

CURRENT AFFAIRS



OCTOBER 2016

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Current Affairs October 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 **October 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 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 a precise and interesting way.

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APPOINTMENTS

1. S Sivakumar appointed as the new member of the 21st Law Commission of India

S. Sivakumar, professor at the Indian Law Institute (ILI) in New Delhi, has been appointed as the full-time Member of the 21st Law Commission of India (LCI) by the Union Government. He is a recipient of the National Law Day Award in 2008.



Former Supreme Court judge, Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan, was appointed as the new Chairman of Law Commission of India in March 2016. The 21st Law Commission was constituted for a period of three years from 1 September, 2015. This commission will have its tenure only till 31 August 2018.

2. MS Sahoo assumed charge as the Chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board

Mr. MS Sahoo assumed charge as the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. Prior to this, Sahoo was a member at Competition Commission of India and was earlier a member at Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).



He has been appointed for a period of 5 years or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 was enacted earlier this year, that will ensure time-bound settlement of insolvency, enable faster turnaround of businesses and create a database of serial defaulters.

3. Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Ltd appoints Ashish Vohra as their new CEO

The Board of Directors of Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Ltd appointed Ashish Vohra as the company's new Chief Executive Officer. RNLI is a part of Reliance Capital. The position of CEO of the company was lying vacant after Anup Rau left the company in June 2016.



Prior to joining RNLI, Vohra spent eight years with Max Life Insurance. He has also worked with Fullerton India Credit, Citibank and Eicher Motors in the past.

4. Sushil Chandra appointed as the CBDT Chairman

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Indian Revenue Service Officer Sushil Chandra as the next Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. Chandra is currently posted as Member, CBDT. He is a 1980 batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre).



He will take over from the current CBDT Chairperson Rani Singh Nair, who will retire on October 31, 2016. Chandra's tenure will last till May 2017.

5. Former Portuguese PM Antonio Guterres selected to be the UN Secretary-General

Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres was unanimously selected by the UN Security Council as the next UN Secretary-General. He will succeed Ban Ki-moon on 1 January 2017. He beat nine other candidates, including EU budget commissioner Kristalina Georgieva from Bulgaria to become the next UN chief.



He was the head of the UNHCR refugee agency from 2005 to 2015. He served as the Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002.

6. BVR Mohan Reddy appointed as the Honorary Consul of Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany has appointed an Honorary Consul in Hyderabad for the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Mr. Mohan Reddy will work towards further strengthening the collaboration between the two nations; promoting culture, industry & commerce, facilitating investments, educational exchange and enhancing goodwill.



Mr. Reddy is the Founder and Chairman of Cyient Ltd as well as the Former Chairman of NASSCOM. He is a noted public figure as well as a business leader with an impeccable reputation across the country.

7. Luo Zhaohui appointed as China's Ambassador to India

Chinese President Xi Jinping appointed Luo Zhaohui as China's new ambassador to India after former ambassador to India Le Yucheng left New Delhi in April. Prior to the Indian assignment, Luo was China's ambassador to Canada from 2014 to 2016.



Luo also had a four-year stint as Ambassador to Pakistan starting from 2006. He served as Director General of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2011 to 2014.

8. Renu Pall appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Austria

Ms. Renu Pall has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Austria. She is an IFS of the 1988 batch. Presently Ms. Pall is serving as the Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic. She will succeed Rajiva Misra in Austria.



Since May 2011 she has been the Joint Secretary (ASEAN Multilateral) in the Ministry of External Affairs. She was previously the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Berlin. Her other overseas assignments included Embassies of India at Washington DC, Paris and Moscow.

9. Karthik Rajeshwaran named as the Director of Strategy at Freecharge

Snapdeal-owned digital payments platform Freecharge has appointed former Obi Worldphone Senior Executive Karthik Rajeshwaran as its Director of Strategy to guide-in consumer-centric innovations and expand revenue across new business opportunities.

Rajeshwaran formerly handled global marketing and growth at Obi Worldphone, where he was responsible for launching smartphones and crafting brand communication plans across Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and select West Asia countries. He began his career at FMCG giant Hindustan Unilever.



10. Government appoints G Mahalingam as the whole-time member of SEBI

The Union Government has appointed Reserve Bank's Executive Director G Mahalingam as a Whole-Time Member of SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) for a period of five years or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Mahalingam will join in place of Prashant Saran who retired in June 2016. Mahalingam is Executive Director and former regional director of Reserve Bank of India. He has also been associated with NISM (National Institute of Securities Markets).



11. Ajay Kumar Bhalla appointed as the Director General of Foreign Trade

The Department of Personnel and Training has appointed senior IAS officer Ajay Kumar Bhalla as the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). He is a 1984 batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre. Currently Mr. Bhalla is the additional secretary in the Commerce Ministry.



Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed in place of Anup Wadhawan who has been appointed as the Additional Secretary in the Commerce Ministry. The DGFT is the nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, responsible for execution of the import and export Policies of India.

12. Amandeep Singh appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

Former IAS officer of the 1992 batch, Amandeep Singh Gill, has been appointed as the next Ambassador/PR of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.



The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is an international forum established in 1979 to negotiate multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements. Currently there are 65 members. It was used to negotiate the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

13. Navdeep Suri to be India's new envoy to the UAE

A 1983 batch Indian Foreign Service official and senior diplomat Navdeep Singh Suri has been appointed as the Ambassador to United Arab Emirates. He is currently serving as the Indian High Commissioner in Canberra. He will succeed TP Seetharam and is expected to take up the assignment shortly.



Prior to his posting to Canberra, he was India's Ambassador to Egypt. He had also served in India's diplomatic missions in Cairo, Damascus, Washington, Dar es Salaam and London and as India's Consul General in Johannesburg.

14. Sanjay Singh appointed as the Member Secretary, Law Commission

President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed former legislative secretary Sanjay Singh as a Member Secretary, Law Commission of India for a period upto August 31, 2018. He is a retired officer of Indian Legal Service. Singh was appointed as legislative secretary in August 2014.



The tenure of Twenty-First Law Commission, which was constituted on September 1, 2015 is till August 31, 2018. The Law Commission of India is mandated to identify laws which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed.

15. Sunil Mishra appointed as Odisha's Chief Information Commissioner

Sunil Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of Odisha. He is former Director General of Income Tax in Karnataka and Goa. He will succeed former Chief Secretary TK Mishra.



This position was lying vacant since February 2015. The state information panel is currently run by two information commissioners — LN Pattanaik and Sashiprava Bindhani. The Central Information Commissioner is the head of the Central Information Commission which is an authorized government body set up under the Right to Information Act 2005.

16. Nissan to appoint Carlos Ghosn as the Chairman of Mitsubishi Motors

Nissan Motor Co Ltd will appoint Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn as the Chairman of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation. Nissan is set to buy 34% of Mitsubishi. Mitsubishi has been hit with a mileage scandal after it improperly measured fuel economy and manipulated testing data.



Ghosn is both Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at Nissan and Renault. He is in line to become the first executive to head three different automakers at the same time.

17. Wrestler Geeta Phogat appointed as a DSP in Haryana Police

Haryana Cabinet has approved the appointment of wrestler Geeta Phogat as a Deputy Superintendent of Police in the state police. She was appointed after a six-year-long wait since winning India's first Gold Medal in women's wrestling in the Commonwealth Games. Phogat was also the first Indian woman wrestler to have qualified for London Olympics in 2012.



The State Cabinet also appointed Mountaineer Ram Lal as Sub Inspector in Haryana Police Department from the sports quota.

18. Bilal Nazki appointed as the Chairperson of JKHRC

Former Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, Bilal Nazki, has been appointed as the Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Human Rights Commission. He was appointed by the state Governor NN Vohra.



Nazki had retired as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court in November 2009 and was later appointed as the chairperson of Human Rights Commission of Bihar. He was also a part of the committee set up to review the functioning of the Haj Committee of India.

19. Rajeev Misra appointed as the Head of Softbank Vision Fund

Japanese telecom and Internet major Softbank Corp has appointed Rajeev Misra as head of its \$100 billion Softbank Vision Fund project. The Fund will make investments in the technology sector globally.



Earlier, Rajeev served as Head of Strategic Finance at SoftBank Group Corp. He also worked with at UBS as the Global Head of Credit and Head of Fixed Income, Currencies and Commodities in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

20. FIH appointed Jason McCracken as their CEO

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has confirmed the appointment of New Zealand's Jason McCracken as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He is currently working as Head of Insurance and Investment Risk at banking group ANZ. He will replace Kelly Fairweather, who will join International Tennis Federation.



McCracken is well known to the hockey family having served as an Olympic and World Cup Umpire, FIH Committee Member and Technical Official for over 20-years. His most recent appointments were Technical Delegate of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and Tournament Director of the 2014 Men's Hockey World Cup in The Hague, Netherlands.

21. Karnal Singh to take charge as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate

The appointment committee of the cabinet gave nod to the appointment of the 1984 batch IPS officer Karnal Singh as the new Director General of the Enforcement Directorate. This post was lying vacant since Aug 2015 as the government had curtailed the tenure of Rajan S. Katoch, the previous ED Director due to which Singh was allotted additional charge of this post.



Enforcement Directorate is an agency that should keep laws intact under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and curb black money and hawala trade cases.

AWARDS

1. Indian-origin teen Kiara Nirghin wins Google Science Fair prize 2016

Indian-origin South African teen, Kiara Nirghin has won the annual Google Science Fair in the US. She received a \$50,000 scholarship. She won the award for developing a cheaper “super-absorbent material” using orange peel that helps soil retain water. She had submitted her project titled ‘No More Thirsty Crops’ that aimed at alleviating the severe drought plaguing South Africa.



The Google Science Fair is a programme for any budding scientists between the ages of 13 to 18, who are invited to solve world’s biggest challenges using science and technology.

2. The Nobel Prize in Physics shared by three people

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decided to award the Nobel Prize in Physics 2016 with one half to **David J. Thouless**, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA and the other half to **F. Duncan M. Haldane**, Princeton University, NJ, USA and **J. Michael Kosterlitz**, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA for theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter.



Topology is a branch of mathematics that describes properties that only change step-wise. All three will jointly share the 8 million Swedish kronor prize.

3. The Nobel Prize in Medicine 2016 awarded to Yoshinori Ohsumi

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2016 was awarded to Japanese Cell Biologist Yoshinori Ohsumi "for his discoveries of mechanisms for autophagy"- how the body's cells detoxify and repair themselves.

Autophagy is the body's internal recycling programme - scrap cell components are captured and the useful parts are stripped out to generate energy or build new cells. Mutations in autophagy have been linked to diseases such as cancer and neurological disorders like Parkinson's disease.



4. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016 shared by three people

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016 was awarded to **Jean-Pierre Sauvage**, **Sir J. Fraser Stoddart** and **Bernard L. Feringa** "for their design and production of molecular machines." They have developed molecules with controllable movements, which can perform a task when energy is added.

Molecular machines will most likely be used in the development of things such as new materials, sensors and energy storage systems. This field of nanotechnology could also yield applications in the design of smart materials.



5. The Nobel Peace Prize 2016 awarded to Juan Manuel Santos

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2016 to Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos for his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end, a war that has cost the lives of at least 2,20,000 Colombians and displaced close to six million people.

President Santos initiated the negotiations that culminated in the peace accord between the Colombian government and the FARC guerrillas, and he has consistently sought to move the peace process forward.



6. The Nobel Prize in Literature 2016 awarded to Bob Dylan

The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2016 has been awarded to Bob Dylan "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition".

Dylan will receive 8 Million Swedish Krona (\$906,000) for winning the award. Dylan has released 37 studio albums, including seminal works like "Highway 61 Revisited," "Blonde on Blonde," and "Blood on the Tracks." He has also published 12 books, including collections of lyrics, drawings, and the 2004 memoir Chronicles: Volume One.



7. France conferred knighthood to wildlife film-maker Prajna Chowta

France conferred the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight in the National Order of Merit) to film-maker and elephant researcher Prajna Chowta "in recognition of a life devoted to caring for wild Asian elephants". It is one of the highest civilian recognitions of the French Government.

Ms. Chowta is the founder of Aane Mane Foundation, which for the past 16 years has been researching and conserving wild Asian elephants. Earlier this year, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and actor Kamal Hassan were recognised under the French government's Legion of Honor award.



8. Prof. Nayanjot Lahiri won the 2016 John F Richards Prize

Prof. Nayanjot Lahiri has been selected as the winner of the 2016 John F. Richards Prize for her book Ashoka in Ancient India. The prize will be awarded to her at the Prestigious American Historical Association's 131st Annual Meeting in January, 2017.

The Richards Prize is awarded annually to honor the best book in South Asian history. Nayanjot Lahiri is an eminent historian and archaeologist of ancient India. For her work in archaeology, she was bestowed with the 2013 Infosys Prize in the humanities.



9. Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships and awards for the Year 2015 presented

The President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the "Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskars) for the Year-2015". The honor of Akademi Fellow carries a purse money of Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rupees three lakh) and Akademi Award carries Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh), besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.



Mr. CV Chandrasekhar was conferred with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna). The General Council of the Akademi also selected forty-three (43) artists for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2015.

10. Pawan Chamling honored with the Sustainable Development Leadership Award

Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was honored with the prestigious 2016 'Sustainable Development Leadership Award' by President Pranab Mukherjee in recognition of his vision and leadership in environment and sustainable development leading to the establishment of Sikkim as the first and only organic state in the country.



The award was conferred during the World Sustainable Development Summit organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Sikkim is only state in India to have attained the official status of fully organic state in January 2016.

11. The Prize in Economic Sciences 2016

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2016 to **Oliver Hart** of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA and **Bengt Holmström** of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, US – “for their contributions to contract theory”.



The new theoretical tools created by Hart and Holmström are valuable to the understanding of real-life contracts and institutions, as well as potential pitfalls in contract design.

12. Yazidi survivor Nadia Murad wins the Human Rights award

A Yazidi woman, Nadia Murad, who was tortured and raped by Islamic State (IS) group militants, has won the Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize by the Council of Europe. Miss Murad became the face of a campaign to free the Yazidi people and stop human trafficking after escaping IS in November 2014.



The 23-year-old had been captured and enslaved three months earlier along with about 5,000 women and girls. The award, which honors outstanding civil society action in defence of human rights, comes with prize money of 67,000 dollars.

13. Sir Ian McKellen honored at UK Theatre Awards

Sir Ian McKellen was honored with the Outstanding Contribution to British Theatre prize at the UK Theatre Awards for championing diversity and for his commitment to theatre, including touring productions. He is best known for his roles in the 'X-Men' and 'Lord of The Rings' film franchises.



Actress Vanessa Redgrave was presented with The Gielgud Award for Excellence in The Dramatic Arts at the UK. Similarly, Paapa Essiedu won the award for best performance in a play for the RSC’s production of the Bard’s Danish tragedy.

14. Ugandan Government awards Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank for his literary work

The Government of Uganda has awarded former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank for promoting human values through his literature. The award was presented by the Ugandan Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda. He published number of poems, novels and stories.



Nishank is currently a BJP MP from Haridwar. He was Chief Minister of Uttarakhand from 2009 to 2011. Some of his literacy work translated into other languages like Tamil, Telugu, German and English.

15. Kirtiraj Kundlik Gaikwad received IAFP Young Scientist Scholarship Award 2016

Indian scientist Kirtiraj Kundlik Gaikwad has been awarded the prestigious IAFP Young scientist scholarship award for his research work on "development of novel oxygen absorbing package in the field of active packaging for oxygen sensitive food products".



The award carries \$2000 and a plaque. The award was presented by the IAFP Foundation, USA. The award encourages young outstanding food safety scientist from all over the world.

16. R.A. Mashelkar conferred with the V Krishnamurthy Award

Hyderabad-based Centre for Organisation Development has conferred the V Krishnamurthy Award for excellence to R. A. Mashelkar, former Director-General of CSIR. Mashelkar has received over fifty awards and honorary doctorates and is a member of numerous scientific bodies and committees. He is the third Indian engineer to have been elected as fellow of Royal Society (FRS), London.



The award honors individuals who have set high standards of achievement in pursuit of excellence in their respective professions.

17. Mathrubhumi Literary Award 2016 to C Radhakrishnan

Veteran writer C Radhakrishnan has been chosen for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award 2016 in recognition of his rich contribution to the field of literature. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakhs, a citation and a statuette.



Radhakrishnan is a recipient of several honors including the National Literary Academy of India, Kerala Literary Academy, Vayalar Award, Mahakavi G. Award, Pandit Karuppan Award, Lalithambika Awar. He is a noted novelist, short story writer, cine director, teacher and media personnel.

18. Robert De Niro to receive the Chaplin Award by the Film Society of Lincoln Center

Robert De Niro has been named as the recipient of the 44th annual Chaplin Award to be given by the Film Society of Lincoln Center. The 44th annual Chaplin Award gala will take place on May 8, 2017. In 2016, the award was won by Morgan Freeman.



Robert Anthony De Niro has starred in over 100 films. He won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of Jake La Motta in the 1980 film Raging Bull.

19. Sonam Kapoor honored with the ET Panache's 'Trendsetter Awards 2016'

Sonam Kapoor has been honored with ET Panache's 'Trendsetter Awards 2016' for her impeccable style sense and unconventional career choices. Sonam's performance in Neerja, her social endeavours and positive presence on social media was lauded through this recognition. She has been nominated for four Filmfare Awards.



ET Panache's Trendsetter Awards recognizes the efforts of entrepreneurs, innovators, newsmakers and athletes, whose stories "inspire millions and whose services transform lives."

20. Milan confers Honorary Citizenship on Dalai Lama

The Milan city council has conferred honorary citizenship on the Dalai Lama. Mr. Lamberto Bertole, Chairman of the Council of Milan honored His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the Milan Honorary Citizenship award at a ceremony held at the Arcimboldi Theatre in Milan, Italy.



The Dalai Lama is also to receive honorary citizenship of the Milan suburb of Rho. The Chinese embassy in Italy strongly objected the gesture.

21. International Prize in Statistics awarded to Sir David Cox

British statistician Sir David Cox has been named as the inaugural recipient of the International Prize in Statistics in recognition of Survival Analysis Model (or Cox Model) Applied in Medicine, Science, and Engineering.



This award is considered to be the highest honor in its field. It carries a monetary award of \$75,000, and is given every other year by the International Prize in Statistics Foundation. Sir David Cox is known for developing the proportional hazards model i.e. Cox Model in 1992.

22. Fifty-four persons have been selected by the UP Government for the Yash Bharti Awards 2016

The Uttar Pradesh Government has named 54 eminent personalities for the coveted 'Yash Bharti' awards 2016. Yash Bharti is a coveted award of Uttar Pradesh and is given to eminent people from various walks of life. It carries a citation, a shawl and a cash award of Rs. 11 lakhs.



Bollywood actor Naseeruddin Shah, PayTM CEO Vijay Shekhar, Paralympic athlete Varun Kumar, Cricketer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Film Director Saurabh Shukla and Atul Tiwari were some of the eminent names.

23. Dr. BC Roy Award to be conferred to the doctors from AIIMS and SGRH

Dr. Randeep Guleria and Dr. CS Yadav from AIIMS and Dr. DS Rana and Dr. Arvind Kumar from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH) have been selected for the prestigious Dr. BC Roy Award for excellence in the field of medicine.

These awards will be given by the President of India in July 2017.

The Bidhan Chandra Roy Award was instituted in 1976 in the memory of renowned physician and freedom fighter BC Roy by the Medical Council of India.



24. Assam Governor presented the 4th Bhupen Hazarika National Award to Lou Majaw

The Governor of Assam, Banwarilal Purohit has presented the 4th Bhupen Hazarika National Award to eminent singer of North East, Lou Majaw. The award consists of a citation and a cheque worth Rs. 51 thousand. Lou Majaw is a performing artist from Shillong and he is renowned for his Bob Dylan tribute shows.

Bhupen hazarika was an Indian lyricist, musician, singer, poet and film-maker from Assam, widely known as Sudhakantha.



25. Bill Murray awarded the 19th Mark Twain Prize for American Humour

Comedian Bill Murray has been awarded with the 19th Mark Twain Prize for American Humor for making an impact on the U.S. society similar to that of Twain's. He has starred in movies like "Groundhog Day," "Ghostbusters" and "Rushmore".

Murray was nominated for a Best Actor Academy Award for his portrayal of a jet-lagged movie star in "Lost in Translation." He has won two Emmy Awards. The Mark Twain Prize for American Humor is an American award for humor awarded by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts annually since 1998.



26. AIR's entry on dwindling tiger habitats wins ABU award

All India Radio's entry 'Diary of a Tiger' won the first prize in the 'Community Service Announcement' category of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Prizes 2016. The award includes a trophy, certificate and cash prize of 2000 US Dollars.



The programme, Diary of a Tiger, on dwindling forests and gradually decreasing habitats of tigers today, was produced by AbhinaySrivastava, Programme Executive, AIR Allahabad. It reflects through the notes inscribed by the successive generations of tigers in a diary format on their gradual decreasing numbers due to apathetic behaviour of human beings.

27. The 2016 Sakharov Prize honor to Nadia Murad and LamiyaAji Bashar

Europe's top human rights award 'Sakharov Prize' to be honored to two Yazidi women, Nadia Murad Basee and LamiyaAji Bashar, who survived sexual enslavement by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Iraq before becoming advocates for Yazidi community in Iraq. They suffered ISIS Jihadi Terrorists Group attack of 2014 in Iraq. The ceremony will be held in Strasbourg on 14th December.



The Sakharov Prize, officially known as the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is annually awarded by the European Parliament.

28. 'Daughters of Mother India' documentary bagged the 1st prize at the CAM International Film Festival

The 6th CAM International Film Festival held in Cairo, Egypt honored Indian National Award winning documentary film 'Daughters of Mother India' with 1st prize. This Film festival is organized yearly to motivate cinema. About 92 movies were selected from 33 countries under 3 categories Short Fiction, Documentary and Animation.



India was the Guest of Honor in the film gala with 12 entries. 'Daughters of Mother India' portrays aftermath of the 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder on camera.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Shri Venkaiah Naidu releases the book titled “Modi’s Midas Touch in Foreign Policy”

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, M. Venkaiah Naidu, released the book titled "Modi's Midas Touch in Foreign Policy". The book is authored by Ambassador Surendra Kumar.



The book outlines the progress and the indelible imprint on the conduct of India's Foreign Policy by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the last two and a half years. Collating the 3D advantages of democracy, demography and demand, the book outlines how the PM established India as the fastest growing economy and the biggest FDI destination in the world.

2. Arundhati Roy announced the release of her next novel in 2017

Arundhati Roy's second fiction, 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness', will be published by Hamish Hamilton UK and Penguin India, after 19 years of her last released novel 'The God of Small Things'. The book is expected to be published in June 2017.



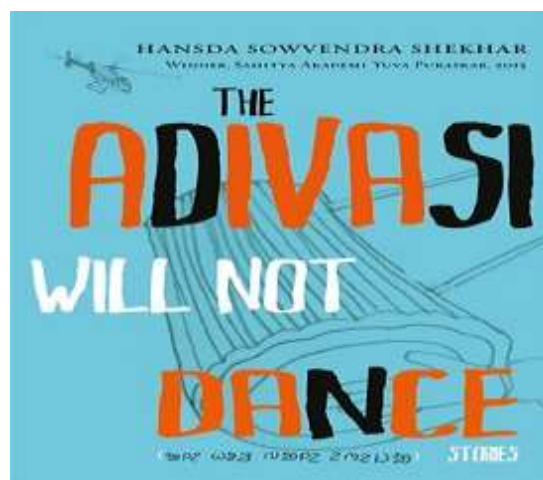
The Ministry of Utmost Happiness characters will bring to life with such generosity and empathy that they can wake readers up and lend us new ways of looking at life.

3. The Adivasi Will Not Dance: Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar

The book titled – The Adivasi Will Not Dance, authored by Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar, was recently shortlisted for The Hindu Prize 2016. The Adivasi Will Not Dance is a mature, passionate, intensely political book of stories.

Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar is a medical officer with the Government of Jharkhand. He is also author of the critically acclaimed novel – **The Mysterious Ailment of Rupi Baskey**, which was shortlisted for The Hindu Prize 2014 and the Crossword Book Award 2014.

He received the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar in June 2015.



4. The Cofounder launches India's First Startup Magazine

The Cofounder, India's First Startup Magazine, was launched. It is first of its kind Start-up Magazine to revive the conventional method of News and Stories especially for the startup ecosystem. The magazine is founded by Adhish Verma and Arunraj Rajendran.

The parent company is Hirestreet Media Pvt. Ltd. and is backed by UK-based Sharpedge. The magazine is already available in 4 cities – Jaipur, NCR Region, Bangalore & Mumbai.



5. American Author Paul Beatty won the 2016 Man Booker Prize

Paul Beatty won the Man Booker Prize 2016 for a caustic satire on US Racial Politics. He became the first American writer to win the prize. He won for *The Sellout* that tells the story of a young black man who tries to reinstate slavery and racial segregation in a suburb of Los Angeles.

Beatty won £50,000 as prize money, a trophy and a designer bound edition of his book. The shortlisted authors each received 2500 Euros and a specially bound edition of their book.



COMMITTEES

1. Mata Prasad committee appointed by CERC suggests overhaul in transmission planning

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) appointed committee, headed by power system expert Mata Prasad, has submitted its recommendations and suggested an overhaul in transmission planning to facilitate transfer of power on economic principles.



As per the report, transmission planning can be done based on the projected load of the states and anticipated generation. The committee also advised that in case of renewable energy sources, the transmission system may be planned by the central transmission utility (CTU) based on estimated capacity additions in perspective plan and renewable purchase obligations of each state.

2. Finance Ministry constitutes committee to consolidate regulation of pension products

The Department of Financial Services in the Finance Ministry has set up a high-level committee to consolidate the regulation of pension products in the country and bring them in the purview of PFRDA.



The committee would have representatives from all financial sector regulators — Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

3. KS Valdiya committee confirms the existence of Saraswati River

The KS Valdiya committee, constituted by the Union Government to study the existence of River Saraswati, has confirmed that the river did exist. So far the existence of the river was considered mythical. The panel was led by Professor K S Valdiya.



As per the committee, the river originated in the Himalayas and met the Gulf at the western sea. The river passed through Haryana, Rajasthan and North Gujarat. It passed through Pakistan before meeting the Western Sea through the Rann of Kutch and was approximately 4,000 km in length. One-third of the river stretch fell in present-day Pakistan.

4. Centre constitutes Munialappa Committee for monitoring Bird Flu

The Centre has constituted a Committee headed by Munialappa, Joint Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries (DADF) to maintain constant vigil on the situation arising out of avian influenza (H5N8). Besides, monitoring the situation, the Committee will assist the State Government in taking steps to contain the spread of Avian Influenza. Munialappa will be the nodal officer and will be available to provide advice and help 24*7.



The Centre has also established a control room in DADF. Recently, some birds had died in the Delhi Zoological Park and six other areas due to which necessary advisories have been issued to all states to keep a vigil on areas frequented by birds.

5. Justice Reddy committee on OROP submits report

The Justice L Narasimha Reddy committee on One Rank One Pension (OROP) submitted its report to the Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar.

The judicial committee had held hearings at around 20 cities/towns across the country and interacted with cross sections of Ex-Servicemen as well as their associations. The committee also received 704 representations from individuals and various Ex-Servicemen associations and had held extensive interactions with all stakeholders before submitting its report.



DEATHS

1. Famous Bangla writer Syed Shamsul Haq passed away

Renowned Bangladesh writer, Syed Shamsul Haq, passed away in Dhaka, Bangladesh following a brief illness at the age of 81 years. He wrote several novels, poetry, essays and plays. He was also vocal against religious fundamentalism.

His notable works include Boishakhey Rochito Ponktimala, Ekoda Ek Rajjey, Birotihin Utsab, Protidhwonigon and Opor Purush. He was also awarded with various awards including- Bangla Academy Literary Award (1966), Ekushey Padak (1984) and Swadhinata Padak (2000), the highest civilian award of Bangladesh.



2. Popular artist Yusuf Arakkal passed away

Veteran Bengaluru-based artist, Yusuf Arakkal, passed away at the age of 71 years after suffering a heart attack. He was also a sculptor and a poet.

He had recently released a book called Faces of Creativity, which is a comprehensive collection of portraits of fellow artists. He won the National Award for his art in 1983 and the Raja Ravi Varma Puraskaram in 2013. He also won several other awards including Karnataka Lalithkala Academy award in 1979 and 1981 and the Karnataka Lalithkala Academy honor in 1989.



3. Manipur theatre legend Heisnam Kanhailal died

Veteran Manipuri theatre trainer, film producer, playwright and director Heisnam Kanhailal passed away at the age of 75 years following a brief illness. Kanhailal was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of theatre.

He was the founder-director of Kalakshetra, the theatre laboratory in Manipur. Kanhailal's major works include 'Tamnalai' (The hunting spirit), 'Kabui-Keioiba' (Half man-half tiger), 'Draupadi' amongst others. He was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in direction in 1985. He was also awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna Award in 2011.



4. Former Boxing Champion Aaron Pryor passed away

Former Junior Welterweight Boxing Champion, Aaron Pryor, passed away at the age of 60 years after a long fight with a heart disease. He was also known as "The Hawk".

Pryor amassed a 39-1 record and was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1996. He also won a silver medal from the 1975 Pan-Am Games in the lightweight division. He was also voted as the No. 1 Junior Welterweight of the 20th century by The Associated Press in 1999.



5. Philanthropist and style icon Parmeshwar Godrej passed away

Philanthropist and Style Icon Parmeshwar Godrej passed away after a prolonged illness at the age of 71 years. She was the wife of industrialist Adi Godrej.

Parmeshwar was also referred as a 'style icon'. She was also recognised for her work on spreading awareness of HIV-AIDS. In 2004 she co-founded the Heroes project with Hollywood actor Richard Gere to raise awareness about AIDS in India. The project had support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



6. Oscar-winning Polish film director Andrzej Wajda passed away

Oscar-winning Polish film director Andrzej Wajda passed away at the age of 90 years. He made more than 40 feature films in a career spanning 60 years.

Wajda was awarded an Oscar for lifetime achievement in 2000. He won international acclaim for "Man of Iron" (1981) and the film's subversive predecessor "Man of Marble" (1977). Wajda's films also won a Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival and four nominations for Academy Awards, among other prizes.



7. Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away

Thailand's most revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away at the age of 88 years. He was the world's longest ruling monarch and was considered a demigod by Thai people.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said that Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn will succeed the king. Flags will be flown at half-mast for 30 days and Government Officials will wear black for a year. The widely revered monarch was central to Thai society. He was always seen as a stabilising figure in a country hit by cycles of political turmoil and multiple coups.



8. Renowned writer Dayanand Anant passed away

Dayanand Anant, veteran writer and litterateur, passed away at the age of 88 years. He was one of the most prominent writers of Uttarakhand.

He wrote two short story books, three novels, five TV dramas and many comics and satires. He also translated many stories from other languages to Hindi. He started a tabloid by the name of 'Parvatiya Times' in 1980 and remained its editor for a decade. He was honored with many prestigious awards.



9. Nobel-winning Italian writer and performer Dario Fo died

The Nobel prizewinning playwright and actor Dario Fo passed away at the age of 90 years due to lung cancer. He won the Nobel prize for literature in 1997. He was popular for his cutting political satire in plays such as The Accidental Death of an Anarchist.

His political activities saw him banned from the United States and censored on Italian television. In his time, he was "arguably the most widely performed contemporary playwright in world theatre".



10. Rwanda's last king, Kigeli V passed away

The last king of Rwanda, Kigeli V, passed away at the age of 80 years. He ruled Rwanda for less than a year in 1959 before being forced into exile and finally settling in the United States.

A 2013 profile in Washingtonian magazine, found him living in subsidised housing, on food stamps and donations, in Oakton, Virginia. He set up a charity, King Kigeli V Foundation, helping Rwandan refugees and orphans.



11. Gandhian activist Mewa Ramgobin passed away

South African struggle icon and Gandhian activist Mewa Ramgobin passed away at the age of 83 years. He was the former president of the Natal Indian Congress which fought discrimination against Indians in South Africa.

He was among the first supporters of the Release Mandela campaign. He was charged with treason in 1985. He was also an African National Congress MP until 2009. He established a Gandhi museum and library. He is the author of Waiting to Live and Prisms of Light.



12. Punjabi actor Mehar Mittal passed away

Veteran Punjabi film actor Mehar Mittal passed away at a hospital in Mount Abu in Rajasthan at the age of 82 years. He was best known for his comic roles. Mittal had a celebrated three-decade long career in Punjabi films. He had worked in more than 100 movies.

Prominent among them were "Sawa Lakh Se Ek Ladaun", "Putt Jattan De", "Babul Da Vehra", "Bhulekha", "Long Da Lishkara", "Peengan Pyar Deeyan" and "Jeeja Sali".



13. Anti-Vietnam war activist, Tom Hayden, died

Tom Hayden, the anti-Vietnam War activist, passed away at the age of 76 years. He was the former husband of the actress Jane Fonda and the father of actor Troy Garity.

He was one of the "Chicago 7" activists who was tried for conspiracy after protests at the Democratic National Convention in 1968. Later he went on to serve on the California Assembly and Senate for almost 20 years.



14. Legendary footballer Carlos Alberto Torres died

Captain of Brazil's 1970 World Cup-winning side, Carlos Alberto, passed away at the age of 72 years. Alberto scored one of the most famous goals of all time when he netted an iconic fourth goal in Brazil's 1970 World Cup final win against Italy. He was a member of the World Team of the 20th Century.

Alberto won 53 caps for Brazil. He played more than 400 games for his club Santos and helped them win the domestic Brazilian title four times between 1967 and 1973.



15. Veteran Kashmiri singer Raj Begum passed away

Famous singer Raj Begum passed away at the age of 89 due to prolonged illness. She has been voice of Kashmiri music lovers. She has been awardee of Padma Shri in 2002 and Sangeet Akademi award in 2013. She was popularly known as the "Nightingale of Kashmir" and 'Asha Bhosle of Kashmir'.

She joined Radio Kashmir in the 1940s and pursued her career shifting from festive marriage singing to melodies and classical singing.



1. Indo-Russian military exercise 'INDRA-2016' culminated

The Indo-Russian military exercise 'INDRA-2016' culminated after eleven days of intense military training in counter-terrorism operations. The closing ceremony was held at 249th Combined Armed Range, Sergieviesky in the Ussiriysk District of Primoski krai Province, Russia. Fifteen personnel from each side were awarded medals of excellence for their outstanding performance during the exercise.



Eighth in the series of bilateral exercises under this banner, the joint exercise this year focused on conduct of counter insurgency / counter terrorist operations under UN mandate in semi mountainous and jungle terrain.

2. The 84th Indian Air Force Day observed

The 84th Indian Air Force Day 2016 was observed on 8 October 2016 with an extraordinary air show at the Hindon Air Force Base near Ghaziabad.

The Air Force Day was officially celebrated for the first time on 8 October, 1932. The guardians of the Indian skies form the fourth largest air force in the world. The day is observed to increase the awareness about the importance of Indian air force.



3. The 67th Raising Day celebrated by the Indian Territorial Army

The Territorial Army celebrated its 67th Raising Day on 09 October 2016. To mark the occasion, an impressive parade was held at the Army Parade Ground in New Delhi. Territorial Army soldiers, resplendent in their regimental attires, marched with military precision to the martial tunes.



The parade was witnessed by other civil and military dignitaries, including military and defence-attaches from friendly foreign countries. The Chief of Army Staff applauded the good work done by the Territorial Army personnel in various fields.

4. INS Sumitra visits Surabaya, Indonesia 10 – 12 Oct 16

The Indian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel Sumitra, arrived at Surabaya, Indonesia on a two day visit from 10-12 Oct 16, as part of its deployment to the South Western Pacific Ocean.



The visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing maritime security cooperation between the two countries. During the stay in harbour, various activities are planned towards enhancing cooperation and mutual understanding between the two navies. On departure, the ship would also undertake a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Indonesian Naval ships.

5. Coordinated Patrol and India-Indonesia Bilateral Maritime Exercise Commenced at Belawan, Indonesia

The 28th India and Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) and Second Bilateral Maritime Exercise, scheduled from 10-27 Oct 16, have commenced at Belawan, Indonesia in the Andaman Sea.



The two navies have been carrying out Coordinated Patrols (CORPAT) on respective sides of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2002, with the aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, International trade and legitimate marine activities.

6. Defence contracts worth Rs. 50,000 Crores to be signed

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has said that another 50,000-60,000 Crore rupees' worth of defence contracts would be signed during the current financial year, taking the total orders to three trillion rupees.



The Cabinet Committee on Security had cleared a proposal to get Goa Shipyard build mine counter measure vessels for the Navy at an estimated cost of over ₹32,000 crores in August. The defence exports have raised from ₹500 crores to ₹3,000 crores under the Make in India initiative.

7. India, Russia sign agreement for defence deals

India and Russia signed three major defence deals which include two Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGA) for five S-400 Triumf air defence systems and four stealth frigates and a joint venture to manufacture Kamov-226T helicopters in India.



The five S-400 Triumf air defence systems will cost over Rs. 39,000 crores. It is considered one of the most advanced long range missile system in the world and can tackle all incoming airborne targets at ranges of up to 400 km. The deal for Krivak or Talwar class stealth frigates was signed for USD 3 billion. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for a Joint Venture between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Rostec State Corporation of Russia to manufacture Kamov-226T helicopters in India in a deal worth over USD one billion.

8. US Navy's Most Advanced Warship, USS Zumwalt Commissioned

The US Navy's newest and most technologically advanced warship, USS Zumwalt (DDG 1000) was commissioned into active service at North Locust Point in Baltimore.



Zumwalt, the lead ship of a class of next-generation multi-mission destroyers, features a state-of-the-art electric propulsion system, wave-piercing tumblehome hull, stealth design, and the latest warfighting technology and weaponry available. The ship costs nearly USD 4.4 billion. Its powerful new gun system can unload 600 rocket-powered projectiles on targets more than 70 miles away.

9. India completes “Nuclear Triad” with INS Arihant

India has completed its nuclear triad after the indigenously built INS Arihant was commissioned into service. India joins the club of other 'nuclear triad' powers - UK, USA, China, Russia and France. A nuclear triad power has the ability to launch nuclear weapons from air, land & water.



It will be armed with the K-15 Sagarika missiles with a range of 750 kms. It is powered by an 83 MW pressurised light water nuclear reactor.

10. Indian Navy commissioned new fast attack craft INS Tihayu

The Indian Navy has commissioned INS Tihayu, a Car Nicobar Class Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC). It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE). The ship is an improved version of WJFAC.



The ship weighs 320-tonne, measuring 49 metres in length and can achieve speeds more than 35 knots.

It also has been loaded with an indigenously-built 30 mm CRN gun, an assorted variant of machine guns and shoulder-launched IGLA surface to air missile.

11. Vice Admiral SV Bhokare Assumes Office as the Commandant, Indian Naval Academy

Vice Admiral SV Bhokare, YSM, NM took over charge as the Commandant of Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala, on 20 October 2016.



He is a specialist in Navigation and Direction and a Graduate of National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, Tamil Nadu. He attended the Higher Command Course at Army War College, Mhow and holds a Master Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from Australian Defence College, Canberra.

12. India and China conduct Sino India Joint Tactical Exercise in Ladakh

The armies of India and China held a successful second joint exercise under the Sino-India Cooperation 2016. It is part of the ongoing initiative to enhance interaction and cooperation between India and China under the provisions of Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA) 2013.



It was a drill exercise on Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR). Both the armies carried out joint rescue operations, evacuation and rendering of medical assistance for a fictitious situation of earthquake.

13. Russia to lease second Russian Akula-2 class nuclear-powered submarine to India

Russia has agreed to lease out a second nuclear attack submarine of the Akula class to India in a deal worth around \$2 billion. Akula 2 is among the quietest submarines which makes tracking it underwater very difficult. It can sail at speeds up to 35 knots (nearly 65 km per hour) under water.



The Indian Navy already operates an Akula 2 class nuclear submarine, INS Chakra (formerly known as K-152 Nerpa). The lease of the first Akula-class submarine expires in 2021.

14. Two ships, Aryaman & Atulya, commissioned for the Coast Guard

Two Coast Guard Ships - Aryaman and Atulya - were commissioned into the service, 18th and 19th respectively in the series of 20 Fast Patrol Vessels. Both the ships have been designed and built by the Cochin Shipyard Limited.



The 50-meter indigenous FPVs displace 317 tonnes and can achieve a maximum speed of 33 knots. The special features of the ships include an Integrated Bridge Management System (IBMS) and Integrated Machinery Control System (IMCS).

15. Defence Minister inaugurates a copter maintenance facility in Goa

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar inaugurated a helicopter maintenance plant, a joint venture between Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and a French company, SAFRAN Helicopter Engines in North Goa. The facility named Helicopter Engine MRO Pvt Ltd. will have an investment of 170 crore rupees.



The engines of advance light helicopters of various versions, light combat helicopters and future light utility helicopters which are common between HAL and SAFRAN will be maintained at this facility. Both the firms have invested 50:50 as a part of joint venture.

16. Indian Army team wins gold medal in Cambrian Patrol exercise

Team 2/8 Gorkha from the Indian Army's Gorkha Rifles has won a gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol organized by the British Army. The medal went to the eight men of the 2nd Battalion of 8 Gorkha Rifles.



The Cambrian Patrol is an annual international military patrolling exercise in the rugged Cambrian Mountains of Wales. The exercise consists of a 55-km course to be done within 48 hours. It is a mission and task-oriented exercise.

17. Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise Mitra Shakti 2016 began in Ambepussa, Sri Lanka

The fourth edition of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'MITRA SHAKTI 2016' started at Sinha Regimental Centre in Ambepussa, Sri Lanka from 24 October. The focus of this edition of the joint exercise is to enhance inter-operability while carrying out Counter Insurgency (CI)/Counter Terrorism (CT) operations under the United Nations Mandate.



"Mitra Shakti" series of bilateral exercises is one of the major bilateral defence cooperation initiatives between India and Sri Lanka since 2013.

18. Supreme Court ordered 'Armed forces' to be answerable to the government

The Supreme Court has ordered 'Armed Forces' to be answerable to the government or 'otherwise there will be martial law in the country'. The said order has been made by bench of justices Amitava Roy and U U Lalit.

The said decision came after a plea was filed by advocate M L Sharma stating that Union Ministers including the Defence Minister had been claiming credit for the surgical strikes carried out by the Indian Army whereas as per the provisions of the Constitution, the President is the head of the armed forces.



1. Cabinet approves acquisition of 11% stake in JSC Vankorneft by ONGC Videsh Limited

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval to an acquisition by ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) for 11% stake in JSC Vankorneft from M/s Rosneft Oil Company (Rosneft), the National Oil Company (NOC) of Russian Federation (Russia). Rosneft operates Vankor fields, with Vankorneft, its wholly owned subsidiary.



OVL will be paying an amount of US \$ 930 million for acquiring 11% stake in Vankorneft. The acquisition of stake in Vankorneft will provide 3.2 Million Metric Ton of Oil Equivalent (MMTOE) to OVL by 2017. It will also provide an opportunity to acquire new technologies from Rosneft.

2. Spectrum auction ended with bids worth Rs. 65,789 Crores in 5 days

India's biggest auction of telecom spectrum ended with Rs 65,789 crore of bids coming in over five days. It is against an expectation of Rs 5.6 lakh crore leaving nearly 60% of airwaves, including premium 4G bands unsold.



Bids were received for 964.80 Mega Hertz of spectrum out of 2,354.55 Mega Hertz across seven bands put on offer. The total upfront payment to the government is about Rs 32,000 crore which is the highest in the last five years.

3. Government to get Rs. 37000 crores from spectrum auction this fiscal

The government will garner as much as 37,000 crore rupees this fiscal from spectrum auction after considering close to 5,000 crore rupees of service tax that telecom companies will pay. The government has received commitment of 65,789 crore rupees by selling 964.80 MHz of spectrum.



The spectrum will be assigned to the winning companies within one month of their depositing the money. Against total of 930 MHz of spectrum sold over the last four years, government sold 965 MHz of spectrum in the 2016 auctions.

4. Union Government extends anti-dumping duty on certain Chinese products

The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has extended anti-dumping duty on import of Chinese products for another 5 years based on recommendations of the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD).



The products under consideration are Narrow woven fabrics hook and loop velcro tapes, mainly used in garment manufacturing, surgical and orthopaedic apparatus, shoes and footwear, luggage/bags, toys, automobile upholstery and various other industrial segments. Anti-dumping duty will be charged at the rate of \$1.87 per kilogram.

5. Nirmala Sitharaman launched Enhanced Foreign Trade Data Dashboard

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a new enhanced Dashboard on Foreign Trade Data as part of the initiative of the ministry to provide easy access to the public regarding India's export, import and balance of trade data in an analytical format, over time and space.



The Dashboard is an improved version of the earlier EXIM Analytics Dashboard developed with many added features. It gives a graphical collection of exports, imports and balance of trade of India; the Export turnover of the country, how it performs over time and space and what are the export destinations.

6. Indirect tax collection shows an increase of 25.9%

Indirect tax collections in the first six months in the current fiscal have shown an increase of 25.9% over the net collections for the corresponding period last year. Total Central Excise, Service Tax and Customs tax collections as on 30th Sep, 2016 stood at 4.08 lakh crore rupees. 52.5% of the Budget Estimates of indirect taxes for 2016-17 has been achieved so far.



Central Excise tax collections stood at 1.83 lakh crore rupees, registering a growth of 46.3%. Net Tax collections on account of Service Tax during April-September, 2016 were 1.16 crore rupees. Customs tax collections during April-September 2016 stood at 1.08 lakh crore rupees.

7. Punjab Agricultural University inked MoU with FieldFresh

The Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FieldFresh Foods, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises & Del Monte Pacific Limited. The MoU entails grant from FieldFresh Foods to Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) to conduct the three-year Research Programme.



The MoU aims to boost corn / baby corn productivity in the country besides strengthening small farmer income in corn growing regions and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.

8. Rosneft-led consortium buys India's Essar Oil for \$13 billion in largest FDI deal

A consortium led by Russian oil major Rosneft Oil Company has agreed to acquire India's second biggest private oil firm Essar Oil in an all-cash deal valued at about US \$13 billion. The acquisition is the biggest foreign acquisition ever in India and Russia's largest outbound deal.



Rosneft bought a 49% stake in Essar Oil, while Netherlands-based Trafigura Group Pte and Russian investment fund United Capital Partners split another 49% equity equally. The deal is expected to close in first quarter of 2017.

9. India gets its first Iranian oil parcel for emergency reserves

India has received the first parcel of crude oil from Iran to partly fill the strategic storage in southern India as part of the Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) storage in southern India, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. MRPL shipped in 2 million barrels of Iranian oil.



India will fill half of the storage with 6 million barrels of Iranian oil. The second parcel of such reserve will be procured by Bharat Petroleum Corp. Since 2003, the Central Government has commissioned the strategic oil reserves to maintain nation's energy as well as economic security.

10. Wholesale inflation eased to 3.57% in September

The Wholesale inflation eased to 3.57 percent in September 2016. Inflation fell as prices of food items, especially vegetables, softened. Wholesale price-based inflation had stood at 3.74 percent in August 2016, and minus 4.59 percent in September 2015.

As per the official data released, overall food inflation moderated to 5.75 per cent in September 2016, from 8.23 per cent in August. Data released had showed that retail inflation fell to a 13-month low of 4.31 percent in September.



11. Ashok Leyland launched India's first electric bus

Ashok Leyland launched India's first locally designed, engineered and produced electric bus. The Ashok Leyland 'Circuit' is 100 per cent electric and leaves zero emissions upon operation.

The bus can travel up to 120km on a single charge and takes three hours to become fully charged. It can attain a top speed of 75 km/h. It can accommodate 31 passengers. The bus is also integrated with a fire detection and suppression system (FDSS).



12. Cipla inked agreement to set up first biosimilars units in South Africa

Cipla has signed a memorandum of agreement with KwaZulu-Natal Dube Trade Port Special Economic Zone for Cipla BIOTEC's new facility in South Africa. The facility will be set up at a cost of nearly \$91 million.

The facility will be South Africa's first biotech manufacturing unit to produce biosimilars and produce a range of affordable treatments for cancer and other autoimmune diseases for the African and global market.



13. PM Modi inaugurated 3 hydropower projects in Himachal Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 3 state-run hydropower projects of 1752 MW capacities in Himachal Pradesh. He inaugurated NTPC's 800MW Koldam Hydro Project in Bilaspur district, NHPC's 540MW Parbati Stage-III project in Kullu district and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd's 412MW Rampur project in Shimla district.



The completion cost of the NHPC's Parbati-III Power Station is around Rs 2600 crore. The NTPC- Koldam shall annually generate 3054 GWh electricity at 90% dependable year basis. The SJVN's Rampur Project will provide 13 percent free power to the state of Himachal Pradesh.

14. Government grants BP Plc licence to set up petrol pumps in India

Government has formally granted a licence to BP Plc, Europe's third-biggest oil company, to set up 3,500 petrol pumps in India. It became the 10th company to enter the lucrative fuel retailing sector. The company had won in-principle approval to retail aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to airlines in India in January 2016. It is also known as Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd.



India currently has about 56,190 petrol pumps. BP had cited investment of nearly USD 500 million in oil and gas exploration and production for gaining the licence.

15. India and World Bank Sign \$650 Million Agreement for Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

India signed a 650-million-dollar loan agreement with the World Bank for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor. This is the third loan agreement that the World Bank has signed for the Eastern Corridor, which is 1,840 km long and extends from Ludhiana to Kolkata.



The project will benefit industries of Northern and Eastern India, which rely on railway network for transportation of material inputs and exports. It would also accelerate creation of jobs in the northern and eastern regions of the country.

16. GST Council decided to compensate states for any loss of revenue due to GST implementation

The GST panel chaired by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and states representatives reached on decision to compensate states for any loss of revenue arising from implementation of the new indirect tax regime from April 1, 2017. A Four-slab structure of 6, 12, 18 and 26 percent with lower rates for essential items and highest band for luxury goods was discussed.

The 2015-16 fiscal will be considered as base year for calculating the revenue of a state and 14% as secular growth rate for calculating the likely revenue of each state in the first five years of implementation of GST.



17. TRAI recommended Rs 3,050 crore penalty on Airtel, Vodafone & Idea

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended to impose a whopping 3,050 crore rupee penalty on Bharti Airtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular for allegedly denying interconnectivity to newcomer Reliance Jio.

Detail of Penalties recommended:

- Airtel: Penalty amounts to 1050 crore rupees for 21 service areas (all, except Jammu and Kashmir)
- Vodafone: Penalty amounts to 1050 crore rupees for 21 service areas (all, except Jammu and Kashmir)
- Idea: Penalty amounts to 950 crore rupees for 19 service areas (all, except Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and North-eastern States)



18. Power Grid's board approved investments of Rs. 1184.45 crores

Power Grid Corp board has approved three investment proposals to invest Rs. 1,184.45 crores in the power transmission projects across the country. The proposals are:

- 'Augmentation of Transformation Capacity in Southern Region' at an estimated cost of Rs. 167.75 crores.
- 'Sub-station works associated with strengthening of transmission system beyond Vemagiri' at an estimated cost of Rs. 608.24 crores.
- 'Transmission System for Ultra Mega Solar Park at Tumkur (Pavagada), Karnataka – Phase-II (Part A)' at an estimated cost of Rs. 408.46 crores.



19. AT&T Inc to buy Time Warner Inc for 85.4 billion US dollars

Telecommunications giant, AT&T, has agreed to buy Time Warner, the home of HBO and CNN, for about \$85.4 billion that will reshape the mobile company into a media giant.

The wireless carrier will acquire Time Warner in a stock-and-cash transaction valued at 107.50 dollars per share. The deal is expected to close by the end of 2017. AT&T Chief Executive Randall Stephenson would head the new company. Time Warner is a media and entertainment giant.



20. CBDT releases data relating to Income Tax Return Statistics for Assessment Years (AY) 2013-14 & 2014-15

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had proactively released in April, 2016 time-series data relating to direct tax collections, number of taxpayers etc. CBDT has further released data relating to distribution of income and tax payable in respect of returns filed for Assessment Years 2013-14 and 2014-15.

With this release, detailed income-tax data for three recent assessment years have become available in public domain enabling researchers, scholars, policy makers, students and all other stakeholders to make a better analysis of the trends in incomes and tax payments. Reports containing the data are available at www.incometaxindia.gov.in.



21. MMTC along with World Gold Council launches a multimedia advertising campaign to drive awareness of the Indian Gold Coin

With an aim to drive awareness around Diwali on the availability of Indian Gold Coin, MMTC along with World Gold Council has launched a multimedia advertising campaign. It is India's first ever sovereign gold offering and only Gold Coin hallmarked by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for purity.

The coins are currently available in denominations of 5 gms and 10 gms coin and 20 gms bar at all MMTC outlets across India, along with select branches of seven Banks - Indian Overseas Bank, Vijaya Bank, Federal Bank, Yes Bank, Andhra Bank, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank.



22. Strategic deal signed between Dr Reddy's Lab and Gland Pharma in US market

Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd announced its strategic collaboration with Gland Pharma to promote marketing of eight injectable Abbreviated New Drug Applications. Strategic union was decided on the fact that combined sale of branded and generic versions of the products in the U.S. has been around US\$ 1 Billion in the past.



The portfolio comprises of filed ANDAs pending approval by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) and ANDAs that will be filed imminently, including that of generic injectables administered in hospitals and clinics in the U.S.

23. GSTN signs MoU with DGFT for sharing of foreign exchange realisation data

The Goods and Services Network(GSTN) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for sharing of foreign exchange realisation and Import Export code data, a move that is expected to strengthen processing of export transactions of taxpayers under GST, increase transparency and reduce human interface.



The eBRC project implemented by DGFT to upload foreign exchange realisation information related to exports, created an integrated platform for receipt, processing and subsequent use of all Bank Realization related information by exporters, banks, government departments.

ENVIRONMENT

1. New species of Pika discovered in the Sikkim Himalayas

Researchers at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru have identified a new species of Pika in the Sikkim Himalayas. The new species has been named *Ochotona Sikimaria*.

Pikas are members of the rabbit family and live either high up in the mountains or in cold (temperate) places as they are highly cold-adapted. They look like tailless rats. Of the 28 species of Pika reported worldwide, 26 are found in Asia and five in the eastern Himalayan region alone.



2. Tamil Nadu tops list of endemic flowering plants

Botanical Survey of India (BSI) announced that Tamil Nadu tops the list of endemic flowering plants. Almost one of every four species of flowering plants found in India is endemic to the country. Of these, Tamil Nadu garners the highest number of species with 410. Tamil Nadu is followed by Kerala with 357 and Maharashtra with 278.

Of the total 18,259 flowering plants reported in the country, 4,303 (over 23%) are found only in India or they are endemic to the country.



3. Litoria Bella frog species discovered in Australia

A new frog species discovered in Queensland's Cape York appears like the Graceful tree frog (*Litoria Gracilentia*), and thus it is termed as *Litoria Bella*. The scientific name of this new species, *Bella*, means beautiful as it looks beautiful with its green head and back, orange belly, bright orange hands and feet, iridescent bluish purple inner thigh.

The call of the [male Cape York graceful tree frog] is longer and lower with fewer pulses and slower pulse rate.



4. ASI protected historical monuments and archaeological sites declared Polythene free zones

All ASI Protected Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites have been declared 'Polythene Free Zones'. Advisory has been issued to all State Governments/UTs to support ASI in keeping Monuments Polythene Free up to 300 meters from the protected boundaries of the Monuments.



Ministry of Culture has sanctioned Rs.350 crores to provide facilities like Protected Boundaries, Toilets and Disabled Friendly Access in all ASI Protected Monuments. ASI has ranked top 25 Adarsh Monuments based on the Cleanliness parameters.

5. New termite species named Chiraharitae discovered

A new termite species, *Glyptotermes Chiraharitae*, has been discovered at Kakkayam in the Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary by Amina Poovoli and K. Rajmohana, Senior Scientists, Zoological Survey of India.



The species are named 'Chiraharitae', after the tropical evergreen forests of the Western Ghats, where the termite was spotted. The flying adults of this species are approximately 10 mm long, while the soldiers are around 9.5 mm long. They are exclusively wood dwelling and do not require any contact with soil.

6. India to eliminate potent greenhouse gas HFC-23 by 2030

India, at a meeting of parties to the Montreal Protocol at Kigali in Rwanda, has announced to eliminate the use of HFC-23, a greenhouse gas that harms the ozone layer, by 2030. HFC-23, a potent greenhouse gas with global warming potential of 14,800 times more than that of CO₂. It is used in industrial refrigeration. HCFC stands for hydrochlorofluorocarbon.



The Montreal Protocol, which came into force in 1989, is aimed at reducing the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances to protect the earth's fragile ozone layer.

7. Kashmiri Red Stag to be declared 'Critically Endangered' by IUCN

The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is all set to declare the Kashmiri Red Stag or Hangul as a 'critically endangered' species. It is known for its giant antlers bearing 11 to 16 points.

Its population was found just over 200 in the last census done in 2011. Currently, its population is largely confined to the Greater Dachigam Landscape (1,000 sq.km.), encompassing the Dachigam National Park (NP).



8. Brazil opens Latin America's first Elephant Sanctuary

Brazil has opened the first elephant sanctuary in Latin America to provide a home for an estimated 50 circus animals from across the region. The first resident elephants of the sanctuary are Guida and Maia.

Elephant Sanctuary Brazil was founded by the US-based non-profit organization Global Sanctuary for Elephants. The area has 2,800 acres and bought for \$1m (£820,000) to be paid over five years. It can house as many as 50 elephants.



9. Smooth-coated Otter sighted for the first time in Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary

Smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogaleperspicillata*) was sighted for the first time in the mangrove forest adjacent to the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Krishna district. In all, seven otters were sighted in the mangrove forests and brackish water channels.

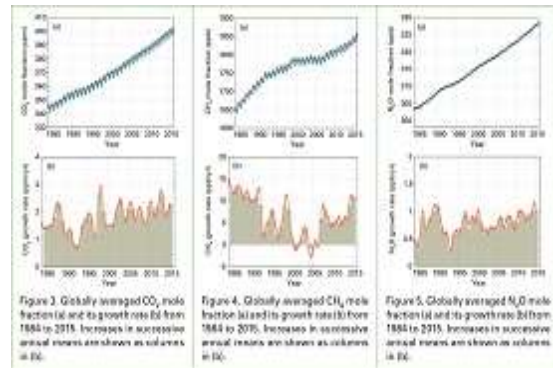
The smooth-coated Otter (*Lutrogaleperspicillata*) is a carnivorous mammal. The fur of this species is smoother and is distributed throughout South Asia and South East Asia. It has been categorised 'vulnerable' in the red data book of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



10. Globally Averaged CO2 Levels Reach 400 PPM in 2015

According to the World Meteorological Organization's annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, globally averaged concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reached 400 parts per million for the first time in 2015. It has surged again to new records in 2016 on the back of the very powerful El Niño event.

The Carbon dioxide (CO2) accounted for about 65% of radiative forcing by long-lived greenhouse gases. The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin provides a scientific base for decision-making.



11. New species of Millipede discovered in Sequoia National Park, California

Scientists have discovered a new species of millipede at Sequoia National Park in California. It has 414 legs, four 'penises', bizarre-looking mouthparts and secretes a poisonous chemical as a defence mechanism.

It is the evolutionary cousin of the leggiest animal on the planet, Illacmeplenipes. The new millipede is named Illacmetobini. The study was published in the open access journal ZooKeys. I. tobini was found by cave biologist Jean Krejca.



12. Ross Sea declared world's largest 'Marine Protected Area' of Antarctica

After many years of negotiations, delegates from 24 countries and the European Union meeting in Hobart, Australia declared 'The Ross Sea' of Antarctica as world's largest Marine Protected Area (MPA). The proposal was introduced by New Zealand and the United States. It is accepted by all the other nations, will see a general protection "no-take" zone where nothing can be removed including marine life, oil, gas and minerals.

The Ross Sea is home to penguins and world's largest marine protected area covering 1.6 million square kilometers.



FINANCE

1. SBI launched its branch in Yangon

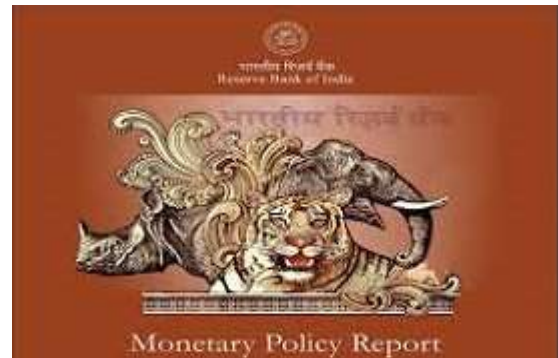
State Bank of India (SBI) launched its 54th foreign branch in Yangon, Myanmar. The launch of this Branch has extended the global presence of SBI in 37 countries through 198 offices. SBI is the first Indian Bank to open a branch in Myanmar.



Ghanshyam Srivastava has been appointed as the chief executive of SBI Yangon branch. The Myanmar Central Bank earlier this year allowed SBI to open a branch with the primary objective of extending wholesale banking services to foreign corporates.

2. RBI announces its 4th Bi-monthly Policy Statement

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its fourth bi-monthly monetary policy review for year 2016-17 has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25%.



This monetary policy decision was taken by the newly constituted Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). All the six members of MPC unanimously decided to cut key policy rate with the aim of achieving a midterm inflation target of 4% within a band of plus or minus 2%.

3. India's GDP growth to remain strong at 7.6% in 2016, 7.7% in 2017: World Bank

The World Bank has said that India's GDP growth will remain strong at 7.6 percent in 2016 and 7.7 percent in 2017. In its latest report 'South Asia Economic Focus', it said India's economic growth remained robust, and is expected to support continued poverty reduction.



It further said that the current year is expected to see some convergence in rural and urban economies, supported by stimulating policies, such as passage of GST and civil service pay revisions.

4. IMF revises India's economic growth upwards to 7.6% for FY17 and 18

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday raised projections for India's economic growth by 0.2 percentage points to 7.6 percent for 2016-17 and 2017-18. India's economy expanded 7.6 percent in 2015-16.

IMF also kept gross domestic product (GDP) expansion for China unchanged at 6.6 per cent in 2016, which would decelerate to 6.2 per cent in 2017. It retained global economic growth at 3.1 per cent for 2016 and 3.4 per cent for 2017.



5. Finance Ministry sets up Public Debt Management Cell

The Union Finance Ministry has set up a Public Debt Management Cell (PDMC) to streamline government borrowings and better cash management with the overall objective of deepening bond markets. The interim arrangement will allow separation of debt management functions from RBI to PDMA in a gradual and seamless manner, without causing market disruptions.

PDMC has been tasked to plan government borrowings, including market borrowings and other borrowings, like Sovereign Gold Bond issuance. It will also advise government on matters related to investment, capital market operations, administration of interest rates on small savings among others.



6. RBI appointed Parvez Ahmed as the new Chairman and CEO of Jammu and Kashmir Bank

Parvez Ahmed was appointed by Reserve Bank of India as Chairman and CEO of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank for a period of three years replacing Mustaq Ahmad who completed his term on October 5. The appointment came after J&K Bank Board of Directors had forwarded a panel of three candidates topped by Parvez Ahmad for chairmanship to the RBI for approval.

Mr. Parvez Ahmed has vast experience in banking and financial services and is currently the senior most Executive President of the bank.



7. RBI releases IWG report on Rationalisation of Branch Authorisation Policy

The Reserve Bank of India published the Report of the Internal Working Group (IWG) on Rationalisation of Branch Authorisation Policy. The Group is chaired by Lily Vadera, Chief General Manager, Department of Banking Regulation.

The thrust of the recommendations is to facilitate financial inclusion by ensuring availability of banking services in all centers through low cost delivery channels and mapping the footprints of various banking channels.



8. Forex reserves touch record high of \$372 billion

As per the RBI data, India's foreign exchange reserves scaled a new high of \$371.99 billion, up \$1.223 billion for the week to September 30. The increase was primarily because a USD 1.468-billion surge in the foreign currency assets.

Gold reserves declined USD 236.4 million to USD 21.406 billion. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund decreased by USD 3.3 million to USD 1.487 billion, while the reserve position with the fund dipped by USD 5 million to USD 2.385 billion.



9. India to clock 8% growth in next few years: S&P

Ratings agency Standard and Poor's has said, the passage of the indirect tax law GST, gives it additional conviction of India clocking 8 per cent growth in the next few years. In a report titled 'Asia-Pacific steadies while China goes silent', the rating agency has coined the passage of the GST as to be the most important structural reform to date by the Narendra Modi government.

The latest gross domestic production (GDP) figures showed that India's growth slowed to 7.1 percent in the April-June quarter, from 7.9 percent in January-March.



10. India the 12th largest holder of US Government Bonds

India's holdings of US government bonds touched a high of US \$123.7 billion in July making it the 12th largest holder of such securities.

China's exposure stood at US \$1.22 trillion, followed by Japan with holdings to the tune of US \$1.15 trillion. The other countries in the top ten are Ireland (3), Cayman Islands (4), Brazil (5), Switzerland (6), Luxembourg (7), the UK (8), Taiwan (9) and Hong Kong (10).



11. Standard Chartered Bank enters a tie-up with Uber

Standard Chartered Bank announced a tie-up with Uber under which its credit cardholders, across six countries, will get a cash-back of up to 25 percent for hailing cabs from the app.

In India, the cardholders will get a 20 per cent cash-back on all Uber rides, subject to a cash-back cap of Rs. 600 per month. Additionally, first-time Uber users will get a discount of Rs. 50 for the first three rides. The offer has been activated in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam apart from India and will be launched in UAE.



12. Accenture to help AU Financiers offer digital banking

Au FINANCIERS, who received In-principle approval from Reserve Bank of India to set up as a Small Finance Bank, has appointed Accenture Services Pvt. Ltd. ("Accenture") to customise, integrate and support Au Financiers' new core banking platform and enterprise resource planning software (ERP).

The core banking platform, with online and mobile banking digital capabilities, will enable Au Financiers customers to operate their accounts from anywhere in the country. Accenture will also implement an analytics-rich customer resource management (CRM) solution to help Au Financiers manage customer records and relationships.



13. ICICI Bank executes India's first banking transactions on blockchain

ICICI Bank has successfully executed transactions in international trade finance and remittance using blockchain technology in partnership with Emirates NBD, a leading banking group in the Middle East.

ICICI Bank is the first bank in the country and among the first few globally to exchange and authenticate remittance transaction messages as well as original international trade documents electronically on blockchain in real time. The usage of blockchain technology simplifies the process and makes it almost instant. The system was co-created with EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly owned subsidiary of Infosys.



14. Cabinet approves Exim Bank's MoU with New Development Bank

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to Export Import Bank of India for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on General Cooperation with New Development Bank (NDB) through the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism.

The proposal will enhance trade and economic relations among the BRICS countries. There is no financial implication involved with signing of the MoU. The MoU is aimed at establishing a cooperation framework in accordance with the national laws and regulations, besides skills transfer and knowledge sharing amongst the signatories.



15. Essar pays back \$2.5 billion of loans to ICICI, Axis and StanChart

Essar Group has paid back \$2.5 billion of loans to ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Standard Chartered Bank. ICICI Bank and Axis Bank together got about \$450 million while Standard Chartered Bank was paid \$2.1 billion.

Standard Chartered has decided to write off nearly \$850 million of its exposure. ICICI Bank and Axis Bank had a combined exposure of about \$1.5 billion. Essar Oil completed a deal to sell 98 percent stake to a consortium led by Russia's Rosneft for \$12.9 billion.



16. NABARD sanctions Rs. 19,702 crore loan to National Water Development Agency

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has sanctioned Rs. 19,702 crore loan to National Water Development Agency (NWDA) for 50 irrigation projects.

The loan is sanctioned under Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF), announced by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during the Budget 2016-17. This would help create additional irrigation potential of 39.14 lakh hectares under these projects in 11 states. The total fund requirement of all the irrigation projects under Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) is expected to be of the order of Rs. 78,535 crores in the next four years.



17. RBI relaxed norms for foreign investment in startups

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reviewed and amended the extant regulatory provisions to further liberalise and rationalise the investment regime for Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCIs) and to give a fillip to foreign investment in the startups.

FVCIs can invest in Indian startups irrespective of the sector in which the startup is engaged without prior permission of the apex bank. SEBI-registered FVCIs have also been permitted to invest in unlisted firms in sectors like biotechnology, nanotechnology and dairy. Further FVCIs can also open a foreign currency account and/or a rupee account for the purpose of making transactions.



18. Bank of America unveiled their Artificial Intelligence Chatbot

Bank of America has unveiled Erica, an AI chatbot that will be available to answer queries and help the bank's million of mobile app users make smarter spending and saving decisions.

"Erica" will be available inside the bank's mobile app starting next year. Customers can chat with Erica via voice or text message. Erica will use artificial intelligence, predictive analytics and cognitive messaging to help customers do things like make payments, check balances, save money and pay down debt.



19. RBI allows start-ups to raise USD 3 million via external commercial borrowings

Start-ups will be permitted to raise the overseas funds in rupees as well as in foreign currency. RBI allowed start-ups to raise external commercial borrowings up to USD 3 million in a financial year with a minimum maturity of 3 years. It further said that final guidelines on Interest Rate Options will be revealed by end-October 2016. Guidelines will be issued in this regard by month-end.

According to RBI, guidelines for issuance and operations of Pre-Paid Payment Instruments will also be released soon.



IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Habitat Day 2016 observed

The United Nations' (UN) World Habitat Day is annually celebrated on the first Monday of October. This year it was celebrated on 3rd October. The 2016 World Habitat Day campaign aims to "raise awareness about the need for affordable housing for all in urban areas, towns and cities."

The purpose of the day is to reflect on the state of our cities and towns and the basic human right to adequate shelter. It also aims to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the habitat of future generations.



2. International Day of Non-Violence observed across the world

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is observed annually on October 2 to promote non-violence through education and public awareness. The day coincides with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

The International Day of Non-Violence has strong connections with the works, beliefs, and methods of peace leader Mahatma Gandhi. The UN General Assembly came up with a resolution in 2007 to establish the International Day of Non-Violence. The first



International Day of Non-Violence was observed on 2 October 2007.

3. International Day of Older Persons 2016 observed on October 1

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Older Persons is observed annually on October 1. The theme for 2016, Take a Stand Against Ageism, challenges everyone to consider ageism – the negative attitudes and discrimination based on age - and the detrimental impact it has on older people.

The International Day of Older Persons is an opportunity to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the issues and challenges of ageing in today's world.



4. World Space Week observed from 4-10 Oct

World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition observed each year from October 4-10. The theme for the year 2016 is "Remote Sensing: Enabling our Future" which celebrates Earth Observation from Space for the betterment of humanity.

World Space Week consists of space education and outreach events held by space agencies, aerospace companies, schools, planetaria, museums, and astronomy clubs around the world.



5. World Teachers' Day 2016 observed

The World Teachers' Day is observed globally on October 5 annually to commemorate teacher organizations worldwide. The theme for the World Teachers' Day 2016 was Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status. Its aim is to mobilize support for teachers and to ensure that the needs of future generations will continue to be met by teachers.

The day celebrates the role teachers play in providing quality education at all levels. This enables children and adults of all ages to learn to take part in and contribute to their local community and global society.



6. World Post Day 2016 observed with theme Innovation, Integration and Inclusion

World Post Day is celebrated every year on 9 October across the world following the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. World Post Day 2016 was observed based on the theme 'Innovation, Integration and Inclusion' to create awareness to the Post's role in the everyday lives of people and businesses.

The day was declared as World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. Many countries honor their employees for good service on this day whereas some promote new postal products and services.



7. World Mental Health Day observed on 10th October

The World Mental Health Day is observed annually on 10th October to raise awareness about mental health issues around the world and mobilising efforts in support of mental health. The theme for this year is 'Psychological First Aid'.

The day aims to gather support on basic pragmatic psychological support by people who find themselves in a helping role whether they be health staff, teachers, firemen, community workers, or police officers.



8. UN designates World Tsunami Awareness Day Nov 5

The UN General Assembly has designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day and called on the world to mark it. The theme for year 2016 is "effective education and evacuation drills". The observance of the day would help to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami and shall stress on the importance of early warning systems.

To commemorate the occasion in India, an event will be organised with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Champions at the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016.



9. International Day for Disaster Reduction observed

The International Day for Disaster Reduction is held every year on 13 October to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. That includes disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

The campaign seeks to create a wave of awareness about actions taken to reduce mortality around the world. The theme for the year 2016 is "Live to Tell: Raising Awareness, Reducing Mortality". The 2016 edition marks the launch of the new "Sendai Seven" campaign by UNISDR, centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework, the first of which is reducing disaster mortality.



10. World Sight Day observed

The World Sight Day is observed on the second Thursday of October each year to focus attention on blindness and vision impairment. The theme for World Sight Day 2016 is "Stronger Together".

The WHO along with International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) are actively involved in coordinating events and activities for World Sight Day. The day also aims to educate target audiences about blindness prevention, about VISION 2020 and its activities, and to generate support for VISION 2020 program activities.



11. International Day of Rural Women 2016 observed

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Rural Women is observed every year on October 15. The day recognizes rural women's importance in enhancing agricultural and rural development worldwide.

The theme for year 2016 is "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too". In developing countries, rural women represent approximately 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force, and produce, process and prepare much of the food available, thereby giving them primary responsibility for food security.



12. World Student Day observed on October 15th

The World Student's Day' is celebrated annually on October 15. The day is dedicated to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, India's former President. Due to his love for students and focus on promoting education, the United Nations declared his birthday (October 15) as 'World Student's Day' in 2010.

He was also honored with 'Bharat Ratna' for his contribution to the scientific research and modernisation of defence technology in India.



13. World Standards Day observed on 14th October

The 'World Standards Day'/'International standards day" is celebrated annually on 14th October throughout the world. The theme for this year is "Standards build trust".

The day honors the efforts of the thousands of experts who develop voluntary standards within standards development organizations such as the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).



14. World Food Day observed on October 16th

The World Food Day was celebrated on 16th October. The day is observed annually and marks the foundation of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in 1945.

The global message for this year World Food Day is "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too." FAO has called on countries to address food and agriculture in their climate action plans and invest more in rural development.



15. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed annually on October 17th. The day promotes people's awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution worldwide, particularly in developing countries.



The theme for the year 2016 is - Moving from humiliation and exclusion to participation: Ending poverty in all its forms. The theme highlights the importance to recognize and address the humiliation and exclusion endured by many people living in poverty.

address the humiliation and exclusion

16. Police Commemoration Day observed

The Police Commemoration Day is observed on October 21 every year. The day commemorates the sacrifices of ten policemen while defending the borders with China in 1959.



Since 1961, 31895 Police personnel have sacrificed their lives for security of the nation and service to the society. During the year (from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013), 579 Police personnel throughout the country have laid down their lives on the call of duty.

17. United Nations Day 2016 observed

The United Nations Day is celebrated annually on 24th October to make the people of the world know about the aims and achievements of the United Nations Organization. The day highlights, celebrates and reflects on the work of the United Nations (UN).

United Nations Day



The 24th of October has been celebrated as the United Nations Day since 1948. This year's UN Day will be used to highlight concrete actions people can take to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

18. World Development Information Day observed

The United Nations' (UN) World Development Information Day is observed annually on October 24. The day draws attention of worldwide public opinion to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.

The day coincides with United Nations Day on October 24. World Development Information Day was first held on October 24, 1973. Members of the UN annually organize various events that draw public attention to the problems and necessity of strengthening international cooperation.



19. COAS pays homage at Amar JawanJyoti on the occasion of Infantry Day

The 'Infantry Day' was celebrated on 27 Oct 2016 at Amar JawanJyoti wherein Gen Dalbir Singh, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Gen JJ Singh, (Retd) former Chief of Army Staff, Director General Infantry and Colonels of Infantry Regiments laid wreaths and paid homage to the braves of the Infantry.

The Infantry celebrates 27 October each year as the Infantry Day to commemorate the first Infantry action. The Infantry has been at the forefront of all operations that Indian Army has undertaken.



20. World Audiovisual Heritage 2016 observed worldwide

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is celebrated every year on 27th October across the world. UNESCO engages audiovisual archives around the globe in celebrating 27 October by presenting their precious collections and holdings to promote the value of audiovisual heritage.

2016 theme was 'It's your story – don't lose it'. Various competitions, such as a logo contest, local programs, panel discussions, conferences and special film screenings were organized. The World Day raises general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to empathizes the importance of audiovisual documents.



21. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and Run for Unity on 31st October 2016

The 31st of October every year is being celebrated as the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or the National Unity Day to mark the birth anniversary celebrations of Lohpurush Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. The theme of 2016 is "Integration of the Nation". The Prime Minister flagged off the Run for Unity at the National Stadium.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes on the 28th October to Sardar Patel at Patel Chowk, addressed the public at National Stadium and administered the pledge of national unity on the occasion. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Digital Exhibition on Sardar Patel.

22. First Ever National Day of Ayurveda observed throughout India

The First Ever National Ayurveda Day was celebrated throughout India on the 28th of Oct 2016 on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti. A Seminar on "Prevention and Control of Diabetes through Ayurveda" was held in Delhi and Ayurveda Day logo was also released.



Three renowned Practitioners, Academicians & Researchers of Ayurveda received the National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards i.e. Prof. Premwati Tiwari, Shri Parshuram Yashawant Vaidya Khadiwale and Vaidya P. R. Krishna Kumar. An Ayurveda compendium on diabetes research "Ayurveda for Diabetes Care" developed by CCRAS was released on the occasion.

23. World Cities Day observed across the globe on 31st October

In order to recognize and recall the importance of urban basic services as a foundation for the overall social and economic development, the UN General Assembly announced 31 October as World Cities Day via resolution 68/239. World Cities Day 2016 was observed across the globe with theme 'Inclusive Cities, Shared Development', with the aim to mark the importance of urbanization as a source of global development and social inclusion.



In the celebrations of the World Cities Day, local governments worldwide introduced a joint-message to the world of 'Local Governments moving towards the New Urban Agenda'.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Kersti Kaljulaid voted as first female President of Estonia

Kersti Kaljulaid has been elected as the new President of Estonia. She became the first female president of the country. She is also the youngest person to get elected as President of Estonia. She is the Estonian representative to the European Court of Auditors.

Kaljulaid will succeed the current president, Toomas Hendrik Ilves. Kersti Kaljulaid is trained biologist specialising in genetics and holds an MBA from University of Tartu as well.



2. European Parliament ratifies Paris climate deal

The European Parliament overwhelmingly backed the ratification of the Paris climate deal, in a vote attended by UN Chief Ban Ki-Moon. It paves the way for the landmark pact to come into force globally.

The accord needs ratification from 55 countries that account for at least 55 percent of the planet's greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change. A total of 62 countries have ratified the agreement to commit to take action to stem the planet's rising temperatures. EU ratification will bring it over 55 percent threshold.



3. France became first country to ban plastic plates and cups

France became the first country in the world to ban plastic plates, cups and utensils, passing a law that will go into effect in 2020. Exceptions will be allowed for items made of compostable, biosourced materials.

The new law is a part of the country's Energy Transition for Green Growth Act. The move is part of the French government's project to transition to green energy. In July, France also banned plastic bags from supermarkets,



shops, and markets that were thicker than 50 microns (0.05 millimeters).

4. Powerful typhoon Chaba to hit Japan

Storm and heavy rain warnings were issued as powerful typhoon Chaba barrelled toward Japan, after lashing the southern coast of South Korea. The speed of the typhoon is estimated to be up to 180 kilometres (110 miles) per hour.

The violent storm passed over the southern tip of the Korean peninsula. The storm is set to hit Japan's main island of Honshu before moving out into the Pacific.



5. Nearly 69 million new teachers needed to achieve global education goals

The United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has issued statistics revealing that close to 69 million new teachers are needed to provide quality universal primary and secondary education by 2030, the deadline of the new UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The report was prepared by UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). It was released on the occasion of World Teacher's Day, held under the theme Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status. According to this report, sub-Saharan Africa has the largest teacher gap and the region will need about 17 million primary and secondary teachers by 2030.



6. President of India inaugurated first edition of World Sustainable Development Summit

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit on the theme 'Beyond 2015: People, Planet and Progress' organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi.

The World Sustainable Development Summit has evolved from the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, the annual event of



TERI. The President presented the Sustainable Development Leadership Award to Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling, Chief of Minister of Sikkim.

7. Hurricane Matthew Death toll mounts to 300 in Haiti

The death toll in Haiti because of Hurricane Matthew has soared to at least 842. Hurricane Matthew, the fiercest Caribbean storm in nearly a decade, slammed into the Bahamas. It also slashed Florida with winds of 125 mph.

This hurricane has been upgraded from a category three to a category four storm. The US National Hurricane Centre has extended its hurricane warning area farther north into Georgia.



8. India to host Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

This first Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction after the advent of the Sendai Framework will be hosted by the Government of India in 02-05, November 2016. The AMCDRR is a biennial conference jointly organized by different Asian countries and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

The AMCDRR is an established regional mechanism for disaster risk reduction. The AMCDRR serves as a forum to take actionable commitments towards implementation of DRR in the Asia region.



9. US lifts economic sanctions on Myanmar

US President Barack Obama has issued an executive order to lift economic sanctions on Myanmar considering the political reforms in the Southeast Asian nation. The sanctions have been in place for nearly two decades. The economic and financial sanctions administered by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control were no longer in effect.

The US also added Myanmar to the Generalised System of Preferences, a list which exempts certain countries from high import taxes.



10. UNSC extends measures to curb migrant smuggling off Libyan coast

The United Nations Security Council extended its authorization for Member States to intercept vessels on the high seas suspected of being used for migrant smuggling and human trafficking, for a further period of one year. The resolution was passed by a vote of 14 in favour, to none against.



The Council called for Member States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, which supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

11. Russia vetoed UN resolution aimed at stopping of bombing at Aleppo

Russia vetoed a French-drafted U.N. Security Council resolution aimed at stopping the bombing of Aleppo. The Franco-Spanish resolution had also called for a resumed ceasefire and the delivery of humanitarian supplies to besieged population. Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, president of the council for October.



The Resolution received 11 votes in favor, while China and Angola abstained. Venezuela joined Russia in voting against it. Half of Syria's 22 million people have been uprooted and more than 400,000 killed.

12. Pakistan Government barred a prominent journalist from leaving country

Pakistan government has barred prominent journalist, Cyril Almedia, from leaving the country. Cyril Almedia is a Columnist and Reporter for "The Dawn". He has been put on 'Exit Control List' by the Pakistan Government.



The development came less than a week after he wrote a story in the daily about the rift between civilian and military leaderships during a crucial meeting in which the ISI was told its support for terrorist groups was leaving the country globally isolated.

13. Abdelilah Bekirane appointed for another term as PM in Morocco

Abdelilah Bekirane, leader of Morocco's Islamic Justice and Development Party has been appointed for another term as the country's Prime Minister. The PJD party, which has been running a coalition government since 2011, won 125 seats, while the opposition Authenticity and Modernity Party came second with 102 seats.



Only 43 percent of the 16 million registered voters cast their ballot in Friday's elections. Benkirane has been serving as Prime Minister since November 2011.

14. India donated Rs. 9.3 million to Mandela Foundation

India donated 9.3 million rupees to the Nelson Mandela Foundation to help it in its welfare work for the people of South Africa. Indian High Commissioner Ruchi Ghanashyam said the donation was a direct result of the recent visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



The Nelson Mandela Foundation was established in 1999 after the then President Nelson Mandela stepped down as the President of South Africa. The Government of India helped in the building of the Foundation's premises.

15. Russia & Turkey agree to intensify military, intelligence contacts

The Russian and Turkish leaders have agreed to intensify military and intelligence contacts after a meeting in Istanbul. After his meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, they have agreed on the need for aid to get to the northern Syrian city of Aleppo.



The two countries have also signed a deal to construct two pipelines to send Russian gas under the Black Sea to Turkey. Ties were strained after Turkish forces downed a Russian war plane in November 2015.

16. The 6th Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers calls for greater cooperation on e-commerce

The 6th meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers was held on 13th October, 2016 in New Delhi. The Trade Ministers meeting assessed the BRICS economic scenario in relation to areas of cooperation on trade and investment.



BRICS trade ministers have called for greater cooperation on e-commerce among the member nations. The ministers also acknowledged the role of MSMEs as the engines of export led growth and employment generation. The Ministers endorsed the Framework for BRICS Single Window Cooperation and underlined the importance of closer cooperation among them in the development of their national single windows.

17. PetroFed signs MoU with TERI to undertake a study on Climate Change Risks

PetroFed, an apex society of entities in the Hydrocarbon sector, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TERI to undertake study on "Climate Change Risks: Preparedness for Oil and Gas Sector".



It will provide a missing link between the policy and the practice in the Hydrocarbon sector. The study will suggest suitable measures for the Oil & Gas sector to achieve India's INDC target of reducing emission intensity of GDP by 33 – 35 per cent below the levels in 2005 by 2030.

18. Maldives leaves Commonwealth

Maldives announced to leave the 53-member Commonwealth of Nations after the latter warned it of its suspension from the group for lack of progress in promoting the rule of law and democracy.



The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) had cautioned Maldives to take further steps to encourage political dialogue, release its opposition leaders and improve democratic institutions. Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland expressed disappointment over the decision.

19. Israel suspended cooperation with UNESCO

Israel has suspended cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) charging that the international body ignored Jewish ties to its holiest site.

UNESCO had passed a resolution that condemned Israel for restricting Muslims access to the site, and for aggression by police and soldiers. It also recognised Israel as the occupying power. The resolution was voted through with 24 votes in favour, six against, and 26 abstentions.



20. The 8th BRICS summit concluded

The 8th BRICS Summit at Goa concluded with BRICS nations unanimously adopting the Goa Declaration. A declaration adopted at the annual summit called upon all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism, violent extremism, radicalisation, recruitment, movement of terrorists including foreign terrorists and blocking sources of financing terrorism.

The summit was attended by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Brazilian President Michel Temer, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Jacob Zuma.



21. Bangladesh, China sign 26 agreements in various fields

Bangladesh and China have signed 26 agreements and Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) worth \$13.6 billion during President Xi Jinping's visit to Bangladesh. China also offered USD 20 billion in loan agreements to Bangladesh.

Some important MoUs signed were:

- MoU on One Belt One Road
- MoU to get a 1320 MW power plant constructed in Bangladesh by China
- China's TBEA signed a power grid deal worth 1.6 billion US dollars with Dhaka Power



22. Historic Global Greenhouse gas emission Agreement signed in Kigali

A historic climate deal was reached on October 14 in Kigali, Rwanda at the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MOP28). The agreement has been referred to as Kigali Agreement.



Negotiators from 197 countries agreed to amend the Montreal Protocol to phase down super potent greenhouse gas emissions known as hydrofluorocarbons or “HFCs” by 2040s. US and EU to start to phase down HFCs by 2019 and India in 2028.

23. BRICS to set up credit rating agency

BRICS nations agreed to set up an independent rating agency based on market-oriented principles. The new agency will be aimed at challenging western dominance in the world of credit rating agencies. It will be based on market-oriented principles to strengthen the global governance architecture.



The BRICS Rating Agency will be launched as per the shared vision of the BRICS nations for institution-building. BRICS represent nearly half the world's population and a quarter of its economy, at a combined \$16.6 trillion.

24. World Bank to provide \$1 billion to Bangladesh to fight child malnutrition

The World Bank has pledged to provide One billion US Dollar aid to Bangladesh over the next three years to fight child malnutrition. The number of stunted children in Bangladesh is among the highest in the world.



The announced investment would support programmes to ensure sufficient child nutrition and include a conditional cash transfer scheme targeted at six lakh poor families in 43 sub-districts. The Bank's new announced assistance is almost a 100 percent increase in investment compared to previous 3-year period.

25. Saudi Prince executed for shooting a man dead

Saudi Arabia executed one of its own princes for murder. Prince Turki bin Saud al-Kabir was found guilty three years ago for killing a man during a dispute on the outskirts of the capital, Riyadh.

The prince is the 134th person to be put to death. Most people executed in Saudi Arabia were convicted for murder and drug trafficking although nearly 50 people were put to death for "terrorism".



26. Typhoon Haima caused heavy damage in China

In China, more than 1.69 million people have been affected by Typhoon Haima, which also caused economic losses amounting to 517 million USD. Haima, the 22nd typhoon of the year, made landfall in south China's Guangdong Province.

Provincial civil affairs department said Typhoon Haima triggered sudden downpours in several cities and more than 2,700 houses and around 178,000 hectares of crops had been damaged.



27. Indo-Italy Scientific and Technological Cooperation re-launched

The Indo-Italian Joint Committee established under the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement re-launched the cooperation in the sectors of science, technology and innovation. The original agreement was signed between Italy and India in 2003.

An Indo-Italian Innovation Forum will be established to promote and connect the world of research with the world of business and investment. The Committee expressed appreciation for the launch of the next phase of cooperation established between Italian and Indian researchers in the India-Trento Programme for Advanced Research (ITPAR).



28. Iraq's Parliament passed law banning alcohol

Iraq's parliament has passed a law forbidding the import, production or selling of alcoholic beverages. The law imposes a fine of up to 25 Million Iraqi Dinars (£17,000) for anyone violating the ban.

Proponents of the ban argue that it is justified by the Constitution, which prohibits any law contradicting Islam. The bill was proposed by Mahmoud al-Hassan, a judge and lawmaker from the State of Law coalition.



MISCELLANEOUS

- In a major deal for India's private defence industry, Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group announced a joint venture with Rafale maker Dassault Aviation.
- Number wise India is the 62nd nation to ratify the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- Jharkhand became India's first state to implement Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Kerosene.
- Somesh Sharma has been elected as the President of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) recently.
- Short film Murga won the first prize at the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival.
- The National Mission on Bioeconomy was launched in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- The winners of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Chemistry are Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Sir James Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L Feringa.
- RBI in its 4th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2016-17 reduced the Repo rate to 6.25 percent.
- RBI in its 4th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2016-17 adjusted the Reverse Repo rate to 5.75 percent.
- The Union Cabinet recently approved the signing of MoU between India and the European Union in the field of water resources.
- Taxi-booking app Ola launched the offline taxi booking feature recently.
- The 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics was won by David Thouless, Duncan Haldane and Michael Kosterlitz.
- The first-ever BRICS trade fair will be held in New Delhi.
- Rajeev Sharma has been appointed as the CMD of Power Finance Corporation.
- The theme of the World Post Day 2016 is Innovation, Integration and Inclusion.
- Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court recently.
- Pakistan passed a bill that seeks to curb murders in the name of honor killing and a bill that seeks to punish rapists by use of modern technology of DNA testing in probes involving rape cases.
- The World Heritage site declared as the cleanest iconic place in India is Rani ki Vav, Gujarat.
- Freedom fighter and Congress leader Ramesh Kulkarni passed away at the age of 87 years following a brief illness.

- The Supreme Court has struck down the words “adult male” from the pertinent provision in the DV Act to lay down that a woman can also file a complaint against another woman, accusing her of domestic violence.
- The theme for the 2016 International Day of the Girl Child is Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress: What Counts for Girls.
- Supreme Court in its decision held that a Hindu son can divorce his wife if she tries to separate him from his elderly parents as “It is a 'pious obligation' of a son to maintain his parents”.
- City of Jammu and Kashmir in which Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) is located that was attacked by Terrorists in October 2016 is Pampore.
- India and Brazil signed four agreements in areas of Investment Cooperation and Facilitation, Cattle Genomics, Pharmaceuticals and Agriculture.
- Britain hosted the fresh round of peace talks on Syria crisis.
- Finland ranked as the safest place as per Global Travel and Terrorism Report 2016 of World Economic Forum.
- The Indian Cricket team recently became the world’s first team to play 900 ODIs.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the national SC/ST hub and zero effect on environment scheme for MSME sector in Ludhiana, Punjab.
- The Odisha State Government will roll out biometrics authentication for receiving food grains for beneficiaries of National Food Security Act (NFSA) from January 2017 in the state.
- The United Kingdom will posthumously pardon thousands of gay and bisexual men.
- Scientists developed an online tool 'Tweetcast' to predict whether citizens will vote for Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton in the upcoming US Presidential elections.
- The author of the book titled – The Adivasi Will Not Dance is Hansda Sowendra Shekhar.
- Arun Jaitley is the author of the book – Andhere Se Ujale Ki Aur.
- Saudi Arabia along with the United States imposed sanctions on alleged Hezbollah members and financial backers.
- Author of the book, The Sleepwalker's Dream is Dhrubajyoti Borah, the President of Assam Sahitya Sabha.
- The first ever global conference to strengthen Arbitration and Enforcement in India began in New Delhi.
- Super Typhoon Haima killed at least four people in Philippines after lashing the country.

- Brazilian club Atletico Paraneanse defeated Army Boys 1-0 in the final of Subroto Cup Under-17 tournament at Dr. Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi. The single goal was shot on a penalty kick.
- Indian Immunologicals Ltd recently unveiled a vaccine, CYSVAX, to fight against tapeworms in pigs.
- The theme of the 2016 World Osteoporosis Day is – Love Your Bones: Perfect Your Future.
- State Bank of India recently declared Silchar as its 5th zone in the North East.
- The Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) celebrated its 55th raising day on 24 October. The force was raised on the 24th October in 1962.
- Guwahati became the fifth Indian city to be ratified as a venue for next year's Under-17 football World Cup.
- Mumbai's Haji Ali Dargah granted equal access to women in entering the complete premises.
- Microsoft launched its first cybersecurity engagement center in India.
- Recently, a team of scientists discovered a secret Nazi base of German dictator Adolf Hitler at the Arctic Circle.
- Disarmament Week is an annual event that is observed from 24 October to 30 October.
- The High Court of Uttarakhand ordered a complete ban on the sale of whitener in the state.
- Almatti Dam recently won World Bank's Award of Excellence for best utilisation of funds for renovation to enhance the strength of the dam.
- Inspired by the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Akshat Prakash, student of DPS Indirapuram has started a challenge to involve schools in the national mission towards cleanliness. The challenge is coded as Bagit challenge.

1. Income Declaration Scheme 2016 unearths Rs.65250 crores of hitherto Undeclared Income and Assets

Under the Income Declaration Scheme, 2016 which came into effect from 1st June, 2016, 64275 declarations were filed upto the midnight of 30th September, 2016 with an aggregate of Rs. 65250 Crores worth of hitherto undeclared incomes in the form of cash and other assets being declared. With the final stock taking of declarations being filed in physical printed forms all over the country till late night on the last day, this number is likely to be further revised upwards.



It provided an opportunity to persons who had not paid full taxes in the past to come forward and declare their domestic undisclosed income and assets. Declarations could be made online as well in printed copies of the prescribed form up to midnight on 30th September, 2016.

2. National Mission on Bioeconomy launched in Shillong, Meghalaya

The Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) under the Ministry of Science and Technology launched a National Mission on Bioeconomy to boost rural economy by utilising bio-resources.



The mission focuses on sustainable utilization of renewable biological resources for food, bio-based products and bio-energy through knowledge-based approaches. India's fast-growing bioeconomy at USD 35 billion in 2015 can even rise to USD 100 billion. NE region is among the world's top 10 biodiversity hot spots.

3. India ratified historic Paris climate deal at UN

India ratified the landmark Paris climate deal, giving a significant push for the deal to be implemented by the end of this year. India is the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gasses.

India became the 62nd country to ratify the agreement. The agreement will be implemented one month after 55 countries that account for 55 percent of global emissions ratify the agreement. COP22 will take place at Marrakech in Morocco, 2016.



4. 'Murga' bagged first prize at Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival

Filmmaker Katyayan Shivpuri won the first prize at the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival for his work "Murga". He was awarded with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs.

The short film promoting the idea of clean India had Murga as the metaphor depicting the victims that citizens have made of themselves and of the children by not keeping the surroundings clean. The second prize was shared by filmmakers Sudanshu Sharma, KVK Kumar and Akshay Danavale for their films Nahna Doot, Chembuku Moodindi (The Dying Vessel) and "Sarkarmi Rati Wadho!", respectively.



5. Gangtok conferred Cleanest Tourist Destination honor

The Union Ministry of Tourism has conferred the "Cleanest Tourist Destination" on the Sikkim capital. Chandigarh and Mysore were felicitated for 'Clean Cities in million plus population category'.

Pune Municipal Corporation and SWaCH Cooperative Society were felicitated as "Best in Solid Waste Management". The others felicitated are - Rani Ki Vav, Patan, Gujarat (Cleanest Cultural Heritage Site), Surat Railway Station (Cleanest Station), Post Graduate Institute of Medical Research & Education, Chandigarh (Cleanest Hospital), Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh (ODF and Cleanest district in hilly areas), Sindhugurg district, Maharashtra (ODF and Cleanest district in plain areas) and National Cadet Corps, NCC (Exemplary nation-wide cleanliness activities).



6. Rani ki Vav bagged ‘Cleanest Iconic Place’ award

Gujarat’s 900-year-old World Heritage Site Rani ki Vav, located in the north Gujarat district of Patan, beat 10 other iconic heritage structures across the country to bag an award for the “Cleanest Iconic Place” at the Indian Sanitation Conference (INDOSAN) 2016 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.



The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has maintained the monument and its surroundings very well, offering clean drinking water and proper sanitation, among other things, to tourists. It was added as part of the UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 2014.

7. Centre approved grant of Rs. 515 crores for the Sagar Port Project in WB

The Centre has given in principle approval to a grant of 515 crore rupees for development of the Sagar Port project in West Bengal. As per the Ministry of Shipping, a special purpose vehicle- Bhor Sagar Port Limited (BSPL) has been incorporated for the implementation of the project, with Kolkata Port Trust.



A road-cum-rail bridge is proposed over the river Muriganga to connect the Sagar island to the mainland. The estimated cost of the bridge will be 1822 crore rupees.

8. India, Singapore sign three MoUs

India inked 3 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) agreements with Singapore during the visit of Singapore Premier Lee Hsien Long to India.

These MOU's are:

- MoU between Singapore's Institute of Technical Education (ITE) Education Services (ITEES) and India's National Skill Development Corporation on collaboration in technical and vocational education and training.
- MoU between the Assam government and ITEES Singapore, also on collaboration in technical and vocational education and training.
- MoU in the field of industrial property cooperation between India's Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and Intellectual Property Office Singapore.



9. Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and African Asian Rural Development Organization

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) for capacity building programmes in the field of rural development.

The MoU covers capacity building programmes for AARDO member countries organized every year at various Institutions of Excellence in India such as National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR), institutions governed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and others. The duration of each training programme shall be of two to three weeks.



10. Cabinet approved amendments to HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to introduce official amendments to the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014.

The HIV and AIDS Bill, 2014 has been drafted to safeguard the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. The provisions of the Bill seek to address HIV-related discrimination, strengthen the existing programme by bringing in legal accountability and establish formal mechanisms for inquiring into complaints and redressing grievances.



11. Union Government launched the Indian Bridge Management System

The Union Government formally launched the Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS) in New Delhi.

IBMS is being developed to create an inventory of all bridges in the country and rate their structural condition so that timely repair and rehabilitation work can be carried out based on the criticality of the structure. IBMS is the largest platform in the world owned by a single owner, with database that could exceed 1,50,000 bridge structures.



12. Cabinet approved MoU between India and European Union on water cooperation

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the signing of MoU between India and European Union in the field of water resources.

The MoU envisages strengthening the technological, scientific and management capabilities of India and the European Union in the field of water management based on equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit. It provides technical exchange on water issues, including on integrated water resource management plans within river basins and through study visits.



13. Union Cabinet approved setting up of India's first Medipark in Chennai

The Union Cabinet approved the sub-leasing of 330.10 acres of land at Chengalpattu by HLL Lifecare Ltd, a mini-ratna, for setting up of country's first medical devices manufacturing park (Medipark).



The Medipark project will be the first manufacturing cluster in the medical technology sector in the country, envisaged to boost local manufacturing of hi-end products at a significantly lower cost, resulting in affordable healthcare delivery, particularly in diagnostic services to a large section of people.

14. Oil India Limited Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Houston

Oil India Limited has entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Houston (USA) to augment its reserves base and maximizing recovery from its aging oilfields. The MoU is focused to collaborate in the fields of Improved Oil Recovery & Enhanced Oil Recovery for production enhancement from matured fields.



A good ecosystem can be created which will help in better oil recovery from the fields. This will also contribute towards national obligation to reduce import dependency of oil and gas by 10% by 2022.

15. Railway Ministry Flags Off Newly Manufactured Solar Powered Guard Van of Goods (Freight) Train

Minister of Railways flagged off the newly manufactured Guard Van of Goods (Freight) Train at Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station. The newly manufactured Guard Van of Goods Train (8 wheeled) has been equipped for the first time with Solar powered Light, Fan, Mobile Charging Point along with the facility of Zero Discharge Bio Toilet.



The use of Solar energy is an environment friendly measure which will help in energy saving and GPRS support enables monitoring of the functioning of this system to achieve uninterrupted service.

16. Election Commission of India unites with Facebook to register young voters

Facebook in union with the Election Commission of India and the office of Chief electoral officers in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand will introduce for the first time in the country voter registration drive. Facebook users will receive a reminder in their News Feed to register to vote.



It has been decided to introduce button 'Register to vote' from October 6 to October 8 for Facebook users in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand who are 18 years and above.

17. First phase of E-NAM registered 250 mandis to National Agriculture Market

Government has registered 250 mandis of ten states with the e-trading platform under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) in the first phase where commodities worth Rs. 421 crores have been traded. E-NAM is a pan India electronic portal for sale and purchase of agri produce so that farmers can sell their agriculture produce at best price.



Target has been set by government to join 585 mandis with e-NAM by March 2018. As many as 1,60,229 farmers, 46,688 traders and 25,970 commission agents have been registered on the e-NAM.

18. Heritage Infrastructure projects worth Rs. 350 cr approved by government

Minister of Urban Development inaugurated a two-day conference on Heritage Cities jointly with Indian Heritage Cities Network (IHCN). HRIDAY (Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana) scheme for tourism oriented urban development has been approved with an outlay of Rs 500 crores and in the pilot phase, 12 cities have been selected for the first phase of projects worth Rs. 350 cr.



France will co-operate at waterfront development for two cities, namely Puri and Varanasi.

19. Three agreements between India and Switzerland

India and Switzerland signed three agreements which include:

- Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports
- Technical Arrangements on Identification and Return of Illegal Migrants
- Arrangement for Dependent Person of Diplomatic, Consular, Technical and Administrative Staff of Diplomatic and Consular Mission to Perform Gainful Employment.



India proposed setting up of training facilities for Indian police officers in Switzerland police academies/other training institutes in the fields of anti-hijacking and cyber forensic, etc.

20. Union Government approved Rs.114 crore worth projects under HRIDAY Scheme

The Union Government has approved projects worth Rs.114 crore under the Heritage Infrastructure Development and Augmentation Yojana (**HRIDAY scheme**) to improve infrastructure around core heritage sites in five cities - Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Amritsar (Punjab), Dwaraka (Gujarat), Puri (Odisha) and Warangal (Andhra Pradesh).



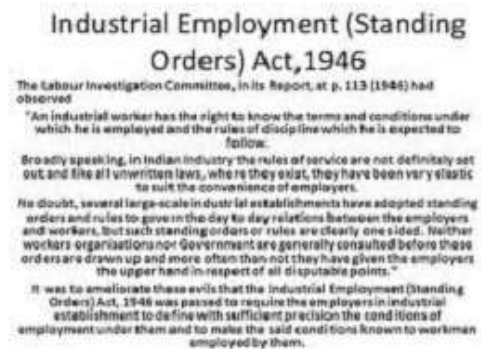
Under HRIDAY, central assistance of Rs 500 crore has been earmarked till March 2017.

Twelve cities have been included under the central scheme, including Ajmer (Rajasthan), Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Badami (Karnataka), Gaya (Bihar), Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), Mathura (UP) and Vellankini (Tamil Naidu).

21. Industrial Employment Standing Orders Central Rules amended

The Central Government has amended industrial employment standing orders Central rules to provide flexibility to the employers to meet the challenges of globalization, new practices and methods of doing businesses.

This step would also benefit the workers as their working conditions including social security and other benefits would be at par with the regular employees. Under the new rules, a new term of fixed term employment in apparel manufacturing sector has been incorporated.



22. Doordarshan, IGNOU ink MoU for telecast of Gyan Darshan channels

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Doordarshan & IGNOU regarding the transmission of Four Gyan Darshan Educational channels.

The Gyan Darshan Bouquet of Educational TV Channels is an educational media initiative of MHRD in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), Prasar Bharati & ISRO with IGNOU as the nodal agency. It consists of four TV Channels namely GD-I & II (by IGNOU) GD-III- Eklava (by IIT, Delhi) GD-IV- Vyas Channel (by UGC, CEC).



23. President of India inaugurates new academic block of IKRDC in memory of late Smt. Suvra Mukherjee

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the new academic block of Intensive Khadi & Rural Development Centre (IKRDC) in memory of his wife, late Smt. Suvra Mukherjee at Kirnahar, West Bengal.

The new academic block of IKRDC would help contribute in providing training to a larger number of people in the area for interaction with industry and establishing linkages with the market and local institutions.



24. Janani Suraksha Yojana pays dividends: Study

A study conducted using data from two rounds of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS)- conducted in 2004-05 and 2011-12, has revealed the performance of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) program in the key areas of maternal care, thus, reducing 'socioeconomic disparities' existing in maternal care.

The JSY was launched in 2005 as part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). It is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme it integrates cash assistance with delivery and post-delivery care.



25. IAE to tie up with India for its global LED programme

The International Energy Agency (IAE) will tie up with India to implement its Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) initiative globally for energy savings. IAE is interested to share the best practice at global level, particularly in Indonesia.

India has been distributing LEDs through its company Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). The price at which EESL has been purchasing LED lights to distribute under UJALA scheme has been consistently falling over the last couple of years. The company purchased LEDs at Rs.310 per piece in 2014, and the price fell to Rs.55 as of March 2016.



26. HIMANSH, India's Remote, High-Altitude Station opened in Himalaya

The National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences has established a high-altitude research station in Himalaya called HIMANSH (literally meaning, a slice of ice), situated above 13,500 ft (> 4000 m) at a remote region in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh.

The station houses many instruments to quantify the glacier melting and its relation to changing climate. "Himansh" will provide the much-needed fillip to the scientific research on Himalayan glaciers and its hydrological contribution.



27. Union Government to invest Rs 15000 Cr to increase Panipat oil refinery capacity

The Central Government will invest 15,000 crore rupees to increase the capacity of Panipat refinery in Haryana from existing 15 Million Tonnes to 25 Million Tonnes. An ethanol plant would also be set up at a cost of Rs 500 crore by the Indian Oil Corporation in Panipat to generate alternative fuel from agricultural residue which would boost agriculture sector.

The expansion of Panipat refinery will help raise specifications of fuel quality from BS-IV to BS-VI to meet future demand.



28. Union Minister launched National Seismic Programme at Mahanadi Basin

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated the National Seismic Program (NSP) at Taranga in Balasore district of Odisha. The NSP aims to undertake a fresh appraisal in all sedimentary basins across India to have better understanding of the hydrocarbon potential of India.

The massive 2D seismic survey will cost the government more than 5000 crore rupees. National Seismic Program (NSP) for 2D seismic Acquisition, Processing and Interpretation (API) Project will be completed by March, 2019. The total investment for the seismic acquisition in the onland Mahanadi Basin is Rs. 79.57 Crores.



29. Union Cabinet approved establishment of IIM at Jammu

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment and operationalisation of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Jammu in a transit/temporary campus at Old Government College of Engineering & Technology from the Academic Year 2016-17.



The project will involve a cost of Rs.61.90 crore in temporary campus for the initial four years from 2016 to 2020. The Cabinet also approved formation of an IIM Jammu Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. IIM Jammu will be run and managed by the Society with a Board of Governors (BOGs) to be constituted by the Government of India.

30. Cabinet approved revision of ethanol price for supply to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the mechanism for revision of ethanol price for supply to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).



For the next sugar season 2016-17 during ethanol supply period from 1st December, 2016 to 30th November, 2017, the administered price of ethanol for the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme will be Rs.39/- per litre. Charges will be paid to the ethanol suppliers as per actuals in case of Excise Duty and GST/ VAT and transportation charges as decided by the OMCs. However, these prices of ethanol can be reviewed and suitably revised.

31. Union Government brought draft of National Water Framework Bill, 2016

The Union Government has brought final draft of the **National Water Framework Bill, 2016** that stresses managing water at basin-level. The draft Bill pitches for establishing River Basin Authority for each inter-State basin to ensure "optimum and sustainable" development of rivers and valleys.



The Bill will not be binding on States for adoption since Water is a state subject. It also proposes other mechanisms such as National water quality and footprint standards, Integrated River Basin Development and Management Plan and Graded Pricing System.

32. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Hungary on cooperation in the field of water management

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Hungary on bilateral cooperation in the field of water management based on equality and mutual benefits.

The cooperation on river basin management/ integrated water resources management, efficiency in water supply and irrigation technology innovation and flood & drought management will help improve the socio-economic conditions of the people of both the countries.



33. Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Qatar on cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on April 7, 1999 and the First Executive Programme for MOU signed with Qatar on bilateral cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports signed on 5.6.2016.

The MoU will help in expanding knowledge and expertise in the areas of sports science, sports medicine and coaching techniques, which would result in improvement in performance of our sportspersons in international tournaments and strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Qatar. It would be equally applicable to all sportspersons irrespective of their caste, creed, region, religion and gender.



34. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Russia on Expansion of Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the Russian Federation on Expansion of Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation.

This MoU would expand more Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Russian Federation.



35. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi inaugurated 'Women of India Festival 2016'

The Minister of Women & Child Development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi inaugurated 'Women of India Festival 2016' of organic products by women at Dilli Haat at INA, New Delhi. The Festival was held from October 14-23 and offered on sale the biggest selection of organic products.

The 'Women of India Festival 2016' celebrates and promotes women entrepreneurs from across India. It highlights the health and environmental advantages of organic goods, provide a platform for women engaged in this economy and encourage the development of sustainable and easily accessible sales outlets for organic producers from remote areas.



36. Sixteen key agreements signed between India and Russia

India and Russia have signed 16 agreements across diverse sectors. Some of the important signed agreements are:



- MoU for setting up an investment fund of \$1 billion by the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF).
- MoU between Gazprom and Engineers India Limited (EIL) for the joint study of a gas pipeline to India from Russia and other areas of cooperation.
- Cooperation Agreement between Rosneft Oil Company and ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) in Education and Training sector.
- MoU for Cooperation between Russian and Indian Railways in increasing the speed of trains between Nagpur- Hyderabad/ Secundrabad.
- MoU between India's Department of Science and Technology and Russia's Federal Agency for Scientific Organisations.
- MoU between ROSCOSMOS and ISRO on Mutual Allocation of Ground Measurement Gathering Stations for NAVIC and GLONASS.
- MoU for developing smart cities in Andhra Pradesh and Haryana and for developing transport logistics systems for such cities.

37. India, Russia ink agreement to set up Agro Irradiation Centres

A subsidiary of Russia's state-owned atomic energy company, Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation (Rosatom), signed an agreement with Hindustan Agro Cooperative Limited for developing a network of 25 integrated infrastructures for irradiation centres for food products.



As part of the agreement, India-Russia joint venture (JV) will be formed in which HACL will have the majority 51% stakeholding. In first phase 7 centers will be set up in Maharashtra in Sindhurg, Satara, Solapur, JNPT, Jalana, Napur and Pune. The technology will help reduce grain losses from 15% to 3%-5% per year.

38. Union Government launched satellite-based illegal Mining Detection System

The Union Government launched the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration, through public participation, by curbing instances of illegal mining activity through automatic remote sensing detection technology.

MSS will trigger an alarm whenever there is an instance of illegal mining outside permitted areas. The surveillance system covers most of the 2,133 working mines in the country. It will receive tip offs in the form of pictures taken from a mobile phone and automatically generate complaints to state authorities.



39. Twenty-Two MPs from smaller parties, independents in Rajya Sabha recognised as a consolidated bloc

Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Hamid Ansari has formally recognised a group of 22 MPs belonging to smaller parties and certain Independents as a consolidated bloc — the United Group. With this recognition, the United Group, will be the third largest group of MPs in the Rajya Sabha, after the Congress and the BJP.

The newly recognised bloc will find a place in the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) that decides time allotment. Thus, MPs of bloc will secure more time to speak in House debates.



40. Union Government to establish Krishi Vigyan Kendras in 687 districts

The Central Government has announced opening of at least one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in all 646 districts of the country. This will provide advanced Agriculture technical assistance to the farmers near their farms itself.

India has around 640 KVKs currently, with many districts having more than one centre. The government also announced opening of Apiary Development Centers in ten states. Skill development work is being initiated at 100 KVKs and pulses and oilseeds hubs are being established at same number of KVKs.



41. Central Government funds Ro Pax Ferry Service in Gulf of Cambay under Sagarmala Programme

The Ministry of Shipping has sanctioned the Capital Dredging Project for Ro Pax Ferry Services between Gogha & Dahej, in Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat under Sagarmala programme. The project would result in reducing the travel time from 7 hours to 1 hour between Gogha & Dahej by crossing the Gulf in Cambay.

The Ministry released Rs 58.50 Crore as first installment of grant-in-aid to Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB). The total project cost is estimated to be Rs 234 Crore and of which 50% will be funded by Centre Government.



42. Railways and Urban Development Ministry sign MoU to redevelop stations under smart city plans

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Ministries of Urban Development and Railways to redevelop railway stations and adjoining areas for enhancing passenger amenities, easy access to stations and enabling optimal utilization of land at railway stations to ensure that the ambitious smart cities of India also have 'smart railway stations'.



The project would begin with 10 cities - Sarai Rohilla (Delhi), Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Varanasi, Jaipur, Kota, Thane, Margao(Goa), Tirupati and Puducherry. The validity of the MoU is five years to begin with and can be extended.

43. Regional air connectivity scheme launched

Government launched the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN- Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik, which seeks to get more people to fly in the smaller towns. UDAN aims to increase ticketing volume from 80 million to 300 million by 2022. Airfares will be capped at 2,500 rupees for an hour's flight for regional flights.



Airlines will bid for seat subsidie for up to 40 subsidised seats and minimum seats will be 9. There will be 50 percent seats on market based pricing. The scheme is expected to be rolled out by January.

44. Rs. 1500 crores released to states for 99 AIBP projects

Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti released the first installment of 1500 crore rupees to the states as central assistance for 99 prioritized irrigation projects. The amount was released under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Program.



This amount has been released for projects in Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Telangana. Total funds required for completion of all the 99 identified projects have been estimated at around 77 thousand crore rupees.

45. MoUs inked between India and Myanmar to boost three sectors

Three MoUs were signed regarding insurance, power and banking sectors, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi while Aung San Suu Kyi – state counsellor and foreign minister of Myanmar concluded her first official visit to India. First MoU was signed between Financial Regulatory Department of Myanmar and Insurance Institute of India for organizing professional building programme for insurance industry of Myanmar.



Other two MoUs were signed to boost Power sector and banking sector. MoU on Banking Sector was signed between RBI and Central Bank of Myanmar.

46. MoU Signed between NICPR and All India Institute of Ayurveda for Cancer Prevention and Research

An MoU was signed between the National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research and All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) to set up a Center of Integrative Oncology at NICPR-Noida.



The main aim is to reduce the incidence of cancer for which preventive aspects with the strengths of AYUSH systems should be explored and developing traditional medicine as adjuvant therapy to reduce the side effects of chemotherapy. A Web portal on 'Network for AYUSH Cancer Care developed by the AIIA was also launched to collect the national data of experts, scientists etc.

47. India Trade Promotion Organisation signs MoU with DoC

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) 2016-17 between India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Department of Commerce (DoC) was signed in New Delhi to ensure delivery of better services to all the stakeholders.



Financial target for Revenue from operations (Gross Sales) has been fixed at Rs.250 crore. ITPO ensured to achieve "Excellent" rating as per the targets given by DPE for the year 2016-17 and ensure delivery of better services to all the stakeholders.

48. Central Government holds tripartite talks with Manipur government, KNO, UPF

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs held the second round of tripartite talks with the Government of Manipur, Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) of Manipur. The first round of talk was held in June 2016.



During the dialogue the KNO and the UPF indicated their demands in the presence of senior representative of Manipur government. KNO and UPF have put in a demand for homeland and political future.

49. PM Modi launched #Sandesh2Soldiers campaign

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has launched a campaign asking people to reach out to the armed forces for Diwali through the #Sandesh2Soldiers campaign.



The 360-degree campaign includes a four-minute video featuring the Prime Minister. Apart from letters, people can send their messages to the soldiers through the Narendra Modi mobile app, MyGov app, and through radio. Selected messages will be read out by the PM on his Mann kiBaat address as well.

50. India's first railway university to come up in Vadodara

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the country's first Railway University will be set up in Vadodara. The university will help in carrying out innovation and modernisation for the Indian Railways.



The Prime Minister was in Vadodara to inaugurate the terminal building of Vadodara airport, which is now the country's second green airport after Kochi. Spread on an area of 17,500 square meters, the new integrated terminal has been built at a cost of Rs. 160 crores.

51. e-Postal Ballot System for Service Voters

The Government has amended rule 23 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 enabling service voters, including armed forces personnel, to cast their vote in elections through e-postal ballot.

Under this system a blank postal ballot paper would be transmitted to them electronically that would cut short the delay in receipt of the marked postal ballot by the Returning Officers on or before the date fixed for the counting of votes.



52. Prime Minister Modi launched 7 schemes worth Rs. 5000 crores in Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched seven schemes in his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi at the total cost of Rs. 5000 crores. The schemes are:

- "Urja Ganga", an ambitious gas pipeline project which will bring piped cooking fuel to residents of Varanasi
- Expansion of Diesel Locomotive Works
- Dedication of 765/400 KV GIS Varanasi Power Sub-station
- Inauguration of Varanasi Postal Region
- Laid foundation stone for second line and electrification of Allahabad-Varanasi rail line
- Unveiled setting up of perishable cargo centre at Rajatalab Railway Station
- Released a commemorative postage stamp on Varanasi City.



53. The 16th India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation meeting held

The 16th meeting of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) was held in Delhi. Some important agreements including the IGA on supply of S-400 Air defence systems and the IGA on Project 1135.6 frigates were concluded during the meeting.

The meeting further reaffirmed the strategic partnership between the two countries and co-operation in the fields of energy, defence, regional issues. India appreciated Russia's support to eliminate terrorists in West Asia.



54. New Revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Republic of Korea

A new revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Korea for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to taxes on income, signed on the 18th May 2015 will come into force on the 12th September 2016. Provisions of the new DTAA will have effect in India in respect of income derived in fiscal years beginning on or after 1st April, 2017.

The revised DTAA aims to avoid the burden of double taxation for taxpayers of two countries in order to promote and thereby stimulate flow of investment and services between India and Korea.



55. Workshop on the provisions of The Panchayats Extension to The Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 held

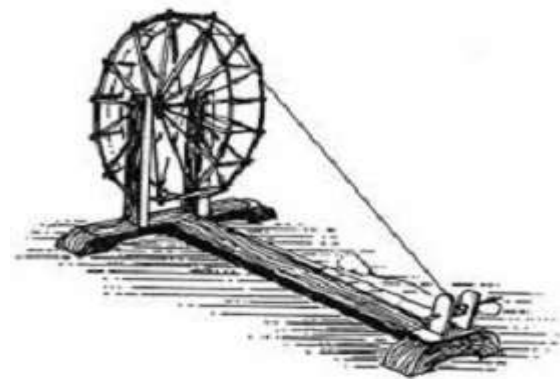
As a sequel to various activities planned under the National Tribal Carnival being held in New Delhi from the 25th to 28th October, 2016, a series of Workshop of thematic areas concerning tribal population have been planned. The first such Workshop on the Provisions of the Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) Implementation, benefits to Tribal Community and its Challenges was held in New Delhi.



The Workshop highlighted the importance of PESA to tribal communities, challenges being faced, way forward and key areas which need to be focused.

56. Khadi Training Centres to be set up at Observation Homes across the Country

A Khadi Training Camp has been set up for inmates of the Aadharshila Observation Home, Kingsway Camp, Delhi. The Centre will provide training in spinning and weaving of Khadi threads and clothes. NCPCR will replicate the project in more than 300 existing Observation Homes in the country.



The training centre will go a long way in instilling confidence in the inmates when once these children leave the Observation Home, as 'Charkha' does not need special skills, but a person who can operate it can earn about Rs. 200 a day.

57. Union Ministry of Urban Development inked MoU with NBCC (India) Ltd & CPWD

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and National Buildings Construction Corporation (India) Ltd and Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for redevelopment of seven General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) colonies in New Delhi.



The Union Cabinet had approved the project on 05.07.2016. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 32,835 crores including maintenance and operation costs for 30 years. The cost of works assigned to NBCC would be Rs. 24,682 crores and to CPWD would be Rs. 7,793 crores.

58. Prime Minister inaugurated the First National Tribal Carnival

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the First National Tribal Carnival in Delhi on October 25th, 2016. The main purpose of this carnival is to promote a sense of inclusiveness amongst the tribals. The carnival will showcase and promote various facets of tribal culture on a large scale.



More than 1600 tribal artists and around eight thousand tribal delegates from across the country are expected to take part in the carnival.

59. India, New Zealand Sign Three Agreements

India signed three agreements with New Zealand on issues pertaining to avoidance of double taxation, cooperation in the field of youth and sport affair and food safety cooperation between FSSAI. The agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister John Key after delegation level talks.



The two sides also decided to establish a bilateral ministerial dialogue between the two Foreign Ministries.

60. Cabinet approves New Productivity Linked Reward Scheme for all Major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Board employees/workers for the years 2015-16 to 2017-18

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to New Productivity Linked Reward Scheme for all Major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Board employees/workers for the years 2015-16 to 2017-18.



The new PLR scheme applicable from 2015-2016 to 2017-2018 will benefit about 37870 Port and Dock workers/employees in all the Major Port Trusts and the yearly outgo will be Rs. 49.58 crore. The new PLR Scheme will foster better industrial relationship and congenial work atmosphere in the Port Sector, apart from stimulating better productivity.

61. Cabinet approves Agreement between India and Estonia on the transfer of sentenced persons

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing and ratification of an Agreement between India and Estonia on the transfer of sentenced persons.



Signing the Agreement shall facilitate the Indian prisoners imprisoned in Estonia or vice-versa to be near to their families, for serving remaining part of their sentence and shall facilitate their social rehabilitation. The Government of India has so far signed bilateral Agreements on Transfer of Sentenced Persons with 30 other countries. So far total 65 prisoners have been exchanged, out of which 55 were Indians.

62. Establishment and operationalization of new Indian Institute of Science Education and Research at Berhampur, Odisha

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval formation of an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Berhampur Society and operationalization of IISER, Berhampur in a transit/ temporary campus from the Academic Year 2016-17.



The Centre has also given approval for creation of the post of Director of the Institute, accepting land, free of cost, from the State Government of Odisha and introduction of a Bill, namely, the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.

63. Cabinet approves the establishment of the National Academic Depository

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has accorded its approval for establishment and operationalization of a National Academic Depository (NAD). The decision aims to establish a Digital Depository for school learning certificates, degrees and other academic awards of Higher Education Institutions, on the pattern of a Securities Depository.



Academic institutions would be responsible for the authenticity of data digitally uploaded by them into the system. The depositories will ensure the integrity of the data in the NAD. The NAD will register educational institutions, students and other users/verifying entities like banks and government agencies.

64. Cabinet approves exchanging of land between Airports Authority of India and Government of Odisha

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the exchanging of Airports Authority of India's (AAI) land measuring 1.6 acres with an equivalent land area of 1.6 acres offered by Odisha Government.



The State Government has offered 1.6 acres of land in lieu of 1.6 acres of land of AAI and agreed to undertake and relocate all the existing infrastructure of AAI on the subject land on its own cost. The exchange of land is not only beneficial to the State Government & AAI but also to the people.

65. Cabinet approves the new Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between India and Bhutan

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved an Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between India and Bhutan. The Agreement provides for a free trade regime between two countries and duty free transit of Bhutanese merchandise for trade with third countries.



The validity of this Agreement was extended, with effect from 29th July 2016, for a period of one year or till the new agreement comes into force, through exchange of Diplomatic notes.

66. Cabinet approves one time relaxation in the cost norms and guidelines of MIDH

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for one time relaxation of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) cost norms for implementation of PM's Special package for Jammu & Kashmir towards restoration of damaged horticulture areas and development of horticulture in State.



One time relaxation in MIDH cost norms was approved for import of special varieties of plants for better survival, early flowering and enhanced fruiting apple planting materials which may increase the productivity 3-4 times and benefit about 21,000 orchardists located in more than 491 villages.

67. Launch of 'Mission Madhumeha through Ayurveda' on the occasion of the National Ayurveda Day

On the occasion of the National Ayurveda Day, the Ministry of AYUSH organized a one day National Seminar on "Prevention and Control of Diabetes through Ayurveda" on the 28th October 2016 at New Delhi. The Ministry of AYUSH launched "Mission Madhumeha through Ayurveda" on the occasion.

The 'Mission Madhumeha' will be implemented throughout the country through a specially designed National Treatment Protocol for effective management of Diabetes through Ayurveda. Government of India has decided to celebrate National Ayurveda Day every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti.



68. Close to 84,460 more affordable houses for urban poor sanctioned for five States

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation has approved construction of 84,460 more affordable houses for urban poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in five States namely – West Bengal (1918 crores), Punjab (424 crores), Jharkhand (464 crores), Kerala (179 crores) and Manipur (88 crores), with a total investment of Rs. 3,073 crores for which Central Assistance of Rs. 1,256 crores have been approved.



Under the 'Beneficiary Led Construction' component of PMAY (Urban), each eligible beneficiary belonging to Economically Weaker Sections is provided Central Assistance of Rs. 1.50 lakh for expansion/upgradation of existing house as per the Guidelines.

69. Cabinet gives in-principle nod to NITI Aayog's strategic sale proposal

NITI Aayog's proposal for strategic sale of public sector undertakings (PSUs) was approved by Union cabinet. The names of PSUs that are up for strategic stake sale, will be made public once each case is reviewed by Department of Disinvestment and the Ministries.



The strategic sale will involve a management control transfer by reducing shareholding of the government to below 50 percent. Government has already raised over Rs. 8,000 crores through PSU share buybacks and offer for sale. It intends to raise Rs. 36,000 crores in the entire fiscal through minority stake sale in PSUs.

70. Union Cabinet launched Employees Online (EO) Mobile App of DoPT

The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region launched the Employees Online (EO) App. The application would enable its users, which may include officers, media persons and all stakeholders to stay updated on real time basis with appointments and postings approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet and vacancies at senior level in the Government of India.

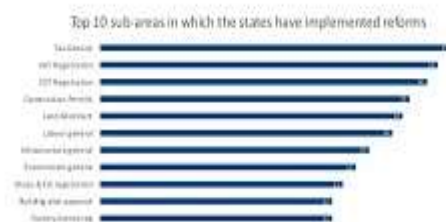


This is an effective management tool which also empowers the IAS officers on Pan India basis and officers serving under Central Staffing Scheme by providing their personal records like Annual Performance Appraisal Report, Immovable Property Return and Executive Record through secured NIC login Id and Password.

71. Assessment of State Implementation of Business Reforms 2016

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with the World Bank Group released the results of the Assessment of State Implementation of Business Reforms 2015-16. The Assessment studies the extent to which states have implemented DIPP's 340-point Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) for States/UTs 2015-16, covering the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

In which areas have reforms occurred?



At least 32 State and UT Governments submitted the evidence of implementation of 7,124 reforms. The national implementation average stands at 48.93%, significantly higher than last year's national average of 32%.

PERSONS IN NEWS

1. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince to be Republic Day Chief Guest

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, will be the Chief Guest at the 2017 Republic Day parade of India. He will be the first leader from the Gulf at the parade since 2006 when Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz al-Saud was the Chief Guest.

French President Francois Hollande was the Chief Guest in 2016 while US President Barack Obama was the Chief guest to attend the parade in 2015.



2. Kieren Dsouza became the first Indian to complete Spartathlon

Bengaluru's Kieren Dsouza successfully completed The Spartathlon, an annual run from Athens to Sparta in Greece covering 246.6 kilometers. It is widely considered, 'The world's toughest race.'

Kieren's run lasted, 33 hours three minutes and 25 seconds and became the first ever Indian to finish it. Prior to this run, he was a designated Ultra Marathoner, who ran 160 km events. He became the fastest Indian to run above 100 miles by winning the Salomon Bhatti Lakes Ultra Marathon in 2015.



3. Indo-American Vinaya Manchaiah named Future Leader of Audiology

Indian-American Vinaya Manchaiah has been named to the 2016 class of the 'Jerger Future Leaders of Audiology' by the American Academy of Audiology. He is an associate professor at Lamar University in Texas and one of only a dozen individuals selected nationwide for the honor.

He is the co-founder of non-profit NGO Audiology India, for which he served as president from 2011 to 2015. The organisation seeks to foster hearing and ear health care in India. Audiology is a branch of science that studies hearing, balance, and related disorders.



4. Former ISRO chief U R Rao inducted into IAF Hall of Fame

Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Udupi Ramachandra Rao, became the first Indian to be inducted into the 2016 IAF Hall of Fame by the International Aeronautical Federation (IAF) during the closing ceremony of the IAF Congress 2016 held at Guadalajara, Mexico.



Prof U R Rao is an internationally renowned space scientist who has contributed to the development of space technology in India. Prof Rao, who has published over 360 scientific and technical papers in various journals, has received many honors and awards, including the Padma Bhushan Award.

5. PV Sindhu roped in as the Brand Ambassador of Vizag Steel

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, popularly known as Vizag Steel, has roped in badminton champion and Rio silver medallist P V Sindhu as its brand ambassador. The company will have its brand logo on Sindhu's playing jersey in international and domestic tournaments under the aegis of Badminton World Federation and Badminton Association of India. Sindhu is currently ranked amongst the top 10 players in the world.



Vizag Steel is the first Shore based Integrated Steel Plant in the country and is known for its Quality Products.

6. Bank of Baroda inked brand endorsement with PV Sindhu and K Srikanth

Bank of Baroda inked principal sponsorship contract with badminton Olympians P V Sindhu and K Srikanth. The bank has signed a three-year deal with the two players. The deal was agreed in-principle before they represented India at the Rio 2016 Olympics.



Bank of Baroda logo will now appear on the centre chest of the two athletes' playing jerseys in international and domestic tournaments under the aegis of Badminton World Federation Events- (BWF) and Badminton Association of India-sanctioned events, respectively.

7. 'Wonder Woman' to be UN ambassador for women's empowerment

The United Nations is to enlist the super powers of "Wonder Woman" for a new campaign to empower women and girls.

The comic and television series heroine will be officially designated as the UN honorary ambassador for the empowerment of women and girls during a ceremony on October 21. The ceremony will launch a year-long campaign on gender equality and women's empowerment, which is one of the UN's new global goals for the next 15 years.



8. Virat Kohli appointed as the brand ambassador of Valvoline

Valvoline Cummins India has roped in Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador. He will be the face of Valvoline engine oils and lubricants range. The tagline is "Go Unstoppable". Valvoline wants to brand itself as one of the major players in the highly competitive engine oil category in the country.

Valvoline is a leading global producer, distributor and brand of high quality lubricants and specialized automotive, racing, commercial and industrial solutions.



9. Lalbiakthanga Pachuau from Mizoram declared India's oldest working journalist

The Information and Public Relations department of Mizoram along with the Mizoram Journalists' Association (MJA) declared 90-year-old Lalbiakthanga Pachuau as the "oldest working journalist in the country". He is the editor of 'Zoram Tlangau', a Mizo language daily.

Pachuau studied only till Class III before joining the Assam Regiment of the British Indian Army in 1945 at 18. He started editing his own newspaper in 1970 and was elected the president of MJA for three terms.



10. Human rights activist Irom Sharmila declared formation of Peoples Resurgence and Justice Alliance new political party

Human rights activist Irom Sharmila, famously known as Iron Lady of Manipur announced launch of her new political party called as Peoples Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA), thus putting an end to her 16-year-old hunger strike. It was longest such campaign demanding for repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act.



Irom Sharmila would contest from constituencies Thoubal and Khurai. Peoples Resurgence and Justice Alliance party includes several activists and entrepreneurs. Academician Erendro Leichombam is the convenor of the party.

11. G Balakrishna of Bengaluru crowned Mr. Asia 2016

G Balakrishna from Bengaluru has won the Mr. Asia title at the recently concluded 5th Phil-Asia bodybuilding championships in the Philippines. He is popular as the “Arnold Schwarzenegger of Whitefield”.



He won Mr. Universe Under-24 junior contest in 2013 in Germany. He also won the Mr. Universe Under-24 junior contest at the world championship in Athens in 2014. He runs a water tanker business in Bengaluru to increase his income.

PLACES IN NEWS

1. Delhi Airport T3 became first Platinum rated green airport terminal building in India

The Terminal 3 of the Delhi International Airport (P) Limited (DIAL) has achieved Platinum rating from Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and became the first Platinum rated green terminal building under Green Existing Building O&M Rating System by IGBC.



This is another significant environmental achievement by IGIA, after being accredited as the first Carbon Neutral airport in Asia Pacific recently by Airports Council International (ACI).

2. Chandigarh International Airports limited (CHIAL) won IBC award

Chandigarh International Airports Limited (CHIAL), a Joint Venture Company of Airports Authority of India and States of Punjab and Haryana, has been conferred with IBC award and Trophy for excellence in built environment in infrastructure projects for "New Integrated Terminal Building of Chandigarh International Airport for the year 2014-15" at 21st Annual Convention Inaugural function held in New Delhi.



The new terminal building at the Chandigarh International Airport has been constructed with an investment of Rs. 939 crores.

3. 'Second Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2016' held in IGNCA Premises

The "Second Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)-2016" was held from 15th to 23rd October, 2016 in the premises of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), Janpath, New Delhi. It is organized it with an intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Country in all its rich and varied dimensions, viz Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Documentation and Performing Arts-Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary- all in one place.



Following the conclusion of the Delhi-RSM, is the RSM in Varanasi which will be organized in multiple venues from the 18th to the 25th of November-2016.

4. The 4th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting at Jaipur

The 4th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting was convened on 8 October, 2016 at Jaipur to further strengthen the collaboration amongst the BRICS countries in the areas of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).



In alignment with the theme of India's Chairmanship - Building, Responsive Inclusive and Collective Solutions, the Jaipur Declaration was unanimously adopted by all the BRICS countries. The member countries resolved to intensify, diversify and institutionalize STI cooperation through the BRICS research & innovation initiative.

5. Historical International Kullu Dussehra festival began

The historical International Kullu Dussehra festival began with Rath Yatra in Kullu town of Himachal Pradesh. The Dussehra festival is observed in the popular Dhalpur maidan or Dussehra ground in the Kullu valley.



The Kullu Dussehra is a renowned International Mega Dussehra festival observed in the month of October in Himachal Pradesh state. Dussehra at Kullu commences on the tenth day of the rising moon, i.e. on 'Vijay Dashmi' day itself and continues for seven days.

6. First BRICS Trade Fair & Exhibition began in Delhi

The first ever trade fair of the BRICS countries got underway in New Delhi on 12th October. The fair has been organised for deepening economic engagement, trade and investment ties among the BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, South Africa, and China. The theme of the trade fair is Building BRICS - Innovation for Collaboration. The three-day trade fair, being held at Pragati Maidan is showcasing about 20 key sectors ranging from aerospace, auto and auto components, green energy, railways, infrastructure, tourism, gems and jewellery and skill development.



7. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Shaurya Smarak in Bhopal

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Shaurya Smarak or Memorial of Valour in Bhopal. The Shaurya Smarak is spread over an area of 12.67-acre land and the tales of the bravery of Army are on display at this memorial.



It was developed at an expense of 41 crore rupees includes a 62-foot Shaurya Stambh. It has light and sound facility to narrate stories of bravery of the nation's valiant soldiers, who have laid down their lives fighting enemies on the borders.

8. PM Modi distributed 500 charkhas to women spinners in Ludhiana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed 500 traditional wooden charkhas (spinning wheel) to women spinners belonging to the five Khadi local institutions in Ludhiana.



The charkhas have been given by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). The women spinners have been selected from different areas of Punjab. In Tamil Nadu in 1945, freedom fighter K Kamaraj donated 500 traditional charkhas to the local women spinners on the occasion of a spinning mela.

9. National Summit on Fortification of Food inaugurated in New Delhi

The National Summit on Fortification of Food was recently inaugurated in New Delhi to address interventions in combating micronutrient malnutrition in the country. Food fortification or enrichment is the process of adding micronutrients to food.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has formulated a comprehensive regulation on fortification of foods namely 'Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016'. The two-day Summit was co-hosted by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).



10. Kochi becomes the first city to host FIFA U-17 World Cup

Kochi becomes first Indian city to be ratified as one of the venues for hosting the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup. A 23-member high-level delegation comprising experts from FIFA and Local Organising Committee visited Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium and prospective training grounds to finalise the venue.



Work on all sites is supposed to be completed by March 2017. There will be 24 teams which will take part in the tournament.

11. Navi Mumbai becomes the second city to host U-17 World Cup after FIFA nod

FIFA has ratified Navi Mumbai as the second venue in the list after Kochi for the Under-17 World Cup to be held in India in 2017. The games will be played in D Y Patil Sports stadium.

Earlier, Kochi became the first Indian city to be officially declared as one of the venues for hosting the U-17 World Cup. There will be 24 teams which will take part in the tournament.



14. Workshop On “Forest Rights Act, 2006 - its Implementation, Benefits to Tribal and other Traditional Forest Dwelling Communities held

A Workshop on “Forest Rights Act, 2006 - its Implementation, benefits to tribal and other traditional forest dwelling communities and its challenges” was held in New Delhi as part of National Tribal Carnival – 2016. The Workshop was attended by approximately 250 delegates including Ministers from the States Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislatures and other dignitaries.



A presentation was made that focused on Community Forest Resource guidelines for protection and management of Forest by the Gram Sabha as also other essential attributes and challenges in implementation of Forest Rights Act.

15. Indian Panorama Selection Feature and Non-Feature Films for the 47th International Film Festival of India, 2016

Indian Panorama 2016 announced its final selection of Feature & Non-Feature films to be screened in Goa at 47th International Film Festival of India, 2016. The Jury has recommended Sanskrit film ISHTI Directed G. Prabha as the Opening Feature Film of Indian Panorama 2016.



The Jury for Feature Films, headed by well-known actor and Director, Shri Rajendra Singh Babu, has selected 22 films out of 230 eligible entries. The Non-Feature Films Jury chaired by well-known documentary filmmaker Shri Arvind Sinha has picked 21 films out of 198 eligible entries.

REGIONAL

1. Urban areas of Gujarat and AP declared open defecation free

The Union Government, on the second anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission, named Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh as the first states to have become open defecation free (ODF) in urban areas.



In rural areas, approximately 100,000 villages have also been declared ODF since the launch of the mission in 2014. As many as 405 cities and towns have so far claimed to have become Open Defecation Free. Another 334 cities and towns would become ODF by March next year.

2. KJ Yesudas to be the brand ambassador of Kerala's Haritha Keralam project

The Kerala state government has roped in eminent Carnatic vocalist and playback singer KJ Yesudas as the brand ambassador of 'Haritha Keralam' (Green Kerala) project.



The project is a massive initiative of the government for a garbage-free and clean state. It emphasises on waste disposal at source and households and renovation and cleaning of water sources. Ponds and streamlets will be cleaned in the first phase, while rivers, lakes and other water bodies in the second phase.

3. International Buddhist Conclave-2016 opens its sessions in Sarnath Uttar Pradesh

The International Buddhist Conclave-2016, which was officially inaugurated on 02nd October, 2016 in New Delhi, opened its sessions in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, the heartland of Buddhist pilgrimage on 4th October, 2016.

With a view to showcasing and projecting the Buddhist heritage and pilgrim sites of India, the Ministry of Tourism is organizing the '5th International Buddhist Conclave' from 02nd to 06th October, 2016 in association with State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.



4. Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung dissolves Delhi Waqf Board

Lt Governor of Delhi, Najeeb Jung, dissolved the Delhi Waqf Board and referred the matter to CBI for a probe. The Board was "superseded" by the Arvind Kejriwal government in 2015. Two members of the Board resigned alleging corruption.

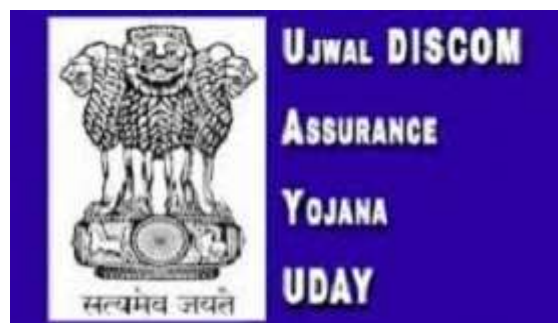
The LG declared the reconstitution of the board by the AAP government and appointment of CEO as illegal and "void ab initio". The AAP government had appointed Okhla MLA Amantullah Khan as the Chairman of the board.



5. Maharashtra becomes the 17th State to join UDAY

Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government of Maharashtra and Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. (MSEDCL) under the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) at the two-day State Power Ministers Conference in Vadodara.

Maharashtra, thus, became the 17th State to join UDAY. An overall net benefit of approximately Rs.9725 crores would accrue to Maharashtra by opting to participate in UDAY. This would reduce the interest burden of the State/DISCOM by Rs. 595 crores.



6. Maharashtra CM inaugurated India's first International Arbitration Centre

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, inaugurated India's first centre for international arbitration in Mumbai. The Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA) will initially be located at Express Towers, Nariman Point. The CEO of MCIA is Madhukeshwar Desai.

The MCIA will be an independent, not-for-profit organization (NGO) and will be governed by a 17-member governing council. Maharashtra is the only state in India to have an arbitration policy. It will provide world-class infrastructure for arbitration, 24x7 functionality and live transcription services recording during arbitration proceedings for transparency.



7. MP to launch 'Lalima Abhiyan' to make state free from anaemia

The Madhya Pradesh State Government has decided to launch 'Lalima Abhiyan' scheme to make the state anaemia-free. The scheme will be effective from November 1. Under the campaign, free iron folic acid tablets will be provided in aanganwadis, academic institutions and hospitals.

According to National Family Health Survey data, 52.5 percent of women, aged between 15 to 49 years, are suffering from anaemia. Natural, modern and traditional measures would also be publicised during the campaign.



8. BHEL commissions 660 MW Supercritical Thermal Unit in Uttar Pradesh

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has commissioned yet another 660 MW coal based supercritical thermal power plant in Uttar Pradesh. In the past 15 months, BHEL has added 4,300 MW of power generation capacity in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The unit has been commissioned at the 3x660 MW Prayagraj Super Thermal Power Project, located in Bara tehsil in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh. The project is owned by Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited (PPGCL), a subsidiary company of Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited.



9. MoU signed for two new railway line projects in Odisha

Railways signed MoU with Odisha government for cost sharing of two new railway line projects in the state: Jeypore - Malkangiri and Jeypore - Nabarangpur. Indian Railways has also planned to open a Rail Factory in Kalahandi.

As per the agreement, the state will bear 25 percent of the total cost of the 130 km Jeypore-Malkangir rail line. It will provide the entire land cost and 50 percent of the project cost of Jeypore-Nabarangpur project.



10. Twenty-One new districts carved out of existing 10 districts in Telangana

A total of 21 new districts were carved out of the existing 10 districts in Telangana. With this, Telangana state now has a total 31 districts. Chief Minister Chandrasekhara Rao inaugurated Siddipet district at Siddipet town by hoisting the national Flag. Barring Hyderabad, the existing 10 districts have been split into three or four districts.

The government has also created 25 new revenue divisions, 125 new mandals, four new police commissionerates, 23 new police subdivisions, 28 new circles and 91 police stations.



11. Piyush Goyal launched centre's Integrated Power Development Scheme in UP

Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal launched centre's Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh. The aim of the scheme is to ensure availability of electricity to all.

Integrated Power Development (IPDS) scheme focuses on improvement of T&D networks across India. It promises help in reduction of AT&C losses, establishment of IT enabled energy accounting / auditing system, improvement in billed energy based on metered consumption and improvement in collection efficiency. The scheme has been launched with an outlay of Rs. 44,011 crores for 12th and 13th plans.



12. Haryana government sanctioned 500 buses for Gurugram

In a bid to strengthen the public transport system in Gurugram, the Haryana government has sanctioned a fleet of 500 buses for the millennium city. A new body, Greater Gurugram Urban Transport Service Ltd (GGUTSL), has been constituted for this purpose.

GGUTSL would be responsible to operate these buses aiming to provide convenient, easy and effective mode of public transport facility. Financial and investment support will be provided by Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) with 51% share, while rest of the cost will be provided by the Haryana government.



13. Union Cabinet approved redevelopment of AIIMS colonies in New Delhi

The Union Cabinet has approved redevelopment of residential colonies at West Ansari Nagar and Ayur Vigyan Nagar Campuses of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited will undertake the exercise to replace the existing housing stock of 1,444 dwelling units. It will also create social infrastructure facilities including Dharamshala and commercial Built Up Area.



The total estimated cost of the project is Rs 4441 crore including maintenance and operation costs for 30 years. The project will be completed in five years in a phased manner.

14. Jharkhand invites BRICS countries for investment

Jharkhand government has invited BRICS countries to invest in the "mineral capital of the country" which has enormous opportunity in transmission, medico city, power substation and smart city.

The growth rate of the state is 12.4 per cent, the second highest in the country. Addressing the BRICS Conference-2016 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Jharkhand Secretary (Industry, Mines & Geology) Sunil Kumar Barnwal said that the state has signed MoUs worth 23,000 crore rupees with various industries and is the best example of industrial harmony.



15. Safe Motherhood Week observed in UP

'Safe Motherhood' week was observed in Uttar Pradesh from 14th October to 21st October to provide all necessary medical aid and assistance to the pregnant women and to ensure safe delivery in the entire state. This was the second phase of the Safe Motherhood Week in the state. The first phase was conducted in January 2016.



The campaign was run under National Health Mission. The state has decided to bring down the 'Mother Mortality Rate' 'MMR' to 200 till the end of 2016 from the present 258 per lakh deliveries.

16. J&K received Rs. 2800 Crores for PMGSY roads

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has received Rs 2800 crore under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for macadamization of roads in the State. The amount was sanctioned for the 10th phase of PMGSY.



The 10th phase will cover 542 projects which will include construction of 513 roads, and 29 bridges covering over 3519 KM length of roads and over 1217 metres of bridges. Out of a total of 880 schemes sanctioned under the first 9 phases of PMGSY, 720 had been completed and another 152 were scheduled to be completed by March 2017.

17. Odisha government to roll out biometrics authentication for NFSA beneficiaries

Odisha government will roll out biometrics authentication for receiving food grains for beneficiaries of National Food Security Act (NFSA) from January 2017 in the state. The step would maintain transparency and check corruption in distribution of food grains.



Priority households will be entitled to 5 kgs. of food grains per person per month at Rs. 3 per kg for rice, Rs. 2 per kg for wheat and Re.1 per kg coarse grains under NFSA. For AAY scheme, each family is entitled to 35 Kgs per month at the same rates.

18. Maharashtra government launched 'Kaushalya Setu' skill-development program

Maharashtra government has launched 'Kaushalya Setu' skill development program for students. As a part of the program, students of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education, who fail to clear Class X or SSC exam, would be accommodated in the skill development courses.



This would help the students not lose a year. About 24,000 students will be provided training under 'Kaushalya Setu' initially. It will give a big boost to Central Government's Skill India Mission-2020 by providing skill development courses to students.

19. Rajasthan HC dissolved OBC Commission of the state

The Rajasthan High Court has passed an order for dissolution of the State Other Backward Classes (OBC) Commission citing it was constituted without the State Assembly enacting any legislation for it.



The court has directed the government to appoint a new Commission backed by a statute. The court has directed the state government to appoint a new OBC Commission by Jan 15, 2017. Justice K.S. Jhaveri and Justice Mahendra Maheshwari passed the order.

20. Aditya Birla Group to invest Rs. 20,000 Crores in Madhya Pradesh

The Aditya Birla Group will make an investment of Rs. 20,000 crores in Madhya Pradesh in sectors like retail, telecom and cement. The pledge was made at the fifth Global Investors Summit at Indore.



Similarly, the ministry of petroleum has pledged an amount of Rs. 20,000 crores for setting up a solar power plant of 2,700 MW. The Indian Oil corporation will chip in with Rs. 4,800 crores for this venture. Essar group has promised Rs. 4,500 crores, Procter & Gamble has planned to invest Rs. 1,100 crores, while Avgol would invest Rs. 230 crores for making hygiene solutions.

21. An 800 year old village electrified in J&K

In Jammu and Kashmir, the over 800 year old village, Itchu in Ladakh region has been electrified for the first time using solar micro grids. The village is now powered by six DC Solar micro grids comprising three grids of 250 watts and three grids of 100 watts.

The electrification of this village just like a well electrified town was done with the help of 156 LED lights powered by these grids. The total cost of the project is 12 lakh rupees including transportation and installations.



22. CM Khandu flagged-off Indo-Bhutan Friendship Car Rally

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu flagged-off the Indo-Bhutan Friendship Car Rally 2016 from Tawang. The car rally would cover a distance more than 1000 kms and culminate in Bhutan's capital, Thimpu. The theme is - 'Reconnect and strengthen the age old historical linkage, cultural and linguistic affinities between Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan'.

It is being organized by the International Friendship Car Rally Association and supported by Arunachal Pradesh State Tourism Department and Bhutan India Friendship Association to strengthen relations between the two neighbours.



23. Punjab government to sign an MoU with UNICEF to procure 40,000 doses of HPV vaccine

In a bid to stamp out the menace of cervical cancer in the state, the Punjab government would soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNICEF to procure 40,000 doses of vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus in a phased manner. Punjab would be the first state in the country to launch this free vaccination program to eradicate the curse of cervical cancer.

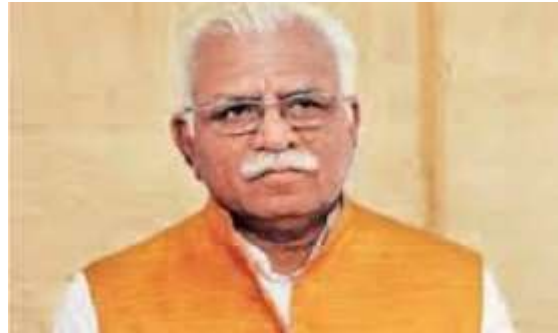
The decision was taken by Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal during a high-level meeting with the senior officers of the Health & Family Welfare Department.



24. The year 2017 to be observed as Garib Kalyan Varsh by Haryana

Haryana Chief Minister announced to observe the year 2017 as the "Garib Kalyan Varsh", with a variety of schemes to be rolled out next year for the poor and creating maximum employment opportunities for the youth. It is done with the aim to ensure good governance while making efforts to ensure transparency.

The State Government would come out with several schemes for the welfare of the poor sections of the society.



25. Himachal Pradesh declared India's Second Open Defecation Free State

The State of Himachal Pradesh was declared Open Defecation Free (ODF), making it the second State in the country (after Sikkim) to achieve the feat. With this, Himachal Pradesh has successfully achieved a total rural sanitation coverage of 100% in the State, with all 12 out of 12 districts in the State being both, declared as well as verified, as ODF.



District Administrators and Local Administrators were appreciated for successfully achieving this significant milestone.

26. Bangladesh enforced 21 days ban from October 12 on catching Hilsa Fish

World's 60% of the World's hilsa are found in Bangladesh, but due to indiscriminate fishing, the quantity of Hilsa fish is reducing day by day. In an effort to save the fish from extinction, Bangladesh has introduced a 22-day ban that began on October 12, under which anyone caught catching Hilsa will face at least a year in jail.



As of now, more than 900 fishermen have been arrested. Country has deployed the army to patrol its waterways like 7,000 square kilometres of rivers, estuaries and sea.

27. Odisha Govt. introduced legal assistance providing scheme for deprived sections of 6,812 gram panchayats

In order to ensure legal assistance to the deprived sections of the society at the grassroots level, Odisha government has introduced a new scheme in all its 6,812 gram panchayats across the state. This scheme is named after great Odia lawyer, 'Madhubabu Aain Sahayata Sibir'.

This scheme will help in reducing number of litigations in the courts and setting up of village level legal cells to improve access to the justice. The State has also come up with setting up of Law University in the state for improving the standards of legal education.



REPORTS

1. World Economic Outlook released by IMF

The IMF released the latest World Economic Outlook which highlights the threats from the anti-trade movement to an already subdued global expansion.

As per the report, world economy's expansion will slow to 3.1 percent in 2016 before rebounding to 3.4 percent in 2017. The pickup in 2017 will be driven mainly by emerging markets. The IMF also forecast that India's GDP would expand 7.6 percent this year and next, the fastest pace among the world's major economies.



2. Study reveals that apes can think like humans

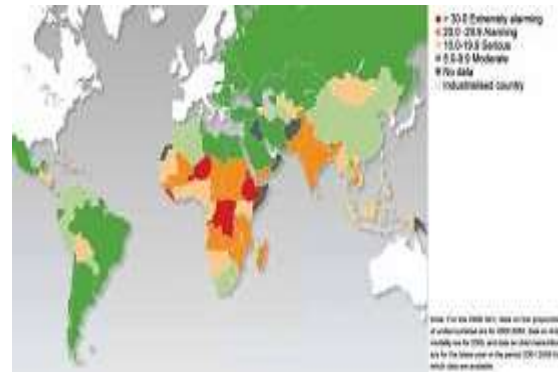
As per the research that is based on the view that other primates can empathise and have complex inner lives, found that chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans seem to have this ability to see someone else's point of view, even when they know that point of view is dead wrong just as humans do.

The findings were published in the journal Science. In a summarized view, findings state that human brains are bigger, true, which means that humans have a more powerful computer, but its fundamentals, its hardware, is similar to that of other primates.



3. Global Hunger Index 2016

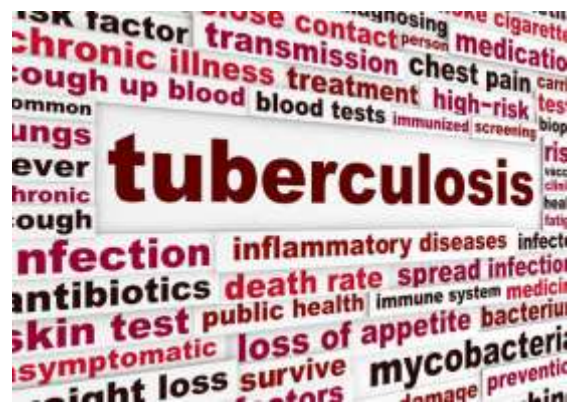
According to the Global Hunger Index report released by the Washington based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), India ranked 97th out of 118 countries. India was rated with 'serious' hunger levels in the 2016 Index.



According to this report, 15.2% of Indians are undernourished and 38.7% of under-five children are stunted. India's global hunger index or GHI score of 28.5 is worse than the developing country average score of 21.3. China (29), Nepal (72), Myanmar (75), Sri Lanka (84) and Bangladesh (90) ranked better than India except Pakistan (107).

4. WHO released Global Tuberculosis Report 2016

WHO has released the "Global Tuberculosis Report" 2016. Governments have agreed for a 90% reduction in TB deaths and an 80% reduction in TB cases by 2030 compared with 2015.



In 2015, there were an estimated 10.4 million new TB cases worldwide. India followed by Indonesia, China, Nigeria, Pakistan and South Africa accounted for 60% of the total burden. The revised estimates put the incidence of TB in India at 217 per 100000 population in 2015. The disease was one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide in 2015, responsible for more deaths than HIV and malaria.

5. Mangaluru International Airport rated best in Southern region

Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) has been rated the best in Southern region and third among all the 52 airports in the country. Airports Authority of India (AAI) conducts survey of all the airports once in six months through an external agency. The performances of all the airports are rated based on overall customer satisfaction.



In the latest survey, MIA secured 4.72 points out of 5. Chandigarh airport has taken the top slot in the survey, followed by Raipur, with the third position being shared by Mangaluru and Udaipur airports.

6. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research states Delhi's air quality as worst

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) recorded suspended respirable pollutants and arrived on the decision that air quality of Delhi is under 'very poor' category. The average (24-hour rolling) of PM2.5 and PM10, suspended pollutants, were recorded as 120.8 and 248 micrograms per cubic metre as against safe limits of 60 and 100.



National Green Tribunal has directed the Delhi government to conduct a meeting and implement solutions to tackle the air pollution. The main reason for the poor air is vehicular pollution and farm fires in neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana.

7. World Bank released report titled Doing Business 2017: Equal Opportunity for All

The World Bank released the report titled Doing Business 2017: Equal Opportunity for All. It is the 14th report in a series of annual reports measuring the regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it.



India is ranked 130 out of 190 countries in the report. New Zealand topped the World Bank ranking for ease of doing business, followed by Singapore, Denmark, Hong Kong, South Korea, Norway, UK, US, Sweden, and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Pakistan made it to the World's top 10 improvers, based on reforms undertaken.

8. India ranked 87 in the WEF Gender Gap Report

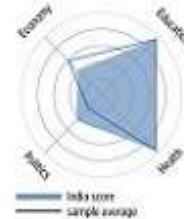
India has been ranked 87th out of 144 countries on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2016. It has moved 21 spots up from 108th in 2015, driven largely by major improvements in education. China ranks 99th in the list.

Iceland tops the latest rankings followed by Finland, Norway and Sweden. The report measures gender gap as progress towards parity between men and women in four areas - Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, Economic Opportunity and Political Empowerment.

At a glance

India **87** rank
out of 144 countries

Scores at a glance



Key indicators

GDP (\$ billions)	207354
GDP per capita (constant 2014 \$ PPP)	5,780
Total population (thousands)	1,311,066.53
Population growth rate (%)	1.15
Population sex ratio (female/male)	0.91
Human capital optimization (%)	57.73

	2016		2015	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Global Gender Gap Index	87	0.683	98	0.608
Economic participation and opportunity	136	0.401	100	0.397
Educational attainment	113	0.950	102	0.899
Health and survival	142	0.942	101	0.942
Political empowerment	9	0.433	20	0.227
Annualized	14		25	

9. Water level of 91 major reservoirs of the country goes down by Two percent

The water storage available in 91 major reservoirs of the country for the week ending on October 27, 2016 was 115.457 BCM, which is 73% of total storage capacity of these reservoirs. This was 130% of the storage of corresponding period of last year.

The total storage capacity of these 91 reservoirs is 157.799 BCM which is about 62% of the total storage capacity of 253.388 BCM, which is estimated to have been created in the country. 37 Reservoirs out of these 91 have hydropower benefit with installed capacity of more than 60 MW.



10. India ranked at 133rd position in Commonwealth Youth Index

The Commonwealth Secretariat on the countries' prospects for young people in employment, education, health, civic and political spheres, released Global Youth Development Index which shows youth development scores in health, education and employment.

Out of the 183 nations, India ranked 133rd in the index followed by Nepal at 77th, Bhutan at 69th and Sri Lanka at the 31st place. The top 5 countries on the index are Germany (1), Denmark (2), Australia (3), Switzerland (4) and United Kingdom (5).



RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS

1. Jawhar Sircar resigns as CEO of Prasar Bharati

Prasar Bharati Corporation CEO Jawhar Sircar has submitted his resignation four months ahead of the end of his tenure. He was due to retire in February 2017. Former information and broadcasting secretary Sunil Arora, who was recently appointed as an adviser in Prasar Bharati, is likely to succeed him.

Sircar had retired as secretary of culture with the Union government and was then appointed as Prasar Bharati CEO in 2012.



2. BJP MLA Navjot Kaur Sidhu resigns from party

BJP MLA from Amritsar (East) constituency in Punjab, Doctor Navjot Kaur Sidhu, has resigned from primary membership of party. She sent her resignation to State president of party Vijay Sampla who has accepted the resignation of the MLA.

Her husband Navjot Singh Sidhu, three-time MP of the Bhartiya Janata Party from Amritsar, had quit his Rajya Sabha membership in July and resigned from the saffron party in September 2016. Dr Kaur's resignation comes over a month after Sidhu floated the new outfit, Awaaz-e-Punjab.



3. British Olympics icon Jessica Ennis-Hill announces retirement from athletics

British Olympics icon Jessica Ennis-Hill announced her retirement from athletics following an inspirational career which spanned more than 15 years. She had won heptathlon gold for Great Britain at the London 2012 Olympics. She won her first world title in Berlin 2009.

The 30-year-old athlete had won a silver medal at the Rio Olympics. She has broken British records countless times and retires as the current British record holder in the Heptathlon.



4. Visa's CEO Charles Scharf resigns from his position

Visa CEO Charlie Scharf has stepped down. Alfred F. Kelly, the former President of American Express and the current CEO of Manhattan based Intersection Co., will assume Scharf's role as CEO. Kelly already sits on Visa's board of directors.

Scharf left JP Morgan to join Visa as CEO in November 2012. Under his watch, Visa's stock surged over 130%. Scharf also closed a deal for Visa to combine with former unit Visa Europe in June.



5. Cyrus Mistry removed as Tata Chief

The Board of Tata Sons has removed Cyrus Pallonji Mistry as the Chairman of the conglomerate and named Ratan Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts as interim Chairman for four months. Tata Trusts, chaired by Tata, owns 66% stake in Tata Sons, while the Mistry family owns 18.5% stake.

The board has constituted a selection committee to choose the new chairman and has been mandated to complete the selection process in four months.



1. India's latest communication satellite GSAT-18 successfully launched

India's latest communication satellite GSAT-18 was successfully launched on board 'Ariane-5 VA231' rocket from Kouru in French Guiana. The Master Control Facility of ISRO at Hassan in Karnataka took control of the satellite immediately after its injection into an elliptical geo-transfer orbit.



The satellite aims at providing telecommunications services for the country by strengthening ISRO's current fleet of 14 operational telecommunication satellites. GSAT-18 is the 20th satellite from ISRO to be launched by the European space agency and the mission is the 280th for Arianespace launcher family.

2. Hubble Space Telescope detects Giant 'Cannonballs' Shooting from Star

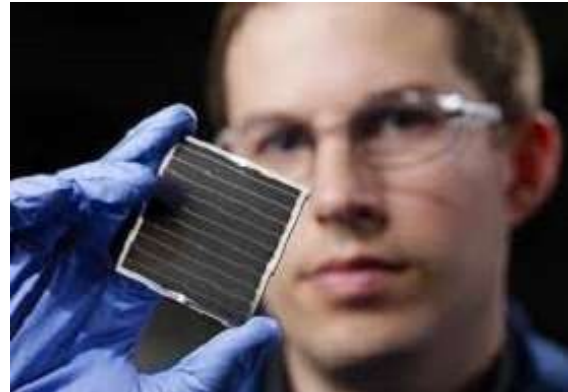
NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has detected superhot blobs of gas, each twice as massive as the planet Mars, being ejected near a dying star.



This stellar "cannon fire" or Great Balls of Fire (GBF) were observed near a red giant called V Hydrae, about 1,200 light years away from Earth. The plasma balls are zooming so fast through space that they would travel from Earth to the moon in 30 minutes.

3. Indian researcher produces stable Perovskite Nanocrystal solar cells

Pune based researcher Abhishek Swarnkar from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) has successfully produced a stable, high-efficiency, all-inorganic perovskite nanocrystal solar cells. The new material has 10.77% efficiency to convert sunlight to electricity.



The research appeared in the journal "Science". These nanocrystals were found to be stable from -196 -degree C to about $+200$ -degree C. It also converted sunlight to electricity by producing a high voltage of 1.23 volts.

4. Electroactive bandage developed by NASA to speed up wound healing

NASA has developed a high-tech electroactive bandage that creates an electric charge to help speed up the healing process of wounds. The bandage is made of an electroactive material that is stimulated by pressure of cell growth and body heat. The fibres of the gauze are made of electroactive material Polyvinylidene Flouride (PVDF).



The bandage would be very useful to military personnel wounded in the field as well as patients who have undergone surgery.

5. Researchers at IISER use human hair to produce cheaper cathodes for solar cells

A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Kolkata have used human hair to produce cost-effective, metal-free cathodes for use in solar cells. The results have been published in the journal Carbon.



It has got high efficiency to convert visible sunlight to electricity. The cathode was found to generate high open-circuit voltage, which is at par with conventional platinum and activated carbon cathodes.

6. Researchers develop self-powered UV photodetector

The researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru have developed a cost-effective, high-performance, self-powered UV photodetector.

The self-powered UV photodetector can use the harvested optical energy for direct self-charging of energy storage devices such as supercapacitor. It can also be used for operating electronic devices in the absence of external power source. The researchers developed the photodetector by integrating semiconducting vanadium doped zinc oxide (VZnO) nanoflakes with a conducting polymer.



7. China successfully launched longest manned space mission

China successfully launched a spacecraft carrying two astronauts, in its longest-ever manned space mission. The 'Shenzhou-11' spacecraft was put into orbit by a Long March-2F carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre near the Gobi Desert.

The space lab was launched as part of China's efforts to set up its own manned space station by 2022, which will make it the only the country to have such a facility in service as the present in-service International Space Station retires by 2024.



8. Protein rich rice variety developed by IGKV, Chattisgarh

A protein-enriched rice variety has been developed by the Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalay (IGKV) in Raipur. The newly developed rice variety has over 10 per cent protein content, which is three per cent more than what is found in any popular variety and has 30 PPM zinc content.

The new rice variety could potentially play a crucial role in fighting protein deficiencies among children, in the tribal-dominated Chhattisgarh.



9. Tasmanian devil milk's antibiotic resistance kills several deadly superbugs

Recent research has revealed that Tasmanian devil milk contains an arsenal of antimicrobial compounds that can kill some of the deadliest bacterial and fungal infections.

It has been found that milk can produce six different types of these antimicrobial compounds that kill bacteria responsible for food poisoning and pneumonia.

Research is under process to determine if antimicrobial compounds could kill the facial tumour.



10. Orbital cargo ship arrived at the International Space Station

An unmanned cargo ship operated by the US Company Orbital ATK arrived at the International Space Station to deliver 2.5 tonnes of food and supplies to the six astronauts living in orbit. Three Russian cosmonauts, two American astronauts and one Japanese astronaut are currently staffing the space station.

The cargo ship was launched on October 17th from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. It will remain attached to the space station until November. Astronauts will fill it with trash before sending it off to burn upon re-entry to Earth's atmosphere.



11. China's space lab launches micro-satellite, Banxing-2

Chinese space lab Tiangong-2 orbiting the Earth with two astronauts on board has successfully launched a micro-satellite — Banxing-2 that will take photographs of Tiangong II and the Shenzhou 11 spacecraft, which docked with the lab.

The Banxing-2 weighs 47 kilograms and has a series of visible light cameras, including a 25-megapixel camera and wide-angle imagers. It also has an infrared camera that is temperature-sensitive. The micro-satellite has three solar panels.



SPORTS

1. Daniel Ricciardo wins 2016 Malaysian Grand Prix

Daniel Ricciardo won the 2016 Malaysian Grand Prix held at the Sepang International Circuit in Selangor, Malaysia. Max Verstappen finished second while Nico Rosberg stood third in the podium.

Ricciardo has finished third in Hungary, second in Germany and Belgium, fifth in Italy and second in Singapore during the F1 races this year. The Malaysian Grand Prix is one of the rounds of the Formula One World Championship. The FIA-sanctioned racing in Malaysia has existed since the 1960s.



2. First BRICS U – 17 Football Tournament kicked off in Goa

First 'BRICS' U-17 football tournament was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel in Goa. The captains of the football teams lit the torch, followed by an entertainment programme performed by local artists.

The Government of India initiative, the BRICS U – 17 Football Tournament, will be played among the 'BRICS' countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Final of the tournament will played on 15th October, 2016 at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda.



3. Gaganjeet Bhullar bagged sixth Asian Tour triumph Shinhan Donghae Open

India's ace Gaganjeet Bhullar bagged one-stroke victory at the Shinhan Donghae Open in South Korea to win his sixth Asian Tour triumph defeating Zimbabwean Scott Vincent and local lad Taewoo Kim of South Korea at the US\$ 1 million event.

It was his 7th International title. Australia's Scott Hend finished tied for fourth with Sweden's Malcolm Kokocinski to increase his lead at the top of the Asian Tour's Order of Merit.



4. Indian Shooter Jitu Rai won silver at World Cup in Italy

Indian shooter Jitu Rai clinched a silver medal in the 50 metre pistol event of the ISSF World Cup Final at Bologna, Italy. China's Wei Pang won the Gold medal while Italy's Giuseppe Giordano won the bronze. Jitu also equalled his own national record score in the qualification round.

Jitu had earlier won a Silver medal at the ISSF World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan in the 10m Air Pistol event.



5. Sprinter Srabani Nanda won the 24th Ekalabya Award

Sprinter Srabani Nanda has won the 24th Ekalabya Award for the year 2016 in recognition of her sporting excellence. She will get a cash award of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation at the Ekalabya Award function.

Srabani won gold in 200m, silver in 100m and 4x100m relay in 12th South Asian Games held in Guwahati in February 2016. She had also won bronze in 100m and 4x100m relay in Asian Grand Prix Athletics in Thailand in June 2015.



6. Andy Murray won China Open Men's Singles 2016

Andy Murray won the China Open Men's Singles 2016 title after he defeated Grigor Dimitrov by 6–4, 7–6 at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China. Murray pocketed a fifth title of the year and 500 precious ranking points. It was 40th title of his career.

The China Open (formerly the Beijing Salem Open) is an annual professional tennis tournament held in Beijing, China. The winner for 2015 was Novak Djokovic.



7. Agnieszka Radwanska won the China Open Women's Singles 2016

World Number three Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland defeated Johanna Konta of United Kingdom 6-4, 6-2 to win the China Open in Beijing. It was her third title for the year and 20th overall. She had earlier won the China Open in 2011.

The China Open (formerly the Beijing Salem Open) is an annual professional tennis tournament held in Beijing, China. The winner of the 2015 tournament was Garbiñe Muguruza of Spain.



8. ISSF named Indian shooter Jitu Rai as 'Champion of Champions'

Ace Indian shooter Jitu Rai was awarded the 'Champion of Champions' title for pistol shooting in 2016 by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). In the Rifle category, Russia's Sergey Kamenskiy emerged champion.

Jitu defeated Serbia's Damir Mikec by 29.6 to 28.3 points in the Champions Trophy 10m Air Pistol final held at the T.S.N. Shooting Range in Bologna, Italy. He was awarded a cash reward of \$ 5,587 (5000 euros) along with the title.



9. Indian shuttlers claim two titles at Russian Open

Indian shuttlers signed off an impressive campaign at the Russian Open Grand Prix notching up the women's singles as well as the mixed doubles titles at Vladivostok.

Fourth seed Ruthvika Shivani Gadde emerged triumphant in the women's singles event, beating local favourite Evgeniya Kosetskaya 21-10, 21-13. In the mixed double's final, N Sikki Reddy and Pranaav Chopra edged past the Russian duo of Vladimir Ivanov and Valeria Sorokina 21-17 21-19 to claim the top honors.



10. Nico Rosberg won the Japanese Grand Prix

Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg won the Japanese Grand Prix and widened his lead in the Formula One drivers' championship. With four races remaining Rosberg holds a 33-point lead over Hamilton.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen came second while Lewis Hamilton stood third. Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen finished fourth and fifth respectively. Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo took sixth ahead of the Force Indias of Sergio Perez and Nico Hulkenberg.



11. India officially regains No 1 Test ranking

Indian captain Virat Kohli was presented with the ICC Test Championship mace for leading his team to the top of the Test Team Rankings.

The mace was presented by former India captain and ICC Cricket Hall of Famer Sunil Gavaskar at a ceremony in Indore after the home team completed a 3-0 whitewash. Kohli became only the second India captain after Mahendra Singh Dhoni and 10th overall to receive the mace.



12. R Ashwin regains No. 1 spot in Test rankings

India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has surged to the top of the ICC Player Rankings for Test Bowlers. Ashwin was named man of the series after he finished with 27 wickets in a 3-0 sweep by India against New Zealand.

With a career-best rating of 900 points, Ashwin has gone past pace bowlers James Anderson and Dale Steyn to rank top on the list. He now has 220 wickets, the most by any bowler after 39 Tests.



13. India's 1st convertible stadium: The Arena by TransStadia

The Arena by TransStadia, newly-built stadium where World Cup Kabaddi 2016 kick started on October 7th, is India's first convertible stadium, which means it can be converted from an outdoor stadium into an indoor arena in 6 minutes at a touch of a button.

The cost of this project is Rs. 550 crores and it is built on a unique public private partnership (PPP) model. The facility houses as many as 14 sports, excluding cricket.



14. Tyson Fury's licence suspended by British Boxing Board of Control

The former world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury's licence to box has been suspended by the British Boxing Board of Control.

The decision came after the troubled British boxer, who has admitted taking cocaine to deal with depression, vacated his World Boxing Organization and World Boxing Association titles with immediate effect to concentrate on his medical treatment and recovery. Fury's licence to box had been suspended pending further investigation into "anti-doping and medical issues".



15. Brazil wins inaugural BRICS U-17 football tournament

Brazil has lifted the 1st BRICS U-17 Football Tournament 2016 held at Goa after they defeated South Africa 5-1 in the finals. Russia defeated China 2-1 to secure third position.

The BRICS U-17 Football Cup is a U-17 Football tournament to be played among teams of five BRICS countries - economic block formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The Tournament will take place once every year with 10-day.



16. Government to set up five dedicated centres for divyang athletes

The Central Government will set up five national-level sophisticated sports centres for differently-abled sports persons, with an objective of catering to their special needs like training and diet.

These centres will come up in central, west, north, south and east India. Three out of five state-of-the-art centres will be set up at Zirakpur in Punjab, Ujjain in MP and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Government wants to adopt the best practices and parameters in force at recently concluded Rio 2016 Paralympics.



17. Neeraj Goyat retains WBC Asia welterweight title

Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat outpunched Australia's Ben Kite to retain the WBC welterweight Asia title in New Delhi.

The 24-year-old prevailed 120-110, 119-109, 115-113 in a unanimous decision for the gruelling 12-round contest against his 26-year-old rival. Goyat, who came into the contest with 7 wins in 11 fights, is now expected to break into the WBC world rankings, which will be a step towards getting him a shot at the world title.



18. Sourabh Verma clinched men's singles title at Chinese Taipei Open

Sourabh Varma won the men's singles title at the Chinese Taipei Open after defeating Malaysia's Daren Liew in the finals. Sourabh had won two sets before Liew retired in the third game due to a shoulder injury.

Sourabh took home a cash award of \$55,000. Varma's previous international title came in 2014 after defeating Taiwan's Hsu Jen-hao at the Austrian International Challenge 2014. Sourabh should enter the top 40 to be able to compete at Super Series events.



19. ICC announced the first-ever women's World T20 in 2020

The International Cricket Council announced to organise the first ever ICC Women's World T20 event in 2020.

Cricket Australia, hosts for the men's and women's ICC World Twenty20 in 2020, proposed holding the women's tournament as a stand-alone event six months ahead of the men's edition. The decision was taken considering into account the recent success of the Women's Big Bash League. The Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) is the Australian women's domestic Twenty20 cricket competition.



20. India bag four medals at TAFISA World Games

Indian wrestlers won four medals, including a gold, at the sixth edition of the TAFISA World Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Dalmiya bagged the Gold medal in 60kg category after defeating Muhammad Sahan of Azerbaijan 4-1 in the final clash. Similarly, Luv Singh won a silver in the 80-kg category after he lost to Muhammad Alim of Azerbaijan. Naveen Kumar defeated Oleg of Lithuania 5-2 to take the bronze medal in the 90-kg category. In the super heavyweight (90 kg) category, India's Josil defeated Mustafa Sultani of Afghanistan 3-1 to settle for the bronze in the tournament.



21. Saina Nehwal appointed member of IOC's Athletes' Commission

Indian star shuttler Saina Nehwal has been appointed as a member of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Commission. Saina has received a letter to the effect from the IOC President Thomas Bach.

The Athletes' Commission is chaired by Angela Ruggiero and it comprises nine vice presidents and 10 other members. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for November 6. Luis Scola (Argentina), Aya Medany (Egypt) and Nadin Dawani (Jordan) were also appointed along with Saina Nehwal.



22. Novak Djokovic retains top spot in ATP rankings

Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic has retained the top spot with 12,900 points in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings. Andy Murray stood second in the ranking with 10,485 points. Djokovic lost 640 points after he was defeated by Spain's Roberto Bautista in the Shanghai Masters' semi-final clash.

Scottish player Andy Murray garnered 640 points after winning Shanghai Masters on Sunday to be at second spot with 10,485 points.



23. Morinari Watanabe elected President of International Gymnastics Federation

Morinari Watanabe of Japan has been elected as the President of the International Gymnastics Federation at the world governing body's congress in Tokyo. He defeated France's Georges Guelzec in the race for the post. Watanabe will replace Italy's Bruno Grandi.

Currently, he is the Secretary General of the Japan Gymnastics Association. Watanabe becomes the first Asian to head the FIG. He joined the FIG executive committee in 2013.



24. India achieved its highest FIFA ranking in six years

The Indian national football team have been ranked 137th in the latest FIFA ranking, the best in over six years. India jumped 11 places after they earned 230 points in September.

In August 2010, India was ranked 137th which stayed India's best-ever FIFA ranking since then. India now stands above the likes of Hong Kong, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Thailand. At present, Argentina tops the FIFA World Rankings, followed by Germany and Brazil.



25. Indian Boxing Council inducted into WBO

The Indian Boxing Council has been inducted into the World Boxing Organisation with voting rights in the WBO's annual convention at Puerto Rico. IBC is a licensing body for the country's professional boxers.

This paves the way for Indian Boxers to participate in WBO Events and be eligible to compete for WBO Asia Pacific as well as WBO World Titles. The President of IBC is Brig. PKM Raja and the Founder Chairman of WBO is Luis Batista Salas. Vijender Singh is the reigning WBO Asia-Pacific super middleweight champion.



26. Indian Railways won the World Railway Shooting Championship Cup

Indian Railways have won the World Railway Shooting Championship Cup for the first time held at Saint Mandrier, France after they won a total 10 medals – 5 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze. They had been the runners up team last time.

Medal details:

- Swapnil Kusale won Gold in 50 Meter Rifle Event.
- Ayonika Paul won Gold in Air Rifle.
- Jitendra Vibhute won Gold in Air Pistol.



27. Luis Suarez received second European Golden Shoe of his career

Luis Suarez received a second European Golden Shoe of his career after becoming the leading scorer in Europe's top domestic leagues last season. The 29-year old Barcelona forward scored 40 goals in 35 La Liga starts, helping Barca retain the Spanish title. He ended the 2015-16 campaign with 59 goals in 52 appearances for Barca in all competitions.



His other golden shoe award came with Liverpool in the 2013-14 when he scored 31 times. He shared the prize that year with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo.

28. North Korea won the 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

North Korea's women's U-17 team beat Japan in penalty kicks to win the 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. It was the second U-17 Women's World Cup title for North Korea having won it in 2008 earlier.



The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is an international association football tournament for female players under the age of 17. The tournament is held in even-numbered years, starting in 2008. This year it was held in Jordan.

29. The Mascot for 2018 FIFA World Cup unveiled

The Official Mascot for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia was finally revealed. Zabivaka, a wolf, was declared as the Official Mascot for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia.



Zabivaka means "the one who scores" in Russian, a very suitable name for the mascot who radiates fun, charm and confidence. Zabivaka received 53 percent of the more than one million votes cast in a poll, beating a tiger (27 percent) and a cat (20 percent).

30. India beat Iran to win the Kabaddi World Cup

India has lifted the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup, beating Iran 38-29 in a thrilling final played at Ahmedabad. India with a strong comeback performance in the second half beat a resolute Iranian side to become the World Champions for the third time.

With a brilliant second half performance by Ajay Thakur, India beat Iran in the title clash. This was India's 3rd World Cup in the Standard Style version of Kabaddi.



31. Goa becomes the third city to host FIFA U-17 World Cup

Goa joined Kochi and Navi Mumbai as one of the venues to host the next year's FIFA Under-17 World Cup after it received the green signal from a high-level delegation of football's world body.

A 13-member FIFA delegation alongwith the Local Organising Committee expressed satisfaction with the work put in at the venue and ratified Goa as the third venue to host the event after Kochi and Navi Mumbai.



32. Lewis Hamilton won the 2016 US Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton won the F1 United States Grand Prix. Nico Rosberg finished second while Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo came third in the race followed by Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel. Hamilton stands 26 points behind his Mercedes team mate Rosberg with 75 available in the remaining three races for the championship.

Hamilton has now won 50 races in his career, with only Alain Prost (51) and Michael Schumacher (91) having won more than that number in the history of the sport.



33. Renato Sanches won the 2016 European Golden Boy Award

Renato Sanches of Portugal has won the European Golden Boy award. He plays as a midfielder for Bayern Munich. Sanches beat Manchester United and England striker Marcus Rashford for the award and joined the likes of Wayne Rooney, Raheem Sterling, Lionel Messi and Sergio Aguero. He became the first Portuguese player to win the award.



This award is run by the Italian newspaper Tuttosport. Sanches also won the Young Player of the Tournament award in the Euro-2016.

34. FIFA U-17 WC to be played from October 6 to 28 in 2017

The Under-17 football World Cup will be held from October 6 to 28, 2017 in India across six cities - Kochi, Pune, New Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati and Margao.



The draw for the mega-event will take place on July 7. This will be the first-time India will host a FIFA-accredited football tournament. The 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup will be the 17th edition of the FIFA U-17 World Cup, contested by the under 17 national teams of the member associations of FIFA.

35. Union Ministry announced Financial Assistance to Sports in 'Others' Category

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Vijay Goel announced resuming financial assistance to sports disciplines in 'others' category. There are 26 sports disciplines in 'others' category. The participants in the meeting unanimously supported inclusion of 'sports' in the concurrent list of the Constitution to promote sports in India.



The Minister stressed the need to scrupulously observe the norms of good governance and transparency as prescribed in the sports code and bring out a quarterly journal to highlight the achievements of sportspersons in the country.

36. Punjab Directorate bagged NCC National Games – 2016

The Minister of State for Defence Dr. Subhash Bhamre reviewed an impressive march past of the young NCC Cadets at the Garrison Parade Ground, Delhi Cantt which marked the culmination of twelve-day long NCC National Games – 2016. The overall Champions Trophy was given to Punjab Directorate.



The games aim to provide the talented sportsmen among the cadet exposure of a major sporting event while preparing them with the requisite matching temperament towards furthering their sporting careers. The ceremony was attended by the NCC cadets from 17 directorates all over India.

37. International Medal in Roller Skating at Asian Championships bagged by Indians

Indian veteran roller skaters Dhanush Babu, Vikram Ingale and Nikhilesh Tabhane bagged India's first ever senior international roller skating medal, by securing the bronze medal in the 3000m team relay event held in Lishui, competing with 5 teams. The topmost position was secured by South Korea (gold medalist team), followed by China at 2nd position, India (3rd), Iran (4th) and Indonesia at 5th spot.



In the Indian history of roller skating, this is for the first time in 2 decades that a medal has been secured in a racing event by Indians.