rate within one year. In case farmers do not repay the short term crop loan on time they would be eligible for interest subvention of 2% as against 5%.



The government has earmarked Rs. 18,276 crores for the Interest Subvention Scheme. An interest subsidy of 2% has also been cleared for loans of up to six months for small and marginal farmers. For farmers affected by Natural Calamities, the interest subvention of 2% will be provided to Banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

News 7: SBI Card introduces credit card 'Elite' for their high net-worth clients

In order to target the high net-worth clients, SBI Card, a subsidiary of State Bank of India, has launched a premium credit card called 'Elite' with host of facilities on the Master Card World platform and is powered with NFC (Near Field Communication) technology. There are a number of facilities which come with this Elite card that includes a contactless payment experience, adding more speed, airport lounge access and welcome gift worth Rs. 5,000 in the form of vouchers.



This card has been introduced with aim to raise penetration from 15% to 20% in card usage. The joining fees which is decided by SBI is Rs. 4,999.

News 8: IDFC Bank signs purchase agreement for a micro finance company called Grama Vidiyal

The IDFC Bank inked a share purchase agreement to buy micro lender Grama Vidiyal Micro Finance Ltd for its business expansion and banking services. Grama Vidiyal will help the bank access to 1.2 million households apart from adding 319 points of presence in seven states namely – Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Puducherry, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.



It is said to be first of such acquisition where a bank has acquired a micro-finance institution. Grama Vidiyal's had an AUM of Rs. 1,502 crores of micro finance assets as of March 2016.

News 9: SBI in agreement with IIT Bombay to promote the idea of Start-Ups

The State Bank of India inked a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Technology Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), to promote the idea of start-ups in the financial sector. The Bank will provide funding at bank's norms to start-ups operating out of SINE and to those projects being promoted by SINE.

As per the agreement, both the parties will look for FinTech start-ups that have products



or applications that aid to the financial sector and can help SBI to explore the synergy for their banking services. In turn, SBI will provide a platform for testing/ piloting projects and by funding such product/application projects.

News 10: HDFC becomes the first Indian Firm to issue masala bonds

The Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) became the first Indian firm to issue rupee-denominated “Masala Bonds” on London Stock Exchange (LSE). It has raised Rs. 3,000 crores through these bonds that got over-subscribed by 4.3 times. These bond bears a fixed semi-annual coupon of 7.875% per annum and has a tenor of 3 years and 1 month. The all-in annualized yield to the investors is about 8.33% per annum.



The rupee-denominated bonds or masala bonds are instruments through which Indian entities can raise funds by accessing overseas capital markets, while the bond investors hold the currency risk.

News 11: Govt injects Rs. 22,915 crores capital to 13 PSU banks for the FY-17

The Union Government has announced a sum of Rs. 22,915 crores for recapitalization of 13 public sector banks with an aim to boost credit growth in the economy. The State Bank of India (SBI) received the largest allocation of Rs. 7,575 crores. The Indian Overseas Bank and the Punjab National Bank are to get Rs. 3,191 crores and Rs. 2,816 crores respectively. The least, which is Rs. 44 crores were allocated to the Allahabad Bank.



The remaining amount, to be released later, will be linked to performance. The Centre had allocated a total of Rs. 25,000 crores for the capitalization of the public sector banks in the FY 2016-17, in line with the infusion plans announced under the umbrella scheme “Indradhanush” introduced in 2015. The plan proposes infusions adding up to Rs. 25,000 crores in 2015-16 as well as in 2016-17, followed by Rs. 10,000 crores each in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

News 12: SBI launches Rs. 7,350 crores stressed assets fund with the US Firm Brookfield

The State Bank of India has roped in American fund house Brookfield Asset Management to set up an over Rs. 7,350 crores stressed assets fund as a part of its bad loans resolution process. Out of the total investible fund of Rs. 7,350 crores, Brookfield will contribute Rs. 7,000 crores and the remaining 5% or Rs. 350 crores will come from SBI.



The JV will evaluate and invest in various stressed assets, relying upon Brookfield's operational expertise to manage recapitalized businesses. This is the second such fund after Kotak Bank roped in Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) to launch a USD 525 million fund to invest in the stressed assets in March.

News 13: SBI signs a pact with IIT Bombay hosted Business Incubator

The State Bank of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the IIT Bombay hosted 'Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship' (SINE) to promote innovation by start-ups in the financial sector.



The bank has commenced a strategic initiative to promote innovation by engaging with start-ups in the FinTech segment, through funding, procurement and co-innovation under a special window. SINE is the Technology Business Incubator hosted by IIT Bombay. It is a non-profit arrangement with the Board, faculty and industry experts.

News 14: SbiINTOUCH offers convenient shopping experience

The sbiINTOUCH and Visa Paywave enabled contactless debit cardholders to pay by presenting their cards at the PoS (Point of Sales) terminals of Big Bazaar and Food Bazaar outlets by just waving their sbiINTOUCH Contactless Debit Cards on NFC enabled PoS terminals up to Rs. 2,000. In the first phase, sbiINTOUCH Contactless Debit Cards will be accepted at Big Bazaar and Food Bazaar outlets in nine cities namely Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Pune.



Shoppers at Big Bazaar and Food Bazaar can also get a 10% cashback on minimum transaction value of INR 500, up to a maximum cashback of INR 500 per calendar month.

News 15: Federal Bank signs an agreement with Reliance Jio Money

The Federal Bank has signed an agreement with Reliance Jio Money for a one-click payment service. The bank's customers will get a facility to directly pay from their account for the services offered through the wallet (without pre-loading their wallet). Customers will be able to perform a variety of transactions across numerous merchants in just a click.



Reliance Jio Money is a wallet application that will be launched soon for mobile devices. On the occasion, Ms. Shalini Warriar, Chief Operating Officer, Federal Bank said "This arrangement would empower customers to retain the funds with their accounts while enjoying the host of services available in the App".

News 16: IRCTC joins hands with SBI to promote Rail Ticketing

IRCTC along with the State Bank of India has drawn out a detailed plan for promotion of rail ticketing activities, including internet ticketing and unreserved ticketing system. The MoU will also undertake development of Unreserved Ticketing System.



This MoU was signed by IRCTC CMD A K Manocha and Arundhati Bhattacharya, CMD, SBI. It also envisages for undertaking activities which can provide value to customers and bring about synergy in working of both the organizations.

News 17: Fourteen PSU banks post losses in the last financial year

Fourteen public sector banks out of 27 posted losses in the last financial year. The main reason for their losses was Asset Quality Review initiated by the Reserve Bank of India. As a result, the banks had to suddenly make provisions for accounts categorized as non-performing assets under the exercise.



The government has allocated 25,000 crore rupees to these banks to strengthen their financial positions.

News 18: Corp Bank launches 'Green PIN' facility

Corporation Bank has launched a new facility called "Green PIN". This facility enables credit card users to generate the Personal Identification Number (PIN) online instantly. The customers who receive the Credit Card but not PIN can also generate a fresh PIN for their credit card.

The module was developed by M/s Worldline Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. The cardholders can generate the PIN online by logging on to www.liccards.com portal. Corporation Bank has arrangements with LIC for issue of co-branded credit cards.



News 19: RBI imposes penalties on Bank of Baroda, HDFC and PNB

The Reserve Bank of India slapped penalties of Rs. 5 crores, Rs. 2 crores and Rs. 3 crores on Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank and Punjab National Bank respectively over the issue of advance import remittances.

These penalties were slapped on Bank of Baroda by RBI after it witnessed weaknesses and failures in internal control mechanisms in respect of certain anti-money laundering provisions. HDFC was slapped on account of pendency in receipt of bills of entry relating to advance import remittances made.



News 20: ICICI and AXIS banks join SWIFT's Global Payments innovation initiative

In its first phase, this initiative will focus on business-to-business payments. Designed to help corporates grow their international business, improve supplier relationships, and achieve greater treasury efficiencies; this new service will enable corporates to receive an enhanced payments service directly from their banks, with the following key features:

- Same day use of funds
- Transparency and predictability of fees
- End-to-end payments tracking
- Transfer of rich payment information



News 21: RBI imposes a fine of Rs. 27 Crores on 13 banks in forex based cases

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs. 27 crores on 13 banks for violating Know Your Customer (KYC) and anti-money laundering (AML) norms. Bank of Baroda faced a penalty of Rs.5 crores after RBI found irregularities related to a Rs. 6,100-crore scam.



Punjab National Bank and Syndicate Bank were slapped Rs. 3 crores each. HDFC Bank, UCO Bank, Allahabad Bank, Canara Bank, Indusind Bank and SBBJ were fined Rs. 2 crores each. Bank of India, Corporation Bank, RBL Bank and SBM Bank were fined Rs. 1 crore each.

News 22: SBI enables instant money transfer facility on ATMs

State Bank of India has launched an Instant Money Transfer (IMT) payment system on its ATMs in India. IMT enables a payment up to Rs. 10,000 to be made from any SBI bank account to a person using just his/her mobile number as the identifier. The recipient of this payment can withdraw funds instantly from an IMT-enabled ATM of SBI without using a debit card. There is no requirement for the beneficiary to have a bank account.



The IMT system has been launched in India by Empays Payment Systems, which is authorized by the Reserve Bank to enable a payment to be made to a mobile phone from a bank account.

News 23: SBI's Buddy Pay to take mobile payments to the next level with IRCTC & Madura F&L

State Bank of India unveiled its 'Payment Vision through State Bank Buddy'. The Bank also announced key strategic partnerships with IRCTC and Aditya Birla Group. Students and Payers of 2500 Educational Institutions and Government entities will find Buddy as an additional option for small amount payments through the Bank's Multi Option Payment System.



IRCTC being the largest e-commerce portal in India with 180mn+ tickets booked annually was a natural partner in this endeavor. The

Bank is looking to expand the reach of Buddy to state run transport corporations and cab / auto operators in India as well.

News 24: OKI installs more than 600 recycling ATMs for State Bank of India

Japanese payments company OKI has installed 600 sets of cash recycling ATMs, ATM-Recycler G7, for State Bank of India. A single ATM-Recycler G7 can handle Rs.50, Rs.100, Rs.500 and Rs.1000 denominations and uses the deposited banknotes for withdrawals, leveraging its cash-recycling function to reduce banknote management and operational costs compared to cash dispensers and non-cash-recycling ATMs.



The OKI Electric Industry is Japan's leading telecommunications manufacturer in the Info-telecom field headquartered in Tokyo, Japan.

News 25: Coin Exchange Mela organized by ICICI Bank in Puri's 'Ratha Yatra' festival

A Financial Literacy Camp was organized by the Reserve Bank of India in Puri's Rath Yatra festival, where ICICI Bank Ltd. arranged a Coin Exchange Mela for the general public to exchange coins and fresh currency notes. This helps exchange of acceptable soiled and mutilated currency notes with fresh currency and coins.



Bank witnessed participation of over 52000 people during the mela, where they exchanged coins worth Rs. 6.34 lakhs in the denomination of Rs. 10, Rs. 5, Rs. 2 and Rs. 1 and fresh currency worth Rs 6.25 lakh in denominations of Rs. 100, Rs. 50, Rs. 20 and Rs. 10.

News 26: Solar Light Scholarship initiative launched by Karnataka Bank for Rural Students

Mangalore based Karnataka Bank and Manipal based non-governmental organization Bharatiya Vikas Trust (BVT), jointly launched 'Solar Light Scholarship' initiative by providing solar lights to the students of rural areas non-electrified households.

It is an initiative where school authorities will identify the beneficiaries and BVT will check for the authenticity. Further, the bank will provide solar lights of unit costing Rs. 9500, where Rs. 4500 will be paid by the beneficiary and the rest by the bank. Under the scheme, 100 rural houses of Udupi district have been provided solar lights.



News 27: HDFC ERGO entered into Bancassurance Partnership with SVC Bank

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company entered into the partnership with Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank for cross selling of non-life insurance products of HDFC Ergo to the customers of the bank.

SVC Bank has business expansion of 194 branches across 10 states including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Haryana, which will help HDFC Ergo to promote cross selling of its non-life insurance products.



News 28: NDB announces loans worth 900 million dollars

The New Development Bank launched by BRICS announced its first round of loans worth about 900 million dollars. The Bank held its first general meeting in Shanghai.

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa established this institution in 2015. The first set of loans will fund five renewable-energy development projects, including those related to the solar and wind power generation.



The New Development Bank starts with an objective of funding infrastructure projects in the developing countries and meet the aspirations of millions through sustainable development.

IMPORTANT DAYS

News 1: National Doctors' Day 2016 observed across India

The National Doctors' Day was celebrated across India on the 1st of July to honour the legendary physician, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy who was honoured with the Bharat Ratna on 4 February 1961. The day is celebrated to pay honor to the entire medical profession.

This day provides great opportunities to all to get aware about the roles, importance and responsibilities of the doctors as well as promote medical professionals to come closer and follow the responsibilities of their profession very dedicatedly.



News 2: The World Population Day 2016 observed across the globe

The 2016 World Population Day was observed across the globe on 11th July with theme 'Investing in Teenage Girls' to focus on the empowerment of teenage girls and challenges faced by them.

There are various challenges faced by teenage girls like early marriage, motherhood, forced to leave school etc. yet they are empowered, when they are aware about their rights and are given the proper route to their success path to become the positive change in their communities.



News 3: World Youth Skills Day 2016 observed globally

The World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) was observed across the world on 15th July. The theme for year 2016 was Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment. The day is observed to create more awareness and a discussion on training and the development of skills for the youth in order to create a better opportunity for them when it comes to employment.

The United Nations observed this day with a special event facilitated by the UN Envoy on Youth Ahmad Alhendawi. The event was co-organized with the Permanent Missions of Portugal and Sri Lanka to the United Nations, UNESCO and the International Labour Organization (ILO).



News 4: Nelson Mandela Day 2016 observed

The Nelson Mandela International Day, also known as Mandela Day, is observed on July 18th annually. This day remembers Mandela's achievements in working towards conflict resolution, democracy, human rights, peace, and reconciliation.



On this day, UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, as a way to mark Nelson Mandela International Day. Mandela Day also celebrates a campaign known as "46664", in reference to Nelson Mandela's Robben Island prison number. The campaign was originally launched to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. However, its focus expanded to broader humanitarian work.

News 5: World Hepatitis Day Observed

The World Hepatitis Day was observed on the 28th July to raise global awareness of hepatitis and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The theme for this year's Global Campaign is 'Elimination'. 2016 is a pivotal year for viral hepatitis. Approximately, 400 million people are infected with Hepatitis B and C around the world.



To elevate the theme of elimination, **NOhep**, a global elimination movement, will be launched to bring people together and provide a platform for people to speak out, be engaged and take action to ensure global commitments are met and viral hepatitis is eliminated by 2030.

News 6: International Tiger Day Observed

The International Tiger Day is held annually on July 29th to give worldwide attention to the reservation of tigers. It was founded at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010. The goal of Tiger Day is to promote the protection and expansion of the wild tiger habitats and to gain support through awareness for tiger conservation.



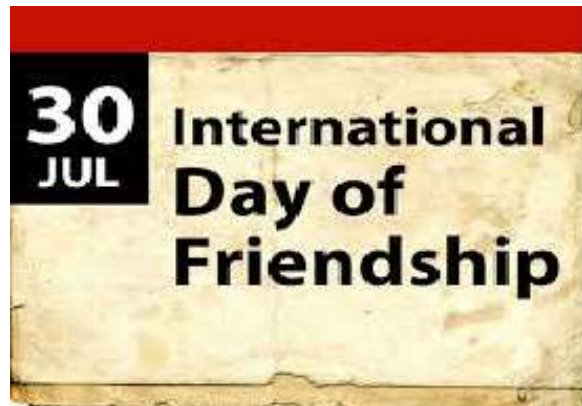
The UN has reiterated its call for zero tolerance for wildlife crime as part of its 2016 Wild for Life campaign.

News 7: International Day of Friendship 2016 observed globally

The International Day of Friendship is observed annually on July 30. This day promotes the role that friendship plays in promoting peace in many cultures.

To mark this day, the UN encourages Governments, Organizations, and Community Groups to hold Events, Activities and Initiatives that promote Solidarity, Mutual Understanding and Reconciliation. The United Nations International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN

General Assembly with the idea that friendship between People, Countries, Cultures and Individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.



News 8: United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2016 Observed

The United Nations (UN) promotes World Day Against Trafficking Persons on July 30th every year to end human trafficking and raise awareness worldwide. Human trafficking affects every country in the world. At least 2.5 million people are trapped in modern-day slavery, according to the UN.

All around the world, men, women and children are kidnapped, tricked, blackmailed, or manipulated into slavery, like prostitution, forced labor, or organ removal. One in four victims are children.



INTERNATIONAL

News 1: International Solar Alliance Cell and World Bank Sign Deal to Boost Solar Energy Globally

The World Bank Group signed an agreement with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), consisting of 121 countries led by India, to collaborate on increasing solar energy use around the world, with the goal of mobilizing \$1 trillion in investments by 2030.



The major areas identified for working jointly include:

- Developing a roadmap to mobilize financing.
- Developing financing instruments including credit enhancement, reduce hedging costs/currency risk, bond raising in locally denominated currencies etc.
- Supporting ISA's plans for solar energy through technical assistance and knowledge transfer.

News 2: BRICS Youth Summit, 2016 held in Guwahati

A Youth Summit for the BRICS countries was held in Guwahati from July 1-3 with the theme 'Youth as bridge for Intra-BRICS Exchanges'. The subjects covered are Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Social Inclusion, Youth Volunteerism and Youth Participation in Governance. The program for the summit also included thematic debates, cultural events, site-visits and interactive sessions with local youth.



It also adopted the 'Guwahati BRICS Youth Summit 2016 Call to Action' and urged the youth from the five member nations to come together for working towards this goal.

News 3: BRICS Working Group Meeting on Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency held in Visakhapatnam

The first meeting of the BRICS Working Group on 'Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency' was held at Visakhapatnam during 4-5 July, 2016 with an aim to enhance cooperation in energy efficiency. The two-day meeting was attended by all 5 members of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries.



In addition to it, India showcased its efforts in energy saving, energy efficiency, particularly the LED street lighting program and PAT (Performance Achievement & Trade) program for industrial energy efficiency.

News 4: Cyprus set to sign the new Tax Treaty with India

The Government is set to sign a new tax treaty with Cyprus after it successfully completed double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA) negotiations with Cyprus. The Double Taxation Avoidance agreement will allow the government to prevent treaty abuse, tax evasion, and round-tripping of funds. It will also remove Cyprus from the Government's blacklist for not providing information.



India had recently reworked its treaty with Mauritius. The reworked agreement will come into force from April 1, 2017.

News 5: Russian leader Vladimir Putin approves the “Anti-Terrorist” legislation cum ‘Big Brother’ law

Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to the “Anti-Terrorist” legislation which will empower law enforcement agencies to access to any user’s messages without any judicial oversight, increase surveillance powers for the security services by requiring communication providers to save users’ calls, messages, photographs and videos for six months, and the Metadata for up to three years. The law will also increase prison sentences for online crimes like abetting terrorism.



This anti-terror amendment is named as Big Brother by US intelligence contractor turned privacy activist Edward Snowden. According to activist, law will cost various telecom companies about 200 billion rubles (\$3.1 billion) to ensure the data storage requirement which is four fold of its annual profit.

News 6: Indian Department of Commerce establishes apparel training centre in Kaduna, Nigeria

In the view of implementing Cotton Technical Assistance Program for Africa, Indian Department of Commerce decided to set up an apparel training centre in Nigeria to support textiles industry of the West African country.

The main objective behind this decision taken is to support the African nation in re-establishing its cotton and textile value chain and fulfill the need for skilled workforce for domestic as well export-oriented apparel industry in the West African region.



News 7: Several deals worth \$5.3 billion for various programs inked by IMF for Iraq

The IMF declared \$5.34 billion financial assistance for Iraq to help strengthen the country's finances, hit by the crash in oil prices and the fight against the Islamic State group. There will be immediate disbursement of \$634 million, so that Iraq will settle its balance of payments and ensure it can keep up with its debt obligations.

This program will also take care of the poor and strengthen their financial status. Other targets of this program reforms will help Iraq against money laundering and terror financing.



News 8: US sanctions North Korean leader and other 5 officials for human rights abuses

For the first time, US has sanctioned a North Korean leader over human rights abuses. The US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) assigned top officials of the North Korean regime along with Kim Jong-Un and for their ties to North Korea's notorious abuses of human rights.

They were sanctioned under the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 based on its findings in its report on Serious Human Rights Abuses or Censorship in North Korea.



News 9: Largest home-built aircraft Y-20 introduced by China for aviation sector

A breakthrough in military aviation technology inducted by China, by building its largest indigenously-built transport aircraft Y-20 that facilitates the world's largest force to transport cargo and troops over long distances in diverse weather conditions.



The maximum take-off capability weight for the aircraft is 200 tonnes, but it is still reliant on Russian engines for almost all planes, including the latest versions for mass production. This accomplishment has helped China to join the PLA Air Force in Chengdu, is ideal for transporting cargo and personnel over long distances.

News 10: Court of Arbitration favored the Philippines on South China Sea Maritime dispute

International tribunal favored Philippines in a maritime dispute on South China Sea on the basis of the fact that China cannot legally claim historic rights to the bulk of the Sea. Other major findings included none of the sea features claimed by China were capable of generating economic zone and China had caused severe harm to coral life by creating artificial islands and violating its obligation to protect natural ecosystems.



The decision will not affect only China and the Philippines, but other countries as well who claim over large areas of the sea.

News 11: The two-day NATO Summit 2016 concluded in Poland

The two-day summit with an objective to boost the Alliance's relations and defence, and plans to project stability in the bilateral relations, successfully concluded in Warsaw, Poland. The summit was attended by Heads of State and Heads of Government of NATO members including the USA President Barack Obama, Polish president Andrzej Duda and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.



The Declaration demands for cooperation including maritime security and countering hybrid threats.

News 12: US Bill introduced to prevent Indian firms from hiring staff on H-1B, L1 Visas

Two US lawmakers, Pascrell and Rohrabacher, have introduced a bill in the House of Representatives a legislation, which if passed by the Congress would prevent Indian companies from hiring IT professionals on H-1B and L1 work visas, if they employ more than 50 people and more than 50% of their employees are H-1B and L-1 visa holders. The Bill has not been presented so far in the Senate.



They had introduced a similar version of this Bill in 2010, which could not gain enough support in the Congress, however if passed this time, it would have big impact on Indian IT companies.

News 13: Zika Health Emergency declared in 11 States by Peru Government

Peru's Government has announced 90 days Health Emergency in 11 States in the North and Eastern Jungle regions due to an expanding outbreak of the Zika virus. It was announced after 102 people have been confirmed to be infected with the virus, 34 of which are pregnant women.



Close to 6mn US dollars will be provided to combat the Zika virus impact. Over 80% of the emergency budget will be spent on establishing healthcare clinics in affected districts.

News 14: Theresa May takes oath as the 76th Prime Minister of United Kingdom

Queen Elizabeth-II officially appointed Theresa May as the 76th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK) replacing David Cameron. She became the second woman prime minister of Britain, after 'Iron Lady' Margaret Thatcher.



The 59-year-old Theresa named 6 new cabinet ministers, which include Boris Johnson as Foreign Secretary, Amber Rudd as Home Secretary, David Davis as Secretary of State for EU and Liam Fox as Secretary of State for International Trade.

News 15: Direct bus connectivity introduced between Nepal's famous Tourist Spot Pokhara and New Delhi

As per the Motor Vehicle Agreement signed by PM Modi during his visit to Nepal in 2014, a direct bus road connectivity was launched between New Delhi and Nepal's famous tourist spot, Pokhara. The first direct bus service between Pokhara and New Delhi was flagged off by Nepal Home Minister Shakti Bahadur Basnet and India's ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae from Pokhara.



The bus service is a joint initiative of the Modern Era Tours and Travels Pvt. Ltd of Nepal and Uttar Pradesh Parivahan Nigam, Ghaziabad depot, of India, with bus fare fixed at cap of Rs 2,200.

News 16: VP Hamid Ansari reaches Ulaan Baatar to attend the 11th Asia Europe Meeting, ASEM Summit

Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari reached Ulaan Baatar, the capital of Mongolia to attend two-day 11th Asia Europe Meeting ASEM – Summit.



The theme for the Summit is "20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity". The ASEM summit is a unique platform to bridge the two continents for constructive partnership and exchange through political dialogue, economic collaboration and socio-cultural exchanges.

News 17: The 11th ASEM Summit issues Ulaanbaatar Declaration

The 11th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit was organized in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, based on theme 'Partnership for the Future through Connectivity'. ASEM 2016 signed the Ulaanbaatar Declaration to resolve the fight against terrorism. The declaration has reaffirmed ASEM's commitment for greater partnership through informal political dialogue and initiatives in economic and socio-cultural fields.



The 2-day summit was arranged with two plenary sessions under the titles of 'Two decades of partnership: Taking stock and looking forward' and 'Promoting ASEM Partnership for Greater Connectivity'. Session One stated the 20-year experience of political relationship, economic support and socio-cultural involvement between Asia and Europe, while the second session was based on improving both 'hard' and 'soft' connectivity between the two continents.

News 18: Bangladesh Government approves easier Extradition with India

The Bangladesh government has approved an amendment to make extradition between New Delhi and Dhaka easier. Under the amendment, extradition of convicted and under-trial criminals will be possible if a court in any of the two countries issues an arrest warrant.



Earlier evidence of crime along with arrest warrant was needed for extradition. A cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the amendment. The extradition treaty between India and Bangladesh has been in effect since October 23, 2013.

News 19: WHO releases a report of 2015 Non-communicable Diseases Global Survey

The World Health Organisation has released a report of 2015 Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) Global Survey, "Assessing national capacity for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases" which highlights the need to intensify national action to meet the global targets governments have agreed to protect people from heart disease, cancers, diabetes, and lung diseases.



In 2012, 38 million people lost their lives due to NCDs, 16 million or 42% of whom died prematurely – before 70 years – from largely avoidable conditions. More than 80% of people who died prematurely from a NCD were in developing countries.

News 20: Malcolm Turnbull sworn in as the PM of Australia for the second term

Malcolm Turnbull was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Australia for a second term. He was sworn in at the Government House in Canberra by the Governor General Peter Cosgrove, Queen Elizabeth II's representative in Australia. It was a narrow margin victory for Turnbull with budget repair and a public vote on same sex marriage among his top priorities.



Malcolm Turnbull was sworn in as the 29th Prime Minister of Australia on 15th September 2015. Mr. Turnbull has held a number of parliamentary positions including Shadow Treasurer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.

News 21: One fourth million children severely malnourished in Borno State, Nigeria: UNICEF

According to UNICEF, an estimated quarter of a million children in Borno State, North-East Nigeria, face severe malnourishment and risk death, as the scale of the humanitarian crisis caused by the Boko Haram emergency continues to unfold.



Out of the 244,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Borno this year, an estimated 49,000 children – almost 1 in 5 – will die if they are not reached with treatment. In early 2016, UNICEF appealed for \$55.5 million to respond to the humanitarian crisis in North-East Nigeria, but has so far only received \$23 million, which is close to only 41%.

News 22: Canada to hold the World's first Zika Vaccine Test on humans

Scientists in Quebec at the Université de Laval Infectious Disease Research Centre (IDRC), and in the US at the University of Pennsylvania and Inovia Pharmaceuticals are all set to conduct the World's first Zika vaccine test on humans. Gary Kobinger, doctor of microbiology and professor of medicine at the university, is overseeing the study.



The development of the Zika vaccine was authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada. The new technology uses inactive bits of DNA. Initial lab trials of the synthetic vaccine GLS-5700 have been tested on lab animals.

News 23: IMF cuts UK growth forecasts for the next year after the Brexit vote

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised downward its global economic growth forecast for the next year after the British people voted to leave the European Union. The fund said, the world economy will expand by 3.4% in 2017, down 0.1 percentage point from their April report.



The cut stems from a downward revision of the UK growth projection, which is a downgrade of 0.9 points to 1.3 percent. The IMF said, if negotiations between Britain and the EU don't go smoothly, global growth could be capped at 2.8%.

News 24: Turkey declares a 3-month State of Emergency

President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, declared a three-month state of emergency after a failed military coup. Erdogan said the measure was being taken to counter threats to the Turkish democracy.

Erdogan also warned of further arrests and suspensions to come as Turkish authorities continued to pursue those they believed responsible for the failed coup. More than 50 thousand state employees had been rounded up, sacked or suspended in the days since the coup attempt.



News 25: India and Bangladesh jointly inaugurate the Petrapole check post

India and Bangladesh have jointly inaugurated the second Integrated Check post of Petrapole-Benapole on the India-Bangladesh western border. The cost of the project is Rs. 200 crores.

The key land border check post covers over 50% of India-Bangladesh bilateral trade and will facilitate more economic integration and connectivity between the two countries and in the region. Trade worth more than Rs. 15000 crores take place through this check post.



News 26: India and Japan sign Social Security Agreement

India and Japan have signed a Social Security Agreement (SSA) that will come into force on the 1st October 2016. The SSA will benefit Indian and Japanese professionals and skilled workers working in the two countries and will also boost bilateral business linkages.

This SSA will help avoid double social security contributions but an exemption will be provided to Indian worker, only if he is covered under the social security system of India and continues to pay his contribution during period of overseas contract. The Social Security Agreement between India and Japan was signed in Tokyo on November 16, 2012.



News 27: India becomes the first country to contribute to UN Trust Fund for Sexual Abuse Victims

India became the first country to make a contribution to the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse after it contributed \$100,000 to the trust fund set up for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers. India is currently ranked as the second largest contributor of military and police personnel.



The UN received 44 allegations of sexual abuse in all peacekeeping and special political missions so far in 2016, with no Indian accused in any such incidence.

News 28: Around the World in Solar Impulse 2

Solar Impulse 2 has completed the first around-the-world flight by a solar powered Airplane. The journey that began in Abu Dhabi on 9th March 2015, ended after the Solar Impulse aircraft touched down in Abu Dhabi on 26th July, 2016. It was aimed at showcasing the potential of renewable energy.



The plane crossed both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans using no fossil fuel and has spent more than 23 days in the air. Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg piloted the mission all around the globe.

News 29: WHO declares Brazil free of measles

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Brazil free of measles, after no case of the disease was registered in the last year. The eradication of measles is the conclusion of work spanning seven years. Brazil saw no domestic cases of measles from 1985 to 2000, although it broke out in 2013 in the northeastern states of Pernambuco and Ceara.



World Health Organization

The WHO worked alongside the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) to eradicate the disease, with a joint investment of 1.2 Million Reais (\$335000). The WHO will issue a certification for the eradication of measles to Brazil in the coming months.

News 30: EU appoints Michel Barnier as their Chief Brexit Negotiator

The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, appointed Michel Barnier, who is the former Vice President of the European Commission and former French Minister, as their Chief Brexit Negotiator in charge of leading the Commission Taskforce for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 of the TEU.



Michel Barnier, a former French Government Minister and Ex-European Commission Vice President and will take up his duties as of 1st October 2016. He will report directly to the President and will be ranked at the Director General level.

News 31: 'OPEN SKY POLICY' Agreement with SAARC Countries

As per the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016, Government has planned to enter into an 'Open Sky' Air Service Agreement on a reciprocal basis with SAARC countries and countries with territory located entirely beyond a 5000 kms radius from New Delhi.



Unlimited flights above the existing bilateral rights will be allowed directly to and from major airports within the country as notified by the Government time to time. However, the points of call at other airports under the existing Air Service Agreement will continue to be honoured till the same are renegotiated.

News 32: The Third India Education Fair begins in Dhaka

The Third India Education Fair has begun in Dhaka on 29th July, 2016. The two-day event brought over 35 premier Indian educational institutions including schools, colleges, and technical institutes under one roof to provide educational opportunities to Bangladeshi youth at their doorstep.



During the fair, Bangladeshi students can avail of free career aptitude tests, while some can avail the scholarships offered to meritorious students by the various participating institutions.

News 33: NATO allies commit around \$1 Billion per year to support Afghan forces

NATO allies have promised the United States that they will stump up around 1 Billion US Dollars a year over the next three years to help fund the Afghan military. NATO, during a two-day summit in the Polish capital Warsaw, has been present in Afghanistan since 2003 and has invested tens of billions of dollars in trying to stabilize the country.



A worsening security situation and a resurgent Taliban have forced the allies to reverse plans to sharply reduce their troops' levels.

News 34: United Nations approves MOU to make International Organization for Migration a Related Organization

The Member States of the United Nations (UN) unanimously gave nod to a resolution approving the Agreement to make the International Organization for Migration (IOM) a Related Organization of the UN, paving way to UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants to be held on 19th September 2016.



With this decision to boost interest of migrants and Member States, UN assigns IOM to perform certain duties which includes protection of migrants and displaced people in migration-affected communities, as well as in areas of refugee resettlement and voluntary returns, and incorporates migration in country development plans.

News 35: China's LeEco buys Vizio for \$2 Billion

With the LeEco's plans to create a global television powerhouse, it buys North America's leading consumer electronics brands Vizio for \$2 billion. Privately held Vizio is famous for its line of smart TVs.



Under the terms and conditions of the deal, Vizio's hardware and software businesses will be owned and operated as a wholly owned subsidiary of LeEco. The deal also offered LeEco access to Vizio's data business, Inscape but with major shareholding of 51 percent by William Wang and the remaining 49 percent by LeEco.

News 36: Hague's international tribunal of arbitration rules against Antrix Corporation in Devas case

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands has ruled out against Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of India's SPACE ORGANISATION, in the ongoing case with Devas Corporation over sharing of spectrum on satellites. With this decision, India may have to pay a fine of \$1 Billion as compensation to Devas.



The Tribunal has found that Devas commercial did not use S-band spectrum and actions taken by the Union government in annulling the contract as unfair thereby harming investments of Devas's foreign shareholders, arising out of breach of contract signed in 2005.

News 37: Electronic Music Festival Tomorrowland begins in Belgium

The 10th edition of one of the biggest electronic music festivals, Tomorrowland, began in Boom, Belgium. More than 350,000 tickets for the festival were sold out in an hour of their opening in February 2016.



Tomorrowland has been winning the International Dance Music Awards in the category Best Music Event since 2012 and in 2015 it won the inaugural award from the DJ Magazine for The World's No.1 Festival. It also won the Red Bull Elektropedia Awards in the Best Festival category in the year 2011, 2012 and 2013.

News 38: India provides SUVs and financial assistance of \$4.5 Million to Mozambique

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mozambique, India handed over 30 Mahindra SUVs to it and recently, completed delivery of financial assistance of 4.5 Million US Dollars.

During his visit to Mozambique, the Prime Minister visited the CIDT campus and interacted with students who have studied in India under the ITEC and other programs. The Prime Minister provided four buses to the Centre for Innovation and Technological Development (CIDT) as donation from India. Later, Modi addressed the Indian diaspora and stated Africa as a place which helped shape the identity of Indian diaspora throughout the world.



MISCELLANEOUS

- The Supreme Court of India recently stated that its 2014 verdict did not include lesbians, gays and bisexual persons under the category of **Transgender**.
- As per the UNWTO Barometer (Volume 14, May 2016), during 2015, **India ranks 40th** in terms of International Tourist Arrivals.
- **Tamil Nadu** recorded the highest number of domestic and foreign tourist visits in 2015 as per the data released by the Ministry of Tourism.
- **S K Jain** was appointed as the Acting Director General of Police (DGP), Meghalaya in July 2016.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on 30th June 2016 notified rules for calculating Fair Market Value (FMV) of assets located in India under the **Income-tax Act, 1961**.
- The United States has designated Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), as a foreign terrorist organization and called its leader Asim Umar as **a specially designated global terrorist**.
- The journal that published the study of researchers that claims that the hole in the Earth's ozone layer over Antarctica is healing is **Science**.
- The country for which negotiations for budget contributions began in Brussels for its membership in European Union is **Turkey**.
- India agreed to resolve bottlenecks to enhance bilateral trade and boost investments with **Nepal**.
- The Maharashtra Government started an initiative for plantation of about 2 crore trees.
- **Neerja Bhanot** has been posthumously conferred the Bharat Gaurav Award in London recently.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) approved a change to the DRS (Decision Review System) playing condition relating to the LBW "Umpire's Call" that allows changes to the decision review system that will overturn **Not-Out LBW decisions**.
- **Linda Burney** became the first Indigenous woman elected to the House of Representatives (lower house) of Australian Parliament after claiming victory in the marginal seat of Barton.
- **China** banned online media from publishing unverified content, especially from the social media, after the country's internet regulator punished some major websites that fabricated stories this year.
- **Afghanistan** received its first batch of Chinese military equipment as part of Beijing's commitment to provide millions of dollars of assistance to help it in its fight against terrorism.

- The Reserve Bank of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on “Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information” with **National Bank of Cambodia (NBC)**.
- The South Asian Basketball Association (SABA) Zone’s Qualifying round of the FIBA Asia Challenge 2016 was held from July 6 to 8 at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium in Bangalore.
- Footballer **Prasun Banerjee** was recently conferred Shan-E-Mohammedan.
- **Prakash Javdekar** was elevated to the rank of Cabinet Minister in the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led NDA Government.
- **Allyson Felix and LaShawn Merritt** ran the fastest 400 meters in the world in 2016 and made to the US team for the Rio Olympics at the American trials.
- A three-day Woodpecker Environment and Wildlife Film Festival will begin on the 7th July 2016 at the Historic Gaiety Theatre in **Shimla**.
- The Maldives' Foreign Minister who quit the government over its hasty decision to implement the death penalty is **Dunya Maumoon**
- Union Cabinet approved the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme to train 50 lakh apprentices by year **2019-20**.
- The percentage of tax to be levied on goods brought to local areas for consumption after purchase under e-commerce is **6%**.
- The Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation with **Mauritius**.
- The Union Cabinet gave in-principle approval for setting up major gateway container port for Indian cargo in **Tamil Nadu**.
- Taste of Cherry movie that won the prestigious Palme d'Or Award at the Cannes Film Festival was directed by – **Abbas Kiarostami**
- **Thiruppathi Venkatasamy** appointed as the Accountant General of Tamil Nadu in July 2016.
- Kevin Turner resigned as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Microsoft in July 2016.
- **Telangana** launched the second phase of Haritha Haram program of the Government in the state.
- India has handed over 30 SUVs to Mozambique during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed the Mumbai Police Commissioner to probe preacher speeches of **Zakir Naik** and submit a report.
- India has set up an apparel training centre in **Nigeria** to support textiles industry.
- The former English cricketer who registered his name in the Guinness Book of World Record for taking the highest catch of cricket ball is **Nasser Hussain**.

- **HDFC Bank** launched India's first full-fledged digital banking service for small-and medium enterprises.
- **Operation Chakravayuh** seeks to build a border modelled after Israeli security mechanisms along Pakistan.
- India renewed its existing Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit with **Bhutan** that was signed on 29th July 2006 for a period of ten years.
- The Iraqi Interior Minister, **Mohammed al-Ghabban**, offered to resign after a massive suicide bombing in Baghdad killed more than 200 people.
- Nasdaq-listed Terrapin 3 Acquisition Corp (TRTL) in July 2016 acquired **Yatra Online**.
- India's all women naval team completes 5000 nautical mile voyage on a sail boat – **Mhadai**.
- In France, at least 60 people were killed and many injured in the French Riviera city of Nice when a truck ploughed into crowds watching a fireworks display on **Bastille Day National holiday**.
- **Lifeline Express** also known as Magic Train of India celebrated 25 years of service to the underprivileged rural masses.
- The **US and Russia** agreed on concrete steps to save the failing Syrian ceasefire.
- **Turkey** faced a failed military coup wherein at least 90 people were killed and over 1500 soldiers were detained by a military faction.
- The name of the autobiography of NASA Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second man to land on moon, is **No Dream is Too High**.
- The Ulaanbaatar Declaration issued recently relates to **11th ASEM Summit**.
- **Nalanda Mahavihara known as old Nalanda University** entered World Heritage List of UNESCO.
- **Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape** from China entered World Heritage List of UNESCO.
- **Persian Qanat** from Iran entered World Heritage List of UNESCO.
- **Nan Madol** from Micronesia entered World Heritage List of UNESCO.
- **Graham Jarvis** won the 5th Red Bull Romaniacs title.
- Indian-origin former Singapore President, **S R Nathan**, was conferred with the Outstanding Member of the South Asian Diaspora award 2016.
- **Sarvita Sethi** was appointed as the Vice-President-Finance for India and South West Asia of Coca-Cola in July 2016.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered immediate banning of diesel vehicles more than 10 years old to deal with pollution in **Delhi**.

- **Odisha** State Government has planned to create 400 hectares of new water area in private land in 2016.
- World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has called for a ban on all Russian competitors and officials at the upcoming Rio Olympics and other international sports on the basis of the Investigation Report of **Richard McLaren, the Canadian law professor**.
- The Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016 that was passed by Parliament in July 2016 seeks to establish a Regional Centre for Biotechnology in **Faridabad, Haryana**.
- The Supreme Court accepted major recommendations of the Lodha Committee on reforms in BCCI including a bar on ministers and civil servants and those above **70 years of age**.
- Turkish President, **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, said that he is ready to reinstate the death penalty if the people demand it and Parliament approves the necessary legislation, following the recent coup attempt.
- **Morocco** formally announced its wish to rejoin the African Union (AU) 32 years after leaving the organization.
- In Andhra Pradesh, the famous hill shrine of Tirumala Tirupati Devasathanam has made it official that it is compulsorily to produce Aadhaar card as identity proof by the devotees who wish to perform '**Anga Pradakshinam**'.
- Actor **Purab Kohli** was appointed as the Digital Ambassador of Axis Bank's new product named Multi-Currency Forex Card.
- Devotees of **Mumbai's famous Siddhivinayak temple** can now offer donations to Lord Ganesha in the form of shares or stocks of listed entities in addition to traditional offerings in cash and gold.
- The Directorate of Prisons and Correctional services in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh** provided a maiden platform to as many as ten jail inmates to fine-tune their musical skills.
- **Imran Ansari, the state sports minister** was elected as President of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).
- **Donald Trump** officially clinched the Republican nomination for the US President after a state-by-state vote at the Party Convention.
- MPs of **United Kingdom** have backed in Parliament the renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons system.
- Assam has decided to distribute identity card along with Soil Health Cards to farmers.
- IMF in its revised global economic growth forecast for 2017 lowered world economy growth to **0.1 percent point** from its previous report of April 2016.
- As per the latest data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the rate of inflation based on Consumer Price Index (Combined) for the month of June 2016 stood at 5.77%.

- T.P. Dasan recently assumed the charge as President of **Kerala State Sports Council**.
- Bar Council of India (BCI) suspended 126 lawyers of **Tamil Nadu** and prohibited them from practicing in any court or tribunal in the country.
- The nation's first Green Rail Corridor which ensures zero toilet discharge on rail tracks was inaugurated on the **114 km long Rameswaram-Manamadurai stretch**.
- **Anant Naruka** won the bronze medal in the Champion of Champions match at the Junior World Cup in Porpetto, Italy.
- The second phase of the Feed the Future – India Triangular Training Program was launched on 25th July 2016 in New Delhi by **the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID)**.
- The North–West railway has further extended its facilities for newborn and their mothers at **Jaipur Railway Station in Rajasthan**.
- BRICS policy planning dialogue meeting began on 26th July 2016 in **Patna**.
- The American soprano and playback singer, **Marni Nixon**, best known for dubbing the singing voices of the leading actresses in films, passed away recently.
- **National Centre for Scientific Research, France** was ranked World's No. 1 Government Institute as per the Scimago Institutions Rankings.
- India wrestler **Parveen Rana** was named as a replacement for dope-tainted wrestler Narsingh Yadav for Rio Olympics in the 74 kgs freestyle category.
- Lok Sabha passed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016 to amend **the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) (CLPR) Act, 1986**
- **Hillary Clinton** won the Democratic nomination for the US President Elections scheduled to take place on 8th November 2016.
- Government of **Venezuela** has asked electoral authorities to declare illegal, the opposition coalition, seeking to oust President Nicolas Maduro via a recall vote, accusing them of committing massive fraud.
- The World Hepatitis Summit will be held from 29th to 31st March 2017 at **Sao Paulo**
- The 14th US-India counter-terrorism Joint Working Group meet started in **Washington**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs. 27 crores on 13 public and private sector banks for **Foreign Exchange Management (FEMA) Act violations and Know your customer (KYC) lapses**.
- **Air Odisha** has decided to start an inter-State flight service from Bhubaneswar on 15th August 2016.

- Shambhu Singh Yadav has been appointed as the Deputy Lokayukta of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Astronomers have detected the Great Red Spot on **Jupiter** which is the region behind heating of the planet.
- The Crocodile Bank Trust and Centre for Herpetology is celebrating its 40 years of opening its gate for the public is based in **Madras (Chennai)**.
- **Jharkhand**, via an affidavit in the High Court during a course of hearing said that it is going to introduce chapter in school syllabus against witchcraft killings.
- In the wake of increasing number of road accidents due to drunken driving, the Union Government has requested all States and union territories to ensure no license is issued to liquor vendors along **National Highways**.
- The oldest serving aircraft carrier of the world that arrived at Kochi on its last sailing prior to decommissioning later in 2016 is **INS Viraat**.
- West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee announced the launch of an online ticketing system for the state-run theatre Nandan from August 1.

NATIONAL

News 1: Railway Ministry formally launches the NIVARAN portal

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhakar formally launched the NIVARAN portal, an online system for redressal of service related grievance of serving and former railway employees. This online system facilitates the employees to lodge their grievances and also monitor their progress. The system would also provide facility for lodging appeal to the higher authority in case the decision is not found satisfactory.

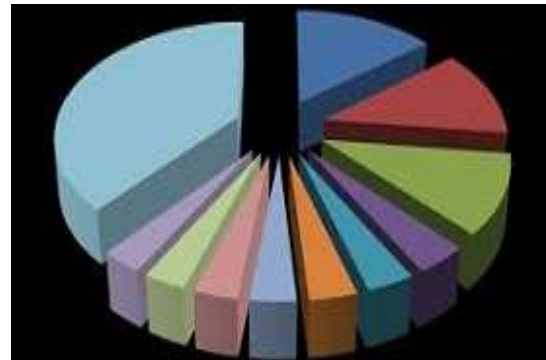


The Application is developed by CRIS, the IT arm of Indian Railways.

News 2: Ministry of Tourism released data on domestic tourist visits to States/UTs

The Market Research Division of the Ministry of Tourism has released data on domestic tourist visits to States/Union Territories (UTs) for the year 2015, it states:

- During 2015, the number of domestic tourist visits to the States/ UTs was 1432 million as compared to 1282.8 million in 2014 registering a growth of 11.63% over 2014.
- The top ten States in terms of number of domestic tourist visits (in millions), during 2015, were Tamil Nadu (333.5), Uttar Pradesh (204.9), Andhra Pradesh (121.6), Karnataka (119.9), Maharashtra (103.4), Telangana (94.5), Madhya Pradesh (78), West Bengal (70.2), Gujarat (36.3) and Rajasthan (35.2).



News 3: Ministry of Tourism released data on foreign tourist visits to States/UTs

The Market Research Division of the Ministry of Tourism has released data on the foreign tourist visits to States/Union Territories (UTs) for the year 2015, it states:



- During 2015, the number of foreign tourist visits (FTVs) to the States/ UTs was 23.3 million as compared to 22.3 million in 2014 registering a growth of 4.4% over 2014.
- The top ten States in terms of number of FTVs (in millions) during 2015 were Tamil Nadu (4.68), Maharashtra (4.41), Uttar Pradesh (3.1), Delhi (2.38), West Bengal (1.49), Rajasthan (1.48), Kerala (0.98), Bihar (0.92), Karnataka (0.64) and Goa (0.54).

News 4: Ministry of HRD launched 'Prashikshak' – a Teacher Education portal

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched 'Prashikshak' – a Teacher Education Portal with a vision to strengthen District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and bring quality teachers into the Indian school education system.



Prashikshak will contain a comprehensive database of all DIETs in the country with all relevant performance indicators. It was established through joint collaboration between Ministry of Human Resource Development and Central Square Foundation. The objective is to help DIETs to make informed decisions about their institutes, compare the performance of their institute against other DIETs in the state/country as well as helping aspiring teachers make informed decision making.

News 5: India Post Payments Bank proposal gets the Cabinet nod

The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of India Post's payments bank at a total project cost of Rs. 800 crores, which will be split up as Rs. 400 crores for equity and Rs. 400 crores as grant.

IPPB will start operations in March 2017 in about 50 districts and will cover the entire country by the end of FY 2018-19. It will set up 650 branches and 5,000 ATMs across the country. The Secretary, Department of Posts will be the Part time, Non-Executive Chairman of the Bank.



News 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address 'Mann Ki Baat' to be broadcast in Bangladesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio address 'Mann Ki Baat' will be broadcast in Bengali in Bangladesh on All India Radio's upcoming Bangla language service channel Akashvani Maitree. AIR has made arrangements to receive comments and voice messages from Bangladeshi citizens. This is the first time the address will be tailored to a foreign audience in Bengali.



The Prime Minister's speech is likely to be about Indo-Bangladesh "Relationship and Friendship". The purpose behind taking 'Mann Ki Baat' across the border is to strengthen bilateral ties.

News 7: National Mineral Exploration Policy Unveiled

The National Mineral Exploration Policy was unveiled by the Union Minister of Steel and Mines Narendra Singh Tomar to adopt comprehensive exploration of non-fuel and non-coal Mineral Resources. The new policy aims to bring together best of knowledge and experience, modern technology, trained manpower and financial resources on a collaborative platform.



Space technology would be used to check illegal mining by developing a mining surveillance system. The objective is to set in motion a massive process for mineral exploration on the country that would give a major boost to the economy.

News 8: Jawaharlal Nehru Port becomes the country's first port to implement Logistics Data Tagging of Containers

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port became the first port in the country to implement logistics data tagging of containers. The first of its kind facility will help importers/exporters track their goods in transit through logistics data bank service. An RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Tag) tag would be attached to each container which would be tracked through RFID readers installed at different locations.



This would help in reducing the overall lead time of the container movement across the western corridor and lower the transaction costs incurred by shippers and consignees.

News 9: Centre to provide Rs. 400 Crores Assistance for Development of Airports in UP

The Union Government will provide Rs. 400 crores assistance for developing the airports in Agra, Allahabad, Kanpur and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. This would be done within a period of one and a half months. An airport in Kushinagar will also be developed, for which the State Government had provided Rs. 200 crores and the work is being executed by RITES and would be complete within a year.



A 4-member Committee has also been formed to study the feasibility of developing no frills airports in Meerut, Faizabad and Moradabad.

News 10: Centre nod for renaming of Mhow Railway Station after B R Ambedkar

The Union Government has given its approval for renaming the Mhow railway station in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh after B R Ambedkar. The name of Mhow railway station will be changed to B R Ambedkar Railway Station. The Home Ministry has requested the State Government to issue a Gazette notification in this regard, spelling the name accordingly in Devnagri (Hindi) and Roman (English) script.



The Dalit icon was born there. Mhow was renamed as Dr Ambedkar Nagar in 2003.

News 11: Cabinet approves redevelopment of seven GPRA colonies in Delhi

The Union Cabinet has approved redevelopment of seven General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) colonies in Delhi. Sarojini Nagar, Netaji Nagar, Nauroji Nagar will be redeveloped through National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited and Kasturba Nagar, Thyagraj Nagar, Srinivaspuri and Mohammadpur will be redeveloped through Central Public Works Department.



The total estimated cost of this project is 32,835 crore rupees including maintenance and operation costs for 30 years and it will be completed in five years in a phased manner.

News 12: Memorandum of Understanding between India and Mauritius

The Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Mauritius. The MoU will help to establish a framework for cooperation between the National Development Unit, Prime Minister's Office of Mauritius and the Ministry of Rural Development of India in the sphere of rural development.



The MoU will encourage cooperation in the field of rural development and capacity building on the basis of equality and mutual benefit between both countries. Under the MoU, a Joint Committee on Cooperation on Rural Development will be established which will meet alternatively in both countries on mutually agreed dates.

News 13: Cabinet nod for introduction of High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill in the Parliament

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to introduce the High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 in Parliament. The Bill will facilitate the changing of the names of Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court, Calcutta High Court as Kolkata High Court and Madras High Court as Chennai High Court.



At present, there is no Central Law under which the proposal for change of names of these High

Courts can be addressed and the new legislation will enable that, the official communiqué said.

News 14: Cabinet approves MoU between India and Mozambique in the field of Drug demand reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Mozambique on Drug demand reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals and related matters.



This MoU is aimed to enhance mutual cooperation between the two countries in combating illicit trafficking in Narcotic drugs, Psychotropic substances and their precursors through exchange of information, expertise and capacity building.

News 15: Cabinet approves import of pulses through long-term contract with Mozambique

The Union Cabinet has approved a long-term contract by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mozambique for import of pulses either through the private channels or Government-to-Government (G2G) sales through State Agencies nominated by the two countries.



The MOU includes targets for exports of Tur and other pulses from Mozambique to India for five financial years and aims at doubling the trade from 100,000 tonnes in 2016-17 to 200,000 tonnes in 2020-21. The MoU will augment domestic availability of pulses in India and thereby stabilize its prices.

News 16: Cabinet approves the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

The Union Cabinet has approved a National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme. The Scheme has an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crores with a target of 50 lakh apprentices to be trained by 2019-20.



The Scheme would be implemented by the Director General of Training (DGT) under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It is for the first time a scheme has been designed to offer financial incentives to employers to engage apprentices. 25% of the total stipend payable to an apprentice would be shared with employers directly by Government of India. In addition, 50% of the total expenditure incurred on providing basic training would be supported by the Government of India.

News 17: Cabinet approves MoU between India and Tanzania in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy

The Union Cabinet has approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Tanzania in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.



The MoU will provide structured frame work for the cooperation between the two countries for the promotion and propagation of Indian Traditional Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy in Tanzania. The financial resources necessary to conduct research, training courses, conferences / meetings will be met from the existing allocated budget and existing plan schemes of Ministry of AYUSH.

News 18: Cabinet approves setting up a Major port at Enayam near Colachel in Tamil Nadu

The Union Cabinet has given its 'in-principle' approval for setting up a Major port at Enayam near Colachel in Tamil Nadu. Currently, all of India's trans-shipment traffic gets handled in Colombo, Singapore and other international ports. Indian port industry loses out up to Rs. 1,500 Crores of revenues each year.



A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be formed for development of this Port with initial equity investment from the three Major Ports in Tamil Nadu i.e. V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Chennai Port Trust, and Kamarajar Port Limited. A Major port at Enayam will act as a major gateway container port for Indian cargo as well as it will become a trans-shipment hub for the global East-West trade route.

News 19: MSME Ministry reveals the World's Largest Charkha at Delhi Airport

The Union Minister for MSME unveiled the world's largest Charkha (spinning wheel) at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), New Delhi so as to highlight India's rich cultural heritage through different artworks at the terminal.



The present artworks at the terminal include Mudras, Regal procession, Elephant statues, Surya Sculpture, Suryanamaskar and Worli Art among others displays Indian heritage globally and now father of nation Mahatma Gandhi's charkha will also be a part of it. Charkha is the sign of Gandhian values and shows the Governments priority to Khadi and Village Industries in the country. Also, the wheel represents the center of a network of cotton growers, carders, weavers, distributors, and users.

News 20: Ministry of Agriculture launched Krishi Vigyan Kendra portal for monitoring of farm centers

An online portal has been launched by the Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh to monitor the functioning of nearly 645 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), known as farm-science centers, spread across the country. The farm-science centers which have an objective to check Agri-technology and give demo of farmer's application and capacity development, are being established in rural districts. Each KVK has direct interface with at least 1,000 farmers.



The KVK portal will provide information related to all schemes, market development and weather updates, besides guidance to farmers, as already farmers and other stakeholders faced problem in accessing details.

News 21: National Coordinated Action Plan to clean-up 10 iconic places under the Swachh Bharat mission

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organized a 2-day workshop in New Delhi for special clean-up of 100 iconic places across the country, starting with 10 in the first phase. Representatives from the following 10 places participated in the workshop, along with representatives from concerned State Governments and Municipal Bodies.



- Vaishno Devi: Jammu & Kashmir
- Taj Mahal: Uttar Pradesh
- Tirupati Temple: Andhra Pradesh
- Golden Temple: Punjab
- Ajmer Sharif: Rajasthan
- Meenakshi Temple: Tamil Nadu
- Kamakhya Temple: Assam
- Jagannath Puri: Odisha
- Manikarnika Ghat: Uttar Pradesh
- Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus: Maharashtra

News 22: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh conducted BRICS anti-drug control meeting

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the second anti-drug Working Group meeting of Heads of Drug Control Agencies of BRICS countries, organized by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). In keeping with the spirit of the eThekwanani Declaration, the first anti-drug working group meeting of BRICS countries was organized at Moscow, Russia in November, 2015.



The agenda items which were discussed includes improving information exchange mechanisms on illicit trafficking of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances including early detection of new psycho active substances, maritime drug trafficking, diversion of precursors and controlled chemicals for manufacturing of illicit synthetic drugs etc. and capacity building and training of personnel of enforcement agencies.

News 23: India, South Africa inked MoUs in the field of Science, Technology, Tourism and IT

India and South Africa inked three Memorandum of Understanding and one Program of Cooperation during PM Narendra Modi's visit to South Africa. The three Memorandum of Understanding are in the fields of ICT (Information and Communications Technology); Tourism and Grassroots Innovation in Science and Technology (S & T).



A Program of Cooperation in Arts and Culture was the fourth bilateral agreement.

News 24: Plantation drive cum National Green Highways Mission launched by Road Transport & Highways Ministry

The Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari launched the initial plantation drive on 1,500 kms of National Highways at a cost of about Rs. 300 crores under the National Green Highways Mission in New Delhi. Other initiatives launched by him were to follow a Green Highway Program, Kisan Harit Rajmarg Yojana, knowledge reports of the mission and the launch of National Green Highways Mission Mobile App.



The mobile application will enable the management to monitor all the projects with real time data from the fields. The Yojana is a pilot scheme to extend green belt beyond the existing 'Right of Way' of highways by engaging farmers and providing alternative livelihood option to the nearby communities.

News 25: Namami Gange Program introduces 231 water resources projects all over country

There will be 231 projects inaugurated by the Union Minister of Water Resources at various locations in Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Haryana and Delhi. These projects involve modernization and redevelopment of Ghats and crematoriums, development of sewage infrastructure and treatment, afforestation, tree plantation (medicinal plants), pilot drain project, interceptor drain project, trash skimmers and conservation of biodiversity.



Close to 400 villages along the river Ganga will be developed as Ganga Gram in Phase-I. There are 13 IITs who have adopted five villages each for development as Ganga Grams. Training for 328 sarpanch's was completed at Sichawal in Punjab and eight biodiversity centers will be developed along Ganga for restoration of identified priority species.

News 26: Myspeed App launched to trace real time Mobile Internet Speed

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched a mobile app "TRAI MySpeed" to help consumers check the internet speed on their smart phones and their data speed on 3G/4G networks so that consumers can select the best mobile operator in their locality.



This app will provide the users an option to send the results to the TRAI's server. This app is in co-ordination with the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations (TCCCPR), 2010, issued by TRAI. The app is a kind of crowd-sourcing initiative to check network performance of all the mobile operators.

News 27: DoNER to provide subsidy to North-east industrial units for employment opportunities.

Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) will offer subsidy incentives in Northeast for industrial and other units generating employment. The assistance to North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFI) would incorporate a component of higher interest subsidy for such units which give more employment. It has been decided to carry out satellite based survey for planning and monitoring of projects in the region.



The DoNER Ministry will also take up waste management project under North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) and North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP). Also, it has been decided to introduce Venture capital funds as another incentive for those undertaking "Startup" initiatives in the North-Eastern region.

News 28: India and Bangladesh ink 1320 Megawatt deal for coal fired power plant

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt) Limited (BIFPCL), the joint venture enterprise signed the deal with Bharat Heavy Electricals for construction of 1,320 Megawatt Coal Fired Power Plant at Bangladesh's Southwestern Rampal near the Sundarbans. This deal has been already semi financed by India's Exim Bank for amount \$1.49 billion to start generating power in 2019.



The said deal has been confirmed environment-friendly technology being used to set up the plant.

News 29: Seven MOUs inked between India and Kenya to boost bilateral relations

Several agreements were signed between India and Kenya which include Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, exemption of Visa for holders of Diplomatic passports, defense, National Housing Policy Development and trade, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Uhuru Kenyatta.



A line of credit for US \$15 million was also inked between IDBI Capital Limited and Kenya, for development of various small and medium enterprises in Kenya and a line of credit for US \$29.95 million to the Government of Kenya for improvement of Rift Valley Textiles Factory.

News 30: India and Tanzania inked five agreements to improve bilateral relations

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tanzanian President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli inked five agreements to improve the bilateral relations between the two nations, which are:

- Visa waiver for diplomatic or official passport holders.
- LOC of US \$92 million for rehabilitation and improvement of Zanzibar's water supply system.
- Water Resource Management and Development.
- Establishment of vocational training centre at Zanzibar.
- Agreement between National Small Industries Corporation of India and Small Industries of Development Organization Tanzania.



News 31: Ministry of Health Launches Nationwide “Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF)”

The Ministry of Health launched nationwide “Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF)” from 11th to 23rd July across the country. The Ministry also unveiled a package of measures putting the Government’s resolve to end child Diarrhoea deaths on the overdrive. ASHAs shall visit all households with children below five years of age for pre-positioning the ORS.

About 21 Lakh children could be prevented from hospitalization and death due to Diarrhoea last year. More than 5 lakh schools participated in the IDCF campaign and more than 3.5 lakh ORS corners were set up in the country.



News 32: Indian Engineering gets global attention at INNOPROM '16, Russia

India has put up an impressive show at INNOPROM 2016, the largest annual international industrial trade fair of Russia. India is the Partner Country for INNOPROM 2016.



As many as 110 companies (spread in over 100 stands) are taking part in the technological and engineering trade fair, including the Department of Heavy Industries, Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Bharat Forge, Sun Group, NTPC, NHPC and Ace Designers to name a few.

News 33: Center to introduce easy online loan applying process for agriculture loan

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh requested NABARD to make its agriculture loan process easier along with its banking facilities, so that they can grant the required loan on time and to ensure that loan applying process be conducted online.



The Government will make provisions to provide bank loan to landless farmers by providing financial assistance of Rs. 10,225 crores to 10.49 lakh joint liability groups during the span of 2 years and by providing online mortgage.

News 34: Government imposed Anti-dumping duty on PTA imports from 5 countries

The Finance Ministry has levied anti-dumping duty on purified terephthalic acid (PTA) imports from China, Iran, Taiwan, Indonesia and Malaysia for a period of five years, effective December 10, 2015. The petition was filed by MCC PTA India Corp Pvt. Ltd and Reliance Industries Ltd.



The import restrictive tax has been imposed for five years by the Revenue Department on recommendations of the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), said a notification of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

News 35: Arvind Subramanian panel set up to review the shortage of Pulses

A high-level committee headed by Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian has been formed to review the minimum support price (MSP), bonus for pulses and to put a check on rising prices of pulses in the country.

It has been observed that the production of pulses in India is expected to increase to 20 million tonnes in 2016-17, but it will still fall short of about 25 million tonnes needed annually. This panel will have to submit its report within two weeks. It will look into various opportunities to frame a long-term policy on pulses to handle shortage issues.



News 36: 'Sankat Mochan' Mission rescued Indians from war torn South Sudan

Operation 'Sankat Mochan' evacuated over 140 Indians from the war torn South Sudan's capital Juba. Two C-17 military transport aircrafts were sent, where a fragile ceasefire holds amid a civil war, had cleared the conflict zone to make the evacuation.

The operation was undertaken by Indian Air Force (IAF) under the leadership of Minister of State for External Affairs General (Retd) VK Singh. The Airlift operation was organized by the Indian Ambassador in South Sudan Srikumar Menon and his team. South Sudan is going through a political fight between its President Salva Kiir and its Vice-president Riek Machar, resulting into ceasefire violence.



News 37: Union Cabinet gave nod for training and skilling youth under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) with an outlay of Rs.12000 crores to impart skilling to one crore people over the next four years (2016-2020). PMKVY will impart fresh training to 60 lakh youths and certify skills of 40 lakh persons acquired non-formally under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

There will be scholarship for student undergoing training in high end job roles under this Scheme.



News 38: Union Government notifies Aadhaar Act, 2016

The Union Government has notified the UIDAI (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2016 to give legal status to Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Besides, the Union Government has also envisaged the UIDAI (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2016. The Act will provide the way for appointment of its chairperson and members.



The Union Government is going to notify the Aadhaar Act in two phases for complete operationalization of the Act. Presently, only Sections 11 to 20, 22 to 23 and sections 48 to 59 of the Act have been notified for operationalization.

News 39: Union Cabinet gives nod to 15% stake sell in NBCC

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave nod to disinvestment of 15% paid up equity of National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC), a 'Navratna' company incorporated in 1960. At present, Union Government holds 90% shareholding of the corporation (i.e. 54 crore shares), which will help government to earn approximately 1706 crore rupees.



The remaining 10% of the equity is held by the public. The Government has targets to achieve Rs. 56,500 crores through disinvestment in PSEs this financial year.

News 40: Union Cabinet gives nod to revival of three Fertilizer Units in Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni

The Union Cabinet has approved the revival of three defunct Fertilizer Units in Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni. These include two closed urea units of Fertilizer Corporation India Limited (FCIL) at Sindri (Jharkhand) and Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Barauni (Bihar) unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL).



These three fertilizers units would be revived by means of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Public Sector Units (PSUs) namely, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Coal India Limited (CIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and FCIL/HFCL, through 'Nomination Route'.

News 41: National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources registered Kendrapara Sheep Breed Status

The breed status of Kendrapara sheep, an indigenous variety mainly found in Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak and Jajpur districts of Odisha was formally registered by National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) as it was found in research that the Kendrapara sheep carries a rare gene mutation.



The Kendrapara breed is found as the second in India and sixth in the world to carry FecB mutation gene responsible for multiple births such as twins and triplets.

News 42: Cabinet gave nod to Revised Cost Estimate of Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of Rs. 7290.62 crores for the ongoing 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (HEP) in Bhutan. The total cost escalation for the project, at this stage, is Rs.3512.82 crores.



The Project will provide surplus power to India and thus augment power availability in the country. The factors behind cost escalation are due to inflation from March 2009 to March 2015, change in surface power house to underground power house, increase in capacity from 990 MW to 1020 MW.

News 43: Cabinet gives nod for amendment to the Bill for change of name to “Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University”

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the Official amendment to the Rajendra Central Agricultural University Bill, 2015 for change of name from “Rajendra Central Agricultural University” to “Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University”.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa is to fulfill the desired goal and achieve excellence in teaching and produce the much-needed manpower educated in agriculture and allied sciences.

News 44: India is the first nation to become MNTE free and YAWS free

India is the first country to be officially acknowledged as being Yaws-free by WHO and UNICEF. India was validated for Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) in April 2015, much ahead of the global target date of December 2015.



The elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus as a public health problem means that in our country the annual rate of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus is now less than 1 per 1000 live births. The gains in keeping India free from preventable deaths continues with introduction of newer vaccines such as Rotavirus vaccine, IPV, Adult JE and soon-to-be introduced Measles-Rubella in the public health program of the country.

News 45: President of India inaugurated First Edition India Skills Competition

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first edition of "India Skills Competition" on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day and first anniversary of the "Skill India" initiative. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) also announced the launch of five major initiatives reinforcing Ministry's commitment to the youth of India. These initiatives are Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 2.0, India International Skill Centers, India Skills Online and a Labour Management Information System (LMIS).



The event also saw the announcement of 50 India International Skill Centers that are slated to be open by the end of this year. India Skills is a national competition steered by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to select the best talent who will lead India's participation at the biennial World Skills International Competition scheduled at Abu Dhabi in 2017.

News 46: Universal roll-out of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for Central Sector Schemes

In the need for improved financial management in implementation of Central Plan Schemes, facilitate Just-in-Time Releases and monitor the usage of funds, Department of Expenditure administered Public Financial Management System (PFMS), which is an end-to-end solution for processing payments, tracking, monitoring, accounting, reconciliation and reporting. It provides the scheme managers a unified platform for tracking releases and monitoring their last mile utilization.



Government has decided to universalize the use of PFMS to cover all transactions/payments under the Central Sector Schemes. Central Ministries/Departments have been directed to complete the full roll-out of PFMS in 2017.

News 47: Seventy-Four schemes of 17 Ministries & Departments brought under DBT

There are 74 schemes from 17 Ministries and Departments that have been successfully brought under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT scheme of the government).



It was revealed by the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during the 3rd Meeting of Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Finance on Direct Benefit Transfer held on 15th July. The Consultative Committee meeting started with a presentation on Direct Benefit Transfer by Ministry of Finance officials. The presentation outlined the evolution of Direct Benefit Transfer, various features of the scheme, DBT Mission, key components of DBT, progress of Aadhar card, the challenges ahead and the way forward.

News 48: Union Government Launches Transforming India website

The Union Government has formally launched a new Transforming India Website – www.transformingindia.mygov.in – in New Delhi.

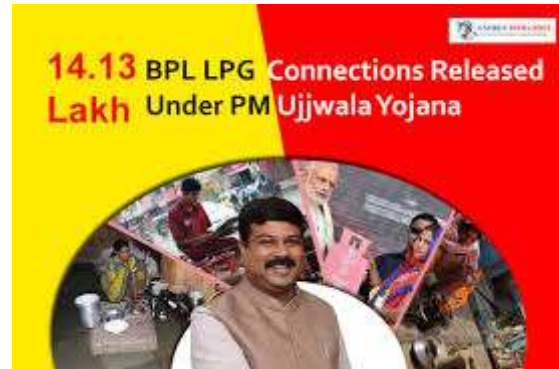


This community based platform facilitates two-way communication between the government and citizens. It is also a social platform on which users can share their opinions about various initiatives of the government. The key facets of the website are that it promotes accountability in major national initiatives, acts

as a repository of major policies and decisions and provides a central platform to citizens for sharing of transformational changes that they see around themselves.

News 49: Over 14 lakh LPG connections released under the PMUY

Over fourteen lakh LPG connections have been released to the women of BPL families under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the scheme is currently under operation in 487 districts of 17 states.



The scheme, launched in May 2016, aims at providing LPG connections to five-crore below the poverty line beneficiaries over the next three years. The Petroleum Ministry also warned consumers against a number of fake websites which have come up after the launch of the Ujjwala scheme.

News 50: E-market launched by Ministry of Commerce to promote online purchasing

The Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced an e-marketplace for online purchase of goods and services by various central government ministries and departments to bring more transparency in procurement of goods and services by government. It is designed and developed by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals in support of Department of Electronics and IT.



It is an initiative to increase aggregate demand which will turn to lower prices, better options available and faster consumption.

News 51: Atal Pension Yojana: Centre releases Rs. 100 crores as contribution for 2015-16

The Centre has released Rs. 100 crores as its contribution for the year 2015-16 for around 17 lakh eligible subscribers of Atal Pension Yojana (APY). The scheme provides for Government's co-contribution which is half of the subscriber's contribution up to a maximum of one thousand rupees per annum.



More than 30 lakh subscribers have registered under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and every day

nearly 5000 new subscribers are being added. The government had launched the scheme in 2015 to address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganized sector and encourage them to voluntarily save for their retirement.

News 52: Centre releases over Rs. 28000 crores under MGNREGA this year

The Centre has released more than Rs. 28,000 crores so far this year to states under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, MGNREGA to clear the last year's liabilities and for running the program in the ongoing year.



Under MNREGA, funds are released to the states on the basis of agreed to labour budget and performance of the states. The Centre has started National Electronic Fund Management System in 11 states. Special camps are being organized at block level or gram panchayat level for linking the Aadhaar numbers of MGNREGA workers with their bank accounts.

News 53: The Parliament passes the Bill for Regional Centre for Biotechnology

The Parliament has passed the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016 after Rajya Sabha approved it. The Bill seeks to establish a Regional Centre for Biotechnology, an institution of education, training and research, under the auspices of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the National Capital Region.



It also confers upon it the status of an institution of national importance. The Regional Centre is to disseminate knowledge by providing teaching and research facilities in biotechnology and related fields. Besides, it will help create a hub of biotechnology expertise and promote cooperation at the international level.

News 54: SWAYAM Prabha-Educational Contents through DTH

The Government has approved a project to launch the 'SWAYAM Prabha' which is a project for operationalizing 32 Direct to Home (DTH) Television Channels for providing high quality educational content to all teachers, students and citizens across the country interested in lifelong learning. There will be new content of four hours every day, which would be telecast six times a day allowing students to choose the time of his/her convenience.



These 32 channels are proposed to be launched before September 2016. Initially the programs will be in English but with the passage of time these programs will be launched in the regional languages also.

News 55: Ministry of Railways to install TRI-NETRA systems on locomotives

The Ministry of Railways has initiated a proposal to install TRI-NETRA systems on locomotives for enhancing the vision of Locomotive Pilots in inclement weather. TRI-NETRA stands for - Terrain imaging for diesel dRivers INfra-red, Enhanced opTical & Radar Assisted system.



This TRI-NETRA system shall be made up of high-resolution optical video camera, high sensitivity infra-red video camera and additionally a radar-based terrain mapping system. These three components of the system shall act as three eyes (Tri-Netra) of the Locomotive Pilot. The concept of TRI-NETRA was developed by Development Cell under the guidance of Member Mechanical, Railway Board.

News 56: Cabinet approves construction of a New Dry Dock of Cochin Shipyard Limited

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for construction of a new dry dock within the existing premises of Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1799 crores to augment the shipbuilding / repair capacity of the country.



This big sized dry dock is a critical requirement of CSL to promote ship building and is a step in the direction of "Make in India" initiative of the Government. The project proposal would generate employment within the country, apart

from direct employment of 300 personnel, about 2,000 personnel would be indirectly employed when the project becomes fully operational.

News 57: Nuclear Power Projects at Chhaya Mithi Viridi in Gujarat

The sites at Chhaya Mithi Viridi in Gujarat and Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh were accorded 'In Principle' approval and designated for setting up nuclear power plants in technical cooperation with United States of America (USA). In this regard, discussions were in progress with two US companies, Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC) and GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH).



It has been decided to set up reactors in technical cooperation with WEC of USA at Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh. The site at Chhaya Mithi Viridi in Gujarat continues to be designated for setting up nuclear power reactors in technical cooperation with USA.

News 58: AERB has been established as the Independent Nuclear Safety Authority

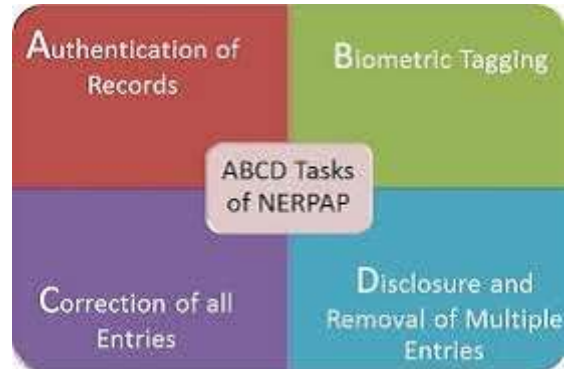
The Government of India has established the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) as a regulatory body empowered to enforce safety standards and regulate the functioning of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs). AERB is functionally independent from the Government and the facilities it regulates and has adequate powers with respect to its mandate of enforcing Safety regulation of nuclear and radiation facilities in the country.



The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission conducted by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in March 2015 has acknowledged that AERB has functional independence as the regulator.

News 59: ECI Launches the “National Electoral Roll Purification” (NERP) 2016

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched National Electoral Roll Purification” (NERP) program to enhance the purity and fidelity of Electoral Rolls (ERs) and for standardization of Polling Stations (PS) for electors’ convenience and facilitate electors’ reach their PS with ease. “No voter to be left behind” is the motto of the ECI for year 2016.



The Commission has launched the intensive field implementation phase of NERP 2016 which would culminate well before the next draft publication of ERs for annual summary revision with 1st January 2017 as qualifying date.

News 60: LS passes Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016 & Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Lok Sabha passed the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2016. The bills seek to keep state boards out of the ambit of National Eligibility Entrance Examination, NEET for admission in MBBS and BDS courses for this year. It will give statutory status to the NEET.



The Bills provide for conduct of uniform entrance examination for admission to all medical educational institutions at the undergraduate and post-graduate courses. The examination will be conducted in Hindi, English and some other languages. CBSE will conduct the examination for undergraduate medical courses while for postgraduate courses it will be done by National Board of Examination.

News 61: Rajya Sabha passes Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2012

Rajya Sabha has passed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2012. The Bill is aligned with the statutes of the International Labour Organisation, ILO convention. Punishments for violations have been made stricter in the amended Bill.



Explaining the Family Enterprises clause in the Bill, Labour and Employment Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said, in a Family Enterprise, there will be no employer-employee relationship and there are sufficient safeguards. Mr. Dattatreya also informed that Government is taking the National Child Labour Project forward by spending more funds.

News 62: NITI Aayog & Intel India Sign Statement of Intent to start Atal Tinkering Lab Initiative

NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with Intel India and introduced the Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) initiative as a part of its flagship program – the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).



The key objective is to build relevant skill sets among youngsters and to provide access to technology that will enable solutions. Intel will co-lead the creation and management of ten ATLs as State Hubs. These laboratories intend to impact 250,000 youth with innovation skills & skills for the future across 500 communities & schools.

News 63: ECI Launches SVEEP portal in Hindi along with the release of NERP handbook

Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Chief Election Commissioner of India launched the SVEEP Portal in Hindi along with the release of Matdaata Mahotsav document and film during the Conference of Chief Electoral Officers of States. A handbook on NERP (National Electoral Rolls Purification) was also released during the conference.



The SVEEP Portal is a web based application, accessible to the Chief Electoral Officers and all other stakeholders and serves as a window for easy accessibility of various initiatives of the Commission like NVSP, Online Voter Competition, information on events, best practices,

creative content and other resource material. NERP will help to further improve upon the Electoral Roll and ensure it stays error free in a standardized form.

News 64: DBT scheme saved Rs. 21K crores in LPG subsidy in 2 years

The Government clarified that the savings resulting from the Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG scheme PAHAL is estimated to be Rs. 21,261 crores since the launch of the scheme in 2014-15.



The Petroleum Ministry said 3.34 crore fake connections were blocked under the scheme which resulted in the savings. The statement claimed if these connections were not blocked the subsidy bill would have been much higher despite the fall in crude oil prices.

News 65: Cabinet approves amendment in the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) amendment Bill, 2015

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for introducing amendments to the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in Parliament which aim to strengthen the Bill in terms of legal and administrative procedure so as to overcome the practical difficulties which may arise in the implementation of the provisions of the Bill when it becomes an Act.



The legislation is also intended to effectively prohibit benami transactions and consequently prevent circumvention of law through unfair practices. It empowers the Government to confiscate benami property by following due procedure. It therefore promotes equity across all citizens. However, those who declare their benami properties under income declaration scheme will get immunity under the Benami Act.

News 66: Cabinet approves an MoU signed between India and the Swiss Confederation for cooperation in skill development

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post-facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation of the Swiss Confederation for cooperation in skill development.



This MoU broadly focuses on capacity building and exchange of best practices in the area of skill development. This MoU envisions the establishment of Joint Working Group (JWG) to

create, monitor and review the implementation framework for the MoU. This MoU will establish a framework for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of skill development and will formalize and deepen this partnership.

News 67: Cabinet approves establishment of new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences at Gorakhpur

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for establishment of new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).



The cost of the project for establishment of the new AIIMS in Gorakhpur shall be Rs. 1011 crores. The institution shall have a hospital with capacity of 750 beds which will include Emergency/Trauma Beds, AYUSH Beds, Private Beds and ICU Specialty & Super Specialty beds.

News 68: Cabinet approves signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Mozambique

The Union Cabinet has approved signing of the Air Services Agreement between India and Mozambique. Presently there is no Air Services Agreement between both these countries.

The major features of the Agreement include:

- Multiple designation of Airlines by each party which can enter into cooperative marketing arrangements with the designated carriers of same party, other party and that of a Third party.
- This agreement allows designated airlines of either countries to establish offices in the territory of other country for the promotion and sale of air services.
- The designated airlines of the two countries shall have fair and equal opportunity to operate the agreed services on specified routes.

News 69: MoU between India and Tunisia in the field of Information and Communications Technology and Digital Economy

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Tunisia for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital Economy.



This MoU intends to foster active cooperation and exchange between private entities, Governments, institutions involved in

enhancing capacity building and other public and private organizations of the two countries in the field of ICT and Digital Economy.

News 70: Cabinet approves the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016

The Union Cabinet has approved The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016. Through this Bill, the Government has evolved a mechanism for their social, economic and educational empowerment.



This Bill will benefit a large number of transgender persons, mitigate the stigma, discrimination and abuse against this marginalized section and bring them into the mainstream of society. It will lead to greater inclusiveness and will make the transgender person's productive members of the society.

News 71: Cabinet approves incorporation of Sagarmala Development Company

The Union Cabinet has approved the incorporation of Sagarmala Development Company (SDC) under the Companies Act, 2013 with an initial Authorized Share Capital of Rs. 1,000 Crores and a Subscribed Share Capital of Rs. 90 Crores. SDC will be under the administrative control of the Ministry of Shipping.



The Sagarmala Development Company will identify port-led development projects and assist the project SPVs in project development and structuring activities, bidding out projects for private sector participation, putting in place suitable risk management measures for strategic projects cutting across multiple states and regions and obtaining requisite approvals and clearances.

News 72: India's share in the International Satellite Market

According to the published reports available in the public domain on the international satellite market, the average annual revenue over the last three years, is approximately \$200 billion (Rs. 13 Lakh Crores). During the last year (2015-16), Antrix Corporation Limited earned a revenue of approximately Rs. 230 Crores through commercial launch services, which is about 0.6% of the global launch services market.



In order to meet the enhanced national requirements for launching satellites for earth observation, communication & navigation, ISRO is taking steps to increase the launch capacity.

News 73: Lok Sabha passes a Bill for new NIT in Andhra Pradesh

The Lok Sabha has passed the National Institute of Technology, Science, Education and Research (Amendment) (NITSER) Bill, 2016. It seeks to establish a National Institute of Technology in Andhra Pradesh on lines with the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 with effect from August 2015.



The Union Government has allocated Rs. 40 crores towards the institute in the current financial year while an outlay of Rs. 226 crores have been made over the next three years.

News 74: EESL distributed more than 13.15 crore LED bulbs till July 18 in Gujarat

More than 13.15 crore LED bulbs have been distributed by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited, EESL and approximately 8 crores by other suppliers till 18th of July 2016.



Close to 77 crore conventional incandescent bulbs are to be replaced with LED bulbs by March 2019. The EESL is playing an important role in replacing these bulbs, while several other suppliers are also engaged in the same. Furthermore, about 1.2 crore domestic consumers have been targeted for distribution of LED bulbs by EESL in Gujarat.

News 75: The 2nd phase of the 'Feed the Future – India' Triangular Training Program launched

The Union Agriculture Ministry and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the second phase of the "Feed the Future – India" triangular training program. This program will help provide specialized agriculture training to 1,500 agricultural professionals across Africa and Asia. It is led by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management – MANAGE, Hyderabad.



This program will train agricultural professionals from 17 countries in Africa and Asia on specialized farming practices such as agricultural marketing, dairy management, food processing and ways to prevent post-harvest losses.

News 76: Union Government set to redraw the Red Corridor

The Union Government has decided to reduce the number of Maoist-affected districts by about a fifth. Close to 20 of the 106 Maoist affected districts would be removed from the Red Corridor list. Once removed from the list, these districts will no longer receive the financial aid, to the tune of Rs. 30 crores annually, for various developmental works.



The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has already given the nod for an ambitious road project in the 44 worst-affected districts. Under this project, the government proposes to construct 5412 kms road length and 126 bridges and it would cost Rs. 11,725 crores.

News 77: Lok Sabha passes Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Lok Sabha passed the Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2016. This Bill will govern the six new recently set up Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) as well as bring the Indian School of Mines at Dhanbad into its ambit.



The Government will set up a fund with a Rs. 1,000 crores investment and an equal contribution from a financial institution that will leverage Rs. 20,000 crores for adding research infrastructure to the IITs. There is a proposal to start New IITs in Palakkad, Goa, Dharward and Bhilai as well.

News 78: Centre approves Rs. 1601.51 crores for the Himayat program in J&K

The Union Government approved Rs. 1601.51 crores for Jammu and Kashmir under the skill development initiative 'Himayat'. The allocated fund will be invested in training 1.24 lakh local youths in vocational courses.



Under the reanimated Himayat program, youths would be given training for six-months, nine-months and one-year in job-oriented courses. It is a training-cum-placement program for unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir. The scheme aims to train 100,000 youth in 5 years and provide at least 75% of them with jobs.

News 79: India, US discover major Natural Gas Reserve in the Indian Ocean

A research expedition carried out jointly by India, the United States and Japan have struck upon a large natural gas deposit in the Bay of Bengal. This is the first discovery of its kind in the Indian Ocean that has the potential to be producible. This research expedition was called the Indian National Gas Hydrate Program Expedition 02.



The international team of scientists was led by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited of India in cooperation with the US Geological Survey (USGS), the Japanese Drilling Company, and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology.

News 80: Cabinet approves the policy for awarding Waterfront and associated lands in major ports

The Union Cabinet approved the Policy for awarding of waterfront and associated land to port dependent industries in major ports. The Policy will result in uniformity and transparency in the procedure for awarding captive facilities. It will enable optimal utilization of capacities in major ports and increase revenue to the Major Port Authority.



Under this Policy, concession will be granted to the Port Dependent Industries (PDI) for setting up dedicated facilities in Major Ports for

import and/or export of cargo and their storage before transportation to their destination, for a period not exceeding 30 years.

News 81: Rajya Sabha passed the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2016

The Rajya Sabha passed the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2016. It had earlier been passed by the Lok Sabha in May 2016. The bill provides for establishment of funds at the Centre and State levels for compensatory afforestation. The states will get 42 thousand crore rupees for afforestation and related activities under the new legislation.



This Bill provides for establishment of a permanent institutional framework at the Central, at each State and Union territory to ensure utilization of these funds in an expeditious and transparent manner.

News 82: The Rajya Sabha passed the Lokpal and Lokayukta Amendment Bill 2016

The Parliament has passed the Lokpal and Lokayukta Amendment Bill 2016 after the Rajya Sabha approved it on 28th July. This bill seeks to amend the Section 44 of the existing Act to allow extension of the time given to public servants. Presently, they have to furnish details of assets and liabilities within 30 days of joining the Government Service.



As per the amendment, the period of 30 days has been removed and now the public servants will be bound to make declaration of their assets and liabilities in the form and manner as prescribed by the Government. This Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on the 27th July.

News 83: Tourism Ministry identifies Kurukshetra under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme

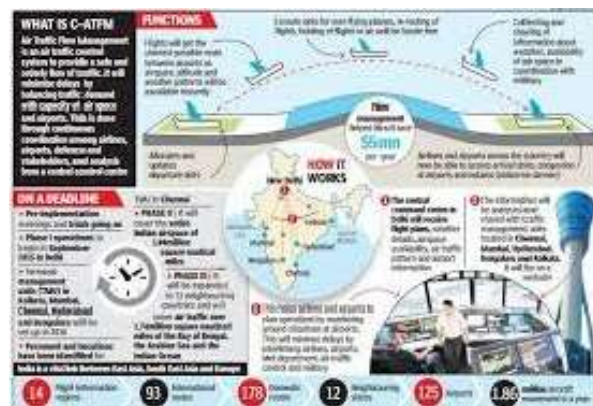
Union Ministry of Tourism has identified the Kurukshetra region, under its Swadesh Darshan Scheme, to develop a Krishna Circuit with theme and sites related to Krishna’s life events including Mahabharata. The Ministry has approved Rs. 97.36 crores for the development of the tourism infrastructure at places related to Mahabharata in Kurukshetra.



The sites of specific tourist interest and importance have been covered in the Krishna Circuit by the Centre, which included Jyotisar, Brahm Sarovar, Sannhit Sarovar and Bhishma Kund at Narkatari.

News 84: ‘C-ATFM’ To Decongest Air Traffic at Airports

Airports Authority of India has initiated the process for installation of Central Air Traffic Flow Management (C-ATFM) at 06 metro airports namely – Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad & Bangalore and associated air spaces in the first phase. Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SITC) of first phase of C-AFTM project has been awarded with a total estimated cost of Rs. 107 Crores.



The C-ATFM is for the purpose of balancing the demand and capacity at airports and airspace. There is no implication on navigational facilities at Indian airports.

News 85: Centre forms ‘Disha’ for timely implementation of Central Schemes

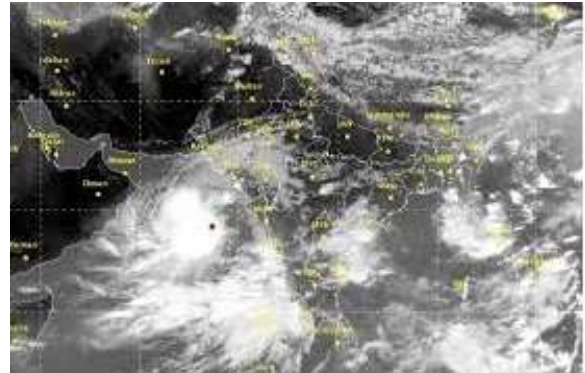
The Union Government announced the formation of District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DDCMC) to be named as “Disha” for effective development coordination of almost all the programs of the Central Government. These Committees will monitor the implementation of 28 schemes and programs of the Ministry of Rural Development and other Ministries to promote synergy and convergence for greater impact.



The Chairperson of this committee will be the senior most Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) elected from the district, nominated by the Ministry of Rural Development.

News 86: Supercomputer to forecast monsoon with Dynamical Model

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) will soon use a supercomputer running a dynamical model to forecast India's annual summer monsoon. The dynamical model is being tested at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, (IITM) Pune for a decade and is ready for operational purposes in 2017.



IMD had been using the statistical model for almost 100 years to make its monsoon forecast which is based on the Ensemble Statistical Forecasting System that uses five predictors. The dynamical model, called the Coupled Forecast System Version 2, has so far achieved only 60% accuracy in forecasting the monsoon.

News 87: FCI to develop an Online Procurement System

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has decided to develop an online procurement system for registration of farmers and procurement of food grains. This system will send alerts through SMS to the registered farmers on date of procurement, location of procurement center, weight of the food grains procured and details of online payment made to the farmer for his procured food grains.



This system will enable FCI to track payment to farmers and bring transparency in grain procurement. Some states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh have already started e-procurement of food grains.

News 88: More than Rs. 800 Crores released and nearly 14.3 lakh benefited under IGMSY during the period 2013-16

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing IGMSY (Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana), a centrally sponsored Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) scheme. A total amount of Rs. 808 Crores has been released by the Ministry to States/UTs during 2013-16 and around 1432411 number of people benefited under the scheme during the same period. The IGMSY is being implemented in 53 selected districts across the country.



The Ministry has revised the entitlement of the maternity benefit under IGMSY from Rs. 4,000/- to Rs. 6,000/- per beneficiary with effect from 5th July, 2013 in accordance with the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. The budget provision for the current financial year of 2016-17 is Rs. 400 crores.

News 89: Spanish Train Talgo clocks 120 kmph during its Mathura-Palwal trial

Spanish Train Talgo commenced its second phase trial from Mathura at 120 kms per hour speed with senior officials from Spain and Railways onboard. The train with nine coaches started the journey from Mathura to Palwal covering the 84 kms distance in about 53 minutes.



The trial between Mathura and Palwal will go on for 25 days and the speed will go up to 180 kmph this time. Hauled by a 4,500 HP diesel engine, Talgo coaches are lightweight and designed in a way that it can run on curves without decelerating the speed.

News 90: The foundation stone laid for MSME technology center in Visakhapatnam

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises technology centre at Pudi in Visakhapatnam district. The Centre has decided to locate a world-class technology centre with an investment of up to Rs. 120 crores.



Its main focus is to support industries, particularly MSMEs, through access to advanced manufacturing technologies, skilling manpower and providing technical and business advisory support to entrepreneurs. The program is funded by the World Bank and the Government of India.

News 91: M/o Tourism sanctions Rs. 2048 Crores under the Swadesh Darshan scheme

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 25 Projects under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme worth Rs. 2048 Crores so far to 21 States and Union Territories since its launch in January 2015. These States and UTs include Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura.

The logo for 'Incredible India' features the words 'Incredible India' in a green, serif font. A small red dot is positioned below the letter 'i' in 'India'.

**Ministry of Tourism
Government of India**

For the North Eastern States, the Ministry has sanctioned 9 projects worth Rs. 821 Crores covering all the 8 states. For the Tribal areas, the Ministry has sanctioned 3 projects for Rs. 282 Crores to the SG of Nagaland, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. For the Buddhist Circuit, the Ministry has sanctioned 2 projects worth Rs. 108.11 Crores to the SG of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

News 92: Strategic Forces Command exempted from RTI ambit

The Strategic Forces Command has been added to the Second Schedule of the Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005, which exempts security and intelligence establishments from its purview. The SFC forms a part of the National Command Authority (NCA). The NCA's Executive Council, chaired by the National Security Adviser, gives inputs to the Political Council, which authorizes a nuclear attack if needed. The Political Council is chaired by the Prime Minister and advised by the Executive Council.



The NCA's directives are executed by the Strategic Forces Command headed by a Commander-in-Chief of the rank of Air Marshal.

News 93: Railway Minister laid the foundation stone for construction of the new Railway Station at Imphal

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu laid the foundation stone for construction of the new Railway Station at Imphal, a Rs. 90 crore project that is scheduled to be completed next year. The proposed Imphal railway station is located about 13 km from the centre of Imphal, in Yurembam village. The overall cost of construction of the station Building will be roughly Rs. 8.7 crores. The construction of the railway line reaching up to Imphal from Tupul in Tamenglong district is scheduled to be completed in 2020.



The minister also announced the commencement of work for the longest rail tunnel in India and will come up on the Jiribam–Tupul–Imphal new broad gauge railway line. It will be 11.55 kms long, more than the famous Pir Panjal tunnel on the Banihal–Qazigund line.

News 94: Cabinet approves Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and Cambodia to boost investment

The Union Cabinet has approved a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and Cambodia. The Treaty is the first Bilateral Investment Treaty in accordance with the text of the Indian Model BIT, approved by the Cabinet in December, 2015.



This treaty seeks to promote and protect investments from either country in the territory of the other country with the objective of increasing bilateral investment flows. The Treaty encourages each country to create favorable conditions for investors of the other country to make investments in its territory and to admit investments in accordance with its laws.

News 95: Cabinet approves of setting up a new AIIMS in Bhatinda

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a new AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) at Bhatinda in Punjab under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The institution shall have a hospital with capacity of 750 beds and the cost of the project shall be Rs. 925 crores.



The new AIIMS at Bhatinda will provide super specialty health care to the population while creating a large pool of doctors and other health workers in this region. The project will be completed in a period of 48 months from the date of the approval by the Government of India.

News 96: Government creates a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonne of pulses to meet shortfall

Food and Public Distribution Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has said that the gap of 76 lakh tonnes in demand and supply of pulses is being met through imports. Private traders have imported nearly 58 lakh tonnes of pulses this year.



Also, the Government has created a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of pulses to meet the shortfall. The states can purchase tur at 66 rupees per kilogram and urad at 82 rupees from the Central Government Stock for distribution.

On the rising price of onions, potatoes and tomatoes, the Minister said, these are seasonal trends.

News 97: Parliament passed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016

The Parliament has passed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016. The bill seeks to prohibit the employment of children below 14 in all occupations and enterprises, except those run by his or her own family. It seeks to make child labour a cognizable offence attracting a jail term of up to three years and penalty up to fifty thousand rupees.



The children below 14 years of age will be allowed to work only in family enterprises that too after school hours. The Bill also defines children between 14 to 18 years as adolescents and bars their employment in any hazardous occupations.

News 98: IRCTC offers Rs. 10 lakh Travel Accident Insurance cover for its passengers

Railway passengers who book their tickets through the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website can avail a travel accident cover of 10 lakh rupees at a premium of one rupee from September this year. The insurance cover is besides the compensation given by the Railways in case of accidents to valid ticket holders.



The insurance will provide coverage against death, injury and disabilities caused due to accidents. The insurance offer is under integration process and it will be operationalized from September. About 5 lakh tickets are at present booked online through IRCTC.

News 99: Centre Approves 93 Seed Hubs Under the National Food Security Mission with an Outlay of Rs.13981.08 Lakhs

There will be 93 seed hubs against a target of 150 at the Indian Council of Agriculture Research Institutes (ICAR), State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) as have been approved under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) with an outlay of Rs. 13981.08 lakhs.



Of this 15% allocation for pulses component of NFSM is earmarked for production of quality seed of pulses seeds through states. An incentive of Rs. 25/- per kg is being provided for pulses seed production. Around 7.85 lakhs seed mini kits of newer varieties of pulses have been targeted for distribution to the farmers free of cost during 2016-17. For enhancing the production of breeder seed of pulses, an amount of Rs. 2039 lakhs have been approved for 12 ICAR institutes and SAUs.

News 100: Mobile App Services for Farmers

Government has launched a number of mobile based applications for dissemination of information on agricultural related activities, free of cost, for the benefit of farmers and other stakeholders. Some major mobile applications developed by the Government are as follows:



- **Kisan Suvidha:** This app has a simple interface and provides information on five critical parameters – Weather, Input Dealers, Market Price, Plant Protection and Expert Advisories.
- **Pusha Krishi:** This app provides information on latest technologies to farmers.
- **Crop Insurance:** A Farmer can learn about insurance premiums, notified area etc. on the mobile.
- **Agri Market:** A Farmer can learn of the prices of various crops in the mandi's near his locality.
- **India Weather:** This app provides the current weather and further 4 days' weather forecast across the country for more than 300 cities.

News 101: Web Portals for farmers

The Government has launched number of web portals for dissemination of information on agricultural related activities, free of cost, for the benefit of farmers and other stakeholders. The major Web portals developed by Government are as follows:



- **Farmers' Portal:** The Farmers' Portal is a one stop shop for farmers where a farmer can get information on a range of topics including Seeds, Fertilizer, Pesticides, Credit, Good Practices, Dealer Network, and Availability of Inputs, Beneficiary List and Agromet Advisories.
- **mKisan Portal:** This is a unified platform from where officials and scientists can send targeted text and voice based advisories to the farmers on a host of issues related to agriculture and allied sectors.
- **Crop Insurance Portal:** To provide the complete information related to Crop Insurance scheme being implemented in the country.
- **Participatory Guarantee System of India (PGS) Portal:** This is a portal for encouraging participatory approach to certification of organic farming in the country.

News 102: Railway Minister inaugurated 'First Green Train Corridor namely Rameswaram-Manamadurai'

The Ministry of Railways inaugurated the 'First Green Train Corridor Rameswaram-Manamadurai' which will be free from human waste discharge from trains on the 24.07.2016. The Rameswaram – Manamadurai (114 Kms) track was identified to make it Green Train Corridors free from human waste discharge from trains.



Accordingly, 10 passenger trains consisting of 286 coaches moving over this section have been provided with bio-toilets. The technology has been developed jointly by Indian Railways (IR) and Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) for railway passenger coaches through an MoU.

News 103: Prime Minister Flags Off the “RUN FOR RIO” in New Delhi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the RUN FOR RIO from Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium (MDCNS), India Gate to Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JNS), Lodhi Road amidst Olympic spirit and cheers to celebrate the Olympic mood in the country. India is sending its largest ever contingent of 119 athletes to participate in the Rio Games.



The Prime Minister also released a publication of SAI on “Indian Olympics Journey,” which carries interesting information on country’s Olympics achievements and preparations for the future.

PERSONS IN NEWS

News 1: Barcelona Footballer Lionel Messi sentenced to 21 months for Tax Fraud

Argentina and Barcelona footballer Lionel Messi has been sentenced to 21 months in prison for tax fraud. His father, Jorge Messi, was also given a jail term for defrauding Spain between 2007 and 2009.

The footballer and his father also face millions of euros in fines for using tax havens in Belize and Uruguay used to conceal earnings from image rights. They were found guilty of three counts of tax fraud in a ruling by the court in Barcelona.



News 2: Oscar Pistorius jailed for six years for murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp

South African Paralympic gold medalist Oscar Pistorius was sentenced for six years for the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in 2013.

Pistorius was found guilty of murdering Steenkamp by an appeals court last December. He had initially received a five-year sentence for a manslaughter conviction in 2014, a ruling derided by women's groups as too lenient. Pistorius was freed from prison last October after almost a year behind bars to serve out the remainder of his term under house arrest.



News 3: Congress announced Sheila Dikshit as their Chief Ministerial candidate for the upcoming UP Assembly Elections

Senior Congress leader Sheila Dikshit has been named as the candidate for the post of Chief Minister by the Congress party for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The Congress also announced their decision of assigning Raj Babbar as the president of Uttar Pradesh unit of the party.

Dikshit is the daughter-in-law of prominent Congress leader from UP Uma Shankar Dikshit, who had served as a Union minister and governor for a long time. The community's support determines the poll outcome in several seats in Central and Eastern UP.



News 4: Turkish Musician Kudsi Erguner named the UNESCO Artist for Peace

The Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, appointed Turkish Musician Kudsi Erguner, UNESCO Artist for Peace, at a ceremony held at the Congress Center in Istanbul (Turkey) following the opening ceremony of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, which ended on 20th July.



Kudsi Erguner was named in recognition of his efforts to promote the universal values of music, an essential instrument of dialogue between cultures. UNESCO Artists for Peace are internationally renowned personalities who use their influence, charisma and prestige to promote the message and UNESCO programs.

News 5: Russian Deputy Sports Minister Yury Nagornykh suspended after named in a doping report

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has suspended Deputy Sports Minister Yury Nagornykh, who was named in a report on the doping of Russian athletes at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.



The investigation was led by Canadian sports lawyer Richard McLaren, who sat on the independent commission. The commission had last year exposed doping and corruption in Russian track and field, leading to its exclusion from international competition.

News 6: Rohit Khandelwal, First Indian to win Mister World Title

Rohit Khandelwal of India has won the Mr. World 2016 title. He became the first Indian to win the pageant. Mr. Puerto Rico, Fernando Alvarez was the first runner up, and Mr. Mexico, Aldo Esparza Ramirez, the second. The grand finale of Mr. World 2016 was held at the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre in Southport, U.K. Puerto Rico's Fernando Alberto Alvarez Soto was named the first runner-up and Aldo Esparza Ramirez of Mexico was named the second runner-up.



Khandelwal has also won a cash prize of \$50,000 along with the coveted title. Rohit is also the winner of the Provogue Personal Care Mr. India World 2015 title.

News 7: Pune Woman runs the Golden Quadrilateral, enters Guinness Book

Pune's Michelle Kakade has made her way into the Guinness Book of World Records as the first person to complete the Indian Golden Quadrilateral on foot.

Michelle, a 47-year-old mother of two children, received the acknowledgement and her certificate from Guinness after strict verification of her run. It took her 193 days, one hour and nine minutes to cover 5968.4 kms of the Golden Quadrilateral that connects the four major metros of the country.



News 8: Film Festival on Mother Teresa to be held at 100 locations in India and abroad

A film festival focusing on the life and teachings of Mother Teresa will be held from 26th August at over 100 locations in India and around 50 other countries to mark her Canonization. The Mother Teresa International Film Festival (MTIFF) will be organized by the India chapter of World Catholic Association for Communication.

The objective is to spread the message of Mother Teresa before the world, raise awareness and sensitize the people. Mother Teresa is to be declared a saint on September 4 by Pope Francis in the Vatican City.



News 9: Sharad Pawar to be honored with the Lokmanya Tilak Sanman Puraskar

The Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust has announced that former Union Agriculture Minister and NCP Chief Sharad Pawar will be honored with this year's Tilak Sanman Puraskar for his contribution towards the Green Revolution. This award Includes a citation and 1 Lakh Rupees.

This is the 34th year of the Lokmanya Tilak Sanman Puraskar. Before this, President Pranab Mukherjee, Ex. President Dr. Shankardayal Sharma, Ex. Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi, Atal Bihari Bajpai and Dr. Manmohan Singh, were felicitated with this award.



News 10: Intex announced Madhuri Dixit as its Brand Ambassador

Intex Technologies has announced Madhuri Dixit as its Brand Ambassador for its new range of consumer durable products.

She will endorse the new range of Washing Machines and Refrigerators of this brand. The actress has been signed for a period of two years. During this period, Dixit will be seen in the company's television commercials besides being the face of the company for a series of brand promotions and activations.



News 11: Former Indian president Abdul Kalam's statue unveiled in Rameswaram

A bronze statue of the former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was revealed by the Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu and Manohar Parrikar at Peikarumbu on the occasion of the former President's First Death Anniversary. An exhibition named "Mission of Life" is set to be inaugurated depicting the life of former President and his achievements towards the nation's progress.



Dr. "A. P. J." Abdul Kalam was the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007 and was honored with the civilian honor Bharat Ratna in 1997. He died due to cardiac arrest while delivering a lecture at IIM – Shillong in Meghalaya.

News 12: Sruthi Palaniappan of India becomes the Youngest Delegate at the Democratic National Convention

The 18-year-old Indian-American, Sruthi Palaniappan from Cedar Rapids and a student of the Harvard University, became the Youngest Delegate at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia which has nominated Hillary Clinton as the party's Presidential Candidate.



Sruthi also made history when she was given an opportunity to represent Iowa during roll call votes. She is a big supporter of Clinton, the first woman to be nominated as a Presidential Candidate by a Major Political Party.

News 13: Irom Sharmila to end fast and fight Manipur polls; Centre Welcomes Decision

Civil Rights Activist Irom Sharmila has decided to end her fast on the 9th of August and contest Assembly elections as an Independent candidate. She has been on a hunger strike for the last sixteen years demanding repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. The 44-year-old activist has been forcibly fed through a nasal tube since 2000.

She is planning to join politics as she no longer believes that her fast will lead to the repeal of what she termed as "Draconian" AFSPA.



PLACES IN NEWS

News 1: Three Day Wildlife Film Festival events held in Shimla

A three-day Woodpecker Environment and Wildlife Film Festival was organized at Shimla's Gaiety Theatre by WWF India in collaboration with CMSR foundation, Delhi. There was screening of 45 films, including several national Award winning films and five films from Himachal Pradesh.

This festival was organized with the aim to discontinue degradation of planet's natural environment and create a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. Only those films were showcased that involves discussions and change attitude towards life.



News 2: India's first multicity marathon 'The Great India Run' flagged off from Delhi

India's first multicity marathon 'The Great India Run' began with the ceremony at the Amar Jawan Jyoti in New Delhi. All the runners gathered at the Kingdom of Dreams, Gurgaon and began with the Haryana leg of run. The 5k fun run was also arranged at each of these venues that witnessed participation from youngsters in galore.

This run has proved to be one of the longest and most challenging in Asia. It will go through Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, finally ending at Mumbai. It aims to appeal our fellow countrymen to act wisely on their fitness and health.



News 3: India's first e-court opened at Hyderabad High Court

India's first e-court was opened at High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad. It is the common High Court for the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It was inaugurated by Supreme Court Justice Madan B Lokur who heads the e-Committee of the Supreme Court.



Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are the first two states in the country to be chosen for the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project which will integrate the courts, police stations, prosecution, forensic science laboratories and jails. The purpose of this e-court is to ensure speedy justice for the litigants. It will also ensure easy and better access to justice for public as well as provide solution for large number of pending cases in the country.

News 4: Tata STRIVE skill development centre opens up in Hyderabad

Tata STRIVE, an initiative of Tata Community Initiatives Trust, launched its first Skill Development Centre (TSSDC) centre in Hyderabad and will skill youth in Telangana in BPO, Banking, Financial Services, Insurance and Retail Industries.



The centre is located at Kukatpally and has 10 classrooms/labs which can accommodate up to 240 students. The training programs range from 6 to 16 weeks, and includes on-the-job training. Successful candidates are presented with a certificate, which is recognized by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

News 5: The Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival 2016 begins in Guwahati

The fourth edition of the Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival began on 22nd of July. The Film Festival pays homage to the rich culture of northeast India and is dedicated to the film fraternity of the region.



Six short films and six full-length films from northeast states like Manipur, Assam, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh will be presented at the three-day fest. The festival includes some of the best movies, Documentaries and short films of the region.

News 6: Bengaluru to host International Transgender Arts Festival

In a first of its kind, an International Transgender Arts Festival from July 29th to 31st was organized at the National Gallery for Modern Arts, Bengaluru. The performing arts festival aims to feature the work of people from the transgender community across the country and to showcase their talent in the fields of music, classical dance, spoken word poetry, film, theatre, etc.



The fest has been conceptualized by Srivatsa Shandilya, founder of the International Arts and Cultural Foundation. Narthaki Nataraj, the first transgender to receive the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, is one of the key participants.

News 7: Reliance Jio will provide Wi-Fi connectivity to all Govt. Colleges in Puducherry

Reliance Jio Company under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program will provide Wi-Fi connectivity to all Government Colleges in Puducherry. It will also extend the facility to Beach Promenade, the tourist hot spot in the city. The State Government has requested the Mukesh Ambani owned company to extend it to commercial hubs of MG Road and Nehru Street.



Students, Tourists, Traders and general public will be greatly benefited by this.

REGIONAL

News 1: Rapid Rural Police Response System launched in Punjab

The Punjab police has launched the Rapid Rural Police Response System (RRPRS) across the state with an aim to ensure prompt and effective police response in the state's over 12,000 villages. Close to 400 new motorcycles and 220 new Bolero jeeps were also flagged off under the new system.



People would get help within 20 minutes of calling at the helpline number 100. The police department had divided 446 villages spread over four blocks of the district into 25 beats.

News 2: Radha Mohan Singh launches a web-based App CMRS for Bihar Farmers

The Union Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh launched Crop Manager for Rice-based Systems (CMRS) – a web based App for better crop and Nutrient management released for Bihar farmers in a program organized at ICAR-RCER in Patna.



CMRS provides irrigated and rain-fed farmers with rice-based cropping systems in Bihar with a crop and nutrient management guideline customized to the needs of an individual farmer. It can be used with computer, mobile and tablet.

News 3: Haryana to develop a new Industrial Township in Gurgaon at an expense of \$5 billion

The Haryana State Government has signed an MoU with China Fortune Land Development (CFLD) company to develop a new industrial township, spread in over 1,500 acres in Sohna and Manesar areas of Gurgaon, at a cost of \$5 billion. HSIIDC and CFLD Company would execute the project as a joint venture (JV).



These projects would be completed within the next 10 years. The Chinese firm would develop infrastructural facilities, industrial units and residential and commercial projects in the township.

News 4: Kerala Government bans 'Electronic Cigarettes'

The Kerala State Government has decided to ban the manufacture, sale, marketing and advertising of e-cigarettes in the State, following study reports that the use of e-cigarettes could lead to cancer and heart diseases. The expert committee set up by the Union government in 2014 had recommended banning it.



The e-cigarettes are popular as a “Healthier Alternative” to conventional cigarettes and as an aid to help quit smoking. However, experts have pointed it out as an electronic form of delivering a mixture of nicotine, glycerin and ethylene glycol.

News 5: India’s first Commercial Court and Commercial Disputes Resolution Centre inaugurated in Raipur

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh inaugurated country's first commercial court and a commercial dispute resolution centre in Raipur. The center will facilitate speedy disposal of commercial disputes. These centers host some of the ultra-modern facilities like video-conferencing, e-court, e-library, e-filing and e-summons.



The commercial court is located in Naya Raipur area of the city. The court also consists of arbitration centre and a mediation centre.

News 6: MP Cabinet approves proposal to impose entry tax on online shopping

The Madhya Pradesh State Cabinet gave its approval to a proposal for imposing entry tax on online shopping. Now 6% entry tax will be levied on the online shopping in the state in the wake of losses to the state exchequer due to the online shopping.



In another significant step, the state cabinet has made a toilet in home mandatory for contesting the panchayat elections. Now those not having toilets in their house cannot contest panchayat elections. There are four lakh panch-sarpanchs in the state.

News 7: MP Cabinet approved “Madhya Pradesh Tax on Entry of Goods in Local Areas Amendment Bill, 2016”

The Madhya Pradesh State Cabinet gave its nod to Madhya Pradesh Tax on Entry of Goods in Local Areas Amendment Bill, 2016.

This Bill seeks to levy 6% entry tax on goods brought to local areas for consumption after purchase under e-commerce. This step has taken in the wake of losses to the state exchequer due to the online shopping.



News 8: Rajasthan becomes the first state to introduce minimum wages for part time workers

Rajasthan became the first state in the country to introduce minimum wages for the part time workers. According to a notification released by the Labour Department, it is now mandatory to pay 50% of the prescribed a day minimum wage to a person who works for less than four hours in a day.

With this notification, part time workers now come under the Minimum Wages Act 1948. In another decision government has increased minimum wages in all categories of scheduled employments by Rs 104 per month.



News 9: West Bengal to have three Biotechnology Hubs in its state

The West Bengal Government will set up three biotechnology hubs across the state to welcome more biotechnology innovations. In the beginning, the three hubs will be established at Bardhaman, Kalimpong and Medinipur districts.

The main objective behind the decision taken was to improve the productivity and quality of various products in the field of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Processing and provide germ-free food to the common people.



News 10: Andhra Pradesh’s Lohit District Administration introduces mobile app “Apna Lohit”

In order to implement and moving towards digital India, the Andhra Pradesh Government introduced a mobile app called “Apna Lohit” through which people can have access to detailed useful information about the district at one go. It works like a mini Wikipedia to help people know about the geography, culture, location, history and all kind of helpline numbers through one mobile app.



This Mobile app will also help in checking corruption, improve transparency and monitoring various schemes.

News 11: Delhi Government agrees to new slum and Jhuggi-Jhopdi Rehabilitation Policy

The Delhi Government approved the new slum and jhugg-jhopdi rehabilitation policy under which slums which came up before January 2015 will not be demolished without providing alternative accommodation to its dwellers.



As per the policy approved, the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) will work as the nodal agency and rehabilitate the eligible JJ dwellers before removal of jhuggies as per this policy. In the budget, the Government had also allocated Rs. 100 crores funding for rehabilitation of these JJ clusters.

News 12: The 139th Lord Jagannath 9-Day Rath Yatra begins in Puri

The annual 9-days Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath started in Puri, to be witnessed by more than 10 lakh devotees from India and abroad. Every year this festival is celebrated on Ashadha Shukla Paksha Dwitiya (second day in bright fortnight of Ashadha month). One of the special attribute about the temple is that the three chariots of Balabhadra, Subhadra and Jagannatha are newly made every year with wood of specified trees.



During the journey, the chariots on which the deities are carried, will be pulled by thousands of devotees. The three deities will remain in the Gundicha temple for a week and then return. The return journey of Puri Jagannath Ratha Jatra is known as Bahuda Jatra.

News 13: Maharashtra Police launched four safety and emergency helpful apps for public security

In order to have better public security, Maharashtra Police launched four mobile apps for timely delivered services into emergency situations. They are named as Pratisaad-Ask, Police Mitra, Vahan Chori Takrar and Railway helpline.



It was launched by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Nagpur. This will help citizens to inform police and report any emergency situation or crime like robbery or assault on women, anytime and from anywhere. The apps are currently supported on Android platform but will be soon be made available on iOS platform.

News 14: Supreme Court reinstated Nabam Tuki Government in Arunachal Pradesh

A five-judge Constitution Bench ordered status quo ante and reinstated the Congress Government led by Nabam Tuki in Arunachal Pradesh. The constitutional bench headed by Justice JS Khehar termed removal of former Chief Minister Nabam Tuki and all decisions of Governor Jyoti Prasad Rajkhawa as unconstitutional.



The bench ruled in one voice that the Governor cannot interfere in the activities of the Assembly, cannot fix a date for an Assembly session or decide how the Assembly functions. This judicial bench comprised of Justices Dipak Misra, Madan B Lokur, P C Ghose and N V Ramana.

News 15: Kerala introduces 'World's First' Digital Student Incubator

Kerala launched the first of its kind 'Digital Student Incubator' as a digital makeover of the Startup Village in Kochi. The state will fund 1,000 startups every year with Rs. 2 lakhs for turning ideas to prototypes. The best prototypes will be funded Rs. 1 crore interest free loan to turn the prototype idea into a successful startup.



The Kochi Startup Village between years 2012 to 2015, co-operated more than 500 startups and helped generating more than 3,000 jobs. Students can indulge themselves in teams and apply at SV.CO.

News 16: West Bengal Government sets target to make rural Bengal open defecation free by March 2019

The West Bengal Government has set a target to create toilets across all villages of the state by March 2019 and help rural Bengal become open defecation free (ODF) place to live in. According to, Dibyendu Sarkar, Commissioner in the State's Panchayat and Rural Development Department, they have planned to create toilets across all rural households.



The Government plans to make Hooghly, East Midnapore and North Parganas districts free from ODF by September 2016. Burdwan and South Paraganas will be free from ODF by March 2017. As in 2015, Nadia district became the first to achieve ODF status in the country.

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News 17: ADB gives a 100-million-dollar loan to help tackle climate threats in the Cauvery Delta

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$100 million loan agreement to strengthen a key irrigation and drainage system and improve water management in the Vennar Sub-Basin of the Cauvery Delta in Tamil Nadu.



The financing will be used to strengthen embankments of six major irrigation water channels in the Vennar system and rehabilitate 13 irrigation pumping schemes. The Cauvery River Basin is a critical source of water for agriculture, both within Tamil Nadu and neighboring states. The loan from ADB's ordinary capital resources has a 25-year term. The project is expected to be completed by December 2020.

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News 18: 'Ramayana Month' begins in Kerala

The annual 'Ramayana Month' began in Kerala on the 16th July. 'Karkkidakam' which is the last month in the Malayalam calendar is observed as the auspicious Ramayana month in the state. The decade old tradition is celebrated across temples and Hindu houses in the state resonating with the chanting of the epic, Ramayana.

Devotees recite "Adhyatma Ramayana" authored by medieval devotional poet Thunchath Ramanujan Ezhuthachan, in the next one month to mark the period. Karkkidakam month comes ahead of Chingam that brings colorful festival of Onam for the Malayalis.



News 19: Madhya Pradesh becomes the first state to have a Happiness Department

Madhya Pradesh became the first state in the country to set up a 'Happiness Department'. This department will work to ensure "happiness in the lives of common people". The Happiness Department will function as a "Knowledge Resource Centre" on the subject of happiness. It will include a chairman, a CEO, a director each for Research and Coordination and an accounts officer, four posts of Research Assistant, six Junior Assistant and five peons. The cabinet also decided to establish a state Happiness Institute under the Happiness Department and approved an estimated budget of Rs. 3.6 crores for the Happiness department.



The concept of happiness is already there in Bhutan which has a "Happiness Index" to measure the happiness of its people.

News 20: Maharashtra CM launches virtual, digital classrooms across 32 ITIs in state

On the occasion of World Youth Skills Day, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched the facility of virtual and digital classrooms across 32 ITIs in the state. The facilities will be soon extended to all ITIs. The facility is supported by Tata Trusts, Wadhvani Foundation and Valuable Group.



The Chief Minister also announced an initiative to make these classrooms and course content 3D enabled and use of simulators to give hands-on training to youths. The Chief Minister also announced an initiative called 'Skill Sakhis' for women empowerment.

News 21: Delhi Airport rolls out portable, common use check-in device

The Delhi Airport rolled out portable, common use check-in device for the first time in the country, which is expected to reduce flight check-in time significantly at India's busiest aerodrome. The hand-held vMUSE portable check-in facility offers a cost effective way to accommodate rapid passenger growth at the airport. The specialized check-in tool helps reduce queues, eases check-in process and enables airlines to offer an added level of service to their passengers.



The mobile device was launched after successful trial at the Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. During the trial, commuters experienced smooth check-in through this Wi-Fi enabled gadget, which has a Bluetooth-based printer attached to it to print the boarding pass.

News 22: Pema Khandu took oath as the 9th Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh

Pema Khandu took oath as the ninth Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh and Chowna Mein as the Deputy Chief Minister in the presence of Governor Tathagata Roy at the Rajbhavan.



It was initially directed by Governor to take floor test in the Assembly of Chief Minister Nabam Tuki but later Congress Legislature Party decided to elect Pema Khandu, son of late Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu in place of Tuki to the Chief Minister's post on the basis of voting done by 45 party MLAs along with two independents.

News 23: Delhi Chief Minister launches live interactive session ‘Talk to AK’

A live interactive program ‘Talk to AK’ was launched by the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal so as to involve public in interactive programs or decisions taken by the Government and reach out to the people to solve their queries. People, from anywhere in India can ask queries by dialing 011-23392999 or log on to its website ‘talktoak.com’ or by sending text message through social media.



First such session was interactive and lasted for 2 hours where Chief Minister replied to a various questions asked by the public.

News 24: Cabinet approves 1980 MW coal based thermal power project at Ghatampur in UP

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for installation of Ghatampur Thermal Power Project (GTPC) of 1980 MW (3 X 660 MW) capacity through a Joint Venture Company named “Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited (NUPPL)” formed jointly by Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL).



The project will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 17,237.8 crores including Interest During Construction component of Rs. 3,202.42 crores. The commissioning of Unit I, II and III will be 52 months, 58 months and 64 months respectively from starting date.

News 25: UP signs agreement with Netherlands for setting up a Skill Development Centre for farmers

The UP Government signed an MoU with the Netherlands to set up a skill development centre to help farmers. According to the agreement, farmers would get information of food processing and of use of modern techniques for better produce of sugarcane, potato, dairy development and flowers.



In addition, the Dutch Government would also help in cleaning the Yamuna in Agra and in sewage treatment. Further,

Netherlands would also help in land reclamation of 1,500 acres in the Ganga basin in Kanpur and development of cultural heritage.

News 26: Odisha Government announces to Celebrate Bicentenary of 1817 Paik Revolt

The Odisha Government will celebrate the Bicentenary of the 1817 Paik revolt in 2017. Many historians claim the Paik Revolt to be the first War of India's Independence. Paikas (a martial race) had first raised the banner of revolt against the British Raj in 1817 at Barunei near Khurda.



The Historians from Odisha claim the Paik revolt should be acknowledged as the first war of Independence, and not the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. As part of the event, an Amar Jyoti Pillar will be installed at Barunei Hills and Khurda Fort will be conserved and protected and a road leading to it will be developed by the State Government.

News 27: Kerala Assembly passed the Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualifications) Amendment Bill 2016

The Kerala Assembly passed the Legislative Assembly (Removal of Disqualifications) Amendment Bill 2016 with retrospective effect from 1951. The Bill paves way for the appointment of CPI-M Veteran V S Achuthanandan as the Chairman of the proposed Fourth Administrative Reforms Commission.



This bill seeks to amend the Section 2 of the 1951 Act by adding sub-section 2 and is envisaged to make necessary amendments in the present law to remove technical obstacles to confer Achuthanandan, also a legislator in the state Assembly, the post with Cabinet rank.

News 28: Kerala State Government constitutes State Technical Advisory Group on Immunization

The Kerala state government has constituted a State Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (STAGI) for advising it on policies and practices to be adopted and implementation of the National Immunization Program. The advisory group will have the Director of Health Service as the chairman and the Director of Medical Education as co-chairman. Apart from the chairman and the co-chairman, it will have eleven members.



The committee will be responsible for timely recommendations on the choice of vaccines to be included in the State's immunization program as well as modifying the current guidelines based on the State's surveillance data.

News 29: NDMC inked MoU with NEERI to develop sewage treatment plants

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI). The MoU will help NDMC develop green areas and revamp big and small parks under its jurisdiction.



In the first phase, 12 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) will be installed and each plant will have a capacity of treating sewage water ranging from 50,000 to 1 lakh liters. As part of the agreement, NDMC will bear only pumping cost which is economic and NEERI will bear the cost of the project.

News 30: The State Green Panel gives clearance for Odisha's power project

A State Green Panel has given first-stage clearance to Orissa Integrated Power Ltd (OIPL) for diverting 17.02 hectares of revenue forestland to set up a 4,000 MW UMPP in Sundargarh district in Odisha. REC (Regional Empowered Committee) has recommended "Stage-I" approval to the proposal with some conditions. The company has been asked to raise compensatory afforestation to 27.89 hectares in one compact block. It has also been asked to furnish revised Forest Rights Act (FRA) certificate for 17.02 hectares before issuance of stage-II approval.



The project cost is pegged at Rs. 29,000 crores and is estimated to generate over 4,500 jobs in the state.

News 31: MP State Cabinet lays down mandatory rules for Panchayat Elections

The MP State Cabinet has made toilet in home mandatory for contesting the panchayat elections. It also extended special recruitment drive being conducted for filling backlog/carry forward vacancies of SCs, STs, OBCs and disabled persons. The cabinet has authorized the Finance Minister to hear problems of daily wagers and work charged employees in the state who would further inform the Chief Minister.



The cabinet also sanctioned amended self-finance pension scheme's sixth pay scale in accordance with the terms and conditions of 1st April 2014 in Rajmata Scindia Agriculture University, Gwalior.

News 32: Centre approves projects worth Rs. 19 Crores for Mewat and Sirsa districts of Haryana

The Central Government has approved projects involving an investment of Rs. 19.50 crores for Mewat and Sirsa districts of Haryana, under the Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP).



The share of the Central and State Governments would be Rs. 11.71 crore and Rs. 7.81 crore rupees respectively, for the implementation of these projects. The class rooms, toilets for students and separate toilets for children with special needs would be constructed under this project.

News 33: Kochi to have the Country's First Water Metro

Kochi will be the first Indian city where water connectivity will be developed as a feeder service to the Metro Rail and will be called as 'Water Metros'. Procurement of modernized boats for the Water Metro Project will begin in year 2018.



The related agreement was signed between the Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) and German Development Bank KfW for an 85 Million Euro (Rs. 597 Crores) loan for the Water Metro Project. The remaining amount of Rs. 102 Crores will be funded by the Kerala

Government. The project will be financed by the Indo-German Bilateral Cooperation, under the 'Climate Friendly Urban Mobility Plan.'

News 34: Haryana Government notifies Freight Assistance Scheme for MSME Exporters

The Haryana Government has notified the "Freight Assistance Scheme" for the exporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) situated in the State and has given them time till September 9th to submit the claim application for 2015-16. The decision was taken in lieu of the additional transportation cost borne by the exporters which made their product uncompetitive.



The FoB value of 1% or actual freight assistance, whichever is less and maximum up to Rs. 20 lakhs will be provided to all exporting MSMEs. The assistance would be admissible only in case of direct export of the goods manufactured by the exporting unit and no amount would be given for export by air.

News 35: Rajasthan aims to double its farmers' income in six years

The Rajasthan Government, in an attempt to double the income of farmers by 2022, plans to bring in latest technological innovation and introduce best farming practices by inviting experts to Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM) in Jaipur from November 9 to 11.



The primary objective of GRAM 2016 is to ensure the economic empowerment of the farmers and double their income by 2022. Farmers would be taught various new techniques to improve yields and on use of drip irrigation to overcome drought-like situations.

News 36: Karnataka opens a dedicated start-up cell

The Karnataka Government has set up a dedicated Start-up Cell to fuel the implementation of the initiatives under its Start-up Policy 2015-2020 for start-ups registered with it.



The Government launched a portal, www.startup.karnataka.gov.in, to enable and educate start-ups on the State Government's policies and provide access to various benefits under the policy. Under the Innovate

Karnataka initiative, the State Government will provide start-ups with financial support equivalent to approximately Rs. 400 crores in the form of grant/equity, through the various funds.

News 37: Dakshayani set to enter Guinness World Records as the oldest Elephant

At the age of 86 years, Dakshayani – an Elephant in Kerala, is all set to enter the Guinness World Records as the oldest living elephant. The Travancore Devasom Board (TDB) is the owner of the elephant. The TDB owns 1,250 temples in South Kerala districts, including the famed Sabarimala temple. They have 33 elephants which take part in the festivals of their temples.



The TDB claims that Dakshayani is with them since 1949. Elephants are an integral part of the cultural milieu of Kerala and are prominently displayed in festivals and processions.

News 38: India's first set of Humboldt Penguins reach the Mumbai Zoo from Seoul

Eight Humboldt Penguins (three males, three females and two female babies) reached the Byculla Zoo, Mumbai from Seoul, South Korea. The Humboldt Penguin is a South American species found in cold climate of coastal Peru and Chile.



The BMC has revealed that it is set to incur an expenditure of Rs. 45 crores for a period of five years. The BMC has appointed three separate agencies for this venture – Oceanis, an Australian agency to care for the penguins; SIVAT, a US-based company, and Hindustan Construction Company.

News 39: Pashudhan Bima Yojana launched in Haryana

Haryana Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister, Mr. O. P. Dhankar launched Pashudhan Bima Yojana in the state. Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department has set a target to cover one lakh cattle under the Pashudhan Bima Yojana.



Under this scheme, insurance cover would be provided for cows, bulls, buffaloes and camel at a premium of Rs. 100 and for sheep, goats, pigs at Rs. 25 for a period of three years. The insurance companies would give compensation in case of death of animal. The scheme is free of cost for cattle breeders belonging to Scheduled Castes.

News 40: Centre Sanctions Rs. 623 Crores Drought Assistance to Uttar Pradesh

The Centre has sanctioned 623 Crore Rupees to Uttar Pradesh as an assistance for the recent drought situation in the state. It also approved over 79 Crore Rupees for Rajasthan which was affected by hailstorms and 15 Crore Rupees to Manipur, which was affected by an earthquake.



A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting in New Delhi chaired by the Home Minister Rajnath Singh. The funds were cleared after examining the report of the Central Team, which visited these states.

News 41: MoU Signed for Establishing Hydro Engineering College in Himachal Pradesh

The Government of Himachal Pradesh, NTPC Ltd. & NHPC signed an MoU for setting up Hydro Engineering College in the State of Himachal Pradesh to promote technical education in the State.



The NTPC & NHPC are committed to contribute Rs. 37.50 crores each in the first tranche for setting up of Hydro Engineering College at Badla, District Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. The NTPC & NHPC will also consider to release Rs. 12.5 crores each in the second tranche and will also contribute Rs. 2.5 crores each per year for five years (total Rs. 25 crores) towards operating expenses.

News 42: Manipur Becomes the 14th State to join the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana

The Government of India, the State of Manipur and the DISCOM of Manipur signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under the Scheme UDAY – “Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana”. Manipur becomes the fourteenth State to join UDAY and the first North Eastern State to opt for UDAY for improving the efficiency of the DISCOM.



An overall net benefit of approximately Rs. 263 crores would accrue to the State by opting to participate in UDAY, by way of cheaper funds, reduction in AT&C and transmission losses, interventions in energy efficiency, coal reforms etc. during the period of turnaround.

News 43: Yoga Centers to be set up by Haryana for Municipal Committees, Councils and Corporations

The Haryana State Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Mr. Anil Vij announced to set up yoga centers in all Municipal Committees, Councils and Corporations of Haryana state for Senior Citizens, Women, Youth and Children of the urban areas to practice yoga.



There are 800 Vyayam and Yog Shalas in various districts will be inaugurated for Health Improvement of the people. It is an initiative towards State's Health Improvement. The recruitment process of 1,000 yoga trainers for these Vyayam and Yog Shalas has already been initiated.

News 44: Odisha gives nod to three Investment Projects worth Rs. 874 Crores

Three projects with a total investment of Rs. 874 Crores and employment opportunities to 630 persons was approved by the Odisha Government to generate employment. A First such project is approved by the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Mr. A P Padhi for Coca-Cola Beverages Private Limited to generate employment for 348 persons.

Another project is being started with an investment Rs. 102 crores which would offer employment for 116 persons for P & A Bottlers Limited. A third project is by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Common User Facility Centre with an investment of Rs. 272 Crores and provide employment to around 166 persons.



News 45: Motorcycle rally 'Ride for Accessibility' flagged off in Delhi

A motorcycle rally named Ride for Accessibility was organized in the National Capital on 24th July, 2016 to spread awareness about 'Universal Accessibility' through 'Ride for Accessibility' for the Accessible India Campaign. The rally saw 500 young men and women motorcycle riders participate in the event.



Accessible India Campaign also known as Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan is aimed at creating universal accessibility in built environment, public transportation and Information and Communication Technology eco-system for Divyangs.

News 46: Maharashtra CM launches the pilot project of E-Complaint System

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched a pilot project of E-Complaint System on an experimental basis in Pune. The citizens can now register a police complaint online at any city police station from anywhere. After the pilot project, the system will be launched across the state.



To register an online complaint, a citizen will have to first create a user name and password on www.mhpolice.maharashtra.gov.in. People can write their complaints in up to 12,000 words. Also, a new SMS gateway has been launched wherein people get acknowledgement of the FIR on phone through a system generated SMS.

News 47: AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched 'Mission Harita Andhra Pradesh'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched 'Mission Harita Andhra Pradesh', with the theme 'Green Cover for a Happy Living'. The slogan for the mission is "Vanam-Manam (Forest and We)". He planted saplings at Sunkollu Village in the Krishna District.



The objective of the mission is to increase the green cover in the state to 50 per cent by the year 2029. Andhra Pradesh currently has 23 per cent Green Cover (forest area) and another 3 per cent non-forest, besides 13 lakh hectares of degraded forest.

News 48: Cochin Chamber launching Aadhaar-based e-certificate of origin

The Cochin Chamber of Commerce & Industry launched an Aadhaar based e-Certificate of Origin service. This user-friendly online solution enables the Cochin Chamber of Commerce & Industry to manage digital requests and digitally sign-off electronic Certificates of Origin on behalf of exporters and freight forwarders.



The online service and platform is provided by Myeasydocs, an IIT Madras Incubated Company. A certificate of origin is a critical document in the course of export and is issued to exporters by the Chamber of Commerce to avail duty benefits under Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) or prove from where the goods originated.

News 49: Madhya Pradesh adjudged as the best state for Comprehensive Development of Tourism

Madhya Pradesh has been adjudged as the best state for comprehensive development of tourism, followed by Gujarat and Karnataka at the National Tourism Awards for the year 2014-2015 to various segments of the travel, tourism and hospitality industry.



Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur Railway Station received the Best Tourist Friendly railway station award while Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport got the Best Airport award and Telangana's Warangal received the best heritage city award. (FYI: India attracts less than 1% of tourists globally.)

News 50: Gujarat to exempt small private vehicles from paying toll tax from Aug. 15

Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel, addressing the 67th Van Mahotsav function at Valsad, has announced to exempt small private vehicles from paying toll tax in the state. The decision will come into effect from 15th August after issuance of a Notification. The Gujarat Government will bear the losses incurred to toll booth operators due to exemption granted to small private vehicles.

Surveys are being conducted on what exactly will be the amount that Gujarat Government will have to pay to toll road operators to compensate the exemption.



News 51: Odisha announces Rs. 60 lakhs special incentive for Olympic Qualifiers

The Odisha Government has announced a special incentive of Rs. 60 lakhs cash for six sportswomen of the state who have qualified for the Rio Olympics. The six sportspersons are sprinters Dutee Chand and Srabani Nanda and four Hockey Players – Deep Grace Ekka, Namita Toppo, Lilima Minz and Sunita Lakra, would receive 10 lakh rupees each.

While Dutee has qualified to participate in the 100-metre run, Srabani has qualified for 200-metre run event. Both have also qualified for the 4X100 metre relay race. Besides, the four hockey players of the state have found places in the Indian team.



News 52: A Rs. 2,880 crores Deficit Budget for 2016-17 tabled in the Assam Assembly

In Assam, Rs. 2,880 crores deficit budget for 2016-17 was tabled in the state Assembly. Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma, laying the first budget for the newly formed BJP-led coalition government, announced a mega mission for farmers 'Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana', under which nine sub-missions will run to double the farm income by 2021-22.

Among the items that would be cheaper are e-rickshaws, candles, jaggery, tamarind,



kerosene stoves, LED bulbs, packaged drinking, hospital equipment. The items that would get costlier include readymade gold ornaments, amusement tax, mobile phones, cigarettes.

News 53: Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac proposed 14.5% fat tax on Junk Food

Kerala Finance Minister T M Thomas Isaac proposed a 14.5% fat tax on junk food like pizzas, burgers, pasta and doughnuts to help people inculcate healthy eating habits. Fat tax was proposed in the State Budget of May 2016. The National Restaurant Association of India has decided to take legal opinion if the Kerala government levies fat tax.



Kerala is the first Indian state to consider imposing such a tax. Industry estimates suggest there are at least 50-60 organized restaurant chains in Kerala, including global brands such as McDonald's, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Domino's and Subway.

News 54: 'Smart Pulse Survey' to be organized by the Andhra Pradesh Government

The Andhra Pradesh Government will conduct a Smart Pulse Survey for collecting socio-economic data of 1.48 crore households in the state from 8th to 30th July. Considering a loophole in the Aadhaar database that does not provide the socio-economic details like caste, community education, income and livelihood details of a citizen, the A.P. Government decided to conduct this smart pulse survey.



The State Government appointed senior IAS officers, who will supervise the survey as nodal officers for the 13 districts. Survey will be conducted by visiting houses and details could be provided by citizens over the internet also.

REPORTS

News 1: Germany Tops 2016 Logistics Performance Index

The latest edition of the Logistics Performance Index released by the World Bank, which is a part of the Bi-Annual report – Connecting to Compete 2016: Trade Logistics in the Global Economy, ranks 160 countries on their trade logistics performance. For the third time, Germany is the top performer. Syria ranked the lowest.



India's ranking jumped from 54 in 2014 to 35 in 2016. India's international supply chain efficiency was at 75%, when compared to the top-ranked Germany.

News 2: The Networked Readiness Index (NRI) 2016 places India at the 91st position

According to Networked Readiness Index (NRI) 2016 released by the Geneva based World Economic Forum (WEF), India was assigned the 91st rank. This report states the countries' success in creating the necessary conditions for a transition to a digitized economy and society. Networked Readiness Index (NRI) is a part of WEF's Global Information Technology Report 2016.

Figure 4: The Networked Readiness Index map



The countries who topped the index were Singapore, followed by Finland, Sweden, Norway and the United States. It means that these countries excel when it comes to economically benefiting from investments in information and communications technologies. Europe remains at the technology frontier because index shows seven of the top 10 NRI countries are European.

News 3: World's Highest-Paid Celebrities 2016 list 'Celebrity 100' unveiled by Forbes

World's highest-paid celebrities list of 2016 was unveiled by Forbes, ranking 100 celebrities across the globe, on the basis of income, Google hits, fan base, press clips and magazine covers. The list was named as 'Celebrity 100'.

The list was topped by Taylor Swift with earnings of 170 million US dollars. Two Indian actors were included in the top 100 list with Shahrukh Khan at the 86th rank and Akshay Kumar at the 94th rank.



News 4: All-Asia Executive Team Rankings 2016 ranks HDFC Bank's Aditya Puri as Asia's best banking CEO

The Asia Investor Community has announced the Chief Executive and Managing Director of HDFC Bank, Aditya Puri as the Asia's best banking Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and HDFC Bank's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Sashi Jagdishan as Asia's best CFO. HDFC Bank was also ranked as the best IR company, thereby making it the most honoured one in the Institutional Investor magazine. The technology used in HDFC bank, particularly in semi urban areas, was one of the reason behind the company's top ranking.



A survey was done among 1,541 companies from 18 sectors across Asia, excluding Japan.

News 5: The 2016 Skytrax awards announced Emirates as the World's Best Airline

According to a survey of millions of airline passengers conducted by Skytrax, Dubai based Emirates Airlines is the world's best airline for 2016. The survey was on the basis of the consistency of the quality service among the world's top carriers.

This Airline also won the World's Best Inflight Entertainment for a record 12th consecutive year, and also received the Best Airline in the Middle East, bringing its total Awards since 2001 to 20. Not to be outdone, Qatar Airlines won three other awards, which are – World's Best Business Class, Best Business Class Airline Lounge and the Best Airline Staff Service in the Middle East.



News 6: Seven Indian firms in the Fortune 500 List

There are Seven Indian Companies have made it to the latest Fortune 500 list of the World's Biggest Corporations in terms of revenue with the Retail Giant Walmart topping the global rankings. Among the seven Indian companies, four are from the public sector.

Indian Oil Corp is ranked highest at the 161st position among the Indian firms. Among the State-Run majors, Indian Oil is followed by SBI (232nd), Bharat Petroleum (358th) and Hindustan Petroleum (367th). Private Gems and Jewelry major Rajesh Exports Ltd has made its debut at 423rd position. Reliance Industries Ltd (215th) is the top-ranked among Private Sector Firms, followed by Tata Motors (226th) Ltd and Rajesh Exports.



News 7: India ranks 110th on the Sustainable Development Index

India has ranked a low 110 out of 149 in the new Sustainable Development Goal Index launched by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung. This index provides a report card for tracking Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) progress and ensuring accountability. It ranks countries based on their performance across the 17 global goals.



Sweden tops the chart followed by Denmark and Norway respectively. Germany, UK, US, Russia and China are ranked 6th, 10th, 25th, 47th and 76th respectively on the index. Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are ranked 115th, 117th, 118th and 139th respectively.

News 8: CSIR Ranks 12th in the World Among Government Institutions: Scimago Institutions Rankings

The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has been ranked 12th in the world among the Government Institutions in the world, improving its position after being at the 14th spot for three consecutive years, according to the 2016 report of the prestigious Scimago Institutions Rankings.



The overall global ranking of CSIR also improved from 110th to the 99th position. CSIR is the only Indian organization to have found a place among the top 100 global institutions.

Top 5 Rankings:

- National Center for Scientific Research, France
- Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
- Helmholtz Association of German Research Centers, Germany
- Max Planck Society, Germany
- Spanish National Research Council, Spain

RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS

News 1: Ravi Shastri resigns from his ICC post

Former India captain and Team Director Ravi Shastri has resigned from his post as a media representative in ICC's Prestigious Cricket Committee. The official reason is his busy media commitments as Commentator, TV Expert and Columnist.

The Chairman of The ICC Cricket Committee is Anil Kumble. Kumble was selected as the coach of the Indian National Cricket Team and pipped Shastri to the job after getting a nod from the high profile Cricket Advisory Committee.



News 2: Minority Affairs Minister Najma Heptulla and Minister of State for Heavy Industries G M Siddeswara resigned from the Modi Cabinet

Minority Affairs Minister Najma Heptulla and Minister of State for Heavy Industries G M Siddeswara resigned from the Union Cabinet. It has been done on the basis of age factor. Prime Minister has set an age restriction of 75 years for ministers and had kept experienced leaders like L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi as supervisors in 'Margdarshak Mandal'.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has been given the independent charge of Ministry of Minority Affairs. Babul Supriyo has been assigned the Ministry of Heavy Industries.



News 3: BJP leader Navjot Singh Sidhu resigned from the Rajya Sabha

BJP leader Navjot Singh Sidhu has resigned from the Rajya Sabha. He was nominated to the Upper House in April 2015. Deputy Chairman P J Kurien announced in the House that his resignation has been accepted.

Sidhu's resignation came amid speculation that the cricketer turned politician may join Aam Aadmi Party in view of the upcoming assembly elections in Punjab.



News 4: Chairman and CEO of Fox News, Roger Ailes, resigned

Roger Ailes, Chairman and CEO of Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network, and Chairman of Fox Television Stations, has resigned from his role effective immediately. Rupert Murdoch will assume the role of Chairman and acting CEO of Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network.



However, Ailes will continue to serve as an informal adviser to Rupert Murdoch and will receive a severance package of about 40 million US dollars.

News 5: Ricoh India's Chairman and Director Tetsuya Takano resigned

Ricoh India's Chairman and Director, Tetsuya Takano, has resigned from the company. His resignation has come at the wake of Ricoh India having accepted that its accounts appear to have been "falsified" and estimated to incur a loss of Rs. 1,123 crores for the fiscal that ended on March 31, 2016.



The company has appointed Ian Peter Winham as its Director and Chairman with immediate effect. Winham joined the Ricoh Group in Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) in 2002 as a CFO. Winham has worked extensively in India over the last six years.

News 6: Ericsson's Hans Vestberg steps down as the CEO

Ericsson's Chief Executive Officer, Hans Vestberg, has stepped down from the position of the President and CEO and the member of the Board of Directors of Ericsson with immediate effect. Vestberg has been CEO since 2010 and came under fire in recent months, with Swedish media questioning his leadership and pay.



Executive Vice President and CFO, Jan Frykhammar, will be CEO until a replacement is found. Carl Mellander, who is currently the VP & Group Treasurer, is appointed as the acting CFO with immediate effect.

News 7: Sunil Kant Munjal to step down from the Hero MotoCorp Board

Sunil Kant Munjal, who is the Joint Managing Director at the Hero MotoCorp and Chairman of the Hero Corporate Services will step down from his position on August 16th 2016. He intends to focus on independent and core business and will pursue new business interests. He will lead the Hero Group's ventures in defence, power as focus turns towards diversification.



Sunil Kant Munjal is the youngest son of Brijmohan Lall Munjal. Pawan Munjal, his brother, is the Chairman of the company.

News 8: Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board, T Nanda Kumar resigned

Chairman of the Gujarat based National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), T. Nanda Kumar, has resigned. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has accepted his resignation with effect from August 1, 2016. He will also cease to be the Chairman of the NDDB promoted companies and institutions, including Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Private Ltd, Indian Immunologicals Ltd, IDMC Ltd and Institute of Rural Management, Anand.



Mr. Kumar is a former IAS officer and has been working as NDDB chief since March 3, 2014. He is the third chairman of the board based in Anand, Gujarat, after V. Kurien and Amrita Patel.

News 9: Captain of the German Football team, Bastian Schweinsteiger, announced retirement

Germany's Football Team Captain Bastian Schweinsteiger has announced his retirement from international football. He has featured for Germany at the European Championships in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 as well as the 2006, 2010 and 2014 World Cups. He retires as Germany's fourth most capped player of all time on 120 – behind Lothar Matthaus (150), Miroslav Klose (137) and Lukas Podolski (129).



He was a part of the 2014 World Cup winning side.

News 10: Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli resigns ahead of a no-confidence vote

Nepalese Prime Minister K P Oli tendered his resignation after two key ruling alliance partners – Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Democratic and Rastriya Prajatantra Party decided to support the no-confidence motion tabled against him by the Nepali Congress (NC) and the CPN-Maoist Centre led by Prachanda.



Addressing the Parliament on the no-confidence motion, Oli called the change in the Government at this time as mysterious and said, he was punished for doing good work.

News 11: Microsoft Chief Operating Officer Kevin Turner Resigns

Kevin Turner resigned from the post of the Chief Operating Officer of Microsoft, to join Citadel Securities as its CEO and Vice Chairman. He served for 11 years in Microsoft where his leadership and working tactics resulted in yielding more than \$90 Billion in revenues for Microsoft in 2015.



Prior to Microsoft, Turner worked with Walmart for 20 years and was named Walmart's Chief Information Officer and later President and CEO of Sam's Club.

News 12: Phiroz Vandrevala resigns as the Director from IT firm Tata Consultancy Services

Phiroz Vandrevala resigned from the post of the Non-Executive Director of the IT Services firm Tata Consultancy Services due to personal reasons. However, Vandrevala will continue as the Vice-Chairman and MD of Diligenta, a TCS subsidiary. He served for 25 years in TCS.



At Diligenta, he has been handling operations of the Organisation and opportunities worldwide. His innovative business strategies and techno-savvy tactics has helped in expanding business.

SPORTS

News 1: Sameer emerges as the fastest athlete at the 56th National Inter-State Athletics

Sameer Mon won the gold in 100m dash in 10.60 secs on the third day of the 56th National Inter-State Senior Championships held at the G M C Balayogi Stadium, Hyderabad. He represented Manipur and emerged as the fastest male athlete.



The other results are as follows:

- **Women's 100 Meter Dash:** Reena George of Karnataka won Gold by clocking 11.99 seconds.
- **Women's Pole Vault:** Khyati Vakharia of Karnataka cleared the season's best 3.80 meter to win Gold.
- **Women's 100 Meter Hurdles:** M Sugina of Kerala clocked a personal best of 14.17 secs to win gold.
- **Men's 110 Meter Hurdles:** D Sreekanth of Kerala won Gold by clocking personal best of 14.54 seconds.
- **Women's Triple Jump:** Shilpa Chacko won third gold for Kerala by clearing 13.22 meters.
- **Men's 20 Km Walk:** Gujarat's Babubhai Panocha took his third Inter-state title in men's category with a time of 1 hour 31 minutes 26 seconds.

News 2: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu became the first Indian to play in the Europa League

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu became the first Indian footballer to play for a team in the top flight Europa League Championships after he was named in the playing XI for Norwegian Tippeligaen Club Stabaek FC in a Europa League qualifier against the Welsh side Connah's Quay Nomads FC. The Europa League is a rung below the UEFA Champions League.

Sandhu, who signed for Stabaek in 2014, made headlines in May after he became the first Indian to start in the first team in a top-division league of Europe.



News 3: India won men's singles and doubles title at the 2016 Canada Open Grand Prix Badminton

B Sai Praneeth and Rio-bound men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy won the singles and doubles title clash respectively at the 55,000 dollars Canada Open Grand Prix badminton tournament in Calgary.

Praneeth who was seeded fourth defeated Korea's Lee Hyun 21-12 21-10 in the men's singles final to win the trophy. Manu and Sumeeth Reddy defeated local combo of Adrian Liu and Toby Ng 21-8 21-14 to win the title. The duo became the first Indian men's doubles pair to qualify for the Rio Olympics.



News 4: Lewis Hamilton won the 2016 Austrian Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton won the Austrian Grand Prix. He closed the gap on the Championship Leader and Teammate Nico Rosberg with the win. Rosberg leads Hamilton by 11 points.

Max Verstappen finished second while Kimi Raikkonen stood third. Nico Rosberg finished fourth while Sebastian Vettel crashed out of the race.



Mercedes' Nico Rosberg was the winner of the 2015 Austrian Grand Prix.

News 5: India to host world's first MMA 'Super Fight League'

India will be hosting the world's first Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) 'Super Fight League' from August 26 to October 1. The franchise based league will feature eight teams – Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai, Haryana, Bangalore, Punjab, Pune and Goa. Each team will consist of nine Indian fighters and three international fighters. A total of 96 fighters will be involved in both men and women combined.



Renowned British boxer Amir Khan is the chairman of the league. A total of 72 bouts will be played in the league stage followed by two semi-finals, third place and the final bout.

News 6: Bangalore's Niranjn Mukundan wins eight medals in IWAS World Games

Niranjn Mukundan, a para-swimmer from Bangalore, won eight medals, including three golds, at the recently-concluded IWAS (International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports) U-23 World Games in Prague, Czech Republic. He won gold medals in 200m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 50m breaststroke, silver in 100m fly and 50m freestyle, as well as bronze in 100m freestyle, 100m breaststroke and 100m backstroke events.



Niranjn is born with a medical condition called Spina Bifida and clubbed feet. GoSports Foundation is supporting Niranjn through the Para Champions Program.

News 7: Javelin Thrower Annu Rani creates a National Record at the National Inter-State Athletics Championships

Javelin thrower Annu Rani created a new national record with a massive 59.87m throw at the recently concluded 56th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships. Her previous best was 59.53m at the Incheon South Asian Games to win the bronze medal. Suman Devi with a throw of 55.88m came second while Sharmila Kumari was third with a 53.80m throw.



Javelin thrower Amit Kumar (24) won the men's event with a notable personal best 79.14m ahead of Ravinder Singh Khaira (78.11m) and Vipin Kasana (77.94m).

News 8: Saudi Arabia elected as ICC's 39th Associate Member

Saudi Arabia was unanimously elected as the International Cricket Council's 39th Associate Member.

The Saudi Cricket Centre (SCC) has been an Affiliate Member of the ICC since 2003 and, as per the 2014 census, boasts of 4,350 cricketers and 80 dedicated cricket facilities. Recently, the SCC signed a lucrative three-year deal with MoneyGram, which is also one of the ICC's valued partners. The ICC also ratified the suspensions of the USA Cricket Association (USACA) and the Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN).



News 9: International Gymnastics Federation declared Dipa Karmakar as World Class Gymnast

Dipa Karmakar was informed that she will receive a gold pin from the international parent body for being a 'World Class Gymnast' due to her outstanding performance at the World Championships in October - November 2015. It is honored to the top 30 qualifiers in multiple apparatus events or to event finalists at Worlds and is a once-in-a-career induction into Gymnastics' Elite. With this, she became the first-ever Indian gymnast to receive this prestigious award.



The official ceremony of handing over the pin will be arranged soon.

News 10: ICC releases Test, ODI, and T20I Rankings

The International Cricket Council (ICC) unveiled the official ICC men's Team Rankings for Test, One Day International (ODI) and T20I cricket.



Top 5 teams in ICC Test Rankings	Top 5 teams in ICC ODI Rankings	Top 5 teams in ICC T20 Rankings	Top 5 teams in Women's Rankings
Australia	Australia	New Zealand	Australia
India	New Zealand	India	England
Pakistan	India	West Indies	New Zealand
England	South Africa	South Africa	India
New Zealand	England	England	West Indies

News 11. 2016 Wimbledon Championship results announced

2016 Wimbledon tennis championship results concluded, held for two weeks at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London.

Winners of Wimbledon:



Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Andy Murray (Great Britain)	Milos Raonic (Canada)
Women's Singles	Serena Williams (United States)	Angelique Kerber (Germany)
Men's Doubles	Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut (France)	Julien Benneteau and Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France)
Women's Doubles	Serena Williams and Venus Williams	Timea Babos (Hungary) and Yaroslava Shvedova (Russia)
Mixed doubles	Heather Watson (Britain) and Henri Kontinen (Finland)	Anna-Lena Groenefeld (Germany) and Roberto Farah (Colombia)

News 12: Euro 2016 Football Championship won by Portugal

Portugal won the Euro 2016 Football Championship after defeating France by 1-0 in the final held at Paris, France. Portugal have beaten France for the first time since 1975 and first loss for France at home in a major tournament at home. Eder scored the winning goal with 11 minutes of extra time left to stun France.

Man of the match was awarded to Pepe from Portugal and the 'Young player of the tournament' was honored to Renato Sanches. Antoine Griezmann of France was named Player of the Tournament.



News 13: Lewis Hamilton won the 2016 British Grand Prix Title Championship

The 2016 British Grand Prix title of Formula One championship was claimed by Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton to make it a hat trick of victories at Silverstone. It was his fourth win of the season and the 47th of his career as he equaled Nigel Mansell's British GP record of four wins.



Red Bull's Max Verstappen was second, Nico Rosberg third and Ricciardo was fourth. Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen was fifth.

News 14: GM Harika Dronavalli wins Fide Women's Grand Prix trophy in China

India's Grand Master Harika Dronavalli won the Fide Women's Grand Prix trophy in Chendu in China. It is her maiden career GP title.



Harika finished on 7 points in the round robin tournament featuring the world's top 12 players to be crowned the champion. Other India Grand Master Koneru Humpy too rounded off her campaign with a victory to also finish on 7 points. Harika, however, was declared winner for finishing with a better tie-break record in the tournament.

News 15: India jumps to the 152nd position in the FIFA rankings

In the latest FIFA rankings released by FIFA, India has jumped by 11 places to the 152nd position. According to reports, India is the fourth best positive mover among the Asian countries. Iran (at 39th position) remains Asia's number one ranked team, followed by Korea Republic (at 48th position), Uzbekistan (at 56th position), Japan (57th position) and Australia (59th position).



The Indian ranking was based on its achievement in the 2019 Asian Cup qualifying tournament and its match with Laos. FIFA rankings list was topped by Argentina followed by Belgium, Colombia, Germany and Chile at second, third, fourth and fifth positions while Portugal moved up two places to be at sixth position.

News 16: Misbah-ul-Haq becomes the oldest captain to score a Test Hundred

Misbah-ul-Haq at the age of 42 years, became the oldest captain to score a Test century and the oldest ever to score a Test ton in the 21st century. Misbah is also the oldest visiting player to play a Test on English soil in the last 31 years.



Misbah-ul-Haq is the current Test captain of the Pakistan national cricket team. He holds the record of the fastest test half century. He also scored the fastest test century, equaling the record of Sir Vivian Richards, which was later broken by Brendon McCullum.

News 17: Vijender Singh slams Kerry Hope to claim the WBO Asia Pacific Title

Indian boxer Vijender Singh took all 10 rounds to beat the 34-year-old Welsh-born Australian boxer Kerry Hope and claim the WBO Asia-Pacific Super Middleweight title by score 296-274. Haryana's boxing legend scored 98-92, 98-92, 100-90 to become the winner.



Vijender was looking for a knockout blow from the very beginning even though Kerry was the more attacking of the two. Vijender has been the winner of India's first Olympic and World Championship.

News 18: Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Saurav Ghosal clinched National Squash Championship

The 73rd Senior National Squash Championship was held from 12th July – 17th July 2016 in Mumbai. Dipika Pallikal Karthik (World No. 19) defeated the defending champion Joshna Chinappa to win the women's title.



In the men's category, title holder and top seed, Saurav Ghosal defeated fourth seed Harinderpal Singh Sandhu in five hard-fought games to claim the title. Saurav created history by winning it for the 11th time and he also went past R.K. Narpat Singh's record of 10 wins from 1946 to 1955.

News 19: Yasir Shah of Pakistan scales the number one spot in ICC Test rankings

Wrist spinner Yasir Shah has scaled the number one spot in the ICC Test rankings, becoming the first Pakistani bowler to do so since Mushtaq Ahmed achieved the feat in December 1996. He reached the number one spot after bowling Pakistan to a 75-run victory over England in the first Test at Lord's.



In the Test Batsmen rankings, Australia's Steve Smith maintained his top spot ahead of New Zealand's Kane Williamson. In Test team rankings, Australia and India currently take the top two places, followed by Pakistan and England at third and fourth spots.

News 20: Himachal wins the Champions Trophy in All India Electricity Board Kabaddi tournament

Himachal Pradesh won the Champions Trophy in the 41st All India Electricity Board Kabaddi tournament held at Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu. In the final, Himachal Pradesh defeated Punjab 36-22.



More than 15 teams from Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana Electricity Boards competed in this four-day tournament. Tamil Nadu Minister for Tourism Vellamandi Natarajan, Minister for Backward classes and minority welfare S Valarmati gave away the Champions trophy and prizes.

News 21: Abdul Wahid Tanveer clinches the two wheeler MRF Rally of Coimbatore

Mr. Abdul Wahid Tanveer of Team TVS, won the overall title in the MRF Rally of Coimbatore. It was the fourth round of the MRF MoGrip FMSCI National Rally Championship for two-wheelers. Tanveer was riding a TVS RTR 450 motorcycle. He clocked 1 hour 02 min, 13 seconds to complete the challenging Special Stages set around the wind farms near the Kethanur (Palladam) area.



R. Nataraj of Team TVS on a TVS RTR 450 motorcycle, came overall second while SD. Vishwas, a privateer took the third position overall on a Yamaha 250F motorcycle.

News 22: SC accepts structural reforms of the Lodha Committee in BCCI

The Supreme Court accepted major recommendations of the Lodha Committee on reforms in BCCI which included a bar on ministers and civil servants and those above 70 from becoming its members. The court left it to the Parliament to decide whether BCCI should come under the RTI and betting on the game should be legalized.



The court accepted the recommendations of the committee to have a CAG nominee in the BCCI. A Bench of Chief Justice T S Thakur and Justice F M I Kalifulla also accepted the committee's recommendation about 'one state, one vote'.

News 23: Herbalife associates with the Indian Olympic Association as their Nutrition Partner

Herbalife International India has entered into a 2-year exclusive partnership with the Indian Olympic Association to be the official nutrition sponsor of the Indian Olympic contingent to Rio De Janeiro. Herbalife will work with various sporting federations after the Olympics are over in order to help with the nutrition needs of various athletes.

HERBALIFE



Herbalife International is an American multinational multi-level marketing corporation that develops, markets and sells nutrition supplements, weight management, sports nutrition and personal-care products.

News 24: Sports Ministry recognizes the Paralympic Committee of India

The issue of grant of recognition to a duly constituted National Sports Federation representing Paralympic Games in India has been under consideration. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has granted recognition to Paralympic Committee of India after having conducted free and fair elections with a former Justice of Allahabad High Court as Returning Officer, and after recognition by International Paralympic Committee.



This timely step will help Indian contingent for Paralympic Games to be held in Rio in September 2016 and help the cause of Paralympic Sports in India.

News 25: Feliciano Lopez wins the 2016 Swiss Open Gstaad

Feliciano Lopez of Spain won the Swiss Open Gstaad after he defeated Robin Haase of Holland in the final in Gstaad, Switzerland. It was his first title on clay and his fifth overall. Lopez finally managed to win the tournament after he lost it a decade ago.

He was the winner of the 2004 Vienna Open, the 2010 Johannesburg Open and the Eatsbourne open in 2013 and 2014. The 34-year-old Spaniard is currently No. 21 in the Emirates ATP Rankings.



News 26: Lewis Hamilton wins the 5th Hungarian Grand Prix to take lead in the Drivers' Championship

Mercedes Driver, Lewis Hamilton, won the Hungarian Grand Prix to take the F1 Drivers' Championship lead for the first time this season. Nico Rosberg secured the second position while Daniel Ricciardo scored the final podium spot.

With 192 points, he is now six points ahead of his team mate Nico Rosberg. It was Hamilton's 3rd successive win at the Hungarian Grand Prix and 5th overall.



Top 5 Rankings after 2016 Hungarian Grand Prix:

- **1st Position:** Lewis Hamilton (Britain) of Mercedes
- **2nd Position:** Nico Rosberg (Germany) of Mercedes
- **3rd Position:** Daniel Ricardo (Australia) of Red Bull
- **4th Position:** Sebastian Vettel (Germany) of Ferrari
- **5th Position:** Max Verstappen (Netherlands) of Red Bull

News 27: Manavadiya Rathore and Anant Naruka clinch Bronze in the Junior World Cup

Promising Indian Shooter Manavadiya Rathore has won the trap bronze medal in the Champion of Champions match at the Junior World Cup in Porpetto, Italy.

While Manavadiya, son of Athens Olympics silver medalist, Col Rajyavardhan Rathore, won the bronze in trap event, Anant Naruka bagged a bronze in skeet.

In the Champion of Champions event, the medalists of the three Junior World Cups of the year compete against each other.



News 28: Ravichandran Ashwin regains the top spot in the ICC Bowler Rankings

India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has surged to the top of the ICC player rankings for Test bowlers after a superb outing in the first Test against the West Indies in Antigua. Ashwin, with a knock of 113, also strengthened his grip on the top spot among all-rounders.

Ashwin has replaced Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah. In the rankings for Test batsmen, Australian Captain Steve Smith is still at the top. England's Joe Root has gained 2 places to be second after his double century against Pakistan. New Zealand's Kane Williamson is third. Indian captain Virat Kohli is 12th after moving 2 places.



News 29: Muralidaran, Lohmann, Morris and Rolton to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame

The International Cricket Council announced that Muttiah Muralidaran, Karen Rolton, Arthur Morris and George Lohmann will be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame later this year.

Muralidaran became the first Sri Lankan player to be inducted. Rolton will be the sixth woman and the third Australian to get onto the coveted list, while Morris will be the 22nd Australia cricketer in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. England's George Lohmann, the 19th century fast bowler who took 100 wickets in just 16 Tests will be the 27th Englishman in the list.



News 30: Virat Kohli became the first Indian captain to score a double century outside India

Captain of the Indian Test Cricket Team, Virat Kohli became the first Indian captain to score a double century outside India after he scored 200 runs against West Indies on day two of the first Test against West Indies. Mohammad Azharuddin had scored 192 against New Zealand in Auckland in 1990.

It was also his highest score in first-class cricket and highest in Test cricket. It is the first double century for India outside the sub-continent since Wasim Jaffer's 212 in St. John's in 2006.



News 31: American Hurdler Keni Harrison creates a world record

At the London Anniversary Games, American Keni Harrison created a world record by completing 100m hurdles in 12.20 seconds and breaking a 28-year-old world record in the 100m hurdles of 12.21 seconds.

In the finals, Harrison made a great jump out of the blocks and had a previous advantage by the fourth hurdle. Harrison extended her performance in the final hurdles, winning the race by a considerable margin. Harrison was followed to the finish line by fellow Americans Brianna Rollins, Kristi Castlin and Nia Ali.



News 32: Wrestler Narsingh Yadav fails a dope test

India's Olympic wrestler Narsingh Yadav failed a dope test. However, the wrestler claimed it to be a conspiracy against him. His coach and support staff also backed Narsingh, saying they suspect that his food might have been contaminated.

Narsingh is a former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist and he had to fight a lengthy legal battle with Sushil Kumar to get the chance to compete for India at the Olympics. National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) Director General Navin Agarwal said it was too early to comment if Narsingh would miss the Rio Olympics.



News 33: Neeraj Chopra becomes the 1st Indian to create a world record at the IAAF championships

India's javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra created a world record at the IAAF world Under - 20 athletics Championship at Bydgoszcz in Poland. He won the gold after setting a world record of 86.48 meters and gave India its first world record and the country's first ever gold in any World Athletics Championship. He bettered the previous U-20 record of 84.69m held by Latvian Zigismunds Sirmis by nearly two metres.



Sports Minister Vijay Goel has announced a ten lakh rupee cash award to Neeraj for his achievement.

News 34: Rio bound shot putter Inderjeet Singh failed a dope test

India's Rio Olympics build-up was rocked by another dope scandal after shot putter Inderjeet Singh's 'A' sample has returned positive for a banned steroid. The reigning Asian Champion's out-of-competition test was done on June 22.



The NADA has asked the Punjab-born athlete, who had won a bronze in the 2014 Asian Games, if he wants to test his 'B' sample. If the 'B' sample also tests positive, he will have to miss the Rio Games beginning August 5th, besides facing the prospect of being banned for four years under the new WADA Code.

News 1: China fits the final piece on the world's largest radio telescope

China has fitted the final piece on the 500-meter-wide Aperture Spherical Telescope, or FAST. The telescope is set to be the world's largest radio telescope with a size of 30 football fields. It is due to begin operations in September.

The \$180m (£135m) satellite project will be used to explore space and help look for extraterrestrial life. FAST will replace the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, which is around 300m (984ft) in diameter, as the world's largest telescope.



News 2: NASA Officially Extends the New Horizons Mission

NASA's New Horizons mission has received the green light to fly onward to an object deeper in the Kuiper Belt, known as 2014 MU69. The spacecraft's planned meeting with the ancient object – considered one of the early building blocks of the solar system -- is on January 1, 2019.

The 2014 MU69 is estimated to have a diameter of 48 km – more than ten times larger than typical comets, but only 0.5 to 1% of the size of the dwarf planet Pluto. The spacecraft carries extra hydrazine fuel for a KBO flyby.



News 3: NASA's Juno spacecraft successfully enters Jupiter's orbit

NASA's Juno spacecraft successfully entered Jupiter's orbit after an almost five-year journey to the solar system's largest planet. Juno will be the second spacecraft to orbit Jupiter, following the Galileo probe which orbited from 1995–2003.

Juno's principal goal is to understand the origin and evolution of Jupiter. Juno will investigate the existence of a solid planetary core, map Jupiter's intense magnetic field, measure the amount of water and ammonia in the deep atmosphere, and observe the planet's auroras.



News 4: Spider named after Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez

A new species of tarantula that has been found near the hometown of Gabriel García Márquez, a big hairy spider and named it as Kankuamo Markezi, named after the Colombian novelist and 1982 Nobel Prize laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez. This newly found hairy spider has a defence mechanism that includes releasing stinging hairs that dig into predators' eyes and people's skin.



This species was identified in large number in an isolated mountain range in Caribbean Colombia. It was discovered by a group of Uruguayan and Colombian scientists from the University of the Republic of Uruguay.

News 5: SpaceX Cargo Ship arrives at the International Space Station

SpaceX's unmanned Dragon Cargo Ship arrived at the International Space Station, carrying nearly 2.5 tons of gear and supplies for the astronauts living in orbit. SpaceX's Dragon Cargo Craft was launched at 12:45 a.m. EDT on 18th July on a Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida with almost 5,000 pounds of cargo.



The US Space Agency astronauts Jeff Williams and Kate Rubins reached out and grabbed the spacecraft, using the space station's 57.7-foot (17.5 meter) long robotic arm known as the Canadarm2.

News 6: NASA announced the discovery of 104 new planets outside the Solar System

NASA has announced the discovery of 104 new planets outside our solar system including four that could have Earth-like, rocky surfaces. Scientists discovered the exoplanets in Hawaii using Kepler space telescope.



The unmanned Kepler mission has been scanning 150,000 stars in the Cygnus constellation for signs of orbiting bodies, particularly those that might be able to support life. Evan Sinukoff, an astronomer at the University of Hawaii who contributed to the research, said the diversity of planets is astounding.

News 7: The Genome of 6000-year-old barley grains sequenced for the first time

An international team of researchers, for the first time, have been successful in sequencing the genome of Chalcolithic barley grains. This is the oldest plant genome to be reconstructed to date. The 6,000-year-old seeds were retrieved from Yoram Cave in Israel, close to the Dead Sea.



Genetically, the prehistoric barley is very similar to present-day barley grown in the Southern Levant, supporting the existing hypothesis of barley domestication having occurred in the Upper Jordan Valley. The findings were published in the journal Nature Genetics on 18 July 2016.

News 8: CSIR–CMERI develops Solar Power Tree for generation of electricity

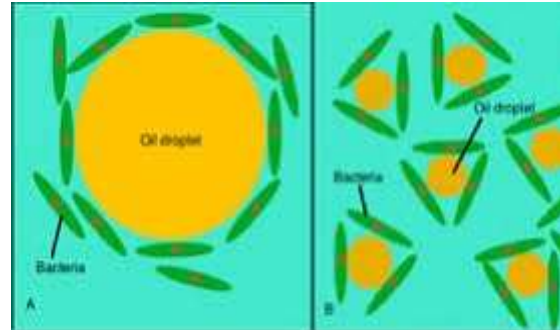
The Ministry for Science & Technology has come up with a 'Solar Power Tree'. It is an innovative way to generate electricity using solar power in a limited space. The Solar Power Tree model is actually designed like a tree with branches made of steel to hold the photovoltaic panel.



It has been engineered by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), a laboratory of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The solar power tree has a capacity to generate 5 KW with a battery backup for 2 hours when under full load.

News 9: Scientists decide to launch field trials of the Oil Degrading Bacteria

Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute of Plant Sciences (MBGIPS), Kozhikode and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), together will conduct field trials of three new strains of oil-degrading bacteria in Kochi, Kerala. It will pave the way for the development of Bioremediation Agents to clean up petroleum pollutants from the environment.



The three new strains isolated by MBGIPS include two species of Burkholderia and one species of Pseudomonas. Across the world, environment friendly mechanism to clean up accidental spills of petroleum products.

Bioremediation is evolving as a safer, the contamination caused by leaks and

News 10: Brazilian Scientists discover another type of Zika Transmitting Mosquito

Scientists at the Public Brazilian laboratory Fundacion Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz) have discovered another type of Zika Transmitting Mosquito. They have found the presence of the Culex Quinquefasciatus Mosquito infected by the Zika virus in three out of 80 groups of mosquitoes analyzed up until now. The Culex Quinquefasciatus Mosquito is known as the Domestic Mosquito in Brazil.



Up until now, transmission of the virus was only known through the Aedes Aegypti Mosquito, the same insect that spreads Dengue and Chikungunya.

News 11: China Unveils the World's Largest Amphibious Aircraft

China has unveiled the world's largest amphibious aircraft, the AG600, to fight forest fires and perform marine rescue missions. The aircraft has a maximum takeoff weight of 53.5 tonnes, a maximum flight range of 4,500 kms, and it can collect 12 tonnes of water in 20 seconds.



It was made by the State Aircraft Maker the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC). An amphibious aircraft can take off and land on both land and water.

News 12: CSIR laboratories develop an anti-diabetic herbal formulation

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), through its constituent laboratories jointly developed scientifically validated herbal product NBRMAP-DB as anti-diabetic, hypoglycemic formulation with hepato-protective and anti-oxidant properties. The knowhow for the product was licensed to M/s AIMIL Pharma Ltd., Delhi who are manufacturing and marketing it as BGR-34.



It has been reported by M/s AIMIL Pharma Ltd. that the product has shown consistent growth right from the initial promotional phase since Oct, 2015 with the total sales turnover being Rs. 25 crores and about approximately a million diabetic patients have benefited.

VARIOUS COMMITTEES

News 1: SC appointed Environmental Panel suggests 20-22% pollution cess on diesel vehicles

According to a report submitted by the Supreme Court appointed Environmental panel, diesel vehicles with engines that are smaller than 1,500cc in size should be charged 20% pollution cess and 22% on those over 1,500cc, so as to have cleaner substitutes. In order to equalize tax payment by diesel and fuel cars, it is necessary to levy tax on diesel vehicles.



Under the current fuel taxation, the total excise and VAT difference between the two fuels was Rs 9.94 per litre while the retail price difference was Rs 10.46 per litre.

News 2: Govt forms a panel to examine the desirability and feasibility of a new financial year

The Government has set up a four-member committee to examine the desirability and feasibility of having a new financial year. The committee will be headed by former Chief Economic Advisor Shankar Acharya. As per the terms of reference, the committee will examine the merits and demerits of various dates for commencement of financial year including the existing dates. Shri K.M. Chandrasekhar (former Cabinet Secretary), Shri P.V. Rajaraman (former Finance Secretary, Tamil Nadu) and Dr. Rajiv Kumar (Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research) are the other Members.



The committee has been asked to submit its reports by 31st of December 2016. Presently the Financial Year starts from 1st of April.

News 3: RBI sets up an Inter-Regulatory Working Group on the Fin Tech and Digital Banking

The Reserve Bank of India has set up an inter regulatory Working Group (WG) to study the entire gamut of regulatory issues relating to Fin Tech and Digital Banking in India. The Working Group will be headed by Sudarshan Sen, Executive Director of RBI, and has 12 members. It has been asked to submit its report within six months from the date of its first meeting.



The Financial Stability and Development Council - Sub Committee (FSDC - SC) at its meeting held on April 26, 2016 had decided to set up such a Working Group to look into and report on the granular aspects of Fin Tech and its implications so as to review and appropriately reorient the regulatory framework and respond to the dynamics of the rapidly evolving Fin Tech scenario.

News 4: Committee Constituted to Prepare Guidelines for Desiltation of River Ganga asked to Submit its Report within Three Months

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has constituted a committee to prepare guidelines for desiltation of river Ganga from Bhimgauda (Uttarakhand) to Farakka (West Bengal). Shri Madhav Chitale (Expert Member, NGRBA) has been appointed as Chairman of the committee.



The other members of the committee are: Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change and Dr. Mukesh Sinha, Director, Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune.

This committee has also been asked to establish difference between desilting and sand mining and also to establish need for desilting for ecology and e-flow of the river Ganga. The tenure of the committee would be for a period of three months.

News 5: Committee Constituted to Prepare the Draft of Ganga Act Asked to Submit its Report Within Three Months

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has constituted a committee to prepare a draft Ganga Act. Justice Shri Girdhar Malviya (Retd.) is the Chairman of the committee. Other members of the committee are: Shri V.K.Bhasin, Ex-Secretary, Legislative Department, Govt of India, Prof. A.K. Gosain, IIT Delhi and Prof. Nayan Sharma, IIT Roorkee. Shri Sundeeep, Director, National Mission for Clean Ganga is the Member Secretary.



The Committee has been asked to prepare a Draft Act on Ganga which should have provisions to ensure cleanliness (Nirmalta) and uninterrupted e-flow (avirlta) of Ganga. The tenure of the Committee would be for a period of three months which may be extended by another three months, if required.

News 6. A Judicial panel formed by the Odisha State Government for reforms in the Jagannath temple management

The Odisha Government constituted a Judicial Commission to study the functioning of the Puri Jagannath Temple. The one-man commission, headed by retired Orissa High Court Judge Bimal Prasad Das, will recommend reforms for smooth management of the Shree Jagannath Temple and propagation of the Jagannath culture.



The Government has not set any deadline for the commission to complete its report. The major issues the commission will cover are temple security, behavior of priests, streamlining of rituals and preservation of the 12th century shrine.

News 7: MHA sets up expert panel to explore possible alternatives to pellet guns in Kashmir

Union Home Ministry has setup a seven-member expert committee for exploring the other possible alternatives to pellet guns as non-lethal weapons. The Committee headed by T V S N Prasad, Joint Secretary in the Ministry, will submit its report within two months.

Other members of the committee include Atul Karwal, IG, CRPF, Rajeev Krishna, IG Operations, BSF, Tushar Tripathy, DDG, Small Arms, Ordnance factory Board and Professor Naresh Bhatnagar of IIT, Delhi.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

News 1: Shri Rajnath Singh releases the illustrative book “Ayodhya ke Shoorvir”

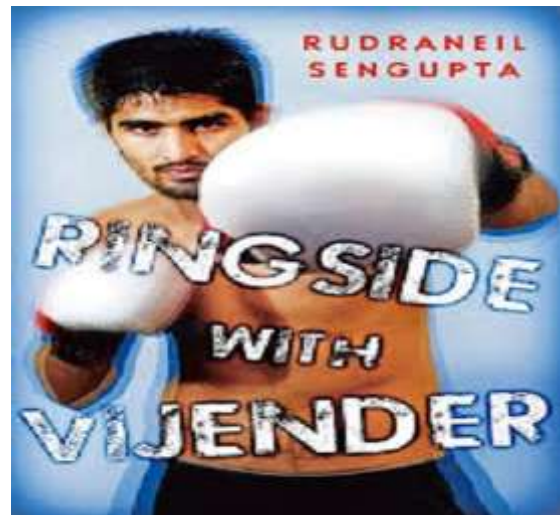
The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh released an illustrative book of Central Reserve Police Force titled “Ayodhya ke Shoorvir” in New Delhi. The book depicts the saga of valor of CRPF in foiling the terrorist attack on the Ram Janam Bhumi - Babri Masjid Complex on July 05, 2005.



The CRPF is publishing a series of illustrative book Shaurya Gathayen on the valor of its officers and men. Till now there are four such books – Sardar Post: Ek Shaurya Gatha, Veer Brighunandan, Shurveer Prakash, Janbaz Elango that have been published.

News 2: “Ringside with Vijender” penned by author Rudraneil Sengupta released

Juggernaut Books published a book titled “Ringside with Vijender” written by Rudraneil Sengupta, that details the Beijing Olympics Bronze Medalist Vijender Singh’s life, the ups and downs of his life to become a World Champion Boxer. It also describes about his Training, Struggle, Boxing Style, change in his life style and his success mantra.

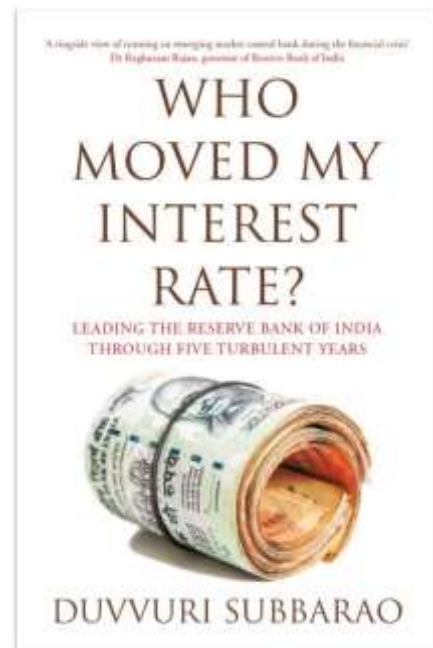


The Haryana based boxer Vijender will make his Indian player debut on July 16 in the WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight Championship title bout against the Australian Kerry Hope at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex, New Delhi.

News 3: Who Moved My Interest Rate? authored by former RBI Governor Duvvuri Subbarao

“Who Moved My Interest Rate?”, an auto-biography, authored by former RBI Governor, Duvvuri Subbarao, was released on the 27th July 2016. Mr. Subbarao, in the book, writes about his five years at the country’s central bank, between 2008 and 2013 which was an unusually turbulent period for the world and for India. The global financial crisis erupted within a week of his assuming office. Then came the stubborn inflation during 2009-11 followed by a sharp depreciation of the rupee starting mid-2012.

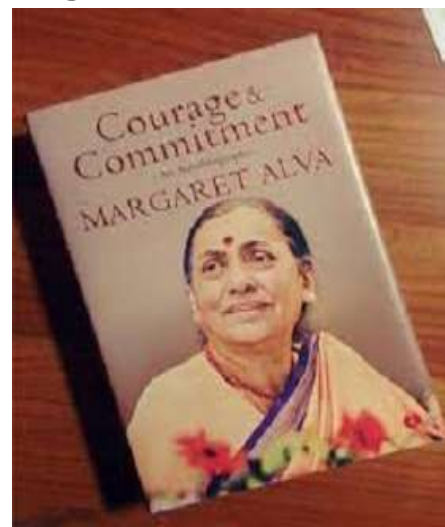
This book is an insider’s account of the dilemmas and quandaries Subbarao confronted while leading the Reserve Bank through the extraordinary economic and political challenges. Mr. Subbarao, in a chronicle order, has made an attempt to demystify the Reserve Bank and explain to the public its impact on their everyday lives.



News 4: Courage & Commitment authored by Margaret Alva released

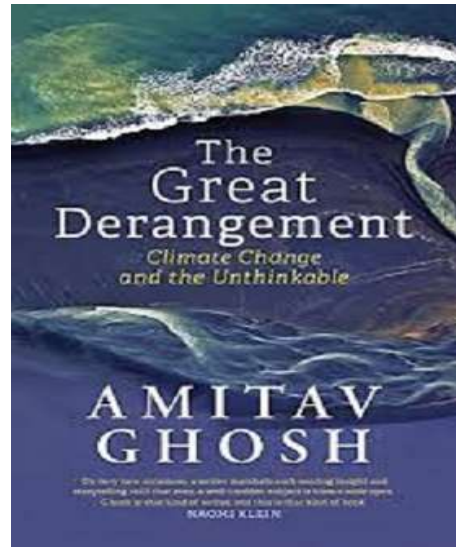
Courage & Commitment: An Autobiography by Margaret Alva was in the news in the second week of July 2016. The book is the story of her life - from 1942 to 2014 detailing its trials and triumphs. The book reveals how a woman, a minority, from a small town middle class family grew up and survived in the turbulent politics of her times, without the backing of money power or business lobbies.

She has narrated her forty-year-old career under four Prime Ministers, namely Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, PV Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh. It also tells us about her transition from a Politician to a Governor. She has also offered rare insights into the lives of National and International Political Luminaries.



News 5: The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable authored by Amitav Ghosh released

The Book titled – The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable authored by Amitav Ghosh was released on the 12th July 2016. The book is an extended essay of sorts on climate change, the catastrophe unfolding around us and the conspiracy of silence around the dangers of it. Through the book, he examines the failures of literature, history and politics in addressing the most pressing challenge of climate change.



Ghosh's other books include The Circle of Reason, The Shadow Lines, In an Antique Land, Dancing in Cambodia, The Calcutta Chromosome, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide and the Ibis Trilogy: Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke and Flood of Fire.

News 6: Defence Minister and HRD Minister Releases Three Books on Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

The Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar and Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar released three books on the life of former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The books entitled "Dr Kalam, Perna ki Udaan" in Hindi, "Do You Know Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam" in English and "Perna Nu Zarnu: Dr Abdul Kalam" in Gujarati language which have been written by Dr. Unnat Pandit to pay tribute to Dr. Kalam on his first death anniversary.



Speaking on the occasion Shri Parrikar said that, "Dr. Kalam was known for his simplicity, thinking big to dream and putting energy to achieve that dream". He said, Dr. Kalam's scientific and nationalistic thought and his views on spirituality will always give motivation to students and youth of India.

News 7: Book 'Tilak in Our Times' released by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at Pune

A book titled "Tilak in our Times" and the photo biography "Lokmanya" were released by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at Pune in a Function organized by Lokmanya Tilak Vichar Manch and Pune International Centre to commemorate the 160th Birth Anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the Centenary Year of his slogan, "Swaraj is my Birthright".



The Maharashtra Government has renamed Girgaum Chowpatty in Mumbai as Swaraj Bhoomi as a tribute to Lokmanya. The Government has formed a committee headed by Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar and Education Minister Vinod Tawde to handle the Ganesh festival this year dedicated to Lokmanya.