

Inside Highlights



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INDIAN AFFAIRS

PM Narendra Modi released country's first National Disaster Management Plan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the **first ever National plan National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)** to make nation disaster resilient and considerably reduce the loss of lives and assets.

Delegates:

- Minister of Home Affairs **Rajnath Singh**
- Minister of State for Home Affairs **Kiren Rijju**
- Senior officers of the **Prime Minister's Office**
- Ministry of Home Affairs and National Disaster Management Authority

Aim: Disaster resilient and reasonably reduce the loss of lives and assets

Themes "Sendai Framework":

1. Understanding disaster risk
2. Improving disaster risk governance
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction
4. Disaster preparedness, early warning and recovery better in the aftermath of a disaster

Key Features of the Plan:

- Covers all angles such as **Prevention, Mitigation, Response and Recovery**
- Provides for **horizontal and vertical integration** among all the agencies and departments of the Government
- **Roles and responsibilities of all levels of Government** right up to Panchayat and Urban Local Body level in a matrix format
- Beneficial for **development planning also**
- Categorizes major activities such as **early warning, information dissemination, medical care, fuel, transportation, search and rescue, evacuation**
- Designs a **generalized framework for recovery** and offers flexibility to assess a situation and recovery

Highlights of the National Disaster Management Plan:

National plan incorporates the four priorities enunciated in the Sendai Framework into the planning framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

- Understanding Risk
- Inter-Agency Coordination
- Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction – Structural Measures
- Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction – Non-Structural Measures
- Capacity Development

Response part of the Plan has recognized eighteen broad activities:

- Early Warning, Maps, Satellite inputs, Information Dissemination
- Search/ Rescue/ Evacuation of People and Animals
- Medical Care/ Drinking Water/ Dewatering Pumps/ Sanitation Facilities
- Food & Essential Supplies/ Power/ Fuel/ Transportation
- Communication/ Media Relations
- Housing and Temporary Shelters
- Rehabilitation and Ensuring Safety of Livestock and other Animals, Veterinary Care
- Data Collection and Management
- Relief Employment

Key areas in which Central and State Governments have to take actions to strengthen disaster risk governance

- Mainstream and integrate Disaster Risk Reduction and Institutional Strengthening
- Capacity Development
- Promote Participatory Approaches
- Work with Elected Representatives
- Grievance Redress Mechanism

Promote Quality Standards, Certifications and Awards for Disaster Risk Management.

UP Govt. approves detailed project report of Varanasi Metro Rail

i. Akhilesh Yadav led Uttar Pradesh Government approved the Detailed **Project Report** (DPR) of Varanasi Metro rail project.

ii. The Project Report will now be kept before the Union government for approval.

Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation:

- ♦ The 29.23 km Metro will come with **26 stations, 20 underground** and six elevated in the two corridors.
- ♦ The estimated cost of the project is **13133 crore rupees**. Out of the total length, **23.467 km** will be elevated, **while 5.768 km** will be underground.

Cabinet approved higher Minimum Support Price and bonus for pulses, oilseed, sesamum

In order to enhance the production of Pulses and Oil seeds and decline the country's dependency on Imports, the Union Government has increased the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** and announced an increase in Bonus for the Kharif Season Crops

Bonus on the three main Varieties of Pulses: Tur, Arhar, Moong.

Bonus: Rs. 425 per quintal for pulses, Rs. 100 per quintal for oilseed, Rs. 200 per quintal for sesamum.

Odisha becomes first state to give social welfare benefits to transgender community

Odisha State Government has initiated to provide the **social welfare benefits** to **Transgender** who are belongs to most deprived.

Delegates: Niten Chandra, Principal Secretary of Department of Social Security

Aim: To improve their overall social and economic status.

Initiatives:

- Government ensure to recognize the third gender in the **identity documents such as birth certificates, driving licenses and passports**
- Certain number of **public sector jobs, seats in schools and colleges** must be allocated to third-gender applicants
- Transgender community people will be provided with **Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards** to access benefits under various government welfare programmes

Schemes:

- Free housing, 100 days of paid work annually, Pensions and Loans to start up their own businesses
- They would also be entitled 5 kg of food grains every month under India's National Food Security Act.

Sachin Tendulkar's name to be used in Kerala Government's Anti-Drug Campaign

- i. Former Mumbai Cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** has agreed to feature a campaign against drug and liquor abuse in the state after a request of **CPI-M LDF government** in Kerala.
- ii. This was stated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan after Tendulkar has given consent to use his name to strengthen the campaign against liquor and drug abuse in the state.
- iii. The CM also said that the KBFC has agreed to set up a **residential Football Academy** to train young talents in the state.

IIT Kharagpur Research suggests Indus Valley Civilization is 8000 years old

Researchers explained that civilization was much older than about to **8th millennium**

Researchers Involved from: Indian Institute of Kharagpur, Institute Archaeology, Deccan College Pune, Physical Research laboratory, Archaeological survey of India.

- ♦ Climatic conditions was the **main reason** of Harappan collapse.
- ♦ Researchers dated potteries of Early Mature Harappan time by a technique called **optically stimulated luminescence (OSL)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghanistan President Dr Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the Afghan India Friendship Dam or Salma Dam

Venue: Chist-e-Sharif in Western Afghanistan

Capacity: 42 MW

Purpose: Irrigation of 75000 hectares of land, water supply and other benefits to the people of Afghanistan.

- ♦ Infrastructure project on river Hari Rud , in Herat province of Afghanistan
- ♦ Executed and implemented by WAPCOS Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

India, Singapore agreed to enhance scale of Military interaction

India and Singapore had the first dialogue between their defence ministers and they agreed to enhance the scale and complexity of existing bilateral military interaction.

Delegates: Indian Government Defence Minister: Manohar Parrikar

Singapore Defence Minister: Ng Eng Hen

Focus: Bilateral defence Cooperation to the highest level.

Assam Assembly passes Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2016

- i. The State of Assam Assembly has **passed Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2016** to make ease of doing business and to attract fresh investment through an easy computerised clearance system across the state.
- ii. The bill aims to create an investment-friendly environment for economic development by making speedy processing of applications and issue of **clearances for setting up industries**.

iii. The bill also facilitates creating a bureau under the name of **Assam Bureau of Investment Promotion** for the purpose of overall supervision and administration.

Haryana Government launches Asia's first Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme

- i. The Haryana government launched Asia's First **Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme** at Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore of the state. Two Himalayan Griffons-released by Lal Khattar jointly with Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- ii. The breeding and conservation of vultures is a major step in the direction of **saving the endangered species**.
- iii. Upon this move the country will 'have four crore vultures in the next 10 years. The Himalayan Griffon is closely related to the critically endangered resident Gyps species **of vultures but** is not endangered.
- iv. These **vultures** birds were **wing-tagged and** were leg-ringed for identification.

HP becomes first state to have State Data Centre

- i. **Himachal Pradesh** to have a **State Data Centre** designed using green data centre concept, to provide 101 people-concerned with service online through an integrated data base. With this the state **became the first state**.
- ii. Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh Launched **the Rs 58-crore Data Centre** that integrate the websites of various departments and all services could be accessible through the integrated data base, saving time and money spent on creation of infrastructure.
- iii. The Data centre makes departmental applications that can be hosted **centrally in SDC free of cost** and **Himswan** connectivity could be provided in field offices to access departmental applications.

Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje Launches Mobile App on Air Quality Index

- i. On the eve of World Environment Day Rajasthan Chief Minister **Vasundhara Raje** launched a mobile app '**RajVayu**' for sharing information about air quality index of **Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur**.
- ii. Another app '**Drishti**' for monitoring of pollution levels in industrial regions. Also Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) is the **first state Board in** the country to have this app of its kind.

RajVayu

♦ The App has been designed **by RSPCB jointly with Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology** that built on the data collected by sophisticated air quality monitoring equipment and weather sensors.

- ◆ This application gives details about the air quality, such as levels of pollutants like Particulate Matter, SO_x, NO_x, CO, Ozone particles with the city residents and tourists.
- ◆ It also provides **environmental conditions** like temperature, humidity, wind speed, weather forecast.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar launches Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on 5 June 2016 launched Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act. The act seeks disposal of peoples' complaints or redressal of grievances from Government officials within 60-days.

Features of the Law

- The law has strict provisions in non-compliance of applications.
- Officials not adhering to provisions of the law could be dismissed from service or face a penalty of from 500 rupees to 5000 rupees.
- All the 42 Departments of the State government will be covered under the new Act.
- The Government has one Grievance Redressal Officer in each department as well as first and second Appellate authorities.

In cases where the grievance cannot be redressed, then the complainant will get a letter citing reasons for not getting the grievance redressed. In that case, the complainant can file an appeal if he/she is not satisfied with the answer.

Narayanasamy sworn in as Puducherry CM

- i. Former Union Minister and Congress party leader **V Narayanasamy** was sworn in as Puducherry Chief Minister Along with Narayanasamy, **five Congress legislators** will be sworn-in as ministers.
- ii. Newly appointed **Lt Governor Kiran Bedi** administered the oath of office and secrecy to the team of ministers at Puducherry.
- iii. The Ministers who took charge as a ministers include A Namassivayam, Malladi Krishna Rao, Shah Jahan, M Kandasamy and R Kamalakannan.
- iv. **Narayanasamy** for whom this is the first term and was elected leader of the 15-member Congress Legislature party.
- v. The party also has support of the two-member DMK in the 30-member Assembly. In the recently concluded Assembly polls Congress had secured **15 seats of the 21 seats**.

Dia Mirza named ambassador for Swachh Saathi programme

- i. Bollywood actress **Dia Mirza Sangha** has been appointed as the ambassador for **Swachh Bharat Mission's** Swachh Saathi programme that for youth-based student

internship.

- ii. She will take forward the message of the Swachh Saathi programme to make healthy and environmentally conscious youth and country.
- iii. Under this programme, more than 2,000 interns would be enrolled, who would coordinate with around 10,000 schools across the country and ensure that all students in these schools take the pledge for Clean India.
- iv. **Mirza**, was a second runner up at **Femina Miss India 2000**. She also became the first Indian to win this title in 29 years.

Delhi Government issues First Solar Policy

The Delhi Government chaired by **Arvind Kejriwal** taken a significant step towards approval of Solar Policy aims to form the capital “**an Environment-friendly solar city**” through Rooftop solar System.

Recommendation of Power Capacity:

- ♦ The policy stated the installation of 1 Giga Watt solar Power Capacity by 2020
- ♦ Future upgradation of power capacity to 2 Giga Watt during the following five years

Gujarat Government announced new policy for IT-based start-ups

Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel has initiated the Information Technology and Electronics Start Up policy to support and provide financial assistance to **2,000 start ups** in the state over next five years.

Estimated Investment: Rs. 7000 Crore

Focus: Technology-based startups

Aimed to lower down the unemployment and create lot of employment opportunities.

Gangetic River Dolphin to be City Animal of Guwahati

- i. In a rare move Assam's Guwahati became the **first city in the India** to have its own city **animal** with the district administration announcing the **Gangetic river dolphin** as the symbol.
- ii. The animal, locally known as Sihu would be the city animal of Guwahati.
- iii. The Guwahati District administration had organised online and offline voting for three-month-long that attracted **60,003 participants** to decide the city animal and **Gangetic river dolphin** received **24,247 votes** among three protected creatures.
- iv. In the voting process along with **Gangetic river dolphin**, the other two animals were black **softshell turtle** (Bor Kaso) and greater **adjutant stork (Hargila)** that was kept on the process.

GOI and ADB sign \$120 Million Loan Agreement to Modernize Irrigation and Improve Water Management in Odisha

- i. Union Government and the Manila based Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a **\$120 million loan agreement** to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in Odisha.
- ii. The loan comes under the Orissa Integrated Irrigated Agriculture and Water **Management Investment Program**, which is the **second tranche** of a **\$157.5 million** financing facility.
- iii. The funding will be used for **modernizing seven irrigation** sub projects resulting for the improved irrigation in over **100,000 hectares**, and strengthening of Water User Associations.

Shri Piyush Goyal Launches "SURYAMITRA" Mobile App

- i. Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy **Minister Piyush Goyal** has launched **Surya Mitra mobile Application** which is developed by National Institute of Solar Energy.
- ii. This Surya Mitra App is a **cutting edge technology platform** that can handle thousands of calls simultaneously and can efficiently monitor all visits of it.
- iii. The App makes ease to the **operative catalyst** in creating demand for solar products and in offering employment and business opportunities in the country.
- iv. The trained Suryamitra's who seeks entrepreneurship have joined in the Mobile App in several states. These Suryamitras are once again made aware by **NISE on soft skills** Customer Relations Management, Punctuality.

Union Government to introduce International Yoga Award Scheme

Union government has decided to introduce International Yoga Award Scheme with a view to promote yoga upon this AYUSH ministry is working on the scheme and it will start giving the award from 2017.

AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik announced the plan in New Delhi while inaugurating the National Health Editors' Conference with the theme of Yoga for Holistic Health – Recent Researches.

Google, Tata Trusts launch 'Internet Sathi' in West Bengal to empower rural women

- i. Search giant **Google India and Tata Trusts** jointly launched **Internet Saathi program** in **West Bengal** to focus on training women and larger communities in the state to learn and explore various uses and benefits of the Internet.
- ii. This initiative is part of Google's **Helping Women Get Online campaign** to create awareness about the benefits of Internet among women in rural parts of India.

iii. Internet Saathi launched in July last year that has trained and benefited **over 2 lakh women across** villages in **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh**.

iv. In West Bengal, the initiative will initially be rolled out to cover over 400 villages in Purulia district with an objective to reach **1 lakh women**, the companies said in a joint statement.

Maharashtra to observe 21st of every month as Yoga Day

i. The Maharashtra government has decided to **celebrate the 21st day of every month as Yoga Day** across all schools, colleges and universities in the State.

ii. In the meeting held with various yoga institutions it was also decided that every district would set up a **Yoga Day committee** to plan a Yoga Mahostav called **Yoga Festival** every year in **between January 12-21**. Also a dedicated state-level committee will monitor and coordinate with these committees.

iii. On January 12 is celebrated as Youth Day to commemorate **Swami Vivekanand's birthday**, So during 10 days from January 12 to 21, all schools and colleges will have to organise the Yoga festival.

Suresh Prabhu flags off Champaran Satyagrah Express train in Bihar

i. Union Railway Minister **Suresh Prabhu** flagged off **Champaran Satyagrah Express** train at a function in Motihari, Bihar. This train will ply between Bapudham, Motihari to Anand Vihar, Delhi.

ii. He also pledged that in Bihar passenger amenities would be improved further and passenger amenities is the **top most agenda of his ministry** he said.

iii. In the function he also inaugurated **Banmankhi – Purnea rail section** and Pipraha Railway Station and road over bridges at **Motihar, Begusarai and Danapur** through video conferencing.

Delhi CM sets-up committee to look into matters related to water bodies

i. Delhi CM **Arvind Kejriwal** set up a **high level committee** headed by **PWD Minister Satyendra Jain** to look into the issues pertaining with water bodies in the capital.

ii. The high level committee will have Water Minister **Kapil Mishra** and Environmental Minister **Imran Hussain** as its members. While the Delhi Jal Board **CEO Keshav Chandrawill** be the Member Secretary.

iii. The committee will study the matters of water bodies in NCT of Delhi with issues pertaining water issues like site inspections, proper identification/confirmation of **water bodies for updated inventory**, suggesting suitable recommendations to restore them, rain water harvesting for all the water bodies owning Agencies.

Union Government announced new Print Media Advertisement policy

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced new Print Media Advertisement Policy for Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity.

Focus: Transparency and Equity

Objective: To Promote transparency and accountability in issuing of advertisements in Print Media

Features of the Policy:

1. Promoting Transparency & Accountability

Implementing a New Marking System for newspapers. On basis of marks by each Newspaper, the advertisement will be released by DAVP to Newspapers

2. Each edition of a newspaper is mandatory to have a **separate RNI registration number**
3. Payment of advertisement bills in the name of newspaper/company account directly **through ECS or NEFT**
4. All information can be accessed electronically at **DAVP website**
5. Rate structure for payment against advertisements released by DAVP will be as **per recommendations of the Rate Structure Committee**
6. **Classification of Newspaper/Journals**

- Small – <25,000 copies per publishing day
- Medium – 25,001-75,000 copies per publishing day
- Big – >75,000 copies per publishing day

7. Promoting Equity and Fairness

8. **Easing in empanelment process** to provide boost for Regional language/Dialects small and medium newspapers, Mass circulated newspapers (circulation >1 lakh), newspapers in North Eastern states, Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands
9. To release more social messages and related advertisements which are not date specific to periodicals

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS)

Bihar Chief Minister initiated the special commission to protect against the Child labour named as Child Labour Tracking System.

Implemented in: Patna

- ♦ He allocated the amount of **Rs.25,000 /-** for safeguarded children from Chief Minister's Relief Fund.
- ♦ He adopted the principle '**Charter of Demands**' for the prevention of children from the Child Employment.

Sikkim affirms to become the First state in India by having Open Government Data Portal

Sikkim becomes **India's first State** to launch open government data portal.

- **Launched by:** Lok Sabha MP, P D Rai
- **Venue and date:** Gangtok, June 11 of 2016.
- **Weblink portal:** sikkim.data.gov.in

Purpose: Updating data regarding Organic and agricultural and other activities in the portal

Delegate: Sikkim Co-operative Union Chairperson **Ganesh Rai**

Developed by:

- Information Technology Department
- Government of Sikkim
- National Informatics Centre (NIC) team

Features of the portal:

- The updation of data is controlled by the **government controlled entities**
- Can be accessed by **freely**
- Should be **reused and redistributed** by any person
- The one more step ahead to the national platform by the requirement of hard work

Gujarat govt to launch mobile app for delivery of common services

- i. The **Gujarat government** is set to launch the mobile app **Digital Gujarat** by August 15 that aims to put most of the services on the **fingertips of citizens**.
- ii. Soon after this comes into working people could be able to avail a **host of government services** through their **smartphones and tablets**.
- iii. This app facilitates various services that include **procurement of ration card**, senior citizen certificate, caste certificate, domicile certificate, income certificate, widow certificate, SC/ST certificate and various others.
- iv. Apart from providing **e-services**, the app would come up with some other features, including **e-Locker to digitally store certificates**.

Kashmiri Pandits Arrive in Valley to Celebrate Annual Kheer Bhawani Festival

- i. **Kheer Bhawani** festival is celebrated annually on the eighth day of the lunar fortnight of '**Jaishtha**' month in the Hindu almanac.
- ii. The Kheer Bhawani shrine, located near Srinagar where hundreds of devotees thronged on the occasion of this festival and paid prayers to the Goddess on this day.
- iii. Kheer Bhawani is considered to be the **Presiding Deity** of most of the **Kashmiri Brahmins**.

Railways launched the Optional Catering Scheme as well as Janani Sewa on test mode

The Railway Minister taken steps to serve the Passenger under **three** initiatives

- ♦ Janani Sewa for mothers
- ♦ Optional Catering in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Trains on test mode
- ♦ Children's menu on trains

Launched by: Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu

Venue: New Delhi

First Meeting of National Committee on Ramayana Circuit & Krishna Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme held in Uttar Pradesh

Ministry of Tourism hold the "1st Meeting of National Committee on Ramayan Circuit & Krishna Circuit" under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

Host: Minister of Tourism and Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma

Delegates: Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Vinod Zutshi, Experts and Senior officers of Ministry of Tourism

Ramayana Circuit: 11 Destinations

Krishna Circuit: 12 Destinations.

Government Sanctions Rs. 164 Crore for Rajasthan, Rs. 156 Crore for Telangana for Compensatory Afforestation

- i. Union government has **sanctioned Rs. 164 crore for Rajasthan and Rs. 156 crore for Telangana**, following a meeting on Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) with the two States.
- ii. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, said that the money has been sanctioned for afforestation, **relocation and other biodiversity works** in these states.
- iii. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund was cleared by the Lok Sabha in this may. The CAMPA corpus currently stands **around Rs 42,000 crore** of this only 10 per cent of the funds can be released this year.

Union Cabinet approved civil aviation policy

Union Government chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** approved Civil Aviation Policy and named as **"Game Changer"**

- **India** should stand the **third largest position** among civil aviation market by **2022**.
- The **Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi** named the Policy as "Game Changer"

Aims of the Policies:

- Improving India's **9th position to 3rd largest** civil aviation market by the year 2022
- Implementing **'Make In India' programme** in Civil Aviation Sector
- Enhancing **Cargo volumes by 4 times to 10 million tonnes** by 2027
- **Domestic ticketing** to grow from 8 crore in 2015 to 30 crore by 2022
- **Scheduled commercial flights** to increase from 77 in 2016 to 127 by 2019
- Adaptable and effective version of **'open skies' and 'code share'** agreements
- Development of green-field **Airports and Heliports**
- Enhancement version of business through **deregulation and e-governance**
- Incentives to **MRO sector to develop as hub** for South Asia
- Assuring **availability of quality certified 3.3 lakh** skilled personnel by 2025

Areas covered under the Policy:

- Regional **connectivity and Route Dispersal** Guidelines

- **5/20** Requirement for International Operations
- Airport **Security and Management**
- Ground **handling and Air cargo, navigation** and maintenance
- Airports developed by both **State Govt and Private sector** Airports Authority of India
- The **5/20 rule in the operation of International flight** is officially cancelled.
- Slight changes in the **International Operations** by the deal of domestic operation.
- All airlines begins international operations supplied **20 aircrafts** in ready conditions

5/20 Rule:

All airlines in India are permitted to fly abroad only if it has **five years** of domestic flying experience and acquired a fleet of at **least 20 aircraft**

Government approves Rs 2,070-crore highway project in Punjab

- The Union Cabinet gave nod to **Rs 2,070-crore highways project in Punjab** under its hybrid annuity mode to for faster movement of traffic between **Chandigarh and Ludhiana**.
- The project of **76km highway stretch** is conversion of two lanes into Six/ four laning of Kharar to Ludhiana section of NH 95 (New NH 5) has been approved by the Cabinet.
- The project is planned to be **completed in 30 months**, out of the total, 54 km will be widened to six lane and the 22 km will broadened to four lanes.

Andhra Pradesh to start Internet-based phone service

- Andhra Pradesh** is working on the **Telephone Service** which will operate on **Internet Platform**, in fact AP is the first State to have obtained a telecom license and it can issue phone numbers starting with the **797 series** later this year.
- The internet based telephone service comes without requiring any further registration' after it obtained permission from the Telecom Ministry for starting its own **IPTV** (Internet Protocol based Television network) as part **of its Fibre Grid project**.
- The project aims at providing affordable net connectivity in every corner of the State, the government can offer **free telephone services** within the region by internet.

Union Government approved India's Membership of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program

Union Government signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Helmholtz Centre Potsdam GFZ German Research Centre for geosciences** which is government funded and Public Law Foundation of the State of Brandenburg, **Germany**.

Validity of Membership: 5 years

India occupied globally eminent exports with great features of scientific drilling by achieving deep drilling and associated investigations in Koyana region

India will assign a position on **two ICDP** panels: Executive Committee (EC), Assembly of Governors (AOG)

kiran Bedi launches a mobile app to help senior citizens in distress

i. Newly appointed Lt. Governor of Puducherry **Kiran Bedi** has launched a mobile App named **HelpAge SOS App** for to provide one-click emergency services to senior citizens at Raj Nivas in Puducherry.

ii. The app facilitates for an **SOS-Save our seniors button** to immediately reach to the counsellor desk of Help Age for interpreting emergency help and assistance, also offers health related information. It has **24 x 7 functionality** that helping elders in distress.

iii. The app is intended not just for elders but also for society in particular the younger generation. Which is **GPS enabled and picks** up the location of the caller and will dial into the particular State Office.

Shri Piyush Goyal Launches Ujala Scheme in Goa and Vidyut Pravah & Urja Mobile App

i. Union **Power Minister Piyush Goyal** launched **URJA- Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Mobile app** on the side-lines of ongoing two day Conference of Power Ministers at Cansaulim in **South Goa**.

ii. The app intended to enhance consumer connect with the Urban Power Distribution sector by providing information of IT aided towns.

iii. The Minister also launched the **Pradhan Mantri UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED for all)** Yojana in the state with a target of replacing approximately **15 lakh LED bulbs** that benefits 5 lakh households.

iv. Besides he also launched **Vidyut Pravah App** which will allow common people to **demand 24X7 power** and will take transparency that makes state governments more accountable.

Cabinet approves signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Taiwan

i. The **Union Cabinet** headed by the **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved the

signing of **Air Services Agreement between India-Taiwan.**

ii. Presently there is no formal Air Services Agreement between India and Taiwan,

iii. The agreement between the **India-Taipei Association** in Taipei, Taiwan and the **Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India** (Taiwan's representative office in India) will give a boost to the cultural and economic exchanges between the sides' also bilateral **trade and tourism.**

iv. The cabinet also clears ex-post facto approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Taiwan for cooperation in the **field of Agriculture and Allied Sector.**

v. The Agriculture cooperation MoU will be valid **period of five years** and shall be routinely renewed for a subsequent periods of five years.

Review and planning meeting of Indo-EU 'Water4crops' project held in New Delhi

In order to cope with water scarcity in Agricultural Sector, Ministry of State for the Ministry of Science & Technology framed the **"Water4crops"** project.

On completion of 4 years of the Euro 9 Million Indian-European Union "Water4crops" project, the Delegates are arranged the Review and Planning Meeting

Project Worth: 9 Million Euro

Venue: New Delhi

Funded by: Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the governance of Ministry of Science & Technology & European Union

Union Government signed contract basis of Exploration of Poly metallic Sulphides

Union Government Singed Agreement with International Seabed Authority for handling exploration and other activities related to Poly metallic Sulphides.

Term of Contract: 15 years

Features of the Agreement: The Agreement was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences with the International Seabed Authority

It is planned to install in parts of Central and South – West Indian Ridges allocated area about 10,000 Sq km which is located in the Indian Ocean

Railways minister Suresh Prabhu flags off first time-tabled freight train

i. Union Railway Minister **Suresh Prabhu** has flagged off country's **first timetabled freight train**, named **Cargo Express**, from Delhi to Bengaluru which will have transit **time of 70 hourson** either side.

ii. Upon this move two pairs of **time-tabled trains have** been proposed by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) to start with between **Delhi-Bengaluru (2,278 km) and Delhi-Chennai (2,160 km).**

iii. The move intended to reduce the delay and uncertainty over the time schedule for delivery of goods.

iv. The Ministry also launched an integrated redressal of grievances through social media platform on Facebook and Twitter that will allow differently-abled persons to avail

concessions while travelling alone and liberalised **Comprehensive Parcel Leasing Policy'**(CLIP).

Microsoft & AICTE signed agreement to build app for HRD Ministry's SWAYAM platform

All Indian Council for Technical Education(AICTE) signed agreement with **Microsoft** and chosen Microsoft as their Technical partner for Online Courses.

Features of the app:

- ♦ The Online Course programme is named as SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Mind)
- ♦ About 2,000 Massive Open Online Courses to be started.
- ♦ Over 3 Crore Students and public will be nurtured under the Courses.

PM Modi, Sri Lankan President inaugurate Duraipah stadium in Jaffna renovated by India

- i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Sri Lankan President **Maithripala Sirisena**, jointly inaugurated the newly renovated **Duraipah Stadium in Jaffna** through video-conferencing from New Delhi.
- ii. The stadium was kept unused since 1997, has been renovated by the Indian government at a cost of over **Rs 7 crore**.
- iii. The Duraipah Stadium, named in honour of a former **Mayor of Jaffna** late Alfred **Thambirajah Duraipah**.

Centre approves proposal for Greenfield Electronic Park in Odisha

- i. Union Government gave its final approval for setting up of a **Greenfield Electronic Park** which is a dedicated IT hub **near Bhubaneswar**.
- ii. The park, to be set up under **Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC)** scheme of the Centre, will come up on 203 acres of land at a cost of Rs 205 crore out of this centre will give **Rs 95 crore** with the rest will borne by the Odisha government.
- iii. The park intends to provide employment potential of **10,000 to 12,000 persons** and common facilities for training, incubation **and R & D activities to the interested entrepreneurs**.

Government to open Yoga departments in six universities

- i. Union Minister of Human Resource Development, **Smriti Irani** announced during the National Seminar on Yoga that government has decided to open Yoga departments in **six central universities** of the country during 2016-2017.
- ii. These universities that will come up the **Yoga Department**. These recommendation was made by a panel headed by **Professor H R Nagendra**.
- ♦ Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University of Uttrakhand,

- ♦ Visva Bharati University of West Bengal,
- ♦ Central University of Rajasthan,
- ♦ Central University of Kerala,
- ♦ Indira Gandhi National Tribal University of Amarkantak
- ♦ Manipur University.

iii. These Universities will start offering bachelors, masters, and postgraduate diploma, PhD and certificate courses in yoga from the new academic session this year.

Centre gives nod to form 10 coastal police stations

- i. Union government cleared decks for formation of **10 coastal police stations in the coastal states** of the country with jurisdiction **over Exclusive Economic Zone**.
- ii. The move likely to boost coastal security over crimes committed that included crimes of piracy in the high seas, investigation of any apprehensions made by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard, any other major and minor crimes.
- iii. Currently India had only one coastal police station, Mumbai's Yellow Gate police station, which had jurisdiction over all the crimes committed in **India's EEZ** in the west coast and east coast.

Exclusive Economic Zone:

- ♦ Sea waters up to 12 nautical miles are called **territorial waters**, while waters from **12 nautical miles to 225 nautical miles** are categorised as **Exclusive Economic Zone** over which a country has sovereign rights.

Punjab Government launched Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund

Punjab Government had initiated a special fund named as "**Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund**" by Chief Minister **Prakash Singh Badal**.

Focus: To provide Free treatment for patients affected by Viral Disease Hepatitis C

First State in the Country to afford free treatment to Hepatitis C affected Person

Initial Contribution: Rs 20 Crore.

The Scheme is eligible to all the residents of Punjab and the cases will be registered in **25 hospitals**.

Assam Government launched Maitree Ek Gyan Yatra initiative to link primary schools to colleges

Assam Government decided to launch **Maitree Ek Gyan Yatra** Scheme to link Primary Schools to colleges in **Sivsagar District**.

Launched by: Education Department, Assam

Focus: Under the programme, College lecturers will be taking Classes in High Schools and High School Teachers will be teaching in Primary schools voluntarily.

Aim: To change the mindset of the teachers, as in some places subject teachers of a school considered it below their dignity to teach the lower level students.

Union Government allowed 100% FDI in Civil aviation, Defence and Food processing

Union Government relaxed Foreign Direct Investment policies in the sectors such as **Defence, Civil aviation, e-commerce in Food products, Broadcasting carriage services and Private Security agencies**

Changes in Foreign Direct Investment

Sl No	Sector	Approved FDI
1	Defence	100%
2	Pharmaceuticals (Brownfield)	74%
3	Airports (Brownfield)	100%
4	Civil Aviation	100% (49% Automatic & 51% Govt Approval)
5	Cable Networks, DTH and Mobile TV	100%

Railway Ministry launched two liberalised Policies

Minister of Railway **Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu** inaugurated the programme to launch the following services as a part of Railway Budget announced for the financial year 2016-17

Venue: Rail Bhawan, New Delhi

Delegates: Minister of Railway, Suresh Prabhu, Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha

Highlights:

- ♦ Flagging of first train service from Domestic Container Terminal, Okhla (Delhi) to Whitefield (Bengaluru)
- ♦ Launch of liberalized comprehensive Parcel leasing policy
- ♦ Commence of liberalized policy for Parcel cargo express trains
- ♦ Included Social Media Platforms such as Facebook and Twitter for grievance redressal
- ♦ Announcement of Implementation of policy allowing Differently Abled Persons to avail concession while travelling without escort.

Arun Jaitley Lays Foundation Stone For New Campus Of IIM-Amritsar

i. The Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** put down the **foundation stone** for a new campus of **IIM-Amritsar**. The new is reported to be **the smallest among the 14 existing IIMs** in the country by area.

ii. This would be the **15th Indian Institute of Management** in the country, which has been so far operating from a temporary facility.

iii. The new campus of IIM-Amritsar, which commenced its first batch last year out of a temporary facility, will be built on a **60-acre land in Manawala** of the state.

Haryana to have India's first AYUSH University

i. **Haryana state** cabinet approved a proposal to upgrade **Shri Krishna Government Ayurvedic College**, Kurukshetra as a **university**, which will bring the Country's **first AYUSH University**. This is the **first of its kind in the country**.

ii. The state will pronounce **an ordinance would soon** be introduced for the university following which it would become functional.

iii. The institute is expected to be functional which will have courses of all the **systems of AYUSH and** also with various facilities.

New Super fast train between Vijayawada-Secunderabad launched

i. Union Railway Minister **Suresh Prabhu** and Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** tonight flagged off the new superfast intercity express train between **Vijayawada and Secunderabad** with just one stop.

ii. This train will cover a distance **of 351km between** the two cities in less than 6 hours has been announced to ease travel of **Andhra Pradesh Government employees** to the new capital region from Hyderabad.

iii. The Rail Minister also laid the foundation stone, through a remote video link, for the doubling of present rail line between **Guntakal and Kalluru in Anantapuramu district**.

Andhra Pradesh village, "Mori" to be developed as 'Smart Village'

i. The **Andhra Pradesh Government** and Garwood Centre for Corporate innovation of UC Berkeley-Haas School of Business joined hands to develop the **village Mori into a Smart Village**.

ii. The Mori village in East Godavari district is known for cashew-exporting to turn 'smart' by mid-December 2016 using digital tools, real time information and uninterrupted internet connectivity.

iii. The village will be **provided 24*7 power** supply, uninterrupted power supply (USP) and **fibre optic connectivity**. Around **1900 households** will be connected **with 15 Mbps link**.

Jaitley releases silver coin to mark Martyrdom Day of Banda Singh Bahadur

i. Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** has released commemorative **silver** coin to mark the **300th Martyrdom Day of Banda Singh Bahadur**. **Bahadur** is regarded as the **first sovereign ruler of Punjab**.

ii. The IB Minister also urged Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee to make a

documentary on the life and times of Banda Singh Bahadur.

iii. **Banda Singh**, who was born in 1670 in Rajouri, had sacrificed his life at the age of 46 to safeguard honour and tradition. He established his rule by defeating Mughals in 1710.

DSGMC, India Post launch Baba Banda Singh post card

i. Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (**DSGMC**), along with **India Post** launched a postal cover featuring **Sikh general Baba Banda Singh Bahadur**, to commemorate his 300th death anniversary.

ii. The cover was released by Delhi Circle Chief Post Master General LN Sharma, in the presence of **DSGMC president Manjit Singh GK**.

Expert Committee set on examining Specific Relief Act, 1963 submits its Report to Union Law & Justice Minister

i. The Expert Committee led by **Anand Desai** set on examining the **Specific Relief Act, 1963** submitted its Report to Union Law & Justice **Minister D.V.Sadananda Gowda** in New Delhi.

ii. The committee infused some modifications in the Act that will help in ensuring the ease of doing business.

Recommendation of the committee:

- ♦ To modify the approach, from damages being the rule and specific performance being the exception, to specific performance being the rule, and damages being the alternate remedy.
- ♦ To take measures that reducing the discretion granted to Courts and tribunals while granting performance and injunctive reliefs. Also announce provisions for rights of third parties.
- ♦ To ruminate addressing unacceptable contracts, unfair contracts, reciprocity in contracts etc., and implied terms.

Union Government approved auction of 2300 MHz spectrum and Rs 10000 crore fund of Funds for Startups

Union Government approved the **Mega auction of 2300 MHz Spectrum** under the Initiative of **Digital India Programme**

Aim: To connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks.

About **2300 MHz spectrum** exists for **auction across 7 bands** which will give a boost for Digital India

The Auction will enable **Telecom Operator to buy spectrum**

equivalence with International holding values and solution for spectrum shortage

Union Government accorded special package for

1. Employment Generation
2. Promotion of exports in Textile and Apparel Sector

Spectrum Auction

- To **sell the licences to transmit signals** over specific bands of the **electromagnetic spectrum** and to **assign limited** spectrum resources
- Spectrum Auctions are market-based **spectrum management, privatization of public airwaves and governments to allocate limited resources**

Union Government approved Rs 10000 crore fund of FUNDS FOR STARTUPS

In order to extend support for Startups Entrepreneurship, the Union government gave nod to initiate the **fund of Funds for Startups at Small Industries Development Bank of India** for contribution to various Alternative Investment Funds

- **Eligibility:** Startups should be registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India
- **Initial Corpus:** Rs. 10,000 crore

Corpus was set up over the **14th and 15th Finance Commission** Cycles and it is subjected to growth of the initiative and availability of funds

During **2015-16**, **Rs 500** was provided to the corpus and **Rs. 600 Crore** was accorded in the year **2016-17**

- **Monitored and Reviewed by:** Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
- **Managed by:** Small Industries Development Bank of India

Features of the Fund:

- The Fund will be utilized to create employment for **18 Lakh people on full operation**
- An initial corpus of Rs. **10,000 Crore will be the core** for investing Rs. 60,000 Crore of **Equity investment** and twice as much **Debt Investment**

Andhra Postal circle releases stamps on Yoga booklet

- i. Andhra Pradesh Postal circle on behalf of the **International Day of Yoga** released the Information booklet for public and stamps on **yoga for Philatelists**.
- ii. The Information booklet contained illustrations and description of 24 yoga asana (postures) while 12 stamps on Suryanamaskarams were released.
- iii. The booklet contains four Commemorative stamps released in 1991 on various yoga postures including **Bhujangasana, Dhanurasana, Ushtrasana and Utthita Trikonasan**

Cabinet approved Rs. 6,000 crore package for textiles, apparel

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** approved a **6000 crore** for domain of textiles and apparels.

Purpose:

- To establish over **1 crore new jobs** in three years
- Investments extent of **USD 11 billion and producing USD 30 billion** in exports

Additional Features:

- **Additional incentives** for duty drawback scheme for garments
- **Adaptation in labour laws** to increase productivity and laws
- **Production incentives** for job creation in garment manufacturing
- **Accomplishing the true strength of employment generation** in the textile and apparel sector

Maharashtra Government grants minority status to Jews

- i. Maharashtra became the **second** State after West Bengal to award **minority status to the Jewish** community in the country.
- ii. The State Cabinet approved based on the **Maharashtra State Minorities Commission Act, 2004**, which sanctions the government to **declare a community minority**.
- iii. With this Jews can avail of all the schemes meant for minorities. As per the 2001 census, there are 4,650 Jews in the country of **whom 2,466 are in Maharashtra**.

Aadhaar to be linked with caste, domicile certificates

- i. Union government directed all State governments **to link Aadhaar with caste and domicile certificates** to be issued to school students, to avoid difficulties faced by SC and ST students.

- ii. This is a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Centre. The states have to ensure that such certificates are issued within **60 days' time to the students** when they are **studying in Class V or VIII**.
- iii. The State government authorities concerned would verify the documents and issue the relevant certificates preferably **within 30-60** days.

Union Government launched India's first pilot programme to run two wheelers on Compressed Natural Gas in New Delhi

Union Government initiated a programme to run **two wheelers on Compressed Natural Gas** in New Delhi to give options to reduce pollution on pilot basis.

Launched by: Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar

Venue: New Delhi

Implemented by: Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)

The Test programme was launched with 50 Compressed Natural Gas retrofitted two wheelers. Of these, the first set of 10 CNG retrofitted two wheelers was started at the IGL Filling station at CGO Complex in New Delhi.

Railway minister flags off Danapur-Saharsa Janhit Express

- i. Union Railway Minister **Suresh Prabhu** flagged off a new train service between **Danapur and Saharsa in Bihar** over video-conferencing in **New Delhi** targeting to connect every region of the **country with the rail network**.
- ii. The Minister also announced the **extension of three train services** in Bihar and Jharkhand.
 - ♦ Jaynagar-Saharsa Janki Express was extended up to Katihar.
 - ♦ Patna-Murliganj Koshi Express was extended up to Purnea Court.
 - ♦ Jasidih-Chandan passenger train was extended up to Banka.
- iii. It is the first passenger train to run on the newly constructed Chandan-Banka line.

Union Government approved setting up of District Level Advisory and Monitoring Committees

- i. Urban Development Ministry approved the setting up of **District Level Advisory and Monitoring Committees** to promote people centric planning and **execution of new urban development schemes**.
- ii. These committees will comprise of elected representatives, thus giving Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) a say in the implementation of the urban development schemes such as HRIDAY, AMRUT, SBM, etc.
- iii. The Chairperson of the Committee will be senior most **Member of Parliament**

appointed by the State/UT and District Collector or Municipal Commissioner of metropolitan cities will be the Member Secretary.

Centre to make Assam as petroleum hub for South Eastern countries

- i. Union government is **planning to make the Assam as a hydrocarbon hub** to meet petroleum requirements of Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and other **Southeast Asian countries by 2030**.
- ii. This fiscal centre would **raise Rs 6,000 crore through** public sector oil companies in Assam's petroleum sector in the current fiscal that would be primarily invested in exploration and production and increasing pipeline network.
- iii. This will be a part of **the total Rs 80,000 crore investment** to take the oil and gas production in Assam to 9.4 million metric tonnes by 2030 as part of Centre's ambitious plan to make **Assam the petroleum hub of Southeast Asia**.

PM Narendra Modi launches Smart city Mission Projects in Pune

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the center's flagship Smart City mission **in 20 cities across the country from Pune, involving 83 projects** in the country
- ii. He launched 14 smart city projects in Pune, and commenced 69 other works in other smart cities in the country y to be implemented at a **cost of 1,770 crore rupees**.
- iii. The PM also inaugurated **Make Your City SMART contest intended to spur the** participation in designing smart cities that making a strong pitch to consider urbanisation as an opportunity to mitigate poverty.

Union Defence Ministry gives nod for purchase of 145 Ultra Light Howitzers guns from the US

- i. **The Defence Ministry** cleared decks for purchase of **145 Ultra Light Howitzers**, worth about USD 750 million, from the US and also approved bulk production **of 18 Dhanush artillery guns**, the first acquisition of such weapon systems.
- ii. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by the Defence Minister **Manohar Parrikar**, and took up **18 proposals including new schemes** worth Rs 28,000 crore for discussion.
- iii. On the other hand the project has got nod that will now allow the **Navy to issue tenders**, was the proposal to build six next generation missile vessels under 'Buy Indian' category **for Rs 13,600 crore**.

Nagaland Governor launches women's helpline '181'

- i. Nagaland **Governor P B Acharya** launched women **helpline – 181** at the District Hospital Dimapur in Nagaland and also inaugurated **Sakhi, a one stop Centre**, envisioned

to support women affected by violence.

ii. The helpline will also **provide 24 hour emergency response** to all women affected by violence, through referral and information about women related government schemes and Programmes across the country through a **single uniform number -181**.

iii. **Sakhi-One Stop Centre** is a centrally backed scheme by the Women and Child Development Ministry to be funded through **Nirbhaya Fund**.

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated maiden train between Sonapat – Jind route

Railway Minister **Suresh Prabhu** along with Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** initiated maiden train between **Sonapat – Jind** in Chandigarh having distance of 81 km

Venue: Chandigarh

Purpose: To provide good infrastructure by enhancing growth and future development in the usage of railway transportation

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated train service between Patna to Ara

Railway Minister initiated train route between **Patna to Ara region** having Mainline Electric Multiple Unit based rail system

Delegates: Manoj Sinha, Minister of State for Railways, K. Mital, Chairman Railway Board, Jamshed , Member Traffic Railway Board

Railway Minister notified that the train service is mainly for the populous states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, UP and Bihar

About MEMU and DEMU

- ♦ The Mainline Electric Multiple Unit or MEMU is a commuter rail system in India
- ♦ Operated by the Indian Railway for semi-urban and rural areas
- ♦ A diesel multiple unit or DMU is a multiple-unit train powered by on-board diesel engines.

Union HM Rajnath Singh inaugurated Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Ranchi

i. Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** headed the **22nd meeting of eastern zonal council in Ranchi, Jharkhand**. The Zonal council comprising Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal.

ii. During the meeting range of issues being discussed like modernization of state police forces, measures to curb communal tension and **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)**, curbing of drug trafficking, measures for bringing green revolution to eastern India, issues relating to fisheries, productivity of livestock and poultry to usher blue revolution.

iii. Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das, Nitish Kumar CM of Bihar, Pradip Kumar Amat, Finance

Minister of Odisha, Ashish Banerjee, Minister for Planning West Bengal, Ministers from Bihar and Jharkhand and senior officers from the central and state governments attended the meeting.

Govt to constitute Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

- i. Union Government amended **RBI Act -1934** regarding **constitution of MPC into** force so that statutory basis of Monetary Policy Committee is made effective.
- ii. Upon this move a **Committee-based approach** will be in place that adds value and transparency to monetary policy decisions.
- iii. The MPC will have six members of which three Members will be from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), including the Governor, who will be the ex-officio Chairperson, the Deputy Governor, RBI and one officer of RBI.
- iv. The other 3 Members of MPC will be appointed by the Union government, on the recommendations of a Search-cum-Selection Committee, which will be headed by the Cabinet Secretary.
- v. These three Members of MPC will be doyens in economics or banking or finance or monetary policy and will be appointed for a **period of 4 years** and shall not be eligible for re-appointment.

Andhra Pradesh government inks deal for Rs 10,000 crore gas-based fertilizer project

- i. The **Andhra Pradesh** government inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a threenation consortium of China Huanqin Contracting and Engineering Corporation, LEPL Ventures Private Limited and Isomeric Holdings to set up a **gasbased fertilizer project** at Krishnapatanam with an investment of Rs 10,183 crore.
- ii. The MoU was signed during N Chandrababu Naidu's ongoing visit to China, wherein he was participating in the **World Economic Forum's 10th annual meeting** of New Champions in Tianjin.
- iii. The proposed year of commencement for the project is 201718 that will help generate 5,000 thousand jobs.

Odisha State Government decided to provide education loan at 1% interest

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik initiated a new Scheme called as "**Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana**" to afford **education loan at 1% interest** to students for pursuing higher studies

Fund requirement: Rs. 500 Crore

Purpose: To help for students pursuing higher education including Management, Law,

Engineering and Medicine

Aim: Ensuring that meritorious students do not stop enrolling for higher education due to financial stress.

Trai launches mobile app to take on pesky call, SMS complaints

- i. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India have launched an app named '**DND Services**' that will help mobile users to manage unsolicited commercial communications to curb the pesky call menace.
- ii. The **1909 DND toll-free number service** exists right now as well, and users can file complaints but this app is likely to speed up the process.
- iii. The DND service allows residents of India to block pesky callers and texters, along with telemarketers.

DND Services App

- ♦ Apart from registering for '**do-not-disturb**' service and filing complaints on the app, users will also be able to view the status of their **lodged complaints**.
- ♦ In this App users can choose to select DND for particular channels like education, banking/insurance/credit cards, health and consumer goods etc.

Assam's famous Kamakhya Temple receives an aid Rs. 25 crore for Infrastructure

- i. Union petroleum **minister Dharmendra Pradhan** announced **an aid of Rs 25 crore over** the next couple of years for the infrastructure development of **Kamakhya temple**.
- ii. The announcement comes from the Minister during the Ambubachi Mela festival which is the celebration of goddess Kamakhya's annual menstruation cycle, considered as a symbol of fertility by the Hindus.
- iii. The festival is the eastern **India's largest congregation of pilgrims** – drew a whopping 25 lakh devotees this year.

Kamakhya Temple:

The Kamakhya Temple situated on the Nilachal Hill in western part of **Guwahati city in Assam** is a Hindu temple dedicated to the mother goddess Kamakhya.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates Headquarters of Jharkhand's special anti-Maoist force

- i. Union Home **Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the newly built headquarters of Jharkhand's special anti-Maoist force **Jharkhand Jaguar** which has got permanent place since its inception in 2008.
- ii. The Jharkhand Jaguar, also known as **Special Task Force**, towards becoming a substitute for the central forces engaged in anti-guerrilla **operations 22 of the state's 24 Maoist-hit districts**.
- iii. The HQ that sprawl over **173 acres in Tendargram** in Kanke block houses anti-

guerrilla warfare training facilities, functionally rich barracks, parade grounds, firing range besides administrative block and officers' mess.

Radha Mohan Singh launches a web based App CMRS for better crop and Nutrient management released for Bihar farmers

- i. The Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister **Radha Mohan Singh** launched **Crop Manager for Rice-based Systems (CMRS) App** for better crop and Nutrient management for **Bihar farmers in a program organised at ICAR-RCER in Patna**.
- ii. The App will be a part of Digital India program and will be linked **with Soil Health scheme** for bringing access to new technologies to rural India. The App had been already launched by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
- iii. CMRS is a web-based App that can be used with computer, mobile and tablet and aims to increase farmer's net income and sustain the productivity for **rice-based cropping systems** in Bihar, India.

Majuli to become India's first river island district

- i. Assam government has granted a river island named **Majuli** in the state as district status. The island is sprawl over 400sqkm Island in the river Brahmaputra.
- ii. Notably **Sarbananda Sonowal** who is **CM of the state** had won the assembly election this year from Majuli, a constituency reserved for scheduled tribes.
- iii. The erosion-troubled Majuli was a sub-division of Jorhat district, will become the **34th district of Assam**.

Supreme Court rejects petition seeking ban on WhatsApp messenger

- i. The Supreme Court discharged a **petition filed by** RTI activist **seeking a complete ban** on online messaging platform **WhatsApp** which have end to end encryption.
- ii. The petitioner in his file citing this as a National Security concern as demanded the messaging platform to provide a key for the government.

End- End to Encryption:

- ♦ The messaging service WhatsApp added end-to-end 256 bit encryption for its users, which meant that no one except the sender and receiver would be able to access to the content of the message or call.

Cabinet clears pay hike for 1 crore govt employees, pensioners

- i. Union cabinet approved the implementation of the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission which will give a substantial raise to the salaries and pensions to one crore central government employees of central government employees that will

be implemented from January 1, 2016.

ii. Upon this the entry level pay to be raised to **Rs.18,000 per month** from the **current Rs.7,000** a month while maximum pay fixed at Rs. 2.5 lakh per month, up from Rs.90,000 per month that would be drawn by the Cabinet Secretary.

7 th Commission Recommendations:

♦ The Central Pay Commission was Chaired by **Justice A. K. Mathur** had submitted its report on November 2015.

♦ It has financial impact of the recommendations is expected **to be Rs.1,02,100 crore** that results **27 per cent hike in basic pay at junior levels, 23.55 per cent** overall hike in salaries, allowances and pension.

Union Cabinet clears National Mineral Exploration Policy

i. Union Cabinet cleared the **National Mineral Exploration Policy** (NMEP) that pave the way for auction of **100 prospective mineral blocks and enhancing** mining potential in India.

ii. The policy likely to attract **private sector in exploration** through the mineral exploration policy.

iii. Upon this move private entities involved in carrying out regional and comprehensive exploration would get assured share in revenue in mining operation from the successful **bidder after the e-auction** of block.

Cabinet approves Revised Cost Estimates for establishment of Eight New IITs

i. Union Cabinet headed red by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Revised Cost Estimates for establishment of eight New IITs **at Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Indore, Jodhpur, Mandi, Patna and Ropar.**

ii. When this comes into operation it would add student strength in each IIT at the end of the project **will be 2360**. The total student capacity **would be 12880 in these eight IITs** by the end of 2019.

iii. The revised Cost Estimate **is Rs. 13,990 crore against** original project cost was Rs. 6080 crore **for establishment of eight new IITs** over a period of 11 years from 2008-09 to 2018-19.

Union Government approved National Mineral Exploration Policy to accelerate activity in the country

Aim: Motivating the exploration activity in the country through improved participation of the private sector.

Focus: To make use of full mineral energy such as non Fuel and non Coal to the extreme and maximize sectoral contribution to the Indian Economy.

Fund Allocation: Rs.2116 crore over 5 years

Highlights:

- ♦ Providing platform for Geo-scientific Data of world standards in the public domain
- ♦ Quality research in a Public-Private Partnership
- ♦ Initiatives for search of deep seated and concealed deposits.

FSSAI signs pact with ASCI to check misleading advertisements

i. Advertising Standard Council of India (ASCI) will comprehensively monitor these advertisements across various media. The council has been given a suo motu monitoring mandate by FSSAI to process complaints against misleading advertisements of food and beverages.

ii. The MoU was signed by **FSSAI CEO Pawan Agarwal and ASCI Chairman Benoy Roychoudhry**.

iii. The agreement also requires ASCI to report to FSSAI non- compliance of ASCI's decisions for further action as required per provisions of the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Act

The Union HRD Minister launches 'Prashikshak'- a teacher education portal

i. Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani dedicated **'Prashikshak'** – a teacher education portal, to the nation at **Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi**.

ii. Prashikshak' is launched with a vision to strengthen District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and bring quality teachers into the Indian school education system.

iii. Prashiskshak Portal has started only for DIETs, it will cover block level institutes in the future and identify gaps at the bottom of the pyramid.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The world's longest tunnel opens in Switzerland

- i. The world's longest and deepest rail tunnel has opened **in Switzerland, after** almost Seventeen years after construction work which intended to ease transit.
- ii. The **57km** twin-bore Gotthard base tunnel will **deliver a high-speed rail link** under the Swiss Alps between northern and **southern Europe**.
- iii. The Gotthard Base **Tunnel** has overtaken Japan's 53.9km Seikan rail tunnel as the longest in the world. Also the project, which cost more than \$12bn was endorsed by Swiss**voters in 1992**.

2 Indian-origin women in Forbes' self-made American women list

- i. In the Forbes' annual list of **America's 60 wealthiest and most successful self-made women entrepreneurs** list **two Indian-origin women** have featured who have articulated invention and innovation.
- ii. India-born **Neerja Sethi, who is a** co-founder of IT consulting and outsourcing **firm Syntel with her husband Bharat Desai**ranked **16th on 'America's** Richest Self-made Women' list while president and CEO of Arista Networks **Jayshree Ullal is ranked 30th**.
- iii. The richest self-made woman in America is topped by ABC Supply owner Diane Hendricks is worth **4.9 billion US dollars and** the company is **the largest wholesale distributor** of roofing and siding in the country.

India among top five in 2015 in green energy spending: Report

- i. According to a Global Renewables Report 2015 India being ranked among the top five nations in new investments, and in the top four as regards creating jobs in the green energy sector.
- ii. India's investments in renewable energy sector increased to \$10.2 billion in 2015, when compared to \$8.3 billion in 2014.
- iii. The new investments added growth for the second straight year, aided by a jump in utility-scale solar power financing that **reached \$4.6 billion**, up 75 per cent over the previous year.

Country	Rank
China	1
US	2
Japan	3
UK	4
India	5

Asia's largest annual security forum Shangri-La Dialogue opens in Singapore

- i. The three day long 15th edition of **Asia's largest annual security forum Shangri-La**

Dialogue was inaugurated in **Singapore** to discuss various security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

ii. The London-based think tank -International Institute for Strategic Studies is the hosting institution that to be attended by at least 20 Defence Ministers **from Asia-Pacific countries including** India represented by Defence Minister **Manohar Parrikar**.

iii. In the forum key issues that taking front row includes Territorial disputes in the South China Sea, North Korea's military provocations and Islamist extremism, migration, cybersecurity, counterterrorism and military competition.

Arundhati Bhattacharya 5th most powerful woman in finance: Forbes

i. India's largest lender's Chairperson **Arundhati Bhattacharya**, have been ranked as the **fifth powerful** women in **finance** in the latest Forbes list of 100 most powerful people in the world.

ii. Bhattacharya has moved up five spots from the previous year rankings to **5th this year**. The Finance list topped by IMF chief **Christine Lagarde**

iii. In the Forbes 100 Ranking list four Indian women have been listed, Such as Bhattacharya has been ranked 25th, Chanda Kochhar of ICICI Bank ranked 40th, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon (77th), and Shobhana Bhartia of HT Media ranked 93rd.

iv. In the list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women, German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** maintained in the top spot. The US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, and Janet Yellen, chair of the Federal Reserve, were second and third respectively.

Forbes Announced 13th Annual World's Most Powerful Women List

New York based Forbes announced the 2016 list of **The World's 100 Most Powerful Women**.

- ♦ The women leaders are managing more than 3.6 million people and play a vital role in improving the economic conditions in their country.
- ♦ The list is topped by Germany Chancellor, Angela Merkel.
- ♦ In 2016 Forbes list, Four Indian women newly joined including SBI Managing director.

Four Indians In Forbes List Of World's 'Most Powerful Women'

1 – Ms. Bhattacharya, 60, ranked 25th on the list, is facing her "most challenging test" yet with State Bank of India facing mounting bad loans, which stood at USD 11 billion in December.

2 – Ms Kochhar comes in on the 40th spot and Forbes said as boss of the country's largest private-sector lender, Ms. Kochhar, 54 has to contend with the "current bane of India's banking system: bad loans."

3 – Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw is ranked 77th on the list. The 63-year old "self-made" business leader positioned Biocon as a large player in insulin and her company is the only Asian firm ranked among the top 20 biotech employers worldwide by Science magazine.

4 – Ms. Bhartia is ranked 93rd on the list and the 59-year-old media baroness serves as chairperson and editorial director for India's largest listed media company, HT Media.

US-based Indian-origin Indra Nooyi, Chief Executive of PepsiCo is ranked 14th on the list.

US returns 200 artifacts worth \$100 million to India

- i. The US government **returned** over **200 cultural artifacts** valued over **USD100 million** to India at a ceremony in Washington attended **by PM Narendra Modi**.
- ii. These artifacts returned included religious statues, bronzes and terra cotta pieces, some **2,000 years old** that were looted from some of India's most **treasured religious sites**.
- iii. The pieces returned is a statue of Saint Manikkavichavakar, a Hindu mystic and poet from the Chola period (circa 850 AD to 1250 AD) stolen from the Sivan Temple in Chennai that valued at USD1.5 million.
- iv. The items being returned include **bronze sculpture of Lord Ganesh** estimated **to be 1,000-year-old**. The artifacts that reflects India's astounding history and beautiful culture.

Thailand becomes first Asian country to eliminate mother to child HIV: WHO

- i. The World Health Organization has declared that **Thailand has** become the **first Asian country** to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission to ensure an **AIDS-free generation**.
- ii. Upon this feat Thailand's Health Minister was presented with the certificate of validation during a ceremony, which took place on the eve of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS **in New York**.
- iii. The report also says **Belarus and Armenia were** also stated free of mother-to-baby HIV transmissions but both countries have a much lower dominance of the virus.
- iv. Earlier, **Cuba was the only other country** and the first country to eliminate this epidemic under the WHO's criteria in 2015.

Norway Becomes World's First Country to Ban Deforestation

- i. Northern Europe Country **Norway** announced a complete **ban on deforestation**, with this the first country to put a **zero deforestation policy**.
- ii. This comes in the aftermath of the recommendations of Parliament's Standing Committee of Norway on Energy and Environment to take **Action Plan on Nature Diversity**.
- iii. In its report the committee also has asked to frame separate biodiversity policy and use funds provided by Government Pension Fund Global to **increase biodiversity protection**.

India to provide Rs 48 mn aid for college building in Nepal

- i. India to provide financial grand of **Rs 48.84 million to Nepal** for the construction of a college. Indian Ambassador to **Nepal Ranjit Rae** laid foundation stone of the building for **Koteshwor Multiple Campus** in Kathmandu district.
- ii. **Koteshwor Multiple Campus** is a non-governmental, service-oriented community college established two decades back. The current infrastructure of the college is **inadequate** and is being run from an old school building.
- iii. India has provided a monetary aid of **nearly Rs 501 million to Nepal** in the fiscal 2015-2016 to help the country renovate, restore and upgrade its various religious, cultural and educational institutions after it stuck by earth quake.

The Rise of Environmental Crime Report released by UNEP and INTERPOL

The Environmental crime extended largely **upto 26%** from the previous record in 2014
The **World's Fourth largest** committed crime is the Environmental crime

- i. Human trafficking
 - ii. Counterfeiting
 - iii. Drug smuggling
- ◆ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) joined hands with INTERPOL spreading awareness about the Environmental Crimes.
 - ◆ The most endangered species including Rhinos and elephants were killed at growth rate of 25% over the last 10 years and about **3000** elephants were killed in **Tanzania** every year.

UN Assembly elects Israel as committee chair for first time

- i. The **U.N. General Assembly** elected Israel will head one of the world **body's six permanent committees**, since joining the **U.N. in 1949** this is first time that country is Chairing the committee.
- ii. Upon chairing the committee will give Israel a chance to have a higher profile in routine

affairs at the United Nations.

iii. In the secret ballot election, **Israel received 109-yes votes**. Nobody voted against Israel but there were 23 abstentions, 14 invalid ballots, and 43 votes for other countries in the Western European notably Sweden was runner-up with **10 votes**.

India, Thailand to tie up for maritime security

i. **Thailand Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan-ocha's is on three day maiden visit to India**, upon which both the sides are set to firm up cooperation to combat terrorism, and boost maritime security, defence ties and trade.

ii. The two countries will expressing cooperation **in the increase in maritime security, double trade in five years, push the India-Myanmar-Thai road project**, cooperate in civil aviation, fight cyber crime and promote people-to-people cooperation.

iii. Both the nations will also look for joint projects in **solar energy, space applications and space technology sectors**.

India and Bangladesh initiated trans-shipment operations at Ashuganj Port

Bangladesh's Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan inaugurated the operation at Ashuganj port in central Bangladesh

Venue: Dhaka, Bangladesh

1,000 tonnes of Iron and Steel sheets were emptied to be trans-shipped to Tripura via Bangladesh territory by trucks

Delegates: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Economic Affairs Adviser – Mashiur Rahman, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka – Harsh Vardhan Shringla

India, South Korea launch 'Korea Plus' for FDI

i. Union Commerce Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman and Joo Hyunghwan, the Minister of Trade, Industry & Energy, Korea launched** an initiative called **Korea Plus** to promote and facilitate Korean Investments in India.

ii. This initiative comes as an effect of MoU that was inked during the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi visit to South Korea 2015**.

iii. Korea Plus, which encompasses representatives from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy, Korea and representative from **Korea Trade Investment and Promotion Agency (KOTRA)** and three representatives from Invest India.

Ganges-Danube Cultural Festival of India inaugurated by Tourism & Culture Minister Mahesh sharma in Hungary

i. Union Tourism minister **Dr. Mahesh Sharma** inaugurated the **Ganges-Danube Cultural Festival** of India at Vigado Theatre in Budapest in Hungary.

ii. The Minister also inaugurated **Yoga workshop on 18th June**. Hungarian artists, proficient in Indian art forms took part in the programme.

iii. **The Festival will showcase Indian culture, i.e. dance**, music, yoga, film and exhibitions. Indian martial art experts and puppet artists are also performing.

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visiting St Petersburg to represent India at the SPIEF

i. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan visited** St Petersburg, Russia to represent India at the St Petersburg **International Economic Forum** (SPIEF). SPIEF is an annual international conference dedicated to economic and business issues.

ii. In St Petersburg, Pradhan met his Russian counterpart Mr Alexander Novak and CEOs of Rosneft, Gazprom, Gazpromneft, Lukoil and Novatek.

iii. He had participated in a panel discussion on the subject New **Global Petroleum Market Realities**. The visit brings opportunity to discuss **bilateral relations particularly in the field of hydrocarbon sector between India and Russia**.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's statue unveiled in Malaysia

i. A bronze statue of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose** has been unveiled at the Indian cultural centre premises here in the presence of nine Indian National Army (INA) veterans, including three women.

ii. The Bust which was sculpted **by Ram Sutar** and sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

iii. When PM Modi paid a visit to Malaysia last year he had announced renaming of the Indian Cultural Centre as **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose** Indian Cultural Centre.

iv. The Indian Cultural Centre established in 2010 which showcases India's rich heritage and promotes multi-layered cultural exchanges **between peoples of India and Malaysia**.

India, UAE to set up parliamentary panel to enhance ties

i. **India and the UAE will** constitute a joint **panel of parliamentarians** to enhance relations and simplify their visits to **promote cooperation to combat security issues** in the region.

ii. A Decision has been taken in this regard during a meeting between first woman speaker of UAEs Federal National Council (FNC) **Amal Abdullah Al-Qubaisi** and the Indian Envoy **T P Seetharam** in Dubai

iii. Both the sides mutually agreed to make a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the parliamentary committee, and envisaged standing areas of cooperation **in various political, economic, cultural and investment sectors**.

Vice President inaugurates 2-day international conference on Yoga

- i. Indian Vice President **Hamid Ansari** inaugurated two day international conference on **Yoga for Body and Beyond** in New Delhi.
- ii. Over 70 international delegates from **32 countries** are taking part in the Conference. Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, yoga guru Swami Ramdev and Professor H.R. Nagendra will address the valedictory session of the conference.
- iii. Experts on the Yoga will broadly deliberate **upon various themes such** as Yoga and Physical Wellbeing, Insights from Yoga Scholars, Integration of Yoga in Healthcare Delivery System, Yoga for Mental health, Yoga for Body and beyond.

Indian Yoga centre in China teams up with Peking University for research

- i. A Yoga centre founded by Indian **Mohan Singh Bhandari** and his Chinese wife **Yinyan** has been selected by China's **Peking University to conduct research** in the ancient Indian exercise form.
- ii. A MoU has been signed with the varsity in this regard, also This is first time a Chinese university has come forward to do research in Yoga.
- iii. Bhandari along with his wife is a former China editor of the **Elle Magazine established the centre in 2003** that has become immensely popular all over China.
- iv. The centre has over 20,000 students including those undergoing yoga teacher training. It actively take part in the yoga events being organised by **Indian Embassy in Beijing**.

Britain votes to exit EU in historic referendum

United Kingdom voters have polled **to exit** from the **European Union** in a historic referendum.

Effects:

- ◆ UK Prime Minister David Cameron announced the resignation as he is actively campaigned for the membership in EU
- ◆ According to S&P Dow Jones Indices, Global markets **lost \$2.08** trillion
- ◆ Moody's Investors Service downgraded the U.K.'s sovereign debt rating from **stable to negative**.
- ◆ More than **400,000 Britain people** have signed a petition to exit from the EU.

Nagpur inks sister city pact with Jinan in China

- i. **Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC)** and **Jinan inked the agreement** to be sister cities that allows for exchange of ideas and technology in the fields of education, sports, youth affairs, urban planning among other areas.
- ii. The agreement valid for **five years** and can be extended by **another five years**. The

pact is also a part of an agreement signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peoples Republic of **China in May 2013**.

Colombia government, FARC rebels signed historic ceasefire

The **Colombian government** and **Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)** rebels signed an armistice and demilitarization agreement

Purpose of the Agreement: Ended Latin America's longest war happened in its coca rich forests and hills

Signed between: President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos and FARC leader Timoleon Jimenez

Venue: Cuba

Indian-origin lawyer Yasmin Sooka to chair UN commission on human rights in South Sudan

i. South African Indian-origin lawyer **Yasmin Sooka** has been named as the chairman of three member UN commission (committee) to monitor the human rights situation **in South Sudan**.

ii. The committee was constituted by the United Nations Human Right Council (UNHRC) also the other two members of the committee are **Kenneth R. Scott (US) and Godfrey M. Musila (Kenya)**.

iii. It will have tenure of **one year** and shall present a written report to the UNHRC at its 34th regular session **in March 2017**.

iv. The working group will monitor the human rights violations and make recommendations for the process of transitional justice, healing and reconciliation.

Nepal bans citizens from working in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya

i. The Himalayan Nation Nepal **to suspend issuing labour permits** to Nepalese nationals for Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya.

ii. This decision comes from cabinet meeting in the **aftermath of 13 Nepalese nationals** working in Afghanistan were killed when militants exploded a bomb in a minibus.

iii. The government in the wake **evacuated 24 other Nepalese nationals** who were working as security guard in the **Canadian Embassy in Kabul** following the terror outbreak.

Expanded Panama Canal reopens after 9 years of work

i. **Panama officially** opened its **revamped 80-kilometer long canal** to far bigger cargo ships after nearly a decade of expansion work aimed at boosting transit revenues and global trade. The expansion is estimated **to have cost USD 5.5 billion**.

- ii. The **102-year-old canal** that was put on expansion work began in 2007 and was meant to have been completed in 2014, but it ran well past deadline, **and over budget**.
- iii. A Chinese-based **Neopanamax-class cargo ship** will be the first vessel to test the new infrastructure, entering from the Atlantic and exiting into the Pacific.

Panama

- ♦ Capital: Panama
- ♦ Currencies: United States Dollar, Panamanian balboa

Mahashangarh declared as the SAARC cultural capital for 2016-17

- i. An archaeological site in Bogra **Bangladesh, Mahasthangarh (3rd century BC site)** has been declared as the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SARRC) **cultural capital for the year 2016-17**.
- ii. The cultural capital will be the historic place will host festivals on literature, films, foods and dances from October 2016 to September 2017.
- iii. The same year 2016-17 has also be declared the **SAARC Year of Cultural Heritage**. Mahasthangarh is one of the earliest urban archaeological sites so far discovered in Bangladesh.

BHEL commissions two hydel units in Afghanistan

- i. State-run Power giant **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** has commissioned two units of 14 MW each at **Salma Hydro Electric Project** in Afghanistan.
- ii. To mark the contribution by the **BHEL towards setting up of the project**, its CMD Atul Sobti was honoured with an appreciation shield by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharati.
- iii. This project has been funded under government of India's grant to Afghanistan.
- iv. The Salma dam also called **Afghan-India Friendship dam**, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his recent visit.

Iceland elects first new president in 20 years

- i. Iceland elected Gudni Johannesson as their first new **president in 20 years**, amidst distrust of politicians and business leaders after the **2008 global financial crisis** and the Panama papers scandal.
- ii. The country voting were counted on that 39 % of Icelanders voted for Johannesson as president. Contenders included a former prime minister and central bank governor.
- iii. Johannesson who is a lecturer at **the University of Iceland** who has said he has never been a member of a political party, will take oath on Aug. 1.
- iv. He will replace President **Olafur Ragnar Grimsson** who has served as Iceland's

president **since 1996**.

Iceland

- ♦ Capital: Reykjavik
- ♦ Currency: Icelandic króna
- ♦ Prime minister: Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson
- ♦ President: Gudni Johannesson

IMF clears payment of USD 500 million to Pakistan

- i. The International Monetary Fund cleared decks for the **payment of USD 501 million** for Pakistan taking the total amount given to the country **to USD 6.1 billion** in the last few years.
- ii. The decision comes after 11th review of **Pakistans economic performance** in a three-year program supported by an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement, that allows immediate disbursement of about **USD 501 million to Pakistan**.

Ethiopia, Bolivia, Sweden and Kazakhstan elected non-permanent UNSC members

- i. **Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Sweden** have been elected as the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year period beginning in January, 2017. They will replace Spain, Malaysia, New Zealand, Angola and Venezuela.
- ii. **Italy and the Netherlands** had been vying for the one remaining seat, but the voting yielded no clear winner so they have proposed to split a two-year term on the UN Security Council. In the voting each received 95 votes.
- iii. The **193-member UN body** conducted the elections for five non-permanent seats, which included one seat for the African Group, one seat for the Group of Asia and the Pacific small island developing states, one seat for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and two seats for the Western European and Others Group.
- iv. The voting for these countries in the UNGA was conducted by secret ballot in which members of the UNGA had voted.
- v. **Bolivia (183 votes) and Ethiopia (185 votes)** were chosen from Group of Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa region respectively.
- vi. **Sweden (134 votes)** won from the Group of Western Europe. Kazakhstan won from the Group of Asia Pacific against Thailand.

SCO Summit 2016 concludes in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- i. The 2016 **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit** concluded on 24 June 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
 - ii. The **2-day meeting** was conducted under the presidency of Uzbekistan.
- Key highlights of the summit

iii. **India and Pakistan** signed the Memorandum of Obligations on 24 June 2016. The signing of Memorandum of Obligations by India and Pakistan started the formal process of joining the SCO as a full member. They are expected to become full members by the next meeting at Astana in 2017.

Foreign Visits

Vice President Hamid Ansari visited Morocco and Tunisia from June 1 to June 3— Overview

Vice-President **Hamid Ansari** boarded on a **five-day visit** to Morocco and Tunisia to build on diplomatic gains from the India-Africa Summit and place platform for a future partnership.

Maiden visit by an Indian Vice-President in 50 years to the two nations

Focus: To discuss the issues of terrorism, UN Security Council expansion, investments in private sector and to strengthen Africa and regional matters.

India, Morocco launched Chamber of Commerce to boost trade:

India and Morocco launched the India-Morocco Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IMCCI) to accelerate the pace of economic development between the two countries

Delegates: Vice President Hamid Ansari and Moroccan Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane

About IMCCI:

- Vice President explained the need of IMCCI to the **growing importance of commercial engagement between two nations**
- Focusing will be on the **requirements of both sides**
- Morocco emerged as destination for investments by Indian firms adding that Indian companies have invested **\$320 million in Morocco, including in the project, the Indo-MarocPhosphore SA joint venture.**

- The last two decades of economic growth have strengthened India's private sector and to expand its global operations

India and Morocco concluded five MoUs to enhance cooperation in various fields

India and Morocco concluded five **Memorandums of Understanding** (MoUs) covering fields

- Water resources
- Television broadcasting
- Institutional cooperation
- Cultural & Educational exchange
- Trading partnership

The trading partnership between the two countries:

- In 2014, trade between the two countries **mounted at \$1.36 billion**
- **Exports** to Morocco amounting to **\$500.5 million**
- **Imports** were valued at **\$855.8 million**

Conclusion:

- Discussed wide range of **Global and regional developments** of mutual Interest.
- Appreciated Morocco's support for India's application to the **United Nations Security Council**.

India and Tunisia signed MoUs for co-operation in IT, handicrafts sector

India and Tunisia have signed to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism, promotion of Handicrafts and Information Technology

Delegates: Vice President Hamid Ansari and Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid

Discussions:

- Range of issues of **mutual and regional interests**

- Issue of dispersal of **extremism and terrorism** which are threats for both countries

Modi 5 Nations visit

PM's visit to Afghanistan, Qatar, Switzerland – Overview

During the Five Nation Visit PM Modi met Afghan President, Ashraf Ghani; Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani; President of Swiss federation, Johann Schneider-Ammann; US President Barack Obama; and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto.

Afghanistan:

PM Inaugurates Afghanistan – India Friendship Dam in Herat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghanistan President Dr Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the Afghan India Friendship Dam or Salma Dam

Venue: Chist-e-Sharif in Western Afghanistan

About Afghan India Friendship Dam or Salma Dam:

- Capacity: 42 MW
- Purpose: Irrigation of 75000 hectares of land, water supply and other benefits to the people of Afghanistan
- Infrastructure project on river Hari Rud, in Herat province of Afghanistan
- Executed and implemented by WAPCOS Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

PM conferred with the “Amir Amanullah Khan Award”, Highest Civilian Honour of Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been conferred with **Amir Amanullah Khan Award**, Afghanistan's highest civilian honour. Prime Minister Modi is the first Indian to receive such award.

It is the Highest Civilian honour bestowed by Afghan government to **Afghan national** as well as **foreigners** in appreciation of their services.

The citation on the reverse of the medal reads: “**nishan-e dawlati Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan**”, or “**State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan.**”

About “Amir Amanullah Khan Award”

- The award is named after the Afghan national hero, Amanullah Khan (Ghazi), who championed the cause of Afghanistan's freedom.
- He was the ruler of the Emirate of Afghanistan from 1919-1929 who led Afghanistan to independence.
- This award was instituted by the Afghanistan government in **2006**.
- **Previous recipients include:** US President George Bush, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, NATO General James Jones, former Afghan President spiritual leader Sibghatullah Mujaddedi, and Afghan Chief Justice (CJ) Abdul Salam Azimi

Qatar:

PM visits Workers Camp in Doha

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today interacted with Indian Workers at a project site in Mesheireb in Downtown Doha.

List of MoUs/Agreements signed during the visit of Prime Minister to Qatar

S.No	Qatari Side	Indian Side	Name of MOU/Agreement	Remarks
1.	HE Sheikh Abdulla Bin Mohammed Bin Saud Al Thani, CEO Qatar Investment Authority	Sh. Amar Sinha, Secretary (Economic Relations) Ministry of External Affairs	MoU between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA)	The MoU aims at establishing framework for facilitating participation of Qatari institutional investors in Infrastructure projects in India under NIIF.
2.	H.E. Khalaf Bin Ahamed Al Mannai, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance	Sh. Amar Sinha, Secretary (Economic Relations) Ministry of External Affairs	Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters between the Government of Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar	This agreement promotes cooperation and mutual assistance between the two countries on matters pertaining to customs administration through exchange of information and intelligence.
3.	H.E. Sheikh Ahamed Bin Eid Al Thani, Head of Qatar Finance Information Unit	Sh. Amar Sinha, Secretary (Economic Relations) Ministry of External Affairs	MoU between Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND) and the Qatar Financial Information Unit (QFIU) concerning cooperation in the exchange of intelligence related to money laundering, terrorism-financing and related crimes	The MoU facilitates exchange of intelligence related to money laundering, terrorism-financing and related crimes and persons connected thereto.
4.	H.E. Rabeea Mohammed Al Kaabi, Under Secretary, Ministry of Education and Higher Education	Sh. Amar Sinha, Secretary (Economic Relations) Ministry of External Affairs	MoU between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Government of Republic of India and the National Qualifications Authority/Supreme Education Council, Government of the State of Qatar for Cooperation in Skill Development and Recognition of Qualifications	This MoU aims to enhance cooperation between the two countries on skill development and mutual recognition of qualifications to facilitate mobility of skilled workers from India to Qatar.
5.	Mr. Hassan Bin Abdul Rahman Al Ibrahim, Head of Tourism Development and Acting Head of General Tourism Authority	HE Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Ambassador of India to Qatar	MoU on cooperation in Tourism between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar.	The MoU aims at bilateral cooperation in the field of planning and developing of tourism, through marketing and promotion as also to support cooperation between private sector stakeholders.
6.	H.E. Ahamed Bin Abdulla Al Khulaifi, Assistant of Minister of Health For Administrative Affairs	Sh. Sanjiv Arora, Ambassador of India to Qatar	MOU between India & Qatar for Cooperation in the field of Health the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar.	This MoU provides cooperation in areas of health, including inter alia in occupational and environmental health, pharmaceuticals, medical education, exchange of the best practices in the field of primary healthcare, research in the field of health care, technology, health care system and exchange of medical experts and scientists.
7.	Mr. Faleh Bin Mubarak Al Hajri, Director, Department of Culture and Arts, Ministry of Culture and Sports	Sh. Sanjiv Arora, Ambassador of India to Qatar	The First Executive Programme for MoU in the field of Youth and Sports between the Government of Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar	As a follow up to the existing MoU in the field of Youth and Sports, the first Executive Programme provides for exchanges and cooperation in sports activities, training camps for sports teams and exchange visits of leaders and officials etc between the two countries.

Switzerland:
Highlights:

- PM meets Swiss CEOs in Geneva, focus on deepening economic ties

- Prime Minister meets Indian scientists and students at CERN in Geneva.
- Delegation level talks were held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Switzerland President Johann Schneider Ammann in Geneva.
- Switzerland supported India's membership in the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- Switzerland agreed to provide mutual support to India for becoming non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.
- Switzerland agreed to help India in combating the menace of black money and tax evasion
- The country agreed to build Swiss style vocational and educational training centres in India that suit India's requirements.
- It also agreed to share clean technology and work on energy security and sustainable development.

Prime Minister visited USA & Mexico – Overview

After the successful visit to **Afghanistan, Qatar and Switzerland**, Prime Minister arrived in USA during the five days visit from 4th June 2016.

- **Delegates:** Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and President of the United States of America Barack Obama
- **Arrived on** 6th June 2016
- **Venue:** White House, United States

The Delegates were discussed about the following matters related to strategic partnership between the nations and agreed to grab new opportunities

1. To strengthen economic **growth and sustainable development**
2. To Promote **peace and security** in and around the world
3. To enhance **inclusive, democratic governance** and respect for universal human rights
4. To provide global **leadership on issues of shared interest**

Note: Previous Visits of Prime Minister to United States: September 2014 and January 2015

Prime Minister made his last day to Mexico and had discussion with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto

The Delegates were discussed about the inclusion of India into the Nuclear Supplier Groups Membership.

Arrived on 8th June 2016

The following agreements were discussed:

- Economic Partnership
- Bilateral Cooperation
- Dialogue on Global Affairs

ii. India-US inked 8 Memorandum of Understandings to strengthen economic growth & sustainable development

The Prime Minister of India and President of United states were signed the 8 agreements related to various key areas such as

- Exchange of terrorist screening information
- Cooperation on Energy Security
- Clean Energy
- Climate Change
- Wildlife Conservation, Management and Combating Wildlife Trafficking

1. Exchange of Terrorist Screening Information

- The Nations should be provided with privilege to get into terrorism screening information through the approved contact points abide to domestic laws and regulations
- It would enhance the counter terrorism cooperation between India and the United States
- Signed between the Intelligence Bureau of India and the Terrorist Screening Center of the United States

2. Cooperation on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change

Objective:

To improve the collaboration between the nations regarding on **energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change** through

- Enhanced bilateral ties
- Future initiatives for installing sustainable growth

3. **Collaboration on Wildlife Conservation, Management and Combating Wildlife Trafficking:**

It pursues cooperation between two nations on

- Wildlife Forensics and Conservation Genetics
- Natural World Heritage Conservation and Nature Interpretation
- Conservation Awareness

4. **Enhancement of an International Expedited Traveller Initiative:**

Under the initiative, pre-approved and low risk travellers are allowed to get expedited clearance upon arrival in the United States at Selected Airports through Automatic Kiosks.

The Facility would be extended on **joint examination and clearance by Nations**

Programme: US customs and Border Protection Programme

5. **Technical Planning relating to Unclassified Maritime Information Sharing:**

Signed between the **Indian Navy and the United States Navy**

Arrangements

Sharing of unclassified information on White Shipping between the nations under respective **national laws, regulation and policies**

Provides outline for **mutually useful maritime information**

6. **Cooperation in Gas Hydrates:**

Signed between the **Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Department of Energy of the United States**

Focus: Understanding of the geologic existence, distribution and production of natural gas hydrates along the continental margin of both nations.

7. **Information Exchange Annex (IEA) to the Master Information Exchange Agreement:**

Related to **Aircraft Carrier Technologies**

Focus: To increase data and information sharing relating to aircraft carriers technology between the nations.

8. **Logistics Exchange:**

Focused at assisting mutual logistic support between both nations for authorized port visits, joint exercises, joint training and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief

iii. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed US Congress**

On Addressing at US congress, the Prime Minister mentioned the issues from Climate change to terrorism, defence and security cooperation to trade and economic partnership

Invited by: House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan

Features of Address:

- Narendra Modi became India's **sixth Prime Minister** to speak at the US Congress
- Honoured the soldier's courage and sacrifice for the ideals of freedom and democracy on occasion of **seventy-second Anniversary of the D-Day**
- The impact of the U.S. constitution was reproduced in drafting of the Indian constitution
- **India – US Civil Nuclear Co-operation** made tremendous changes in the relationship which was passed Congress in 2008
- **Norman Borlaug** brought the Green Revolution and food security to India
- **American Universities** refined the education in Institutes of Technology and Management in India
- **By 2022**, Prime Minister wished to achieve in following areas including
 - A vibrant rural economy with robust farm sector
 - Electricity to all households
 - To skill millions of our youth
 - Build 100 smart cities
 - Have a broad band for a billion and connect our villages to the digital world
 - Developing rail, road and port infrastructure

- India and the U.S. have jointly increased **the strength in science, technology and innovation to help fight hunger, poverty, diseases and illiteracy in different parts of the world**

v. India's membership of NSG dominated meet between PM Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama

Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to President of United States to support of India's inclusion in Nuclear Suppliers Group and Mission Technology Control Regime.

Delegates had two hour dialogue at the White house and discussed the ties on Regional Security, Terrorism, Cyber Security, Climate Change, Clean Energy and Economic Partnership

Features of Inclusion in NSG and MTCR:

- To have civil nuclear Cooperation
- Access to latest Technology

vi. India, US agreed to initiate domestic processes to ratify Paris climate deal

On approval over 190 countries in December 2015, both nations initiated domestic processes to ratify the Paris agreement on climate change.

Initial step in civil nuclear cooperation, **the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd has initiated to build six reactors in Gujarat by June 2017** with the help of Nuclear reactor builders.

The delegates were agreed to implement the Paris Agreement with effectively and ensure that climate financing will be embarked with vision for **solar energy and clean energy**

The Paris Agreement

177 signatories have been registered and 17 countries have ratified

At 6.96 per cent of the total global emissions, India ranks fourth after China, the U.S. and the EU on the list of polluters

vii. UN chief welcomed Indo-US commitment to join Paris agreement

United Nations Chief Ban Ki- Moon welcomed the initiatives taken by India and The United states to sign the Paris Climate Agreement.

- He encouraged framing the policies to **lower down the greenhouse gas emission**
- Chief wished **to implement the Paris Agreement** as soon as possible to deal with climate change and their issues.
- He advised to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions **through the Montreal Protocol, The International Civil Aviation Organisation Assembly and the G20 Summit**

viii. India, Mexico to uplift ties to strategic partnership

The Prime Minister and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto have signed to uplift their partnership and also extended support for inclusion of India into Nuclear Suppliers Group

The Mexican Government has also supported to **India's International Solar Alliance** Initiative which was discussed at the **Paris Climate deal in 2015**.

Agreements Discussed:

- To enhance **trade and Investment between two nations**
- To expand the **commercial, Science and Technology**
- Widen the collaboration in the fields of **Space and Agricultural research**
- Prioritise the projects such as **Bio technology, waste management, disaster warning and management and solar energy**
- Encouraging the necessity of Cooperation in **pharmaceutical products, energy, automobile sector, Information and Communication Technology, agriculture, food processing**

India-Mexico Joint Statement during the visit of Prime Minister to Mexico

1. Improve the bilateral relations in **Economic field, Science and Technology**
2. President mentioned the structural reforms and Prime Minister has highlighted the initiatives taken by the Union for the economic growth

3. Inculcated the Foreign ministers to initiate the framework of the Partnership fit for the 21st Century in ahead of the **Seventh Mexico-India Joint Commission meeting to be held in Mexico in 2016**.
4. Strengthening of bilateral talks in the areas of **Culture, education and tourism**
5. Exchanged the ideas of **National Digital Strategy of Mexico and the Digital India** initiative as well as remote sensing, advance warning for disaster prevention and launch of satellites between the **Mexican Space Agency (AEM) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**

Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Thapa Visited India from 10th June to 12th June 2016

Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister **Kamal Thapa** landed in New Delhi on 10th June on a three day visit to India

Purpose:

- Discussion with External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** on **bilateral Issues**
- Attended the **Convocation** of the **South Asian University** in New Delhi

Features of the Visit:

This is the **fifth Visit to India** by Nepal Minister

Deputy Prime Minister had **"High Level Political meetings"** in New Delhi

The two Nations signed **nine agreements** in areas of **transport, connectivity and cooperation in the energy sector**

i. Sushma Swaraj met Nepal Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Thapa

- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** had discussion with Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Thapa in New Delhi
- They have discussed about **various issues of Mutual Interest**
- External Minister reaffirmed that India's interest in the **progress and stability of Nepal**

ii. Nepal Foreign Minister Kamal Thapa said support with India back on track

Though some Initial misunderstanding and conflicts, now India and Nepal have significant relations. So it was termed as **INDIA BACK on TRACK**

Nepal Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister on third day given a support to India-Nepal engagement

- Though India-Nepal ties, Kamal Thapa unable to find the **solution to end the economic blockade**
- Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli framed the **committee** to have discussion with the **Madhesi Leaders**
- Nepal Government unable to find a **stop point to the blockade**
- The Government require **India's boost** to end the blockade

Supply Blockade:

- India blocking the **shipments of fuel, Medicine and other supplies** to the landlocked country due to Nepalese Government blamed the Indian Government
- Nepalese Government **blamed the Union on supporting the Madhesi, Tharus and Janjatis** who were against the Nepalese Government on formation of New Government in Nepal
- The **Main supply route of Birganj**, connects Kathmandu with the World economy leftovers blocked
- Foreign Minister said that Nepal was suffering due to the blockade on Fuel supply but he could not announce that **Birganj – Raxaul Blockade** has ended on landing in Kathmandu
- Thapa met with Prime Minister of India and requested India to **end the blockade as no more.**

Thailand Prime Minister Chan-o-cha's Three-day visit to India

Thailand Prime Minister **Chan-o-cha** made visit to India and arrived in New Delhi starting from 16th June to enhance bilateral cooperation between two nations

Focus: Enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of

- Trade and Investment
- Defence
- Security
- Tourism

♦ Thailand's Prime Minister **Prayut Chan-O-Cha** and his wife **Naraporn Chan-o-cha** receive a **memento at the Rajghat memorial for Mahatama Gandhi** in New Delhi

- ♦ India, Thailand agreed to build Joint Collaboration in **Counter-terrorism, Defence, Maritime security**.
- ♦ India and Thailand signed key pacts in the field of **culture and education**.
- ♦ **Axis Bank of India and Kasikorn Bank of Thailand** inked pact for trade and investment
- ♦ Thailand Prime Minister visited **Bodh Gaya** and offered prayer at **Mahabodhi Temple**
- ♦ Prime Minister of India announced new Visa rules for Thailand tourists to facilitate **double entry e-tourist visas** in order to attract more tourists
- ♦ Thailand companies planned to construct **five high-end hotels for Buddhist circuit**

President Pranab Mukherjee made visit to three-nation tour to Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Namibia

Pranab Mukherjee has become the **First Indian President to Visit Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire** and became the **second Indian President to visit Namibia after a gap of 21 years**

Focus: India's Commitment with African nations on priority basis

Representation in the UN Security Council

President urged the African continent must be represented in the **UN Security Council** in order to avail the reforms of the United Nations as well as UN Security Council

Highlights of the Visit:

- Agreed to **enhance the bilateral trade** at value of **5 billion USD by 2020**
- Offered floral tributes at the Mausoleum of **Ghana's Founder and Father of the Nation, Kwame Nkrumah** and he also responsible for **formation of Non Aligned Movement** with then Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru**
- Opened a **bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the University of Ghana** and conferred a Joint Business Forum to **highlight 'Brand India'**
- Leaders of Ghana expressed their keen to deepen the cooperation in the areas of **civil Nuclear energy, renewable energy, SME Sector, Railways and Sustainable Agriculture**
- Enhance scholarship in **ITEC slots from 250 to 300** and **ICCR scholarships from 16 to 40** and announced of **1 million USD for the India – Ghana Kofi Annan Centre for IT excellence**

- Indian President has been conferred with the highest national honour of the **Grande Croix Commandeur** by Cote d'Ivoire Country
- The Agreements were approved **between CII & CEPICI and Tata Motors & SUTRA for supply of 500 buses**

Ghana

India and Ghana signed three agreements

India and Ghana signed three bilateral agreements to tighten co-operation in various fields

- Visa Waivers for holders of diplomatic and official passports
- Setting up a Joint Commission
- Nuclear cooperation

Cote d'Ivoire

President Pranab Mukherjee receives Highest Civilian Award of Ivory Coast

President Pranab Mukherjee was conferred with the **highest civilian award of Ivory Coast**, the **National Grand Crois** (the National Order of the Republic of Ivory Coast), The award was given during his two days visit to the West African nation

ii. During the visit Mukherjee held one-to-one dialogue with his counterpart **Alassane Ouattara** which was followed by delegation level talks. He is the first Indian President to visit the nation.

iii. It is highest state **order of knighthood** of the **Ivory Coast** to celebrate the independence from France in 1960.

iv. This is bestowed to those who have highly distinguished themselves to the service to the state. The Collar, one of the five grades of the award is awarded solely to foreign heads of state.

EXIM Bank inaugurated representative office in Abidjan

Export and Import Bank of India inaugurated a representative office at **Abidjan** on June 14th 2016 to encourage interests among various countries in the African Continent

Signed by:

- EXIM Bank Chairman and Managing Director **Yaduvendra Mathur**
- Minister of Foreign Affairs **Abdallah Albert Toikeusse Mabri** on behalf of the **Government of Cote d'Ivoire**

Features of Representative Office:

- To encourage the interest in countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
- Exim Bank's office in Abidjan is the eighth overseas regional office

India's EXIM bank to provide loan of \$176.3 million to Ivory Coast

- Export-Import Bank decided to award \$176.3 million loan to Ivory Coast to enhance public works initiatives, including projects in construction and Information technology
- Ivory Coast's Prime Minister: **Daniel Kablan Duncan**.

Namibia

India, Namibia signed two MoUs on capacity building for civil servants, centre of excellence in ICT

1. Setting up Building for civil servants of Namibia
2. Creating centre of Excellence ICT

India has gifted various grant in aids to Namibia:

- 1000 tonnes of rice for drought hit people
- 100 tonnes of medicine, including ARVs
- USD 20000 for Indira Gandhi Maternity Clinic
- Increase in ITEC scholarships from less than 100 to 200
- Assistance in Solar Power projects

Namibia assured Uranium supply to India

- **Namibia** gave assurance to supply the Uranium legally to use the nuclear energy peacefully
- President of India expressed that Namibia is embedded with rich natural resources and mineral wealth. India always tied with Namibia
- In Namibia the Indian President called for increased parliamentary exchanges between the two countries.
- India has signed with **Australia, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Russia, Japan, Canada, South Korea, France** for the supply of Nuclear deal.

Namibian President: Hage Geingob

SCHEMES

Union Government launched e-Nivaran scheme to deal with real tax grievance

The Union Government initiated a step to launch “**e-Nivaran**” Scheme to deal with Tax related issues of the public on test mode.

- **Venue:** Rajasva Gyan Sangam, New Delhi
- **Delegates:** Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Senior Tax Officials
- **Version:** First
- **Organised by:** Central Board of Direct Taxes and Central Board of Excise and Customs

Features of the Scheme:

- Officials have created a **website** to examine tax reforms
- Prime Minister advised to take care the **real issues of the tax payer** and respond to it quickly
- To deal with the concerns an **e-Prevention Plan** is being launched as a pilot basis in New Delhi
- Initiatives are being taken to create **awareness about tax policies and procedures**
- The Union Government has taken steps to make Tax- related procedures on **paperless**
- **Implementation of Goods and Service tax** has been started by the Central board of Excise and Customs

Union Government launched scheme for wind power projects

Union Government initiated grid-connected wind energy projects targeted at producing **1,000 MW clean power**

The scheme is organised by The **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)**.

The wind power is being provided to the non-wind erected states through bidding at various prices

Features of the Scheme: Progression among project sizes, effective e-bidding, e-auctioning processes

- Satisfies the necessity of non-windy states regarding **Non-Solar Renewable Purchase Obligation**
- The bidding forecasts for the year **2016-2017 upto 1,000 MW** capacity
- The power capacity should **not be less than 25MW** which is mentioned by the SECI for each and every developer during tender process.

Union HRD Minister Smriti Zubin Irani launched a new initiative 'Vidyanjali' to involve volunteers into co-scholastic activities of schools

Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani initiated a step to inculcate reading habits among children vide a scheme **"VIDYANJALI"**

Venue: New Delhi

Focus: To cultivate reading habits among children, Create a reading culture at School and Community level

Initially it will be implemented across **21 states** in pilot basis.

Union Cabinet extends deadline of UDAY scheme

i. The Union Cabinet has given it nod for the proposal of extending the deadline for implementing the **Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) by a year to March 31, 2017.**

ii. Upon this move all states **shall take over 75% of ailing DISCOMs** debt as on 30th September, 2015 by 31st March, 2017 by issuing Bonds.

iii. The extension is also to give states that have given their in-principle nod a little more time to order their finances before signing **the official document.**

Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY):

♦ UDAY scheme was launched in November 2015 to deal with the burgeoning debt of discoms in the country.

♦ The scheme aimed to get discoms out of vicious circle of debt and enable them to buy power to increase consumption in the country.

BANKING & FINANCE

Axis Bank launches India's first certified green bond at London Stock Exchange

- i. Mumbai based **Axis Bank** has announce the launch of India's first internationally-listed certified **green bond to finance** climate change solutions around the world at **London Stock Exchange** (LSE).
- ii. The lender invest the earnings of such bonds in green energy, transportation, and infrastructure projects.
- iii. The Axis Bank's green bonds which are issued within its 5 billion dollars Medium Term Note (MTN) programme were certified by the **Climate Bonds Standards Board**.
- iv. **Green Bonds are** a debt instruments that makes issuer to get capital while the investors receive fixed income in **the form of interest**.
- v. The Bonds issuer gets capital from the investors only if the investment is being raised to fund green projects.

SBI, Caixa Bank ink Pact to fund Indo-Spanish Joint Ventures

- i. **SBI and Spain's Caixa Bank** have signed a MoU to fund **Indo-Spanish Joint Ventures** & local businesses.
- ii. **Signed by:** Caixa Bank's Executive Vice-President, International Banking, **Victoria Matia** and SBI's Chief General Manager **Sujit Kumar Varma**.
- iii. The banks will collaborate in areas of **mutual interest** such as syndicated loan business, guarantee transactions, trade finance and export credit agency finance, infrastructure finance and networking services.

ADB approves \$100 million loan for irrigation system in Tamil Nadu

- i. Manila based Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a **\$100 million (around Rs 660 crore) loan** to strengthen a key irrigation system and improve water management in **the Vennar sub-basin of Cauvery Delta in Tamil Nadu**.
- ii. The project will build up the embankments of six major irrigation water channels in Vennar system to make them more resilient to floods and upgrade water regulators, **sluices and pump stations**.
- iii. The Vennar irrigation project will support both **physical improvements** and **stronger water management**, giving a substantial boost to the lives of coastal district communities.

India, World Bank sign agreement for efficient bus service

- i. Union Government and the World Bank has signed a **9.2 million US dollar** grant agreement under the World Bank-Global **Environment Facility Programme**.

ii. This programme is for the **Efficient and Sustainable City Bus Service Project** that intended in improving the efficiency and attractiveness of bus services in select Indian cities.

iii. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development will be the nodal agency of implementing the **GEF for the project**.

iv. The total cost of the **project is \$113 million of** which \$9.2 million will come as a grant from the World Bank and \$103.07 million will be funded by the Centre, state and city governments for the funding of buses and **ancillary infrastructure**.

Union Government approved setting up of India Post Payments Bank

Union Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for setting up the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts with **100% Government of India (GOI) equity share**.

Total Expenditure incurred: Rs. 800 Crore

Beneficiaries: All Indian Citizens and 40% of the Country's People in outside the country

Features of the Project:

- The Project will be implemented in the entire country in a **phased manner**
- Will get banking licence from RBI by **March 2017 and by September 2017**
- Services will be available across the country through **650 payments bank branches, linked post offices and modern technology including mobiles, ATMs, PoS/ m-PoS devices and simple digital payments**.

Future Initiatives:

- Adding the cause of **financial inclusion by providing basic banking, payments and remittance Services**
- Facilitate financial services like **insurance, mutual funds and pension**
- Tie up with third party financial providers **to give access to credit with focus on rural areas and unbanked & under banked segments**
- Generate opportunities for injecting **financial literacy** across the country
- Promote the largest bank in the **world in terms of accessibility and in time**
- Encourage the move towards a **less cash economy**

Background:

- The Project was announced **during Budget 2015-16**
- The Department of Posts had got the “**in principle approval**” of the Reserve Bank of India in September 2015 to set up the Indian Post Payments Bank

India Post Payments Bank will leverage **the Department’s network, reach and resources to make simple, low-cost, quality financial** services easily accessible to customers all over the country.

BRICS bank to issue first Yuan denominated bonds

Shanghai Based New Development Bank of the **BRICS** countries is set to issue its **first Yuan denominated bonds** with plans to release more bonds in local currencies including in Indian Rupee

Delegate: Paolu Nogueira Batista, the bank's vice president for economic research, strategy and partnerships and chief risk officer.

Involving nations: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS); **Head:** Indian banker M V Kamath

Focus: To finance sustainable development projects in the emerging markets and developing countries.

International Monetary Fund approved USD 1.5 billion loan to Sri Lanka

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has accorded a **USD 1.5 billion loan to Sri Lanka** with USD 168 million is transferred as the first Instalment with immediate effect to support the country’s economy.

The Executive Board of the IMF accepted a 36-month extended arrangement under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with Sri Lanka for an amount equal to **1.1 billion under special drawing rights**

Aim: To meet balance of payments needs arising from external environment and pressures.

RBI announced Second bi-monthly monetary policy 2016-17

Reserve Bank of India announced **Second Bi-Monthly Monetary policy** for the year financial year 2016-17 and keeping unchanged the Policy rates and Reserve ratios.

Current Rates	Rate (Remarks)
Policy Rates	
Repo Rate	6.5% (Unchanged)
Reverse Repo Rate	6% (Unchanged)
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	7% (Unchanged)
Bank Rate	7% (Unchanged)

Reserve Ratios

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4% (Unchanged)
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	21.25% (Unchanged)

India Post launches logo, tagline design contest for payments bank

- i. The **Department of Posts** launched a **logo and tagline design contest** on the **MyGov portal** on June 10. The Open Contest invites participation from all Indian citizens, institutions, agencies and entities for a period of one month, until 9th July 2016.
- ii. The best entry will be awarded Rs 50,000/-. An expert panel will help shortlist **20 best entries** which will thereafter be put up for **voting on the MyGov platform** to choose the winner.
- iii. Earlier Union cabinet cleared a proposal of Rs. **800 crore** to set up India Post Payments and a plan for 650 branches operational by **September 2017**.

SEBI issues stricter KYC, disclosure norms for P-Notes

- i. Markets Watchdog **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (SEBI) has put in place **stricter KYC** (Know Your Customer) norms and disclosure regime for **Participatory Notes** (P-Notes). This comes after receiving recommendation from SIT on black money to ensure this route is not used for money laundering
- ii. The new norms makes difficult to **use these offshore instruments** without disclosing the money-trail and details of their users.
- iii. The norms encompasses all the users of P-Notes to follow **Indian KYC and Anti Money Laundering Regulations**, irrespective of their jurisdictions. It also mandates P-Note issuers to file suspicious transaction reports with the **Indian Financial Intelligence Unit**.

Participatory Notes:

- ♦ These are also referred **offshore/overseas derivative instruments** (ODIs) issued to overseas investors by registered foreign institutional investors (FII).
- ♦ These instruments will pave the easy and cost-effective route to foreign investors to invest in Indian markets without directly registering as **Foreign Portfolio Investors**.

SKS Microfinance renamed Bharat Financial Inclusion

- i. Hyderabad based **SKS Micro-finance** has changed its name to **Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd**. It is the only listed company on BSE in the Micro financing space in the country.
- ii. The Micro-finance Company is among the largest microfinance companies in India. It has existence across **18 states casing 1,00,000 villages**, catering to its 63.65 lakh

women members.

iii. This decision from the company as it was taken as its core had experienced a transformation, equipping it to play a major role in fulfilling the national priority of **financial inclusion**.

RBI introduces a 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets'

- i. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come up with the Scheme for **Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets** to further strengthen the lenders' ability to deal with stressed assets and to put real assets back on track.
- ii. The central bank has said the **S4A scheme** as an optional framework for the **resolution of large stressed accounts and** valid for those projects that have started commercial operations and have outstanding loan **cap of over 500 crore rupees**.
- iii. Upon this new norms banks **will have to divide the outstanding debt of a company** into Sustainable that makes the share which can be serviced by the company even if cash flow remains the same during the division and unsustainable.

P K Sinha committee to shortlist the candidates for Reserve Bank of India governor post.

- i. The Union government had formed a selection committee headed by cabinet secretary P.K. Sinha for shortlisting candidates for **RBI governorship**.
- ii. Apart from the Cabinet secretary the panel includes Additional Principal Secretary to the PM, PK Mishra, who is a permanent government nominee, and three other experts – Rajiv Kumar of Centre for Policy Research, Manoj Panda of the Institute of Economic Growth and Bimal N Patel from Gujarat National Law University.
- iii. The Reserve Bank of India governor post is up to **financial sector regulatory appointment search committee** (FSRASC). The Committee will shortlist potential candidates and hand their recommendations over to the government.

SBI and Mastercard Partners with Centrum for distribution of its prepaid forex card

- i. India's largest lender **State Bank of India** (SBI) and American multinational financial services major **MasterCard** jointly to launch a distribution alliance with travel prepaid cards **distributor Centrum**.
- ii. This tie-up will help in distribution strength of the Bank for **its multicurrency prepaid** card and will largely target the corporate **customers of the bank**.
- iii. Presently **SBI MasterCard Foreign Travel Card** offers frequent travelers a safe and convenient way of carrying multiple currencies in a single card.

iv. This partnership between **SBI, MasterCard and Centrum** will make stronger outreach to an increasing number of corporates with this proposition.

Florida bank issues first US credit card for use in Cuba

- i. Pompano Beach-based **Stonegate Bank** is set to issue the first credit card that can be used in Cuba since Washington and Havana normalized relations.
- ii. The card will be a limited-edition MasterCard. Stonegate will issue only 1,000 cards initially. Each card will feature artwork by **celebrated Cuban painter Michel Mirabal**.
- iii. The Cuban government will waive the usual 10 percent penalty on dollar exchanges for those using the Stonegate cards.
- iv. The card will allow **U.S. travellers to make purchases** at state-run businesses and **a handful of private ones, mostly high-end private restaurants** equipped with point-of-sale devices.

Cabinet approves SBI takeover of units

- i. The Union cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved the takeover by State Bank of India (SBI) of several subsidiaries to consolidate the country's struggling public sector banks.
- ii. The biggest Indian lender wants to take over five units that had been running at arms-length, as well as state-run Women focused **Bharatiya Mahila Bank** which was set up in UPA government.
- iii. The merged entity will create a banking giant, which can compete with the largest in the world with an asset base of almost **Rs 37 lakh crores- that** is nearly one-fifth of India's GDP.
- iv. Earlier the Bank's board had approved the takeover of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Travancore, as well as Bharatiya Mahila Bank.

Union Government cleared the bill for speedy recovery of bad loans

The Union Government accorded a bill looking for to enhance the debt recovery laws and approved ex facto **"The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 2016"**

Objective: Improving the ease of doing business.

Aims:

- To improve ease of doing business
- Facilitate investment leading to higher economic growth and development

Delegate: Telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad

Evolution of Bill:

I. In May 2016, the bill was brought to Lok Sabha to get the amendment in **four legislations**

- Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002
- Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993
- Indian Stamp Act, 1899
- Depositories Act, 1996

II. Views and Suggestions have been invited by the Parliamentary joint Committee from various stakeholders

III. The Recovery of Loans amounting **Rs. 8 Lakh Crore** in the banking system was declared

IV. There are **70,000 disputes** yet to be disposed.

The Legislation proposed to give powers to Reserve Bank of India:

- To regulate **Asset Reconstruction Companies**
- Priorities secured **creditors in repayment of debts**
- Provide **stamp duty exemption** on loans assigned by banks
- Financial institutions to **asset reconstruction firms**
- To audit Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC) and penalize them if they fail to adhere

CSCs get approval from RBI for Bharat Bill Payment System

i. **Reserve Bank of India** has granted in-principle nod to the **common service centres (CSCs)** as Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit to make **bill payments at centres** in rural bands.

ii. The System enables CSCs to operate the bill payment system with a **single brand**

image providing convenience of anytime anywhere bill payment.

iii. The scope of the system encompasses activities to facilitate collection of repetitive payments for everyday services such as **electricity, water, gas, DTH, telecom services**, etc.

Reserve Bank of India Simplified Registration of New Non-Banking Financial Companies

Mumbai Based **Reserve Bank of India** has taken steps to simplify the registration process for new Banking Financial Companies.

Revised Registration Format:

- The **revised application form** has been distributed to make the registration process smoother and hassle less.
- The Number of supporting documents to be attached with Application form has been reduced from **45 to 7-8 documents**

Types of Application Format for non-deposit accepting NBFCs:

- Sources of funds
- Customer interface

Registration Process:

- The Filled applications to register new NBFCs to be submitted at **Non-Banking regulation Department in RBI , Mumbai**
- RBI will **scrutinize the applications and inform to the NBFCs** if any documents required to be submitted
- The company should respond to the RBI's query **within a month**.

Type I – NBFC – Non Deposit:

- Fast track processing of applications for **Type I – NBFC – Non Deposit accepting applicants**
- These companies has **not privileged to access the public fund** and there is **no point of customer interface**
- Less rigorous scrutiny and less sensitive

- If the Companies want to avail public fund or to have customer interface, they are required to get **approval from Reserve Bank of India**
- RBI advised that the checklists mentioned are **provisional**
- The amendments in the registration process of NBFCs will be announced in the **First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2016-17**.

About NBFC:

Financial institutions that provide banking services without meeting the legal definition of a bank, i.e. **one that does not hold a banking license**

Union Government made initiative to make NRIs to join National Pension System through eNPS

The **Finance Ministry** launched the scheme that **Non Resident Indians** can open National Pension System Accounts online if they bear **Aadhaar Card or PAN Card**

NPS account can be opened both on Repatriable and on Non-Repatriable basis

Repatriable Basis: An NRI will have to remit the amount through his/her NRE/FCNR/NRO account

Non-repatriable Basis: NRIs can join NPS through their NRE/FCNR/NRO accounts at the time of maturity or during partial withdrawal.

NPS funds would be deposited only in their NRO accounts.

State Bank of India creates a dedicated Rs 200 crore fund for Fintech startups

i. India's largest public sector lender **State Bank of India** has created **IT innovations and startup fund** and have **allotted Rs 200 crore** for investment in **promising startups**.

ii. The fund would be **covering upto Rs 3 crore** for any **India registered entity** for their business promotion in India using information technology for banking.

Max Life, Max Fin Services to merge into HDFC Standard Life

i. **HDFC Standard Life and Max Life and Max Financial Services** are entered into merger agreement that will create the **largest private player** in India's insurance sector.

ii. The proposed merger between the companies will create an entity with assets worth over Rs 1 lakh crore.

iii. A combination of the entities would be overtaking **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co.Ltd**

iv. The agreement facilitates for a commonly agreed exclusivity period for due diligence and discussions between the parties in relation **to a proposed transaction**.

Two-day 'Rajswa Gyansangam', an annual conference of tax administrators held in New Delhi

- i. The two day conference named **Rajswa Gyansangam** is Annual Conference of **Tax Administrators-2016** concluded in **New Delhi** to mark a new height in the generation of innovative ideas and opened new frontiers for the tax administrators
- ii. This was the first time that two Revenue Boards **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** & **Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC)** are holding the conclave at the same time.
- iii. The purpose of the move is to prompt the revenue officers towards achieving high standards in taxpayer friendly services.

SBI in 'Hall of Shame' of banks funding cluster bomb makers

- i. India's largest lender **State Bank of India** has been named in a **Hall of Shame** list of 158 banking and financial institutions worldwide that have invested billions of dollars in enterprises **making cluster bombs**.
- ii. The list was prepared by **Dutch campaign group PAX Worldwide Investments** in Cluster Munitions report.
- iii. State Bank of India (SBI) is the only Indian company on the list that includes global giants like JP Morgan, Barclays, Bank of America and Credit Suisse.
- iv. In the list maximum number **of 74 banks are from** the US, followed by **China (29) and South Korea (26)**.

I-T department to block PAN, LPG subsidy of tax defaulters

- i. Income Tax Department is set to block **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** of wilful defaulters and their LPG subsidy and take measures to ensure that they are not sanctioned loans.
- ii. A slew of such measures have been suggested by the tax department, to be started this financial year, in order to curb the menace of **large-scale tax avoidance and evasion**.
- iii. The department has also mulling to subscribe to the **Credit Information Bureau Limited (CIBIL)** data, on a possible payment basis, to check out the financial activities of debtors and commence action against them for recovery **and freezing of assets**.

Rules for premature withdrawal of PPF announced

- i. The Finance Ministry **has announced** new rules allowing for **premature withdrawal** of the Public Provident Fund (PPF) account deposit scheme account **has completed five years**.
- ii. A subscriber shall be allowed premature closure of his account or account of a minor of whom he is the guardian on ground that the amount is required for treatment of serious

ailments or **life-threatening diseases**.

iii. The withdrawal will also be allowed if the amount is required **for higher education** of the account holder or the minor account holder, on production of documents and fee bills in confirmation of admission **in India or abroad**.

World Bank's India Development Update – June 2016

World Bank released **India Development Update** report to earmark the Indian economy and its prospects for the financial year 2016.

It is **twice yearly report reported by World Bank** and the report explained that Indian Economy was enhanced to a higher progressive way by demand from urban households and Public investments.

Health and education expenditures increased in every state especially in **Rajasthan and Kerala**

Uttar Pradesh spent over one-third of its additional resources **on health and education** India maintained **7.6 per cent** growth rate in 2016-17 and it will be expected that **7.7 per cent** in 2017-18 and **7.8 per cent** in 2018-19.

South India Bank launches Remit2India Service

i. Thrissur based **Kochi South Indian Bank** Limited has announced the launch of its **Remit2India Service** a secure online money transfer **service for NRIs**.

ii. The new Remit2India service makes arrangement facilitates faster, cost -effective remittance from the US to SIB accounts in India. Which is this facility is available **for remittance from Europe, Australia, UAE and Singapore**.

RBI fixes MSS ceiling at Rs 30k cr for current fiscal

i. Reserve Bank announced the cap under **Market Stabilisation Scheme** has been fixed at Rs 30,000 crore for the current fiscal.

ii. The fixed ceiling will be reviewed when the remaining balance reaches the threshold **limit of Rs 15,000 crore**.

iii. The current MSS outstanding balance is zero. MSS are securities issued with the objective of provided that RBI with a stock of securities with which it can intervene in the **market for handling liquidity**.

Market Stabilization Scheme:

♦ The scheme was **launched in 2004**. Under this scheme securities are issued with the objective of providing the RBI with a stock of securities with which it can intervene in the market for managing liquidity.

♦ These securities are issued not to meet the **government's expenditure**.

Government amended Income Tax rules to end uncertainty over General Anti-Avoidance Rules

Union Government has decided to amend the **Income Tax Rules** to end the improbability over the General Anti Avoidance rules as it is expected to start with effective from 01.04.16

About General Anti Avoidance Rules:

An Anti-Tax avoidance regulation of India

Focused at transactions made particularly to avoid taxes

Introduced by: Pranab Mukherjee, then Finance Minister during 2012

Initiated during: 2012 Budget Session.

During the 2015 Budget session, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that its implementation will be delayed by **2017**.

RBI releases framework on payments systems

- i. **India's Central bank** has released **Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision-2018 document** aims at building best of class payment and settlement systems for a **Cash –Less India** and ensuring access of mobile banking services to even basic phone users.
- ii. The Vision document focusing on the **ways of developing the infrastructure** and regulations in the country to reduce cash transactions and increase use of technology.
- iii. The document of RBI reads that service providers will be **fortified to use technology** to deliver innovative easy to use mobile grounded payment solutions in an interoperable environment without compromising on security.
- iv. The Policy document also aims in **leveraging on 5Cs – Coverage, Convenience, Confidence, Convergence, Cost** that focuses on responsive regulation, robust infrastructure, effective supervision and customer centricity.

Asian Development Bank approved \$500 million loan for bridge over Ganga River in Bihar

Asian Development Bank accorded **\$500 million to build bridge over India's longest river bridge is in Bihar having distance of 9.8 km road**

Purpose: Transport connection between the Northern and Southern parts of the state and the neighbour country like **Nepal**

Benefit: It will be benefited to middle sector people to commute to the state Capital Patna and other southern parts

- ♦ State government will provide reinforcement which is equivalent to **\$215 million**
- ♦ The project is expected to be completed by **December, 2020**

Finance Minister Participated in the First Annual General Meeting of AIIB to address Board of Governors

Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley Participated in the First Annual General Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** to discuss about the investment in Infrastructure and accorded the approval **to establish the Regional Office of AIIB in New Delhi.**

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approved **first loans for projects in Four Countries** such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Tajikistan

♦ **Total Loan Allocated:** \$509 Million

♦ **Bangladesh** – Loan Allocated: \$165 million

♦ **Indonesia** – Loan Allocated: \$216.5 million (Co-financed with the World Bank)

♦ **Pakistan** – Loan Allocated: \$100 million (Co-financed with the Asian Development Bank & United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID))

♦ **Tajikistan** – Loan Allocated: \$27.5 million (Co-financed with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD))

World Bank approved \$201.50 million for Technical Education Quality Improvement Project in India

United States based World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved **\$201.50 million** for Technical Education Quality Improvement Project III in India

Purpose: To improve the quality of Engineering education in selected states of India

Objectives of the projects:

To improve quality and equity in participating engineering education institutes

To enhance the efficiency of the engineering education system in states

Fund Allotted: \$201.50 million

Maturity period: 25 years plus 5 years grace period

Union Government gave nod to proposal to set up India Post Payments Bank

Union Government has decided to approve the proposal to set up the Indian Post Payments Bank with capital of **Rs. 800 Crore and to set up 650 branches by September 2017** as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts, with **100% Government of India (GOI) equity**

Focus: To increase financial inclusion in the country

Initial Setup: 22,137 Post Offices linked with core banking facility

Key Aspects:

♦ In every district, Post offices will be linked to core branch of Postal bank

♦ The bank will be operated by a board which has five independent directors

♦ The Staff of the postal bank will be from different postal department and staff is expected

to be around **2000 members**

♦ For the short tenure, **S K Sinha, Secretary of Posts** requested Chairman and Managing directors of the Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Canara Bank and Union Bank to lead the India Post Payments Bank on a **one-year** deputation basis.

Axis Bank opens innovation lab to create investment fund

- i. Mumbai based private sector lender **Axis Bank** is set to open an **innovation lab** by joining with financial technology start-ups to ride on the digital wave in the country.
- ii. This **innovation hub** situated in **Bangalore** will emphasis on curating start-ups and working with them to help them develop the value propositions and the bank will look at absorbing their technology.
- iii. These start-ups will mainly be centering across lending, digital, payments and artificial intelligence space. For this, the bank has joined hands with Zone **Start-ups, Nasscom**, venture capitalist and some global banks.
- iv. Earlier **HDFC Bank, SBI, Federal Bank, RBL, ICICI Bank** among others have either allocated funds or created special divisions to engage with the start-up ecosystem and most recently Barclays has also opened a fintech innovation platform.

World Bank approves \$63 million for Tejaswini Project in Jharkhand

- i. The World Bank Board has approved **the 63 million US dollar** for **Tejaswini project** that paves the way for **Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women** in Jharkhand.
- ii. This project **Tejaswini** is the first **World Bank project** in India that is especially dedicated on the welfare of adolescent girls **and young women**.
- iii. The project will support adolescent girls and young women between the ages of 14 and 24 to complete their secondary level education. It will also help them to acquire relevant skills for the job market.
- iv. In Jharkhand there are **56 percent of young women** (ages 15-24) are neither engaged in education, nor employment or training.

India to get \$1 bn World Bank funding for solar projects

- i. The World Bank today committed USD 1 billion (about Rs 6,750 crore) to support solar energy programme in India, which is reducing dependence on conventional energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ii. As per the pact signed between Power Minister Piyush Goyal and World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, the multilateral funding agency will provide more than USD 1 billion to support Indias ambitious solar initiatives through investments in generation.

HDFC Ergo buys L&T General Insurance for Rs 551 crore

- i. India's fourth largest private sector **general insurer HDFC ERGO** General Insurance arm of mortgage lender HDFC has acquired L&T General Insurance Co. Ltd in an all-cash agreement worth of Rs.551 crore.
- ii. HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co. Ltd, the non-life insurance **is 51:49 joint** venture between housing finance major HDFC and global insurance major ERGO International Germany,
- iii. The ERGO is mulling significant cost synergies arising out of business, technology optimization and rationalization of offices.

BUSINESS

Coca Cola to set up plant in Uttarakhand's Sitarganj

- i. American Beverage giant **Coca-Cola** will set up a **bottling plant in Sitarganj** in Jharkhand. The Plant will come up in 70 acres of land to be provided by the state government.
- ii. The Company will set up the plant with the total investment **of Rs.400-500 crore** and has submitted an earnest money **deposit of Rs.1.26 crore**
- iii. Coca-Cola executives have completed field inspections and have hired a company as consultant on environmental issues.

Tata Trusts, Chicago University Tie Up To Work On Indian Development Challenges

- i. **Tata Trusts** and the **University of Chicago** to jointly work on **developmental challenges** in crucial areas like sanitation, energy and the environment on a **three year pilot basis**.
- ii. The health vertical will scrutinize healthcare access through insurance with projects in **Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh**.
- iii. The water and sanitation vertical will initiate a major project on **decentralized irrigation** with water tanks in **Telangana**.
- iv. The **energy and environment vertical** will examine projects to improve reporting of emissions by plants in **Gujarat and Maharashtra**, to provide rural electrical power via solar micro grids in Bihar, and to inspire individuals to pay for better electricity supply in Bihar.

Cygni Energy is first firm to benefit from Start-Up India

- i. Hyderabad headquartered **Cygni Energy** becomes first

startup to **avail benefits under Start-up India Action Plan** offered by the government after it met the required **criteria of being an innovative business**.

- ii. The company works in the **renewable energy sector and** was founded a year ago is the only company that is set to get the benefit since the plan was announced in January.
- iii. Cygni Energy is applying for patent **under the fast-track mode** meant for startups for its inverterless solar energy technology.

IWAI inks pact with IPGPL for 476 crore Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project

- i. The **Indian Inland Waterways Authority** has signed an agreement with **India Ports Global Private** for a **Rs 476-crore project** to simplify connectivity and trade.
- ii. The MoU will pave the way for the implementation of additional works on the **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)** in Myanmar that bolster ties with Myanmar,
- iii. Upon this MoU both parties agreed to implement **three additional works on the KMTTP** at the estimated cost of **476 crore rupee that are** Container handling facilities at Paletwa and Sittwe, Operation and Maintenance (OM) of the completed works and **Removing wrecks in Sittwe Port basin area**.

Oil India Ltd, Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petro Resources Ltd agreed to buy a 23.9% stake in Russian Company Rosneft's Vankor project.

- i. Indian Oil majors **Oil India Ltd, Indian Oil Corp. and Bharat Petro Resources Ltd** decided to buy a **23.9% stake in Rosneft OJSC's Vankor project**, the largest oil field to commence operation in Russia in the last two and half decades.
- ii. The deal, revealed by Rosneft at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum that brings consortium's purchase **worth \$2.1 billion when** planned capital expenditures on the field are included.
- iii. The Russia's prime oil producer has been trading stakes in some assets to **raise cash after oil prices collapsed amid a** global supply glut.

Tata Power wins solar project in Maharashtra

- i. **Tata Power Renewable Energy**, a wholly owned Tata Subsidiary has bagged **30 MW solar grid connected** photovoltaic project in **Maharashtra** under the **National Solar Mission**.
- ii. TPREL has received the Letter of Intent (LoI) to develop the project and will sign a 25-year power purchase agreement **with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam**.
- iii. The project has been awarded in the **Domestic Content Requirement category** under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) under

'State Specific Bundling Scheme',

iv. This LoI is the third project bagged by the company in recent months, which takes its solar **bid wins to 145 MW**.

Boeing, Tata to set up joint aerospace facility in Hyderabad

- i. Union **Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar** laid the foundation stone of **Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL)** which will be set up under the government's '**Make in India**' initiative in Hyderabad.
- ii. Upon this American player Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) jointly to set up a facility to co-produce Boeing **AH-64 Apache helicopter fuselages** and other aero structures at the aerospace Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Adibatla in Hyderabad.
- iii. The production facility will eventually be the **only producer of AH-64 which** is the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter and used by the US forces as well as many other countries, including India.

FCI inks pact with Adani Group

- i. New Delhi based **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** has entered into an agreement with Adani group for construction of two silos to store wheat capacity of **75,000 tonnes**, at an estimated cost of **about Rs 80 crore**.
- ii. Upon this pact **Adani Agri Logistics** will construct silos at Kotkapura in Punjab and Katihar in Bihar in the next two years. While the silos where grains can be stored without jute bags for longer time that will be owned by the FCI
- iii. The storage tower at Kotkapura would be **of 25,000 tonne** capacity and will require an investment of about Rs 35 crore, while the other silo at Katihar would have a capacity of 50,000 tonnes to be built at a cost of about Rs 45 crore.

Tata Trusts, MP government join hands to work in healthcare

- i. **Tata Trusts and Madhya Pradesh** government jointly signed an agreement on implementing interventions in healthcare areas like nutrition, mental health and cancer **care in the state**.
- ii. As part of MoU between the sides, Tata Trusts will also work together with the state government in supervising successful execution of the identified programme.
- iii. This partnership aims is to improve the health indicators in **areas of cancer, mental health** and nutrition in a focus on high-priority **districts of Madhya Pradesh**.

Walmart Retains Top Position in Fortune 500 List

US based Walmart held the top in the Fortune 500 list for the fourth consecutive year released in 2016

♦ IT based Apple made the progress in the profit, with \$53 billion jumped from No.5 to No. 3 in 2016.

Other Movers:

- ♦ **Amazon.com** moved from No. 29 to No. 18
- ♦ **Walgreens** jumped from No 35 to No. 19
- ♦ **Facebook** jumped 85 spots to No. 157

Siemens wins Rs 978 crore order for India-Bangladesh power link

- i. German engineering company **Siemens AG** has bagged an **order worth 130 million euro** (over Rs 978 crore) to set up a high voltage direct current (HVDC) link to connect power supply networks **of India and Bangladesh**.
- ii. The **HVDC** order is back to back link to connect the power supply networks of India and Bangladesh is scheduled to come on line in the **second half of 2018**.
- iii. This high capacity power link with a **transmission capacity of 500 MW** will avoid bottlenecks on the **230 kV side** of the country.

Uber enters into pact with Tata group

- i. Cab Aggregator **Uber** has entered into an agreement with **Tata group** to help its **drivers** own Indica and Indigo cars **with less hassle**. The pact will only be valid for Hyderabad city in a trial basis.
- ii. Upon this pact Tata Capital Financial Services and its Motors Finance will offer loans at **reasonable** interest rates, **affordable insurance** would be offered by **Tata AIG as a package**.
- iii. This joint initiative will be rolled out in other cities where Uber runs its services.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Doha Bank CEO Dr. R Seetharaman conferred with 2016 Green Economy Visionary Award

- i. Qatar based Doha Bank's CEO Dr. R Seetharaman has been honoured with the 2016 Green Economy Visionary Award for his contribution in environment-friendly activities and thereby promoting green economy **for nearly two decades**.
- ii. He received the award from Mr. Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman of Union of Arab Banks at the 2016 Union of Arab Banks (UAB) International Banking Summit held in Rome.

Initiatives by the Bank:

- ♦ The Bank has promoted paperless banking, Internet Banking, SMS Banking, Phone

Banking and ATM Banking as well as online channels such as Doha Souq, E-Remittances and Online Bill Payments.

- ♦ The bank also launched **Green Credit Card and Green Account**.
- ♦ The Bank was incorporated in 1978 and commenced its banking business including its International Banking services in Doha, **Qatar** in 1979.

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Bags National Award For Excellence In Cost Management

- i. Tuticorin based **V.O. Chidambaranar Port** also second-largest port in Tamilnadu has bagged National Award for Excellence in Cost Management for the year 2015 from The Institute of Cost Accountants of India under the category of Public Service Sector- Small.
- ii. The award has been given for exemplary performance towards optimization of manpower, savings in electricity, and **implementation of Solar Energy Systems**, reduction of overall cost of handling by mechanization and improvising efficiency and logistics support.
- iii. The award was presented in 13th National Awards for Excellence in Cost Management- 2015 hosted by **Institute of Cost Accountants of India**. With this the port is bagging the award for the third time the earlier years being 2008 and 2012.

Sudarsan Pattnaik wins gold in People's Choice Prize

- i. Eminent sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** has won gold medal in **people's choice prize** at world championship festival in Bulgaria
- ii. The theme of the championship was **Sport World and Olympic Symbols** and the height of the sculpture was two meters. He has received highest number of votes.
- iii. He has been selected for the prize for his sculpture **Drugs kill Sports** which is the 2 metre height sculpture.
- iv. The sand sculpture upholds the sanctity, richness and sports, as an ever-cherished saga of entertainment source.

IOC honours IOA chief N Ramachandran with Olympic Order

- i. The International Olympic Committee has conferred the highest award of the Olympic Movement **Olympic Order** to Indian Olympic Association president **N. Ramachandran** for his outstanding services.
- ii. Ramachandran became IOA **president in 2014**. Also the former IOA president, the late **B.S. Adityan** was also presented with the same award, in 1995.
- iii. The Olympic Order is the **highest award** and is bestowed for mainly notable contributions to the Olympic Movement.

Indian-origin professor in UK awarded by Queen

- i. Distinguished Indian-origin professor **Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya** has been conferred with the prestigious Regius Professorship in Manufacturing by Queen Elizabeth II for his outstanding contribution in manufacturing.
- ii. During the course of his dynamic career he has advised the UK government on manufacturing, innovation, and technology also contributed to driving growth and improving productivity.
- iii. Warwick Manufacturing Group at the **University of Warwick**, which was founded by Lord Bhattacharyya, has been bestowed the prestigious Regius Professorship in Manufacturing.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin awarded UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with Order of Friendship

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been honoured with Russia's Order of Friendship by Russian President Vladimir Putin and the honour was published on the Russian official legal information site.

About Order of Friendship Award: State beautification of the Russian Federation

Established by: Presidential decree 442 of March 2, 1994

Purpose: To award foreign nationals whose work, deeds and efforts were aimed at the betterment of relations with the Russian Federation and its people.

Akhil Sharma wins €100,000 Dublin International literary award

- i. An Indian born-American author **Akhil Sharma** has bagged the prestigious 2016 International Dublin Literary Award for his novel named **Family Life**. The winner has announced at a ceremony in Dublin's Mansion House.
- ii. The Award is funded by Dublin City Council **and at €100,000** is the world's largest prize for a single novel put out **in English**.
- iii. Family Life novel was chosen from a total of 160 titles, nominated by libraries in 118 cities in 43 countries.
- iv. The book Family Life put forward by the India International Centre library in New Delhi and by Jacksonville **public library** in the US.

Akhil Sharma:

♦ Sharma is an assistant professor of English at **Rutgers University** in New Jersey and has previously won the **PEN/Hemingway Award** and the **New York Times Notable Book of the Year**.

♦ He is the third American author to win the prize in its two decade history.

Tata Power Solar bags MNRE award

- i. Tata Power Solar has bagged the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** in the Channel Partner/EPC contractor category at the **National Excellence Awards 2016** for rooftop solar power projects.
- ii. The award instituted by MNRE for the first time. Besides The Solar Company has commissioned **112.5 MW** of rooftop **projects till 2016**.
- iii. The awards are presented aimed to **encourage efficiency** and give positive feedback to various government bodies as well as private sector.

Priyanka Chopra nominated for Choice TV Breakout Star in 2016 Teen Choice Awards

- i. Bollywood Star **Priyanka Chopra** has been nominated for **2016 Teen Choice Awards** for her debut stint as **FBI trainee Alex Parrish role** in American TV series **Quantico** in the Choice TV Breakout Star category.
- ii. Earlier Priyanka also won the **Favourite Actress** title in a **New TV series** award at the People's Choice Awards for this role.
- iii. The **Teen Choice Awards** is an annual awards show that airs on the Fox television network in the year's achievements in the fields of television, music, film, comedy, video games, sports and fashion.

President Pranab Mukherjee receives Highest Civilian Award of Ivory Coast

- i. **President Pranab Mukherjee** was conferred with the **highest civilian award of Ivory Coast**, the **National Grand Crois**(the National Order of the Republic of Ivory Coast), The award was given during his two days visit to the West African nation
- ii. During the visit Mukherjee held one-to-one dialogue with his counterpart **Alassane Ouattara** which was followed by delegation level talks. He is the first Indian President to visit the nation.
- iii. It is highest state **order of knighthood** of the **Ivory Coast** to celebrate the independence from France in 1960.
- iv. This is bestowed to those who have highly distinguished themselves to the service to the state. The Collar, one of the five grades of the award is awarded solely to foreign heads of state.

Margaret Atwood wins 2016 Pen Pinter Prize

Margaret Atwood has been awarded with **Pen Pinter Prize for the year 2016** for her contribution towards Political activism and speaks & act **against violation of Human Rights**.

Country: Canada

Professions: Poet, novelist, literary critic, essayist, and environmental activist

Other Awards: Arthur C. Clarke Award and Prince of Asturias Award for Literature, has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize five times

The award for Pen Pinter Prize was chosen by the panel headed by Maureen Freely for her commendable public Intellectual and consistent supporter of Political issues.

Guinness Book Recognises the largest Karma Naach Dance by 3049 people in MP

- i. Mandla a district in **Madhya Pradesh Organised** event where the **3,049 participants** registered their spot in the **Guinness book of world records** for performing largest **Karma Naach dance ever** to celebrate the culture and history of the Gond tribes of central India.
- ii. The participants formed **61 large circles of 50 people** and performed the traditional tribal dance in spectacular synchronicity also all were dressed in traditional clothing to complete the attempt, and the folk dance was accompanied by live music.
- iii. The choreographed **Karma Naach dance** continued for a minimum of **five minutes** the record reads.

Karnataka Bank bags fair business practice award

- i. Mangaluru based **Karnataka Bank** was awarded with the **CFBP Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Fair Business Practices** under the category **Service Enterprises Large** in Mumbai.
- ii. The award was constituted by the **CFPB under four categories** viz, Manufacturing, Services, Trade and Distribution and Charitable Association.

Indian Diabetes specialist Shashank S Shah wins Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award 2016

- i. Pune hailed diabetes specialist **Shashank S Shah** was conferred with the **Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award 2016** at the ADA's 76th Scientific Sessions in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- ii. Shashank was selected for his research titled **Gastric Bypass vs. Medical/Lifestyle Care for Type 2 Diabetes in South Asia with BMI 25-40 kg/m²**.
- iii. This Award was presented by **American Diabetes Association (ADA)** for his innovative research on diabetes in South Asia. **Shashank is the** current director of **Laparo-Obeso Centre in Pune**

Former Indian football team coach Syed Nayeemuddin to get Mohun Bagan Ratna

- i. Former India captain and football coach **Syed Nayeemuddin** with its highest decoration the **Mohun Bagan Ratna Award**. He will be the **16th recipient of the award** which was instituted in 2001.

ii. He was chosen for his overall contribution to the club and the country both as a player and as a coach.

Syed Nayeemuddin

♦ Syed Nayeemuddin as a player, he captained the Indian national team that won a bronze medal at the 1970 Asian Games.

♦ He was put as a coach of **India in 1997**, he also won the South Asian Football Federation Cup by beating the Maldives 5–1 and reached the **semi-finals of the Nehru Cup**.

♦ Syed is the **only athletic person to win both the Arjuna and Dronacharya Awards for football**.

Kerala Tourism bags four awards at 'FilmAT' International Film Festival in Poland

i. Kerala Tourism has bagged **four awards at the 11th edition** of the festival **FilmAT**, a film festival dedicated to tourism, art and ecology, **in Poland**.

ii. Three of the honors were given to a single campaign. '**Responsible Tourism**' initiative started by Kerala and the Best Promotional Social Campaign and in the Protection of Nature and Eco-Food, categories for, respectively, the **New Worlds** films **Sowing the Seeds of the Future** and **A Taste of Life**.

iii. The fourth award for the tourism board's ad film '**The Great Backwaters of Kerala**' won the '**Best Editing Award**' which showcased life in and around the legendary backwaters.

Kannada film 'Thithi' wins best film award at Shanghai International Film Festival

i. Kannada film **Thithi** has won the **Best Film and Best Script Writers Award** at the ongoing **19th Shanghai International Film Festival** in Shanghai.

ii. The film **Thithi** was directed by **Raam Reddy's** and it is about 3 generations reacting to the death of the oldest in the clan.

iii. The film has earlier bagged **2016 National Award for Best Feature film in Kannada** and also won three awards at the Karnataka State Film Awards. The film was also selected for 2016 New Directors/New Films in New York.

Indian war heroes honoured in UK digital archive

i. **Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office** has launched a new digital archive telling the exciting stories of **war heroes**, including **six Indians**, as part of government's centenary celebrations to mark World War I. Which can be accessed through the official gov.uk portal.

ii. Totally 175 men from 11 overseas countries were **awarded Britain's highest award for valour**, the Victoria Cross (VC), during the war.

iii. The new Digital Archive launched to chronicle individual biographies of the following heroes from India.

War Heros

Risaldar Badlu Singh
Sepoy Chatta Singh
Naik Darwan Singh Negi
Rifleman Gabar Sing Negi
Lance-Daffadar Gobind Singh
Lance Naik Lala

State

Punjab
Uttar Pradesh
Uttarakhand
Uttarakhand
Rajasthan
Himachal Pradesh

IIT-Kanpur professor Sanjay Mittal awarded 2015 GD Birla Award

- i. Prestigious **G. D. Birla Award** for Scientific Research for 2015 has been bestowed to Prof. Sanjay Mittal from the Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT, Kanpur.
- ii. He has been honored for his contributions in the area of Bluff Body Flows flows past blunt bodies associated with large unsteady separation and leading to large fluid forces.

G D Birla Award:

♦ The Award is given for Scientific Research was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation in honour of the Indian philanthropist Ghanshyam Das Birla. This is the **25Th** edition of the honor.

Social entrepreneur Zubaida Bai bagged UN honour for Corporate Sustainability Initiative

An Indian social entrepreneur, **Zubaida Bai** grabbed a position among 10 “**Champions and Pioneers**”

Titled by: UN Chief Ban Ki Moon

Purpose: Her initiatives in continuing companies to align with universal principles of human rights, environment and anti-corruption

About Ayzh:

- ♦ Founded by: Zubaida Bai
- ♦ Non Profitable social volunteer organisation which provides basic needs like health and hygiene, nourishment to empower womanhood worldwide,

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Awarded Honorary Fellowship In UK

- i. Spiritual leader **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar** has been conferred with an **Honorary Fellowship** by an Indian student’s wing in the UK for his contributions to world peace and culture.
- ii. National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) have awarded Ravi Shankar with an Honorary Fellowship.

iii. NISAU-UK is the one stop organization representing the students and alumni of Indian origin to provide a unifying voice for students with Indian heritage and promote, educate and celebrate Indian culture with people of all communities.

Eminent Chess Player Viswanathan Anand honoured with 'Honoris Causa' Doctor of Science degree

Five Time Chess World Champion Viswanathan Anand has been conferred with the Honorary Degree Doctor of Science by Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Awarded during: 49th Convocation Ceremony

Venue: Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Awarded by: NITI Aayog Chairman Arvind Panagariya

Two Indians Kartik Sawhney and Neha Swain get Queen's Young Leaders Award 2016

i. The two Indians are **Kartik Sawhney** and **Neha Swain** have won the **2016 Queen's Young Leaders award** for their exemplary work, the award will presented by **Queen Elizabeth at the Buckingham Palace**.

ii. **Sawhney**, a visually challenged young man with a passion for education and a youth facilitator from Hyderabad, he founded Project **STEMAccess**, which offers hands-on science workshops in India, as well as virtual training sessions.

iii. Neha Swain is a youth facilitator and co-founder of **NGO Rubaroo** for young people, irrespective of their socio-economic background, to develop their leadership skills through interactive workshops.

iv. The Award recognizes and celebrates unique people **aged 18-29** from across the Commonwealth.

4 Indian-Americans including Sunder Pichai Honoured With Great Immigrants Award

Indian Origin United States settled Google Chief Executive Office Sunder Pichai and other three Indian Americans are among the 42 United States citizens conferred with Prestigious "**Great Immigrants: The Pride of America**" award.

Presented by: Carnegie Corporation

Venue: New York

Indian Americans Awardees:

- ♦ Sunder Pichai – CEO of Google
- ♦ Hari Sreenivasan – Anchor and Senior Correspondent, PBS News Hour
- ♦ Vikram Malhotra – Chairman of the Americas, McKinsey & Company
- ♦ Bharati Mukherjee – National Book critics circle Award winning author

CAG Shashi Kant Sharma gets honorary professorship in China

- i. The Indian Comptroller and Auditor General **Shashi Kant Sharma** has been conferred honorary professorship by the Nanjing Audit University in China.
- ii. Nanjing Audit University is recognised by **the Institute of Internal Auditors**. Sharma is the 12th CAG of India.
- iii. Shashi Kant Sharma is a **1976 batch Indian Administrative Service** (IAS) officer of the Bihar cadre. He had succeeded Vinod Rai as the CAG, supreme federal auditor in 2013.

17th International Indian Film Academy Awards was held in Spain

- ◆ Best Picture Award – **Bajrangi Bhaijaan**
- ◆ Best Direction Award – **Sanjay Leela Bhansali**
- ◆ Best Performance in a Leading role (Male) Award – **Ranveer Singh for Bajirao**

Mastani

- ◆ Best Performance in a Leading Role (Female) Award – **Deepika Padukone for Piku**
- ◆ Best Performance in a Comic Role Award – **Deepak Dobriyal for Tanu Weds Manu**

Returns

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

Rahul Johri takes charge as first ever BCCI CEO

- i. In the aftermath of the Lodha committee recommendations the Indian Cricket Administrator BCCI has appointed **Rahul Johri** as the first ever CEO of the body in Mumbai.
- ii. Prior to his new appointment he had served as Discovery Networks Asia Pacific's executive vice-president and general manager for South Asia who will report to the **BCCI secretary**.
- iii. The new CEO will be responsible **for smooth functioning of operations**, stakeholder management and building robust strategies **for promoting cricket**.

Surajit Kar Purkayastha Appointed Director General Of West Bengal Police

- i. Erstwhile Kolkata Police Commissioner **Surajit Kar Purkayastha** was appointed as the new Director General of Police in West Bengal.
- ii. The new DG was put in place **of G M P Reddy** who superannuated from the service **on 31 May 2016**. He had also worked with the Intelligence Branch for many years

Surajit Kar Purkayastha:

♦ Surajit is a **1985 batch** Indian Police Service officer who is graduated in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur.

Navin Agarwal appointed NADA chief

- i. Senior IPS officer **Navin Agarwal** was appointed chief of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), working for dope-free sports for five years.
- ii. Agarwal is currently working in his cadre Jammu and Kashmir Cadre. He **is a 1986 batch IPS officer**. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved Agarwal's appointment as Chief Executive Officer/Director General of NADA.
- iii. NADA is the national nodal agency responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control program in sports in all its forms in India.

Sree Ramakrishnan elected as Kerala Assembly Speaker

- i. Kerala's Ruling LDF candidate and two-time legislator **P Sreeramakrishnan** was elected as the Speaker of the 14th Assembly of the state.
- ii. He has **got 92 votes in the 140-member constituency**, while UDF leader and Kunnathunadu MLA VP Sajeendran bagged 46 votes. While the pro-term speaker **S Sharma** of the LDF stayed away from the election.
- iii. The new Speaker who has been elected to the Assembly for the second term from **Ponnani** in Malappuram district of Kerala.

NK Chari is the new State Bank of Mysore MD

- i. **N.K. Chari** took charge as the new Managing Director of **State Bank of Mysore**. Prior to his new appointment, he was the Deputy Managing Director of State Bank of India with an immediate effect from 30th May.
- ii. Chari had served as the Chief Operating Officer in National Banking Group of State Bank of India. He has also headed **the Mid Corporate Vertical of State Bank of India**.

N.K. Chari:

- iii. Chari was a Master Graduate in commerce from Delhi University, joined State Bank of India as a **Probationary Officer in 1978**.
- iv. He has also served as the Managing Director **of Nepal SBI Bank for four years** stint.

Nita Ambani nominated for International Olympic Committee

- i. Reliance Foundation's Founder and Chairperson **Nita Ambani** has just been nominated as a member by the International Olympic Committee.
- ii. She will become the first Indian woman ever to be recommended for the esteemed position.
- iii. Her appointment is subject to the 129th IOC elections in **Rio de Janeiro** in August this

year as this nomination is acknowledgement of her work in promoting **education and sports**.

CR Sasikumar takes charge as MD, State Bank of Travancore

- i. **CR Sasikumar** took charge as the Managing Director of **State Bank of Travancore** which is one of the five associate banks of State Bank of India.
- ii. Prior to the new appointment in SBT, he was Deputy Managing Director, Inspection & Management Audit, at SBI Corporate Centre in Hyderabad. He started his career as a probationary officer in 1978 and has since held several key positions.

P Dhanapal re-elected as Speaker of Tamil Nadu Assembly

- i. AIADMK candidates **P Dhanapal and V Jayaraman** were unanimously re-elected as Speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively of the 15th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. Dhanapal is the first Speaker to be re-elected unanimously for a second successive time.
- ii. The new Speaker Dhanapal was re-elected to the Assembly from **Avinashi-Reserved constituency** for sixth term, While Jayaraman was re-elected as MLA from **Pollachi constituency** for fourth term.
- iii. Meantime DMK leader **MK Stalin** was officially recognized as Leader of the Opposition, he was as re-elected from Kolathur in the recent polls.

Maharashtra Revenue Minister Eknath Khadse resigns following corruption charges

- i. Maharashtra Revenue Minister **Eknath Khadse** resigned after alleged over a string of corruption charges, including a questionable land deal. The allegations extending that his cellphone allegedly appearing in the call records of gangster Dawood Ibrahim.
- ii. His resignation was formally accepted by **Maharashtra governor Vidyasagar Rao**. He is a six-time MLA from Muktainagar constituency in Jalgaon Maharashtra.
- iii. In the aftermath Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis informed that a retired High Court judge will probe the allegations against Khadse.

G Ashok Kumar assumes charge as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff

- i. Vice **Admiral G Ashok Kumar** took charge as the **Deputy Chief of Naval Staff**. He is an alumnus of Pune National Defence Academy, he was commissioned into the Executive Branch in 1982.
- ii. He has served as the navigating officer of Indian Naval Ships Beas, Nilgiri, Ranvir and Vikrant also specialized in **navigation and direction**.
- iii. Ashok worked as the commanding officer of INS Kulish and Ranvir, and executive officer onboard INS Brahmaputra.

Ashok Kumar:

♦ He graduated from Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and has attended the Army Higher Command Course at Mhow besides the Expeditionary Operations Course at Quantico, Virginia, USA.

Servion Global appoints Sameet Gupte as CEO

- i. Chennai based Everstone Capital and Solmark owned Servion Global Solutions Ltd appointed **Sameet Gupte** as its new **CEO and Member of Board**. Sameet replaces Balakrishnan K who has been elevated to Executive Vice-Chairman of Servions Board.
- ii. Prior to his new appointment he was serving as **Executive Vice-President** and Global Head of financial services for Virtusa Polaris.
- iii. This appointment comes from the company in the aftermath of company plans to double revenue within next four years, with the firm budding at around **20 per cent yearly**.

Kulmeet Bawa appointed Adobe MD for South Asia

- i. **California** headquartered Adobe Systems appointed **Kulmeet Bawa as Managing Director** for South Asia operations. He will fill the shoes of **Umang Bedi** who is set to leave the company.
- ii. Kulmeet Bawa will report to **Paul Robson**, President of Adobe Asia Pacific, and will start his new role later this month on June 24.
- iii. Bawa presently works as the Head of Sales **for India operations of Adobe** where he has focused on increasing the company's footprint across verticals, specifically in the **Digital Marketing business**.

Ashok Ganapathy appointed as Director of Airtel Business

- i. India's largest wireless operator Bharti Airtel appointed Ashok Ganapathy as Director – Airtel Business of its Mumbai, Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat circles with effective from the 1st of July 2016. He succeeds **Manish Prakash**.
- ii. He will report to the company's chief executive **Gopal Vittal**. Ashok assigned with role of driving the growth of Bharti Airtel's B2B portfolio that works top corporations, government entities and other corporates with end-to-end solutions.

Ashok Ganapathy:

- ♦ He received B. Tech degree **from IIT, Madras** and MBA from IIM, Ahmedabad.
- ♦ He began his career with Hindustan Unilever in **1990 as a management**

Umang Bedi to take over as Facebook India MD

- i. Social Media major Facebook has appointed **Umang Bedi** as Managing Director, India

operations. Bedi will lead in building and maintaining strategic relationships with top clients and regional agencies in the country.

- ii. Bedi will succeed **Kirthiga Reddy** who will be returning to United States to take on a new role at the company's headquarters at Menlo Park.
- iii. Prior to joining Facebook, he was Managing Director at Adobe Systems for South Asia region. He was responsible for making India one of **Adobe's leading markets**.

Jayant Kapre quits as President of United Biscuits

- i. British multinational food manufacturer **United Biscuits** president **Jayant Kapre** has quit after leading the maker of McVities biscuits.
- ii. Jayant Kapre is joining as managing director of the American flavours maker International Flavors that makes flavors to soft drinks, biscuits, **confectionery and alcoholic beverages**.

Jayant Kapre:

♦ He received MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad, Kapre, started his career at Hindustan Unilever in 1996, and later on he had stints with Gillette, Accenture, Wrigley and PepsiCo before joining United Biscuit.

Dr Shahid Rasool Takes Charge at CEMCA

- i. New Delhi Headquartered **Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia** has appointed communication technology specialist **Dr Shahid Rasool** as the new director of the institute.
- ii. Prior to his new appointment he was a **director of the university's Educational Multimedia Research Centre** besides he has a doctorate in mass communication and journalism from the University of Kashmir.
- iii. Rasool will guide **CEMCA institute which** is an arm of the Vancouver-based Commonwealth of Learning that ensures effective utilization of educational media resources for distance education.

Naresh Goyal re-elected to IATA Board of Governors

- i. Jet Airways chairman **Naresh Goyal** has been re-elected to trade association of the world's airline body **IATA's Board of Governors** for the **three-year** term.
- ii. This would be **the fifth successive tenure** for Goyal at the IATA Board of Governors. He is the only representative from India on this board.
- iii. Upon this appointment he will take part in providing policy directives and guidance to IATA industry committees and to their subsidiary bodies.

Suzuki chairman Osamu Suzuki to step down as CEO

- i. Japanese Automaker Suzuki Motor's Chief Executive and **Chairman Osamu Suzuki** will step down as CEO after revealing its use of wrong mileage testing methods. However Suzuki will stay on as chairman.
- ii. The company had used wrong tests to **compute mileage** for models going back to 2010, submitting figures compiled from indoor tests performed on individual parts, rather than vehicle coasting tests.
- iii. Osamu Suzuki will however continue to be a **member of the board of directors of Maruti Suzuki**, the resigned CEO who has led the company for nearly four decades.

Rama Mohana Rao named TN Chief Secretary

- i. Senior IAS officer **Rama Mohan Rao** has been appointed as the **Chief Secretary of** Tamil Nadu he will fill the shoes of **K. Gnanadesikan**.
- ii. The newly appointed Rao would also hold full additional charge of **Vigilance Commissioner** and Commissioner for Administrative Reforms.
- iii. Erstwhile chief secretary Gnanadesikan would be appointed as the chairman and managing director of **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation**.

Rama Mohan Rao:

- ♦ Rao was a 1985 batch of **IAS** and hails from **Andhra Pradesh**. From an Additional Collector in 1987, he has held key positions in many departments – Health, Water Resources, Transport, Social Welfare and other stints.
- ♦ He also directed the Teachers Recruitment Board in 2007, Chairman and Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited.

Swedish general appointed to head UN India-Pakistan military observers

- i. A high-ranking Swedish military official will be the new head of the United Nations mission tasked with monitoring the ceasefire line between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ii. **Major General Per Gustaf Lodin**, 59, also a logistics expert, was appointed by United Nations Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** as the Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission for the **United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)**.
- iii. Maj Gen Lodin succeeds Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi of Ghana, who completes his two-year assignment as chief military observer and head of mission for the UNMOGIP on July 2.

UNMOGIP:

*As of March 31 this year, UNMOGIP has 44 military observers, 25 international civilian personnel and 47 local civilian staff.

*The observer group is financed by the United Nations regular budget and appropriations for biennium 2014 — 2015 are \$19.64 million.

MTNL CMD Narendra Kumar Yadav steps down

- i. New Delhi based State-run firm **MTNL Chairman and Managing Director** Narendra Kumar Yadav has resigned on completion of his tenure.
- ii. The telecommunications company's Director **P K Purwar** has been given the additional charge of the CMD's post.
- iii. The telecom major which has operations in **Delhi and Mumbai** circles and in the island nation of Mauritius in Africa.

G.Kalyan Krishnan new Chief Executive of NFC

- i. Deputy Chief Executive, **G.Kalyan Krishnan** has taken over as Chief Executive of Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad.
- ii. He succeeds **N Saibaba**, who has retired on completion of two years of extended period of service.
- iii. Kalyan Krishnan will also be the **Chairman** of the NFC Board.
- iv. He has also contributed in the successful commissioning of Zirconium Complex (ZC – a Unit of NFC) at Pazhayakayal, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu.

Emaar MGF MD Shravan Gupta steps down

- i. Dubai based **Emaar MGF's** Executive **Vice Chairman & Managing Director Shravan Gupta** has resigned from the post after the two joint venture partners Emaar Properties and India's MGF Development had decided to part ways and **restructure the company's business**.
- ii. Upon the restructuring process realty major **Emaar** would take control of the company's uncompleted projects to ensure completion of those projects.
- iii. Shravan Gupta will continue to act as director of the company, and While **Sanjay Malhotra** is the new acting CEO of the company.

Vaithilingam elected as Speaker of Puducherry Assembly

- i. Congress leader and former Chief Minister **V. Vaithilingam** was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the **14th Puducherry legislative** Assembly.
- ii. The new Speaker announced that Pro-term Speaker **Sivakolundhu** was elected unanimously as Deputy Speaker as his was the only nomination filed for the post.
- iii. He is the nineteenth Speaker of **Puducherry Assembly**. He is the son of former chief minister V. Venkata subbareddiar.

iv. He was chief minister between **1991-96 and 2008-2011**. He presently represents **Kamaraj Nagar constituency**.

Satya Pal Jain appointed as Law Commission member

i. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and **Additional Solicitor General of India** and former Parliamentarian **Satya Pal Jain** was appointed as a part-time member of the **21st Law Commission of India**.

ii. He will also hold additional charge as an Additional Solicitor General of India.

iii. He is a noted constitution lawyer who has been the Dean of the Law Faculty of Panjab University and is a Member of the **Panjab University Senate** for the last four decades.

21st Law Commission of India:

- ♦ Chairman: Balbir Singh Chauhan,
- ♦ Full-time Member -Justice Ravi R. Tripathi
- ♦ Part-time Members- Satya Pal Jain and Bimal N. Patel

Ranu Langthasa first woman chairperson of NCHAC

i. **Ranu Langthasa** was unanimously appointed as the **chairperson of the NC Hills Autonomous Council** in Assam. The appointment was made in the aftermath of the special session held in the **North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC)**.

ii. Ranu is the first woman chairperson to be appointed to the post since the inception of N C Hills Autonomous Council.

Pedro Pablo Kuczynski wins Peru's Presidential Election

i. **Peruvians for Change** party candidate **Pedro Pablo Kuczynski** has been confirmed as President-elect of Peru after making a narrow victory against **Keiko Fujimori** in the Peruvian presidential elections, 2016.

ii. He is likely to assume office next month who succeeds **President Ollanta Humala** for a mandate lasting until 2021.

iii. **Kuczynski**, is a renowned economist, who was alumni of **Oxford University in Britain** and Princeton University in the United States.

New MD of Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation

i. IAS officer **Dr. M Beena**, has been appointed as **Managing Director of the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)**, a statutory body of the Kerala Government.

ii. A Kerala cadre IAS officer of the 1999 batch is currently serving as the **Managing Director of KSIDC** (Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation) and **KSIE (Kerala State Industrial Enterprises)**.

iii. Beena has also served as the **Managing Director of the Roads & Bridges Development** Corporation, Vyttila Mobility Hub and many other positions for Kerala.

RBS India chief Brijesh Mehra to head corporate banking at RBL

- i. Maharashtra based Small sized private lender **RBL Bank** (formerly known as The Ratnakar Bank Limited) announced that the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) India chief **Brijesh Mehra** will be joining the company as head of **corporate banking**.
- ii. The appointment comes from the lender after the **UK based Royal Bank of Scotland** announced it will close down its retail operations in the country.

RBL Bank:

- ♦ HQ: Maharashtra
- ♦ RBL becomes first private sector bank to open dedicated branch for startups.

Bharti Airtel names Shashi Arora as new CEO, MD of Airtel Payments Bank

- i. Airtel Payments Bank has named **Shashi Arora** as chief executive and managing director of the company, the appointment is **subject to approval** from the Reserve Bank of India. Arora replaces **Manish Khera**.
- ii. Sunil Bharti Mittal group's Bank informed that Arora has over 26 years of experience across sectors including **FMCG, Telecom, Media and Banking**.
- iii. Arora **started his career at Bharti Airtel in 2006** and was hired as the chief executive of Bharti Telemedia Ltd, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel that provides DTH services.

Gopal Rai Resigns As Delhi Transport Minister, Satyendra Jain Takes Over

- i. Aam Aadmi Party **leader Gopal Rai** was relieved of the charge of the **Transport Department**, the AAP government has cited health reasons for his decision. Satyendra Jain is likely to take charge as Transport Minister for now.
- ii. Satyendra Jain currently holds key portfolios includes **PWD, Health, Power and Home**.
- iii. However the portfolios Rai continues to hold include **Labour, Irrigation and Flood Control, General Administration Department (GAD), Development and Employment**.

Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad takes charge of Chief Justice of Manipur HC

- i. The Senior Judge of the **Manipur High Court Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad** has assumed charge of the Chief Justice of the High Court. He succeeded Justice **Laxmi Kanta Mohapatra** who has relinquished the charge of office.
- ii. Earlier this year President Pranab Mukherjee had transferred Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad from Jharkhand High Court to Manipur High Court.

Rakesh Ranjan Prasad:

♦ Bihar hailed lawyer is a Science graduate and obtained his **LL.B. Degree from Patna Law College**, Patna. Rakesh joined as Registrar General, High Court of Jharkhand in 2001.

DBS Bank appoints Niraj Mittal as institutional banking head

- i. Singapore based **DBS Bank's Indian Arm** has appointed **Niraj Mittal** as the Managing Director and Head of Institutional Banking for the country.
- ii. He will be responsible for increasing business with institutional banking clients by driving both new client acquisition and deepening existing relationships.
- iii. Niraj will report to **Jeanette Wong, Group** Executive and head of institutional banking group in Singapore and **Surojit Shome**, CEO of DBS India operations.

Deutsche Bank Asia chief executive Gunit Chadha quits

- i. Deutsche Bank Asia Pacific Chief Executive Officer **Gunit Chadha** is set to relieve from the bank effective 17 July. The appointment dated back in October 2015 as CEO for the Asia Pacific, in charge of 16 regions in the region.
- ii. This is the **second high profile departure** from the bank, later it had declared €6.8 billion loss for the year **ended December 2015**.
- iii. Gunit Chadha had joined Deutsche **Bank in 2003** as the CEO for the global lender's India operations. In 2012, he was promoted to co-CEO for its Asia Pacific business and later.

Suresh Chandra appointed as new Law Secretary

- i. An Additional Secretary rank Officer **Suresh Chandra** was appointed as Union Law Secretary. He is currently Additional Secretary in the department. **G Narayana Raju**, Legislative Secretary, was holding additional charge of the post of Secretary, Legal Affairs.
- ii. He was appointed by the approval of an appointments Committee chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- iii. This was the **first time in recent** times that the government decided to look outside the legal fraternity for a candidate for the top post. There were **45 Applicants** for the top job.

Law Ministry

♦ V. Sadananda Gowda is the current minister for law and justice in India, He is representing the **Bangalore North constituency**.

Peter Thomson elected as President of 71st session of United Nations General Assembly

- i. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected **Peter Thomson**, a permanent Representative of tiny Pacific Island nation Fiji, as **President of its upcoming 71st session**. He defeated Andreas Mavroyiannis of Cyprus.
- ii. In the secret ballot election for the post, Peter Thomson 94 votes, with one abstention and compared to **Mavroyiannis' 90 votes**.
- iii. With this he is the first representative from the Fiji to get elected for the largely honorific post in the UN's 71-year history.
- iv. Peter will watch over the process of **searching for a new U.N. secretary-general** to replace Ban Ki-moon, who will complete his second five-year term in the post at **the end of 2016**.

Bharti Enterprises' Sunil Mittal to head of International Chamber of Commerce

- i. Bharti Enterprises founder & chairperson **Sunil Bharti Mittal** has been elected as the head of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), based in Paris, France. He is the third Indian business leader to head ICC in its near-hundred year history.
- ii. This appointment comes after the Council elected the new leaders after a voting held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He succeeds **Terry McGraw**, **chairman** emeritus of S&P Global, who will now become ICC's honorary chairperson.
- iii. Mittal presently holds the chair of the World Economic Forums (WEF) Telecommunications Steering Committee. He is also a member of the **India-US, India-UK and India-Japan CEO forums**.
- iv. Last month Sunil Mittal was bestowed with 2016 **Harvard Business School Alumni Achievement**.

Hollywood actor Anne Hathaway appointed as UN Women Goodwill Ambassador

- i. American Oscar-winning actress **Anne Hathaway** is named by the United Nations as a global goodwill ambassador to promote **gender equality and women empowerment**.
- ii. She is the latest Actress has been named by the UN Women That became operational in 2011, the other big heads include **Nicole Kidman, Emma Watson and Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol** of Thailand as fellow women's goodwill ambassadors.
- iii. Anne previously worked as an **advocate for the Nike Foundation**, formed to support Programmes to empower **adolescent girls**.
- iv. She traveled to Kenya to raise awareness **on sexual violence in the region in 2011**. In the succeeding year she received the **Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress** for the film **Les Misérables**.

Senior IAS officer Supriya Sahu appointed as DG of Doordarshan

- i. Senior IAS officer **Supriya Sahu** has been appointed as **Doordarshan's Director General**, a post lying vacant since 2014. Appointments committee of cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Supriya as the full-time director general of **Doordarshan**.
- ii. Sahu is a **1991 batch IAS officer** who is currently working in her cadre state Tamil Nadu. She has been appointed to the post on deputation basis for **a period of three years**.
- iii. She had also worked as **Director and Joint Secretary** in Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Indian-origin woman Kamala ShirinLakhdhir nominated as US Ambassador to Malaysia

- i. An **Indian-origin diplomat** as the next American ambassador to Malaysia, the US President Barack Obama has nominated her post, Kamala will succeed **Joseph Y Yun**, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service.
- ii. The Foreign Service officer **Lakhdhir** is a Class of Counsellor who was Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs from 2011 to 2015, was announced by the White House along with several other key administration appointments.
- iii. Earlier Lakhdhir served as the **US Consul General in Belfast**, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom from **2009 to 2011** and also served as a political officer in **Indonesia** and as a consular officer in **Saudi Arabia**.
- iv. She graduated in BA from Harvard College and an MS from the National War College.

First batch of three female fighter pilots commissioned in the Indian Air Force

Creating the significant success stone for the first time in the Indian Air Force by injecting **three female Pilots** into combat roles

First batch of three female pilots:

- ♦ Avani Chaturvedi
- ♦ Bhawana Kanth
- ♦ Mohana Singh

Three female fighters will be inducted to fly fighter Jets like the Sukhoi and Tejas after the completion of the Stage III training at Bidar in **2017**.

Major General Sanjeev Kumar Sharma is new General Officer Commanding of Tiger division

- i. Major General **Sanjeev Kumar Sharma** is set to take over as a General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the **Jammu-based Tiger Division**. He succeeds **Maj Gen Sanjeev Narain**.

ii. Sanjeev is a distinguished officer has an illustrious career spanning over three decades. He is an alumni of the Defence Services Staff College and has also appeared the prestigious higher defence management course and **the national defence course**.

Former Cricketer Chetan Chauhan named NIFT Chairman

- i. Former cricketer and **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** MP, **Chetan Chauhan**, has been named the chairperson of the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** in New Delhi.
- ii. The appointment of the chairman and non-official members of the Board of Governors of the NIFT which is a statutory body is proposed by the Union textiles minister and approved by the President.
- iii. National Institute of Fashion Technology which was set up in **1986 under the Union Ministry of Textiles**.

Virginia Raggi became first female mayor of Rome

- i. Virginia Raggi has been elected as **Rome's first female mayor** in a victory for the **populist Five Star Movement (M5S)**, expressive a blow to **Matteo Renzi, Italy's** prime minister.
- ii. Raggi lawyer and local councilor swept into Italian capital after **winning 67% of the vote** in a runoff ballot against the Democratic Party's (PD) Roberto Giachetti.
- iii. Raggi, Apart from her, Chiara Appendino another **M5S candidate won** the mayoral elections in Turin.

Softbank president Nikesh Arora resigns

- i. Softbank President and **COO Nikesh Arora** has resigned from the company with immediate effect, However he will stay for a year.
- ii. Arora will move to an advisory role in advisory role effective July 1, 2016, and continue to support SoftBank.
- iii. Arora was hired in 2014 after a **decade at Google stint** and promoted to president in June of last year.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni becomes brand ambassador of Exide Life Insurance

- i. India Limited format's Cricket Captain **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** has been appointed as brand ambassador for **Exide Life Insurance Company** with immediate effect.
- ii. The Cricketer will feature in the company's marketing campaign **Lamba saath, bharose Ki baat** (Long term relationships build trust). This is his first endorsement deal in **the insurance category**.
- iii. The company based in Bengaluru is **100% owned by Exide Industries Limited** that

has achieved total Premium **Income of over Rs 2,000 crore** in the financial year 2015-16.

ITC chief Yogi Deveshwar to step down and continue as non-executive chairman till 2020

- i. **Kolkata headquartered ITC's** longest-serving chairman, **Yogesh Chander Deveshwar** will step down from his **executive role** to continue as a non-executive chairman for the **next three years**.
- ii. The company after **taking nod from its shareholders'** at the upcoming annual general meeting to appoint him as a non-executive director and chairman for a period of three years with effect **from February 5, 2017**.
- iii. Yogesh joined **ITC in 1968** and assumed office as Executive Chairman in 1996, under his tenure the company also created several world class Indian brands in the FMCG market.

Vijay Mallya resigns as Chairman of Bayer CropScience

- i. **Vijay Mallya** is quitting as the Chairman of **German pharma major Bayer CropScience Ltd** after over **12 years of holding the office** in the company with effect from June 30.
- ii. The Company said new chairman will be appointed at its next board meeting, also the global firm employed about 117,000 people and had sales **of euro 46 billion** in the last fiscal.
- iii. Mallya took charge as a Chairman of the Board **in March 2004**.

Anju Bobby George resigns as Kerala Sports Council President

- i. Olympian **Anju Bobby George** has **decided to resign** from the post of the president of the Kerala State Sports Council after an alleged face-off with the state's new sports minister.
- ii. Anju alleged that sports minister **EP Jayarajan misbehaved** two weeks ago when she went to meet him after the new government came to power.
- iii. She resigned from the post along with the other **members of its Administrative Board, which** consisting of the likes of volleyball player Tom Joseph and athlete Preeja Sreedharan have resigned so has Ajith Markose, brother of Anju, who will quit the post of assistant secretary (technical) with immediate effect.
- iv. She took charge as the president of the state sports **council before 6 months**.

Takayuki Inaba appointed NEC India MD

- i. Tokyo **headquartered IT firm NEC India** has appointed **Takayuki Inaba** as its

Managing Director. Inaba replaces **Koichiro Koide**, who has been leading NEC India for last two years.

ii. Earlier Inaba was an executive specialist at **NEC's Global Products and Services Division**, before moving to the Marketing and New Business Creation division.

iii. The new MD will be responsible for leading and expanding NEC India's business offerings in the country and will report to **Tetsuro Akagi**, Chief Executive Officer of NEC Asia Pacific and Senior Vice President of NEC Corporation.

Syria's Assad names new prime minister

i. Syrian Ba'ath Party **President Bashar al-Assad** appointed electricity minister **Imad Khamis** as the new **prime minister** of the war-bound nation.

ii. Khamis, who is an engineer replaces **Wael al-Halqi** who had held the post **since August 2012**, he had served as Syria's minister **of electricity since 2011** and is an **electrical engineer** by trade.

PayPal appoints Anupam Pahuja as India Country Manager and MD

i. US-based payment System Company **PayPal** appointed **Anupam Pahuja** as the **Managing Director** and Country Manager for its India operations.

ii. Prior to this appointment he has been heading the technology for APAC, Pahuja has been with the company for **over six years**.

iii. He will be responsible for all aspects of PayPal's India Operations and **further strengthening the company portfolio in India**.

Ken Miyauchi to replace Nikesh Arora as SoftBank president

i. Japanese telecommunications major Softbank appointed **Ken Miyauchi** as the **Head of the group's**, that meant he would be the president and chief operating officer **to replace Nikesh Arora**.

ii. Miyauchi **held 1,101,230 shares of SBG** as of March 31, 2016.

iii. Earlier Arora had resigned from his position after it became obvious **that Chairman and CEO Masayoshi Son** wanted to continue in his current post for **another 5-10 years**.

LIC Chairman S K Roy Resigns Two Years Before His Term Ends

i. State-run life insurance Company **LIC's chairman SK Roy** has resigned nearly two years ahead of completion of his **five-year term**. The reasons for his resignation are not known.

ii. Roy was appointed as a chairman in 2013 during UPA government, He was associated with LIC since 1981.

iii. Roy has officially offered his resignation and the finance ministry will send it to the appointments committee of the **Union cabinet for acceptance**.

Nokia appoints Sanjay Malik as India head

i. **Nokia India** appointed **Sanjay Malik** as the head of Indian market, effective August 1, He succeeds **Sandeep Girotra**, who has been heading Indian market since 201. Malik joined **Nokia back in 2000**.

ii. Malik will lead customer operations, drive the business growth strategy and superior customer engagement services. He will **be based in Gurgaon**.

iii. Malik is currently **Head of Network Implementation (NI)** at **Nokia Global Services** and is credited with efficiently driving growth and delivering strong performance.

Kumble appointed India's head coach for one year

i. The BCCI appointed former Spinner **Anil Kumble** as the new **Head Coach** of Indian Cricket Team. The decision was announced in the annual conclave in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

ii. His tenure would **be for One year**. He was **among 57 candidates who applied** for the position advertised by the BCCI. He has earlier mentored two IPL Sides namely Mumbai Indians and Royal challengers.

iii. Kumble was appointed Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee in 2012, a position he still holds. He was awarded Padma Shri and also **received Arjuna Award**. His Cricket career spanning **over 18 years**.

Aveek Sarkar resigns as Chief Editor of ABP Group of Publications

i. **Aveek Sarkar** resigned as the Editor-in-Chief of **Ananda Bazaar Patrika (ABP)** and The Telegraph. On the other hand, he is set to continue as the chairman of the group.

ii. **Anirban Bhattacharya** was appointed as the Editor of the Ananda Bazaar Patrika and R Rajagopalan was named as the Editor of The Telegraph.

iii. Aveek Sarkar will be work as an advisory role as Editor (Emeritus) and Vice Chairman of the company. He assumed the post of Editor of the **Ananda Bazar Patrika in 1983** after death of his father Ashok Sarkar.

Srinivasan unanimously re-elected as TNCA president

i. Former BCCI **boss N Srinivasan** has been re-elected President of the **Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA)** during the state body's Annual General Meeting held in Chennai.

ii. In the Meeting **KS Viswanathan** was also re-elected as secretary of TNCA for the 10th time as he too did not face any opposition.

iii. Srinivasan has been in charge of the **TNCA since 2002-03.**

TNCA Elected Members:

- ◆ President: N Srinivasan
- ◆ Vice-presidents: Kalpathi S Aghoram, K Murali, P S Raman and G Srinivasan
- ◆ Vice-presidents (districts): G Bhaskaran and V Ramesh
- ◆ Secretary: Kasi Viswanathan
- ◆ Joint-secretary: R I Palani
- ◆ Assistant secretary: S Martin Raj
- ◆ Treasurer: V P Narasimhan

Former India batsman Lalchand Rajput appointed Afghanistan cricket coach

i. Former Indian cricketer **Lalchand Rajput** was named **head coach** of the **Afghanistan National Cricket Team.**

ii. He succeeds ex-Pakistan captain **Inzamam-ul-Haq** who resigned from the post in April. The Mumbai hailed batsman played two Tests and four ODI matches between 1985 and 1987. After his retirement, Rajput served as joint secretary of **Mumbai Cricket Association.**

iii. He also coached the India Under-19 and 'A' team as well as coach of the Mumbai Indians in the **Indian Premier League in 2008.**

Mr. Sujoy Bose appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund(NIIF)

i. Union government has **appointed Sujoy Bose** as the chief executive officer of the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** that makes the way for **the Rs 40,000-crore sovereign wealth fund** to begin operations.

ii. Bose at present the director and global co-head of infrastructure and natural resources at International Finance Corporation.

iii. Centre has constituted search-cum-selection committee under the chairmanship of Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das for the **selection of CEO of NIIF.**

iv. The Centre **will invest Rs 20,000 crore in NIIF**, the rest will come from private domestic and foreign investors who can invest in the umbrella fund or smaller sector or project-specific funds.

International Finance Corporation:

- ◆ IFC is a private sector lending arm of the World Bank.
- ◆ Headquarters: Washington, D.C
- ◆ Founded: 1956
- ◆ CEO: Philippe Le Hou  rou

NATO appoints highest-ranking woman in its history

- i. Brussels based North Atlantic Treaty Organization has appointed U.S. Under Secretary of State **Rose Gottemoeller** as its next **deputy secretary-general**.
- ii. She is the highest-ranking woman and second highest-ranking civilian official in its history to be named for the post also the **first woman to hold the job** who will take up her new position Oct. 1.
- iii. Gottemoeller will advise Secretary of State **John Kerry** on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. She succeeds **Alexander Vershbow**.

Shariah High Court appoints first women judges in Malaysia

- i. Two women **Noor Huda Roslan** and **Nenney Shuhaidah Shamsuddin** have been appointed as judges of **Malaysia's Islamic Shariah High Court** for the first time in the history of the judiciary of the Muslim-majority country.
- ii. The Government of Malaysia had ratified the **UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms** of Discrimination against Women and the appointments were in line with empowering women.
- iii. The Shariah High Court, also called **Syariah High Court**, refers to **Sharia law in Islamic religious law** and deals completely with Islamic laws, having jurisdiction upon every Muslim in Malaysia.

Nestle Taps Ulf Mark Schneider as Next CEO

- i. Switzerland based **Nestle** has selected health care executive **Ulf Mark Schneider** as its **new CEO**, as the food and drinks giant seeks to **evolve** into a **nutrition, health and wellness business**.
- ii. Ulf Mark Schneider is the first outsider to take the helm at the Swiss group since 1922. He will succeed **Paul Bulcke**, who has been chief executive for more **than eight years** and is likely to become Nestlé's chairman early next year.
- iii. Prior to this Schneider is a German and American dual national, has headed health care giant Fresenius Group since 2003.

N S Vishwanathan appointed as the new deputy governor of RBI

- i. Union government has cleared decks for the appointment of **NS Vishwanathan** as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He would **succeed H R Khan**, who will retire next month.
- ii. Vishwanathan is currently working as an executive director at the RBI since 2014 and put on in super vision of the banking regulation and **non-banking department**.

Rodrigo Duterte sworn in as President of Philippines

- i. Rodrigo Duterte was sworn in as the Philippines' 16th president on 30 June 2016 inside the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila. He will have a six-year term.
- ii. The first Mindanaoan president of the country, Duterte succeeds Benigno Aquino III.

Suzuki Motors appoints scion Toshihiro Suzuki as CEO

- i. **Suzuki Motor Corp** on 29 June 2016 announced the appointment of **Toshihiro Suzuki as its next Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- ii. The appointment came after **Osamu Suzuki** announced that he will decline the CEO position to take responsibility for the automaker's use of incorrect testing methods when calculating vehicle mileage.

Who is Toshihiro Suzuki?

- ♦ Toshihiro Suzuki is the son of Suzuki Motor Chairman Osamu Suzuki.
- ♦ Toshihiro served as a Senior Managing Executive Officer and Senior Managing Director of Suzuki Motor Corp.
- ♦ He joined Suzuki Motor Corp. in January 1994.
- ♦ He is a graduate from Tokyo University of Science, Japan.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Tech Mahindra acquires UK-based digital player The BIO Agency

- i. Technology services provider **Tech Mahindra Ltd** has acquired **UK-based BIO for 40 million pounds** in an all-cash deal to develop **its digital group**.
- ii. The UK major specializes in digital transformation and innovation, helping organizations change the way they take part with their customers. It services brands across **financial services, retail, property, travel, and technology sectors**.
- iii. The **fifth largest IT player's** new acquisition will help to compete with larger global rivals, Accenture and Cognizant, who have been able to build strong digital portfolios.

Microsoft acquired Wand Labs start-up founded by Indian

- i. Information technology giant Microsoft acquired **California-based IIT alumnus Start-up Wand Labs** for an undisclosed amount.
- ii. The move by **the Microsoft is to strengthen company's** build up company's position in the emerging era of combining the power of human language with advanced machine intelligence.
- iii. Wand Labs is a company engaged in builds **messaging technology for apps**, founded

in 2013 by IIT-Delhi alumnus Vishal Sharma who was earlier worked at Google as the vice president, products.

BHEL commissions 195 MW unit at Muzaffarpur plant

- i. State Run Power equipment manufacturer **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited** (BHEL) has commissioned 195 MW unit at Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station in Bihar.
- ii. This is the second unit of **195 MW to be commissioned by BHEL** at the 2×195 MW Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station Stage-II of **Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited**(KBUNL). The first 195 MW unit was commissioned in March last year.

Microsoft to buy LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion in its largest deal

- i. American Software major **Microsoft** has announced that it is set to acquire professional social platform **LinkedIn for \$196 per share**. The deal would in all cash transaction valued at **\$26.2 billion**.
- ii. The deal would be the largest in **Microsoft's history**, **histrionically** expanding the company's reach with ownership of the dominant business **social network** after approval by other **LinkedIn** shareholders and regulators.
- iii. After the deal also **Mr. Jeff Weiner will remain the CEO of LinkedIn** and will report to Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella. This marks Microsoft's **196th acquisition** of another company.
- iv. The company LinkedIn makes most of its **\$3 billion in annual revenue** from job hunters and recruiters in the business Social Network giant.

Tata Power to acquire Welspun Renewables in Rs.9,249 crore deal

- i. Power major **Tata Power** Ltd late has agreed to acquire renewable energy company **Welspun Renewables Energy Pvt. Ltd**. The acquisition is at an enterprise value of **Rs. 9,249 crore**.
- ii. Welspun Renewables Energy has **about 1,140 MW of renewable power** projects comprising about 990 MW solar power projects and about 150 MW of wind power projects.
- iii. The Consolidated **1,140 mw renewable** portfolio, nearly **1,000 MW of capacity** is operational and balance **140 MW capacity** is under advanced stages of implementation.

Twitter buys artificial intelligence firm Magic Pony

- i. **Micro-blogging major Twitter** has announced to buy **artificial intelligence** startup **Magic Pony** to help it enhance video and live services on its platform.
- ii. London based Magic Pony which was started by entrepreneurs and **Imperial College graduates** Rob Bishop and Zehan Wang in 2014, will be joining forces with the social network to improve the visual experiences that are delivered across their apps.

Johnson & Johnson to buy Vogue International for about \$3.3 billion

- i. American multinational firm **Johnson & Johnson** would acquire personal-care products company **Vogue International** for about \$3.3 billion in all cash deal.
- ii. The move would increase its position in the hair care market and potentially build up its consumer products segment.
- iii. The new acquisition includes Vogue's menu of OGX **shampoos and conditions**, the FX line of hair styling products and the Proganix and Maui Moisture hair care product lines.
- iv. The beauty products of Vogue are sold in the United States and **in 38 other countries**.

RANKINGS & REPORTS

Mumbai is India's most expensive city: Mercer survey

- i. According to the **2016 Cost of Living Survey** by New York-based human resource consultancy **Mercer** Indian financial capital **Mumbai has emerged as India's most** expensive city for expatriates.
- ii. The List reads that globally, **Hong Kong topped the** list of most expensive cities for expatriates, pushing Luanda, Angola, to second position.
- iii. Interestingly the world's least expensive cities for expatriates are Windhoek (209) in Namibia, Cape Town (208) in **South Africa and Bishkek (207) in Kyrgyzstan bordering Central Asia**.

How Cities Rank:

City	Rank 2016 (2015)	
Mumbai	82 (74)	
Delhi	130(132)	
Chennai	158 (157)	
Bangalore	180 (183)	
Kolkata	194 (193)	
Global City		Rank
Hong Kong		1
Luanda Angola		2
Zurich, Switzerland		3
Singapore		4
Tokyo Japan		5

World Bank Report cuts global growth forecast to 2.4%

US based the **World Bank** has decreased its forecast for the global growth to 2.4% for the year 2016 and stated that world economy is challenging opposing forward motion.

Statement by Global Economic Prospects Report: The report stated that the expectation of world economy to increase **2.4% in 2016** and 0.5 % point lower than the bank's forecast in January 2016.

India becomes third largest oil consumer

i. According to BP Statistical Review of **World Energy report 2015** India has exceeded Japan to become the world's **third-largest oil consumer**, with its oil demand galloping **8.1 % in 2015**.

ii. India with demand of 4.1 million barrels a day becomes the third-largest consumer behind the U.S. (19.39 million bpd) and China (11.96 million bpd). India accounted for 4.5 per cent of world oil consumption in 2015.

Demand Growth:

♦ India's demand growth bettered **China's 6.3 %**. The U.S. oil consumption grew 1.6 % that accounts for 19.7 % of the total world pie **of 95 million bpd in 2015**.

♦ **Japan** skidded to the **fourth place** after its oil usage contracted 3.9 per cent to 4.15 million bpd in 2015. In 2014, it used 4.3 million bpd, ahead of India's 3.84 million bpd.

Leading Fuel:

S.No	Leading Fuel	Consumption (%)
1	Oil	32.9
2	Coal	29.2
3	Natural gas	23.8

Sweden best country in the world, India ranks 70th: Report

Sweden raised its standard by acclaiming best country in World which is named in the '**Good Country' 2015 index**.

♦ India positioned at the **70th** position among **163 nations**.

♦ India's best ranking of **27** in International peace and security whereas poor ranking of **124** in prosperity and equality category

♦ Libya was ranked as the **least "good" country** in the world.

India ranks second on GRD index on ease of doing business

India has moved 13 positions to rank **2nd** among 30 developing countries in 2016 on

ease of doing business and China is topped in the list.

Delegate: Debashish Mukherjee, a partner with A T Kearney and co-head of the Consumer Industries & Retail Products Practice for India and South east Asia.

2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI): Listed top 30 developing countries for retail investment worldwide.

India ranked 141 in Global Peace Index, Iceland most peaceful

Global Peace Index has been announced by **Institute for Economics and Peace** that Iceland ranked First position in the Index whereas Burundi, Serbia, Burkina Faso ranked least positions due to less peaceful.

India ranked **141st** position out of 163 countries. India jumped from 143rd during last year to 141st position but the country's performance has not been increased. The slight rise due to worst performance of other countries

- ♦ Iceland – 1st
- ♦ Denmark – 2nd
- ♦ Austria – 3rd

India ranked 105th out of 130 countries on Global Human Capital Index

According to Human Capital Index, **India ranked at 105th position** globally among 130 countries and topped by Finland

Criteria: Nations ability to nurture, Develop and organize talent for Economic Growth
Released by: World Economic Forum, Geneva

Ranking:

- 1st Position – Finland
- 2nd Position – Norway
- 3rd Position – Switzerland
- 4th Position – Japan
- 5th Position – Sweden
- 6th Position – New Zealand
- 7th Position – Denmark
- 8th Position – The Netherlands
- 9th Position – Canada
- 10th Position – Belgium

UNICEF released the “State of the World’s Children 2016” Report

New York Based United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) released the annual report **“State of the World’s Children 2016”** to curb the harassment against the children

Problems facing by Children: Children are affected due to Poverty, Illiteracy and early deaths

If the present situation exists, the world would be affected by

- i. Poverty of about 167 million children
- ii. 69 million children under 5 years of age fatal due to preventable causes
- iii. 70 million women will have been married as children by 2030.

India fourth largest FDI recipient in Asia, tenth in World – UNCTAD Report

Switzerland based United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released the **World Investment Report** stated that **India is the fourth largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment in Asia and ranked tenth Position in World.** UN Economist said that involvement of India in Foreign Direct Investment is likely to reach **USD 60 billion** in 2016

Economist & Head, UNESCAP's South and South-West Asia Office – **Nagesh Kumar**

Sources of Foreign Direct Investment: Singapore, Mauritius, the US, the Netherlands, Japan, Germany, the UK, China, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates
Singapore and Mauritius majority accounted for nearly **60% of total FDI**

MoUs

India and Qatar signed seven agreements to boost bilateral ties

Prime Minister signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Qatar Emir Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, discussed about bilateral ties with an important Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member.

- **Venue:** Doha
- **Main theme:** Finance intelligence to check **money laundering & terrorism financing** and **foreign investment in the infrastructure sector** from the gas-rich Gulf state

Seven bilateral agreements:

1. Cooperation in **tourism**
2. Collaboration and mutual assistance in **custom matters**

3. Finance Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and Qatar Financial Information Unit (QFIU)

- Help in tracking money flow and investment from Qatar to India
- To safeguard against money laundering & terrorism financing

4. Investment in National investment & infrastructure fund

It would facilitate foreign investment from the gas-rich Gulf state

5. Areas of **youth and sports**
6. Support in **skill development & recognition of qualifications**
7. Mutual aid in the **field of health**

Prime Minister interacted with Indian workers in Doha and assured to resolve their issues.

Cabinet approved Memorandum of Understanding between the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India (DGCA) and the French Civil Aviation Authority.

Union Government inked **Memorandum of Understanding** with French Civil Aviation Authority, Direction Generale de L'Aviation Civile for technical Cooperation in establishing International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards and Practices.

Delegates: Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India (DGCA) and Direction Generale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC) of France.

Purpose: To Implement **Technical Co-Operation programme** and establishing standards and trainings of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Union Cabinet approves MoU between US and India to enhance cooperation in wildlife conservation

i. The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between United States of America and India to enhance cooperation in the field of wildlife conservation and combating wildlife trafficking.

ii. With the move India will benefit from the expertise of **the US Institutions** in the field of wildlife conservation and management of wildlife areas and in combating illegal trade of wildlife and their derivatives.

iii. Upon this both the sides to share professional expertise to address priority wildlife conservation concerns, convenient platform for collaboration.

The MoU seeks cooperation in the following areas:

- ◆ Wildlife Forensics and Conservation Genetics.
- ◆ Natural World Heritage Conservation.
- ◆ Nature Interpretation and Conservation Awareness.

Union Cabinet approved 3 MOU between India and Qatar

Union Government chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Qatar and provided the approval for the **three agreements between India and Qatar**.

Purpose: Cooperation in the field of Skill development, Tourism and Customs.

Skill Development: Facilitate workforce mobility, skill development and placement of Indian youth in overseas jobs in Qatar

Tourism: India received approximately 6,313 tourists from Qatar in 2015

Customs: Co-operation and mutual assistance in customs matter.

India and United States inked Memorandum of Understanding for exchange of information on terror

Union Government and United States signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Exchange of information on **terror**

Delegates: Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi, US Ambassador to India – Richard Verma

Purpose: Exchange of intelligence on terror on a real time basis that include biographic information of known and suspected terrorists.

India, US Signed MoU for Hassle-Free Entry of Indians into America

India inked Memorandum of Understanding with **United States** to facilitate hassle free entry of Indians into the United States at Selected airports i.e providing for immediate security clearances.

Delegates: Arun K Singh, Indian Ambassador to US, Kevin K McAleenan, Deputy Commissioner of US Customs and Border Protection.

Implementation: On successful implementation of MoU, will provide speedy security clearances for pre-approved, low risk Indian travellers upon arrival in US at designated airports.

Cabinet appraisal of MoU between ISRO and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) on cooperation in the field of outer space

i. The Union Cabinet headed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding between **Indian Space Research**

Organization and **Canadian Space Agency (CSA)** on cooperation in the field of outer

space.

- ii. The MoU was signed in Ottawa, Canada in April 2015. The MoU will pave the way for joint team, drawing **members from ISRO and CSA**, which will added work out the plan of action including examination and defining cooperative projects.
- iii. This MoU also offer opportunities for diverse research in the field of **peaceful uses of space technologies**

South Delhi Municipal Corporation signed MoU with SECI to install solar panels

- i. The **South Delhi Municipal Corporation** (SDMC) has signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Limited.
- ii. The MOU, signed for a **period of 2 years**, comes after the Municipal Corporation has decided to go green that aims at generating **solar power of around 10 MW** on the rooftops of **440 buildings and 10MW** on the **spare vacant land**.
- iii. The Municipal body is likely to **save Rs 6 crore** from the expenditure incurred on power bills thus reducing the dependence on discoms.

MoU singed between RD Ministry & ISRO for geo-tagging assets

- i. A MoU was signed between the **Rural Development Ministry and ISRO**, Department of **Space for geo-tagging the assets** created under **MGNREGA** in each gram panchayat.
- ii. The move comes government seeking for online recording and monitoring of assets to check leakages and for effective mapping of terrain **for future developmental works**.
- iii. Upon the **MGNREGA over 30 lakh assets are** formed yearly across the country and the Ministry has decided that through convergence with other schemes, the geo-tagging of such assets will be done on a mission mode.

Union Cabinet approves MoU between UPSC and Bhutan's Royal Civil Service Commission

Following the Memorandum of Understanding signed between, Now, Union Government approved MoU between Union Public Service Commission and Royal Civil Service Commission, Bhutan

Features:

- ♦ Will tighten the relationship between Royal Civil Service Commission, Bhutan and Union Public Service Commission.
- ♦ It will support sharing of experience and capability of both the parties in the area of recruitment process.
- ♦ To enhance institutionalized linkage between the Public Service commission of both nations.

NIIF and Qatar Investment Authority inked MoU to boost infrastructure investments

The **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund** inked Memorandum of Understanding with **Qatar Investment Authority** to encourage Infrastructure Investments in India.

Signed by: Mr. Abdullah Bin Mohamed Al Thani, CEO of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), Mr. Amar Sinha, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs on behalf of NIIF Ltd.

Tenure: One year.

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iii. This MoU also offer opportunities for diverse research in the field of **peaceful uses of space technologies**

India, Switzerland ink MoU to enhance cooperation in skill development

i. **India and Switzerland** have signed an agreement **to establish formal cooperation in the fields** of skills development and vocational and professional education and training.

ii. The MoU was inked between State Secretary **Mauro Dell' Ambrogio** and Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship **Rajiv Pratap Rudy** in Winterthur that aims to promote Swiss vocational and professional education and training internationally.

iii. Upon this pact both sides will **complement the existing commitment** to professional skills development and vocational and professional education and training.

Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and Tanzania in the field of water resources

Union Government headed by **Prime Minister** gave nod to Memorandum of Understanding between India and Tanzania for bilateral cooperation in water resources Management and Development

Background:

♦ The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation have been signing bilateral agreement with other countries in related to water resources development and management.

♦ The mentioned agreement was confirmed during the Tanzania Delegates had visited India during 2014 and discussed about the issues of water harvesting & management practices and decided to have a Memorandum of Understanding.

TERI signs MoU with IKSL

- i. New Delhi based **Energy and Resources Institute** and a subsidiary of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited **Kisan Sanchar Limited (IKSL)** inked a pact to work together in empowering farmers.
- ii. The MoU makes formers by providing them information about efficient use of natural resources to help them increase their productivity.
- iii. TERI has the expertise in agriculture and rural electrification to mitigate impact of climate change and encouraging efficient use of natural resources for developing knowledge based sustainable solutions.
- iv. The cooperation will include **creating awareness and benefits** of clean lighting and cooking solutions, provided that information on energy solutions and community level solutions that improve energy conditions **in schools, public health centres**.

Defence

India joins Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation

India jointly consolidated **Hague Code of Conduct** in opposition to Ballistic Missile Proliferation which was apprised by HCoC Central Contact which is situated in **Vienna**.

- ♦ Delhi has combined with HCOC for elevating India's membership application towards desired Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR),
- ♦ The NSG plenary meeting will be held in **Seoul in June 2016**.

India has become the 35th member of the Missile Technology Control Regime

India amalgamated in **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)** as a complete member to enlighten in high end missile technology.

Venue and date: New Delhi, 27 of June 2016

Purpose: Mutual benefits in intensifying global non-proliferation norms and to enlighten in high end missile technology.

Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar signed a pact on multilateral export control regime for the first time.

NATO launched Anaconda-16 exercise in Poland

- i. Nato countries biggest ever joint military exercises **Anaconda-16** was launched in **Warsaw, Poland**.
- ii. This Exercise is managed by Poland's **Lt Gen Marek Tomaszewski** and around 31,000 Polish, US and other troops are participating in the land, sea and air exercises.
- iii. Anaconda Exercises are intended to test **Nato's ability to respond** to threats also to showcase the strength as a response to concerns about Russia's assertiveness and actions.

Joint Indo-Korean coast guard exercise starts on June 8

- i. **Indian Coast Guard** and their Korean Counterpart are taking part in a joint exercise codenamed **Sahyog-Hyeobleod-2016** is being scheduled in the **Bay of Bengal** in **Chennai**. These exercises are scheduled **every year** alternately between the two countries.
- ii. The three day long exercise is kicked off on June 8 is to strengthen the **working level relationship** between the two Coast Guards and also refine the **joint operating procedures**.
- iii. Both the sides as following a Memorandum of Understanding **signed in 2004**. Since then, the floating assets of both maritime forces have held exchanges in the form of **combined exercises**.
- iv. The best bit of this year's exercise is a **mock anti-piracy mission** in which a hijacked vessel is rescued in combined operation by teams from both the sides.

Malabar Exercise kicks off close to South China Sea

- i. **India, Japan and the US navies** kicked off the Malabar Exercise, a naval exercise near Okinawa Island near Japan.
- ii. The **20th edition of the exercise, MALABAR-16**, is being conducted from 14 to 17 June with the harbour phase at Sasebo from 10 to 13 June and the sea phase in the Pacific Ocean from 14 to 17 June.
- iii. The main aim of this trilateral exercise is to increase **interoperability amongst** the three navies and develop common understanding of processes for **Maritime Security Operations**.
- iv. In the **Japan controlled** edition of the exercise Indian ships participating are from the Eastern Fleet and include **INS Sahyadri and INS Satpura**, indigenously built guided missile stealth frigates, **INS Shakti**, and **INS Kirch**.

North Korea test-fired Musudan ballistic missiles

North Korea has test fired **two midrange ballistic missiles** from its eastern coast under the guidance of Leader Kim Jong Un to elevate the maximum range of missile

missiles – **Musudan missiles**

- ♦ The first launched missile under failure which was travelling about 150 km before north-korea-missile landed to the sea
- ♦ The second missile is more efficient than previous one which is flew about **400 km and touched height of 1,000 km**

3 Indian Navy Ships Reach Russia To Enhance Maritime Cooperation

- i. Three Indian naval ships reached **Vladivostok in Russia** on a **four day visit** as part of efforts **to enhance maritime cooperation** between the navies of both countries.
- ii. The ships representing Indian Navy namely **INS Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch**, under the Command of the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, **Rear Admiral SV Bhokare**, as part of deployment of the Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea.
- iii. These ships will have professional interactions with the Russian Navy aimed at enhancing co-operation and bolster the strong bonds of friendship between the two forces.

India's First Integrated Defence Communication Network Launched

- i. India's **first Integrated Defence Communication Network (DCN)** was launched on 30 June 2016.
- ii. The DCN was inaugurated by Defence Minister **Manohar Parrikar** at South Block.
- iii. The network enables the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the Special Forces Command to share situational awareness for a faster decision-making process. It is the first tri-service communication and IT network of the Armed Forces.
- iv. It is a strategic, highly secure and scalable system. It has a pan-India reach from Ladakh to the North East to island territories.
- v. The network has been fully designed and developed in India by HCL Infosystems.

Anti-submarine torpedo Varunastra inducted in Navy

Indigenously-built heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo Varunastra has been successfully inducted in the navy, making India one of the eight countries to have the capability to design and build such a system.

Facts about Varunastra :

- i. It has been developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), a premier laboratory of DRDO. Weighing around 1.25 tonnes, it can carry about 250 kg of explosives at a speed of around 40 nautical miles an hour.
- ii. The Varunastra torpedo has been developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), a premier laboratory of DRDO. It weighs around 1.25 tonnes and carries about 250 kg of explosives at a speed of around 40 nautical miles an hour.
- iii. It has almost 95 per cent indigenous content. It is capable of targeting stealthy and

quiet submarines, both in deep and littoral waters in intense counter-measure environment.

iv. Varunastra has been designed with latest technologies such as high-speed and long endurance propulsion, software driven intelligence, conformal array acoustic homing with wide look angle and advanced digital signal processing.

v. It has a GPS-based locating aid, a unique feature in contemporary torpedoes in the world. It is also equipped with advanced autonomous guidance algorithms with low drift navigational aids, insensitive warhead which can operate in various combat scenarios.

Torpedo: It is a self-propelled weapon with an explosive warhead. It is launched above or below the water surface and propelled underwater towards a target. It is designed to detonate either on contact with its target or in proximity to it.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Asia's largest tech trade show COMPUTEX kicks off in Taipei

- i.** The five day long Asia's largest technology trade show **COMPUTEX** is underway in Taipei, Taiwan. The Show will end on Jun 4.
- ii.** The mega trade show has been organized by Taiwan External Trade Development Council and TCA (Taipei Computer Association) with **1,602 exhibitors**, from more than 1,600 companies from 30 countries.
- iii.** The Computex is highly reflecting the **latest technology development** and also highlights on the International exchanges and cooperation **among exhibitors**.
- iv.** The show has **4 main themes that** focuses on: IoT applications, innovations and startups, business solutions, and gaming.

Scientists Discovered Rare 'Einstein Ring'

Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias and the University Scientists have discovered one of the most symmetrical Einstein rings created by a galaxy located **10,000 million light years** away that is hidden behind a more massive galaxy.

Einstein rings:

- ◆ These rings is a rare astronomical **phenomena that was** predicted by Einstein's theory of General Relativity.
- ◆ An Einstein ring is **a distorted image** of a very distant galaxy that is termed the source.

China launches three satellites

- i. China has successfully launched a new **civilian high-resolution mapping** satellite along with two other foreign satellites from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre** in Shanxi of China.
- ii. The satellite which was on board the rocket were two new **satellites from Uruguay**. It was the 228th flight mission by a Long March carrier rocket.
- iii. The 2.7-tonne Ziyuan III 02 satellite soared on the back of a Long **March 4B rocket**.
- iv. The Ziyuan Satellite will be used in land **resource surveys, natural disaster prevention**, agricultural development, water resources management **and urban planning**.

China To Launch First Hack Proof Quantum Communication Satellite

Chinese Academy of Sciences would launch its **first experimental quantum communication satellite** in July 2016 whose communications cannot be intercepted.
Announced by: Pan Jianwei, Professor of University of Science and Technology of China
Key Aspect: First quantum communication through a satellite in the world.

Japanese scientists develop new tool to predict spread of Zika virus

- i. Japanese scientists developed a new tool that can predict the **risk of Zika virus importation** and local transmission across the world.
- ii. According to the prediction Subtropical and tropical nations with a history of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases have the **greatest risk of the virus** spreading.
- iii. This nations include in South and Central America, as well as the Caribbean, face the highest risk of infection and should take measures to **prevent mosquito bites**.

Zika virus:

♦ The virus was first **found in 1947** in Uganda and then detected in 39 countries around the world, including the US, India and Japan which causes microcephaly cases, in which babies are born with abnormally small heads.

Scientists developed Bionic leaf that turns sunlight into liquid fuel

Harvard University Scientist developed the bionic Leaf to create Liquid Fuels using Sunlight
Scientist: Professor Danile Nocera,
Harvard University Research: Developed a **"BIONIC LEAF"**
 ♦ Uses the Sunlight to split water molecules
 ♦ Hydrogen eating bacteria to produce liquid fuels

World's smallest pacemaker implanted in 92-year old at Gurgaon Hospital

- i. The world's smallest pacemaker was successfully implanted in a **92-year-old** man

at Gurgaon based **Medanta Medicity Hospital**. With this the hospital to become the **first hospitals** in the country to offer such a heart device.

ii. The Micra Transcatheter Pacing System is an innovative type of heart device that affords patients with the most advanced pacing technology at **one-tenth the size** of a traditional system.

iii. This artificial heart is unable to pump enough oxygen-rich blood to the body during normal activity or exercise, causing dizziness, fatigue, shortness of **breath**.

iv. Bradycardia, which is a condition described by a slow or **irregular heartbeat**, typically less than 60 beats per minute. Pacemakers are the most common way to treat this.

NASA Satellite Finds 39 Unreported Sources of Toxic Air Pollution

i. Using a new satellite-based method, NASA scientists **have located 39 unreported** and major human-made sources of toxic sulphur dioxide emissions.

ii. The unreported emission sources, found in the analysis of satellite data from 2005 to 2014, are gatherings of coal-burning power plants, smelters, oil and gas operations – found in West Asia, but also in Mexico and parts of Russia.

iii. According to the reported emissions from known sources were, in some cases, two to three times lower than satellite-based estimates.

iv. Sulphur dioxide is a known **health hazard and cause of acid rain**.

BHEL commissions 3 supercritical thermal units in Uttar Pradesh

i. State run **Bharat Heavy Electricals** has commissioned all the 3 supercritical units of **660 MW each** at the 1980 MW coal-based Lalitpur Super Thermal Power Project (STPP), in Uttar Pradesh.

ii. The commissioning comes from the company within a span less than three months as a result of enhanced focus on project execution by way of innovative erection techniques and meticulous project management.

iii. **Lalitpur Power Generation Company developed** plant which has been promoted by the Bajaj Hindusthan group located in Lalitpur in Bundelkhand district of Uttar Pradesh.

iv. The main plant package contract of this **1980 MW power** plant is being executed by the power major BHEL.

All train coaches will have bio-toilets by 2019

i. Indian Railways will fit bio-toilets on all **its 55,000 coaches with two** years ahead of **schedule by 2019**, all of coaches would be fitted with **1,40,000 bio-toilets**.

ii. As of March this year Railways board have installed around 35,000 bio-toilets in 10,000 railway coaches as Rail Minister Suresh Prabhu announced in his budget speech **that 17,000 bio-toilets** would be fitted in trains.

iii. The Ministry also confident about phasing out such **toilets by 2020-21 under its Swachh Rail-Swachh Bharat (Clean Rail-Clean India)** programme.

Flushing a bio-toilet:

- ◆ DRDO developed a bio-toilet discharges human waste into an underfloor holding tank where anaerobic bacteria remove harmful pathogens and break the waste down into neutral water and methane.
- ◆ A stainless steel bio-toilet set with six chambers costs **around 90, 000**.

World's first 3D printed plane THOR unveiled by Airbus

- i. The world's **first 3D-printed aircraft** was kept on display in **the Airbus booth** at the International Aerospace Exhibition in Berlin Germany.
- ii. **Airbus' mini-plane, named Thor** which stands for **Test of High-tech Objectives in Reality** that was **made as windowless plane** weighs 20kg and is less than **4 meters long** that assembled with has just 3 parts.
- iii. The aircraft is **totally 3D printed**, apart from the electrical elements, which are erected from a substance called **polyamide** that makes lighter, faster and cheaper.

Researchers in Assam developed two rice variants for submerged areas

Researchers in **Assam Agricultural University** developed **two rice variants** for submerged areas such as **Barak Valley** in order to yield during the monsoon season whereas the valley is liable to periodical floods.

Variants: Ranjit Sub – 1, Bahadur Sub – 1

Features:

- ◆ Better productivity under submerged condtions
- ◆ The variants are suitable for khariff season which is from July –October during the south-west monsoon in Barak Valley.

Pakistan tops in 2016 Malware Infection Index

- i. US technology giant Microsoft published the **Malware Infection Index 2016** it reveals that locations with the highest malware encounter rates was Pakistan, followed by Indonesia, Bangladesh. **India** is place at the **eighth** spot.
- ii. The index categorises the key malware threats in the **Asia-Pacific region** and ranks markets in Asia-Pacific according to how much they are affected.
- iii. In the region more **than 40% of computers in** the 19 countries are infected against the global average being **around 20%**.
- iv. It also identified the top three most encountered malware were **Gamarue, a malicious computer** worm that is generally dispersed via exploit kits and social engineering in the

region.

The Top 10 Countries of the Index:

Country	Rank
Pakistan	1
Indonesia	2
Bangladesh	3
Nepal	4
Vietnam	5
Philippines	6
Cambodia	7
India	8
Sri Lanka	9
Thailand	10

Names of 4 new Periodic Table elements announced

- The **International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry** publicized that the proposed names for the newly discovered elements are **nihonium**, **moscovium**, **tennessine** and **oganesson**, respectively.
- These elements will be used to pay tribute to Japan, Moscow, Tennessee and a Russian scientist. Those credited with discovering the elements get the rights to propose permanent names and symbols.
- The names will be finalised after public review and formal nod by **the IUPAC Council**.

The Newly announced Elements:

Element No.	Element name	Element symbol
113	Nihonium	Nh
115	Moscovium	Mc
117	Tennessine	Ts
118	Oganesson	Og

Iceland scientists turn CO₂ into Stone under CarbFix Project

- Scientists from Iceland** developed a method in which **CO₂ is pumped** into the volcanic rock and sped up a natural process where the basalts react with the gas to form **carbonate minerals** (limestone).
- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)** is thought to be essential to halt a stumbling global warming which will provide a safer, faster way to sequester CO₂.
- This method **could** be a viable way **to store CO₂** underground permanently and without risk of leakage. This technique requires large amounts of water **25 tons for each**

ton of CO₂ buried

Carbfix project:

- ♦ The research named Carbfix project, took place at world's largest geothermal **Iceland's Hellisheidi power plant**. The exhausted volcanic gases, including carbon dioxide and nasty-smelling hydrogen sulphide re-injected into the depth of **400-500m**.
- ♦ The **230 tons of the gas**, which was dissolved in water that resulted over **95% of CO₂ was turned into stone** within two years.

NASA Hubble telescope spots mysterious solitary dwarf galaxy "UGC 4879"

- i. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has spotted a mysterious, solitary **dwarf galaxy dubbed UGC 4879**, this type of galaxy does not have the distinct regular shape of elliptical and spiral galaxies.
- ii. The galaxy is about 2.3 million light years away from its closest neighbour, Leo A which is about the same distance as that between our Milky Way Galaxy.
- iii. In fact Hubble Space Telescope was launched jointly by **NASA and ESA in 1990** in low Earth Orbit. It is the largest telescope present in space.

Jupiter-like planet, Kepler-1647b, orbiting two stars discovered

- i. NASA's Kepler Space Telescope discovered a **Jupiter-like planet orbiting a system of two stars**, making it the largest such cosmic **body ever found**.
- ii. The planet **Kepler1647b**, located in the constellation Cygnus, which is 700 light-years away and about 4.4 billion years old, was discovered by astronomers from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre and San Diego State University (SDSU) in the US.
- iii. The NASA's Kepler Space Telescope was an instrument **launched in 2009 to look** for potentially habitable planets beyond **our solar system**.

Russia Launches World's Biggest, Most Powerful Icebreaker Arktika

- i. Russia has launched the **Nuclear-powered icebreaker** Ship named **Arktika** which is the largest and the most powerful **vessel of the type** in the world. Russia's the only country with such **ice breakers**.
- ii. The Arktika measures 568 feet long and powered by two nuclear reactors. It can break through ice 13 feet deep, is due to go into service **in December 2017**.
- iii. The ship is the lead ship of the **£1.3bn Project** that requires a crew of **75 people**, and can carry **up to 33,000 tonnes** and it has own helicopter **for ice reconnaissance**.

Scientists for the first time grow living bone in lab

- i. American Scientists have grown a living bone in the lab to repair large defects in the head and face of patient. This marks for the **first time in modern medical history**.

- ii. This was achieved by a new technique developed by **Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic**, professor at **Columbia University**.
- iii. This method uses autologous stem cells **derived from a small sample of the recipient's** fat and precisely replicates the original anatomical structure of the bone.

Indigenous trainer aircraft HTT-40 makes inaugural flight

- i. India's indigenous basic trainer aircraft, **Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40)** developed by the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** made its inaugural flight in Bengaluru in the presence of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at the HAL Airport in Bengaluru.
- ii. The two-seater aircraft designed for training for all flying cadets of the three services, HTT-40 aircraft weighs about **2,800 kg and has Turbo Prop engine of 950 shp class**.
- iii. The HTT-40 programme intends both **IAF and HAL** to ensure development of the trainer.

CSL delivers Fast Patrol Vessel "ICGS" to Indian Coast Guard

- i. Cochin Shipyard handed over the **Fast Patrol Vessel ICGS Aryaman** to Indian Coast Guard which will be operated from the Coast Guard Station at Kochi.
- ii. The ship is the **18th vessel in** the series of **twenty Fast Patrol Vessels** under construction for the Indian Coast Guard notably the Cochin Shipyard delivered it ahead of schedule.
- iii. This vessel is responsible for safeguarding the **Nation's Coasts by patrolling within the Exclusive Economic Zone and Coastal Patrol**, carrying out **anti-smuggling, anti-piracy** and search and rescue operations, and for fisheries protection and monitoring.

SpaceX successfully launches two commercial satellites into orbit, but its Falcon 9 rocket crashed

- i. California headquartered Aerospace Company **SpaceX successfully deployed two satellites** but the Falcon 9 rocket that carried them into orbit then crashed into its drone ship while touching down in the Atlantic Ocean from Cape Canaveral's Complex 40 launch pad.
- ii. The project intended to build a **reusable rocket engine** that can deploy its cargo and return safely to Earth and also the rocket can be prepped for another launch in a **short amount of time**.
- iii. The reusable rockets could save the **company \$60 million** per launch.

US Scientists make world's first 1,000-processor microchip

- i. **US Scientists** has developed world's first microchip **called KiloCore** that equipped with

1,000 processors and is thought to be the fastest chip designed in a university lab.

ii. The microchip which is designed by a team at the **University of California's** Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and fabricated by **IBM** using their **32nm CMOS technology**.

iii. The energy-efficient chip and has a maximum computation rate of **1.78 trillion instructions per second** and contains **621 million transistors** and chip's each processor core can run its own small programme independently of the others.

Europe's Ariane 5 launches two satellites into space

i. **Europe's Ariane 5 rocket launcher** successfully took off with **two telecoms satellites** into space from KOUROU, in French Guiana, one for an USbased communications service provider and one for an **Indonesian bank**.

ii. **Echo Star XVIII** was the third launch of the year for satellite service provider **Dish Network**, and **BRI sat for Rakyat Indonesia bank**. The satellite is designed to provide direct broadcasting services for 15 years to the continental US, Alaska and Hawaii for Dish Network.

iii. **Satellite BRI sat** is the first telecommunications satellite committed to a **financial institution**, Bank Rakyat Indonesia.

South Pole CO2 levels cross 400 ppm first time in 4 million years

i. The South Pole of the **Earth carbon dioxide** levels **exceeded 400 parts per million (ppm)** for the first time in 4 million years.

ii. The South Pole has shown continuous **upward trend** in carbon dioxide (CO₂) as the rest of world, but its remote location means it is the last to **register the impacts of amassed emissions** from fossil fuel consumption, the primary driver of greenhouse gas pollution.

iii. The southern hemisphere was the last place on earth where CO₂ had not yet reached this mark the CO₂ also this upsurge is caused totally by **human activities**.

3 International Space Station astronauts land in Kazakhstan

i. An **International Space Station** team including **an American, a Briton and a Russian** has landed safely in the Kazakhstan also the team reported feeling fine after spending 186 days in space since their launch in 2015.

ii. The Soyuz TMA-19M capsule carrying **Tim Kopra of NASA, Tim Peake** of the European Space Agency and the Russian **Yuri Malenchenko**.

iii. The team had carried out hundreds of scientific experiments in biology, biotechnology, physical science and Earth science.

Nasa unveils X-57 Maxwell Hybrid Electric Research Plane

- i. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) unveiled the iconic **X-57 Hybrid Electric Research Plane** called as **Maxwell aimed to demonstrate technology to reduce fuel use, emissions, and noise.**
- ii. The plane uses **electric propulsion technology** is expected to significantly decrease aircraft noise is named after James **Clerk Maxwell**, the 19th century Scottish physicist who did groundbreaking work in electromagnetism.
- iii. The plane is fixed with **14 electric motors** which are powered only **by batteries, eliminating carbon emissions** turning propellers and all of them are integrated into a uniquely-designed wing.

China's Sunway TaihuLight named world's top supercomputer

- i. Chinese **supercomputer** using domestic chip technology named **Sunway TaihuLight** with **93 petaflop/second** speed was declared as the world's fastest supercomputer.
- ii. The system was publicized in the **TOP500 list of supercomputers** released at the **International Supercomputing Conference (ISC)** in Frankfurt, Germany.
- iii. The list **topped by China** leads with **167 systems** and the USA is second with 165. The Asian share of 218 systems, up from 173 in November 2015, includes 8 supercomputers owned by Indian-based organizations.
- iv. The TaihuLight is encompassed of **some 41,000 chips**, each **with 260 processor cores**. This makes for a total **of 10.65 million** cores, compared to the 560,000 cores in America's top machine.

FSSAI bans use of potassium bromate as food additive

- i. **Food Safety Standards Authority of India** has banned use of potassium bromate as a food additive following a Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) study that found its presence in **bread causing cancer.**
- ii. The food regulator has banned potassium bromate and however **potassium iodate** is concerned, it has been referred to a scientific panel.
- iii. The CSE observed that **84 per cent of 38 commonly available** brands of pre-packaged breads, including pav and buns, tested positive for **potassium bromate and potassium iodate.**
- iv. These two food additives are banned in many countries and listed as **hazardous** for public health.

HP launches the world's thinnest laptop, Spectre 13

- i. HP has launched **the Spectre 13 in India**, a laptop that's claimed to be the thinnest in

the world by the US-based firm. With a **thickness of 10.4mm, it's thinner than** both the **12-inch MacBook and** 13-inch MacBook Air.

ii. The cutting edge svelte dimensions, the company has decided to go all out with its latest top-end laptop, and the Spectre 13 is the **first to sport its new logo** for the premium range.

Features of HP Spectre:

- ♦ HP Spectre 13 is 10.4mm thick, and thinner than the MacBook.
- ♦ It weighs in at 1.11kg, with a carbon fibre and aluminium build.
- ♦ The **4-cell 38Whr Li-ion battery** that can keep the laptop running for **5 hours on a single charge**.
- ♦ It has been priced starting at **1,19,990 in India**.

Mars crater named after Nepal quake-hit village Langtang

- i. The **International Astronomical Union** has named the crater after Langtang which is also a popular trekking site that was worst hit by the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.
- ii. In the Earthquake at-least **215 people were killed** in Langtang when the April 25 quake triggered an avalanche that swamped the village.
- iii. The Astronomical Union has now named a 9.8 km (six mile) wide crater on Mars as Langtang.
- iv. The researcher behind the move, **Dr. Tjalling de Haas**, announced that he chose this name because his colleague had worked there while studying Himalayan glaciers.

ISRO successfully launched record 20 satellites in a single mission

Indian Space Research Organisation made a victory milestone by successfully launched **20 satellites in a single mission** including Two Indian Universities Student Satellites and Four Foreign Countries.

Launching Vehicle: Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-34

Orbit: Polar Sun Synchronous Orbit

Satellites:

- ♦ CARTOSAT -2 – INDIA
- ♦ 12 DOVE SATELLITES – USA
- ♦ GHGSat-D – CANADA
- ♦ SkySat Gen2 – USA
- ♦ M3MSat – CANADA
- ♦ BIROS – GERMANY
- ♦ LAPAN-A3 – INDONESIA
- ♦ SWAYAM – College of Engineering, Pune, India
- ♦ SATHYABAMASAT – Sathyabama University

China launches 23rd navigation satellite BeiDou Navigation Satellite

- i. China has blasted off a 23rd satellite in the **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System** (BDS) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province, was taken into orbit by a Long March-3C carrier rocket.
- ii. The BeiDou Navigation Satellite System which is being developed as an alternative to US GPS and also to support its global navigation and positioning network.
- iii. It was the 229th launch of the Long March carrier rocket. The satellite, after finishing **in-orbit testing**, will join others already in orbit and improve the stability of the system, preparing for **BDS to offer global coverage**.

China's first high orbit remote sensing satellite put into use

- i. China's first high orbit **remote sensing satellite**, **Gaofen-4** became operational after six months in-orbit testing. The Satellite said to be the worlds **most sophisticated** one.
- ii. The first geosynchronous orbit high-definition optical imaging satellite Gaofen-4 is **orbiting at 36,000 km** which can continuously **observe a disaster** because it moves synchronously with the Earth.
- iii. Gaofen-4 was launched in December 2015, has a lifespan of **eight years**.

NASA's Kepler probe spots "K2-33b" youngest exoplanet ever

- i. American Scientists with the help of **NASA's Kepler Space Telescope**, have discovered the youngest fully formed **exoplanet** which is **5 to 10 million years old** that make to understand **how planets system form**.
- ii. The planet named **K2-33b**, is set to be larger than Neptune and whips tightly around its star every five days. It is one of the very few newborn planets found.
- iii. The Kepler Space Telescope found this new planet through its **extended K2 mission**, as well as the **W M Keck Observatory** on Mauna Kea in Hawaii.

Scientists develop ultra-thin flexible solar cells

- i. Scientists have developed **ultrathin photovoltaic cells** using the semiconductor material, **gallium arsenide**.
- ii. The photovoltaic cells is about **1 micrometre, thinner than** an average human hair, new flexible, ultra-thin photovoltaic cells developed by researchers in South Korea.
- iii. The cells are much thinner than a human hair which range from to **10 to 200 micrometres in width**, whereas standard photovoltaic cells can **be 100 of times thicker**.

ISRO to test indigenously developed scramjet engine

- i. **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** planned to test **Advanced Technology**

Vehicle (ATV), comprising **indigenously-developed** & based on air-breathing propulsion scramjet engine hitched to a two-stage sounding **rocket (RH- 560)**.

ii. The vehicle is being fabricated at the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre**(Thiruvananthapuram) and the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri.

iii. The test will take place from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** at Sriharikota next month.

Scientists from University of Bristol have found a new bio-ink for 3D printing

University of Bristol scientists have revealed a **new Bio-Ink for 3D printing using stem cells** that allows printing of living tissue called as Bio-Printing

Bio ink consists of two various Polymer Components

- ♦ A natural polymer extracted from seaweed
- ♦ A sacrificial synthetic polymer used in the medical industry

First flight of BrahMos missile from SU-30 MKI aircraft successfully conducted

i. **BrahMos Aerospace** successfully demonstrated the integration of most daunting supersonic cruise missile system **BrahMos on Su-30MKI front-line strike fighter** aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), **Nasik**.

ii. This integration will extract the weapon a multi-platform capability while making the IAF the only Air Force in the world in procession of a **supersonic cruise missile system**.

BrahMos missile:

- ♦ The Missile is derives its name from the Brahmaputra and Moskova rivers, was developed by an Indo-Russian joint venture.
- ♦ The missile has a strike range of 290-km can travel at a speed of Mach 2.8 and is capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air against sea and **land targets**.

CSIR launches anti diabetic ayurvedic drug BGR -34

i. The **Council for Scientific and Industrial Research** (CSIR) under the aegis of Ministry of Science and Technology, has launched **an anti-diabetic ayurvedic capsule** priced at Rs. 5 per tablet.

ii. The Capsule named **BGR-34**, abbreviated name for **Blood Glucose Regulator** that designed for **type 2 diabetes**. AIMIL Pharmaceuticals will manufacture this drug and market it.

iii. **BGR-34** is developed jointly by the **National Botanical Research Institute** (NBRI) and the **Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants** (CIMAP).

iv. The capsule can be taken as prescribed by the doctor for diabetes which will be available on all major medical stores in Karnataka and adjoining states.

Scientists succeed in introduction of Sericulture in Poyen Village of Kargil

- i. Scientists from **Temperate Sericulture Research Institute of SKUAST**, Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir has successfully introduced **Sericulture** in **Poyen Village** of **Kargil**.
- ii. The breeding of Sericulture in Kargil will **serve purpose of achieving cocoon productivity** that will ultimately spur employment and **generate income for rural youth and tribal farmers**.
- iii. Earlier, Chairman of Autonomous Hill Development Council **Kargil Haji Mohd Hanifa Jan** instructed 40 days intensive Bivoltine Silk Worm rearing training programme in the same village jointly by the institute, CSR & TI, Central Silk Board, **and Ministry of Textiles**.

China sets up first Dark Sky Reserve in Tibet to limit light pollution

- i. **China** has established **country's first dark sky reserve** for astronomical observation to limit light pollution and preserve sites for making astronomical observations in the **Tibetan prefecture of Ngari**, bordering Nepal and India.
- ii. The reserve sprawls over an area **of 2,500 square kilometres** was jointly initiated by the China Biodiversity Conservation and **Green Development Foundation** (GDF) and the regional government of Tibet.
- iii. The dark reserve is an area that is kept free of artificial light pollution to preserve is generally to promote astronomy. It usually surrounding a park or observatory.

Sweden inaugurates world's first electric road

Sweden on 22 June 2016 inaugurated a test stretch of an electric road in **Sandviken**, making it one of the first countries in the world to conduct tests with electric power for heavy transports on public roads.

About the test :

- i. The test was conducted on parts of road E16. It involved a current collector on the roof of the truck that feeds 750 volts DC to the truck's hybrid electric system. The current conductor can connect automatically at speeds up to 90 km/h.
- ii. The tests will continue up through **2018**. They will provide knowledge of how electric roads work in practice, and whether the technology can be used in the future.
- iii. The experiment is based on the **Government's goal of energy efficiency and a fossil fuel-free vehicle fleet by 2030**, and will contribute to strengthening Sweden's competitiveness.

ENVIRONMENT

Swachhta Mission to be implemented in 10 prominent wildlife sanctuaries, Tiger reserves and National Parks

Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has decided to implement Swachhta Mission in 10 significant Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tiger reserves and National Parks and make visitors to use Jute bag

Focus: Keeping the Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tiger reserves and National Parks pollution-free and Ensure cleanliness & Waste Management.

The ten places recognised for Swachh Bharat mission

National Parks:

- ◆ Gir National Park, Gujarat

Wildlife Sanctuary:

- ◆ Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh
- ◆ Flamingo Sanctuary, Maharashtra

Tiger Reserve:

- ◆ Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh
- ◆ Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra
- ◆ Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Karnataka
- ◆ Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala
- ◆ Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan
- ◆ Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu
- ◆ Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand

Darjeeling zoo to receive snow leopard from London's Dudley Zoological Gardens

i. The **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park** (PNHZA) in West Bengal's Darjeeling will get a two-year-old male **snow leopard named Makalu** from Dudley Zoological Gardens (DZG) in Britain.

ii. The leopard will be brought to Darjeeling zoo **for a global conservation breeding programme**. Which is listed as endangered on the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**.

iii. The leopard, named **Makalu** who gets his name from the **world's fifth highest peak** rising to **8,463 metres** on the south-east side of the Everest.

Early humans in East Africa used poison-tipped bone arrows

i. Scientists discovered that **bone tools were used for hunting**, and even as poison arrow tips partly due to the slender and short nature of the arrow heads, **in eastern Africa over 13,000 years ago**.

- ii. The team of researchers found **bone technology** such as its use as an arrow tip – was essential to a Stone Age people's lifestyle also suggest that the technology was a **central element to the Kuumbi Caves** inhabitants.
- iii. The researchers were from the **Australian National University and Saint Louis University**, studied seven bone artefacts recovered from the **Kuumbi Cave**, five bone projectile points, a bone awl, and a notched bone tube.

Australian rodent named the 1st mammal to go extinct due to human-caused climate change

- i. A **tiny rodent from** Australia has become **the first known mammal** to go extinct due to human-caused climate change. It is also the first recorded extinction of a mammal anywhere in the world.
- ii. The rodent also known as **mosaic-tailed rat**, was only known to live on Bramble Cay a small coral cay, just 340m long and **150m wide off the north** coast of Queensland.
- iii. These rodent was known to have existed only on **Bramble Cay** between the Cape York Peninsula in the Australian that sits at most 3m above sea level.

Dolphins to get first-ever sanctuary in North America

- i. **National Aquarium in Baltimore's** announced its plan to create an Oceanside **first sanctuary for Bottle nose dolphins** in **North America** after a long research.
- ii. These Bottle nose dolphins are the one of the most common species of marine mammals, with colors ranging from light Gray to Black.
- iii. The aquarium will move its colony to an outdoor facility with natural **seawater by 2020**.

SPORTS

Nuwan Kulasekara Retires From Tests, to Focus on ODIs, T20s For Sri Lanka

- i. Sri Lankan pace bowler **Nuwan Kulasekara** has announced retirement from Test cricket after being a part of 21 Test matches.
- ii. The reliable performer made this decision in order to focus his attention on the sport's shorter formats.
Kulasekara **played 21 Test in** that he claimed 48 test wickets **since his 2005 debut** against New Zealand in Napier.
- iii. However he will play in shorter formats for his side and he had claimed **186 wickets from 173 ODI matches**.

Sonia Lather won silver in Women's World Boxing Championships

- i. Indian boxer Sonia Lather won the silver medal at **the AIBA Women's World Championships** after she lost the women's **57 kg category in the Title clash** in Astana.
- ii. Sonia went down 1-2 after a hard-fought bout against the Italian in the **9th edition** of the Women's World Boxing Championship.
- iii. In the tournament Kazakhstan finished on top of the table with 4 golds and 2 bronze medals, China was the runners-up with two medals of each rank.

Novak Djokovic becomes the first player to win a \$100m prize money

- i. Serbian Top seed **Novak Djokovic** became the **first professional tennis player** to **earn \$100 million in** prize money after he made his 10th French Open quarter-finals beating 14th seed Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut by 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-5 to move into his 28th consecutive Grand Slam quarter-final and 36th in all.
- ii. While Tennis great Roger Federer earned **\$98,011,727 since** he turned **pro in 1998**, **is** the next closest player to breaking that barrier.
- iii. American Women's tennis great Serena Williams is the leader, having earned a total prize money of \$75,929,696 in **21 years in women's** section.

Argentina retain top spot in FIFA rankings

- i. Indian Men's football team is captained by **Sunil Chhetri** have dropped a place in the latest FIFA rankings with the Blue Tigers ending the month of May ranked 163 in the rankings.
- ii. Notably **Northern Ireland** made history by rising to **25th in the rankings**, their best-ever position England dropped out of the top ten at the expense of Austria.

The Rankings:

Rank	Team
1	Argentina
2	Belgium
3	Colombia
4	Germany
5	Chile

IBC Gets Affiliation from Commonwealth Boxing Council

- i. The Indian licensing body for professional **boxers Indian Boxing Council (IBC)** has been officially granted affiliation by the **Commonwealth Boxing Council (CBC)**.
- ii. The commonwealth body will now formally register **Raja as a Director in its** Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held later this year in December.

Indian Boxing Council (IBC):

- ♦ It is a **Boxing Governing body in national level** that approves professional boxing matches and awards national and subordinate championship titles. It is the **first time in India** where there is an opportunity for the Boxers to be professional.
- ♦ The authorizing body aims to promote and serve the sport of boxing, to implement fair, scientific and objective computerised systems.

Indian judoka Avtar Singh qualifies for Rio Olympic Games

- i. Punjab hailed top Indian judoka **Avtar Singh has qualified for the Rio Olympic Games** to be held later this year under 90kg weight category.
- ii. He clinched a gold in Shillong South **Asian Games** earlier this year and a bronze medal in Asian Junior Judo Championships **in 2011**.
- iii. Avtar Singh currently working with the Punjab Armed Police also won gold medals in Senior National Judo Championships **in 2013-14 and 2014-15**.

International Judo Federation

- ♦ Founded: 1951
- ♦ Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- ♦ President: Marius Vizer.

French Open 2016 – Overview

- i. The French Open, also called as **Roland Garros** is a major tennis tournament held in Paris, France.
 - ii. The tournament named after the French aviator **Roland Garros**.
- It is the premier clay-court tennis championship and the **second of four annual Grand Slam tournaments**.

The Winners of 2016 Edition

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Andy Murray(United Kingdom)
Women's Singles	Garbine Muguruza (Spain)	Serena Williams (United States)
Men's doubles	Feliciano López (Spain) / Marc López (Spain)	Bob Bryan (United States) / Mike Bryan (United States)
Women's Doubles	Caroline Garcia(France) / Kristina Mladenovic (France)	Ekaterina Makarova (Russia) / Elena Vesnina (Russia)
Mixed Doubles	Martina Hingis(Switzerland)/ Leander Paes (India)	Sania Mirza (India) / Ivan Dodig (Croatia)

Birmingham to host seventh World Carrom Championship

- i. The **Seventh Edition of World Carrom Championship** to be hosted by the **United Kingdom Carrom Federation at Birmingham from November this year.**
- ii. In the five day long contest India will attempt to regain the men's title that it had lost to Sri Lanka last time.
- iii. In the tournament each team can have a maximum of **four men and four women**, who can contest in the individual singles and doubles, apart from team event and **Swiss league competition.**

Rohan Bopanna direct entry for Rio

- i. Bangalore hailed Tennis star **Rohan Bopanna** officially secured a direct entry into the men's doubles event of the Rio Olympic Games by returning to **top-10 in the ATP ranking Men's doubles chart.**
- ii. His place in the top-10 player list not only gets a direct entry but also has the choice to pick his partner for the men's doubles event regardless of his ranking.
- iii. However in the women's doubles chart, **Sania Mirza continued** to be joint world number one with Swiss partner **Martina Hingis.**

Serena tops Sharapova as world's highest paid sportswoman

- i. Serena Williams to become the world's **highest-paid female athlete**, according to **Forbes** as she has overtaken Maria Sharapova as the world's highest-paid sportswoman.
- ii. She has **earned \$28.9m in prize** money and endorsements over the past year dethroning Russia's Sharapova who held the top Position **for 11 years.**

The top 10 highest paid female athletes:

Athlete	Nationality	Earnings
Serena Williams	USA	\$28.9m
Maria Sharapova	Russia	\$21.9m
Ronda Rousey	USA	\$14m
Danica Patrick	USA	\$13.9m
Agnieszka Radwanska	Poland	\$10.2m
Caroline Wozniacki	Denmark	\$8m
Garbine Muguruza	Spain	\$7.6m
Ana Ivanovic	Serbia	\$7.4m
Victoria Azarenka	Belarus	\$6.6m
Eugenie Bouchard	Canada	\$6.2m

India to host junior hockey World Cup

- i. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced that the men's **Hockey Junior World Cup 2016** will be played in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh from December 8 to 18 this year.
- ii. It will be the **11th edition of the Hockey Junior World Cup** for men, since 1985 it has been held every **four years**. Last Edition was held in **New Delhi in 2013**.
- iii. The men's event will feature 16 of the world's best junior men's teams. The qualified teams include Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, **Germany, India, Japan, Pakistan** and Spain.
- iv. While the men's competition takes place in December, the women's Hockey Junior World Cup takes place shortly **before in Santiago, Chile in November** end.

Tintu Luka won silver at Josef Odlozil Memorial Athletics Meet in Prague

- i. Kerala hailed track and field athlete **Tintu Luka** bagged a **silver medal in 800 meters** making season's best of 2:00.61 in the **Josef Odlozil Memorial Athletics Meet** in Prague, **Czech Republic**.
- ii. She was behind Iceland's World Youth Championship gold winner **Anita Hinriksdottir** who clocked 2:00.54 at the contest.
- iii. Luka is coached **by PT Usha**, qualified for Rio Olympics during the World Championships in Beijing in 2015.
- iv. The Rio bound athlete also holds the **national record** of 1:59.17 which she did in 2010.

West Indian all-rounder Kavon Fubler banned for seven years

- i. The Bermuda Cricket Board has banned **all-rounder Kavon Fubler** from the cricket for seven years after being charged with **Level 4 offences** relating to his behavior for his club side Willow Cuts in the game against Bailey's Bay at Oval,
- ii. During the course of a **Premier Division** game he was banned for **smashing the stumps** and abusing an umpire after being given out leg before wicket.
- iii. In the ban resulted game he continued playing in the game, bowling 6.3 overs as Bailey's Bay won by seven wickets.

Soumyajit Ghosh reaches a new career-high of 61 in ITTF rankings

- i. **Four Indian table tennis players** also Rio Games qualifiers who also all – Soumyajit Ghosh, Achanta Sharath Kamal, Mouma Das and Manika Batra have shown significant progress in their world rankings.

The ITTF Rankings

Athletes	Present	Last Moth
Soumyajit Ghosh	61	65
Achanta Sharath Kamal	69	73
Mouma Das	145	158
Manika Batra	113	128

ii. In the men category Harmeet has gained two places to be **at 116 from No.**

118. However among junior girls, Archana Girish Kamath has broken into the **top 25 bracket.**

iii. In the junior category, **Ananth Devarajan** and **Manav Thakkar** have occupy slots at **No. 24 and No. 54**, respectively. By the way, this is the **first time** that the two Indian boys have entered world ranking bracket.

Maria Sharapova receives two-year suspension for failing drug test

i. Russian tennis star **Maria Sharapova** was banned **for two years** by the International Tennis Federation.

ii. The ban comes after the Russian tested positive **at the Australian Open 2016** for using the banned substance meldonium.

iii. The five-time Grand Slam winner's prohibition has been dated back to **January 26, 2016**, the day she failed her drugs test.

iv. **Meldonium** was put on the banned list by the World Anti-Doping Agency this year but she had been taking the drug for a **decade** legally for health reasons she said.

Eden to host first day-night Test in India

i. West Bengal Cricket Association **owned Eden Gardens** will host to the **first ever day-night Test** in the country when India take on **New Zealand later** this year.

ii. The Tour Programme of the Board of Control for Cricket in India announced the fixture stating that New Zealand will play three Test matches and five ODIs.

iii. The venues for the **Test matches are Indore, Kanpur and Kolkata.**

Forbes releases 2016 World's 100 Highest-Paid Athletes list

i. **Forbes Magazine** have released the **top 100 highest-paid athletes for 2016** The 100 athletes hail from 23 countries and compete in ten sports.

ii. The list has been topped by soccer icon **Cristiano Ronaldo** comes as **a fresh face at No 1** with earnings of 88 million US dollars.

iii. The earnings from the 100 athletes over the last 12 months accounting **a cumulative 3.15 billion US dollars** out of **which 29 % of that** came from endorsements and appearances.

The top 10 Rank:

Athlete	Earnings	Sports
Cristiano Ronaldo	\$88 million	Soccer
Lionel Messi	\$81.4 M	Soccer
LeBron James	\$77.2 M	Basketball
Roger Federer	\$67.8 M	Tennis
Kevin Durant	\$56.2 M	Basketball
Novak Djokovic	\$55.8 M	Tennis
Cam Newton	\$53.1 M	Football
Phil Mickelson	\$52.9 M	Golf
Jordan Spieth	\$52.8 M	Golf
Kobe Bryant	\$50 M	Basketball

Paralympic Committee of India gets recognition

- The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has recognized the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) led by **Rao Inderjit Singh** as the president.
- The Union Minister of State for Planning and Defence, **Rao Inderjit Singh**, along with vice president **Gursharan Singh** had paid a visit to the IPC Headquarters in Bonn last month to make sure the approval of the PCI election that was held in October last year.

International Paralympic Committee:

Paralympic Games is a major international multi-sport event, involving athletes with a range of physical **disabilities**. **These games** are organized in **parallel with the Olympic Games**, This year along with Rio Olympics it will be hosted.

- ♦ Founded: 1989
- ♦ Headquarters: Bonn, Germany
- ♦ CEO: Xavier Gonzalez

Saina clinches second Australian Open title

Indian Badminton Star **Saina Nehwal** clinched her second **Australian Open title** after she notched up the win in final against Sun Yu of China at Australian Open Super Series badminton tournament in Sydney.

- ♦ The Badminton Association of India (BAI) pronounced a reward of Rs. 10 lakh for Saina Nehwal for winning the Australian Open Super Series.

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	HansKristianVittinghus (Denmark)	JeonHyeok-jin(South Korea)
Women's Singles :	SainaNehwal (India)	Sun Yu (China)
Men's Doubles	Markus Fernaldi Gideon (Indonesia) and Kevin SanjayaSukamuljo (Indonesia)	AnggaPratama / Ricky KarandaSuwardi(Indonesia)

Women's Doubles	BaoYixin (China) and Chen Qingchen (China)	NityaKrishindaMaheswari / GreysiaPolii(Indonesia)
Mixed Doubles	Lu Kai (China) and Huang Yaqiong (China)	ZhengSiwei / Chen Qingchen(China)

Usain Bolt win the 100m in 9.88 seconds at Racers Grand Prix 2016

- i. Jamaican Sprinter **Usain Bolt** won the 100m in 9.88sec, the second-fastest time in the world this year at the inaugural Jamaica National Racers Grand Prix at the **National Stadium in Kingston, Jamaica**.
- ii. The three time Olympic champion measured as the world's fastest man, won ahead of **Nickel Ashmeade** (9.94s) and his Racers Track Club team-mate **Yohan Blake** who clocked 9.94s in a positive 1.0 meters per second wind speed.

Lewis Hamilton wins Canadian GP after feisty fight with Sebastian Vettel

- i. Britain's Mercedes' Driver **Lewis Hamilton** won the **Canadian Grand Prix** after a close battle with Ferrari Driver Sebastian Vettel's to clinch the Title.
- ii. While Valtteri Bottas finished third and Nico Rosberg finished fifth.
- iii. Hamilton dedicated the win – **his fifth in Canadian GP** victory to the late **Muhammad Ali**.

US win FINA women water polo world league super final

- i. The **USA Women's Senior National Team** has **won gold by** defeating **Spain** by **13-9** at the FINA Women Water Polo World League Super Final in **Shanghai, China**.
- ii. The win means the United States' **third straight FINA World League Super Final** title and 10th overall. Spain has bagged Silver in the contest, meanwhile Australia defeated **China 11-3 for the bronze medal**.

International Swimming Federation:

- ♦ **Founded:** 1908
- ♦ **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland
- ♦ **President:** Dr. Julio César Maglione

India set for maiden show at U17 Futsal World Cup

- i. The sport's governing body **Association Mundial de Futsal** (AMF) invited India to participate in the Under 17 Futsal World Cup to be held next month. This is set to make their **maiden appearance** for the side as a wild card the event.
- ii. The competition, is to be held from **July 11-20 in Paraguay**, with India one among a

total of 12 competing countries.

iii. In advance of the team's itinerary to Paraguay, **Futsal Association of India** will appoint an international coach for FAI-India team and on-board sponsors.

India complete 3-0 sweep over Zimbabwe ODI Series

The **One Day International (ODI) tour of India's to Zimbabwe** has done and dusted with the visitor's dominant in the all the departments over the hosts in all three games that held at Harare Sports Club is a cricket ground in Harare, Zimbabwe.

♦ The Skipper **MS Dhoni** became the **first Indian captain** to lead the team in three ODI series whitewashes.

♦ The skipper and stumper became the **first Indian wicket keeper-batsman** to complete **350 dismissals in 50-overs cricket**. He has taken 261 catches and effected 89 stumpings.

♦ He also became the **2nd most successful ODI skipper** with 107 wins. He is joint second with Allan Border, and behind Ricky Ponting (165).

Indian men 4x400m relay team breaks 18-year-old national record

i. The **Indian men's 4x400m relay team** created a **new national record**, clocking **3:02.17** that also break the 18-year-old record at the **International Sprint and Relay Teams Cup** at Erzurum, Turkey.

ii. The record bound quartet, comprising of Asian Games Bronze medalist **Arokiya Rajiv, Mohd. Anas, A Darun and Mohd Kunhu**.

iii. The last record of 3:02.62 set at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok.

iv. Meanwhile the Indian women's 4x400m relay team clocked 3:30.16 and jumped to world No 12 in the rankings. While their counterpart is currently placed No.17.

Navy Officer Becomes 1st Indian to Win Racketlon Competitions

i. Navy Officer and **Commodore Ashutosh Pednekar** has become the **first Indian in sports** history to participate and win international tournaments in the **sport of racketlon** at the recently concluded competitions in Denmark and Belgium.

ii. Ashutosh clinched gold medal in both the **men's amateur and the veterans (45 +)** categories at the Nordic Racket Games held at **Vejen, Denmark**.

iii. Subsequently in the Super World Tour – King of Rackets tournament held at **Oudenaarde, Belgium**, he once again proved himself by clinched gold in **45 +** and silver in men's amateur category.

Rio 2016 Unveils Official Slogan for Olympic and Paralympic Games

i. The **Rio Olympics 2016 organising** committee revealed the official **slogan** for the

first Olympic and Paralympic Games in South America “**A new world**” while also unveiling days from the start of the quadrennial extravaganza.

- ii. The committee also revealed the innovative medals that produced by the **Brazilian Mint**, the 5,130 medals for **the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games** will reflect the sustainability and accessibility as well as sporting excellence.
- iii. The fashionable prizes, which **weigh 500g each**, **comprise 30 per cent recycled silver** and bronze while the ribbons are **made from 50 per cent recycled PET**. However the gold medals are completely free of mercury.

India Enter Hockey Champions Trophy Final for 1st Time in 36 Years

- i. **Indian men’s hockey team** is set to make a maiden appearance in the final of the prestigious **36th Hero Champions Trophy Hockey** tournament against daunting Australia after hosts Great Britain held Belgium to 3-3 draw in a final round robin match.
- ii. India finished the standings in second place with 7 points from five matches. While Australia topped the league standings with 13 points from five matches.
- iii. This will be India’s maiden appearance in the title clash in **36 years** since the inception of the blue-riband six-nation tournament.

Champions Trophy Hockey : India settle for silver medal after Australia win penalty shoot-out

India finished with **Silver Medal** in the **36th edition of the Hockey Champions Trophy** after losing to **Australia** in the final. Both teams were goalless after regular time and Australia defeated India 3-1 to win their 14th title after a penalty shoot-out at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in London.

Gold medal

Silver medal

Bronze medal

Australia

India

Germany

♦ The apex body for hockey in India, announced a cash prize of **Rs 2 lakh** each for the players and **Head Coach Roelant Oltmans** and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh for all other coaches and support staff on the account of brilliant performance finish in the tournament and winning a silver medal.

♦ With this reward the body announced **additional prize of Rs 1 Lakh for Harmanpreet Singh** as he was adjudged as the **Best upcoming Junior Player** of the Tournament.

106-year-old Aida Gemanque becomes oldest Olympic torch bearer

- i. 106 year old **Aida Gemanque** also called **extreme granny** became the oldest Olympic torch bearer when she carried the flame in the Amazonian city of Macapa.

- ii. Gemanque broke the record formerly held by Alexander Kaptarenko, who was 101 when he took part in the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics relay.
- iii. She when aged 103 entered the Guinness Book of World Records by becoming the 'oldest skydiver', earning her the nickname **extreme granny**.
- iv. The 95-day long torch relay will pass through 325 cities in Brazil which include 12,000 sprinters before ending at **Rio's Maracana Stadium** for the set alight of the **Olympic cauldron** on **August 5**.

Nico Rosberg wins 2016 European Grand Prix of F1

- i. **Germany's** Mercedes driver **Nico Rosberg** has won the 2016 **European Grand Prix of Formula One 2016** , It was the eight race of the 2016.
- ii. The race took place in **Azerbaijan**. It was Rosberg's overall ninetieth championship title of F1 in his career and his third of the 2016 season.

The Standings:

Standings of Driver	Country	Constructor
Nico Rosberg	Germany	Mercedes
Sebastian Vettel	Germany	Ferrari
Sergio Perez	Mexico	Force India
Kimi Raikkonen	Finland	Ferrari
Lewis Hamilton	United Kingdom	Mercedes

India settles for Silver medal at Archery World Cup in Antalya

- i. The Indian mixed recurve team of **Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das** has bagged silver after conceding loss to **South Korea 1-5** in the final in **Konyaalti Beach Park** at the Archery World Cup in Antalya.
- ii. Indian team trailed against the top-seed Korean pair of Choi Misun and Ku Bonchan and went down 1-5 in the title clash.
- iii. In the other event the **Women's recurve team** of **Deepika Kumari, Bombayla Devi Laishram** and Laxmirani Majhi begged **bronze medal** after conceding defeat to Italy.

Sri Lankan pacer Shaminda Eranga suspended by ICC for illegal action

- i. Sri Lanka Pacer **Shaminda Eranga** has been **suspended from bowling in international cricket** with immediate effect after his action found illegal in the test conducted at the National Cricket Performance Centre in Loughborough, England.
- ii. The assessment revealed that all deliveries **exceeded the 15 degrees level of tolerance** allowed under the regulations of ICC.

iii. Eranga has appeared in **19 Tests and the** same number of ODIs for Sri Lanka, Who will be able to return to international circuit if he passes a fresh test after modifying his bowling action.

Axar Patel moves to career-best rank of 13 in ODIs

- i. Indian left-arm spinner **Axar Patel jumped 20 places** to career-best rank of 13 in the **ICC Rankings for ODI bowlers**. While West Indies's spinner **Sunil Narine** has returned to his number-one position.
- ii. The Orthodox left arm spinner claimed three wickets against Zimbabwe, is now just three places behind India's highest-ranked bowler **Ravichandran Ashwin**.
- iii. Jasprit Bumrah took nine wickets was the most successful bowler in the series, has stormed up 125 places to 97th while Kulkarni's five wickets in the series have **lifted him 29 places to 88th**.

Rank	Bowlers	Batsman
1	Sunil Narine (WI)	AB De Villiers (RSA)
2	Trent Boult (NZ)	Virat Kohli (IND)
3	Imran Tahir (RSA)	Hasim Amla (RSA)
4	Shakib Al Hasan (BAG)	Tillekeratne Dilshan (SL)
5	Mitchell Starc (AUS)	Kane Williamson (NZ)

Andy Murray wins record 5th Queen's title

- i. Britain's Second Top seed **Andy Murray** defeated Milos Raonic of Canada by 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-3 managed to retain the Queen's title and lift the trophy **for a record fifth time**.
- ii. Raonic led by a set and 3-0 before Murray became the first player this week to break the Canadian's serve, doing so twice in succession. It was Murray's **37th career ATP title** and his second of 2016.
- iii. The Queen's Club Championships is an annual tournament for male tennis players, held on grass courts at the Queen's Club in West **Kensington, London**.

BCCI Suspends Goa Cricket Officials for Financial Bungling

- i. Indian Cricket Administrator BCCI has suspended two senior Goa Cricket Association officials – Chetan Desai and Vinod Phadke for alleged misappropriation of over **Rs 3 crore belonging** to the organisation.
- ii. BCCI has given 15 days to reply, in the notice Goa Cricket Association President Desai and Phadke who is a secretary have also been slapped **with showcause**.
- iii. In the BCCI Desai is holding the chairman of the Board's Marketing Committee, Phadke is a member of the Information and Technology Committee.

Dustin Johnson won the US Open golf tournament title

- i. US Golfer **Dustin Johnson** clinched his maiden **Major golf title US Open** registering a three-stroke victory in the 116th US Open in the **fourth and final round** at Oakmont Country Club in Pennsylvania.
- ii. Johnson finished **three shots in** front of fellow Americans Jim Furyk and Scott Piercy and Irishman Shane Lowry. The Winner will get 1,800,000\$ as a share.

Harika wins best women's player in Kazakhstan Blitz

- i. Arjuna Award Winner and Grand Master **Harika Dronavalli** won the best womens player award in the Eurasian Blitz chess **tournament in Kazakhstan**.
- ii. The Indian master will get a cash prize **of USD 2500 and 60 ELO** points to regain her position in the top 10.
- iii. Harika had won the best **womans prize at the Zalakaros International Chess Festival** in Hungary to jump to world **number 9 in the classical rankings list**.

India won three-match T20 Series against Zimbabwe, 2-1

- i. India wrapped up a successful tour of Zimbabwe with a 2-1 T20 series win after posting a 3-0 whitewash in the preceding ODI series to the same opponent. All the three T20 internationals have played at Harare Sports Club, Harare.
- ii. This victory also brings another feather to the Indian skipper that equalled **Ricky Ponting's** record of captaining in **324 international matches** to be at the top of the list. Dhoni led India in **60 Tests, 194 ODIs and 70 T20 Internationals**.

Highlights:

- ♦ Player of the Match: Kedar Jadhav
- ♦ Player of the Series: Barinder Sran.

Mary Kom denied wild card entry into Rio Olympics

- i. Five-time world champion **Mary Kom** has been denied **by a wild card entry** by International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the upcoming Rio Games.
- ii. Kom had failed to secure a berth through the qualification round in the past month. She was a **bronze-medallist at the 2012** London Olympics.
- iii. International Olympic Committee said in a reply notice to the Indian Body that the wild card should be used for a nation which has not enough athletes to represent at **the Olympics**.

Vikas Krishan settles for bronze medal in AIBA qualifiers

- i. Indian boxer **Vikas Krishan** (75kg) settled for a **bronze medal in the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) World Qualifying Tournament** in Baku Azerbaijan.

- ii. During his quarterfinal contest against Korea's Lee Dongyun he was ruled out of the semifinal clash owing to a cut on his forehead. However the Indian **won 3-0 to make the** semifinal and assured himself of an **Olympic quota berth**.
- iii. With this India will present with three Indian boxers **Vikas and Manoj, Shiva Thapa (56kg)** that have qualified for the Olympic Games.

Russian Hockey Player Artemi Panarin Wins NHL Calder Memorial Trophy

- i. **Russian** attacking Hockey player **Artemi panarin** playing for the Chicago Blackhawks has won the 2015-2016 **Calder Memorial Trophy**.
- ii. The Calder Memorial Trophy is an award given to the player selected as the most proficient in his first year of competition in the **National Hockey League (NHL)**.
- iii. Before the awardee is selected voting is conducted by members of the **Professional Hockey Writers' Association** at the conclusion of each regular season.

Sprinter Dutee Chand qualifies for 2016 Rio Olympics

- i. **Odisha sprinter Dutee Chand** has qualified for the **women's 100 metres at the Rio Olympics** after she clocked 11.30 seconds beating the Olympic qualifying mark of 11.32 seconds in the women's 100m heats at a meet in Kazakhstan.
- ii. With this she became the 99th Indian to make the cut for **the Rio 2016**, also Dutee is the first Indian woman to qualify for the fashionable 100m event since Olympics Committee announced a qualifying mark in the segment.
- iii. Legendary **sportsperson PT Usha** had qualified for the same event in **1980 Moscow Olympics**.

Jitu Rai wins silver in ISSF World Cup

- i. Indian shooter Jitu Rai has settled with a silver medal and Brazilian sport shooter Felipe Almeida Wu of Brazil who clinched gold at the **Men's 10m Air Pistol Event at the ISSF World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan**.
- ii. He finished in **second place and finished at 10th in the men's 50m air pistol**, he made up for that finish in the 10m category.
- iii. Rai has been very successful at the ISSF World Cup by **winning six medals at the contest over the past three years**, with the first of those coming at the 2014 World Cup in Munich, Germany.

Four Indians qualify for Rio Olympics

Making Indians qualifying for the Rio Olympics to **three-digit figures** for the first time, as **Four Indian athletes qualified** for the Rio Olympics to be held in August this year.

In London Olympics India was **represented by 83 athletes**.

The List of Qualifiers:

Qualifier	Game	Category
Atanu Das	Archer	men's individual recurve
Srabani Nanda	Sprinter	women's 200m
Mohammad Anas	Sprinter	men's 400m
Ankit Sharma	Long Jump	men's long jump

Anju, Gopichand drafted as members of Khelo India

- India's sole athletics World Championship medal winner **Anju Bobby George** and chief national badminton coach **Pullela Gopichand** have been enrolled as members of **Khelo India, a national programme for the development of sports**.
- Khelo India Committee will be headed by Sports Secretary **Rajiv Yadav** also this committee has seven-member committee, in which **Anju and Gopichand** are the two sportspersons.
- Anju known for her feats as a long jumper, Anju has recently quit as the president of the Kerala Sports Council.
- On the other hand Gopichand was former all-England badminton champion, has been the coach of the Indian national **badminton team since 2006**.

Chile beat Argentina to win 2016 Copa America Football tournament

- Copa América**, Chile has bagged **Copa America Title** formerly known as the **South American Football Championship** In the final clash played at MetLife Stadium,
- In the Title Clash Chile defeated **Argentina 4-2 through penalties shootout**. This was second America title for Chile, it won the first title in 2015 that also became the first team to win the title in **successive years since Argentina in 1946 and 1947**.

Important Awards:

- ♦ **Golden Ball:** Alexis Sanchez (Chile)
- ♦ **Golden Boot:** Eduardo Vargas (Chile)
- ♦ **Golden Glove award:** Claudio Bravo (Chile)
- ♦ **Fair Play Award:** Argentina

Lionel Messi Announces Retirement From International Football

- Argentina's marquee Football **Player Lionel Messi** announced his retirement from international football after his side crashed to an upset defeat against **Chile in the title clash** of the **Copa America League**.

- ii. The Skipper Messi announced retirement after his fourth defeat in a major final with Argentina. Also 2016 final loss in Copa America was Argentina's second consecutive.
- iii. **Messi 29 year old** is a **five-time FIFA player of the year**, winner of four Champions League titles and eight Spanish La Liga crowns with Barcelona.

Argentina women win record seventh FIH Champions Trophy title

- i. The Argentina women's team has claimed **a record seventh Champions Trophy title** with a 2-1 win over Netherlands the World and Olympic champion's side in the title clash at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in London.
- ii. However in the bronze medal game, USA fought to a shootout victory over Australia, making the team a first Champions Trophy medal since winning bronze at the 1995.
- iii. Final standings: 1: Argentina, 2: The Netherlands, 3: USA, 4: Australia, 5: Great Britain.

India's Sanjeev Rajput wins silver in ISSF World Cup

- i. Ace Indian shooter **Sanjeev Rajput** bagged silver medal in men's 50-metre rifle 3 position event of the ISSF World Cup in **Baku Ajerbaijan**.
- ii. This is the third World Cup medal and his first in five years, Rajput finished seventh in the qualification with a score of 1167 in kneeling, **prone and standing position**.

Virat Kohli launches new startup Stepathlon kids to promote fitness

- i. Indian test Skipper **Virat Kohli** joined with **Stepathlon Lifestyle** and formed a new company **Stepathlon Kids – a company focused** on the health and wellness of the next generation.
- ii. Upon this move **Stepathlon Kids will press** the Indian children to **take 15,000 steps a day** to a healthy lifestyle and to **create long term positive behaviour**.
- iii. The **Stepathlon lifestyle** will drive the launch 30-day, pedometer-based, mass participation virtual race, across the nation built to promote fitness among children.

Indore to host first ever Test, no day-night Test in NZ series

- i. **Indore** is all **set to host its first-ever cricket Test during** India's home series against New Zealand in September-October but a day-night clash **is not part of the scheduler** released by the BCCI.
- ii. The new announcement from the BCCI says no Day- Night game against the Blackcaps during the NZ tour, against the earlier plans to have a game with the pink ball.
- iii. India's first Test against Blackcaps in **Kanpur from September 22-26**. In the statement BCCI let out there was no mention of the day-night Test against the Kiwis as all Test matches will start morning.

Amul signs up as official sponsor of Indian team to the Olympics

- i. India's leading food products company **Amul** has signed up as the official sponsor for the Indian contingent to the **Rio Olympics 2016**.
- ii. The company will launch a series of advertising campaigns for milk and other dairy products to promote this association.
- iii. In addition, the company's products will also sport special branding to promote this association.

OBITUARY

Actor Razak Khan passes away

- i. Veteran Bollywood comedian **Razak Khan** has passed away **after suffering a cardiac arrest** in Mumbai. He was 62-year-old.
- ii. Khan was well known for acting in big budget films **like Hello Brother, Hungama and Hera Pheri**.
- iii. The actor's notable films such as Raja Hindustani (1996), Hello Brother (1999), Hera Pheri (2000), Partner (2007) and Action Jackson (2014), was rushed to Holy Family Hospital in Bandra around 12:30am. Khan had acted in more **than 90 films**.

Former Eden Gardens curator Prabir Mukherjee passes away

- i. Former Cricket Association of Bengal pitch **curator Prabir Mukherjee** has passed away after a prolonged illness at Kolkata. He was 86.
- ii. He was well known for his no-nonsense steadfast approach who was involved with the Eden Gardens pitch for more than two decades. His preparation which includes preparing the wicket for the **1987 World Cup final**.
- iii. Mukherjee was in charge and had also served as the manager of the Bengal and East Zone teams. His association with **CAB began in 1979**.

Actor-director Balu Anand passes away

- i. Famous actor and director, **Balu Anand** has died due to a massive heart attack in Coimbatore. He was 61 years old.
- ii. The actor has appeared in in some **100 films** like Pistha, Anbe Sivam, Anna Nagar Mudhal Theru among others. He has also directed a few Tamil movies.

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali no more

- i. American Legendary professional boxer **Muhammad Ali**, considered as the greatest of

all time by many, passed away after a **32-year battle with Parkinson's disease**. He was 74 year old.

ii. Ali was born on January 17, 1942 Cassius Marcellus Clay in Kentucky alongside the Ohio River in America.

India's first Mr Universe Manohar Aich passes away

i. Legendary Indian body builder **Manohar Aich** Who is the first Indian to win the **Mr Universe title** has passed due to age-related **complications in Kolkata**. He was 104.
ii. The bodybuilder was born in 1912 in Dhamti Village (currently in Bangladesh) continued chasing his dream in bodybuilding even after he was employed by the Royal Air Force progressed.

iii. Aich returned with winning the coveted **title in 1952**. He also later went on to win gold medals in Asian Body Building Championships.

Indian-Origin Journalist Santokh Singh Grewal Dies in Singapore

i. Eminent Indian-origin teacher-turned journalist and administrator **Santokh Singh Grewal** has passed away in Singapore. He was 57. He breathed his last after dinner time as he watched the football match.

ii. He was well known for his **passion for football and hockey**, he won a number of awards for his reporting on sports all through his career.

iii. Singh was former chairman and advisor to the Singapore **Sikh Education Foundation**, management community member of the Singapore **Khalsa Club**.

iv. He was currently a director at a local polytechnic, a pre-university institution. He had journalism career with **The Straits Times in 1995** and delivered a number of scoops and award-winning stories during his five year stint.

Veteran actor, theatre person Sulabha Deshpande no more

i. Veteran film actor **Sulabha Deshpande** has breathed her last at her Mumbai residence after a prolonged illness. She was 79.

ii. She had acted in numerous **Marathi and Hindi films**, In Hindi, the noteworthy films in which she appeared included Bhumika in 1977, she also had appeared in Gauri Shinde-directed English-Vinglish.

iii. Sulabha also appeared in Plays written by acclaimed playwrights such as **Vijay Tendulkar**, **Deshpande featured in several Marathi and Hindi films and TV serials.**

Eminent journalist KK Katyal passes away

i. Well-known journalist **KK Katyal** passed away after a brief illness. He was 89 year old.

ii. The journalist had worked with various newspapers that includes **The Statesman**,

Hindustan Times, The Hindu and United States Information Services where he had joined just after Emergency and retired as Associate Editor in 2004.

iii. He also had worked towards improving **Indo-Pak ties and** after his retirement in 2004.

iv. Katyal was awarded the **GK Reddy Memorial prize** in 1994.

Father of modern Nepali music Ambar Gurung passes away

i. Veteran musician and Nepal's national anthem composer **Ambar Gurung** has **passed away**. He was 79 year old and was suffering from diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

ii. He was known as **father of modern Nepali music** composer who had composed Nepal's National Anthem *Sayaun Thunga Fulka Hami* and more than a 1,000 songs in his six decade career.

iii. Besides he had authored three books of lyrics and memoirs viz. *Samaalera Raakha* (1969), *Akcharkaa Awajharu* (2003) and an anthology of essays and memoirs, *Kahaa Gae Ti Dinharu* (2006).

Chess Grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi dies

i. **Russian** chess master **Viktor Korchnoi** regarded as one the greatest chess players, passed away in, Switzerland. He was 85 year old.

Viktor Korchnoi:

♦ In his long chess career he lost the Candidates final to Karpov in 1974, who was adjudged as the **world champion in 1975** when Bobby Fischer refused to defend his title.

♦ He bagged four USSR chess champion, also a five-time member of Soviet teams that won the **European championship, and a six-time member of Soviet teams that won the Chess Olympiad.**

♦ In 2006 he clinched the **World Senior Chess Championship.**

Former Kerala Assembly Speaker T S John passed away

i. Former minister, speaker and Kerala **Congress (Secular) Party leader T S John** has breathed his last at a private hospital at Chertala in Alapuzha Kerala. He was 76 year old.

ii. John was founder member of Kerala Congress, he represented **Kallooppara constituency in the State Assembly** four times. He served as the **Speaker** for one year period during **1976-77.**

iii. He was the Civil Supplies minister in A K Antony **cabinet in 1978.** He held the same portfolio in the succeeding ministry later.

Madhya Pradesh BJP MLA Rajendra dadu dies in car accident

- i. The BJP MLA **Rajendra Dadu** passed away in a road accident in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district on his way to Bhopal to attend the **BJP's legislature party meeting**. He died on the spot. He was 53 year old.
- ii. He represented from **Nepanagar assembly** constituency in Burhanpur district for a second time.

Canadian ice hockey legend Gordie Howe dies at 88

- i. Canadian hockey star **Gordie Howe** has passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 88 years old. Howe is considered one of the **greatest ice hockey players** of all time.
- ii. He was well known for his nickname Mr. Hockey, and an ironman in many respects both on and off the game. He **retired in 1971** and was inducted into the **Hockey Hall of Fame** in Toronto in 1972
- iii. Howe maintained in the **top 10 of scorers for 21 successive years** and was named Most Valuable Player six times. He was also the inaugural recipient of the **NHL Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008**.

Karnataka Bank former chairman MS Krishna Bhat passes away

- i. The former Chairman of **Karnataka Bank** MS **Krishna Bhat** has died in Mangaluru. He was 78. Krishna had joined the bank in 1970, and was elevated to the position of **General Manager in 1989**. He became the Chief General Manager of the bank in 1994.
- ii. Krishna Bhat took over as the **Chairman in 1995**, for a period of two years. This was extended for another three years up to 2000.
- iii. During his tenure as the chairman, the **paid-capital** and owned funds of the Bank increased gone up significantly also registered a growth rate much higher than the **industry growth rate** and Computerization of the operations began.
- iv. The bank also achieved the highest **P1 rating for its certificate** of deposits from **CRISIL**.

Veteran journalist Inder Malhotra passes away

- i. Veteran journalist **Inder Malhotra** passed away in Delhi after a brief illness. He was 86. He was known as one of the doyens of **political journalism** who witnessed India from Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi.
- ii. Chandigarh hailed **Malhotra** began his career in journalism at **United Press of India** after graduating from Punjab University.
- iii. He also worked with **the Statesman**, the **Times of India** and the **Guardian** and as Indian Express columnist. He was also a Nehru Fellow and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.
- iv. He was awarded the **Ramnath Goenka Lifetime Achievement award** in 2013.

v. Malhotra has penned several books which includes **Indira Gandhi: A Personal & Political Biography** (1989) and **Dynasties of India and Beyond** (2003).

Veteran theatre personality Achyut Lahkar passes away

- i. Veteran **Actor Achyut Lahkar** has breathed his last at his resident, Pathsala in **Barpeta district of Assam**. He was 85 years old.
- ii. He hailed from Pathsala, Lahkar was well-known for **Nataraj Theatre** in 1963 and gave a rebirth to moving theatre **in Assam**.
- iii. He is not only Actor, he was also a producer, writer, director of his theatre company, Lahkar toured across Assam and many other states to perform plays in his four decades long career.
- iv. Famous Dramas that he appeared include -Black Money, Usha, Sankardev and Doctor Babu. He also published and edited a magazine '**Deepawali**' and was conferred the **Kamal Kumari National Award** in 1997.

Donald Carr, former England Cricket captain, dies aged 89

- i. Former England captain and Derbyshire batsman, **Donald Carr** has passed away, **at the age of 89**. Beside Donald Carr was also one of the most prominent administrators of the post-war era.
- ii. In a first-class career that spanned two decades upto 1968, Carr **scored 20,000 runs** and claimed 328 wickets with his left-arm spin for Oxford University, **Derbyshire and England side**.
- iii. He retired from cricket in 1986. Also Carr was named as **Wisden Cricketer of the Year** in 1960. He also served as the secretary of the **Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB)** and the Cricket Council.

Renowned Hindi writer Mudrarakshas passes away

- i. **Renowned Hindi novelist** and critique **Mudrarakshas** passed away after a prolonged illness in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. He was 82.
- ii. The Lucknow hailed Mudrarakshas' original name was **Subhash Chandra**, who penned novels and other forms of Hindi prose besides producing literature for children with his pen name.
- iii. He graduated from Lucknow University and later worked as as **Assistant Editor** of Hindi Journal Gyanodaya, that was published from Calcutta from 1955 to 1958.
- iv. The well-known artist edited Hindi journal **Anuvarta** and was also associated with **All India Radio**.

Assam Pradesh Congress President Anjan Dutta passes away

- i. President of the **Assam Pradesh Congress Committee** (APCC) **Anjan Dutta** has died following cardiac failure at AIIMS in New Delhi. He was 64 years old.
- ii. Dutta hailed from Assam and was a **three times MLA** from the **Amguri Constituency**. He also served as the Minister and the Member of the State Legislative Assembly.
- iii. He had served as the chairman of the **North East Youth Congress Co-ordination Committee** and a member of the Assam Agricultural University as well as served in several important positions like the state's **transport minister**.

Famous TV actress Ann Morgan Guilbert dies

- i. Eminent Television Actress **Ann Morgan Guilbert** has passed away after a long battle with cancer at the age of 87.
- ii. She was best known for her **five-season run on classic** sitcom **Dick Van Dyke Show** on which she played Millie Helper, the neighbour and best friend of Laura Petrie, played by **Mary Tyler Moore**.
- iii. Guilbert started her TV career **in the 1960s**, appearing on popular programmes such as **I Dream of Jeannie, My Three Sons, The Alfred Hitchcock Hour** and many others.

Veteran Odia actress Manimala Devi passes away

- i. Veteran Odia film actress Manimala Devi passed away after prolonged illness in at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. She was 86 year old.
- ii. The Odisha hailed actress began her career as a child artiste in Annapurna Group B and went on to perform in at **least 100 plays**.
- iii. In her long and illustrious career she starred over 40 feature films of which 14 films have bagged the national award, including her debut film **Sri Loknath**.
- iv. She was honoured with the prestigious **Jayadev Purashkar** which is the state's highest cine award in 2000.

Former Maharashtra DGP Suryakant Jog passes away

- i. Erstwhile Maharashtra Director General of Police **Suryakant Jog** passed away in Mumbai. He was 90 year old. He served as the **DGP of the state from 1985 to 1987**.
- ii. Jog who joined the IPS service in 1953, after leaving from service in 1987, started **aresidential school in Chikhaldara in Vidarbha**.
- iii. Jog implemented some of the projects which include collecting rainwater drained from the narrow village roads, construction of small **bunds in Amravati**.

Prominent educationalist Jeppiaar passes away

- i. Well known politician turned educationist **Jeppiaar** passed away after he complained for

chest congestion in Chennai. He was 85-year-old. He was a founder of Jeppiaar Educational Trust.

ii. Jesadimai Pangiraj, better known as Jeppiaar, was born in Muttom near Nagercoil. Early in his life he was a policeman and rose up the ranks in the State politics.

iii. He was the secretary of the Chennai district during **AIADMK regime** from **1972 to 1987**, he was also a special envoy to the Chief Minister.

iv. He graduated in law from **Madras University**, MA from Mysore University and a Doctorate from Anna University in **Water Resource Management**.

Renowned telengana poet and lyricist Guda Anjaiah passes away

i. Eminent Telangana poet and lyricist **Guda Anjaiah** has passed away following a brief illness at his residence in Ragannagudem, Telangana. He was 61 year old.

ii. Anjaiah played a vital role in **Telangana movement**, penning several songs that also found their way into films.

iii. His novel Polimera described the dark days of 1975 Emergency. Anjanna was also well known for his songs Ooru manadi that was **translated into multiple languages**.

Pioneer of Indian quizzing Neil O'Brien died

i. Former Lok Sabha and West Bengal Assembly member Neil O'Brien has passed away in Kolkata on 24 June 2016. He was 82 year old.

ii. Neil O'Brien was nominated three-time from Anglo-Indian MLA in West Bengal and an educationist.

iii. He also served as the chairman of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and managing director of Oxford University Press, India.

Noted Malayalam theatre artist Kavalam Narayana Panicker passes away

i. Theatre Artist **Kavalam Narayana Panicker** passed away due to age related ailments at his residence in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He was 88 year old.

ii. Narayana started his career as a **lawyer in 1955** also successfully blended the classical tradition and folk elements in the format of contemporary theatre.

iii. The kerala hailed veteran has received degree **in Economics from S D College**, Alappuzha and later a Bachelor of Law degree from Madras Law College.

iv. Kavalam served as secretary of the **Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy in the 1960s**, was accorded with **Padma Bhushan**.

Naga Insurgent Leader Isak Chishi Swu passes away

i. The Naga militant leader **Isak Chishi Swu** has died following multi-organ failure at a private hospital in south Delhi, where he breathed his last. He was 87-year-old

- ii. The Chairman of Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) who led a bloody insurgency in the Northeast for over **three decades** had been undergoing treatment.
- iii. Isak Swu alongside NSCN-IM general secretary **Thuingaleng Muivah** made the **group in 1980** opposing the Shillong Accord signed by the then **Naga National Council (NNC)** with the Centre for bringing peace in Nagaland.

Founder of Titan, Xerxes Sapur Desai has passed away

- i. The **founder of Titan** Co Ltd, **Xerxes Sapur Desai**, **has passed away** following acute gastroenteritis in **Bengaluru**. He was 79 year old.
- ii. He had played a key role in announcing **India to its first quartz watch when** he set up Titan Co. Ltd (part of Tata Sons), after lasting years of resistance from state-**owned HMT Watches in the late 80s**.
- iii. Desai graduated in Oxford University who had joined Tata Administrative Service (TAS) in 1961. He also worked with Tata Press, Tata Chemicals and Taj Hotels **before setting up Titan in 1986**.

Renowned artist K.G. Subramanyan dies at 92

Renowned artist **K.G. Subramanyan**, credited with being one of the pioneers of Indian modern art, passed away in Vadodara, Gujarat following a brief illness. He was 92. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2012.

Facts about K G Subramanyan :

- i. Renowned artist **K.G. Subramanyan** dies at 92 Born as Kalpathi Ganpathi Subramanyan in 1924 in a village in Kerala. He studied economics at Presidency College, Madras and was actively involved in the Indian freedom struggle.
- ii. The turning point of his life, as an artist, came when he visited Santiniketan to study in Kala Bhavan, the art faculty of Visva Bharati University. Here he got mentors as Nandalal Bose, Benode Behari Mukherjee and Ramkinkar Baij.
- iii. In 1951 he became a lecturer at the Faculty of Fine Arts in M.S. University in Baroda. He was famous for his terracotta murals, glass paintings, illustrated children's books, works on canvas that drew upon myth, memory and tradition, sculptures and drawings.

Awards and Honours: Padma Vibhushan (2012), Padma Bhushan (2006) and Padma Shri (1975)

BOOKS & AUTHORS

PM releases book titled "The Birds of Banni Grassland"

- i. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a book named **The Birds of Banni Grassland** in New Delhi. The book, which was presented to the Prime Minister by the Scientists of Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE).
- ii. The Book is accumulation of the research work, concerning to more **than 250 species of birds found** in the Banni area of Kutch, Gujarat.
- iii. The GUIDE institute is located at Bhuj, has been studying the plant, bird and marine life in the Rann of Kutch for over 15 years.

A Life in Diplomacy authored by MK Rasgotra

- i. The book titled **A Life in Diplomacy** was in news that was written by former Indian diplomat **Maharajakrishna Rasgotra**.
- ii. The book figure outs insider's account of the personalities and policies that shaped Indian diplomacy and a ringside view of the beginnings of ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, the last years of the Cold War, the negotiations on the formation of SAARC, Indira Gandhi's **assassination and the Bhopal gas disaster**.

Maharajakrishna Rasgotra:

- ♦ Rasgotra joined the Indian Foreign **Service in 1949 and** rose up to the rank of Foreign Secretary. He was a Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board **between 2005 and 2007**.

President of India to receive first copy of book 'The Education President'

- i. The President **Pranab Mukherjee** received the first copy of a book **The Education President** from Vice President, Mohammad Hamid Ansari at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi

The Education President

- ♦ The book published by the International Institute for Higher Education Research & Capacity Building, OP Jindal Global University.
- ♦ The book highpoints President Mukherjee's involvement to the field of higher education as Visitor to 116 institutions of **higher learning in India**.

Shri Piyush Goyal Releases Book 'The World in 2050- Striving for a more just, Prosperous and Harmonious Global Community'

- i. Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal released book titled **The World in 2050- Striving for a More Just, Prosperous and Harmonious Global Community** penned by **Harinder S. Kohli**.

- ii. This book penned in such a manner that makes relevant and extremely important for all of us to reflect on. The Minister also discussed various key issues raised in the book at the event.
- iii. The Minister urged the burden of aging people by **2050** and emphasized that to save India from such problems, we need to focus on skill development and entrepreneurship skills.

The Unseen Indira Gandhi authored by Dr KP Mathur released

- i. A new book titled **The Unseen Indira Gandhi authored by Dr KP Mathur** was in the news as this was released this month. The Book was published by **Konark Publishers**.
- ii. The book also talks about several milestone moments in Indira's life, the Bangladesh **War of 1971**, Pokhran Nuclear tests of 1974, imposition of Emergency, death of Sanjay Gandhi and circumstances in Maneka's walk out of the family.
- iii. The book also covers former PM's relations with foreign counterparts including Margaret Thatcher who was former PM of the United Kingdom.
- iv. KP Mathur was personal physician of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for nearly two decades till her **assassination in 1984**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Milk Day observed globally June 1

- i. World Milk Day being observed by the people all over the world on **1st June every year focusing** to publicize the activities related to the milk and milk industries all through the world.
- ii. This celebration has been nationalized by organizing celebration related activities on national and international level and the day was **initiated in 2001 by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization**.
- iii. This celebration is to increase the public awareness about the importance of milk and milk products for everyone **throughout the whole life**.

Milk: Cow milk contains **22% to 29%** of the daily suggested **intake of calcium**.

Global Day of Parents – June 1

- i. The Global Day of Parents is observed on the **1st of June every year** for their selfless binder to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.
- ii. The Day was announced by the UN General **Assembly in 2012** and honours parents all

over the world.

iii. The Assembly also observed that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children.

iv. The resolution calls for a harmonious development of **their personality**. It says that children should be grown in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, **love and understanding**.

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression – June 4

- i. The International Day of **Innocent Children Victims of Aggression** was commemorated across the world on 4 June every year. The day was established in **1982**.
- ii. The Intention of the day is to acknowledge the pain ached by children all over the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day upholds the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children.
- iii. Child abuse is one of the crucial spotlight of global attention and **the UN is working hard to help protect children around the globe**.

World Environment Day

- i. World Environment Day is celebrated annually **on June 5** to educate global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth, which this year focuses on the **illegal trade of wildlife**.
- ii. **The Theme 2016: Go Wild for Life** (Zero Tolerance for the Illegal Wildlife Trade).
- iii. **Hosting country: Angola** is host nation for this year. The nation seeking to restore **its elephant herds**.
- iv. The day was coined by the **United Nations General Assembly** in 1976 on the first day of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

World Environment Day Tiger Express flagged off

- ♦ Union Rail Minister **Suresh Prabhu** flagged off **Tiger Trail Circuit Train** from Delhi's Safdarjung Station through video conferencing between Delhi and Mumbai.
- ♦ **Tiger Express** was launched on the eve of **World Environment Day** to mark the significance of environment in our lives.
- ♦ The Tiger Express has been launched with the aims to create awareness about our national animal tiger. It is one of the best innovative **tourism product** ever launched by Indian Railways.

World Oceans Day – June 8

- i. World Oceans Day has been celebrated every year **on 8 June** to remind everyone of the major role the oceans have in everyday life and to educate the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean.

- ii. The day was witnessed **since 1992 by** Canada at the Earth Summit in **Rio de Janeiro**, Brazil. It was officially recognized by the United Nations in late 2008.
- iii. The theme for this year 2016 is **Healthy oceans, healthy planet**, and UN is making a special work to stop plastic pollution. Oceans are also providing most of the **oxygen we breath**.

World Day against Child Labour – June 12

- i. The **World Day against Child Labour** is observed every year **on June 12**, is projected to foster the worldwide movement against child labour across all the forms.
- ii. The Day against was launched **Child Labour in 2002** in order to bring attention and join efforts to fight against child labour.
- iii. This year-2016 theme is **End child labour in supply chains – It's everyone's business**.
- iv. This year, the focus is on child labour and supply chains. With **168 million children still in child labour**, across the supply chains, from agriculture to manufacturing, services to construction.

International Albinism Awareness Day – June 13

- i. **Albinism Awareness Day** is an annual **United Nations observance** held **on June 13**.
- ii. The day is witnessed in raising public awareness of albinism and preventing attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism.
- iii. The day was adopted by the **UN General Assembly in 2014**.

Albinism

It is type of congenital disorder characterised by the partial or complete **absence of the pigment melanin** in the skin, hair, and eyes which makes the skin more susceptible to sunburn and **skin cancers**.

World Blood Donor day – June 14

- i. World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on **June 14** to raise awareness of the problem and thank donors worldwide.
- ii. World Blood Donor Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the **World Health Organization** (WHO).
- iii. The theme of this year is **Blood connects us all**. The theme focuses on **thanking blood donors**.
- iv. The Day falls on the birthday of Austrian biologist **Karl Landsteiner** as he created the **ABO blood group system**, which is still used today to protection and safety of **blood transfusions**.

World elder abuse awareness day June 15, 2016

- i. The United Nations has titled **June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** that aims to focus global attention on the problem of physical, emotional, and financial abuse of elders.
- ii. It also seeks to understand the challenges and **opportunities presented by an ageing population**, and brings together senior citizens, and their caregivers to share thoughts about how best to reduce incidents of violence towards elders, increase reporting of such abuse, and to develop elder friendly policies.

International Day of Family Remittances – June 16

- i. The **International Day of Family Remittances** is observed annually on June 16 to recognise the contribution of migrant workers to their families and communities back home, and to the **sustainable development of their countries of origin**
- ii. Over **250 million international migrant's** globally residing outside the country they call home. People have always been on the move, in search of better opportunities for themselves and their families.

June 17: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- i. The World Day to **Combat Desertification and Drought** is a United Nations observance each June 17 to mark the urgent need to curb the desertification process.
- ii. The day witnessed to strengthen the visibility of the dry lands issue on the international environmental agenda. This day was coined **in 1995 by the United Nations** General Assembly resolution
- iii. This year the day is observed with the Theme: **Inclusive cooperation for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality.**

This year the day also has UN designated Slogan: **Protect Earth. Restore Land. Engage People.**

June 19: International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

- i. International Day for the **Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict** is observed on June 19 annually to raise awareness of the need to put an end to **conflict-related sexual violence**,
- ii. The day is witnessed to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and to pay tribute to all those who lost their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.
- iii. The date was coined on 19 June **2015 by the United Nations General Assembly.**

World Refugee Day – June 20

- i. The United Nations' **World Refugee Day** is observed on **June 20 annually** to honor the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence.
- ii. The Day has been coined on 20 June, ever since the **UN General Assembly, on 4 December 2000**. Millions of people across the world, led by artists, musicians and event chiefs, are involving in a series of celebratory events

International Yoga Day – June 21

International Day of Yoga or Yoga Day is being celebrated on **21st June** of every year and it has been celebrated annually from 2015. The Day for was declared by the **United Nations General Assembly** on December 11, 2014.

Prime Minister of India proposed the date of **June 21st** which is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and **shared the views of the importance** of the Yoga around the world.

Definition of Yoga: Yoga is a physical, mental, and/ or spiritual practice accredited mostly to India

Focus: Promotion of global health, Harmony and Peace

Aim: Encouraging the practice of Yoga & Meditation, creating awareness about Yoga & its benefits and taking up it in one's day-to-day habits

Prime Minister headed second International Yoga Day in Chandigarh with 30000 participants

- **Prime Minister along with 30,000 participants** have joined to celebrate Second International Yoga Day on June 21st in order to treat diseases like Diabetes and Hypertension through the Yoga
- **Participants:** Prime Minister, Defence Force Personnel, School children and other participants from all ages from **Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana**
- **Venue:** Chandigarh
- Prime Minister and the participants performed various **Yoga 'asanas'** in a mass demonstration of '**Common Yoga Protocol**'
- Prime Minister urged the participants to **practice the Yoga in controlling the diabetes** and he suggested starting campaign to **create the awareness about Yoga**

- Expressing the benefits of Yoga, he stressed that Yoga is helping to get rid of diabetes and also helps it **guarantees wellness**

President of India inaugurated 2nd International Yoga Day celebrations in Rashtrapati Bhavan

- The 2nd International Yoga Day is being celebrated in **Rashtrapati Bhavan along with 1000 participants**.
- Participants:** President, Secretariat officers and personnel, their family members, members of Delhi Police, ITBP and scholars from IITs, IISERs and IISc Bengaluru
- Organised by:** Rashtrapathi Bhawan collaboration with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga
- They performed Yoga 'Asanas' as per **Common protocol** decided by **Ministry of AYUSH**

Countries around World celebrated 2nd International Yoga Day

- International Yoga Day is being observed by **193 countries** around the World to mark day with full enthusiasm.
- Venue:** Times Square in New York
- Over **1000 people participated** to mark a day which has become a global festival
- About **8.7 percent of United States citizen** keeping Yoga as habit as per **Yoga Journal Study** and about **20 Million Americans** Practice Yoga
- Indian missions present in the world are observing the events at **Indian High Commissions and Embassies**
- Indian Peacekeepers implemented **13 missions** around the world also participated in the events.
- 35 foreign missions** participated in the Main yoga event in Chankyapuri, New Delhi, India
- At the US embassy**, American ambassador to India **Richard Verma** took part in the yoga day event.

Isha Founder Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev headed Yoga session at UN on 2nd International Yoga Day

- Spiritual leader and Isha foundation founder **Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev** headed a yoga event at the **UN** on the event of the 2nd International Yoga Day

- **Theme:** Yoga for the sustainable Development Goals
- India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations stated earlier that Sadhguru would lead the yoga event at the United Nations headquarter
- United Nations building was lighted up with **Parvatasana** on occasion of International Yoga Day

Union Ministry of AYUSH released Yog Geet for 2016 International Yoga Day

- The AYUSH Ministry released a **Yog Geet** in association with the celebration of the 2nd International Day of Yoga
- **Duration:** 3 Min 15 Seconds
- **Language:** Hindi
- **Written and Produced by:** Deeraj Sarawat
- **Sung By:** Gandhar TD Jadhav and Gatha Jadhav
- **Composed by:** Sumanto Ray
- The Yog Geet song was chosen vide a national level competition conducted by the AYUSH Ministry from 1000 entries

Union Human Resource Development Minister gave away prizes to winners of '1st Yoga Olympiad'

- Union HRD Minister **Smriti Zubin Irani** delivered the **1st Yoga Olympiad prizes** to winners in New Delhi
- The Minister thanked and expressed the benefits of Yoga. And she announced that **Yoga departments** be revamped in **6 Central Universities**.
- A total of 322 students and their 80 teachers from 21 states/UTs were participated in the Yoga Olympiad Performance. In the four categories, a total number of **48 participants, 4 each for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were selected.**

Haryana's Faridabad made a world record by gathering One Lakh Participants in International Day of Yoga Celebration

- About One Lakh participants being participated in Haryana's Faridabad to mark the International Day of Yoga setting a new world record
- **Delegates:** Yoga Guru **Ramdev**, BJP President **Amit Shah** and Union Minister **Krishnan pal**

- BJP President stated that enthusiasm delivered by the people towards Yoga marked the victory of the Campaign **to promote the Yoga**
- With the initiatives of Prime Minister People in **170 countries have adopted Yoga** as a part of their lives and International Yoga Day is being celebrated in 193 countries

Gujarat State made a New Guinness Book Record by practicing yoga with more than 1600 pregnant women

- About 1632 pregnant women were participated in **Gujarat's Rajkot city** and made a new Guinness Book record by practicing Yoga in the event of International Yoga Day
- **Venue:** Rajkot, Gujarat
- Earlier, the record was made by **China**, where more than **900 pregnant women** had taken part in the yoga practice.

India's first Yoga Out Patient Department inaugurated in Jaipur

- Rajasthan Chief Minister **Vasundhara Raje launched the State's first Outpatient and research centre for Yoga** at Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur on occasion of the International Day of Yoga
- **Venue:** Jaipur, Rajasthan
- **Inaugurated by:** Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje
- Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN) runs yoga OPDs in government hospitals in **New Delhi**

PM Modi announces International Yoga Award and National Yoga Award

- PM announced **two yoga awards**, one international and another one national that are to be given away on the occasion of International Yoga Day.
- One will be for **excellent contribution in the field of yoga** internationally and the other for excellent contribution to yoga in the country.
- A special committee will formulate the rules and decide the jury.

World Hydrography Day- June 21

- World Hydrographic Day was celebrated worldwide annually on **21 June** to publicise the work of **hydrographs** and the importance of it that has been celebrated since 2005.
- This year the day is observed with Theme: **"Hydrography – the key to well-**

managed seas and waterways to highlight the fundamental importance of hydrography. The day was adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization.

United Nations Public Service Day & International Widows' Day – June 23

International Widows' Day

♦ The **International Widow's Day 2016** was celebrated across the world on 23 to make awareness on the troubles of widowed women in many countries. It was officially recognised by the **United Nations in 2010**.

United Nations Public Service Day

♦ The UN Public Service Day is celebrated to esteem the value and virtue of public service to the community and to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process in the public sector.

♦ This is the first time that the Day is observed after the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all **United Nations Member States**.

International Olympic Day – June 23

- i. The **International Olympic Day** was celebrated **on 23 June** annually to witness the occasion, over 160 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and sports organizations.
- ii. The day was formally established **on 23 June 1894** and on behalf it series of events to spread Olympic values and encourage people to get involved in sports and lead more active lives has been observed.
- iii. The day is celebrated for **promotion of participation** of societies in the sports all across the world, irrespective of athletic, gender or age ability.
- iv. The Day was initiated for commemorating the commencement of modern Olympic Games on 23 June 1894 at **Sorbonne in Paris**.

Day of the Seafarer June – 25

- i. The **Seafarer Day** is observed on June 25 to recognize that almost everything that we use in our daily lives has been directly or indirectly **affected by sea transport**.
- ii. The day marks seafarers for their contribution to the world economy **and the civil society** and for the risks and personal costs they bear while on their jobs.
- iii. The campaign theme this year is: **At Sea For All** which emphasizing that seafarers serve at sea not just for the shipping industry or for their own career purposes but for all of us.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – June 26

- i. International Day against **Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** is observed every **on June 26 annually since 1987** to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal

of an international society free of drug abuse.

- ii. This year 2016 the day is observed is: **Listen First** focusses to increase support for prevention of drug use that is based on science and is thus an effective investment in the well-being of children and youth, their families and their communities.
- iii. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has teamed up with other organizations, over the years, been actively involved in launching campaigns to mobilize **support for drug control**.

United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – June 26

- i. The **UN International Day in support of Victims of Torture** is **observed every year on 26 June** to speak out against the crime of torture and to honor and support victims and survivors across the world.
- ii. The day marks as a reminder to people that torture is a crime. This event also gives everyone a chance to unite and voice their opinions **against human torture**.
- iii. In 1997 **UN General Assembly proclaimed** the Day this year it marks the **35th anniversary** of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, administered by the UN Human Rights Office in Geneva.

National Statistics Day – June 29

- i. The National Statistics Day, celebrated every year on **June 29** to mark the birth anniversary of renowned statistician **Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis**.
 - ii. The theme of 10th National Statistics Day is **Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.
 - iii. Celebration of National Statistics Day is organised by the Ministry of Statistics Programme Implementation at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- ♦ World Statistics Day – **October 10**

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