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AUGUST 2016

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Current Affairs August 2016

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

Audience

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

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

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APPOINTMENTS

1. Rani Singh Nair appointed as the Chairperson of CBDT

Rani Singh Nair took over as the new chairperson of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) after Atulesh Jindal, who was appointed CBDT chief in February 2016, retired. Nair, a 1979-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the I-T cadre. She worked as member (Legislation and Computerisation) at CBDT. She will retire on October 31st, 2016.



She is responsible to oversee effective execution of the ambitious one-time domestic black money disclosure programme, also called the Income Declaration Scheme (IDS). IDS is set to close on 30 September.

2. Anant Maheshwari appointed as the President of Microsoft India

Anant Maheshwari has been appointed as the head of Microsoft in India. He will succeed Bhaskar Pramanik. Anant will join on September 1 as President and will take over the operations of the company with effect from January 1, 2017. As president, Maheshwari will be responsible for all of Microsoft's product, service, and support offerings across India.



Prior to this appointment, Maheshwari was President of Honeywell in India. Anant worked with McKinsey & Co. for six years where he worked with clients across multiple industries.

3. Sudhanshu Mani to take charge as the General Manager of Integral Coach Factory

Sudhanshu Mani has been appointed as the General Manager of Integral Coach Factory. Prior to this appointment, he has served as Chief Mechanical Engineer in Rail Wheel Factory of Bengaluru.

He has working experience of 36 years in Indian Railways in various fields of workshop management, railway operations, project management, planning and R&D.

Owned and operated by the Indian Railways, Integral Coach Factory is the only manufacturer of rail coaches located in Chennai, established in 1952.



4. Deepak Iyer appointed as the MD of Mondelez India

Deepak Iyer has been appointed as Managing Director of Mondelez International's India Business and will replace Chandramouli Venkatesan. He will be part of the Asia Pacific Leadership Team and report into Maurizio Brusadelli, EVP & President, Asia Pacific, Mondelez International.

Prior to joining Mondelez, Deepak was Chief Executive and Managing Director at Bharti Axa General Insurance Co. Ltd. Before that, Iyer was CEO and Managing Director of chewing gum maker Wrigley India Pvt Ltd. He worked with PepsiCo Inc. for about 17 years across different roles and in different markets.



5. Bhaskar Khulbe appointed as the Secretary to the Prime Minister

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved appointment of senior IAS officer Bhaskar Khulbe as the secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office.

Mr Khulbe is a 1983 batch IAS officer of West Bengal cadre. He looks after work related to Cabinet Secretariat and thrust areas of the government, among others. His appointment is effective 7th August.



6. CSS Corp appoints Manish Tandon as its new CEO

CSS Corp, a global Technology Support company, has appointed Manish Tandon as its new Chief Executive Officer. He will take over from "Tiger" TG Ramesh.

Manish is an IIT Kanpur alumnus and a Gold Medalist from IIM Bangalore. He has spent nearly two decades at Infosys building, delivering value to global clients across the IT-enabled Services value chain. He is currently the head of Healthcare & Life Sciences, Insurance and High-Tech Manufacturing businesses at Infosys.



7. Youssef Chahed elected as the new Prime Minister of Tunisia

Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi announced Youssef Chahed as the new Prime Minister of the Tunisia, defeating Habib Essid. The announcement came after parliament removed Habib Essid in a vote of no-confidence because of his inability to handle economic reforms and security threat issues.

Prior to this appointment, Youssef Chahed was handling duties minister for local affairs. The parliament took decision to overcome political disputes regarding inefficiency of tackling economic reforms.



8. Vijay Rupani elected as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat

Vijay Rupani took oath as the 16th Chief Minister of Gujarat while Nitin Patel took oath as Deputy Chief Minister in the presence of Governor O P Kohli. Eight Cabinet ministers and 16 other ministers also took oath during the ceremony replacing nine ministers from the Anandiben government.

Rupani is also the third CM of Gujarat to hail from Rajkot, after Ghanshyam Oza and Keshubhai Patel. Mr Rupani replaces Anandiben Patel who resigned as Chief Minister.



9. Sandeep Kumar appointed as the Transport Commissioner of Delhi

Sandeep Kumar, a 1997-batch Indian Administrative Service officer, has been appointed as the Transport Commissioner of Delhi. He has replaced Sanjay Kumar, who was appointed as the commissioner a few months ago. Sandeep will take on the role of the Commissioner as an additional charge. He is also the Managing Director of Delhi Khadi and Village Industries Board.



Sanjay Kumar had been on leave for several weeks before he was divested of the post of commissioner. Before going on leave, Sanjay signed the AAP government's Premium Bus Policy without getting the approval of Delhi LG Najeeb Jung.

10. K M Hanumantharayappa assumes charge as the new Chairman of Central Silk Board

K M Hanumantharayappa has assumed charge as new Chairman of Central Silk Board, Union Ministry of Textiles, for a period of three years. He is the 25th Chairman of the Central Silk Board.

Hanumantharayappa succeeds N S Bissegowda and is a senior political leader from Bharatiya Janata Party. He had served as a Member to the Central Silk Board during 2000-2002 and is the President of Karnataka State Nekarara Horata Samithi and also served as Chairman, Karnataka Silk Marketing Board (KSMB) during 2010-2013. He had been awarded with the 'Best Agriculturist Award' by the Government of Karnataka.



11. Pawan Munjal reappointed as the CMD & CEO of Hero MotoCorp

Hero MotoCorp has reappointed Pawan Munjal as its Chairman, Managing Director, and Chief Executive for a period of five years. Munjal's current tenure comes to an end on September 30, 2016.

The company also elevated its head of operations and supply chain Vikram Kasbekar as a Director on the company's board. Kasbekar has been with the company for close to 14 years. Besides, the company also appointed Neerja Sharma as the Company Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer.



12. Dinesh Kumar Khara appointed as the Managing Director of SBI

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Dinesh Kumar Khara as the Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of three years, extendable by two years after review of his performance. He is presently working as MD and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd.

The ACC has approved appointments of four General Managers as Executive Directors in various banks. 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 and Himanshu Joshi have been appointed as ED of Corporation Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce respectively.



13. Rajeev Krishnan appointed as the Managing Director of Max Hypermarkets India

Rajeev Krishnan has been appointed as the Managing Director of Max Hypermarkets India. He has taken over from Viney Singh who will continue on the board of the company as a Non-Executive Director.

Krishnan has over 29 years of global experience in companies such as Target Brands Inc., Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and McKinsey and Co. Krishnan will guide and direct the strategy of the Hypermarket & Supermarket business of the SPAR brand in India.



14. Takehiko Nakao Re-elected for the Second Term as the ADB President

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Governors has unanimously reelected Takehiko Nakao as President of ADB for a further 5 years beginning on 24 November 2016. Mr. Nakao is the ninth President of ADB. His predecessor was Haruhiko Kuroda.

Prior to joining ADB in 2013, Mr. Nakao was a senior official in the Ministry of Finance, Japan. Mr. Nakao also taught international finance as a Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo in 2010 and 2011.



15. BHEL appoints Akhil Joshi as their Director (Power)

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd has appointed Akhil Joshi as Director (Power). He will be responsible for marketing, erection, commissioning, overall management of power projects and the after-market business for the company.

Mr. Joshi has a diverse experience of over 36 years, working in major segments of BHEL. Prior to this, he was Executive Director (MSX & HR) at BHEL's Power Sector Headquarters in New Delhi. Mr. Akhil Joshi also held various leadership positions in Spares and Services business of Power Sector, Technology Licensing and International Operations divisions of BHEL.



16. Sriram Rajamani appointed as the MD of Microsoft's India lab

Sriram Rajamani has been appointed as the new Managing Director of Microsoft's India lab, based in Bengaluru. He will replace Chandu Thekkath and will spearhead Microsoft India's continued focus on world-class research, innovation and collaboration with the scientific community.

Prior to joining the India lab, Rajamani headed the Software Productivity Tools group within Microsoft's Redmond research lab. He is the co-winner of the CAV (Computer Aided Verification) 2011 award. The Association for



Computing Machinery (ACM) named him as an ACM Fellow in 2016 for his contributions to software analysis and defect detection.

17. D K Gayen takes charge as the new General Manager of the East Central Railway

D K Gayen was appointed as new General Manager of East Central Railway (ECR) replacing Rajeev Mishra. Prior to this appointment, he has been serving as Chief Mechanical Engineer of South Eastern Railway at Kolkata.

A 1979 batch officer of Indian Railway Service for Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), he has worked on several important posts.

ECR includes five divisions Danapur, Dhanbad, Mughalsarai, Samastipur and Sonapur.



18. Sitaraman Shankar appointed as the Network18 Managing Editor

Sitaraman Shankar has been appointed as Managing Editor - Special Projects of Network18. He will work closely with Network18's television news editors in multiple areas, and drive the scaling up of the flagship digital brand Moneycontrol. He will also serve as Group Training Editor and manage the content quality.



He has 22 years of experience in journalism, most of which was with Reuters. His last assignment was with Hindustan Times where he played a variety of roles including that of Deputy Managing Editor and Editor (Views).

19. Birender Singh Yadav appointed as the next HC of India to Ghana

Shri Birender Singh Yadav has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana.

He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. An IFS officer of 1997 batch, Yadav will succeed K. Jeeva Sagar in Ghana.

Presently, he is working as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.



20. Apple rehires Flipboard Co-Founder, Evan Doll, for Health Software Role

Apple Inc. has hired Flipboard co-Founder Evan Doll. He was appointed as Director of health software engineering at Apple in July 2016. Apple wants to get deeply involved in the \$9 trillion global healthcare market. Evan will help Apple develop more health-related software.



He had left Apple to found digital news magazine app Flipboard with Mike McCue. During his previous stint at Apple, from about 2003 to 2009, the software engineer helped develop the iPhone operating system.

21. Cipla names Umang Vohra as the MD & Global CEO

Cipla Ltd announced the appointment of Umang Vohra as the Managing Director & Global Chief Executive Officer of the Company effective September 1, 2016. The current incumbent, Subhanu Saxena will step down from his position on August 31, 2016. Umang joined the company in October 2015 as the Global Chief Financial & Strategy Officer and was elevated as the Global Chief Operating Officer early 2016.



Samina Vaziralli, Executive Director and the Global Head- Strategy, M&A and Cipla New Ventures will be the Executive Vice-Chairman of Cipla effective September 1, 2016.

22. Manjula Chellur appointed as the new Chief Justice of Bombay high court

Manjula Chellur has been transferred as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court. She was earlier Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court. She would be joining Bombay High Court on 24 August. Justice Girish Gupta would be the new Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.



Chief Justice Chellur was the first lady Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court. She had joined the Karnataka Judicial Service as District Judge on 15 April 1988. Ms. Chellur will be only second woman Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, after Sujata Manohar in 1994. She replaces CJ Dhirendra Hiralal Waghela.

23. Saraswat Cooperative Bank appoints Gautam Eknath Thakur as its new Chairman

The Saraswat Co-Operative Bank has appointed Gautam Eknath Thakur as its Chairman. He was unanimously elected by the bank's Board of Directors. Mr. Shashikant Keshav Sakhalkar was also unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

Thakur is credited for contributing majorly in making the cooperative conglomerate achieve the target of Rs 50 thousand crore turn-over. Founded in 1918, the largest co-operative lender currently operates in half a dozen States. It is based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



24. Centre appoints four new Governors

The Union Government has named former Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Najma Heptullah, as the Governor of Manipur, while BJP leader and former Rajya Sabha member V.P. Singh Badnore has been named the new Governor of Punjab.

BJP leader and former Nagpur MP Banwarilal Purohit has been appointed the Governor of Assam while Delhi BJP leader Jagdish Mukhi has been named Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The above appointments will take effect from the dates the incumbents assume charge of their respective offices.



25. Urjit Patel appointed the new Governor of RBI; to assume office on September 5th

Urjit Patel has been appointed as new Governor of Reserve Bank of India. He will succeed Raghuram Rajan. Mr. Patel was a RBI Deputy Governor prior to this elevation. He will assume office as the 24th RBI governor for three years on 5th September, a day after Rajan's term ends.

Mr. Patel is a PhD from Yale University and has worked at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), The Brookings Institution at Washington and the Massachusetts-based Boston Consulting Group.



26. Sunil Mittal re-appointed as the Chairman of Bharti Airtel for the next 5 years

Sunil Bharti Mittal has been re-appointed as the Chairman of Bharti Airtel for another five years, with effect from October 1, 2016. He is the Founder of Bharti Enterprises, one of largest conglomerates in India.

Bharti Airtel offers mobile, fixed broadband and digital TV solutions to over 350 million customers across India, South Asia and Africa. The Group also has joint ventures with global leaders like Singtel, SoftBank, AXA, Del Monte etc.



27. R S Sodhi of Amul India appointed on the board of India Post Payment Banks

R S Sodhi, Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), has been appointed as independent director on the board of India Post Payment Banks (IPPB). GCMMF sells the Amul brand of milk products.

Sodhi is one of the five independent members to be appointed on the board of IPPB. The board will have four in-house representatives. IPPB is set to be operational from March 2017 and plans to become a powerful and effective vehicle of real financial inclusion in the country.



28. Jagdish Mukhi sworn in as Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Jagdish Mukhi was sworn in as the 12th Lieutenant Governor of the union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Mr. Mukhi took over from Lt General A K Singh (Retd) who was appointed in July 2013.

The Senior BJP leader had been a minister and Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly in the past. He was also a professor in Delhi University and has authored a book titled 'Company Law and Secretarial Practice'.



29. Brajendra Navnit and V Sheshadri appointed as Joint Secretaries in PMO

Senior IAS officers Brajendra Navnit and V Sheshadri have been appointed as Joint Secretaries in Prime Minister's Office. They have been working as Director in the PMO. Navnit has been appointed as Joint Secretary till July 2, 2019 whereas Sheshadri will have tenure till August 21, 2018.



Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi and Aramane Giridhar have been appointed as Joint Secretaries in Cabinet Secretariat. Anshu Sinha has been appointed as JS in Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. IRS officer Dilip Sharma has been appointed as Director General in Election Commission of India for three years.

30. Ashok Chawla to take over as YES Bank non-executive chairman

YES Bank has appointed Mr. Ashok Chawla as an Additional Director (Non-Executive) with effect from March 05, 2016. YES BANK has also applied to the RBI to seek approval on the appointment of Mr. Ashok Chawla as the next Non-Executive Chairman of the Bank, upon expiry of term of current Non-Executive Chairperson, Ms. Radha Singh.



Mr. Ashok Chawla was the Chairman of the Competition Commission of India ("CCI"). He has been a distinguished civil servant with over 40 years of experience in various sectors of the economy in India as well as in International Multilateral agencies.

31. Eminent Scientist P D Gupta appointed VC of Homi Bhabha National Institute

The Department of Personnel and Training has appointed eminent scientist P D Gupta as Vice Chancellor of Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI). He has been appointed to the post for five years.

The HBNI is an aided institution of the Department of Atomic Energy and is a deemed to be university under the UGC Act. The institute is dedicated to encourage pursuit of excellence in sciences (including engineering



sciences) and mathematics in a manner that has major significance for the progress of indigenous nuclear technological capability.

32. Nalin Jain appointed as CFO of Volvo Auto

Swedish carmaker, Volvo Auto, has appointed Nalin Jain as the new Chief Financial Officer and Jyoti Malhotra as the Director, Sales, Marketing and PR for India operations. The auto-maker has also appointed Rajeev Chauhan as the Network Director.

Volvo Auto plans to increase sales volume and secure a 10 percent market share in the luxury car segment by 2020, he added. The company is also looking at expanding its dealer network aggressively to Pune, Lucknow and Jaipur by December 2016.



33. Pankaj Harjai appointed head of Lenovo's SMB business

PC maker Lenovo has appointed Pankaj Harjai as the head of its newly constituted Small and Medium Business (SMB) vertical. Pankaj has also taken charge of Lenovo's commercial channel business. He will report to Rahul Agarwal, Managing Director, Lenovo India.

Pankaj has been a part of Lenovo since August 2012. Prior to his appointment into the new role, he was the Sub Regional General Manager for the West Region. In his new role, Pankaj will lead sales, product and go-to-market strategy for the SMB vertical.



34. Sharmila Tagore appointed as a new member of the BCCC with two others

Sharmila Tagore has been appointed as the new member of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC), the self-regulatory body which hears complaints against TV content. The other two new members to have been appointed are theatre activist Arundhati Nag and film studies academician Ira Bhaskar.

They have been appointed for a term of three years in the eminent persons' category in place. They have replaced the outgoing



members - retired IAS officer Bhaskar Ghose, actor Shabana Azmi and journalist Vir Sanghvi.

35. Punit Misra named CEO of Zee Entertainment domestic broadcast biz

Zee Entertainment Enterprises has appointed Punit Misra as Chief Executive Officer for its domestic broadcast business with effect from October 1. He will report to Zee Entertainment Enterprises Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Punit Goenka.



Prior to this appointment, Misra was Executive Director-Sales and Customer Development at Hindustan Unilever and joined HUL as a management trainee in 1996. He had several stints in leadership roles across customer development, brand building, brand development and general management.

36. Mukesh Mehta appointed as President of India Bullion and Jewelers Association

Mukesh Mehta has been appointed president of India Bullion and Jewelers Association (IBJA) for the tenure 2016- 2021. Mehta replaced Mohit Kamboj, who resigned from the post.

Mehta is the Director of Mark Bangles Pvt Ltd, Mumbai. He has been the member of the IBJA Board since the last four years. He has also served on various committees in the last four years. IBJA is a 97-year-old apex organization representing bullion dealers and jewelers.



37. SN Subrahmanyan to be the next Larsen & Toubro chief

Larsen & Toubro's Group Executive Chairman AM Naik named S N Subrahmanyan as his successor with effect from October 1, 2017.

Subrahmanyan will be elevated as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. He is currently the Deputy Managing Director and President. Before that he held the post of senior executive vice-president and had been on the board since 2011.

Mr. Subrahmanyan has been Construction Week magazine's 'Infrastructure Person of the



Year – 2012'. He has also been voted the 'Construction World – Man of the Year 2015' by Construction World magazine.

38. Amit Chandra appointed non-executive director of Tata Sons

Amit Chandra, Managing Director, Bain Capital, has been appointed as a non-executive director of Tata Sons with effect from August 26, 2016. With Mr Chandra's appointment, the Tata Sons board now has 9 directors.

Mr. Chandra joined Bain Capital as managing director in early 2008 and is part of the firm's leadership team in Asia. He is a member of the board of directors of Genpact, L&T Finance, Tata Investment Corporation, Emcure Pharmaceuticals, Akanksha Foundation and GiveIndia. Earlier this year, he was named in the Forbes "Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy" List.



AWARDS

1. Kerala Tourism bags six National Tourism awards

Kerala Tourism walked away with three out of the six National Tourism awards for 2014-15 in the marketing category for states, while it received two more awards, including the one for its Responsible Tourism (RT) initiative in the hilly district of Wayanad.

Kerala and the Spice Routes, a coffee-table book, designed by Stark was a proud winner in the category of Excellence in Publishing in English language. 'The Great Backwaters', a brochure in German language, was adjudged for the award in Foreign Language Segment. The third one came for 'Most Innovative use of Information Technology' — Social Media/ Mobile App.



2. Anita Gopalan wins 2016 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grants

Translator and artist Anita Gopalan has been awarded the 2016 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant for her English translation of Hindi novel "Simsim" by Geet Chaturvedi. The artist will be honored at the 2017 PEN Literary Awards Ceremony in New York in February. She is the second Indian translator to be selected for the grant.

"Simsim" was first published in 2008. It is a lyrical, award-winning novella and recognized for its groundbreaking contribution to contemporary Hindi fiction.



3. IISc bags maximum number of INSA Medals for Young Scientists

Five faculty members of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore have been awarded the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Medal for Young Scientists 2016. IISc bagged the maximum number of awards than any other institute. The winners from IISc this year are: Prabeer Barpanda, Sai Siva Gorthi, Praveen Kumar, Anshu Pandey and Chandan Saha.

The INSA, which started in 1974, annually presents the Young Scientist Award to distinguish young scientists who have made notable research contributions in science and technology.



4. Sonam and Nawazuddin win top awards at IFF Melbourne

Sonam Kapoor and Nawazuddin Siddiqui won the best actress and best actor awards for their performance in "Neerja" and "Raman Raghav 2.0" respectively at the Indian Film Festival (IFF) of Melbourne 2016. The theme for this year 2016 is 'Women Empowerment'. Angry India Goddesses, brought the curtains down for the festival on 21st August.



Winners in other Award categories are:

- Best Film Award – Kapoor & Sons
- Best Indie Film – Thithi
- Best Director – Shakun Batra
- Indian Film Festival Excellence in Cinema Award (lifetime achievement award) – Rishi Kapoor
- Special Diversity Award: Fawad Khan

5. Havildar Hangan Dada honored with Ashok Chakra posthumously

Havildar Hangan Dada has been posthumously honored with Ashok Chakra, the country's highest award for gallantry during peace time on the eve of Independence Day. He belonged to the Assam Regiment/35th Battalion of the Rashtriya Rifles. Dada had shown exemplary courage, devotion and gallantry beyond the call of duty during an encounter with a group of terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.



14 Shaurya Chakras have been awarded this year to armed forces personnel. Of them, seven are honored posthumously. These include Lieutenant Colonel Niranjank of National Security Guards and Corporal Gursevak Singh of Indian Air Force Security who were martyred in the Pathankot operation. 63 personnel have been honored with Sena Medal and 2 each have been given NaoSena Medal and VayuSena Medal.

6. 948 personnel awarded Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day

948 personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the Independence Day this year. President's Police Medal for Gallantry have been awarded to seven personnel and Police Medal for Gallantry have been awarded to 170 personnel.



President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service have been given to 88 personnel and Police Medal for Meritorious Service to 683 personnel. President's Correctional Service Medal for Distinguished Service have been awarded to two personnel and Correctional Service Medal for Meritorious Service have been given to 17 personnel.

7. Music Composer A R Rahman honored with Tamil Ratna Award

The America Tamil Sangam has honored Oscar-winning musician, A.R. Rahman with its Tamil Ratna Award. He was bestowed with the honor after his concert to honor M.S. Subbulakshi, the doyen of Carnatic music, at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) chamber.



The previous recipients of its Ratna award include Tamil movie director Bharathi Raja; Bharatha Natyam exponent Kamala Lakshman; Srinivasa Varadhan, the winner of the Abel Prize for mathematics etc.

8. UP announces Rani Laxmi Bai award for Sakshi Malik

The Uttar Pradesh government has announced to honor Sakshi Malik for her bronze medal win at the Rio Olympics with the coveted Rani Laxmi Bai award. She became the first woman Indian wrestler to win a medal in Rio Olympics.



The Rani Laxmi Bai award carries a cash prize of Rs 3.11 lakh, a citation and a statue of Rani Laxmi Bai and is given to meritorious sportspersons who excel at national/international level.

9. Hindi author Sunita Jain conferred 25th Vyas Samman award 2015

Renowned Hindi scholar and writer Sunita Jain's poetry collection Kshama has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman 2015. She was conferred the award by West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi. The book "Kshama" was published in 2008.



The award instituted by the K K Birla Foundation carries a cash prize of Rs 2.50 lakh. It is given annually to outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen. The author who was awarded the Padma Shri in 2004 writes in both English and Hindi and has over 100 books to her credit.

10. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma to be conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award

Santoor maestro Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma will be conferred upon with the annual Sangeet Martand Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award by the Sursagar Society of Dilli Gharana. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000, a memento and a citation.

Shivkumar is the recipient of various awards like the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986, the Padma Shri in 1991 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001. He is believed to be the first musician to have played Indian classical music on the Santoor, a folk instrument from the state of Jammu and Kashmir.



11. BEL head bags top award

Mr. S K Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), has been awarded as the Most Enterprising CEO in Electronics Sector by the Indo Global Business Council (IGBC), a policy think tank based in New Delhi.

BEL is a government-owned aerospace and defence company. It primarily manufactures advanced electronic products for the Indian Armed Forces. BEL is one of nine PSUs under the Ministry of Defence of India. It has been accorded Navratna status by the Government of India.



12. Indian-American Renu Khator inducted in the Texas Women's Hall of Fame

Indian origin, Renu Khator has been inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. She is the chancellor of the University of Houston System and president of the University of Houston. She is the first Indian-American to lead a major research university in the US.

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. The Texas Women's Hall of Fame honors native or current Texas residents, living or deceased, who have made significant contributions to the state.



13. Andhra Pradesh announced a reward of Rs. 3 crores cash prize to PV Sindhu

The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced a cash reward of 3 crore rupees for badminton player PV Sindhu who has created history by becoming the first ever Indian woman to win silver in badminton at the Olympics.

A reward of 50 lakh rupees was announced for Indian badminton chief coach Pullela Gopichand as well. The Cabinet also decided to offer a Group-A job in State services to Sindhu.

The reward was announced by the state Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.



14. CLRI Scientist P Shanmugam honored with A P J Abdul Kalam award

Central Leather Research Institute's Principal Scientist P Shanmugam was honored with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award for meritorious services in the Higher Education Department of Tamil Nadu.

On the occasion of 70th Independence Day celebrations held at Fort St George, Scientist P Shanmugam was presented with a certificate, Rs five lakh cheque and eight gram gold medal by Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.



15. Shubha Mudgal to be honored with Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award

Veteran Indian classical musical singer Shubha Mudgal will be honored with the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award for her outstanding contribution in classical singing. The award ceremony to be held at an event on August 20 at Jawahar Bhawan auditorium. The singer will be presented a citation and cash award of Rs 10 lakh.

The award is given on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister. This will be the 23rd edition of the award.



16. Kamal Hassan to receive France's Chevalier de L'Ordre Arts et Lettres

Actor Kamal Hassan 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. The Order is part of France's premier award, the Legion of Honor.



The award is recognition of significant contributions to the arts, literature, or the propagation of these fields. Other Indians who have been conferred the Chevalier Order include veteran musician Balamuralikrishna, and actors like Sivaji Ganesan, Amitabh Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai, Nandita Das and Shah Rukh Khan.

17. IOA Chief N Ramachandran honored with the Olympic Order award

President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA), N. Ramachandran, has been awarded the Olympic Order for his outstanding services to the Olympic movement.

He was presented the award by the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Thomas Bach.



Ramachandran was elected President of the IOA in February 2014. He is the second sports administrator from Tamil Nadu to receive the award after the late B.S. Adityan, a former IOA president, in 1995.

18. Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami selected for the Asian Filmmaker Award posthumously

Late Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami has been selected for the Asian Filmmaker of the Year Award at the 21st Busan International Film Festival. Kiarostami passed away on July 4 at the age of 76 years.



The Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) gives the Asian Filmmaker of the Year Award to Asian cineastes or organisations that have shown the most outstanding contribution to developing the Asian film industry and culture.

19. Telangana Aarogyasri Trust bags FICCI award

The GPS enabled mobile app of the Telangana Aarogyasri Healthcare Trust bagged Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)'s healthcare excellence award for 2016. The app has already been awarded with the 'Elite Smart Healthcare Conclave' for being the most important mobile app in the nation.

The app enables any patient to locate the network hospital within 10 km radius through a map. It will also show the nearest route to the hospitals networked under Healthcare Trust.



20. G Satheesh Reddy conferred first IEI-IEEE Award 2015

The Institution of Engineers (India) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Asia Pacific region, during the latter's 50th anniversary presented the G. Satheesh Reddy with the first IEI-IEEE Award for engineering excellence 2015 in recognition of his 'significant national contributions towards missiles and aerospace technologies'.



G Satheesh Reddy is a renowned aerospace and navigation scientist and the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and DRDO's DG (Missiles & Strategic Systems). As director of DRDO's Research Centre Imarat, he led the indigenous development of denied sensor and avionics technologies related to Indian missile navigation and other programmes.

21. Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award to be conferred to Silvanus Dungdung

Former Olympian Silvanus Dungdung of Jharkhand will be conferred with the Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award. Dungdung will be honored by President Pranab Mukherjee on 29th August with Rs five lakhs as reward and a citation.



Dungdung is referred to as the "Ironman of Hockey". He was a member of the gold medal winning Indian hockey contingent in Moscow Olympics 1980. Dhyan Chand was an Indian field hockey player, who is considered as one of the greatest field hockey players of all time.

22. Lalita Babar and Shardul Gagare to be awarded with SJAM awards

Maharashtra's sixth Chess GM Shardul Gagare, and steeplechase specialist Lalita Babar have been chosen for the Sports Journalists Association of Mumbai's (SJAM) Golden Jubilee Annual Awards 2016. Gagare will receive the Sportsman of the year award while Lalita will receive the Sportswoman of the year award.



Other notable awardees include:

- **Ajinkya Rahane** - International Cricketer of the Year award
- **Rohit Sharma** - special award for making the highest ODI score at Kolkata in 2014
- **Shardul Thakur** and **Shreyas Iyer** - Ranji Trophy Cricketer of the year award
- **Mumbai Cricket Association** - Team of the year award

23. Shri Pranab Mukherjee awards Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee awarded the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award to Shri Harbhajan Singh, IG, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), in recognition of his life time contribution in the field of mountaineering. Shri Harbhajan Singh is 12th Himveer of the ITBP to be awarded with this respected adventure honour.



Shri Singh participated in 3 successful Mt. Everest Expeditions of ITBP. He also led 16 Indian and International level expeditions and has climbed and unfurled National Flag on different mountain peaks, to become one of the accomplished mountaineers of the Country.

24. Padma Sachdev gets Saraswati Samman for 2015

Eminent author Padma Sachdev was awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman for the year 2015 for her autobiography 'Chitt-Chete' in Dogri language. The award carries a sum of Rs 15 lakh besides a citation and a plaque. The award is given every year for an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen, published during the last 10 years.



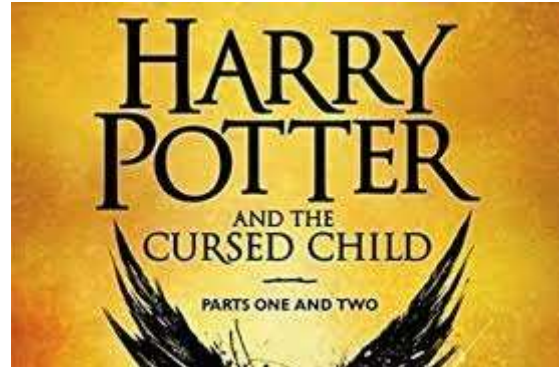
Sachdev, the first women poet in Dogri language, is a recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award for her poetry book 'Meri Kavita Mere Geet.' She has 60 books to her credit and recited poems in several regional languages.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

1. Harry Potter and the Cursed Child book launched

The book based on the script of the play 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' launched globally. The book is JK Rowling's eighth Harry Potter story written along with Jack Thorne and John Tiffany. Thorne scripted the two-part play based on the original story, which begins 19 years after 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows', which was published in 2007.

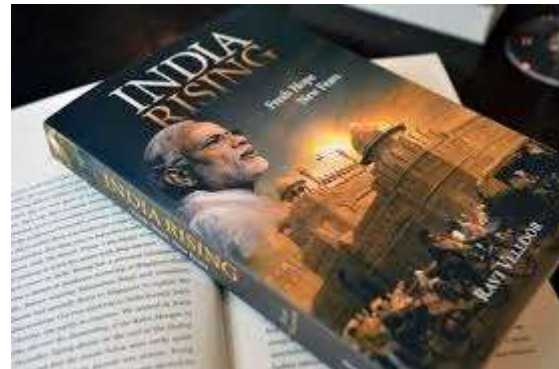
It is the fastest-selling book for almost a decade. Nielsen Bookscan figures show 211,898 copies sold for a value of \$5.49m in the first week of sales.



2. “India Rising: Fresh Hope, New Fears” authored by Ravi Velloor

A book titled **India Rising: Fresh Hope, New Fears** authored by Ravi Velloor was released in April 2016 by Singapore Emeritus Senior Minister (ESM) Goh Chok Tong. The book describes key aspects of the country's development in the last 10 years under former India Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, expressing fresh hopes but also new fears under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ravi Velloor is an associate editor of the renowned Singapore based newspaper –The Straits Times.



3. R D Burmania: Panchamemoirs authored by Chaitanya Padukone released

Eminent showbiz journalist and Dadasaheb Phalke Academy Award recipient Chaitanya Padukone's book titled R D Burmania: Panchamemoirs was released in July 2016. This Memoirs also features exclusive tributes to Panchamda from illustrious luminaries like Amitabh Bachchan, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Rishi Kapoor, A.R. Rahman etc.



The book depicts the journey of the late legendary musician Rahul Dev Burman, whose cabaret tunes still reverberate at pubs and discotheques. The author-film journalist began his career with an interview of Burman.

4. President of India receives a copy of book 'Grassroots Innovation'

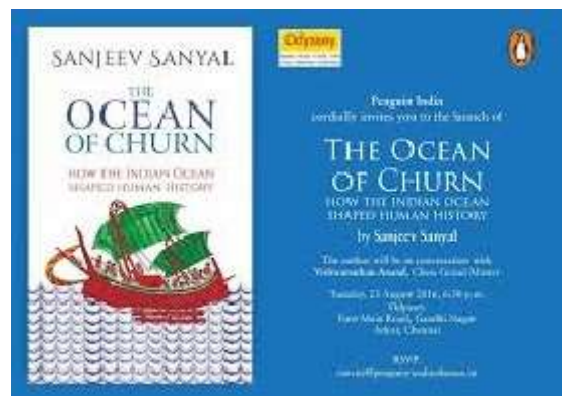
The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received a copy of book 'Grassroots Innovation' authored by Prof. Anil K. Gupta of IIM Ahmedabad who is also the Vice Chairman, National Innovation Foundation at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



The President stated that Dr. Gupta's book was about stories of extraordinary men and women who are silently contributing in the innovation movement for the economic development and advancement of society. The President said that the Government should provide institutional support to the grass root innovators.

5. The Ocean of Churn: How the Indian Ocean Shaped Human History authored by Sanjeev Sanyal

The book titled "The Ocean of Churn: How the Indian Ocean Shaped Human History" authored by Sanjeev Sanyal was released on 10 August 2016. The Ocean of Churn narrates about the earliest human migrations out of Africa and the great cities of Angkor and Vijayanagar, medieval Arab empires and Chinese treasure fleets, the rivalries of European colonial powers and a new dawn.



The book offers exciting revelation while exploring remote archaeological sites, ancient inscriptions, maritime trading networks and half-forgotten oral histories.

6. Vice President releases the book 'Patriots, Poets and Prisoners: Selections from Ramananda Chatterjee's The Modern Review, 1907-1947'

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari released the book 'Patriots, Poets and Prisoners: Selections from Ramananda Chatterjee's The Modern Review, 1907-1947' edited by Shri Anikendra Sen, Shri Devangshu Datta and Ms. Nilanjana S. Roy.

The Vice President congratulated the editors for the selection undertaken, and the publisher for bringing this anthology to the notice of the present generation of citizens. It was founded in 1907 by the visionary Bengali thinker and reformist, Ramananda Chatterjee.



COMMITTEES

1. Govt to set up a committee to review e-commerce rules

The government has decided to set up a committee to be headed by the NITI Aayog CEO Mr. Amitabh Kant to look into all issues including foreign direct investment norms pertaining to the fast growing e-commerce industry in the country.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has allowed 100 per cent FDI through the automatic route in the marketplace format of e-commerce retailing in March 2016.

However, FDI has not been permitted in the inventory-based model of e-commerce.



2. CBDT constitutes new committee to review media policy

The 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.

The nine-member committee is headed by Gopal Mukherjee. The committee has been asked to submit its report to the policy-making body of the I-T department by September 30. Under the current scheme of things, a commissioner rank officer of the department



officials as the spokesperson of the CBDT who is tasked to interact with media persons.

3. Shashi Shekhar Committee on World Culture Festival of AOL submitted report to NGT

A seven-member committee of experts headed by Shashi Shekhar submitted its report to National Green Tribunal (NGT). The panel was appointed by the NGT to assess the damage caused to the Yamuna floodplain in Delhi where the World Culture Festival of the Art of Living was held in march 2015.



The committee has reported that the "entire floodplain area used for the main event site" has been "completely destroyed" causing "invisible loss of biodiversity" that "may never be able to return".

4. Abhinav Bindra to Head NRAI Review Committee on Rio Debacle

India's first and only individual Olympic gold-medallist Abhinav Bindra was named Chairman of a five-member review committee to probe the shooters' Rio Games debacle. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) said the mandate of the committee is to examine and identify the causes behind shooting not securing any medals at the Rio Olympics.



Other members of the committee include former tennis player Manisha Malhotra, who has also been appointed Convener of the committee, NRAI Secretary Rajiv Bhatia and two journalists. The NRAI Review Committee has been asked to submit its report within a maximum period of four weeks.

5. Sports Ministry constitutes panel to inquire into athlete OP Jaisha's allegations

Sports Ministry has constituted a two-member committee consisting of Shri Onkar Kedia, Joint Secretary (Sports) and Shri Vivek Narayan, Director (Sports) to inquire into the allegations of Marathon runner O.P. Jaisha. The committee will submit its report in seven days.



According to media reports, Jaisha collapsed at the end of the marathon run in Rio Olympics 2016, as there were no Indian officials present to provide her water and energy drinks at refreshment points.

6. PM announces Task Force to prepare action Plan for next three Olympics Games

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced that a Task Force will be set up to prepare a comprehensive action plan for effective participation of Indian sports persons in the next three Olympic games 2020, 2024 and 2028.

The Task Force will prepare overall strategy for sports facility, training, selection procedure and other related matters. The Task Force will comprise of members who are in house experts as well as those from outside.



7. Union Government constitutes Committee to suggest steps to promote card payments

The Finance Ministry has set up a high-level committee to suggest steps to promote card payments through incentives like tax rebates and cash back schemes with an aim to discourage cash transactions. The committee will review the payments system in the country and recommend measures for encouraging digital payments.

The 11-member committee will be headed by former Finance Secretary Ratan P Watal. The Committee will submit its report in one year. Its member will include former RBI Deputy Governor H R Khan, Chairman of Indian Banks Association, President of Nasscom and CBDT Chairperson.



8. Madhukar Gupta Committee on border protection submits report to MHA

The Madhukar Gupta Committee on border protection has submitted its report to the Home Minister Rajnath Singh. The Committee headed by former Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta was appointed in April 2016 for strengthening border protection and addressing the issue of gaps and vulnerability in border fencing along Indo-Pakistan Border.



The panel has made a detailed study on threat perception, field visits and made a detailed recommendations pertaining to strengthening of border protection on Indo-Pakistan Border.

9. Najeeb Jung appoints 3-member panel to examine 400 files submitted to him by AAP Govt

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung has set up a three-member committee to examine irregularities in the files submitted to him by the AAP government, after the Judgement of Delhi High Court. About 400 files have been received for ex-post facto approval of the Lt. Governor.



The committee will comprise former Comptroller and Auditor General V K Shunglu, Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami and Chief Vigilance Commissioner Pradeep Kumar. The committee will examine the role of public functionaries and fix responsibility. The Committee has been asked to submit its interim reports and recommendations within six weeks.

DEATHS

1. Indian-American Professor Emeritus Braj B Kachru died

Noted Indian American linguist and Jubilee Professor Emeritus of Linguistics, faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois, Braj B. Kachru, passed away in Urbana at the age of 84 years.

In 1987, Kachru was awarded Duke of Edinburgh Award. He was named Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Illinois in 1992. In 1998, he became the Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund Visiting Professor at Hong Kong University. His notable works include 'The Alchemy of English: The Spread, Functions and Models of Non-native Englishes,' and 'The Indianization of English: The English Language in India.'



2. Veteran Tamil Director 'Vietnam Veedu' Sundaram passed away

Veteran Tamil Director and script writer Vietnam Veedu Sundaram passed away at the age of 73 years. Vietnam Veedu became part of his name after he wrote the script for the film, starring Sivaji Ganesan.

He was involved in over 300 films in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi. Sundaram also acted in a few movies, besides directing and acting in a lot of tele-serials. He had been a recipient of different awards.



3. Australia's Bernard "Midget" Farrelly, Surfing's first world champion, passed away

Australia's Bernard "Midget" Farrelly passed away at the age of 71 years. He won surfing's first world championship in 1964 at Manly. At just 17, he became the first Australian to win a surfing major at the unofficial world championships in Makaha, Hawaii.

He was inducted into the Australia Sports Hall of Fame in 1985. He appeared in several surfing movies, and produced two books - A Surfing Life and How to Surf.



4. Nobel Prize-winning Egyptian Chemist Ahmed Zewail passed away

The Egyptian-born Nobel-winning scientist Ahmed Zewail passed away in the United States of America at the age of 70 years. Mr Zewail won the Nobel Chemistry Prize in 1999 for his pioneering work in femtochemistry, the study of chemical reactions in ultra-short time scales.

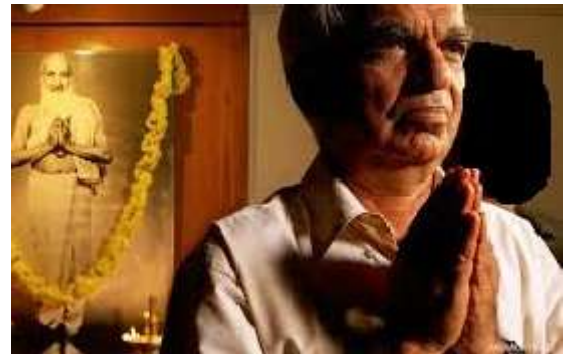
A professor at the California Institute of Technology, he was a Science Advisor to President Obama and the first Arab Scientist to win the Nobel Prize.



5. Yoga guru TKV Desikachar passed away

Yoga guru T.K.V. Desikachar passed away at the age of 78 years. He was one of the world's renowned yoga gurus and a source of inspiration for all the teachers at Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram (KYM) trust he founded. His father, T. Krishnamacharya, was often referred to as "The Father of Modern Yoga".

T.K.V. Desikachar was known for transforming the way yoga was practiced and turned it into both a wellness concept and a therapy.



6. Kalikho Pul, former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, dies

Former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Kalikho Pul allegedly hanged himself in the official residence on 9th of August. He was 47 years old.

Mr. Pul held the CM's post for about five months and left office last month after a Supreme Court ruling ordered removal of his government. He belonged to Kaman Mishmi ethnic group. From 2003 until 2007, he served as the State Finance Minister in the ministry of Chief Minister Gegong Apang.



7. Veteran Assamese Sahitya Akademi winner Mahim Bora passed away

Eminent Assamese short story writer and a poet, Mahim Bora died at age of 92 due to old age related health issues. Bora was honored with Sahitya Akademi award for his most popular work Edhani Mahir Hanhi in 2001 and Padma Shri in 2011. He also received the Assam Valley Literary award in 1998.

Some of his best known works include 'Kathanibari Ghat', 'Bohubhuji Tribhuj', 'Top', 'Tinir Tini Gol' etc.



8. Tamil actress Jyothilakshmi passed away

Veteran actress Jyothilakshmi, famous for playing the 'bad girl' in the '70s, passed away at the age of 63 years due to cancer. She earned fame by doing dance numbers and negative roles.

Jyothi starred in over 300 southern films, Telugu and Tamil films such as "Pilla Pidagu", "Bangara Babu" and "Gandharva Kanya". She made her film debut, starring in T.R. Ramanna's Tamil film 'Periya Idathu Penn'. Her last on-screen appearance was in last year's Tamil adult comedy "Trisha Illana Nayanthara".



9. Veteran writer-producer Panchu Arunachalam passed away

Veteran Tamil film producer, script and screenplay writer and lyricist Panchu Arunachalam passed away at the age of 75 years due to age related ailments.

He is popular for writing over 100 Tamil films, including hits like Murattu Kaalai, Sakalakala Vallavan and Apoorva Sagodhargal. He worked together with Rajinikanth in 23 films and that with Kamal Hassan in 13 films. He also introduced music maestro Ilayaraja. A critically-acclaimed documentary on Panchu called 'A Creator with Midas Touch' was released.



10. Legendary Pakistani batsman Hanif Mohammad passed away

Legendary Pakistani batsman Hanif Mohammad passed away at the Aga Khan Hospital due to lung cancer at the age of 81 years.

Popularly known as the 'Little Master', he played 55 Test matches for Pakistan and hit twelve hundreds. He was one of Pakistan's early cricketers who played an integral role in the country achieving Test status. Hanif was named as Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1968.



11. Eminent Lyricist Na Muthukumar passed away

Eminent Tamil lyricist Na Muthukumar passed away in Chennai due to jaundice at the age of 41 years. He wrote around 1,000 songs and holds a special record for writing 103 songs in 2012.

He had won two national awards for his lyrics "Anandha Yazhai Meetukirazh" in the film "Thanga Meenkazh" and "Azhagae Azhagae" in the film "Saivam". Some of his other popular songs include Suttum Vizhi, Devathaiyai Kandaen, Mun Andhi and Venillave.



12. Former DMK leader S.P. Sarguna Pandian passed away

Former DMK Minister S.P Sarguna Pandian passed away at the age of 75 years. She held the post of deputy general secretary of DMK party for the last ten years. She was elected to the Assembly from the R.K. Nagar constituency in 1989 and again in 1996. She also held the portfolio of Social Welfare Ministry between 1996 and 2001.

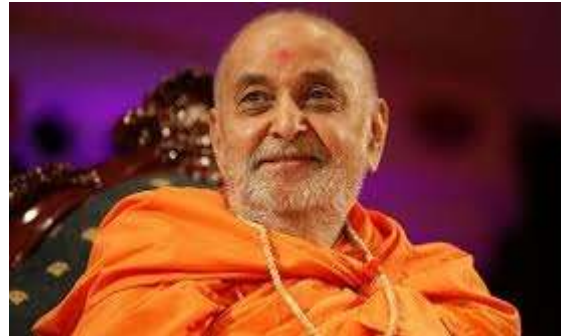
She contested against Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in the Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar constituency in the recently held Assembly elections but lost it.



13. Akshardham founder Pramukh Swami died

Founder of Akshardham temples and a saint of the Swaminarayan sect, Pramukh Swami, passed away at the age of 95 years. He was President of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, an international Hindu socio-spiritual organization.

He built more than 1,100 Hindu temples, including the Swaminarayan Akshardham temples in New Delhi and Gandhinagar, Gujarat. On 20 July 2012, Pramukh Swami had declared that Mahant Swami Maharaj would succeed him as the sixth guru and spiritual head of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha.



14. Former Chief Secretary Sudhanshu Mishra passed away

Former Chief Secretary of Odisha Sudhanshu Bhusan Mishra passed away due to cancer at the age of 77 years.

The former IAS officer was the Chief Secretary of Odisha from 1995-1999. He was also a member of the Indian Red Cross Society-Odisha State Branch Working Committee. Mishra retired as Member, Board of Revenue and later served as Chairman of National Council of Teacher Education, Eastern Region.



15. Popular Malayalam script writer TA Rasaq passed away

Noted Malayalam script writer T A Rasaq passed away at the age of 58 years due to liver related ailments. He was born at Kondotty in Malappuram district.

Rasaq who worked for more than thirty Malayalam films. He won the state film award for best screenplay and story in 1996 for the film 'Kanakkinavu'. He also won state film awards for best stories in 2002 and 2004 for the films 'Ayirathil Oruvan' and 'Perumazhakkalam' respectively.



16. Noted Actor and Director Gobind Tej passes away

Noted Odia actor and director Gobind Tej passed away at the age of 88 years.

He received the Odisha State Film Award for Best Director for movies like 'Kaberi', 'School Master', 'Tunda Baida' and 'Gare Sindura Dhare Luha.' In 1977, he received the Odisha State Film Award for Best Actor for his remarkable acting in the movie 'Bandhu Mohanty'. He was also conferred the 'Jaydev Award', the highest cine award in the state, in 1986 for his lifelong contribution to the growth and development of Odia cinema.



17. Love Story director Arthur Hiller is dead

Arthur Hiller, the director of popular movies like Love Story, The Out-of-Towners, The In-Laws, The Hospital, passed away at the age of 92 years.

He served as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president between 1993 and 1997. He received the Academy's Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for his lifetime of charitable efforts in 2002. He directed more than 30 features in all manner of genres. He was president of the Directors Guild of America from 1989-93 and the recipient of the guild's prestigious Robert B. Aldrich Achievement Award in 1999.



18. Former international umpire Subrata Banerjee passed away

Former international umpire, Subrata Banerjee, passed away in Kolkata at the age of 71 years. He officiated in men's and women's international matches.

Banerjee enjoyed a 15-year career at the international level, where he officiated in 13 ODIs. Banerjee officiated in 64 first-class matches in an umpiring career spanning 39 years.

He had also served as a television umpire in ODIs and was the reserve umpire in the India-England Test in Mohali in 2001.



19. Delhi Assembly's First Speaker Charti Lal Goel died

Charti Lal Goel, first Speaker of Delhi Assembly and father of Union Minister Vijay Goel, passed away at the age of 89 due to ill health. He was cremated at Nigambodh Ghat.

He was one of the founding members of Bharatiya Jan Sangh and became the first Speaker of Delhi Assembly in 1993 and served in the post till 1998. He has also served as the deputy mayor of Delhi.



20. Famous prominent Punjabi writer Gurdial Singh passed away

World famous Punjabi writer, novelist and short story writer and Jnanpith awardee Gurdial Singh passed away at Bathinda at the age of 83 years. The award-winning Punjabi film, 'Anne Ghore Da Daan' (Alms of the Blind Horse), was also based on his Punjabi novel with the same title.

Gurdial Singh was the recipient of various prestigious awards and honors such as Padma Shri, Jnanpith Award, Sahitya Akademi Award. Earlier this year, Sahitya Akademi announced fellowship for him which is the highest honor of the Akademi.



21. Former FIFA President Joao Havelange passed away

Joao Havelange, who as president of FIFA for two decades, passed away at the age of 100 years. He helped transform soccer's governing body into a multibillion-dollar business.

Havelange expanded the World Cup from 16 to 32 teams and made it one of sport's most important events. He organized six World Cups as FIFA president from 1974 to 1998. He secured lucrative broadcast deals, brought nations into FIFA and created the women's World Cup. He was re-elected president six times, capitalizing on his contact-building across world football.



22. Legendary journalist George E. Curry passed away

Veteran journalist and former Editor-In-Chief of the NNPA News Wire, George E. Curry, passed away at the age of 69 years. Curry mainly reported on racism, poverty and national politics for newspapers. He most recently wrote a syndicated column that ran in more than 200 black-owned newspapers.

Curry's syndicated column was carried in more than 200 African American-owned newspapers. He became the first African-American to be elected president of the American Society of Magazine Editors.



23. Former Singapore President S.R. Nathan passed away

Indian origin former Singapore President S.R. Nathan passed away at the age of 92 years. The State flag on all Government buildings will be flown at half-mast from Aug 23 to Aug 26 as a mark of respect for the former president.

He was the sixth and longest-serving President of Singapore and served two terms from 1999 to 2011. Nathan was succeeded by President Tony Tan Keng Yam. Prior to becoming President, he held key positions in the Singapore Civil Service and also in security, intelligence and foreign affairs.



24. Former Governor Akhlaq Ur Rahman Kidwai passed away

Former Governor, Akhlaq Ur Rahman Kidwai, passed away at the age of 96 years. He was a Rajya Sabha member from 2000 to 2004.

Dr. Kidwai served as Governor of Bihar (twice from from 1979 to 1985 and 1993 to 1998), West Bengal (1998 to 1999) and Haryana (2004 to 2009). He also served as the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission. He was Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University and also been the director of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank. Kidwai was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, for his contribution towards Public Affairs.



25. K K Sreedharan Nair, former editor of Mathrubhumi, passed away

Veteran journalist and former editor of Malayalam daily "Mathrubhumi" K. K. Sreedharan Nair passed away at the age of 86 years following a brief illness. Sreedharan Nair had been part of the Mathrubhumi for over six decades where he worked in various capacities including Chief Sub-Editor, News Editor and Deputy Editor.

He took over as the editor of Mathrubhumi in 1990 and served for 10 years. Sreedharan Nair was selected for the first Kelappaji memorial award instituted by Kerala Mahatmaji Samskarika Vedi in 2010 for his contribution in the field of journalism.



26. Noted painter, writer, art historian Dinanath Pathy passed away

Noted painter, writer and art historian Dinanath Pathy passed away at the age of 74 years. He was a former secretary of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and Bhubaneswar.

He published over 60 books in Odia, English and German languages like Sayonara, Punarnava, Chilika Panire Chhai and Digapandhi Ra Drawing Master. Pathy had received the prestigious international Rietberg Award of Switzerland-based Rietberg Society in 2014 in recognition of his lifetime dedication to the field of art. He was also conferred with the President of India's Silver Plaque and the Orissa Sahitya Akademi Award.



27. Former MP Governor Mohammad Shafi Qureshi passed away

Veteran Congress leader and former Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mohammad Shafi Qureshi passed away in Delhi at the age of 87 years. He was a prominent Muslim politician from Kashmir and the founder of the Congress party in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He was the 19th Governor of Madhya Pradesh. He also served as the Deputy Union Minister of Railways and got elected for Lok Sabha twice from Islamabad Parliamentary Constituency. he was also the governor of Bihar and UP.



DEFENCE

1. Air Marshal NJS Dhillon took over as SASO WAC

Air Marshal NJS Dhillon AVSM took over as Senior Air Staff Officer, Western Air Command, from Air Marshal B Suresh AVSM VM, who assumes appointment of Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel at Air Headquarters.

Air Marshal NJS Dhillon AVSM is a graduate of National Defence Academy, Defence Service Staff College, and National Defence College. He was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force in Dec 81. Prior to his present appointment, he was Air Defence Commander HQ SAC. He was awarded AtiVishishtSeva Medal in the year 2013.



2. INS Satpura Visits Pohnpei, Micronesia

Indian Naval Ship INS Satpura entered Pohnpei, Micronesia on a two-day visit, for an operational turn around, as part of its deployment to the Western Pacific. The current visit, the first ever by an Indian Ship, seeks to further build on the growing bilateral interaction, and underscore the close ties between India and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The ship is enroute to India after participation in Exercise RIMPAC-16, which is the largest multilateral naval exercise in the world, conducted biennially by the US Navy off the Hawaiian Coast.



3. DRDO to conduct Defence Exhibition in Parliament Premises

India's premier research institution DRDO under the Ministry of Defence will organize an exclusive exhibition in the Parliament premises to showcase various defence & technology products developed indigenously in India. The Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Sumitra Mahajan will inaugurate the exhibition on the 3rd of August at the Parliament Library Building.



The 3-day long exhibition will display numerous state-of-the-art defence technologies, products and systems developed by various DRDO laboratories.

4. Air Marshal Neelakantan takes charge of Southern Air command

Air Marshal S Neelakantan took charge as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Air Command. The traditional Guard of Honor was presented to him by the 'Air Warriors.'



He was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force on December 28, 1977, is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Tactics and Combat Development Establishment. He also led the IAF contingent in Congo as part of the UN Mission in 2006-07. He is also a recipient of the presidential awards Yudh Seva Medal and Vayu Sena Medal.

5. Air Marshal B Suresh assumed Appointment of AOP

Air Marshal B Suresh AVSM VM assumed charge as Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel (AOP) at Air Headquarters. A graduate of the 'Rashtriya Indian Military College', Dehradun and 'National Defence Academy' Kharakvasla, the Air Marshal was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force on 13 Dec 1980.



He has held a number of staff appointments that include Joint Director and Director (Air Staff Inspection), Director Operations (Joint Planning), Directing Staff (TACDE) and Senior Air Staff Officer, Western Air Command. He is a recipient of two AOC-in-C's commendations, the 'VayuSena Medal' and the 'AtiVishistSeva Medal'.

6. Indian Warships Visit Port Victoria (26 - 28 august 16)

In a demonstration of India's commitment to its ties with Seychelles and maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, Indian Naval Ships Kolkata, Trikand and Aditya have arrived at Port Victoria on a two-day visit.



During the visit, the IN ships would engage with the Seychelles People Defence Force on professional issues. In addition, calls on senior Government and military authorities, training and technical cooperation measures with Seychelles Coast Guard aimed at strengthening ties and mutual understanding between the two forces, are also planned. The last such deployment was by Indian Naval Ship Trikand in July 2016.

7. Indian Navy forms high level committee to find out extent of Scorpene Submarine data leak

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. The committee will be headed by Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Ashok Kumar.



The Navy has also asked the French Shipbuilder DCNS to launch an urgent investigation. Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba said that Navy will take necessary mitigation measures based on the report of the committee. A massive leak of over 22,400 documents relating to India's Scorpene submarine project was reported by the Australian media.

8. Maiden Annual Joint Disaster Relief Exercise Prakampana inaugurated

Maiden Annual Joint Disaster Relief Exercise "Prakampana", aimed at synchronizing resources and efforts of all agencies involved in disaster management was inaugurated at Visakhapatnam. The three-day long exercise is being conducted by the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in liaison with concerned Centre and State authorities.



Indian Army, Navy and the Air Forces are participating in the exercise. Several dignitaries from various Central and State Government agencies, representatives from PSUs located in Visakhapatnam, Professors, University representatives and experts in the field of disaster management are also participant of the exercise.

ECONOMIC

1. Oracle bought NetSuite for \$9.3 Billion

Oracle has announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire NetSuite, the very first cloud company. The transaction is valued at \$109.00 per share in cash, or approximately \$9.3 billion.



The deal is designed to help Oracle gain market share in the fast-growing cloud computing business. Oracle and NetSuite both offer software applications that help companies automate back end and administrative operations from technology to human resources. Oracle has also acquired companies such as Textura and Opower to increase its competitiveness in the cloud market.

2. MobiKwik to power e-cash payments on 'Food on Track' app

Mobile payments company MobiKwik and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have announced an exclusive partnership to power e-cash payments on IRCTC's e-catering app, Food on Track.



The app allows passengers to book and get food from their preferred restaurants, delivered right at their train coaches. MobiKwik is also powering payments for IRCTC Connect, which allows users to book train tickets instantly. Passengers can pre-order food at over 300+ stations from prominent food chains such as Dominos, Punjab Grill, KFC, IRCTC Food Plaza and others.

3. NTPC commissions 50 MW NP Kunta Ultra Mega Solar Power Project Stage-I

NTPC Ltd has commissioned 50 MW (1X50 MW) capacity of NP Kunta Ultra Mega Solar Photovoltaic Power Project Stage-I at Anantapuramu on 29 July, 2016.



With this the installed capacity of NP Kunta Ultra Mega Solar Power Project Stage-I at Anantapuramu has become 250 MW and that of NTPC Group has become 47,228 MW. The company has set a target of adding 11,900 MW capacity during the current Plan period ending in 2016-17. NTPC aims to build generation capacity of 128 GW by 2032 with a lot more emphasis on renewable energy.

4. Freecharge enters into partnership with PayUbiz

Freecharge has entered into a partnership with the leading payment gateway solution provider, PayUbiz, to further strengthen its merchant base and help consumers move from cash to digital payments. This integration allows Freecharge to tap PayUbiz's more than 10,000 online merchants.



Freecharge will also be able to acquire new customers and gain wider acceptance across categories as a payment option. The Freecharge wallet is currently accepted at over 1,00,000 merchants in India.

5. Country's infrastructure sector grows 5.2% in June

The country's infrastructure sector grew 5.2 per cent in June 2016-the fastest in two months-on the back of double-digit growth in the coal and cement sectors. The eight infrastructure sectors had expanded 3.1% in June last year, and 2.8% in May this year.



According to official data released, coal production surged 12% in June 2016, cement production increased 10.3%, fertilizer production rose 9.8%, and petroleum refinery production expanded 3.5% during the month. Electricity generation grew 8.1%, and steel output rose 2.4% in June. But natural gas output declined 4.5% and crude oil production fell 4.3% in June.

6. Manufacturing sector grows at its fastest pace in four months

Manufacturing sector grew at its fastest pace in four months in July on surge in new orders. The Nikkei Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) - a composite indicator of manufacturing performance - rose to 51.8 in July from 51.7 in June. A reading above 50 points denotes expansion.



Supported by greater demand from both domestic and external markets, new business orders rose at the fastest pace since March. The depreciation of rupee also supported Indian exporters as survey data pointed to the quickest rise in new business from abroad since January.

7. FDI in Aviation Sector

The Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route in Brownfield Airport projects. This move would serve in further developing the domestic aviation infrastructure. Further, FDI limit for Scheduled Air Transport Service, Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline and regional Air Transport Service has been raised from 49% to 100%, with FDI up to 49% permitted under automatic route and FDI beyond 49% through Government approval.



For NRI's, 100% FDI will continue to be allowed under automatic route. However, foreign airlines would continue to be allowed in scheduled and non-scheduled air transport services up to 49% of their paid up capital.

8. Disinvestment target during Financial Year 2015-16

The budget estimate (BE) for disinvestment during the financial year 2015-16 was Rs. 69,500 crores comprising Rs. 41,000 crores from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Rs. 28,500 crores from strategic disinvestment. Against this target, Government has realized Rs.23,997crore (approx) from disinvestment of CPSEs during the year 2015-16.



The budget estimate (BE) for disinvestment during the financial year 2016-17 is Rs. 56,500 crores, comprising Rs. 36,000 crores as disinvestment receipts from CPSEs and Rs. 20,500 crores from strategic disinvestment.

9. Union Government plans to roll out GST from 1st April, 2017

The Union Government is planning to roll-out the goods and services tax (GST) by 1st April, 2017. The government has to get the Bill ratified by at least 16 States in the next one month, then set up a GST council and table the central GST and integrated GST laws in the winter session.



The Finance Ministry is eyeing the Winter Session of Parliament to see through all three pieces of legislation connected with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) – Central GST, State GST, and Inter-State GST.

10. Union Government fixes an inflation target of 4% for five years

The Union Government has notified a consumer inflation target of 4% with a range of plus/minus 2 % for the next five years under the monetary policy framework agreement with the Reserve Bank of India. The government will soon set-up Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to adhere to the target till March 31, 2021.



Several central banks across the globe have adopted the practice of inflation targeting to contain prices using interest rates. They generally target the consumer price inflation.

11. India to impose anti-dumping duty on imports of certain cold-rolled steel products

India will impose anti-dumping duty on imports of certain cold-rolled steel products from four countries - China, Japan, Korea and Ukraine. The DGAD has also recommended anti-dumping duties on hot-rolled flat products from six countries including China, Japan and Korea.

Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), under the Commerce Ministry, in its preliminary findings, has found that 'cold-rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel' has been exported to India from these countries at below-normal value.



12. Zydus acquires derma brand Melgain from Issar Pharma

Zydus Group has acquired Melgain brand from Issar Pharma, a Hyderabad based company, for an undisclosed amount to strengthen its dermatological portfolio. The brand would be marketed in India by Liva Healthcare, a specialty division of the group catering to the dermatological segment

The dermatology market, valued at Rs 6,000 crore, is currently growing at about 14%. Melgain is used for the treatment of Vitiligo, a chronic skin condition characterised by portions of the skin losing their pigment.



13. Vodafone signs multi-million-dollar IT deal with IBM for 5 years

Vodafone India Ltd renewed a multi-million-dollar agreement with International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) for another five years to manage information technology (IT) services support for its infrastructure and applications. IBM will support Vodafone India's IT environment transition into IBM hybrid cloud.

This agreement builds on the existing eight-year relationship between the two organisations. The companies did not disclose the financial terms of the deal. However, research firm Greyhound Research put the value in the range of \$750-\$850 million and expected to cross \$1 billion by 2023.



14. Apple Buys a Machine-Learning Startup for a Reported \$200 Million

Apple has bought a machine-learning startup called Turi for an undisclosed amount. However, technology news website GeekWire pegged the purchase price at \$200 million.

Turi specialises in enabling developers to imbue software applications with artificial intelligence, so the apps learn to think more the way people do. Apple has been stepping up its artificial intelligence efforts to compete against rival services from Amazon, Google and Microsoft. Apple last year bought another AI-related company called Perceptio and a British firm called VocalIQ.



15. HDFC Life to Merge Max Life

The board of HDFC approved the merger of Max Life and Max Financial Services with its insurance arm HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company in an all-stock deal to create India's top private life insurer valued at nearly \$10 billion (around Rs 65,000 crore).

The total premium of the merged entity is expected to be nearly Rs 26,000 crore and assets under management will top Rs 1 lakh crore. The companies expect the merger to be completed within 12 months.



16. State-run MSTC joins hands with Mahindra INTERTRADE

State-run MSTC has entered into a partnership with Mahindra Intertrade, a part of Mahindra Group, to set-up country's first integrated auto recycling facility. The facility will have the first-of-its-kind Greenfield auto shredding and recycling capability to dispose of end of live vehicles.

Currently, the partners have shortlisted Gujarat and Maharashtra as plausible locations for the first integrated facility. The government's vehicle scrap policy will be implemented from April 2017.



17. Job portal Monster acquired for USD 429 million by Randstad Holdings

Popular job portal, Monster Worldwide, will be acquired by Randstad Holding for a total purchase price of around \$429 million in cash. Randstad Holding is an Amsterdam-based human resource services provider.

Randstad is bidding \$3.40 in cash per Monster share, a 23% premium to Monster's closing price on 8th of August. The bid follows Randstad's \$100 million purchase of US startup RiseSmart in the US in September 2015.

Randstad was advised on the deal by Wells Fargo and Jones Day acted as legal adviser.



18. Banned Ponzi schemes not under regulatory purview of SEBI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) denied any regulatory purview over ponzi schemes and clarified that only the state governments concerned can control them. The ponzi schemes are banned under Chit Fund and Money Circulation (Banning) Act 1978.

This announcement was made after the apex court had asked government and SEBI about measures undertaken by them to check the menace of ponzi schemes while hearing a PIL filed by NGO 'Humanity Salt Lake' alleging inaction on the part of the government in regulating chit funds (Ponzi schemes) which has resulted in multiple scams across country.



19. Direct tax collection goes up by 24 % during April to July

Direct tax collection has gone up by 24 per cent to 1.59 lakh crore rupees during the April to July period of the current financial year. Finance Ministry in a release said, the collection up to July indicates that 18.82 per cent of the Annual Budget target of direct taxes has been achieved in the first four months of the current fiscal.

Personal income tax collection grew 31.4 per cent while corporate taxes registered an increase of 11.65 per cent.



20. Centre Allocated Rs. 675.86 crore for Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure in 2015-16

About 37371 Godown Projects Sanctioned for Renovation/ Construction under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) Scheme up to 30th June 2016. The Government is implementing capital investment subsidy sub-scheme "Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)" of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) scheme.



Under this scheme, capital investment subsidy @ 25% of the capital cost for general category beneficiary and @33.33% for special category beneficiary is provided for construction/creation of scientific godowns and other marketing infrastructure in the country.

However, the assistance for renovation is restricted to storage infrastructure projects of cooperatives only.

21. Indirect tax collections up 30% to Rs 2.71 lakh crores till July 2016

The Centre's revenue collection has shown an impressive growth in April-July period of this fiscal, with total direct and indirect tax rising to Rs 4.3 lakh crore. Indirect Tax collections rose by 29.9 per cent during the first four months of the current fiscal to about Rs 2.71 lakh crore. Direct tax revenue rose nearly 24.01 per cent to Rs 1.59 lakh crore in April-July.



The government hopes to collect 8.47 lakh crore from Direct Taxes and Rs 7.79 lakh crore from Indirect Taxes, which includes customs, excise and service tax, in current financial year. Personal income tax collection grew 31.47 per cent while corporate taxes registered an increase of 11.65 per cent.

22. IKEA lays foundation for its first store in India at Hyderabad

Swedish furniture major IKEA has begun work on its first retail store in India at Hyderabad. The store will be developed with an investment of about Rs 700 crore with a built-up space of about 4 lakh sq. ft. The first store is expected to be ready by mid-2017.

IKEA aims to set up 25 stores by 2025. The company had earlier indicated at an investment outlay of Rs 10,500 crore.



23. Intel buys Artificial Intelligence startup, Nervana Systems, run by Indian-origin entrepreneur

Intel Corp has acquired a startup, Nervana Systems, run by an Indian-origin Entrepreneur and former Qualcomm researcher Naveen Rao for an undisclosed amount. However, the software giant is expected to have paid more than \$400 million to buy Nervana.

The acquisition gives Intel a definitive head start towards advanced data analytics, computer vision, natural language processing and machine learning. Nervana will help develop Intel's artificial intelligence portfolio and enhance the deep learning performance of Intel Xeon and Intel Xeon Phi processors.



24. Handicraft exports see over 8% increase in 2015-16

India's handicraft exports have increased by more than 8% during the last fiscal touching nearly 31 thousand crore rupees. The exports of handicrafts have shown an increase of 8.46 per cent in rupees' term in 2015-16 as compared to previous year.

A proposal for creation of e-marketing platform under marketing support and service scheme has also been received from export promotion council for handicrafts. This platform will facilitate buyers and sellers to procure and sell as well as to promote products categories both in domestic as well as international markets online.



25. Retail inflation at 2-year high, hits 6.07% in July

Retail inflation rose to nearly 2 years high of 6.07% in July 2016, as prices of food items climbed ahead of the festival season.

Retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index, had stood at 5.77% in June 2016, and 3.69% in July 2015.

Food inflation rose to 8.35% in July, from 7.79% in June. Retail inflation in vegetables was 14.06%, and in pulses 27.53% in July.



26. Manipal Technologies Ltd (MTL) acquired CrossFraud

Manipal Technologies Ltd (MTL) has acquired CrossFraud from the Bengaluru-based Saraansh Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd for an undisclosed amount. MTL is a secure print solution organization whereas CrossFraud is an advanced fraud detection and anti-money laundering solution.

The acquisition comes with four international patents in risk and fraud detection area. Also, CrossFraud is already implemented in two banks in Thailand and six banks in India. The acquisition will help MTL accelerate its business growth.



27. Forex reserve at record high of USD 365.82 billion

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 12th August. Foreign currency assets, a major part of the overall reserves, increased by USD 81.6 million to USD 340.36 billion.

Gold reserves remained unchanged at USD 21.58 billion in the week. India's special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund, however, were down by USD 3.2 million to USD 1.49 billion, while the country's reserve position dipped by USD 5.2 million to USD 2.39 billion.



28. Microsoft acquires gaming startup Beam

Microsoft has acquired Seattle-based interactive livestreaming platform for gamers, Beam for an undisclosed amount. Beam was launched by 18-year-old Matt Salsamendi just 8 months ago. Beam lets gamers crowdsource control of the game so viewers can engage with players in real time.



Post-acquisition, Beam will become part of Microsoft's Xbox team. The move will support Microsoft's growth strategy around Xbox Live, one of the world's most popular social gaming platform.

29. Unilever Plc signed agreement to acquire Swedish firm Blueair

Unilever Plc has acquired Blueair for an undisclosed amount. Launched in 1996 in Stockholm, Blueair is the world's leading supplier of innovative mobile indoor air purification technologies and solutions.

Blueair had a turnover of US\$106m in 2015 and is a leading player in markets like China, US, Japan, South Korea and India. This significant venture in air purification will further complement Unilever's existing water purification business. The founder of Blueair is Bengt Rittri.



30. Reliance Brands inks pact with Scotch & Soda

Reliance Brands announced a long-term master franchise agreement with Amsterdam based fashion brand Scotch & Soda. Reliance Brands is a part of Reliance Industries.

As a part of the agreement, Reliance Brands will set up Scotch & Soda stores in all major cities in India by 2017 through all channels of sale such as ecommerce, travel commerce, and leading multi-brand department stores. Currently, Scotch & Soda has over 160 stores globally.



34. China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation launches operations in India

China's biggest high-speed train and railway equipment maker, China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC), announced that its first joint venture in India has started operations in Haryana.

The joint venture, CRRC Pioneer (India) Electric Company, is expected to manufacture and repair locomotive engines. It has been set up in the Bavo Industrial sector in Haryana. It will also provide technology support to India's rail system, and supply electric transmission systems to oil drilling, wind power generation and mining equipment making in India. Total investment is \$63.4 million and CRRC holds 51% of the share.



35. NLC Ltd to add 6,820 MW of power

NLC Ltd is planning to add over 6,821 megawatt (Mw) of power, with an investment of over Rs 27,740 crore. NLC Ltd is presently operating with a total installed capacity of 3,240 MW.

Projects for addition of around 6,821 MW includes 1,500 MW of coal-based power plants and 3960 MW of Sirkali Thermal Power Project in Sirkali Tamil Nadu. NLC Ltd, earlier known as Neyveli Lignite Corporation is Navaratna company which comes under the Ministry of Coal.



36. TitanX acquired by Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd

Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd, a leading auto-component supplier, declared plans to acquire TitanX, a leading global engine cooling supplier to the global commercial vehicle industry for an unspecified amount. The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

TitanX is currently owned by EQT Opportunity and Fouriertransform. TitanX supplies to Volvo Trucks, Scania, Daimler and Iveco. It has manufacturing plants in Sweden, USA, Mexico, Brazil and China. It has sales of approximately \$ 200 million.



37. Minda Corporation Ltd enters into joint venture with Chinese firm for auto components

Auto component manufacturer Spark Minda group flagship firm, Minda Corporation Ltd enters into a joint venture with China's Shandong Beiqi Hai Hua Automobile Parts Co (SBHAP) and form Minda China Plastic Solutions Ltd, which is going to be a 50:50 joint venture.

The total investment of the joint venture will be \$1.25 million (around Rs 8.35 crore). The total registered capital of the joint venture would be USD 0.5 million.



38. BSNL and Microsoft India join hands for effective connectivity and telecom solutions

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft India to offer telecom and IT solutions for big businesses promoting the demand for IT and cloud services.

The partnership will serve government to government, government to consumer, government to business, and business to business segments. Microsoft won the bid for a request for proposal invited by BSNL from companies that have command over this area, strategic business alliances with popular companies.



39. GAIL partners with Bloom Energy for fuel cell power generation

GAIL (India) Limited and Silicon Valley-based Bloom Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deploy revolutionary natural gas-based fuel cell technology to generate electricity. The state-of-the-art solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC) technology of Bloom Energy Servers convert fuel into electricity using Natural Gas as the base fuel to generate reliable and resilient electricity.

GAIL's subsidiary at Bengaluru is already supplying Natural Gas for energizing a multi-MW Bloom Energy project for a large global technology company at the Technology Park in Bangalore.



40. Govt approves seven FDI proposals to tune of Rs 290 cr

The government has approved seven Foreign Direct Investment, FDI proposals to the tune of 290 crore rupees. According to the Finance Ministry, the decision was taken on the basis of recommendation of Foreign Investment Promotion Board, FIPB. It includes 267 core rupees FDI proposal of Tikona Digital Networks to increase foreign equity to 76.73%.



An application to increase foreign investment in Idea Cellular Infrastructure Services Ltd (ICISL) to up to 67.5% was deferred by the panel.

41. Reliance Cement becomes subsidiary of Birla Corporation Limited

Birla Corporation Limited has completed acquisition of the entire cement business of Anil Ambani-led Reliance Infrastructure by acquiring 100% equity shares of Reliance Cement Company Private Limited (RC|CPL).



In February 2016, Birla Corporation signed a definitive Share Purchase Agreement with Reliance Infrastructure Limited for acquisition of its entire cement business for an enterprise value of Rs. 4,800 crore. The acquisition takes BCL's annual capacity from 10 million tons (MT) to 15.5 million tons.

42. Pfizer enters into definitive merger agreement with Medivation

The US-headquartered pharma major Pfizer Inc will acquire Medivation Inc, a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing and commercializing small molecules for oncology. The definitive merger agreement has been priced at \$81.50 a share in cash for a total enterprise value of approximately \$14 billion.



The merger will give a boost to Pfizer's consolidation effort through a series of acquisitions. The addition of Medivation will strengthen Pfizer's Innovative Health business and accelerate its pathway to a leadership position in oncology.

43. Indian economy to grow 7.9% this fiscal: Goldman Sachs

Global investment bank Goldman Sachs has expected the Indian economy to grow at 7.9% in the current fiscal driven by better monsoon, government pay hike, key reforms and FDI inflows. This compares to a GDP growth forecast of 7-7.5 per cent for 2016-17 in the government's Economic Survey.

However, the bank warned that a faster pace of rate increases by the US Federal Reserve, concerns about Chinese growth and unpredictable capital flows constituted key risks to growth.



44. DIPP to launch awareness campaign on IPR

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

DIPP Secretary Ramesh Abhishek flagged off the IPR awareness campaign to build on the initial momentum created by the pilot road shows conducted by CIPAM in New Delhi.



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

45. Gems, jewelry exports up about 12% in April-July FY'17

Exports of gems and jewelry grew 11.7% to reach 11.4 billion dollars, during the first four months of the current fiscal, driven largely by demand in India's major markets like the US. In April to July period of the last fiscal, exports from the sector were at 10.21 billion dollars.

The rise in April to July was mainly supported by cut and polished diamond exports. It rose to 7.25 billion dollars during the period from 6.89 billion dollars, a year ago. Gems and jewelry contribute about 14% to the country's overall exports.



46. EPFO investments in ETFs to be raised beyond 5%

The Employees' Provident Fund Organization will raise proportion of its investments in exchange traded funds from the present 5% and a final decision on the quantum for current fiscal would be taken very soon.

SBI Mutual Fund and UTI Mutual Fund will manage the corpus of the retirement fund in ETFs. As on July 31, 2016, amount invested in ETF by Employees' Provident Fund Organization is Rs. 7,468 crore and the market value of this as on date is Rs. 8,372 crore, which shows a positive return of 12.10%.



47. Bilateral trade of USA with India reaches USD 109 billion

The bilateral trade of USA with India has reached USD 109 billion in 2015, up from USD 37 billion in 2005. In 2015, US investment in India reached more than USD 28 billion and Indian investment in the United States reached more than USD 11 billion. US affiliates of Indian-owned firms now employ more than 52,000 workers in the US.



India's rapidly growing economy and the government's ambitious reform agenda, including Goods and Services Tax, passage of the recent national bankruptcy law, and liberalised foreign direct investment limits in key sectors, will further deepen economic activity in the years ahead.

48. Carborundum Universal inaugurates R&D centre at Hosur

Murugappa Group firm Carborundum Universal (CUMI) inaugurated its Research and Development centre in its Industrial Ceramics Division facility in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. It will help address CUMI's aspirations to grow in wear-resistant and technical ceramics, including metallized ceramic range of products.



CARBORUNDUM UNIVERSAL LIMITED

It is certified by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India. It will be a Centre of Excellence for research in Technical Ceramics for Industrial & Advanced applications.

49. Amazon launched dedicated online Telugu book store

E-commerce portal Amazon.in announced the launch of a dedicated online Telugu book store. It has a range of over 10,000 titles to choose from. It offers a wide selection ranging from classics, literature, fiction, biographies, business and finance, self-help, cook books and children's books.



Telugu will be the eighth dedicated language book store on Amazon India. Currently Amazon India caters to Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Marathi, Malayalam, Gujarati and Bengali languages.

50. Mahindra unveils DiGiSENSE platform to track vehicle information

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) has launched an App "Mahindra DiGiSENSE". Mahindra vehicle fitted with a communication control unit (CCU) monitors the vehicle's health, performance, location and usage, relays the information to the DigiSense server, from where it is passed on to the owner in the form of an SMS and app alert.



The vehicles with this facility will cost between Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000. With this Mahindra has become the first OEM in India to integrate its product line-up onto a cloud-based technology platform.

ENVIRONMENT

1. WII to house India's first Tiger Repository

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will house the India's first repository on tigers, under its new Tiger Cell in Dehradun. The repository will consist of huge database on tiger conservation and population estimation which has been prepared with collaborated effort with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

The Dehradun-based WII has about 23,000 images of tigers. Y.V. Jhala, a wildlife scientist at the WII will head the Tiger Cell. The cell will house a database of tigers as well as DNA and stripes samples from over 50 tiger reserves.



2. Over 10000-Year-Old Camping Site Discovered in Ladakh

An ancient camping site dating ninth millennium BC has been discovered by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on the way to Saser La which leads to the Karakoram Pass in Ladakh. The site was unearthed at 14,000 feet above the sea level.

The camping site dates 8500 BC and indicates human camping in the area 10,500 years ago. It was noticed by a team led by ASI Joint Director General SB Ota while exploring in Nubra valley during 2015-16.



3. New species of Eel found in the Bay of Bengal

Scientists have discovered a new species of Eel, *Gymnothorax Indicus*, from the northern Bay of Bengal along the West Bengal coast. The Eel is slender-bodied, about one feet-long and edible. It was discovered after it was collected in a trawl net by fishermen in northern Bay of Bengal.

The scientist said that the Eel has 194 vertebrae and proposed its name as "Indian unpatterned moray". Scientists believe that these newly discovered eel species may contribute to food security in the future.



4. Humans have been causing global warming for almost 180 years: Study

An international research project has found human activity has been causing global warming for almost two centuries. The results of the study suggest that global warming began during the early stages of the Industrial Revolution. The warming was first detectable in the Arctic and tropical oceans around the 1830s.



The researchers evaluated climate histories preserved in corals, cave decorations, tree rings and ice cores across the world. They also evaluated thousands of years of climate model simulations, including data used for the latest report by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

5. Nine breeds of livestock and poultry registered with NBAGR

Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBAGR) announced that it has registered 9 new breeds of indigenous farm animals which include one breed of cattle, two breeds each of goat and sheep, three breeds of pig, and one breed of chicken.



Serial No.	Breed	Home Tract	Species
1	Badri	Uttarakhand	Cattle
2	Teressa	Andaman & Nicobar	Goat
3	Kodi Adu	Tamil Nadu	Goat
4	Chevaadu	Tamil Nadu	Sheep
5	Kendrapada	Odisha	Sheep
6	Tenyi Vo	Nagaland	Pig
7	Nicobari	Andaman & Nicobar	Pig
8	Doom	Assam	Pig
9	Kaunayen	Manipur	Chicken

FINANCE

1. SEBI's first phase of new enterprise portal goes live

SEBI has gone live with its new Enterprise Portal. This new portal, which replaces the existing one in a phased manner, will enable accurate and timely information dissemination to internal and external stakeholders. The new portal is being developed by IT major Tech Mahindra.

The first phase of the project provides SEBI employees and some of its market intermediaries with an interactive portal which improves customer centricity by supporting multiple channels and aligning with emerging digital trends.



2. Oracle India joins SBI to nurture Digital Skills Initiative

Oracle India announced a corporate citizenship collaboration with State Bank of India (SBI) and launched the 'D-Change' programme which will support education and learning, women's empowerment and rural skills development in the country.

As part of the programme, Oracle and SBI volunteers will help enhance IT literacy among high school students, teachers and parents from over 100 SBI-supported government schools through an initiative called "Digital Kushalta ki Aur." It will be initiated at Rotary Bangalore Vidyalaya in Bengaluru and Mandal Parishad High School, Kondapur in Hyderabad on August 6.



3. ICICI Bank signs MoU with Apollo India to form ARC

ICICI Bank has inked an MoU with Apollo India Credit Opportunity Management LLC and AION Capital Management to set up an asset reconstruction company in order to resolve cases related to bad loans. The MoU is subject to regulatory approvals, acquisition of debt exposures from lenders and equity stakes in companies.

Canada's Brookfield announced a partnership with SBI to channel funds into stressed companies in July 2016. JC Flowers had entered into a partnership with investment bank Ambit Holdings. In March 2016, Kotak Mahindra Group tied up with Canada Pension Plan for investment in bad loans.



4. Bank of Baroda signs agreement with start-up Fisdom

Bank of Baroda has tied up with a fintech start-up Fisdom for personal wealth management services. Fisdom app helps users make financial investments in an easy and paperless manner with personalised financial advice. It helps people manage their money with the help of a robo-advisor.

The bank has entered into pact with six other fintech companies, proficient in different areas - CreditMantri, FundsTiger, Probe42, Power2SME, IndiaLends and KredX.



5. RBI introduces website 'Sachet' to check illegal Collection of Deposits

Dr. Raghuram G. Rajan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India launched new website 'Sachet' to help public in gaining information regarding authorized entities that are allowed to accept deposits. Public can easily lodge complaints and also share information regarding illegal acceptance of deposits by illegal entities.

Further, members of public can file and track a complaint on this website if any entity has illegally accepted money from them and/or defaulted in repayment of deposits. They can also share information regarding any such entity on this portal. The website would also help enhance co-operation among regulators and State Government agencies.



6. RBI constitutes household finance committee, chaired by Dr. Tarun Ramadorai

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a committee to look at the various facets of household finance in India, to be chaired by Dr. Tarun Ramadorai, Professor of Financial Economics, University of Oxford. The committee will have representation from financial sector regulators, namely, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) apart from Reserve Bank of India (RBI).



The main objective behind setting up of committee is to benchmark the current depth of household financial markets in India and assess the role of new financial technologies and products.

7. RBI published 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2016-17

Reserve Bank of India has published the third bi-monthly monetary policy statement for the fiscal year 2016-17 and kept the rates unchanged. Following are the highlights of RBI's third bi-monthly monetary policy statement, 2016-17:

- Repo rate unchanged at 6.50%, Reverse Repo at 6%
- Cash reserve ratio or CRR unchanged at 4%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)- 7.00%- Unchanged
- Bank Rate- 7.00%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)- 21%- Unchanged
- Base Rate- 9.30% - 9.70%
- Growth forecast at 7.6% for the current fiscal
- Inflation target remains 5% for January 2017
- Normal monsoon, 7th Pay Commission award to boost growth
- GST roll out to boost business sentiment, investment
- FCNR(B) redemptions not to disrupt liquidity in market
- Forex reserves at USD 365.7 billion on August 5



8. Reliance General signed 'bancassurance' deal with Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank

Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd announced a bancassurance tie-up with Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank (SVCB). As a part of the agreement, Reliance General, will distribute its insurance products to the customers of SVCB. SVCB has a network of 194 branches.



RGIC has already tied-up with IndusInd Bank, Bank of India and Andhra Bank. The move follows the recent IRDA guidelines that allow a bank to tie-up with multiple insurance companies as its bancassurance partners and help banks offer a well-rounded portfolio of insurance products to its customers.

9. RBI announced short-term crop loans at subsidised rate of 7% for farmers

The Reserve Bank of India has announced short-term crop loan of up to Rs 3 lakh at subsidized interest rate of 7 per cent for farmers. A subvention of 2 per cent per annum will be made available for short-term crop loan up to Rs 3,00,000 per farmer and additional interest subvention of 3 per cent per annum (loan payable at 4% per annum) to timely payee farmers.



The subvention will be given to small and marginal farmers on the basis of Kisan Credit Card up to six months period. In order to provide relief to farmers affected by natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2 per cent will continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

10. RBI transfers Rs 65,876 crore surplus to government

The Reserve Bank would transfer to the central government its surplus profit of Rs 65,876 crore which is marginally lower than the amount given last year. The approval to transfer the surplus was taken at the 559th meeting of the Central Board of the RBI, chaired by Governor Raghuram Rajan.



The surplus is generated through RBI's investment activities, primarily in other sovereign bonds like that of the US T-bills, which is its single largest investment source.

The government has been making its budget calculations about the RBI surplus payouts public as non-tax revenue.

11. Two Cooperative banks of Chhattisgarh penalized by RBI

A heavy penalty of Rs. 5 lakhs each was penalized on Zila Sahakari Kendriya Bank Maryadit and Raipur Urban Mercantile Cooperative Bank Limited by the Reserve Bank of India under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for violation of the Know your Customer norms under RBI guidelines.

According to guidelines, loans cannot be granted to directors of bank or their relatives but guidelines were violated by Raipur Urban Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd.



12. Corporation Bank introduces group credit life insurance scheme

The Group Credit Life Insurance Scheme launched by Corporation bank, is a kind of loansurance for the borrowers, who are granted term loan by the bank so as to provide an insurance cover to the loan availed by the customer, in the event of unfortunate death of the borrower. The Group Credit Life Insurance Scheme will be for the age group 18 to 60.

The scheme protects various term loans including retail loans namely, personal loan, home loans, vehicle loans, loans to MSME and agriculture.



13. Flipkart now on Kotak Mahindra Bank's Mobile Banking App

Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) announced the availability of Flipkart's mobile site in its mobile banking app, which gives the customer a secure in-app shopping environment.

Customers can shop seamlessly and checkout faster with choice of relevant payment options, as billing and delivery details are already available with KMB. Furthermore, in-app shopping reduces transaction failures, and allows customers to track cancellations and refunds in the same window. Customers only need to register once on the app to start shopping.



14. RBI relaxed cheque-book norms in cheque dishonor cases of Rs 1 cr and above

The Reserve Bank of India revised and relaxed cheque-book issuance norms in cases of dishonor of 1 crore rupees and above by allowing banks to take decision on its own. As per the existing norms, banks are not allowed to issue fresh cheque-books in the event of cheque dishonor valuing Rs 1 crore and above on four occasions during a financial year for want of sufficient funds.



RBI announced in a notification that banks should come up with a transparent policy approved by the board or its committee to avoid penalizing customers for unintended dishonor of cheques.

15. Kotak Mahindra Bank starts Innovation Lab, open to investing in start-ups

Kotak Mahindra Bank has started an 'Innovation Lab' in Bengaluru to tap into the best technology that impacts its operations. The bank is also ready to invest in start-ups. The 'Innovation Lab' is a dedicated space from where the bank will partner with start-ups in the fintech space to test concepts and launch them into commercial products.



The bank is working with the start-ups in the artificial intelligence, analytics, biometric or iris scanning and machine learning space. A bulk of the start-ups are Bengaluru-based, while two are from the US and Australia.

16. E-verification of Income Tax Return with net-banking

Banks are likely to soon start a facility wherein an account holder can verify his income tax return on e-filing site even without having net-banking. Electronic Verification Code (EVC) can be generated by pre-validating the bank account on the e-filing portal of the Income Tax Department.



The facility has already been launched by PNB and UBI. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has said that the EVC can also be generated by pre-validating a Demat Account on the e-filing portal. In addition, SBI, Axis and Canara bank have facilitated their customers to generate EVC through ATMs.

17. Project Ananya launched by Syndicate Bank aimed at digital banking

Syndicate Bank has started on a large scale transformation program called "Project Ananya" aiming to move from conventional banking to providing tech-enabled sales and services at its branches.

The bank plans to transform 10 per cent of its branches to the new format in the next 6-12 months. The project is being implemented with assistance from Boston Consulting Group (BCG). It is aimed at adopting digital platform and focusing on improving business through enhanced sales and services, besides improving the human resources policies of the bank. Arun Shrivastava is the MD & CEO of the Bank.



18. SBI, Korea Development Bank join hands for biz opportunities

State Bank of India and Korea Development Bank have signed a MoU to enhance cooperation in areas including corporate finance, project finance and asset finance. The agreement was signed between SBI chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya, and Chairman and CEO of Korea Development Bank (KDB), Lee Dong Geol.



KDB is providing funding facility to SBI through credit lines and/or money market lines, as per terms agreed between the two banks. The funds may be used for money market, trade finance and loans to Korean companies doing business in India.

19. IRDAI imposes Rs 35 Lakh Fine On Bharti AXA General Insurance

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has imposed Rs 35 lakh fine on Bharti Axa General Insurance Co Ltd for violating Group Insurance Guidelines (GIG) during December 2012 to March 2013. IRDAI also imposed an additional penalty of Rs 5 lakh each for violating file & use policy and protection of policy holders interest.

The company had made payments to the group master policyholders in the name of 'market research', 'sales training' and 'display of publicity material'.



20. RBI imposes penalty on four cooperative banks

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties on four cooperative banks for violation of various norms:



Bank	Reason	Amount
The Model Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad, Telangana	For violation of the Reserve Bank of India directives and guidelines on loans and advances to directors and their relatives	Rs 1.00 lakh
Indapur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Indapur, Dist : Pune	For violations of the instructions / guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India relating to credit exposure norms on loans and advances and Know Your Customer (KYC)/Anti-money Laundering (AML) guidelines	Rs 2.00 lakh
Shri Dadasaheb Gajmal Co-operative Bank Ltd., Pachora, Dist : Jalgaon	For violation of the instructions / guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India relating to creation of floating charge on its assets without the prior permission of the RBI	Rs 1.00 lakh
The Cooperative City Bank Ltd., Guwahati	for violation of Know Your Customers Norms and Cash Transactions and non-adherence to requirements relating to identification and reporting of suspicious transactions	Rs 5.00 lakh

21. Federal Bank ties up with MMTC gold coin distribution

Federal Bank announced its tie up with government-controlled Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) for distribution of gold coins. The Indian gold coins are of 24 karat purity, 999 fineness and has the National Emblem of Ashok Chakra engraved on one side and the face of Mahatma Gandhi as in currency notes on the other.



With this the bank became the first private sector bank to distribute the gold coins presently available in denominations of five, 10 and 20 grams.

22. India Post Payments Bank Incorporated

The India Post Payments Bank Limited has received the Certificate of Incorporation from the Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs on 17th August, 2016 under the Companies Act 2013. This would be the first PSU under the Department of Posts.



The Department of Posts is expected to complete the roll out of its branches all over the country by September 2017. This could be the fastest roll out for a bank anywhere in the world.

23. SBI board approved merger of 5 associate banks, BMB with itself

The board of State Bank of India (SBI) cleared the proposed merger of five associate banks viz. State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Travancore (SBT), State Bank of Hyderabad and State Bank of Patiala as well as Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) with itself.



Post-merger, SBI will become a global-sized bank with an asset base of Rs 37 trillion (Rs 37 lakh crore) or over USD 555 billion, with 22,500 branches and 58,000 ATMs. It will have over 50 crore customers.

24. Doha Bank opens first branch in Kerala

Qatar based Doha Bank is formally set to inaugurate its first branch in Kerala on 27th August. The branch is located at first floor of Lulu International shopping Mall in Edappally. It is the only branch of a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-based bank in India.

It will mainly cater to the needs of the large NRI population, both in Kerala and the Gulf. Doha bank provides corporate banking, retail banking, treasury, trade finance and foreign exchange services.



25. Federal Bank to use Chillr app

Federal Bank has partnered with Chillr. It is a mobile banking application that connects directly to a person's bank account and enables instant money transfers, bill payments, phone recharge and e-commerce payments in a very secure environment.

It is India's first and only multi-bank mobile application. Chillr allows users to connect seamlessly with multiple bank accounts and manage all their banking needs on a single platform. All transactions on Chillr are initiated directly from the users' bank accounts and authenticated by a secure PIN provided by their banks.



26. Government selects four investment banks for launch of IPO of HUDCO

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), has selected four investment banks, Nomura, SBI Caps, ICICI Securities and IDBI Capital for the proposed share sale in HUDCO (Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited).

The government is planning to sell 10% stake in HUDCO through an initial public offer (IPO). The proposed move is aimed at raising about Rs 1,500 crore on a total valuation of Rs 15,000 crore. HUDCO has a paid up capital of Rs 2,000 crore, comprising of 200 crore equity shares of Rs 10 each.



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

South Indian Bank has collaborated with SBI Card, a credit card issuer, to launch co-branded credit cards for the customers of South Indian Bank. As per the agreement, two variants of credit card on VISA platform, namely South Indian Bank Platinum SBI card and South Indian Bank SimplySave SBI card will be launched.

While the Platinum card will be offered to the premium segment of the customers, the other card will be offered to those customers who look for value.



28. UBI launches USSD based mobile app

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has entered into an agreement with Union Bank of India to launch an USSD based *99# mobile application for their customers.

This application can be downloaded in an android smartphone from the Google Play Store by the bank customers and can be used even without any internet connection as it does not require any data. The application provides basic banking facilities like checking account balance, sending money and Mobile PIN (MPIN) management. It is also available in 10 languages.



29. Bajaj Finance partners with India Post

Bajaj Finance Limited has signed a memorandum of Understanding with India Post to facilitate purchase of two-wheeler vehicles in Karnataka. Customers can collect information on the loan schemes and offers from the post office. Subsequently, the customers can also make repayments of their loans through the Post Offices by making the deposits.



This arrangement shall initially be rolled out across 208 E-Payment Post Offices across Karnataka. The first such tie-up was made in Tamil Nadu.

30. Government to ban cash transactions over Rs 3 lakh

Chairperson of the Central Board of Direct Taxes Rani Singh Nair said that the government is planning to ban all cash transactions of more than Rs. 3 lakh as per the recommendations of the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

The government, however, is yet to decide on the SIT's other proposal to bar cash holdings over Rs 15 lakh due to opposition from trade and industry. The government has already banned cash advance of more than Rs 20,000 for property transactions.



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

India's premier container port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Navi Mumbai, 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 (USD300 Million from the SBI & USD100 from DBS).

The ECB will be primarily utilized by the JNPT for expansion of its existing roads network connecting to its port project. Borrowing by JNPT is for Door-to-Door tenor of 7.5 years. However, lending by JNPT to MJPRCL is for 16 years (two years construction and 14 years repayment).



32. 21 banks to go live with Unified Payments Interface

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is going live for customers of 21 banks, paving the way for a P2P payments revolution in the country.

UPI is a new initiative from NPCI designed to enable customers across UPI member banks to pay and collect money from their smartphones without entering any bank account information. IDBI Bank and RBL Bank are onboarded as issuers. It enables their customers to download any UPI enabled Apps mentioned above and link their account.



33. RBI asks banks to provide loans to Women Self-Help Groups at 7% per annum

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to provide loans to Women Self-Help Groups in rural areas at 7% per annum.

The Reserve Bank said in a notification that all women self-help groups (SHGs) will be eligible for interest subvention on credit up to three lakh rupees at 7% per annum under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission in 250 districts. However, SHGs availing capital subsidy under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana in their existing credit outstanding will not be eligible for benefit under this scheme.



34. Karnataka Bank Launches new Mobile Banking App “KBL – SMARTz” on UPI platform of NPCI

Karnataka Bank today launched “KBL-SMARTz”, a Mobile Application (App) built on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). UPI is a new initiative from NPCI designed to enable customers across UPI member banks to pay and collect money from their smartphones without entering any bank account information.

“KBL –SMARTz” is “Secure Mobile App for Rapid Transactionz”. App is available to public free of cost and can be downloaded from the Google PlayStore.



35. World Bank sanctions Rs 980 cr for Brahmaputra dredging: Min

The World Bank has sanctioned Rs 980 crore to dredge the Brahmaputra as an initiative to develop waterways to Bangladesh and to other South East Asian countries. It will help boost trade and industry in the Northeast. It will ultimately result in Assam becoming an export hub for the South East Asian countries.

The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans to developing countries for capital programs.



36. RBI Forecasts 7.6% GDP growth for this fiscal

The RBI, in its Annual Report, has projected India's growth rate at 7.6% in 2016-17, up from 7.2% last year as a result of better than anticipated agricultural performance and the possibility of allowances under the 7th Pay Commission's award being paid out in the fourth quarter of 2016-17.



The report highlights that the passage of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill marks and the commitment of the central government to the path of fiscal consolidation in 2016-17 has enhanced the credibility of fiscal policy, which will, in turn, help in anchoring inflation expectations and in improving the business environment.

37. NABARD sanctions Rs 204.67 crore loan under RIDF to Haryana

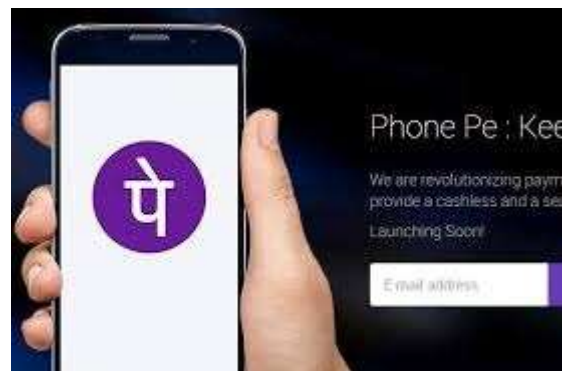
The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a loan of Rs 204.67 crore for Haryana under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for rural infrastructure in Haryana including a 10MW solar plant at Panipat thermal power station.



Out of the total loan, Rs 147.18 crore has been sanctioned to the state government for construction of three rural bridges, construction and upgradation of 26 rural roads in 10 districts, and Rs 57.49 crore for the solar plant. The aggregate length of the proposed rural roads is 184.78 km.

38. PhonePe & YES Bank launch India's 1st UPI-based payments app

PhonePe, a Flipkart Group company, and YES BANK have partnered to launch India's first UPI (Unified Payments Interface) based mobile payments app.



PhonePe allows users to link their bank accounts securely to their smartphone using NPCI's encrypted libraries. Once linked, users can authorize money transfers or merchant payments instantly by simply entering their 4-6 digit MPIN.

Money is instantly transferred without a need to enter an OTP to authorize a transaction anymore. A transaction takes less than 10 seconds to complete. The PhonePe App also offers bill-split, mobile recharge and utility bill payment features.

4. Union Minister Maneka Sanjay Gandhi kicks off social media campaign on Daughters’ Day

The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched a social media campaign to mark the Daughters Day to be celebrated on 11th August 2016. The immediate week was celebrated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development as Daughters’ Week, as part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme.



Through social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter etc, users from across the country will post photographs online with their Daughters, Daughters-in-law and Granddaughters using the hashtag #BBBPDaughtersWeek. This opportunity is being used by the Ministry to engage citizens to celebrate the young women and girls in their lives, and spread the message of valuing the girl child.

5. World Bio-Fuel Day observed

The World Bio-Fuel Day is observed annually across the world on 10th August with an aim to create awareness about non fossil-fuels (Green Fuels). The day marks the extraordinary achievement of Sir Rudolph Diesel's research experiment which predicted that vegetable oil is going to replace the fossil fuels in the next century to fuel different mechanical engines.



On this occasion, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated a national-level conference, Energy security for India – Creating a Biofuel economy, in New Delhi. The biofuel business in India is expected to touch Rs. 50,000 crore by 2022.

6. International Youth Day celebrated on 12 August

The United Nations’ (UN) International Youth Day is celebrated annually on August 12. The day recognizes the contribution of the world’s youth in enhancing global society.



The theme of the 2016 International Youth Day is “The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production”. This year’s Day is about achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It focuses on the leading role of young people

in ensuring poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development through sustainable consumption and production.

7. World Humanitarian Day observed on 19th August

The World Humanitarian Day is observed every year on 19 August to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to mobilize people to advocate for a more humane world. The theme for this year is "One Humanity".



The UN and its partners are organizing events that will raise awareness of the Agenda for Humanity and inspire people to demand greater global action for the 130 million people affected by conflict and disaster.

8. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition observed globally on 23rd August

The International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed annually on August 23.



The day offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. The International Day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.

This date also pays tribute to those who worked hard to abolish slave trade and slavery throughout the world.

9. International Day Against Nuclear Tests observed globally

The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed annually on August 29. The day brings public awareness and education about the effects of global nuclear weapon tests and the need to prevent nuclear catastrophes to avert devastating effects on humankind, the environment and the planet.



The United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests by unanimously adopting resolution 64/35 on 2 December 2009. The Day was first celebrated in 2010.

10. National Sports Day celebrated on 29th August

August 29 is celebrated as the National Sports Day in dedication to the great hockey player Dhyan Chand. The day is celebrated in the remembrance of the great hockey player Dhyan Chand, 29th August being his birthday.

This day is celebrated by organizing friendly matches between different Indian hockey teams at the Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, which was constructed in the respect and honor of Dhyan Chand.

The government gives away awards such as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna and Dronacharya Awards on this day.



INTERNATIONAL

1. Malaysia enacts new security law

Malaysia enacted a new security law that gives the government broad, unchecked powers. It allows for authorities to create a so-called 'security zone' inside which arrests and seizures can happen without warrants.

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak is facing calls to resign over a huge alleged 1MDB (Malaysia Development Berhad) corruption scandal. Some say the government could use this law to ward off political and legal challenges.

However, the Prime Minister said the law was needed to counter security threats.



2. Yuriko Koike elected as the first woman Governor of Tokyo

Former Defence Minister Yuriko Koike has been elected as the first woman Governor of Tokyo. She is also the first woman governor of Japan. She beat closest opponent Hiroya Masuda by more than a million ballots, who was backed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The World Economic Forum ranks Japan 101st out of 145 in terms of gender equality, and only 9.5% of Japan's House of Representatives are women.



3. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' elected as Nepal PM

Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Nepal. The 61-year-old CPN-Maoist Centre chief, was elected Prime Minister with 363 votes in favor and 210 against him. Mr. Prachanda became Prime Minister of Nepal for the second time. He held this post during 2008 - 2009. He is also the only communist leader to become the Prime Minister of the country twice.

The Prime Minister's post became vacant on 24th of July, after CPN-UML chairman K P Sharma 'Oli' resigned.



4. Tunisia's PM HabibEssid loses confidence vote in parliament

In Tunisia, Prime Minister HabibEssid has lost a confidence vote in parliament, after just a year and a half in office. A total of 118 Members of Parliament voted to unseat Essid, just three voted for him to stay at the helm and 27 abstained.

Essid's government has been widely criticized for failing to tackle the country's economic crisis and terror related issues. He had been under growing pressure since President BejiCaidEssebsi criticized the government.



5. WHO to remove transgenders from its mental disorders list

The World Health Organization (WHO) is considering to remove the transgender from the WHO's list of mental disorders in its global list of medical conditions following calls from researchers and advocates.

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. The change is under review for the next edition of the W.H.O. codebook, which classifies diseases and influences the treatment of patients worldwide.



6. Typhoon Nida lashes Hong Kong

Typhoon Nida made landfall near Dapeng Peninsula in China's Guangdong province, bringing heavy rain and damaging winds across parts of southern China. Typhoon Nida (which is locally known as Carina), lashed the Chinese city Hong Kong that is located about 42 kilometers from the Dapeng Peninsula.

The government has warned of flooding in low-lying areas and asked people to stockpile food and other essentials. Nida hit the Philippines on 30 July 2016, pouring up to 11 inches of rain over the northern parts.



7. 7th meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities held in Islamabad

The 7th meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities was held in Islamabad. Pakistan's Director General Immigration and Passports, Usman A. Bajwa, was unanimously elected as Chairman and chaired the meeting.



It reviewed different areas to maximize the potential of visa exemption scheme launched among the member countries in 1992. It also deliberated on development of security software for SAARC visa exemption scheme and immigration matters. Visa exemption schemes are being implemented among SAARC countries in 24 categories including dignitaries, businessmen, journalists and sports persons.

8. Japan cabinet approves economic stimulus package worth \$275 bn

Japan's cabinet has approved an economic stimulus package worth 275 billion dollars. It is the latest attempt by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to kick-start the economy and boost growth. The package includes spending for the national and local governments over the next 2 years. More than half of that sum has been earmarked for the current fiscal year.



The stimulus package would be included in a supplementary budget, which will be considered by an extraordinary session of Parliament starting in September. The government expects the measures to boost gross domestic product by 1.3%.

9. Nuclear scientist Shahram Amiri executed for treason in Iran

Iranian nuclear scientist Shahram Amiri detained since 2010 has been executed on account of treason.



He was convicted of handing over "confidential and vital" information to the United States. Amiri went missing after taking a pilgrimage to Mecca in 2009 and returned to Tehran in 2010. In mid-July 2010, the Washington Post reported that he was allegedly paid \$5m by the CIA for the intelligence he had shared on Iran's nuclear activities.

10. Over 1000 Dancing Robots Set Guinness Record in China

A new Guinness World Record was set after more than 1,000 robots performed a synchronized dance routine in Qingdao city, China. Each robots were just under 44 centimeters in height.

1,040 robots started their synchronized dance routine. Of them, 1,007 finished the challenge, setting a new Guinness World Record for the largest simultaneous robot dance. The attempt was organized by Qingdao-based Ever Win



Company which almost doubled the previous record of 540 dancing robots which was achieved earlier this year by Chinese company UBTECH Robotics Corp.

11. First-ever 'Pizza ATM' opens in the US

The first-ever 'Pizza ATM' was installed in the US at the university campus of Xavier University (XU) in Ohio. The pizza vending machine can hold seventy 12-inch pizzas and dispense them fresh and hot in just three minutes.



Customers can select what kind of pizza they want using the 24-hour machine's touchscreen. The cost of each pizza is around \$10, with the ATM accepting credit and debit cards, as well as a student card.

12. Russian watchdog imposes 6.8 million dollar fine on Google

Russia's anti-monopoly watchdog ruled that Google would have to pay a 6.8 million dollar fine, for pre-installing applications on mobile devices running its Android operating system.

Following a complaint by Russia's Yandex company, the watchdog, FAS, had ruled last September that Google had broken anti-monopoly laws. It had ruled that Google had abused its market position with Android, by favoring some of its digital services over those of rivals. Yandex is a technology company specializing in Internet-related services and it operates the largest search engine in Russia.



13. Russian President dismissed chief of staff Sergei Ivanov

Russian President Vladimir Putin has dismissed Sergei Ivanov, his chief of staff and one of his closest allies as head of the Russian Presidential Administration. The 63-year-old has now been made a special representative for environmental and transport issues. Mr Ivanov took up the post in December 2011. He served previously as a deputy prime minister and defence minister.



Anton Vaino, has been appointed as his successor. Mr Vaino, 44, is a former diplomat.

14. 6,900 km gas pipelines to connect Bangladesh, Myanmar, India

The government is planning to lay 6,900 km of gas pipelines linking BSitwe (Myanmar), Chittagong (Bangladesh), most north-eastern states, Siliguri and Durgapur (West Bengal).



The pipeline is a part of 'Hydrocarbon Vision 2030'. The Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 envisions doubling the production of oil and natural gas in the north-east and promoting trade between the region and the neighboring SAARC countries. ONGC Board has approved a plan to invest Rs 5,050 crore by 2022 to explore more gas in Tripura.

15. Sri Lanka and China sign a tripartite agreement to construct Financial City Center in Colombo

Sri Lanka and China signed a tripartite agreement to construct the Colombo International Financial City (CIFC) formerly known as the Colombo Port City. The agreement was signed between Sri Lanka's Urban Development Authority, the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development and the China Harbour Engineering Company.



The project would transform Sri Lanka into an international financial hub in the Indian Ocean region. The project is expected to create thousands of jobs in the country.

16. Zambian President Edgar Lungu re-elected

Zambian President Edgar Lungu, leader of the Patriotic Front (PF), won the re-election but the result was immediately challenged by his main opponent Hakainde Hichilema of the United Party for National Development (UPND).

Lungu won 50.35 percent of votes against 47.67 percent for Hichilema. Lungu's re-election will see him remain in power for another five-year term. The election was fought around the issues of rising unemployment, mine closures, power shortages and high inflation.



17. First SAARC Youth Parliamentarians Conference begins in Islamabad

The first two-day (from August 16 to 18, 2016) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Youth Parliamentarians Conference on 'Peace and Harmony for Development' was held in Islamabad, Pakistan. The conference is being jointly hosted by National Assembly of Pakistan and Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary services.

The conference is aimed at offering 'young parliamentarians' narrative' in the run up to the 19th SAARC Summit scheduled in Pakistan in November. 50 Members of Parliament from SAARC countries are taking part in the conference. Indian delegation includes Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, Alok Tiwari and Devisingh Patel.



18. China, ASEAN countries agree to form South China Sea framework

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. They also agreed to set the sea rules and guidelines for a hotline for use during maritime emergencies for avoiding conflict.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin said documents on the hotline and unplanned encounters would be presented for final approval to leaders in Laos next month at a meeting between China and ASEAN members.



19. India and Bangladesh to jointly make films on 1971 war, Sheikh Mujibur

India and Bangladesh will jointly produce a documentary on the 1971 War of Independence of Bangladesh. India will also facilitate the production of a "mega movie" by Bangladesh to mark the 100th birth anniversary of its Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2020.

Also, All India Radio would be launching an exclusive service for Bangladesh and Bengali diaspora titled "Akashvani Maitree" on August 23. The proposed documentary would commemorate the 50th year of Bangladesh Independence in 2021.



20. World's Longest, Highest Glass Bridge to Open in China

The world's longest and highest glass bridge will open to visitors on 20th of August in Zhangjiajie, Hunan Province, central China. The bridge is 430 metres long and 300 metres high. It is 6-meter wide and paved with 99 panes of three-layer transparent glasses.

The bridge has set 10 world records spanning its design and construction. The construction was completed in December 2015. A maximum of 8,000 visitors are allowed to cross the bridge every day.



21. World's largest aircraft embarks maiden flight

The world's largest aircraft, Airlander 10, started on its maiden flight in Cardington, central England. It is a hybrid airship i.e. it is a partly plane and partly airship filled with helium gas. It is 92-metre-long and 43.5m wide.

It can fly at up to 4,880 metres and reach speeds of 148 kilometres per hour. It can also carry a 10-tonne payload. It is made by Hybrid Air Vehicles in United Kingdom.



22. MoU signed between Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Roads and Highways Department of Bangladesh

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and the Roads and Highways Department of People's Republic of Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Dhaka. The MoU enables IOCL to send its trucks carrying Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel, Superior Kerosene Oil & Liquefied Petroleum Gas from Meghalaya to Tripura via territory of Bangladesh.

The validity of this facility is till end September, 2016. Both sides have also agreed to extend the transit facility for a further short period on need basis.



23. Alibaba Group launches 'million books' donation drive in India

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group along with Crossword and Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust has launched 'Mission Million Books' in India. It is a pan-India initiative inviting people to donate textbooks and educational material to empower those who are underprivileged.



The Alibaba Group would donate over 50,000 books to the campaign. The collected material will be distributed to more than 2,500 educational institutions across India. The campaign, which will run till September 16, also supports the government's efforts to enable access to quality education for all.

24. India pledges Nepali Rs 3.9 Cr for upgrading Sanskrit school in Nepal

India has pledged financial assistance worth Nepali Rs 39.97 million for the construction of a new building and a hostel facility at a Sanskrit school in Ilam district of Nepal.

A tripartite agreement between the Indian Embassy, the Local Development Officer, Ilam District, and Principal of Shree Saptmai Gurukul Sanskrit Vidhyashram Secondary School was signed in this regard which is a part of India-Nepal Economic Cooperation Programme.



25. Myanmar to support China's OBOR, BCIM initiatives

Myanmar has officially announced to support China's ambitious One Belt and One Road (OBOR) connectivity initiative along the ancient Silk Road. Myanmar also extended its support to the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) economic corridor meant to industrialise a stretch spanning more than 2,000-km. BCIM corridor links Kunming in China with Mandalay in Myanmar and passes through Bangladesh and ends at Kolkata in India.



President Xi Jinping pledged to promote the China-Myanmar comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and bring more tangible benefits to the people of both countries. Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi was in China for a five-day official visit.

26. Philippines' President Duterte threatens to quit UN

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte railed against the United Nations after it called for an end to the wave of killings unleashed by his war on drugs. He threatened to leave the organization. Duterte also said the Philippines will invite China and African nations to form another global organization in place of United Nations, as world body is not doing enough to address hunger and terrorism.



Two UN human rights experts last week urged Manila to stop the extra-judicial executions and killings that have escalated since Duterte won the Presidency.

27. India increases USD\$ 1 million grant to Zimbabwe

External Affairs Ministry extended a grant of USD one million to Zimbabwe as a part of first phase of assistance, co-operating to an appeal made by the African nation to deal with severe drought caused by El Nino phenomenon. Major agricultural sector has been destroyed by warming of sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean.



An estimated 2.4 million people are now facing food crisis in the country. India will help the African nation by donating 500 metric tonnes of rice as part of the second phase of assistance.

28. China inaugurates its first EMU technology bullet trains of 350 kmph speed

China's first passenger train using Electric Multiple Units technology with 350 kmph speed was inaugurated from Dalian for Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning. It is the first passenger service using China Standard Electric Multiple Units (EMU) trains with the latest exterior design and less energy consumption.



China's EMU fleet of 2,470 trains is the world's largest, and the total length of high-speed track in the country - 19,000 km - represents 60 per cent of the global total.

29. First Ever Festival of India in Australia

The Festival of India will be held from August to November 2016 in seven cities across Australia. It will present some of the finest elements of India's classical and contemporary culture through a variety of dance, music, theatre, visual arts and textiles.



The Festival is being organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture with the support of ICCR and India Tourism. It has also received local support. The Festival is coordinated by the High Commission of India in Australia.

30. 'Shankhachil' selected for Montreal Film Festival

National award-winning film "Sankhachil" has been selected for the coveted 40th Montreal World Film Festival. The film essays the pain and anguish of people living on both sides of the border following the partition of Bengal. Directed by Goutam Ghosh and starring Prosenjit Chatterjee, the film is an Indo-Bangla joint production.



The Montreal World Film Festival is one of Canada's oldest international film festivals. The public festival is held annually in late August in the city of Montreal in Quebec.

31. Indo-Canadian Sikh MP becomes Canada's 1st woman House leader

Indo-Canadian Sikh MP Bardish Chagger has been named as the new Leader of the government in Canada's House of Commons. She became the first woman to hold the post in the country's history and guiding government legislation through Parliament. She replaces Dominic LeBlanc.

Ms Chagger currently holds the portfolio of Minister of Small Business and Tourism. She was among 19 Indian-origin candidates who won in last year's general election. She is an MP from Waterloo.



32. PM Narendra Modi, Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurate the restored Stor Palace in Kabul

Prime Minister Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated the newly-restored Stor Palace in Kabul along with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani via video link. Work for the palace was completed through a public-private partnership with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in four years.

The Stor Palace is located in the Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Campus in Kabul. The newly renovated and restored building will house the Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Besides, it will also serve as the venue for hosting official domestic and international events by the Afghan government.



33. OIC to hold international conference for peace, reconciliation in Afghanistan

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, OIC, will hold an international conference of Islamic scholars in Makkah and Madina during October 8-10 to promote peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. This was informed by the OIC Secretary-General, Iyad Ameen Madani, during a meeting with Afghan Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Foreign Minister Syed Salahuddin Rabbani in Kabul.



Taliban have rejected the conference as an intelligence ploy and urged Ulema to stay away from the gathering.

34. Lithuania signs a contract to purchase German military vehicles worth 437 million US Dollar

Lithuania has signed a contract to purchase German military vehicles worth 437 million US Dollar. It is the largest weaponry purchase in the history of Baltic country having a population of nearly 2.9 million.

The deal was signed for purchase of 88 armored Boxer cars. The agreement comes amid growing tensions over neighboring Russia's increased military presence in the Baltic Sea region.



35. US Postal Service honors Diwali Festival with a Forever Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service will commemorate the joyous Hindu festival of Diwali with a Forever stamp. The first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony of the Forever Stamp will take place at the Consulate General of India, New York on 5 October 2016.

The stamp design is a photograph featuring a traditional diya oil lamp beautifully lit, sitting on a sparkling gold background. The Diwali stamp is being issued as a Forever stamp. This Forever stamp will also be equal in value to the current First Class Mail 1-ounce price.



36. Colombian government & rebel group FARC sign historic peace accord

Colombian government and the rebel group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, have signed a historic peace accord, putting an end to more than five decades of conflict. The agreement was signed by the head of the Colombian delegation, Humberto de la Calle, and the chief FARC negotiator, Ivan Marquez in the Cuban capital Havana.



As per the terms of agreement, FARC will give up its armed struggle and join the legal political process. The left-wing rebels have been fighting Colombian government since 1964. The conflict has killed an estimated 220,000 people and displaced millions.

37. BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction meet adopts Udaipur Declaration

A two-day meeting of BRICS Ministers on Disaster Management concluded in Udaipur, Rajasthan with the adoption of the Udaipur Declaration. It has been resolved to set up a dedicated Joint Task Force for Disaster Risk Management for regular dialogue, exchange, mutual support and collaboration among BRICS Countries.



The roadmap for implementation of the three-year Joint Action Plan (JAP) for BRICS emergency services (2016-18) was also finalized. Through JAP, the countries will work together on exchange of Information on disaster management, research & technology exchange on forecasting and early warning for floods.

38. China's unmanned submersible sets new national record

China's unmanned submersible, "Haidou-1" has dived to a depth of 10,767 metres at the Mariana Trench in the West Pacific during a scientific expedition from June 22 to Aug. 12, setting a new record for the country. The Mariana Trench is the deepest area in the world.



China became the third country after Japan and the United States to have built submersibles capable of reaching depths in excess of 10,000 meters. It will enable China to explore ocean beds for minerals and other natural resources.

39. Toxic gas leak at Bangladesh fertilizer unit sickens 250 people

About 250 people, including children, have fallen sick and hundreds of residents have been evacuated from their homes after a toxic gas, Di-ammonium phosphate (DPA), leak from the DAP Fertilizer Company Limited on the bank of Karnaphuli river in Bangladesh's port city of Chittagong.



At the time of the incident, the amount of ammonia in the air was recorded at 600ppm (parts per million) whilst workers at the factory can tolerate conditions with ammonia gas up to 25ppm.

40. World's first driverless taxis launched in Singapore

Singapore became the first country in the world to launch a self-driving taxi service. The taxis were operated by nuTonomy, an autonomous vehicle software startup. nuTonomy invited a select group of people to download their app and ride for free in its "robo-taxi" in a western Singapore hi-tech business district, hoping to get feedback ahead of a planned full launch of the service in 2018.



NuTonomy's test vehicles, a Renault Zoe and Mitsubishi i-MiEV electric car, will have a computer engineer and backup human driver during the trial phase in case anything goes wrong.

41. President of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw arrived on 4-day visit to India

President of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw arrived on a four-day visit to India to step up overall bilateral engagement with a major focus on ensuring better management of Indo-Myanmar border as well as to boost trade ties. This is the first presidential visit from Myanmar after Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) assumed power in March this year.



Myanmar, considered one of India's strategic neighbors, shares a 1,640-km-long border with a number of northeastern states including Nagaland and Manipur.

42. India and the United States Sign the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)

India and the United States have signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in Washington DC, USA. LEMOA is a facilitating agreement that establishes basic terms, conditions, and procedures for reciprocal provision of Logistic Support, Supplies, and Services between the armed forces of India and the United States.



Logistic Support, Supplies, and Services include food, water, billeting, transportation, petroleum, medical services, training services, calibration services, and port services. The Agreement will significantly enhance

the operational capacity of the Indian Armed Forces, including in their response to humanitarian crises or disaster relief.

43. Memorandum of Agreement signed between IALA and DGLL

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the IALA (The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities), Paris, France and DGLL (Directorate General of Lighthouses & Lightships) at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. With the signing of this MoA, the DGLL Training Centre at Kolkata will be in position to deliver a professional training course on the management of marine aids to navigation in line with IALA model course itself.



Directorate General of Lighthouses & Lightships (DGLL) is primarily responsible for providing "Aids to Navigation service" for safety of mariners in the Indian waters.

MISCELLANEOUS

- KK Khurana, General Manager in-charge, has taken over as Head of BHEL Corporate R&D with effect from August 4, 2016.
- **Devendra Fadanvis, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra**, was chosen for the 2016 Nag Bhushan Award that is conferred by Nagpur-based Non-Governmental Organization Nag Bhushan Foundation.
- The tropical storm that triggered landslides in Mexico killing at least 38 people is **Earl**.
- Famous musician, **Ricci Martin**, died in August 2016.
- **Tamil Nadu** launched an online service for consumers to apply for low-tension service connections.
- Voters of **Thailand** approved a new draft constitution, giving extra powers to the military.
- Indian researchers have found that endosulfan causes DNA damages in animals. Endosulfan is Organochlorine pesticide
- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill, 2014 is also known as Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill.
- The Mental Health Care Bill, 2013 that was passed by Rajya Sabha seeks to repeal the Mental Health Act, 1987.
- Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi launched a social media campaign in New Delhi to mark the Daughters Day to be celebrated on 11 August 2016.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Yaad Karo Kurbanī celebrations at Alirajpur in Madhya Pradesh, the birthplace of freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad.
- The Iron Lady of Manipur, who ended her 16-year-long hunger strike outside the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal, Manipur is Irom Chanu Sharmila.
- The legendary Carnatic vocalist who will be honoured at the United Nations on India's 70th Independence Day by A.R. Rahman is M. S. Subbulakshmi.
- American swimmer, Michael Phelps, recently won his 21st Olympic gold Medal at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.
- Russia has agreed to restore bilateral relations and end the economic sanctions with Turkey.
- High Court of Uttar Pradesh issued directions to the Election Commission that teacher should not be deployed for poll duty during examinations.

- Bihar decided to increase tax rates on diesel by one percent and petrol by 1.5 percent.
- United Nation member states have reached on an agreement ahead of the first-ever summit on addressing the large movements of refugees and migrants to be held in September 2016 in New York.
- Parliament of Egypt has passed legislation that will prohibit police from providing information to the media without government permission.
- Vietnam discreetly fortified several of its islands in the disputed South China Sea with new mobile rocket launchers capable of striking China's runways and military installations across the vital trade route.
- The reactors of the Unit 1 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant are built jointly by Russia's Atomstroyexport company and India's Nuclear Power Corporation of India
- Kazakhstan's swimmer who won men's 200m breaststroke swimming event at the Rio Olympics is Dmitriy Balandin.
- Kazhakstan's weightlifter who won gold medal of the men's 77kg weightlifting class at the Rio Olympic Games is Azerbaijan.
- The estimated cost of the R&D project for development of Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) Technology for Thermal Power Plants that was approved by CCEA is 1554 crore rupees.
- Chinese player, Ma Long, won gold medal in Table Tennis at Rio Olympics and also became the fifth male player to complete the Grand Slam.
- Theme of the International Meeting on Counter Terrorism held in Bali, Indonesia was Countering Cross Border Movement of Terrorism.
- Delhi Development Authority has decided to create a Special Purpose Vehicle SPV for operation and maintenance of its green projects including those related to parks, nature reserves and eco-friendly corridors.
- Sri Lanka's parliament approved the establishment of office of missing persons (OMP) to investigate incidents of people reported missing during and soon after the war against LTTE.
- The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 that was passed by Rajya Sabha increases the availability of the maternity benefit by Eight weeks from the date of expected delivery.
- The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 that was passed by Rajya Sabha seeks to amend the Maternity Benefit Act 1961.
- Hollywood actress Gita Hall, who starred as Eva in 1958 film The Gun Runners, passed away in August 2016.
- The American artistic gymnast who won gold in the Floor Exercise event at Rio Olympics is Simone Biles.

- The Indian tennis doubles pair who won the Abierto Mexicano Los Cabos title is Purav Raja and Divij Sharan.
- Shri Farooq Khan, IPS (Retd.) has been appointed as Administrator of Union Territory of Lakshadweep. His appointment is effective from the date he assumes charge of his office.
- e-Trans web portal was launched by the Union Government for e-bidding and e-reverse auction for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) in transmission projects.
- Jamaican athlete, Usain Bolt, won the men's 200m gold in the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- P V Sindhu became the first Indian badminton player to enter the women's singles finals in Olympics.
- The Union Ministry of Power launched the e-bidding portal DEEP for Medium term purchase of power.
- The Union Ministry of Power launched the TARANG Mobile App to Track power transmission projects.
- Shiv Kumar Sharma was selected for 2016 Sangeet Martand Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The theme of the World Humanitarian Day that was observed on 19 August 2016 was One Humanity.
- The monogrammed suit worn by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his meeting with American President Barack Obama last year, which created huge controversy, entered Guinness Book of World Records as 'the most expensive suit sold' after it was auctioned for Rs 4.31 crore.
- Shri Yogeshwar Sangwan, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Armenia, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to Georgia.
- The cyclist who won gold in Men's omnium track cycling at Rio Olympics is Elia Viviani.
- The hammer thrower who created a world record of 82.29m in women's hammer throw to win gold at Rio Olympics is Anita Wlodarczyk.
- 1000 MW Turga hydel project that was approved by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) will be located in West Bengal
- Bangladesh accounted for the highest share of tourist arrival in India.
- Yogeshwar Sangwan has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Georgia.
- Sunita Jain has been awarded with the prestigious 25th Vyas Samman 2015.
- Pink Bollworm pest that has been in news primarily affects Cotton.
- The book Life in Diplomacy was authored by M K Rasgotra.

- The famous Sreekrishna temple in Guruvayur has been included in the Union Tourism Ministry's Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spirituality Augmentation Drive (PRASAD).
- Government has planned to provide loan worth 90 thousand Crore rupees to Women Self-Help Groups for non-farm economic activities in next two years.
- Banwarilal Purohit has been recently appointed the Governor of Assam.
- P D Gupta has been appointed the Vice Chancellor of the Homi Bhabha National Institute.
- Typhoon that made landfall near Tateyama City in Chiba Prefecture south of Tokyo, Japan is Mindulle.
- Three states that ratified the Goods and Services Tax Constitutional amendment bill 2016 after Assam, Bihar and Jharkhand are Himachal Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and Gujarat.
- Odisha decided to engage retired teachers in government high schools under "Teacher on Call" scheme to meet the shortage of teaching faculty.
- President Pranab Mukherjee launched Kolkata Akashvani Kendra's Moitree Service in Bangla for listeners in Bangladesh.
- Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on Monday launched a mobile app 'Kisan Suvidha' for farmers. The app will provide basic information on weather updates, crop prices and expert advices.
- The 8th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Summit will be held in Goa.
- State in which a special pink colour envelop under speed post was launched by Justice Virender Singh with a purpose to expedite judicial process is Jharkhand.
- Italy was struck by a high-intensity earthquake of magnitude 6.2 on the Richter scale which led to death of about 150 people.
- Union Cabinet enhanced the compensation to victims of terror and left extremism from three lakh rupees to Five lakh.
- Islamabad hosted a 2-day SAARC Finance Ministers' Conference.
- North Korea launched the KN-11 ballistic missile from a submarine in Sea of Japan.
- Russia will not compete at September's Paralympics in Rio after losing an appeal against a ban imposed for state-sponsored doping.
- Telangana and Maharashtra government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to start work on three barrages at Tummidi Hatti on Pranhita River, Medigadda on Godavari River and Chanaka-Korata on Painganga River
- Haryana State government made available online A2 milk of indigenous cows in North India through Vita Milk Plants on demand of general public.

- The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has signed an MoU with Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (MSU), Tirunelveli, to carry out collaborative research programmes and develop adequate manpower to explore marine biodiversity prospects in the region.
- The Film Federation of India (FFI) has approached Ketan Mehta to head the 17-member jury that will select India's official entry to the Oscars.
- Astrophysicist Anjali Tripathi from California and physician Tina R Shah from Chicago are among the 16 selected for the prestigious White House Fellow programme that offers first-hand experience of working at the highest levels of the US federal government.
- Country's two leading mobile operators Bharti Airtel and Vodafone are rolling out e-KYC service at their stores to help customers activate new SIMs instantly with Aadhaar number verification.
- Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for promoting renewable energy.
- Pakistan will host the 19th SAARC Summit on November 9 and 10 this year. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has invited the leaders of SAARC Member States and nine observers countries to attend the Summit.
- The Next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Conference is to be held at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Tumakuru Road in Bengaluru from 07th January, 2016.
- Shri P Kumaran (IFS: 1992), presently Joint secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the State of Qatar.
- **Bharat Dhuppar** has been appointed as the CEO of Sheth Creators, a real estate company of Nusli Wadia-led Wadia Group.
- **R Muthukumaraswamy** appointed as the Advocate General of Tamil Nadu in August 2016.
- ISRO used **ATV02 rocket** to test Supersonic Combustion Ramjet engine called Scramjet, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- Marine National Monument off Hawaii that was expanded by President Obama to turn up to be world's largest marine reserve is **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**.
- Scientists in Japan studying earthquakes have detected a rare deep-Earth tremor, known as **S wave microseism**.
- Twelve coaches of **Thiruvananthapuram-Mangaluru Express** derailed between Aluva and Karukutty stations in Ernakulam district.
- **Himachal Pradesh** launched the 108 mobile app for immediate and easy facility of the National Ambulance Service.

- Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar formally inaugurated the IIT Dharwad. The first batch of IIT-Dharwad began on August 1 with 120 students.
- Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the “Mera Aspataal / My Hospital” initiative at the third National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Facilities at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- This year the winner of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy is Punjabi University, Patiala. The award money is Rs. 10 lakh and a certificate. The award is given to top performing university in inter-university tournaments.

NATIONAL

1. Centre to organize 'Make in India' conference in Bhubaneswar in December

The Central government has proposed to organize a 'Make in India' conference in Bhubaneswar in the first week of December 2016, to be organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in order to attract investment to Odisha as well as the country.



Make in India is an initiative launched by the Government of India to encourage multi-national, as well as national companies to manufacture their products in India. India received US\$63 billion in FDI in 2015.

2. Railway Minister flags off maiden Agartala-Delhi broad-gauge rail line

Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the maiden broad gauge train service, Agartala-New Delhi 'Tripura Sundari Express'. The cost of the project is Rs 968 crore.



Also, the foundation stone for the much awaited railway track to link Agartala to Akhaura in Bangladesh was jointly laid at the programme by Prabhu and his Bangladeshi counterpart Mujibul Haque. The railway ministry has released Rs 568 crore for the Agartala-Akhaura rail link. Laying of the 15.054km rail track will be completed by 2017. Of the total track, only 5km will be on the Indian side and the rest in Bangladesh.

3. Parliament passes NIT, Science Education & Research Bill

Parliament has passed the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016 after Rajya Sabha approved it. The Lok Sabha has already cleared the Bill.

The Bill seeks to establish the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Andhra Pradesh as an institute of national importance under the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (NITSER) Act, 2007. For the current year, an amount of 40 crore rupees have been allocated for the establishment of the Institute.



4. Parliament passes Indian Medical Council Amendment Bill 2016

Admission to medical and dental courses across the country will be done through a single common entrance test from next year after Parliament approved two significant bills for putting NEET in place. The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2016 were passed by the Rajya Sabha by voice vote. The Lok Sabha has already passed it.

The bills seek to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the Dentists Act, 1948. The Bills provide for conduct of uniform entrance examination for admission to all medical educational institutions at the undergraduate and post-graduate courses from next year.



5. Govt. caps prices of 24 essential drugs

Drug pricing regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has capped the prices of 24 essential drugs under Drugs (Price Control) Amendment Order, 2016 used for treatment of cancer, HIV, bacterial infections, anxiety and cardiac conditions, reducing the cost by an average of around 25%. NPPA also capped the retail price of 31 formulations under Drug Prices Control Order, DPCO 2013.

The government fixes the prices of essential drugs based on the simple average of all medicines in a particular therapeutic segment, having sales of more than 1 per cent.



6. CVC red-flags setting up of NGOs by employees of public sector banks

The Central Vigilance Commission has red-flagged the setting up of NGOs by employees of public sector banks. The move comes as the Commission observed instances of associations and organizations, formed or patronized by employees, their spouses, obtaining donations from contractors, vendors, customers or other persons having commercial relations or official dealings with the public sector banks and enterprises.

All Chief Vigilance Officers, CVOs of public sector banks and enterprises have been asked to take necessary action in case they come across such instances.



7. Lok Sabha passes bill on Reconstruction of Financial Assets

The Lok Sabha passed the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016. The bill seeks to amend four laws -- the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002; the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993; the Indian Stamp Act, 1899; and the Depositories Act, 1996.



The Bill simplifies the procedures by which there will be a quick disposal of claims of banks and financial institutions. It will empower the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to examine the statements and any information of Asset Reconstruction Companies related to their business.

8. NGRBA approved Rs 400 crore for Ganga rejuvenation projects

National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) approved several projects worth Rs 400 cr, including that for the development of ghats, crematoria and riverfront along river Ganga, under the Centre's ambitious Namami Gange programme.



The projects include development of ghats and crematoria in the stretch from Rudraprayag to Guptkashi in Uttarakhand; Kanpur, Allahabad, Bithoor and Bijnor (on Ramganga) in Uttar Pradesh; Kahalgaon in Bihar; Sahibganj and Rajmahal in Jharkhand and Bhatpara and Naihati in West Bengal. Under the 'Namami

Gange' programme, the central government had sanctioned Rs 20,000 crore for five years during the 2015-2020 period.

9. Government launches performance and credit rating scheme for MSMEs

The MSME Ministry has launched the "Performance and Credit Rating Scheme" through National Small Industry Corporation Limited to assess the capabilities and creditworthiness of the industries in the sector. It will provide the MSMEs a trusted third party opinion on their capabilities and creditworthiness so as to create awareness about the strengths and weaknesses of their existing operations.



The new scheme of Financial Support to MSMEs in Zero Defect Zero Effect Certification has been approved in which the MSMEs will be assessed on ZED Maturity Model on 50 parameters.

10. India to host international summit on tobacco-control

India will host a global summit to eliminate the illicit trade of tobacco products. 1000-1500 delegates from 180 countries will take part. India will host the 7th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC).



The summit is scheduled from November 7-12 at the Indian Exposition Mart in Noida. India has ratified FCTC in 2004 and is a party to it. Also, according to the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Cancer Registry data, the estimated number of cancer cases in the country stood at 14.5 lakh in 2016.

11. Parliament passes Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill

Parliament has passed the Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill- 2016 to set up six new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) after Rajya Sabha approved it. The new IITs will be established in Tirupati, Palakkad, Goa, Dharwad, Bhilai and Jammu. Besides the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad has been brought within the ambit of the IIT Act.

The Bill seeks to amend the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, which declares certain Institutes of Technology as institutions of national importance.



12. Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Being Promoted Under “Per Drop More Crop” Component

Drip and sprinkler irrigation systems are being promoted under “Per Drop More Crop” component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). Under the scheme, 15% additional assistance is provided to small and marginal farmers for installation of micro irrigation systems compared to other farmers for area covered under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and North Eastern and Himalayan States and 10% for other areas.



During the last three years (2013-14 to 2015-16), 14.3 lakh hectare area have been covered under drip and sprinkler irrigation systems.

13. NDDB to Implement “Giftmilk” Scheme to Improve Child Nutrition

Government has approved a proposal for setting up an Institution for promotion of nutrition through milk/milk products (especially for children) utilizing Corporate Social Responsibility funds of NDDB. NDDB registered a trust/ society known as ‘NDDB Foundation for Nutrition’(NFN) to implement this initiative known as “Giftmilk” to provide milk free of cost.

NFN is currently implementing the “Giftmilk” initiative in 3 schools -2 in Delhi & 1 in Telangana. Till now about 1,20,000 packets of



flavored milk have been distributed. The “Giftmilk” is presently supported by NDDB’s subsidiaries who have contributed from their CSR commitment.

14. 12 acres of land of Indu-6 Mill to be handed over to Government of Maharashtra

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the transfer of 12 acres of Indu-6 Mill land, vested in National Textile Corporation, to Government of Maharashtra for construction of a befitting Memorial for Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.



The Government of Maharashtra needs to make the necessary payment of compensation as required under section 11A of the Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalization) Amendment Act, 1995 and ratified tripartite

Memorandum of Understanding signed between Government of India, Government of Maharashtra and National Textile Corporation Ltd.

15. Shipping Corporation of India signs MOU with Government of India

Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. has signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Shipping for the financial year 2016-17. It consists of parameters drawn on the prescribed evaluation criteria and factors such as capacity and its expansion, business environment, projects under implementation have been considered.



The MoU will be periodically reviewed by the Ministry and the performance of the PSU would be evaluated and ratings awarded at the end of the financial year. SCI has reported a consolidated net profit of Rs.389.4 crores for the financial year 2015-16.

16. MDWS launches month-long campaign on “Freedom from Open Defecation”

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is organizing a month-long Swachh Bharat special campaign around the theme 'Freedom from Open Defecation' in August 2016.



The following events are being organized by the Ministry during the month:

1-Aug	Ministry has kicked off the campaign with the launch of its newsletter "Swachhta Samachar" and an 'Ask Me Anything' (AMA) campaign on social media (twitter.com/swachhbharat)
5-Aug	National Media Interaction on Swachh Bharat Mission to sensitize Media on SBM.
11-Aug	Launch of 5 SBM movies; A 'Chai Pe Charcha' between the Minister, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, and selected Champion Collectors for Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)
14 & 16-Aug	States and Districts to hold mass mobilization and honor local Sanitation Champions
20-Aug	Mass event in Allahabad with 1651 Gram Pradhans and associated Pramukhs to motivate them for making villages along the banks of the river Ganga.
24-Aug	Release of 'Swachh Survekshan', through Quality Council of India to rank the top performing districts of the country based on the NSSO survey and the States.
28-Aug	MDWS will launch a series on Swachh Bharat nationwide that will run as a weekly show on prime time on Doordarshan.

17. PM Modi launched PMO App At MyGov Anniversary Event

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the new PMO App in the first ever townhall held by an Indian Prime Minister organized in New Delhi by MyGov. The app would correspond to the website of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).



It can be used by citizens for discussions and direct submission of grievances to the prime minister's office (PMO). The MyGov portal was launched by the prime minister on 26 July 2014 as a part of the government's Digital India campaign.

18. Kathakali dance troupe in Egypt for first time

A nine-member Kathakali dance troupe has performed the Kathakali dance for the first time in Egypt and wooed the audience during its performances in different cities of Egypt.

The troupe was a part the 14th Summer Festival organized by Bibliotheca Alexandrina on August 1. The Indian dance troupe will also perform in different places including Port Said Cultural Palace, Ismailia Cultural Palace as well as at the Egypt Society for Culture and Development (ESCD) Cultural Palace, in Cairo.



19. PM Modi inaugurates first phase of Mission Bhageeratha in Telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of Mission Bhagirath programme, a flagship programme to supply drinking water to each household in Gajwel Assembly constituency in Telangana.

The Prime Minister also laid foundation stone, through remote control to the 1600 MW power plant being set up by the NTPC at Ramagundam in Karimnagar district and new railway line between Manoharabad - Kottapalli. He unveiled foundation stone to revive Ramagundam Fertilizers Plant and Kaloji Narayana RAO Health university at Warangal. He also dedicated the 1200 MW thermal power plant to the nation.



20. Swachh Survekshan of 500 cities launched by Union Government

Union Government launched 'Swachh Suvekshan-2017' to assess and rank 500 cities and towns based on levels of sanitation and efforts made by respective urban local bodies and also to capture progress towards achieving 'Open Defecation Free' status.

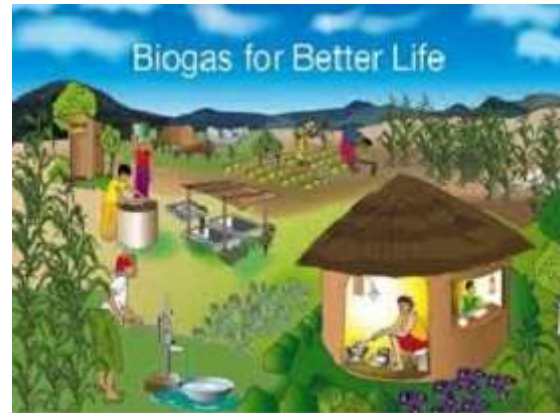
Minister of Urban Development Shri M.Venkiah Naidu launched a web portal 'Swachhata App' and 'Swachhata Helpline 1969' to enable citizens associate more and more with Swachh Bharat Mission in urban areas. 115 cities have become 'Open Defecation Free' and another 793 cities and towns are set to become so by March 2017. Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala will become ODF by March, 2017.



21. Rs.142.00 Crore Sanctioned for 'Biogas Programme' in 2016-17

An amount of Rs.142.00 crore has been allocated under "Biogas Programme" during the current year 2016-17.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is promoting setting up of biogas plants under National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP) which caters to setting up of family type biogas plants for meeting cooking energy needs of rural and semi-urban areas of the country. A target for setting up of 1,00,000 biogas plants under the NBMMP has been fixed during the current year, 2016-17.



22. Rajya Sabha passes Mental Health Care Bill

The Rajya Sabha passed the Mental Health Care Bill 2013 seeking to provide better healthcare for people suffering from mental illness. The Bill provides for protection and promotion of rights of persons with mental illness during the delivery of health care in institutions and in the community.

There were 134 official amendments to the bill. An estimated 6-7% of country's population suffered from some form of mental illness with 1-2% having an acute condition.



23. PM Narendra Modi releases theme song for Tiranga Yatra to mark 70 years of Independence

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a theme song for Tiranga Yatra to be organised to mark 70 years of Independence Day. The theme song **70 Saal Azadi Yaad Karo Kurban** has been composed by Dr. Ghazal Srinivas.

Tiranga Yatra will be organised from 16 to 23 August 2016 across the country to mark 70 years of Independence. It will be the symbol of social harmony and unity in the country. The Yatra will spread the message of harmony and also highlight the contributions of freedom fighters and martyrs among the school children during the celebration.



24. Lok Sabha passes Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill

The Lok Sabha unanimously passed the Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill - 2016. The Bill seeks to amend the Employee's Compensation Act- 1923 which provides payment of compensation to employees and their dependents in the case of injury by industrial accidents, including occupational diseases. The amendment bill makes it obligatory for the employer to inform the employee of his rights to compensation, in writing as well as through electronic means.



The bill provides for raising the penalty for violation of the Act to 50 thousand rupees from five thousand rupees as at present.

25. NHAI Signs MOU with IIT- Kharagpur for Research Project on Paneled Cement Concrete Pavements for Highways

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IIT-Kharagpur for research project on Laboratory and Field investigations on Paneled Cement Concrete Pavements for Highways. The duration of the research project is 3 years and NHAI have paid Rs. 1.25 crore for the project, excluding cost of construction of trial pavement section on NH.



NHAI in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur shall promote to develop a technology to construct Panelled Cement Concrete (Pre-fabricated in a small panel size) which can replace the design of construction of existing cement concrete road.

26. Rajya Sabha passes Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws Amendment Bill, 2016

The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016, was passed by Rajya Sabha. The amendments are aimed at faster recovery and resolution of bad debts by banks and financial institutions and making it easier for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) to function.



The Bill seeks to amend four laws: (i) Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (ii) Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act (RDDBFI), 1993 (iii) Depositories Act, 1996 and (iv) Indian Stamp Act, 1899.

27. First Unit of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant dedicated to the nation

The first unit of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant was jointly dedicated to the nation by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalithaa, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin through video conferencing.



The KNPP had been set up using the Russian VVER type reactors based on enriched uranium. The first unit of Kudankulam power plant is generating its full capacity of 1000 megawatts of electricity. The unit was synchronized with the southern power grid in 2013 and commercial power generation started by the end of December 2014.

28. First Solar Power India commissions 130 MW of solar power plants in AP, Telangana

First Solar Power India announced the commercial operation of 80 MW and 50 MW solar power plants in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. These projects are a part of its 260 MW project portfolio. First Solar Power India is the local subsidiary of the Nasdaq-listed First Solar.



The 130 MW plants will produce energy to power around 2,27,500 average homes in the country. The electricity generated by the two projects will be purchased by the Southern Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh and the Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company under 25-year power purchase agreements.

29. Lok Sabha clears Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016. 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.



The bill decreases the period of employment of an employee of the businesses which manufacture apparel from 240 days to 150 days. The Bill also proposes to increase the existing customs duty on imports of granite and marble blocks used for certain purposes from 10 percent to 40 percent.

granite and marble blocks used for certain purposes from 10 percent to 40 percent.

30. Govt notifies 'Early Childhood Care and Education' policy

Government has notified the national 'Early Childhood Care and Education' policy, which aims to achieve holistic development of children below six years of age. The early Childhood Care and Education' policy is one of the six free services provided through Anganwadi centres located across the country.



A UNICEF Survey indicated that 34 per cent of Muslim and 25 per cent of Christian children below six years do not attend pre-school.

31. CCEA approves proposal of R&D project for development of AUSC Technology for Thermal Power Plants

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a proposal of research and development project for development of Advanced Ultra Super Critical Technology for Thermal Power Plants. The estimated cost of the project is 1554 crore rupees.



BHEL will be provided one-time budgetary support of 900 crore rupees for implementation of the project. This will enable domestic industries to design, manufacture and commission higher efficiency coal fired power plants. This will be the first time that a large power plant equipment will be manufactured with advanced technologies, but without any technological Collaboration and Licensing Agreement with foreign companies.

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32. Cabinet approves MoU between India, S Africa for cooperation in the field of Tourism

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding between India and South Africa for cooperation in the field of Tourism. The main objectives of the MoU is to expand bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector and to exchange information and data related to tourism.



The Cabinet has also given its approval for signing and ratification of an agreement between India and Croatia on economic cooperation. The aim of this agreement is to promote and develop bilateral trade and economic relations.

33. Cabinet approves various Bills

Cabinet has approved introduction of pension and post-retirement medical benefits for the employees of Food Corporation of India (FCI). It has also given its nod to amend regulation for foreign investment in Non- Banking Finance Companies. Amending the regulations will enable inflow of foreign investment in other financial services on automatic route which in turn will induce foreign direct investment and give a spurt to economic activities.



Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to introduction of Lokpal Bill 2016, to amend Section 44 of Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013. The amendments will address concerns expressed by public servants.

34. Niti Aayog inks pact with US EIA to set up portal on energy data

Niti Aayog has inked a pact with US Energy Information Administration (EIA) in a step towards setting up a portal to host all the data related to energy sector in the country which would take 3-4 years to develop. The web portal will host data including oil & gas, coal, solar & thermal energy etc.



Niti Aayog also inked an SOP with US Agency for International Development (USAID) and UK's Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) for collaboration in the area of energy research.

35. IRCTC signs MoU with DRDO to get ready-to-eat food in railways

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has started sale of Ready-to-Eat food packets at some of the Railway stations on trial basis. During the trial period the MRP has been kept at ₹ 40/- per packet for all items.

IRCTC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defence Food Research Laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) for Transfer of Technology of Retort Pouch Processed Foods so that ready-to-eat food can be warmed and eaten straight out of the packet.



36. Union Cabinet approves Agreement between the India and Croatia on Economic Cooperation

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing and ratification of an Agreement between India and Croatia on Economic Cooperation. Signing of the new Agreement between India and Croatia would be a step in continuity as the existing Agreement expired in November, 2009.

India's bilateral trade with Croatia during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 were US\$ 152.01million, US\$ 148.86 million and US\$ 205.04 million respectively. The average bilateral trade growth was 17.44% during the last three years.



37. Jaitley launches data bank portal of MSMEs

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched a data bank Portal of micro, small and medium enterprises, MSME in New Delhi. The portal aims to gather information about micro, small and medium enterprises. A census of MSMEs online will be carried out for the first time through the data bank.

An Online Finance Facilitation Web Portal was also launched to provide collective funding options for MSMEs. Six Online Finance Facilitation Centres in Jalandhar, Ludhiana,



Guwahati, Lucknow, Peenya near Bangaluru and Delhi have been opened and six more will be unveiled in the near future.

38. Parliament passes Central Agricultural University Bill

Parliament has passed the Central Agricultural University Bill with the Rajya Sabha adopting it by voice vote without discussion. The bill seeks to amend the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992, which was enacted for the establishment and incorporation of a university for the northeastern region.

The main Act provides for the establishment of a University in the north eastern region for the development of agriculture, and advancement of research in agriculture and allied sciences. The amendment brings Nagaland under the ambit of Central Agricultural University. The Lok Sabha has already passed it.



39. Rajya Sabha passes Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Rajya Sabha has passed the Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2016. The new legislation will benefit 18 lakh women workforce in the country. The proposed amendments are:

- Increase Maternity Benefit to 26 weeks from 12 weeks for two surviving children and 12 weeks for more than two children.
- Mandatory 12 weeks Maternity Benefit to 'Adopting mother' and 'Commissioning mother'.
- Facilitate Work from home for women during the time of her maternity.
- Mandatory for establishment having 50 or more employees to have Creche.



It applies to every establishment employing ten or more persons and includes mines and factories. No employer can remove any woman employee on the ground of pregnancy.

40. Funds for LIGO-India Project

The Government has given 'in-principle' approval for setting up Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) in India. The LIGO-India project will establish a state-of-the-art gravitational wave observatory on the Indian soil in collaboration with the LIGO Laboratory in the U.S. run by Caltech and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



An amount of Rupees 105 crore has been made in XII Plan outlay by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)-Department of Science & Technology (DST) towards LIGO-India. Out of which, the share of contribution of DST will be Rupees 55 crore including 50% of seed-funding amount of Rupees 9.70 crore and DAE's share would be Rupees 50 crore.

41. India's first touch-and-feel garden for visually impaired

A touch and feel garden for the visually impaired people was inaugurated near Calicut University campus by Kerala Assembly Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan.



A first-of-its-kind, the garden has nearly 70 aromatic, medicinal and herbal plants. The visually impaired will also get information about them through audio inputs. It has been constructed in a year with an aid of Rs 17 lakh from the Environment Ministry. The names of the plants are written in English, Malayalam and in Braille.

42. Hindustan Copper Limited inaugurates country's first facility to produce nickel at Ghatsila

Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) has inaugurated the country's first facility to produce nickel. This is the first facility in India to produce nickel metal of LME grade from primary resource at Indian Copper Complex, Ghatsila (Jharkhand).



India is completely dependent on import for Nickel. The metal is primarily used to make stainless steel and Annual demand for pure nickel in India is around 45,000 tonne. The

proposed project will replace the age-old process of liberator cell operation with EMEW & APU technology in the Refinery.

43. BARC and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology sign MoU for joint development of Deep Brain Stimulator

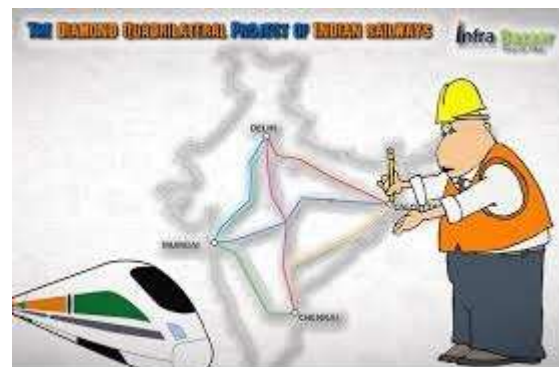
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram have agreed to join hands to develop 'Deep Brain Stimulator' (DBS). DBS is used in typical neurological conditions of Essential tremor, Parkinson's disease and Dystonia. These devices are currently being imported.



The 1st prototypes are planned to be available in 3 years.

44. Diamond Quadrilateral Network in Indian Railway

Six corridors on Diamond Quadrilateral connecting metropolitan cities and growth centers of the country (Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai & Kolkata) have been identified for feasibility studies for high speed rail connectivity viz: (i) Delhi-Mumbai, (ii) Mumbai-Chennai, (iii) Chennai-Kolkata, (iv) Kolkata-Delhi and both diagonals i.e. (v) Delhi-Chennai and (vi) Mumbai-Kolkata routes.



Feasibility studies for Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Kolkata and Mumbai-Chennai have been awarded in September, 2015. Feasibility studies for Delhi-Nagpur portion of Delhi-Chennai corridor and Mumbai-Nagpur portion of Mumbai-Kolkata corridor are being undertaken through Government to Government cooperation, with China and Spain respectively.

45. Govt approves 5 projects worth Rs 644 crores to decongest capital city

Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu declared sanction of 644 crores rupees in the financial year 2016-17 for five projects of Delhi government to decongest the city, which includes construction of flyover and underpass connecting Mahipalpur, Aerocity, Airport and NH-8; and construction of flyover-cum-road over-bridge near Narela for providing direct access from NH-1 to Bawana Industrial Complex.



It has been decided to develop a skywalk and foot overbridge near ITO for safety of pedestrians and a 1.6-km-long Grade separator at Rani Jhansi Road.

46. Allocation under BBBP Scheme

The total allocation being made for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme in the Union Budget for Financial Year 2016-17 is Rs. 100 Crore. Under BBBP scheme an amount of Rs. 24.58 lakh is allocated for carrying the State level activities. Also for the district level activities an amount of Rs. 65.01 lakh is allocated.



The overall objective of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme is to improve declining Child Sex Ratio in the country and create an enabling environment for the education of the girl child and this requires long-term attitudinal change.

47. No Rail Budget from next fiscal

Finance Ministry Arun Jaitley has accepted Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu's proposal to merge the Railway Budget with the General Budget. With this the 92-year-old practice of presenting a separate Rail Budget is set to come to an end from the next fiscal.



The Finance Ministry has hence constituted a 5-member committee to work out the modalities for the merger and has been asked to submit its report by August 31. The idea was

mooted by a committee headed by NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy. As a result, Indian Railway will get rid of the annual dividend it has to the government every year.

48. Aadhaar-linked eSignDesk facility introduced to sign documents digitally

One of online start up LegalDesk.com has come up with unique electronic signing facility eSignDesk that allows people to sign documents digitally from remote places. This e-signature cannot be forged and can be lawfully authenticated. The main objective behind introduction of such facility by Union government is to save time and introduce eco-friendly measures, where a billion Aadhaar card holders exist.



E-sign facility will be available on www.eSignDesk.com and will be offered for free of cost to the first 1000 users.

49. Health Minister launches MAA programme to reduce the under-five mortality of children

Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched a flagship programme 'MAA' (Mothers Absolute Affection) to ensure adequate awareness among masses, especially mothers, on the benefits of breastfeeding. Ministry is launching MAA- Mother's Absolute Affection'' to create an enabling environment to ensure that mothers, husbands and families receive adequate information and support to promote breastfeeding practices.



Around 20% newborn deaths and 13% under-five deaths can be prevented by early initiation of breastfeeding. The programme has been named 'MAA' to signify the support a lactating mother requires from family members and at health facilities to breastfeed successfully.

50. Centre constitutes committees to recruit and fill vacancies in 6 new AIIMS

The newly set-up AIIMS at Jodhpur, Rishikesh, Bhopal, Patna, Bhubaneswar and Raipur are vacant for the required posts, due to which Centre has constituted separate committees to facilitate expeditious filling up of vacancies in the six new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

1,297 faculty positions were advertised and selections held as a result of which 301 candidates were selected in all six AIIMS.



51. Govt sets up National Committee on Trade Facilitation

India has constituted the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) to develop a pan-India road map for trade facilitation. It will be headed by Cabinet Secretary. NCTF is a mandatory and institutional arrangement under the WTO agreement. It will facilitate domestic co-ordination and implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) provisions.

The Trade Facilitation Agreement contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities.



52. Health Minister JP Nadda inaugurated AMRIT outlet at Safdarjung hospital

Union Minister Shri J P Nadda inaugurated the Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) outlet at Safdarjung Hospital. The AMRIT retail outlets will sell drugs at highly discounted rates. These outlets have a very comprehensive list of medicines that are available across range of products.

Nine AMRIT Pharmacies have already been set up. The project has been floated in a tie-up with government-owned HLL Lifecare Ltd (HLL) which is mandated to establish and run the AMRIT chain of pharmacies across the country.



53. Smart Ganga City Scheme Launched in Ten Cities

Union Government launched Smart Ganga City Scheme in ten cities – Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mathura-Vrindavan, Varanasi, Kanpur, Allahabad, Lucknow, Patna, Sahibgunj and Barrackpore. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has chosen these cities in the first phase for infrastructure development for sewage treatment. This will be on hybrid annuity mode based on PPP model.



In the hybrid annuity model, a part of capital investment (up to 40%) will be paid by Union Government through construction linked milestones. The balance amount will come through an annuity over the contract duration up to 20 years to ensure operational longevity of STPs.

54. SC lifts ban on sale of High-end Diesel cars in Delhi and NCR

A three-member Bench headed by Chief Justice TS Thakur of the Supreme Court lifted an eight-month-old ban on the registration of high-end diesel cars, including sports-utility vehicles (SUVs), with 2000 cc engines and above in Delhi and NCR.



However, the bench has put forward a condition that car manufacturers have to pay 1% of the ex-showroom price of the car as green cess, to be known as environment protection charge. The cess would be collected by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

55. 1st BIO-CNG project in India inaugurated in Pune

The first ever BIO-CNG project in India was inaugurated in Pune. The plant is commissioned by Primove Engineering Private Limited and will use agricultural residue to generate CNG which can be used in automobiles as fuel. The plant is located in Pirangut, Pune.



Bio-Fuel will help in reducing the import of diesel up to 50 %, thereby saving a huge amount of Foreign Exchange. Besides, this energy source is also cost effective and pollution free.

56. First rake of Oil train carrying petroleum products reaches Tripura

The first rake of Oil train carrying petroleum products in the Roll on- Roll off (RORO) mode was reached at Churaibari in Tripura. The rake was flagged off from Bhanga, near Silchar in Assam. This is the first such initiative of such kind in North east.

A total of 276 thousand liters of petroleum products like petrol, diesel and kerosene in 19 tank trucks and 14 metric tonnes of LPG were transported.



57. Govt releases commemorative postage stamp on Tourism

Minister of State Manoj Sinha released a commemorative postage stamp on Tourism in India on the occasion of 70th Independence day.

The theme tourism was selected on account of tourism sector being an economically important and rapidly growing industry. The minister said that tourism is fast emerging as one of the major sectors of the economy and generating huge employment opportunity across the country.



58. JP Nadda inaugurates AMRIT outlets in Shillong, Imphal & Jodhpur

Health Minister J P Nadda inaugurated Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) outlets in Shillong, Imphal and Jodhpur. These outlets are aimed at reducing the expenditure incurred by common patients on treatment of cancer and heart diseases.

With this the number of AMRIT outlets has reached 12 across the country where more than 2141 drugs are being sold at a discount of more than 70%. The benefits of the AMRIT clinics are available for in-patients as well as out-patients in the hospitals where these outlets are located.



59. National Commission for Scheduled Caste Submits Three Reports to President of India

The National Commission for Scheduled Caste headed by Shri P.L. Punia, Chairman, Shri Rajkumar Verka, Vice-Chairman and Shri Raju Parmar, Shri Ishwar Singh, Smt. P.M. Kamalamma, Members have submitted the following reports on 16th August 2016 to the Hon'ble President of India.

The reports are –

1. Annual Report of NCSC 2015-16,
2. Report on the Effective Utilization of Funds under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)-2016, and
3. Report on Atrocities against Kuravan community in Tamil Nadu-2016.



60. NMCG and IOC sign MoU for industrial use of treated water

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti laid the foundation of STP in Mathura which will provide treated water for industrial use. The STP will be built at a cost of Rs. 40 crore. A nine kilometer pipeline from Laxmi Nagar to Gokul barrage will carry the treated water to Mathura refinery.



An MoU was also signed to this effect between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). The use of pressure technology in irrigation would help save about 60 percent water of Ganga and Yamuna which will help to maintain good e-flow of water in these rivers.

61. 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 to connect people better with the oral and folk traditions.



The other initiatives include study of the princely States of modern India and studies to fill the gaps between the Harappan civilization (the first Indian urbanization) and the 6 century BC (the second urbanization). ICHR would seek part funding by corporate houses for its projects.

62. Central Government decides to give Special Assistance of Rs. 1,976.50 crore to Andhra Pradesh during 2016-17

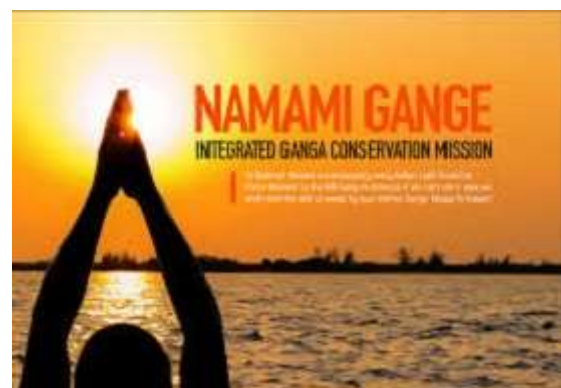
In order to fulfill its commitment to the people of Andhra Pradesh and to compensate the financial impact arising out of the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh the Government of India has decided to provide further "Special Assistance" of Rs. 1,976.50 crore to the State during 2016-17.



Thus, with the current sanction of funds, the Central Government has so far provided Central assistance of Rs.8379.50 crore to the State.

63. IIT-Kanpur adopts five villages under Namami Gange programme

IIT-Kanpur has adopted five villages under the Namami Gange programme. Under the initiative, IIT-Kanpur will ensure sewage water is not disposed of in the river, and also keep a check on quality of drinking water and sanitation. The task will be undertaken by the institute's civil engineering department.



The five villages adopted by the institute are Ramel Nagar, Khoyra Katree, Pratapur, Hari Hindpur, and Katri Ladhva Khera. IIT-Kanpur is one of the 13 educational institutes directed by the Centre to adopt villages.

64. Union Government launched TARANG, e-Trans & DEEP to enhance transparency in power sector

The Union Government launched the 'TARANG' Mobile App, 'e-Trans' & 'DEEP' e-bidding web portals, developed by Rural Electrification Corporation Transmission Projects Company Limited (RECTPCL) to enhance transparency in power transmission sector of the country.



"Tarang" web portal can be accessed at www.tarang.website. It is a powerful monitoring tool that tracks upcoming transmission projects and monitor the progress of Inter-State & Intra-State transmission systems in the country. 'e-Trans' web platform for e-bidding and e-reverse auction for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) in transmission projects whereas 'DEEP (Discovery of Efficient Electricity Price) e-Bidding' portal for medium term (1-5 years) purchase of power.

65. Government caps prices of 22 essential drugs for treatment of cancer, HIV, bacterial infections and malaria

Government has capped the prices of 22 essential drugs used for treatment of cancer, HIV, bacterial infections and malaria among others reducing the cost in the range of 10 to 45 per cent. Drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, NPPA has also fixed the retail price of 13 formulations under Drug Price Control Order, DPCO 2013.



The government had notified the DPCO 2013, which covers 680 formulations, with effect from May 15, 2014, replacing the 1995 order that regulated prices of only 74 bulk drugs.

66. PM Narendra Modi to be new brand ambassador of Incredible India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the new brand ambassador of Incredible India campaign. The Union Culture and Tourism Ministry, which runs the campaign, has picked PM Modi for the job after much deliberations.



Actor Aamir Khan was the last brand ambassador for the campaign. He was ousted following his remarks on the alleged intolerance in India. PM Modi emerged as the ideal choice due to his huge popularity and his

continuous foreign trips where he has been making efforts to have India's voice heard on globally.

67. KVIC approves hike in wages of Khadi Artisans

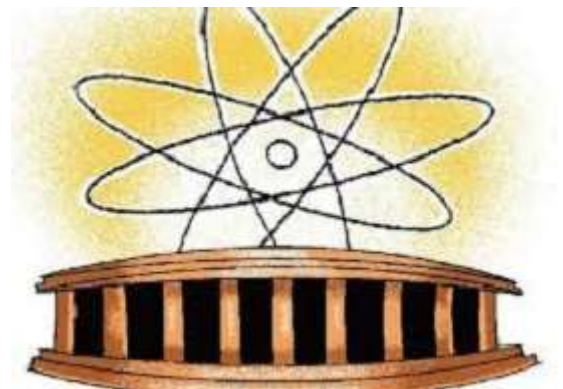
The Khadi & village Industries Commission (KVIC) has approved the wage hike as well as market Development Assistance of Khadi artisans from Rs. 90 to Rs 190 per day. The rates had been stagnant from April 1, 2014. The revised wages come into effect from April 1, 2016.



The KVIC has hiked wages of spinners from Rs 4 per hank to Rs 5.50 per hank with an additional 10 per cent of MDA which would add to the wages, a rise by 37.5 per cent.

68. India Nuclear Insurance Pool brings India's first Nuclear Suppliers' Insurance Policy

India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) revealed India's first Nuclear Suppliers' Insurance Policy in co-operation with New India Assurance Co. This unique policy will cover the risks of liability of nuclear operators and suppliers. It has been organized under three types of policies classifying tier 1 policy for operators, tier 2 policy for turn key suppliers and tier 3 policy for suppliers other than turn key suppliers.



New India Assurance Company Limited and INIP will administer the issuance of the policy and settle the claims on behalf of the pool. India Nuclear Insurance Pool is 27th insurance pool in the world after countries such as France, Russia, South Africa and the U.S. to bring insurance for nuclear suppliers.

69. Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre

The construction of the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre has been taken up on Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis. Rs. 35 crore has been released for the project up to March 31, 2016 which includes fund for establishment of Satellite Cancer Treatment Facility at Sangrur District, Punjab. Budget provision of Rs. 50 crore has been made in the current year.



The period of completion of work is 24 months from the date of issue of award of contract and treatment and research facility is expected to start immediately after construction work is over.

70. Interest Subvention Scheme to Boost Exports

The Government has introduced the Interest Equalization Scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit w.e.f. 01.04.2015 for 5 years.

The scheme is available to all exports by manufacturers under 416 specified tariff lines and exports made by manufacturing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises across all ITC (HS) Codes. The rate of interest equalization is 3% per annum.



71. Foreign Investment in pharma sector

During the Financial Year 2015-16, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amounting to US\$ 0.754 billion has been received in Drugs & Pharmaceutical Sector through equity inflow.

According to World Trade Organization (WTO)'s database for the year 2014, India's export is higher than China in the sectors of 'Fuels' and 'Fuels & Mining Products'. A total of US\$ 138.01 billion of Foreign Investment (FDI + investment by Foreign Institutional Investors) has been made in the country during the last two years i.e. F.Y. 2014-15 & 2015-16.



72. Startups that applied for recognition

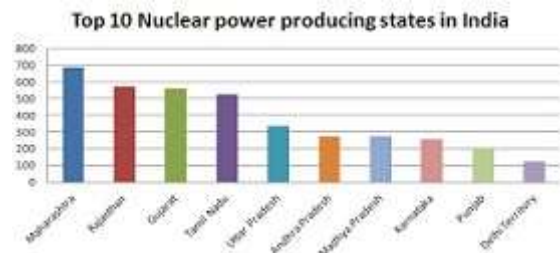
793 startups have applied for recognition so far under the 'Startup India' programme. 223 startups have been recognized by the Government so far. A 'Fund of Funds' (FFS) of INR 10,000 crores for Startups has been established which is being managed by SIDBI.

The fund will invest in SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) which, in turn, will invest in Startups. Till date, SIDBI has sanctioned an amount of Rs.168 crore towards the corpus of 6 AIFs under FFS.



73. India's Position in Atomic Energy Production

At present India with twenty one (21) nuclear power reactors, stands seventh (7) among thirty one (31) countries with nuclear power in terms of number of reactors and thirteenth (13) in terms of electricity generation.



The present nuclear power installed capacity of 5780 MW is expected to shortly increase to 6780 MW within this financial year with the start of commercial operation of Kudankulam Unit-2 (KKNPP-2). The installed capacity is expected to increase to 10080 MW by the year 2019 on progressive completion of projects under construction.

74. Cabinet approves signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Lao

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of new Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

The Agreement is expected to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchange between the two countries bringing it in tune with the developments in the civil aviation sector. Under the agreement, the designated airlines of the two countries shall have fair and equal opportunity to operate the agreed services on specified routes. ASA is the basic legal framework for any air operation between the two countries.



75. Cabinet approves recommendations of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

The Union Cabinet has accepted the major recommendations of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs). The Sub-Group had examined 66 CSSs and recommended that the number of CSSs should not normally exceed 30.



The rationalization of the CSSs would ensure optimum utilization of resources with better outcomes through area specific interventions. This would also ensure wider reach of the benefits to the target groups. (For Details: pib.nic.in, Date: 03August, 2016).

76. Cabinet approves amendments in the Central List of Other Backward Classes applicable to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for making suitable amendments in the Central List of OBCs by way of inclusion/correction/deletion of castes/communities applicable to the State of Andhra Pradesh and the newly formed State of Telangana as per the advice received from the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).



A total of 35 changes recommended by NCBC in respect of Andhra Pradesh and 86 New Entries in respect of Telangana State will be notified.

77. Cabinet authorized National Highways Authority of India to monetize public funded national highway projects

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has authorized National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to monetize public funded National Highway (NH) projects which are operational and are generating toll revenues for at least two years after the Commercial Operations Date (COD) through the Toll Operate Transfer (TOT) Model.



Around 75 operational NH projects completed under public funding have been preliminarily identified for potential monetization using the TOT Model.

78. Cabinet approves formula to provide production subsidy to sugar mills

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has decided to extend production subsidy to sugar mills which achieve expected performance in respect of export of sugar and supply of ethanol. This has been done to offset cost of cane and facilitate timely payment of cane price dues of farmers.

Due to drought situation, there has been significant decline in sugarcane/sugar production in the country by about 1.8 million MT (mMT) and 0.8 mMT respectively.



79. Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreement inked by CBDT

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) inked a Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) with the Indian subsidiary of a Japanese trading company. This is the first Bilateral Advance Pricing agreement with a Japanese company having a "Rollback" provision in it. Signing of this bilateral APA is an important step towards ascertaining certainty in transfer pricing matters of multinational company cases and dispute resolution.



The scheme will provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing and setting the prices of international transactions in advance.

80. INDO-US joint initiative of Clean Energy Fund

According to Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal & New and Renewable Energy and Mines, India and the United States of America (USA) will be jointly working for the creation of US \$ 20 million for US-India Energy Finance Initiatives which is expected to mobilize up to US \$ 400 million to provide finances for clean and renewable electricity by 2020.



Such initiatives will support the development of solar and clean energy if US \$ 400 million of finances are raised through proposed initiatives.

81. Cabinet approves discontinuation of the services of DGS&D for procuring jute bags for food grains

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved to discontinue the services of Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) in the operation of purchase of jute bags by Government Agencies for procurement of food grains.



The CCEA further approved that from 1st November, 2016 onwards, jute bags will be procured by the Jute Commissioner of India, Ministry of Textiles. The approval would help in eliminating multiple bodies and the Ministries which are involved for single action of jute bags procurements.

82. Cabinet approves upgradation of 13 government medical colleges

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved upgradation of 13 existing Government Medical Colleges / Institutes (GMCIs) under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).



The upgradation will be done at a cost of Rs.200 crore for each GMCI (Central share: Rs.120 crore and State Share Rs.80 crore). Accordingly the total upgradation cost shall be Rs.2,600 crore out of which Central Share will be Rs.1,560 crore and that of State will be Rs.1,040 crore. It will be completed in time period of 36 months.

83. Cabinet approves Spectrum Usage Charge for the spectrum in various bands

The Union Cabinet has approved the rates for Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC) for various bands of spectrum. As per the decision of the cabinet, the Spectrum acquired in forthcoming auction in 700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 & 2500 MHz band is to be charged at the rate of 3% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) excluding the revenue from wire-line services.



The amount of SUC payable by the operators during 2015-16 at weighted average derived after taking into consideration the spectrum acquired in the coming auction and excluding

the spectrum in 2300 MHz/2500 MHz band acquired/ allocated prior to 2015-16, shall be treated as the floor amount of the SUC to be paid by the operators.

84. National Steering Committee to be setup on Fodder Development

Government has decided to constitute a National Steering Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and a Technical Committee headed by Director, National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP) Bangalore, on issues related to Feed and Fodder Development in the country.



The decision has been taken in a review meeting held by the Secretary (ADF), Shri Devendra Chaudhry with National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP) Bangalore, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, National Dairy Development Board, Anand and ICAR.

85. Rs.4,404 cr more investment in basic urban infrastructure approved in 8 States/UTs for 2016-17

Ministry of Urban Development approved an investment of Rs. 4,404 cr in augmenting water supply, sewerage networks, drainage, urban transport and public and green spaces in urban areas in 8 States and UTs under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for the current financial year.



Investments approved were; Karnataka – Rs. 1,625 cr, Andhra Pradesh-Rs.877 cr, Bihar-Rs.775 cr, Telangana-Rs.555 cr, Haryana-Rs.525 cr, Nagaland-Rs.40 cr, Dadra, Nagar & Haveli-Rs.3.70 cr and Andaman & Nicobar Islands-Rs.3.18 cr.

86. Rajya Sabha overwhelmingly passes bill to facilitate rollout of GST

The Rajya Sabha overwhelmingly passed the 122nd Constitution Amendment Bill to facilitate rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the country. The legislation was approved by the Upper House with 203 votes in favour and none against.



The GST Bill is aimed at bringing uniform tax regime in the country by subsuming state levies. Under it, a single rate of GST will replace

Central Excise, State VAT, entertainment, entry and luxury taxes to ensure seamless transfer of goods and services.

87. Cabinet approves bill to improve road safety

Union Cabinet gave its approval to Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016 to improve road safety in the country. The bill proposes to increase penalties against traffic violations to as deterrent measure. It also has stricter provisions for offences like juvenile driving, drunken driving and driving without license.

Compensation for hit-and-run cases has been hiked from 25,000 rupees to two lakh rupees and in case of fatality up to 10 lakh rupees. Other provisions:

- Driving without insurance: Rs 2,000 fine and/or imprisonment
- Helmet-less driving – Rs 2000 fine and license suspension
- Drunken driving: Penalty of up to Rs 10,000



88. MoU signed between Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and University of Latvia

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) and University of Latvia on establishment of an academic chair in Ayurveda was signed at AYUSH Bhawan, New Delhi. The MoU was signed by Vaidya K.S. Dhiman, Director General, CCRAS and Dr. Valdis Pirags, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Director of the Centre of Complementary Medicine, University of Latvia.



The MoU will provide a structured framework for taking forward academic and research activities in Ayurveda through deputation of an Ayurveda Professor to the University of Latvia.

89. Indian Railways Ties Up with Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara

The National Academy of Indian Railways (NAIR), Vadodara, has signed an MoU with Maharaja Sayajirao (MS) University, Vadodara for award of MBA degree in specific Railway fields to railway probationary officers belonging to Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS), Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) and Indian Railway Store Service (IRSS).



This step is being viewed as an important measure of enhancing professional management education in the specific railway fields to the Railway Probationary Officers. This programme will start from August, 2016 itself.

90. Railways to partner with Google for showcasing its heritage

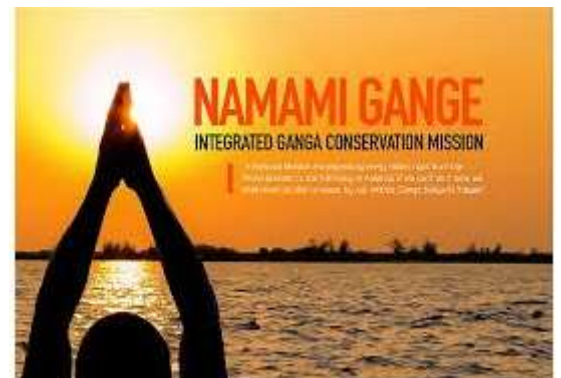
Indian Railways has partnered with Google for digitizing and showcasing its heritage on digital platforms. An agreement in this regard will be signed soon between National Rail Museum (NRM) and Google Cultural Institute (GCI).



Indian Railway has a huge list of heritage assets including bridges, steam locos, buildings, artefacts and museums which can be showcased for global audience. Google will help create a digital repository of these heritages for universal online access free of cost.

91. Union Government launches Rs 560 cr projects under Namami Gange projects

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ms Uma Bharti, launched various projects worth Rs. 560 crore under Namami Gange programme at Ganga Barrage in Kanpur. This includes Rs. 63 crore interception and diversion plan of Sisamau drain and Rs. 397 crore networking schemes.



Rs 100-crore will be spent on river front development in Bithoor. The government will also construct 14 ghats and 5 crematoria in Bithoor.

92. India and Germany sign MoU in the area of skill development

Germany and India signed an agreement to improve collaboration in the area of skill development. The agreement was signed between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and (German International Cooperation (GIZ).



This new project will run for three years starting August 2016 with a budget of EUR 3,000,000 (22.6 crores INR). It will be implemented in three selected clusters, which include the Automobile cluster in Maharashtra and Electronics cluster in Bangalore.

93. India signs MoU with US for cooperation in the field of traditional medicines

The Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) under the Ministry of AYUSH and the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the field of Traditional medicine and to collaborate in the identification, development, and dissemination of science-based standards in this field at an international level.



The aim of this historic MoU is to promote the safety, quality and integrity of traditional medicines and botanical dietary supplements.

94. Cabinet approves introduction of the "Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016"

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for introduction of the "Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016". The Bill shall apply to whole of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.



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.

95. 'Sugamya Pustakalaya' an e-Library for Persons with print Disabilities launched by Union Government

The Union Government launched Accessible E-Library 'Sugamya Pustakalaya' for Divyang under Prime Minister's Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan).



"Sugamaya Pustakalaya" is an online platform that makes accessible content available to print-disabled people. The library houses publications across diverse subjects and languages and multiple accessible formats. It has been created by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), in collaboration with member organizations of Daisy Forum of India and powered by TCS Access. It covers over 2 lakhs books in diverse languages. The platform also integrates libraries across the globe, including the largest international library, Bookshare.

96. Union Government formed Task Force to study structure of organised Group A Central Services

The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions constituted a Task Force, headed by T Jacob who is an Additional Secretary in the Department of Personnel Training (DoPT) under the ministry, to comprehensively study the cadre structure of organised Group A Central Services. The task force has been asked to submit its report within 3 months.



The Task Force will also recommend an ideal structure especially at Apex, HAG plus, HAG and SAG level and suggest the percentage of various reserves in organised Group A services.

97. Union Cabinet approved agreement and protocol with Cyprus for DTAA

The Union Cabinet gave 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.



With the revision of the treaty, capital gains will be taxed in India for entities resident in Cyprus, subject to double tax relief. The provisions in the earlier treaty for residence-

based taxation were leading to distortion of financial and real investment flows by artificial diversion of various investments from their true countries of origin, for the sake of avoiding tax.

98. Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Launches Hindi Website and Revamped English Website of Minority Affairs Ministry

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. The new revamped website of the Minority Affairs Ministry has details of various welfare schemes, aimed at socio-economic-educational empowerment of the Minority communities.



99. President Pranab Mukherjee launches Akashvani Maitree channel

The President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee launched "Akashvani Maitree" Channel in a function organized at Raj Bhawan, in Kolkata. Akashvani Maitree is a unique venture initiated by All India Radio for the bengali listeners across the globe.

The channel will be broadcast from a state-of-the-art brand new high power 1000Kw DRM transmitter and can cover entire Bangladesh through medium wave. The channel will also be available globally on its website and mobile app.



100. Cabinet approved signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Fiji

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of new Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and Fiji.

The Agreement is for updation of the existing Air Services Agreement (ASA) between the two countries. The essential features of the Air Services Agreement are as follows:

- Both countries shall be entitled to designate one or more airline.
- The designated airlines of either country shall have the right to establish offices in the territory of the other country for the promotion and sale of air services.



101. Cabinet approved MoU with South Africa to establish cooperation in Grassroots Innovation

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and South Africa to establish cooperation in Grassroots Innovation.

Under this MoU, both countries will jointly organise various programmes such as forums, seminars, workshops, and training on matters related to innovation; share open source technologies with each other and jointly develop projects to assist innovators in converting their ideas into commercially viable innovations. The MoU will provide a mechanism and help in creating an ecosystem that will promote inclusive innovation and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level in both countries.



102. Centre approves two new National Highways

Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has given approval for giving status of National Highways to 52 kilometer Gurgaon-Pataudi-Rewari road and 120 kilometer Patiala-Pehowa-Kurukshetra-Ladwa-Yamuna Nagar road. The Ministry would also provide financial aid of 100 crore rupees through Central Road Fund to the Haryana Government.

The decision was taken in a meeting that Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal held with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to discuss various road projects related to the State in New Delhi.



103. Cabinet approves MoU with Myanmar for cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine.

The MoU will provide structured frame work for cooperation between the two countries for promotion of AYUSH/Traditional Systems of Medicine in Myanmar. It will boost the importance of AYUSH systems of medicine and conservation, production and standardisation.



104. Cabinet approves Leasing out of Airports Authority of India land to Assam Industrial Development Corporation

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for leasing out of AAI land measuring 4050 sq. mtrs. to Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC), a Government of Assam Undertaking. This will be utilised for setting up of Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC) and its future expansion at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBI Airport), Guwahati.

The land is to be leased by AAI on a token licence fee of Rs.1/- per annum for a period of seven years. After expiry of initial period of seven years, the future lease period will be made afresh as per AAI policy.



105. Union Minister Maneka Gandhi launches POCSO e-Button for children to file complaints of sexual abuse

Union Minister Maneka Gandhi launched an online complaint box for reporting child sexual abuse, the POCSO e-Box in New Delhi. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), e-Box, is an online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and timely action against the offenders under the POCSO Act, 2012.



The facility is available on the NCPCR website.

Anyone, a victim or an adult, can visit the website and file a complaint about a child facing sexual abuse. There are pictorial aides to make the procedure simple for young children.

106. Rail passengers to get Rs 10 lacs insurance cover at a premium of only 92 paise

A travel insurance cover of up to Rs10 lakh can be availed while booking a train ticket online by paying 92 paise from 31 August. The passenger can opt for the insurance facility while booking the ticket through IRCTC irrespective of the class they are travelling in.



The cover will not be applicable for children upto 5 years of age and foreign citizens. The scheme is being implemented by IRCTC in partnership with ICICI Lombard General Insurance, Royal Sundaram General Insurance and Shriram General Insurance.

107. India to host the 1st BRICS Film Festival

The BRICS Film Festival will be held at the Sirifort Auditorium Complex, New Delhi, from September 2nd to September 6th, 2016. In the course of 5 days of the event, 20 movies will be screened in the competition section, 4 from each of the countries.



Malayalam movie Veeram will be the opening film for the festival. The Closing film would be the Chinese movie, Skiptrace, starring Jackie Chan. Mr. T S Nagabharana (India) will be the Chairperson of Jury members which include Mr.

Francis Vogner do Reis (Brazil), Mr. Kirill

Razlogov (Russia), Ms. Xoliswa Sithole (South Africa) and Mr. Hou Keming (China) as other members.

108. President laid foundation stone of permanent campus of Nalanda University

President Pranab Mukherjee laid the foundation stone of a permanent campus of Nalanda University at Pilkhi village in Rajgir, Bihar. 155 students are studying in the university.



The Nalanda University came into being on November 25, 2010 by a special Act of the Parliament and has been designated as an institution of national importance. The University is being supported by all the Members of the East Asia Summit and Intergovernmental Memorandums of University to that effect have been signed by 17 countries.

109. Government all set to announce Rs 2000 crore package for refugees from PoK

The Government is all set to announce a 2000 crore rupees package for displaced people from Pakistan occupied Kashmir living in the country. This came amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's overtures to people of PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan.



The Jammu and Kashmir government has already identified 36,348 families for distribution of the package. Under the scheme, each family will get around 5.5 lakh rupees. These refugees were displaced during partition in 1947, and others during the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan.

110. India, Myanmar signed four bilateral agreements

India and Myanmar signed four agreements following bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Myanmar President Htin Kyaw.



The four agreements signed include

- MoU on cooperation in the construction of 69 Bridges including AP Approach Roads in the Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa Road Section of the Trilateral Highway in Myanmar.
- MoU on cooperation in the construction / upgradation of the Kalewa – Yagyi Road Section.
- MoU on cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy.
- MoU on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine.

111. PM launches Saurashtra Narmada Irrigation Project

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a plaque to launch the Saurashtra Narmada Irrigation (SAUNI) Project at Sanosara in Gujarat. SAUNI Yojana has been launched to divert one MAFT excess over flowing flood water of Narmada allocated to Saurashtra Region.



115 dams of Saurashtra will be filled by the Narmada water under the project. Under the 12,000 crore rupees project, nearly 10 dams and reservoirs of Rajkot, Jamnagar and Morbi will be filled up with the water of Narmada river.

112. Union Minister Ananth Kumar launches 'Pharma Sahi Daam' Mobile App

Union Minister Ananth Kumar launched a mobile Application called "Pharma Sahi Daam", developed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) which shows the MRP fixed by NPPA for various scheduled drugs on real time basis.



The government is also planning to open 3000 PM Jan Aushadhi Stores within a year covering

all districts and tehsils. Most of the medicines in Jan Aushadhi Stores cost 30% to 40% as compared to the market cost and no medicine in Jan Aushadhi Store is more than 50% of the market cost.

113. India's first military heritage website launched

India's first military heritage website [coloursofglory.org](http://www.coloursofglory.org) was launched by Glory Foundation. Captain D.P. Ramachandran, a veteran of the 1971 Indo Pak war, is the executive trustee of the foundation.



The foundation will conduct various awareness programs throughout major cities in the Country to educate the people about the Nation's military history and heritage. The programs will be in the nature of exhibitions, films, seminars and talks. The foundation is also planning battle re-enactments or military tattoos, before Independence.

114. CBDT signs 20 Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements with Indian taxpayers

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into twenty (20) Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers. Many of these agreements also have a "Rollback" provision in them.



With these signings, the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT has reached 98. This includes 4 bilateral APAs and 94 unilateral APAs. A total of 33 unilateral APAs and 1 bilateral APA have already been concluded in five months of the current Financial Year.

115. MoU exchanged between CRPF and Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Central Reserve Police Force and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

The beneficiaries of the Skill Development Programme would be spouses of CRPF personnel, disabled personnel, widows' of martyrs, wards of CRPF personnel or interested civilians. They would be trained in apparel making, automobile, beauty and wellness, food processing, IT, etc in various CRPF Group Centres/ establishments across the country. The Force would also extend the requisite security and support to skill development trainers.



116. Intensive Swachhata awareness drive to be launched in 5 cities of NCR Region

Ministry of Urban Development will soon launch an 'Asli Tarakki (Real development)' campaign in the six cities of the National Capital Region with 450 select youth with communication skills and leadership qualities as lead motivators to promote awareness about the need for sanitation. The Ministry today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Nehru Yuvak Kendra in this regards.



Under the Rs.4.70 cr pilot youth engagement, a total of 23,400 man days would be spent promoting Swachh Bharat Mission objectives in urban areas.

PERSONS IN NEWS

1. Skydiver Luke Aikins Sets Record for Highest Jump without Parachute

Daredevil skydiver Luke Aikins (USA) set a Guinness World Records after he leaped 25,000 ft (7,600 m) from a plane without wearing a wingsuit or a parachute. The extremely dangerous stunt – named 'Heaven Sent' is officially the Highest skydive without a parachute ever.

During the freefall, the 42-year-old American had only his body and a GPS unit to direct his movements towards the 10,000-square-foot net he needed to land in, in order to survive the jump.



2. Narsingh Yadav got NADA's clean chit; to participate in Rio Olympics

National Anti Doping Agency, NADA has given clean chit to wrestler Narsingh Yadav to participate in Rio Olympics. The NADA disciplinary panel has exonerated Yadav from charges of violating anti-doping rules of NADA citing he was a victim of sabotage done by a competitor.

Narsingh was tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid methandienone in tests conducted on June 25. He had been replaced by Parveen Rana when the scandal broke out to save India's quota place in the 74kg category.



3. Swaroop Gowda, 6 years old Indian boy creates Guinness World Record

Swaroop Gowda, a six-year-old boy from Karnataka created historical Guinness World records title for covering longest distance of 65.283 metre by limbo-skating under 36 cars with the gap between the parked vehicles can be no more than 20 cm and the gap underneath each car can be no more than 35 cm.



This could be successfully completed by his technique of holding his body just above ground and maintaining a splits position throughout. The challenge took place at Orion Mall in Bangalore in the presence of Guinness World Records adjudicator Rishi Nath, to ensure that all the rules for were followed correctly.

4. IOC for the first time selects Indian woman Nita Ambani as its member

Owner of Mumbai Indians cricket team and founder chairperson of Reliance Foundation, Nita Ambani has been selected as an individual member of International Olympic Committee (IOC). It was announced at the 129th Session of the world body in Rio de Janeiro. With this announcement, she becomes the first Indian woman to join International Olympics Committee and will serve till the age of 70.



She is regarded as the chief architect of the Hero Indian Super League and also an inspirational figure of the IPL team Mumbai Indians.

5. Former RBI Deputy Governor Anand Sinha joins IDFC Bank board

IDFC Bank appointed former Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Anand Sinha to the bank's board. He would be joining as an Additional Director in the category of Independent Director on the board.



His appointment comes into effect from August 1. He was appointed after Vinod Rai, the former Comptroller and Auditor General of India, stepped down after serving on the board for a year. Sinha joined the RBI in 1976, and was in-charge of regulation of commercial banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies, Urban Cooperative Banks and Information Technology.

6. Saina Nehwal appointed as brand ambassador for ITC's Savlon

Saina Nehwal has been appointed as ITC's hygiene brand, Savlon. In its new campaign, Savlon seeks to inspire parents to let go of their fears and encourage children to push their limits and maximize their potential to succeed in life.

Savlon antiseptic has a rich heritage of more than 50 years in India and is trusted by 90% doctors and offers 8 times better germ protection.



7. Sehwag becomes MCC's honorary life member

Former India opening batsman, Virender Sehwag, has been awarded the honorary life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club. He joins fellow India icons Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly on the list of Honorary Life Members.

During his illustrious career, Sehwag scored 8,586 Test runs at an average of 49.34, and 8273 One-Day International runs at an average of 35.05. The membership is extended by MCC Committee to acknowledge the contributions of players to the game.



8. Sachin Tendulkar selects Maharashtra village for development under SAGY

Cricket icon and Rajya Sabha MP Sachin Tendulkar has selected Donja village in Osmanabad district in Maharashtra for development under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana is a rural development programme focusing on development of villages which include social and cultural development, and spread motivation among the people on social mobilization of the village community. It was launched in October 2014.



9. Vistara airlines appoints Deepika Padukone as brand ambassador

Vistara has appointed Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone as its brand ambassador. The contract period and the fee was undisclosed. The airline will launch a new campaign featuring Deepika scheduled to be broadcast on TV channels across India starting August 22, 2016.



Vistara is an Indian domestic airline based in Gurgaon whose 51 per cent stake is owned by Tata Sons and the rest 49 per cent by Singapore Airlines. Vistara had commenced operations in January 2015.

10. Sakshi Malik to be the brand ambassador for Beti Bachao, Beti Padoo campaign in Haryana

Bronze medal winner from Rio Olympics, Sakshi Malik has been named as the brand ambassador for Beti Bachao, Beti Padoo campaign in Haryana after she was awarded with 2.5 crore rupees and Commendation Certificate by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal. She was also offered a class two level job in the state government.



The programme aims to empower the girl child and reduce rates of female foeticide in districts with low child sex ratio. Malik is the first-ever Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in the sport of wrestling.

11. India captain MS Dhoni sets world record in USA

Captain of Indian National Cricket team, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, set a world record after he captained India in a record 325th international game (most by a player in history), across all three formats. He broke Australian skipper Ricky Ponting's record.



Dhoni was leading India in 71st T20I. He has already captained the side in 60 Tests and 194 One Day Internationals from 2007 till 2016. He is the only captain in history to have won all 3 ICC trophies (World T20 2007, World Cup 2011 and Champions Trophy 2013).

12. Bibhuti Lahkar becomes first Asian to nominated for 'Heritage Heroes Award' of IUCN

Ecologist and conservation activist, Dr Bibhuti Lahkar, became the first Asian to be nominated for the prestigious 'Heritage Heroes Award' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

He is among five conservationists from across the globe to be nominated for this year's Heritage Heroes Award. Dr Bibhuti Lahkar has been working to save the grasslands, flora and fauna of Manas National Park area for the past two decades and is currently engaged as Manas Landscape Administrator for Aaranyak, an NGO working for biodiversity conservation in North East India.



13. PV Sindhu to be Commandant in CRPF

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has decided to appoint Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador and bestow the honorary rank of Commandant on her. A Commandant rank officer in CRPF commands a battalion of about 1,000 personnel.

Country's largest paramilitary force has moved a formal proposal in this regard to the Union Home Ministry and after getting required sanctions, Sindhu will be honoured and presented the rank badges. The CRPF also has the credit of raising the first all-women battalion in a central paramilitary or a police force way back in 1987.



14. Wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt's London Olympics bronze medal upgraded to silver

Indian wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt's bronze medal from the London Olympics has been upgraded to silver after second-place finisher late Besik Kudukhov of Russia was stripped off his medal for failing a dope test.

Kudukhov, who had died in a car crash in 2013, was found to have used a banned substance in a test conducted by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). As a result, Yogeshwar has now joined Sushil Kumar as the other silver



medallist wrestler from the 2012 Olympics. Following the upgrade, India now has eight Olympic silver medals.

15. 100-Year-Old Runner from India Gets Gold Medal

Man Kaur from India picked up a gold medal at the American Masters 100 metres dash. 100-year-old Kaur was the only female competitor in her age category at the competition for older athletes. Earlier, she won gold medals in the javelin and shot put. Kaur has now won more than 20 medals in Masters Games across the globe.

The World Masters Games take place every four years, with regional games in between. The average age of the athletes is 49.



PLACES IN NEWS

1. NMPB to launch National campaign on Medicinal Plants at Jaipur

National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of the Ministry of AYUSH launched a National campaign on Medicinal Plants on 20th – 21st August, 2016 at Jaipur.

The campaign was organized at State Institute of Agriculture Management (SIAM), Durgapura, in Jaipur. Approximately 500 farmers who are cultivating medicinal plants from across the country participated.

NMPB has been working for the growth and development of medicinal plants in the country since its inception in year 2000.



2. Two-day meeting of BRICS women Parliamentarian's forum begins in Jaipur

A two-day meeting of BRICS women parliamentarian's forum began in Jaipur on 20th August. A total of 42 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.

Out of the total of 42 delegates, 5 women parliamentarians are from Brazil, 3 from Russia, 28 from India, 2 from China and 4 from South Africa.



Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the two-day conference. BRICS is the grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

3. Maneka Gandhi inaugurate Animal Birth Control Centre in Dehradun

Union Minister for Woman and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi, inaugurated the Animal Birth Control Centre at Kedarpuram in Uttarakhand.

The centre has 72 Dog kennels for housing dogs as well as their treatment & vaccination post-surgery. This facility also has provision of adopting the stray dogs post-surgery. Subsequently, the centres will be set up in Nainital and Mussoorie and other five municipal corporations in Haridwar, Haldwani, Kashipur, Haldwani and Roorkee. The government has sanctioned Rs 2 crore to set up the centres.



4. BRICS women parliamentarians' forum passed 'Jaipur Declaration'

BRICS women parliamentarians' forum has passed unanimously the Jaipur Declaration in closing ceremony in Jaipur. In the Jaipur Declaration the parliamentarians have expressed concern over the climate change on ecological systems, biodiversity and food production.

The members have focused to work out integrated solutions to preserve and protect ecological systems and forests. The declaration has emphasized the need to inform, communicate and educate citizens about developmental schemes.



5. 3-day Indian Panorama Film Festival 2016 organized in Shillong

The third edition of the three-day Indian Panorama Film Festival was organized in Shillong. Indian Panorama is a part of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), the largest film festival in the country. The festival opened with the screening of Nitin Kakkar's unreleased feature film, Ramsingh Charlie. The 3 days event screened 13 films including 9 feature and 4 non feature films.

The film festival is being organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in collaboration with the Government of Meghalaya.



6. First Hydrocarbon Vision Technology meet 2030 held at Guwahati

The first technology meet under the Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for Northeast India held at Guwahati, involving various projects of Rs. 1,30,000 crore investment over next 15 years to double oil and natural gas output. The Technology Meet is a move of the sub-committee of upstream companies to expand existing refineries and set up new bio refinery.



During the meet, the upstream companies explained about the technical challenges in sustaining and increasing oil and gas production in the northeast and it was advised to allocate service providers who will offer technologies suitable for the region.

7. Deepa Mehta to inaugurate 5th South Asian Film Festival 2015 in Washington

Indo-Canadian director-scriptwriter Deepa Mehta will inaugurate the fifth annual Washington DC South Asian Film Festival 2015 in Washington. The three-day annual film festival, which will kick-off on September 9, would screen movies and documentaries from South Asian countries.



Bengali filmmaker Suman Ghosh's romantic movie *Mi Amor*, starring Parambrata Chatterjee and Raima Sen, is the opening feature film of the fest. Kalki Koechlin-Naseeruddin Shah starrer "Waiting", Juhi Chawla's, "Chalk N Duster" are among the other films to be screened at the event. Documentary *Kaagaz ki Kashti*, is the closing film.

8. 2-day meet of ministers of Disaster Management from BRICS countries to be held in Udaipur

A two-day meeting of the ministers of Disaster Management from BRICS countries will be held in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The theme for the meeting is 'Flood Risk Management' and 'Forecasting of Extreme Weather Events in the context of Changing Climate'.

The objectives of this meeting are to share experiences on flood risk management, current systems in each country for forecasting extreme weather events and to identify opportunities for collaboration between institutions of respective BRICS countries in the area of flood risk management and extreme weather-related events.



9. L&T assigned contract to develop Nagpur into smart city

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis selected Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) to make Nagpur, a smart city. L&T will provide cutting-edge technology solutions, smart transport, solid waste management, smart lighting etc.

The company has earlier inked similar projects like intelligent traffic management for Gujarat, a management system at the Sabarmati jail, the smart city project in Jaipur. Similar projects are also under way in Delhi, Lucknow and Hyderabad.



10. First National Conference of Investigating Agencies concluded in New Delhi

The first National Conference of Investigating Agencies was held from August 12 to 13, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The conference was attended by more than 100 delegates from States/UTs/Central Police Organizations.



- The conference was organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in coordination with National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- The agenda of the Conference was to: Discuss the latest laws and judgements and their implications for investigation and prosecution.
- Adoption of latest technology in forensic sciences for professional and expeditious investigation.
- Share best practices followed by different investigation agencies which could be implemented by others.

11. Delhi Poised to get New Air Force Aerospace Museum

Delhi will soon have a sprawling new Aerospace Museum close to the international airport focused mainly on Nation's rich aviation history. It will preserve the glorious tradition of the IAF and also create awareness in general public about India's rich Aerospace heritage.



The proposal for new Air Force Aerospace Museum was cleared by Ministry of Defence and final financial sanction on the Detailed Project Report is awaited. It is expected to be ready within 3-5 years.

12. South India's first Children's Court in Hyderabad

South India's first Children's Court was inaugurated at the Nampally Criminal Courts Complex in Hyderabad. Telangana thus became the third state after Goa and Delhi to have a child friendly court.



The court is sixth of its kind 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. The project was facilitated by NGO Justice and Care in collaboration with the state government and the judiciary.

13. 22nd edition of Delhi Book Fair begins

The 22nd edition of the Delhi Book Fair began at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on 27th August. The nine-day event will focus on the initiatives undertaken by the government for its Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan to inculcate better reading habits among the younger generation.



National campaigns launched in the past two years - including Make in India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India, Skill India and Startup India - will find place in the Theme Pavilion which will be transformed into a selfie station. The fair is being organised by ITPO in association with Federation of Indian Publishers.

14. Mountain Echoes Literary Festival, 2016

The 7th edition of the Mountain Echoes Literary Festival 2016 started in Thimpu, the capital city of the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, on 26 August 2016. 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.



The festival will also focus on the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, the first ruler to unite it as a single nation.

15. India's first textile university to come up at Diamond City of Surat

Gujarat government is planning to set up India's first textile university at Surat with an aim to create a complete eco system for the textile industry in Gujarat and India. The state government will fund about Rs 800-900 crore for the university.

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. The main aim of the university is to provide all kind of support including technology, research and development (R&D), skilled manpower. etc.



REGIONAL

1. Resolution passed to rename Madras HC as Tamil Nadu HC

The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to rename the Madras High Court as the Tamil Nadu High Court. Chief minister J. Jayalalitha referred to the High Courts Alteration of Names Bill, 2016 introduced by the Centre in the Lok Sabha on 19th July, 2016. She said the Madras High Court has jurisdiction over the entire state and therefore it is necessary to change the name as the Tamil Nadu High Court.



The Opposition DMK and Congress supported the resolution and was later passed unanimously through voice vote.

2. Andhra Pradesh inked MoU with Japan to develop food value chain

The Andhra Pradesh government inked a Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan to develop a food value chain in the state.



Under the MoU, MAFF will encourage direct investments by Japanese companies in the fields of agriculture and food-related industry in Andhra Pradesh. MAFF will also establish food industrial parks and develop cold chains. AP occupies a premier position in agribusiness with a major contribution in agriculture, horticulture, dairy, poultry, fisheries and marine production.

3. Odisha government to recruit transgenders as prison warders

Odisha government has allowed the transgender community to participate in Independence Day parade and has initiated the process to recruit them as prison warders.

They will compete in women categories as per the observation of the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD). As per the direction of the Directorate of Prison, members of transgender community could apply for 185 warders' posts in jails.

Odisha is the first state to include transgender as a gender category in any government recruitment process. Odisha has around 15,000 transgender.



4. Rajasthan becomes first state to approve sewage & waste water policy

Rajasthan has become the first state to approve sewage and waste water policy. All district headquarters, heritage cities, and cities which have more than one lakh population will be included in this policy. Water treated in the scheme will be used in irrigation and agriculture work. The requirement of next 30 years will be covered in this scheme.



It will be compulsory for every house to connect with sewage system in those cities which have 100% sewage system in next five years. Second phase of Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan will be started in 4200 villages on 16th November 2016 with a cost of Rs. 6300 crores.

5. Gujarat HC quashes state government ordinance for upper caste poor

The Gujarat High Court rejected the government's notification granting 10% quota for EBCs (economically backward classes) in educational institutions. The government, in April 2016, had declared the 10 per cent quota for the economically weaker sections among higher castes with an annual income of Rs 6 lakh.

A division bench of Chief Justice R Subhash Reddy and Justice V M Pancholi observed that 10% reservation for poor among the unreserved category takes the total quota beyond 50%.



6. Odisha government decides to open 100 new multi-purpose calamity shelter units

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced to open 100 multi-purpose shelter houses built across 17 districts to the people of Odisha for use during floods and cyclones. A move taken by government to tackle calamities and assure zero casualty.



These newly constructed 100 shelters, will add to the state's existing 526 multi-purpose shelter houses, thus resulting into 879 multi-purpose shelter houses by end of 2016. The new 100 multi-purpose shelter houses are located in Puri, Ganjam, Balasore, Bhadrak and Kenrapara, Malkangiri, Keonjhar and Cuttack, Boudh and Jajpur, besides in Bargarh, Kalahandi, Nayagarh and Subarnapur.

7. Goa Assembly passes resolution to have well trained Anti-Terrorist squad to tackle terrorism

Goa Assembly passed a resolution to have well trained Anti-Terrorist squad in the state to tackle security threat of terrorism. Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar, stated that Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) of Goa police is keeping a close watch on those people who have flown to the state from ISIS conflict zones and keeping a check on the online activity through social media.



Resolution was passed to train ATS in a better way. The Chief Minister explained how ATS' Intelligence wing has been keeping a close watch on the migrants and tenants, and also are having periodical inspection of the registered and unregistered tenants.

8. Telangana ties up with ISRO for Water Resources Information System

Telangana State Irrigation Department inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Space Research Organization for setting up Telangana Water Resources Information System (TWRIS) to assess accurate reserves of water in thousands of Tanks and reservoirs across the state. The new system will be set up by ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre.

The project is likely to be completed in one year and will cover all major, medium and minor irrigation projects.



9. 14 projects worth Rs 2,229 Crore to be accomplished in Jaipur

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje laid the foundation of 14 projects worth Rs 2,229 Crore in Jaipur to make the 47-km long water body pollution free in upcoming 2 years, under the leadership of Jaipur Development Authority, Tata Projects Limited and Shanghai Urban construction group.

The projects include converting Amanishah Nala into its original form of Dravyawati river, plantation of 16,000 saplings in 65,000 sq meters across river, development of 100 parks and the projects of 2.8 km long elevated road.



10. Odisha Govt. launches new website of state Home department which is disabled-friendly

The Odisha Government launched a newly designed web portal of the state home department. The website has accessibility guidelines to enable the differently-abled persons to see and hear the website.

The portal has been designed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). It is available in both English and Odia language. The portal has been hosted in National Cloud MeghRaj and audited for cyber security. The portal facilitates access to various citizen services like Secretariat Pass, Tracking the Missing Child, Reservation of Odisha Bhawan, Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems etc.



11. Taxis in Dubai to promote Kerala Tourism

The Kerala Tourism launched a promotional campaign in Dubai targeting Arab travelers and showcasing the state’s backwaters and waterfalls on the Kerala-branded taxis running on the streets of Dubai.



As many as 200 taxis will display the message of 'A Faraway Land Four Hours Away'– with eye-catching visuals featuring hill stations, backwaters, waterfalls and also Ayurvedic therapies. The campaign will run till August 15. A similar successful campaign was run in London. The government has given the administrative sanction for a budget of Rs. 60 lakh for Kerala Tourism’s marketing strategy. In addition, the advertisements will also be aired in BBC (English) and Al Jazeera (Arabic).

12. Cash awards to five sportspersons in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu CM Jayalalithaa awarded a total cash incentive of Rs.1.45 crore to five sportspersons of the state.



Jenitha Anto of Tiruchirappalli was awarded Rs. 25 lakhs after she won the international chess tournament for differently abled for the fourth time. The Chief Minister gave Rs. 1.20 crore incentive to four other sportspersons, C. Ajith Kumar, R. Naveen, L. Samayasri, and S. Priyadarshini who had won medals in different events at the World School Athletics Championship in Turkey in July.

13. Odisha government launched Baristha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana

Odisha government launched 'Baristha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana', a pension scheme for weaver community in the state to mark the National Handlooms Day (7th August).



Under the scheme, the state government would provide Rs 500 pension to the weavers above 60 years of age and Rs 700 to those above 80 years. The beneficiary must have worked at least preceding 20 years in the weaving profession. The pension would be transferred directly to the bank account of the weavers.

14. IRCTC inked MoU with Manipur Govt to promote hospitality & tourism services

IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Manipur government to provide better hospitality and tourism services.

Under the MoU, both the parties will identify areas of cooperation and draw up detailed plans for development of joint tourism products and opening and managing various catering and hospitality outlets, budget hotels and handicrafts shops at railway as well as non-railway locations.



15. Odisha Cabinet accords in-principle approval to implementation of Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojna

The Odisha Cabinet accorded in-principle approval to the implementation of Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojna to provide education loans to poor meritorious students who want to pursue higher studies at a nominal 1 per cent interest. Under the scheme, students whose parents have an annual income of six lakh rupees or less will be eligible to avail the loan.

The Cabinet approved a total of 14 proposals, which included amendments to Odisha Gram Panchayat Act, 1964, Odisha Electricity (Duty) Act, 1961 and setting up of Odisha Mineral Exploration Corporation.



16. Maharashtra launches Quit India Movement 2 against social evils

On the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in Mumbai, the Maharashtra Government is launching Quit India 2-from Swaraaj to Surraaj initiative at historic August Kranti Maidan.

It would emphasize on freedom from illiteracy, farmer suicide, wastage of water, addiction among youth and corruption. Various initiatives were organised in Mumbai to mark the Quit India movement which has been one



of the major milestones in the history of India's struggle for independence.

17. Odisha Crime Branch rescues 1051 children in first phase of Operation Muskan-2

The Odisha Crime Branch, jointly in association with the Women and Child Development Department, has rescued as many as 1,051 missing children from various places across the state during the first phase of Operation Muskan-2. The Operation Muskan which was started on 25 July 2016.

As per the direction of the Supreme Court for protection of missing children, the Odisha Police have launched a month-long drive called 'Operation Muskan' each year in two phases.



18. Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry join UDAY scheme

The Government of India, the State of Madhya Pradesh and the DISCOMs of Madhya Pradesh signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under the Scheme UDAY – "Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana" for operational and financial turnaround of the DISCOMs. Union Territory of Puducherry has also signed MoU under UDAY.

With this, the number of States/UT that have joined UDAY goes up to 16. The combined DISCOM debt (including CPSU dues) that would be restructured in respect of these states is around Rs.2.51 lac crore as on 30th September, 2015.



19. Haryana to launch scheme for students providing milk with midday meal

The Haryana State Government will launch the 'Swaran Jayanti Bal Doodh Yojana' for students of Classes I to VIII in all government schools from November 1. Under the scheme, school students would get 200 ml milk per child along with midday meal.

The State Government introduced this ambitious scheme to provide nutritious diet to children and the scheme would also help in increasing the attendance of students in government schools.



20. Karnataka and Haryana to build houses for urban poor

Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation approved construction of 36,254 houses for Economically Weaker Sections in Karnataka with an investment of Rs.1,468 cr and 759 houses in Haryana at a cost of Rs.23 cr.

Central government will provide a total assistance of Rs.558 cr for construction of these houses for urban poor in Karnataka Rs.11 cr in this regards to Haryana. In Karnataka, 12,371 dwelling units will be constructed in 8 cities under Affordable Housing in Partnership component of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for rehabilitation of slum dwellers.



21. Assam becomes first state to pass The Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill, 2014

Assam became the first state in the country to ratify the constitution amendment bill on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) after the assembly passed the bill unanimously.

Of the central GST portion, 42% tax will be given back to the state. The deadline for the rollout of the GST is April 1, 2017. At least 50% of the states have to pass the Bill. The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 8 August 2016 and by the Rajya Sabha on 3 August 2016.



22. Badal inaugurates first 'Sewa Kendra' in Punjab

Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has inaugurated the state's first 'Sewa Kendra' at Ladhewali where people will be able to avail 243 services under one roof. Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal inaugurated Sewa Kendras at Mansa, Pathankot, Bholath and Amargarh.

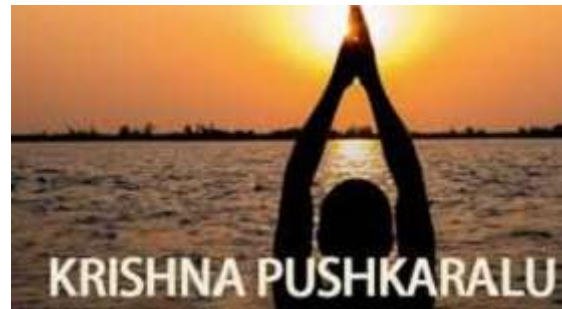
A total of 2,147 Sewa Kendras have been constructed at a cost of Rs 500 crore. Of these, 389 are in urban areas and 1,758 in rural areas. These kendras will enhance efficiency of the administration and delivery of services to common people.



23. 12-Day long Krishna Pushkaralu starts in AP and Telangana

12-day long Krishna Pushkaralu started in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. People took holy dips at several pushkar ghats constructed in the districts of Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda districts along river Krishna.

The sacred event kicked off with religious fervour all along the 82 Pushkar ghats in the two districts with devotees taking the holy dip. A daily 'harati' programme will be organized at Ibrahimpatnam near Vijayawada, where the Godavari flows into Krishna.



24. NABARD sanctions Rs 26.06 crore to Punjab

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned Rs 26.06 crore to the Punjab government. The fund has been sanctioned for tackling waterlogging by constructing lift schemes in low-lying areas, village ponds and other allied works.

The project will reclaim 5,913 hectares of land in 87 villages of Muktsar and Fazilka districts. With this, the total sanctions to the Punjab government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), since its inception, stood at Rs 7,826.17 crore.



25. Odisha government makes Aadhar Card mandatory for procurement of paddy

Odisha government has decided to make Aadhaar card mandatory for paddy procurement in the State. The payment to farmers will be directly credited to their bank accounts online from Odisha State Cooperative Bank.

Aadhaar cards will be linked with the National Food Security Scheme (NFSS) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The date for registration of farmers was extended to August 30.



26. Nagaland to grant 33% reservation to women in Urban Local Bodies

The Nagaland Government, during a cabinet meeting held in Kohima, has decided to grant 33% reservation to women in Urban Local Bodies under Nagaland Municipal Act, 2001.

Elections to the state ULBs have been pending for several years as the tenure of the first municipal bodies came to an end between December 2009 and March 2010. The dates for conducting the elections would be announced soon. The state has also not been able to avail the annual developmental funds granted by the Centre for ULBs.



27. Nasscom launches operations of its startup warehouse in Visakhapatnam

National Association of Software and Services (Nasscom) has launched operations of its startup warehouse at Sunrise Startup Village at Rushikonda, AP. It will provide co-working space for start-ups, to be housed for six-month incubation terms. Entrepreneurs can also lease co-working spaces on daily/weekly basis.

Nasscom will incubate, fund and provide support for 10,000 technology startups in India over the next decade. It has set up startup warehouses in Bengaluru, Kolkata, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Kochi, Gurgaon and Hyderabad.



28. Rajasthan signs MoU with India Trade and Exhibition Centre

Rajasthan state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India Trade and Exhibition Centre (ITEC), Dubai for promotion of skill development, investment and tourism sectors. ITEC would work as a service providing agency for promotion of skill development, investment and tourism sectors in Rajasthan as part of the agreement.

A high-level meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje to discuss various sectors of mutual cooperation.



29. Five electronic manufacturing clusters to be set up in Andhra Pradesh

The Union government will set up five electronic manufacturing clusters in Andhra Pradesh. The first two clusters would be set up in Anantapur and Chittoor (in the integrated business township Sri City) districts. In addition, two will be set up in Tirupati.

Tirupati cluster, where 30 electronic companies are operating, in total made a business of 80 crore rupees, while at national level 41,000 crore rupees was exported.



30. Jharkhand Assembly convened to ratify GST Bill

Jharkhand became the third state to ratify the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill passed by both Houses of Parliament. Assam became the first state in the country followed by Bihar to ratify the bill.

The GST Bill, passed by both Houses of Parliament recently, needs to be ratified by at least 15 state legislatures before the President can notify the GST Council. The government has set a deadline of April, 2017 for the roll-out.



31. 7th Pay Commission recommendations to be implemented from 1st Jan in Gujarat

The Gujarat state government has announced to give 7th Pay Commission benefits to the state government employees with retrospective effect from January 1, 2016, raising salaries of over 8.5 lakh state employees and pensioners, in a move that would cost Rs 8,513 crore annually to the exchequer.

For pensioners, the actual implementation would commence from October 1. The government has constituted a committee of senior bureaucrats under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary J N Singh to address the issues related to disbursement of arrears from January to August as well as fixation of new rates of allowances.



32. Uttar Pradesh cabinet approves Allahabad Metro Rail Project

The Uttar Pradesh cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, has approved a Metro Rail project for Allahabad. The work for Lucknow Metro is already underway while the Detailed Project Report for Varanasi and Kanpur Metro Projects have already been approved. This makes UP the lone state in which Metro Rail projects are underway in four major cities.



The state cabinet also approved a scheme to provide free school bags and books to students till class VIII in government schools.

33. Telangana gets highest gallantry medals in country

Telangana State has received the highest number of gallantry medals, record 26 medals, for police personnel in the country on the eve of Independence Day.

Counter Intelligence Cell SP Rajesh Kumar has been awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry while Sub-Inspector Duddekula Siddaiah and Constable Chougoni Nagarajus who died in an exchange of fire with terror suspects were bestowed with the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. Telangana also got a President's Police Medal for distinguished service to Fire Services Director General Rajiv Ratan.



34. Tata Power Solar commissions 100 mw project for NTPC in Andhra Pradesh

Tata Power Solar has commissioned a 100 MW solar project for NTPC in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh using domestically manufactured solar cells and modules, in line with the government's 'Make in India' mission.



The vast construction was completed almost 3 months ahead of schedule. The plant is expected to generate nearly 160 million units (kWh) of energy per year. Tata Power Solar has commissioned over 250 MW of ground-mount utility scale projects across India.

35. Haryana Govt. to install 3050 solar water pumps

Haryana Government has decided to install 3050 solar water pumps of 2 HP, 5 HP and 10 Horse Power during current financial year in the state. The farmers will share 10% of the body of solar pump and the remaining 90% cost would be shared by the Central and State Government as financial assistance.

This will result in solar capacity addition of 14.64 MW. It is in line with the national goal of 1.75 lakh MW capacity addition by year 2022.



36. Tripura: Over 40,000 poor families to be provided housing under PMAY

In Tripura, 42,896 poor families living in urban areas will be provided housing under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna. Under this scheme, a house will cost 1,66,666 rupees, of which the State Government will bear 16,666 rupees and the rest amount will be provided by the Centre.

The beneficiaries will be selected through 20 numbers of urban bodies like Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats. In a review meeting in Agartala today, the state government has finalized necessary guidelines and action plan for the purpose.



37. Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016 passed

The Assam Assembly passed the Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016. This bill proposes to reduce the service charge of cinema tickets with an aim to give a boost to the local film industry. However, the government raised the entertainment tax on cinema tickets by up to ten percentile points.

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.



38. Kerala Government allocates Rs 10,000 crore for Govt schools

Kerala Govt has allocated Rs 10,000 crore for state-run and aided schools for the next 5 years. The IT@School project has been entrusted the responsibility of forming a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to oversee the programme.



As part of the drive, around 60,000 new hi-tech class rooms will be set up in all government and aided schools while about 1,000 schools will be elevated to international standards. The government has set aside Rs 450 crore for the first year of these two programmes.

39. India's first Crime Criminal Tracking Network System launched by Maharashtra government

The Maharashtra Government became first state in the country to launch India's first comprehensive 'Crime Criminal Tracking Network System' (CCTNS) in Mumbai. Through this network, all police stations would be connected with each other and share information about crimes in their respective jurisdictions. It was launched through the operationalization of 34 cyber laboratories.



The CCTNS has been developed by Pune based Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC). Under it, the state government will raise a special cyber police force of around 1,000 policemen well trained to handle the growing incidents of cybercrimes.

40. Kerala Cabinet approves new debt relief scheme

The Kerala government approved a new debt relief scheme for low income and poor people. The scheme is expected to benefit more than 10,000 persons. It creates an additional burden of Rs 40 crore to the government. The principle amount, interest and penal interest on loans up to Rs 5 lakh would be waived.



The relief is for those who had taken loans from the State Housing Board, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Backward Welfare Corporation, State Women's Development

Corporation, The Kerala State Handicapped Persons Welfare Corporation and Revenue Departments.

41. Andhra Pradesh police launches pilot project on DNA profiling

Andhra Pradesh Police launched DNA Index System (DIS). It is the first-of-its-kind initiative that allows generation of DNA profiles from live samples like buccal swabs, blood stains, saliva and other live samples in less than two hours.

The AP Police launched a pilot to generate DNA profiles of a batch of convicts and suspects involved in various crimes. The system uses the latest DNA technology tool called RapidHIT developed by IntegenX of USA.



42. Bihar becomes second state to pass GST bill

After Assam, Bihar becomes second state to pass Goods and Services Tax (GST) bill in its legislative assembly with 443 members voting in favor of the legislation. As per constitutional provision before enacting the law of GST, the bill has to be voted in favor and passed by at least 50 percent of the state assemblies.

Other states who will be conducting a special assembly session include Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The GST Bill is aimed at bringing uniform tax regime in the country by subsuming state levies.



43. Tamil Nadu Jayalalithaa announces hike in pension to freedom fighters

On the occasion of the 70th Independence Day, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa announced Rs 1,000 increase in the freedom fighters pension from Rs 11,000 to Rs 12000 and family pension to the legal heirs from Rs 5,500 to Rs 6,000. The special pension given to the descendants of freedom fighters would be increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000.

The government took decision to ensure growth and development of sectors like priority sector, industrial sector and services sector.



44. Sailing campaign 'Jal Tarang' flagged off in Himachal Pradesh

In Himachal Pradesh, the sailing campaign "Jal Tarang" was flagged off by state assembly Speaker Brij Behari Lal Butail from Bilaspur. The event was organized by the state NCC Navel Unit. The sailing campaign aims to strengthen the national unity and integrity.

50 NCC cadets from Bilaspur and Mandi districts including 19 girls are taking part in the campaign - Jal Tarang. During the twelve days' campaign the cadets would cover nearly 415 kilometers distance in Beas River to reach different locations.



45. Puducherry observes "De Jure Transfer Day"

Puducherry observed De Jure Transfer Day on 16th August. It was on this day in 1962 French colonies of Puducherry, Karaikal, Yanam and Mahe were formally acceded to the Indian Union.

Lt. Governor Kiran Bedi unfurled the nation flag at the monument for freedom struggle at Keezhur opening the celebrations. It was in this village a referendum on whether to merge with India was held way back in 1954.



46. Odisha Govt to use Odia language as official language

The Odia language will be used as an official language in all transactions of the Odisha government from 16th August. The rules of the Odisha Official Language Act, 2016, have been approved and would be implemented from 16th August.

A committee has been formed to review the implementation of the Odia language for official purposes in every six months. A special division under the General Administration department will oversee implementation of the use of Odia language in official transactions.



47. Telangana government plans to create 17 new districts

The Telangana state government has issued draft notification on rearranging district borders to create 17 new districts by October 2016. Once completed, the number of districts in the State will go up to 27 from the present 10.

The 17 new districts will be called Acharya Jayashankar, Hanamkonda, Jagtial, Kamareddy, Komaram Bheem, Kothagudem, Mahabubabad, Malkajgiri, Nagarkurnool, Nirmal, Peddapally, Sangareddy, Shamshabad, Siddipet, Suryapet, Wanaparthy and Yadadri.



48. Maharashtra became first state to draft own law for internal security

Maharashtra became the first state in the country to draft its own law for internal security, The Maharashtra Protection of Internal Security Act (MPISA), 2016. It gives special emphasis on maintaining law and order and combating terrorism, insurgency, caste-related violence and communalism in the state.

The MPISA has proposed setting up of Special Security Zones (SSZ) where movement of arms, explosives and inflow of unaccounted funds will be prohibited. The Act also brings Critical Infrastructure Sectors (CIS) under its ambit.



49. Union Government, Maharashtra Government and AAI sign MoU on Regional Connectivity Scheme

The Ministry of Civil Aviation, State Government of Maharashtra and Airports Authority of India today signed a tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), for successful launch of the Regional Connectivity Scheme. Maharashtra became the first state in the country to sign such an agreement.

The 10 airports that will be developed are- Kolhapur, Shirdi, Amravati, Gondia, Nashik, Jalgaon, Nanded, Solapur, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg. The state will contribute 20 percent cost of Viability Gap Funding, whereas the centre will bear the remaining 80 percent cost. These airports will be provided with roads, rail, Metro and waterway connectivity.



50. Odisha cabinet approved Startup Policy 2016

Odisha Cabinet has approved the “Odisha Startup Policy 2016” to promote entrepreneurship for start-up ventures with provision of government incentives. The policy will chart out a roadmap to place Odisha among the top three investment destinations in the country by 2020.



The implementation of the policy would be monitored by a Startup Council headed by the Chief Secretary and a Review Committee headed by Principal Secretary MSME.

The state government has planned to set up 1000 start-ups in five years. The state government would come up with a startup capital infrastructure fund up to Rs 25 crore to support the startup units and young entrepreneurs.

51. Maharashtra plans to transform 1,000 villages with the help of corporates

Maharashtra State government plans to transform 1,000 villages with the help of corporate sector, and the civil society over the next few years. The corporate sectors' expertise would be used to set up an institutional mechanism to amalgamate work done by different companies in different areas to transform 1,000 villages in collaboration with the State government.



50% of the villages will be chosen by partnering agencies where some work is currently under way and the remaining would be those villages that score low on the Human Development Index.

52. CTTC-Bhubaneswar signs agreement with ISRO

Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC), Bhubaneswar, has signed an agreement with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for technology transfer and a contract for supply of spacecraft component.



As a part of the agreement, ISRO would transfer three types of temperature-sensor technology to CTTC to further strengthen its manufacturing capability while CTTC would supply spacecraft component for next five years for a total value of Rs 23 crore.

53. Odisha attracts Rs 90,490 Cr investment at Bangalore investors' meet

Odisha has received investment of Rs. 90,490 crore with employment potential of more than 70,000 during the two-day Odisha Investors' Meet concluded in Bengaluru.

The JSW Steel topped the proposers' list expressing interest to invest 50,000 crore rupees to set up a steel plant in the State. The Odisha Government is organising the meet in an attempt to encourage investments in sectors like manufacturing, IT, electronics, petrochemicals, food processing and tourism.



54. Maharashtra CM unveils Mumbai-Nagpur Super Communication Expressway project

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has unveiled the 46,000-crore rupee, ambitious Mumbai-Nagpur Super Communication Expressway project in Mumbai.

The project to be implemented by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation will create state-of-the-art road connectivity within a period of three years and give a boost to investment. A key feature of the project is that it would be carried out in the Land Pooling model with farmers being made partners and some percentage of developed land given back to them.



55. West Bengal assembly passed resolution to rename the state

The West Bengal Legislative Assembly passed a resolution to change the name of the State. The name will be changed from West Bengal to 'Bangla' in Bengali, 'Bengal' in English and 'Bangal' in Hindi. It was passed by 189-31 votes.

The proposal to pass the resolution was approved by the special session of the West Bengal Assembly, which was convened on August 26 to discuss the renaming of the state.



56. Mehbooba Mufti launches Ujala Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir

Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti formally launched the Ujala Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir with the distribution of LED bulbs among consumers. The scheme will be implemented in the state by Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department in collaboration with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).



The National LED programme was launched by the Prime Minister in January 2015 with a target of replacing 77 crore incandescent lamps with LED bulbs. Under this scheme consumer can buy five LED bulbs at the rate of Rs 20 each by showing monthly electricity bills or ID cards.

57. Gujarat becomes the first state to distribute 2 crore LED Bulbs under UJALA

Under the Government of India's **UnnatJyoti by Affordable LEDs for all (UJALA)** scheme, Gujarat has become the first state to distribute 2 crore LED bulbs. Gujarat has reached this milestone in just 96 days and over 42 lakh households have already benefitted from the scheme.



The distribution of 2 crore LED bulbs has led to an annual energy savings of 259 crore kWh which is equivalent to lighting up 5 lakh Indian homes for an entire year. Alongside the savings in units, the state has also benefitted from daily CO2 emission reduction of 5,000 tonnes.

REPORTS

1. India's ranking as business destination improves: Survey

India's ranking as a business destination has improved as per a recent survey of Transparency International. It now ranks 76th as compared to the 94th position it held earlier. As per a World Bank report on ease of doing business, India's position has improved to 130 this year from the 142nd position last year among the 189 countries surveyed.



Transparency International e.V. (TI) is an international non-governmental organization which is based in Berlin, Germany. Transparency International has the legal status of a German registered voluntary association (Eingetragener Verein) and serves as an umbrella organization.

2. Azim Premji and Shiv Nadar in Forbes list of 100 richest tech tycoons

Wipro chairman Azim Premji and HCL co-founder Shiv Nadar are the only two billionaires from India in Forbes' list of the world's 100 richest people in technology.



Mr. Premji ranks 13th on the list with a net worth of \$16 billion and Mr. Nadar comes in on the 17th spot with \$11.6 billion of net worth. The '100 Richest Tech Billionaires In The World 2016' list has been topped by Microsoft founder Bill Gates with an estimated fortune of \$78 billion.

3. Melbourne city ranked as the Most Livable City

The Global Livability Ranking, released by The Economist declared Australia's Melbourne city as the world's most livable city for the sixth consecutive year. This ranking scored 140 cities on health care, infrastructure, culture, environment and stability.



Adelaide and Perth ranked fifth and seventh respectively. Other top 10 cities include Vienna ranked No 2 and Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary, Auckland, Helsinki and Hamburg.

4. Seven Indian companies among top 200 carbon clean firms

Seven Indian companies have made it to a carbon-clean list of 200 largest companies worldwide ranked by their total clean-energy revenues. The list is topped by Japan's Toyota Motor followed by Germany's Siemens AG. The ranking has been done by **As You Sow and Corporate Knights**.

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, and Tata Chemicals at 114 for chemicals for biodiesel, solar energy, and fuel cells. Thermax Ltd is at 139 and Exide Indus at 153 for electric storage batteries. Besides, IDFC Ltd is at 155 for its green infrastructure financing and Havells India at 166 for energy meters.



5. India jumps 15 places in Global Innovation Index

India jumped 15 places from last year 81 position and ranked 66th this year in a list of most innovative economies in the latest report of Global Innovation Index report released by UN World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). India was also ranked 2nd most innovative middle income economy in world.

The report has ranked India among the top 50 economies overall in two pillars: Market sophistication, 33, and Knowledge and technology out-puts, 43.



6. Cipla, Godrej recognized in Fortune 'Change the World' list

India's pharmaceutical giant Cipla Ltd and consumer goods conglomerate Godrej have been ranked 46th and 48th respectively in a list of 50 global firms recognized by Fortune magazine.

The Fortune 2016 "Change the World list" recognizes companies that have had a positive social impact through activities that are part of their core business strategy. The list boasts powerful names like British pharma giant GlaxoSmithKline (1), Nestlé (5), Mastercard (7) and Walmart (15).



7. Forbes top 200 America's top wealth advisors list includes four Indian-origin persons

According to the list released by Forbes, of top 200 America's top wealth advisors who collectively manage USD 675 billion, four Indian-origin persons were included among the list. Raj Sharma and Ash Chopra, both working in Merrill Lynch were placed at 17th and 129th position respectively.



Sonny Kothari of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management was placed at 176th position and Raju Pathak of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management was placed at 184th position.

Advisors associated with big warehouses topped the list, including Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch and UBS Regarding services.

8. India ranks 39th in Asia Pacific on fixed broadband

In a recently released report, 'State of ICT in Asia and the Pacific 2016: Uncovering the Widening Broadband Divide', published by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), India ranks a low 39th in terms of fixed broadband adoption in the list of 53 Asia Pacific countries.



Hong Kong, New Zealand, Japan, Macao, Australia and Singapore topped the list. India ranks lower than countries such as Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh. In India, just 1.35 of its citizens have subscribed to fixed broadband service in 2015.

9. India world's third biggest tech start-up hub

India is home to the third largest number of technology-driven start-ups in the world. USA and UK take the first and second position in the list with more than 47,000 and over 4,500 start-ups respectively. India's tech start-ups numbered around 4,200 up to 2015. The study was done by ASSOCHAM in association with Thought Arbitrage Research Institute.



Bengaluru is host to the largest share of technology start-ups in India, followed by Delhi NCR and Mumbai.

10. Singapore ranked 6th in Global Innovation Index

Singapore has been ranked the sixth place around the globe in the Global Innovation Index, 2016. It tops in the Asia Pacific region in the annual released index, one place up from the position last year. The country's improved ranking was driven not just by its performance but also adjustment to survey methodology, such as the addition of new indicators.



Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America and Finland have been placed ahead of Singapore as the top 5 in the index, while Ireland, Denmark, Netherlands and Germany follow, including in the top 10 most-innovative economies.

11. Forbes released list of The World's Highest-Paid Actresses 2016

Forbes released the list of The World's Highest-Paid Actresses 2016. Hunger Games star Jennifer Lawrence, with earnings of 46 million US dollars, topped the list for the second consecutive year.



Melissa McCarthy with \$33 million ranked second in the list followed by Scarlett Johansson (25 million US dollars) and Jennifer Aniston (21 million US dollars) at third and fourth position respectively. Chinese actress Fan Bingbing (17 million US dollars) took the fifth spot in the list. India's Deepika Padukone, at number 10, is the only newcomer to the ranking.

12. India ranked at 7th among 10 wealthiest countries

As per the rankings in the "W10: The 10 wealthiest countries in the world" report released by the New World Wealth in August 2016, India is the seventh richest country in the world with a total individual wealth of 5600 billion US dollars. The ranking of India as one of the top 10 wealthiest countries in the world is largely because of its large population.



The United States topped the chart with total individual wealth held at 48900 billion US dollars. Others in the top 10 club include:

Rank	Country	Wealth
2	China	\$17,400 billion
3	Japan	\$15,100 billion
4	United Kingdom	\$9,200 billion
5	Germany	\$9,100 billion
6	France	\$6,600 billion
8	Canada	\$4,700 billion
9	Australia	\$4,500 billion
10	Italy	\$4,400 billion

13. Forbes releases Sixth Annual List of the World's Most Innovative Companies 2016

Five major Indian companies have been ranked among Forbes's list of 'The World's Most Innovative Companies'. At number 18, Asian Paints is the highest-ranked Indian company in the list. Others include Hindustan Unilever (31), Tata Consultancy Services (66), Sun Pharma (73) and Larsen & Toubro (89).

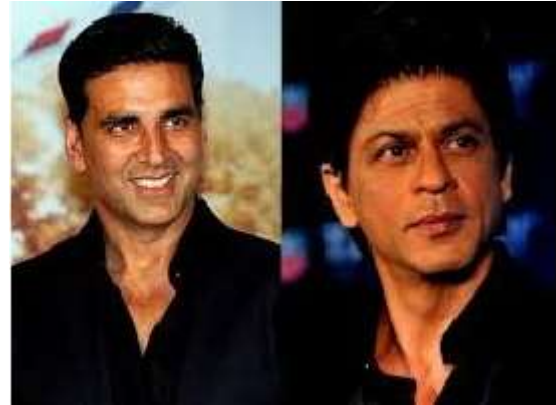
The 100 companies ranked on the list are based on their creative disruption, potential for innovation and investor interest. The companies also need to have seven years of financial data and \$10 billion in market capitalisation. Tesla Motors topped the list for the second consecutive year followed by Salesforce, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Incyte and Alexion Pharmaceuticals in the top five respectively.



14. Shahrukh, Akshay, Salman & Big B among top 20 highest-paid actors globally

The list of the world's top 20 highest-paid actors compiled by Forbes magazine included four Bollywood actors. Shah Rukh Khan, with \$33 million in earnings, stood at the 8th position, Akshay Kumar was at number 10 with \$31.5 million, Salman Khan was 14th with \$28.5 million earnings and Amitabh Bachchan stood at 18th with \$20 million.

Dwayne Johnson, with an income of \$64.5 million topped the list. Robert Downey Jr., Jackie Chan, Matt Damon, Tom Cruise and Johnny Depp were the others in the top 5 respectively.



15. India ranked 77th in the World Risk Report 2016

United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft in cooperation with the University of Stuttgart in Germany released the World Risk Report 2016. The report 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.



India is ranked 77th on the World Risk Index - marginally better positioned than Pakistan which is placed at 72. Bangladesh is among the top five countries in the report. The island state of Vanuatu was ranked number one.

16. World population to reach 9.9 billion in 2050: PRB report

The world population will reach 9.9 billion in 2050, increasing by 33% from an estimated 7.4 billion now, according to a report published by Population Reference Bureau (PRB). The world population would hit 10 billion in 2053.

According to PRB's projections, the combined population of the world's least developed countries will double by 2050 to 1.9 billion. The population in 29 countries will more than double, while 42 countries will register



declines. According to the estimates of current population, over 25% of the world's population is under 15 years of age.

17. Crime against SC, ST & Women declined in 2015

The report - **Crime in India, 2015** revealed that crime against Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Women have declined in 2015 as compared to 2014. 10914 incidents of crime were reported against STs as against 11451 cases in 2014, registering a decline of 4.7%.

Nearly 45 thousand crime related incidents were reported against SCs in 2015 as compared to over 47 thousand cases in 2014, registering a decline of 4.4%. It said, over 3.27 lakh cases have been recorded against women in 2015 as against over 3.37 lakh cases in 2014 which reflects a decline of 3.1%.



RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS

1. Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel submitted her resignation

Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel submitted her resignation letter to Governor OP Kohli. Patel announced her decision to step down from the post to make way for the younger generation in the party. She was the first woman chief minister of Gujarat.



Ms. Patel's decision came in the backdrop of Patidar agitation by the Patel community for reservation and recent protests in the state by dalits after Una incident. The BJP Parliamentary Board has authorized Amit Shah to pick Anandiben's successor after accepting her offer to resign.

2. AIADMK expels Rajya Sabha MP Sasikala Pushpa for violating party discipline

The AIADMK Chief Ms. Jayalalithaa has expelled Ms. Sasikala Pushpa, Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha for violating party discipline. She was removed from the primary membership for bringing bad name to her party. She had allegedly got into a tussle with the longtime DMK MP Tiruchi Siva at the Delhi Airport.



Sasikala Pushpa pleaded in the Rajya Sabha that she was slapped by "a leader" and she needed protection as her life was under threat.

3. Vinod Rai resigns from IDFC Bank's board

Former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India Vinod Rai resigned from the board to avoid any disputes arising due to his selection as the chairman of Bank Board Bureau. However, Mr. Rai continues to be the non-executive independent chairman of IDFC Ltd.

Since October 2015, Mr. Rai was a member of IDFC Bank board whereas the government appointed him as the chairman of Bank Board Bureau on February 28, 2016.



4. Google Ventures CEO Bill Maris resigned

Bill Maris, the chief executive and founder of Alphabet Inc's venture capital arm Google Ventures (or GV), has resigned. He will be replaced by David Krane, a managing partner for the venture arm and one of the earliest corporate communications managers at Google.

GV, previously known as Google Ventures, was founded in 2009 and has invested in more than 300 companies including Uber Technologies Inc [UBER.UL] and online retailer Jet.com.



5. Lionel Messi calls back his retirement announcement

Lionel Messi has reversed his decision to retire from international football. He has been named in Argentina's World Cup qualifiers to be held in the first week of September. The 29-year old had quit after Argentina's Copa America final defeat to Chile in June 2016 where he missed a penalty.

Messi said he made the U-turn for the "love of the country" and "to help from within". He has been awarded the Ballon d'Or for the world's best player five times.



6. Nimesh Kampani steps down from the post of Managing Director of JM Financial Ltd

On attaining 70 years of age and as a part of succession planning at the company, Nimesh Kampani resigned from the post of Managing Director of JM Financial Ltd with effect from 30 September 2016 but will continue to be the Non-Executive Chairman of the group and a director on the board of a few group companies at JM Financial.

Nimesh Kampani's son Vishal Kampani will take position of Managing Director of JM Financial with effect from 1 October 2016.



7. Catholic Syrian Bank MD quits

Managing Director and Chief Executive of Catholic Syrian Bank, Anand Krishnamurthy, submitted his resignation because of his personal priorities. He had taken over the post a year before.

The bank is one of India's oldest private sector banks, with headquarters in the Thrissur district of Kerala. The bank reported a loss of Rs 149.72 crore in 2015-16. Gross non-performing assets was 5.62% and net NPAs was 4.40% of total loans in 2015-16.



8. Sri Lankan cricketer Tillakaratne Dilshan announced retirement

Star Sri Lanka batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan announced his retirement from one-day international cricket. He will retire from T20 internationals after a match on September 9.

He has already retired from Test cricket in 2013. Dilshan made his one-day debut against Zimbabwe in 1999. He is only the fourth Sri Lanka batsman and 11th batsman overall to pass the 10000-run mark in ODIs. He pioneered the famous "Dilscoop" flick over the wicketkeeper's head.



9. Wipro's chief learning officer Abhijit Bhaduri resigned

Abhijit Bhaduri, Chief Learning Officer of Wipro resigned to start his own executive coaching company. He had led Wipro's Global 100 programme to identify and groom the net generation of leaders. Abhijit will continue with Wipro in an advisory role.

Bhaduri joined Wipro in 2009. He worked with Microsoft as HR Director. Prior to that, he worked with multinationals such as Pepsico, Colgate and advertising agency Mudra Communication. Bhaduri is also author of a book series called 'MBA' that stands for "Mediocre But Arrogant" and "Married But Available".



1. Yahoo researchers built a powerful new online abuse detector

A research team at Yahoo Labs have been able to develop an algorithm that is being considered as one of the best automated abuse filter built to date.

Most automated filters work by detecting certain keywords, phrases, and commonly-used expressions but the Yahoo team used a technique called "word embedding," which processes words as vectors rather than either simply positive or negative which can recognize an offensive string of words, even if the individual words are inoffensive on their own.



2. CSIR-CFTRI develops Nutrice Cream

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) constituent Laboratory, CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI) Mysuru, in association with M/s Oleome Biosolutions, Bengaluru and M/s Dairy Classic Ice Creams Pvt. Ltd., has developed 'Nutrice'.

Nutrice cream is an Omega-3 and Vitamin-E enriched frozen nutritional dessert from vegetarian source. Dietary supplementation of Omega-3 (ω -3) fats, which are the Poly Unsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFA), have been reported to have beneficial health functions including brain development in children and good health in elderly population.



3. China launches first mobile telecommunications satellite

China has launched its first mobile telecommunications satellite. The Tiantong-01 satellite will establish a mobile network serving China, the Middle East, Africa and other areas. The ground service will be operated by China Telecom.

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. Tiantong-01 was designed by China Academy of Space Technology.



4. China launched a satellite to get accurate images of earth

China launched a new high-resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imaging satellite, called Gaofen-3, from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province. The launch vehicle for Gaofen-3 was a Long March 4C rocket.



The SAR satellite can capture images that are accurate down to one meter (about three feet) in distance and will operate as an all-weather 24-hour observation platform. It will be used for disaster warning, weather forecasting, water resource assessments, and the protection of maritime rights.

5. Fifth Generation signs pact with Anna University

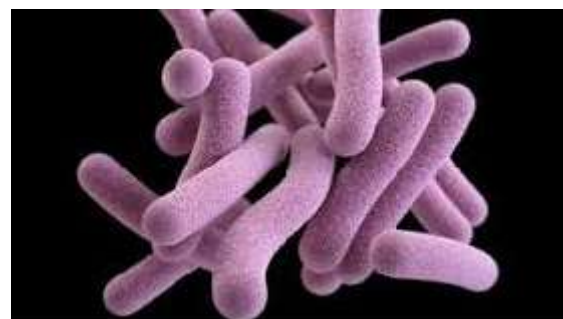
Anna University, Chennai has entered into an agreement with Fifth Generation Technologies, a multi-national research and innovation company with specialization in building “real time intelligence” solutions and products to the manufacturing industry.



As part of the agreement, Fifth Generation will conduct research to arrive at a useful prediction of the remaining life of critical equipment that are working in high temperature thermal cycles. The research will be conducted at Centre for Technology Development and Transfer (CTDT), set up by Anna University.

6. Novel drug compound inhibiting skin cancer discovered: NCCS Study

A team of scientists at the Pune-based National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) have been successful in isolating cancer stem cells that cause skin cancer. The study results were published in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology.



They have also been able to demonstrate that a compound (Andrographolide) isolated and purified from a herb (Andrographis paniculata) that is found in India to be effective in inhibiting tumor growth — both skin cancer and lung metastasis — in mice.

7. BARC develops portable kit for detection of Chromium contamination of water

BARC has developed a simple, user friendly, quick and cost effective kit for onsite determination of Hexavalent Chromium 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. The procedure involves adding a specified amount of specific reagents to the water sample and identifying the developed color.



The color develops within 5 minutes and the distinction can be made with naked eye. For ease of comparison a color chart is provided with the kit. Water samples can be immediately categorized as being safe or toxic for drinking from Chromium(VI) point of view.

8. Intel unveils ‘merged reality’ with Project Alloy device

Tech giant Intel has unveiled Project Alloy, a device that creates merged reality. Project Alloy is a headset that uses the RealSense technology enabling people to use their hands to interact with elements of the virtual world. There is no need for cables to connect to the computer.



Merged reality is a new way of experiencing virtual reality and real world together, using cutting-edge technology. One example of merged reality is playing two musical instruments at the same time. It means that person can play a virtual piano with one hand and a cello with the other.

9. Chinese scientists discover molecule to repair organs

A team of scientists from China have discovered a small molecule named XMU-MP-1 that can regenerate tissue. The discovery could potentially make organ transplant much easier in future. The findings were published in Science Translational Medicine.



The drug, XMU-MP-1 can promote repair and regeneration in the liver, intestines and skin. The research was led by professor Zhou Dawang and Deng Xianming of the School of Life Sciences, Xiamen University, and professor Yun Caihong of Peking University.

10. Scientists develop laser from fluorescent jellyfish proteins

Scientists have, for the first time, developed laser from fluorescent jellyfish proteins that were grown in bacteria. The research was published in the journal Science Advances.



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. By repurposing the fluorescent proteins that have revolutionized biomedical imaging, and by allowing scientists to monitor processes inside cells, the team created a polariton laser that operates at room temperature powered by nanosecond pulses - just billionths of a second.

11. China successfully launches world's first quantum satellite

China successfully launched the world's first quantum satellite which boasts of establishing hack-proof communications between space and the ground. It is equipped with security features to prevent wiretapping and intercepts.



The satellite nicknamed "Micius" was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre. Quantum communication boasts of ultra-high security as a quantum photon can neither be separated nor duplicated. It is hence impossible to wiretap, intercept or crack the information transmitted through it.

12. NASA shortlists 6 companies to develop prototypes and concepts for Deep Space Habitats

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) selected six U.S. companies Bigelow Aerospace, Boeing of Pasadena, Lockheed Martin, Orbital ATK, Sierra Nevada Corporation and NanoRacks of Webster, to develop ground prototypes and safe habitation system. Habitation systems provide a safe place for humans to live as we move beyond Earth on our Journey to Mars.



Through the public-private partnerships enabled by the Next Space Technologies for Exploration Partnerships-2 (NextSTEP-2)

Broad Agency Announcement, Appendix A, NASA and industry partners will expand commercial development of space in low-Earth orbit.

13. China launches first Tibetan-language search engine

China has launched its first Tibetan-language search engine, "Yongzin" which means "master" or "teacher" in the Tibetan language. It will serve as a unified portal for all the Tibetan-language websites in China.

The search engine has eight sections for news, websites, images, videos, music, encyclopedia, literature and forums. The project cost was 57 million yuan (about USD 8.7 million). The work began on the project in April 2013.



14. Scientists discovered Earth-sized planet orbiting star nearest to Sun

Scientists have discovered an Earth-sized planet orbiting the star nearest to the Sun. A team of European scientists wrote in the journal Nature that the planet, known as Proxima B, is located just four light-years away from the Earth.

The discovery is potentially a major step in the quest to find out if life exists elsewhere in the universe. Proxima B could be within the habitable zone, where it is neither too hot nor too cold to support life and where temperatures could allow the presence of liquid water.



15. ISRO successfully test-fired Scramjet Rocket Engine from Sriharikota

The Indian Space Research Organization ISRO successfully test launched the Supersonic Combustion Ramjet engine, called Scramjet. The first ever experimental mission using the engine on-board the sounding rocket ATV02 has met all the specified goals.

These newly developed engines will use oxygen from the atmosphere and there-by reduce the cost significantly. The rocket carrying Scramjet engines weighed 3277 kg at lift-off. India has joined the select league of four space faring nations that have demonstrated flight testing of Scramjet engines.



SPORTS

1. India to host Kabaddi World Cup in October

India will host the Kabaddi World Cup this year, featuring 12 countries, in October. USA, Canada, UK, Australia, Iran, Poland, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Korea, Japan and Kenya will be playing in the event.

The schedule will be declared later. Star Sports will be the official broadcaster of the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup.

Kabaddi became a part of Asian Games in the year 1990 and India have won all the gold medals since.



2. Lewis Hamilton emerged victorious in 2016 German Grand Prix of F1

Lewis Hamilton won the 2016 German Grand Prix held in Hockenheimring to move into a 19-point lead in the championship over Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg. It was Hamilton's sixth victory in the last seven races and fourth in succession.

Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo stood second while his team-mate Max Verstappen finished third. Nico Rosberg came fourth in the race. Rankings after 2016 German Grand Prix:



Rankings	Driver	Team	Country
1	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	United Kingdom
2	Nico Rosberg	Mercedes	Germany
3	Daniel Ricciardo	Red Bull	Australia
4	Kimi Raikkonen	Ferrari	Finland
5	Sebastian Vettel	Ferrari	Germany

3. Patna Pirates crowned Season 4 Champions of Star Sports Pro Kabaddi

Reigning champions Patna Pirates beat Jaipur Pink Panthers in the final of season 4 of the Pro Kabaddi League. The final match was played at Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad (Telangana). With this the Patna Pirates made history as they became the only team to lift the trophy twice in the tournament's history. The Puneri Paltan was placed at the third place in this edition after they defeated Telugu Titans.



Storm Queens have won inaugural edition of the Women's Challenge of Pro Kabaddi League after they defeated Fire Birds in the final match.

4. Novak Djokovic won ATP Toronto Masters

Novak Djokovic won the ATP Toronto Masters. The World No. 1 became the first player to clinch 30 ATP World Tour Masters 1000 titles, after he defeated third seed Kei Nishikori 6-3, 7-5 at the Rogers Cup final in Toronto. It was his 66th career title and his fourth Canadian title.



Djokovic also won the hard-court event that rotates between Toronto and Montreal in 2007, 2011 and 2012. Ivan Lendl holds the tournament record with six titles.

5. Simona Halep won Rogers Cup women's single

Fifth seed Simona Halep of Romania beat out Madison Keys of USA with a 7-6, 6-3 victory to win the final match of Montreal's annual Rogers Cup tennis tournament. Halep claimed her 14th WTA title and her third title of the year. She was the finalist of the tournament last year.



Halep walked away with the \$2.4 million grand prize and jumped to third in WTA rankings. Keys took home \$241,840 and climbed to ninth in the world, equaling her career-best ranking.

6. International Olympic Committee approves entry of five new sports in Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

The Organizing Committee for the Tokyo 2020 Games proposed to introduce five new sports in response to the new flexibility provided by Olympic Agenda 2020. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has agreed to introduce Baseball-Softball, Karate, Skateboard, Climbing Sports and surfing in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



The inclusion of the new sports will add 18 events and 474 athletes, with equal numbers of women and men for all sports except baseball/softball, which will have the same number of teams but different player totals.

7. India Bullion and Jewelers Association declared awards for Rio 2016 Olympics Indian medal winners

India Bullion and Jewelers Association announced 500 gms Sovereign Gold Bonds for gold medal winners and 1 kg silver as award for silver medal winners of Rio 2016 Olympics medal winners. The move is taken by the association to motivate players.



India Bullion and Jewelers Association Ltd. (IBJA) is the oldest body formed by Reserve bank of India (RBI), to look after the Bullion and Jewelers Industry. Being the apex body of the industry, IBJA as an association is also involved into various activities for the welfare of the country as well as to encourage the country's culture by well-timed appreciations.

8. 2016 Rio Olympics opens with grand ceremony

The 31st Olympic Games was officially launched after a stunning opening ceremony at the Maracana stadium on 5th August, 2016. All 207 countries plus the refugee team walked at the Parade of Nations.



The parade of nations was led by Greece as part of the tradition followed by other countries in alphabetical order in the Portuguese language. The refugee team was the second last to come and the last were host Brazil. The game was thrown open by Brazil acting president Michel Temer. The ceremony also showcased the powerful message of global warming.

9. European Road Cycling Championships to be moved from France due to security reasons

The French city of Nice will not host the European Road Cycling Championships, planned for 14th to 18th September, for security reasons. It is the latest event in France to be called off after July's lorry attack in Nice in which 85 people died.

The organizers, Union Européenne de Cyclisme (UEC), confirmed that the European Road Cycling Championships would now be hosted in the northern French region of Brittany.



10. Justice Katju panel terms Lodha Committee recommendation on BCCI reforms as unconstitutional and illegal

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed former Supreme Court judge Markandey Katju as the head of a four-member legal panel to help the Board understand the implications of the Justice Lodha committee reforms. Another legal luminary in the panel is Abhinav Mukherjee.

The panel submitted its interim report to BCCI on 7 August 2016. It has recommended the Supreme Court verdict on BCCI reforms recommended by Lodha Committee as unconstitutional and illegal.



11. Dipa Karmakar becomes first Indian to qualify for Vault Finals in Olympics

Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar recorded herself into history as she became the first Indian to make the cut for the individual vault finals in Olympics. She finished 8th in the qualifying round in her debut Olympic Games and the top-8 made the cut for the medal round.

The Tripura-girl, who is the country's first woman gymnast to qualify for the Olympics, performed her trademark 'Produnova vault' to secure 14.850 points after two attempts.



12. Swimmer Katie Ledecky sets world record to win gold in 400m freestyle

American swimmer Katie Ledecky set a new world record to fetch gold in the women's 400 metres freestyle at the Rio Olympics.

During the process, Ledecky broke her previous record she set in 2014 by almost two seconds. She is a two-time Olympic gold medalist and nine-time world champion. She is also the current world-record holder in the 400-meter, 800-meter and 1500-meter freestyle (long course). In 2016, she was the **youngest person on Time magazine's Time 100 list.**



13. Australia wins gold in first-ever Olympic Women's Rugby Sevens Championship

Australia's women beat New Zealand 24-17 to win the first ever Olympic rugby sevens gold medal. Canada won the bronze medal a 33-10 win over Britain.

Rugby is back in the Olympics for the first time since 1924, but in the condensed sevens format and with men's and women's competitions. Rugby was last included at the Olympics in Paris in 1924 when the United States beat hosts France in the final of a men's 15-aside tournament.



14. Abhijeet Gupta won Commonwealth Chess championship

Grandmaster and former world junior champion Abhijeet Gupta retained the Commonwealth Chess Championship crown in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He had earlier won the championship in 2015.

International Master Tania Sachdev also finished with a gold medal. Grandmasters SL Narayanan and Deep Chakkravarthy got the silver and bronze medals in the open section. Similarly, Meenal Gupta, has won an individual gold medal for India in U-14 girls' category.



15. Judoka Silva wins first gold for host country Brazil at Rio Olympics

Host country Brazil won their first Gold of the Olympic Games when Judoka Rafaela Silva won the women's -57kg judo gold. Silva's win was extra special as she grew up in host city Rio de Janeiro and blossomed to become an Olympic champion despite the tough conditions of her native City of God favela.

Japan's Shohei Ono won the first Gold in 73kg category. Shohei ended an anxious wait for a Japanese men's team that had not claimed Olympic gold since 2008 in Beijing.



16. Andy Murray defeated Juan Martin to win Rio Olympic men's singles tennis category

Andy Murray defeated Juan Martin Del Potro to win gold medal in Rio Olympic men's singles tennis category in a match that lasted 4hr 2min. He won 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

With this historic win, Andy became first player to win back to back men's singles tennis gold medals in Olympics, four years after London 2012 success. It was Andy Murray's 18th win after he claimed his second Wimbledon title.



17. Elia Viviani claims gold in Men's Omnium cycling track at Rio Olympics

Elia Viviani grabbed gold in the men's omnium cycling track at the Rio Olympics followed by Great Britain's Mark Cavendish with silver medal and Lasse Norman Hansen of Denmark with bronze.

After five races, Italy's Elia Viviani went into the final event with the omnium lead. Viviani missed out on a medal in London 2012. Mark Cavendish has won 30 stages of the Tour de France and a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. It was his first Olympic medal though.



18. Jamaica's Usain Bolt wins 100 meters Final, retains title of "Fastest Man Alive"

Jamaica's speedster Usain Bolt has retained his coveted title "Fastest man alive on the planet". Bolt won the 100m Final of Rio Olympics, to have the third Olympic Gold medal in the event, an unprecedented feat. In his Final appearance in an Olympic, the reigning World Champion sprinted to glory as he recorded his season best time of 9.81 seconds.



His long-time rival American Sprinter Justin Gatlin settled for Silver with a time of 9.89 seconds, and Canada's Andre De Grasse finishing third with 9.91 seconds to his name. Usain Bolt has all the sprinting world record to his name including the 100m, 200m and 4x100m. With 2 Gold medal in each event he is trying to achieve 'Triple Treble'.

19. Michael Phelps becomes first swimmer to win four consecutive golds in a row

Michael Phelps became the first swimmer ever to win four consecutive golds in the same event by winning his fourth consecutive 200m individual medley Olympic title.



He has now won two individual and two relay golds at his fifth Olympics, two years after coming out of retirement. Thirteen out of 22 of his golds have come in individual races, the rest in relays. It also marks the first time a swimmer earned at least three gold medals in four different Olympic Games.

20. Ma Long wins table tennis gold for Grand Slam in Rio Olympics 2016

World number one Ma Long of China beat compatriot Zhang Jike 4-0 to win the men's singles and claim a table tennis Grand Slam. He became only the 5th man to have won singles titles at the World Championships, World Cup and Olympics. Zhang is already a Grand Slam winner four years ago.



Jun Mizutani of Japan beat Belarusian Vladimir Samsonov 4-1 in the bronze medal match.

21. USA wins 1,000th Olympic gold medal: Rio Olympics

The United States won its 1,000th Olympic gold medal after the American women's 4x100 meter medley relay team of Kathleen Baker, Lilly King, Dana Vollmer and Simone Manuel clinched victory at the Rio Games.

The U.S. team had arrived in Rio with 977 gold medals. More than half of those medals have come from track and field (323) and swimming (246). Triple jumper James Connolly took the first gold medal for USA in 1896.



22. Almaz Ayana of Ethiopia breaks World Record in women's 10,000m race event

Almaz Ayana of Ethiopia has set a World Record in the women's 10,000-meter race event after she finished her race in 29 minutes and 17.45 seconds. She shattered a 23-year-old record by more than 14 seconds set by China's Wang Junxia in 1993. She became the first woman to break a 10,000-metre world record at an Olympic Games.



Kenyan world champion, Vivian Cheruiyot, took silver in 29:32.53, while the defending champion, Tirunesh Dibaba of Ethiopia, was third in a personal best of 29:42.56.

23. Dipika Pallikal wins 11th PSA title at the Australian Open

World No. 19, Dipika Pallikal, won her 11th PSA title at the Australian Open in Melbourne. Dipika won against Egyptian teenager Mayar Hany. Pallikal's previous title came in February 2015 when she won the Winnipeg Winter Open in Canada. She also has won Macau Squash Open (2013), Meadowood Pharmacy Open (2013), Crocodile Challenge Cup (2011), Dread Sports Series (2011) and Orange County Open (2011).



Qatar's Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi won the men's singles final against New Zealand's Campbell Grayson. It was his third PSA World Tour title.

24. Brazil beat Germany to win men's football gold in Rio Olympics

Hosts Brazil beat Germany 5-4 on penalties in Rio to win their first men's Olympic football gold medal. Brazil finally won the Olympic title after losing in the finals in 1984, 1988 and 2012. Neymar scored the winning penalty for Brazil. In the shootout, Germany's Nils Petersen had his penalty saved by Weverton before Neymar won it.



Nigeria won their first medal of the 2016 Olympics as they beat Honduras 3-2 in the bronze-medal match.

25. Simone Biles wins gold in Floor Exercise event at Rio Olympics

American gymnast, Simone Biles, won her fourth gold medal after she won the floor exercise at Rio Olympic Arena. American Alexandra Raisman won silver with 15.500 Great Britain's Amy Tinkler won bronze with a score of 14.933 in the event.



Biles joins Ecaterina Szabo (1984), Vera Caslavka (1968) and Larisa Latynina (1956) as the only gymnasts to win four gold medals in one Games. The four golds for Biles came in the team event, the all-around final, the vault and the floor exercise.

26. Purav Raja and Divij Sharan win Los Cabos Open Men's Doubles title

Men's doubles pair of Divij Sharan and Purav Raja captured their second career ATP title at the Abierto Mexicano Mifel in Los Cabos, Mexico after they defeated Israeli-British pair of Jonathan Erlich and Ken Skupski 7-6(4), 7-6(3) in the final. They earn 250 Emirates ATP Doubles Rankings points and split 38940 US dollar in prize money.



Their first ATP title came at Bogota in 2013. The Los Cabos Open is a professional men's tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts.

27. Wrestler Sakshi Malik wins bronze for India in Rio 2016

Indian women wrestler Sakshi Malik created history after she won the bronze medal in wrestling at the Olympic Games in Rio. Her win against Kyrgyzstan's Aisuluu Tynybekova in the 58-kilogram freestyle, gave India the first medal of the competition.



The 23-year-old became the 4th Indian woman to have ever won an Olympic medal. Weightlifter Karnam Malleshwari (2000, Sydney), boxer MC Mary Kom (2012, London) and shuttler Saina Nehwal (2012, London) are the only other women players from India to have won a medal in the Olympics.

28. Narsingh Yadav banned for four years

Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) situated in Lausanne, Switzerland, has handed Indian wrestler Narsingh Yadav a four-year doping ban and denied him permission to take part in the Rio Olympics. CAS was hearing into the World Anti-Doping Agency, WADA's appeal against the clean chit given to Narsingh by the National Anti-Doping Agency NADA, in a dope scandal.



Narsingh tested positive for a banned steroid, methandienone, which is a banned anabolic steroid, following a dope test on 25 June by NADA, but it cleared him of all the doping charges on 1 August.

29. Usain Bolt wins 9th Olympic gold as Jamaica storm to 4x100m relay

Usain Bolt along with Asafa Powell, Yohan Blake and Nickel Ashmeade won gold in 4x100m relay final at the Rio Olympics. Bolt had won the 100m and 200m in Rio and is the only man to win all three sprint events at three Games. He is the reigning World and Olympic champion in these three events.



Jamaica won in a time of 37.27 seconds, with Japan in second and Canada third after the United States was disqualified.

30. P V Sindhu wins silver in women's singles badminton event at Rio Olympics

Pusarla Venkata Sindhu became the first Indian woman to win a silver medal in the Olympics. She lost to Spain's Carolina Marin at the badminton final.

She became the first Indian woman to have won a silver medal in Olympics. She also became the fourth Indian to win a silver at the Olympics after shooters Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (2004, Athens) and Vijay Kumar (2012, London) and wrestler Sushil Kumar (2012, London).



31. China's Chen Long wins gold in men's singles badminton in Rio Olympics

Chen Long of China defeated world No. 1 badminton player, Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia 21-18, 21-18 to claim gold in the men's singles competition at the Rio Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Viktor Axelsen of Denmark beat China's Lin Dan for bronze.

Lee had to settle for a third straight Olympic silver medal. He won the semi-final against Lin Dan, the man who beat him in the last two Olympic finals.



32. Germany wins gold in women's football event at Rio Olympics

Germany beat Sweden 2-1 to win their first Olympic gold medal in women's football. Germany is now one of only three women's teams to win both the Olympics and World Cup.

The women's football event has been held at only six Olympics, and this was Germany's fourth medal after they won bronze in 2000, 2004 and 2008. Canada secured women's bronze by beating Brazil 2-1 in Sao Paulo. Germany is the only nation to have won both the men's and women's tournament.



33. Rio Olympics 2016 concluded, over to Tokyo 2020

The Rio 2016 Olympics closed on 21st August after a very colourful closing ceremony at the Maracana Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. President of the IOC, Thomas Bach, declared the 31st Olympiad closed.

The games featured 28 Olympic sports. USA topped the table with 121 medals overall followed by Great Britain and China. The 2020 Summer Olympics will be held in Tokyo, Japan from 24 July 2020 to 9 August 2020.



34. Sania Mirza retains No 1 spot in women's doubles

Sania Mirza teamed up with Barbora Strycova from the Czech Republic to defeat Martina Hingis and her partner Coco Vandeweghe of United States of America by 7-5, 6-4 in the Cincinnati Masters finals. This was the first win for Indo-Czech pair.

The win ensured Sania retained her number one status on the women's doubles ranking as Hingis slipped to 2nd spot. Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis parted ways after Rogers Cup.



35. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2016

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years. Selection Committee for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Awards was headed by Justice S.K. Agarwal, Retired Delhi High Court Judge. Apart from a medal and a citation, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs.7.5 lakh.



S. No.	Name of the awardee	Discipline
1.	Ms. P.V. Sindhu	Badminton
2.	Ms. Dipa Karmakar	Gymnastics
3.	Shri Jitu Rai	Shooting
4.	Ms. Sakshi Malik	Wrestling

36. Dronacharya Awards 2016

Dronacharya Award is given for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events. Dronacharya Awardees will receive statuettes, certificates and cash prize of Rs.5 lakh each. Selection Committee for Dronacharya Awards and Dhyan Chand Awards was headed by Ms. M.C. Mary Kom.



S.No.	Name of the awardee	Discipline
1	Shri Nagapuri Ramesh	Athletics
2	Shri Sagar Mal Dhayal	Boxing
3.	Shri Raj Kumar Sharma	Cricket
4.	Shri Bishweshwar Nandi	Gymnastics
5.	Shri S. Pradeep Kumar	Swimming (Lifetime)
6.	Shri Mahabir Singh	Wrestling (Lifetime)

37. Arjuna Awards 2016

Arjuna Award is given for consistently outstanding performance for four years. Selection Committee for Arjuna Awards was headed by Justice S.K. Agarwal, Retired Delhi High Court Judge.

Apart from a medal and a citation, Arjuna Awardees will receive statuettes, certificates and cash prize of Rs.5 lakh each.

The awardees this year are:



S. No.	Name of the awardee	Discipline
1.	Shri Rajat Chauhan	Archery
2.	Ms. Lalita Babar	Athletics
3.	Shri Sourav Kothari	Billiards & Snooker
4.	Shri Shiva Thapa	Boxing
5.	Shri Ajinkya Rahane	Cricket
6.	Shri Subrata Paul	Football

7.	Ms. Rani	Hockey
8.	Shri Raghunath V.R.	Hockey
9.	Shri Gurpreet Singh	Shooting
10.	Ms. Apurvi Chandela	Shooting
11.	Shri Soumyajit Ghosh	Table Tennis
12.	Ms. Vinesh	Wrestling
13.	Shri Amit Kumar	Wrestling
14.	Shri Sandeep Singh Mann	Para-Athletics
15.	Shri Virender Singh	Wrestling (Deaf)

38. Dhyan Chand Award 2015

Dhyan Chand Award is given for life time contribution to sports development. Dhyan Chand Awardees will receive statuettes, certificates and cash prize of Rs.5 lakh each. Selection Committee for Dhyan Chand Awards was headed by Ms. M.C. Mary Kom.



S. No.	Name of the awardee	Discipline
1	Ms. Satti Geetha	Athletics
2	Shri Sylvanus Dung Dung	Hockey
3	Shri Rajendra Pralhad Shelke	Rowing

39. Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar, 2016

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is given to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

Selection Committee for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar was headed by Shri Rajiv Yadav, Secretary (Sports). Recipients of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar will be given Trophies and certificates.



S. No.	Category	Entity recommended for Rashtriya Khel ProtsahanPuruskar, 2016
1.	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hockey Citizen Group • Dadar Parsee Zorostrian cricket club • Usha School of Athletics • STAIRS
2.	Encouragement to sports through corporate social responsibility	India Infrastructure Finance Corporate Limited
3.	Employment to sportspersons and other welfare measures	Reserve Bank of India
4.	Sports for Development	Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society

40. Ahmedabad to host 2016 Kabaddi World Cup

The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) announced that the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup will be hosted in Ahmedabad, Gujarat from 7th to 22nd October 2016. The participation countries include India, USA, Canada, UK, Australia, Iran, Poland, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Korea, Japan and Kenya.



The Kabaddi World Cup matches will be held in Ahmedabad's upcoming state-of-the-art stadium, The Arena by TransStadia. The winner of the Kabaddi World Cup 2014 was India. New Zealand was the Runner-up. Pakistan stood on the third place.

41. Vikash Anand clinched the title in the MRF Formula 1600 category

Vikash Anand of Chennai clinched the title in the MRF Formula 1600 category after the conclusion of the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Racing Championship. Karthik Tharani secured second position. Raghul Rangasamy stood third in the championship race.



Goa's Keith Desouza (UNIMEK Racing) topped the Indian Junior Touring Cars class. Ishaan Dodhiwala from Delhi won both races in the Volkswagen Vento Cup.

42. Thongchai Jaidee becomes Asian Tour Golfer for July 2016

Thai legend Thongchai Jaidee has been voted as the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month for July 2016. He claimed an emphatic victory at the 100th Open de France for his fourth win on European soil.



The Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month award is one of the partnership initiatives aimed at recognising outstanding efforts of Asian Tour members both at home and abroad. Thongchai won the award ahead of Chinese Taipei's Chan Shih-chang and Carlos Pigem of Spain.

43. Cristiano Ronaldo wins UEFA Best Player in Europe award

Cristiano Ronaldo has been named UEFA's Best Player in Europe for the second time. Ronaldo enjoyed a sensational 2015/16, winning the UEFA Champions League with Madrid before leading his country to UEFA EURO 2016 glory. The Real Madrid forward beat team-mate Gareth Bale and Atletico Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann in the voting.



Norwegian striker Ada Hegerberg was voted the winner of the UEFA Best Women's Player in Europe Award for 2015-16 ahead of Amandine Henry and Dzsennifer Marozsan. On the other hand, Messi won the UEFA Goal of the Season award for 2015-16.

44. Indian Super League season 3 to begin from October 1

Season-3 of the Indian Super League (ISL) football would be held from October 1 to December 18. The opening game is scheduled to be held in Guwahati.

The league features 61 games spread across 79 days played in a home-away league format, to be followed by the semi-finals and the final.

The first leg of the semifinals is scheduled on 10 and 11 December followed by the second leg on 13 and 14 December leading up to the final on 18 December.



45. BCCI submits 1st Compliance Report to Lodha Panel panel

The BCCI has 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.

The panel is expected to meet in the coming days and the Compliance Report is likely to come up for discussion. The Lodha Panel wants 11 reforms to be implemented by the 15th of October. The BCCI has already filed a Review Petition with the Supreme Court seeking recusal of CJI TS Thakur from the case.



46. Sania Mirza won Connecticut Open doubles title

Sania Mirza has won the Doubles title at the Connecticut Open in New Haven with her Romanian team-mate Monica Niculescu. Sania and Niculescu defeated the duo of Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine and Chuang Chia-Jung of Taiwan, 7-5, 6-4. This is their first title together. This is a major confidence booster for Sania ahead of the US Open Grand Slam tournament.

The last time Sania and Niculescu partnered up was in 2010. Sania had recently parted ways with Swiss Martina Hingis after a hugely successful partnership.



47. Nico Rosberg won 2016 Belgian Grand Prix

Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg from Germany won the 2016 Belgian Grand Prix of Formula One. It was Rosberg's sixth win in the 2016 season. He now has a nine-point deficit to his team-mate Lewis Hamilton for the championship.



Result of 2016 Belgian Grand Prix

- First Position: Nico Rosberg (Germany) of Mercedes team.
- Second Position: Daniel Ricciardo (Australia) of Red Bull.
- Third Position: Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom) of Mercedes Team.
- Fourth Position: Nico Hulkenberg (Germany) of Force India.
- Fifth Position: Sergio Perez (Italy) of Force India

48. Western Railway won all India railway athletic championship

Western Railway won the overall team championship in the 82nd All India Railway athletic Championship held at Tiruchirapalli Tamil Nadu. Central railway stood second and Southern Railway third in the overall team category. Best athlete award in men's category was given to Jasdeep Singh of Northern Railway and best women athlete award to Dutee Chand of Northern Railway.



In the men's category, Western Railway came first and in the women's category Central Railway won the championship trophy. In the women's 100 m race Dutee Chand of Central railway and in the men's 100 m race Manikantha Raj of South Central Railway won the gold.

49. 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' for Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society

The 'Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society' (SMSES) has been bestowed with National Sports Award 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar', for 'Sports for Development' by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

The 'Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society' organises the famous Subroto Cup Football Tournament, and over last six decades has made significant contribution towards development of football in the country.

Subroto Cup, conducted by the Indian Air Force, is the largest Football tournament for school children with over 35000 Indian and Foreign teams participating each year.

