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SEPTEMBER 2016

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Current Affairs September 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 **September 2016**. This guide helps you in preparation for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade etc.

Audience

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

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

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APPOINTMENTS

1. Ashok Chawla appointed as the new Chancellor of Teri University

The Teri University officially appointed former Finance Secretary Ashok Chawla as the new Chancellor. The University also ended its official association with the Head and former Chancellor R K Pachauri, who was accused of molesting a female colleague in 2015.

The new Chancellor Chawla is also the Chairman of Teri since February 2016. A former head of the Competition Commission of India and Finance Secretary, Chawla is also the Chairman of the National Stock Exchange.

His work experience of over 40 years spans various sectors in the Government of India and in international agencies.



2. Ajei Gopal named the CEO of ANSYS

Indian American Ajei Gopal has been appointed as the CEO of Pennsylvania-based ANSYS with effect from January 1, 2017. He has been appointed as the President and Chief Operating Officer of the company effective immediately and will continue to serve on the Board.

ANSYS' Chief Executive Officer, James Cashman, will become Chairman of the Board of Directors, effective from January 2017. ANSYS produces engineering simulation software used for testing product designs



across a wide spectrum of industries including rockets and wearable technology.

3. SBI Mutual Fund appointed Anuradha Rao as its MD & CEO

Anuradha Rao has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive of SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd effective from August 25, 2016. She took over from Dinesh Kumar Khara, who has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India (Associate & Subsidiaries).



Before taking up this new assignment, she was the Deputy Managing Director at SBI handling the New Business Portfolio. She has also worked as the Chief General Manager of personal banking at the bank. SBI Mutual Fund ranks amongst the top 5 fund houses in the country.

4. Mukund Chaudhari takes charge as the CMD of MOIL

Mukund Chaudhari has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of MOIL (Manganese Ore India Limited) Ltd. Chaudhari has been appointed for a period of five years from the date of assumption of charge on or after September 1, 2016, or till the date of his superannuation.



He was inducted in the Board of Directors of MOIL in August 2012 as the Director (Finance). MOIL is the largest producer of Manganese Ore in the country with an annual production of 1.1 million tonnes (MT) and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel.

5. Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao appointed as the acting Governor of Tamil Nadu

Maharashtra Governor Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao has been sworn-in as the Acting Governor of Tamil Nadu at a ceremony held in Raj Bhavan by the Chief Justice of Madras High Court, S K Kaul. He has been given the additional charge of Tamil Nadu as the tenure of K Rosaiah as the Governor ended on August 30.



He was the Union Minister of State for Internal Affairs in 1999. He was elected to the 12th and 13th Lok Sabha from Karimnagar in Telangana as a Bharatiya Janata Party candidate.

6. Mr. K K Aggarwal elected as the National President of IMA

Mr. K. K. Aggarwal has been unanimously elected as the National President of the Indian Medical Association for the year 2016-17. He is currently the Secretary General of the IMA. Dr. R. N. Tandon will take over as the Secretary General. Dr. Ravi Wankhedkar from Maharashtra will be the National President for the year 2017-18.



Indian Medical Association is the only representative, National Voluntary Organization of doctors and has over 2,53,000 doctors as its members through more than 1,650 active local branches spread across the country.

7. Religare Enterprises appoints Sunil Godhwani as their CEO

Religare Enterprises has appointed Sunil Godhwani as CEO of the company. He was re-designated as Whole Time Director and CEO of the company for the remaining period of tenure.



The decision was taken at the company's annual general meeting (AGM), which was presided over by Malvinder Mohan Singh, Non-Executive Chairman. Sunil Godhwani has been the Managing Director since 9th April 2007 and Chairman since 6th April 2010 of the company. Religare has one million clients in India and more than 1700 offices across India.

8. CK Asnani took charge as the CMD of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited

The Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), an undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy has appointed CK Asnani as its Chairman and Managing Director. UCIL is a Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Atomic Energy with a special standing at the forefront of Nuclear Power.



Prior to this appointment, Mr. Asnani was working as a director in the Indian Rare Earths Limited. He has also been associated with the Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad.

9. BJP veteran OP Kohli took additional responsibility as the MP Governor

Om Prakash Kohli took additional charge as the 29th Governor of Madhya Pradesh and administered the oath in the presence of Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court and several cabinet ministers. He is presently holding the responsibility of Gujarat Governor as well. Besides being a BJP member, Kohli is an educationalist and an author.



A lecturer for nearly four decades, veteran political thinker Om Prakash Kohli (aged 81) was chief of the Delhi BJP unit between 1999 and 2000. He was Rajya Sabha member from 1994 to 2000.

10. Henkel appoints Shilip Kumar as the President of its India Business

German Consumer Giant and FMCG major Henkel has appointed Shilip Kumar as the President of its India business, replacing Jeremy Hunter, who has moved to Shanghai as President - Henkel China.



Mr. Shilip Kumar will hold the responsibility of adhesives and beauty care businesses of Henkel Adhesives Technologies India Private Limited (Henkel India).

Prior to Henkel, Kumar worked with Dow Chemicals as the Business Director for Dow coating materials in South Asia. Later in 2011, he was appointed as the Business Director of the transportation and metal SBU (strategic business unit) of India, in Henkel.

11. Former IAS Officer J Satyanarayana to take duties as a part time UIDAI Chief

Former IAS officer J Satyanarayana of the 1977 batch has been appointed as a part time chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Besides him, technocrats Rajesh Jain and Anand Deshpande have also been appointed as part time members of the UIDAI. Their appointment has been confirmed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.



Mr. Satyanarayana, an IAS officer of 1977 batch, is from Andhra Pradesh cadre, retired as Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

12. IDBI AMC appoints Dilip Mandal as their MD & CEO

IDBI mutual Fund has appointed Mr. Dilip Kumar Mandal as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr. Mandal has over three decades of experience in various fields of financial services. Prior to joining IDBI AMC, Mandal was Chief General Manager & Zonal Head of Retail Banking Group, IDBI Bank, covering the states of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, and based at Bhubaneswar.



IDBI Bank is an Indian government-owned financial service company, formerly known as Industrial Development Bank of India, headquartered in Mumbai, India.

13. Anoop K Sharma takes charge as the new CMD of the Shipping Corporation of India

Anoop Kumar Sharma has taken charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) with effect from September 12, 2016 for a period of three years.



As the country's premier shipping line, the SCI owns and operates around one-third of the Indian tonnage and has operating interests in practically all areas of the shipping business, servicing both national and international trades. Its owned fleet includes bulk carriers, crude oil tankers, product tankers, container vessels, offshore supply vessels, etc.

14. Hiroshi Nakagawa takes over as the Chairman of Isuzu Motors India

Isuzu Motors India Private Limited (IMI) appointed Mr. Hiroshi Nakagawa as the Chairman of IMI. Mr. Hiroyasu Miura, the erstwhile Chairman of IMI will take over as the Chairman & Managing Director of Isuzu Engineering Business Centre India Private Limited (IEBCI).



Mr. Miura will continue as a Director at IMI and Mr. Nakagawa will also assume the role of a Director at IEBCI. Mr. Hiroshi Nakagawa has spent over 35 years in the Automobile business.

15. Narayana Murthy named the Director of RCI, DRDO

Scientist BHVS Narayana Murthy has been appointed as the Director of Research Centre Imarat (RCI), DRDO, Hyderabad. He is an alumni of NIT, Warangal. He has won several awards like the Astronautical Society of India Rocket and Related Technologies Award, AGNI Award for Excellence in Self Reliance as a team Leader, DRDO Scientist of the Year Award, etc.



The RCI is a premier DRDO laboratory of APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex. The lab is responsible for Research and Development of Missile Systems, Guided Weapons and advanced Avionics for Indian Armed Forces.

16. Nadia Murad Basee Taha appointed as UN Goodwill Ambassador

Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Nadia Murad Basee Taha, who survived trafficking at the hands of ISIL, was appointed as the UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking. The appointment marks the first time a survivor of atrocities is bestowed with this distinction.



Ms. Murad was recently named one of Time Magazine's "100 Most Influential People of 2016". During her Ambassadorship, Nadia will focus on advocacy initiatives and raise awareness around the plight of the countless victims of trafficking in persons, especially refugees, women and girls.

17. Atul Kumar Goel takes charge as the ED in UBI

Shri Atul Kumar Goel assumed charge as the Executive Director of Union Bank of India. Prior to his elevation as an Executive Director, he was the General Manager and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at India's oldest Bank, Allahabad Bank.



The Central Government appointed Mr. Goel through a notification dated September 15. The appointment is for a period of three years.

Shri Atul Kumar Goel is one of the youngest and dynamic executives in the Banking Industry.

18. V K Sharma takes additional charge as the LIC chairman

V K Sharma, Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation, has taken additional charge as the Chairman of the Corporation. He will replace S K Roy who has resigned. Sharma had joined LIC in 1981 as a direct recruit officer. Before becoming Managing Director, Sharma was the Chief Executive Officer for LIC's housing finance subsidiary.



With an estimated total investment of Rs. 20,00,000 crores, LIC is the country's single largest financial institution. Its chairman is appointed by the Cabinet Committee of the Economic Affairs.

19. Indian-Origin South African Ravi Reddy is the New Head of Global Blood Service

An Indian-origin South African, Ravi Reddy, currently the Chief Operations Officer of the South African National Blood Service (SANBS), will head the International Society for Blood Transfusion, which is headquartered in Amsterdam.



He became the first person from the African continent to head a Global Organization of Medicine Professionals working for the safety of blood transfusion worldwide. He has served in various capacities for more than three decades after starting out as a volunteer at the age of 16 at SANBS.

20. Monika Kapil Mohta appointed as the Ambassador to Sweden

Monika Kapil Mohta has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden. She is currently the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. She is expected to take up her assignment shortly. The two countries have a cordial relationship and growing economic cooperation.



Mohta is a 1985 batch Indian Foreign Services officer. She has served as the ambassador of India to Poland and Lithuania in the past. Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mumbai on February 13.

21. Facebook appointed Anand Chandrasekaran for its Messenger app

Facebook has appointed former Chief Product Officer at Snapdeal, Anand Chandrasekaran, for a strategic role for its Messenger app.

Chandrasekaran has served as the Senior Director of mobile and search products at Yahoo. He also worked with Airtel and Snapdeal in India. Chandrasekaran co-founded Aeroprise, a personalized mobile applications software company that was acquired by BMC Software Inc. in 2011. He is also emerged as an active angel investor and has backed more than a dozen startups.



22. Junaid Ahmad of Bangladesh announced as the new World Bank Head in India

Junaid Ahmad of Bangladesh has been appointed as the World Bank's new Country Director for India. He will replace Onno Ruhl after he completed his four-year term.

India is the World Bank Group's largest client. The Bank's India portfolio includes lending of \$2.8 billion from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and \$1.0 billion from the International Development Association (IDA). As of June 2016, the Bank's net commitments to the country stood at \$27 billion (IBRD \$16 billion, IDA \$11 billion) across 95 projects.



23. Justice G C Gupta sworn-in as the Chief Justice of Calcutta HC

Justice G C Gupta has been administered oath as the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court by the West Bengal Governor Mr. Kesari Nath Tripathi. A sitting judge of Calcutta High Court has been made Chief Justice after almost 30 years, when Justice Chittotosh Mukherjee became the Chief Justice of the High Court.

Justice Gupta is due to retire in December 2016. Justice Gupta was enrolled as an advocate and practiced in the Calcutta High Court for 17 years. He was appointed as a permanent judge of the Calcutta High Court on September 15, 2000.



24. Navtej Sarna appointed as the Ambassador to the US

India's High Commissioner to UK Navtej Sarna was appointed as the Ambassador to the US. Mr. Sarna, an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1980 batch, was serving as Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs before he was posted in London in January. He succeeds Arun Singh, who is due for retirement.



The Government has also appointed 1988 batch IFS officer, Taranjit Singh Sandhu as the next High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka. He will replace Yash Sinha.

25. Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad appointed as the New Chief Justice of Manipur High Court

Acting Chief Justice of Manipur High Court, Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad has been sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the High Court at Raj Bhavan in Imphal. State Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla administered him oath of office as the new Chief Justice of the High Court.



He enrolled as an Advocate in the Bihar State Bar Council, Patna on the 17th September, 1980. He was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Manipur on transfer on 1st February, 2016. Prior to that, he was Judge of the High Court of Jharkhand.

26. M.S. Sahoo appointed as the Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed M.S. Sahoo as the chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. Sahoo is currently a member at the 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.

27. IAS Officer Arun Goyal to take charge as the Additional Secretary in the GST Council

A 1985 cadre IAS officer Arun Goyal has been made in-charge as an Additional Secretary in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council. He is presently working as Additional Secretary in Project Monitoring Group, Cabinet Secretariat. The Council, chaired by Finance Minister Arun Jaitely is mandated to decide on transparent tax rate, exempted goods and the threshold limit.



An order issued by Department of Personnel and Training, approved Arun Goyal's appointment.

28. Sanjiv Singh selected by PSEB as the new Chairman of IOC

The Director of Refineries at IOC, Sanjiv Singh has been selected by PESB as the new Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd for a term of 3 years. Prior to this appointment, Singh served as an Executive Director of the Paradip Refinery Project as well as the head of IOC's Panipat Refinery. He has experience of having worked in various refineries like Mathura, Barauni and Panipat refineries.



The appointment is pending for approval to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

29. Navtej Sarna to take charge as the Indian Ambassador to the USA

Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Navtej Sarna has been appointed as the India's new ambassador to the United States replacing Arun Kumar Singh, who has retired from the service.



He has served as the ministry's spokesperson for the longest duration from 2002 to 2008. Prior to this appointment, he has also served as the Additional Secretary in-charge of International Organisations and as India's ambassador to Israel from 2008 to 2012.

30. Vijay Kelkar selected as the President of Indian Statistical Institute

Former Petroleum Secretary Vijay Kelkar has been selected as the President of the prestigious Indian Statistical Institute for a period of two years replacing former RBI Governor C Rangarajan. The appointment came after the decision of general body meeting of the institute, which functions under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.

Indian Statistical Institute is an Institute of national importance working under the aegis of Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Delhi Government.



31. Jim Yong Kim reappointed for second term as President of World Bank

Executive Directors of the World Bank agreed unanimously to reappoint Dr. Jim Yong Kim to a second five-year term as the President of the World Bank Group, beginning July 1, 2017. Executive Directors cited the achievements of the Bank Group Staff and Management during Dr. Kim's first four years in office and recognized his leadership and vision.

Jim Yong Kim is a South Korean-American physician and anthropologist. He has been serving as the 12th President of the World Bank since 1st July 2012.



32. IPS officer OP Singh took over as the new Director General of CISF

Senior IPS Officer OP Singh took over as the new Director General of CISF. Singh is a 1983-batch officer of Uttar Pradesh Cadre, who was serving as the Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). His will serve as the DG of CISF till January 2020.

He had earlier served in the SPG, CRPF and CISF. Mr. RK Pachnanda, a 1983-batch IPS officer, took over as the new DG of NDRF.

His tenure is till January 2020. On his arrival at the CISF headquarters, he was accorded a guard of honour after which senior officers briefed him.



33. Riyadh Mathew to take charge as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India

The Director of Malayala Manorama, Riyadh Mathew has been appointed as the new Chairman of Press Trust of India. Similarly, Vivek Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of the Indian Express was appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Press Trust of India.

Other board members include K.N. Shanth Kumar (Deccan Herald), Vineet Jain (Times of India), N. Ravi (The Hindu), Rajiv Verma (Hindustan Times), etc.



AWARDS

1. Bezwada Wilson, T M Krishna receive Ramon Magsaysay Award 2016

Acclaimed Carnatic Musician TM Krishna and Social Activist Bezwada Wilson received the 2016 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees. Other winners are Conchita CarpioMorales from Philippines, Dompet Dhuafa from Indonesia, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Vientiane Rescue from Laos.

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



2. Sudarsan Pattnaik won the **People's Choice Award in Moscow sand art show**

Popular sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik won the People's Choice Award for his sand sculpture titled "Mahatma Gandhi - World Peace" at the 9th Moscow Sand Sculpture Championship 2016. He has already won a gold medal for the sculpture which he created at the championship held in April 2016.

Mr. Pattnaik got 60,000 votes of a total of 80,000 votes in the People's Choice category. He has secured a place in Limca Book of Records by carving 100 sand chariots at the Puri beach. Sudarsan Pattnaik has also been honored with a Padmashri.



3. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw appointed Knight of the National Order of the French Legion of Honour

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director of Biocon has been appointed 'Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur' (Knight of the National Order of the French Legion of Honour) for her outstanding contribution and dedication to Biosciences and Research field.



The award, conferred by the President of the French Republic, is the highest civilian award for outstanding contribution in diverse fields bestowed on citizens of the world. Mazumdar has been listed as the 77th most powerful woman in the world by Forbes in 2016.

4. Jan Shikshan Sansthan conferred with the 2016 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy

The Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Malappuram, has won the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy 2016 for its initiatives in applying new technology in literacy. UNESCO appreciated the innovations such as Braille applications and the Talking Pen used by the JSS.



The award consists of \$20,000, diploma as well as a silver medal and is sponsored by China. The JSS has reached out to the weaker sections, including widows and Adivasis, with its literacy and skill-development programs. It had last year won the Saakshar Bharat Award.

5. Jackie Chan to be given an honorary Oscar

Action movie star, writer, director and martial artist Jackie Chan is set to receive an honorary Oscar statuette at the Academy's 8th Annual Governors Awards to be held in November for his "extraordinary achievements" in film. Chan, 62, has starred in more than 30 martial arts films and altogether more than 200 films.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences also voted to give honorary Oscars to British editor Anne V Coates, casting director Lynn Stalmaster and documentary maker Frederick Wiseman.



6. LIFFI: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Tannishtha Chatterjee won Best Actors award

Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Tannishtha Chatterjee were named Best Actors at the debut edition of the Lonavla International Film Festival India (LIFFI). Anant Mahadevan won the Best Director honour for his film "Rough Book".

Nawazuddin won the Best Actor (Male) award for bringing alive the struggle of real life hero Dashrath Manjhi in Manjhi - The Mountain Man. Tannishtha shared the Best Actor (Female) Award for her portrayal of a teacher in "Rough Book". Bhagirathi Bai Kadam shared the award for her Assamese film Scarecrow.



7. Thithi wins the Best Film Award at the first BRICS Film Festival

Kannada film Thithi was conferred the Best Film award at the closing ceremony of the 1st BRICS Film Festival in New Delhi. Thithi has been screened in over 12 prestigious international and national film festivals.

Other awards at the festival include: Filmmaker Jianqi Huo from China won the Best Director Award for the movie Xuan Zang. Russia's Yulia Peresild received the Best Actress Award for The Battle for Sevastopol. Thabo Rametsi of South Africa clinched the Best Actor Award for his role in Kalushi, The story of Solomon Mahlangu.



8. J.C Daniel award for director K.G George

Renowned Malayalam filmmaker, K G George has been chosen for the J C Daniel Award for the year 2015 for his overall contribution to the Malayalam film industry. It is the state's highest honor for film personalities and carries a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh and a citation.

It is presented annually by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy to commemorate the contribution of Indian Filmmaker J. C. Daniel, who is often regarded as the "Father of Malayalam cinema".



9. Former Indian team cricket captain Anjum Chopra becomes the first Indian woman to be honoured with a MCC life membership

Anjum Chopra became the first woman cricketer from India to be presented an honorary life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). Other Indian cricket players, awarded with MCC lifetime membership include Virender Sehwag and Zaheer Khan.

The 39 year old 'Padam Shree' winner Anjum Chopra took her retirement as a player in 2012 and is presently busy with the assignments as a cricket analyst on television and as a commentator on the Indian Premier League (IPL).



10. Wrestling Champion Sushil Kumar nominated for Padma Bhushan

Olympic-medalist wrestler Sushil Kumar has been nominated for the India's third-highest civilian honor 'Padma Bhushan' by the Wrestling Federation of India. Other players recommended by the federation includes female wrestler Alka Tomar and Sushil Kumar's coach Yashvir Singh for Padma Shree.



Sushil is a World Championship gold medalist, a two-time Commonwealth Games gold medalist, four-time Commonwealth champion and is the only Indian athlete to have won two individual Olympic medals – a bronze in the 2008 Beijing Games and silver in the 2012 London Games.

11. Philippine revenge drama wins Golden Lion Award at Venice Film Festival

Philippines film *Ang Babaeng Humayo* (The Woman Who Left), won the Golden Lion for Best Film Award at the 73 Venice Film Festival.



Directed by Lav Diaz, the film tells the story of a schoolteacher's thirst for revenge and her feelings of forgiveness after 30 years in jail for a crime she did not commit.

Notable winners in other categories include:

- Silver Lion Director (tie): Andre Konchalovsky for *Paradise* and Amat Escalante for *The Untamed*
- Jury Grand Prize: *Nocturnal Animals*
- Special Jury Prize: *The Bad Batch*
- Best Actor: Oscar Martinez for *The Distinguished Citizen*
- Best Actress: Emma Stone for *La La Land*

12. Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Awards presented

The 22nd Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival concluded at the Rabindra Mandap auditorium with the presentation of the prestigious awards.

Renowned Odia cine actress Jharana Das and renowned Odishi dance guru Kishore Kumar Mohanty were honored with the prestigious Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2016 for lifetime achievement.



Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Prativa Samman 2016 for exceptional diligence and accomplishment was awarded to Rajib Bhattacharya (Odissi), Madhusmita Mohanty (Odissi), P. Praveen Kumar (Bharatanatyam) and Rupak Kumar Parida (Odissi vocal).

13. T R Zeliang receives Pangkor Dialogue Award in Malaysia

Nagaland Chief Minister TR Zeliang received Pangkor Dialogue Award 2016 at Ipoh city in Malaysia for the efforts made by the people of the State for Environmental Preservation and Promotion.

Zeliang was awarded by the organisers, who were Institute Darul Rudzuan and Malaysian government. The Chief Minister narrated the efforts of the Naga people to make Nagaland the Amur Falcon capital of the world. He also explained how Nagas lived in close proximity and are dependent on nature.



14. Indian-origin scientist Ramesh Raskar bagged the Lemelson-MIT Prize

An Indian-origin scientist, Ramesh Raskar has bagged the prestigious Lemelson-MIT Prize worth 5 lakh US dollars for his groundbreaking inventions to create solutions to improve lives globally.

The annual Lemelson-MIT Prize honors outstanding mid-career inventors improving the world through technological invention and demonstrating a commitment to mentorship in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Ramesh founded the Camera Culture Group at the MIT Media Lab in 2008, where he focused on creating imaging devices for analyzing light transport in computational imaging.



15. Mumbai-based writer wins FON South Asia Short Story Award

Mumbai-based writer Meghna Pant is the winner of Kumaon Literary Festival's FON (Fellows of Nature) South Asia Short Story Award in Nature Writing in October for her short story "People of the Sun." She will be felicitated with the award as well as a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh in October this year.

The annual travelling literary festival gives this award in partnership with the French Institute of India and Wildlife Trust of India to "Revive nature writing and bring the spotlight on critical environment issues like climate change through this form of literature."



16. Morgan Freeman, Mel Brooks among 2015 National Medal of Arts recipients

Morgan Freeman, Mel Brooks, and celebrity chef José Andrés are among the recipients of the 2015 National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medals unveiled by the White House. The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given by the U.S. Government to artists and arts patrons.



Other winners this year include composer Philip Glass, actress and singer Audra McDonald, author Sandra Cisneros and painter Jack Whitten. Musician Santiago Jimenez Jr. and playwright Moises Kaufman are also on the list.

17. Subramanian Swamy honoured with the Tamil Ratna in US

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy has been honored with the 'Tamil Ratna' award by a body of Tamil diaspora, America Tamil Sangam in New York, USA. He was honoured for fighting corruption and working for more transparency in the functioning of the Government.



The previous Tamil Ratna awardees include Oscar Winning composer AR Rahman and movie director Bharathi Raja. Subramanian Swamy currently serves as a member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament.

18. Ewan McGregor selected to receive the Humanitarian Award

Actor-filmmaker Ewan McGregor will be presented with the Britannia Humanitarian Award at this year's British Academy Britannia Awards by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, Los Angeles.



The Britannia Humanitarian Award is presented to an industry name "who has used the art form of the moving image or their position in the entertainment industry to create positive social change, and actively shine a light on important humanitarian issues".

19. Indian-American Abraham Verghese selected for the prestigious 2015 National Humanities Medal

Indian-American physician-author Abraham Verghese has been selected for the prestigious 2015 National Humanities Medal to be awarded by the White House. He is currently a professor of medicine at the Stanford School of Medicine.



Verghese has authored several acclaimed books, including "My Own Country" and "Cutting for Stone". US President Barack Obama conferred the honour upon Verghese, along with 11 others and the recipients of the 2015 National Medal of Arts at ceremony on September 21st.

20. Dinesh Bharadia wins the 2016 Marconi Society Paul Baran Young Scholar Award

Indian American researcher Dinesh Bharadia has won the prestigious Young Scholar award of the Marconi Society for his contribution to send and receive radio (wireless) signals, including mobile telephony and data on the same channel (wave). He is an alumni of IIT Kanpur and The Stanford University and now works at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



Bharadia's research disproved a long-held assumption that it is generally not possible for a radio to receive and transmit on the same frequency band because of the interference that results.

21. Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma conferred with the Arjuna Award

Sports Minister Vijay Goel conferred Arjuna Awards on cricketers Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane at a function in New Delhi. Sharma was given the award for 2015 and Rahane for 2016. Earlier, the two cricketers could not receive the awards from President Pranab Mukherjee as they were participating in international tournaments.



Both the cricketers were given a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress and prize money of Rs. 5 lakhs. The Arjuna Award is given for consistent performances over four years.

22. Indian-Origin Lord Narendra Babubhai Patel won the **'Lifetime Achievement Award' in UK**

Indian-origin British obstetrician and member of the UK Parliament, Lord Narendra Babubhai Patel has been honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' during the Asian Achievers Awards for his work in the medical profession and public life in Britain over the years by Asian Business Publications Limited (ABPL).



Other winners include: Selva Pankaj, CEO of Regent Group, which is a London-based education skills and training development group. Mr. Manjit Gill, CEO of Binti that is a social enterprise that works for women's causes in India and Africa. Paralympian Ryan Raghoo, a long jumper who suffers from cerebral palsy.

23. ISRO, Katrina, Juhi Chawla honoured with Priyadarshini Global Awards

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Actress Katrina Kaif as well as Juhi Chawla received the Priyadarshini Global Awards 2016. Katrina was presented "Smita Patil Memorial Award for Best Actor" (part of the overall awards), while Chawla was honoured for her outstanding role in promoting social causes. She had filed a petition in the Bombay High Court against mobile tower radiation.



The award is instituted by a socio-cultural and educational organization Priyadarshini Academy and given to personalities and organizations for contribution in their respective fields.

24. M Leelavathi to be awarded with N Mohanan Suvarna Mudra Award 2016

Renowned Malayalam critic and academician M Leelavathi will be awarded with the prestigious N Mohanan Suvarna Mudra Award 2016 for her contributions to Malayalam language and literature. The award has been instituted in the memory of famous short story writer N Mohanan.



An expert panel, comprising of journalist's M G Radhakrishnan and M Saritha Varma and Athmaraman selected Leelavathi for the biennial award considering her contributions to Malayalam language and literature. The award would be presented to Leelavathi on October 3. The award comprises of a gold medal of one sovereign and is given once in every two years.

25. The 68th Primetime Emmy Awards announced

The 68th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony was held on September 18th, 2016 at the Microsoft Theater in Downtown Los Angeles, California. The ceremony was hosted by Jimmy Kimmel.

Fantasy drama "Game of Thrones" won the Outstanding Drama Series. Political satire "Veep" won Outstanding Comedy Series. The Outstanding Variety Talk Series was won by "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver".



Other notable winners are:

- Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series: Julia Louis-Dreyfus as President Selina Meyer on Veep.
- Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series: Jeffrey Tambor as Maura Pfefferman on Transparent.
- Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series: Rami Malek as Elliot Alderson on Mr. Robot.
- Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series: Tatiana Maslany as Sarah Manning, Alison Hendrix, Cosima Niehaus, Beth Childs, Rachel Duncan and MK on Orphan Black.

26. Lata Mangeshkar to be conferred with Bangabibhushan award

Legendary playback singer, Lata Mangeshkar, will be conferred with the "Bangabibhushan award for 2016" by the West Bengal State Government in recognition of her contribution to Bengali songs. She will be conferred with the award after Durga Puja this year.

The West Bengal government had started to confer Bangabibhushan Award to honour the services of personalities in various fields since 2011. Danseuse Amala Shankar was the first person to receive the award.



27. Aung San Suu Kyi received Humanitarian Award

Nobel laureate and Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been honored as the 2016 humanitarian of the year at the Harvard Foundation. She received the foundation's Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award.

Suu Kyi, elected head of Myanmar's Government in April was placed under house arrest in 1989 for protesting against the country's dictatorship and served 15 years in detention. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.



28. Shubha Mudgal to receive 'LalitArpan Samman'

Classical Singer Shubha Mudgal will be honoured with this year's 'LalitArpan Samman' during the 15th edition of LalitArpan festival. The award is given to those artists who have consistently worked on promoting classic art in different forms. Mudgal is also a Padma Shri recipient.

The two-day festival, dedicated to the "Nayikas of Vidyapati", who was a Maithili poet and a Sanskrit writer. This festival will also acknowledge the artist couple Paramjit and Arpita Singh.

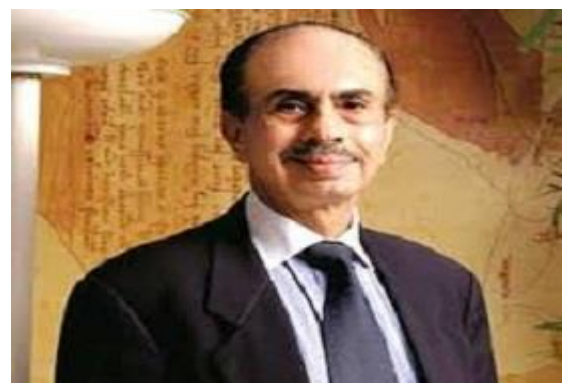


29. Adi Godrej conferred with the Clinton Global Citizen Award

Industrialist Adi Godrej was conferred with the 10th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Award for leadership in business. The award recognizes Godrej's "leadership in transforming the intersection of business".

Other winners are:

- Leadership in Public Service: Juan Manuel Santos Calderón (President, Republic of Colombia)
- Leadership in Civil Society: Hawa Abdi (Founder, Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation)
- Leadership in Philanthropy: Jon Bon Jovi (Chairman, JBJ Soul Foundation)
- Leadership in Civil Society: Nadia Murad (Yazidi Human Rights Activist and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador, Nadia Initiative)



30. Sanjay Dutta, Ritesh Sarothiya selected for the Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards

Range officer Sanjay Dutta of Belakoba Forest Range Jalpaiguri in West Bengal and Assistant Conservator Ritesh Sarothiya of Madhya Pradesh State Forest Service have been selected as winners of the 2016 Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards.

The award honors individuals engaging in exemplary law enforcement actions to protect wildlife. The honor is named in the memory of Bavin, the late Chief of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Law Enforcement.



31. 2016 Right Livelihood Award announced

The Laureates of this year's Right Livelihood Award, widely referred to as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize' are:

- Syria Civil Defence (The White Helmets) – 'For their outstanding humanitarian engagement in rescuing civilians from the destruction of the Syrian civil war'.
- Egypt's Mozn Hassan and Nazra for Feminist Studies.
- Russia's Svetlana Gannushkina, 'For her decades-long commitment to promoting human rights and justice for refugees'.
- Cumhuriyet – a leading independent newspaper in Turkey.



The Right Livelihood Award honours and supports courageous people and organizations offering visionary and exemplary solutions to the root causes of global problems.

32. First Jesse Owens Award honour for Muhammad Ali

The first Jesse Owens Olympic Spirit Award will honor the inspiration of society, Late Muhammad Ali. Jesse Owens' granddaughter, Marlene Dortch, will present the award at Best of the Games Awards Ceremony to Ali's widow, Lonnie. This prestigious award is to be presented yearly to honor people who have served as an inspiration in the society.

Late Muhammad Ali won the Gold Medal at the Rome 1960 Olympics, then took three World Heavyweight Championships in 1964, 1974 and 1978.



33. Uttam Singh to be honoured with the 'Lata Mangeshkar Award for Lifetime Achievement'

Veteran Music Director and Violinist Uttam Singh has been named for this year's 'LataMangeshkar Award for Lifetime Achievement' of the Maharashtra Government. The award carries a citation, a trophy and Rs. 5,00,000 in cash.

He has bagged several awards and honours during his musical career, including the International Indian Film Academy Award, Filmfare Award and Screen Award for the Best Music Director (all for "Gadar: EkPrem Katha" in 2002), Filmfare Award ("Dil to Paagal Hai", 1997), Screen Award and Zee Cine Award (for "Pinjar").



34. Tirupati Airport Awarded as the **“Best Tourist Friendly Airport”** under the category for **“State Annual Excellence Awards”**

The Airports Authority of India’s Tirupati Airport has been awarded as the “Best Tourist Friendly Airport” under the category for “State Annual Excellence Awards for the year 2015-16” by Andhra Pradesh Tourism. This was announced on the eve of the World Tourism Day by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu at Bhawani Islands, Vijayawada.



The State Annual Tourism Excellence Awards under various segments of Travel and Tourism Industry are awarded by the Department of Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh for maintaining excellent Customer friendly relations with tourists and passengers.

35. Rs. 90 Lakh Cash Awards for Rio Paralympics 2016 Medal Winners Announced by M/O Social Justice & Empowerment

Cash awards of a total of Rs. 90 lakhs for the Rio Paralympics 2016 Medal Winners have been announced by Shri Thawarchand Gehlot, who is the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment under the Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP) scheme.



Gold Medal Winner Shri Mariyappan Thangavelu and Shri Devendra Jhaharia will be awarded a Rs. 30 lakh cash prize, Silver medallist Ms. Deepa Malik will be facilitated with Rs. 20 lakhs and Shri Varun Singh Bhati will be honoured with Rs. 10 lakhs for winning bronze medal at the Rio Paralympics 2016.

36. Prof Kalakaluri Enoch honoured with the prestigious Literary Moortidevi Award for his novel Anantajivanam

The 29th Moortidevi Award of Bharatiya Jnanpith for the year 2015 was honoured to the famous Telugu author Kalakaluri Enoch for his novel, Anantajivanam. The novel 'Anantajivanam' depicts the struggle of a weak, downtrodden and common man from Rayalseema in the face of a cyclone.

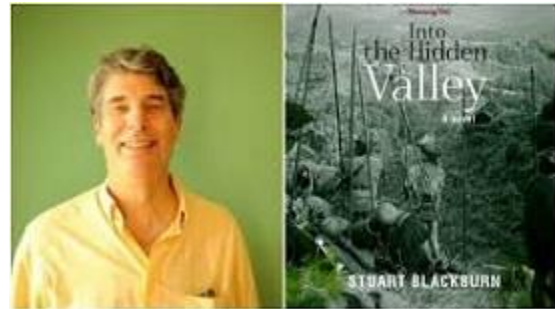
The award was presented by veteran artist Dr. Vatsyayan, who appreciated the author's excellent way of presenting the struggle of the people.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Stuart Blackburn's Novel 'Into the Hidden Valley' wins MM Bennetts Award

A book titled 'Into the Hidden Valley' penned by Stuart Blackburn based on the story of Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh during British India, won the 2016 MM Bennetts Award for Historical Fiction in the UK. The award was presented to the author at a ceremony held at HNS Conference in Oxford.



The novel is published by Speaking Tiger. The novel explores a situation where an Arunachal tribe forcibly collides with British Empire and its impact. The novel provides situational dramatization of the colonial encounter with tribes by telling two stories, one of a British official and the other of a tribesman.

2. Chris Gayle launched his autobiography 'Six Machine' in India

West Indies batsman Chris Gayle launched his book in India. The destructive batsman has penned down his life story in an autobiography called - 'Six Machine'. The book is published by Viking - Penguin UK.



The autobiography gives a comprehensive account of the colorful life of the swashbuckling batsman, who has given many unforgettable memories to T20 cricket fans. Christopher Henry "Chris" Gayle is a Jamaican cricketer.

3. Uttarakhand governor releases Nagrath's book 'Shanti Ki Talash Mein Zindagi'

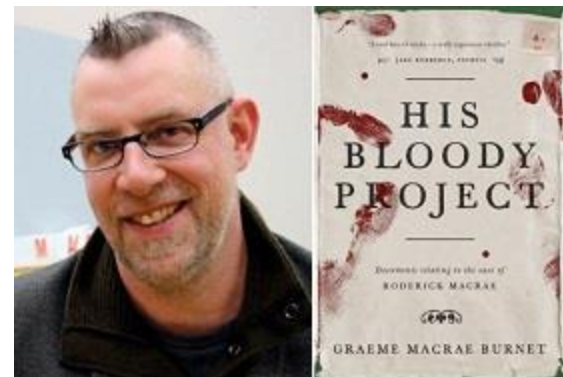
Uttarakhand Governor KK Paul released a book titled 'Shanti Ki Talash Mein Zindagi' written by Dr Radhika Nagrath. The book is a philosophical treatise written in Hindi language incorporating interesting examples and anecdotes from day-to-day life.



Some other books authored by Radhika Nagrath are - The Carnival of Peace, The Carnival of Peace: Kumbh Teertham Haridwaram and Swami Vivekananda: The Known Philosopher, The Unknown Poet.

4. Macrae Burnet shortlisted for Man Booker Prize for his Novel "His Bloody Project"

British Author Graeme Macrae Burnet has been shortlisted for this year's Man Booker prize for his novel "His Bloody Project". His book reached the final six. Burnet lays out the mind of a killer in a courtroom drama in his novel. The winner, who will be announced on October 25, will receive 50,000 pounds.

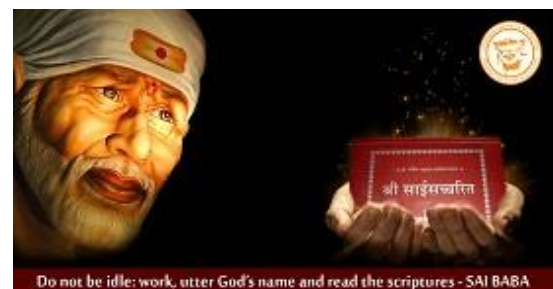


The other five books shortlisted are:

- The Sellout by Paul Beatty
- Hot Milk by Deborah Levy
- Eileen by Ottessa Moshfegh
- All That Man Is by David Szalay
- Do Not Say We Have Nothing by Madeleine Thien

5. Malaysian envoy releases translated book on Sai Baba

The Consul General of Malaysia in India, Eldeen Husaini Muhammad Hashim, released the translated version of 'Sai Charitra Granth', a book on the life of Sai Baba in Shirdi, Maharashtra. The book is translated into Malay by a social outfit called 'I love Sai'.

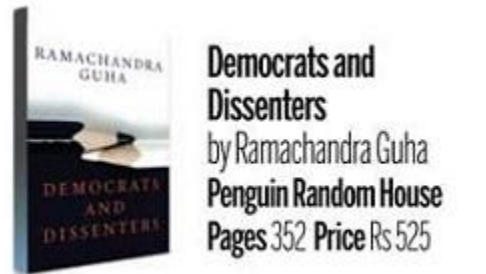


Sri Sai Gurucharitra is a biography on the life of Sai Baba of Shirdi, written by his devotee Ganpatrao Dattatreya Sahasra-buddhe, better known as Das Ganu Maharaj.

6. Democrats and Dissenters authored by Ramachandra Guha released

A book titled Democrats and Dissenters authored by Ramachandra Guha was released in September 2016. The book is a collection of essays on topics ranging from India's relation with its neighbors, to issues of democracy and violence within the country.

The book covers a wide range of themes such as some unique aspects of the Indian nation, challenges to tribal and minority rights, and flaws within the Indian legal framework.



COMMITTEES

1. TVSN Prasad Committee submitted its report on use of Pallet Guns

A seven-member Expert Committee under the chairmanship of T.V.S.N. Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, for exploring the other possible alternatives to pellet guns as non-lethal weapons submitted its report to the Union Government.

The panel was constituted after scores of protesters were blinded by the use of pellet guns in the Valley.

The committee in its report recommended PAVA (Pelargonic Acid Vanillyl Amide), containing an irritant chemical found in natural chilli, to be used against protesters in Kashmir. PAVA is also called pepper shots.



2. AK Sinha committee constituted to study silt in river Ganga in Bihar

The Central Government has constituted four-member expert committee to study silt in river Ganga in Bihar, headed by member of Ganga Flood Control commission A.K. Sinha. The committee will submit its report within 10 days.

The other members of the committee include Chief Engineer of Central Water Commission SK Sahu, Prof. of IIT AK Gosain and National Disaster Management Authority Member Dr. Rajnish Ranjan.



3. Dhingra Commission submits its report to Haryana Chief Minister

Justice SN Dhingra Commission set up by the Haryana government submitted its report. The commission was set up in May 2015 to probe the grant of licenses for change in land use (CLU) in four villages of Gurgaon, including the license granted to a company (Sky Light Hospitality Private Limited) owned by Robert Vadra.



The 182-page report has two parts - one part has facts, the other contains proofs. The report elaborates the manner adopted to commit irregularities and the people behind it. The four villages of Gurgaon are Shikohpur, Sikanderpur, Badah and Kherki Dhaula.

4. Government sets up panel to look into pay related anomalies

The government has set up a committee to look into various pay related anomalies arising out of the implementation of the Seventh Central Pay Commission's recommendations. The 22-member panel will be headed by Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).



According to the DoPT, the panel will have members from both the official and staff side. From the government side, it will have Member (Staff) Railway Board, secretaries of Department of Telecommunications and Department of Posts, as its members. The Centre has accepted most of the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission, to be implemented from 1st of January, 2016.

5. Arvind Panagariya led task force files report on poverty, proposes new panel on BPL

The task force headed by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya has submitted its report to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The task force was formed to prepare a road map for elimination of poverty as well as suggest strategies and anti-poverty programmes. The task force has suggested to set up a new committee to identify people below poverty line (BPL).



The task force has also suggested participation from states in defining the BPL population. The task force was supposed to submit its report by June 30, 2015.

6. Commerce & Industry Ministry sets up 8-member Task Force on Innovation

Commerce and Industry Ministry set up an eight-member Task Force on Innovation. The Team comprises of government officials and experts from private organizations. The task force will assess India's position as an innovative country and suggest measures to enhance the innovation ecosystem in India.



Innovation is widely recognized as a central driver of economic growth and development. India's ranking in Global Innovation Index (GII)-2016 jumped 15 places to 66th position.

7. Cauvery Supervisory Committee orders Karnataka to provide 3000 cusecs of water per day to Tamil Nadu for 10 days

Union water resources secretary and chairman of the Cauvery Supervisory Committee, Shashi Shekhar ordered Karnataka to release 3000 cusecs of water per day to Tamil Nadu from 21 to 30 September 2016 on the account of overruling differences between the two states.



The Karnataka government will move to Supreme Court so as to challenge the Cauvery Supervisory Committee's order, due to need for drinking and irrigation water in Karnataka whereas Tamil Nadu requested for release of water as ordered by the Cauvery water dispute tribunal.

DEATHS

1. Veteran trade union leader Sharad Rao died

Veteran trade union leader Sharad Rao passed away at the age of 78 years. Rao is acknowledged for his role in mobilizing the work force in both the organized and unorganized sectors.

He headed several unions including the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply Trust (BEST) Workers' Union and the Municipal Mazdoor Union. He also served as the leader of Mumbai Autorickshawmen's union, the largest rickshaw union in the city.



2. Australia's oldest Test Player, Len Maddocks, died

Australia's oldest former Test cricketer, Len Maddocks, passed away at the age of 90 years. He played seven Tests for Australia between 1954-56. He also played 112 first-class matches for Victoria and Tasmania.

He managed the Australian cricket team on its 1977 tour of England. He was also a national selector and a Victorian Cricket Association board director. Maddocks was also selected in the Victorian team of the 20th century and was a Cricket Victoria (CV) life member.



3. Assamese poet Nalini Dhar Bhattacharyya died

Renowned Assamese poet Nalinidhar Bhattacharyya passed away from age-old ailments at the age of 95 years. He was also a leading literary critic and essayist. His best-known collections of poems include "Ei Kunwolite, Cherashalir Malita, Bidai Phular Din, Ahata Sapon and Noni Asane Gharat.

He was honoured with several awards like the Soviet Land Nehru Award (1983), Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award (1991), Sahitya Akademi Award (2002), and the Assam Valley Literary Award (2006) etc. He was also honoured by Asam Sahitya Sabha with the 'Sahityacharya' title in 2010.



4. World's oldest test cricketer Lindsay Tuckett passed away

World's oldest surviving Test cricketer passed away at the age of 97 years. He was a former South African fast bowler. He made his debut in the 1947 tour of England and played 9 matches and picked up 19 wickets.

Tuckett finished fourth in the list of longest-lived Test cricketers ever. He now passes on the mantle of the oldest surviving player to John Watkins who represented South Africa in 15 Tests from 1949 to 1957.



5. Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov died

Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov passed away at the age of 78 years after suffering a stroke. He dominated the Central Asia's most populous nation for more than 25 years. He has been long criticized by the West and human rights groups for his authoritarian style of leadership.

The leader of Uzbekistan when the Soviet Union collapsed, he won a presidential election after independence in 1991 and used Soviet methods to maintain power.

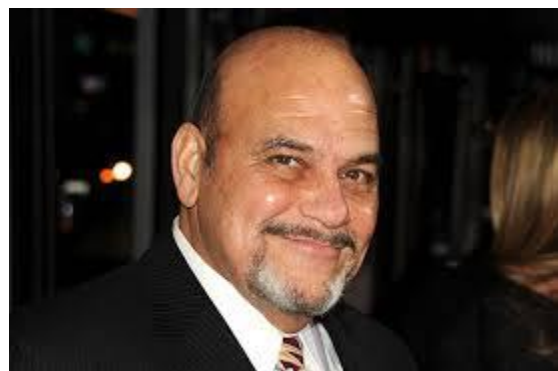


6. Veteran Actor Jon Polito passed away

Actor Jon Polito, who was best known for his roles in Coen brother films like "The Big Lebowski," "Miller's Crossing" and "Barton Fink," passed away at the age of 65 years.

He acted in more than 100 movies, as well as dozens of TV shows and Broadway productions. Polito most recently appeared in 2014's "Big Eyes" and played Dragna in 2013's "Gangster Squad."

His accolades include the 2005 Cinequest Film Festival's Maverick Spirit Event Award and the 2012 Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival award for best actor.



7. Former President of Italy, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, died

Former Italian President, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, passed away at the age of 95 years. He briefly served as prime minister in a 1993-94 caretaker government of technocrats. He was also the president of the country from 1999 to 2006.

He was also the governor of the Bank of Italy for 14 years. He later served as a treasury minister. He played a crucial role in Italy's adoption of the Euro. He declined a widely urged proposal to serve a second term as President.



8. US playwright Edward Albee died

US playwright Edward Albee, the author of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?", passed away at the age of 88 years. He died at his home on Long Island near New York.

A three time Pulitzer Prize winner, he was considered America's greatest living playwright after the deaths of Arthur Miller and August Wilson in 2005. Albee was awarded Pulitzers for A Delicate Balance, Seascape and Three Tall Women. He was awarded a National Medal of the Arts by then-president Bill Clinton.



9. Oscar-winning writer and director, Curtis Hanson, passed away

Oscar winning writer and director of LA Confidential, Curtis Hanson, passed away at the age of 71 years. He had retired in recent years due to Alzheimer's.

Hanson won an Oscar in 1998 for best adapted screenplay for LA Confidential. His directing work includes the psychological thriller The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (1992), the neo-noir crime film L.A. Confidential (1997), the comedy Wonder Boys (2000), the hip hop drama 8 Mile (2002), and the romantic comedy-drama "In Her Shoes" (2005).



10. Hindi and Urdu writer Reoti Saran Sharma died

Well-known Hindi and Urdu writer Reoti Saran Sharma passed away in New Delhi at the age of 92 years.

Mr Sharma was a Pioneer in radio plays in All India Radio and was conferred with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2007 for his contribution to theatre.

He was also awarded Sahitya Kala Parishad and Ghalib Award. One of his popular Books is "Na Meet Na Manzil".



11. Veteran Australian Cricketer Max Walker died

The 68-year-old famous Australian bowler Max Walker passed away due to skin cancer. He was nicknamed 'Tangles' by his fans due to his awkward and unorthodox bowling action. He played 34 Tests between 1972-73 and 1977 and took 138 wickets.

After retirement, he became a commentator and started writing. Some of his best writings were 'How to Hypnotise Chooks and Other Great Yarns' and "How to Kiss a Crocodile".



12. Former Prime Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, passed away

The former Prime Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, passed away at the age of 93 years. He was also a Nobel peace prize laureate. Peres had twice served as the Prime Minister of Israel and later as the country's 9th President.

He was as one of the key architects of the Oslo Peace Accords. He was first elected to the Parliament in year 1959 and later held every major Cabinet post - including Defense, Finance and Foreign Affairs.



DEFENCE

1. Indian Army Launches Army Design Bureau

The Indian Army formally announced the establishment of the Army Design Bureau. The Bureau will act as an interface of the Indian Army with the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), academia, defence PSUs, OFBs and private industry, paving the way for high-quality research and development of defence products. It will also fulfill the government's 'Make in India' initiative.



Army Chief General Dalbir Singh also launched the 'Make in India Army Website' meant to serve as a one stop platform for information to vendors.

2. Indian warship Trikand visits Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

Indian Naval Ship Trikand visited Dar Es Salaam on a three-day visit, as part of its deployment to the East Coast of Africa and Island nations in the Western Indian Ocean. The ship is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet based at Mumbai under the Western Naval Command and is on a two-month long deployment to the Western Indian Ocean.



The visit is aimed at enhancing bilateral ties, strengthening the existing bonds of friendship and reinforcing cooperation in maritime security between India and Tanzania.

3. HAL Conducts Technical Flight of Indigenous Light Utility Helicopter

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) conducted a technical flight of indigenous Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) in Bengaluru. The LUH will replace the military's obsolescent fleet of Chetak and Cheetah helicopters that have flown for over three decades.



The LUH has a maximum All-Up-Weight (AUW) of 3150 Kgs, fitted with Safran HE Ardiden-1U engine of 750 KW power, with a range of 350 KM, service ceiling 6.5 KM, seating capacity of six passengers plus two pilots. The helicopter is designed to carry out various utility roles such as reconnaissance, transport, cargo load and rescue operations.

4. India Kazakhstan Joint Exercise “PRABAL DOSTY K-16”

Troops of Indian & Kazakhstan Army are presently engaging in a joint exercise 'PRABAL DOSTY K-16'. A pioneering endeavor with the Kazakhstan Army, the exercise is being conducted in Karaganda region of Kazakhstan and will conclude on 17 Sep 2016. 'Prabal Dosty' meaning 'Robust Friendship' will be a significant step towards fostering military as well as diplomatic ties between both countries.



The primary aim of the fourteen-day exercise will be to enhance interoperability while undertaking Counter Terrorism & Counter Insurgency Operations in rural & semi-urban environment under the umbrella of United Nations.

5. Fast attack craft TIHAYU taken over by Indian Navy

The Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC), "TIHAYU" built by Garden Reach Ship builders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was handed over to the Indian Navy. GRSE had earlier built and delivered ten (10) WJFACs to the Indian Navy during 2009 to 2011.



"Tihayu" is fitted with three water jet propulsion systems powered by marine diesel engines generating 2720 KW of power. It is also fitted with CRN-91 indigenous 30mm Gun, to provide Artillery fire support during attack missions. It measures 48 X 7.5 M.

6. 'Yudh Abhyas 2016' to begin in Uttarakhand

A joint Indo-US military training exercise, 'Yudh Abhyas 2016' is set to be conducted in Uttarakhand from September 14 to 27 as part of the ongoing Indo-US defence cooperation. The exercise will be conducted in Chaubattia.

It is the 12th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by the two countries. The exercise is aimed at simulating a scenario where both nations were working together to counter insurgency and terrorism in mountainous terrain under UN charter.



7. US Navy reveals interior of \$4.4 bn Zumwalt destroyer

US Navy on Friday demonstrated the interiors of Zumwalt destroyer, reportedly the most expensive warship ever built for the navy at over \$4.4 billion.

The 186-metre-long ship is equipped with stealth features and a gun system that can launch 600 rocket-powered projectiles at targets more than 110 kilometres away. It has an almost nonexistent radar signature due to its innovative angular design. It is named after World War II hero Admiral Elmo Zumwalt.



8. Visit of Indian Warships to Mombasa, Kenya (10–13 September 2016)

In a demonstration of India's commitment to its ties with Kenya and to promote maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, Indian Naval Ships Kolkata and Aditya have arrived at Mombasa on a three-day visit. The ships are part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet based at Mumbai under the Western Naval Command.

The current visit is aimed at interacting with the Kenyan Defence Forces on professional issues, aimed at enhancing co-operation and sharing nuances of naval operations including combating threats of maritime terrorism and piracy.



9. Rajnath Singh commissions offshore patrolling vessel Sarathi in Goa

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarathi', third ship in the series of six Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) at Goa.

The ship has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and is fitted with most advanced state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries. The ship draws 2500 tons (GRT) propelled by two 9100 KW diesel engines to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots and have an endurance of 6500 NM at economical speed.



10. Indian Navy launches country's latest destroyer, the Mormugao

The Indian Navy launched country's latest destroyer, the Mormugao, at Mumbai's Mazagon Docks. It is the second ship of Project- 15B, indigenously designed and highly successful guided Missile Destroyers. Project 15B destroyer is designed to operate 4,000 nautical miles at sea.

The vessel with a displacement of 7,300 tonne belongs to Visakhapatnam class of ships being constructed under Project 15B. The advance vessel spans 163 metres in length and is powered by 4 Ukrainian gas turbine engines to achieve speeds in excess of 30 knots, approximately 56 km per hour.



11. Visit of Indian Warship TRIKAND to Maputo, Mozambique

Indian Naval Ship Trikanth arrived at Maputo, Mozambique on a three days' visit. The ship is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet based at Mumbai and is on a two-month deployment to the Western Indian Ocean, along with Indian Naval ships Kolkata and Aditya.

The visit is aimed at enhancing bilateral ties, strengthening the existing bonds of friendship and reinforcing cooperation in maritime security between India and Mozambique.



12. Lt Gen Surinder Singh takes charge of Western Command

Lt. Gen Surinder Singh took over as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command. The post of the GOC-in-C, Western Command, had been vacant since July 31 after Lt Gen KJ Singh retired.

Lt Gen Surinder Singh was commissioned in 1979 into the Second Battalion, The Brigade of the Guards, an elite Infantry regiment. He is a graduate of the British Army Command Staff College, Army War College and the National Defence College.



13. India successfully test fires Barak-8 missile off Odisha coast

India successfully test-fired two long range surface-to-air missiles (LRSAM) - 'Barak-8', from a defence base in the Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Odisha coast at Chandipur. The missile is developed jointly with Israel.

The Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) has the ability to hit targets within radii of 70 km to 90 km. It is designed to defend against any airborne threat, apart from aircraft and helicopters, and can also intercept supersonic aircraft and missiles.



14. Government clears deal with France for 36 Rafale fighter jets

The government has cleared the much anticipated deal with France for 36 Rafale fighter jets which will cost 7.878 billion Euros. The two countries signed the final deal in the presence of French Defence Minister Jean Yves Le Drian.

The contract for the deal was already cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security earlier. purchase of Rafale jets would bolster the country's military image in the region and help modernize Indian military's ageing fleet of combat aircrafts.



15. India-Russia Joint Military Exercise Indra-2016 Begins in Vladivostok

The eighth edition of India-Russia Joint Military Exercise 'INDRA-2016' has begun in the Ussiriysk District in Vladivostok, Russia. Main focus of this edition of the joint exercise is on 'Counter-Terrorism Operations in semi mountainous and jungle terrain under United Nations Mandate'.



250 soldiers of the KUMAON Regiment are representing the Indian Contingent and the Russian army is being represented by 250 soldiers from the 59th Motorized Infantry Brigade. Indra series of bilateral exercises is one of the major bilateral defence cooperation initiatives between India and Russia since 2003.

16. Defence Minister inaugurated the 35th Coast Guard Commanders' Conference

Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar inaugurated the 35th Coast Guard Commanders Conference at the Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi. The Defence Minister appreciated the efforts of the ICG in augmenting Maritime and Coastal security not only by deployment of assets, but also by efficient exploitation of Coastal Security Network Phase I.



Due to the current security scenario, he exhorted ICG to further bolster Coastal Security mechanism by increasing patrolling, so as to avoid infiltration by anti-national elements through Sea.

17. Indian Army conducts Surgical Strikes across the Line of Control

India has carried out surgical strikes along the LoC to safeguard our nation and targeted terrorists launch pads, resulting in severe casualties to terrorists and those trying to shield them.

Terrorists positioned themselves at the launch pads so as to carry out infiltration and conduct terrorist strikes inside Jammu and Kashmir, but they did not succeed as the Indian Army conducted surgical strikes to preempt infiltration by terrorists. Indian army's intention was to ensure the safety of



citizens.

ECONOMIC

1. LG Electronics tied-up with Amazon on smart-home services

LG Electronics Inc has tied-up with Amazon.com Inc on smart-home services. With the tie-up, LG could integrate Amazon's Alexa virtual assistant with its SmartThinkQ hub, which would enable homeowners to control their appliances via voice recognition technology.

Also, Amazon's Dash feature would allow smart features on common household appliances. Alexa will work with its SmartThinkQ Hub, an LG device used to connect with home appliances over the internet.



2. Sony Pictures to acquire Ten Sports from Zee

Sony Pictures Networks India (SPN) announced that SPN and its affiliates have entered into definitive agreements to acquire TEN Sports Network from Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEE) and its subsidiaries for 385 million U.S. dollars. Completion of the acquisition is subject to regulatory approval.

The TEN Sports channels being acquired include TEN 1, TEN 1 HD, TEN 2, TEN 3, TEN Golf HD, TEN Cricket, TEN Sports. Sony Pictures Networks India Pvt. Ltd. (SPNI) is an Indian company, which handles Sony Pictures' diversified interests in India.



3. PTC India Financial Services ties up with banks for clean energy project loans

PTC India Financial Services has entered into arrangements with scheduled commercial banks so that the banks will issue letter of credit to project companies in the renewable energy space on the basis of letter of comfort issued by PFS and due diligence on 'certain parameters'.

Under the new arrangement, letter of credit can be opened in a much shorter time on case-to-case basis and project companies shall not be required to separately pursue with each bank.



4. Mobikwik ties up with 12 state electricity boards

MobiKwik has tied up with 12 state electricity boards - Bhagalpur Electricity Private Limited, India Power Corporation Limited, DNHPD, Rajasthan Vidyut Vitran Nigam, Tripura State Electricity Board, Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra, Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran, Madhya Pradesh Poorv Kshetra Jabalpur, Daman and Diu Electricity, Calcutta Electricity Supply, Meghalaya Electricity and Odisha Discom.



Mobikwik now provides electricity bill payment services for 25 power discoms in India.

5. CCI fines 10 cement companies and CMA for cartelization

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed penalties on 10 cement companies - ACC, ACL, Binani, Century, India Cements, JK Cements, Lafarge, Ramco, UltraTech and Jaiprakash Associates and their umbrella association - Cement Manufacturers Association (CMA) for cartelization.

The Builders Association of India (BAI) had filed complaint against the cement companies and the CMA alleging in collectively fixing prices of cement. The CCI is quasi-judicial statutory body to look after unfair practices that adversely affect competition in different industries and protect interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade.



6. BHEL commissions 40 MW Hydro Power Plant in West Bengal

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned the fourth and last unit of the 4x40 MW Teesta Low Dam Hydro Electric Project (HEP) Stage-IV in West Bengal.

Teesta HEP has been set up by NHPC Limited, on the River Teesta. BHEL was entrusted with the Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) works by NHPC Limited.

BHEL is presently executing Hydro Electric Projects of around 3,300 MW in the country which are under various stage of implementation.



7. MobiKwik launches one step offline payments with 'Bubble Pin'

MobiKwik has launched a one-step offline payments mode, called Bubble Pin. This pin can be generated on the MobiKwik app by clicking on 'Pay at store' and is valid for 60 seconds. The user needs to share this pin with the merchant to make a payment. The pin is a combination of alphabets and numbers.

Soon, users can use this functionality in over 25000 offline stores, pan India. Bubble pin also makes the transaction more secure as no phone number is required to be shared.



8. Intel acquires Google's Project Tango partner Movidius

Intel has acquired computer vision firm Movidius, which partnered with Google to develop 3D space mapping technology for Project Tango devices for an undisclosed amount.

Intel plans to use low-power, high-performance SoC platforms of Movidius to accelerate computer vision platforms. Movidius was founded in Dublin back in 2005, and specializes in the creation of low-power processor chips that can be used to facilitate computer vision.



9. NHPC, BHEL ink pact for renovation of Baira Siul power plant

BHEL and NHPC Ltd. signed a Contract Agreement for the Renovation and Modernization (R&M) of the 180 MW Baira Siul HEP in Himachal Pradesh. Baira Siul will be NHPC's first power station where R&M works will be undertaken for the purpose of life extension of the generating station.



The scope of the agreement includes electromechanical works package comprising supply, installation, commissioning of turbines and accessories and dismantling of the existing system.

10. Yoga Guru Ramdev laid foundation stone of mega food park in Nagpur

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis laid the foundation stone of Patanjali Mega Food and Herbal Park, promoted by yoga guru Ramdev in Mihan area in Nagpur. The park stands on a 230-acre land. It will have Patanjali's production units and provide direct employment to 10,000 youths.



The company plans to develop a Rs 1,000-crore food park at Multi-Model International Cargo Hub and Airport, Nagpur (MIHAN), where juices would be made from famous Nagpuri oranges and for the first time packaged as a brand.

11. Wadhwa Group ties-up with Snapdeal

Wadhwa Group has tied-up with e-commerce platform Sanpdeal to make its properties accessible to customers online. Snapdeal will showcase the Group's project 'Elite' in partnership with Terraform Realty, which features 1, 2, 2.5 and 3 BHK apartments and an array of amenities.



The Wadhwa Group
Landmarks planned with passion

With this tie-up, the Wadhwa Group has stepped into the e-commerce space, and is now showcasing their project. With over 18 million members, Snapdeal.com is the shopping destination for millions of internet users across the country.

12. HP to Acquire Samsung Printer Business for \$1.05 Billion

HP Inc., the world leader in printing, announced a definitive agreement to acquire Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.'s printer business in a deal valued at \$1.05 billion. The transaction, subject to regulatory and shareholder approval, will close within 12 months.

6,500 patents and 1,500 researchers and engineers will move from Samsung to HP as part of the deal. Samsung has agreed to make a \$100 million to \$300 million equity investment in HP through open market purchases. Samsung will continue to sell printers in South Korea under its name as part of the deal.



13. Wholesale inflation soars to two-year high of 3.74% in August

Wholesale inflation soared to a two-year high of 3.74% in August. The wholesale price-based inflation in July stood at 3.55%. In August 2015, WPI inflation was -5.06%. The earlier high in WPI inflation was recorded at 3.74% in August 2014.

Wholesale price index (WPI) inflation in vegetables cooled to 0.17% in August, from a spike of 28.05% in July. Pulses inflation continued to rule high at 34.55% in August. Overall, the food inflation basket showed some moderation with inflation at 8.23% in August, against 11.82% in July.



14. Gionee inked MoU with Haryana government for investment of Rs 500 cr

Gionee Communications Equipment Company Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Haryana state government to set up its phone manufacturing hub with an initial investment of Rs 500 crore. The investment would be increased to Rs 1500 crore.

The Mobile Manufacturing Hub would be set up over an area of 40-50 acres in Faridabad and would provide employment to 28,000 people in next three years. The company aims to manufacture about 600,000 mobile phones per month.



15. Exports dip 0.3% to \$21.51 billion in August

The country's exports declined for the second consecutive month, falling 0.3 percent in August 2016, to 21.5 billion dollars. Imports contracted 14 per cent, to 29.9 billion dollars in August.

The trade deficit narrowed to 7.7 billion dollars during the month under review, from 12.4 billion dollars in August last year, according to Commerce Ministry data.

Gold imports slumped 77.5 per cent, to 1.1 billion dollars in August. Oil imports during the month fell 8.5 per cent.



16. 196% growth registers in tourist arrival in August 2016

Over 196 per cent growth has been registered in tourist arrival on e-Tourist Visa in August this year over the same period last year.

According to an official release, a total of over 66 thousand tourists arrived in August this year as compared to around 22 thousand during the month of August 2015.

The E-Tourist Visa facility is available for citizens of 150 countries arriving at 16 Airports in India.



17. Uber partners NSDC, Maruti to skill 1 million by 2018

Uber has partnered with Maruti Suzuki and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) for creating livelihood opportunities for one million people by 2018.

The new initiative, UberSHAAN, will work on skill development and driver-training programmes to provide micro-entrepreneurship opportunities to drivers under the Uber platform. Maruti Suzuki will assess and train 30,000 commercial drivers for Uber, over the next three years. The eligible drivers to gain access to NSDC's 158 training centres across 28 cities to get training, apart from receiving soft skills.



18. Maharashtra government increased VAT rate from 12.5 to 13.5 %

The Maharashtra Government has hiked the standard Value Added Tax - VAT rate from 12.5 to 13.5 percent while the general tax rate has been hiked from 5.5 percent to 6 percent.

The government has also increased the VAT levied on petrol by Rs 1.50 per litre but has refrained from hiking VAT imposed on diesel.

The hike in petrol alone is likely to generate additional revenue of at least 600 crore rupees.



19. Paytm signs agreement with IRCTC for payment gateway

Paytm has tied up with IRCTC to enable digital payments for travelers. Paytm's payment gateway is getting integrated to IRCTC's app. Paytm is India's largest mobile payment and commerce platform.

The Paytm Wallet is already accepted on the IRCTC platform. Paytm has emerged as one of the most credible and convenient payment option in India. www.irctc.co.in is one of the biggest e-commerce sites in the world with a daily transaction of more than Rs 50 crores.



20. India's GDP to grow by 8% over the next few years: S&P

Standard and Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings has pegged the growth rate at 7.9 per cent in 2016-17 and 8 per cent a year later. Growth in 2015-16 is pegged at 7.6 per cent. This rate is way above the forecasts done by other international agencies, including IMF's 7.4% growth forecast.

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



21. Ola partners with Yatra for Cab Booking Interface Integration

Transportation app Ola tied-up with Yatra.Com for Cab Booking Interface Integration with Yatra.com. Thus, users will be able to book a ride directly through Yatra.com's App even if someone does not have the Ola application installed on his/her device.

Uber had announced a similar partnership with eCommerce major Snapdeal in August 2016. Ola has also opened up its Application Programming Interface (API) to other apps like Makemytrip, Oyo Rooms etc.



22. Google rolls out travel app

Google Inc. has rolled out Google Trips, a new travel app that lets users plan each day of their trip and help them manage travel reservations. The app can also keep track of users' flight, hotel, car and restaurant reservations.

For top 200 cities, the app features various day plans on the basis of featuring the most popular daily itineraries. The users can use the app in offline mode by downloading trip information.



23. Flipkart becomes 1st e-commerce in India to cross 100 million registered user mark

Flipkart became the first e-commerce site in India to have 100 million registered users. Flipkart reportedly hit the 75 million registered users mark in March 2016. The company claims to have access to 60 percent of the population using internet in India.

Flipkart also become the first company to reach this milestone in a single country outside the United States and China. The Indian e-commerce market is among the fastest growing in the world.



24. CAD narrows to USD 300mn in Q1 on massive import contraction

The country's current account deficit, CAD, narrowed sharply to just 300 million dollars, or 0.1% of GDP in the first quarter of the current fiscal. Data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed that the CAD fell due to a lower trade deficit.

The CAD had stood at 6.1 billion dollars, or 1.2% of GDP in the year-ago quarter. The trade deficit for the reporting period declined to 23.8 billion dollars, from 34.2 billion in the year-ago period. This was on the back of a sharp 11.5% points contraction in imports. Net foreign direct investment fell to 4.1 billion dollars during the quarter, from 10 billion dollars a year ago.



25. L&T Bags Order from Vietnam Border Guard for High Speed Patrol Vessels

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has signed the principle contract with Vietnam Border Guard valued at USD 99.7 Million for design and construction of high speed patrol vessels in India as well as for transfer of design and technology along with supply of equipment and material kits for construction of follow-on vessels at a Vietnam shipyard.



Constructed of Aluminum alloy, the vessels are about 35 metres long and can clock a speed of 35 knots with a state-of-the-art navigation and surveillance equipment and self-defense capabilities on board.

26. Wipro acquired Chinese FMCG brand Zhongshan

Wipro Singapore Pte, a part of Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting, announced the acquisition of Chinese FMCG firm Zhongshan Ma Er Daily Products for an undisclosed sum, in an all-cash deal. As part of the deal, Wipro will have access to manufacturing facility for three years.



It was the 10th acquisition for the company since 2003. BNP Paribas acted as the exclusive financial adviser to Zhongshan Ma Er. Zhongshan Ma Er has a revenue run rate of \$75 million currently.

27. World's Largest Solar Power Plant Unveiled by Adani in Kamuthi, Tamil Nadu

The World's largest 648MW Solar Power Plant unveiled in Kamuthi, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu with an investment of Rs. 4,550 Crores by Adani Energy Group. It is a part of the State Government's ambitious aim of generating 3,000 Mega Watts as per the Solar Energy Policy unveiled by the Government in year 2012.



The entire 648MW plant is now linked with the Kamuthi 400 KV sub-station of Tantransco, making it the world's largest solar unit at a single location.

28. Adobe to deliver its Cloud Services on Microsoft Azure

Microsoft Ignite, Adobe and Microsoft Corporation announced plans for a strategic partnership. The two companies will enable businesses to dramatically strengthen their brands through solutions with Microsoft Azure, Adobe Marketing Cloud and Microsoft Dynamics 365.



With this partnership, Adobe will make Microsoft Azure its preferred cloud platform for the Adobe Marketing Cloud, Adobe Creative Cloud and Adobe Document Cloud. Microsoft will make Adobe Marketing Cloud its preferred marketing service for Dynamics 365 Enterprise edition.

29. Infosys launched their mobile-first Skava Commerce

Infosys announced the launch of Skava Commerce, a modern, mobile-first and modular e-commerce platform that delivers engaging omni-channel experiences. Skava, a Silicon Valley based e-commerce startup acquired by Infosys, developed Skava Commerce to allow businesses to leverage flexible cloud-based microservices.



Infosys will use its global consulting to bring Skava Commerce to its global client base of retailers, CPG companies and others, who need a flexible and modular approach to maximize the value of digital customer engagement.

ENVIRONMENT

1. 3.7 Billion Years Old fossils discovered in Greenland

Archaeologists have found a 3.7 billion-year-old fossil in Greenland and is believed to be the oldest fossil ever found on Earth. the fossil was discovered in the world's oldest sedimentary rocks in the Isua Greenstone Belt along the edge of Greenland's icecap. The findings were published in journal Nature on 31 August 2016.



Scientists believed that life on Earth started 3.8 billion years ago, but there was no physical evidence to prove it. This is the first evidence that proves when life actually started on Earth.

2. New species of Pterosaur from early Jurassic Period discovered in Patagonia

Scientists have discovered a new species of pterosaur – an extinct group of flying reptiles – from the early Jurassic period in the Patagonia region of South America. The discovery was published in the journal PeerJ.



The researchers have named this new species 'Allkauren koi' from the native Tehuelche word 'all' for 'brain', and 'karuen' for 'ancient'. The flying reptile lived in the early Jurassic period. Paleontologists found the new fossil in north central Chubut province in Argentina.

3. Newly discovered fish in Hawaii named after Barack Obama

A newly discovered fish species, of the genus *Tosanoides*, will be named after U.S. President Barack Obama in honor of his contributions to marine life conservation in Hawaii.

The fish is found only within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, a World Heritage site. Obama expanded the monument to include 582,578 square miles and the 7,000 species that live there, including endangered monk seals, whales and sea turtles. Earlier a species of darters found only in the Duck River and the Buffalo River in US was named *Etheostoma Obama* in 2012.



4. Ghost snake discovered in Madagascar

Scientists have discovered a new snake species at the Ankarana National Park in Madagascar and named it "ghost snake" for its pale grey coloration and elusiveness. It has been named *Madagascrophis lolo*, pronounced "luu luu" which means ghost in Malagasy. It was published in the scientific journal, *Copeia*.

The researchers from the Louisiana State University (LSU) Museum of Natural Science, the American Museum of Natural History in the US and the Universite de Mahajunga in Madagascar studied the snake's physical characteristics and genetics.



5. One-Tenth of world's wild areas vanished since 1990s: Research

A research team has discovered that the world's wild areas have reduced by a tenth in the past two decades. The research findings were published in the journal *Current Biology*.

According to the report, the wild areas that vanished are mostly in South America and Africa, and only about 20% of the world's land area is sorted as wilderness currently. An estimated 3.3 million square kilometres of wilderness area was destroyed in the past 20 years. 30 million square kilometres (23 percent of the world's land area) still survives as wilderness.



6. Marine National Monument in Atlantic Ocean

President Obama designated the first marine national monument in the Atlantic Ocean, protecting fragile deep-sea ecosystems off the coast of New England as the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.



The new national monument will provide critical protections for important ecological resources and marine species, including deep-sea coral and endangered whales and sea turtles. It will protect 12,725 square km of ecosystems encompassing three underwater canyons deeper than the Grand Canyon, and four underwater mountains.

7. Environment Ministry announces Major Initiative for R&D into Next Generation HFC refrigerant alternatives

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced an ambitious collaborative R&D programme to develop next generation, sustainable refrigerant technologies as alternatives to HFCs. With this initiative, India reaffirms its commitment to working with all other nations to safeguard the Earth's natural ecosystem.



The initiative is a significant step forward in line with India's national focus on research, innovation and technology development and Mission Innovation. The research initiative of the Ministry will be led by the CSIR's Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad.

8. Invasive GALS sighted at Goa University

Giant African Land Snail (GALS) has been sighted near Goa University campus at Taleigao plateau. GALS (*Achatina fulica*) has been listed as one of the world's 100 most invasive species by IUCN.

Ecologically, the species are dangerous as they reproduce faster and take over entire ecosystems. They thus become a menace to crops. They also have a potential to displace local land snails species. It may also pose a health threat as they are vectors of human disease such as brain fever.



9. Ground-dwelling lizard discovered in Mumbai, named after Bengaluru scientist Varad Giri

The first new ground dwelling gecko was discovered in Goregaon's Aarey Colony and Thane's Badlapur forested belts. Lizard has been named after a Bengaluru-based scientist, Varad Giri.

It is found in various forest localities of states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and one locality from Madhya Pradesh. They are active during night and take refuge under rocks and logs during the day. It is an international honour, as this is the third time after a new snake species and a lizard species – both endemic has been discovered from the biodiversity rich Western Ghats of Maharashtra-Karnataka region.



FINANCE

1. NPCI initiates pilot project for Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organization for all retail payments system in India launched the pilot project for Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) with 26 Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs). In the first phase, BBPS will cover repetitive payments for everyday utility services such as electricity, water, gas, telephone and Direct-to-Home (DTH).



BBPS is the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated system which will provide interoperable bill payment services to customers. It is an integrated platform connecting banks and non-bank entities in bill aggregation business like billers, payment service providers, retail bill outlets etc.

2. DCB Bank rolls out mVisa card-less solution at retail outlets

DCB Bank has launched mVisa, a mobile based payment solution that will make payments at retail outlets much easier. It is a card-less solution that offers customers the convenience of making digital payments at retail outlets through smart phones by scanning the unique Quick Response (QR) code.



DCB Bank has partnered with Chennai-based digital payment companies, M2P Solutions and GI Technology, to implement mVisa. Through mVisa, customers can also avail of Cash@POS service and pay for goods and services directly using their smart phones.

3. Canada's British Columbia became first foreign government to issue masala bonds

The Province of British Columbia in Canada has successfully issued an Indian Rupee denominated bond on the London Stock Exchange, making it the first-ever foreign government to issue a bond in the Indian offshore market.

British Columbia's three-year-term Masala bond was priced to yield 6.62% semi-annual, and raised 5 billion INR. The proceeds of the bond were immediately reinvested in HDFC's second masala bond listing on the exchange.

A bond that raises Indian Rupee (INR) funds from global investors outside of India is known as a "Masala" bond.



4. ICICI Bank rolls out 'Software Robotics' to empower banking operations.

ICICI Bank became the first bank in India to deploy 'software robotics' in its over 200 business processes, thereby reducing the response time to customers by up to 60 per cent and performing high volume and time consuming business tasks in less time.

The software robots will process over 10 lakh transactions daily and increased accuracy to 100%, thus improving value-added services and customer relationship.

The bank will engage 500 software robots by the end of the year which will help it to automate 20% of its total transactions.



5. RBI cancelled certificate of registration of five NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the certificate of registration of the following non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in exercise of the powers conferred on it under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934:

- M/s Simco Consultants Private Limited
- M/s Lunkad Securities Ltd
- M/s Rajvir Marketing and Investment Private Limited
- M/s Crystal Investments Limited
- M/s Shri Jaya Investments Agency Limited (formerly known as Arcot Finance & Agency Limited)



6. HDFC Ergo completes acquisition of L&T Insurance

HDFC Ergo General Insurance Company (HDFC ERGO) has completed the acquisition of 100 percent shares of L&T General Insurance Company (L&T Insurance) for Rs. 551 crore after it received approvals from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Competition Commission of India.



Mukesh Kumar, Executive Director at HDFC ERGO has been appointed as the new Managing Director & CEO of L&T General Insurance Company Limited. L&T Insurance is proposed to be renamed as HDFC General Insurance Limited (HDFC General).

7. Qatar National Bank soon to open branch in India

Qatar National Bank (QNB) has been given approval to open a branch in India offering banking services. The bank has a presence in more than 30 countries across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

QNB has obtained the necessary required approval of India's regulatory authorities to conduct operations in India.

The bank had in June 2016 completed the 2.7 billion euro purchase of Turkey's Finansbank. It is the Gulf region's largest lender.



8. Retail inflation eases to 5-month low of 5.05% in August

Retail inflation eased to a five-month low of 5.05 per cent in August 2016, mainly because of a sharp fall in food inflation.

Retail inflation had stood at 6.07 per cent in July this year, and 3.74 per cent in August last year.

Inflation in vegetables was just 1.02 per cent in August. Overall retail food inflation in August slipped to 5.91 per cent.

Retail inflation in cereals and products was 4.11 per cent in August.



9. Industrial Output contracts 2.4% in July

Industrial production contracted 2.4 per cent in July 2016--its worst performance in eight months. This was mainly due to a fall in output of the manufacturing and capital goods sectors. Factory output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production, IIP, had grown 4.3 per cent in July last year.



Official data released showed that the manufacturing sector contracted 3.4 per cent in July, while capital goods output shrank 29.6 per cent. Power generation rose 1.6 per cent in July, while mining sector output increased 0.8 per cent.

10. SBI, PNB, Paytm to issue e-toll tags for vehicles

State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, IDFC Bank and the digital wallet Paytm will start issuing electronic tags for vehicles, which are required for electronic toll collection at toll plazas. The government had initially tied up with ICICI Bank which has so far issued 60,000 pass tags.



Each vehicle is provided with an RFID chip that helps in its identification and is pasted on the windshield of a vehicle. Dedicated readers installed at the toll plazas read the vehicle data and the sum to be paid gets deducted from the account or from the prepaid wallet linked to the tag.

11. FreeCharge partners with Axis Bank and launches UPI payment

FreeCharge has partnered with Axis Bank and launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) that allows instant transactions from a smartphone using a virtual payment address (VPA).

Customers will be able to create a virtual address on the FreeCharge Android app and link it to their bank account to register on the UPI platform. The partnership allows FreeCharge users to pay for transactions from their bank accounts and they don't have to be existing customers of Axis Bank.



12. PayU acquires Citrus Pay for \$130 million

Global payment service provider PayU has acquired Indian payments technology company, Citrus Pay, for \$130 million in an all cash deal. The agreement is due to close in the third quarter of 2016 and is considered to be the largest ever merger and acquisition cash deal in the Indian fintech sector.

Citrus Pay was founded in 2011 by Jitendra Gupta. PayU is part of Naspers, a global Internet and entertainment group. Investec acted as the sole advisor to the transaction.



13. Axis Bank, BHU team up for banking courses

Axis Bank has tied up with Banaras Hindu University (BHU) to offer specialized banking courses. The bank along with the Faculty of Commerce at BHU will develop the design and curriculum of courses.

Together, they will also decide on e-learning modules, structure and courseware.

The partnership will offer courses like Masters in Commerce (MCom), Master of Financial Management (MFM), Master of Financial Management (Risk & Insurance) MFM - RI, Master of Foreign Trade (MFT).



14. Federal Bank launched Federal Skill Academy at Coimbatore

As a part of CSR initiative, Federal Bank launched its second Federal Skill Academy at Coimbatore. The first such academy was launched at Ernakulum in 2015.

The new academy will be initially providing an in-demand CNC Machine Operator Certificate Course in Milling & Turning, which will be certified by COINDIA. The academy will support underprivileged students to get employment opportunities both in India as well as abroad on successful completion of the course.



15. Vijaya Bank rolls out 3 new apps

Vijaya Bank has launched three innovative information technology (IT) products. The new IT products are: VPAYQWIK, Vijaya *99# and V-eConnect+.

VPAYQWIK is a complete mobile payment wallet. It is a one-stop destination for shopping, quick mobile recharge, any-time bill payment, instant ticket booking. Vijaya *99# is a non-internet-based app and uses the USSD channel for completing transactions. V-eConnect+ is an app that aggregates various e-products of the bank. The app acts as an entry point for customers to know about and use various online products of the bank.



16. ADB Approved Funds to Build India's First Coastal Industrial Corridor

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today approved \$631 million in loans and grants to develop the first key 800-kilometer section of a planned 2,500-kilometer-long East Coast Economic Corridor.

The Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor section of the East Coast Economic Corridor, connecting four economic hubs and nine industrial clusters, will mark the first industrial corridor developed along India's coast.

The East Coast Economic Corridor will ultimately extend from Kolkata in West Bengal in the northeast of India to Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu near the southern-most point of the country.



17. BSE to provide live stock updates on Twitter

BSE has tied up with Twitter and introduced four unique features to allow people to follow the market. BSE will give its investors live status, opening and closing figures of the market and stock prices.

The four new features are hourly tweets, auto-responder tweets for Sensex 30 stock prices, auto direct messages for opening and closing figures of Sensex 30, and a live display photo that will change every two minutes to project the Sensex figure.



18. Centre appoints three members to Monetary Policy Committee

The Union government has appointed three academicians - Chetan Ghatе, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI); Pami Dua, Director, Delhi School of Economics (DSE); and Ravindra Dholakia, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A); as members to the Monetary Policy Committee, which will set interest rates.

The appointments will be for four years, or until further orders. The other three members of the six-member panel that will set interest rates will be from the RBI. RBI Governor Urjit Patel will chair the committee. R Gandhi, Deputy Governor of RBI and Michael Patra, Executive Director are the other two members.



Executive Director are the other two members.

19. HDFC Bank ranked as India's most valuable brand

The BrandZ Top 50 Most Valuable Indian Brands ranking released by WPP Group and Kantar Millward Brown listed HDFC Bank as India's most valuable brand for the third successive year. HDFC Bank was also the only Indian brand in the BrandZ top 100 most valuable global brands list released in June.

Airtel and State Bank of India ranked second and third in the list followed by Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Auto, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti Suzuki, Hero and Axis Bank as others in the top 10 respectively.



20. Govt assigns ICICI Prudential AMC to manage new CPSE ETF

ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd. was appointed by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Ministry of Finance for the creation and launch of a new Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). ICICI Prudential AMC is India's largest asset manager having assets under management of Rs. 2,17,030 crores.

It is an important initiative taken by the department for asset manager for domestic investors as well as foreign institutional clients.



21. ICICI Bank in union with Start-up ftCash to launch UPI for micro-merchants

Mobile payments and first Fintech start-up ftCash has tied-up with ICICI Bank, which is the first bank to launch the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) platform for merchants to make payments easier for them. ftCash is a virtual point of sale (POS) for micro-merchants to accept payments through credit cards, debit cards, wallets such as Freecharge, Mobikwik, PayPal.

The ftCash targets to cover 60+ million micro-merchants such as milk vendors, newspaper agents, departmental stores, etc. with the power of digital payments and loans.



22. Monetary Policy Committee Constitution under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 notified

The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) has been amended by the Finance Act, 2016, to provide for a statutory and institutionalised framework for a Monetary Policy Committee, for maintaining price stability. The Monetary Policy Committee would be entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate required to contain inflation within the specified target level.

The meetings of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be held at least 4 times a year. The provisions of the RBI Act relating to Monetary Policy have been brought into force through a Notification in the Gazette of India Extraordinary.



23. Government Decides to Raise EPFO Investment in ETF from 5% to 10%

The Government has decided to raise the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) investment in Exchange Traded Funds from present 5% to 10%. Accordingly, for the last one year, the EPFO has invested Rs. 6,577 crores in ETF for the financial year 2015-16.

This investment has yielded a good return of 13.24%. The past performance of the last six months from April, 2016 to August, 2016 shows gradual appreciation in the returns from 0.37% in March, 2016 to 13.24% in August, 2016. About 5% of the EPF has been invested in NIFTY 50.

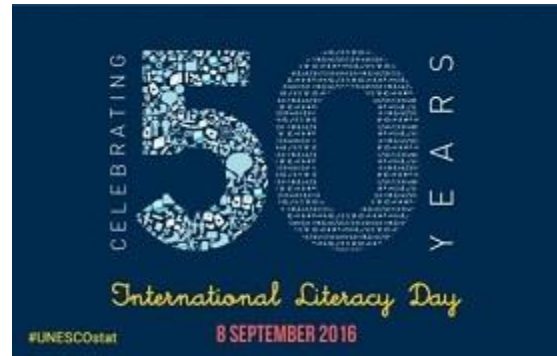


IMPORTANT DAYS

1. The 50th International Literacy Day 2016 celebrated worldwide

2016 marks the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day and it was celebrated by UNESCO under theme "Reading the Past, Writing the Future". It throws light on current challenges and creating lifelong learning opportunities for all. Theme was to honor the efforts and progress contributed by national and international involvement in the past 5 decades.

A two-day conference was organized at Paris to present Literacy Prizes. Prizes were given to people with outstanding solutions that can drive literacy towards achieving the 2030 Education Agenda. 2016 is the focus is on innovation.



2. National Hindi Divas observed on 14th September

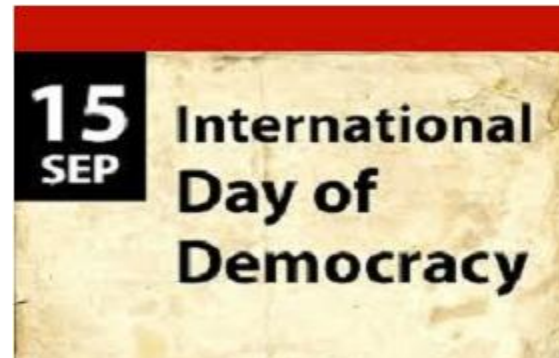
National Hindi Diwas 2016 was celebrated all over India on 14th September. The day is observed annually to promote and propagate the Hindi language. Its importance is demonstrated by feasts, events, competitions and other services held on this day. The event also serves as a patriotic reminder to Hindi-speaking populations of their common roots and unity.



Hindi is spoken as a mother tongue by around 258 million people and known as the 4th largest language of the world.

3. International Day of Democracy observed

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Democracy is observed annually on September 15 to raise public awareness about democracy. The theme for this year is "Democracy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".



The International Day of Democracy was created by the UN General Assembly through a resolution in 2007 to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy. It was observed for the first time in 2008.

4. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2016 observed across the world

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated annually on September 16. The day is celebrated in commemoration of the date, in 1987, on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The theme for the year 2016 is "Ozone and climate: Restored by a world united".



The theme for this year recognizes the collective efforts of the parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol towards the restoration of the ozone layer over the past three decades.

5. International Day of Peace observed with theme Building Blocks for Peace

The International Day of Peace is observed annually all around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The Day's theme for 2016 is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace."



The day is sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day. To inaugurate the day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City).

6. World Tourism Day 2016 observed across the Globe

The World Tourism Day 2016 was observed worldwide on 27th September 2016 with the theme as 'Tourism for All - Promoting Universal Accessibility', to foster accessible tourism among the international community for all and help us spread the word of both the importance and immense benefits universal accessibility has and can bring to society at large.



The official World Tourism Day 2016 celebrations were held in Bangkok, Thailand.

It has been found that International tourist arrivals grew by 4.6 % in 2015 to 1,184 million and UNWTO forecasts international tourist arrivals to reach 1.8 billion by 2030.

7. Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons International Day observed

The 26th September 2016 was observed as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons across the globe. The day is celebrated in voice of global nuclear disarmament as a high priority. There are growing variations on the future of multilateral nuclear disarmament. The next review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons begins in year 2017.



The day gives an opportunity to educate the public and their leaders about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons.

8. World Rabies Day observed on 28th September

The World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on the 28th September to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease. This day (28 September) also marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.



The theme for 2016 is Rabies: Educate. Vaccinate. Eliminate. Which emphasises the two crucial actions that communities can do to prevent rabies. It also reflects the global target to eliminate all human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

9. World Maritime Day observed across the world

Every year, 29th September is celebrated as the World Maritime Day across the world. The theme for this year is 'Shipping: Indispensable to the world'. The theme focusses on to mark the importance of shipping in supporting sustainable development agenda and increase awareness of the role of International Maritime Organization.



2016 World Maritime Day, a parallel event will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 4 to 6 November 2016.

10. World Heart Day observed worldwide

World Heart Day 2016 was observed all over the world on 29th of September. World Heart Federation, based in Geneva has established the World Heart Day Campaign in 2000 to be celebrated every year on the 29th of September.



The World Heart Federation organizes awareness events in more than 100 countries like health checks, sports events, public talks, exhibitions etc. to prevent and control heart ailments through proper awareness campaigns and actions.

11. International Translation Day observed across the World on 30th September

The International Translation Day was observed worldwide on 30th September 2016 to promote the translation profession. The theme for 2016 was Translation and Interpreting: Connecting Worlds. Various events, seminars and symposiums were organized across the world. International Federation of Translators established this day in 1953, to let people celebrate this day every year on 30th September.



International Translation Day happens to fall on the feast day of St. Jerome, a Christian scholar and priest, who was the first person to translate the Bible into Latin from the original Hebrew, making it accessible to readers worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Michel Temer sworn in as new President of Brazil

Michel Temer, Brazil's former vice president, was sworn in as the new president of Brazil after Dilma Rousseff was removed of the presidency by the Senate in an impeachment trial. He is expected to remain President till 2018.



Brazil's Senate removed President Dilma Rousseff from office after a total of 61 senators voted in favour of her dismissal and 20 against, meeting the two-thirds majority needed to remove Rousseff from the presidency for illegally using money from state banks to boost public spending, an act seen as a leading factor behind the massive 60 billion US dollars deficit.

2. Nepal re-appointed Deep Kumar Upadhyay as its envoy to India

Nepal has re-appointed Deep Kumar Upadhyay as its envoy to India. Mr Upadhyay was recalled by the previous Oli government in May 2016 over charges of 'non-cooperation' and indulging in 'anti-government' activities. He was serving as Nepal's ambassador to India since April 2015.



The cabinet meeting chaired by new Prime Minister Prachanda at his office nominated Mr Upadhyay as ambassadorial candidate for India and Chief Secretary Lila Mani Poudel for China.

3. US and China ratified Paris Global Climate Agreement

The United States and China have both formally joined the Paris global climate agreement. Both the countries are together responsible for 40% of the world's carbon emissions.



While 180 countries have now signed the agreement, 55 nations - covering at least 55 percent of global emissions - need to formally ratify the treaty to put it into legal effect. 23 nations had already ratified but they collectively accounted for just 1.08 percent of global emissions.

4. G-20 Summit 2016 concluded in Chinese city of Hangzhou

The eleventh meeting of the Group of Twenty (G20) was held on 4-5 September 2016 in the city of Hangzhou (province of Zhejiang). The 2016 G20 Hangzhou summit is also the first ever G20 summit to be hosted in China and second Asian country after 2010 G20 Seoul summit was hosted in South Korea.



The guest invitees in the summit were: Egypt, Kazakhstan, Laos, Senegal, Spain, Singapore and Thailand.

The theme of the summit is toward an Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy. The final communiqué of the summit are:

- Fight against tax evasion
- Favour international trade and investments and opposition to protectionism
- Fiscal stimulus and innovation to boost economic growth
- Combating populist attacks against globalization
- Strengthen support for refugee

5. World Health Organization declares Sri Lanka malaria-free

WHO has declared Sri Lanka to be malaria-free, a life-threatening disease which long affected the island country. No locally transmitted cases of malaria had been recorded in the country for three-and-a-half years.

The country had begun an anti-malaria campaign that successfully targeted the mosquito-borne parasite that causes the disease, not just mosquitoes. Health education and effective surveillance also helped the campaign. Sri Lanka is the second country in the WHO South-East Asia Region to eliminate malaria after Maldives.



6. Microsoft, Google adopt EU-US Privacy Shield framework

American tech giants Microsoft, Google and Salesforce officially adopted the EU-US Privacy Shield framework. This will enable them to receive personal data from the European Union (EU) in compliance with the new standards.



They are now among the 103 companies out of the 5526 signatories to replace the defunct Safe Harbour framework. Facebook, Apple and Twitter are yet to adopt Privacy Shield Framework. The European Commission adopted the EU-US Privacy Shield framework in July 2016 to facilitate the transfer of personal data from the EU to the United States (US).

7. UK and IRAN appoint ambassadors for the first time in 5 years

The UK has appointed an ambassador to Iran for the first time since 2011 restoring diplomatic relations. The decision comes nearly five years after Iranians invaded the British Embassy. Nicholas Hopton, a former British ambassador to Qatar and Yemen, will take up the role of ambassador.

Similarly, Hamid Baeidinejad, has been appointed the Iranian ambassador to the UK. He has been a key figure in the Iranian nuclear negotiating team.



8. 28th and 29th ASEAN Summit successfully concluded at Vientiane, Laos

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit 2016 was held at Vientiane, Laos with theme 'Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community', under the leadership of H.E. ThonglounSisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao.

The Summit was witnessed by 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia. Leaders focussed on ASEAN Community Vision 2025, master plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and signed the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response.



9. Mexico sets up consulate in South Indian state Chennai

Mexico has set up its first consulate in south India in Chennai. This is the Latin American country's third consulate in India, with the other two being in Mumbai and Kolkata. It is an important initiative to explore Free Trade Agreement with India.

Mexico had backed Brazil as the top destination of India's exports to Latin America. India's exports to Mexico were \$2.8 billion in 2015-16. The Consulate in Chennai would serve as a liaison with the business community in south India and increase Mexican tourists, as only 15000 Mexicans visited India last year and around 50,000 Indian visited Mexico.



10. World Health Organization's (WHO's) South-East Asian Regional Committee to set up health emergency fund

India along with 10 other member countries of World Health Organization's South-East Asian Regional Committee has decided at the 69th session of WHO Regional Committee Meeting held at Colombo, to set up a dedicated fund aimed at building preparedness for health emergencies in the region.



The joint funding stream will be established under the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) which will allow these countries to invest in infrastructure and human resources to be prepared at the time of emergency. Besides, these countries also passed a resolution for promoting physical activity and expanding health services.

11. World's first driverless bus service launched in Lyon, France

The world's first driverless bus service began carrying passengers in Lyon, France. The two electric vehicles, fitted with high-tech equipment including laser sensors, stereo vision and GPS, can ferry around 15 passengers at a top speed of 20 kilometers an hour (12 mph).



The bus has been manufactured by the French firm Navya. Each bus costs 200,000 euros (\$225,000). A prototype was tested in 2013. The buses include features like LiDAR radar technology and motion sensors to help it avoid collisions. LIDAR is acronym of Light Detection and Ranging.

12. India along with 10 South-east Asian countries to set up fund for health emergencies preparedness

India along with 10 other member countries of WHO's South-East Asian Regional Committee agreed to establish a dedicated funding stream aimed at building preparedness for health emergencies in the Region. The decision was taken in the 69th session of WHO Regional Committee Meeting at Colombo.



The joint funding stream will be established under the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF). The region comprises 11 countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

13. Indo-US Economic Summit from September 13

The Indo-US Economic Summit began in New Delhi from September 13. The two-day summit will deliberate on ways to enhance bilateral trade and investments between India and the US to USD 500 billion and will focus on sectors that foster growth.



The North India council of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce is hosting the function. It will be inaugurated by US Ambassador to India Richard Verma. The summit will bring together more than 250 people, leaders from business, government, civil society and academia.

14. Bakytzhan Sagintayev appointed as the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

Bakytzhan Sagintayev has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Kazakhstan after his candidacy was approved by Deputies of Majilis of Parliament. The relevant decree on appointment was also signed by the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev.



52 years old Sagintayev replaced Karim Masimov who was named the Head of the KNB security service. The president also named Askar Mamin, previously the chief executive of the state railways company, first deputy prime minister.

15. World's longest bullet train network established in China

China's high-speed railway became world's longest bullet train network after it completed over 20,000 km of track in the country. The line has 9 stations and trains run at a speed of up to 300 kph. Construction of the line started in December 2012 and testing started in April 2016.

While Japan bagged the contract to build Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed train, China is conducting feasibility study to build a bullet train track between Chennai and New Delhi.



16. Somalia hosts heads of state summit for 1st time in 30 years

Somalia hosted regional African heads of state for a summit that was the first of its kind in the Somali capital since it plunged into conflict in 1991.

In the one-day meeting of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, IGAD, a grouping that includes Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Djibouti, Sudan, Uganda and Somalia, the regional leaders discussed Somalia's upcoming vote for a new Parliament and President, as well as the situation in South Sudan, where fighting in July has further destabilized the five-year-old nation.



17. Brazil Congress expels ex-speaker Eduardo Cunha

The powerful former speaker of the lower house of the Brazilian Congress, Eduardo Cunha, has lost his seat after an overwhelming vote by fellow members of Congress to remove him.

Mr Cunha had denied having millions of dollars hidden in Swiss bank accounts - said to be the proceeds of corruption. But information from Swiss authorities proved the existence of the accounts. Mr Cunha could now face arrest.



18. Visakhapatnam gears up for 3rd BRICS Urbanization Forum Meet

The 3-day 3rd BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Urbanization Forum Meet will be conducted in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. It will begin on 14th September and the theme of the meet is "Building responsive, inclusive and collective solutions for urbanization".



The delegates will discuss investments, urbanization, formation of new cities and policies and will explore solutions for the challenges in the summit. The conference would discuss how to increase the productivity, how to make a separate urban finance system and creation of employment opportunities.

19. BRICS Environment Ministers to meet at Goa

The Environment Ministers of BRICS countries are meeting on September 16 2016 in Goa, to strengthen mutual cooperation. The meeting is expected to discuss Memorandum of Understanding and the Joint Working Group on environment.



The BRICS Ministers are also expected to discuss thematic areas of mutual interest and prioritize actions for cooperation in critical areas like air and water pollution, liquid and solid waste management, climate change and conservation of biodiversity. This meeting shall be preceded by discussions at official level.

20. US agrees to supply largest military aid to Israel for next 10 years

United States has agreed to supply Israel with military aid for the next 10 years in a record 38 billion dollars deal - the largest in US history. The pact will elevate US aid to Israel from 3.1 billion dollars a year currently to 3.8 billion dollars.



The agreement constitutes the single largest pledge of bilateral military assistance in US history. Israel will receive, among other things, 500 million dollars a year for missile defence programmes.

21. UK approves EDF's 18-billion Euros nuclear power station

The U.K. government has approved Electricite de France's controversial plan to build two nuclear reactors for 18 billion pounds (\$24 billion) at Hinkley Point in Somerset.

The project will proceed under the condition that EDF won't be able to sell down its controlling stake in the project prior to completion of construction without U.K. government approval. China General Nuclear Power Corp. is providing about a third of the funding for the plant.



22. India, Nepal sign three agreements including improvement of road network

India and Nepal signed three MoUs and agreements to enhance the bilateral agreement between the two nations during the four-day-visit (from 15 September to 18 September 2016) of Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" to India.

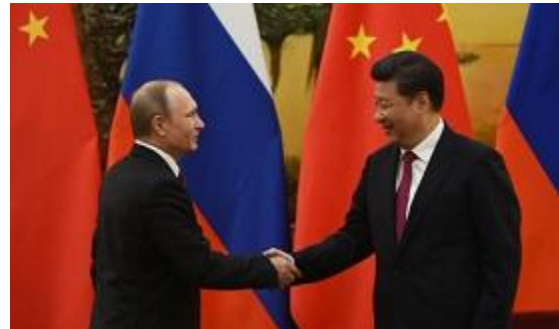
The inked MOUs and agreements are

- \$750 Million Line of Credit for post-earthquake reconstruction between Nepal and EXIM Bank
- MoU for project management consultancy services for upgradation/improvement of road infrastructure in Terai area of Nepal to be provided by NHIDCL
- First amendatory dollar credit line for post-earthquake reconstruction projects in Nepal



23. China and Russia conclude joint naval exercise

Chinese and Russian navies concluded their 8-day long joint military exercise, Joint Sea-2016, in waters off the southern province of Guangdong, with a drill to "seize" an island, in a symbolic move by Beijing whose claims over the South China Sea was struck down by an international tribunal.



The drill has a strategic value for China as it comes nearly two months after the international tribunal order. It was also the first time the China-Russia joint exercise had been held in the South China Sea.

24. 17th NAM summit held at Venezuela

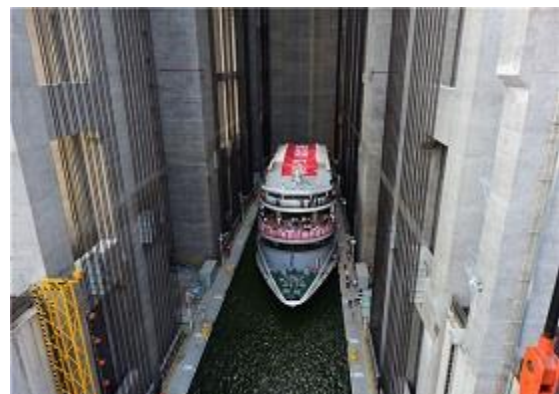
Hon'ble Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari lead the Indian delegation at the 17th Summit of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) held at Margarita Island in Venezuela on 17-18 September, 2016.



A declaration of the 17th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit issued called for the reform of the Security Council, in order to transform it into a more democratic, effective, efficient, transparent and representative body, and in line with contemporary geo-political realities. The last NAM Summit was hosted by Iran in 2012. As of 2012, the movement has 120 members.

25. World's largest ship lift began trial run in China

The Three Gorges ship lift project on China's Yangtze River started its trial run. It is expected to be the world's largest and most sophisticated ship lift.



The ship lift can elevate ships weighing up to 3,000 tons. It will shorten the time required for ships to pass through the dam from more than three hours at present to approximately 40 minutes.

The Three Gorges Dam is the world's largest power station in terms of installed capacity.

26. New York Declaration adopted at 1st UNGA Summit for protection of Refugees and Migrants

World leaders planned at the United Nations to adopt the New York Declaration at the opening of the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) first-ever Summit for Refugees and Migrants, to protect the rights of refugees and migrants and to save lives and share responsibility for large movements on a global scale.

Various declarations were adopted at the Summit like ensuring education for all refugee and migrant children, find new homes for all refugees identified by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, strengthen the global governance of migration etc.



27. President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party wins parliamentary election

President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party won the Russian parliamentary election and assigns Putin to continue as President for a fourth term. United Russia party obtained 44.5 per cent, according to exit polls followed by Communist Party and Liberal Democratic Party. The total number of Russian voters amounts to 111.6 million with about two million of them living abroad.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister, Dmitry Medvedev who is also party's chairman arrived at the United Russia party campaign office thanked Putin, who is the party founder, for demonstrating support for United Russia by visiting the campaign office.



28. First Indian music-dance festival starts in Australia

A first-of-its-kind Indian music and dance festival "Confluence: Festival of India" started in the iconic Sydney Opera House in Australia. The festival is aimed to showcase the country's rich and diverse culture.



The festival is an initiative of Indian government supported by its Australian counterpart. The six other cities the festival will be organized are: Adelaide, Alice Springs, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, and Perth. The festival will go on till November.

29. 193 countries sign declaration to stamp out drug-resistant infections

The 193 countries of the United Nations have signed a landmark declaration to rid the world of drug-resistant infections or superbugs. Six years in the making, the international commitment could prevent 700,000 deaths a year.



It is the fourth time a UN declaration has been reached on a health issue, following HIV in 2001, non-communicable diseases in 2011 and Ebola in 2013. The signatories now have two years to report back with an action plan. Experts say treatment-resistant infections pose one of the biggest known threats to humanity today.

30. US lawmakers introduce bill to designate Pakistan a terrorist state

In US, two influential lawmakers have introduced a bill in House of Representatives to designate Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism.



The bill known as the Pakistan State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Act has been moved by Republican Ted Poe and Democrat Dana Rohrabacher, who is a ranking member of the influential Congressional Committee on Terrorism.

Ted Poe, who is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism, said Pakistan is not only an untrustworthy ally but has also aided and abetted enemies of the US for years.

31. Chinese city Yangzhou to host India business, culture fest

China's Yangzhou city is set to host India Week celebrations from 23rd September with a business and investment meeting to be attended by CEOs of top Indian firms. Companies in Yangzhou have shown keen interest in investing in India under the 'Make in India' initiative.



As part of Yangzhou's International Cuisine Festival, an 'Incredible India Pavilion' will also be inaugurated, showcasing select Indian food delicacies and for promoting tourism-related travel options for Yangzhou visitors to India.

32. Afghanistan signs peace deal with Hezb-i-Islami

Afghanistan has signed a peace agreement with Hezb-i-Islami, paving the way for the armed group's commander, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, to make a political comeback despite allegations of war crimes during the 1990s. The deal with the largely dormant Hezb-i-Islami marks a symbolic victory for President Ashraf Ghani.



The agreement grants Hekmatyar amnesty for his offences and the release of certain Hezb-i-Islami prisoners. The agreement will come into force when it is formally signed by Ghani and Hekmatyar, though no date has been set.

33. US President Barack Obama rejected a bill that allows families of 9/11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia

US President Barack Obama rejected a legislation that could allow Americans to sue Saudi Arabia over whether it supported some of the Sept. 11 hijackers. Fifteen of the 19 men who carried out 9/11 were Saudi nationals.



The White House has warned that the legislation would have jeopardized legal and economic retaliation from foreign governments and would have made adverse impact with US interests and nationals overseas. Congress may try to overturn the veto, which requires a two-thirds majority in the House and Senate. Previous attempts to overturn Obama's vetoes have all been unsuccessful.

34. Historic UN Security Council Meet passes resolution on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament

Considering that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and their means of delivery that threatens international peace and security, UN Security Council passed a resolution in support of quick global implementation of Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban treaty to ban tests of nuclear weapons.



Decision came with 14 votes in favour and one (Egypt) against the decision, where 183 States have signed the Treaty and 166 States have deposited their instruments of ratification. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty bans all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes. The Treaty will enter into force 180 days after the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification by all.

35. India to host 1st BRICS Young Scientists Conclave

The Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, under the BRICS framework, to host a five-day event where a group of about 50 young scientists/researchers from BRICS countries are meeting in Bengaluru. It would be organized and coordinated by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru.



This BRICS Young Scientists Conclave assumes importance as it is taking place during India's chairmanship of BRICS in 2016 under a focal theme of 'Building, Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions'. The Conclave aims at building a BRICS Innovation and paves way for creation of strong generation of S&T leadership that can accelerate change collectively.

36. Pakistan Assembly passes Hindu Marriage Bill favouring **women's** rights

Pakistan's lower house of Parliament has passed a landmark bill that will address the Hindu minority's concerns over the registration of marriages, matters related to divorce and forced conversions.

Hindus make up approximately 1.6% of Pakistan's Muslim-majority population, but have not had any legal mechanisms to register their marriages since independence from Britain in 1947. Any violation to the law regarding the marriage of minimum age of 18 years for Hindu men and 16 years for women, would result in six months' jail and a 5,000-rupee (\$47) fine.



37. BRICS Labour & Employment Ministerial Meeting gets underway

The 2-day BRICS Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting was held in New Delhi where two historic reforms have been introduced by India. India has put a complete ban on employment below 14 years of age and on employment in hazardous occupations below 18 years of age.

The said reforms will boost employment track through the BRICS Employment Working Group will pave way for finding solutions to address employment and labour challenges that BRICS and a lot of other emerging economies face.



38. Jeffrey DeLaurentis nominated as the first Cuban Ambassador by United States

President Barack Obama has appointed Jeffrey DeLaurentis as the first U.S. Ambassador to Cuba in more than half a century. DeLaurentis had been working at the new US embassy in Havana, which opened since 2014. He served in Havana during the transition period between the two nations.



Prior to this, he has been the U.S. Chief of Mission in Havana since 2014. Several Republican senators, including Marco Rubio of Florida and Ted Cruz of Texas, have vowed to block a nomination for U.S. ambassador to Cuba.

39. Typhoon Megi Hits Eastern China, Taiwan

The powerful typhoon Megi has recently hit the island-nation Taiwan and Eastern China. Taiwan has been hit by a third typhoon in two weeks. The typhoon has winds up to 230 km/hr. It is equivalent to a Category 4 tropical cyclone.



Megi is 500 kilometers (310 miles) in diameter and rainfall had topped 300 millimeters (12 inches) in the south and eastern mountains of Taiwan. Megi is the fourth typhoon of the year to hit Taiwan.

40. WHO declares Measles complete elimination from the Region of the Americas

The Region of the Americas is the first in the world to have eliminated endemic measles, a viral disease that can cause severe health problems, including pneumonia, brain swelling and even death. The announcement came during the 55th Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization by the International Expert Committee for Documenting and Verifying Measles.



Measles is the fifth vaccine-preventable disease to be eliminated from the Americas after the regional eradication of smallpox in 1971, poliomyelitis in 1994, and rubella and congenital rubella syndrome in 2015.

41. Russia and Cuba inked agreement on Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation

On the occasion of the 60th session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference held at Vienna, Russian state nuclear agency Rosatom and Cuba's Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment inked an agreement on cooperation in the field of peaceful atomic energy use.



On the sidelines of the meeting, it has been decided to conduct special coordinating committees and bilateral working groups to implement agreement such as radioisotope production and their use in industry, medicine, agriculture, security and environmental research.

42. India and three other members boycott the 19th SAARC Summit to be held in Islamabad

The SAARC summit of 2016 will be cancelled as four of its members India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan took decision to stay away from the November summit to be held in Islamabad. India expressed inability to participate in the summit due to cross-border terrorist attacks and stepped up diplomatic pressure on Pakistan after the September 18 attack on the military base in Uri.



Later, India was joined by Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan considering the problem of terrorism in the region. Nepal is the current chair of SAARC and Summit is postponed.

43. The 3rd India and Canada Annual Ministerial Dialogue

A high level delegation led by Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attended 3rd Annual Ministerial Dialogue at Toronto, Canada. Trade Ministers of both the countries discussed ways of expeditious early conclusion of FTA and CEPA, exploring options for Indian interest in addressing the Temporary Foreign Workers Programmes (TFWP) of Canada, bilateral FDI flows, issues relating to intellectual property and other issues relating to trade and investment.



The next meet is scheduled to meet some top business leaders of Canada on the 30th September to discuss the various reforms.

44. Trilateral Meet between India, Afghanistan and Iran to Take Chabahar Agreement Further

A Trilateral meeting was held between Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Afghanistan, Dr. Mohammadullah Batash and Minister of Road and Urban Development, Iran, Dr. Abbas Ahmed Akhondi in New Delhi. The three Ministers held discussions on Trilateral Agreement on Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor.



It was decided to evolve protocols related to transport and transit, ports, customs procedures and consular affairs. It was also decided to convene an Expert level meeting of senior officials of the three countries within one month in Chabahar.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Reliance Industries Limited in September 2016 launched the telecom service **Reliance Jio**.
- A team of scientists discovered the world's oldest stromatolite fossils in the Isua Greenstone Belt recently. These Fossils are **3.7 Billion Years Old**.
- **Lt Gen Bipin Rawat** recently took over as the Vice Chief of Indian Army.
- The Indian film director, **Govind Nihalani**, was recently honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal at the Lonavla International Film Festival India.
- Indian Railway launched an insurance scheme for passengers travelling on e-ticket with insurance cover up to **10 lakh rupees**.
- Insurance scheme for passengers travelling on e-ticket launched by Indian Railway will be available after paying a premium of **92 paisa**.
- The Kudankulam Plant Unit-2 was in August 2016 synchronised with Southern Power Grid at **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Bala Girisaballa** was appointed as the CEO of Microsoft Accelerator in India recently.
- Noted poet, **Kashmiri Lal Zakir**, who wrote Sindur ki Raakh in 1955, died recently.
- The famous humanist French photographer who died recently is **Marc Riboud**.
- Indian sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** recently won the People's Choice Prize for his sand sculpture titled Mahatma Gandhi – World Peace at the **Moscow Sand Sculpture Championship 2016**.
- The two day "BRICS Convention on Tourism" began at World heritage site, **Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Ali Bongo Ondimba** was re-elected as President of Gabon.
- Chief Minister of Odisha, **Naveen Patnaik**, decided to share his thoughts on different issues through the radio for 10 minutes every month.
- As per RBI's Annual Report 2015-16, the Indian economy is likely to expand by what **7.6%** in 2016-17.
- Delhi government capped the cost of chikungunya serology test to **Rs 600**.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation gave green signal for expansion of **Agartala airport**.
- **Singapore** advised all pregnant women with symptoms associated with Zika, to be tested for the virus.

- The typhoon, **Lionrock**, killed about ten people after it struck Japan in last week of August 2016.
- Bhutan became the fourth Asian country to host a tournament on the Asian Tennis Tour in September 2016.
- Jharkhand became the first state in the country to implement Public Fund Management System (PFMS).
- **Bangladesh Cricket Board named former Sri Lankan cricketer Thilan Samaraweera as their batting consultant for their home series against England.**
- **Minakshi from CISF** created a new record in the Women's Hammer Throw at the 65th All India Police Athletics Championship in Hyderabad.
- The agrarian mass festival of western Odisha that was celebrated is **Nuakhai**.
- The 28th ASEAN Summit began in **Laos capital Vientiane**.
- **Rajasthan** High Court recently launched e-stamping facility.
- Urjit Patel recently assumed charge as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. He is RBI's **24th Governor**.
- A 22-year-old Japanese-Indian, Priyanka Yoshikawa, was crowned Miss Japan. She was born in Tokyo to an Indian father and a Japanese mother.
- Former IAS officer, **J Satyanarayana**, was recently appointed the part-time chairperson of Unique Identification Authority of India.
- The first edition of Nomad Film Festival 2016 began recently in **New Delhi**.
- The tennis star who set a new record of most number of Grand Slam matches wins is **Serena Williams**.
- Complying with the Supreme Court direction, **Karnataka** released Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.
- Satbir Singh, from 1985 batch of Indian Air Force presently posted as Additional Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
- The veteran journalist associated with Sulabh Patrika who passed away recently is **Ramsewak Shrivastava**.
- The drama series, **Game of Thrones**, became the Most-Awarded Drama in Emmy History.
- The Union Cabinet approved the formation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council. The Council will be created as per **Article 279A of the amended Constitution**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** notified the guidelines for transparent auction and scientific mining and hiked the penalty for offences under the mining act.

- Surgeons from **The United Kingdom** performed the world's first robotic operation inside the eye.
- **Pankaj Advani** became the first Indian cueist to win a medal at the Sangsom 6 Red Snooker World Championship.
- In order to maintain the records and data base of Indian students studying abroad, Government of India has launched a Student Registration module in MADAD portal "madad.gov.in".
- Vietnam won its first-ever Paralympic gold medal after para weightlifter Le Van Cong lifted 183 kgs, to set a new world record at the event.
- Armenian President, **Serzh Sargsyan**, appointed Karen Karapetyan as the Prime Minister of Armenia.
- Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India appointed Liro Rossi as the Chief Executive Officer of **Holiday Club resorts**.
- **Bombay Stock Exchange** became the first Indian stock exchange to file Initial Public Offering with SEBI.
- **Chhattisgarh** state government officially launched AIR Regional News Unit's Facebook page.
- Fortune's list of most powerful women based outside the US was topped by **Banco Santander's Ana Botin**.
- Indian's in the Fortune's list of most powerful women based outside the US are **SBI Chief Arundhati Bhattacharya (second), ICICI head Chanda Kochhar (fifth) and Axis Bank CEO Shikha Sharma (nineteenth)**
- China and Vietnam on 13 September 2016 agreed to properly manage their differences over territorial disputes in **the South China Sea**.
- The typhoon that became the strongest in 21 years that brought violent winds in Taiwan is **Meranti**.
- The para-athlete, **Thangavelu Mariyappan**, will be India's flag bearer in the closing ceremony of the Rio Paralympics.
- The Reliance Communications recently agreed to merge with Aircel. The parent company of Aircel is **Maxis Communications**.
- **Indonesia** recently announced to resume work on Giant Sea Wall to save its sinking capital.
- The Defence Ministry has written a letter to CBI seeking a probe into the allegations of kickbacks in the 2008 deal with **Brazilian aircraft maker, Embraer**.
- Former England batsman, **Graeme Hick**, signed a deal to become Australia's batting coach until March 2020.

- **Tariq Hameed Karra**, one of the founding members of ruling PDP and MP, resigned from the party and membership of Parliament.
- India declared itself free from the highly contagious infectious viral disease of birds, **Avian influenza (H5N1) or bird flu**.
- The first woman governor of Arizona, **Rose Mofford**, passed away recently.
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank has bagged four awards for inclusive insurance for 2016 from Skoch Group.
- Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd, a microfinance institution, has won the Platinum Award for Inclusive Insurance at the SKOCH Insurance Awards 2016.
- The Telangana and the Goa state governments signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) wherein Telangana will help Goa in the development of IT industry, hand-holding start-ups and training of skilled human resources.
- The scripts of Adil Hussain-starrers *Sunrise* and *Parched* have been archived at the library of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
- The UPSC member, **Alka Sirohi**, was recently appointed the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission.
- Indian wrestler, **Manisha**, won gold medal in Junior World Wrestling Championships.
- First Indian music and dance festival aimed to showcase the country's rich and diverse culture was kicked off in **Sydney, Australia**.
- **China** was hit by Typhoon Meranti recently.
- **Kerala** objected to the Genetically-Modified (GM) mustard from being considered for commercial cultivation in India.
- Two-day North East Connectivity Summit was held in **Agartala**.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the premature repatriation of Dr. Subash Chandra Khuntia, IAS(KN:1981), Secretary, School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development to his parent cadre with immediate effect.
- **Union Finance Minister** Arun Jaitley inaugurated the "Incredible India Tourism Investors Summit (IITIS)-2016" organized by Ministry of Tourism.
- The Southern India Engineering Manufacturers' Association (SIEMA) has inked an agreement with Anna University, Regional Campus, Coimbatore (AURCC) to work jointly on projects required for industries.
- PV Bharathi was recently appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of **Canara Bank**.
- **UK and Australia** were requested by Assam Government to immediately rectify their travel advisory to its citizens to the state.

- Justice Mohan M Shantanagoudar was sworn in as Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.
- Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed the 10% reservation given to economically weaker sections in **Haryana**.
- In **Odisha**, about 52000 government primary and upper primary schools functioning under the School and Mass Education Department, have no teacher for each class.
- The Muslim Brotherhood has made a return to parliament in **Jordan** after winning 16 seats in the 130-member house.
- Government's think-tank Niti Aayog has devised a short-term and medium-to-long term action plan to help India achieve 50 medals in **2024 summer Olympics**.
- The **United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI) and the China Tea Marketing Association (CTMA)** signed an MoU to work jointly towards sustainable development of the tea sector.
- Andhra Bank has entered into an agreement with Cigna TTK Company Ltd, and Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd for providing health and general insurance respectively.
- Lady Hardinge Medical College got a commemorative stamp at its Centenary Celebrations.
- Senior IPS officers Sudhir Pratap Singh has been appointed as Directors General of counter-terrorism force National Security Guard (NSG). Sudhir Pratap Singh, a 1983 batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre, is ADG, Central Reserve Police Force.
- The Odisha Government recently launched Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana in **Ganjam, Dhenkanal and Angul districts of the state**.
- **Eastern Gorilla**, an ape species, has recently been declared as Critically Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- The village that has become the first Wifi hotspot village in Haryana is **Gumthala Garhu**.
- Mercedes driver, **Nico Rosberg**, won the 2016 Italian Grand Prix.
- International Day of Charity is observed globally on **5 September**.
- **Haryana** decided to develop 340 villages as Horticulture Villages at a cost of 93 crore rupees during the Golden Jubilee year of the State.
- India's mixed doubles pair of **Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy** won the 2016 Brazil Open Grand Prix.
- **Odisha** signed a long-term lease agreement with Falcon Marine Exports for the operation of Jagatjore Shrimp Culture Project.

NATIONAL

1. MoU signed between MoUD and Amar Chitra Katha to publish Comic Book on Swachh Bharat Mission

The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Amar Chitra Katha to publish and distribute a special edition of the comic book, focusing on Swachh Bharat Mission.

The 32-page comic book will carry messages pertaining to sanitation and solid waste components of Swachh Bharat Mission. The book would comprise a series of inspirational stories from the mission, cleanliness rankings of cities, the public figures and ambassadors, environmental impact, and stories of individuals and organizations that can inspire children to the concept of 'Swachhata'.



2. Government notifies National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

Government has notified National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme. It is for the first time a scheme has been notified to offer financial incentives to employers.

The Scheme has an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore with a target of 50 Lakh apprentices to be trained by 2019-20.

25% of the prescribed stipend payable to an apprentice would be reimbursed to the employers directly by the Government of India.

Brand Ambassadors will be appointed for states and for local industrial clusters to act as facilitators and promoters to promote apprenticeship training.



3. Union Cabinet approves simplification of FDI Policy 2016 in various sectors

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for simplification and liberalization of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy, 2016 in various sectors announced in June, 2016.

The FDI policy amendments are meant to liberalize and simplify the FDI policy so as to provide ease of doing business in the country leading to larger FDI inflows contributing to growth of investment, incomes and employment.



4. Cabinet approves grant of Permanent Residency Status to Foreign Investors

The Union Cabinet has approved the scheme for grant of Permanent Residency Status (PRS) to foreign investors. The scheme is expected to encourage foreign investment in India and facilitate Make in India Programme.

The PRS will be granted for a period of 10 years with multiple entry. In order to avail this scheme, the foreign investor will have to invest a minimum of Rs. 10 crores to be brought within 18 months or Rs.25 crores to be brought within 36 months. Further, the foreign investment should result in generating employment to at least 20 resident Indians every financial year.



5. India and Egypt agree to step up defence and security engagements

India and Egypt have signed an agreement in the area of Maritime Transport to step up co-operation on the seas.

The agreement was signed after delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in New Delhi.

The two countries also agreed to cooperate on emerging challenges of cyber security. They will work together to fight drug trafficking, transitional crimes and money laundering.



6. Cabinet approved creation of PDF to catalyze Indian economic presence in CLMV countries

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to create a Project Development Fund (PDF) with a corpus of Rs 500 Crore for catalyzing Indian economic presence in the Cambodia, Laos Myanmar and Vietnam.

The PDF shall be housed in Department of Commerce and operated through the EXIM Bank. The PDF shall be governed by an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chairpersonship of the Commerce Secretary. India will have the advantage in the regional value chain by securing a dedicated market for domestic raw materials and intermediate goods on a long term basis.



7. Cabinet approved dissolution of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to proposal for dissolution of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited (CIWTC). The Voluntary Retirement Scheme for CIWTC was implemented in the year 2015 as per decision of 'the Cabinet on 24.12.2014.

CIWTC, a company incorporated on 22nd February 1967 under the Companies Act 1956 by the Government of India, could never become viable and company has been incurring losses since inception. The Company has only five employees at present.



8. CIL& ICFRE Signs MoU for Environment Related Issues in Coal Mining Projects

Coal India Limited (CIL) and Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) signed an MoU for effectively monitoring of environment related issues in the coal mining projects. The MoU will also help in improving the rehabilitation and reclamation of the mined out areas.

The MoU covers assessment and monitoring of plantation and eco-restoration activities, preparation of wild life management plans, preparation of environmental impact assessment and environmental management plans, capacity building for the executives of CIL on environment and forestry issues etc.



9. BRICS Convention on Tourism held in Khajuraho, MP

The two-day long BRICS Convention on Tourism was held in Khajuraho Madhya Pradesh. Ministry of Tourism organized the "BRICS Convention on Tourism" on September 01-02, 2016.

The two-day event comprised of inter-Governmental exchange of views and ideas, Panel discussions on Technology, Innovation in Tourism, and Cooperation between the BRICS countries for promoting intra-regional tourism. Elements of Culture, handicrafts and cuisine from different regions of India were also showcased during the convention.



10. Government approved 16 highway projects across 11 states

The Standing Finance Committee (SFC) has approved 16 projects worth Rs 7,456.88 crore for 622 km in 11 states - Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.

Of the total number of projects, 13 would be executed in EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) mode, two in hybrid annuity mode, and one in BOT (build, operate, and transfer) mode.



11. Election Commission grants national party status to All India Trinamool Congress

Election Commission has granted national party status to All India Trinamool Congress (TMC). The TMC is ruling the West Bengal and has presence in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. Presently, BJP, Congress, BSP, NCP, CPI and CPM are recognized as national parties in the country.



As per the provisions, to become a national party, a political outfit needs to win at least 2% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha from at least three different states or get at least 6% votes in four states in addition to four Lok Sabha seats, or recognized as a state party in four states.

12. India, Vietnam Sign 12 Agreements to Boost Bilateral ties

India and Vietnam have signed 12 agreements for cooperation in areas, including defence and IT, to boost bilateral ties.

The pacts included agreement on exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes, agreement on avoidance of double taxation, health cooperation, IT cooperation, cyber security and agreement on contract and design, building of boat in India, equipment supply and technology transfer. India offered a grant of \$5 million to set up a software park in Vietnam as well as \$500 million credit line for defence cooperation.



13. PM announces Rs 200 cr for sports to engage youth in J&K

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a special package of Rs 200 crore to engage youth of Jammu & Kashmir in constructive sporting activities. An amount of Rs. 5.00 crore has already been provided to J&K State Sports Council for organizing these village level sporting activities.



The package provides for construction of indoor sporting halls in all districts of the State with a view to provide playing facilities to youth during long winter in the state. Two stadia in the State capitals of Srinagar and Jammu will be upgraded to the international standards under the package.

14. Centre launches biggest "Leprosy Case Detection Campaign"

The Union Government has launched the biggest "Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC)" to eradicate leprosy from the country. 32 crore people, across 19 States and Union Territories, will be screened under the campaign. The objective is to detect the disease early so that those affected can be saved from physical deformity. The campaign will be till September 18, 2016.



LCDC aims to cover more than 1,600 blocks in the 149 districts across 20 states where nearly 3 lakh health teams will undertake door-to-door visits to detect leprosy cases.

15. Centre launched NIDHI for nurturing ideas & innovation into start ups

Union Government has launched a new program called National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) for nurturing ideas and innovation into successful start-ups.



There are eight components of NIDHI that support each stage of a budding startup from idea to market. The first component is PRAYAS (Promoting and accelerating young and aspiring innovators and startups) which aims to support innovators to grant up to 10 lakh rupees. During the current financial year, Department of Science has allocated 180 crore rupees, with a view to drive the innovation and startup centric new initiative.

16. First Ever 'Incredible India Tourism Investment Summit' organized by Tourism Ministry

"Incredible India Tourism Investment Summit (IITIS) - 2016" is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism in New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan from September 21 to 23, 2016. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism in association with Tourism Finance Corporation of India (TFCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).



Highlights of the Incredible India Tourism Investors' Summit (IITIS) are as follows:

- Participation from more than 27 Indian states
- Around 600 investable projects from various sectors of tourism
- Participation from 140 investors from 70 companies

17. Rs. 20,000 Crore Long Term Irrigation Fund to be Raised

With a move that aims to address the perennial irrigation water crisis affecting rural India, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and NABARD signed an agreement to operationalize the Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) to be instituted in NABARD as part of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The Fund has an initial corpus of about Rs 20,000 crore.



It is an arrangement between Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and NABARD to complete the 99 prioritized irrigation projects as part of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

18. Union Government launches dedicated Pan-India helpline for power outages

The Union Government launched the Urja Mitra Helpline number 14401, a dedicated pan-India helpline for power outages. Consumers can now get an update from power distribution companies about outages in their area by dialing 14401.

The Department of Telecom (DoT) created the helpline for pan-India usage to send information through voice calls and SMS to apprise customers about power situation in their area. It is a mandatory service, which will be provided by all the telecom operators. The app is developed by Power Finance Corporation (PFC).



19. Union Government launched #Gas4India campaign to promote Natural gas

The Union Government launched #Gas4India campaign, aimed at promoting the use of gas in the country. The campaign includes social engagement via social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Youtube, LinkedIn, and its official blogsites.

#Gas4India is a unified cross-country, multimedia, multi-event campaign to communicate the national, social, economic and ecological benefits of using natural gas as the fuel of choice to every citizen who uses, or will use in the near future, gas in any way- cook, travel, light their homes, and power their business.



20. Centre approves Rs 450 Cr for five states under Swadesh Darshan scheme

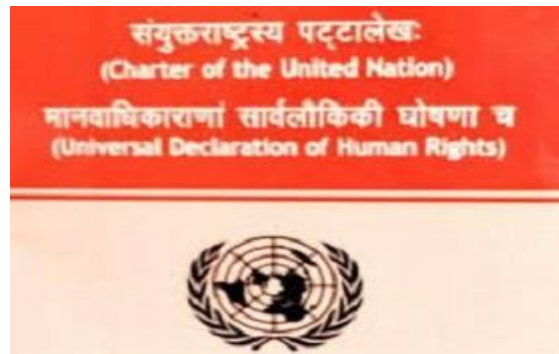
Centre has approved 450 crore rupees for Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim under the Swadesh Darshan scheme. The scheme was launched with an objective to develop 13 theme-based tourist circuits in the country.



The Tourism Ministry approved the amount for the development of Heritage circuit in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand with costs of Rs 100 crore and Rs 83 crore respectively, Ramayana Circuit in Uttar Pradesh with a project cost of Rs 70 crore, North East Circuit in Sikkim with cost of Rs 95.50 crore and Coastal Circuit of Tamil Nadu with a cost of about Rs 100 crore.

21. UN Charter translated into Sanskrit

The UN Charter, the seminal treaty of the United Nations, has now been translated into Sanskrit by Dr Jitendra Kumar Tripathi, Secretary of the Lucknow-based Akhila Bharatiya Sanskrit Parishad.



The Charter is available in all six official languages of the UN.

The United Nations Charter was signed on June 26 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organisation, and came into force on October 24 1945.

22. Govt approves 6 start-up centres

The Central government has approved six proposals to set up centres of excellence to promote and fund start-ups under the National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovation (NIDHI).



The government has earmarked ₹500 crore to scale up the start-up ecosystem, under which seed funding of up to ₹10 lakh will be given to develop a prototype and access fabrication facilities in incubators. The government also plans to develop 200 incubators in the next five years.

23. India and Chile expand preferential trading pact to boost economic ties

India and Chile have expanded their Preferential Trade Agreement. Chile has offered concessions to India on 1798 tariff lines with margin of preference ranging from 30% to 100% and India has offered concessions to Chile on 1031 tariff lines at 8-digit level with MoP ranging from 10%-100%.



Chile was the third largest trading partner of India among the Latin American countries during 2015-16. India's bilateral trade with Chile stood at US\$ 2.64 billion with exports at US\$ 0.68 billion and imports at US\$ 1.96 billion respectively during 2015-16(P).

24. First Phase of ESICS Pilot Project of Telemedicine Services Inaugurated

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, the Minister of State for Labour and Employment inaugurated the first phase of Tele-medicine services of ESIC for providing specialist medical services at a distance to insured workers. With this Employees State Insurance Corporation's (ESIC) Model Hospital Basaidarapur has been connected with three ESIS dispensaries at Katihar (Bihar), Unnao (UP) and Rudarpur (Uttaranchal).



ESIC has launched an ambitious Pilot Project of Tele-Medicine Services at 11 ESI locations in coordination with C-DAC, Mohali under the aegis of "Digital Inclusive and Smart Community (DISC)".

25. GST Bill approved by President Pranab Mukherjee

The legislation amending the Constitution to enable goods and services tax (GST) has become a law with President Pranab Mukherjee giving his approval to the bill and has opened a way for new indirect tax regime. Bill will replace multiple indirect taxes levied by centre and states, creating one national market.



After President's approval, bill will now move to GST Council for deciding the tax rate, cess and surcharges. The government will implement GST bill from 1st April 2017.

26. Union Government introduces DigiLocker mobile app for digital Driving Licenses and Vehicle Registration Certificates

Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, and Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology and Law and Justice has launched a new mobile app DigiLocker, through which a user can access their driving licence and registration certificate digitally and need not carry a physical copy all the time.



New Driving Licenses and Vehicle Registration documents will now be issued directly to the DigiLockers of individuals in digital formats. Authenticity of certificates can also be verified with this app, whenever required by Traffic police.

27. India and Greece sign Air Services MoU under Open Sky Policy

India and Greece inked Air Services Agreement to improve international air connectivity for Indian carriers under the Open Sky Policy.

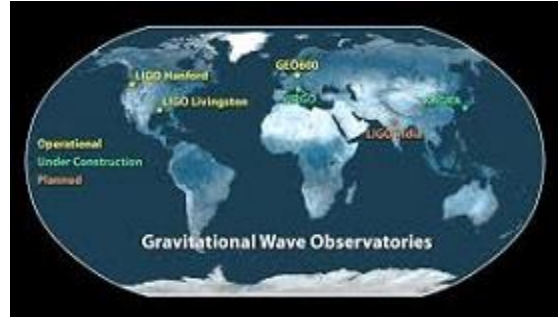
Unlimited flights above the existing bilateral rights will be permitted directly to and from major international airports within the country. It would be the first such MoU with Greece, which is known for its tourist spots and scenic beauty.



As per the policy, the government would sign an 'open sky' air services agreement with SAARC nations as well as countries with territory located entirely beyond a 5,000 kilometre radius from New Delhi.

28. India's first Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory Laboratory to open at Maharashtra

Union Cabinet gave in principle approval to the proposal for research on gravitational waves and set up its first LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) laboratory at Aundh in Hingoli district of Maharashtra. The existing two laboratories are located in Hanford, Washington and in Livingston, Louisiana.



LIGO-India will offer opportunities in cutting edge technology for Indian industries, as they along with industry members will be engaged in the construction of the eight km-long beam tube at ultra-high vacuum on a levelled terrain.

29. Civil Aviation Ministry prohibits use of Samsung's Galaxy Note 7 phone on board aircraft

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued a public notice prohibiting the use of Samsung's Galaxy Note 7 smartphone on board an aircraft. The ministry has advised airlines and travelers not to turn on or charge the smartphone during flights.



This has been done in light of several incidents globally, involving the battery of Samsung Galaxy Note 7. Passengers have also been advised not to stow them in their checked in baggage.

30. Union Cabinet approves creation of GST Council

The Union Cabinet approved setting-up of GST Council and setting-up of its Secretariat. As per Article 279A of the amended Constitution, the GST Council will be a joint forum of the Centre and the States. The Union Finance Minister will be the Chairperson of the council.



The Council will make recommendations to the Union and the States on important issues related to GST, like the goods and services that may be subjected or exempted from GST, model GST Laws, principles that govern Place of Supply, threshold limits, GST rates including the floor rates with bands, etc.

31. Union Government issued fresh guidelines for flexi-fund for CSS

The Union Government has issued fresh flexi-fund guidelines for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Under the new norms, flexi-funds in each CSS has been increased from the current 10% to 25% for states and 30% for Union Territories.



The states can use the fund to undertake mitigation or restoration activities in case of natural calamities, or to satisfy local requirements in areas affected by internal security disturbances. State governments will have to constitute a state-level sanctioning committee (SLSC) to avail of the flexi-fund facility.

32. CBDT launched e-nivaran to resolve Income Tax grievances

CBDT has launched the ambitious 'e-nivaran' facility for online redressal of taxpayers' grievances related to refunds, ITRs and PAN among others as part of its initiative.



An exclusive 'e-nivaran' (electronic resolution) link has recently been activated on the e-filing portal of the department '<http://income tax india efilling.gov.in>' where taxpayers can register their complaints through their personal computer systems and receive a special PIN number on their registered mobile and email, as their unique number to keep track of the issue.

33. Union Government launched toll-free number for postal complaints

Ministry of Communications launched India Post Help Centre and a Toll Free Number 1924 to address the grievances of people in the Country related to Department of Posts. The Help Centre has been launched in three languages -Hindi, English and Malayalam and will be functioning from 8 A.M to 8 P.M on all working days except holidays.



The toll free helpline number '1924' would be available for customers from all over India from landline/mobile phone. The case disposal time is one working day subject to policy matters.

34. BRICS Wellness Workshop and AROGYA fair inaugurated

The Union government conducted a National Fair on comprehensive Indian Medicine system (AROGYA) in Bengaluru. The two days BRICS Wellness Workshop and AROGYA fair is being organized by the Ministry of AYUSH, in collaboration with Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).



The Workshop is designed to have sessions related to Traditional Systems of Medicine, Wellness and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Wellness and Tourism among others. The Arogya fair provides a good exposure for manufacturers/importers of Traditional Medicines/Raw Materials of the BRICS Countries to have first-hand experience of Indian Traditional Medicinal products/manufacturing facilities.

35. Cabinet approved agreement with Kenya for cooperation in National Housing Policy

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post-facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Kenya on cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management (NHPDM). The MoU was signed on 11th July, 2016 at Nairobi during the visit of the Prime Minister of India.



Under the MoU, both the sides will collaborate on all matters relating to housing and human settlements through various strategies including training of personnel, exchange visits, expos/exhibitions, conferences and workshops.

36. CCEA approves proposal for initiation of 3rd phase of TEQIP

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal for initiation of the Third Phase of Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP). The project will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme with total project outlay of 3600 Crore rupees.

However, the project would be initiated with a cost of 2660 Crore rupees, with the possibility of additional financing of 940 Crore rupees at later stage. The Focus States include Low Income States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, Hill States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand. The eight North-Eastern States and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are also focus states under the Programme.

TEQIP

37. Cabinet approves signing of the Extradition Treaty between India and Afghanistan

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing and ratification of the Extradition Treaty between India and Afghanistan. The treaty would provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of terrorists, economic offenders and other criminals from and to the Afghanistan. The cabinet nod comes ahead of Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani's two-day visit to India from September 14.



India has extradition treaties in operation with at least 37 countries. Extradition treaties define an offence as an extraditable offence if it is punishable under the laws in both the contracting states by imprisonment for a period of at least one year.

38. Cabinet approved Bilateral Technical Arrangement between India and Switzerland on the identification and return of Swiss and Indian Nationals

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of the Technical Arrangement between India and Switzerland on the identification and return of Swiss and Indian Nationals and its implementation.

Conclusion of the Bilateral Technical Arrangement (BTA) has been linked to the Visa Free Agreement for holders of Diplomatic passports as a package deal. If the BTA with Switzerland is approved, it would help to leverage the Readmission Agreement to liberalize visa and work permit regimes for legitimate Indian travelers. This has been envisaged as a key goal in the recently concluded India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMP).



39. Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Mozambique on cooperation in the field of Youth Affairs

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the MoU signed on July 07, 2016 between India and Mozambique on cooperation in the field of Youth Affairs and Sports during the visit of Prime Minister of India to Mozambique.

This MoU will help in promotion of sports in the two countries and will promote exchange of ideas, values and culture amongst Youth and in developing friendly relations. It will also help in developing international perspective among the Youth and expanding their knowledge and expertise in the areas of Youth Affairs and Sports.



40. Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and South Africa in the field of Information and Communication Technologies

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the MoU signed on July 08, 2016 between India and South Africa for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The MoU will help to establish inter-institutional cooperation and relations between the two Parties in order to promote cooperation in the field of ICT. It will also result in active cooperation and exchanges between the private entities, capacity building institutions, Governments and other public organizations of the two countries in the field of ICT.



41. Cabinet approves Exchange of Tariff concessions under the Fourth Round of Negotiations APTA

The Union Cabinet has approved the exchange of tariff concessions, on Margin of Preference basis, under the Fourth Round of Negotiations under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement and related amendments.

The Asia Pacific Trade Agreement or APTA is an initiative for trade expansion through exchange of tariff concessions among developing country members of the Asia Pacific Region. The current membership of APTA consists of six countries namely, Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka.



The Cabinet approved India's offer 28.01% of dutiable national tariff lines (i.e. 3142 lines in HS2012 at 8-digit) with an average MoP of 33.45%.

42. Government issued model guidelines for states to curb Ponzi schemes

The Union Government has issued model guidelines for states to regulate direct selling and multi-level marketing businesses while prohibiting pyramid structures as well as money circulation schemes to protect consumers from Ponzi frauds.



The Direct Selling Guidelines 2016 framework was released by the Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan. They have been sent to the states and Union Territories for adoption. Ponzi schemes are banned under the Prize Chit and Money Circulation (Banning) Act, 1978.

43. Union Cabinet approves extension of contract between India and ISA

The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of contract between Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exploration of Polymetallic Nodules for a further period of 5 years (2017-22). The earlier contract is expiring on 24th March 2017.



With this, India's exclusive rights for exploration of Polymetallic Nodules in the allotted Area in the Central Indian Ocean Basin will continue and would open up new opportunities for resources of commercial and strategic value in area beyond national jurisdiction.

44. Cabinet approves establishment of Higher Education Financing Agency

The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to give a major push for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions.

The HEFA would be jointly promoted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development with an authorized capital of Rs. 2,000 crore. The Government equity would be Rs. 1,000 crore. The HEFA would be formed as a SPV within a PSU Bank/ Government-owned-NBFC (Promoter). It would leverage the equity to raise up to Rs. 20,000 crore for funding projects for infrastructure and development of



Higher Education Financing Agency

world class Labs in IITs/IIMs/NITs and such other institutions.

45. Meeting of the India Russia Working group on Priority Investment Projects

The 4th meeting of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects were held in New Delhi.

Both sides acknowledged their mutual interest in further strengthening and expanding bilateral investment cooperation between Russia and India across the sectors.

The Working Group on Priority Investment Project was set up in 2013 by the two countries with the objective to encourage and promote Indo-Russian Projects. Both sides have agreed to hold the next meeting of the Working Group in 2017 in Russian Federation.



46. 105-yr-old Kunwar Bai made 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' mascot

105-year-old Kunwar Bai, who was felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for building toilet by selling off her goats, has been chosen as the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' mascot.

Prime Minister Modi will felicitate Kunwar Bai in the national capital to mark 'Swachhta Diwas' on September 17. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is a national campaign by the Government of India, covering 4,041 statutory cities and towns, to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country.



47. Centre to invest over Rs 1,50,000 Cr in UP for development of roads

Centre will invest more than One Lakh Fifty Thousand Crore rupees in Uttar Pradesh for development of roads in next three years. Works on several road projects amounting to around 70 thousand crore rupees are underway.

The government has also taken up a project for construction of express highway between Lucknow to Kanpur. It will cost around 1500 crore rupees and the distance between the two cities will be covered in 35 to 40 minutes.



48. MOU signed between the Govt of India and the African Development Bank (AfDB)

India will be hosting the next Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group at Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre, Ahmedabad from May 22 to May 26, 2017. This will be a mega international event to be attended by more than 5000 delegates from 80 member countries of the African Development Bank including the Governors, Alternate Governors, Executive Directors, policy makers and businesses.

A MoU was signed between GoI and AfDB regarding the holding of the Annual Meetings. The MoU outlines the roles of Govt of India and AfDB.



49. Centre bans sharing of Aadhaar details

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has asked agencies in possession of Aadhaar number of an individual to not publish or post the information publicly under the Aadhaar Act. The agencies will have to ensure security and confidentiality of the 12-digit identification number.

The agencies need to inform Aadhaar holders the purpose for which their details would be used. Any violation of the Aadhaar Act will constitute an offence and is punishable under the Act. Based on the offence, the penalty could go up to three years imprisonment or a fine of up to Rs.1 lakh or both.



50. India signed MoU with Sri Lanka to support fishermen

India inked a Memorandum of Understanding with Sri Lanka to support livelihood of the fishing and farming communities in southern Hambantota district.

The project envisages gift of equipment and tools such as grub hoes, bicycles, life jackets and sewing machines, worth USD Two Million, to the fishing and farming communities in Hambantota district.

More than 75,000 people across the district will get direct benefit from the project.



51. Government notifies GST Council

Government has formally notified the GST Council which will be chaired by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and its first meeting will be held on September 22-23. The council will decide on the tax rate, exempted goods and the threshold under the new taxation regime.

The Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2016, for introduction of the goods and services tax in the country was accorded assent by the President on September 8 and the same has been notified as the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.



52. Ministry of Tourism Approves Projects of Rs. 500 Crore for Jammu & Kashmir

The Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) chaired by Union Tourism Secretary Shri Vinod Zutshi for the 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme' has approved projects to the tune of Rs. 500 Crore as part of Development Package of Prime Minister Reconstruction Plan (PMRP) for integrated development of tourism in J&K.



New projects include Integrated Development of Tourist facilities at Mantalai – Sudhmahadev – Patnitop Circuit for Rs.99.99 Crore, Baramulla-Kupwara-Leh circuit for Rs.99.98 Crore, Rajouri - Bafliyaz - Shopian - Pulwama Circuit for Rs.99.99 Crore and Anantnag-Kishtwar- Pahalgam – Daksum - Ranjit Sagar Dam Circuit for Rs.99.75 Crore.

53. All India Radio Launches Balochi Website, Mobile App

All India Radio (AIR) launched a website and mobile app for its Balochi service to reach people who speak this language across the globe. PM Narendra Modi on Independence Day had brought up the issue of Pakistani atrocities on people of Balochistan and PoK.



The short wave radio service in Balochi has been functional since 1974 and reaches several parts of Pakistan. The External Services Division (ESD) of All India Radio, presently broadcasts daily in 57 radio transmissions covering over 108 countries in 27 languages.

54. HAL Joins International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG)

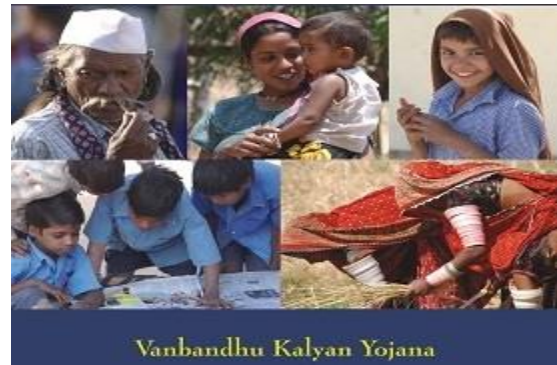
The Asia-Pacific Aerospace Quality Group (APAQG) has conferred its prestigious membership on HAL under the category 'Full Member with voting rights' making India as the seventh nation to join the APAQG under International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG). The other nations of APAQG are China, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore and Japan. The IAQG is an international non-profit cooperative global organization that brings aviation, space and defence companies together to deliver more value at all levels of the supply chain.



55. Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana to be implemented throughout the country

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana aimed to the welfare of tribal people would be implemented in the entire country.

Six water supply projects worth Rs.1757 crore and four lift irrigation projects worth another Rs. 2,000 crores were under the Gujarat Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojna. The six water supply projects will provide drinking water to about 21-lakh people residing in 960 villages including 23 settlements in Dahod, Mahisagar, Narmada and Chhota Udepur districts.



56. Union Water Resources Ministry inked MoU with Agriculture Ministry to take up organic farming

The Union Water Resources Ministry has signed an MoU with the Agriculture Ministry. Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti and Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh attended the MoU signing event in New Delhi.

As per the MoU, the Agriculture Ministry will encourage farmers of over 5,000 villages along the Ganga to take up organic farming, which will help curb pollution caused by chemical fertiliser-laden runoff in the river with each Gram Panchayat representing a cluster under Paramaparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.



57. Suresh Prabhu launched cleanliness drive at railway premises

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu launched the 'Swachhta Saptah' as part of the Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat Mission from New Delhi Railway Station on 17th September. Indian Railways is organizing a special nine-day long public outreach programme scheduled from 17th September to 25th September 2016 in order to spread wider awareness on sanitation and cleanliness in rail premises.

Prabhu also announced to join hands with Sulabh International to clean some important railway stations across the country. The five railway stations under the pilot project are Gorakhpur, Old Delhi, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Gwalior.



58. Government to expand DBT to 147 schemes by March 2017

Government is planning to expand Direct Benefit Transfer and double the number to 147 schemes by March 2017. The government has launched pilots for paying subsidy on food, kerosene and fertilizer directly via bank accounts of beneficiaries.



Benefits and subsidies in 74 schemes of 17 government departments and ministries are paid directly to beneficiaries under DBT as of now. The Centre has implemented 30% of the recommendations of the expenditure management commission that was set up to suggest reforms to overhaul the subsidy regime and lower fiscal deficit.

59. Government notified new Import policy for Marble and Travertine Blocks

The government has notified the new import policy for Marble & Travertine Blocks, and Marble and Granite Slabs, to come into effect from 1st October 2016.



The Minimum Import Price (MIP) for marble blocks has been reduced to 200 US dollar per ton. The basic customs duty on import of marble and travertine blocks has been increased from 10% to 40% to address the interest of domestic producers. Similarly, the MIP on the import of marble slabs is being reduced to 40 US dollar per square metre and the basic customs duty on the import of marble slabs is doubled to 20%.

60. Railways to introduce Yatri Mitra Sewa to book wheelchair cum porter services

With a view to provide support to old and differently abled passengers requiring assistance at the stations, Ministry of Railways has decided to introduce Yatri Mitras Sewa for enabling passengers to book wheelchair services cum porter services. Yatri Mitra will provide Wheel chair cum porter services to Divyang and senior citizens.



The service can be booked on IRCTC e-ticketing website and 139 or through a mobile. The responsibility of providing the Yatri Mitra Sewa has been entrusted with IRCTC.

61. HRD Minister inaugurated Super Computer PARAM-ISHAN at IIT Guwahati

Union Human Resource Development minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the super computer PARAM ISHAN at IIT Guwahati campus. PARAM ISHAN is the fastest and most powerful computer in North East, Eastern and Southern region.

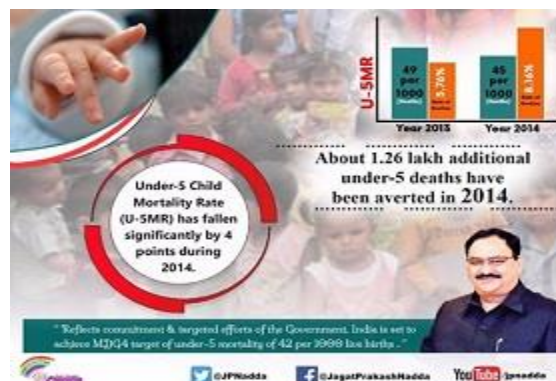
PARAM ISHAN has been jointly developed by IIT Guwahati and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, C -DAC. PARAM-ISHAN have power of 250 Teraflops and three hundred tera bites capacity. It can be used in the application areas like Computational Chemistry, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Computational Electromagnetic, Civil Engineering Structures, Nano-block Self Assemble, Optimization etc.



62. Under 5 Child Mortality Rate falls significantly by 4 points during 2014

The Under-5 Child Mortality has fallen by a significant four points during 2013-14. The recent RGI data released for the Sample Registration Survey (SRS) for the year 2014 indicates 8.16 percent decline in under-five mortality (during 2013-2014) as compared to 5.76 percent decline during 2012-2013.

The U5MR in 2014 is 45 compared to U5MR in 2013, which stood at 49 indicating a 4-point decline. This implies that about 1.26 lakh additional under-five deaths have been averted in 2014.



63. Amritsar tops the list of 27 new smart cities

The Golden Temple city of Amritsar topped the list of 27 new smart cities announced by the Minister of Urban Development. Eight other cities of pilgrim and tourism importance that made to the third list of smart cities are; Ujjain, Tirupati, Agra, Nashik, Madurai, Thanjavur, Ajmer and Varanasi.

The new 27 smart cities have proposed an investment of Rs.66,883 cr. With this, the total investment proposed by the 60 cities selected so far has gone up to Rs.1,44,742 cr.



64. 12% growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals in August

Foreign Tourist Arrivals have registered a growth of around 12 per cent in August 2016 over the same period last year. The Tourism Ministry, in a release, said, 6 lakh 70,000 foreign tourists arrived during the period.



The release said, Bangladesh accounts for highest share of tourist arrivals followed by US and UK. The Ministry said, foreign exchange of around 13,000 crore rupees earned through tourism in August this year.

of around 13,000 crore rupees earned through tourism in August this year.

65. Union Cabinet approved merger of Rail budget with Union Budget

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Finance for the merger of Railway budget with the General budget with the following administrative and financial arrangements-



- The Railways will continue to maintain its distinct entity -as a departmentally run commercial undertaking as at present;
- There will be no dividend liability for Railways from 2017-18 and Ministry of Railways will get Gross Budgetary support.
- Railways will retain their functional autonomy and delegation of financial powers etc. as per the existing guidelines.

66. Ken-Betwa project gets the approval of National Board for Wildlife

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has cleared the first phase of Ken-Betwa river link project. The project, with an estimated cost of about Rs 9,300 crore, requires diversion of 5,258 hectares of forest land, including 4,141 hectares of Panna Tiger Reserve.



The interlinking of the Ken and Betwa rivers in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is aimed at providing water to Bundelkhand. The main feature of the project is a 230-km long canal and a series of barrages and dams connecting the Ken and Betwa rivers.

67. Indira Awas Yojana Renamed after Prime Minister

The Union Government has restructured and renamed Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), started by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The IAY will be subsumed by the PMAY from April 1 next year.

As a part of the new scheme, the government plans to construct one crore houses by 2019. Under the PMAY scheme, grant will be transferred directly into the bank account of beneficiaries. Those who are living in plains will receive a grant of Rs 1.20 lakh, with Rs 1.30 lakh for those living in hilly areas.



68. Govt approved 9 highway projects worth Rs 2,600 crore in 5 states

Government has approved 9 highway projects of 414 kilometer at an estimated cost of Rs 2600 crore. These projects are related to the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh.

All the projects approved will be constructed in the engineering, procurement and construction mode. The projects include upgradation of 49 km stretch of Allahabad-Mirzapur section of NH 76, construction of two-lane Pilibhit-Puranpur on NH 730 and upgradation of Banda-Allahabad of NH 76.



69. Cabinet approved submarine OFC connectivity between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for provision of a direct communication link through a dedicated submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) between Mainland (Chennai) and Port Blair & five other islands viz. Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Havelock, Kamorta and Great Nicobar.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1102.38 crore including operational expenses for 5 years. The project is likely to be completed by December 2018. The approval would equip Andaman & Nicobar Islands (ANI) with appropriate bandwidth and telecom connectivity for implementation of e-Governance initiatives; establishment of enterprises & e-commerce facilities.



70. Cabinet approved advancement of the Budget presentation

The Cabinet has approved, in principle, the budgetary process, for advancement of the date of Budget presentation from the last day of February to a suitable date. The exact date of presentation of Budget for 2017-18 would be decided keeping in view the date of assembly elections to be held in States.



The advancement of budget presentation by a month and completion of Budget related legislative business before 31st March would pave the way for early completion of Budget cycle and enable better planning and execution of schemes from the beginning of the financial year.

71. Cabinet approved merger of Plan and Non Plan classification in Budget and Accounts

The Cabinet has approved the merger of Plan and Non Plan classification in Budget and Accounts from 2017-18, with continuance of earmarking of funds for Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan/Tribal Sub-Plan. Similarly, the allocations for North Eastern States will also continue.



The Plan/Non-Plan bifurcation of expenditure has led to a fragmented view of resource allocation to various schemes. The merger of plan and non-plan in the budget is expected to provide appropriate budgetary framework having focus on the revenue, and capital expenditure.

72. 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras to be opened by March 2017

Centre has decided to open 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by March 2017 to provide quality medicines at affordable rates. 437 such Kendras have become operational across the country so far. Of them, the maximum 122 Jan Aushadhi Kendras are in Chhattisgarh followed by Uttar Pradesh.



Department of Pharmaceuticals has initiated countrywide campaign to ensure availability of generic medicines at affordable prices for all, under Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY).

73. Cabinet approves the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016

The Union Cabinet approved the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016.

Briefly, the Order envisages:

- Creation of the National Council for River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management), as an Authority under the Chairperson of Hon'ble Prime Minister
- Setting up of an Empowered Task Force
- Declaration of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) as an Authority with powers to issue directions and also to exercise the powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986



74. Cabinet approves Agreement between India and Samoa for exchange of information with respect to Taxes

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing and ratification of Agreement between India and Samoa for the exchange of information with respect to Taxes. The Agreement will stimulate the flow of exchange of information between India and Samoa for tax purposes which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance.



There are no financial implications at present. Only in the event of extraordinary costs exceeding USD 500, the same will be borne by India. India has similar provisions in other such tax information exchange agreement.

75. 5th BIRAC Innovators Meet

BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council), a non-profit Public Sector Enterprise under the aegis of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, is organizing the 5th Innovators Meet on 22-23 September 2016 in New Delhi. The theme of the meet would be 'Biotech Innovation Ecosystem - Strategizing the Next Leap'.



The Innovators Meet is being organized for marking BIRAC's continuous efforts to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in all places of research. It is a confluence of around 300 Scientists, Entrepreneurs & Industry Experts, and Policy Makers.

76. Indian Oil and GAIL sign MoU for taking equity stake in upcoming Dhamra LNG terminal

Indian Oil Corporation Limited and GAIL (India) Limited today signed an MoU with Dhamra LNG Terminal Private Limited (DLTPL) for taking equity in the 5 MMTPA capacity LNG Receiving, Storage and Regasification Terminal, being put up at Dhamra Port, Odisha.



As per the MoU, DLTPL shall be an equal Joint Venture of Indian Oil and GAIL on one hand and Adani Group on the other. Indian Oil and GAIL would acquire 39% and 11% equity respectively in DLTPL, with the balance 50% being held by Adani group.

77. Cabinet approves Capital Grant to GAIL for development of Gas Infrastructure

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved viability gap funding / partial capital grant at 40% (Rs. 5,176 crore) of the estimated capital cost of Rs. 12,940 crore to GAIL for development of 2539 km long Jagdishpur-Haidia and Bokaro-Dhamra Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) project.



JHBDPL project will connect Eastern part of the country with National Gas Grid. CCEA also approved the simultaneous development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks in cities namely Varanasi, Patna, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Cuttack etc. en-route of JHBDPL project.

78. CCEA approved winding up of Hindustan Diamond Company Private Limited

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for initiating the process of winding up of Hindustan Diamond Company Private Limited (HDCPL). It is a 50:50 joint venture of the Government of India and De Beers Centenary Mauritius Limited (DBCML).

The HDCPL was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 in 1978. The objective of formation of the Company was to supply rough diamonds to diamond processing industry in India.



79. IWAI Signs Contract with DST, Germany for Designing Special Vessels for NW-1

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Ministry of Shipping signed a contract with M/s DST, Germany to design vessels, especially suited to navigate the 1620 km stretch of NW-1 to provide safe, environment friendly and economical mode of transportation through National Waterway-1 (NW-1).



Government is developing NW-1 under the Jal Marg Vikas Project, with assistance from the World Bank at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,200 crore. The project would enable commercial navigation of vessels with capacity of 1500-2,000 tons.

80. Cabinet approved enactment of Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill 2016

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the proposal of Ministry of Shipping to enact Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill 2016 and to repeal five archaic admiralty statutes.



Admiralty jurisdiction is related to the powers of the High Courts in respect of claims associated with transport by sea and navigable waterways.

The salient features are as follows:

- The Bill confers admiralty jurisdiction on High Courts located in coastal states of India and this jurisdiction extends up to territorial waters.
- It applies to every vessel irrespective of place of residence or domicile of owner.

81. Swachh Bharat Week to be observed from Sep 25-Oct 2

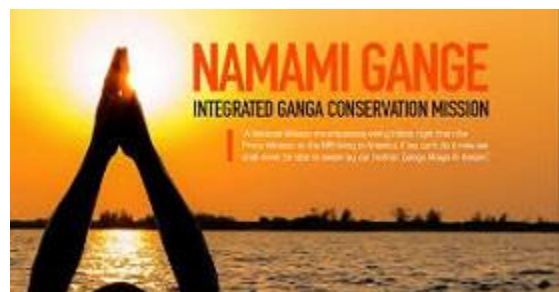
Swachh Bharat Week will be observed from 25th September till 2nd of October, 2016. The government has planned country wide awareness programmes during this period.



As a part of Swachh Bharat Week, a day-long 'INDOSAN-2016' i.e India Sanitation Conference will be organized on September 30, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. INDOSAN seeks to renew the commitment at the highest political level to ensure Clean India by 2019.

82. NCRG under PM to fast track Namami Gange implementation

To fast-track the implementation of its ambitious Namami Gange programme, the government has decided to replace National Ganga River Basin Authority, NGRBA with National Council for River Ganga, to be headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



It also decided to set up an empowered task force, to be chaired by Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti, to ensure ministries and departments working on the programme have an action plan with specific activities, time frame for achievement of objective and a mechanism for monitoring implementation of the action plans.

83. GST threshold fixed at Rs 20 lakh

The Goods and Services Tax, GST Council has fixed the annual turnover limit for exemption at Rs 20 lakh below which the traders will be exempted from GST and resolved that all cesses will be subsumed in the GST.

The limit would be 10 lakh rupees in the north-eastern states.

The GST Council also decided that the state authorities will have jurisdiction over assesseees with annual turnover of less than 1.5 crore rupees - thus addressing the issue of dual control over small traders. The base year for calculating compensation would be 2015-16.



84. CBDT Signs 5 more Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs)

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into five (5) unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers. One of these Agreements has a rollback provision in it. With these signings, the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT has reached 103.

An APA is an agreement between a corporate taxpayer and the tax authority on its transfer pricing methodology and the tax rate applicable on inter-company transactions.



85. Health Ministry to launch “Mission Parivar Vikas”

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will soon launch “Mission Parivar Vikas” in 145 high focus districts having the highest total fertility rates in the country. These 145 districts are in the seven high focus, high TFR states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam that constitute 44% of the country’s population.

The main objective of ‘Mission Parivas Vikas’ will be to accelerate access to high quality family planning choices based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework.



86. Rs. 315 Crore released for Construction of Toilets

Union Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 315 crore to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation for the implementation of Ganga action plan under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) during the current financial year.



This amount will be spent on the construction of toilets along the river Ganga. It may be recalled that Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Ministry had released Rs. 263 crore for this purpose to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation during the last financial year. So far, 14,500 toilets have been constructed under this scheme.

87. PM approves formation of two separate committees on the occasion of Birth Centenary of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the constitution of two committees for the commemoration of the Birth Centenary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. The Prime Minister will chair a 149-member National Committee, and the Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, will chair a 23-member Executive Committee.



The other members of the National Committee include former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, BJP President Shri Amit Shah and various Union Ministers. The committee includes several Governors, Chief Ministers, Scientists, Journalists, Academicians, Social Workers and Spiritual Leaders. Union Minister of State (I/C) Dr. Mahesh Sharma will be the Convenor of the Committee.

88. Union Cabinet approves the new India-Cyprus DTAA

The Cabinet approved the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Cyprus that provides for source-based taxation of capital gains on transfer of shares instead of one based on residence. Cyprus is a major source of foreign funds flows into the country and is considered as a haven for money laundering, round-tripping and profit-shifting.



With the revision of the treaty, capital gains will be taxed in India for entities resident in Cyprus, subject to double tax relief. In other words, India will have the right to tax capital gains arising in India. It also has a revised provision for the exchange of information that would enable the use of information exchanged for other purposes, as far as tax collections are concerned.

89. New Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum Complex to open for public from October 2, 2016

The New Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum Complex which now includes the Garages Museum and Clock Tower in addition to the Stables Museum will open for the public from October 2, 2016.

This museum depicts the story of the planning and construction of Rashtrapati Bhavan; the British Viceroy who occupied the building till 1947; their reaction towards the freedom movement in the country; transfer of power; formation of the Republic; life and work of 13 Presidents of India since 1950; life in Rashtrapati Bhavan; beauty and environment of the campus, people working here and important visitors to Rashtrapati Bhavan etc. The museum also has an Art Gallery for holding temporary exhibitions.



90. Parliamentary panel headed by Veerappa Moily to analyse merger of budgets

In a committee under the chairmanship of M. Veerappa Moily, it is decided to submit committee report on the ramifications of the Union Cabinet's decision of merging the Railway Budget with the General Budget before the commencement of next Parliament winter session.

Committee will analyse its implications on the Railways, the Railway Board, planning, finance departments and further will discuss with the Statistics and Planning Departments.



91. Commerce & Industry Minister and Sri Lanka meet to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations

The Commerce and Industry Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman visited Sri Lanka with the objective of enhancing and deepening bilateral trade and investment relations. During the meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Business Forum, many issues relating to trade, services and investment were discussed.

The Commerce and Industry Minister also had a bilateral meeting with a high level Sri Lankan delegation led by Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade of Sri Lanka, where leaders expressed satisfaction on the progress of the proposed Economic and Technology Co-operation Agreement (ETCA) between India and Sri Lanka.



92. Telecom Ministry urges BSNL to connect 1 lakh Gram Panchayats with broadband connectivity

Telecom Minister Shri Manoj Sinha urged BSNL to connect one lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and find new invention, new research and new technology and to give World Class products for achieving Prime Minister's vision of Transforming India through Digital Revolution.

Shri Sinha asked BSNL officers and employees to set an ambitious target of 15 percent Telecom penetration within a time frame from the existing 10.4 percent. In the last two years 26,000 mobile towers were installed and in this financial year 20,000 additional towers will be installed.



93. Dr. Mahesh Sharma Flags off the **Sightseeing Tour of Delhi's Monuments and Heritage** for Divyang Children on World Tourism Day

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism and Culture flagged off a Sightseeing Tour of the Monuments and Heritage places of Delhi for Divyang children on the occasion of World Tourism day in New Delhi on 27th September and the theme was announced as 'Tourism for All!! - "Promoting Universal Accessibility"'.



Around 35 Divyang students from Class 2nd to 6th of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya School for Divyang Children, New Delhi participated in this Sightseeing Tour of many Monuments and Heritage places of Delhi.

94. Indira Gandhi International Airport achieves carbon neutral status

The Indira Gandhi International Airport became the first airport in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve carbon neutral status. IGIA is managed by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), a GMR Group-led consortium.



Airport Carbon Accreditation has upgraded Delhi Airport to "Level 3+, Neutrality", which is the highest level of achievement available to airports across the world. Carbon neutrality means the airport absorbs or offsets the same amount of carbon emission that was generated.

95. Cabinet approved ratification of the Paris Agreement

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to ratify the Paris Agreement (on Climate Change) on 2nd October 2016, the day of Gandhi Jayanti. The treaty will come into force as and when 55 countries contributing to 55 % of total global emission ratify the agreement.

So far, 61 countries have deposited their instruments of ratification. The Cabinet has also decided that India should declare that India will treat its national laws of global commitment to combating climate change and access to cleaner source of energy as the context in which the Agreement is being ratified.



96. Cabinet approves India–Singapore MoU to boost Innovation, Creativity and Technological Advancement

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of Industrial Property Cooperation between both the countries. The MoU will be signed at the upcoming visit of Singapore's Prime Minister to India from 4-7 October, 2016.

The MoU will enable India to exchange experiences in the innovation and IP ecosystems that will substantially benefit entrepreneurs, investor and businesses on both sides. The MoU will enhance bilateral cooperation activities in the arena of Industrial Property Rights of Patents, Trademarks and Industrial Designs.



97. Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to Varistha Pension Bima Yojana, 2003 and Varistha Pension BimaYojana, 2014

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for the Varishtha Pension BimaYojana (VPBY) 2003 and Varistha Pension BimaYojana (VPBY) 2014. Both are pension schemes intended to give an assured minimum pension to the Senior Citizens. The pension is envisaged until death from the date of subscription, with payback of the subscription amount on death of the subscriber to the nominee.



Both the schemes are closed for future subscriptions. However, policies sold during the currency of policy are being serviced as per the commitment of guaranteed 9% return assured by the Government under the schemes.

98. Cabinet approved an Undertaking between India and Korea on Mutual Recognition of Certificates for Seafarers, 1978

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of an Undertaking between India and Korea on Mutual Recognition of Certificates. It is in pursuance of the Regulation 1/10 of International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.



Signing of the Undertaking will pave way for recognition of maritime education and training, certificates of competency, endorsements, training documentary evidence and medical fitness certificates for seafarers issued by the Government of the other country.

99. Cabinet approved Administrative and Financial Sanction towards the implementation of the Project SAKSHAM

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved 'Project SAKSHAM', a New Indirect Tax Network (Systems Integration) of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC). The total project cost involved is Rs. 2256 crores, which will be incurred over a period of 7 years.

The implementation strategy for the project will be to ensure readiness of CBEC's IT systems by April, 1, 2017, when GST is to be introduced. CBEC's IT systems need to integrate with the Goods & Services Tax Network (GSTN) for processing of registration, payment and returns data sent by GSTN systems to CBEC, as well as act as a front-end for other modules like Audit, Appeal, Investigation.



100. Pradhan Mantri UjjwalaYojana launched at Srinagar, J&K

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched in Srinagar for the State of Jammu & Kashmir. As a symbolic launch of the PMUY, women from BPL families were handed over connections during the function by the Chief Minister of J&K and Minister for Petroleum. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to provide LPG connections to 5 Crore BPL households by 2019.



The Central Government has released 2 lakh connections during the last 2 years in J&K and 5 Lakh connections released during the previous 8 years in J&K by the previous Governments.

101. Inland Waterways Authority of India signed MoUs with Dredging Corporation of India and Mormugao Port Trust

Three separate MoUs were signed in New Delhi, between Inland Waterways Authority of India and Dredging Corporation of India and Mormugao Port Trust in the presence of Union Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari to promote the development of inland water transport.



The main objective behind the deal was to maintain navigable depth in National Waterways by DCI and upgradation of the fairways by buying shallow depth dredgers and operating them in National Waterways.

102. 20 States rewarded for promoting urban reforms under Atal Mission during 2015-16

19 States and the Union Territory of Chandigarh were rewarded during INDOSAN Conference in New Delhi, with performance incentive for promoting urban reforms under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) during 2015-16. While Tamil Nadu topped the list of performing States, Chandigarh headed the list of Union Territories.



Rs. 400 crores were earmarked for reform incentive during 2015-16. Reform incentive distributed to 20 States/UT was: Tamil Nadu (Rs. 61.34 cr), Telangana (Rs. 10.73 cr), MP (Rs. 33.45 cr), Chandigarh (0.69 cr) etc. Minister of Urban Development Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu felicitated the lead performers with mementoes and cheques.

103. PM, CMs, Ministers sign Declaration of Commitment to make Swachh Bharat by 2019

Top leadership of the country including the Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers and Ministers from States and Union Territories signed a Declaration of Commitment to make India Open Defecation Free and Clean by 2019, during the INDOSAN (India Sanitation Conference) held at New Delhi. Other elected representatives from rural and urban local bodies, District Collectors, Municipal Commissioners also signed a similar Declaration.



The Minister announced that as on date 405 cities and towns have come to be Open Defecation Free and 739 would become ODF by March next year.

104. Minister of Railways Launched and Dedicated Various Services to the Nation

Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Minister of Railways launched various services like station to station special freight rates policy, policy providing sub quota of 33% to women in catering units, new system of allocating vacant berths after final charting, launch of the new "Train at a Glance" and new Time Table effective from 1st October 2016 and Policy giving preference to local domicile holders for commercial licenses at stations.

TRAINS AT A GLANCE (NEW TIME TABLE)	
Service Enhancements Already done in the Current Year (Since 1-4-2016)	
Premium Trains Introduced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mahamana Express Gatiman Express 	Meeting additional demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special trains : 34998 trips Temporary augmentation: 11933 coach trips
Better coaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversion to LHB: 24 trains Conversion to MEMU: 22 Trains Deen Dayalu Coaches (w.e.f. 10.08.2016) 	Mela Rush Arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shrihotha Mela-2747 special trains, 236 additional coaches. Krishnapurkaram Mela: 691 special trains, 4871 additional coaches, 58 lakh passengers carried. Similar arrangements for Krishna Janmashtami-20 Trains, Ganesh Chaturthi-241 trains, Rath Yatra-143 trains, Onam-23 trains, Vallankanni-29 trains. Durga Puja-2196 special trains planned.
Permanent Augmentation of Trains 158 Trains Permanently Augmented by 363 coaches (including 10 trains to 24 coaches)	

Railways is implementing its budget announcements in a promised manner. Railways will continue to introduce such new reformative steps.

PERSONS IN NEWS

1. Aishwaryaa R Dhanush announced as UN Women's Advocate for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in India

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri announced the appointment of film director, classical dancer and writer, Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth Dhanush, as UN Women's Advocate for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in India.



She will help raise awareness of UN Women's core messages of gender equality and women's empowerment across India, boosting the organization's efforts to close the gender gap and achieve a more equal world—Planet 50-50—by the year 2030.

2. Mother Teresa declared a Saint by Pope Francis in Vatican City

Mother Teresa has been declared a saint in a canonization Mass held by Pope Francis in the Vatican. She will be known as Saint Teresa of Calcutta.



She spent nearly four decades working with the dying and the destitute in Kolkata. Two apparent cures of sick people after Mother Teresa's death in 1997 have been attributed to her intercession. Hundreds of Missionaries of Charity sisters attended the event, along with 13 heads of state or government.

3. John Abraham roped in as brand ambassador of Arunachal Pradesh

With an aim to boost tourism, the government of Arunachal Pradesh has roped in Bollywood star John Abraham as the brand ambassador of the state tourism.

John will be seen in advertisements promoting hospitality and tourism. Arunachal Pradesh will be promoted as a 'Must See, Must Experience' state.

BE Viacom18 has partnered with the government of Arunachal Pradesh to provide consultation services in order to promote tourism in the state.



4. Vidya Balan Brand Ambassador of Samajwadi Pension Yojana

Bollywood actress Vidya Balan has been roped in as brand ambassador of the ambitious Samajwadi Pension Yojana of the Uttar Pradesh government. The main Objective of the scheme to encourage savings among people living below the poverty line and provide them financial assistance.

The state government has launched the scheme with an aim to provide Rs 500 per month to poor women and cover at least 50 lakh beneficiaries in the state. The actress had earlier been associated with the "ghar-ghar shauchalya" campaign of the union government.



5. Samsung Electronics appoints Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong as Director

Samsung Electronics Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong will be appointed as a Director of the board of the company. He will take control and responsibility in the management as a registered executive director on the board.

The decision has been made under an urgent need for strategic decision-making on aggressive investments and new growth engines from a long-term perspective.

In 2014, he was named the world's 35th most powerful person and the most powerful Korean by Forbes Magazine's List of the World's Most Powerful People along with his father Lee Kun-hee.



6. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar to be awarded by Jewish rights group

The Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar will be conferred with Simon Wiesenthal Centre's highest honor 'the Simon Wiesenthal Humanitarian Laureate' award by a prominent Jewish human rights organization for promoting human dignity, interfaith relations and tolerance among people.

Ravi Shankar has joined hands with the Jewish human rights organisation in its activities in the past. He had also denounced the widespread marketing of Hitler's book, Mein Kampf, as a 'management tool' in India in 2009.



7. Nawazuddin roped in as brand ambassador of UP farmers' scheme

The Uttar Pradesh government has roped in Bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui as the brand ambassador of its flagship programme 'Samajwadi Kisan Beema Yojana'.

The scheme is aimed at insuring farmers and provides many facilities like cashless treatment upto Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 1 lakh for organ transplant. The beneficiaries will be issued a plastic card which will have details of all family members who are covered in the scheme.



8. Virat Kohli roped in as the new brand ambassador of PNB

Virat Kohli has been roped in as the new brand ambassador of Punjab National Bank. Kohli's new association with the bank is expected to improve the bank's image which has taken a hit due to rising bad loans.

Kohli has joined Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the latest cricketer in the Rs 100cr club. he promotes leading commercial players like MRF, Pepsi, Audi, Vicks, Boost, USL, TVS, Smaaash, Nitesh Estates, Tissot, Herbalife and Colgate already under his belt.



9. Abhishek Bachchan Holds a Guinness World Record for 'Most Public Appearances

Abhishek Bachchan holds a Guinness World Record for 'Most Public Appearances Made by a Film Star in 12 Hours'. He achieved this while promoting his film Delhi-6 in the year 2009.

In the process, he beat Hollywood actor Will Smith who had made three public appearances in 2 hours during the promotions of his film "I, Robot" in 2004.



He did all his promotional activities in 7 cities viz., Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad, Delhi, Gurgaon, Chandigarh and Mumbai on February 22, 2009, within a period of 12 hours.

10. Lopamudra Raut attains position of second runner-up at Miss United Continents 2016

Lopamudra Raut achieved the second runner-up position and cash prize of USD 15,000 at Miss United Continents, held at Guayaquil, Ecuador. Jeslyn Santos from Philippines won the title of Miss United Continents. Also, she became the first Asian to achieve the title.

Lopamudra Raut belongs to Nagpur, Maharashtra. She also won title of the Best National Costume sub-contest, which was designed by Melvyn Noronha.



PLACES IN NEWS

1. Guinness World Records declared Majuli as the largest river island

The Guinness World Records declared Assam's Majuli as the largest river island in the world. Majuli is a 400 sq. km island in the river Brahmaputra.

Majuli is currently a sub-division of Jorhat district. It became the 34th district of Assam. It is the largest mid river delta system in the world. It is also comprised of many islets locally called the Chaporis. It has shrunk from about 1250 sq. kms in 1891 to about 515 sq. kms now because of massive river-bank erosion caused by the Brahmaputra.



2. India's first international conference on cooking gas held in Bhubaneswar

State-owned petroleum companies held the nation's first international conference on cooking gas in Bhubaneswar. The conference will focus on the need for an LPG-enabled household and use of traditional cooking fuels.

The event will also highlight the problems arising due to absence of cooking gas, the usage of traditional bio mass cooking fuels and their impact on both health and environment. Delegates from developing countries such as Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria, Nepal and Sri Lanka also participated in the conference.



3. Gumthala Garhu becomes first WiFi hotspot village in Haryana

Gumthala Garhu near Pehowa became the first WiFi hotspot village in Haryana. The facility uses bandwidth of 10 MBPS through BSNL's state-of-the-art network. The service was inaugurated by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar from Chandigarh.

BSNL Haryana circle has a plan to have 238 WiFi hotspot locations with 1072 access points in the state and the project would be implemented to its full capacity during the current financial year.



Gumthala Gharu becomes first Wi-Fi Hotspot village of Haryana

4. Asia's biggest digital library inaugurated in Silchar

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Asia's biggest digital library dedicated to the memory of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, in NIT Silchar on the occasion of the 55th Teachers' Day.

The library built at the cost of Rs.28 crore and standing on 90,000 sq. ft. has been named 'Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Learning Resource Centre'. It will remain open 24X7. It was the initiative and hard work put up by Prof. N V Deshpande, Director.



5. Mother Teresa International Film Festival begins in Shilong

The first ever Mother Teresa International Film Festival was organized by the Sisters of Charity in collaboration with other religious congregations in Shilong. The MTIFF 2016 celebrates the canonization of Mother Teresa.

Films, documentaries and short films showcasing the life and work of Saint Teresa of Kolkata would be screened at the festival. The three-day film festival began with the screening of documentary film, "Mother Teresa and Me" by Director and Producer, Gautam Lewis of United Kingdom.



6. First Internet of Things India Congress 2016 held at Bengaluru

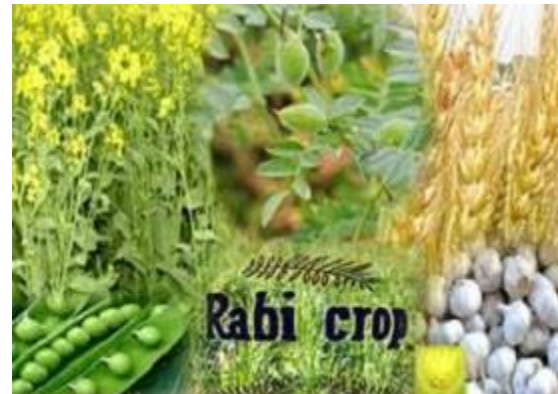
The first edition of IoT India Congress 2016 was conducted in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The main objective behind the event was to bring key stakeholders together and build a common roadmap for Internet of Things (IoT) implementation. IoT will generate economic benefits of almost \$2 trillion to India.



It was a three-day event where award ceremony was also organized for IoT Thought Leadership Awards 2016 and the IoT Start-Up Awards 2016. The event was inaugurated by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Information Technology (IT) and Electronics Minister, and JS Deepak, Secretary, Ministry of Telecommunications.

7. Two-day Rabi Conference begins in New Delhi

The National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2016 was held on 15th-16th September 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The two days' Conference looked at the implementation progress of important schemes related to Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare announced by the Centre in the last two years.



The Conference was attended by the Secretaries of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and State Agriculture Secretaries and other senior officials dealing with Horticulture, Post Harvest Management and agricultural marketing.

8. Naropa Festival begins in Ladakh

The Naropa festival, which is held every 12 years, began at the 17th century Hemis Gompa (Monastery), the seat of the Drukpa Order in Leh. The month-long festival celebrates Buddhist yogi Naropa's life, the 1,000th birth anniversary of Saint Naropa, in a spectacular pageant.



The festival is also known as the Kumbh Mela of the Himalayas. It is a carnival of dance, music and spiritual teachings that brings people together. Hemis Gompa is the most renowned and biggest monastery of Ladakh.

9. India International Seafood Show in Vizag

The 20th edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) was held from 23rd to 25th September 2016 at Port Trust Diamond Jubilee Stadium, Visakhapatnam. It is one of the largest Seafood Fairs in Asia.



With increasing emphasis on aquaculture, the theme of IISS 2016 will be "SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE INDIAN AQUACULTURE". The very objective of organizing the IISS is to highlight India's commitment on safe and sustainable practices in fisheries, both capture and culture.

10. Chandigarh inks MoU with AFD for transforming it into a 'Smart city'

Chandigarh Administration and French Development Agency (AFD) inked memorandum of understanding (MoUs) on Chandigarh Smart City Project, in the presence of KK Jindal, Secretary Transport, Chandigarh Administration and Minister Counsellor, Embassy of France in India, Jean Marc FENET and Director French Development Agency, Nicolas Fornage.



During an Indo-French workshop, FENET ensured Smart City Project (SCP) will transform the city into happening city and thus improve its institutional operational and financial structure.

11. Three day 'Childhood Cancer Awareness Exhibition' held at Agra's TajMahal

First childhood cancer awareness exhibition was held at Taj Mahal in Agra and around 1500 children participated. The event was a part of 'Go Gold India-Taj Goes Gold and UP Goes Gold' campaign of non-government organisation (NGO) 'Can Kids... Kids Can', National Society for Change for Childhood Cancer in India.



The UP Government has planned to open a centre for cancer at Sultanpur road in Lucknow. September is Childhood Cancer awareness month to honour the bravery and courage of children with cancer and their families.

12. International Summit on Medical Value Travel to be held at Noida

Ministry of Commerce and Industry will be organizing the second edition of 'Advantage Health Care India 2016 (AHCII 2016)', an International Summit on Medical Value Travel with the aim of 'Promoting Healthcare Services Exports from India', scheduled from 3 - 5 October, 2016 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida.



The objective of this international summit is to promote India as a Premier Global Healthcare Destination and to enable streamlined medical services exports from India involving 5Ts. i.e. Tradition, Technology, Tourism, Talent and Trade.

13. The 5th National Conference of Heads of Prisons of States and UTs on Prison Reforms concludes

The 2-day 5th National Conference of Heads of Prisons of States and UTs on Prison Reforms held at New Delhi to extend legal aid, rehabilitation and grievance redressal related to women prisoners.



The Conference passed 12 resolutions including changing the nomenclature of Prisons to Correctional Administration or Correctional Homes, creation of Probation Officers vacancies, appointment of Welfare Officers, Counsellors and Law Officers, adoption of the Model Prisons Act, linking of prisons with courts through video conferencing and integrating Prison e-system with the CCTNS project.

14. **First ever** ‘Progress Panchayat’ launched at Bichor village in Mewat, Haryana

The Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi visited Haryana to launch first mega “Progress Panchayat” at Bichor village in Mewat, Haryana. Progress Panchayat is nothing but a “draft of development”, informing people about schemes of the Minority Affairs.



A campaign on war-footing has been initiated by the Central Government to free the WAQF properties from illegal occupations across the country. National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has provided financial assistance of about Rs. 1723 crores during the 11th and 12th plan which has benefitted more than 4 lakh people.

15. Kolkata becomes the Second City to install Monorail Services

Kolkata is also set to get a monorail service of its own, a project to be funded by Burn Standard at total cost of Rs. 4,216 crores. There will be a minimum requirement of land which will be provided by the State Government.



For execution of the monorail project, MoU will soon be signed between the transport department and Burn Standard Company Ltd for the 14-kilometre-long monorail route, from Budge Budge in South 24-Parganas to Ruby Connector in Kolkata.

REGIONAL

1. Gujarat signed tripartite MoU to build small airports

The Gujarat state government signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) to develop 11 small airports and airstrips under the Centre's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) to boost regional air connectivity in the State.



Gujarat, thus, became the third State after Jharkhand and Maharashtra to have signed for RCS. These 11 airports and airstrips are in Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Surat, Bhuj, Mehsana, Porbandar, Amreli, Mandavi, Kandla, Keshod and Deesa.

2. Odisha CM to share his thoughts through Radio every month

The Odisha state government has decided to launch 'Biju Goan Radio'. The Chief Minister would address the people soon and share his thoughts on different issues in 'Apananka Pain' through the radio for 10 minutes every month.



The radio programme would be broadcast from 6 pm to 7 pm for one hour every day. The repeat broadcast would be held from 8 pm to 9 pm on the same day. The programme would provide information on agriculture, cooperation, health, education, irrigation and culture.

3. Kerala to form Joint Venture with Railways for infrastructure projects

The Kerala state government has decided to enter into joint venture agreement with Railways for rail projects in the state under the 51:49 equity partnership arrangement.

The projects for consideration under the JV include introduction of suburban rail service between Thiruvananthapuram and Chengannur, construction of Angamali-Sabari rail line, Nilambur-Nanjangode line, Guruvayoor-Tirunavaya line, Kochi-Madurai line, Thalassery-Mysore line, laying of rail container track to Cochin International Airport and setting up of Palakkad rail coach factory.



4. Goa govt signs MoU with Google India

The Goa State Government inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Google India to promote digital literacy and drive digital transformation across the state. Goa is one of the first states in India to have signed an MoU with Google.

The government will launch 'Internet Safety Education' for students in Goa in association with Google India. As a part of the MoU, Google will work with Goa Government to:

- Promote digital literacy
- Promote Android development
- Make government websites mobile friendly



5. Solung festival observed in Arunachal Pradesh

The Adi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh celebrated the annual socio-religious Solung festival with great pomp and show. The 5-day long festival is associated with farming and is celebrated in the first week of September every year after the sowing of seeds, to seek prosperity and a good harvest.



During the celebration, Mithun (Great Indian Bison) which is considered as holy animal and occupies an important religious significance among the Adis is sacrificed. Adi or 'Bangni-Boker lhoba' people are the major collective tribes living in the himalayan hills of 'Nyingchi' prefecture in Arunachal Pradesh.

6. 340 villages to be developed as Horticulture Villages in Haryana

Haryana Government has decided to develop 340 villages as Horticulture Villages at a cost of 93 crore rupees during the Golden Jubilee year of the State. It has also decided to establish 140 clusters in these villages.



An MoU was also signed with the Apio Inc. for processing and packaging of horticultural products.

According to the terms of the MoC, Apio Inc. would work in Haryana for the next three years.

Under this project, producers in Haryana would supply fruits, flowers, vegetables and dairy products to these areas.

7. Rajasthan partners with Cisco for connected learning solution

Rajasthan's education department has entered into an agreement with US-based technology firm Cisco to establish Digital Learning Solution Rooms (DLSRs) using virtual digital room solutions across 12 centres of State Institute for Education Management and Training (SIEMAT) in the state.



As a part of the agreement Cisco and SIEMAT have committed to 50,000 man-hours of training annually through the virtual digital classrooms. It aims to enhance the quality of education.

8. Western Odisha celebrates Nuakhai Festival

People across Western Odisha celebrated Nuakhai with religious fervour and devotion. Nuakhai or Nuankhai is an agricultural festival observed to welcome the new rice of the season. This is the most important social festival of Western Odisha and adjoining areas of Simdega in Jharkhand.

According to the Hindu calendar, it is observed on panchamitithi (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight of the month of August–September, the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. The celebrations began with the 'Nabanna' or new rice out of newly harvested paddy crop was offered to Maa Samaleswari Devi in Sambalpur.



9. Maharashtra announces Rs 75 lakh cash reward to Lalita Babar

Maharashtra Government announced a cash reward of 75 lakh rupees to steeplechase specialist from the state, Lalita Babar, who finished a creditable 10th at the Rio Olympics. The other five athletes from Maharashtra who took part in the recently concluded Olympics Games will get 50 lakh rupees each.

The Maharashtra government also gave a cash award of 75 lakh rupees to Olympic silver medallist in women's badminton singles P V Sindhu and 25 lakh rupees to her coach P Gopichand. The Chief Minister also announced a cash reward of 50 lakh rupees to bronze medallist wrestler Sakshi Malik and 25 lakh rupees to her coach.



10. Gujarat Ministry to provide 2 Mbps connectivity to 6000 villages

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced 2 mbps download and 512 mbps upload digital connectivity to 6,000 villages, at a ceremony in Gandhinagar. The decision was a part of state government's ultimate goal to serve an optical fiber network to all 18,000 villages by 2nd October, 2017.



Under the E-gram program launched in 2006-07, total 14000 villages had been connected to internet through V-SAT technology and villagers are offered various services like PDS, health, data entry, power and gas bills through e-gram project.

11. Himachal government gave nod to amend hydro policy 2006

The Cabinet accorded approval to make certain modifications to the Hydro Power Policy 2006. The developer now has to submit the proposals to the Deputy Commissioners concerned for obtaining approvals/ No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from different departments including Gram Panchayats.



It is decided to reduce the present rate of Additional Goods Tax (AGT) on Iron and Steel and reduce VAT on CNG from existing 13.75 percent to 5 %, reduce value added Tax on Anti Hail Nets to 4 %. Ministry took decision to procure the citrus fruits under Market Intervention Scheme.

12. Haryana bagged Best Horticulture State award

Haryana has won 'Best Horticulture State' award of the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) at two-day 9th Agricultural Leadership Summit 2016 organized by ICFA in New Delhi for the concerted efforts made by Haryana state government to increase the income of the farmers in horticulture.



At present, about 2.5 lakh hectares of land is under horticulture in Haryana. The state government has ambitious target to increase it up to 9 lakh hectares.

Odisha won the best agriculture state award "9th Global Agriculture Leadership Award 2016" in recognition of the efforts towards development of agriculture and bringing rural prosperity.

13. HP, Singapore ink MoU for smart integrated township

The Himachal Pradesh Housing and Urban Development Authority (HIMUDA) under the state government of Himachal Pradesh signed a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Asian Pacific Singapore Enterprise under Singapore government for developing a smart integrated township in Jathiadevi near Shimla airport.



HIMUDA has acquired 32-hectare land for developing this township at Jathiadevi. Investment outlay in the project is Rs.6.7 billion. The development of a smart integrated township would help in decongesting the highly populated city.

14. Odisha Govt. launches construction workers pension scheme

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the construction workers pension scheme, Nirman Shramik Pension Yojana.



The scheme ensures financial assistance of 300 rupees per month to all registered construction workers after attaining the age of 60 years and 500 rupees for construction workers of more than 80 years.

Nirman Shramik Pension Yojana would benefit about 25 Lakh construction workers in the state. The state government has launched housing schemes for construction workers residing in rural areas. Financial assistance for workers has also been enhanced to Rs 1.3 lakh under the scheme.

15. Arunachal Pradesh Governor Rajkhowa removed

Arunachal Pradesh Governor J.P. Rajkhowa has been removed from his post. President Pranab Mukherjee has given the additional charge of the state to Meghalaya Governor V. Shanmuganathan.



Earlier, Mr. Rajkhowa had refused to quit. His removal came after the Supreme Court's recent observations against him over dismissal of the Congress government in the state. The Court had restored the Congress government and censured him. Rajkhowa was appointed the Governor in May last year.

16. CM inaugurated week-long Onam celebrations in Kerala

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the week-long Onam celebrations at a function held at the Nishagandhi auditorium in Thiruvananthapuram.

To mark the festival people take part in a lot of cultural items like Vallam Kali (snake boat race), pulikali (tiger dance), pookalam (Rangoli), tug of war and many more. The Onam pageantry to mark the conclusion of the week-long Onam celebrations was held on September 18.



17. Arunachal Pradesh's first Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Store inaugurated by MoS Shri Mansukh Mandaviya

The Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated Arunachal Pradesh's first Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Store at Naharlagun, Itanagar. Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Pema Khandu also shared the dais on the occasion.

In this function, both dignitaries witnessed signing of a MoU between Health & Family Welfare Department of Arunachal Pradesh and Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), an agency under Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. As per the MoU, 84 Jan Aushadhi Stores will be opened in Arunachal Pradesh.



18. Andhra Pradesh becomes second state to achieve 100% electrification

According to a report published by JM Financials based on a national-level survey on electrification in various states, Andhra Pradesh has become the second state in the country after Gujarat to achieve 100 per cent electrification of households.

The AP Government has proposed an investment of Rs 20,000 crore over the next five years to strengthen the transmission and distribution systems and extend power supply connection.



19. Raman Singh launches 'Start Up Chhattisgarh' project

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh inaugurated the 'Startup Chhattisgarh' scheme, which aims to give impetus to startup projects in the state. The Chhattisgarh government will offer a 75% subsidy of up to Rs 7 lakh per annum for six years.



Additionally, a 35 to 40% subsidy on fixed capital will be made available up to Rs 3.5 crore, with a 100% subsidy on land purchase or lease. These startups could avail of free electricity for the first ten years and 100% reimbursement of all state taxes paid in the first three years, to the first 36 start-ups that are registered.

20. DoNER released over Rs 100 cr for Manipur in about 5 months

An amount of over Rs. 100 crore has been released by the DoNER Ministry in the first five months of the current financial year for various development projects in Manipur.



An amount of Rs. 28.47 crore was released for different projects under NLCPR (Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources) and approximately Rs. 75 crore was released for the NEC (North Eastern Council) projects.

This is in addition to the various other fundings and budget releases coming to the State from other Ministries in the Government of India.

21. Arunachal CM joins 'People's Party of Arunachal Pradesh' along with 42 MLAs

In Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu along with 42 other MLAs have joined People's Party of Arunachal.

People's Party of Arunachal is the only regional party of the state. In the 60-member house, Congress had 44 members out of which 43 have merged with the PPA.

Former chief minister Nabam Tuki and a few other MLAs continue to be with the Congress in the state.



22. World Bank to invest nearly 1,000 crore rupees for improvement of inland waterways in Assam

World Bank will invest nearly 1,000 crore rupees in Assam for the betterment of the inland waterways. The money will be utilised to develop inland waterways including ghats.



The Union Minister also assured to re-construct jetty for which 100 percent assistance will be given by the Centre. On the other hand, emphasising on road safety, driving school will be set up in all districts of Assam. It is also decided that driving license will be issued from the proposed driving schools later.

23. Odisha government to organise two-day national conference on labour

The Odisha state government in association with International Labour Organisation (ILO) organized a two-day long national conference on labour in Bhubaneswar on 20-21 September.



The conference had discussions related to organized and unorganized labourers of the country. The participants also discussed about child labour, migrant and bonded labour issues. Minimum wage fixation of Rs 15,000, social security, proper implementation of labour laws were other key points discussed in the conference.

24. Charkhi Dadri declared as 22nd district of Haryana

Haryana State Government has declared Charkhi Dadri as the 22nd district of the state. Presently, Charkhi Dadri is a part of Bhiwani. The new district will have two state assembly constituencies Dadri and Badhra under its jurisdiction. Charkhi Dadri is located in southern Haryana 110 kilometres from the national capital of New Delhi.



The Chief Minister also announced Rs 5 crore for Nagar Palika, Dadri, Rs 10 crore each for the Charkhi Dadri and Badhra Assembly constituency.

25. 'Selfie with toilet' to boost Swachh Bharat in Ludhiana

Ludhiana district administration has started a 'Selfie with my Shauchalya' campaign in order to encourage people to use clean toilets and make the Swachh Bharat Mission successful.

The district administration has set a target to make Ludhiana district open-defecation-free and equipping all rural households with toilets by October 31.

In Ludhiana, a total of 26,107 toilets are to be constructed, of which around 20,000 have already been constructed.



26. Nagaland gets Rs 340 crore for road projects

Centre has sanctioned 340 crore rupees for two road projects for Nagaland, Dimapur-Chumukedima and Kohima Check Gate to Lerie Highway.

The Union government also assured the state government to set up a separate High Court for the state. It presently has a Bench of the Guwahati High Court. Kohima has already been selected for the Smart City project. Nagaland became the 16th state of India on 1 December 1963. The annual economic growth rates near to 10% on a compounded basis, one of the fastest in the region.



27. Delhi's Race Course Road renamed as Lok Kalyan Marg

The iconic Race Course Road in Delhi, where the Prime Minister's residence is located, has been renamed as Lok Kalyan Marg. The decision was taken at a meeting of NDMC presided by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The Aurangzeb Road was renamed after former president APJ Abdul Kalam last year. The NDMC has also decided to rename the Gurudwara Rakabganj round-about adjacent to the Parliament complex as Guru Gobind Singh Chowk.



28. Delhi Cabinet approved state-level bravery awards

The Delhi State Government announced state-level bravery awards. The awards would be given on Republic Day and Independence Day from next year onwards.

Ten awards, each carrying a cash award of Rs 2 lakh, will be distributed on January 26, and another 10 awards on August 15. Citizens have the right to nominate themselves as candidates or send in preferred nominations.



Every year, the Centre gives National Bravery Awards to 25 children from across India for their meritorious acts of bravery against all odds.

29. Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly becomes the 7th state to pass the GST Amendment Bill

State's Law Minister Rampal Singh conducted a special one-day sitting of the state legislative assembly and passed the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Amendment Bill. With this decision, Madhya Pradesh became the seventh state in the country to ratify the historic tax amendment bill. The other states that have passed the bill include Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.



The GST will improve the tax structure across the country and bring transparency in the tax system where standard rate of tax should be capped at 18 percent.

30. Rajasthan becomes 1st state to adopt Centre's Street Lighting National Programme

Rajasthan becomes the first state to implement Centre's Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) in all its urban local bodies (ULB) by replacing 5 lakh streetlights with LED streetlights across the state, where cities like Udaipur and Ajmer have emerged as top most cities to save energy efficiency.



Around 35,000 streetlights have been replaced in Udaipur with funding of Rs 25 crore by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a public energy services company. The project has resulted in energy savings of 6.36 million units per annum.

31. Puducherry Government's loan waiver gift to farmers on farm loans

Loans taken by farmers from co-operative societies will be waived in favour of the declaration made by the Puducherry Government where the principal loan amount, interest and penal interest of all farmers will be waived off.



The government would incur an additional expenditure of around Rs. 20 crores due to farm loan waiver and benefit about 7000 farmers of the Union Territory. The government had also decided to encourage private universities to set up a campus in the UT.

32. Telangana ties up with ISRO for bandwidth to telecast coaching programmes

The Telangana Government has signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to get bandwidth to telecast Mana TV programmes. Mana TV is run by the Society for Telangana State Network (SoFTNET) and will launch digital classes in 6,000 schools beginning October 14.



Under the pact, the ISRO has allotted 17 MHz bandwidth on GSAT-8 for the channel. Shailesh Reddy has been roped in by the government to run the channel. He headed Zee's regional channel.

33. Centre approves 1269 crore assistance for drought affected Maharashtra

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh chaired a meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC) for Central Assistance to drought affected Maharashtra in New Delhi, in the presence of Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Minister of State for Home Affairs.



The Committee examined the proposal based on the report of the Central Team which visited Maharashtra. The HLC approved the assistance of Rs. 1,269 crores, of which Rs. 589.47 crores will be supplementary assistance for damage to kharif crop and Rs. 679.54 crores for damage to rabi crop.

34. Patna High Court terms 'Bihar liquor ban' as illegal

A division bench of the court comprising Chief Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari and Justice Navaniti Prasad Singh quashed the Bihar government's notification of a complete ban on liquor in the state terming it as 'illegal', in its verdict stating that the notification is ultra vires to the Constitution. Ultra vires means beyond one's legal power or authority.



Soon after the Bihar Excise (Amendment) Act, 2016 was passed where total prohibition was imposed in Bihar on consumption and selling of liquor as illegal, the Bihar Hotels and Bars Association had filed a petition before the High Court asking it to scrap the ban.

REPORTS

1. Salinity in Ganga rises with the rise in Water table: Study

An international team of researchers led by A.M. MacDonald and H.C. Bonsor have reported that nearly 23 per cent of the 300 BCM (billion cubic metre) is extremely saline and about 40 per cent contaminated by arsenic in Ganga. The study titled "Groundwater quality and depletion in the Indo-Gangetic Basin mapped from in situ observations" was published in the journal "Nature Geoscience".



The team had analysed groundwater tables from 3,429 wells, high-resolution spatial data and studies within Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh between 2000 and 2012 for their study.

2. India jumps 19 places in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index

The World Bank has recently released a Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2016 report titled "Connecting to Complete 2016".

India has now been ranked 35 amongst 160 countries compared to rank of 54 in LPI 2014. This is a jump of 19 places. Germany topped the 2016 rankings. Further, in terms of the six-components of the LPI i.e. Customs, Infrastructure, International Shipments, Logistics Quality and Competence, Tracking and Tracing, and Timeliness, India's ranking is 38, 36, 39, 32, 33 and 42 respectively.



3. About 50 million children 'uprooted' worldwide: UNICEF

According to a UNICEF report, up to 28 million of the children have been uprooted by violent conflict, with nearly as many abandoning their homes in search of a better life.



The report, titled 'Uprooted - The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children', also said that in 2015, around 45 percent of all child refugees under UNHCR's protection came from Syria and Afghanistan. Turkey hosts the largest total number of recent refugees and

very likely the largest number of child

4. PepsiCo's Chairman Indra Nooyi, only Indian-origin woman ranked 2nd in Fortune list of Most Powerful Women

The only Indian woman ranked second in Fortune's 51 Most Powerful Women list, is PepsiCo Chairman Indra Nooyi. List was topped by Mary Barra, CEO and chairman of General Motors. She was ranked second on the list in 2015 and third in 2014.



According to Fortune reports, PepsiCo's market capitalization has increased 18 per cent to \$155 billion over past 12 months. The top 6 most powerful women in the list also include, Marillyn Hewson of Lockheed Martin (3rd); Ginni Rometty of IBM (4th); Abigail Johnson of Fidelity Investments (5th) and Facebook's COO Sheryl Sandberg (6th).

5. Swachh Survekshan for rural areas released, Mandi and Sindhudurg cleanest districts

The results of the 2016 'Swachh Survekshan' (Cleanliness Index) for rural India was released revealing Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) in "Hills" category and Sindhudurg (Maharashtra) in the "Plains" category as the cleanest districts in India.



A total of 22 hill districts and 53 plain areas were assessed under the Gramin Swachh Survekshan launched in May 2016.

Quality Council of India (QCI) had been commissioned to carry out the assessment.

Overall Ranking - Swachh Survekshan Gramin				
Category	Rank	District	State	Cleanliness Score
Hills	1	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	98.4
Hills	2	West Sikkim	Sikkim	96.4
Hills	3	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	94.1
Plains	1	Sindhudurg	Maharashtra	96.8
Plains	2	Nadia	West Bengal	95.0
Plains	3	Satara	Maharashtra	92.9

6. Arundhati Bhattacharya and Chanda Kochhar among the most powerful women outside US

According to Fortune’s ‘50 Most Powerful Women International’ list, SBI Chief Arundhati Bhattacharya, ICICI Head Chanda Kochhar and Axis Bank CEO Shikha Sharma, are among the 50 most powerful women based outside the US.



Ms. Bhattacharya is ranked 2nd on the list, while Ms. Kochhar comes in on the 5th rank and Sharma on the 19th position in the list. The list is topped by Banco Santander’s boss Ana Bot.

7. Forbes has listed Priyanka Chopra among world's 10 highest paid TV actresses

According to a recent list published by Forbes, Sofia Vergara tops the list of the world’s highest-paid TV actresses for the fifth year in a row. Priyanka Chopra, who starred on ABC’s Quantico, became the first Indian star to enter the list. She has been ranked eighth in the coveted list.



While Vergara earned a whopping USD 43 million, Priyanka has earned USD 11 million. “The Big Bang Theory” actress Kaley Cuoco is at the second position, with an earning of USD 24.5 million.

8. India ranked at 112th spot on WEF Index

India has been ranked 112th out of 159 countries and territories in the Economic Freedom of the World: 2016 Annual Report. India fared badly in all categories i.e. legal system and property rights (86), sound money (130), freedom to trade internationally (144) and regulation (132) except the size of the government (8).



According to the report, Hong Kong has the highest level of economic freedom worldwide, followed by Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, Canada, Georgia, Ireland, Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, and the UK.

9. Mukesh Ambani tops Forbes' 100 Richest Indians list

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the list of Forbes India's richest person for the ninth year in a row with a net worth of \$22.7 billion.



Acharya Balkrishna of Patanjali Ayurveda debuted on the list at No 48 with a net worth of \$2.5 billion.

The top 5 in the list are:

- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries' Dilip Shanghvi at No 2 with a net worth of \$16.9 billion
- Hinduja brothers at No 3 with a net worth of \$15.2 billion
- Azim Premji at No 4 with a net worth of \$15 billion
- Pallonji Mistry at No 5 with net worth of \$13.9 billion

10. Oxford tops the list as the world's leading university

In the latest Times Higher Education world rankings index, Oxford topped the list as the world's leading university, followed by the California Institute of Technology, Stanford and Cambridge.

The United States had 63 institutions in the top 200, while the UK had 32 and Australia had eight. National University of Singapore was ranked 24th, best from the Asian region.



No Indian educational institution has found place in the top 200 list. Indian Institute of Science of Bengaluru has been placed in the rank segment of 201 to 250 while IIT Bombay is in the 301 to 350 segment.

RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS

1. Former India Hockey Captain, Ritu Rani, retires from international hockey

Former Indian women's hockey Captain Ritu Rani announced her retirement from international hockey.

It was under Ritu's captaincy that the Indian women's team won a bronze at the 2014 Asian Games, a silver medal at the 2013 Champions Trophy and qualified for the Rio Olympics for the first time in 36 years.

The former Indian captain made her debut at the age of 14 at 2006 Asian Games and has represented her nation more than 200 times.



2. Sushil Muhnot removed as CMD of Bank of Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government removed Sushil Muhnot as the Chairman and Managing Director of Bank of Maharashtra for allegedly occupying two houses. He was due to retirement on September 30. He had allegedly occupied two houses - one in Mumbai and another in Pune, the headquarters of the Bank of Maharashtra.

R P Marathe, Executive Director at Bank of India has been appointed as MD and CEO of Bank of Maharashtra with immediate effect.



3. Yaya Toure announced retirement from international football

Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure has announced his retirement from international football with Ivory Coast. The 33 year old was the captain of his national team and led the country to their second-ever African Nations Cup title in 2015. In a 12-year career, he played 102 matches for his nation.

Toure was the African Footballer of the Year on four consecutive occasions from 2011. He was named in the African Nations Cup team of the tournament in 2008, 2012 and 2015.



4. Seychelles President James Michel quits

Seychelles President James Michel announced his decision to retire after his party lost legislative elections, ending its four-decade grip on power. The 72-year-old has been in office since 2004. Michel went on to win the 2006 and 2011 elections before winning the December 2015 presidential run-off.

Danny Faure, the current Vice President, will succeed as the new President. Faure is expected to complete the four-plus years that remains to be served on the president's mandate.



5. Abhinav Bindra announced retirement

Abhinav Bindra announced his retirement from shooting after playing for almost two decades. He is India's lone individual Olympic Gold Medallist and in Rio Olympics 2016, he came 4th to narrowly miss the Silver medal.

Bindra was appointed as the Chairman of a review committee formulated by the NRAI to "examine and identify in a cold and ruthless manner" the reason as to why shooting failed to secure any medal at the recently-concluded Rio Olympic Games in August 2016. In 2001, he was awarded with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award.



6. Former West Indies captain Ramnaresh Sarwan announced retirement

Former West Indies captain Ramnaresh Sarwan announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He played 286 international matches for West Indies during his career.

He featured in 87 Tests, 181 One Day Internationals (ODI), and 18 Twenty20 internationals and boasts 15 Test centuries. Sarwan's last international match was an ODI against India. Sarwan finished his career with a total of 11994 international runs, spread across all the three formats of the game.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, satellite destroyed in explosion

SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and the Amos-6 communications satellite, being prepared for an upcoming launch got destroyed due to an explosion on a Florida launch pad. It was the second time in just over a year that SpaceX has lost a Falcon 9 rocket. Facebook had planned to use the satellite to extend Internet access in Africa.



Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transport services company. It was founded in 2002 by former PayPal entrepreneur and Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk.

2. World's first made-in-India leprosy vaccine out on pilot basis

The Indian Institute of Immunology in New Delhi has developed an exclusive and completely domestic vaccine for leprosy. It has been approved by Drug Controller General of India and the FDA in the U.S. The first-of-its-kind vaccine is to be launched on a pilot basis in five districts in Bihar and Gujarat. 60% of the world's leprosy patients live in India.



The vaccine, called Mycobacterium indicus pranii (MIP), will be administered as a preventive measure to people living in close contact with those infected.

3. NASA Astronaut Kate Rubins sequences DNA in Space for first time

DNA was successfully sequenced in microgravity as part of the Biomolecule Sequencer experiment performed by NASA astronaut Kate Rubins aboard the International Space Station.

Rubins, who's also a molecular biologist, ran the first successful tests of a mobile DNA sequencer in a microgravity environment. Scientists consider it a game changer.

The portable sequencer – called MinION – was developed by UK-based Oxford Nanopore Technologies, and allows researchers to identify an organism's DNA sequence using a technique called nanopore sequencing.



4. NASA launches un-manned spacecraft OSIRIS-REx to collect samples from asteroid

The US space agency and NASA together launched unmanned spacecraft OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer), from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

It is first such study of U.S. mission to sample an asteroid with the help of dirt and debris collected from the surface of the asteroid. The spacecraft will retrieve at least two ounces of surface material and return it to Earth by 2023 for study.



According to NASA, the asteroid samples may reveal the origin of the solar system and the source of water and organic molecules found on Earth.

5. Indian Space Research Organization launched India's advanced weather satellite INSAT-3DR

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, equipped with the indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), successfully launched the country's weather satellite INSAT-3DR, into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. INSAT-3DR is the heaviest satellite.



INSAT-3DR is an advanced meteorological (weather observation) satellite built by India to provide a variety of inputs essential for accurate weather forecasting.

The satellite will be commissioned into service after the completion of orbit raising operations and the in-orbit testing.

6. China has developed stealth-defeating quantum radar

A Chinese firm has developed and tested a radar system that uses quantum entanglement to beat the stealth technology of modern military craft. It was developed by CETC Electronics Technology Group Corporation, a defence and electronics firm of Xinhua. The radar was tested in mid-August.



The technology will be helpful in biomedicine, since quantum radar requires lower energy and can be used to non-invasively probe cancer cells. Recently, China launched the world's first quantum communications satellite, which uses quantum entanglement for cryptography.

7. China set to launch second experimental space station

China is set to launch a second experimental space station, as it looks to have a manned station by 2022. The Tiangong 2 is scheduled to launch from the Gobi desert. Two astronauts will go to the station to conduct research.



Beijing has made space exploration a national priority and is the third country, after the Soviet Union and the US, to put astronauts into space. The mission follows the launch of the Tiangong 1 prototype in 2011, a smaller but also operational model.

8. New imaging system to read closed books: MIT Research

MIT Media Lab researchers have developed a machine that can scan through the first 9 pages of a closed book with high accuracy. The technology uses terahertz imaging for obtaining the information.



Terahertz radiation is the band of electromagnetic radiation between microwaves and infrared light. A paper describing the work was published in Nature Communications. The Metropolitan Museum in New York has expressed interest in the system as a way to examine antique books without touching them.

9. China launched Tiangong-2 space lab

China has launched its second space lab, Tiangong-2 atop a Long March 7 rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on the edge of the Gobi Desert in northern China. Tiangong means "heavenly vessel".



A spacecraft, Shenzhou 11, will carry a two-man crew to the lab in October. The astronauts will remain in the lab for a month, where they will be carrying out experiments related to medicine, physics and biology. China's first space station, Tiangong 1, was launched in September 2011.

10. Scientists in US successfully grow three-dimensional lungs in lab using stem cells

Scientists in the United States at the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA have successfully grown three-dimensional lungs in the lab, using stem cells.



Researchers said the laboratory-grown tissue can be used to study diseases including Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF). Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a chronic lung disease in which lungs become thick and stiff. Over time, this results in progressively worsening shortness of breath and lack of oxygen to the brain and vital organs.

11. MIT develops a spectroscopic technique to find life on Mars

Scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology have developed a new spectroscopic method to help the new Mars Rover (to be launched by NASA in 2020) to swiftly and non-invasively identify rock and soil samples.



These samples would be relatively unaltered, and maintain much of their original composition. The new technique is based on an improved way to interpret the results of Raman spectroscopy; a common, non-destructive process used by geologists to identify the chemical composition of ancient rocks.

12. Internet search giant Google launches Allo mobile chat messenger app

Internet search giant Google launched a new instant messaging platform named Allo software application along with Google Assistant that can be used in online chat with friends. The involvement of the artificial intelligence takes Allo's productivity and ease of use to a new level. The application is available on Android phones as well as on iPhone.



Some of its attracting features are to send emoji, get creative with photos, doodle on them etc. It looked like any other messaging app where chats appeared as bubbles.

13. NASA spots possible Water Plumes Erupting on Jupiter's Moon Europa

Astronomers using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have imaged what may be water vapor plumes erupting off the surface of Jupiter's moon Europa. This finding bolsters other Hubble observations suggesting the icy moon erupts with high altitude water vapor plumes.



Europa has a huge global ocean containing twice as much water as Earth's oceans, but it is protected by a layer of extremely cold and hard ice of unknown thickness. The plumes provide a tantalizing opportunity to gather samples originating from under the surface without having to land or drill through the ice.

14. World's first baby born due to 3 parent DNA technique

It has happened for the first time that a baby has been born using a new technique where DNA of three people were combined followed by mitochondrial transfer. World's first baby was born in New York's New Hope Fertility Center.



Mitochondrial transfer was accepted lawfully in the UK in 2015 but so far no other country has framed laws to permit the technique. The treatment is introduced considering parents who have a high risk of passing on debilitating and even fatal genetic diseases to their children.

SPORTS

1. Zaheer Khan gets MCC's Honorary Life Membership

Former India pacer, Zaheer Khan, has been inducted as an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). He is the third Indian player to receive the distinction this year after Virender Sehwag and Anjum Chopra.



Khan played 92 Test matches for his country during a successful career, taking 311 wickets. He took 282 wickets in 200 ODIs.

Honorary Life Membership is awarded by the MCC Committee to individuals in recognition of the service they have given to the cricket.

2. Serena Williams created Grand Slam history with her 308th win

Serena Williams created history in tennis with her 308th Grand Slam victory after she defeated Yaroslava Shvedova 6-2 6-3 to advance to the quarter-finals of the US Open.



The world number surpassed Martina Navratilova (306), and Roger Federer (307), as the leader in the all-time most Grand Slams win list.

Over her career, she is 308-42 at the majors, for a winning percentage of .880. She has won 88 at the US Open, 86 at Wimbledon, 74 at the Australian Open, 60 at the French Open.

3. Summer Paralympic Games 2016 begin in Rio

Summer Paralympic Games 2016 began in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro on 7th September with an opening ceremony at the Maracana Stadium.



Around 4,350 athletes from more than 160 countries will compete in 22 different sports. Approximately 1,650 will be women. Canoe and triathlon will be included in the Games for the first time in Rio. The Indian contingent, largest-ever from the country, comprises of 18 athletes. They will feature in 10 disciplines.

4. Stan Wawrinka won 2016 US Open Men's Singles title

Swiss tennis player Stan Wawrinka won the US Open 2016 men's singles title by defeating world No. 1 Novak Djokovic at the U.S. Open, 6-7 (1), 6-4, 7-5, 6-3. It was Wawrinka's first US Open and his fifth victory in 23 matches against the world No 1.

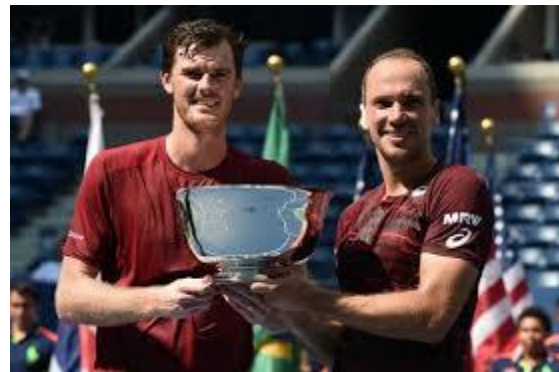
The 2016 US Open was the 136th edition of the US Open, the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year. It took place at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park of Queens in New York City, United States.



5. Jamie Murray and Bruno Soares win 2016 US Open Men's Doubles title

Jamie Murray of Britain and Bruno Soares of Brazil won the U.S. Open Men's doubles championship defeating Spaniards Pablo Carreno Busta and Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-2, 6-3. It was their second Grand Slam title this year after they had won the Australian Open.

They are the first winners of multiple major men's doubles titles in a season since Bob and Mike Bryan won three in 2013. Murray became the first British man for 44 years to win the US Open doubles title. Soares also became the first Brazilian to win more than one Grand Slam doubles title.



6. Angelique Kerber wins 2016 US Open Women's Singles title

Germany's Angelique Kerber won her first U.S. Open title after defeating Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in the women's singles final. It was her second grand slam title of 2016 after she had won the Australian Open. The 28-year-old German also rose from second to first in the rankings ahead of Serena Williams.

She became the first German to win the US Open since Steffi Graf in 1996. She also became the first female player other than Williams to win two majors in a season since Justine Henin in 2007.



7. Army Green beat Neroca FC 6-5 to lift Durand Cup

Army Green won the Durand Cup football title after defeating Neroca FC 6-5 via penalty shoot outs in the final of Asia's oldest football tournament in New Delhi.

Army Green had prevailed over Aizawal FC while Manipur side, Neroca FC, defeated DSK Shivajians in their respective semi-final matches. Army Green became the first Army team since 2005 to win the title.

Army Blue collected the cash prize of 45 lakh rupees while Neroca collected a cash prize of 20 lakh rupees. Durand Cup is a football competition in India and was first held in 1888.



8. Mariyappan Thangavelu wins India's first Gold medal at Rio Paralympic Games

Mariyappan Thangavelu of Tamil Nadu won India's first gold medal at the 2016 Rio Paralympics in the Men's High Jump T-42 event with jump of 1.89 metres. He, thus, became the first Indian high-jumper to win gold at the Paralympics.

India's Varun Singh Bhati won the bronze medal in same event with the jump of 1.86 metres to finish third. Chief Minister Jayalalithaa announced a reward of Rs. 2 crore to Mariyappan.



9. Real Madrid secures 15th straight La Liga win

Real Madrid equalled the club's record of 15 successive La Liga wins after they thrashed promoted Osasuna 5-2. One more win would equal Barcelona's 2010-11 La Liga record of 16 in a row.

Real's 15th consecutive La Liga win under Zidane matched the club record set by Miguel Muñoz's side in the 1960-61 season. Ronaldo opened the scoring for Real in the sixth minute, before Danilo, Sergio Ramos, Pepe and Modric added one goal each to the scoreline.



10. SAI-AIFF launched online portal for Global Scouting Programme

Sports Authority of India (SAI) and All India Football Federation today jointly launched an online portal for its Global Scouting Programme, which will conduct off-field trials for NRI boys. This will help boys of Indians living abroad to play in India's team in FIFA under-17 world cup next year.

The applicants have to upload a two minute playing video on the site. The project will provide them a chance to present his playing talent to the scouts of India's U-17 team through its online portal.



11. Deepa Malik became first Indian woman to win medal at Paralympics

Shot-putter Deepa Malik created history after becoming the first Indian woman to win a Paralympics medal. Deepa bagged a silver medal in the shotput F-53 event.

Her throw of 4.61m was the best in her six attempts. Fatema Nedham of Bahrain won the gold medal with the best throw of 4.76m while Dimitra Korokida of Greece bagged the bronze medal with a throw of 4.28m.

She holds the Asian record in javelin throw, and also has World Championships silver medals in shot put and discus in 2011.



12. Joshna Chinappa rose to 10th in PSA rankings

Squash player Joshna Chinappa rose to 10th in the latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) rankings. Deepika Pallikal retained her ranking at 19th position. Chinappa had initially broke into the top-10 in July 2016 but slipped to 12th before she regained the position.

In the men's rankings, Saurav Ghosal dropped to 21st from his previous perch of 17th. Mahesh Mangaonkar gained a position to be on 60th, while Vikram Malhotra remained 73rd.



13. Sushmita Rai wins Bronze at World Martial Arts Masterships

Sushmita Rai of Sikkim has won a bronze medal at the World Martial Arts Masterships 2016, held at Cheongju, Chungcheongbuk-do of South Korea.

Considered to be an Olympics for martial arts, the World Martial Arts Masterships was the first comprehensive martial arts competition where national teams from across the globe took part. 2,073 participants from 87 countries participated in the championship this year.



Sushmita Rai had also won the Silver Medal last year in the Asian Kickboxing Championship 2015 which was held in Pune, Maharashtra.

14. Indian Railways Men Hockey Team wins MCC Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey Tournament

Indian Railways Men Hockey Team has won MCC Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey Tournament 2016 for the first time held at Chennai from 1st September to 11th September 2016.

In the finals Indian Railways Hockey Team beat Indian Oil Corporation Team by 2 - 1. The champions took home the prize money of 5 lakhs rupees, and the runner-up, Indian Oil Corporation, received 2.50 lakhs rupees.



Special awards given in the tournament:

Special prize	Awarded to	Team
Best Forward	AffanYousuf	Indian Railways
Best Midfielder	Amit Rohidas	Indian Railways
Best Goal keeper/ Defender	Jugraj	Indian Railways
Most Promising Player of the tournament	Joshua	Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu
Man of the Match of the Finals	Malak Singh	Indian Railways

15. Devendra Jhajharia won gold at Rio Paralympics

India's Devendra Jhajharia has won gold in the men's javelin throw, F46 event at the 2016 Rio Paralympics. Devender improved his own 2004 record of 62.15 metres, with a world-record throw of 63.97 metres. He had also secured the gold medal in the javelin event at the 2004 Athens Paralympics.

The 36-year-old athlete, with an amputated left hand, was awarded the Arjuna award in 2004 and the Padma Shri in 2012, becoming the first Paralympian to receive the honour.



16. Aleksander Ceferin named new UEFA president

Aleksander Ceferin has been elected the new president of UEFA. He will succeed Michel Platini. Aleksander beat Michael van Praag by 42-13 in the race to become the new head of European football's governing body. He will remain in office till 2019.

Ceferin has been the head of the Football Association of Slovenia since 2011. Michel Platini had announced his resignation in May after being banned from football for four years for ethics violations.

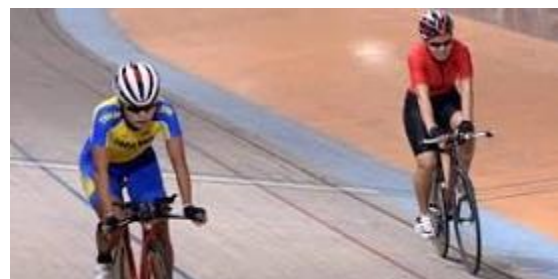


17. India bags 6 medals on opening day of Track Asia Cup 2016

Indian cyclists bagged 6 medals on the opening day of the Track Asia Cup 2016 including three gold and two silver and one bronze, in New Delhi.

In the women elite, 500m Deborah won the gold, clocking 35.964 seconds. In the team sprint women elite event, the Indian team comprising Deborah Herold and Kezia Vargheese bagged the gold medal.

Rajkumari Devi won bronze medal at the women elite pursuit 3kms event. India's junior team bagged a silver medal in the team sprint event. The junior women team bagged a gold in the team sprint event. Alena Reji won a silver.



18. 2016 Kabaddi World Cup's logo unveiled

Sports Minister Vijay Goel and International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) President Janardan Singh Gehlot formally unveiled the logo of the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup. It will be held at The Arena by TransStadia in Ahmedabad from October 7 to 22.

The logo is derived from the natural heritage of Gujarat, the Asiatic Lion, symbolizing the ferocity of a Kabaddi defender and the agility of a raider. A total of 12 teams including hosts India will participate in the tournament which has been divided into two groups of six teams each.



19. India Blue wins inaugural D/N Duleep Trophy

India Blue defeated India Red to clinch the inaugural day/night Duleep Trophy tournament held in Greater Noida. India Blue won by 355 runs. Gautam Gambhir led the champions while India Red was captained by Yuvraj Singh. Cheteshwar Pujara was named the Player of the Match.

In June 2016, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that the tournament will feature day/night matches and pink ball will be used. The tournament was contested by India Red, India Blue and India Green.



20. Sports Ministry to start Talent Search Portal within a month

Sports Ministry will start a Talent Search Portal within a month. The portal will allow talented children of eight years and above to stake their claim for support including admission to sports training centres.

Details of the performance and potential of a child including video and photographs could be uploaded on the portal. After due scrutiny, children with potential will be given an opportunity to appear for tests which could be conducted at the nearest Sports Authority of India- SAI Centre among others. Those who pass the tests will be admitted to the training centres.



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21. East Bengal won Calcutta Football League 2016

East Bengal won the Calcutta Football League (CFL) for a record seventh consecutive time after they got past Mohammedan Sporting 1-0. South Korean striker Do Dong Hyun scored the winning goal for the champions. East Bengal bettered its own record of winning it six times straight from 1970 to 1975.

East Bengal Football Club is a professional football club, based in Kolkata, West Bengal. The club has won 3 National Football League, 8 Federation Cups, 3 Indian Super Cups and many more.



22. India finishes 2nd in Track Asia Cup

India ended their campaign in the Track Asia Cup at second position at the Cycling Velodrome in IG Stadium in New Delhi.

India's medals tally comprises 16 with five gold, four Silver and seven bronze. Hong Kong topped the table with 18 medals which comprise 11 Gold, four Silver and three bronze.

The Track Asia Cup cycling competition was held from 14 September to 16 September 2016 at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex velodrome. This was the third year in succession that India hosted the event.



23. Priyasha Deshmukh won Bronze at the 1st World Deaf Shooting Championships

Priyasha Deshmukh won bronze in the 10m air rifle category at the 1st World Deaf Shooting Championships held in Kazan, Russia. She scored 180.4 in the final to secure the third spot.

Ukraine's Svitlana Yatsenko (201.6 in final) and Serbia's Gordana Mikovic (200.3) won gold and silver respectively. Priyasha only began playing the sport three years ago. She has been winning national gold in the handicapped category since last three years.



24. Indian shooters clinched three gold medals at ISSF Junior World Cup

Indian shooters clinched seven medals, including three gold, on the opening day of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup for pistol, rifle and shotgun at Gabala in Azerbaijan.

A total of 279 junior athletes, representing 27 countries, are battling it out in 18 events.

Subhankar Pramanick: He clinched gold medal in 50-metre rifle prone event. The Indian shot 205.5 overall to finish top of the podium. Czech Republic's Filip Nepejchal (205.2) followed in second position, while Romania's Dragomir Iordache (185.1) was placed third at the end of the finals. Subhankar, along with team-mates Fateh Singh Dhillon and Ajaey Nithish, also helped the Indian team to win a silver in the event.

Sambhaji Patil: He won the junior men's 25-metre standard pistol event by shooting 562 to easily beat Australians Sergei Evglevski and James Ashmore. Sambhaji along with compatriots Gurmeet and Rituraj Singh helped India to win the team gold.



25. BCCI ties up with Janalakshmi Financial Services as an associate sponsor

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced Janalakshmi Financial Services (Jana) as an Official Partner for a period of three years. Janalakshmi Financial Services is the largest and the fastest growing Micro Finance Institution (MFI) in India.

According to the agreement, Janalakshmi will have an opportunity to increase its brand visibility via in-stadium branding, on-ground advertising for 68 matches and activation rights for three years across the three formats. JFS is also a part of the financial inclusion working group with the World Economic Forum.



26. Ajay Shirke re-elected as BCCI Secretary, MSK Prasad as the new Chairman of selection committee

Ajay Shirke has been re-elected as BCCI secretary unopposed at its Annual General Meeting. Similarly, former India wicketkeeper MSK Prasad has been appointed chairman of the selection committee.

Devang Gandhi, Jatin Paranjpe, Sarandeep Singh, Gagan Khoda are other selectors in Prasad-led panel.

Venkatesh Prasad will chair the junior selection panel also featuring Rakesh Parikh, Aashish Kapoor, Amit Sharma and Gyanendra Pandey. MSK Prasad played six Tests and 17 ODIs for India.



27. Anup Kumar to lead India in Kabaddi World Cup

Anup Kumar from Haryana will lead India in next month's Kabaddi World Cup to be held in Ahmedabad. Balwan Singh is the head coach of the squad with E Baskaran as his deputy.

Kumar first competed for the national team at the 2006 South Asian Games, which were held in Sri Lanka. He leads the team for his franchise U Mumba in the Pro Kabaddi League. The 2016 Kabaddi World Cup begins on October 7th and will feature 12 teams.



28. Misbah-ul-Haq became first Pakistani to receive Test mace from ICC

Misbah-ul-Haq has become the first Pakistani cricketer to receive the prestigious ICC Test Championship mace for inspiring Pakistan to the top of the MRF Tyres ICC Test Team Rankings for the first time since the current rankings system was introduced in 2003.

Pakistan is only the fifth side after Australia, England, India and South Africa to top the ICC Test rankings, while Misbah is the ninth captain to lift the mace.



29. BPCL lifts title of Obaidullah Khan Heritage Cup Hockey Tournament

The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd-BPCL lifted the title of the Obaidullah Khan Heritage Cup Hockey Tournament. The team defeated Railways by 3-0 in the final played at Aishbagh Stadium in Bhopal. The match was decided by penalty shoot-outs as both the teams scored one goal each till the end of prescribed time.



Air India got the third place in the Tournament. It defeated ONGC in a match played to decide third place. Winning team received 51 lakh rupees.

30. MS Dhoni named captain of Wisden's all time India Test XI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been named the captain of Wisden's all-time India Test XI. The team was announced to mark India's 500th Test match.



The openers in the side are Sunil Gavaskar and Virender Sehwag, followed by Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, all-rounder Kapil Dev and Dhoni as wicket-keeper.

Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan and Bishan Singh Bedi were included as bowlers. Mohammad Azharuddin was named the 12th man.

31. Sathiyam Gnanasekaran bagged the **Men's Singles title of** Belgium Open

The 24-year-old Sathiyam Gnanasekaran became the second Indian table tennis player to win an ITTF event as he clinched the men's singles title of the Belgium Open. He defeated Nuytinck Cedric 4-0 in the final.



The first Indian table tennis player to clinch ITTF title is Achanta Sharath Kamal. It will be considered as the first pro-league title of Sathiyam Gnanasekaran.

32. India's 500th Historic Test Match victory against New Zealand

India bagged a 197-run win in their historic 500th cricket Test by bowling out New Zealand for 236 to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. With this win, India created history on home soil to win 11 matches whereas, New Zealand has always lost on Indian soil since 1998.



Ravinder Jadeja was honored with the 'Man of the Match' award as he took six wickets and scored 92 runs. India's off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest Indian and second overall to take 200 wickets in his 37th test match.

33. FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 official emblem launched

India's first international football event FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 official logo was launched by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). The emblem represents the diversity of cultures - the base of the emblem symbolizes Indian Ocean, banyan tree is the national tree of India, deeply rooted in the culture of India and kite is the symbol of freedom and fun. It also has the 'starburst' on the top of the emblem represents Indian festivity and celebration.



The FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 will be held in six venues across the country during October 2017.

34. Indian women bagged gold in the 5th Asian Beach Games

India bagged their first gold medal at the fifth Asian Beach Games held at Danang, Vietnam with the women's beach kabaddi team winning the title for the record fifth time in succession and by defeating Thailand.



Thailand lost to India in a final for the fifth time. During the Asian Beach Games, India won six medals (1 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze) and is at 15th spot in the medal table.

35. Prime Minister Unveiled Roll on Trophy for BRICS U-17 Football Tournament

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, unveiled the Roll on Trophy for BRICS U-17 Football Tournament, scheduled to be held in Goa from October 5 to October 15, 2017. The Trophy symbolises the free and enterprising spirit of youth and strength and commitment of the BRICS nations towards solidarity in their global endeavours.

The Prime Minister reiterated the Nation's commitment to 'Sports for All' and 'Khelo India' and taking football to every corner of the country.



36. Annu Rani becomes the first Indian woman to cross the 60m mark

Annu Rani becomes first Indian woman to cross the 60m mark on the third and penultimate day of the 56th Open National Athletics Championships in Lucknow. Annu threw the javelin to a distance of 60.01m breaking her own earlier national mark of 59.87m, which she made in July during the National Inter-State Championships in Hyderabad.



She represented Railways and created her fourth national record in two years.