

Inside Highlights



Urjit Patel appointed as new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.



Benefits of Goods & Service Taxes (GST) ONE NATION, ONE MARKET



Current Affairs for Competitive Exam

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

Bihar lifts ban on toddy sale, consumption

- i. Bihar government-led by Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** has lifted the **Ban on the toddy** (palm wine) consumption and selling in the state.
- ii. The Rashtriya Janata Dal Party which is alliance with Janata Dal were not in favor of the ban when the state imposed a total liquor ban and the sale of 'toddy in April this year.

NEET Exam gets constitutional status – Lok Shaba passes bills favoring it status

Lok Shaba has passed **two bills favoring the National Eligibility cum Entrance Exam (NEET)** examination, for its **constitutional status** as promulgated by the government of India, which is to be mandated from next academic year.

Passing Bill in Lok Shaba:-

- The Rajya Sabha passed the **Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016, and the Dentist (Amendment) Bill, 2016**, seeking to **amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the Dentist Act, 1948**.
- The bills were passed by Lok Sabha on 19 July and aim to bring private colleges under the ambit of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill and Dentist (Amendment) Bill. These **two bills assign constitutional status to the NEET examination**.
- The bill aims to end the multiplicity of medical examinations and pave the way for fair and transparent examinations.

Lok Sabha passes bill amendments for the fast track recovery of bad debts

In the evolving financial sector, Government leaped into the next step for collecting the bad debts and bad loans by passing two key bill amendments in the Lok Shaba namely Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, and the debt recovery tribunal (DRT) Act.

What is SARFAESI Act?

1. Under this act secured creditors (banks or financial institutions) have much right for enforcement of security interest under **section 13 of SARFAESI Act, 2002**.
2. The **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** aka sarfaesi act is an Indian law, which **allows banks and other financial institution to auction residential or commercial properties to recover loans**. The first asset reconstruction company (ARC) of India, ARCIL, was set up under this act.
3. If borrower of financial assistance makes any default in repayment of loan or any installment and his account is classified as Non performing Asset by secured creditor,

then secured creditor may require before expiry of period of limitation by written notice to the borrower for **repayment of due in full within 60 days** by clearly stating amount due and intention for enforcement.

4. Where he does not discharge dues in full within 60 days, **then without intervention of any court or tribunal** Secured creditor may take possession of secured asset, or take over management of business of borrower or appoint manager for secured asset or without taking any of this action may also proceed against guarantor or sell the pledged asset.

Lok Shaba passes The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016 for the betterment of transgender

Lok Shaba introduced The **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016** which attempts to define a transgender person and also to prohibit the discrimination against the transgender.

The bill introduced in the Lok shaba deals with the following in order to empower the transgender population

- 1.To **define** a transgender person;
- 2.To **prohibit discrimination** against transgender person;
- 3.To confer right upon transgender person to be **recognized as such**, and a right to self-perceived gender identity;
- 4.To issue of certificate of **identity to transgender persons**;
- 5.To provide that no establishment shall discriminate against transgender person in matters relating to employment, recruitment, promotion and other related issues;
- 6.To provide for grievance redressed mechanism in each establishment;
- 7.To **establishment of a National Council for Transgender**;
- 8.To punishment for contraventions of the provisions of the Bill.

Lok Shaba passes National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016 for setting up NIT

Lok shaba passed **The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016** to establish the renowned National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Andhra Pradesh.

- i. With an initial funding of Rs **40 crore**, this bill seeks to establish an NIT in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh as like sanctioned in the 2016-17 budget,
- ii. This institute has begun operating from a rented space with **900 students, but now 140-acre area** has been earmarked for the NIT's establishment and this move is to fulfill a promise made to the people of Andhra Pradesh by establishing an NIT in the AP.
- iii. The **National Institute of Technology Andhra Pradesh** is the 31st institution among the

chain of National Institutes of Technology started by the Government of India and is situated at Tadepalligudem, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh State.

Bihar enacts Draconian Excise and Prohibition Bill, 2016 to restrict Alcohol Usage

A rigorous Bihar Excise and Prohibition Bill, 2016, was passed in the **state Assembly of Bihar** by voice vote amidst boycott by Opposition over the state government’s rejection of their proposals in the over **three hour-long debate on the legislation on August 1**.

i. Prohibition on the manufacture, sale, storage and consumption of alcohol was imposed in Bihar earlier in 2016, by amending the **Bihar Excise Act, 1915**. **The Bill replaces the 1915 Act and the Bihar Prohibition Act, 1938**.

ii. The Bill outlines the following process to be followed in case an offence is committed:

◆ If a person is found to have committed any offence under the Bill (such as consumption, storage or possession of alcohol), any authorized person (such as the District Collector, Excise Officer, and Superintendent of Police) may take action against the offender.

◆ The Bill allows an authorized person to arrest the offender without a warrant. **Alcohol, any material or conveyance mode used for the offence may be confiscated or destroyed by the authorized person.**

Being a Forerunner, Odisha Govt. allows Transgender people to be a part of their Prison Warden posts

The Odisha government has initiated the process of **recruiting transgender people as prison wardens** in order to impart a social boom in their abandoned life style.

i. In accordance with a Supreme Court directive on transgender, the Odisha government has decided to recruit them as jail warders following the **Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC)**.

ii. As per the Directorate of Prison guidelines, transgender community members can apply for **185 warders posts in jails**.

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation Organizing One Month Campaign for “Freedom from Open Defecation”

A month-long Swachh Bharat special campaign with the theme of **“Freedom from Open Defecation”** is being organized by The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (Cabinet Minister – Narendra Singh Tomar) throughout this August.

August Campaign:-

In the month of August, totally 8 days have been dedicated to the swachh bharat campaign in order to demote the open defecation prevalence in India. The complete program as follows: -

August 1	Launch of its newsletter “Swachhta Samachar” and an ‘Ask Me Anything’ (AMA) campaign on social media (twitter.com/swachhbharat).
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August 5	National Media Interaction on Swachh Bharat Mission to sensitize Media on SBM content and the countrywide efforts being made to make it a success. Also aimed at seeking their feedback.
August 11	Launch of 5 SBM movies by the Minister, MDWS, that highlight the impact of SBM on the ground through the stories of grass roots citizen champions
August 11	A 'Chai Pe Charcha' between the Minister, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, and selected Champion Collectors for Swachh Bharat Mission
August 14/16	States and Districts to hold mass mobilization events – rallies, runs, human chains, candle march involving ODF champions, opinion leaders, youth, women, children / Special Independence Day events and special events to be organized at district-levels, and Taluka/Block levels to honor local Sanitation Champions
August 20	Mass event in Allahabad with 1651 Gram Pradhans and associated Pramukhs to motivate them for making villages along the banks of the river Ganga ODF including heads of 52 Zilla Parishads, District Collectors, all other stakeholders from Centre and the States.
August 24	Release of 'Swachh Survekshan' , a Survey commissioned by the Ministry Narendra Singh Tomar through Quality Council of India to rank the top performing districts of the country based on the NSSO survey and the States.
August 28	MDWS will launch a series on Swachh Bharat nationwide that will run as a weekly show on prime time on Doordarshan .

Arunachal Pradesh CM inducts 10 Cabinet ministers

- i. Arunachal Pradesh's ninth Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** expanded his Cabinet by including **10 ministers**. Upon the move the state governor Tathagata Roy administered the oath of office and secrecy to the newly appointed ministers.
- ii. The inducted ministers are Tanga Byaling, Rajesh Tacho, Nabam Rebia, Honchun Ngandam, Wangki Lowang, Kamlung Mossang, Tapang Taloh, Kumar Waii, Takam Pario and Jomde Kena.

Finally GST finds a way to roll out with a majority endorsement in both the Houses of Parliament

The **Rajya Sabha** passed a bill to amend the Constitution that would facilitate the **traightening of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)** backing the government's assurance that the tax rates would

be kept "as low as possible". It is noted that The Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014 was approved by the Upper House with **203 votes in favor and none against** and a rare affableness was witnessed among the ruling and the opposition parties of the central Government.

Latest Amendment:-

The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley proposed the GST which will enacts that presently **80% of goods attract 12.5% of Central excise duty while at the state level 55% of items are charged with 14.5% VAT or sales tax. The weighted average of the two in 65% of the items comes to 27%**. Adding cess and entry tax takes the figure to 30%

- Then the **President will constitute the GST Council** which will draft the first GST Bill. It will be a recommendatory body with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in the chair and shall include state government nominees and this body will determine the final rate and it is noted that the bill was passed by the Lok Sabha earlier.
- In sum, three enabling laws are required to be passed to give shape to the new tax regime — **Central GST (CGST) and Integrated GST (IGST)** that need to be cleared by Parliament, and 29 State GST legislations (SGST) that will have to be cleared by the respective state assemblies.
- Union government is mulling to roll out the ambitious **GST Bill** from **next fiscal i.e. by April 2017** says Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

GST passed by the following states as on 31st August 2016 :

1.Assam 2.Bihar 3.Jharkhand 4.Himachal Pradesh 5.Chhattisgarh 6.Gujarat 7.Madhya Pradesh 8.Delhi 9.Nagaland 10.Maharashtra 11.Haryana 12.Mizoram 13. Telangana 14.Sikkim 15.Goa

Much Awaited Motor Vehicle Act amendment Bill 2016 clears it ground through the Cabinet approval

On its commitment to reduce the road accidents and fatalities, the Union Cabinet led by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the **Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016**.

Recent Amendment:-

In the present Motor Vehicle Act, there are **223 Sections** out of which the Bill aims to amend 68 sections whereas **Chapter 10 has been deleted and a Chapter 11 is being replaced** with new provisions in order to simplify third party insurance claims and settlement process.

Addition of 28 new sections.

It gives the adjudge to the **State Government to specify a multiplier**, not less than one and not greater than ten, to be applied to each fine under this Act and such modified fine and also to regulate the activities in a public place of pedestrians and such means of transport.

- New **"Vahan" & "Sarathi"** platforms to create National Register for Driving Licence and National Register for Vehicle registration to facilitate uniformity of the process across the country.

The complete list of various penalties to be levied by the new amendment of the Motor Vehicle Act, (amendment), 2016.

Section		Old Provision / Penalty	New Proposed Provision / Minimum Penalties
177	General	Rs 100	Rs 500
New 177A	Rules of road regulation violation	Rs 100	Rs 500
178	Travel without ticket	RS 200	Rs 500
179	Disobedience of orders of authorities	Rs 500	Rs 2000
180	Unauthorized use of vehicles without licence	Rs 1000	Rs 5000
181	Driving without licence	Rs 500	Rs 5000
182	Driving despite disqualification	Rs 500	Rs 10,000
182 B	Oversize vehicles	New	Rs 5000
183	Over speeding	Rs 400	Rs 1000 for LMV Rs 2000 for Medium passenger vehicle
184	Dangerous driving penalty	Rs 1000	Upto Rs 5000
185	Drunken driving	Rs 2000	Rs 10,000
189	Speeding / Racing	Rs 500	Rs 5,000
192 A	Vehicle without permit	upto Rs 5000	Upto Rs 10,000
193	Aggregators (violations of licencing conditions)	New	Rs 25,000 to Rs 1,00,000
194	Overloading	Rs 2000 and Rs 1000 per extra tonne	Rs 20,000 and Rs 2000 per extra tonne
194 A	Overloading of passengers		Rs 1000 per extra passenger
194 B	Seat belt	Rs 100	Rs 1000
194 C	Overloading of two wheelers	Rs 100	Rs 2000, Disqualification for 3 months for licence
194 D	Helmets	Rs 100	Rs 1000 Disqualification for 3 months for licence
194 E	Not providing way for emergency vehicles	New	Rs 10,000
196	Driving Without Insurance	RS 1000	Rs 2000
199	Offences by Juveniles	New	Guardian / owner shall be deemed to be guilty. Rs 25,000 with 3 yrs imprisonment. For Juvenile to be tried under JJ Act. Registration of Motor Vehicle to be cancelled
206	Power of Officers to impound documents		Suspension of driving licenses u/s 183, 184, 185, 189, 190, 194C, 194D,194E
210 B	Offences committed by enforcing authorities		Twice the penalty under the relevant section

Union Cabinet approves amendments in Central List of OBCs applicable to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

i. The Union Cabinet has given nod for making suitable amendments in the **Central List of OBCs to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana** upon recommendations by the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). The amendment done by way of inclusion/correction/deletion of

castes/communities applicable.

ii. The Commission in its series of recommendation **gave 35 changes in respect of Andhra Pradesh** and 86 New Entries in respect of Telangana.

Gujarat HC quashes 10% quota for economically backward classes

- i. Gujarat High Court has **quashed government's ordinance to offer 10 % quota for the economically backward** among upper castes in education and admission.
- ii. The court bench said that no quota can be granted on the basis of economic criteria because it is not provided for in the Constitution.

Odisha opens 100 new multi-purpose calamity shelter units

- i. Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** opened **100 multi-purpose shelter houses** to the people of Odisha for use during natural calamities like floods and cyclones.
- ii. The move by the state government is keeping an eye on the super cyclone in 1999, that devastated the state to the worst crisis.

Goa to implement 7th Pay Commission from Nov 1st

- i. Goa government will implement **the 7 th pay commission** recommendations in the state form **November 1 this year**, Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar has informed in the state Assembly.
- ii. However the arrears from January to October 2016 would be deposited in the employee provident fund (PF) and National Pension System (NPS), and the Goa will issue a notification in this regard during the Ganesh Chaturthi.

Delhi High Court confirms Lt Governor as the Administrator of Delhi NCR, a major setback to Arvind Kejriwal

- i. The Delhi High Court dismissed its set of petitions on the legal brawl with the Centre over control of **administrative issues and distribution of power in Delhi to the Lt Governor**, thereby setting a major prorgue to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi Government.
- ii. The High Court pronounced the verdict on a set of 11 petitions challenging various decisions of the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government and Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung and the **interpretation of Article 239A of the Constitution**.

Esigndesk to assist all the people to represent and utilize the electronic signing feature linked with their Aadhar card

- i. A start-up in the online legal documentation business, **LegalDesk** announced the launch of an electronic signing feature called **eSignDesk**— a platform takes digital signatures to the masses beyond companies and corporates.

ii. Users need to have a registerer mobile number associated with the **Aadhaar card**. The service will be available through the website **www.eSignDesk.com** and will be offered free of charge to the **first 1,000 users**. Documents signed electronically using it will be legally valid in the country.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje laid the foundation of 14 projects worth Rs 2,229 Crore.

i. To make the **Jaipur city as a Wonder City** within next two years, **Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje laid the foundation of 14 projects worth Rs 2,229 Crore.**

ii. She laid the foundation for 14 projects worth Rs. 2,229 crore including Rejuvenation Project of Dravyavati River at Birla Auditorium in Jaipur.

iii. Those 14 projects include,

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Construction of Elevated Road from LIC Building to Sodala, | 8. 200 Bio-Diversity Forest, |
| 2. RoB at Sitapura, Dantli and Jahota, | 9. Silvan Park Phase-2, |
| 3. Engineering Staff Training Institute, | 10. Global Centre of Excellence, |
| 4. Expansion of Bridge near World Trade Park, | 11. Smart Solution Phase-2, |
| 5. Project for Development of 100 parks, | 12. Light House and |
| 6. Kishanbagh Forestry Project, | 13. Shankara Eye Hospital Project. |
| 7. Galtagate Forestry Project, | 14. Rajasthan government has initiated to bring back the lost grandeur of this life line |

Goa Assembly passes Bill to replace Portuguese-era civil code

i. **Goa State Assembly** unanimously passed **Goa Succession, Special Notaries and Inventory Proceeding Bill**, 2012 which will replace the Portuguese-era civil code with regards to property matters and notary laws.

ii. The Bill to consolidate various provisions of succession, inventory in property matters and notaries into one complete, rational and **integrated legislation**. **This** is the first-of-its kind legislation passed.

TN CM Jayalalitha gives cash awards to five sportspersons

i. Tamilnadu Chief **Minister J Jayalalitha** have granted cash prize of **Rs 1.45 crore to five** Sports Persons who has won international Sports honors.

ii. The CM has granted **Rs 25 lakh to Jenitha Anto** of Tiruchirappalli for winning an international chess tournament for the fourth time in Serbia.

iii. The other persons who had received the grant of **Rs 55 lakh to C Ajith Kumar** for winning three medals in the competition including gold in medley relay.

iv. The list also includes **R Naveen** of Chennai who **received Rs 25 lakh** for winning gold in medley relay while Women's medley relay player **L Samayasri** of Coimbatore **and** Triple Jump player **S Priyadarshini** of Chennai **were given Rs 20 lakh each** for winning silver title.

Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated College of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry of Central Agricultural University (CAU) in Nagaland

- i. Union Agriculture Minister **Radha Mohan Singh** has inaugurated College of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry in Peren District of **Nagaland** under Central Agricultural University (CAU) Imphal MP.
- ii. The Veterinary University has established seven colleges in the scope of advancement of human resource and agricultural and allied sciences, during the 12th Five Year Plan.
- iii. In this regard recently Union Cabinet had given its nod for the amendment of **CAU Act, 1992** to take in Nagaland under the jurisdiction of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj going to Address UNGA on September 26

External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** will **address the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** on September 26 in New York.

- i. This year's general debate will open on 20 September and will run through to 26 September. Sushma Swaraj will speak at the **annual high-level debate**.
- ii. It is noted that Pakistan Prime Minister **Nawaz Sharif is also scheduled to address the General Assembly on September 21**.
- iii. For the first time in his reign, Mr. **Narendra Modi will miss** this General Assembly Session.

Himachal to plant 1 Cr saplings to increase green cover

- i. State government of Himachal Pradesh has come up with a target of planting **over one crore saplings** this year to increase green cover in the state. It is the first state to earn carbon credit.
- ii. The state has received from the centre **Rs 1.93 crore** as the first installment for this purpose, which was distributed to self-help groups.
- iii. HP is set raise new plantations over 15,000 hectare area at a cost of Rs 150 crore this year. It set a target of planting one crore saplings on 15,000 hectares of forest land by spending Rs 150 crore.

Parliament clear the way for the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws Amendment Bill, 2016

The Parliament passed a bill to **amend debt recovery laws and make them more time-bound and effective in yet another step to address the problem of rising bad loanson** August 9.

- **It is noted that** The act was amended by "**Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016**", passed by Lok Sabha on 2 August 2016.

Enacting Benefits:-

The bill approved by Lok Sabha and cleared by Rajya Sabha amends four laws — **Sarfaesi Act, DRT Act, Indian Stamp Act and Depositories Act.**

- The bill will pave the way for the sponsor of an **ARC to hold up to 100% stake**. It will also enable non-institutional investors to invest in security receipts issued by ARCs and mandate a timeline for possession of secured assets.
- To be sure, RBI already regulates these entities, but the bill expands the regulator's powers. It also increases the penalty amount that can be levied by **RBI to Rs.1 crore from Rs.5 lakh**.

Lok Shaba passed the Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2016

In **Lok Sabha** Union Labour Minister **Bandaru Dattatreya** proposed and passed the **Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2016**. The Bill amends the Employee's Compensation Act, 1923.

- This amendment** provides for higher compensation in case an employee is **injured in industrial accident and has a provision for hefty penalty in case any violation by the employers.**
- Section 30 of the Employees' Compensation Act 1923** provides for appeal in high courts whenever the disputed amount of compensation is more than Rs 300. The bill seeks to raise this to Rs 10,000 later.
- It is noted that the new legislation provides for payment of **compensation up to Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh** to employees and their dependants in the event of injury by industrial accidents, including occupational diseases.

Lok shaba passes bill to include Nagaland under Central Agricultural University of Imphal

The Central Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 2016 that provides for bringing **the northeastern state of Nagaland under the jurisdiction of Imphal-based Central Agriculture University** in neighboring Manipur was passed by the Lok Sabha.

- The bill in effect seeks to amend the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992, that was enacted for the establishment and incorporation of a university for the northeastern region in order **to promote development and research in agriculture and allied sectors.**
- It is noted that the 1992 Act defines the north eastern region as comprising the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura. The new bill now amends this **definition to include the state of Nagaland.**

Lok Shaba passes Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill and Introduced the Factories (Amendment) Bill

- The Lok Sabha on passed the **Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill** on August 10. This bill will help **unlock value of VSNL land, boost textile and marble sector.**
- Tata Communication shares surged more than 6 per cent to day's high of Rs 485 from day's low

of Rs 446 crore. **Tata has had acquired majority stake in VSNL during the previous NDA regime.**

iii. The Bill was passed in a voice vote after Finance Minister Arun Jaitley explained how the Taxation Laws Bill to amend the Income Tax Act and the Customs Tariff Act will help the **government unlock value from VSNL land bank.**

iv. The amendments in the Customs Tariff Act will give a boost to marble and granite producers as it will pave the way for **hiking customs duty to 40 per cent from 10 per cent on marble and granite blocks, and impose quantitative restrictions and import duty to check dumping from China.**

v. **Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya** introduced **the Factories (Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha.**

KKNPP is dedicated to the people of India by Narendra Modi and Vladimir Putin

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin** dedicated **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project's (KKNPP)** first unit to the country today. Both the leaders, along with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa spoke through video conferencing and jointly inaugurated the Unit-I of the plant.

ii. This nuclear plant collaboration is a highlight of friendship between India and Russia and both countries plan to **build a series of nuclear power plants.**

Lok Sabha passes the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Lok Sabha passed the **Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016.** It creates the way for employers in the textile sector to avail of the income tax benefit on additional employment provided the employee. This applies for the employee who has worked for 150 days and not 240 days as mandated earlier.

i. The bill, which will amend **the Income Tax Act, 1961, and The Customs Tariffs Act, 1975,** seeks to exempt land banks of erstwhile public sector undertakings from levy of capital gains tax when transferred to the government.

ii. This bill provide tax incentives to **the garment sector and enable the government to raise customs duty on marble and granite from 10 to 40%.**

iii. The changes in the Income Tax Act will give effect to the conditions attached to the **transfer of shares by the government.**

Union Cabinet approves Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 to provide six months maternity leave

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its ex-post facto approval for amendments to the **Maternity Benefit Act, 1961** by introducing the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in Parliament

- i. The maternity benefit Act 1961 protects the employment of **women during the time of her maternity and entitles her of a 'maternity benefit' – i.e. full paid absence from work – to take care for her child**. The act is applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more persons. The amendments will help 1.8 million women workforce in organized sector.
- ii. The amendments include increasing maternity leave from **12 weeks to 26 weeks for two surviving children and 12 weeks for more than two children, 12 weeks maternity leave to a 'Commissioning mother' and 'Adopting mother'**.

Union Cabinet approves amendments to Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act

The cabinet gave ex-post facto approval to a proposal to **amend the Lokpal Act to exempt Central government employees sand NGOs executives** from filing details of assets of their spouses and children.

- i. Union cabinet gave its approval for amendments to section 44 and consequential amendments to the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 by introducing the Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in Parliament**.
- ii. As per old Lokpal rules, every public servant will file declaration, information and annual returns pertaining to his assets and liabilities, along with those of spouse and dependent children, as **on March 31 every year on or before 31 July of that year**.

CCEA approves R&D project for development of Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) Technology with 1,554 crore

- i. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its nod for a **proposal of R&D project for development of Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) Technology for thermal power projects** with an estimated cost of **Rs 1,554 crore**.
- ii. The CCEA "approved a proposal of R&D project for development of Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) technology for thermal power plant with an estimated cost of Rs 1,554 crore and providing one time budgetary support of **Rs 900 crore spread over a period of three years**, commencing from 2017-18, to be provided as plan Gross Budgetary Support to Bhel for implementation of the R&D project.

Bihar cabinet nod for tax hike on petrol, diesel

- i. Bihar Cabinet led by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar gave its nod to **increase VAT on petrol and diesel by 1.5 per cent and 1 per cent respectively**.
- ii. Upon this VAT on diesel will go up 19 per cent from 18 per cent and on petrol it will be 26 per cent from 24.5 per cent.
- iii. The cabinet also approved to waive the entertainment tax on a Hindi **documentary Guturgu-guturgu**.

Odisha government to make Aadhar Card mandatory for procurement of paddy & Odisha Govt. implements Odisha Official Language Act, 1954

- i. After Odisha State Cabinet has given nod for the **Odisha Official Language Rules- 2016**, to frame rules for proper implementation of the Odisha Official **Language Act-1954** that came the came to the force with immediate effect. This move comes **after 61 years** .
- ii. In this regard Odisha Governor **S C Jamir had promulgated** the Ordinance as Odisha Official Language (Amendment Act), 2016, which was published in the Odisha Gazette in May this year.
- iii. The cabinet also approved a proposal to set up a unitary **Odia Language and Literature University** in Bhubaneswar.

Nagaland government to grant 33% reservation to women in Urban Local Bodies

Nagaland has announced the decision to conducts polls to **Urban Local Bodies (ULB)** by granting **33% women reservation**. It was announced by the chief Minister **TR Zeliang** on the state level Watershed Conference held in Kohima.

HUPA approves construction of over 37,000 houses for urban poor

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) headed by **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** approved construction of **37,013 houses** for the urban poor in Karnataka and Haryana with central assistance of **Rs 569 crore**.

Total Outlay :

- i. **Rs 1,468 crore** to construct 36,254 houses in Karnataka
- ii. **Rs 23 crore** to construct 759 houses in Haryana

No more Rail Budget – Finance Ministry nods for Suresh Prabhu’s Proposal

From the next fiscal, the **92-year-old practice** of presenting a separate Rail Budget is set to come to an end as the Finance Ministry accepted to Railway Minister **Suresh Prabhu’s** proposal for merging it with the General Budget.

Rail Budget – No more :-

The Finance Ministry has now constituted a **five-member committee comprising senior officials of the Ministry** and the national transporter to work out the modalities for the merger. The committee has been asked to submit its report by August 31.

Assam Assembly passes the Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

- i. Assam Assembly passed the Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016.
- ii. This bill will reduce the service charge of cinema tickets with an aim to **give a fillip to the local film industry but, government raised the entertainment tax on cinema tickets by up to**

ten percentile points.

iii. As per this bill, the government proposed to make service charge Rs 8 per ticket for the halls without air conditioning system and **Rs 12 for the halls with air conditioning system** with back-up generator.

iv. The government also advised to increase the entertainment tax to 20 per cent from 15 per cent at present for entry charges between Rs 5 and Rs 20 per ticket. It is noted that it will be 30 per cent compared to 20 per cent in case the admission charge is more than Rs 20 and there will be **no entertainment tax if the entry charge is Rs 5 or less.**

Marking the 70th Independence Day – August 15, 2016

Wishing you all a **very happy and prosperous Independence Day**. **Independence Day**, is annually observed on 15 August as a national holiday in India commemorating the nation's independence from the **British Empire on 15 August 1947**. Here are few points to remember and some events to note down on the eve of the 70th Independence day of India.

Tiranga March by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

Marking the Independence Day, **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan organized a candle-light "TIRANGA MARCH"** in 100 prominent District Headquarters of several States/ UTs.

- The Department of Youth Affairs will organize a candle-light "Tiranga March" in 100 prominent District Headquarters to celebrate the 70th Indian Independence Day. **The members of youth clubs affiliated with NYKS as well as other youth will participate in the Programmes.**

Colors of Independence – An Innovative Initiative of JCI

A week-long "**Colors of Independence**" campaign has been launched by the **Jute Corporation of India – JCI** marking the 70th Independence Day of India.

- In a step towards promoting national integration and jute awareness, this campaign will provide an opportunity for general public to participate, **from 70 Indian cities** to celebrate 70 years of Independence.
- This campaign is being organized by the Union Ministry of Textiles and all the paintings will be sent to the Ministry after August 15.

Goa celebrates Independence Day with Patolleo – an Indigenous Sweet Dish

"Our Lady of Assumption Church" of the Succoro village, near Panaji in Bardez Taluka celebrated 'Patolleanchem Fest', a unique salute to the **jaggery-based sweet dish called "Patolleo" on the eve of the Independence Day of India.**

- Goa Tourism department has been encouraging this alcohol-free event as a tourist attraction and says the festival is a must visit for all visitors. Goa is the **most colorful**

and vibrant state celebrates this unique festival paying tribute to the dish Patolleo, a Goan sweet made of jaggery and rice is wrapped in a turmeric leaf.

Union Minister launches M Venkaiah Naidu lauched the Special Version Webpage on the mark of 70th Indian Independence Day

I&B Minister **Shri M Venkaiah Naidu** have launched a special web page on the occasion of **Independence Day, 2016**. This webpage is developed by Press Information Bureau and the page is also accessed from PIB's home page.

- The webpage showcases hundreds of archival photographs, audio and video clips, write-ups and features on leaders and events related to the freedom struggle. The webpage will host live webcast of **Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Independence Day Speech from the Red Fort and will also host other speeches delivered by the Prime Minister at events related to these celebrations.**

Independence Day Celebs on Wheels – Goa Tourism organizes Freedom Ride

Goa Tourism presents an exclusive bike rally called '**Freedom Ride**', which held on **15 August 2016**. The Rally will be very enjoyable and give bikers an experience of Goa while exploring its treasures packed with churches, rivers, beaches, temples, villages and much more.

- The experience will be very exclusive as it is not a race but just **an adventure filled ride and the most interesting aspect is the Quiz Competition** that would be held pre-lunch making the trip more exciting.

Independence Day Film Festival unveiled by M Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi

Union Urban Development Minister, **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the **Independence Day Film Festival** in Delhi's Siri Fort Auditorium.

- The festival commenced today and conclude on Aug 18 and **twenty films will be screened** during the seven-day period.
- The festival kick-start with **Richard Attenboroughs Gandhi** and famous movies like '**Sardar**' and a Tamil movie '**Veerapandiyan Kottabomman**' which depicted the lives of Sardar Vallabhbai Patel and an 18th century warrior, Veerapandiyan Kottabomman as capable of inspiring in the people an interest in the history of freedom fighters.
- I&B Ministry has been roped in to play patriotic songs on **All India Radio (AIR)** and **also to air archived audio and video speeches of freedom fighters in short movies on Doordarshan (DD).**

M Venkaiah Naidu Unveils Tiranga Yatra – Indian Independence Day Theme Song

On the eve of 70th Indian Independence Day, Information & Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiah

Naidu inaugurated an Independence Day Film Festival besides launching **Festival of Independence theme song "Tiranga Yatra"** at separate functions.

Bharat Parv – Promotion of Rich Cultural Bio diversity on the eve of Independence Day

As part of Independent Day celebrations, **Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar inaugurated 'Bharat Parv' festival** at India Gate lawns and the inauguration ceremony of the festival, which will conclude on August 18, is also attended by Union Ministers M Venkaiah Naidu and Mahesh Sharma.

- The Ministry of Tourism has been designated as the nodal Ministry for the event, the highlights of which will include Performances by the **Armed Forces Bands, a Multi-Cuisine Food Court, Crafts Mela, Cultural Performances** from different regions of the country including Delhi-based cultural organizations and associations of various states and a Photo Exhibition by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- The prime objective of organizing the event is to **generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country and to ensure wider participation of the general public.**
- There will be 17 theme state pavilions where each state would showcase their **achievements and initiatives, tourism products and destinations.**

Indian Govt launches a commemorative postage stamp on Tourism

A **commemorative postage stamp on Tourism** in India on the occasion of 70th Independence Day has been released by the Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha.

- The theme tourism was selected on account of tourism sector being an **economically important and rapidly growing industry.**

Key Points of Narendra Modi's speech on 70th Independence Day Celebrations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from **the bulwarks of Red Fort in New Delhi on the occasion of 70th Independence Day today.**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on Independence Day made it clear that he has completely rerouted his policy on Pakistan with aggressive comments referring to **Pakistan's human rights abuses in its large province of Balochistan as well as Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.**
- Speaking for over **90 minutes, Prime Minister Modi touched upon the achievements of his government** over the last two years and stressed that the only way the country can move forward is through unity.
- **"Ek Bharat, Shreshta Bharat,"** Modi reiterated, further adding that there would be no tolerance for violence in the country and that social discrimination should be ended.
- PM Modi announces 20% hike in freedom fighters' pension

Odia becomes the Official Language of the Odisha Government

- i. On a final breath, **Odia will be used as the official language** in all transactions of the Odisha government from August 16, 2016.
- ii. According to the amendment of the Orissa Official Language Act 1954, **all government letters, files will be carried in Odia language.**
- iii. A committee with the Chief Secretary as its chairperson has been formed to oversee implementation of the use of Odia in all official business of the state government. The committee will **every six months take stock of the situation.** A special division under the General Administration department will oversee implementation of the use of Odia language in official transactions of the state government.
- iv. On the other hand, linguists have expressed doubts over the implementation of Odia as the state's official language. They have alleged that **it was being implemented in haste.**

India, B'desh to jointly make films on 1971 war, Sheikh Mujibur

- i. India and Bangladesh jointly set to produce a **documentary on the 1971 War of Independence** of Bangladesh to mark the 100th birth anniversary of its Father of the Nation Bangabandhu **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** in 2020.
- ii. Indian archival material available with Films Division, DD and other media units of will be used for the purpose the movie direction, the movie also comes as commemoration of the 50th year of Bangladesh Independence in 2021.

AIR- Radio Service (Akashvani Maitree):

- ◆ It is decided after the meeting that All India Radio would be launch service for Bangladesh and Bengali diaspora on the name of **Akashvani Maitree** on August 23.

Gujarat HC partly quashes ordinance abolishing all NRI quota in medical courses

- i. The Quota bound Gujarat comes with another news that its High Court partly quashed a government ordinance abolishing all **NRI quota in colleges offering medical courses** offered in the state.
- ii. The High court bench comprising Chief Justice R Subhash Reddy and Justice V M Pancholi said it is unconstitutional move by the government to cancel quota for **genuine NRIs seeking admission in colleges**, However the bench upholding its decision to abolish quota for **dependent NRIs.**

Government allowed Online Authentication of the New mobile connections using Aadhar Card

- i. The central government has allowed online authentication using Aadhar for **new mobileconnections.** The guidelines for Aadhaar Electronic-Know Your Customer **e-KYC**, were issued to make the online process of application and authentication faster and simpler

for subscribers.

- ii. Customers can now walk in with their Aadhar card to get new mobile connections with instant activation, **with the government clearing electronic-Know Your Customer (e-KYC) rules for using the biometric identification.**
- iii. The government issued e-KYC guidelines to make the online process of application and authentication **faster and simpler for subscribers.**

India offered an aid of \$1 million to Zimbabwe to cope up with the El Nino Effects

- i. In response to an appeal by the African nation for help to deal with severe drought caused by El Nino phenomenon, **India has provided an aid of USD one million to Zimbabwe.**
- ii. Zimbabwe is facing worst drought in two decades induced by the **El Nino phenomenon, a warming of sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean that devastated its agricultural sector.**
- iii. The Indian Ambassador to Zimbabwe R Masakui had handed over the grant to Dr Misheck Sibanda, Chief Secretary to **President Robert Mugabe.**

Gujarat govt to implement 7th Pay Commission recommendations from 1st Jan

- i. Gujarat state Cabinet chaired by **Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** has approved to implement the 7th pay commission recommendations at a meeting in Gandhinagar.
- ii. The move will benefit over **4.65 lakh Gujarat government employees** and more than 4.12 lakh pensioners, in a move that would cost Rs 8,513 crore annually to the exchequer.

Mental Health Care Bill passed in Rajya Shaba for the welfare of the Mentally Ill people

Mental Health Care Bill , a bill which seeks to decriminalise suicide and provide better healthcare for people suffering from mental illness was passed by the **Rajya Sabha.**

Mental Health Care Bill 2013:-

The Mental Health Care Bill 2013, which provides for **protection and promotion of rights of persons with mental illness** during the delivery of health care in institutions and in the community, was passed unanimously by a voice vote.

- The Mental Health Care Bill 2013 says that any person who attempts to commit suicide shall be presumed, unless proved otherwise, to be suffering from mental illness at the time of **attempting suicide and shall not be liable to punishment under section 309 of Indian Penal Code (IPC).**
- As of now, a person who attempts to commit suicide is charged under section 309 of IPC as it is considered to be an offence.
- There were **134 official amendments to the bill**, which took almost an hour to be passed clause by clause.

- This bill seeks to provide better medical care to mentally ill besides ensuring their **basic rights**.
- The upper house discussed and debated the bill, which replaces the **Mental Health Act, 1987** for over four hours before giving its nod to it. It was passed with a record 134 amendments.

Maharashtra launches Quit India movement 2 against social evils

- Maharashtra government has launched the **Quit India Movement 2** against various social ills, the launch is in line with commemorating the Platinum Jubilee anniversary of the Quit India Movement at the historic August Kranti Maidan in **Mumbai**.
- The launch took place in **Kranti Maidan** from where Mahatma Gandhi had given the clarion call of Quid India back in 1942, in the function Union Minister for Urban Development Venkaiah Naidu and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was also present in the .
- Union Minister Naidu also pledged that centre will run a fortnight-long campaign to revitalize patriotism among the society, the campaign named **Azadi 70 Saal — Zara Yaad Karo Qurbani**.

India Bangladesh join hands for the movement of Petroleum products from Assam to Tripura through Bangladesh

- India – Bangladesh** signed a **short-term route agreement to allow transport of petroleum goods from Assam to Tripura through Bangladesh** due to the heavy monsoon damaged roads and made the transportation between the two states difficult.
- This is a short-term deal and Bangladesh side agreed to the Indian proposal to grant validity of the **MoU till September 30**.
- Petroleum Trucks will ride in the **Dawki (Meghalaya) – Tamabil (Bangladesh) – Chatlapur (Bangladesh) – Kailasshar (Tripura) route**.
- It is noted that the Government of India had requested Bangladesh to allow carrying petroleum goods **from Assam to Tripura** through their territory as heavy monsoons and the resultant bad condition of **NH44** have disrupted the supply between these two states.

Maharashtra launches India's first Crime Criminal Tracking Network System

- Maharashtra government has launched the **country's first comprehensive Crime Criminal Tracking Network System** (CCTNS) on the eve off of the 70th Independence Day in Mumbai.
- The System was unveiled by the state Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, on launching he also pledged good governance in the state.
- This network comes with the cyber force, complete with 42 modern labs and 1000 trained personnel to combat the growing cyber-crimes in the state with the modern technology.

In the view of safeguarding India's Heritage, NFAI acquires the Bengali Silent Film – Bilwamangal

- i. **The National Film Archive of India – NFAI** has acquired surviving footage of the **Indian silent film Bilwamangal (1919) from the Cinema the que Francaise, France**. This acquisition is considered an important for NFAI at a juncture when they are in the process of implementing prestigious National Film Heritage Mission to safeguard Country's cinematic heritage.
- ii. **Billwamangal** is a 1919 Bengali black-and-white silent film by **Rustomji Dhotiwala**. It is credited as the first Bengali feature film and was released on 1 November 1919 at Comwallis Theatre in Calcutta. It is based on an Urdu play by Agha Hashar Kashmiri.

National Convention of Pradhans of Ganga bank villages organized in Allahabad

- i. The Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministry jointly with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as well as Government of Uttar Pradesh, organized a **National Convention of Gram Pradhans in Alaahabad**.
- ii. The Convention aims to rally **Gram Pradhans of 1651 villages in 52 districts and 5 States situated** along the banks of the river Ganga.
- iii. The rally focuses on working together and make all these villages Open Defecation Free (ODF) to meet the goals of the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)** as well as the **Namami Gange programme**.

Kerala Govt offers debt relief for poor and low income population

- i. The Kerala government approved a new **debt relief scheme for low income and poor people** who face the threat of revenue recovery proceedings after they fail to repay loans taken from various financial institutions under the government.
- ii. As a one-time relief, interest and penal interest pending would be written off or relaxed for loans **up to Rs 5 lakh subject to the amount repaid**.
- iii. The scheme, expected to cause an additional burden of Rs 40 crore to the exchequer, would benefit more than **10,000 persons**.

KVIC approved wage hike and MDA hike for the weavers and spinners

- i. **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** have approved a wage hike along with a hike in Market Development Assistance. The KVIC has informed that spinners will now earn **5.50 rupees instead of 4 rupees per hank with an additional 10 percent Market Development Assistance**.
- ii. The wages of Khadi artisans are set to rise up to 100% and more with the Khadi & village Industries Commission (KVIC) approving the wage hike as well as market Development Assistance.

The wages raised from **Rs. 90 to Rs 190 per day.**

iii. Earlier the spinners were getting Rs 100 per day considering they **spin 25 hanks per day**. Now earnings will be Rs 138 plus 10% MDA on it ie Rs.152 per day. The rates had been stagnant from April 1, 2014.

iv. Besides an increase in wages per hank, the commission has also decided to levy amount **Rs. 50/- on certain high value products to augment the earnings of artisans** which will be remitted by the DSOs straight to an artisan's bank account on a monthly basis.

Maneka Gandhi inaugurates first dog birth control centre of Uttarakhand for sterilization of dog

i. The Union Woman and Child Development Minister **Maneka Gandhi** inaugurated The Animal Birth Control Centre at Kedarpuram Uttarakhand. The centre was developed at a cost about 1.5 crore.

ii. The centre provided with **72 Dog kennels for housing dogs** as well as their treatment & vaccination post-surgery and also has 4 staff quarters within the premises.

DTC passengers will be able to pay bus fares using metro smart card

i. Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) is set launch a service in which commuters will be able to pay bus **fares using their metro smart card** from October. The Service will run on a trial mode on this ambitious project.

ii. With this service commuters will be required to swipe their metro smart card at the time of boarding buses through E-Ticketing Machines (ETM) to be **installed inside the DTC buses**.

Andhra Pradesh police launches pilot project on DNA profiling

i. Andhra Pradesh Police launched DNA Index System (DIS) that allows generation of DNA profiles from live samples like saliva and blood stains **to establish a proactive policing model** in the country. This is the first-of-its-kind initiative by the state.

ii. The model was launched on pilot basis to test the efficacy **of the DIS, to generate DNA profiles** of a batch of convicts and suspects involved in various crimes.

iii. The DIS system works with the help of DNA technology tool called **RapidHIT** developed by **IntegenX** of USA.

India to provide financial aid to a Nepali Sanskrit School Development

i. India has pledged financial aid worth **Nepali Rs 39.97 million for the construction of a new building and a hostel facility at a Sanskrit school in eastern Nepal**.

ii. Indian Embassy, the local development officer, Ilam District, and principal of Shree Saptmai Gurukul Sanskrit Vidhyashram Secondary School was signed **a tripartite agreement** in this regard.

OIC expresses concern over Kashmir violence

- i. The world's largest bloc of Muslim countries Organisation of Islamic Cooperation have expressed concern over alleged **human rights violations in Kashmir. The valley has seen month long clashes between** Protesters and police.
- ii. The IOC's secretary-general Iyad Madani, said at a news conference in Islamabad that the situation in Kashmir was **worsening and prevailing on the international community to act.**

On pioneering the internal security, Maharashtra Govt. has enacted Internal Security Act for the state

Maharashtra government has **enacted a stringent law — Maharashtra Protection of Internal Security Act — to deal** with the challenges of terrorism, insurgency, communalism and caste violence.

MPI SA :-

MPI SA -Maharashtra Protection of Internal Security Act, A new internal security Act, envisaged by the state's police department, is expected to put this in black and white, thereby **bridging the gap and plugging loopholes in the existing security arrangements.** It is noted that Maharashtra is the first state in the country to have its own internal security Act.

- The draft covers various aspects including **security of government and non-government establishments, coastal security, security audits, and target hardening.**

Internal Security Act :-

Maharashtra Govt. has proposed setting up of **Special Security Zones (SSZ)** where the movement of arms, explosives and inflow of unaccounted funds will be prohibited.

- Sectors like dams, defense institute bases, government facilities, **nuclear reactors and transportation systems have been identified as Critical Infrastructure Sectors.**The government has proposed strengthening of security of these sectors.
- The act entrusts the responsibility on the director general of police to draw an **internal security scheme for the entire state and sub-schemes for districts and urban areas.**
- The act has a provision for a jail term of up to three years and fine for those threatening the State's security.

Air Force to build new Aerospace Museum in Delhi

- i. The **Indian Air Force** is set to build **new Aerospace Museum** in New Delhi, focusing to showcase and to create awareness in general public about **India's rich Aerospace heritage.**
- ii. The 43 acres Museum will come up close to the international airport in the capital which will have extensive **indoor and outdoor displays** including **huge aircraft parked** and hanging in flying attitude with mural depicting the golden era of the Indian Air Force.

Shri J P Nadda commemorates a decade of Integrated Food Law in the country

India's Food Regulator FSSAI organised a function commemorate **10 years of the enactment of Food Safety and Standard Act** (FSSAI Act) on August 23rd 2016 in New Delhi.

◆ In the function various big heads were present also gave speech including Prime Minister Narendra Modi who in his congratulatory message emphasized the need for the **Authority to focus on empowering the consumers** so that the manufacturers and suppliers of food products become responsive to consumer needs, demands and expectations.

10@10 – 10th anniversary with 10 initiatives:

- i. All these initiatives have been developed collaboratively over the past few months along with other stakeholders and partners.
- ii. This bunch of 10 initiatives dedicated on safe and nutritious food at home, school, workplace, religious places, in trains and railway stations, in restaurants and other places.
- iii. In the event Food Safety Display Boards was launched that would help to connect the consumers directly to food safety officers.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik unveils Odisha Startup Policy for youths

- i. The Odisha state cabinet headed by chief minister **Naveen Patnaik approved the Odisha startup policy to promote entrepreneurship among youths.**
- ii. The policy envisages ushering in an innovative start-up ecosystem through creation of world class incubation centres, funding and supporting incentives structure at par with other states. A **Start-up Capital Infrastructure Fund (up to Rs 25 crore)** would be provided by the state government to the Department of MSME through budgetary provision.
- iii. The state government would participate in private state specific funds for start-ups to set up operations in the state, such as seed/VC funds, **limited to 1/4th of the total size.**
- iv. Institutions like universities and colleges would be eligible for one time **capital grant of 50 per cent of capital cost, excluding the cost of building, up to a maximum of Rs 1 crore** to set up an incubation facility.

New railway line between Nandyala and Yerraguntla commissioned

- i. **Indian Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu commissioned a new railway line between Nandyala and Yerraguntla** in the presence of Union Urban Development Minister **M Venkaiah Naidu.** This railway line described as the **"dream of (late Prime Minister) PV Narasimha Rao."**
- ii. The Union Ministers and Chandrababu also flagged off a new **passenger train between Nandyala and Kadapa on the occasion.**
- iii. These facilities are inaugurated through a remote video link from Vijayawada.

Union Cabinet approves the “Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016”

- i. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for introduction of the **“Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016”** on August 24, 2016
- ii. The Bill will regulate surrogacy in India by establishing **National Surrogacy Board at the central level and State Surrogacy Boards and Appropriate Authorities in the State and Union Territories**. The legislation will ensure effective regulation of surrogacy, prohibit commercial surrogacy and allow ethical surrogacy to the needy infertile couples.
- iii. All infertile Indian married couple who want to avail ethical surrogacy will be benefited. Further the rights of surrogate mother and children born out of surrogacy will be protected. The Bill shall apply **to whole of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir**.

Salient features of the proposed Bill

1. The draft surrogacy Bill aims at **regulating commissioning of surrogacy in the country** in a proper manner.
2. As per the 2009 Law Commission Report, the artificial reproduction treatment industry is Rs. 25,000 crore industry
3. The Bill aims to prevent exploitation of women, **especially those in rural and tribal areas**.
4. The Bill promises to ensure parentage of children born out of surrogacy is “legal and transparent.”

The new Bill proposes complete ban on commercial surrogacy.

- ◆ As per the Bill, only legally—wedded Indian couples can have children through surrogacy, provided at least one of them have been proven to have fertility-related issues.
- ◆ **Foreigners, even Overseas Indians, are barred from commissioning surrogacy.**
- ◆ A woman will be allowed to become a surrogate mother only for **altruistic purpose and under no circumstances money shall be paid to her, except for medical expenses**.
- ◆ Unmarried couples, single parents, live—in partners and homosexuals cannot opt for surrogacy as per the new bill.
- ◆ Surrogacy regulation board will be set-up at Central and State-level.

South India’s first Children Court was inaugurated in Hyderabad

- i. After Goa and Delhi, Telangana has become the third state to inaugurate **south India’s first Children’s Court was inaugurated in Hyderabad. This court is a child friendly court and sixth in the country** with features like separate waiting rooms for children and a video camera trial for the accused, mandated under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act-2012.
- ii. The ‘child friendly’ courtroom was jointly inaugurated at the **Nampally Criminal Courts Complex in Hyderabad** by Acting Chief Justice Ramesh Ranganathan of High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad and Director General of Telangana Police Anurag Sharma.

President Mukherjee launches Akashvani Maitree Channel in Kolkata

- i. Indian President **Pranab Mukherjee** has launched the **Akashvani Maitree** – Bengal dedicated Channel at a function organised at Raj Bhawan in Kolkata to strengthen ties between India and Bangladesh.
- ii. The Service is a venture of All India Radio which has unique features like sharing of content between Bangladesh Betar and Akashvani Maitree.
- iii. This Channel launched from a **State-of-the-art Super Power Transmitter of 1000kw with the frequency of 594 kHz/ 505 Meter** installed at Chinsurah, West Bengal.

The 3 Day Visit:

1. The President is on a three-day visit to West Bengal which he concluded on 24 August 2016.
2. During the course of visit he attended the **125th anniversary celebrations of Bangiya Sahitya Parisad**.
3. The President inaugurated a **CII-IIEST Conference** on the theme 'Enabling Make in India through Industry Academia Innovation Platform' in Kolkata.
4. He also made his presence in the function 'The Legacy to Humanity: Celebrating 150 years of Homeopathy' organised by the Dr. Prasanta Banerji Homeopathic Research Foundation in the city.

President Mukherjee to inaugurate mega Food Park in Murshidabad

President Pranab Mukherjee is all set to inaugurate a mega food park at Murshidabad and to attend the convocation of Management Development Institute in Murshidabad at Jangipur on 24 August 2016.

CCEA approves nine new railway projects for better rail connectivity in India

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved **nine projects worth about Rs 24,000 crore** on 24th August 2016 in nine states for expansion of railway network and connectivity across the country.

The nine CCEA approved projects include the,

1. 176 km long construction of second railway line between New Bongaigaon and Kamakhya
2. 132 km long third line between Kharagpur (Nimpura) and Adityapur (Jharkhand)
3. 228.3 km long construction of the third line between Rajnandgaon and Nagpur in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra
4. 273.80 km long third line between Mathura and Jhansi
4. 152.57 km long third line between Jhansi and Bina,
6. 280 km long third line between Itarsi and Nagpur,
7. 201.04 km long third line between Ballarshah and Kazipet
8. 287.68 km long third line between Vijaywada and Gudur
9. 206 km long construction of fourth line between Jharsuguda and Bilaspur.

Jharkhand postal circle unveils an innovative method of Pink Envelops for High Court Purpose

- i. The **Jharkhand postal circle launched a special speed post service for the high court**, in a move that is expected to accelerate delivery of summons and notices and thereby save precious time of the overburdened judiciary.
- ii. Under the system, articles can be tracked anywhere and anytime. A small jacket containing '**proof of delivery**' will be attached to each pink envelop. The recipient will have to sign and return the acknowledgement letter. Subsequently, the high court will be informed of the delivery status through e-mail.
- iii. The **pink envelopes, which are available in two categories and priced Rs 25 and Rs 30** a piece, respectively, have already been made available at the high court post office.

Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launches POCSO e-Button for children to file complaints of sexual abuse

- i. Union Minister for Women and Child Development, **Maneka Sanjay Gandhi** has launched an online complaint box named **POCSO e-Box** for reporting child sexual abuse in New Delhi on 26 August 2016.
- ii. The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO)**, e-Box, is a Portal which has dedicated system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and appropriate action against the **offenders under the POCSO Act, 2012**.

Maharashtra to tie up with corporates to transform 1,000 villages

- i. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis unveiled the **State government plans to transform 1,000 villages** with the help of corporate sector, and the civil society over the next few years.
- ii. An **institutional mechanism will be evolved for the trust**, which will have its own corpus and be listed under the Companies Act. While the state government will provide 50 per cent of the funds, the remaining will come from the corporate sector.

Maharashtra CM unveils plan for Mumbai – Nagpur Super Communication Expressway

Maharashtra CM **Devendra Fadnavis** has unveiled a detailed plan for the Mumbai-Nagpur Super Communication Expressway, a 706-km link that seeks to connect **24 districts and improve access from rural communities in the east to commercial hubs in the west**.

Mumbai – Nagpur Expressway :-

The total length of this highway is **700 km from Nagpur to Mumbai**, excluding the portions of NH 7 and NH 3 it covers at Nagpur-Butibori and Ghoti-Kalyan-Mumbai sectors respectively. This

highway also covers the part portions of the Maharashtra State Highways at certain areas, which are now being rebuilt with National Highway Standards.

This highway roughly covers the regions in Maharashtra as,

- **Vidarbha:** 400 km, **Marathwada:** 160 km and **Rest of Maharashtra :** 140 km.

India suggests the idea of creation of task force in the International Arbitration BROCS Conference

- i. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley suggested **creation of a task force** of experts and officials to deliberate on the challenges in international arbitration in the BRICS countries and put in place institutional mechanisms to establish **arbitral centers in these nations**.
- ii. It is noted that Jaitley, delivered the valedictory speech at the conference on '**International Arbitration in BRICS – Challenges, Opportunities and Road Ahead**'.
- iv. The Conference is being organized by the **Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance**, Government of India with the support of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA).

India's first Textile University to be opened in Surat, Gujarat

- i. Gujarat government is planning to set up India's **first textile university at Surat with an investment of about Rs 800 crore**.
- ii. The ultimate aim of the university is to provide all kind of **support including technology, research and development (R&D), skilled manpower**.
- iii. The first textile university of India will be setup in Gujarat. Land has been **identified near Surat**. Gujarat government will provide funds worth Rs 800-900 crore for the development of the textile university.
- iv. The university will build on over **250 acre land in Surat** and it is expected to get operational in the next one and a half years.

Indian Government announces 2000 relief package for displaced people of PoK

- i. The government is all set to announce an **Rs 2,000 crore package for displaced people of Pakistan occupied Kashmir** living in India amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approaches to people of PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan.
- ii. The Jammu and Kashmir government has already identified **36,348 families for distribution of the package under which each family will get around Rs 5.5 lakh**.

Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad unveiled the Electropreneur Park at Delhi University

- i. India's first **Electropreneur Park** is inaugurated by the Minister for Electronics and Information

Technology, **Ravi Shankar Prasad at Delhi University.**

- ii. Government-funded Electropreneur Park, an incubation centre with **focus on IP creation and product development to increase domestic manufacturing of electronics items.**
- iii. The new units have manufactured around **11 crore mobiles and generated employment for 37,000 people.**

President Pranab Mukherjee re-promulgated to amend Enemy Property Act
 Indian **President Pranab Mukherjee night re-promulgated an Ordinance to amend the Enemy Property Act** Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants Act of 1971 pending ratification by Rajya Sabha.

About The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016

Key features of the Bill

- The Bill amends the Enemy Property Act, 1968, to **vest all rights, titles and interests over enemy property in the Custodian**
- The Bill declares transfer of enemy property by the enemy, conducted **under the Act, to be void.** This applies retrospectively to transfers that have occurred before or after 1968.
- The Bill prohibits civil courts and other authorities from **entertaining disputes related to enemy property.**

Puducherry CM V Narayanasamy presented budget for the Fiscal year 2016-17

Newly elected **Puducherry chief minister V Narayanasamy**, who holds the finance portfolio, presented a tax-free **Rs 6,665 crore budget for the financial year 2016-17.**

Budget 2016- 17 :-

The budget size for the fiscal 2016-2017 has been fixed at **Rs.6,665 crore of which Rs. 4,100 crore is for the non-plan head.**

- Almost 25% of the budget goes for salaries and wages, **10% for pension payments, 17% for purchase of electricity, 12% interest and repayments and 11% towards grant-in-aid.**
- Presenting a tax-free budget, CM also announced a slew of measures **to revive industrial growth, promote employment creation and boost the tourism sector.**
- The Excise Department had been given a target of Rs.775 crores for this fiscal and the revenue realized by Excise Department last fiscal was Rs. 673.75 crores and based on **the past performance the department** had been given the target of Rs. 775 crores.
- It is noted that almost 75% of the total budget is committed expenditure and this leaves only 25% of the budget for other activities including development works. The **Seventh Central Pay Commission recommendations implementations** will require nearly 45% to 50% of the budget for salaries, allowances and pension.

- It is noted that Puducherry being a Union territory is neither entitled for devolution of funds nor assistance under calamity relief fund. However, a major portion of resources of Puducherry which faced **natural calamities like cyclones and rains, had been diverted towards relief and reconstruction.**
- It is also noted that the Centre has approved the additional borrowings and regarding the additional grant assistance, discussions were held with the governments of the **Centre and the Union Territory.**

Union HRD Minister Prakash Javdekar unveiled IIT Dharwad in Karnataka

i. Union Human Resource Development Minister **Prakash Javdekar formally launched IIT Dharwad** chapter in Dharwad in Karnataka.

ii. **Indian Institute of Technology Dharwad (IIT Dharwad)** is an autonomous premier engineering and technology university located in Dharwad.

iii. The new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Dharwad would start functioning from July, 2016 in a temporary campus housed at **Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI) in Belur village** on the outskirts of Dharwad city.

iv. For the academic year 2016-2017, it will offer **B.Tech courses in three core branches namely Electrical, Computer Science and Mechanical.**

PM Narendra Modi unveiled the first phase of SUANI project

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of **SAUNI – Saurashtra Narmada Avataran for Irrigation Project at Sanosara village near Dhroll in Gujarat's Jamnagar district.** Under the project, nearly 10 dams and reservoirs of Rajkot, Jamnagar and Morbi, would be filled up with the water of Narmada River.

About SAUNI Project : Saurashtra-Narmada Avataran Irrigation Yojana (Sauni Yojana) has been launched to divert **one MAFT excess over flowing flood water of Narmada allocated to Saurashtra Region.**

- The excess over flowing flood water of Narmada will be distributed to 115 reservoirs of eleven districts of Saurashtra through total 1126 km long four link pipelines benefitting 10,22,589 acre land. These links are

Link: 1 From Machhu-II dam of Morbi district to Sani Dam of Jamanagar District :

Link: 2 Limbdi Bhogavo-II Dam of Surendranagar District to Raidi Dam of Amreli District :

Link: 3 From Dholidhaja Dam of Surendranagar District to Venu-I Dam of Rajkot District :

Link: 4 From Limbdi Bhogavo-II Dam of Surendranagar District to Hiran-II Irrigation

Myanmar President Htin Kyaw made his state visit to India

Following the invitation of Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Myanmar President U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin made a State Visit made to India.

India Visit :-

Myanmar President Htin Kyaw participated in bilateral talks with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in **New Delhi**.

- During the bilateral talks with Prime Minister Modi a host of issues, **including border management and ways to contain militant activities along the Indo-Myanmar border were discussed.**

Four pacts signed :-

India and Myanmar signed four pacts in the field of infrastructure development and for the cooperation in renewable energy. They are as follows,

- Agreement I – **Construction of 69 bridges** on the Tamu-Kalewa section of the trilateral highway connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand.
- Agreement II – **Upgrading the Kalewa-Yargi section** of the trilateral highway.
- Agreement III – **Cooperation in the field of renewable energy,**
- Agreement IV – **cooperation in the field of traditional medicines.**

Union Minister JP Nadda unveiled Mera Aspatal – My Hospital initiative

i. Union Health and Family Welfare Minister **JP Nadda** launched the **'Mera Aspataal' (my hospital) initiative**. This move seeks to empower the patients by seeking their views on quality of experience in a public healthcare facility.

ii. The ICT-based Patient Satisfaction System (PSS) Mera Aspataal / My Hospital" for implementation in public and empanelled private hospitals, is envisaged to empower the **patient by seeking his / her views on quality of experience in a public healthcare facility.**

iii. It is a multi-channel approach will be used to collect patients feedback i.e. **web portal, mobile application, Short Message Service (SMS), Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) and Mera Aspataal, together with the Kayakalp awards,** as part of Swacchata Abhiyaan" will spur the States in a spirit of friendly competition to get highest ratings for all their facilities.

Cabinet approves dissolution of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has given its approval to **proposal for dissolution of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited (CIWTC).**

- The Voluntary Retirement Scheme for CIWTC was implemented in the year 2015.
- Following the decision of the Government to revitalize sick CPSUs wherever possible or **towind up irretrievable cases,** the dissolution of the CIWTC would be initiated after disposal of movable and immovable assets.

Union Cabinet approves Project Development Fund for CLMV countries

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval **To produce a Project Development Fund (PDF) with a corpus of Rs 500 Crore.**

- This move provides an aid for catalyzing Indian economic presence in the Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- The PDF shall be housed in **Department of Commerce and operated through the EXIM Bank.**
- **The PDF shall be governed by** an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chairpersonship of the Commerce Secretary.

Union Cabinet approves various amendments in FDI policy

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its **ex-post-facto approval for the FDI policy amendments** announced by the Government. The FDI policy amendments are meant to liberalise and simplify the FDI policy so as to provide ease of doing business in the country leading to larger FDI inflows contributing to **growth of investment, incomes and employment.**

New FDI Approvals :-

Sector/Activity	New Cap and Route
5.2.7.1.1 (1) Teleports (setting up of up-linking HUBs/Teleports); (2) Direct to Home (DTH); (3) Cable Networks (Multi System operators (MSOs) operating at National or State or District level and undertaking upgradation of networks towards digitalization and addressability); (4) Mobile TV ; (5) Headend-in-the Sky Broadcasting Service(HITS)	100% Automatic
5.2.7.1.2 Cable Networks (Other MSOs not undertaking upgradation of networks towards digitalization and addressability and Local Cable Operators (LCOs))	

i.Food – It has now been provided that 100% FDI under automatic route for trading, including through e-commerce.

ii.Defense – Earlier FDI regime permitted 49% FDI participation in the equity of a company under automatic route.

iii.Pharma – The earlier FDI policy on pharmaceutical sector provides for 100% FDI under automatic route in greenfield pharma .

iv.Civil aviation – As per the earlier FDI policy, foreign investment up to 49% was allowed under automatic route in Scheduled Air Transport Service/ Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline and regional Air Transport Service.

v.Private Security – The earlier policy permitted **49% FDI** under government approval route in Private Security Agencies.

vi.Branch office Establishment – For establishment of branch office, liaison office or project office or any other place of business in India if the principal business of the applicant is **Defence,**

Telecom, Private Security or Information and Broadcasting.

vii. Animal Husbandry – As per FDI Policy 2016, FDI in Animal Husbandry (including breeding of dogs), Pisciculture, Aquaculture and Apiculture is allowed 100% under Automatic Route under controlled conditions.

viii-Local sourcing – norms have been relaxed up to three years, with prior Government approval, for entities undertaking Single Brand Retail Trading of products having ‘state of art’ and ‘cutting edge’ technology.

PLACES IN NEWS

Resolution for renaming of Madras High Court passed

- i. The Tamil Nadu State Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution asking the union government to rename it as the **High Court of Tamil Nadu**. The Decision from the state is against the centre, as it proposed High court of Chennai is been passed by the assembly.
- ii. Last month parliament in the Lok Sabha has brought **The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016**’ to rename the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras High Courts.

Operation Viswas follows Milan in order to curb the sexual assault cases in the state

- i. The UP Police launched ‘Operation Vishwas’ in Lucknow following a slew of rape cases, including the horrific Bulandshahr gangrape, on 5 August.
- ii. The month-long operation will run in **Lucknow, Hardoi, Lahimpur Kheri, Raibareli, Sitapur, Unnao, Faizabad, Sultanpur, Ambedkarnagar and Amethi**.

IIT Jammu inaugurated by Prakash Javadekar

- i. Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister, **Prakash Javadekar inaugurated** the Indian Institute of Technology transit **campus in Jammu**.
- ii. In the inauguration function the Minister earmarked Rs 100 crore for NIT, Srinagar under a special plan this year to facilitate research and development.
- iii. For the Jammu IIT campus 159 hectare at village Jagti has been allotted and construction of transit campus **spread over 25 acres**.

HRD Minister inaugurates IIT Raipur

- i. Union Minister of Ministry of **Human Resource Development (HRD)** Prakash Javadekar inaugurated Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Raipur at the campus of Chhattisgarh - Government Engineering College.
- ii. The IIT Bhilai is the first IIT in Chhattisgarh and 23rd in India. It is being mentored’ by IIT Hyderabad.
- iii. The institute enrolled 118 students in various streams like Computer Science and Engineering,

Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering classes from this academic year and Mine Engineering course will also be launched **from 2018-2019 at IIT Bhilai.**

12-day long Krishna Pushkaralu festival commences in twin Telugu states

- i. The 12-day long **Krishna Pushkaralu festival** that comes once **in every 12 years**, begins at the Krishna River in Vijayawada, The twin Telugu states made all the Precautionary measures to avoid any mishap.
- ii. The AP government has launched a website **krishnaPushkaralu.ap.gov.in** that is featured with information about the event, a GPS-based mobile application has also been launched for people to obtain information on ghats, the rush, bus services, etc.

India's First Touch and Feel Garden unveiled in Calicut University, Kerala

- i. A first-of-its-kind, Initiative for a **touch and feel garden for the visually impaired people in the country was inaugurated in the premises of Calicut University.**
- ii. The garden comprises of **70** aromatic, medicinal and herbal plants brought from various parts of India.
- iii. The park which is opened on **August 11**, will embrace a blindfold to experience the world of the visually disabled.
- iv. The visually impaired will study the plants not only by **touching, feeling and smelling them, but also getting information about them through audio inputs.**

Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal inaugurated the Punjab's first 'Sewa Kendra'

- i. **Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal** inaugurated the Punjab's first 'Sewa Kendra' in order to provide efficient and transparent governance to the people at their doorsteps, where people will be able to avail 243 services under one roof.
- ii. A total of 2,147 Sewa Kendras had been constructed by **spending an amount of Rs 500 crore.** Out of these Sewa Kendras, 389 were in the urban areas and 1,758 were in the rural areas and these would provide more than 243 citizen-centric services to the people.

UP Cabinet approves a Metro Rail project for Allahabad

- i. Akhilesh Yadav led cabinet meeting of Uttar Pradesh government **approved a Metro Rail project for Allahabad on August 17.**
- ii. This metro train Work is already underway on the Metro Rail in Lucknow and the Detailed Project Report for **Varanasi and Kanpur have already been approved Akhilesh Yadav.**
- iii. Uttar Pradesh was the lone state in which Metro Rail projects were underway in four major cities, and **Ghaziabad as well as Noida were already linked to the Delhi Metro.**

Rajasthan becomes first state to approve sewage & waste water policy business standard

- i. **Vasundhara Raje** led BJP government in the Rajasthan becomes the **first state** in the country to give nod to **sewage and waste water policy**. This is the first of its kind policy.
- ii. Upon this policy treated waste water will be used in irrigation and agricultural purpose. It also covers requirement of **next 30 years** under the policy.
- iii. It also making compulsory that every household to connect with sewage system in those cities which have **100% sewage system**.

Assam Government become the first Indian State to ratify the GST Constitution Amendment Bill

Assam has become the first state to ratify Constitution Amendment Bill related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), following its passage by both houses of Parliament.

- i. Assam assembly unanimously passed the Constitution Amendment Bill on GST and this **BJP ruled state has become the first state to do so**.
- ii. The government is aiming to get the bill ratified by 16 states within the first week of **September to stay on course its 1 April 2017 implementation deadline**. States need to pass the bill by a simple majority to ratify the bill.

Nagaland welcomes Children's film festival

- i. The state of Nagaland also welcomes **Children's Film Society of India (CFSI)**, has been organised in Nagaland. Titled "**CFSI Film Bonanza** commenced on August 23. The Festival will last for a week.
- ii. The Festival is jointly organised by CFSI and Directorate of School Education of Nagaland, will encompasses major cities of Nagaland, including Kohima, Wokha and Dimapur during the week.

Bengaluru to host the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017

- i. IT-BT capital of the country, Bengaluru, will host the 2017 Bharatiya Pravasi Divas. It is scheduled to take place on **February 7, 8 and 9 of 2017**.
- ii. **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**(English: Non-Resident Indian Day), is celebrated in India on 9 January each year to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.
- iii. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa in Bombay on 9 January 1915. **Established in 2003, it is sponsored by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs of the government of India and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** the Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) and the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region of India.
- iv. A celebratory event is held on 7–9 January each year in an Indian city: a forum for issues concerning the Indian Diasporais organized and the **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards**are

given.

22nd edition of 'Delhi Book Fair'

- i. The 22nd edition of the **Delhi Book Fair** has kick started to promote literacy and higher education among children and the youth at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- ii. The Fair organised by Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) in association with Federation of Indian Publishers will last 9 days i.e. up to September 4 from 27 August 2016.
- iii. The Book Show intended to highlight initiatives undertaken by the central government for its 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan' flagship programme to inculcate better reading habits among the younger generation.

Selfie station:

The Book Fair has a selfie station where visitors will be able to click selfies with cut-outs depicting the respective campaigns like Make in India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India, Skill India, Startup India, Smart Cities, Startup India, and Umang (Unified mobile app for New-age Governance), will take over the pavillion.

2016 Mountain Echoes Literary Festival

- i. The seventh edition of the **Mountain Echoes Literary Festival 2016** Kicked off in the capital city of the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan Thimbu on 26 August 2016.
- ii. The festival was inaugurated by Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, (Royal Patron) which aims to provide a platform for the greatest literary minds to engage in a cultural dialogue. In this edition it will focus on **climatechange, women's voices and travel writing**.

Bengal Assembly Passes Resolution to Change Name of State

- i. West Bengal Legislative Assembly (WBLA) passed a resolution in **favor of changing the name of the state from West Bengal to Bangla**. The resolution was passed during the special session of the House which was convened exclusively for the purpose of changing the name of the state.
- ii. It is noted that the Mamata Banerjee government had approved a change of name to either Banga or Bangla. The choice **was simpler in English: Bengal**.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

First Tech Meet Of Hydrocarbon Vision 2030

- i. The Two day **long first technology meet under the targets** of the ambitious **Hydrocarbon Vision 2030** for Northeast India started in **Guwahati** Assam.
- ii. The idea of the meeting mooted by the sub- committee of the upstream sector headed by ONGC and has members from upstream national oil players as well as private players.
- iii. The main event of the meeting was to deliberate the issues pertaining to the implementation of

the Vision document which envisions an investment of **Rs 1,30,000 crore** over the **next 15 years**.

iv. The meet attended by various PSUs and private sector oil firms including ONGC, OIL, Geo Enpro, Jubilant, Hindustan and other companies involved in the sector.

Second Counter-Terrorism Financing Summit 2016 & International Meeting on Counter Terrorism held in Indonesia

i. The four day long **Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) Summit 2016** conducted in **Bali, Indonesia** with cream of experts to collectively develop regional solutions to critical terrorism financing issues and risks.

ii. The summit delivered real outcomes on **terrorism financing** that AUSTRAC and PPATK have developed jointly with **Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand**. This is first of its kind meeting being hosted by Indonesia.

iii. From India side it was represented by the Minister of State for **Home Affairs Kiren Rijju** Where he had discussed with Mr. Wiranto, Minister for Political, Security and Legal Affairs, Indonesia about various issues of bilateral importance.

Tomorrow's India Global Summit to be held in Seoul

i. Global Social India Foundation announced that it is set to host the **Tomorrow's India Global Summit**, for the proposal the Embassy of India in the Republic of Korea has offered its support during the five-day event in **Seoul** from **September 25-29**.

ii. The summit will focus on developing international collaborations and tie-ups between both the countries in the fields of **business, education and culture**, its debut edition was held in Singapore.

Indian Parliamentary Delegation attended SAARC YPC at Islamabad

A three-member Parliamentary delegation attended the first **SAARC Young Parliamentarians Conference (YPC)** on 'Peace and Harmony for Development' which held from **August 16 to 18** in Islamabad, Pakistan.

About SAARC Young Parliamentarians Conference :The first SAARC Young Parliamentarians' Conference is scheduled from **August 16 to 18** in Islamabad. It will be attended by no less than 50 Members of Parliament from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

- The Conference is an initiative by **Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan**, which will offer region's young parliamentarians' narrative as a prelude to the 19th SAARC Summit that Pakistan is going to host in November this year.
- **MNA Malik Uzair Khan, one of the youngest Members of the National Assembly of Pakistan**, has worked tirelessly as the Conference's convener to plan the important

conference that will offer Young Parliamentarians an opportunity to deliberate their perspectives regarding regional peace and harmony. It will be attended by the 50 Parliamentary delegates from the SAARC member Countries and six (06) international Experts would be participating as well.

- SAARC Secretary General, Mr. **Arjun Bahadur Thapa will be attending the conference as well as 25 young MPs from across all parliamentary parties** from Pakistan.

India @ YPC :

- Lok Sabha Secretariat addressed that the parliamentarians went to Pakistan days after the India-Pakistan showdown in Islamabad at the **7th SAARC Interior and Home Ministers' conference**.
- The YPC intends to offer young parliamentarians' narrative as a prelude to the 19th SAARC summit that Pakistan will be hosting in **November**.
- It is noted that India was resented by **delegation of four, Afghanistan by four, Nepal by four, Bhutan by five, Sri Lanka by six & Maldives by four** parliamentary delegates.

WEF stages India Economic Summit at New Delhi during October

In recognizing the Indian development, **World Economic Forum(WEF)**, will host its **annual India Economic Summit at New Delhi on October 6-7**. This summit is expected to attend by over 500 business and political leaders including top policymakers and CEOs.

i. 2016 meet will be staged under the theme, '**Fostering an Inclusive India through Digital Transformation**'. This year's summit comes at an important juncture as India is the fastest-growing G20 economy just as the world is entering the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

ii. Three main themes for this year's programme are:

- 1.Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution;**
- 2.Driving Sustainable and Equitable Growth,**
- 3.Improving the Ease of Doing Business.**

AAI to host a Global Conference on Aluminum in Bubhaneshwar in February, 2017

i. **Aluminium Association of India (AAI)** would host the **three-day global event** from from February 15 to 17, 2017 keeping in mind the emergence of bauxite-rich Odisha as the aluminium capital of India.

ii. Aluminium Association of India (AAI) shall host the **International Conference on Aluminium (INCAL) in Bhubaneswar**.

iii. With more than half the bauxite reserves of the country and gigantic presence of **Nalco, Hindalco and Vedanta, Odisha has emerged as the aluminium capital of India**.

Maiden National Conference Investigation Agencies held in New Delhi

- i. The first **National Conference of Investigation Agencies** was held on 12-13 August, 2016, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. It is jointly organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) of India.
- ii. This conference is aimed to organize the All India Conference of Police and Law Enforcement officers engaged in investigation task and provide a platform for the India's different law enforcement agencies to **come together and discuss a coordinated strategy to tackle crime**.
- iii. This conference has originated from the mandate of the BPR&D and the recommendations of Directors General of Police (DGPs)/Inspectors General of Police (IGPs) conferences.

India International Footwear Fair was flagged off by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on August 5

- i. Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** inaugurated the **India International Footwear Fair (IIF)** on August 5 in New Delhi
- ii. The quantum of business generated from the fair was Rs **1,200 crore**. However, we expect business to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore to be generated this year.
- iii. **160 Indian companies and 103 overseas firms** from Brazil, China, Iran and Taiwan are participating in the fair this year
- iv. Besides, the Theme Pavilion will comprise of the 'Selfie Stations' which focus on the national campaigns of the Government of India and also includes **Make in India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India, Skill India, Standup India, Smart Cities, StartUp India and Umang** (Unified Mobile App for New-age Governance).

SAARC Interior Ministers and Immigration Authorities Meeting held in Islamabad, Pakistan

The 7th meeting of **SAARC Immigration Authorities** was held in Islamabad, Pakistan on August 2. The meeting was chaired by Pakistan's Director General Immigration and Passports Usman A. Bajwa.

Immigration Authorities Meeting(August 2-3, 2016):-

Pakistan's Director General Immigration and Passports Usman A. Bajwa who was unanimously elected as Chairman chaired this meeting. Several Immigration authorities of the member countries presented in this meeting. The meeting emphasized three important factors regarding the immigration facilities of its member countries,

1. To coordinate different areas to maximize the potential of **visa exemption scheme** launched among the member countries
2. To be deliberate on development of **security software for SAARC visa exemption scheme** and immigration matters.

3. To implement Visa exemption scheme among SAARC countries in **twenty-four categories including dignitaries, businessmen, journalists and sports persons.**

Home Ministers Meeting(August 4-5, 2016):-

1. The meeting of **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) interior ministers** held in Islamabad with regional affairs, terrorism, prevention of drugs and human trafficking on its agenda.
2. **Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif** inaugurated the two-day SAARC interior ministers meeting, which is attended by interior ministers from all Saarc states except for Bangladesh.

Indian-Occupied Kashmir became the hot topic at dais amid killings of over 50 innocent Kashmiri youth at the hands of Indian forces.

Two days BRICS Women’s Parliamentarian Forum held in Jaipur

The two-day meeting of the **BRICS Women’s Parliamentarian Forum** was begun in Jaipur on August 20, in which 42 delegates from member countries participated.

Women’s parliamentarian Forum :-

A total of 42 delegates from the BRICS countries are **attending the meeting which will have different plenary sessions on August 20 and 21.**

- There will be five women parliamentarians from **Brazil, three from Russia, 28 from India, two from China and four from South Africa.**
- Lok Sabha Speaker **Sumitra Mahajan** inaugurated the BRICS Women’s Parliamentarian Forum.
- This forum helped to have one voice as women **Parliamentarians to organise, mobilise, motivate and advance women.**
- Total 43 Parliamentarians from BRICS countries including **28 MPs from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**, are participating in the meeting where sustainable development goals are being discussed.
- Mahajan’s inaugural session will be followed by plenary session on the theme of **‘Perspectives on implementation of SDGs’** at the Rajasthan Vidhan sabha.
- First session on the theme of **‘Achieving SDGs- Role of Women Parliamentarians in involving Citizens’**.
- Theme of the second session, to be held on the second day on August 21, will be **‘Containing Climate Change – Imperatives of Global Cooperation’**.

Adoption of Jaipur Declaration:-

- The BRICS nations’ women parliamentarian forum adopted the Jaipur declaration calling upon international financial institutions to **“support and facilitate financing for development on favorable terms”** to developing and least developed countries.
- This meet emphasized on sustainable **development goals in five nations by 2030**, besides

- working on climate change

Two day SAARC Finance Minister Meet commenced in Islamabad, Pakistan

A two-day conference of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Finance Ministers has been kicked off in Islamabad.

Finance Ministers Meet:-

During two-day deliberations, the member states will review different activities being carried out in the region under SAARC mechanism, including **customs cooperation, avoidance of double taxation, promotion and protection of investment, cooperation in the banking sector, and trade liberalization.**

- Finance Ministers from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are likely to attend the conference.**
- On the first day, Finance Secretaries of the member states are discussing the current status of **economic and financial cooperation in the region.**
- They are having an overall economic outlook of **SAARC economies and global impact on SAARC region.**
- The conference would also discuss and devise a mechanism for regional trade promotion. **SAARC Development Fund (SDC) operations would be made more effective for the development of the region.**
- **South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) and SAARC financial and banking system and investment** opportunities in the region would also be discussed for the socio economic prosperity in the region besides discussing ways and means for the uplift of the people of the member states.
- SDC was established in 2010 with a total capital of US \$ 1.5 billion while its paid up capital is about US \$ 300 million. It is noted that **SAARC Finance Ministers, after the conclusion of the meeting, would also attend the SDC Council meeting jointly.**

MoS (Home) Shri Kiren Rijiju inaugurates the BRICS meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in Udaipur

- i. Union minister of **state for home, Kiren Rijiju** addressed that **BRICS countries were striving to set up a joint task force** on disaster management as a permanent forum for regular dialogue, mutual support among the member nations.
- ii. All the five BRICS countries are parties to the adoption of the Sendai Framework for DRR in March, 2015 and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in September 2015. A number of SDGs have specific targets related to Disaster Risk Management (DRM).
- iii. Key government functionaries working in the area of Disaster Management, including senior officials and technical experts from member countries, are participating in the event. The meeting will focus on two distinct but inter-related **themes of Flood Risk Management and Forecasting**

of **Extreme Weather Events** in the context of Changing Climate.

iv. BRICS Ministers on Disaster Management ended with the adoption of the Udaipur Declaration.

19th SAARC summit to be held in Islamabad on November 9 and 10

i. The **19th Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) summit will be held in Islamabad** on 9 and 10 November.

ii. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif invited the **leaders of SAARC Member States to grace the Summit with their presence** and looking forward to welcome them at Islamabad.

6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in Nairobi

The Sixth **Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-VI) was held from 27 to 28 August 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya**. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) is currently working closely with all the other TICAD co-organizers and the Government of Kenya towards a successful organization of the momentous TICAD-VI Summit.

About TICAD:

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is a conference held regularly with the objective "to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners.

- Japan is a co-host of these conferences. Other co-organizers of TICAD are the **United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (UN-OSSA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- The series has included: **TICAD I (1993); TICAD II (1998); TICAD III (2003); TICAD IV (2008); TICAD V (2013)**. The next conference is scheduled for Kenya in August 2016 and this is the first time the event is held in Africa, previous conferences were all held in Japan.

About TICAD VI: TICAD-VI will be a milestone of the TICAD process, since it will be the first-ever **TICAD Summit to be held in the African continent in its over 20 years of history**.

- TICAD-VI will also take place at an opportune moment, as the year 2016 is the first year of the implementations of the global and regional development agendas, namely the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063** and its First Ten-Year

Japan Pledges \$30 Billion for Africa over Next Three Years

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe committed to provide **\$30 billion** as public and private support for infrastructure development, education and healthcare expansion in the African Continent.

ii. Abe attended the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) , in the Kenyan capital Nairobi to and declared this package would be spread over **three years from this year and include \$10 billion** for infrastructure projects, to be executed through cooperation with the African Development Bank.

Union Minister Sadanandha Gowda inaugurated the 8th meet of SAARCSTAT

India hosted the three-day(August 29-31,2016) Eighth meeting of SAARCSTAT and delegates from SAARC Member States and other international organizations viz., FAO, PARIS 21, and ADB attended the Meet.

The theme of this Meeting is "Trade Statistics – Merchandise & Services".

Venue: New Delhi

About SAARCSTAT :

The South Asian region is richly endowed in terms of human resources and has to its credit several internationally renowned statisticians. **P.C. Mahalanobis**, the founder of Indian Statistical Institute was one of them who visualized, in early 40's, Statistics as the "Key Technology of the era".

- In the **First meeting of SAARCSTAT at Kolkata, following Technical Subgroups were formed and the four countries offered to work** as coordinators of Technical Subgroups.

8th Meet :

i.The Statistics Ministry in India attaches **considerable importance to coverage and quality aspects of statistics released in the country** and are constantly working to achieve international standards.

ii.This was stated by the Minister for Statistics and Programme Implementation, **Shri. D.V. Sadananda Gowda, while inaugurating the 8th Meeting of Heads of SAARC Statistical Organizations (SAARCSTAT).**

iii.Reducing Asymmetry in Trade data amongst SAARC countries is one of the topics for discussion in this Meeting. Reducing asymmetry in bilateral trade data is an issue which requires serious attention from the data compilers.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

WHO to remove transgenders from is mental disorders list

With a new study published in the **Lancet Psychiatry** journal declared a proposal that would remove the decades-old assignment, **World Health Organization** is making the move to **declassify transgender identity as a mental disorder** on its international list of medical conditions.

- A study led by the **National Institute of Psychiatry in Mexico** suggested that transgender people struggled to access health care services due to this classification.

Maoist leader Prachanda set to become Nepal PM after signing pact with Madhesis

Nepal Maoist leader **Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka "Prachanda"** is all set to become the **Prime Minister of Nepal for the second time** as he filed his nomination. His appointment is hoping to

be the best after receiving important backing from the opposing **Madhesis by signing a three-point** pact.

- Pushpa Kamal Dahi lalso known as **Prachanda**, is the prime ministerial candidate of Nepal and holds the post of **chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre)**.
- In May 2006, Maoist chairman Prachanda along with another **senior leader Dr.Baburam Bhattarai** entered **Nepal through Birgunj**, after presiding over a Maoist meet in Punjab, India.

Japan gets a boost with new stimulus package of \$275 billion

- Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** unveiled a new economic stimulus package worth more than **\$275 billion in order to get the conking economy back to form**.
- The package includes **7.5tn yen in new spending for the national and local governments** in the next two years and more than half of the money has been reserved for the current financial year.
- This stimulus package comes just days after the **Bank of Japan eased monetary policy slightly and announced a plan to review its monetary stimulus programme in September**.

America passes a law endorsing Jamaat-ur-Ahrar to enter the list of Global Terrorists

- The United States has added the Pakistani militant group **Jamaat-ur-Ahrar to its list of global terrorists**, triggering sanctions against a faction that has staged multiple attacks on civilians, religious minorities and soldiers.
- Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) is a splinter group of the **Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP)** based in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region. The group, founded by a former TTP leader in August 2014, has staged multiple attacks in the region targeting civilians, religious minorities, military personnel, and law enforcement, and was **responsible for the killing of two Pakistani employees of the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar in early March 2016**.

Kathakali dance troupe in Egypt for first time

- Kerala's** classical Indian dance **Kaathakali** has been performed by troupe (group of dancers) that wooed the audience during its performances in different cities of Egypt for the first time.
- The group of dancers of Kaathakali comprising 9 members visited Egypt as part of the 14th Summer Festival organized by Bibliotheca Alexandrina also to perform in other cities including Port Said, Ismailia and the Egypt Society for Culture and Development in Cairo.

World's longest hunger strike by Irom Shramila comes to an end!

World's longest hunger strike ended on August 9 when **Irom Chanu Sharmila** ended her 16-year-long fast.

i. Manipur's 'Iron Lady' Irom Chanu Sharmila was on a **hunger strike** for 5757 days and was being force-fed through a nasal tube to keep her alive at a prison-turned-hospital in Imphal.

ii. **Irom Chanu Sharmila** also known as the "**Iron Lady of Manipur**"

or "**Mengoubi**" is a civil rights activist, political activist, and poet from the Indian state of Manipur.

iii. On 2 November 2000, she began a hunger strike which she ended on 9 August 2016, after 16 years of fasting. Having refused food and water for more than 500 weeks, she has been called "**the world's longest hunger striker**".

Vladimir agreed to work toward restoring full relations with Turkey

Russian President **Vladimir** after meeting with Turkish President **Tayyip Erdogan** in Saint Petersburg has agreed to work toward **restoring full relations with Turkey** and also added that rebuilding trade ties will be time consuming.

i. Putin was one of the first foreign leaders to phone **Erdogan offering support after the coup attempt and shares none of the scruples of European Union leaders about the ensuing crackdown.**

ii. It's the first time the two leaders have met since Turkish interceptors **blasted a Russian warplane out of the skies over Syria in November.**

Brazil Launched Immunization Programme against the deadly Dengue Fever

i. Brazil launched the first **public immunization programme** in the Americas against dengue fever, where **500,000 people** to be injected with the world's first authorized vaccine against the disease.

ii. **This movement** will vaccinate all individuals **15-27 years of age in 28 municipalities and 9-44 years of age in the two municipalities** with the top dengue burden in our state over the next three weeks.

iii. This anti dengue movement will be set out in the southern state of **Parana** and In Parana state, home to 10 million people, cases of dengue fever and deaths due to the disease have tripled in recent years.

World's longest, highest glass bridge to open in China

i. The **430-metre long and six metre wide** Glass Bridge set to be the **world's longest and highest glass bridge** will open to visitors in Hunan province of China. Besides it set 10 world records spanning its design and construction.

ii. The bridge concreted with **99 panes of three-layer transparent glasses**, hangs between two steep cliffs 300 metres altitude is maintained from the ground.

UK approves for the establishment of the Second Phase of the World's biggest offshore Wind Farm

- i. United Kingdom Ministers approved the **second phase of the world's biggest offshore wind farm. Hornsea Project Two** will include 300 turbines spread across 300 square miles, 55 miles off the coast of England in the North Sea. With an estimated energy capacity of 1.8 gigawatts, the project could provide enough power for 1.6 million homes.
- ii. The Hornsea Project Two farm should have up to 300 turbines and a capacity of up to 1.8 gigawatts. It could produce enough energy to power 1.6 million homes. It is an extension of the 1.2GW **Hornsea Project One which was in itself being trumpeted as the world's biggest offshore wind farm.**

China agrees with 10 ASEAN nations to solve the dispute over South China Sea

- i. **China and ten members of Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN]** have agreed to form a framework for a code of conduct to ease tension in the disputed South China Sea.
- ii. It is noted that China and a grouping of Southeast Asian nations aim to finish by the middle of next year a framework for a code of conduct to ease tension in the **disputed South China Sea.**
- iii. The two sides also agreed to get the framework for the code of conduct done by mid-2017. They also approved guidelines for a **China-ASEAN hotline for use during maritime emergencies.** They also agreed that a pact on unplanned maritime encounters signed by countries in the region in 2014 is applied to the SCS.

Columbia enters into a Historical Peace Deal with the Leftist – FARC rebels

- i. **Colombia's government has secured a groundbreaking peace deal with leftist Farc** rebels – promising to end a war that wracked the country for more than half a century, killing tens of thousands and displacing millions.
- ii. The Colombian government and the FARC announced that they have reached **a final, full and definitive accord.**
- iii. Both sides have agreed to work together to address social exclusion, **to deliver justice to the victims of the conflict and build a stable and enduring peace.**

US Postal Service honors Diwali Festival with a Forever Stamp

- i. The United States Postal Service will commemorate the festival of Diwali with a **Forever stamp** on Oct 5 and on behalf of this a dedication ceremony to be hosted at Consulate General of India in New York.
- ii. The commemorative stamp designed with **featuring a traditional diya oil lamp** beautifully lit, sitting on a sparkling gold background.

First Asian Science and Technology (S&T) Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- i. The first **Asian Science and Technology (S&T) Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction** (AMCDRR 2016-DRR) was organised by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (UNISDR AP) held at **Bangkok in Thailand**.
- ii. The event saw a discussion on Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 about shifting managing disasters to managing risks.
- iii. Union Minister of Home Affairs **Kiren Rijiju**, a UN designated DRR Champion for the Asia Region, addressed the conference on behalf of India.

Turkey launches Operation Euphrates Shield

- i. Turkey has launched a major military intervention in Syria as a part of **Operation Euphrates, sending tanks and warplanes across the border** in a coordinated campaign with Syrian opposition fighters, who seized an Islamic State-held village in the area in the first hours of fighting.
- ii. The Turkish military announced it had **killed 25 Kurdish militants of the PYD in northern Syria** during airstrikes, as part of its Operation Euphrates Shield. The military campaign, going on for at least five days, has targeted Islamic State (Isis) fighters as well as Kurdish militias.
- iii. Turkey has been preparing for the **Jarabulus operation** for days.

China Commissions High-Capacity Solar Thermal Power Plant

- i. East Asian nation **China** in the Qinghai province has commissioned its **first solar thermal power plant** with the capacity of 10 megawatt which is the third such power plant in the world has been commissioned.
- ii. The other two high end Power Generating stations are located in the **US and Spain**.
- iii. The core technology used here is that solar collection, heat absorption, energy storage and electricity generation.

RANKING & REPORTS

Forbes releases the list America’s top wealth Advisors with 4 Indian based Americans ensures their hot spots

Forbes comes up with a list of America’s top wealth advisors with 200 members altogether manage USD 675 billion with four Indian-origin persons as a part of the list.

It is noted that Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch and UBS secured multiple advisors in the top 20 spots, led by Greenwich,

- 1 – Conn.-based Jeff Erdmann of Merrill**
- 2 – Manhattan-based Morgan Stanley’s Brian Pfeifler**
- 3 – UBS’ Christopher Errico.**

It is noted that the list also includes advisors like

- **Ric Edelman**, managing \$15.5 billion in Fairfax,
- **Va., Rod Westmoreland**, who handles \$3.8 billion out of Atlanta,
- **Ga., and Charles Zhang**, whose \$3.4 billion business in Portage,
- Mich. manages the wealth of executives at Midwestern corporations including **Kellogg and Stryker**.

Indian Touch:-

Creating a milestone in managing huge assests, Indian managers spot their top spots with big companies as follows,

- **Raj Sharma** – Merrill Lynch’s Private Banking & Investment Group-**17th position**
- **Ash Chopra** – Merrill Lynch’s Private Banking & Investment Group- **129th position**,
- **Sonny Kothari** – Merrill Lynch Wealth Management – **176th position**
- **Raju Pathak** – Morgan Stanley Wealth Management- **184th**

India is riskier for business than Bangladesh, according to this index

Verisk Maplecroft has released a list of countries for the business opportunities based on the civil unrest and peace prevalence in the countries called the “**Civil Unrest Index**”. Pathetically **India ranked 4th in this list preceded by Syria, Yemen and Libya**.

This list determines the ease of business doing in the country. The Top 10 pathetic Rankings are as follows,

RANK	COUNTRY
1	Syria
2	Yemen
3	Libya
4	India
5	Burundi
6	Bangladesh
7	Mexico
8	Myanmar
9	P.O.T
10	Nigeria

- The report by Maplecroft denotes that it is striking that **India, Brazil, France, Mexico and South Africa** have all witnessed substantial disorder in the last year, lack adequate structures to avoid grievances escalating into wholesale protests.
- **France is the Only European nation** entered in this list at 16th position due to the major terror strikes in the nation and It is noted that **Bangladesh** is safer when compared to India being placed at **7th position**.

Singapore is second happiest country in the world: Bloomberg Misery Index

According to the latest **Bloomberg Misery Index** which combines the inflation and unemployment rates in 74 countries, Singapore is the second happiest place in the world.

Some important Rankings:-

Thailand – **1st**, Singapore – **2nd**, China – **23rd** and UK – **21st**

The following table shows the raging of least miserable to highly miserable countries:-

S. No	Country	Miserable Index Percent
1	Thailand	1.11

2	Singapore	1.4
3	Japan	2.7
4	Switzerland	3
5	Iceland	3.5
6	Kazakhstan	22
7	Egypt	25
8	South	33
9	Bosnia	49
10	Venezuela	188.9

India remains as the Number one among the Wikipedia’s Priorities

After 2010, now in 2016 India is expected to remain the “number one most strategic region” in the global plans of the Wikipedia, the free Internet encyclopedia that allows its users to edit most of its content.

India – Wikipedia:-

India became the **largest, most popular general reference work on the Internet**, and among the top 10 most-visited sites in the world.

- This was coping with India’s “huge size and diversity”. **“Hindi Wikipedians as a community have such a hard time meeting up across different states and even countries”**.
- The WikiConference India 2016 ended in the twin towns of **Chandigarh-Mohali** in August.
- Figures emerging at the Wiki Conference, meanwhile, suggest that compared to the English Wikipedia’s total strength of five million articles, **Hindi had 106,000 and Urdu had 105,000 articles. Tamil had a little over 88,000, and Telugu, almost 64,000.**
- The Wikipedia is the seventh most visited site in India, and by some estimates, the sixth-most popular in the world. Some 1.8 million sites link to the Wikipedia, according to alexa.com, that **provides commercial web traffic data and analytics, giving a hint of its clout in cyberspace.**
- It is noted that the Partnerships with museums and universities — who are natural allies for a project like the Wikipedia could be a bit of a challenge.

‘Linguistic Versatility:-

The **Punjabi Wikipedia** had revitalized itself over the last two years with a “young and energetic” group, in an “amazing” way. They managed to grow as a team, and attain 30 per cent growth in content too, he said.

- Also, with **Malayalam**, there was a lot of “self-organizing, mutual help and specializing”. Their wiki samanga mahotsav meetings were a useful outreach to elementary schools.
- They had even raised funds to buy a computer for a team-member who simply could not afford it, and the State government **Tamil Virtual Academy** (tamilvu.org) had made much progress in digitizing Tamil literature “en masse”.

- The “subjective” challenges included arguments among those volunteering on this giant global project, the emphasis on status and authority, especially given that the project is sometimes seen as **self-governing or leaderless**. **Moreover, he suggested, peer collaboration might be a less acceptable trend in India.**

Azim Premji and Shiv Nadar bags their spots in the prestigious Forbes list of 100 richest people in the technology field

i. Forbes has released its first ever list of the 100 richest people in the technology field. This list is as usually dominated by Americans with Microsoft founder Bill Gates at the top. **Two Indian tech tycoons, Wipro chairman Azim Premji and HCL co-founder Shiv Nadar bagged their spots in this prestigious list.**

ii. The ‘100 Richest Tech Billionaires In The World 2016’ list has been topped by Microsoft founder Bill Gates with an estimated fortune of USD 78 billion. **Azim Premji ranks 13th on the list with a networth of USD 16 billion and Shiv Nadar comes in on the 17th spot with USD 11.6 billion of net worth.**

Top 10 list	
Position	Name of the Person
1	Bill Gates
2	Jeff Bezos
3	Marl Zuckerberg
4	Larry Ellison
5	Larry page
6	Sergey Brin
7	Steve Ballmer
8	Jack Ma
9	Ma Huateng

Mumbai – the highest Expensive City in India but the second Least Expensive in World, says Trip Index

According to the sixth edition of TripAdvisor’s TripIndex Cities, **Mumbai has been ranked the most expensive city in India but the second least expensive in the world to visit, after Hanoi, Vietnam.**

The ranking Index:-

TripIndex Cities compares the cost of a **three-night break** during the summer travel period of June to September in 27 key cities around the world.

- The report revealed that **New York (US) is the most expensive city in the world** for a three-day break for Indians will cost a whopping INR 1,24,201.

Ranking list of least expensive cities: -

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Hanoi, | 4. Kuala Lumpur. |
| 2. Mumbai, | 5. Bangkok |
| 3. Cape Town | 6. Moscow |

It is noted that the survey also **included New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune, Jaipur** taking into account in-destination costs for two people.

India sparks in the GII ranking among the Central and South Asian Nations

According to the rankings released by Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual

Property Organization (WIPO), India climbed 15 spots, from 81 last year, to 66 in the Global Innovation Index (GII) and maintained the top spot in the Central and South Asia regions.

GII 2016 Theme: "Winning with Global Innovation"

Global Innovative Index :-

Global Innovation Index (GII), a ranking **co-published by Cornell University, INSEAD and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, an agency of the United Nations.

- The Global Innovation Index is an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for, and success in, innovation. It is published by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization, in partnership with other organizations and institutions and is based on both subjective and objective data derived from several sources, including the **International Telecommunication Union, the World Bank and the World Economic Forum.**

India's Ranking:-

India, **66th is the top-ranked economy in Central and Southern Asia.** This report showing particular strengths in tertiary education and R&D, including global R&D intensive firms, the quality of its universities and scientific publications, its market sophistication and ICT service exports where it ranks first in the world. India also over-performs in innovation relative to its GDP.

Rank	County
1	Switzerland
2	Sweden
3	UK

- In market sophistication, India was at ranked on **33 positions from 72 position, which was tapped by domestic market scale – a new addition to the section.**
- India scored high on tertiary **education and R&D**, the quality of its universities and scientific publications, its market sophistication and information and communication technology service exports, where it ranks first in the world, according to the index.
- India ranks second on innovation quality among middle-income economies, overtaking Brazil. **"Relative weaknesses exist in the indicators for business environment, education expenditures, new business creations and the creative goods and services production,"**
- In market sophistication, India was at ranked on **33 positions from 72 positions**, which was tapped by domestic market scale – a new addition to the section. Interestingly, the domestic market scale ranked 3rd on the poll. However, the ease of protecting minority interest was **at 8th position from the 7th position of the previous year's data.**
- Further, the business sophistication was at 57th rank from the 116th which was led by new indicators such as intellectual property payments, ICT services imports and research talent business enterprises.

China moves to 17th place in innovation quality, making it the leader among middle-income economies for this indicator.

The Economist's Global Liveability Ranking awards Melbourne city as the Most Liveable City in world for the 6th consecutive year

- i. The **Global Liveability Ranking**, released by **The Economist** declared **Australia's Melbourne city** as the world's most liveable city for the sixth consecutive year.
- ii. This ranking scored 140 cities on health care, infrastructure, culture, environment and stability and awarded **Melbourne a total of 97.5 out of a possible 100 points**.
- iii. It is noted that **Adelaide and Perth ranked fifth and seventh** respectively.
- iv. Other top 10 cities include **Vienna ranked No 2 and Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary, Auckland, Helsinki and Hamburg**.

Carbon Clean 200 List – 7 Indian Companies among the 200 companies throughout the World

A special institution named **Corporate Knights** created the **Carbon Clean 200 (Clean200TM)** – a list of the **200 largest companies worldwide ranked by their total clean energy revenues** as an invitation to a larger discussion of how we can invest in a clean energy future.

The Carbon Clean 200 :-

More than 70 of the companies included in the list receive a majority of their revenue from clean energy, the rankings show, with most of the 200 from **China (66 entries) and the US (40)**, although there is also strong representation from **Japan (20), Germany (8), India (7) and Canada (5)**.

- The biggest 200 public companies ranked by green energy revenues, was first published on August 15, 2016 by Corporate Knights and As You Sow.
- The Clean 200 uses negative screens. It excludes all oil and gas companies and utilities that generate less than 50% of their power from green sources, as well as the top 100 coal companies measured by reserves, **top 100 weapons producers**, as well as laggards on tropical deforestation 14 , and child or forced labor and companies who engage in negative climate lobbying.

The list is topped by **Japan's Toyota Motor followed by Germany's Siemens AG**. The top 5 list as follows

- 1 TOYOTA MOTOR
- 2 SIEMENS AG-REG
- 3 JOHNSON CONTROLS
- 4 SCHNEIDER ELECTR
- 5 PANASONIC CORP

Indian companies among Carbon Clean 200 List:-

- Among Indian companies are **Suzlon Energy** at 68 rank for its wind farms,
- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd** at 106 for its wind electric generators and solar cells,
- **Tata Chemicals** at 114 for chemicals for biodiesel, solar energy, and fuel cells.

- **Thermax Ltd** is at 139
- **Exide Indus at 153** for electric storage batteries.
- **IDFC Ltd at 155** for its green infrastructure financing
- **Havells India** at 166 for energy meters.

TCS bags 58th rank among the Top 100 Most Valuable Brand in the US

Brand Finance rating agency has ranked **TCS as the 58th most valuable brand** in the US and as one of only four global IT services companies recognised as a top 100 brand in the US, with 78.3 points, earning an **AA+ rating**.

- Tata Consultancy Services, India’s top exporter of IT software and a global provider of IT services, consulting and business solutions, has been ranked as the 58th most valuable brand in the US.

The Top List:-

As per the Brand Finance report, Major IT giants bagged the top spots. They are as follows,

RANK	COMPANY NAME	RANK	COMPANY NAME
1	Apple	11	Coco – Cola
2	Google	12	Facebook
3	Amazon	13	IBM
4	Microsoft	14	Disney
5	Verizon	15	Chase
6	AT & T	16	Marlboro
7	Walmart	17	The Home Depot
8	Wells Fargo	18	Nike
9	Mc Donalds	19	BOA
10	GE	20	Citi Group

TCS @ 58 :-The brand value of TCS grew **286 per cent from \$2.3 billion in 2010 to \$9.04 billion in 2016**, marking the fastest growth across the IT services industry during this period.

- TCS has emerged as a dominant force in the IT services industry and is the strongest brand in the sector. Its brand power is indisputable. This ranking truly reflects the extent to which **TCS is deeply rooted in the US community, focused on the impact we can have for our customers and society at large.**
- The ranking reflects the extent TCS has **rooted in the US community, focused on the impact that TCS had for their customers and society.**

India ranks 7th among the Wealthiest Nations in the World

The W20: The 20 Wealthiest Countries in the World – report by Johannesburg-based The New World Wealth, **India is ranked 7th** among the wealthiest countries in the world in terms of private wealth held by individuals.

- The New World Wealth is a research consultancy that tracks the global wealth sector. The value of total individual wealth in India – which includes property, cash, equities and business interests – is pegged at **\$3,492 billion** in 2015.

Rank	Country
1	US
2	China
3	Japan
4	UK
5	Germany
6	France
7	India
8	Canada
9	Australia
10	Italy

India’s Wealth :-

Wealth refers to net assets of a person. It includes all their assets less any liabilities.

- The ranking of India as one of the **top 10 wealthiest countries in the world** is largely because of its large population.
- Over the past 5 years, **China was the fastest growing wealthiest country** in terms of dollar wealth growth.
- The study ranked the wealthiest countries in the **world as of June 2016** in terms of total individual wealth held.

Fortune Change The World 2016 – Indian giants Cipla and Godrej bags their prestigious spots

India’s pharmaceutical giant Cipla Ltd and consumer goods conglomerate Godrej have been recognized by Fortune magazine in a list of global firms changing the world for the good and having a positive social impact through their activities.

THE TOP INDUSTRIES OF THE LIST :

- Glaxo Smith Kline – Pharmaceuticals
- IDE Technologies – Industrial Machinery
- General Electric – Industrial Machinery
- Gilead Sciences – Pharmaceuticals
- Nestlé – Food Consumer Products
- Nike – Apparel
- MasterCard – Financial Data Services
- United Technologies – Aerospace & Defense
- Novozymes Specialty – Chemicals

Other notable ranking in the list are, **US retail giant Walmart (15), China’s ride-sharing company Didi Chuxing (30), India-born Indra Nooyi-led PepsiCo (38), Dutch beverages giant Heineken (43) and American motor company Tesla (50).**

- Cipla is ranked 46th in the list of 50 followed by Godrej on the 48th spot**, the only Indian companies in the list.

India world’s third biggest tech startup hub: ASSOCHAM Study

According to a report made by **ASSOCHAM, India is home to the third largest number of**

technology-driven start-ups in the world, following the US and the UK occupying the top two positions.

The Start-up report :-

This report made by Assocham in association with **Thought Arbitrage Research Institute** revealed that **Bengaluru is host to the largest share of technology start-ups in the country**, followed by Delhi NCR and Mumbai, while Hyderabad and Chennai are also quite popular among budding tech entrepreneurs.

- In terms of total number of start-ups, comprising both tech and non-tech areas, India again figured among the five largest hosts in the world, along with **China (10,000 each)**.
- The US occupies the top slot with 83,000 start-ups. **IT hub Bengaluru is host to 26% of domestic tech start-ups, followed by Delhi NCR (23%) and Mumbai (17%)**.
- The awareness that a **start-up is a vehicle of rapid growth through technological disruption** and innovation has to spread across the economy.
- The study recommended that synergizing **'Startup India' with 'Make in India' and 'Digital India'** initiatives has the potential to expand the domestic ecosystem for new entrepreneurs
- Start up India with Make in India and Digital India has the potential **to expand Indian eco system for the new entrepreneurs. The paper suggested tax exemption for research** and experimentation to encourage fresh ideas without fear of failure.
- This report also suggested a **Stanford University model** in various Indian universities, the ASSOCHAM-Thought Arbitrage paper said courses on creation of small businesses should be encouraged in the learning campuses.

Indian Star Deepika Padukone entered the Forbes top 10 Highest-Paid actress in the World

Forbes magazine ranked out the world's highest paid actresses and Hunger games star Jennifer Lawrence has topped the list for the second time in a row. Indian star Deepika Padukone is also among the top 10 highest-paid actresses in the world.

The Bangalore-bred Padukone, who got her big break with 2007's Om Shanti Om, has since starred in several films that have crossed the \$150 million or **100 crore mark—a barometer for box office success in India**.

ii. She has already scored box office gold in Bollywood movies such as Bajirao Mastani and Piku. Now Indian actress Deepika Padukone has notched a place among the world's highest-paid actresses with a \$10 million debut.

Rank	Actress
1	Jennifer Lawrence
2	Melissa Mccarthy
3	Scarlett Johansson
4	Jennifer Aniston
5	Fan bingbing
6	Charlize thereon
7	Amy Adams
8	Julia Roberts
9	Mila Kunis
10	Deepika Padukone

Child Sex Ratio drops to a whopping 800 of 1000 in Uttarakhand

- i. A study conducted by the **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** has found that **child sex ratio i.e number of girls per 1,000 boys** is all set to fall drastically to a little over 800 by 2021 census.
- ii. In India, the **Child Sex Ratio** is defined as the number of females per thousand males in the age group 0–6 years in a human population.
- iii. Thus it is equal to **1000 x the reciprocal of the sex ratio in the same age group**, i.e. under age seven. Obviously an imbalance in this age group will extend to older age groups in future years. Currently the ratio of males to females is generally significantly greater than 1, i.e. there are more boys than girls.
- iv. According to the decennial Indian census, the sex ratio in the 0-6 age group in India went from 104.0 males per 100 females in 1981, to 105.8 in 1991, to 107.8 in 2001, to 108.8 in 2011. The ratio is significantly **higher in certain states such as Punjab and Haryana**.
- v. The sex ratio at birth (SRB) as per the Asian Centre for Human Right swas **861 in 2011-2012 and 867 during 2012-2013 respectively in Uttarakhand**.
- vi. If under-five mortality rate **of 48 deaths per 1,000 births in India is taken into account in the context of Uttarakhand**, the child sex ratio in the state would have reduced to 813 in 2011-2012 and 819 in 2012-2013.

World Population to hit 9.9 Billion in 2050, PRB report says

According to the projections of the 2016 **World Population Data Sheet** from the **Population Reference Bureau (PRB)**, the world population will reach **9.9 billion in 2050, up 33 percent** from an estimated 7.4 billion now.

Regional Population Growth:-

PRB's projections show Africa's population will reach **2.5 billion by 2050, while the number of people in the Americas will rise by only 223 million to 1.2 billion**.

- Asia will gain about 900 million to 5.3 billion, while Europe registers a decline from **740 million to 728 million**. **Oceania (which includes Australia and New Zealand)** would rise from 40 million to 66 million.

Upscaled Population explosion:-

The combined population of the world's least developed countries in the world will double by 2050 to 1.9 billion.

- **The population in 29 countries wills more than double** and nearly all of these countries are in Africa.
- **Forty-two countries will register population declines**. These countries are scattered throughout Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

- Some European countries will post significant declines, such as **Romania**, which is projected to have a population of **14 million in 2050, down from 20 million today**.
- The population of the **United States will be 398 million**, up 23 percent from 324 million now.

Rate of Growth :-

As per the expected rate of growth, the expected population of the top populous countries in 2050 as follows: -

1. **India – 1,708 Million (1,329 in 2016)**
2. **China – 1,344 Million (1,378 in 2016)**
3. **US – 398 Million (324 in 2016)**
4. **Nigeria – 398 Million (197 in 2016)**
5. **Indonesia – 398 Million (259 in 2016)**

India ranks third in Robotic Automation implementation in core Business Process

i. According to Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, **(CIMA)**, **India ranks third in the world in implementing robotic automation in their core business processes**. CIMA is an UK based organization that conducted the global survey across European, African and Asian countries.

ii. Zimbabwe tops the chart with (75%) professionals supporting automation, followed by China with a 67% of acceptance compared to 64% professionals support automation in India. **India ranks third in the world in implementing robotic automation in their core business processes**.

v. CIMA study also states that in India more than **50% of financial experts feel that better automation and data analysis enable companies to become more efficient and bring a better work-life balance** and China becomes the top country with (66%) of a positive feedback.

World Most Innovative Companies by Forbes, India bags 5 positions in top 100 ranks

Forbes has released a list of 100 'The World's Most Innovative Companies'. These 100 companies ranked on the list are based on their creative disruption, potential for innovation and investor interest. The companies also need to have seven years of financial data and \$10 billion in market capitalization.

The World's Most Innovative Companies :-

Rank	Name	Country	Industry
1	TESLA MOTORS INC.	USA	Automobile Manufacturers
2	SALESFORCE.COM INC.	USA	Application Software
3	REGENERON PHARMACEUTICALS	USA	Biotechnology
4	INCYTE CORP	USA	Biotechnology
5	ALEXION PHARMACEUTICALS INC.	USA	Biotechnology
6	UNDER ARMOUR INC.	USA	Apparel, Accessories & Luxury Goods
7	MONSTER BEVERAGE CORP	USA	Soft Drinks

8	UNILEVER INDONESIA TBK PT	IDN	Household Products
9	VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INC.	USA	Biotechnology
10	BIOMARIN PHARMACEUTICAL INC.	USA	Biotechnology

Innovative Companies in India:-

At number **18**, **Asian Paints** is the highest-ranked Indian company on the list, featuring on the list for the fourth time in a row. The other Indian companies ranked on the list are **Hindustan Unilever (31)**, **Tata Consultancy Services (66)**, **Sun Pharmaceutical Industries (73)** and **Larsen & Toubro (89)**.

India’s exports better placed in product diversification: Study

i. According to the study conducted by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry India’s exports are better placed in terms of **product diversification** as the top ten export products **account for 58 per cent** of the total export items accounted.

ii. The study observes the **concentration of the top 10 export products** for the major economies, including Hong Kong (89 per cent), the Republic of Korea (86 per cent), Japan (77 per cent), the UK (71 per cent), Germany (70 per cent), the US (68 per cent), China (68 per cent), the Netherlands (63 per cent) and France (60 per cent).

iii. The country placed 19th place in the list of **exporters with merchandise exports** valued at \$262 billion.

World Risk Index – 2016, India at 77th, Pakistan at 72nd and Bangladesh at 5th

The World Risk Report 2016, published by the **UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)** and **Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft**, analyses the role that infrastructure plays in shaping a country’s disaster risk. India has been ranked 77th on the World Risk Index, topped by Island state of Vanuatu.

Measures of Risk Index :-

- The index assessed the risk of disaster in 171 countries through the **combined analysis of natural hazards and societal vulnerabilities**.
- The Index, calculated by the University of Stuttgart, ranks 171 countries according to their risk of becoming a victim of a disaster as a result of natural hazards such as **floods, cyclones, or earthquakes**.
- The Island state of Vanuatu has been ranked no 1 on the index. Pakistan ranks 72th while Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at 63rd and 5th position respectively. **China and Nepal are in a better position than Indian on 85th and 108th position**.

The World’s Highest-Paid Actors 2016: The Rock Leads With Knockout \$64.5 Million Year

Wrestler cum actor **Dwayne Johnson** topped a **Forbes magazine list of the world’s highest paid actors** with an estimated 2016 payday of \$64.5 million. Once again the Forbes annual list proved that actresses earned less than actors. Earlier this week, the magazine named “Hunger

Games” star Jennifer Lawrence the world’s highest paid actress for the second straight year, with an estimated 2016 take of 46 million dollars.

Rank	Actors
1	Dwayne Johanson – \$64. 5 Mn
2	Jackie Chan – \$61 Mn
3	Matt Damon – \$55Mn
4	Tom Cruise – \$53 Mn
5	Johnny Depp – \$48 Mn
6	Ben Affleck – \$43 Mn
7	Ven Diesel – \$35 Mn
8	Shah Rush Khan – \$33Mn
9	Robert Downey Jr – \$33 Mn
10	Ahskay Kumar – \$31. 5 Mn

U’khand tops in industry, service sectors growth: Assocham

- i. Trade Body **ASSOCHAM** puts Uttarakhand on **the top on its study in terms of growth** in the industry and service sectors in the last ten years.
- ii. The study also highlighted the state’s economic growth and industrial development as it has recorded the highest Compounded Annual Growth Rate (**CAGR**) of **16.5 per cent** and **12.3 per cent** respectively in during the last ten years from **2004 to 2015**.
- iii. The growth figure achieved by the small state is much higher than the national average growth of about 7 per cent in the same decade.

BANKING & FINANCE

Bonanza for 7th pay commission beneficiaries – SBI unveils two new cheap housing loans

SBI unveiled a new **cheaper home loan scheme** for defense and other government employees. This new decision reflects to attract the **donee of the 7th pay commission’s salary hike**. SBI eyes that the surplus income of the employees can thus be utilized by government employees and defense personnel towards purchase of house.

New Housing Loan:-

State Bank of India introduced two new self customizable schemes as per the needs of the employees without any processing fee in the following terms,

- **SBI Privilege Home Loan – government employees,**
- **SBI Shaurya Home Loan – defence personnel.**

The government employees are relaxed with installment tenure extending up to **75 years of age and lower EMI burden post retirement and 0.05 percent concession over the home loan interest.**

Raghuram Rajan released the consolidated norms of On-Tap Licensing process to enact reform in the Banking Industry

In order to switch over bank licensing process from once-in-a-decade affair into an ongoing process, RBI governor Raghuram Rajan has released the key features regarding the consolidated norms of the 'on tap licensing' or continuous licensing process.

Guidelines of this On-Tap License:-

1. On-tap licensing has initiated the **biggest overhaul in India's banking structure**, after readying the structure for differentiated banking regime with the issuance of **small finance banks and payments bank licences**.
2. If one sees the monetary policy structure reforms too along with this, Rajan's governorship has witnessed an era of big reforms in India's banking industry.

As a key point to notice, Individuals who are 'residents' and have 10 years of experience in banking and finance at a senior level and existing non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) that are 'controlled by residents'.

- The applicant have to pass the '**Fit and Proper**' criteria, which constitutes of a promoting entity/ group should have a past record of proper and efficient financial credentials, integrity and should have a minimum **10 years of successful track record**.
- It is also to be complying by the applicants that the respective entity has total assets of **Rs 5,000 crore** or more, the non-financial business of the group does not account for **40 per cent or more in terms of total assets/in terms of gross income**.

Tata Capital Housing unveils home loan scheme with 4% rate

i. Tata Capita Housing Limited announced a Comprehensive Housing finance scheme called Prapti with an attractive 4% interest rate for people earning less than **Rs 6 lakh** a year.

ii. The Scheme categorizes two group upon their annual income. viz

1. People with earning between **Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh** a year are recognised as **low income group**

2. People earning less than Rs 3 lakh are considered as **economically weaker segment**.

iii. Also the Prapti scheme that intends sections like the lower income group (LIG), economically weaker section (EWS), scheduled caste (SC), scheduled tribe (ST) and women in the peripheries of metros, tier I cities along with those living in tier II and tier III cities.

iv. The initiative is inline with the union government's vision of 'Housing for All by 2022'.

ICICI lowers its Marginal Cost Lending Rate by 0.05% to 8.9%

India's largest private sector bank, **ICICI Bank reduces its Marginal Cost Lending Rate by 0.05% to 8.90 from previously 8.95%.**

i. The Reserve Bank of India has brought a new methodology of setting lending rate by commercial banks under the name **Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR)**. It has modified

the existing base rate system from **April 2016** onwards.

ii. As per the new guidelines by the RBI, banks have to prepare Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) which will be the internal benchmark lending rates. Based upon this MCLR, **interest rate for different types of customers should be fixed in accordance with their risk.**

SEBI's first phase of new enterprise portal goes live

i. Markets Watchdog SEBI unveiled its **first phase** of its **new enterprise portal** to offer timely dissemination of information to all its stakeholders be it internal or external.

ii. The new portal developed by IT major **Tech Mahindra** went live on July 29 will come in place of the existing one, also the first phase provides the SEBI-employees and some of its market intermediaries.

iii. The portal provides an e-Platform to registered and prospective intermediaries to communicate in secure, simplified, transparent and paperless process that is in line with the digital trends.

Bank of Baroda ties up with start-up Fisdom

i. Vadodara headquartered Public Sector lender **Bank of Baroda** has entered into partnership with a fintech start-up **Fisdom** for personal wealth management services.

ii. The lender also entered into pact with **six other fintech companies**, proficient in different areas, they are CreditMantri, FundsTiger, Probe42, Power2SME, IndiaLends and KredX.

ICICI teams up with APOLLO India for an Asset Reconstruction Company

India's largest private banking lender, **ICICI banks** teamsup with **US based Apollo** India Credit Opportunity Management LLC to launch an **asset reconstruction company (ARC)**.

i. This tie-up is mainly emphasizing on the establishment of the ARC, which will **acquire debt from lenders** as well as equity stakes in companies.

ii. ICICI has also entered into a memorandum of understanding with **AION Capital Management Ltd** to launch an asset reconstruction company (ARC) as third partner.

RBI imposes penalty on 2 Chhattisgarh cooperative banks

i. Reserve Bank of India slapped penalty of **five lakh each on two cooperative banks** based in Chhattisgarh under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The two banks namely,

1. Zila Sahakari Kendriya Bank Maryadit, Raipur
2. Raipur Urban Mercantile Cooperative Bank Limited

ii. These cooperative banks penalised for **violation of the directives/guidelines** of the **Central Bank on 'Know Your Customer' norms.**

RBI launches portal to curb illegal money pooling by firms

- i. The Reserve Bank of India has launched a website **sachet.rbi.org.in**– in a bid to curb illegal and unauthorized pooling of funds by unscrupulous firms. It was launched by RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan.
- ii. The move will help people obtain information about entities allowed to collect deposits and also would help in arriving logical conclusion by punishing **the guilty is paramount to deter entities**.
- iii. The Sachet portal (Hindi for alert) will provide filing, tracking of complaints in addition it will also offer information about whether any particular unit is registered with any regulator.

RBI panel to benchmark India's household finance

- i. Reserve Bank has constituted a **panel to study the various facets of household finance** in India and to benchmark India's position visav is both in other major world markets and advanced economies.
- ii. The panel headed by Financial Economics Professor **Tarun Ramadorai** at Oxford University.

Corporation Bank unveils its Group Credit Life Insurance Scheme in Mangalore

In a pilot basis, Corporation bank has launched **group credit life insurance scheme** in Mangalore on August 4. This move attributes to increase the insurance cover of the growing population and also strengthen its borrowing community.

Life-based contracts tend to fall into two major categories:

- **Protection policies** – designed to provide a benefit, typically a lump sum payment, in the event of specified event. A common form of a protection policy design is term insurance.
- **Investment policies** – where the main objective is to facilitate the growth of capital by regular or single premiums. Common forms (in the U.S.) are whole life, universal life, and variable life policies.

Corporation Bank Group Insurance:-

The scheme is exclusively to cover the customers in the age group of **18-60 years** who have taken term loans from the bank.

It will be payable to the person , in the **event of death** of the borrower and it is a single premium group term insurance plan offering insurance cover to the loan taken by the customer.

Government fixes an inflation target of 4 percent for five years

- i. The Union government have come with the notification that tabled in the Lok Sabhaintends **4 per cent** inflation with the **tolerance of 2 percent (±)** for the next five years till **March 31, 2021**
- ii. The move is directed to the monetary policy framework agreement with the Reserve Bank of India.

iii. The center's notification comes upon the **section 45ZA of RBI Act, 1934**, in consultation with the bank Central Bank.

Axis Bank ready with UPI app, to tie-up with Freecharge

- i. Mumbai based Private sector lender **Axis Bank** has announced tie up with the Mobile recharging platform **Freecharge** and also said the bank is ready with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) app.
- ii. The Application powered by UPI architecture called **Axis Pay App** can be used by any other banks customer also would make the transactions easier.

Japan records biggest current account surplus since 2007

- i. Japan has recorded the **largest current account surplus in the first half of 2016** that quantify the international trade of goods, services and investments in and out marked a surplus of 10.63 trillion yen (\$104 billion) in the duration which is up 31.3 per cent from a year earlier.
- ii. Japan has been showing good result in tourism also in Goods trade, a key component of the current account balance, registered a **surplus of 2.35 trillion yen** compared with a deficit of 375.4 billion last year same duration.

RBI makes no changes in Repo rate and CRR in its third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Review

As expected The Reserve of India (RBI) in its **third bi-monthly monetary policy review kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent** citing upside risk to March 2017 inflation target.

Repo Rate and Reverse Repo Rate:-

- As the rates are high the **availability of credit and demand decreases resulting to decrease in inflation. This increase in Repo Rate and Reverse Repo Rate is a symbol of tightening of the policy.**
- In this latest Monetary Policy Review, the **repo rate was left unchanged at 6.50 per cent.**
- With retail inflation ruling above its projection of around 5 per cent for FY2017, the RBI held the rate steady and in the current financial year, the RBI last cut the repo rate in its **first bi-monthly monetary policy review, in April by 25 basis points to 6.50 per cent.**
- The RBI kept the **cash reserve ratio of scheduled banks unchanged at 4.0 per cent** of net demand and time liabilities.

HDFC, Max group merge life insurance businesses to create company worth Rs 67,000 crore

- i. The boards of **HDFC and Max Financial's groups** have given their nod to merge their respective life insurance entities. This will pave the way for more consolidation in the life insurance

space.

ii. The boards of HDFC Life, Max Life, Max Financial Services and Max India decided to amalgamate their businesses to create a **Rs 25,500-crore** entity under the label of HDFC Life through a **3:7 share** swap under which a Max shareholder will get three HDFC Life shares for every seven in an old share deal.

RGIC ties up with SVCB to foster the spread of the Insurance Policies on a Pan – India Basis

- i. **Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd**, Non-life insurer declare a bancassurance tie-up with **Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank (SVCB)** on August 9.
- ii. Reliance General will distribute its insurance products to the customers of SVCB.' SVCB is having a network of **194 branches**.
- iii. This is the fourth big partnership by Reliance in bancassurance, apart from the tie-up with **IndusInd Bank, Bank of India and Andhra Bank** and expects to boost our top line by up to 10 per cent through these tie-ups and alliances.

Ponzi schemes not under our purview: SEBI

- i. Market Regulator **SEBI** has clarified that any regulatory purview over **Ponzi schemes** will come under purview of state governments. The state government is the responsible to protect investors..
- ii. SEBI has stated that Ponzi schemes do not fall under the regulatory purview of SEBI, such schemes were banned under the **Prize Chit and Money Circulation (Banning) Act, 1978** and the State government concerned is the enforcement agency.

Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of commercial banks increased around 4%

The Union Government has declared that the **Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of commercial banks have increased by around 4%** in the from March 2015 to March 2016.

- i. This as a credit facility in respect of which the interest and/or installment of Bond finance principal has remained 'past due' for a specified period of time. NPA is used by financial institutions that refer to loans that are in jeopardy of default. Once **the borrower has failed to make interest or principle payments for 90 days the loan is considered to be a non-performing asset**.
- ii. It is noted that the NPA of banks was 5.43 percent in March 2015 which has risen to 9.32 percent in March this year.

NABARD sanctions Rs 26.06 crore to Punjab

- i. The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rural Infrastructure Development **fund of Rs 26.06 crore** to the state of Punjab also upon this the total grand stood at **Rs 7,826.17 crore** so far.

- ii. The financial grand will be used for tackling waterlogging by building lift schemes in low-lying areas, village ponds and other allied works in the state.
- iii. The project will benefit 5,913 hectares **of land in 87 villages of Muktsar and Fazilka districts**. The project will pave the way for farmers to cultivate crops in the previously waterlogged areas after a long gap.

Union finance Minister Arun Jaitley launches MSME Data Bank Portal and Online Finance Facilitation Web Portal.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched an **online finance facilitation portal for the micro, small and medium enterpris (MSMEs) to facilitate ease of doing business** at New Delhi on August 11.

- i. He launched two important initiatives of the **Ministry of MSME – MSME Data Bank Portal and Online Finance Facilitation Web Portal**.
- ii. The online finance facilitation centre will allow the **MSMEs to apply for loans from the various banks on the NSIC – National Small Industries Corporation portal**.
- iii. The online finance facilitation centre will allow the MSMEs to apply for loans from the various banks on the NSIC (National Small Industries Corporation) portal and NSIC has also signed a **MoUs** (memorandum of understanding) **with 33 banks, 14 of whom have agreed to associate with the online finance facilitation portal**.

RBI's Draft for Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorized Electronic Banking Transactions

RBI has come up with a Draft Circular for public comments on **"Limited Liability" for customers in case of frauds in Internet Banking and Card transactions**.

- RBI has also proposed zero liability on the customer if the loss is reported within three working days even if the cause is not directly linked to deficiency on the part of the lender and the fault lies elsewhere in the system.

Limited Liability of a Customer – A customer shall be liable for the loss occurring due to fraudulent transactions in the following cases:

- In cases involving negligence by a customer, such as where he has shared the payment credentials, the customer will bear the entire loss until he reports the unauthorized transaction to the bank. **Any loss occurring after the reporting of the unauthorized transaction shall be borne by the bank.**
- In cases where the responsibility for the unauthorized electronic banking transaction lies neither with the bank nor with the customer but lies elsewhere in the system and when there is a delay on the part of the customer in notifying the bank of such a transaction, the customer liability shall be limited to the **transaction value or Rs. 5000/-**,

whichever is lower. Further, if the delay in reporting is beyond seven working days, the customer liability shall be determined as per bank's Board approved policy.

Time taken to report the fraudulent transaction from the date of receiving the communication	Customer's liability (₹)
Within 3 working days	Zero liability
Within 4 – 7 working days of receiving the communication	The transaction value or Rs.5000/-, whichever is lower
Beyond 7 working days of receiving the communication	As per bank's Board approved policy

SBI and Korea Development Bank ties up for Business Development.

- i. India's largest public sector bank, **State bank of India (SBI)** and **Korea Development Bank (KDB)** have signed an MOU to develop business synergies in the **domains of corporate finance, project finance and asset finance.**
- ii. The MOU was signed between **SBI chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya**, and **chairman and CEO of Korea Development Bank, Lee Dong Geol.**

Syndicate Bank launches Project Ananya to improve Digital Banking Services

- i. **Syndicate Bank** has adopted a large scale transformation program called "**Project Ananya**" that focuses on improved customer service and offering latest indigital banking services.
- ii. The bank plans to transform 10% of its branches to a new **format in next 6-12 months**and the bank has opened one such branch.
- iii. The bank will offer completely operational account available in less than **one day with no additional visits to the branch** and making this one of the fastest account opening processes in the industry.

BSE gets approval to establish International exchange at GIFT

- i. Mumbai based Bombay Stock Exchange has got approval from the Corporate Affairs Ministry to establish BSE International Exchange and BSE International Clearing Corporation at Gujarat International Finance Tec-city (GIFT).
- ii. In this regard BSE had signed a **MoU with GIFT SEZ** to set up the two entities at the GIFT city — India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in January last year.

Kotak Mahindra Bank integrates with Flipkart

- i. Mumbai based Private sector lender Kodak Mahindra Bank has tied up with the E- Commerce Market Place Flipkart by expanding the **Bank's in-app shop, mStore**which was used to book air tickets, hotels and bus tickets.
- ii. Now the Flipkart has been integrated with **the M store** which will pave the bank customers to **buy a wider range of things** via the application.

South Indian Bank, SBI Card to launch co-branded credit card

- i. Kochi Based leading private sector Lender **South Indian Bank** and India's Largest lender **State Bank of India** has joined hands for their **co-branded credit card** for the South Indian Bank customers.
- ii. Upon this tie-up it is set to launch two variants of **credit card on VISA platform**, namely **South Indian Bank Platinum SBI card** and **South Indian Bank SimplySave SBI card**.
- iii. The Platinum variant has been designed focused on premium customers and offers features in line with their lifestyle habits that comes at a joining fee of ₹2,999.
- iv. While the SimplySave variant is aimed at the value conscious consumers. It offers rewards and features that take into account the spending requirements of customers which will seek a joining fee of Rs.499.

Union Bank of India launches USSD based mobile app for basic banking needs with NPCI

- i. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) ties up with Union Bank of India to launch an USSD based ***99# mobile application** for their customers.
- ii. USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data) is a GSM based technology that is used to send text between a mobile phone and an application program in the network.

IRDAI Slaps Rs 35 Lakh Fine On Bharti AXA General Insurance

Hyderabad based **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)** has imposed **Rs 35 lakh** fine on **Bharti Axa General Insurance Co Ltd** for violation related with an inspection finding during **December 2012 to March 2013**.

- i. In addition to that penalty of **Rs 5 lakh** each was imposed for violating file & use policy and protection of policy holders interest.

NASSCOM launches startup warehouse in Visakhapatnam

The first **National Association of Software and Services (Nasscom)** warehouse has launched at **Rushikonda, Visakhapatnam**. It is the 9th warehouse of NASSCOM.

- i. It will provide affordable **co-working space** with **incubation for 6 months**.
- ii. It will create wonderful opportunities in emerging markets and boost entrepreneurship

Times Internet partners HDFC Bank to launch co-branded Debit Card

Times of India Group's Times Internet in cooperation with Mortgage lender **HDFC** launched co-branded debit cards. It will have a daily shopping limit **of Rs 2.75 lakh** and an ATM withdrawal limit **of Rs 1 lakh**.

Co-Branded Debit Card:

- ◆ The **Times Points HDFC Bank Debit Card** will offer at **least 10 per cent discount** on online shopping on retail, groceries and dining space and also offers reward them for engaging with the

Times Internet sites.

NPS: PFRDA lowers minimum contribution to Rs 1,000 per year

- i. Insurance regulator PFRDA has substantially lowered the **minimum annual contribution to Rs 1,000** to keep the account active in order to encourage more people to join the National Pension System.
- ii. Priorly instead of 1000, a subscriber had to contribute **at least Rs 6,000 in a financial year** to keep the Tier-1 account running.
- iii. NPS comprises of two tiers of accounts.
 - ◆ **TIER – I** is the **non-withdraw able permanent retirement account** into which the accumulations are deposited and invested as per the option of the subscriber.
 - ◆ **Tier-II is a savings account**; the regulator has decided to waive the requirement of annual minimum contribution of Rs 250 and minimum balance of Rs 2,000 at the end of a fiscal year.

Asia Index launches index to track performance of CBLO rate

- i. A joint-venture between **S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE, Asia Index** launched a new index to measure the performance of **Collateralized Borrowing and Lending Obligation (CBLO)** rate – one of most liquid rates in India.
- ii. This new index would be calculated using the CBLO rate **for transactions maturing on the following business day and with settlement T+0.**
- iii. The launch of S&P BSE Liquid Rate Index, It helps in expanding fixed income indices offering in the most actively traded instrument in the money market. The **CBLO rate is considered one of most liquid rates in India, in the overnight segment.**
- iv. The index is designed to measure the returns from a daily **rolling deposit** at the CBLO rate.

RBI imposes penalty on four cooperative banks

- i. Mumbai based **Reserve Bank of India(RBI)** has imposed penalties on four cooperative banks for violation of various norms. This 4 **cooperative banks are**
 1. **Cooperative City Bank**, Guwahati – Rs 5 lakh
 2. **Indapur Urban Cooperative Bank**, Indapur – Rs 2 lakh
 3. **Shri Dadasaheb Gajmal Cooperative Bank**, Pachora – Rs 1 lakh
 4. **Model Cooperative Urban Bank**, Hyderabad – Rs 1 lakh
- ii. RBI also modified its directions regarding Mumbai based **R.S. Co-op. Bank** and relaxed payment terms for deposits.
- iii. A sum not exceeding **Rs 10,000** in every savings bank or current account or term deposit account or any other deposit account may be allowed to be withdrawn by depositor

Federal Bank joins hand with MMTC for the distribution of IGC – Indian Gold Coins

- i. **Federal Bank** ties up with **MMTC** for distribution of **Indian Gold Coins (IGC)**, the **first-Ever National Gold** offering by the Government, which was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- ii. Kerala based private sector lender, Federal Bank **has tied up with MMTC for distribution of Indian Gold Coins (IGC), the first-Ever national gold offering by the government.**
- iii. It is noted that Federal Bank has become the first private sector bank to start distributing gold coins made by government-controlled Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India.

Federal Bank ties up with Chillr for cashless transactions

- i. **Federal Bank announced its partnership with Chillr**, a mobile banking application, to provide cashless transactions.
- ii. The facility is already available to all **customers of Federal Bank** and the bank always believed that digital services will herald a paradigm shift in banking services. The bank has always striven to be ahead of the curve by launching a bouquet of on line services.

India Post Payments Bank Incorporated Sets to begin in 2017.

- i. **India Post Payments Bank** has come into existence after it **received certificate of incorporation from the Registrar of Companies**, setting the stage for the new bank to begin operations in 2017.
- ii. The India Post Payments Bank has received the Certificate of Incorporation from the Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs yesterday under the **Companies Act 2013**.
- iii. With the incorporation, the Board of the India Post Payments Bank Limited is likely to be constituted soon. The incorporation of the IPPB Ltd is a significant step forward as this also paves the way for the **bank to begin hiring of banking professionals to set up the bank and begin its operations in 2017.**

SBI bank board approves the significant merger of Five associate banks and BMB with itself

- i. In an attempt to create global size bank, the board of State Bank of India approved scheme of **merger of five associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB)** with itself while protecting the interest of the existing staff.
- ii. SBI also approved the share swap ratio for merging three associates—**State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Mysore (SBM) and State Bank of Travancore (SBT)—and BMB**. But the Swap ratios for State Bank of Hyderabad and State Bank of Patiala were not announced.

Indian Private Banks at the Top Spots among the Global Banks on Key Return Ratios

Leading Indian private banks namely **HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank** along with their **Chinese peers China Construction Bank Corp (CCB), Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Agricultural Bank of China (ABC)** occupy the top six slots among global banks on key return ratios, namely return on equity (RoE) and return on assets (RoA).

Indian Banking Statistics :-

The most public sector banks have struggled on this front in recent years with the exception of SBI and Union Bank that have started seeing some increase in this **metric in both FY15 and FY16**.

- For FY16, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank earned the **highest return on assets of 1.91 per cent and 1.67 per cent, respectively, followed by CCB, which clocked return on assets of 1.3 per cent.**
- ICBC and ICICI Bank completed the top five **lists with RoAs of 1.29 per cent and 1.17 per cent, respectively.**
- The Chinese banks follow December year-end and, hence, the data for them is at the end of calendar year 2015. HDFC Bank tops its global peers on RoE as well, which stood at 18.63 per cent in FY16.
- Axis Bank stood fifth in this table with a **RoE of 16.95 per cent, after CCB, ICBC and ABC that reported RoEs of 17.18 per cent, 17.1 per cent and 17.03 per cent.**

ICICI Bank goes live with banking transaction product on mobiles & ICICI Bank unveils new 'smart keys' mobile app

i. India's largest Private Sector lender ICICI Bank has launched a payment service using a smartphone keyboard named **iMobile SmartKeys** to make mobile payments easier.

ii. This solution was developed by one of the winners of the bank's app developing competition '**ICICI Appathon**' which enables users to make **quick and secure payments** on any mobile application.

Andhra Bank teams up with Geojit for 3-in-1 online platform

i. Andhra Bank government jointly with **Geojit BNP Paribas Financial Services** has launched a three-in-one online investment and trading platform christened **AB eTrade** which integrates savings and **demat accounts with online trading.**

ii. With this secure customer-friendly product, customers can invest in equity, mutual fund and other capital market products that paves way for easy trading on the basis of net obligation.

Central Govt chooses four banks for the sale of share in HUDCO

i. The government has selected four investment banks namely **Nomura, SBI Caps, ICICI Securities and IDBI Capital** for the proposed share sale in HUDCO – Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited.

ii. **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)**, the nodal agency under the finance ministry that co-ordinates government disinvestment programme has selected these four investment banks for the proposed share sale in HUDCO.

Forex reserve at record high of USD 365.82 billion

i. India's foreign exchange reserves surged **by USD 73.2 million** to touch a life-time high of USD 365.82 billion in the week ended. It was surged by USD 253.6 million to touch **USD 365.75 billion last week**.

ii. The Gold reserves remained unchanged at USD 21.58 billion in the week. While special drawing rights held by India with the IMF gone down by **USD 3.2 million to USD 1.49 billion**, while the country's reserve position plunged by USD 5.2 million to USD 2.39 billion.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust to sign agreement with bankers for External Commercial Borrowing

i. Mumbai based container port, **Jawaharlal Nehru Port** has signed an agreement with State Bank of India and Development Bank of Singapore for External Commercial Borrowing to the tune of **USD 400 Million** under External Commercial Borrowings. It the first Major Port to finalize the terms of ECB.

ii. The Credit seeks at a very competitive interest rate to improve the infrastructure required for doubling its existing capacity to 9.85 Million TEUs annually which is for Door-to-Door **tenor of 7.5 years**.

JNPT signs pact with SBI, DBS for \$400 million loan

i. India's premier container port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has signed a pact with **State Bank of India and Singapore's DBS for a loan of Rs 2,600 crore)**, to double its annual capacity.

ii. **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Navi Mumbai, has signed an agreement with State Bank of India (SBI) and DBS for ECB to the tune of USD 400 million at a very competitive interest rate** to improve the infrastructure required for doubling its existing capacity to 9.85 million TEUs annually.

Mahindra AMC launches Mahindra Mutual Fund Kar Bachat Yojana

i. Mahindra Asset Management Company has announced the launch of open ended scheme **Mahindra Mutual Fund Kar Bachat Yojana** to generate long-term capital appreciation through a diversified portfolio of equity and equity related securities.

ii. **The Kar Bachat Yojana** comes with a three **year lock-in period**. The New Fund Offer would close on October 7 and will reopen for continuous sale and repurchase from October 19, 2016.

iii. This move comes after the company has got after it received approval from SEBI, the Yojana will help people who not only want to save tax but also wish to create a tax-free corpus over long

term investments.

Bajaj Finance ties up with India Post to facilitate two-wheeler purchase

- i. Pune based motorcycle finance firm **Bajaj Finance Limited** has joined hands with **India Post** to facilitate purchase of vehicles in Karnataka.
- ii. The **Bajaj Finance** inked a **MoU with India Post** and also announced special arrangement that allows potential buyers to get information on various **2-wheeler loan schemes**.
- iii. These post offices will also hold special loan offers to the people including the installment collection set-up at the Post Offices. This arrangement shall initially be available at **208 E-Payment Post Offices** across the state.

Cabinet liberalises FDI norms for NBFC sector

- i. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has permitted foreign investment through **automatic route** in **other financial services**, that are comes under regulators like Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and State bank of India (SBI) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) or government agencies.
- ii. At present regulations on Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) stipulate that 100 per cent FDI through automatic route permitted for **only 18 specified NBFC activities** such as merchant banking, under writing, portfolio management services.
- iii. The amendment in the **Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by the Person Resident outside India)** regulations on NBFCs will allow inflow of FDI in "Other Financial Services" on automatic.
- iv. The cabinet also eliminated minimum capitalisation norms **as mandated under FDI policy** as most of the regulators have already **fixed minimum capitalisation norms** which will induce FDI and spurt economic activities throughout India.
- v. It also kept aside the need **for prior center'snod for up to 74 per cent FDI brownfield investment** in pharmaceuticals and eliminated the condition of access to '**state-of-the-art technology**' for defence sector in the FDI.

Central Government to ban cash transactions over 3 lakhs to curb black money

- i. In the next move to **clamp down on black money in the economy**, the government is set to **ban cash transactions over Rs 3 lakh**.
- ii. The Rs 3 lakh-limit is aimed to ensure that transactions are made using **credit or debit cards, cheques or drafts which can be easily tracked**.
- iii. The government has already initiated several steps, including banning **cash advance of more than Rs 20,000 for property transactions**.

Indian economy to grow 7.9% this fiscal: Goldman Sachs

- i. American multinational banking firm **Goldman Sachs** says Indian economy is likely to **grow 7.9 per cent in this year 2016-17**, growth in the **current fiscal driven** by better monsoon, government pay hike, key reforms and FDI inflows.
- ii. Sachs report went on to say that GDP of the country is expected to improve gradually and for the April-June quarter it may slow a tad to **7.8 per cent**, in part due to unfavorable base.
- iii. It added that India grown at **7.9 per cent** in the previous quarter. While the forecast for this fiscal is however higher than consensus expectations of 7.5 per cent and up **from 7.6 per cent in FY16**.
- iv. The report note also praises India's efforts on reforms like passage of the GST bill, inflation targeting framework on Policy among the others.

21 banks to go live with Unified Payments Interface, says NPCI

- i. Mumbai based retail payments organisation **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has announced that customers of 21 banks can use Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for sending and collecting money via a smart phone using a Virtual Payment Address (VPA) soon.
- ii. The UPI interfaced App will facilitate option for **scheduling push and pull transactions** for various purposes like Payment of cash on delivery during online shopping websites and can pay for miscellaneous expenses like paying utility bills, barcode based payments, donations.
- iii. It also comes with greater security as privacy of customer's data maintained as there is no account number mapper on the system except the customer's own bank also customer can use the mobile number for the virtual address **like 1234567890@xyz in place of** short name

IndusInd Bank ties up with IBM for Cloud Commerce Solutions

- i. Private sector lender **IndusInd Bank has tied up with IBM to use its Cloud commerce solutions** to transform customer engagements and enhance its cross-sell platforms.
- ii. Using **customer behavior analysis and real-time contextual marketing**, banks can ensure that customers connecting with the bank on any channel will receive relevant and timely communications and offers that address their unique needs.

RBI asks banks to extend loans to women SHGs at 7% rate

- i. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked to grand loans to Women Self-Help Group (SHG) **up to Rs 3 lakh at 7 per cent interest rate per annum**. The Revised Scheme comes from RBI after it god approval from Rural Development Ministry.
- ii. These loan scheme to be provided under poverty alleviation project- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)-Aajeevika scheme for the year **2016-17 in the 250 districts**.
- iii. Upon the new guidelines an interest subvention on credit line up to Rs 3 lakhs at 7% per annum will be provided. All women SHGs will be eligible for it. However, SHG availing capital subsidy under

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) in their existing credit outstanding will not be eligible for benefit under this scheme.

Finance Ministry set up a committee for digitalize incentive payments

- i. The Finance Ministry led by Arun Jaitley has set up a committee to **consider incentives such as cash back schemes and tax rebates for promoting card and digital payments** in a step towards discouraging cash transactions.
- ii. With an aim to discourage cash transactions, the Finance Ministry has set up this **high-level committee** to suggest steps to promote card payments through incentives like tax rebates and cash back schemes.
- iii. The 11-member committee, **headed by former Finance Secretary Ratan P Watal**, will recommend various measures to incentivize transactions through cards and digital means, e.g., through tax rebates/incentives, introduction of cash back/lottery.

Karnataka Bank launches UPI app KBL-SMATRz

- i. Mangaluru based Karnataka Bank has come up with a mobile application named **KBL-SMARTz** built on the unified payments interface (UPI) platform of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ii. The App was launched by the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer P **Jayarama Bhat**, **Karnataka Bank**.
- iii. The App enables users to perform the transactions on-the-go through this app, which is available in the Google PlayStore.

World Bank sanctions Rs 980 cr for Brahmaputra dredging: Min

- i. The **World Bank** has announced a funding of **Rs 980 crore** to dredge the Brahmaputra as an initiative to develop waterways to Bangladesh and to other South East Asian countries which is give fillip to trade and industry in the Area.
- ii. Upon **this Brahmaputra waterways** will pave the way for trade that will lead to a reduction in the cost of transportation of goods and will finally the state of Assam will become export hub for the South East Asian countries.
- iii. This Sanction also boost the Centre's **Act East Policy** that also in line to boost trade with South East Asian countries such as Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and other countries.

Sebi mulling relaxed norms for REITs, InvITs, startups listing

- i. Market Watchdog Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has lined up wide-ranging relaxations to its norms for **REITs and InvITs** and an easier set of listing rules for startups. SEBI will consider these regulations in its board meeting **next month**.

- ii. The InvITs (Infrastructure Investment Trusts), REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations were under review for the framework for **Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) for startups** by the SEBI.
- iii. The Board of SEBI is likely to devise an easier **set of norms on REITs and InvITs** which will allow them to have up to five sponsors, as against the current norm for maximum three.
- iv. It would allow up to **20 per cent investment** by such trusts in under-construction projects, up from a maximum of 10 per cent allowed now.

Doha Bank opens branch in Kerala

- i. Qatar based **Doha Bank** has opened a branch, the Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the branch at **Lulu International Shopping Mall in Edapally**.
- ii. The Bank also held an investors conference on Kerala-Qatar Investment Opportunities, which saw a participation of major investors and SMEs from the state and GCC and Doha Bank officials.

Yes Bank launches its own mobile wallet Yes Pay

- i. Mumbai based private sector bank Yes Bank has launched **Yes Pay**, a digital wallet which does not require that both the transacting parties be registered on it.
- ii. As a pilot move Yes Pay is built as a **Facebook app** on the Android and iOS mobile platforms in the realm of digital payments scenario.
- iii. The Wallet Yes Pay has associated with merchants like PayU, Euronet, Coupon Dunia, One Assist QuikWallet, ToneTag and Witty Gift to enable users to make seamless bill payments.

NABARD granted Rs. 204.67 crore for Haryana under RIDF scheme

- i. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has **sanctioned a loan of Rs 204.67 crore under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)** for rural infrastructure in Haryana.
- ii. Rs 147.18 crore has been sanctioned to the state government under the **22nd tranche of RIDF for 2016-17 for construction of three rural bridges, construction and upgradation of 26 rural roads in 10 districts** namely Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hisar, Jind, Karnal, Mahendergarh, Panchkula, Rewari and Yamunanagar.

PFS ties up with banks for clean energy project loans

- i. Indian non-banking financial institution **PTC India Financial Services (PFS)** has tied up with banks to provide loans to companies working on renewable energy (RE) Generation.
- ii. Upon this collaboration these banks set to letter of credit (LC) based on the issue letter of comfort (LOC) issued by PFS, to project companies in the renewable space with diligence on certain parameters.
- iii. The Banks will issue credit upon the request made by the companies involved in Clean Energy

projects on various associated costs for issuance of letter of credit, which generally takes 3-5 months.

Canara Bank launches UPI app 'empower'

- i. Bangalore based **Canara Bank** has launched Unified Payment Interface [UPI] App named '**empower**', at its board of directors' meet held at Bengaluru.
- ii. The app launched by **T N Manoharan**, Chairman, and **Rakesh Sharma**, MD & CEO, in the presence of board of directors of the Bank.

India to grow at 7.6% in FY'17: RBI

- i. Reserve Bank of India predicts India to clock **at 7.6 per cent in 2016-17** in the wake of near-term growth outlook for India seems brighter than last fiscal.
- ii. The Central Bank in its annual report said that overall gross value added growth is expected at **7.6 per cent** this fiscal, up from 7.2 per cent last year.

NPCI launches Bharat Bill Payment System pilot project

- i. Mumbai based **National Payments Corporation of India** (NPCI) with 26 Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs) launched the pilot project for **Bharat Bill Payment System**(BBPS).
- ii. Bharat Bill Payment System will provide interoperable bill payment services to customers. Now it will cover repetitive payments such as **electricity, water, gas, telephone and Direct-to-Home (DTH)**.
- iii. As of now **52 Banking entities** and **10 Non-Banking entities** are received in-principle approval from RBI to function as Operating Units (OU).

BUSINESS

Oracle India Joins SBI to Foster Digital Skills Initiative'

- i. American Business Software maker **Oracle India** has joined with India's largest lender **State bank of India** to corporate citizenship collaboration and unveiled the '**D-Change**' programme to support education and learning, women's empowerment and rural skills development.
- ii. The initiative will merge SBI's financial expertise and expansive reach with Oracle's technology leadership to help local communities drive substantial change and develop a skilled economy.

NPPA cuts prices of cancer, HIV, cardiac drugs by around 25%

- i. Drug pricing regulator -National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (**NPPA**) has revised the ceiling prices of drugs used for cancer, HIV, bacterial infections, anxiety and cardiac conditions by **25% in average**.
- ii. The Price revision of 24 scheduled formulations is done by the regulator as of schedule-I under **Drugs (Price Control) Amendment Order, 2016**.

Freecharge inks partnership with PayUbiz to tap online merchants

- i. Snapdeal Owned e-commerce website **Freecharge** entered into partnership with Gurgaon based payment gateway solution provider **PayUbiz** to tab online business.
- ii. The move will strengthen the Freecharge to **merchant base** and comfort consumers to move from cash to **digital payments**.

AXA Insurance products to reach all household through Alibaba & Ant Financial Services tie up for Insurance selling though E – Commerce Platform

- i. **Alibaba and Ant Financial Services** made an agreement **with AXA Insurance** to engage in a global strategic partnership to explore opportunities to distribute **AXA Insurance products and services through Alibaba's** global e-commerce platform.
- ii. This three party agreement made with a clear statement that, these multi-national giants pledged **to sell their value-added products and services to customers around the world and also to mutually support** each other in developing and exploring new markets and segments.

BHEL commissions 500MW Marwa Thermal Power Station in Chhattisgarh

- i. State run Power major Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has successfully **commissioned 500 MW thermal power unit** in **Marwa Power Station in Chhattisgarh**. This is the second unit in the plant.
- ii. Earlier the same power major has commissioned the Unit 1. The Plant has been set up by Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company (**CSPGCL**).

Signing of Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreement by CBDT

- i. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (**CBDT**) has entered into a Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) with the Indian subsidiary of a Japanese trading company. This is the first APA agreement with a Japanese entity with rollback provision.
- ii. The APA scheme was coined in the **Income Tax Act in 2012**, later in 2014 the rollback provisions were included in it. It is fourth bilateral APA signed by the tax Authority. **i.**The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into a **Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreement (APA)** with the Indian subsidiary of a **Japanese trading company**. This is the first APA agreement with a Japanese entity with rollback provision.

Infosys invests in the Israeli Corporation, Cloudyn as a part of its Startup Investment Spree

- i. IT giant **Infosys** is investing **\$4 million (Rs 27 crore)** in **Cloudyn, an Israeli corporation**. This Israeli Corporation is providing software as a service (SAAS) solutions for the management and optimization of hybrid, multi-cloud deployments.

ii. This initiative with this **cloud management and optimisation startup Cloudyn**, will foster the moves in to access technology and skills to get it to customers transitioning from legacy infrastructure to the cloud.

IBM, Apple open first global development hub in India

- i. American tech majors IBM and Apple jointly launched a global development hub called **Garage for iOS apps in Bengaluru** to work with their Design locations in Atlanta, Chicago, Cupertino in the US and Toronto in Canada.
- ii. The hub Garage will help the clients to complete digital mobility projects as quickly as possible as well as to spur the digital transformation in India.

GIPCL signs PPAs with SECI for solar power projects

- i. **Gujarat Industries Power Company (GIPCL)** has signed pact with the **Solar Energy Corporation of India** by power purchase agreements (PPAs) mode for **solar power projects** in Gujarat.
- ii. The Power major GIPCL had emerged as a successful bidder in the e-reverse, upon that it has signed PPAs with Solar Energy Corporation to set up **2×40 MW Solar** Power Projects in Gujarat Solar Park under National Solar Mission (NSM).

Indo-Russian project to replace An-32 in limbo

- i. The medium **20-tonne** transport aircraft that have been planned to replace the **An-32s** to be jointly developed by India and Russia, seems uncertain as the delay persists.
- ii. In the scope of the project India having second thoughts, however Russia planned to move with the initial design as per the agreement.

First-ever 'Pizza ATM' opens in US

- i. The **first-ever pizza vending Machine** has been installed on the campus of **Xavier University (XU)** in Ohio that can hold **seventy 12-inch pizzas** and dispense in just three minutes.
- ii. The Pizza ATM has been made by French-based Company **Paline**, which offers full **remote communication** also comes with several features like tracking, real-time email and text alerts, webcam monitoring, remote error and shutdown detection.

IRCTC teams with Manipur Government to foster Hospitality and Tourism Services to the Customers

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and **the Manipur government** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). By making joint use of their capabilities and facilities, IRCTC mulls to provide improved **hospitality and tourism services to their customers**.

ii. The MoU also covers

1. Setting up of water vending machines,
2. Use of Rail Neer and development of lounges and
3. Greeting services for tourists.

NTPC, CSIRO collaborate for research in low emission tech

- i. State run Power major NTPC has entered into a collaboration with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research in low emission technologies.
- ii. The Letter of Intent was inked by **R.K Srivastava, Executive Director** (NETRA) at NETRA Greater Noida and Mr Peter Mayfield, Director CSIRO, Energy Queensland, Australia

India slaps anti-dumping duty on steel products from 6 nations

- i. India imposed **anti-dumping duty on certain hot-rolled steel products from six nations** including China and South Korea with an aim to guard domestic players from cheap imports.
- ii. An anti-dumping duty of USD 474-557 per tonne was imposed on 'hot-rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel' import from **China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Brazil and Indonesia.**

First Solar commissions 130 MW of solar power plants in AP, Telangana

- i. **American** photovoltaic (PV) manufacturer's Indian subsidiary **First Solar Power India** announced the commercial operation of **80 MW and 50 MW** as part of the 260 MW project portfolio solar power plants in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- ii. The proposed Solar plants will produce as much as energy to power that will illuminate **2,27,500 average homes** in India and will displace **204 tonnes of carbon dioxide** every year.

Hindustan Copper Limited inaugurates India's first facility to produce nickel

- i. As the first facility in India to **produce Nickel metal of LME grade** from primary resource, Shri. Balvinder Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, inaugurated the Nickel, Copper and Acid Recovery Plant of **Hindustan Copper Limited in Indian Copper Complex, Ghatsila, Jharkhand.**
- ii. **It is** the only unit in India to produce nickel metal of **(London Metal Exchange) LME grade.**

Ola launches intra-city rental service 'Ola Rental'

- i. Cab aggregator Ola has launched **Ola Rentals** which will simplify intra city travel with affordable hourly packages on **Ola Lux, Ola Prime Sedan & SUV vehicles** as well as OLA mini.
- ii. The OLA rentals currently being available in **35 cities** and will be rolled out in 100 cities across India soon. This Rentals platform is the only platform that provides luxury A/C cabs at hourly packages.

Ikea breaks ground for first Indian store in Hyderabad

- i. Netherlands based **IKEA** who designs and sells **ready-to-assemble furniture appliances** and home accessories worldwide has laid the foundation in **Hyderabad for its first store** in India.
- ii. The company is mulling to build a 400,000 square foot store, which will also include a 1,000-seater restaurant, which is likely to open in July–August next year.

ONGC launches Rs 100-crore start-up fund

- i. Dehradun based Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) has launched **Rs 100-crore start-up fund** on its Diamond Jubilee year. The company started operations back in 1956.
- ii. The initiative, named **ONGC Start-up which also in tune with** government's flagship programme Start-up India to foster, nurture and incubate new ideas related **to oil and gas sector**.

1st BIO-CNG project in India inaugurated in Pune

- i. Pune based **Primove Engineering Private Limited** Commissioned **India's first Bio-CNG plant** which will use agricultural residue to generate CNG which in-turn can be an alternate fuel to the Automobiles that run CNG.
- ii. It has been set up as a **Proof of Concept (PoC)** that can be replicated elsewhere. Primove has coughed out around **Rs 4.5 crore in the plant**.

India's first Nuclear Suppliers' Insurance Policy unveiled by INIP

- i. State-run General Insurance Corporation of India in association with non-life insurance companies unveiled the **Nuclear Supplier's Insurance Policy (NSIP)**. It is first of its kind in India.
- ii. The policy was launched by **Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)** chairman Sekhar Basu in Mumbai.
- iii. The move comes a year after launching the **Rs 1,500 crore** India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) which is the **27th global nuclear insurance pool** which was launched.

Tata Power Solar Commissions 100 Mw Project In Andhra

- i. The **100 MW** project was commissioned using domestically manufactured cells and modules, thus fitting in with the government's 'Make in India' mission, and makes a huge addition to **Tata Power Solar's PV portfolio** in India.
- ii. It is noted that this is the biggest solar project commissioned using domestically manufactured solar cells and modules. The plant is expected to generate nearly 160 million units of energy per year and help offset approximately **110,000 tonnes of CO2 in the first year**.

L&T gets Maharashtra gov contract to convert Nagpur into smart city

- i. Larsen & Toubro to be the implementation partner to make Nagpur as Smart city. It is the

country's first large-scale integrated smart city.

- ii. L&T's business unit '**Smart World and Communication**' will execute the project that entails laying of 1200 km of optical fiber network.
- iii. The Company will set up **136 wifi hotspots** across the city and will establish **100 digital interactive kiosks** and developing city surveillance systems.

Reliance Brands ties up with Scotch & Soda

- i. **Reliance Brands**, a part of Reliance Industries Group declared a long-term master franchise agreement with **Amsterdam-based fashion brand Scotch & Soda**.
- ii. The company stated the newly formed partnership will leverage Reliance Brands' **in-depth expertise of the premium retail market** in India coupled with Scotch & Soda's global expansion drive.

Central Govt. imposes additional penalty of 2,500 crore on Reliance Industries

- i. The Central Government has slapped an **additional penalty of \$380 million – Rs 2,500 crore on Reliance Industries and its partners** for producing less than targeted natural gas from eastern offshore KG-D6 fields.
- ii. This is the fifth penalty in as many years that the government has imposed on the operators of the KG Basin gas field, in form of disallowing recovery of cost incurred, for missing the production target since April 2010. **The accumulated penalty now stands at a \$2.76 billion.**

Alibaba Group launches 'million books' donation drive

- i. Chinese E-commerce giant Alibaba Group launched a **book donation drive named Mission Million Books** in India, inviting people to donate textbooks and educational material to empower those who are underprivileged. The initiative will last till September 16.
- ii. The drive is carried out in association with Crossword and Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust, Alibaba Group will also donate over **50,000 books to the campaign**, and Alibaba.com and mobile browser UC Web will be online marketing support platform

CRRC joint venture plant with Pioneer Electric has started its operations

- i. **China's largest high speed train maker has its first \$63.4 million joint venture plant** in India to repair and manufacture railway locomotive engines has started operations.
- ii. The joint venture, named **CRRC (China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation) Pioneer (India) Electric Co Ltd**, is housed in Bawo Industrial District of Haryana between New Delhi and Bombay.

E-Commerce Site AskMe shuts down

- i. Gurugram-based company's e-commerce **website AskMe has shutdown** and is in the process

of which resulted its 4000 odd staff in jobless.

ii. The reason behind closure of the Internet giant is as **severe cash crunch**. While the AskMe.com portal still active but accepting none of the orders placed.

Airtel and Vodafone unveils e-KYC solution to use Aadhar number for SIM activation

Bharti Airtel and Vodafone has started rolling out **Aadhaar based e-KYC solution** following the notification by the Department of Telecom, Government of India from August 24

Mahindra launches technology platform DiGi Sense

i. Mumbai-based automobile maker **Mahindra and Mahindra Limited** has launched **DiGiSENSE**, an integrated technology platform that connects **cars, trucks, tractors** and construction equipment's for cloud computing.

ii. The Company's new platform has been conceived, developed and manufactured in India in collaboration with Tech Mahindra, Bosch and Vodafone.

iii. This is an open architecture which **engaged 1,80,000 km and 10,000 hours** of **testing** to develop the new DiGI SENSE 1.0 technology .

DIPP to launch a Nationwide Awareness Campaign on Intellectual Property rights

i. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, **DIPP**, will launch a **nation-wide awareness campaign on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**.

ii. It will be taken forward by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (**CIPAM**) in collaboration with the **Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM)** and **Industry Associations**.

Carborundum Universal inaugurates new R&D centre at Hosur

i. Murugappa Group owned **Carborundum Universal (CUMI)** announced the inauguration of its **Research and Development centre** at its industrial ceramics division in Hosur Tamilnadu. However the Firm was tightlipped about the investment details.

ii. The R&D Centre would further fortify company's capability for sustainable growth & market leadership of wear-resistant & technical ceramic **products in selected segments**.

China unveiled a state-owned aircraft engine maker

i. **China has set up a state-owned aircraft engine maker with registered capital of 50 billion yuan** (\$7.5 billion). It is considered as the next step in the latest effort to develop home-grown, high-tech businesses to compete in international markets.

ii. This is part of Beijing's push to ramp up home turf tech. The government's overhaul of state-owned enterprises to push Chinese products and services up the **value chain has prioritised aircraft engines, high-speed rail and nuclear power as areas in which it wants China to excel**.

Kudankulam II was connected for southern grid for power supply

- i. The **second 1,000 MW unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KNPP)** in Tamil Nadu was **connected to the grid for power supply**.
- ii. The Russian-designed VVER-1000 reactor was synchronized with the southern grid and is now **generating 245 MWe**.
- iii. Construction of Kudankulam 2 was **completed in July 2015**, and it was **loaded with its first fuel in May 2016**. Following the completion of safety tests, NPCIL began the process of approaching criticality on 8 July by diluting neutron-absorbing boric acid in the primary coolant water. A controlled self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction – or criticality – was attained on 10 July.

E-rickshaws, e-carts free from permit requirements

- i. **E-rickshaws and E-carts** are not **required to get permission** to ply on the roads as per the notification issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- ii. This notification makes **free e rickshaws and e carts from permit requirements** upon the provisions of the sub-section (1) of section 66 of the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** will not apply to e-carts and e-rickshaws (as defined in section 2A of MVA 1988).

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Award goes to West Bengal for Four Major reforms in Agri sector

For the first time, West Bengal has been selected for the prestigious **All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Award 2015**.

- i. 51st committee from the **Indira Gandhi Krishi Bikash Kendra** has selected West Bengal for this award.
- ii. **Four primary areas including scientific seed research** have paved the way for west Bengal to relish this award for agricultural practices.

Indian Artist won 2016 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant

Anita Gopalan, A Bangalore based Translator and artist has been awarded the **2016 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant** for her English translation of **Geet Chaturvedi's Hindi novel "Simsim"** . It is noted that Anita Gopalan is the second Indian writer and First Woman translator to be titled the winner of the PEN/Heim Translation Fund.

- i. **Anita Gopalan** is a translator and artist from in Bangalore, India.. She graduated in Computer Science and Mathematics from BITS Pilani, and worked in **Banking sector** for **over fourteen years in India, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the Middle East**.

Shubha Mudgal to be awarded Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award

Well-known UP hailed singer Shubha Mudgal named for **23rd Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award** for her exceptional contribution in the areas of communal harmony, peace and goodwill.

◆ The singer will be presented with the award on Sadbhavna Diwas Day on August 20. She was chosen by the **Advisory Committee of the Award**.

Champ under Cars – Om Swaroop creates Guinness World Record in Limbo Skating

Om Swaroop Gowda, A 7 years old young lad from **Karnataka** has entered the **Guinness World Record for longest distance limbo skating** under the cars.

i. With a equilateral distance between the cars and ground, the lad covered **65.283 metre**, which is a World Record for time being.

ii. In a challenge show held in Bangalore, Om Swaroop successfully passed by **36 cars** simultaneously thus creating a new world record in limbo Skating.

iii. It is noted that the gap below each car can be no more than 35 cm

Nellore Station bags first place in SCR zone

i. **Nellore Railway Station** topped in **cleanliness ranking** in Vijayawada division and the Secunderabad based **South Central Railway zone** in implementing **Swachh Bharat guidelines**.

ii. The Survey was conducted by **Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation** through TNS India Private Limited in 407 stations (in 75 A-1, 332- A category stations) across the country.

iii. The survey was commissioned by the Environment & Housekeeping Management Directorate - Ministry of Railways, New Delhi.

The top 10 stations

Nellore, Bilaspur, Kota, Habibganj, Anand, Mysore, Vadodara, Madurai, Bharuch and Ernakulam.

Chinese Beer Festival witnessed the World Biggest Robot Dance Show, setting a new Guinness Record

i. Ever Win Company & Ltd. organized **1,007 robots to set a new Guinness World Record for "Most Robots Dancing Simultaneously"** during the Qingdao Beer Festival in **Shandong, China**. But in fact, several robots were disqualified for failing to perform, even though the total numbers successfully set the record.

ii. This **Qingdao International Beer Festival** is often referred as the **Asian Oktoberfest** and usually happens on the first Saturday in August.

Goa Film Festival honors renowned Bollywood filmmaker N Chandra with the Lifetime Achievement Award

i. Bollywood filmmaker N Chandra was honored with the Lifetime Achievement award during the 8th Goa State Film Festival held at Goa between August 5-8.

ii. **N. Chandra** or **Chandrashekhkar Narvekar** (born 4 April 1952) is an Indian producer, writer

and director, known for gritty realism, in his early dark and loud films such as Ankush, Pratigahaat, Tezaab and Narsimha (1991). Chandra also made the successful but critically **scorned Style and its sequel Xcuse Me**.

'People vs OJ Simpson' wins big at 2016 TCA Awards

i. American Crime Story **the People vs OJ Simpson** has topped in the **Television Critics Association Awards 2016**. The Crime Story's Sarah Paulson received Individual Achievement in Drama.

ii. The FX story of the OJ Simpson is based on the true story of three nodes that includes the coveted Program of the Year and Outstanding Achievement in Movies, Miniseries and Specials.

iii. In the total count FX has come as the winner with four. In addition the People vs OJ Simpson triple victory, the network added another gong with The Americans' which won Outstanding Achievement in Drama.

Sonam, Nawazuddin win top awards at IFF Melbourne

The **Indian Film Festival Melbourne 2016** kick started at Melbourne Recital Centre, Australia. The function glitters with full of guests flowed in belonging to not only Australian Film Industry but also Pakistan industry.

The theme for this year 2016 is '**Women Empowerment**'. **Angry India Goddesses**, will bring the curtains down for the festival.

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2016 (IFFM) Award winners:

- Best Actor (Male) – Nawazuddin Siddiqui for Raman Raghav 2.0
- Best Actor (Female) – Sonam Kapoor for Neerja
- Best Director – ShakunBatra
- Best Indie Film – Thithi
- Best Film Award – Kapoor & Sons
- Diversity Award for Contribution in Indian Cinema – Fawad Khan
- Indian Film Festival Excellence in Cinema Award (lifetime achievement award) – Rishi Kapoor

IISc bags maximum number of INSA Medals for Young Scientists

Bangalore based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has bagged the **5 Medals for Young Scientists award 2016**. It was awarded by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).

Winners : Prabeer Barpanda, Sai Siva Gorthi, Praveen Kumar, Anshu Pandey and Chandan Saha

12 Indian Biomedical Scientists bags the Prestigious ICMR Young Biomedical Scientist Fellowship Award 2016-17

i. **Dr Prashant Murumkar**, Assistant Professor at Faculty of Pharmacy of The MS University of

Baroda here has been selected for prestigious “**Indian Council of Medicinal Research (ICMR) International Fellowship Award**’.

ii. The Award is given under the Young Biomedical Scientist category for 2016-17 and totally twelve Indian Biomedical Scientists has been selected throughout India by International Health Division, ICMR, New Delhi for this award.

M S Subbulakshmi honoured at UN on Independence Day

Legendary carnatic vocalist M. S. Subbulakshmi honoured at the United Nations on India’s 70th Independence Day by a performance by Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman .UN also releasing Postal Stamp of MS Subbulakshmi to mark her 100th Birth Anniversary

UN – MS :-

The United Nations Postal Administration will issue a **stamp to mark the birth centenary of Indian music legend M S Subbulakshmi** on the occasion of India’s 70th Independence Day.

- United Nations, the intergovernmental organization plans to honor legendary Carnatic vocalist MS Subbulakshmi by issuing a stamp to mark her **hundredth birth anniversary, which falls on September 16, 2016.**
- India’s independence day will be commemorated at the world body’s headquarters this year as **Versatile composer A.R Rahman**, who is going to become the second Indian artiste after MS Subbulakshmi to perform at the iconic UN hall will execute a concert on the Independence Day at the headquarters of the UN in New York. He will **perform in the presence of the respected UN members and other notable dignitaries.**
- This year also marks the 50th anniversary of her performance at the UN and the **photo exhibition** will depict various facets and moments of Ms Subbulakshmi’s life and times providing a rare insight to the music legend’s achievements.

CLRI scientist bags A P J Abdul Kalam award

The Chief Minister gave away **Abdul Kalam award, Kalpana Chawla Award**, the Chief of the Good Governance Award, Award for doctors who serve people with disabilities, the award for the best social worker, young scientist award, the award for the best performing local bodies, that includes awards from **14 category** during the **70th Independence Day**celebrations after delivering her Special address at **Fort St George in Chennai.**

APJ Abdul Kalam award

Tamilnadu Chief Minister **J Jayalalithaa** presented APJ Abdul Kalam award to the Principal**Scientist P Shanmugam**, Central Leather Research Institute –Chennai, for meritorious services in the Higher Education Department in the state.

- The award comprising a certificate, **Rs five lakh cheque and eight gram gold medal.**

Kalpana Chawla Award:

The Kalpana Chawla Award which is given for Courage and Daring Enterprise was bestowed

To **Jayanthi from Namakkal District**. The award carries **Rs 5 lakh cash, certificate and gold coated medal**.

Other Awards:

- The **Chief Minister's Best Practices Award** –Thanjavur District Collector N Subbaiyan and Superintendent of Police **Mayilvahanan**.
- **Best Corporation Award** — Dindigul Corporation
- **Best Municipality** — Pattukottai Municipality (First Prize), Perambalur Municipality (second prize.)
- **The State Youth Award** which carries a certificate, Rs 50,000 cheque and a medal given to K Masha Nazeem in the women's category and P Ruban Santhosh took in Men's category.
- **Award for solid waste management in rural areas** —Tamil Nadu Municipal Administration and Rural Development Minister S P Velumani and Rural Development, Principal Secretary, Hansraj Verma.
- State Revenue Minister R B Udhayakumar, Revenue Department, Prinicpal Secretary, B Chandramohan — **For online patta transfer**.

70th Independence day gallantry Awards goes to 948 police personals throughout India

On the occasion of the 70th Indian Independence Day, **a total of 948 central and state forces police personnel were awarded gallantry and other service medals**.

- The top honor of Presidents Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) has been given to three Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel for thwarting terrorist attacks at Indian Consulates at **Mazar-e-Sharif and Jalalabad in Afghanistan early in 2016**.
- **President's Police Medal for Gallantry have been awarded to 07 personnel**, Police Medal for Gallantry to 170 personnel, President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service to 88 personnel and Police Medal for Meritorious Service to 683 personnel.
- It is noted that 19 personnel have also been awarded including President's Correctional Service Medal for Distinguished Service to two personnel and **Correctional Service Medal for Meritorious Service to 17 personnel**.

Havildar Hangpan Dada honored with Ashok Chakra posthumously

Havildar Hangpan Dada was honored posthumously, with the government announcing the highest award to an army man during **peace-time operations** on the eve of the Independence Day.

- Havildar Hangpan Dada was a **Nocte tribal born in Borduria village of Arunanchal Pradesh**. Dada, as he was fondly called, was recruited to the 3rd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment on 28 Oct 1997. Six years later, Dada was transferred to the Assam Regimental Centre and on 24 Jan 2008 he was taken on the strength of 4th Battalion, The

Assam Regiment where he served the most. Dada's personality had many shades. Two traits that were forever to the fore were fearlessness and righteousness.

Telegana bags the highest number of Gallantry Medals

Among the above stated award distributing ceremony, **Telangana State has received the highest number of gallantry medals** for police personnel in the country on the eve of Independence Day and it is noted that it was the only State unit to secure the President's police medal for gallantry (PPMG).

- The following two policemen, who **lost their lives trying to catch two Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) operatives** in Nalgonda district were the recipients of the PPMG
- Sub-Inspector Duddekula Siddaiah**
 - Constable Chougoni Nagaraju.**

Presidential Award for Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman to Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Arabic and Persian Scholars for the Year 2016

President of India awards certificates of honor to eminent scholars of **Sanskrit, Pali/Prakrit, Arabic and Persian** and the **Maharishi Badrayan Vyas Samman** to young scholars

- The President of India, **Shri Pranab Mukherjee** awarded Certificates of Honour to eminent scholars of Sanskrit, Pali/Prakrit, Arabic and Persian and the Maharishi Badrayan Vyas Samman to young scholars at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The complete list of several scholars and their respective language are as follows,

Certificate of Honour:-

Sanskrit	Prof. (Dr.) Janaki Prasad Dwivedi
	Shri R.Venkatraman
	Shri Viswanatha Gopala Krishna
	Shri Jiya Lal Kamboj
	Dr. Bhavendra Jha
	Prof. Priyatam Chandra Shastri
	Prof. Gurupad K.Hegde
	Prof. S.T. Nagaraja
	Shri Sanatan Mishra
	Shri Sristi Lakshmi Prasannanjaneya Sarma
	Prof. (Mrs.) Laxmi Sharma
	Prof. Biswanath Bhattacharya
	Prof. Ramnarayan Das
	Dr. Ramshanker Awasthi
Shri Hridaya Ranjan Sharma	
Sanskrit (International)	Mr. Fernando Tola
Arabic	Shri Abdul Musabbir Bhuiya
	Shri Sayyad Asad Raza Hussaini
	Shri Badr-E-Jamal Islahi
Persian	Hkm. Syed Ghulam Mehdi Raz
	Chowdhry Wahhaj Ahmad Ashraf
	Moulvi H. Rehman Qabli
Pali	Smt. Bela Bhattacharya

Prakrit	Dr. Damodar Shastri
Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman	
Sanskrit	Dr. Mahanand Jha
	Dr. Sundar Narayan Jha
	Dr. G.S.V Dattatreya Murthy
	Dr. Vishwanath Dhital
	Dr. Shankar Rajaraman
Arabic	Dr. Md. Outbuddin
Persian	Dr. Haseen Uz Zaman
Pali	Dr. Ujjwal Kumar
Prakrit	Dr. Yogesh Kumar Jain

Four Indians of Bangalore firm clinch Guinness records title after making largest dirt cake

- i. Bangalore based **Bangalore Baking Buddies** has entered their name in Guinness World Records 2016 after making a world largest dirt that weighed a **whopping 1,078 kg** was unveiled at The Park hotel in Bangalore.
- ii. The Cake was prepared by bakers Danish Ali, Dr Archana Diwan, Nidhi Bagri and Poonam Ankur Shrishrimal, who took over 10 hours to complete it.

Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma to be honored with lifetime achievement award

Sursagar Society of Dilli Gharana has announced that **Santoor maestro Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma** will be conferred upon with the annual **Sangeet Martand Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award 2016**.

- Shivkumar Sharma is the master instrumentalist of the Santoor, after some years as a **vocalist**. He is credited with making the Santoor a popular Classical Instrument.
- Shivkumar is the recipient of national and international awards, including an honorary citizenship of the city of Baltimore, USA, in 1985, **the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986 the Padma Shri in 1991, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001**.

America Tamil Sangam awarded A.R. Rahman with Tamil Ratna Award

- i. Oscar-winning music maestro **A.R. Rahman** has been honoured by the **America Tamil Sangam with its Tamil Ratna Award**.
- ii. **Allah-Rakha Rahman** is an Indian composer, singer-songwriter, music producer, musician and philanthropist. A. R. Rahman's works are noted for integrating Eastern classical music with **electronic music, world music and traditional orchestral arrangements**.

Renowned Hindi Writer Sunita Jain bags the 25th Vyas Sammam award 2015

Well-known Hindi scholar and writer **Sunita Jain's poetry collection Kshama** has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman 2015 for her poetry collection "Kshama".

Sunita Jain is an Indian scholar, novelist, short-story writer and poet of English and Hindi literature.

- She is a former professor and the Head of the department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. She has published over **60 books, in English and Hindi**, besides translating many Jain writings into English.

Dr Renu Khator – first ever Indian to be inducted into the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame

India based American woman academic Dr Renu Khator is to be inducted into the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame for making significant contribution for the benefit of the Texas state.

Dr. Renu Khator :

- **Dr. Renu Khator – Public Service** is the chancellor of the University of Houston System and president of the University of Houston. Dr. Khator was appointed in 2008 and is the first Indian immigrant to head a comprehensive public research university in the United States and the first female chancellor of a Texas higher education system.
- She is a noted scholar in the field of global environmental policy and has received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award from the president of India, among other distinguished honors. Dr. Khator’s husband, Dr. Suresh Khator, is associate dean of the University of Houston’s Cullen College of Engineering.

Modi’s monogrammed suit auction creates Guinness record – sold for 4.31 crores

The monogrammed suit worn by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his meeting with American President Barack Obama in 2015**, which resulted in huge controversy, entered Guinness Book of World Records as ‘the most expensive suit sold.

- This monogrammed suit was sold to the highest bidder, Laljibhai Patel, a diamond baron and private airline owner based in Surat, Gujarat for whopping Rs **4.31 crores**.
- The proceeds from this auction have gone to the **Namami Gange Fund**, a project to clean the Ganga River.

BEL head bags top award

- i. New Delhi based **Indo Global Business Council (IGBC)**, a policy think-tank based has awarded SK Sharma Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited as the **Most Enterprising CEO in Electronics Sector**.
- ii. The Award was presented to M M Joshi, Executive Director (National Marketing), BEL, on behalf of CMD.

Indian Actor Kamal Haasan awarded with Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et Lettres

Actor Kamal Haasan has been chosen for the famous French honor of Chevalier Award. Kamal Haasan has been appointed Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et Lettres (Knight in the National Order Arts and Letters) by the Minister of Culture and Communication, France.

IOA President N. Ramachandran was awarded with the Olympic Order

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President **N. Ramachandran** was awarded the Olympic Order for his outstanding services to the Olympic movement.

About N Ramachanran :

Narayana Ramachandran is an **Indian squash administrator who serves as current President of WSF** (World Squash Federation). He was elected on 2008, succeeding Jahangir Khan.

1. He is also, since the 9th of February 2014, the **president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**.

Steve Jobs to Be Inducted Into the International Photography Hall of Fame

i. Apple co-founder and former CEO Steve Jobs have been inducted into the International Photography Hall of Fame, in recognition of Jobs' invaluable **contributions to the world of photography**.

ii. Steve Jobs will be one of eight inductees to enter into the International Photography's Hall of Fame, alongside photographers Annie Leibovitz, Ernst Haas and Sebastião Salgado, Photoshop's John Knoll and Thomas Knoll, filmmaker Ken Burns, and singer-songwriter Graham Nash.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna for P.V. Sindhu, Sakshi Malik, Dipa Karmakar and Jitu Rai

The Sports Ministry announced that Rio Olympics medalists shuttler P.V. Sindhu and wrestler Sakshi Malik will receive the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award along with gymnast Dipa Karmakar and shooter Jitu Rai.

List of 2016 National awards are

Name of the awardee	Discipline
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ranta 2016	
Ms. P.V. Sindhu	Badminton
Ms. Dipa Karmakar	Gymnastics
Shri Jitu Rai	Shooting
Ms. Sakshi Malik	Wrestling
Dronacharya Awards 2016	
Shri Nagapuri Ramesh	Athletics
Shri Sagar Mal Dhayal	Boxing
Shri Raj Kumar Sharma	Cricket
Shri Bishweshwar Nandi	Gymnastics
Shri S. Pradeep Kumar	Swimming (Lifetime)
Shri Mahabir Singh	Wrestling (Lifetime)
Arjuna Awards 2016	
Shri Rajat Chauhan	Archery
Ms. Lalita Babar	Athletics

Shri Sourav Kothari	Billiards & Snooker
Shri Shiva Thapa	Boxing
Shri Ajinkya Rahane	Cricket
Shri Subrata Paul	Football
Ms. Rani	Hockey
Shri Raghunath V.R.	Hockey
Shri Gurpreet Singh	Shooting
Ms. Apurvi Chandela	Shooting
Shri Soumyajit Ghosh	Table Tennis
Ms. Vinesh	Wrestling
Shri Amit Kumar	Wrestling
Shri Sandeep Singh Mann	Para-Athletics
Shri Virender Singh	Wrestling (Deaf)
Dhyan Chand Award 2015	
Ms. Satti Geetha	Athletics
Shri Sylvanus Dung Dung	Hockey
Shri Rajendra Pralhad Shelke	Rowing
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2015-16	Punjabi University, Patiala

Telangana Aarogyasri Trust bags FICCI award

- i. The **Telangana Aarogyasri Healthcare** Trust bagged Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)'s healthcare excellence award for 2016.
- ii. This is the second award for the application having secured the **Elite Smart Healthcare Conclave** for being the most important mobile app in the nation.
- iii. The will be presented by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda to Aarogyasri CEO Dr. M. Chandrasekhar at a function to be held in **Delhi on Aug.31**.

Late Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami selected for the Asian Filmmaker of the Year Award

- i. Late Iranian director **Abbas Kiarostami** has been selected for the **Asian Filmmaker of the Year Award at the Busan International Film Festival beginning October 6**.
- ii. **Abbas Kiarostami** was an **Iranian film director, screenwriter, photographer and film producer**. An active film-maker from 1970, Kiarostami had been involved in over forty films, including shorts and documentaries.

Satheesh Reddy conferred first IEI-IEEE award

- i. The Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister **G Satheesh Reddy** has been conferred with the **IEI-IEEE Award for Engineering Excellence-2015 Award** for his significant national

contribution towards Missiles and Aerospace technologies.

ii. Currently Reddy is the **Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister Parrikar** and he is also the Director General, Missiles and Strategic Systems at DRDO.

iii. Reddy being the Director of RCI, he headed the development of Avionics technologies in critical areas of inertial systems for various defence programmes **Agni A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, Akash**, underwater missiles, **Prithvi, Dhanush, Astra, BrahMos, Nirbhay, Helina, Nag, MRSAM**.

Christiano Ronaldo – UEFA Best Player in Europe for the second time

Cristiano Ronaldo has been named Uefa's Best Player in Europe for the second time after winning the Champions League and Euro 2016. It is noted that the Real Madrid forward beat team-mate Gareth Bale and Atletico Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann were in the voting.

About Christiana Ronaldo :

- **Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro** is a **Portuguese professional footballer** who plays for Spanish club Real Madrid and the Portugal national team. He is a forward and serves as **captain for Portugal**.
- He is the only player to win four European Golden Shoe One of the most marketable athletes in sport, in 2016 Forbes named Ronaldo the world's best paid athlete. In June 2016, **ESPN ranked him the world's most famous athlete**.

Steeplechase pro Lalita Babar chosen for SJAM's sports woman of the year award

Steeplechase specialist **Lalita Babar**, who finished a creditable 10th in the Rio Olympics, have been chosen for the Sports Journalists Association of Mumbai's **(SJAM) Golden Jubilee Annual Awards 2016**. **Chess GM Shardul Gagare** will receive the Sportsman of the year award and Lalita Babar will be the Sportswoman of the year award.

Padma Sachdev gets Saraswati Samman for year 2015

i. Jammu-based Novelist **Padma Sachdev** was awarded the prestigious **Saraswati Samman 2015** for her autobiography 'Chitt-Chete' written in Dogri language.

ii. The Delhi's Lt Governor Najeeb Jung presented the Award to the Novelist at the function held in New Delhi.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

Anandiben Patel resigns as Gujarat chief minister

i. Ahead of the forth coming elections in Guajarat in 2017, **Chief Minister Anandiben Patel expressed her offer to resign** from her hot seat and this decision eyes at marking her **age**

75, which is to be completed soon.

ii. **Anandiben Mafatbhai Patel** is an Indian politician and the ex-incumbent Chief Minister of Gujarat. She was the first woman Chief Minister of the Gujarat.

iii. She is a member of the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) since 1987**. She was the Cabinet Minister of Road and Building, Revenue, Urban development and Urban Housing, Disaster Management and Capital Projects in the Government of Gujarat from 2007 to 2014.

Southern Naval Command gets it new chief – Air Marshal S Neelakantan

S Neelakantan, Air Marshal took charge as **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Air Command** and the traditional Guard of Honour was presented to him by the Air Warriors.

Justice Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale sworn in as new CJ of Allahabad HC

i. Justice **Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale** was sworn in as the **Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court**.

ii. He was administered the oath by Uttar Pradesh Governor **Ram Naik** in presence of High Court judges, and other dignitaries

Dilip Rath took additional charge as the Chairman of NDDDB – National Dairy Development Board

After Govt of India has given Dilip Rath, Managing Director of the Dairy Board took an additional charge of Chairmanship following the resingment of the former IAS officer T Nanda Kumar from the chairmanship of **National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB)**, the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**.

Reliance Life gets its new CEO – Ashish Vohra, Former CDO of Max Life

Ashish Vohra, **former chief distribution officer at Max Life** will be joining **Reliance Life** following his appointment as its Chief Executive Officer.

i. Earlier Ashish Vohra worked with Fullerton India Credit and Citibank and at last he joined Max Life in 2010 and was leading the distribution channels, including bank assurance, direct selling, agency and online and he has **experience of over 21 years spanning marketing, sales, product and business roles in financial services**.

Lt Gen Bipin Rawat to be new Army vice-chief

i. Lieutenant General **Bipin Rawat** took charge as the General Officer Commanding in Chief of Pune based Southern Command. He will fill the shoes of **Lt Gen Ashok Singh**.

ii. Prior to his new assignment, He was General Officer Commanding Maharashtra. First he was commissioned in the Fifth Battalion of the **Eleven Gorkha Rifles** from Indian Military Academy

Anant Maheshwari named as President of Microsoft India

- i. IT major Microsoft India appointed **Anant Maheshwari** as the President of its India's operations. He will join the office from **September 1**. He is set to take over from **Bhaskar Pramanik**, Chairman.
- ii. The chairman in the earlier next year as he retires. He will watch over the product, service, and support offerings across the country.
- iii. Prior to his new appointment he worked for Honeywell-India Operations as a president, He also had successful stint with McKinsey & Company for 6 years where he had worked at multiple industries as well as telecom, IT and e-commerce, private equity, engineering equipment.

Senior Bureaucrat Bhaskar Khulbe Appointed As PM Narendra Modi's Secretary

- i. West Bengal cadre IAS officer **Bhaskar Khulbe** has been named as **secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. He had been serving in the PMO as an additional secretary.
- ii. Khuble's appointment was cleared by the Cabinet with an immediate effect. He will work in the pay scale of **Rs 80,000**.

Angela Ruggiero – New Chair person for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) athlete's commission

IOC president **Thomas Bach** officially appointed **Angela Ruggiero**, an American ice hockey Olympic champion as the new chair person of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) athlete's commission.

- **Angela Marie Ruggiero** is an American ice hockey defense man. Ruggiero was born in Panorama City, but grew up in Sylmar and Simi Valley, California.
- Angela Ruggiero is the current Vice-Chair of the Commission.

Deepak Iyer appointed Mondelez India managing director

- i. American multinational confectionery, food, and beverage company **Mondelez India** has named **Deepak iyer** as its Managing Director for India operations.
- ii. He replaces **Chandramouli Venkatesan**. Prior to his new appiontement he worked as CEO and MD of **Bharti Axa General Insurance Company**.

BCCI appoints Markandey Katju to interact with Lodha Panel

- i. Indian Cricket Administrating body BCCI has appointed former Supreme Court judge **Markandey Katju** as the Panel head which comprises four members including him.
- ii. The panel named with the intention of managing the complexity in the **RM Lodha committee's recommendations** to reform the cricket board.
- iii. Katju will be the head of the panel, he will be assisted by counsel of BCCI Abhinav Mukerjee, while the other two members would be picked in the post discussion at the SGM.

East Central Railway gets its new General Manager Mr. D.K. Gayen

- i. **D.K. Gayen** has been appointed as the new **General Manager of East Central Railway** of India.
- ii. Gayen priorly worked in South Easter Railway at **Kolkata as Chief Mechanical Engineer**

End of sunrises – Kerala Cabinet appoints V.S. Achuthanandan as the chairman of fourth Kerala Administrative Reforms Commission

- i. Senior CPI(M) leader **V.S. Achuthanandan** has been appointed as the chairman of the **fourth Kerala Administrative Reforms Commission** with a Cabinet rank by the Pinarayi Vijayan led Kerala Cabinet.
- ii. **Velikkakathu Sankaran Achuthanandan** born in 20 October 1923 is an Indian politician who was Chief Minister of Kerala from 2006 to 2011. He has been Leader of the Opposition in Kerala since 2011.

Sudhansu Mani – New General Manager of ICF, Chennai

- i. **Intergal Coach Factory, Chennai** gets it new General Manager – **Sudhansu Mani**. He belongs to **1979 batch of Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME)**.
- ii. He has a vast experience of 36 years in Indian Railways and worked in areas like **workshop management, railway operations, project management**, planning and R&D and alas as a Chief Mechanical Engineer, Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka, Bengaluru.

Islamic State Group absorbs Boko Haram of Nigeria as its New leader.

The Islamic State (IS) group has announced that its West African affiliate **Boko Haram has a new leader.**

- i. **Boko Haram** is an Islamic extremist group based in northeastern **Nigeria, also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon**. The group was lead by Abubakar Shekau until August 2016, when he was succeeded by Abu Musab al-Barnawi.
- ii. **Abu Musab al-Barnawi**, who was previously served as a spokesman for the Nigerian-based Boko Haram, is seemed to lead the Islamic state militant group.

Yousef Chahed to be named as the New PM of Tunisia following a political unrest

- i. **Youssef Chahed – A minister in Tunisia’s previous government** announced that he has been nominated as the country’s new prime minister and quickly warned Tunisians to brace themselves for “exceptional sacrifices.”
- ii. He also served as minister for local affairs in the government that fell over the weekend in a no-confidence vote. He would replace **Prime Minister Habib Essid**, a U.S.-trained agricultural economist who faced criticism from across the political spectrum.

Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh – elected as a next Ambassador of India to Ireland on eyeing the upcoming elections

- i. **Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh** currently serving as the High Commissioner of India to Singapore, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Ireland and she is expected to take up her assignment shortly.
- ii. He belongs to the **Indian Foreign Service batch, 1987.**

TATA International Limited gets its Non—Executive Director, Mr. Deepak Premnarayen

- i. The board of Tata International Limited, the global trading and Distribution Company, announced the **appointment of Deepak Premnarayen as Non-Executive Director** with effect from 1st August 2016.
- ii. Further, the board announced that Arun Kumar Vora will be retiring as Director on **14th August 2016** after a distinguished tenure and long association with Tata International..

Nita Ambani becomes first Indian woman to be elected as IOC member

On August 4, 129th IOC Session in Rio elected **Nita Ambani** , the founder and chairperson of the Reliance Foundation as the **first Indian woman member of International Olympic Committee.**

Bank Board Bureau Chief Vinod Rai steps down from the IDFC bank board

- i. Being appointed as the **chief of Banks Board Bureau (BBB)**, **Vinod Rai** has stepped down from the **IDFC bank board** and however he will serve continuously as the independent Chairman of the IDFC Ltd.
- ii. Vinod Rai is the **Former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India and also a honorary member of the renowned IDFC bank board.

CARE Ratings names Mokashi MD

- i. Mumbai based Credit Analysis and Research Ltd (CARE Ratings) has appointed **Rajesh Mokashi** as the **Managing Director & CEO.**
- ii. Before joining to CARE he had worked with Otis Elevator Company India Ltd, DSP Financial Consultants and Kotak Mahindra Finance Ltd.

Mercedes-Benz India appoints Michael Jopp as it new Vice President

- i. German luxury car maker **Mercedes Benz India Limited** has appointed **Michael Jopp** as **vice president**, sales and marketing, effective 1 August.
- ii. Jopp as its head of sales management is currently in **charge of directing sales strategy** and is responsible for **sales performance and profitability for Mercedes-Benz Cars in Berlin, Germany.**

CSS Corp appoints Manish Tandon as its new CEO

- i. US based Global tech major CSS corporation has named **Manish Tandon** as its new Chief Executive Officer of the firm. He will replace (Tiger) TG Ramesh who has been transferred as a **Non-executive Board director**.
- ii. Tandom is currently the head of **Healthcare & Life Sciences, Insurance** and High-Tech Manufacturing businesses at Infosys.

Breaking Stereotypes: a Dalit woman has been appointed as priest in Kudroli Gokarnanatha Temple

For the first ever in history of Karnataka, a **Dalit woman has been appointed as priest in Kudroli Gokarnanatha Temple in Karnataka's Mangalore city.**

- i. Gokarnanatheshwara Temple, also known as **Kudroli Sri Gokarnanatha Kshetra**, is in the Kudroli area of Mangalore in Karnataka.

KK Khurana took charge as the Head the Head of BHEL Corporate R&D

- i. With effect from August 4, 2016 **KK Khurana, General Manager in-charge has taok charge as the Head of BHEL Corporate R&D.**
- ii. It is noted that KK Khurana was earlier involved in **Project Engineering Management (PEM)**, Technical service among other areas in the company. He has wide experience in thermal power plant projects.

Takehike Nakao Re-elected again as the President of ADB

- i. **Asian Development Bank Board has re-elected Takehiko Nakao** as the multilateral funding agency's president for a five-year term beginning 24 November, 2016.
- ii. Prior to joining ADB in 2013, Mr. Nakao was a **senior official in the Ministry of Finance, Japan**, where he gained extensive experience in international finance and development.

Hero Moto Corp strengthens its Boards members to accelerate growth; reappoints Pawan Munjal as it MD & CEO

- i. Two-wheeler maker Hero Moto Corp Ltd reappointed **Pawan Munjal as its chairman, managing director and CEO** for a period of five years. It also elevated its head of operations and supply chain **Vikram Kasbekar as a director on the company's board.**
- ii. His appointment comes with effect from 1st of October, 2016 and it is noted that his current tenure comes to an **end on 30th of September 2016.**
- iii. Hero MotoCorp has also appointed Ms **Neerja Sharma as the Company Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer.**

Union Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra gets its new head of the boards on August 9.

- i. **Pawan Kumar Bajaj as Managing Director of UBI and Ravindra Prabhakar Marathe as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Bank of Maharashtra.**
- ii. It is noted that Marathe is **Executive Director in Bank of India**. He will take over the charge on or after October 1, 2016 and continue for a period upto November 30, 2019.
- iii. Pawan Kumar Bajaj is **Executive Director in Indian Overseas Bank**. He has been appointed as MD and CEO "based on merit-cum-preference" and he has been appointed to the post up to September 20, 2018.

K M Hanumantharayappa took charge as the new Chairman of Central Silk Board

- i. Leading sericulturist and a weaver **K M Hanumantharayappa has assumed charge as the new Chairman of Central Silk Board** for a period of three years. As the 25th Chairman of the board, he succeeds N S Bissegowda.
- ii. He is a senior political leader from **Bharatiya Janata Party** and hails from Doddaballapura, a traditional silk weaving cluster in Karnataka.

Shri Akhil Joshi appointed as the Director (power), BHEL

- i. Shri Akhil Joshi presently posted as **Executive Director, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been appointed as the Director (Power), BHEL**
- ii. He holds the position for a period of **five years** from the date of his assumption of charge of the post, or till the date of his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.
- iii. Prior to this Joshi, 57, was executive director-human resource at BHEL

Dinesh Kumar Khara appointed SBI's MD

Dinesh Kumar Khara was appointed Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of three years. He is currently working as **MD and CEO** of SBI Funds Management Pvt Ltd.

New Executive Directors appointed in Various Banks

The cabinet also gave its nod for appointment of General Managers as Executive Directors in various banks.

Ashok Kumar Garg has been appointed as ED of Bank of Baroda

Ashok Kumar Garg and Raj Kamal Verma have been appointed as ED of Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India respectively.

Gopal Murli Bhagat as ED of Corporation Bank - The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has given its nod for four appointments in the Public sector lenders. Upon this **Gopal Murli Bhagat** has been named as Executive Director of Mangalore based Corporation Bank.

Himanshu Joshi appointed ED on board of OBC - The Centre also appointed Himanshu Joshi as Executive Director on the board of Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC). His appointment is valid

October 31, 2018 or superannuation period whichever is earlier. Prior to this appointment he was a General Manager with Punjab National Bank.

Bill Maris, Founder of Google Ventures leaves the company

- i. One of the influential tech financiers in Silicon Valley **Bill Maris, the investor who started Google Ventures is leaving Google Inc.**
- ii. Maris will be leaving both the firm and its **parent company Alphabet making him the third executive to quit** the megacorp of late.

Birender Singh Yadav appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana

IFS officer of 1997 batch **Birender Singh Yadav** currently working as Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the West Africa's Republic of Ghana. Yadav will succeed K. Jeeva Sagar in Ghana.

Savlon Health care gets it New Brand Ambassador – Saina Nehwal

- i. ITC's health and hygiene brand, **Savlon has roped in ace shuttler Saina Nehwal** as its brand ambassador. In its new campaign with Nehwal, Savlon seeks to inspire parents to let go of their fears and encourage children to push their limits and maximise their potential to succeed in life.
- ii. Savlon is happy to engage ace shuttler Saina Nehwal as the Brand Ambassador. Her journey truly **exemplifies determination, dedication and hard work. Saina personifies Savlon's core brand thought of performance power** in more ways than one.

Saraswat Cooperative Bank appoints it new Chairman – Gautam Eknath Thakur

- i. **Gautam Eknath Thakur** has been elected Chairman of the leading co- operative banker, **Saraswat Bank.**
- ii. **All the Directors of the Mumbai headquartered Urban Cooperative Bank were re-elected unopposed.** The results were announced in the AGM by the returning officer Mr H P Gemini.

Pharmaceutical Giant Cipla appoints Umang VOhra as it MD and Global CEO

- i. Leading **Drugmaker Cipla Ltd appointed Umang Vohra its new managing director and global CEO.**
- ii. Vohra is currently chief operating officer and will take over from Subhanu Saxena, who is leaving the Pharmaceutical giant.
- iii. Cipla had hired Vohra from **Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) in September 2015** as chief financial and strategy officer.

Manjula Chellur – New Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

i. **Manjula Chellur**, chief justice of the Calcutta High Court, has been appointed **Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court** with effect from August 24.

ii. Manjula, Born in **Ballari in 1955**, she received BA degree from Allum Sumangalamma Women's College, Ballari, and joined Renukacharya Law College, Bengaluru. She obtained her LLB degree in the year 1977.

Ms. Anitha Nayar – India's next ambassador to Chile

India's present ambassador to **Lebanon Ms. Anitha Nayar** is to be appointed as the next Ambassador of South American country, Chile.

Skakti Sinha probably to become the new Director of NMML, New Delhi.

i. Shakti Sinha, an Indian Administrative Service officer may be appointed as the **new director of the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML)** under the Union Cultural Ministry.

ii. Shakti Sinha has served as a **private secretary to Vajpayee during the NDA 1 regime**. He took voluntary retirement from the service in 2013 while serving as Finance Secretary in the Delhi government.

iii. The previous director, Mahesh Rangarajan, resigned last year in the aftermath of statements by senior BJP leaders and Union culture minister Mahesh Sharma, **expressing unhappiness at the NMML's orientation**.

Four new governors appointed for the state of Punjab, Assam, Manipur and UT Andaman Islands

President Pranab Mukherjee appointed four new governors on 17th August and the list includes former Union minister Najma Heptulla for Manipur.

The appointment includes new governors for the,

- **State of Manipur** – Najma Heptulla
- **State of Punjab** – V.P. Singh Badnore, and
- **State of Assam** – Banwarilal Purohit.
- **Lieutenant- Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands** –Jagdish Mukhi.

Shri Vishvas Vidu Sapkal – New High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Kiribati

Shri Vishvas Vidu Sapkal, Officer of Indian Foreign Service – 1998 batch, presently High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji, has been concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Kiribati, with residence in Suva (Fiji).He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

Urjit R. Patel – Reserve Bank of India’s New Governor

Union Finance Ministry notified that Urjit R. Patel, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor, has been appointed as the new governor of Reserve Bank of India as Raghuram Rajan’s successor.

About Urjit R. Patel :

Urjit R. Patel is an Indian economist, consultant and banker, currently serving as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As Deputy Governor of RBI, he looks after **monetary policy, economic policy research, statistics and information management, deposit insurance, communication and Right to Information**. On 20 August 2016, he was named as the governor of RBI to succeed Raghuram Rajan when the latter’s term expires in September 2016.

Shri Yogeshwar Sangwan – India’s new Ambassador to Georgia

i. Shri Yogeshwar Sangwan Indian Foreign Service – 1994 batch, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Armenia, has been concurrently accredited **as the Ambassador of India to Georgia**, with residence in Yerevan (Armenia).

ii. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

Sunil Bharti Mittal re-appointed as the Chairman of Bharti Airtel

i. Sunil Bharti Mittal has been re-appointed as the **Chairman of telecom giant Bharti Airtel** for another five year, with effect from October 1, 2016.

ii. Sunil Bharti Mittal is an Indian entrepreneur, philanthropist and the **Founder & Chairman of Bharti Enterprises**, which has diversified interests in telecom, insurance, real estate, hospitality, agri and food besides other ventures.

Deepika Padukone – Vistara’s New Brand Ambassador

i. Vistara announced the appointment of **Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone** as its brand ambassador.

ii. Vistara, whose 51 per cent stake in owned by Tata Sons and the rest 49 per cent by Singapore Airlines, did not disclose other details such as the contract period and fee that it would pay to the actress.

Amul MD, RS Sodhi appointed on board of India Post Payment Banks

i. Board of India Post Payment Banks (IPPB) has appointed **RS Sodhi, MD, Amul** as its new independent director. IPPB is the payment arm of the postal department.

ii. Mr. R. S. Sodhi has been the Managing Director at **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation since January 4, 2011**.

Indo-Candian Sikh MP Bardish Chagger Becomes Canada’s 1st Woman House Leader

i. As a first woman to hold the post in the Canada’s history, **Indo-Canadian Sikh MP Bardish**

Chagger has been named as the new leader of the government in Canada's House of Commons.

ii. Ms. Chagger, the 36-year-old **Waterloo MP and Minister of Small Business and Tourism**, was among 19 Indian-origin candidates who won in last year's general election.

Ashok Chawla to take over as YES Bank non-executive chairman

i. Former head of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) **Ashok Chawla** has been named as the **non-executive part-time chairman** of Mumbai based YES Bank.

ii. Presently he is the Chairman of NSE and chairs the governing council of The Energy and Research Institute (TERI). He worked as the chairman of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) post retirement.

Two Indo American Women qualified for the prestigious White House Fellow Program

Two Indian–American women – Astrophysicist **Anjali Tripathi from California** and **physician Tina R Shah from Chicago** have been selected for the prestigious **White House Fellow programme**. This program offers first hand experience of working at the highest levels of the US federal government and they are among the 16 White House Fellows appointed from across the nation for the year 2016-17.

Renowned Scientist P D Gupta appointed as new NV of Homi Bhabha National Institute

i. Eminent scientist **P D Gupta** was appointed as **Vice Chancellor of Mumbai-based Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI)**. He has been appointed to the post for five years by Department of Personnel and Training.

ii. The **Homi Bhabha National Institute** is an **Indian deemed university**, which unifies several constituent institutions.

Anand Krishnamurthy, MD and chief executive of Catholic Syrian Bank has resigned

i. **Anand Krishnamurthy, managing director and chief executive of Catholic Syrian Bank, has resigned** within a year after taking over the posts.

ii. Before taking over in July 2015, Krishnamurthy had been **associated with the bank for the past one year** and was previously responsible for corporate banking, SME business, and integrated treasury operations as head of wholesale banking and treasury.

Sakshi Malik – Haryana's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Campaign Brand Ambassador

i. Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** announced **Sakshi Malik, India's bronze medalist at the Rio Olympics, as the brand ambassador of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign** in the state. The programme aims to empower the girl child and reduce rates of female foeticide in districts with low child sex ratio. Haryana particularly is a state that has a skewed

gender ratio.

ii. **Sakshi Malik** is an **Indian freestyle wrestler**.

Deepika Padukone – Indian Psychiatric Society's new Brand Ambassador

i. Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone**, who herself battled depression, has joined hands with the **Indian Psychiatric Society** as its brand ambassador to spread awareness about mental health and help reduce the stigma associated with its ailments.

ii. **Deepika Padukone** is an Indian film actress. She is one of the highest-paid actresses in the world and is cited in the media as one of India's most popular and attractive personalities.

Shri Ravi Shankar – India's next High Commissioner to Republic of Uganda

i. **Shri Ravi Shankar – Indian Foreign Service 1995 Batch**, presently Deputy Chief of Mission in Embassy of India, Rome, has been appointed as the next **High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Uganda**.

ii. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

Pankaj Harjai – Lenovo SMB's New Head

i. Leading **PC maker Lenovo** appointed **Pankaj Harjai** as head of its newly constituted Small and Medium Business (SMB) vertical.

ii. **Lenovo Group Ltd.** is a **Chinese multinational technology company** with headquarters in Beijing, China, and Morrisville, North Carolina, United States.

Yes Bank appoints Amit Sanan head Mid Corp Banking

i. India fifth largest private sector bank, **Yes Bank** has appointed **Amit Sanan** as **Group President and Country Head of Mid-Corporate Banking**.

ii. The two existing teams of **Emerging Corporate Banking and Commercial Business Banking** of 300 relationship managers nationally will now report to him.

Shri P Kumaran – India's next Ambassador to the State of Qatar

i. **Shri P Kumaran Indian Foreign Service – 1992** batch, presently Joint secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next **Ambassador of India to the State of Qatar**.

ii. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

Sharmila Tagore appointed as a new member of the BCCC – Broadcasting Content Complaints Council

i. **Film actress Sharmila Tagore, theatre activist Arundhati Nag and film studies academician Ira Bhaskar** have been appointed new members of **Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC)**, the self-regulatory body which hears complaints against TV content.

ii. **Sharmila Tagore** is an Indian film actress known for her works predominantly in **Hindi cinema**. She has received two National Film Awards and two Filmfare Awards for her performances.

Punit Misra named CEO of Zee Entertainment domestic broadcast biz

i. Indian media and Entertainment Company based in Mumbai Zee Entertainment Enterprises has appointed Punit Misra as Chief Executive Officer for **domestic broadcast business**.

ii. Misra's appointment will come to effect from **October 1** will report to Zee Entertainment Enterprises Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Punit Goenka.

iii. Earlier Misra was Executive Director-Sales and Customer Development at Hindustan Unilever and joined HUL as a management trainee in 1996.

Bain Capital MD Amit chandra appointed as a Non-Executive director of Tata Sons Board

i. The Tata Group announced the appointment of **Amit Chandra, managing director of Bain Capital, on the Tata Sons board** as a non-executive director with effect from August 26.

ii. Amit Chandra joined **Bain Capital as Managing Director** in early 2008 and is part of the firm's leadership team in Asia.

iii. Mr. Amit R. Chandra has been the Managing Director of Bain Capital Private Equity since 2008 and also serves as its Head of Indian Operations. Mr. Chandra joined Bain Capital Private Equity in early **2008 to found the Mumbai office and focuses on investments in India and Financial and Business Services**.

Mukesh Mehta named president of bullion and jewellers body

i. Apex association for all bullion and jewellery associations in the country, **India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA)** has been appointed noted jeweller Mukesh Mehta as a president of the body.

ii. The Mumbai based Mehta associated with IBJA for a long time will fill the place of Mohit Kamboj, who resigned from the post. He is also the Director of **Mark Bangles Pvt Ltd**, has been a member of the IBJA Board since the last four years.

AM Naik names SN Subrahmanyan as next Larsen & Toubro chief

i. Larsen & Toubro's group named **S N Subrahmanyan** as the **Managing director and chief executive officer** of India's largest infrastructure engineering company from October first.

ii. He is serving as deputy managing director and president of the company who will take over from executive chairman **AM Naik as he retires on September 30, 2017**.

Ashok Kumar Pradhan took charge as the Chief General Manager of State Bank of Travancore

i. Ashok Kumar Pradhan has taken over as its **Chief General Manager of State Bank Of**

Travancore.

ii. Prior to this, he served in various key assignments as **Controller and Zonal Head** and has functioned Zonal Head and also Deputy General Manager (Credit) at State Bank of Hyderabad.

CRPF appoints PV Sindhu as irs Brand Ambassador and Commandant

i. Country's largest paramilitary force CRPF has decided to appoint **Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador and bestow the honorary rank of Commandant** on the ace badminton player

ii. A Commandant rank in the CRPF is equivalent to the position of a **Superintendent of Police (SP) and such an officer** commands a battalion of about 1,000 personnel, when posted in field operations

Digicel Appoints Usain Bolt as Chief Speed Officer

i. **Jamica based** Digicel Caribbean Ltd named the **world's fastest man, Usain Bolt**, as its Chief Speed Officer (CSO) following this appointment he as Digicel CSO will interact with customers in a number of ways from both a commercial and community point of view in the years to come.

ii. The Digicel has been sponsoring the speedster Usain Bolt since 2004. Bolt, produced history at the Olympic Games in Rio 2016 when he attained three gold medals at three consecutive Olympic Games

Shri R. Ravindra – Ambassador of India to Republic of Liberia

i. Shri R. **Ravindra Indian Foreign Service – 1999 batch**, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, has been concurrently accredited as the **Ambassador of India to Republic of Liberia**, with residence in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire).

ii. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

Rattan Kapur – New President of Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA).

i. **Rattan Kapur**, Chairman and Managing Director, Mark Exhaust Systems Ltd, has been appointed as **President of Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA)**.

ii. The announcement was made at the 56th ACMA Annual Session during its Executive Committee meeting.

Lt Gen Bipin Rawat – the VCOAS of the Indian Army

i. **Lt Gen Bipin Rawat** will take over as the **VCOAS of the Indian Army on 01 September 2016**. He was commissioned in the Fifth Battalion of the Eleven Gorkha Rifles in December 1978, from IMA, Dehradun, where he was awarded the '**Sword of Honour**'.

ii. The **Vice Chief of the Army Staff(VCOAS)** is **second in command** of the Indian Army next

to Chief of the Army Staff. He is responsible for operation and army related tasks.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Global Healthcare Provider Zydus group acquired Melgain from Issar Pharma

The Zydus Group, an innovation-led global healthcare provider, has acquired Melgain from Hyderabad based Issar Pharma. In India, Melgain will be marketed by Liva Healthcare, a specialty division of the group catering to the dermatological segment. Zydus also has an option to launch this product in other global markets where it is not available.

Mahindra Inter trade and MSTC sign a Joint Venture to set up auto shredding centre

i. Mahindra Inter trade Ltd., a part of the Mahindra Partners Division of the \$17.8 billion Mahindra Group, and MSTC Ltd. (a Government of India enterprise) signed a formal joint venture agreement to set-up India's first-of-its-kind Greenfield auto shredding and recycling

Randstad to acquire job portal Monster.com for \$429 mn

Dutch based human resources services provider Randstad has acquired US-based job portal Monster Worldwide Inc for \$429 million in all cash deal which is likely to close in Q4 2016.

Apple buys US machine learning startup Turi

The US tech major Apple has announced the purchase of US based machine-learning startup Turi for a reported \$200m to boost artificial intelligence.

Intel acquires AI start-up run by Indian-origin entrepreneur

i. American technology major Intel Corporation has announced that it has acquired California-based deep learning start-up Nervana Systems.

ii. However Intel was tight-lipped about the deal size but according to a Re/Code report, the software giant is paying more than \$400 million.

Aditya Birla Nuvo to merge with Grasim

i. Aditya Birla Nuvo to merge with Grasim Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd tanked close to 24.63% during intraday trade as analysts and minority investors disapproved of its proposed merger with Grasim Industries Ltd. The merger is not only complicated in its structure, but also unconvincing on several other elements, including the valuations of the holding company and its disadvantage to minority shareholders.

ii. Grasim, however, trades flat at Rs 4,548, though it already fell by 12% when the market sensed an announcement of the deal was in the offing.

Tech Giant Microsoft's Xbox Acquires Seattle based Live Streaming Platform – Beam

- i. Microsoft's Xbox team acquired **Beam**, an interactive live streaming platform for gamers on August 12.
- ii. **Xbox** is a **video gaming brand created and owned by Microsoft**. It represents a series of video game consoles developed by Microsoft, with three consoles released in the sixth, seventh, and eighth generations respectively.

Motor Giant Tata AutoComp to acquire TitanX

- i. The Pune-based **Tata AutoComp Systems, the Tata group-promoted auto component firm, is set to acquire TitanX**, a global engine-cooling solutions firm that caters to commercial vehicle manufacturers.
- ii. Tata AutoComp did **not disclose the value** of the transaction and the financial Chronicle that the acquisition value would be announced only after all regulatory clearances were in place.

Pfizer to acquire oncology specialist Medivation for \$ 14 bn

- i. The US based Pharmacy Major Pfizer is all set buy a San Francisco-based Medivation a **cancer drug firm**, which will give a boost to Pfizer's consolidation effort through a series of acquisitions.
- ii. The Deal size valued about **\$14bn** (£10.7bn), the purchase is likely to accelerate revenue growth and drive overall earnings growth potential and in the deal Pfizer will pay about **\$81.50** per share for Medivation.

Accenture to acquire Australian security firm

Chicago based Global professional services company **Accenture is set to** acquire Australia based security company **Redcore**. The Deal size is not disclosed.

TerraPay acquires UK's Pay2Global

- i. Amsterdam based global financial network **TerraPay** has acquired UK-based Pay2Global for an undisclosed amount following regulatory approvals.
- ii. Upon this acquisition, Pay2Global will be rebranded **Terra Payment Services** (UK) and will start services to key markets in Asia and Africa.

Sony Pictures Network acquires Ten Sports for \$385 mn

- i. Sony Pictures Networks India (**SPN**) on August 31 2016 announced that to acquire **TEN Sports Network** its subsidiaries for **\$385 million** from Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEE). It was announced by CEO of Sony Pictures Networks India **NP Singh**.
- ii. The acquisition will add South Asia's leading sports network to SPN's existing portfolio of channels. The TEN Sports channels being acquired include **TEN 1, TEN 1 HD, TEN 2, TEN 3, TEN**

Golf HD, TEN Cricket.

iii. TEN Sports that operates in **Maldives, Singapore, Hong Kong, Middle East,**

MoUs

Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with Japan to develop food value chain

i. **Andhra Pradesh** government has inked a MoU with **Japan's Agriculture Ministry and Forestry and Fisheries Dept** to develop food chain value.

ii. The **Food chain** to be developed in AP with japan's investments in the state in the fields of agriculture and food-related industry.

Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and South Africa in the field of Tourism

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **India** and **South Africa for cooperation in the field of Tourism.**

The MoU emphasizes on several factors includes,

i. To expand bilateral cooperation in the **tourism sector and to exchange information** and data related to tourism .

ii. To encourage cooperation between **tourism stakeholders, including hotels and tour operators** and to establish exchange programmes for cooperation in Human Resource Development;

iii. To Invest in the tourism and hospitality sector and **to encourage visits of Tour Operators/Media/ Opinion Makers and tourists from both countries for promotion of two way tourism;**

Rajasthan Govt. ties up with ITEC Dubai for the promotion of Tourism Sector in the State

i. In order to facilitate the development of the Tourism sector, **Rajasthan government today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India Trade And Exhibition Centre (ITEC), Dubai** for promotion of skill development, investment and tourism sectors.

ii. With effect of this MoU, ITEC would work as a service providing agency for **promotion of skill development, investment and tourism sectors in Rajasthan.**

Government notifies revised tax treaty with Mauritius

Government has notified the revised tax treaty with Mauritius under which India will impose capital gains tax on investments routed through the **Mauritius from April 1 next year in a bid to curb tax evasion.**

India & Mauritius :-

India had been insisting on review of the treaty since 2006 as it felt a chunk of the funds were not

real foreign investments but Indians routing cash through the island to avoid domestic taxes, a practice known as “**round tripping**”.

- India and Mauritius signed had signed the revised **Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC)** after prolonged negotiations at Port Louis.
- This treaty ensure firms in Mauritius that invest in India are not just ‘**shell**’ and instead have substantial operations in the island, such as paying staff there, before qualifying for treaty terms of getting exemption from payment of capital gains tax in India.

Fifth Generation signs pact with Anna University

Chennai based Fifth Generation Technologies has **entered into an agreement** with Anna University, Chennai, for conducting research to study about the remaining **life of critical equipment** that are working in **high temperature environments**.

NMCG and IOC inks pact for the establishment and betterment of STP in Mathura

- An MoU was signed between **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** and **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**.
- This MoU helps in the **establishment of STP in Mathura** which will provide treated water for industrial use. Laying the foundation of 20 MLD STP in Vrindavan, which is estimated at a cost of **Rs. 40 crore** and a nine kilometer pipeline from Laxmi nagar to Gokul barrage will carry the treated water to Mathura refinery.

Gujurat Govt, Railways Ink Pact To Develop Surat Station

- The **Union Railways** Ministry, Gujarat state government and **Surat Municipal Corporation** went into tri-party agreement to develop **Surat station under the** Public Private Partnership model.
- The agreement was inked by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel and Surat mayor Asmita Siroya.

Chhattisgarh Govt. and Union Railway Ministry sign an agreement to extend the State Railway Connectivity.

- The **Ministry of Railways** and the **Chhattisgarh government** have signed an agreement to form a joint venture as said in the Union Railway Budget 2016 announcement.
- This agreement fosters for the **faster execution of rail projects in the state and also to accelerate the economy of the country** as it is a state with abundant natural resources.
- This agreement between the state and central government will enhance the **project implementation, monitoring, resource mobilization and to enable land acquisition**.

Telangana partners with ISRO to monitor water resources

- i. **Telangana Irrigation Department** signed a MoU with the **National Remote Sensing Centre** (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to avail Water Resources Information System (TWRI) online with ISRO's Bhuvan geo-platform to **monitor the depth and quantity** in all water sources.
- ii. The MoU was signed between the Telangana Irrigation Minister Harish Rao and ISRO chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar.

BSE signs MOU with IIT Kanpur

The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has signed an MoU (**Memorandum of Understanding**) with **IIT Kanpur** for developing tools for strengthening cybersecurity and advising the stock exchange on current and future cyber related issues.

- i. The key highlights of the MoU include
 - 1.Cooperation for cyber security research in financial markets,
 - 2.Developing an environment to deal with cyber security challenges and
 - 3.Tools to strengthen cyber security as also to advise BSE in its cyber related issues.

BARC and SreeChitraTirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology sign MoU for joint development of Deep Brain Stimulator

- i. Mumbai based **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre** and **SreeChitraTirunal Institute for Medical Sciences& Technology** (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram mutually agreed to develop '**Deep Brain Stimulator**' (DBS) by signing **MoU** in this regard.
- ii. It was signed between Dr. Asha Kishore, Director, SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram and Y.S. Mayya, Director Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Mumbai.

Union Cabinet approves ratification of an agreement between India and Croatia on Economic Cooperation.

- i. The cabinet has given its approval to sign an agreement for economic cooperation between Indian and Croatia. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its **approval for signing and ratification of an agreement between India and Croatia on Economic Cooperation.**
- ii. Signing of the new Agreement between India and Croatia would be a step in continuity as the existing **Agreement expired in November, 2009.**

Sri Lanka, China sign tripartite pact to construct mega port city

- i. Sri Lanka and China has entered into a tripartite agreement to go ahead with construction of a mega multi-billion dollar port city project that initially began construction in September 2014 in

capital Colombo.

- ii. The tripartite agreement was signed between **Sri Lanka's Urban Development Authority**, the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development and the **China Harbour Engineering Company**.
- iii. The **\$1.4 billion Port City** would also fuel the planned Maritime city, Aero city, Tech city, Industrial cities and Tourist cities. The agreement also pave the way for the land expansion to 269 hectares from the previous.

NITI Aayog Ties Up With US EIA To Set Up Portal On Energy Data

- i. Moving a step closer to set up a portal to host all the data related to energy sector in the country, **NITI Aayog inked a pact with US Energy Information Administration (EIA)**.
- ii. On the occasion, **Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Anil Madhav Dave** made a case for having a global energy data grid which clearly specified the use of clean and unclean energy across the world to deal with the larger issue of climate change.

Indian and Germany joins hand to deepen the collaboration in Skill Development

- i. **India and Germany** signed an agreement that aims to foster conditions that will help create and improve workplace-based vocational training in India's industrial clusters in order to **deepen the collaboration on skill development**.
- ii. The agreement was signed between the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and German International Cooperation (GIZ)** and will initiate a new project focused on adapting elements of the German dual system in select industrial clusters in India.

Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of Maharashtra and Airports Authority of India sign MOU on Regional Connectivity Scheme

- i. The Maharashtra State government, **Civil Aviation Ministry and Airports Authority of India** signed a **tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** on 23-August-2016 at Mumbai.
- ii. It was signed by Chairman, Airports Authority of India, Principal Secretary Civil Aviation (Maharashtra) and Joint Secretary (Ministry of Civil Aviation).

Union Cabinet approves an MoU with Myanmar in Medicinal field

- i. The Union cabinet approved an MoU with Myanmar for cooperation in the field of **traditional systems of medicine**
- ii. The Union Cabinet led by the Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar** in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine.

Cabinet approves DTAA pact between India and Cyprus to avoid Tax Evasion

- i. In another major step in fight against tax evasion, the Cabinet gave its approval to the revised **DTAA between India and Cyprus** that provides for source-based taxation of capital gains on transfer of shares instead of one based on residence.
- ii. The Union Cabinet led by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of an Agreement and the Protocol between the India and Cyprus for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the **Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income**.

Cabinet approves an agreement between India and Fiji in the field of Air Service

- i. The Union Cabinet approved signing of a new air services agreement between **India and Fiji that would allow Indian airlines to fly to any point in the island nation**.
- ii. The Agreement is for updation of the existing **Air Services Agreement (ASA)** between the two countries which was signed on 28th January, 1974

Union Cabinet approves an MoU between India and South Africa in the field of Grassroots Innovation

- i. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been approved of the **signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and South Africa to establish cooperation in Grassroots Innovation**.
- ii. As per this MoU, both countries will jointly organise various programmes such as **forums, seminars, workshops, and training on matters related to innovation**.

Maharashtra and Telegana joins hand for three inter-state Irrigation Projects in Godavari River

- i. The governments of **Maharashtra and Telangana** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding for construction of three inter-state irrigation projects**.
- ii. The MoU was signed between **Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Telangana CMK Chandrasekhar Rao** in the presence of chief secretaries and irrigation ministers of both the states.

CTTC, Bhubaneswar signs pact with ISRO for Technology Transfer

- i. **Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC)**, Bhubaneswar, has signed an agreement with **ISRO for technology transfer and a contract for supply of spacecraft component**.
- ii. As per the contract, the CTTC would supply spacecraft component for next five years for a total value of **Rs 32 RPT Rs 32 crore**.

Union Ministry joins with companies to promote the Employment Generation Service

- i. Union **Labour Ministry** signed Memorandam of understanding (MoUs) with companies such as **job portals Indeed, First Job and HT Shine** to enhance the quality and reach of its employment generation services.

ii. This move of the government is to further enrich and widen the employment services; NCS is partnering with **HT Shine, Indeed, Freshersworld, FirstJob, Merajob, Urban Clap, Wheebox, Association of Skill Training Providers, Portea**, Delivery Track, Amity Business School.

Urban Development Ministry signed MoU with Amar Chitra Katha for a comic initiative

i. The Minister of Urban Development Venkaiah Naidu signed a deal with popular comic **book series Amar Chitra Katha (ACK) to bring out a comic book on the Swachh Bharat Mission**

ii. The comic will include inspirational stories from the Mission, **cleanliness rankings of cities, public figures and ambassadors, environmental impact and stories** of individuals and organizations that can inspire children to the concept of 'Swachhata'.

iii. This initiative will push the Swachh Bharat Mission one step further towards making Swachh Bharat a '**janandolan**'.

Goa Gov Sign MoU with Google

i. A MoU was signed between Goa Government and Google India to promote digital literacy, develop internet safety education for students, and promote android development and make **government websites mobile friendly**.

ii. The MoU was inked by Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar and Vice-President Google South East Asia Rajan Anandan in the state capital Panaji.

iii. The state in collaboration with Google is set to roll out Internet safety education for students in the state and training and will soon expand to cover 460 schools and **80,000 students**.

Union Cabinet approved MoU between CERT-In and CERT-UK in the field of cyber Security

i. The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been approved of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Ministry of Cabinet Office, UK (as represented by CERT-UK, a unit of the Cabinet Office on Cyber Security)**.

ii. With this MoU, India and UK can exchange technical information on cyber attacks, response to cyber security incidents and find solutions to counter the cyber attacks. This MoU helps to strengthen cyber space of countries, **capacity building and improving relationship between India and UK**. CERT-In signed MoUs with counterpart/similar organizations in about seven countries — **Korea, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Uzbekistan**

India and US signed LEMOA agreement for the revival of defense sector renovation

The United States and India signed LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement) governing the use of each other's land, air and naval bases for repair and resupply. This is considered as a step toward building defense ties in order to counter the growing maritime assertiveness of China.

About LEMOA Agreement :

Indian Defense Minister **Manohar Parrikar** in a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense **Ashton Carter** in Washington signed this agreement.

- This agreement facilitates the provision of **logistical support, supplies, and services**
- **between the US and Indian militaries on a reimbursable basis**, and provides a framework to govern them.
- Logistic Support, Supplies, and Services include **food, water, billeting, transportation, petroleum, oils, lubricants, clothing, communication services**, medical services, storage services, training services, spare parts and components, repair and maintenance services, calibration services, and port services.

BSNL, Microsoft India sign MoU for big businesses

- i. State run PSU **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited** and Tech giant Microsoft India signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide **telecom & IT solutions for big businesses** to leverage the domain capability and strategic position in the Industry to garner more business.
- ii. The MoU will pave the way to meet the demand **challenges in IT and cloud services**, and audio, video needs of the BSNL's enterprise customers including government organizations.

GAIL signs MoU with Bloom Energy for fuel cell power generation

- i. India's largest state-owned natural gas processing and distribution company **GAIL Ltd** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with California-based Bloom Energy for developing natural gas-based fuel cell power generation.
- ii. The MoU was inked between GAIL chairman and managing director B C Tripathi and Bloom Energy chief executive K R Sridhar.

BCCI signs MoU with TERI to promote renewable energy

- i. Kolkata based **Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (BCCI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with The Energy and Resources Institute (Teri) for promoting renewable energy.
- ii. The MoU will pave the way to popularise clean energy and climate also to offer technology and business models on renewables by exploiting technology.
- iii. The BCCI energy committee chairman Deb A Mukherjee said that the joint work will strengthen the alliance between the chamber and TERI in the domain of **renewables and allied fields**.

SCHEMES

Bihar government to implement Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- i. Nitish Kumar-led Bihar Government is agreed to implement the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima**

Yojana on an experimental basis in Kharif season with immediate effect.

ii. The move by the Bihar is to test whether the Scheme is actually helps Farmers or the Insurance players who involved in the Scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana: Union government has announced this New Crop Insurance scheme on 13th January, 2016, being rolled out from the Kharif season this year. This scheme replaces the existing two schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and the Modified NAIS.

◆ Under the provisions farmers' premium has been kept at a maximum of 2 % for foodgrains and oilseeds, and up to

5 % for horticulture and cotton crops (annual Yielding).

Smart Ganga City Scheme Launched in Ten Cities

Union Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Uma Bharti and Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu launched Smart Ganga City Scheme in 10 cities located along Ganga to set up **Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)** and improve drainage.

The 5 Cities:

The Scheme bound 10 Cities	
Haridwar	Allahabad
Rishikesh	Lucknow
Mathura-Vrindavan	Patna
Varanasi	Sahibgunj
Kanpur	Barrackpore

These cities has been chosen by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga** where the programme will be established in the first phase for infrastructure development for sewage treatment on hybrid annuity mode on public private partnership basis.

Nadda inaugurates AMRIT outlet at Safdarjung hospital

Union Health Minister **J P Nadda** inaugurated the **Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT)** outlet at **Safdarjung Hospital** in New Delhi. It is the tenth AMRIT outlet centre.

◆ The country's first AMRIT outlet opened at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

Maharashtra renovated and re launched girl child development scheme as Majhi Kanya Bhagyashri

i. Maharashtra government re launched its "**Majhi Kanya Bhagyashri**" scheme in order to achieve its objective of improving the skewed girl child ratio in the state.

ii. This scheme is broadly divided into **two parts**.

1. The couple has gone for family planning operation **after the birth of the first girl child**; and
2. The couples have opted for the family planning operation **after the birth of the second girl child**.

However, the scheme shall not apply for couples having one boy and one girl.

iii. This re launched move is an **amalgamation of "Sukanya" scheme and the Centre's "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao"** scheme introduced last year.

Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar adopted Donja Village of Maharashtra under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna

i. **Cricket icon and Rajya Sabha MP Sachin Tendulkar** has selected Donja village in Osmanabad district of Maharashtra for development under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna.

ii. **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana** is a rural development programme broadly focusing upon the development in the villages which includes **social development, cultural development and spread motivation among the people on social mobilization of the village community.**

IIT-Kanpur adopts villages under Namami Gange

i. IIT-Kanpur has adopted **five villages** to restrict the flow of sewage into the river under the Namami Gange programme .

ii. It will be done by the institute's **civil engineering** department

iii. **Five villages:** L Ramel Nagar, Khoyra Katree, Pratapur, Hari Hindpur, and Katri Ladhva Khera.

Union Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu Unveils Swachh Survekshan-2017 for 500 cities

With an idea to make competitive environment to make the cities clean and expedite the Swachh Bharat Mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **Union Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu launched Swachh Survekshan-2017 for 500 cities** in New Delhi on August 6.

Swachh Survekshan:-

On its second stand to cover **500 cities and towns with a population of one lakh and above**, besides capital towns with less than one lakh population and towns known for heritage, tourism and hilly locations this Swachh survekshan has been extended to cover the growing population of the Indian cities.

- Venkaiah Naidu addressed **Mayors, Municipal Chairpersons, Municipal Commissioners** and other concerned officials of 500 cities and towns to be surveyed via video conferencing and he informed the city officials that cities will be ranked based on the reports by urban local bodies on the progress made towards **construction of toilets, feedback of citizens and independent observation of sanitation levels.**

In order to facilitate the reach of this scheme to the living population, the Central Minister launched several schemes such as,

- **Swachh Survekshan guide book,**
- **Swachh Survekshan ideas book,**

- Manual of Municipal Solid Waste Management,
- Self-Assessment Tool,
- A short film on Swachh Survekshan,
- Toll-free number 1969 and
- A mobile Swachhta app.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu also launched 'Asli Tarakki' campaign highlighting the need for construction of toilets.

Narendra Modi Unveiled Mission Bhagiratha for Drinking Water Distribution throughout Telegana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched phase-1 of a flagship project of Telangana government called 'Mission Bhagiratha', which is aimed at providing piped drinking water to every household in the state.

Mission Bhagiratha:-

Objective : To provide **100 liters of clean drinking water per person in rural households and 150 liters per person in urban households**. This project aims to provide water to about 25000 rural habitations and 67 urban habitations.

- **Chief Minister K Chandraskhar Rao** named this Water Grid scheme which is meant for providing safe drinking water to every households in the rural areas with an estimated cost of **Rs 35,000 crore** as "Mission Bhagiratha". It is an extensive **1.26 lakh km stretch of pipelines** would be laid to quench the thirst of Telangana towns and villages apart from providing water for the people needs.

Other Projects:-

Mr. Narendra Modi also laid the foundation stone for the following development projects,

- **152-km Manoharabad- Kothapalli new railway line which connects Hyderabad and Karimnagar,**
- **NTPC's Telangana Super Thermal Power Project Stage-1 (2×800 MW), Ramagundam,**
- **Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences, Warangal and**
- **Revival of Ramagundam fertiliser plant in Karimnagar district.**
- **Singareni Thermal Power Project (2X600 MW) at Jaipur in Adilabad district.**

Odisha Govt. launches Baristha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana for aiding Weavers

Odisha State Government has launched a new scheme for elderly weavers in the state to mark the National Handlooms Day. Named as "Baristha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana", the scheme is aimed at **providing financial assistance to the elderly weavers in the state.**

Under this scheme the state government would provide **Rs 500 pension to the weavers, on the occasion of National Handloom Day.**

Financial Relief for Weavers in Odisha:-

- Odisha government has initiated several welfare schemes for the weaver community in the state and **increase the reach of handloom.**
- There are about **8000 weavers in the state** working in this field for more than 20 years to which the scheme will be extended.
- Under the Baristha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana, the weavers above the age of 60 years will get an allowance of Rs. 500 per month while weavers above **80 years of age will get Rs. 700 per month**

The allowance amount will directly be deposited into the bank account of about 8000 beneficiary weavers. The scheme will put an extra burden of **5 crore annually** on the state government.

Odisha Cabinet accords in-principle approval to implementation of Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojna

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has accorded in-principal approval to a new education loan scheme for poor meritorious students in the state. Named as "**Kalinga Sikshya Sathi Yojana**" the state government will provide **education loans at interest of just 1 percent per annum to the poor students.**

Objective of the scheme:

To ensure that the meritorious students from the poor families enroll into the higher studies. Until now, many such students do not enroll into the higher studies due to lack of the funds, but Kalinga Sikshya Sathi Yojana will ensure **help to such students and their better future.**

- The students wants to undergo higher studies in **education, medical, engineering, management, law and others** can avail the education loan under the new scheme.
- The scheme will definitely reduce the **burden of education loans and financial stress on the poor households** across the state.
- The state government has earmarked **Rs. 500 crores for Kalinga Sikshya Sathi Yojana** from its own resources. The state government has dedicated this scheme to former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik on his birth centenary.

Haryana Government Approved NCR TAXI SCHEME for its 13 Districts

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has approved a proposal of the State Transport department to implement a new "NCR Taxi Scheme 2016" in 13 districts of the state falling in the National Capital Region.

Beneficiary Districts:-

This scheme would be implemented in the Districts of Gurgaon, Faridabad, Jhajjar, Rohtak,

Bhiwani, Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Mewa, Palwal, Rewari, Jind and Mahendragarh.

Madhya Pradesh & Puducherry joins "UDAY" scheme

- i. Madhya Pradesh and Union territory Puducherry joined Centre's Power debt revitalizing power discoms **UDAY scheme** that will save the **state Rs 17,515 crore** and for the UT it is expected to be around Rs.72 crore.
- ii. With this Puducherry is the first union territory to formally join the scheme. Also this marks the number of states/UT that have joined UDAY goes up to 16.

Union Cabinet approved the introduction of pension and post-retirement medical schemes

The Union Cabinet led by Shri. Narendra Modi approved the **introduction of pension and post-retirement medical schemes for the 22,000 existing employees of Food Corporation of India (FCI)** as per the guidelines of Department of Public Enterprise.

Pension Scheme:-

As per the press statement of the government of India, all employees including **Category I, II, III and IV** of the Corporation on the payroll as on 1.12.2008 or appointed thereafter are covered under the new pension scheme for employees of FCI.

- It adds that another **4,000 retired employees** will also get benefit of the pension scheme.
- In order to qualify for this pension scheme **one should have a Minimum service period of 15 years** before superannuation except in case of death.
- The **Employer's Contribution** is 10% of Basic pay and DA per month in respect of all existing employees as on 01.12.2008 or appointed thereafter.
- The **Employees' Mandatory Contribution** is about 2% of basic pay + DA per month. Employees' Voluntary Contribution and up to 25% of basic pay + DA per month.
- The scheme also offers **Benefits** of Pension (Annuity) on superannuation and Death Cover.

Post Medical Scheme:-

It applies to all employees Category I, II, III & IV employees of the Corporation including retired employees who are members of the current employee funded Medical Health Scheme for Retirees.

- A Minimum service period of 15 years before superannuation except in case of death qualifies one to this scheme.
- The **Employer contribution** is 3.83% of Basic + DA w.e.f. 01.04.2016.
- The **Employee Contribution** is Last drawn Basic pay and DA at the time of retirement / death during service, subject to minimum of Rs.10, 000.

On the eve of Independence Day, Bihar CM unveils bunch of State Development schemes

- i. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** announced a bunch of **development projects and schemes** regarding the “seven resolves” adopted by his government for the next five years.
- ii.** On the 70th Independence Day, Nitish Kumar announced the launch of **Student Credit Card scheme** from October 2 and this scheme promises Rs. four lakh interest free loan to students for pursuing higher education.
- iii.** Another scheme of providing **free Wi-fi facility** would be made available in all state universities and colleges from February 2017.
- iv.** A new scheme of **launch of startup capital of Rs. 5,000 crore** to help young entrepreneurs start their ventures.
- v.** An innovative scheme of **opening centers in all 534 blocks in the state for imparting language training** and computer knowledge to youths to prepare them with better employment prospects

Uma Bharti launches various projects under Namami Gange

- i.** Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation **Sushri Uma Bharti** launched various Projects on the Bank of Ganga worth **Rs. 560 crore under Namami Gange programme** at Ganga Barrage in Kanpur.

The Projects launched includes:

- 1. Interception and diversion plan of Sisamau drain—worth Rs. 63 crore.
- 2. Networking schemes at Bithoor—Worth Rs. 397 crore
- 3. River front development scheme at Bithoor—worth Rs. 100 crore.
- 4. Ghats and five crematoria will be constructed at Bithoor.

Guruvayur to be covered under the PRASAD scheme to be covered in this scheme

- i.** The famous Sreekrishna temple in **Guruvayur has been included in the Union Tourism Ministry’s Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)**.
- ii.** Under this PRASAD scheme Development of roads, new streetlights and improvement of drinking water supply will also be taken up. Protection of the monument, **toilet facilities, rest rooms, watchtower, open-air theatres, rain shelters and primary health centers are other priorities.**
- iii.** Modern communication facilities, **including Wi-Fi**, will be set up at Guruvayur and this scheme would also result in increase in tourists to State.

Union Cabinet approved the scheme for the grant of Permanent Residency Status (PRS) to foreign investors

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the scheme for **grant of Permanent Residency Status (PRS) to foreign investors** subject to the relevant

conditions as specified in the FDI Policy notified by the Government from time to time.

- Permanent residency status will allow investors to enter India multiple times without any stay stipulation, allow them to **buy residential property and their spouses to take up employment in private sector or study in India** without employment or student visa.
- To get a permanent residency status, the investor should make a **minimum investment of Rs 10 crores within 18 months or 25 crores within 36 months**. The government also specified that the investor can avail of the benefits only if his investment generates employment for at least 20 resident Indians every year.

Jharkhand – the first state to implement Public Fund Management System (PFMS)

i. **Jharkhand** became the first state in the country to have implemented **Public Fund Management System (PFMS)**.

ii. Public Financial Management System (PFMS) initially started as a Plan scheme named CPSMS of the Planning Commission in 2008-09 as a pilot in four States of **Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Mizoram for four Flagship schemes e.g. MGNREGS, NRHM, SSA and PMGSY**. After the initial phase of establishing a network across Ministries / Departments, it has been decided to undertake National rollout of CPSMS (PFMS) to link the financial networks of Central, State Governments and the agencies of State Governments. **The scheme was included in 12th Plan initiative of Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance.**

Gujarat becomes first state to distribute 2 crore LED bulbs under UJALA scheme

i. Gujarat is all set to become the first state to distribute 2 crore LED bulbs under **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for all (UJALA)** scheme.

ii. The state run Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is distributing over **2 lakh bulbs daily** in Gujarat which itself a record number.

COMMITTEES

Centre forms panel to study enhanced allowance for retired employees

i. Centre has constituted a **high-level committee to** examine enhancement of **'Constant Daily Allowance'** that benefits retired employees **with 100 per cent disability**. The Committee would also look into the fitment formula on revision of pension.

ii. The move will enhance day allowance for day-to-day functions, from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 6750 per month and fixed medical **allowance to retired employees from Rs. 500 per month**. The pension shall be 2.57 times the earlier as per the pay committee recommendations to arrive at an alternate value for the revised pension.

iii. The move comes as a follow up of recommendations of the **7th– Pay Commission** which among other issues had examined the principles which should govern the structure of pension and

other retirement benefits.

Centre forms panel for electric car tech

- i. Union government has formed a committee **to monitor and coordinate the development of technology for indigenous manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicles.**
- ii. The 30member committee was set up under the Department of Heavy Industry and Ministry comprising automobile industry executives, experts and government officials and academicians and technical experts from Indian auto firms.
- iii. The committee will monitor the work of the **Technology Platform for Electric Mobility (TPM)**, which to develop an indigenous technology.

Govt to set up committee to review e-commerce rules

- i. Union government is mulling to constitute a committee to review e-commerce rules on foreign direct investment norms.
- ii. The committee will study issues pertaining with the E commerce Sector also would suggest ways to further promote the **growth of the sector.**
- iii. The committee will be headed by the **NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant**, it will have representatives from four states including Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Gov constitutes National Committee on Trade Facilitation headed by Pradeep Kumar Sinha

- i. Centre has constituted a National **Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF)** to develop the pan-India road map for trade facilitation.
- ii. This move comes after India signed the 76th WTO member to accept the TFA in line with the World Trade Organisation in March this year.
- iii. The Committee comprises inter – ministerial body and will be headed by Cabinet Secretary of India **Pradeep Kumar Sinha** on trade facilitation that **will facilitate domestic co-ordination** and implementation of TFA provisions.

CBDT constitutes a committee to review the Media Policy

- i. Central Board of Direct Taxes – CBDT has constituted a **new committee to “review” the existing media policy** for communicating the activities of the board and the income tax department to the public.
- ii. The nine-member committee has been created under **Central Board of Direct Taxes member Gopal Mukherjee and mandated to draft new set of guidelines for “regulating”** the interaction of the department with journalists and media organizations.
- iii. The CBDT has six members apart from the chairperson and is responsible for **framing policy and administrative issues related to direct taxes and the income tax department.**

RS appoints 10 MPs to joint Committee on Citizenship (Amendment) Bill

- i. Rajya Sabha named 10 of its members to the Joint Committee of Parliament that will study on the **Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016**. The members of the panel was chosen by a voice vote.
- ii. The move comes after a resolution moved by MoS for Home Affairs Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, for appointment of **ten of its members to the Joint Committee of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**.

Indian navy set-up high level committee to find out extent of Scorpene submarine data leak

- i. Indian **Navy has set-up a high level committee** to find out the extent of Scorpene submarine data leak and the damage to the Navy.
- ii. The committee will be headed by **Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Ashok Kumar and based on the report of the committee**; Navy will see what mitigation measures need to be taken.

Former Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta submitted the reports of Indo-Pakistan border protection

- i. The Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted a Committee under **Shri Madhukar Gupta, Retd. Home Secretary** for strengthening border protection and addressing the issue of gaps and vulnerability in border fencing along Indo-Pakistan Border.
- ii. A high powered committee of the National Security Council, headed by former home secretary Madhukar Gupta presented its **report on India-Pakistan border to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi**.

TVSN Prasad headed expert Committee submitted its report regarding alternatives for Pellet Guns

- i. An Expert committee of seven-members under the chairmanship of **Shri T V S N Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs for exploring the other possible alternatives to Pellet Guns as Non-lethal Weapons** submitted its report to the Union Home Secretary Shri Rajiv Mehrishi here today
- ii. The committee under the chairmanship of Ministry of Home Affairs Joint Secretary T.V.S.N. Prasad comprised **CRPF IG Atul Karwal, Srinagar IG (Ops.) Rajeev Krishna, BSF Rajesh Kumar, IPS, J&K Police, IOFS, DDG, Small Arms, OFB Tushar Tripathy, TBRL Director, Chandigarh, Dr. Manjit Singh, and IIT Delhi Professor Dr. Naresh Bhatnagar**.
- iii. Once the pellet goes inside an eye it shatters tissues and causes multiple damages to **all parts of the eye and it was introduced by the state police in 2010**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Newly designed web portal of Home dept launched in Odisha

- i. Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has launched a web portal of the **Home department** at the Secretariat in **Bhubaneswar**.
- ii. The new Web portal has been designed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) featured with accessibility guidelines that can be used by the differently-abled persons to see and hear the website.
- iii. The web-portal hosted in **National Cloud MeghRaj** that made available in Odia and English languages.

Yahoo researchers built a powerful new online abuse detector

- i. American multinational technology company **Yahoo** has come up with the new online abuse detector for detecting and eventually curbing rampant online abuse.
- ii. The Yahoo researchers used their massive comment sections to **create the powerful tool** that can be the best automated abuse filter built to date.

Union Communication Minister launches Twitter Sewa to address the Common Man complaints and needs

In order to address the grievances and **concerns of common man and other stake-holders in the telecom and postal sectors**, The Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha **launched "Twitter Sewa" program for better lucidity in helping the growing population.**

- i. The telecom ministry and Department of Post will henceforth compile **a list of complaints from this Twitter Sewa and categorize them into immediate, mid-term and long-term complaints.**
- ii. The twitter handle of the Minister will be **@manojsinhabjp** and the Telecom operators from Government as well as private and the Department of Posts shall use the utility of Twitter sewa" to the fullest to address the grievances of the public.

China to perform world's first human genetic editing trial

- i. China's **Sichuan University** to perform world's first genetic editing trial on humans aiming to cure lung cancer.
- ii. The university oncologists will inject cell that are modified using the **CRISPR** (Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats)-Cas9 gene-editing technique into the humans to perform the trial.
- iii. The Cas9 is an **enzyme** that can make alteration of genetic patterns by genome modification.

The trail allows the scientists to take out microorganism parts and replace them with new **DNA stretches**.

Himachal TCP dept launches citizen governance mobile App – HIM TCP

- i. In order to **regularize the deviations** based on the suggestions given by the people and public representatives, Himachal government is going to amend the **Himachal Pradesh Town and Country Planning Act** during the upcoming Vidhan Sabha session of its state assembly.
- ii. The state government also launched a citizen governance mobile **App-HIM TCP** of the Town and Country Planning (TCP) department to take vital services like online registration and building plan permission approvals.

FAA permits license for Virgin Galactic for its innovative initiative of introducing and testing Space

- i. On its attempt to introduce **space tourism**, **Virgin Galactic** has received its operator license from the **US Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (FAA-AST)**.
- ii. The FAA inspected the vehicle's system **design, safety features and flight trajectory analysis** and obtaining this operator license is an important milestone for Virgin Galactic, the first Space Tourism provider.

PM Narendra Modi launched a New PMO app at MyGov anniversary

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **new PMO app** at a function organised by MyGov in New Delhi and the app would correspond to the **website of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**.
- ii. The government had launched a two-phased contest in **March 2015 on MyGov platform** for the development of PMO app. The contest was won by a team of **six engineering students from Delhi Technical University** and finally got to develop the app.

China launched the Tiantong-01 – first satellite for mobile telecommunication

- i. China successfully launched the **first satellite for mobile telecommunication named the Tiantong-01** satellite at Southwestern China's Xichang Satellite Launch Center, with the **Long March-3B carrier rocket**.
- ii. Although the success of the launch was confirmed shortly after liftoff by Chinese state-run media, there was no official indication of the upcoming mission ahead of the event. Some witnesses confused the launch with an earthquake as they reported, via social media sites, rumbling and shaking windows.
- iii. It is the first satellite of China's home-made satellite mobile telecom system, and a key part of the country's space information infrastructure. More geostationary satellites will be sent into orbit

for the system.

CSIR CFTRI Develops Nutrice Cream

- i. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research run CSIR-Central Food Technological Research **Institute –Mysuru** jointly with Bengaluru based **Oleome Biosolutions** and M/s Dairy Classic Ice Creams Pvt. Ltd., **has developed Nutrice Cream**.
- ii. The Nutrice cream is an Omega-3 and Vitamin-E enriched frozen nutritional dessert from vegetarian source that can be the source for health functions including brain development.

Union Government unveils India's first e-Market place for Online selling of goods and services by Govt. Departments

- i. **Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an "e-marketplace"** for online purchase of goods and services by various central government ministries and departments.
- ii. **Complete Transparency- 'Government e-Market place' end to end Digital India** platform for government procurement is launched by the Union Minister.
- iii. This platform is launched on a pilot phase of 'Government e-Marketplace' (GeM), an end-to-end procurement system for common use goods and services by government buyers developed by **Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D)**.
- iv. Under the new system, a buyer can carry **out direct purchase of goods and services up to Rs. 50,000 and beyond this through price comparison, bidding or reverse auction**.

Endosulfan may cause DNA damage in animals

For the **first time**, Indian researchers have found that mice and rats exposed to **endosulfan suffer from DNA damage** and genomic instability and impaired DNA damage response.

Toxicity and its Adverse Effects:-

Endosulfan is acutely neurotoxic to both insects and mammals, including humans. The US EPA classifies it as Category I: "**Highly Acutely Toxic**" based on a **LD₅₀** value of 30 mg/kg for female rats.

Testing – impacts:-

Five animals per group were studied and the experiment was repeated many times. Three different concentrations of endosulfan were tested on animals and four doses of each concentration were given at **24 hours interval**.

- Genetic abnormality and increased cancer occurrences have been seen in people who have had occupational exposure of **2-70 microgram/litre** of endosulfan in blood. But we didn't see this in animals that had 20 microgram/litre of endosulfan in blood. It's probably because people are exposed continuously and for longer duration

China launched a new high-resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar imaging satellite

- i. **China** launched a new high-resolution **Synthetic Aperture Radar imaging satellite** which provides accurate pictures of earth with ability to photograph detailed scenarios of its specific areas.
- ii. The **synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite, called Gaofen-3**, was launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province.
- iii. It was the 233rd flight mission by a **Long March carrier rocket**. Sources have also further conveyed that, as China's primary SAR imaging satellite that is exact to one metre in detachment.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan Launched I Feel Safe for Women Safety

Union Minister of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences, Harsh Vardhan Launched **"I Feel Safe"**- A mobile application aimed at helping **women ensure their safety** in the national capital was launched at Delhi University on August 10.

- i. **"I Feel Safe"** is a personal safety application that works across mobile networks. The app is powered by **Nirbhaya Jyoti Trust and developed in association with Mobile Standards Alliance of India**.
- ii. The app instantly adds a virtual panic button. Mobile phone owners can simply press the **"Safety Ka Power Button" five times to activate an alarm**.

First Indian channel on skill development launched in Pune

- i. Educational Service provider **Millionlights** in partnership with DEN Manoranjan Satellite has rolled out a first and only **Indian TV Channel** focused on higher education and skill development in **Pune**.
- ii. The launch intended to create a landscape of content, delivery platforms and certifications leading to higher employability.
- iii. The company has Microsoft as a partner for the TV channel initiative which provides course segments from its present library, which the team at Millionlights customises for the Indian audiences.

Novel drug compound inhibiting skin cancer discovered: NCCS Study

- i. A team of Scientists form the Pune-based National Centre for Cell Science (**NCCS**) have succeeded in isolating cancer **stem cells that cause skin cancer**. The study results were published in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology.
- ii. The team isolated **Andrographolide** and purified from herb (**Andrographis paniculata**) that is found to be effective in preventing tumor growth both skin cancer and lung metastasis in mice.
- iii. Multiple markers helped for the isolation of cancer stem cells in mice and human-specific skin cancer cells including **CD133 positive cells** which exhibit stem cell properties in various cancers.

Google Unveils its Video Chatting App – Dubbed Duo for Andriod and iOS users

- i. **Google’s video chatting app – dubbed Duo**, represents Google’s response to other popular video calling options, including Apple’s FaceTime, Microsoft’s Skype and Facebook’s Messenger app.
- ii. Duo was announced at **Google I/O in May and rolled out globally on Android and iOS 9 in 78 languages**. It will be a hard sell considering how late to market Duo is compared to strong, sensibly intertwined products like **Facebook Messenger and Apple’s iMessage/FaceTime**.

Yet another milestone in Research – US researchers found a Mechanism to recycle CO2 in to reusable Fuel

- i. The US researchers used a **metal compound called tungsten diselenide**, which was fashioned into nanosized flakes to maximize the surface area and to expose its reactive edges.
- ii. This mechanism was developed by **US Department of Energy’s Argonne National Laboratory and University of Illinois at Chicago**
- iii. To make carbon dioxide into something that could be a **usable fuel**, **Curtiss and his colleagues from University of Illinois at Chicago** needed to find a catalyst – a particular compound that could make carbon dioxide react more readily.

New sensor developed to detect heart attacks in just a minute

- i. A team of researchers from **Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST)** in South Korea has developed a new electrical immunosensor for **swift and reliable diagnosis of heart Attack**.
- ii. The research team includes one of Indian-origin, **Abhinav Sharma** from UNIST made the device that holds considerable potential for use as a platform for sensing distinct types of proteins.
- iii. The sensor uses a single droplet of blood to identify the level of **cardiac troponin**, a type of **protein** that is excreted by the **heart muscle** into the blood which causes acute **myocardial infarction**, also called heart attack.

First Ever Quantum Satellite launched by china to establish “HACK PROOF”

Communications

China launched the **world’s first quantum satellite**, which will help it establish **“hack-proof” communications** between space and the ground, which is the latest advance in an ambitious space programme.

China’s Quantum Satellite :-

The Quantum Experiments at Space Scale, or **QUESS**, **satellite was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the remote northwestern province of Gansu**.

- In its two-year mission, QUESS is designed to establish ‘hack-proof’ quantum communications by transmitting **untraceable keys from space to the ground**.

- Quantum communication boasts ultra-high security as a quantum photon can neither be separated nor duplicated and It is hence impossible to **wiretap, intercept or crack the information** transmitted through it.

Union Minister unveils e-portal for e-auction of power transmission projects

- Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal launched **the process of tariff-based reverse auction in the transmission sector** and also inaugurated a portal for electronic bidding for transmission projects.
- Union Minister launched **“Tarang” mobile App, “e-Trans” and “DEEP”** (Discovery of Efficient Electricity Price) e-bidding web portals developed by Rural Electrification Corp which reverse auction is being introduced in transmission sector on the lines of coal sector in order to facilitate better price discovery in such projects.
- The Tarang (Transmission App for Real Time Monitoring and Growth) mobile app will also give information on delayed transmission projects and issues halting them and the DEEP **e-Bidding portal** allows for medium term (1-5 years) purchase of power.

ICHR plans to create encyclopedia of village-level folklore across the country

- The **Indian Council of Historical Research** will document stories and legends relating to villages and towns across India into an encyclopedia.
- ICHR is planning a mammoth encyclopedia of Indian villages complete with its heroes, myth, ballads and history as well as histories of princely states. This initiative aims to **connect people better with the oral and folk traditions**.

Union Ministry of Mines launches web portal for star rating of major mineral mines

- Power, Coal, Mines and New and Renewable Energy Minister Piyush Goyal launched the web portal for **online filing of evaluation template for star rating of mines**, which will prompt miners to quickly adopt sustainable practices for a higher rating.
- The move is aimed at having **all mines in India meeting required parameters to achieve** at least four-star rating in the next 3 years. The Minister also has given a deadline for Star Rating of all mines by 31st of December, 2016.

Cyberabad Commissionerates launch mobile app to involve people in curbing crime

- The **Cyberabad East and West Commissionerates** has launched a mobile phone application called **Hawk Eye**, as a part of responsive policing. The Move endowing public to be citizen police as part of policing actions.
- The App seeks to involve citizens to turn as Police to check crimes, curb unlawful activities and traffic violations.

External Affairs Ministry joins hand with Facebook for the launch of a new App integrating various media handles

- i. The External Affairs Ministry launched an app integrating the **websites and social media handles of over 170 Indian missions abroad on a common platform..**
- ii. The app is a one stop shop to find social media handles **twitter, youtube and websites of all Indian missions abroad.**
- iii. This app developed in **cooperation with social media giant Facebook.** This app will help people connect with Indian missions abroad and the Ministry of External Affairs through a range of social media platforms without having to access individual websites.

CSMCRI utilizes photo catalyst methodology for complete degradation of three Industrial Dyes

- i. Scientists at the Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute (**CSMCRI Bhavanagar, Gujarat cracked the complete degrade three industrial dyes — methyl orange, methylene blue and reactive black-5** — in the presence of sunlight.
- ii. It is noted that annually, more than **500 tonnes of non-degradable textile colorw astes** are being disposed of in natural streams without adequate treatments.
- iii. This photo catalyst method is able to completely degrade three industrial dyes — **methyl orange, methylene blue and reactive black-5.**

US Researchers found that Zika virus may cause long-term memory damage, similar to Alzheimer's disease

- i. According to a study published in the journal **Cell Stem Cell, U.S. researchers** have found evidence that a certain kind of brain cell present in newborns that remains in some amounts in **adulthood can be susceptible to Zika infection.**
- ii. The Zika virus may cause long-term damage to the memory which mirrors **the effects of Alzheimer's disease.**

Intel launched Virtual Reality Headset called Project Alloy

Intel has unveiled a **Virtual Reality headset to take on Oculus, HTC and Microsoft.** This headset, called Project Alloy, will offer **'mixed reality' – bridging the gap between VR headsets** such as the Oculus Rift and AR headsets such as the Microsoft Holo Lens, which projects holographic data onto the wearer's field of vision.

Scientists predict brain activity patterns

- i. For the first time researchers were able to decode and predict the **brain activity patterns of word meanings within sentences** which will help **brain injury and stroke patients**

communicate better.

- ii. According the study carried out it used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to measure human brain instigation where researchers predicted the brain patterns.
- iii. The fMRI data helps researchers to predict brain activity patterns on average 70 per cent close to the actual meaning. The study was published in **the journal Cerebral Cortex**.

Chinese scientists discover molecule to repair organs

- i. **Chinese scientists** have discovered a small molecule, **XMU-MP-1** that can regenerate tissue.
- ii. It can promote repair and regeneration in the liver, intestines and skin.
- iii. In the future it could potentially **eliminate transplants of some organs**.

New Kind of laser created from jellyfish proteins

For the first time scientists have developed **laser from fluorescent jellyfish proteins** that were grown in bacteria. These lasers have the potential to be far more efficient and compact than conventional ones and could open up research avenues in quantum physics and optical computing, researchers said. The breakthrough represents a major advance in so-called polariton lasers.

To make the new laser

The researchers grew enhanced green fluorescent protein from jellyfish in E. coli cells because prior research suggested they were capable of producing **polaritons (quasi particles that are able to carry excitations with them)**.

- The protein was fashioned into a very thin (500 nanometer) film that was set between two mirrors.

China's unmanned submersible sets new national record

- i. China's unmanned submersible(**underwater drones**-vehicles which can operate underwater without a human) has dived to a depth of **10,767 metres** at the world's deepest ocean point.
- ii. The submersible named **Haidou-1** set the record at the Mariana Trench in the West Pacific, the deepest area in the world, during a scientific expedition carried out between June 22 and August 12.

Sugamaya Pustakalaya – Online Library for Persons with print Disabilities

- i. An online library for persons with visual disabilities **Sugamya Pustakalaya** was launched by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister for Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology at a function organized by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, on 24 Aug. 16 in New Delhi.
- ii. This is a step towards government's **Digital India Program**, the online Library that makes accessible content available to print-disabled people which is available in various **ublications across diverse subjects** and languages and multiple accessible formats.

iii. The Platform was developed by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with member organizations of **Daisy Forum of India** and powered by TCS Access.

China Launches First Tibetan-Language Search Engine

- i. China has launched its first **Tibetan-language search engine** 'Yongzin' which will serve as a unified portal for all the Tibetan-language websites in China.
- ii. It has has eight sections for news, websites, images, videos, music, encyclopedia, literature and forums which can facilitates the need of the Tibetan-speaking population and can built of Tibetan digital archives.
- iii. The search engine is developed by the **Tibetan Language Information Technology Research Center** of Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.

Punjab CM launched mobile app 'Kisan Suvidha' for Farmers

- i. Punjab chief minister **Parkash Singh Badal** launched a mobile app, **Kisan Suvidha (farmer's service)**, in the state. The app developed by the Union government's **sagriculture department** will provide basic information on weather updates, crop prices and expert advice.
- ii. The app is likely to have many takers as India is **second largest Smartphone market in the world with 87 million mobile Internet users in rural areas.**

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Launches Hindi Website and Revamped English Website of Minority Affairs Ministry

- i. The Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) & Parliamentary Affairs **Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** launched **new Hindi website and updated and revamped English website of the Minority Affairs Ministry**. The new improved and revamped website <http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in> is very user friendly and provides easy navigation. The website is also adaptive to other devices such as iPads and mobiles.
- ii. The information about the Ministry of Minority Affairs can be accessed online in Hindi too as its new **website in the language was launched here by Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.**

Scientists discovered Earth-sized planet orbiting star nearest to Sun

- i. Astronomers have discovered an **Earth-like planet** that orbiting the **star closest to our sun** using instruments such as the Ultraviolet and Visual Echelle Spectrograph (UVES) and the High Accuracy Radial velocity Planet Searcher (HARPS).
- ii. The Scientist team used the UVES and HARPS that are installed on telescopes run by the European Southern **Observatory in Chile**. The discovery reported in a study **published in Nature**.
- iii. The Planet called **Proxima b**, sound much like Earth's. It is **1.3 times** the mass of the Earth or

bigger which is bigger than Earth and, like Earth, is rocky, and it's the right distance from its star to support liquid on the surface.

World's first self-driving taxis debut in Singapore

- i. Singapore based **NuTonomy** announced the **first autonomous vehicles available** for public hire in Singapore starting on 25 August 2016.
- ii. The company called a select group of people to **download their app and ride for free** in its **robo-taxi** in a western Singapore. This was the trial run held by the NuTonomy.
- iii. The Robo Taxi developed by **Renault Zoe** and **Mitsubishi i-MiE Velectrics**, the vehicle is fitted with six sets of Lidar a detection system that uses lasers to operate like radar, including one that constantly spins on the roof. It also has two cameras on the dashboard to scan for obstacles in front be it traffic signal or the other type of obstacles.

Japanese scientists detect rare deep-Earth tremor S wave microseism

- i. Japan researchers found a tremor known as an S wave microseism, using **seismic equipment on land and on the seafloor** that usually **detects the Earth's crust** crumbling during earthquakes.
- ii. This finding will help the experts to learn more about the Earth's inner structure and improve detection of earthquakes and oceanic storms.

'Dark' Milky Way-sized galaxy discovered

- i. Astronomers have found a galaxy as big as the Milky Way that consists almost entirely of dark matter accounts **99.99 percent of the stuff** in this galaxy that **can't be seen**.
- iii. The galaxy named Dragonfly 44, is located in the nearby Coma constellation was first detected in 2015, through the use of the Dragonfly Telephoto **Array in New Mexico**.
- iv. This time The Scientists spotted **Dragonfly 44** using the W M Keck Observatory and the Gemini North telescope in Hawaii.
- v. The research was published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters.

ISRO successfully test-fires Scramjet Rocket Engine

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully tested its own scramjet engines from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

About Scramjet Engine:

A scramjet **supersonic combusting ramjet is a variant of a ramjet air breathing jet engine in** which combustion takes place in supersonic airflow. As in ramjets, a scramjet relies on high vehicle speed to forcefully compress the incoming air before combustion.

- But a ramjet decelerates the air to subsonic velocities before combustion, while airflow in a scramjet is supersonic throughout the entire engine. This allows the scramjet to **operate efficiently at extremely high speeds**.
- Scramjets are designed to operate in the hypersonic flight regime, beyond the reach of turbojet engines, and, along with ramjets, fill the gap between the high efficiency of turbojets and the **high speed of rocket engines**.

Tech Giant Microsoft announces new resources to report hate speech

- i. Tech giant **Microsoft** has announced a new dedicated **web form for reporting hate speech** on its hosted consumer services and a separate online form for petitions to reconsider and reinstate content.
- ii. Microsoft will continue our **"notice-and-takedown" approach** for removing prohibited content on hosted consumer services, and the new form aims to improve the quality and speed of our reviews.

Himachal Pradesh – the first state to launch mobile app for Ambulance Service

- i. State Health and Family Welfare Minister Kaul Singh Thakur **mobile application for availing ambulance services with the launch of "108 Mobile App"**. By doing so, Himachal became the **first state to start mobile application** for medical services.
- ii. The app named **'108 HP' can be downloaded on any Smartphone**. In this app, User will have to install 108 HP App after completing registration process user will get the unique registration ID. The device should be GPS & GPRS enabled while calling 108 HP helpline. On clicking the App, it will redirect on Google maps fetching user's current position.

NASA's Juno successfully completes Jupiter flyby

- i. NASA's solar-powered **Juno** mission has successfully executed first of 36 orbital flybys of Jupiter our solar system's most massive planet passing 4,200 kilometres above the planet's clouds.
- ii. This flyby was the closest contact ever achieved and will get to Jupiter during its prime mission. The Juno Aircraft was launched back on Aug. 5, 2011, from Cape Canaveral, Florida as part of the New Frontiers program.
- iii. The flyby was the first time **Juno had its entire suite of science instruments** activated and looking at the giant planet as the spacecraft zoomed past. Over 35 more close flybys of Jupiter planned during Juno's mission which is scheduled in 2018.

New 'green' way to produce metals found

- i. **MIT** scientists have discovered a **new 'green' and less expensive** method to produce metals without causing air pollution.

- ii. The discovery could lead to **metal-production systems** that are much less expensive and that virtually eliminate the greenhouse gas emissions associated with most traditional metal smelting.
- iii. The material they were using, **antimony sulfide, is a molten semiconductor**, which normally would not allow for the kind of electrolytic process that is used to produce aluminum and some other metals through the application of an electric current.

Shri Ananth Kumar Stresses Upon The Need For Affordable Medicines; Launches 'Pharma Sahi Daam' Mobile App

- i. The Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar has launched a mobile App called **Pharma Sahi Daam** on the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) foundation day function in New Delhi.
- ii. The App was developed by NPPA which shows the MRP fixed by NPPA for various scheduled drugs on real time basis of New National List of Essential Medicines-2015.

US to create world's largest protected marine area off Hawaii

- i. US Government has created the world's largest marine protected area by expanding an existing ocean reserve off Hawaii to **cover 582,578 square miles** that will provide critical protections for more than 7,000 marine species.
- ii. The move multiplies the size of the **Papahānaumokuākea marine national monument** four times, which was declared a World Heritage site in 2010.
- iii. The monument which has cream of Spices a quarter of them found nowhere was is now double the size of Texas, stretches outward from the north-western Hawaiian islands and includes Midway Atoll.

India's first military heritage website launched

- i. India's first military heritage website, **colours of glory.org** was launched by **Glory Foundation at Chennai**
- ii. A veteran of the 1971 Indo Pak war, city based **Captain D.P.Ramachandran who is also the executive trustee of the foundation** declared the war heroes of South India held great significance to the history of India.
- iii. The Foundation will **conduct various awareness programs across the country**, commencing with major metros, to educate the people about our military history and heritage.

Orkut creator launches new social network called Hello

- i. San Francisco based **Hello Network, Inc** which was founded by orkut creator **Orkut Büyükkökten** come up with new social network called **Hello**, which is available on mobile only.

- ii. The Hello platform designed to help you connect with people who share your passions. In fact Hello is probably the most widely spoken **word in the world after Okay**.

DEFENCE

China holds first nuclear security emergency drill

- i. China has held its first comprehensive nuclear **security emergency drill Code**-named as **Fengbao-2016** to expand the nuclear power generation.
- ii. The country also stepping up the installed nuclear power capacity to 58 GW, besides it also to generate 30 GW by 2020.

China tests heavy motor for space rockets

- i. **China has successfully** tested its largest **solid-fuel motor that** can be used in heavy space rockets for future deep space missions in the northwest city of Xian.
- ii. The solid fuel rocket motor comes with three meter dia that can ran for 100 seconds after ignition. It will be used in heavy lift and **large rockets used in deep space explorations** and manned moon landing operations.

N Korea fires missile into Japan waters for first time

- i. **North Korea** blasted off a **ballistic Missile** for the first time that landed in **Japanese-controlled** waters posing a **grave threat to the Japan**.
- ii. The tested ballistic missile was launched off the North's east coast that landed in Japan Sea after travelling about 1,000km. Japan defence side said that there were two missiles landed.
- iii. The missile is set be the one of the North Korea's longest launches till date, the country had been suspended by **UN recently** for developing nuclear and ballistic missile technology.

South India's first Doppler weather radar inaugurated

- i. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman **A S Kiran Kumar inaugurated** the C Band Polari metric **Doppler Weather Radar** to be installed in the southern states at the Vikram Sarabahi Space Centre in **Thiruvananthapuram**. This is the first of its kind.
- ii. A Doppler weather radar, which can provide advance information about storms, cyclones and other severe weather conditions also it would be available to **India Meteorological Department** (IMD) to supplement its weather predictions.

ENVIRONMENT

Many big animals may be extinct by 2100: study

- i. According to the study published in the journal BioScience, many **mammoth animals** will

go **extinct by 2100**, the study went on to say that big animals could disappear by the end of the century if conservation measures aren't taken it warned.

ii. Biodiversity loss also mammals of a particular region, habitat is an issue than the **Climate change** the report also urges governments and conservation organizations to prevent the mass extinction by taking steps that could save them.

iii. The data danger lies in **sub-Saharan Africa** and **Southeast Asia**, everywhere much of the world's biodiversity resides.

Typhoon Nida brings hurly burly situation in Southern part of China

Owing to a battering typhoon Nida people in the the region **large areas of southern China are on emergency alert in order to reduce the damage to life and properties in case of any natural hit.**

i. Typhoon Nida brought **Hong Kong to halt** with high winds and rains and many schools, businesses and transport services remained shut.

ii. The strong typhoon packing winds up to **151.2 km per hour is moving northwest at 25 km per hour**, and is expected to sweep across the cities of Shenzhen, Dongguan, Guangzhou, Foshan and Zhaoqing to Guangdong's neighboring Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

12,300-year-old fire pit found in northern Utah

i. A team of archaeologist's spots the ancient **tribal fire pit with tools, a spear tip and tobacco** seeds that is 12,300 years old on a military testing range in northern Utah in the United States.

ii. The news reported by The Standard Examiner the team has disclosed that the household at Hill Air Force Base, which is south of Ogden. The artifacts discovered will be looked after at the Natural History Museum of Utah.

Country gets its first tiger repository

i. Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change run **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** will establish repository on tigers, under its new **Tiger Cell in Dehradun**. This is **first such repository in India**.

ii. The Dehradun-based WII has worked with National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on tiger Conservation and population and created data base which includes about 23,000 images of tigers. Upon this if a tiger skin is recovered it can check where the tiger might have come from.

iii. The Tiger Cell will be headed wildlife scientist **Y.V. Jhala** which will be funded by **the NTCA**, a statutory body under the Environment Ministry.

16 rare frog species and 3 snake species found in the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala

During the first phase of a first of its kind reptile-amphibian survey carried there from August 5 to 8, **Sixteen frog species and three snake species, which have not been spotted in the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary earlier, have been spotted.**

- i. About 50 volunteers from the nature groups Koodu conducted the survey in the 90.44 square kilometre sanctuary in Idukki district with the help of **Travancore Natural History Society, Malabar Natural History Society, Cochin Adventure Foundation, Wings of Nature representatives.**
- ii. The survey was different from the previous ones since it was carried out during day and night along 11 different habitats of the sanctuary, comprising **rain shadow areas, high altitude grasslands, thorny shrubberies, river banks and shola forests.**
- iii. 31 species of amphibians and 29 reptile species were spotted during the first phase survey. Among the frog discoveries are the IUCN red listed
 - ◆ **Griet bush frog,**
 - ◆ **The star eyed tree frog, and**
 - ◆ **The large ghat tree frog.**
- iv. The reptile discoveries during the survey include the **Gunther's vine snake, the Anamalai gecko, the blue tailed skink, Malabar pit viper, and the flying snake.**

Verification of Rhino Horns has begun in Golaghat, Assam

- i. In to **check genuineness and updating the complete inventory of horns, verification of rhino horns** which were kept in various treasuries in the custody of Assam government since 1980 has started in **Golaghat, Assam.**
- ii. The physical verification of the rhino horns at the Golaghat Circuit House is performed by **acommittee headed by former Information Commissioner M C Malakar.**
- iii. Besides the verification, they also check the seal of the trunk and verification would be conducted with the **help of the Directorate of Forensic Science.**

SC lifts ban on registration of High-end Diesel cars and SUVs having engine capacity of 2000 cc and above

- i. Supreme Court(SC) allowed **the sale of diesel cars and SUVs** with engine capacity of **2,000cc** or more in Delhi and the national capital region (NCR) on payment of 1% ex-showroom cost as environment levy.
- ii. SC ordered the **Central Pollution Control Board** to open an account in Public Sector Banks(PSBs) to receive **green levy** from big diesel car and SUV makers

SpaceX done it again – One of the Falcon 9 rockets Successfully landed on a floating drone ship

- i. One of **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rockets** successfully **landed on a floating drone ship**, after the vehicle launched a Japanese communications satellite into orbit. The feat marks the fourth time SpaceX has landed one of its vehicles at sea and the company's fifth rocket recovery overall in 2016.
- ii. The two-stage Falcon 9 lifted off from **Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on sunday**, carrying JCSAT-16 toward a distant geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO).
- iii. Getting to GTO requires a lot of speed and uses up a lot of fuel during takeoff, more so than getting to **lower Earth orbit**.
- iii. That makes things difficult for the rocket landing afterward. Not only is the rocket subjected to **"extreme velocities and re-entry heating"** during its fall back to Earth.

A major breakthrough – IIT Madras develops optical system to detect and monitor algal bloom

- i. A new bio-optical algorithm has been developed to provide accurate assessments of **chlorophylla (Chla)** concentration for detection and mapping of algal blooms from satellite data in optically complex waters, where the presence of suspended sediments and dissolved substances can interfere with phytoplankton signal and thus confound conventional band ratio algorithms has been developed by a team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras.
- ii. The Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) will begin using the optical system for detecting and monitoring algal blooms in ocean waters surrounding India. **INCOIS is currently in the process of making the system operational.**
- iii. The algorithm is derived using Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view Sensor bands, and it is subsequently tuned to be applicable to **Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS)/Aqua data.**

Over 10000-Year-Old Camping Site Discovered in Ladakh

- i. The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has discovered an ancient camping site dating 8500 BC in Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir, indicating humans were camping in the **area 10,500 years ago.**
- ii. The site was found at an altitude of **14,000 feet** on the way from **Saser La to Ladakh** in Nubra valley the ASI team had a section work over there.
- iii. Where it is found showing consecutive layers consist of burning residue from the site, which was sent to Beta Lab, Florida for radiocarbon which is 8500 BC years old.

BARC develops cost effective kit for onsite determination of Cr (VI)

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed a simple, user friendly, **quick and cost effective kit for onsite determination of Cr (VI), which meets IS10500** as well as EPA criterion. It provides the much needed solution to measure the level of Chromium contamination in drinking water and tap water, lakes, rivers as well as ground water. The procedure involves adding a specified amount of specific reagents to the water sample and identifying the developed color.

Airlander 10: World's largest aircraft embarks on its maiden flight

- i. The world's **largest aircraft Airlander 10** has embarked on its maiden flight to the skies and applause from crowds gathered at an airfield in Cardington England.
- ii. The Aircraft was developed by United Kingdom **maker Hybrid Air Vehicles**. Its successful flight comes 85 years after another airship the ill-fated R101 took off in October 1930 from the same airfield before crashing in France.
- iii. The Aircraft measures 92-metre-long and 43.5m wide can fly at an altitude of **4,880metres** and reach speeds of 148 Kmph.
- iv. The aircraft filled with helium, it can stay airborne for more than two weeks unmanned and in the case of manned it can stay up to five days.

Queen of the forest: Machli, Ranthambore's iconic tigress, dies

- i. **Machli tigress** known popularly as the **Queen of Ranthambore** perhaps India's most iconic big cat and the face of the country's tiger conservation programme, died at **Ranthambore National Park** in Rajasthan.
- ii. The tigress 19 years old which is considered as the world's oldest-surviving tigress in the wild, it was not keeping well for the past four days and was lying semi-conscious in the park.
- iii. Actually average life-span of a tiger is **12-13 years** which is equal to 110-120 years old in the case of human. Machli was born in 1997 and named after a fish-shaped **mark on her face**.

Exoplanet GJ 1132b Might Have Oxygen Atmosphere

- i. A Venus-like exoplanet GJ 1132b, located 39 light-years from Earth may have atmosphere with oxygen but not life, even though it is being baked to a temperature of around **450 degrees Fahrenheit**.
- ii. The researchers, further stated that their **magma ocean-atmosphere model** can help solve the unanswered questions about how Venus evolved over time. This planet is the first time detected with oxygen on a rocky planet outside the solar system.

Tyrannosaurus rex fossil with complete skull discovered

- i. In a major finding, scientists have discovered a **Tyrannosaurus rex fossil, including a**

very complete skull, vertebrae, ribs, hips and jaw bones, which they estimate to be about 20 per cent of the dinosaur.

ii. There's a new **Tyrannosaurus rex fossil on the block**, with a cute nickname and about 20 percent of its former body intact, including a well-preserved skull.

New species of eel found in Bay of Bengal

i. Scientists from have discovered **Gymnothorax indicus, a new species of eel** (a snake-like fish) in the northern Bay of Bengal region along the West Bengal coast. It was discovered after it was collected in a trawl net by fishermen in northern Bay of Bengal, about 70 km off the coast.

ii. Eels are found mostly at the **bottom of rivers and seas**. This species was found at a depth of 35 metres in the sea.

Toxic gas leak at Bangladesh fertilizer unit sickens 250

i. About 250 people, including children, have fallen sick and hundreds of residents have been evacuated from their homes after a **toxic gas leak from a fertilizer unit in Bangladesh's port city of Chittagong**.

ii. Di-ammonium phosphate (DPA) leaked from the **DAP Fertilizer Company Limited** on the bank of Karnaphuli river last night and firefighters battled until late morning to plug the leakage.

Awards for Nine New Germplasm of Indigenous Farm Animals Registered as Breeds by ICAR

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR chaired over a ceremony held at **Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi** for awarding certificates to the applicants of breed registration.

Complete list of Awardees:-

- Dr P.S. Bhandari, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Animal Husbandry, Champawat, Uttarakhand – **registration of Badri cattle** of Uttarakhand;
- Dr S. Jeyakumar, Senior Scientist along with 7 others form ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair – **Teressa goat** of A&N Islands;
- Dr T.J. Harikrishnan and Dr T. Ravimurugan – **Kodi Adu goat and Chevaadu sheep** of Tamil Nadu respectively;
- Dr Susanta Kumar Dash, Professor, OUAT, Bhubaneswar – **Kendrapada sheep** of Odisha
- Dr (Ms) M. Catherine Rutsa, Assistant Professor, Nagaland University – **Tenyi Vo pig** of Nagaland
- Dr S. Jeyakumar, Senior Scientist along with 8 others- **Nicobari pig** of A&N Islands
- Dr Galib Uz Zaman and Dr Subimal Laskar, Professor, AAU, Khanapara – **Doom pig** of Assam
- Dr Th. Ranadhir Singh from CAU Imphal, Dr P.K. Vij and Dr M.S. Tantia from ICAR-NBAGR Karnal – **Kaunayen chicken** of Manipur

Rare Endangered Primate Spotted In Vietnam

- i. A team of scientists **from Fauna and Flora International spotted** a new group of critically endangered primates in Vietnam.
- ii. The **Delacour's langur also called Delacour's lutung**, black and white with a full face of whiskers, is indigenous to Vietnam. It is named after French-American ornithologist Jean Théodore Delacour.

Amatrice, Italy, devastated by earthquake

- i. A powerful earthquake hit the **Central Italy Amatrice** overnight with a **magnitude 6.2** that remain relatively rare that killed at least 73 people.
- ii. The Central town was devastated by the strong quake 6.2 registered 100km (65 miles) north-east of Rome, not far from Perugia, actually the country is one of the most seismically active spots in Europe and has seen many.
- iii. According to the US Geological Survey it was the **largest earthquake in Italy since 2009** when a 6.3-magnitude earthquake hit when at least 295 people and injured several hundred people.

One of the world's largest one-horned rhino horns was found in central Assam

- i. One of the **world's largest one-horned rhino horns** was found in central Assam's **Nagaon treasury during the ongoing** verification of the horns in Assam.
- ii. The **rhino horn verification committee (RHVC)** has found one of the world's largest horns – possibly the heaviest – of the one-horned rhino in central Assam's Nagaon treasury.
- iii. The only recorded rhino horn bigger than this could be found in **British Museum in London, where a 60 cm long horn from Assam, found in 1909.**
- iv. It is noted that the verification Committee have completed the verification process rhino horns kept in **Golaghat, Tezpur, Jorhat, Diphu and Nagaon treasuries of Assam.**
- v. It is also noted that the the committee will move to Morigaon district treasury tomorrow where 22 horns are being kept from the nearby Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

SPORTS

Novak Djokovic bags the renowned Rogers Cup title held in Toronto, Canada

Ahead of the Olympic Games, **Novak Djokovic defeated Kei Nishikori** in straight sets and got back to winning streaks in the **Rogers Cup final in Toronto, Canada.**

- After a short rain delay, the Serbian Novak Djokovic beat Kei Nishikori of Japan 6-3, 7-5 in straight sets. With this win, Djokovic entered the Rogers Cup leading the ATP money list with **\$8,476,566. He collected another \$782,525 and 1000 ATP tour points.**

- It is noted that he also won the hard court event already in 2007, 2011 and 2012.

Winners of 2016 Rogers Cup

Men singles	Novak Djokovic defeated K. Nishikori
Women Singles	S. Halep defeated M. Keys
Men Doubles	I. Dodig and M. Melo defeated J. Murray and B. Soares
Women Doubles	E. Makarova and E. Vesnina defeated S. Halep and M. Niculescu

Lewis Hamilton wins 2016 German Grand Prix of F1

- i. Britain’s **Lewis Hamilton** who drove for Mercedes has sealed **German Grand Prix** that also gains 19 points lead championship over his teammate **Nico Rosberg**.
- ii. The victory is fourth straight in a row after he European grand prix Hamilton bagged all the four in a row.

Patna Pirates titled as the Winner of Season 4 Pro Kabaddi League

- i. **Patna Pirates** won in the **season 4 finals of the Pro Kabaddi League** by defeating **Jaipur Pink Panthers**. Being a winner of season 3, Patna again proved its ability in the Kabaddi league by winning this season.
- ii. Patna Pirates manded a convincing **win over Jaipur Pink Panthers** with a point set of 37-29 to continue their winning spree in Pro Kabaddi league.

Darren Lehman’s tenure has been extended as the head coach of Cricket Australia till 2019 World Cup

- i. **Darren Lehman’s contract** has been **extended as the head coach of Cricket Australia** till the 2019 ICC cricket World Cup, which to be played in England.
- ii. **Darren Scott Lehmann** is a former **Australian cricketer** and the current coach of the Australian cricket team. Lehmann made his ODI debut in 1996 and Test debut in 1998.
- iii. Being an aggressive **left-handed batsman**, Lehmann was also a part-time left arm orthodox bowler, and was known for his disregard for physical fitness and modern dietary regimes.

Rio Olympic craze starts – Govt. unveils Wall Of Wishes and Digital Campaign to cheer the Indian Olympic Contingent

- i. In order to cheer up the Olympic mood in India, **Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Vijay Goel along with the Renowned sports star Mary Kom** unveiled the ‘**Wall of Wishes**’ at India Gate Lawns.
- ii. This wish board is set up in order to sway the students and youth, to visit India Gate in large numbers and sign their wishes at the ‘**Wall of Wishes**’ to cheer the **Indian athletes at Rio Olympics**.

IBJA announces awards for medal winners at Olympics

- i. Mumbai-based **India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA)** came with an announcement that Indian medal winners at the Rio 2016 Olympics will be graded **with 500 gms Sovereign Gold Bonds and silver.**
- ii. The Bullion association said Gold Medal winners will be given Sovereign Gold Bonds of 500 gms and 1 kg silver will be awarded to **Silver Medal winners.**

Commemorative stamps:

Communications Minister Manoj Sinha and Sports Minister Vijay Goel jointly released the four set of commemorative stamps featured with sportsmen engaged in Badminton, Shooting, Wrestling and Boxing where India got medal in the London Olympics.

India's Vivek Teja becomes World Karate Champion

- i. India's martial arts hero and rising star **Vivek Teja bagged the World Karate Champion (All Styles)** at the Martial Arts World Championships in Sydney, Australia.
- ii. The Indian Teja defeated **James Chatfield from New Zealand in the first round and England's Anthony Raiyas, in the second round,** and beat **Australian star Matthew Rose** in the title clash to clinch the title.
- iii. Teja becomes the first Indian to have acquired expertise in all martial art styles of the world in his 15 years fighting career

Wrestler Narsingh Yadav gets NADA's clean chit in doping case

- i. The National Anti-Doping Agency has given a clean chit to wrestler **Narsingh Yadav** from doping charges, with this he will be eligible to take part in Rio Olympics.
- ii .The wrestler had tested positive for a **banned steroid** in an out of competition test conducted by the Doping Agency.
- iii. In addition **Praveen Rana** was named as the replacement of Yadav to secure quota in the in the **74kg category Wrestling** in the Rio Olympics.

Indian Railways announces cash awards for its athlete who wins medal at Rio Olympics

Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabu announced an Rs 1 crore cash award for Indian athlete who wins a gold medal in the Rio Olympics. In total, **35 athletes from Indian Railways will take part in the Rio Olympic.**

The complete reward list by the Indian Railways as follows,

- **The gold Medalist – 1 crore**
- **The silver medallist – Rs 75 lakh**
- **Bronze winner – Rs 50 lakh.**
- **Athletes who manages a top-8 finish – Rs 30 lakh**

- For mere participation Rs 5 lakh.

IOA announces cash award of 50 lakh rupees for gold medal winning athlete in Rio Olympics

The Indian Olympic Association announced an **Rs 50 lakh cash award** for the gold medal-winning athletes in the Rio Olympics.

The complete reward list by the IOA as follows.

1. **Rs 50 lakh – gold medal,**
2. **Rs 30 lakh – silver and**
3. **Rs 20 lakh – bronze.**

The coaches will be awarded an equivalent of 50 per cent of the amount that the athletes receive.

IOC approves 271 Russian athletes to compete in Rio Games

The International Olympic Committee has approved 271 Russian athletes to compete in the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro, after a doping scandal put Russian participation in this year's games in doubt and this doping review eliminated 118 competitors.

Four South African cricketers banned for attempting to fix matches

- Four South African cricketers** have been banned for allegedly involving in **fixing the matches**. The Ban varies form 7 years to 12 years.
- The banned Proteas players include former Test wicketkeeper **Thami Tsolekile**, received a 12-year ban for contriving to fix a match or matches" in the 2015 Twenty20 domestic competition.
- The other players are **Pumelela Matshikwe, Ethy Mbhalati** and **Jean Symes** who were banned for accepting money from ex-international **Goolam Bodi** for attempting to fix matches in the Twenty20 tournament.

Anderson topples Ashwin from top spot in ICC bowler rankings

- In the latest MRF player Rankings for Test Bowlers **England Speedster James Anderson** has topped the list. The English cricketer replaces India off Spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin**.
- The Pacer has reached his career best by claiming the top position month back in May 31. The race was among **Ashwin, Pakistani bowler Yasir Shah and Anderson**.

Abhijeet Gupta retains Commonwealth Chess championship crown

- Former world junior Chess champion **Abhijeet Gupta** has won **the 20th Commonwealth** Chess championship crown 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He is the **third Indian** to win this prestigious championship, after Viswanathan Anand and Pentala Harikrishna.

- ii. This is the second crown consecutively after the maestro won 19 th Championship.
- iii. In addition International Master **Tania Sachdev** clinched a gold medal. Besides all the medals won by the Indians players in the senior category.
- iv. On the other hand Grandmasters **S L Narayanan and Deep Chakkravarthy** got the silver and bronze medals respectively in the open section.

Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis end partnership

- i. World No. 1 Mixed Doubles pair **Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis** have mutually agreed to end their partnership after the pair showed poor performances in recent times.
- ii. In the US Open- women’s doubles they advanced up to draw, but with different partners – Sania with former partner Barbora Strycova of the Czech Republic, and Hingis with USA’s Coco Vandeweghe.

Jim Furyk: Making History in the PGA Tour

- i. American professional golfer Jim Furyk aged 46 made a record after he shot a record 12-under-par 58 at the Travelers Championship following a third round 72, Furyk retreated to the range, the lowest round ever on the PGA Tour.
- ii. The long back swing led to Furyk’s upper and lower body getting out of sync, which in turn hurt his consistency.
- iii. He was one of six players **to card 59 on tour**, also became the first player to break 60 twice on an internationally recognised tour.

Al Tamimi and Pallikal Karthik Capture Australian Open Crowns

Qatar’s seed **Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi** and Indian squash queen **Dipika Pallikal** are the 2016 Australian Open, Men’s and Women’s crowned champions after they won the title clashes at the Melbourne Sports& Aquatic Centre in Australia.

Results:

Men’s Australian Open 2016
Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi (Qatar) defeated Campbell Grayson (New Zealand)
Women’s Australian Open 2016
DipikaPallikal Karthik (India) defeated MayarHany (Egypt)

ONGC lifts PSG Trophy in Basketball

Oil major’s **ONGC team** was the crowned Champions in the PSG Trophy by beating the Tamil Nadu State team by 84-72, in title clash of the **52nd All India Basket Ball Championship** held in Coimbatore.

Karichal Chundan' wins 64th Nehru Trophy

- i. In the Nehru trophy Kumarakam Vembanad Boat Club maneuvered **Karichal Chundan** were the crowned Champions of the **64th Nehru Trophy** in the electrifying race held at Punnamada lake in Alappuzha Kerala.
- ii. While Gabriel Chundan, rowed by UBC Kainakary has reached the second prize. However it is the 14th time that **Karichal Chundan** bagging the title.

ICC Rankings: India become No.1 Test team

- i. After Indian team has victorious campaign against West Indies which is underway, Virat Kohli led side have become the **number-one ranked side on the ICC MRF Tyres Test Team Rankings**, while Pakistan have moved into the second position.

The Team Rankings:

Team	Rank	Points
India	1	112
Pakistan	2	111
Australia	3	108(-10)
England	4	108
New Zealand	5	99

Sehwag becomes MCC's honorary life member

- i. Indian Batting Great **Virender Sehwag** has been honored with the **honorary life membership** of the **Marylebone Cricket Club**.
- ii. The **honorary membership** is extended by **MCC** to acknowledge the contributions of made by Sehwag to the game of Cricket.

Purav Raja and Divij Sharan win Los Cabos Open Men's Doubles title

- i. Indian tennis Men's doubles pair **Divij Sharan** and **Purav Raja** clinched ATP title at the **Abierto Mexicano Mifel in Los Cabos, Mexico**. This is the second title for the Duo.
- ii. The unseeded pair has defeated Israeli-British pair of Jonathan Erlich and Ken Skupski 7-6(4), 7-6(3) in the summit clash of this hard-court event.
- iii. On the other hand Men's Singles in the Croatian man **Ivo Karlović** defeated Spain's **Feliciano López**, by 7-6(7-5), 6-2.

Court of Arbitration for Sport suspends wrestler Narsingh Yadav for four years

- i. Rio bound India wrestler **Narsingh Yadav** has been **banned a four-year by Court of Arbitration for Sports** following an appeal by WADA. Yadav was due to compete in the men's freestyle -74kg at the Rio Olympic Games.
- ii. The ban comes with immediate effect that made him to render his participation at the ongoing

Rio 2016 Olympics.

Guwahati to Host ISL 2016 Opening Ceremony

- i. Hero Indian Super League promoter **Football Sports Development Ltd** have awarded Guwahati to host the opening ceremony and the season opener match of Hero ISL 2016.
- ii. The Ceremony to be hosted on Indira Gandhi Stadium, Sarusajai, with a capacity of 30,000 on 1st October 2016 as the ISL teams will join owners, celebrities and artistes to deliver North East a memorable visual extravaganza at the Opening Ceremony.

Vikash Anand wins premier title in National Racing

- i. Chennai hailed **Vikash Anand** won a double to clinch the title in the **MRF Formula 1600 category** and a ticket for the **Mazda Road to Indy shootout** as the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Racing Championship concluded in Chennai.
- ii. This f1600 category was led by triple-header, **Vikashwho clocked** 16mins, 54.111secs **and Karthik Tharani** were locked on 138 points clocking 16:58.677.

The MRF F1600 (Race 2, 10 laps)results:

- 1.Vikash Anand (Chennai)
- 2.Raghul Rangasamy (Chennai)
- 3.Karthik Tharani (Chennai)

Gujarat to host the 2016 – Kabaddi World Cup

- i. The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) announced that the **2016 World Cup will be held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.**
- ii. **The tournament is set to take place from 7 to 22 October.** Gujarat will play host to 12 teams from around the world including India, USA, Canada, UK, Australia, Iran, Poland, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Korea, Japan and Kenya.

2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics – Overview

The 31st Rio Olympics held with 306 events in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from August 5th to August 21st 2016. These were the first Summer Olympic Games under the IOC presidency of Thomas.

Rio Medal Tally-2016

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States(1)	46	37	38	121
Great Britain(2)	27	23	17	67
China (3)	26	18	26	70
Russia (4)	19	18	19	56
Germany (5)	17	10	15	42

India (67)	0	1	1	2
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Bindra to head NRAI review committee on Rio debacle

- i. India’s Olympic gold-medallist **Abhinav Bindra** has been named as the Chairman of a five-member **National Rifle Association of India review committee** to probe the **shooters’** dejected show in the **Rio Games**.
- ii. The Appointed Chairman of the committee **bindra** also was part of the team that contested, the five member committee include former tennis player **Manisha Malhotra** (Convenor of the committee), NRAI Secretary **Rajiv Bhatia** and two journalists. It is been asked to submit its report to the President within a maximum period of four weeks.

Indian Men Hockey Team slipped to sixth after the lackluster performance in Rio Olympics

- i. **Indian men’s hockey** team slipped one place to occupy **sixth** in the FIH rankings after their lusterless show in Rio Olympics while their **Women Hockey team** surprisingly gained one position to be at **12th in the** latest charts.
- ii. **P.R. Sreejesh** led India who started the Summer Games as the fifth-ranked side in the world have slipped one place to the sixth spot.
- iii. Two wins, two losses and a draw in the group stage followed with a **defeat to Belgium by 3-1 in the quarterfinals** pushed Team India one down in the latest rankings released by the International Hockey Federation.
- iv. **Australia’s Kookaburras** — who finished in sixth place in Rio — remain in **first place**, but newly crowned Olympic champions Argentina earned enough points to move up five places to second.
- v. Olympic silver medalists **Belgium move up one place to fifth**, with India being pushed down into sixth and England (Great Britain) down from fourth to seventh.
- vi. **Spain’s excellent performances at Rio 2016 saw them finish in fifth** in the Olympic standings, enough to see them re-enter the top 10 to sit ninth in the rankings.

BWF Rankings- Sindhu at 10th, Saina Nehwal at 9th

- i. India’s **PV Sindhu** remained in the **10th spot** in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings despite getting a silver in the women’s singles competition at the recently-concluded Olympics.
- ii. But **Saina Nehwal** dropped four points to be ninth and also the women’s doubles pair of **Jwala Gutta** and **Ashwini Ponnappa** dropped four places to the 26th spot following their failure to reach the knock-out stage in the Rio Games.

Rank	Name	Country
1	Carolina MARIN	Spain

2	Li Xuerui	China
3	Nozomi OKUHARA	Japan
4	Wang Yihan	China
5	Ratchanok INTANON	Thailand
6	Wang Shixian	China
7	Tai Tzu Ying	Chinese Taipei
8	Sung Ji Hyun	Korea
9	Saina NEHWAL	India
10	Pusarla V. Sindhu	India

BCCI to submit first Compliance Report to RM Lodha panel

- i. The BCCI submitted the first Compliance Report to the **Supreme Court-appointed Justice RM Lodha Panel in regards to the implementation of reforms as per the apex court verdict.**
- ii. The BCCI has already filed a Review Petition with the Supreme Court **seeking recusal of CJI TS Thakur from the case.** At the moment none of the state associations will carry out any reforms till the verdict of Review Petition is out.
- iii. This panel will meet on August 28 and the Compliance Report is likely to come up for discussion. The panel wants **11 reforms to be implemented by October 15.**
- iv. At the moment none of the state associations will carry out any reforms till the verdict of Review Petition is out.

Paytm – Title Sponsor for India/West Indies T20 matches to be played in USA

- i. The Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) awarded the title sponsorship rights to Paytm for the upcoming two T20 International matches between India and West Indies to be played in Florida, USA.
- ii. India and West Indies will play two Twenty 20 matches on August 27 and 28 at the Central Broward Regional Park, Fort Lauderdale, USA.

Thai veteran Thongchai Jaidee – Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month for July, 2016.

- i. With the closure of the Rio Olympics, **Thai legend Thongchai Jaidee has been voted as the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month for July, 2016.**
- ii. **Thongchai Jaidee** is a Thai professional golfer who plays on the **Asian Tour and the European Tour.** On the Asian Tour, he holds the record for the most career earnings and is second in victories having won 13 times.

Tillakaratne Dilshan to retire after Australia series

- i. Veteran Sri Lanka Opener **Tillakaratne Dilshan** is expected to retire from illustrious international career after ongoing ODI series against Australia.
- ii. He is well known for his **Dilscoop** (ducking ramp shot) and this man had captained his side in all the format of the game.
- iii. Dilshan made his one-day debut against Zimbabwe in 1999 and went on to play 329 ODIs for Sri Lanka and Scored 10248 runs which includes 22 hundreds.

iv. He retired Test Cricket in 2013, played 87 Tests where he accumulated 5492 runs and 39 wickets.

PM Modi announces Task Force to prepare India for next three Olympics

i. After India's dismal show in the concluded Rio Olympics 2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi said about **constituting a task force**, which will make various suggestions to the roadmap for the next three **quadrennial Games 2020 (Tokyo), 2024 and 2028**.

ii. The PM announced that the task will be announced over the next few days at a meeting of the Council of Ministers held in New Delhi.

iii. The Task Force will comprise of members who are in house experts as well as those from outside members intended to put a strategy for sports facility, training, selection procedure and other related matters.

Sania wins Connecticut Open doubles title

i. Ace Tennis star **Sania Mirza** with **Monica Niculescu of Romania** clinched a Women's doubles title after taking victory at the Connecticut Open in the U.S.

ii. The Indo- Romanian pair capped off their newly revived doubles partnership with their first title together with a straight set victory over the duo of Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine and Chuang Chia-Jung of Taiwan in the title clash by 7-5, 6-4.

Western Railway wins all India railway athletic championship

i. In the **82nd All India Railway athletic Championship** Mumbai based **Western Railway** won the overall team championship held at Tiruchirapalli Tamil Nadu.

ii. Meanwhile Central railway came in the second place and Southern Railway third in the overall team category. Tiruchirapalli Railway Divisional manager A K Agarwal gave away the trophies and prizes in the function.

iii. Among various events in the men's category, Western Railway topped the list and in the women's category Central Railway won the championship trophy.

iv. The **gold Championship** of women's 100 m race was clinched by **Dutee Chand of Central railway** and their counterpart's 100 m race **Manikantha Raj** of South Central Railway won the podium.

Nico Rosberg bags the prestigious Belgian Grand Prix 2016 title

Nico Rosberg rekindled his bid for the drivers' world championship by steering his Mercedes to a convincing victory in chaotic **crash-hit Belgian Grand Prix**, as Lewis Hamilton fought back to finish third.

16-Year-Old Gurgaon Boy Develops Amazing App to Help Indian Paralympians in Rio

i. A Mobile App has been developed by **Arhan Bagati**. He is 16 years old.

- .The App will assist the Indian contingent in the 2016 Summer **Paralympics** in Rio de Janeiro.
- ii. Bagati is a student of a private school in Gurgaon and has been helping differently-abled sportsmen.
- iii. The App was launched in the presence of Lieutenant Governor **Najeeb Jung** and Union Minister of State (IC) for Sports & Youth Affairs Vijay Goel.

Wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt confirms upgrade to silver for London Olympics

- i. Indian Olympic medallist and **wrestler Yogeshwar** bronze medal, which he clinched the podium by finishing **third against Russia’s Besik Kudukhov’s**, who finished second in the 60-kg freestyle event in the **2012 Olympics** is set to be upgraded to silver.
- ii. The Silver Medalist Besik Kudukhov’s who died in a car crash in 2013 in southern Russia, is a four time world champion who has been tested positive. The medal will be given to Dutt.

Bhutan set to host Asian Tennis Tour event next month

- i. Land of the thunder dragon’s nation **Bhutan** is set to become the fourth Asian country to host a tournament on the **Asian Tennis Tour (ATT)**. The first ever international tennis tournament is scheduled to host next month.
- ii. Earlier India, Thailand and Iran hosted a series of tournaments, both men and women titles on ATT and ATT Bhutan is set to be hosted from **September 16 to 18**.
- iii. This year between September and December more than 30 ATT tournaments set to be held at various cities in Asia.

Ashwin slips to third, Rahane eighth in latest ICC Test rankings

- i. Indian right-arm off break bowler **Ravichandran Ashwin** slipped one place down to third in the International Cricket Council (ICC) list for Test bowlers. The list is topped by South African speedster Dale Steyn.
- ii. Proteas team man Steyn’s breath taking figures of **5/33 in the second innings** helped his side to register a thumping 204-run victory over New Zealand. He pushed James Anderson to the second place.
- iii. However All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja is another Indian in **the top 10 of the list**,conquering the 8th spot.
- iv. In the Batsman list Steve Smith Australia is on the top position, and Ajinkya Rahane features is ranked 8 th in the list. He is the only Indian to figure in the top 10.

The Test Rankings:

Batsman			Bowler	
Position	Nationality	Name	Name	Nationality
1	Australia	Steve Smith	Dale Steyn	South Africa
2	England	Joe Root	James Anderson	England

3	New Zealand	Kane Williamson	Ravi Ashwin	India
4	South Africa	Hashim Amla	Stuart Broad	England
5	Pakistan	Younus Khan	Rangana herath	Sri Lanka

100-Year-Old Runner from India Gets Gold Medal

- i. 100-year-old **Mann Kaur from Chandigarh** clinched Gold medal in the 100-metre dash clocking one minute and 21 seconds at the American Masters Games in Vancouver Canada.
- ii. This feat by Kaur comes as she was the only female competitor in her age category at the competition for older athletes as many of them in their 70s and 80s. However the average age of the athletes is 49.
- iii. She has now won more than 20 medals in Masters Games across the world and there's one man who is even older than **Kaur – 101-year-old Nihal Gill** of Richmond from British Columbia.

World Masters Games:

It takes place every four years, with regional games in between. The Americas Masters Games in Vancouver is the first summer regional **games in North America**.

OBITUARY

Indian-American Professor Emeritus Braj B Kachru passes away

- i. Eminent Indian-American Professor Emeritus **Braj B Kachru** has passed away in Urbana. He was 84 year old. He was a Jubilee Professor Emeritus of Linguistics, faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana.
- ii. Kachru has authored over **25 books** and more than **100 research papers**, reviews and review articles and was worked with many editorial board. He was born in Sri Nagar in India.

Renowned Actor and singer Gloria DeHaven dies at the age of 91.

- i. Renowned Actor and singer **Gloria DeHaven** who featured in films with **Frank Sinatra, Gene Kelly and Charlie Chaplin** has died at the age of 91 following a major stroke suffering in Las Vegas.
- ii. She was signed to a contract with **MGM**. Despite featured roles in such films as **Best Foot Forward (1943)**, **The Thin Man Goes Home (1944)**, **Scene of the Crime (1949)** and **Summer Stock (1950)**, and being voted by exhibitors as the third most likely to be a "star of tomorrow" in 1944, she did not achieve film stardom.

Father of Femto Chemistry – Ahemd Zewail passed away

- i. Egyptian-American **Ahmed Zewail**, a **renowned Nobel Prize recipient** for chemistry and the first US science envoy to the Middle East passed away at the age of 70 on August 2.

- ii. **Ahmed Hassan Zewail** born on February 26, 1946 in **Daman hour, Egypt** and was raised in Desouk. He was an Egyptian-American scientist, known as the “**father of femtochemistry**”.
- iii. He won the 1999 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on femtochemistry and became the **first Arab** to win a Nobel Prize in a scientific field.

F1 legend Chris Amon dies of cancer at 73

- i. Best ever formula one race chris amon died at the age of 73 on august 3 in newzealand.
- ii. **Christopher arthur “chris” amon was a new zealand motor racing driver.** He was active in formula one racing in the 1960s and 1970s – and is widely regarded to be one of the best f1 drivers never to win a championship grand prix.
- iii. A biography ‘**forza amon**’ by journalist Eoin young charts amon’s racing career and gives some insights into his personal life. the book makes clear one point on which amon himself disagrees with most commentators, the issue of his bad luck.

Litterateur Mahim Bora passed away

- i. Well known Assam litterateur **Mahim Bora** has passed away due to old age related ailments in a private nursing in Guwahati Assam. He was 93 year old.
- ii. The Assam **hailed author penned many books** including Rangajivya (The Red Dragon Fly), Adhani Mahir Hahi , Bohubhuji Tribhu, Eai Nadir Sonte and Kathonibarir Ghat, among other books of short stories and poems.
- iii. Bora received India’s fourth highest civilian honor Padma Shri in 2011 and the Assam Valley Literary award in 1998. He was also worked as President of Asom Sahitya Sabha.

CPI (M) leader Jiban Maitra passes away

- i. West Bengal hailed **Senior CPI (M) leader Jiban Maitra**, passed away following a cerebral attack in a nursing home in Malda. He was 71 year old.
- ii. Jiban Maitra who served as state committee member of the CPI(M) in the past and ex-district secretary, left behind a son. Maitra is also a Left Front convener of Malda district.

Kannada actor ‘Sanketh’ Kashi dead

- Kannada comedy actor **Sanketh Kashi died of a heart attack** at a private hospital in Mandalpalya, Bangalore.
- i. Kashi started his career with theatre and was known as ‘**Sanketh**’ **Kashi for his association with Sanketh troupe**, which was led by late actor Shankar Nag.
 - ii. He was 50 and he has acted in more than **140 films**.

'Vietnam Veedu' Sundaram passes away

Tamil Script writer and director Vietnam Veedu **Sundaram** died in Chennai. He was **76**

- i. Sundaram was born in Tiruchi and Vietnam Veedu became part of his name after he wrote the script, first for the eponymous play and then for the film, starring Sivaji Ganesan.
- ii. He had worked with **Sivaji Ganesan, MGR, Amitabh Bachchan** and **Kamal Haasan**.

Australian surfing champion Bernard Farrelly dies

i. Australia's first surfing champion **Bernard 'Midget' Farrelly** has passed away following a stomach cancer. He was 71 years old.

- ii. He is the first Australian to clinch a world championships in Makaha, Hawaii in 1963.

Former Arunachal Pradesh CM Kalikho Pul commits Suicide

i. Former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Kalikho Pul** **allegedly hanged himself** on Tuesday morning at his residence in Itanagar and it is found that he has been suffering from depression.

ii. **Kalikho Pul** born on 20 July 1969 was an Indian politician and acting **Chief Minister of the north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh for a brief time in 2016**.

iii. He was elected five times from the **Hayuliang Vidhan Sabha** constituency representing the Indian National Congress. With the support of a few elected members of Congress and the opposing Bharatiya Janata Party, he took Chief Ministership of Arunachal Pradesh.

Modern Yoga Father T Krishnamacharya's son TKV Desikachar Passes Away

i. **TKV Desikachar, son of Indian yoga master T Krishnamacharya** , passed away in Chennai on August 8 and He was 78 while he breathed his last breath.

ii. TKV Desikachar is the **son and student of T Krishnamacharya**, popularly known as 'the father of modern yoga'.

Veteran journalist Barendrakrushna Dhal dead

i. Odisha's legendary Journalist and Columnist **Barendra Krushna Dhal** passed away following a prolonged illness at his residence in **Bhubaneswar**.

ii. Dhal was born on March 25, 1941 in Cuttack ,He started his journalistic career in 'Matrubhumi' in 1960 and worked there for about 25 years. He worked in different language newspapers like in Odia, English and Bengali.

Veteran writer-producer Panchu Arunachalam passes away

i. Veteran Tamil writer and filmmaker **Panchu Arunachalam** has passed away due to age-related ailments at his residence in Chennai. He was 75 years old.

ii. He is popular for writing over 100 Tamil films that includes blockbuster movies like Murattu

Kaalai, Sakalakala Vallavan and Apoorva Sagodhargal also written song lyrics for more than 200 films.

Yesteryear Tamil actress Jyothilakshmi passes away

- i. Veteran Tamil and Telugu **actress Jyothi Lakshmi** passed away after had long battle with blood cancer at a hospital in Chennai. She was 63 year old.
- ii. She was famous for playing the **bad girl** who appeared in **300 movies** to her credit, in all the four South Indian languages.

Former Odisha chief secretary passes away

- i. **SudhanshuBhusan Mishra** who was a chief Secretary of **Odisha** has *passed away* at his residence in Bhubaneswar. He was 77 years old.
- ii. Odisha hailed Mishra was suffering from cancer, was not keeping well for the last few days. He was the Chief Secretary of Odisha during the tenure of former Chief Minister **JB Pattnaik from 1995-1999**.

Pakistan's Legendary batsman Hanif Mohammad dies at 81

- i. **Hanif Mohammad**, Legendary former Pakistan batsman died at the age of 81 after a battle against cancer and respiratory problems.
- ii. He was dubbed '**the Little Master**' years before the sobriquet was given to India's Sachin Tendulkar.
- iii. Hanif scored 337 runs against the West Indies in 1958, which was also the first triple century by an Asian cricketer, and at the time the longest innings by any batsman in terms of time spent at the wicket.

Founder of Akshardham temples and a saint of the Swaminarayan sect Pramukh Swami passed away

- i. The 95-year-old **founder of Akshardham temples and a saint of the Swaminarayan sect Pramukh Swami passed away** after prolonged illness at the Sarangpur temple near Ahmedabad on August 13.
- ii. He was the president of the Bochasanvasi Akshar Purushottam Sanstha (BAPS), a sub-sect of the Swaminarayan sect, which during his tenure expanded globally, with **over 3000 temples built in five decades worldwide**.
- iii. **Akshardham** or Swaminarayan Akshardham complex is a Hindu mandir, and a spiritual-cultural campus in New Delhi, India. Also referred to as **Delhi Akshardham** or **Swaminarayan Akshardham**, the complex displays millennia of traditional Hindu and Indian culture, spirituality,

and architecture.

Lyricist Na Muthukumar passes away

- i. Famous **Tamil lyricist**-poet-columnist **Na Muthukumar**, who has written songs for more than 1000 films, passed away due Jaundice. He was 41 years old. He was not keeping well for the past one month who was well known for his Tamil Writings.
- ii. He had Written Songs in more than 70 Films.
- iii. He is a two-time recipient of the **National Film Award** for Best Lyrics for his works in **Thanga Meenkal** (2013) and Saivam (2014) and received many Filmfare Awards.

Noted Educationalist B P Kesri Passed away in Jharkhand

- i. **Renowned educationist Prof B P Kesri of Jharkhand** state has passed away in Ranchi district in his age of 80's.
- ii. Besides being an educationist, Hw was considered as the **plight of Jharkhand**, Chief Minister Raghubar Das mourned in his condolence message.
- iii. The state CM also mourned the **martyrdom of Commandant Prabhat Kumar**, who hailed from Jharkhands Jamtara, in Jammu and Kashmir. His sacrifice would not go in vain.

Renowned Malayalam Scriptwriter T A Razzaq Passed Away

- i. Malayalam scriptwriter **T A Razzaq**, 58 passed away at Kochi while undergoing treatment for liver ailment at a private hospital in Kochi on August 16.
- ii. Razzaq's film career began in the late **1980s**, when he started work as an assistant director on the film **Dhwani**. As a scriptwriter his notable films include **Kanakinavu, Ghazal, Perumazhakalam, Aayirathil Oruvan and Thalolam**. Kanakinavu went on to win a National Award.
- iii. Later Razzaq made his mark while contributing to areas including script, story, and dialogue for nearly **30 Malayalam movies**.

First Speaker of Delhi Assembly Charti Lal Goel passes away

- i. Former speaker of the Delhi Assembly **Charti Lal Goel** passed away. He was 89.
- ii. He was the father of Delhi Sports Minister Vijay Goel.
- iii. He was the **first speaker** of Delhi assembly. He was a founder member of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh in 1951

Prominent Punjabi writer and Jnanpith awardee Gurdial Singh passed away

- i. **Prominent Punjabi writer and Jnanpith awardee Gurdial Singh** passed away in Bathinda on August 16, when he was under treatment in a private hospital in Bathinda for the last about 10

days.

ii. Gurdial Singh Rahi was a Punjabi language writer and novelist from Punjab, India. He started his literary career in 1957 with a short-story, Bhaganwale.

Joao Havelange, Former President of FIFA, Dies at Age 100

i. Former FIFA President João Havelange has passed away at Samartino Hospital, Rio de Janeiro. He was 100 years old. He was **7th head of international football's governing** body FIFA from 1974 to 1998.

ii. Havelange also served as a member of the **International Olympic Committee (IOC) from 1963 to 2011**. Besides this man represented Brazil in swimming at the 1936 Olympics.

Oscar-nominated director Arthur Hiller dies

i. Canadian-American director and former Academy **president Arthur Hiller** has passed away in Los Angeles of natural causes. He was 92 years old.

ii. In His **five decades** career the first film he directed was the The Careless Years (1957), which included 1964 comedy The Americanization of Emily, ratings smash Love Story. Notably the movie Love Story (1970), which was nominated for seven Oscars.

Renowned Odia filmmaker, actor and director Gobind Tej passed away

i. Renowned **Odia filmmaker, actor and director Gobind Tej** died in a private hospital in Bhubaneswar at the age of 88.

ii. Govind Tej is an **actor and director, known for Ramayan (1980), School Master (1985) and Gare Sindura Dhare Luha (2001)**

iii. Tej started his career in films '**Kedar Gouri**' in 1954 followed by many award winning films like 'Maa', 'Bandhan', 'Dharitri', 'Mana Akasha', 'Bandhu Mohanty', 'Nagaphasa', 'Ramayan', 'Kaberi', 'Tunda Baida', 'Gare Sindura Dhare Luha'.

iv. He was conferred with **Jaydev Samman and** he received Odisha State Film Awards for best director for movies like '**Kaberi**', '**School Master**', '**Tunda Baida**' and '**Gare Sindura Dhare Luha**' and best actor award for his remarkable acting in the film 'Bandhu Mohanty' in 1977.

Subrata Banerjee – Bengal's leading Cricket Umpire passed away

i. Bengal's leading international cricket umpire **Subrata Banerjee** died at the age of 71 at a South Kolkata hospital after battling cancer.

ii. Till his last breath, Banerjee remained passionate about cricket. He had officiated the **maximum number of one day international matches from Bengal**.

Mexican writer Ignacio Padilla killed in car accident

- i. Eminent Mexican writer **Ignacio Padilla** has died in a car accident in the central state of Queretaro. He was 47 years old.
- ii. Padilla received the Alfonso Reyes literary award for his work Subterráneos in 1989, later he also won the Juan Rulfo award for a first novel for "The Cathedral of the Drowned in 1994.

Prize Winning Poet Joyce Carol Thomas passes away

- i. Joyce Carol Thomas, a prize-winning **children's author and champion** of multiculturalism, has died at the age of 78.
- ii. **Joyce Carol Thomas** was an African-American poet, playwright, motivational speaker, and author of more than 30 children's books.

Prominent Black Journalist, Publisher George Curry Has Died

- i. Prominent African-American journalist and publisher **George Curry has passed** away of heart failure at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland. He was 69 years old.
- ii. He maintained a syndicated column **was passed in more than 200 African American-owned newspapers**, and he had sometime as editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, a news service for black papers also worked as editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine in the 1990s.
- iii. Curry became the first African-American to be elected president of the **American Society of Magazine Editors**.

Singapore's Indian-origin former President Sellapan Ramanathan passes away

- i. Singapore's Indian-origin president **Sellapan Ramanathan** at a hospital after suffering a stroke passed away on 22 August 2016. He was 92 Year old.
- ii. Nathan served as President of the nation from **1999 to 2011**, He was close ally of Singapore's Political king Lee Kuan Yew.
- iii. He was the country's sixth and longest-serving president who served two terms, also the only person who has served two terms as President

Malayalam daily "Mathrubhumi" former Editor K K Sreedharan Nair passed away

- i. Veteran journalist and former editor of Malayalam daily "Mathrubhumi" **K K Sreedharan Nair died at a private hospital in Kochi following a brief illness**.
- ii. He started his carrer in Journalism as a sub-editor in Mathrubhumi in 1953, Nair had an illustrious career in various capacities including Chief Sub-Editor, NewsEditor and Deputy Editor.

Former Governor of Bihar, West Bengal and Haryana A R Kidwai Dies

Former Governor of Bihar, West Bengal and Haryana, **A R Kidwai** passed away on August 24, 2016 in New Delhi. He was 96.

- i. Born on July 1, 1920, in Baragaon in UP. He started his career as a professor of Chemistry, and became Dean of Faculty of Science at Aligarh Muslim University. He also served as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission from 1974 to 1977. He was Chancellor of AMU between 1983 to 1992.
- ii. He served as **Governor of Bihar** twice, from 1979 to 1985 and 1993 to 1998 and he served as Governor of Bengal between 1998 and 1999.
- iii. Later he served as **Governor of Rajasthan and Haryana** till 2009 and he was member of **Rajya Sabha** between 2000 and 2004.

Former MP Governor Mohammad Shafi Qureshi no more

- i. Veteran Congress leader and former Governor of **Madhya Pradesh Mohammad Shafi Qureshi** has passed away in Delhi. He was 87 years old.
- ii. He also served as the Deputy Union Minister of Railways and got elected for Lok Sabha twice from **Islamabad Parliamentary Constituency**.
- iii. He was the 19th Governor of Madhya Pradesh and served as the governor of Bihar as well and was appointed as Jammu And Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Limited president twice.

Eminent painter, writer and art historian Dinanath Pathy passed away

- i. **Eminent painter, writer and art historian Dinanath Pathy passed away** following a cardiac arrest at a hospital in Bhubaneshar and he was 74.
- ii. State Visualiser for Government of Orissa for major national and international exhibitions including Kalinga Bali Yatra, Festival in BaH, Indonesia (1993). **Designer, Curator and Commissioner for Festival of India, Exhibition – Indian Popular Art in Sweden and USSR (1987)**.
- iii. It is noted that he is a recipient of **International Award in 98' China Art Exposition and Kalashree Award for Lifetime achievement (AIFACS, 2001)**.

Gene Wilder, the star of comedy classics passed away

- i. **Gene Wilder, the star of comedy classics** such as The Producers and Blazing Saddles, has died at the age 83 from complications from **Alzheimer's disease**.
- ii. Wilder began his career on stage, and made his screen debut in an episode of the **TV series The Play of the Week in 1961. Although his first film role was portraying a hostage** in the 1967 motion picture Bonnie and Clyde.
- iv. Wilder's first major role was as Leopold Bloom in the 1968 film The Producers for which he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. Wilder directed and wrote several of **his own films, including The Woman in Red (1984)**.
- v. After his last contribution to acting in 2003 – a guest role on Will & Grace for which he received an Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actor – Wilder turned his attention to writing. **He produced**

a memoir in 2005, **Kiss Me Like a Stranger: My Search for Love and Art**; a collection of stories, **What Is This Thing Called Love? (2010)**; and the novels **My French Whore (2007)**, **The Woman Who Wouldn't (2008)** and **Something to Remember You By (2013)**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

'Grassroots Innovation' authored by Prof. Anil K. Gupta

- i. A book titled **Grassroots Innovation** was released which was authored by **professor Anil K Gupta** of IIM Ahmedabad.
- ii. The book describes about the people who are silently making contribution in the innovation for the economic development and also for the advancement of society.

Paul releases book on U'khand's development journey

- i. Uttarakhand Governor **K K Paul** released a book titled **Uttarakhand: Fifteen Years of Development** which is narrating the state's journey since its inception in 2000.
- ii. The book was edited by former state chief secretary **R S Tolia**, takes stock of the achievements made and **shortcomings** in the area of development of the state since its inception.
- iii. The book will be an important reference source for policy makers, administrators, academics.

'One Indian Girl': Chetan Bhagat's new novel

- i. The banker-turned-writer **Chetan Bhagat**, announced the title of his upcoming fiction **One Indian Girl** through his twitter handle which was accompanied with a link to a video teaser.
- ii. Bhagat has released on YouTube, which recites about the book **narrated by an Indian girl, Radhika**, who is getting married in a fortnight.

The Ocean of Churn: How the Indian Ocean Shaped Human History authored by Sanjeev Sanyal

- i. A book titled **The Ocean of Churn: How the Indian Ocean Shaped Human History** has hit the news as it is released on 10 August 2016. It is a first-of-its-kind attempt by the author.
- ii. **The Book** authored by **Sanjeev Sanyal** has recounted the history of The Indian Ocean, which stretches across East Africa, the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent to South East Asia and Australia

IMPORTANT DAYS

Aug 1 to Aug 7 2016

Remember Day: World Breast Feeding week

Purpose :To support women to combine breastfeeding and work

Organization:WABA, WHO and UNICEF

Theme: on raising awareness of the links between breastfeeding and the Sustainable Development Goals

Aug 6 2016

Remember Day: Hiroshima Day &Anti Nuclear Day

Purpose :To marks the day when **world's first atom bomb** dropped over the city of Hiroshima.

Organization:Japan

Aug 7 2016

Remember Day: Handloom Day

Purpose :To commemorate the celebration of aesthetics and indigenous talent.

Organization:India

Aug 8 2016

Remember Day: Quit India Movement

Purpose :74th anniversary of Quit India Movement, which was launched by the father of nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Organization: India

Aug 9 2016

Remember Day: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Purpose :To promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.

Organization:UN

Theme: Indigenous Peoples' Right to Education

Remember Day: Nagasaki Day

Purpose :To remember the day whenAtomic bomb dropped on *Nagasaki*

Organization:Japan

Theme:

Aug 10 2016

Remember Day: World Bio-Fuel Day

Purpose :To create awareness about non fossil-fuels (Green Fuels).

Organization:NGO

Aug 11 2016

Remember Day: National Daughter's Day

Purpose :To celebrate women's contribution to family

Organization:India

Aug 12 2016

Remember Day: International Youth Day

Purpose :To promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to the globe.

Organization:UN

Theme: The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Remember Day: World Elephant Day

Purpose :To create awareness of the urgent plight of African and Asian elephants.

Organization:Elephant Reintroduction Foundation

Aug 13 2016

Remember Day: Organ Donation Day

Purpose :To motivate normal human beings to donate the organs

Organization:India

Aug 14 2016

Remember Day: Pakistan's Independence Day

Organization:Pakistan

Aug 15 2016

Remember Day: India's Independence Day

Organization:India

Aug 19 2016

Remember Day: World Photography Day

Purpose:To celebratethe177-year-old journey of photography since 2010

Remember Day: World Humanitarian Day

Purpose:To recognize humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes and honors the workers who made promotion of the humanitarian

cause.

Organization:UN

Theme:One Humanity

Aug 20 2016

Remember Day: Sadbahavana Divas or Harmony Day

Purpose:To commemorate the 72nd birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister of India named Rajiv Gandhi.

Organization: India

Remember Day: World Mosquito Day

Purpose:A commemoration of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans

Aug 23 2016

Remember Day: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

Purpose: To memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.

Organization:UNESCO

Aug 29 2016

Remember Day: International Day against Nuclear Tests

Purpose:To commemorate the decision by Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev to shut the Semipalatinsk Test Site down on August 29, 1991.

Organization: UN

Remember Day: National Sports Day

Purpose:To marks the birthday of the hockey player Dhyan Chand

Organization: India

Aug 30 2016

Remember Day: International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

Purpose:To draw attention to the fate of individuals imprisoned at places and under poor conditions unknown to their relatives and/or legal representatives

Organization:UN

Remember Day: Small Industry Day

Purpose: to present requirements to industry representatives for weapons or vehicles.

Organization: India

AffairsCloud Important Page Links

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GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS!!!

Suggestions are welcomed; Contact us any time at
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