

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



NOVEMBER 2016

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## Current Affairs November 2016

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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 **November 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

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

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

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# Appointments

## 1. Kristalina Georgieva to take charge as CEO of World Bank

World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim announced the appointment of Kristalina Georgieva as Chief Executive Officer of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), lending arms for middle-income and poor countries known collectively as the World Bank.



Georgieva will resume duty on January 2, 2017. Prior to this appointment, Georgieva was European Commission Vice President for Budget and Human Resource. She also served as co-chair of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing.

## 2. IRS officer Sushil Chandra to take charge as CBDT chairman

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister approved the name of Sunil Chandra as the CBDT Chairman and replace Rani Singh Nair who retired from service. CBDT has six members apart from the chairman, and is responsible for framing policy and administrative issues related to direct taxes and the Income Tax department.



Chandra, a 1980-batch officer of Indian Revenue Service, is at present working in the board as Member (Investigation).

## 3. Ministry of Railways appointed Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak as a Brand Ambassador for “Swachh Rail Mission” of Indian Railway

Ministry of Railways appointed Padma Bhushan Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak founder of Sulabh International as a Brand Ambassador for “Swachh Rail Mission” of Indian Railway. Sulabh International is keen to contribute towards sanitation and cleanliness facilities in Indian Railways.



Sulabh International will work with full force to improve the sanitation facilities in railway

premises. Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu felicitated Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak as he has strengthened the cleanliness campaign of Indian Railways by accepting this invitation of working with Railways on cleanliness initiatives.

#### 4. Sarabjit Singh Marwah appointed as Canada's 1st Sikh Senator

Kolkata-born and Canada based Sarabjit Singh Marwah has been appointed as Canadian Senate and became first Sikh Senate of Canada. Marwah is one of the founders of the Sikh Foundation of Canada that promotes Sikh culture and art among the diaspora community.



With this appointment, Marwah joins two other turbaned Sikhs, Defence Minister Harjeet Sajjan and Science Minister Navdeep Bains, in the Canadian parliament. Marwah will be the only Indian-origin member of the Senate (upper house).

#### 5. External Affairs ministry appointed Sanjiv Arora as India's Ambassador to Lebanon

Ministry of External Affairs appointed IFS officer, Sanjiv Arora as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lebanon. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.



Previously, Sanjiv Arora served as India's Ambassador to Qatar and witnessed India's diplomatic missions in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Germany and Czech Republic. He also served as the Head of United Nations (Political) Division in Ministry of External Affairs from 2005-08.

#### 6. Guy Ryder re-selected as Director-General of International Labor Organization

The Governing Body of the International Labor Organization (ILO) re-elected Guy Ryder as Director-General for a second five year-term to start in October 2017.



Guy Ryder received 54 of the 56 votes cast by the titular members of the ILO's Governing Body. The vote was conducted at the ILO's headquarters in Geneva. He was the only candidate.

Guy Ryder is the 10th ILO Director-General with thirty-five years of experience. Since his election, Ryder has strengthened the role of the ILO in the G20, with the BRICS and the G7+ group.

## **7. INTERPOL General Assembly elects Meng Hongwei as Interpol President**

Meng Hongwei, was elected as the new president of INTERPOL, at the 85th session of the INTERPOL General Assembly held in Bali. Mr Meng will serve as President until 2020.



Meng has held several positions in the Ministry of Public Security including Director of the Patrol Police Division, Director-General of the Traffic Control Department and becomes the first official from China to take the post.

Meng has experience of 40 years in criminal justice, counter-terrorism, immigration and international cooperation. Prior to this appointment, he was holding the position of China's Vice Minister for public security.

## **8. Amresh Acharya appointed as Head Global Indian Banking by Yes Bank**

YES BANK, India's fifth largest private sector Bank, announced the appointment of Amresh Acharya as Group President and Head - Global Indian Banking. Amresh will be responsible for driving Global Indian Banking Business to generate significant mindshare for YES BANK in identified International and Domestic NRI geographies.



Amresh has more than 23 years of experience in the banking and finance industry and has worked with ANZ Bank Singapore, World Gold Council; RBS Coutts Bank; Singapore; Deutsche Bank; HDFC Bank; and ANZ Grindlays Bank.

## 9. Jagdish Singh Khehar to take charge as Executive Chairman of NALSA

Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar was selected as new Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) by Government of India replacing Anil R. Dave who retired completing his tenure of 6 years. He was nominated by President of India.

At present, Justice TS Thakur is the patron-in-chief of NALSA. National Legal Services Authority of India is a body instituted under Legal Services Authorities Act 1987, to conduct Lok Adalats for speedy resolution of cases.



## 10. Pankaj Patel elected as President of FICCI

Pankaj Patel has been elected as the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for 2017. He is the Chairman and Managing Director of Cadila Healthcare Ltd. He will replace Harshavardhan Neotia.

Pankaj Patel is actively involved in various educational institutions and is on the advisory committees and academic councils of several educational institutions. He is also the Executive Chairman, Vice President and Trustee of the Gujarat Cancer Society and Chairman of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute.



## 11. Mahesh Bhalla appointed as Chief Mentor of Startups Club India

Mahesh Bhalla has been appointed as Chief Mentor of Startups [Club India. He was the former Executive Director of Dell's Consumer & SMB business in India. Mr Bhalla has more than 20 years of rich experience having held leadership positions across various companies including Uber India.

StartUpsClub is the largest community for such ventures in India with over 10,000 plus entrepreneurs on its board. Startupsclub is founded by Salma Moosa and Vivek.





## 12. Yudhvir Singh Malik appointed as new Chairman of NHAI

The Union Government has appointed 1983 batch IAS officer of Haryana cadre, Yudhvir Singh Malik, as the new Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). He will succeed Raghav Chandra who has been moved as secretary to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

Malik was Special Secretary with NITI Aayog. Prior to that, he was CEO of FSSAI from October 2014 to September 2015. NHAI is entrusted with the task of implementing National Highways Development Project (NHDP), India's largest-ever highways project.



## 13. Upma Chowdhary named first woman director of LBSNAA

1983 batch IAS officer of Himachal cadre, Upma Chowdhary, has been appointed Director of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) at Mussoorie. She became the first woman to be named for the post. She will replace Rajeev Kapoor.

Chowdhary would be the 23rd director and first woman director of the prestigious academy, imparting training to officers of civil services. She is currently posted as Additional Chief Secretary in Himachal Pradesh.



# Awards and Honors

## 1. Korean Writer and Director Im Kwon Taek (Im Kwa Teek) awarded Lifetime Achievement Award

The 47th edition of IFFI honored internationally acclaimed Korean Writer and Director Im Kwon Taek (Im Kwa Teek) with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' and a cash price of Rs. 10 lacs.

In his career span of five decades, he has directed more than 100 films and has been honored with a number of awards, including Best Director Award at Cannes Film Festival, 2002 for his movie Chihwaseon (chhih-wasaion).



The festival honored award winning and acclaimed singer, S. P. Balasubrahmanyam, with the Centenary Award for Indian Film Personality of the Year 2016, for his contribution to Indian Cinema.

## 2. PM gives away Ramnath Goenka Awards for Excellence in Journalism

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, gave away the Ramnath Goenka Awards for excellence in journalism.

The honor acknowledged journalists across 28 categories in print, broadcast and online journalism in English, Hindi and various regional languages.



### Major winners:

Name of the Categories	Name of the winners
Prakash Rakesh Kardaley Memorial Award for Civic Journalism	Christin Mathew Philip (The Times of India)
Uncovering India Invisible	Print : Ashwaq Masoodi (Mint)
	Broadcast : Sarada Lahangir (Kalinga TV)

Hindi	Print : Santosh Kumar (India Today)
	Broadcast : Sanjay Nandan (ABP news), Syeda Afifa Khatoon (NEWS24)
Books	Non-fiction : Author: Akshaya Mukul
	Book: Gita Press & The Making of Hindu India
	Publication: Harper Collins
Sanjiv Sinha Memorial Award for Excellence in Reporting	Aditi Vatsa (The Indian Express)
Priya Chandrashekar Memorial Award for Excellence in Editing	Saikat Kumar Bose (The Indian Express)

### 3. Army Chief presented President’s Colors to 2 battalions of Mahar regiment

Chief of Army Staff General Dalbir Singh Suhag presented President’s Colors to 20th and 21st battalions of Mahar regiment in Sagar during the Regiment’s 75th anniversary programme.

The Mahar Regiment was raised on October 1, 1941 and it is the only all India all class infantry regiment of the army. Mahar Regiment has 9 Battle Honors, 12 Theatre Honors, 8 COAS Unit Citations, 19 GOC-in-C Unit Appreciations and scores of gallantry awards to its credit.



### 4. Indian researcher bagged the German Green Talent award

29-year-old student of National University of Singapore ‘Shamik Chowdhury’ was honored with the German Green Talent Award, by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. He was among the list of 25 young researchers who have been honored with the award for their innovative green ideas.

Shamik Chowdhury aims to create green technologies based on renewable feedstocks to promote a sustainable city life and he



researched on uniting urban sustainability, resource efficiency, cleaner production and eco-innovation.

## 5. Eight scientists were honored with Saudi Arabia Water Prize

Eight scientists were honored with Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water by Saudi Arabia, at a ceremony held in New York.

It is held once in 2 years for promoting scientists and researchers who creatively help in reducing water scarcity issues.



### List of Winners:

- Creativity Prize: The team of Dr. Rita Colwell (University of Maryland at College Park), Dr. Shafiqul Islam (Tufts University, USA) and Dr. Peter J. Webster (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA).
- Surface Water Prize: Dr. Gary Parker (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA).
- Groundwater Prize: Dr. Tissa H. Illangasekare (Colorado School of Mines, USA).
- Alternative Water Resources Prize: The team of Dr. Rong Wang & Dr. Anthony G. Fane (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore).
- Water Management and Protection Prize: Dr. Daniel P. Loucks – (Cornell University, USA).

## 6. Shri Rajnath Singh felicitated winners at AMCDRR Film Awards ceremony

Winners of the short film competition were felicitated during the Closing ceremony of the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016.

'The Resilient Ones from the East of Indonesia', won under the category DRR for Development. 'I Play, I Learn and I am Safe', Live & Learn's entry from Vietnam, won the prize under Positive human impact on DRR.



Ms. Meghna Chawla received the prize for the film 'The Catalysts of Change Adapting to Changing Weather in Ladakh (India)' under the category 'Adapting to Climate Change'.

## 7. President presented Dr APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE awards to winners

President Pranab Mukherjee gave away awards to winners of the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE 2016 Competition in New Delhi. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE 2016 competition -is a national competition of original technological ideas and innovations by children up to class 12 or those out of school up to the age of 17 years.

It is organized by National Innovation Foundation every year to promote creativity and originality among children. Overall, 55,089 submissions of students from 458 districts of all the states & Union Territories of India were received during the IGNITE 16 competition.



## 8. 2016 Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation Awards conferred

Mumbai hosted 39th Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation Awards for the year 2016. Jamnalal Bajaj Award is given for promoting Gandhian values and social development.

Cash prize of 10 lakh rupees, a citation and a trophy was presented to 4 awardees. Vrikshamitra founder Mohan Hirabai Hiralal for his work on village empowerment, BonBehari Vishnu Nimbkar (founder of Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute) for application of science and technology for rural development, Nannapaneni Manga Devi (founder of trust) for development and welfare of women and children and Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi (president of Tunisia's Ennahdha Party).



## 9. Journalist Hadi Abdullah bagged journalist category 2016 RSF-TV5 Monde Press Freedom Prize

World's top press awards RSF-TV5 Monde Press Freedom Prize is given by Reporters without Borders (RSF) to brave journalists and reporters. 2016 RSF-TV5 Monde Press Freedom Prize in journalist category was honored to Syrian journalist Hadi Abdullah who undoubtedly entered into danger zones, where no other Western journalists are willing to go, to film and interview civilians.



Other recipients were 64Tianwang in media category as its reporters take great risks to cover protests and news, Li Tingyu, two Chinese citizen journalists in citizen journalist category for systematically documenting strikes and demonstrations throughout China.

## 10. Professor Raj Bisaria honored with 2015-16 Kalidas Samman

Padma Shri awardee and theatre personalist 'Prof Raj Bisaria' was honored with prestigious 'Kalidas Samman' national award for 2015-16 for his achievement in theatre by Madhya Pradesh government. It is an annual award constituted by Madhya Pradesh in 1980.

He is famous for his artistic blend of the East and the West and the traditional and the modern. Bisaria is founder of Bhartendu Academy of Dramatic Arts. The Press Trust of India calls Prof. Bisaria as the father of the modern theatre in North India.



## 11. President of India gave away National Child Awards

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the National Child Awards on the occasion of Children's Day (November 14, 2016) at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The National Child Awards include National Child Awards for Exceptional Achievement to give recognition to children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievement in various fields such as academics, culture, arts, sports, music, etc; National Awards for Child Welfare to institutions and individuals for their outstanding performance in the field of child development and welfare; and Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Awards to individuals for their outstanding contribution towards service for children.



## 12. UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence

In 1995, to mark the United Nations Year for Tolerance and the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, UNESCO created the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence which rewards significant activities in the scientific, artistic, cultural or communication fields aimed at the promotion of a spirit of tolerance and non-violence.

The prize is awarded every two years on the International Day for Tolerance. The 2016 winner is the Federal Research and



Methodological Center for Tolerance Psychology and Education (Tolerance Center) of Russia.

### 13. Indian-origin Imtiaz Sooliman gets Global Citizen Award

Indian-origin humanitarian, Imtiaz Sooliman, was awarded the prestigious Global Citizen Award for his “innovative and visionary” contribution to the global community. He founded the Gift of the Givers Foundation.

He was honored at the end of the 10th annual Global Residence and Citizenship Conference in London. The award consists a specially-made commemorative medal, an award certificate and a USD 50,000.

He has also been honored with the National Orders from the President of South Africa.



### 14. TCS Awarded '2016 Digital Innovator of the Year' by GE Digital

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been named as the '2016 Digital Innovator of the Year' in the Ecosystem Excellence award category at GE's Minds + Machines event in San Francisco, California.

The award recognizes TCS' innovation and excellence in developing the TCS Digital Store. The TCS Digital Store contains more than 150 solutions, including TCS Plant Operations for real time analytics in a manufacturing plant, Environmental Health and Safety Analytics for industrial facilities, and Engine Telematics for tracking and logistics.



### 15. Pt Hari Prasad Chourasia honored with lifetime achievement award for classical music

Renowned flautist Pt Hari Prasad Chourasia was conferred this year's Sumitra Charat Ram Award for lifetime achievement in the field of Indian classical music. The award carries a purse, citation, shawl and a silver plaque.

The award is given to individuals who have excelled in field of Indian classical dance and music or other disciplines of Indian art and culture, including theatre during last 15 years.

He has received several other prestigious awards like Sangeet Natak Academy (1984), Padma Bhushan (1992), Yash Bharati Sanman (1994), Padma Vibhushan (2000), Dinanath Mangeshkar Award (2000) etc.



### 16. Akshaya Mukul awarded Shakti Bhatt Prize 2016

Senior journalist Akshaya Mukul was awarded the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for his book "Gita Press and the Making of Hindu India". The book was published by Harper Collins.

Mukul had also won the Ramnath Goenka award for the book in the non-fiction category.

Other authors on the shortlist were Manu S. Pillai for "The Ivory Throne", Madhu Gurus for "The Keeper of Memories", Sophia Khan for "Yasmeen", Nisid Hajari for "Midnight's Furies" and Kanishk Tharoor for "Swimmer Among the Stars".



### 17. 'Allama' nominated as Indian Entry for ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal

At 47th IFFI, 'Allama', a film by the national award winning director T.S. Nagabharana, about the journey of a 12th century metaphysician, will compete for the International Council for Film, Television and Audio-visual Communication (ICFT) UNESCO Gandhi Medal.

ICFT Paris in collaboration with UNESCO will award the film that best reflects the Gandhi ideals of peace, tolerance and non-violence, a prestigious Gandhi Medal and Certificate. This competition section shall have eight films including 'Allama' that will compete to receive the prestigious ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal.





### **18. 2016 CPJ International Press Freedom Award conferred to Malini Subramaniam**

International Press Freedom Awards 2016 was conferred to veteran journalist Malini Subramaniam for her brave reporting from the Naxal-infested Bastar area and her commitment towards free press. Other recipients were Mahmoud Abou Zeid from Egypt, Can Dündar from Turkey and Oscar Martinez from El Salvador.



The CPJ honored these four journalists as “they have risked their freedom and their lives to report and informed their societies and the global community about critical news events.”

### **19. President Barack Obama awards his final Presidential Medals of Freedom**

President Obama gave the Presidential Medal of Freedom to 21 artists, sports figures, scientists and philanthropists. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the Nation’s highest civilian honor presented to individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.



Notable medal recipients included comedian and talkshow host Ellen DeGeneres, actor Tom Hanks and musicians Diana Ross and Bruce Springsteen, Actor Robert De Niro, Bill and Melinda Gates and Michael Jordan.

### **20. Al Nahyan granted prestigious Mother Teresa International Award**

UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, was awarded the prestigious Mother Teresa International Award by the Mumbai-based NGO Harmony Foundation for his contribution in promoting peace and stability in the West Asia.



The Mother Teresa Awards are conferred on individuals and organizations that promote peace, social justice and equality. Key recipients of the award are Malala Yousufzai (Nobel laureate of Pakistan), Dalai Lama (Nobel laureate and Tibetan leader).

## 21. Mary Kom to receive Legends Award

Olympic bronze-medalist and a five-time world champion, M C Mary Kom, will receive the Legends Award from the International Boxing Association (AIBA) on its 70th anniversary December 20.

The celebrated Indian boxer is also a multiple-time Asian champion and was named an AIBA brand ambassador during the World Championships earlier this year. She has been honored with Padma Bhusan, Arjuna Award, Padma Shree and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award.



## 22. Manoj Bajpayee won 10th Asia Pacific Screen Award in Best Actor Category

Indian actor Manoj Bajpayee has won the best performance award by an actor at the 10th Asia Pacific Screen Awards beating Nawazuddin Siddiqui. Nawazuddin was awarded a Special Mention in the same category.

Bajpayee won the award for his performance as Professor Siras in "Aligarh" directed by Hansal Mehta. Aligarh is a powerful and personal drama based on true events. Nawazuddin won the award for his role in "Raman Raghav 2.0".



# Books & Authors

## 1. An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India, book penned by Shashi Tharoor

An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India, a book penned by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor was released by M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India.

It describes about the colonizers who exploited India and its natural resources supplemented by "famine, forced migration and brutality". On the other hand, it states benefits of British rule and colonizer's interest in tea and cricket.

The book explains how the economic deprivation was one aspect of the colonial rule and more serious was its impact on the minds of the subjugated and on the totality of their existence.



## 2. Dr Jitendra Singh releases Guideline books on Diabetes management

In observance of the World Diabetes Week that commenced from November 14th, the World Diabetes Day, Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region released two Guideline books on Management of Diabetes.

The book deals with the subject of Diabetes & Tuberculosis so as to have control and prevention of Diabetes in younger age group. The book is published by RSSDI, the largest organization of Diabetologists in Asia. RSSDI has started an exercise to bring out a series of such books and monographs on different aspects of Diabetes.



### 3. 'India in a Day' Documentary by Richie Mehta released on YouTube

Richie Mehta, a Canadian film director of Indian origin showcased his documentary "India in a Day" at the 47th International Film Festival of India and it was released on YouTube.



The documentary supported by Google India, is his fourth project and special for having crowd-sourced all of its footage. His earlier two movies "Amal" and "Siddharth" were shot in Delhi.

Ms. Rosalie Varda, a French Costume designer for film theatre and opera, emphasized on the importance of costume for films.

### 4. Conflicts of Interest: My Journey through India's Green Movement

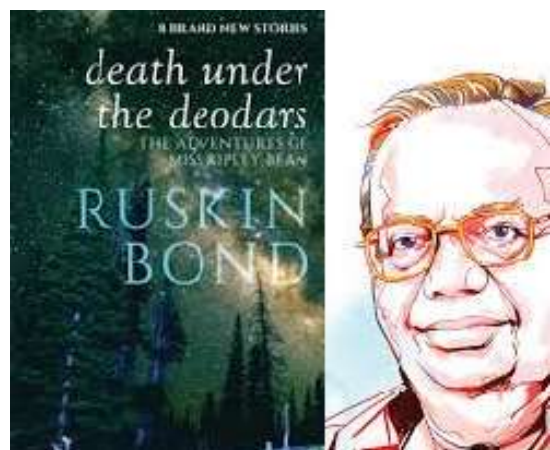
Penguin India acquired the book titled Conflicts of Interest: My Journey through India's Green Movement authored by Sunita Narain. The book is Narain's personal account. The book includes an "environmental manifesto" in which she lays out an outline for the direction India must take, if it is to deal with the exigencies of climate change and environmental degradation.



Sunita Narain is an Indian environmentalist and political activist. She is Director General of the India-based research institute, the Centre for Science and Environment, Director of the Society for Environmental Communications.

### 5. Death Under the Deodars: The Adventures of Miss Ripley-Bean by Ruskin Bond

Ruskin Bond's brand new collection of stories titled 'Death under the Deodars: The Adventures of Miss Ripley-Bean' was released. The book is published by Penguin India. The book consists of 8 fresh thriller stories set in the 1960s -70s Mussoorie of a bygone era that brings to life a mystery and murder featuring the elderly Miss Ripley-Bean and her friends.



Ruskin Bond is an Indian Author of British descent. He was awarded the Sahitya Academy Award in 1992, Padma Shri in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2014 for his immense contribution to the growth of children's literature in India.

# Committees

## 1. Cabinet approves constitution of Special Committee for Inter-Linking of Rivers

The Union Cabinet gave approval to the Progress Report and constitution of "Special Committee for Inter-Linking of Rivers" in compliance of Supreme Court judgment.

Approval of the Union Cabinet will help in monitoring of the precious Inter-linking of River Projects to be carried out under National Perspective Plan 1980 of Government of India.

The Status-cum-Progress Report of Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers will be submitted bi-annually for information of Cabinet, which will facilitate faster and appropriate decisions in the interest of the country as expeditiously as possible.



## 2. Demonetization: RBI sets up panel to oversee ATM recalibrations

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up a task force under Deputy Governor SS Mundra to oversee the recalibration of ATM machines after the country introduced new banknotes to replace old 500 rupee and 1,000 rupee notes.

The panel will provide "direction and guidance" for recalibrating ATM machines to dispense the new notes. The task force comprised of officials from the finance ministry, banks and Reserve Bank of India.



### 3. Inter-ministerial committee set up by government to look into NRIs demonetization issues

Since some foreign missions escalated their concerns to MoEA regarding visa fees and ease in funds withdrawal, an inter-ministerial committee chaired by additional secretary, was constituted to look into the concerns of NRIs and tourists from abroad and foreign missions due to withdrawal of legal tender 500 and 1000 rupees notes and ease their access to more funds.



Various other issues are also being considered by committee like NRIs holding Indian currency in India and abroad, money ex-change associations abroad etc.

### 4. Central Government constitutes Committees for visiting States and reporting about the status of implementation of demonetization

The Central Government constituted teams of Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, and Directors – with each team consisting of up to 2 to 3 officers for each State/UT, to visit the States/UTs and report back to the Government, status of implementation of the demonetization.



Each of the officers would visit different areas of the State/UT separately. The focus may be on the rural areas.

The teams would visit the State/UT allocated to them at the earliest and give their reports to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance by 25th November, 2016.

### 5. SEBI officials to chair IOSCO panels

Parmod Kumar Nagpal and Amarjeet Singh of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have been elected as Chairpersons of two committees set up by IOSCO.



Nagpal would chair the Committee on Issuer Accounting, Audit and Disclosure while Singh would be the chairperson of the Assessment Committee (AC). International Organization of Securities Commissions is the leading international policy forum for securities regulators, regulates over 95 per cent of the world's securities markets in more than 115 jurisdictions.

## 6. Amitabh Kant Committee constituted to push cashless transactions

The Union Government constituted a new committee, headed by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, to form a strategy to expedite the process of transforming India into a cashless economy.

The committee will identify and operationalize in the earliest possible time frame user-friendly digital payment options in all sectors of the economy. The committee was set up following a directive from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to back up the demonetization move.



## 7. Committee to examine AAP Govt's 400 files submits report to LG

The three-member committee constituted to examine about 400 files of Delhi government has submitted its report to the Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung.

Mr. Jung had set up the committee to examine responsibilities and irregularities in the 400 files submitted to him by the AAP government, after the Judgement of Delhi High Court.

The committee comprised of former Comptroller and Auditor General V K Shunglu, Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami and Chief Vigilance Commissioner Pradeep Kumar. The committee was asked to examine the role of public functionaries and fix responsibility.



# Deaths

## 1. Former J&K Deputy CM Mangat Ram Sharma passed away

Former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Mangat Ram Sharma passed away in Jammu after a prolonged illness at the age of 85 years.

He was Deputy Chief Minister in Mufti Mohammad Sayeed led government and later served as Health Minister in 2008 in the government headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad. The six-time legislator also served as the speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.



## 2. Sri Lankan singer Pandit Amaradeva died

Padam Shri awardee Sri Lankan singer and composer Pandit Amaradeva died due to ill health at age of 88 years. He was famous for his contribution in Sri Lankan folk music and upbringing of Sinhala music.

He received many awards like Philippine Ramon Magsaysay Award (2001), Padma Sri Award (2002) and Sri Lankan President's Award of Kala Keerthi (1986) and Deshamanya Award (1998).



In 2003, the French government awarded him the prestigious honor; Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

## 3. Noted geophysicist Janardhan Negi passed away

Noted geophysicist Janardhan G Negi passed away at the age of 81 years. He was a former Director-grade scientist at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI).

He served as the Scientific Adviser to the Governments of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

He made outstanding contribution in understanding earthquakes, mass extinctions, especially dinosaurs and the movement of the Indian sub-continent plates. He won the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize among many accolades.





#### 4. Veteran Carnatic musician Balamuralikrishna passed away

Veteran Carnatic musician M. Balamuralikrishna passed away at the age of 86 years. He enriched music not only with his voice but also by composing over 400 songs in various languages like Telugu, Sanskrit, Kannada and Tamil.

He also played other instruments like Mridangam, Viola and Kanjira.

He was conferred the Padmavibhushan, the second highest civilian honor in the country, in 1991. He had also played the role of 'Narada Muni,' in the Telugu movie 'Bhakta Prahlada'.



#### 5. Popular Hindi & Bhojpuri writer Dr Viveki Rai passed away

Popular Hindi and Bhojpuri writer Dr Viveki Rai passed away in a hospital in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 92 years.

His novel Sonamati is recognized as one of his best literary work. He wrote about fifty books of stories, essays and novels.

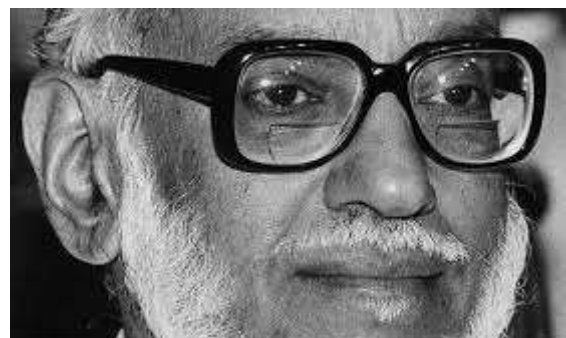
He was presented with the Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan Award in 2001 and the Yash Bharati Award in 2006 in recognition of his contributions to Hindi literature.



#### 6. ISRO's Ex-Chief Prof MGK Menon passed away

Acclaimed physicist and Ex-Chairman of ISRO, Prof MGK Menon, passed away at the age of 88 years. He also served as a minister of state for science and technology and education in the VP Singh government.

He was the director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. He had done scientific work in cosmic rays as well as particle physics. He was also a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of London and received Padma awards, including Padma Vibhushan.



## 7. Irish novelist William Trevor passed away

Irish novelist, playwright and short story writer, William Trevor, passed away at the age of 88 years. Trevor published more than 30 novels and short story collections during his career.

He has won the Whitbread Prize in 1994 and has been shortlisted four times for the Man Booker Prize. In 2002, he received an honorary knighthood. He was also awarded an honorary CBE in 1977 for his services to literature.



## 8. Cuban communist revolutionary Fidel Castro passed away

Cuban communist revolutionary and former President, Fidel Castro, passed away at the age of 90 years. He was the leader of the 1959 revolution in Cuba, which overthrew the US-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista. He defied the US for decades, surviving many assassination plots.

Castro was the longest serving non-royal leader of the 20th Century. Fidel Castro governed Cuba as its Prime Minister from 1959 to 1976. Castro also served the country as its President from 1976 to 2008.



## 9. Noted Journalist Dilip Padgaonkar passed away

Veteran journalist Dileep Padgaonkar passed away at the age of 72 years. He was a former editor of the "The Times of India". He served as its editor for six years from 1988.

Padgaonkar began his career in journalism at the age of 24 years and joined Times of India as its Paris correspondent. He also served with the UNESCO in Bangkok and Paris from 1978 to 1986.

He also wrote a book titled 'When Bombay Burned', which was based on the 1992-93 Mumbai riots. He also wrote a book on Italian filmmaker Roberto Rossellini's visit to India titled 'Under her Spell'.



## 10. Eminent Marathi author Anand Yadav passed away

Eminent Marathi author Anand Yadav passed away at his residence in Pune at the age of 80 years. He was the author of around 40 books, including essays, poems, criticism among others.

He was awarded the Sahitya Akadmi award in 1991 for his autobiography 'Zombi'. He also had to face a major controversy over his book Santsurya Tukaram, wrote on Sant Tukaram, a saint poet from 17th century.



# Defence

## 1. 10th Indo-Nepal Joint Exercise Surya Kiran began

Indo-Nepal Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran-X commenced at Army Battle School, Saljhandi, Nepal. It is the tenth in the series of such exercise between the two nations and is scheduled from 31 October to 13 November 16.

Notably in the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, Surya Kiran series with Nepal is the largest in terms of troop's participation.



The Joint Battalion Level Exercise will enhance defence co-operation and relations between the two nations. It is an ideal platform for the contingent of both nations to share their experience and gain mutually.

## 2. India-Bangladesh joint military exercise SAMPRITI-2016

As part of the ongoing India Bangladesh defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise SAMPRITI 2016 was conducted at Tangail, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 05 to 18 November 2016.

Exercise SAMPRITI is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavor between India and Bangladesh and will be the sixth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.



The joint exercise SAMPRITI 2016 simulated a scenario where both nations are working together in a Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorism environment under the UN Charter.

### 3. DRDO Signs MoU with IIT Delhi to Establish JATC

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi to establish a 'Joint Advanced Technology Centre'.

The JATC will enable Directed, Basic & Applied Research and will engage with premier research institutes through multi-institutional collaboration.

DRDO will support JATC in equipping it with advanced and unique research facilities that will enable the faculty and scholars to conduct advanced research. The objective for creation of JATC is to undertake and facilitate multi-disciplinary directed basic and applied research in the jointly identified research verticals.



### 4. Indo Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise Mitra Shakti - 2016 Concludes

The Indo-Sri Lankan military exercise 'MITRA SHAKTI 2016' was culminated after fourteen days of intense military training. The joint exercise was conducted from 24 October to 06 November 2016 and focused on enhancing inter-operability while carrying out Counter Insurgency (CI) and Counter Terrorism (CT) operations under a UN mandate.

The exercise also provided an opportunity to both the armies for greater cultural understanding, sharing experiences and strengthening mutual trust and co-operation.



### 5. Defence Ministry approved new blacklisting policy

Ministry of Defence approved a new blacklisting policy that will seek to lay down the guidelines for suspension of firms that resort to unscrupulous means to grab defence deals.

The Council also approved purchase of 83 Light Combat Aircraft at a cost of more than 50 thousand crore rupees for the Indian Air Force.

Under this category, procurement and development will be done locally under the Make in India programme. The Defence Acquisition Council also gave in-principle approval to 15 Light Combat Helicopters for the Air Force and Army at a cost of over 2,911 crore rupees.



## 6. MoS for Defence Dr Subhash Bhamre inaugurated 58th conference of IMTA

Dr. Bhamre inaugurated the 58th Conference of International Military Testing Association (IMTA) at New Delhi, to take adequate steps to counter stress-related manifestations in soldiers. 4-day conference was held on theme 'Psychological Assessment: Shaping the future Soldier'. Over 127 delegates from 21 countries including hosts India are participated in the conference.



Vision statement was "Soldier preparedness and well-being of the soldier" for mental and physical well-being of the soldier. Conference would provide an excellent platform for all delegates to share the unique challenges that soldiers face in their respective countries.

## 7. Indian Amphibious Warship INS Shardul arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius

In a demonstration of India's commitment to its ties with Mauritius and to promote maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, Indian Naval Ship Shardul arrived at Port Louis on a three-day visit. INS Shardul, an amphibious ship of the Indian Navy. INS Shardul's visit is part of its mission to carry out surveillance in the Mauritius EEZ with NCG personnel embarked onboard.



The visit by INS Shardul would further reinforce the cultural and ethnic ties between the two countries and contribute towards peace and maritime security in the region.

## 8. DRDO Conducted the 4th Young Scientists Meet

The 4th Young Scientists Meet (YSM), organized by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), New Delhi along with other Delhi based laboratories of the DRDO, held in Delhi.

YSM 2016 is a two-day technical event with participation of around 200 young scientists of DRDO coming from various laboratories from all over India.

The core theme of the event was 'Convert Challenges into Opportunities'. All the events starting from innovative ideas, poster presentation, team building activities, interactive quiz, open interaction and discussion amongst the scientist received tremendous responses from the participants.



## 9. Indo-Nepal Joint Training Exercise 'Surya Kiran' Culminates

Indo-Nepal Joint Military Training Surya Kiran' was conducted at Army Battle School (NABS), Saljhandi, Nepal from 31 October to 13 November 2016 wherein the troops of the Kumaon Regt and Jabar Jung Battalion of Nepal Army participated.

Surya Kiran-X, which was the tenth such Indo-Nepal joint training exercise between the two nations, provided an ideal platform for troops of the two countries to share their experiences on Counter Terrorists Operations and Disaster Management. Other activities conducted during training included basic familiarization with each other's weapons & equipment.



## 10. Indo China Joint Military Exercise Hand –in- Hand 2016 held in Pune

Sixth India China Joint Training Exercise "Hand – in – Hand 2016" was held in Pune. The aim of the joint exercise was to acquaint both the Armies with each other's operating procedures in the backdrop of counter terrorism environment.

The 13-day schedule focused upon training on crossing of obstacles, special heliborne operations, firing of various weapons, handling & neutralization of improvised explosive



devices and conduct of cordon & search operations in insurgency and terrorism environment.

### 11. Four indigenous sonars inducted by Indian navy

The Indian Navy inducted four types of indigenously developed sonars. It will help boost the navy's underwater surveillance capability.

The systems have been designed and developed by Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory, a Kochi-based laboratory of DRDO.

- **Abhay**: a compact hull mounted sonar for shallow water crafts
- **Humsa UG**: an upgrade for the Humsa sonar system
- **NACS**: the Near-field Acoustic Characterization System
- **AIDSS**: the Advanced Indigenous Distress sonar system for submarines.



### 12. Guided Missile Destroyer INS Chennai inducted into Indian Navy

Guided Missile Destroyer INS Chennai was on 21 November 2016 commissioned into the Indian Navy by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

The ship was indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design and was constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai.

INS Chennai is the last of the Project 15 A class Destroyers and measures 163m in length, 17.4m in breadth with a displacement of 7500 tonnes. It is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots.





### 13. India successfully conducts trial of Prithvi-II missile

India has successfully conducted the twin trial of the all-new nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile. The missile was test-fired twice from the mobile launcher from launch complex III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at around 9:35 AM in Odisha.

It has a strike range of 350 kms and strength to carry 500 to 1,000 kgs of warhead. Prithvi II is India's first missile to be developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.



### 14. IAF's Upgraded Jaguar DARIN III aircraft receives IOC

The upgraded Jaguar DARIN III aircraft of the Indian Air Force has received Initial Operation Clearance (IOC).

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has upgraded 3 DARIN I Standard Jaguars to DARIN III Standard. The upgraded aircraft incorporates new state-of-the-art avionics architecture including the Open System Architecture Mission Computer (OSAMC), Fire Control Radar, Autopilot with Alt Select & HNAV etc. DARIN I Standard Jaguar is an Anglo-French jet attack aircraft.



### 15. Indian Navy launched seventh landing craft utility L-57

Indian Navy has launched the seventh ship of LCU MK IV project at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, Kolkata. LCU-L57 is the seventh vessel in the series of eight Landing Craft Utility Ships being designed and built by GRSE for the Indian Navy.

The ship will be extremely useful for joint operations carried out by the Indian Navy and Indian Army for ensuring maritime security and protection of remote islands.



## 16. Joint Military Exercise Hand-In-Hand 2016 Culminates

The Sixth India China Joint Training Exercise, Exercise Hand-in-Hand 2016, culminated on 27th November with a closing ceremony which was held at Aundh Military Camp, Pune. Thirteen days of Joint Training included understanding of each-others' operational methodology, developing interoperability and conduct of a joint tactical operations controlled by a Joint Command Post.



The exercise concluded with a validation exercise by Indian Army & the Peoples' Liberation Army of China. The exercise also demonstrated the determination of the two Armies in working closely with each other to eradicate the menace of terrorism in all its forms.

## 17. Lt Gen AK Bhatt appointed new DGMO

Appointment Committee of Cabinet has approved Lieutenant General A K Bhatt to be appointed as new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO). He will replace Lt General Ranbir Singh who has been appointed as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Mathura-based Strike 1 Corps.

Lt Gen A K Bhatt will be in charge of all army operations including on the LoC. Bhatt is at present posted in the Army Headquarters as the Additional Director General of CAB (Complaint and Advisory Board).



# Economic

## 1. Zero-tax rate on 50% of items in CPI basket under GST

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that half the items in Consumer Price Index basket like food grains, would not be taxed at all under Goods and Services Tax and 5% tax will be levied on mass consumption items used by common people.

Goods and Services Tax Council finalized four-tier GST rate structure of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. Luxury items like high-end cars and demerit goods including tobacco and aerated drinks, will be taxed at the highest rate.



## 2. India, Venezuela signed deals to increase oil production

India and Venezuela signed an oil production deal worth about 1.45 billion US dollar to increase oil production. The agreement comes amid a severe economic crisis in Venezuela, and it is seen as a way to boost oil production, pay off debts, obtain funds from other foreign partners, and increase the country's oil income.

The Indo-Venezuelan partnership, created in 2009, is expected to double the San Cristobal field daily oil production from 20,000 to 40,000 barrels of oil.



## 3. Centre imposed Rs 10,000 cr penalty on RIL and its partners

Government slapped a nearly 10,000 crore rupee fine on Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and its partners BP and Niko for pumping out gas that flowed to the Krishna Godavari-D6 Block from an adjoining field owned by ONGC.

After deducting about 72 million dollars royalty paid on the gas produced and adding an interest at the rate of Libor plus 2 per cent, it was decided to demand for 1.55 billion dollars on RIL, BP and Niko.



#### 4. CII launched unique platform 'Startup Mentorship Circle'

In view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of nurturing entrepreneurship, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) launched a unique platform called 'Startup Mentorship Circle' to help in connecting start-ups with the global marketplace.

"Startup Mentorship Circle' is a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. CII provides the largest network for start-ups with its 8000 direct and 2 lakh indirect members.



#### 5. Indirect Tax Collections up to October, 2016 register an increase of 26.7% over the net collections

The figures for indirect tax collections (Central Excise, Service Tax and Customs) up to October 2016 show that net revenue collections are at Rs 4.85 lakh crore which is 26.7% more than the net collections for the corresponding period last year.

Till October 2016, 62.4% of the Budget Estimates of indirect taxes for Financial Year 2016-17 has been achieved.

Net Tax collections on account of Customs during April-October 2016 stood at Rs. 1.27 lakh crore as compared to Rs. 1.22 lakh crore during the same period in the previous Financial Year, thereby registering a growth of 4.1%.



#### 6. Direct Tax Collections up to October, 2016 show an increase of 10.6%

The figures for Direct Tax Collections up to October, 2016 show that net collections are at Rs.3.77 lakh crore which is 10.6% more than the net collections for the corresponding period last year.

Till October 2016, 44.5% of the Budget Estimates of direct taxes for FY 2016-17 has been achieved.

As regards the growth rates for Corporate Income Tax (CIT) and Personal Income Tax



(PIT), in terms of gross revenue collections, the growth rate under CIT is 11.6% while that under PIT is 18.6%.

## 7. Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production and Use-Based Index for the month of September, 2016

The Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2004-05 for the month of September 2016 were released by the Central Statistics Office of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The General Index for the month of September 2016 stands at 179.5, which is 0.7 percent higher as compared to the level in the month of September 2015.

The cumulative growth for the period April-September 2016 over the corresponding period of the previous year stands at (-) 0.1 percent.



## 8. India's Foreign Trade October, 2016 results revealed

October 2016 exports have shown a positive growth of 12.43% higher in Rupee term and exports were valued at US\$ 23512.70 million (Rs.156941.86 crore). Imports during October 2016 were valued at US\$ 33673.53 million (Rs.224763.10 crore).

The trade deficit for April-October, 2016-17 was estimated at US\$ 53169.95 million which was 32.04% lower than the deficit of US\$ 78238.60 million during April-October, 2015-16.

Overall the trade balance has improved. Taking merchandise and services together, overall trade deficit for April- October 2016-17 is estimated at US\$ 20811.95 million.



## 9. Government of India and ADB Sign \$500 Million Loan to Help Build Longest River Bridge Across the Ganges River

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$500 million loan to build a 9.8 km long road bridge across the Ganges River to improve transport connectivity between North and South Bihar and for better link between the State Capital, Patna, and the surrounding areas. This will be India's longest river bridge.



Along with ADB's loan and \$900,000 in technical assistance to improve bridge operation and management, the state government of Bihar will provide support equivalent to \$215 million. The project is expected to be completed by the end of December 2020.

## 10. ITPO takes measures for cashless transactions at IITF

India Trade Promotion Organization took various measures to facilitate cashless transactions for the participants and exhibitors at the India International Trade Fair. These measures include, increase in number of ATM machines from 2 to 14.



For small artisans and exhibitors, SBI has been tied up to open bank accounts, if needed, on site, to enable them to receive the cashless transactions through swipe machines.

PayTM and Freecharge are working to facilitate cashless transactions through Digital Wallets.

## 11. Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development Scheme for women

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is operating a scheme titled "Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD)" to promote women entrepreneurs.



Under the scheme, there is a provision for Government of India grant up to 30% of the loan/ credit maximum up to Rs. 30.00 lakh as appraised by lending institutions/ banks. The

lending institutions/ banks would finance loan assistance for a group of women through NGOs for undertaking non- farm activities.

## 12. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to implement Central Sector schemes to modernize Khadi units

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises will implement Central Sector schemes to modernize Khadi units. Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) is implemented to make the traditional industries clusters including Khadi clusters more productive and competitive facilitating their sustainable development.

KVIC has set up interfaces with leading technological institutes to conduct research work under S&T programme of KVIC for development of tools, implements and processes involved in production of Khadi.



## 13. Merger of Rail Budget with Union Budget

The Government has decided to merge Rail Budget with the Union Budget from budget year 2017-18. A separate Statement of Budget Estimates and Demand for Grant will be created for Railways.

Merger of Rail Budget with Union Budget would facilitate multimodal transport planning between highways, railways and inland waterways.



The Capital at charge of the Railways on which annual dividend is paid by the Railways will be wiped off. A single Appropriation Bill, including the estimates of Railways, will be prepared and presented by Ministry of Finance to Parliament.

#### 14. India and US launched \$ 95 million clean energy projects

The USA announced two financial projects worth USD 95 million in India. The projects will help bring more energy-efficient appliances to rural sector.

The US has committed USD 70 million in Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) financing for renewable energy projects in India.

The USD 75 million OPIC financing is for a utility-scale PV project in Telangana. It is sponsored by ReNew Power Ventures. OPIC and Indian Government will also launch a USD 20 million distributed solar facility.



#### 15. Launch of online portal for facilitating trade between India and Iran

An Online Portal for facilitating trade between India and Iran was launched in the presence of H.E. Mr. Gholamreza Ansari, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Hind-Iran portal ([hindirantrade.org](http://hindirantrade.org)) is a joint initiative of STC and Douman Qeshm, Iran. The objective of the trade portal is to disseminate information relevant to Indo-Iran Trade, and to provide an e-marketplace for the buyers and sellers of the two countries.



The portal is aimed at bridging the communication divide which the business communities face, and which are very interested in trading with each other.

#### 16. Transactions in relation to which quoting PAN is Mandatory

The Income Tax Department prescribes a list of transactions for which quoting of Permanent Account Number (PAN) is mandatory. These are listed in Rule 114B of the Income Tax Rules, 1962.

In addition to the existing requirement of quoting of PAN quoting of PAN will now also be mandatory in respect of cash deposits aggregating to Rupees two lakh fifty thousand or more during the period 09th November, 2016 to 30th December, 2016 as per an amendment notified by CBDT on 15-11-2016.





## 17. PGCIL Seeks US\$ 1,000 Million Loan for Green Energy Corridor from ADB

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) has sought a loan assistance of US\$ 1,000 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) comprising of Sovereign guaranteed loan of US\$ 500 million and Non-Sovereign loan of US\$ 500 million.

The Loan would be utilized for funding of the transmission projects like project under Green Energy Corridor projects in next 3-4 years, Inter State Transmission System, HVDC Bipole link between regions.



## 18. Nagpur Metro achieved Euro 130 million AFD credit

Nagpur Metro achieved financial closure of the project by securing a credit of Euro 130 million from AFD (French Development Agency).

A Credit Facility Agreement in this regard was signed between the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and AFD, in the presence of French Ambassador Shri Alexandre Ziegler in New Delhi.

The 20-year period credit with a moratorium of five years, will be used for funding Signaling, Telecom, Automatic Fare Collection Systems and Lifts and Escalators. Order for rolling stock has already been placed.



## 19. Budget of Rs. 5501.15 crore allotted for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during 2016-17

A budget provision of Rs. 5501.15 crore has been made for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) during 2016-17.

As per provisions of PMFBY, admissible claims are worked out on the basis of yield data generated from Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) submitted by concerned State Governments to the insurance companies.

The cut-off date for receipt of yield data for Kharif 2016 season is one month from the final harvest i.e. 15th December, 2016. Claims are estimated accordingly.



## 20. CBDT Signs Four Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements

The Central Board of Direct Taxes entered into four more unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) in various sectors of the economy like pharmaceuticals, Information Technology and construction.

The international transactions covered in these agreements include software development Services, IT enabled Services (BPOs), Engineering Design Services, Contract R&D Services and Marketing Support Services.



The progress of the APA Scheme strengthens the Government's mission of fostering a non-adversarial tax regime.

## 21. Govt slaps safeguard duty on certain steel imports

Government slapped safeguard duty on import of certain steel products like hot rolled flat sheets and plates of alloy or non-alloy steel to protect domestic manufacturers from cheap in-bound shipments.

The effective duty rate would be calculated after deducting the value of the goods and the anti-dumping duty payable when the import price is below 504 US dollars per tonne.

The duty arrived at would be 10 per cent in the first year and will gradually reduce to 6 per cent by 2019.



## 22. E-commerce firms to deduct TCS under GST

E-commerce firms like Flipkart and Snapdeal will have to deduct 2 per cent TCS (tax collected at source) while making payments to their suppliers and deposit it with the government, according to the new model GST law.

This will not increase the incidence of taxation on consumers as the supplier will get tax credit for the TCS. The model GST law provides for 1 per cent TCS to be deducted by the E-commerce operators.



# Environment

## 1. Paris Climate Agreement Comes into Force from 4th November 2016

The "Paris Climate Agreement", came into force on 4th November 2016. India and other countries displayed a 'Smiley' with lights, with the slogan "We Did It" on important buildings. India ratified the Paris Agreement on 2nd October 2016 and the Agreement has the support of majority of the countries.



The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

## 2. Government forms team for conservation of Loktak lake in Manipur

Environment Ministry has constituted a four-member team for conservation and management of Loktak lake in Manipur. It will review the implementation of works carried out with financial assistance provided by the Central and State governments so far for the conservation of the lake.



It will also identify the steps taken to increase the tourism potential of the lake. The Ministry has asked the team to submit a report by 15th of November.

## 3. Government holds meeting to discuss measures to control air pollution in Delhi

Government held a meeting to discuss measures to control air pollution in Delhi NCR. It was agreed to further intensify action against visibly polluting vehicles, overloading vehicles and vehicles parked against non-designated areas. Lane discipline will be enforced and the Pollution under Control regimes will be further strengthened.



The State governments agreed to immediately undertake sprinkling of water on dusty roads, introduce wet/mechanized vacuum sweeping of roads, and maintain pothole free

roads among other steps. State governments agreed to examine closing of brick kilns operating on obsolete technologies during the winter season.

#### 4. Climate change makes past 5-year period the warmest on record: WMO

New data released by the World Meteorological Organisation shows that the five years from 2011 to 2015 were the warmest on record. The report, published at global climate talks in Morocco strongly links human activities to rising temperatures.



It says that some studies found that the burning of fossil fuels had increased the probability of extreme heat by 10 times or more. The authors say that 2016 will likely break the record for warmest year.

#### 5. Delhi Govt launched Swachh Delhi App

Delhi government launched the Swachh Delhi App aimed at seeking people's help in dealing with rising air pollution level in the national capital. According to the government, citizens can register complaints against garbage, plastic, dry leaves burning in the open, polluting vehicles and industries and construction sites causing dust pollution through the app.



The complaint will be received at central monitoring system in Urban Development Department and the complaint will be forwarded to concerned agencies for immediate redressal. An auto generated message will also be provided to the complainant through software.

## 6. SC orders government to devise Common Minimum Programme to deal with pollution

Three judge bench of Supreme Court led by Chief Justice TS Thakur, asked the Union Government to devise a Common minimum programme within 48 hours and come up with a policy to deal with alarmist levels of rising air pollution.

Supreme Court took this decision in respond to plea filed by the Environment Pollution Control Authority, who has been monitoring of worsening pollution levels in these areas and requested the court to consider taking stringent action under public emergency since air pollution limits have gone beyond permissible levels in Delhi.



## 7. Swachh Bharat Women's Conclave honored women Sanitation Champions

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organized a National Conclave of Women Champions for Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin to recognize and honor the efforts of women champions in rural sanitation.

The conclave was organized with the support of UNICEF, with the aim of sharing best practices across States and honoring such efforts in parts of the country where women are playing a leadership role in SBM(G).

At these sessions, sarpanches and grassroots workers from across the country shared their experiences about the problems faced and how they overcame challenges in making their villages Open Defecation Free.



## 8. Sessions at COP 22 focused on Afforestation, Ecosystem and Climate Change

On the third day of Conference of Parties (COP-22) being held at Marrakech in Morocco, the India Pavilion witnessed three side-events that focused on the initiatives in afforestation and REDD+ in India, ecosystem and climate change and sustainable transportation.

During the first session on "Afforestation and REDD+", experts highlighted the role of forests in mitigating climate change.



In the second session on ecosystem and climate change, discussions were held on the role of forest in climate change mitigation and adaptation. India has focused its low carbon initiatives on the development of railways and other forms of public transport.

### **9. IMD Proposes to Bring Out a Cold Weather Outlook for the Period December 2016 to February 2017**

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has already started issuing of the Hot Weather Season Outlooks from the summer season of 2016, i.e. starting from April 2016. It is also proposed to bring out a Cold Weather Outlook for the period from December 2016 to February 2017.



Temperature Outlook is issued for hot and cold weather season temperatures over the country based on predictions using the ocean-atmosphere coupled climate model developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, Ministry of Earth Sciences.

## 1. Banks to report frauds of Rs one crore and above to CVC

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has asked the Banks to report to it any suspected fraud cases of one crore rupees and above.

Banks will also now have to report the modus operandi of all the alleged frauds to the CVC which will share these details with other banks to prevent such cases being repeated.

The Commission will also call regular monthly meetings of senior officials of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), CBI and banks to monitor probe in suspected bank frauds of 50 crore rupees and above.



## 2. RBI directs banks to have 10% of the ATMs in the country dispensing 100 rupee note only

In order to meet public demand for Rs 100 banknotes, RBI has decided to initiate a pilot under which 10 per cent of ATMs in the country will dispense such notes only.

The central bank conducted a review meet for the steps to be taken by banks for installing such ATMs. RBI in its special instructions, directed banks to complete process within 15 days from the date of the circular and report compliance.



Banks have been given freedom to select the branches with the sample covering relatively large number of centres and meet public demand.

### 3. RBI appointed M Rajeshwar Rao as new ED

The Reserve Bank has appointed M Rajeshwar Rao as Executive Director following G Mahalingam's taking voluntary retirement from the central bank.

Rao will look after Department of Statistics and Information Management, Financial markets Operations Department and International Department.

Prior to taking over as the Executive Director, he was the Chief General Manager, Financial Markets Operations Department. He has previously held charge of the Risk Monitoring Department. He has also worked as the Banking Ombudsman, New Delhi.



### 4. Hindustan Construction Company becomes first to get RBI nod for debt recast under S4A scheme

Reserve Bank of India's new Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A) passed by an ICICI Bank-led joint lender forum in September, has been now approved by the RBI-mandated Overseeing Committee (OC) and can be implemented from now onwards. Thus, Hindustan Construction Company's Rs. 5,000 crore debt recast is first to get RBI nod.



52% of the debt would be serviced as per the original terms and conditions and rest 48% would be converted into equity for the banks and convertible debentures to be issued to the lenders. This would lead HCC to own 25% stake in the company's post-scheme equity capital.

### 5. Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed \$48 Million Loan to improve Assam's Power Distribution System

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$48 million loan to help Assam state continue its drive to improve access to efficient and reliable power.

This is the second tranche loan of the \$300 million multi tranche financing facility for the Assam Power Sector Investment Program that was approved by the ADB Board in July 2014.





This loan will help strengthen the state's distribution system, improve energy efficiency and reduce technical and commercial losses.

## 6. RBI issued new series of Rs 500 & Rs 2,000 notes with improved features

The Reserve Bank issued new series of notes for 500 rupees and 2,000 rupees denomination with improved features and newer sizes which will be very friendly towards the visually-impaired by having features which make it accessible for all sections.

2,000 rupees note, which is a first under the denomination, will be called as the 'Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series' and has a design of the low-cost mission to Mars, the Mangalyaan, on the reverse with the base color of the note as magenta.



## 7. Clarifications on Hedging for External Commercial Borrowings issued by RBI

With a view to provide clarity on 'External Commercial Borrowings, Trade Credit, Borrowing and Lending in Foreign Currency by Authorized Dealers and Persons other than Authorized Dealers' and bring uniformity in hedging practices in the market, clarifications were issued by RBI on Coverage, tenor and natural hedge.



Firstly, ECB borrower will be required to cover principal as well as coupon through financial hedges. Secondly, a minimum tenor of one year of financial hedge would be required with periodic rollover. Thirdly, Natural hedge, will be considered only to the extent of offsetting projected cash flows / revenues in matching currency.

## 8. Reserve bank of India asked banks to configure ATMs to dispense Rs 50 notes

The Reserve Bank of India asked banks to reconfigure ATMs to dispense Rs. 50 notes along with the Rs. 100 with effect from 11th November, 2016. However banks have been asked to wait for further instructions, before dispensing new notes via ATMs.



Since there has been a demand for small denomination notes, RBI has decided to take this action. RBI advised banks to provide all cash withdrawal transactions at their ATMs free of cost to their customers till December 30, 2016.

### 9. Government agencies to set up Special Cell for receipt of fake currency notes in Banks and Post Office

RBI has been advised by Ministry of Finance to set up a Special Cell to monitor the receipt of fake currency notes and inform such instances to the Economic Offences Wing of the State Police, Intelligence/Enforcement Agencies of the Central Government and also to the Ministry of Finance.



The Law Enforcement Agencies have also been advised to maintain close vigil over possible movement of fake currencies and take prompt action as and when such cases are detected by them as well as by RBI and Banks.

### 10. Chhattisgarh first state to adopt resolution on demonetization

Chhattisgarh became first state to adopt a resolution welcoming the demonetization of high-value currency notes, the state Assembly adopted a resolution moved by Chief Minister Raman Singh welcoming the Centre's decision. Besides fighting black money, it will also impact various other contentious issues plaguing the system.



Government will take effective steps to encourage people in small business to switch over to the e-payment system and exemption from VAT on the point of sale device for businessmen. All arrangements had been made in the state to make online payments to farmers for their paddy procured under support price system.

## 11. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) notifies two Regulations

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, under section 240 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 notified Model Bye-Laws and Governing Board of Insolvency Professional Agencies) Regulations, 2016 and Insolvency Professional Agencies Regulations, 2016.

These two regulations inter alia provide for the eligibility norms to be a Professional Member of an Insolvency Professional Agency and also for eligibility norms to be registered with the IBBI as an Insolvency Professional Agency.



## 12. RBI revised prudential norms on Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning pertaining to Advances

RBI revised prudential norms in income recognition, asset classification and provisions with reference to advances. Decision was made due to withdrawal of legal tender 500 and 100 rupee notes.

In order to consider small borrowers' problems in repaying their loan dues, RBI decided to provide additional 60 days, in case the value of the crop loan is less than INR 1 crore.

Term loans, home loans and agriculture loans, whether business or personal, with sanctioned amount of up to 1 crore rupees by bank or any NBFC, will be eligible for relaxation.



## 13. Government allowed NABARD to disburse Rs 21,000 crore to farmers

In order to help farmers sow winter crops like wheat ahead of the sowing season, Government has asked NABARD to disburse Rs 21,000 crore to cash-starved farmers. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will disburse the money to farm cooperatives for onward payments to farmers.



Due to restrictions placed on bank withdrawals after demonetization announcement has badly hit the farmers ahead as they are left with very little cash to buy seeds and fertilizers.

#### 14. Gross Non-Performing Assets of PSU banks touch over 6 lakh by Sept

Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of public sector banks has touched around six lakh thirty thousand crore rupees at the end of September 2016.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy code (IBC) has been enacted and Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI) and The Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (RDBFI) Act have been amended to improve resolution/recovery of bank loans. Six new Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) have been established for improving recovery.



#### 15. RBI doubles Prepaid Payment Instruments cap to Rs. 20,000

The Reserve Bank of India has doubled the limit of semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) to Rs 20,000 to facilitate digital transactions. The measures will be applicable till December 30, 2016.

While balance in such PPIs cannot exceed Rs 20,000 at any point of time, the merchants can transfer funds from such PPIs to their own linked bank accounts up to Rs 50,000 per month, without any limit per transaction.



#### 16. RBI introduced incremental CRR to manage excess liquidity in banking system

In order to absorb the surge in liquidity in banking system following demonetization of high value notes, the Reserve Bank introduced an incremental Cash Reserve Ratio of 100%.

CRR is the portion of the deposits which banks are required to park with the RBI. Currently it is at 4%. As per the RBI guidelines, on the increase in NDTL, Net Demand and Time Liabilities between September 16 and November 11, scheduled banks shall maintain an incremental CRR of 100%, effective the fortnight beginning November 26, 2016. As per the estimates, this could be 3.5 lakh crore rupees.



# Important Days

## 1. 1<sup>st</sup> November to be observed as 'No Tobacco Day' for Punjab

In an effort to reduce usage of tobacco in the state, Punjab announced November 1st to be observed as 'No Tobacco Day'. Various guidelines have been issued by state's health minister Surjit Kumar Jyani. Sale of loose cigarettes, tobacco and e-cigarettes are banned in Punjab.

The main objective behind the said initiative taken by government is to make public aware of non-communicable diseases and ban use of tobacco, nicotine, scented, processed or flavoured chewable tobacco products.



## 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> November to be observed as International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists worldwide

A resolution was adopted by United Nations General Assembly at its 68th session in 2013, to observe 2nd November as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists' worldwide.

The date was decided as 2nd November, because of the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on 2 November 2013.

It aims to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work without any fear and with full freedom.



## 3. World Tsunami Awareness Day observed worldwide

The very first 'World Tsunami Awareness' day was observed worldwide on 5th November 2016 with theme as 'Effective Education and Evacuation Drills'.

The observance of the day helps to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami and shall stress on the importance of early warning systems in order to mitigate damage from the often devastating natural hazard.



Awareness raising activities were organized including thematic events, exhibitions, mock drills etc. India, along with 23 other Indian Ocean countries, participated in a tsunami mock drill on September 7-8, 2016.

#### 4. 5th Annual Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2016 observed

The fifth annual global celebration of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week from 31 October to 5 November 2016 was observed across the world, organized under the theme 'Media and Information Literacy: New Paradigms for Intercultural Dialogue'.



The Global MIL Week 2016 involved stakeholders globally to share the latest research, projects, new ideas and information at the Sixth Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID) Conference and the First General Assembly of the Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL), held from November 2-5, 2016 in São Paulo, Brazil.

#### 5. 6<sup>th</sup> November observed worldwide as International Day for Preventing Exploitation of Environment in War and Armed Conflict

In order to highlight impact of war on damaging natural environments and restrict environmental destruction caused by armed conflict, 'International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict' is observed across the globe every year on 6 November.



It could be considered as part of full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN General Assembly announced 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict through resolution A/RES/56/4.

## 6. Public Service Broadcasting Day observed on 12 Nov

All India Radio celebrated 12th November as the Public Service Broadcasting Day. It is on this date in 1947 that Mahatma Gandhi had visited the studio of All India Radio, Delhi, for the first and the last time, where he addressed the displaced people who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.

A function has been organized in the premises of All India Radio, Delhi to mark the day.

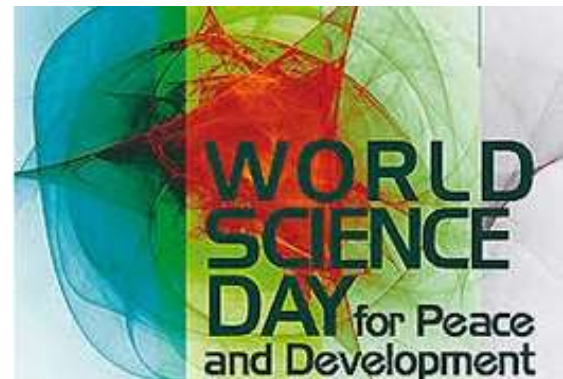


## 7. 2016 World Science Day for Peace and Development observed globally

In order to make people aware with the importance of science, peace and development, 10 November is observed as World Science Day for Peace and Development every year across the world.

The theme for 2016 was 'Celebrating Science Centres and Science Museums', to show importance of science centres and museums in sustainable development.

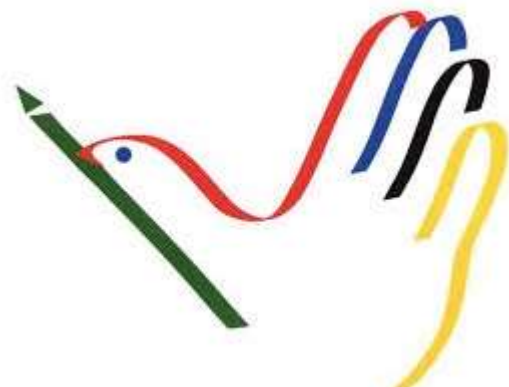
The day was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2001 to boost public awareness, foster cooperation between scientists and promote international bonding for shared science between countries.



## 8. 16<sup>th</sup> November observed as National Press Day across India

In order to observe 16<sup>th</sup> November as National Press Day, a function was organized by the Press Council of India, which was attended by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister emphasized on the importance of freedom of press.

Eminent journalists and photo-journalists, Shri Surendra Nihal Singh, Smt. Mrinal Pande, Shri Raghu Rai, Shri Renjith John, Shri Arvind Kumar Singh, Shri Xavier Selva Kumar were awarded for excellence in Journalism.



## 9. International Day for Tolerance 2016 observed across the world

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for Tolerance is annually observed on November 16. The day is observed to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance. The day also educates people about the need for tolerance in society and to help them understand the negative effects of intolerance.

The year 1995 was chosen by the UNESCO to mark the year for tolerance as well as the 125th birthday anniversary of the Indian freedom fighter Mahatma Gandhi.



## 10. World Pneumonia Day observed

World Pneumonia Day is observed annually on 12<sup>th</sup> November to raise awareness of pneumonia, promote prevention and treatment, and generate action to fight the illness. 2016 Theme: "Keep the Promise, Stop Pneumonia Now".

World Pneumonia Day supports all efforts made to protect and treat people against pneumonia, the single largest cause of child deaths worldwide.

The day provides an annual forum for the world to stand together and demand action in the fight against pneumonia.



## 11. World Diabetes Day 2016 observed across the world

The World Diabetes Day is observed annually on November 14 each year. The day aims to increase an awareness of the effects of diabetes and the complications caused by the disease. The day is led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF).

The theme of World Diabetes Day 2016 is Eyes on Diabetes. The year's activities and materials will focus on promoting the importance of screening to ensure early diagnosis of type 2 diabetes and treatment to reduce the risk of serious complications.





## 12. Mission Madhumeha launched in field of Ayurveda for prevention & control of diabetes

The Mission Madhumeha launched on the occasion of first National Ayurveda Day, released a protocol on 'Prevention and Control of Diabetes through Ayurveda'. The Madhumeha Assessment Tool (MAT) based on Ayurvedic philosophy was developed for the self-assessment of the people with regards to possibilities of diabetes.

CSIR initiated detailed comprehensive human clinical trial at Banaras Hindu University, Institute of Medicines, Departments of Ayurveda, Varanasi (UP). The Research Council's of Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy are engaged to develop scientifically validated AYUSH medicines for different ailments.



## 13. 20<sup>th</sup> November observed as Universal Children's Day worldwide

UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and since then, November 20th is celebrated annually as United Nations Universal Children's Day to unite nations and create awareness for children welfare and educate world about children's rights.

20th November 2016 was observed as Universal Children's Day across the globe. It is also considered as anniversary of UN General assembly as it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.



## 14. World Toilet Day observed on 19<sup>th</sup> November

The World Toilet Day is observed annually on 19<sup>th</sup> November. It is a campaign to motivate and mobilize millions around the world on issues of sanitation. It was originally established by the World Toilet Organization in 2001.

The theme of World Toilet Day 2016 is 'toilets and jobs', focusing on how sanitation, or the lack of it, can impact people's livelihoods. The Sustainable Development Goals, launched in 2015, include a target to ensure everyone everywhere has access to toilets by 2030.



### 15. World Philosophy Day observed on 17<sup>th</sup> November

World Philosophy Day is observed every year on the third Thursday of November to honor philosophical reflections around the world. It was first celebrated on 21 November 2002.

The day underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual.

It is a day for people to share thoughts, openly explore and discuss new ideas and inspire public debate or discussion on society's challenges.



### 16. World Television Day on 21<sup>st</sup> November

The United Nations' (UN) World Television Day is annually observed on 21<sup>st</sup> November to recognize that television plays a major role in presenting different issue that affect people. The day commemorates the date on which the first World Television Forum was held in 1996.

It is also meant to honor the role Television plays as the pillar of freedom of expression and as a promoter of cultural diversity.



### 17. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2016 observed

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on November 25 each year to raise public awareness of violence against women. The theme for this year is "Orange the World - raise funds to end violence against women".

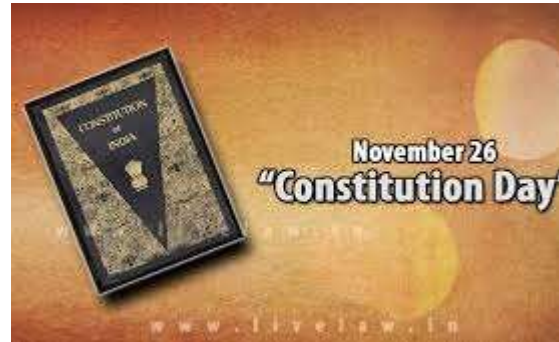
The orange color in the theme symbolizes a better future to women and girls all over the globe. This day is commemorated in the memory of the Mirabal sisters who were three political activists from the Dominican Republic.



## 18. Constitution day observed on November 26

The Constitution Day, also known as Samvidhan Divas, is celebrated in India on 26 November every year. The day commemorates the adoption of Constitution of India. On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.

The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification.



## 19. National Milk Day observed

The National Milk Day was observed across India on 26 November 2016 to mark 95th birth anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien, the Father of the White Revolution. To observe the day, the dairy cooperatives across India conducted a mega activation in all markets of the country.

Dr Verghese Kurien, also known as the Milkman of India and the architect of "billion-litre idea", **Operation Flood**, made India the world's largest milk producer. In 1963, he received Ramon Magsaysay Award.



# International

## 1. Mariano Rajoy re-elected as Spain's prime minister

Mariano Rajoy was re-elected as Prime Minister of Spain by winning parliamentary vote by a margin of 170-111. The measures taken by acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy for the growth of economy at 3% rate even after Spain being 2nd highest in unemployment rate, was appreciated by the public.

Rajoy was elected as the Prime Minister in 2011 by complete majority vote. Spain had tried to enforce a coalition government but by the rise of the left-wing Podemos and centrist Ciudadanos, as well as other regional parties, the process had become complicated.



## 2. Australia announces 19 grants worth \$6.3 million for projects with India

In order to strengthen ties with India, Australia announced investment in 19 projects with India of worth \$6,30,000 in various fields like education, science, sports, telecom, arts and culture.

Majorly, it includes design of a website by Women's Legal Service Tasmania and TRS Law Offices in India to make available young Indian women with information about their rights.



Literary and theatrical areas involve development of new approaches to music curriculum and facilitate ongoing exchanges with New Colombo Plan students.

## 3. WHO advises proper washing in fight against hospital superbugs

World Health Organisation issued new guidelines aimed at halting the spread of potentially deadly superbug infections in hospitals and clinics worldwide.

The guidelines range from simple precautions such as ensuring patients take a bath or shower before surgery to advice on when to give antibiotics to prevent infections, what disinfectants are best before incision, and which sutures doctors should use.



According to WHO figures, some 11 per cent of patients in poor and middle-income countries who have surgery pick up an infection during their operation.

#### **4. 4th Session of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation**

The 4th Session of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (IA-IGC) was held on 25-26 October, 2016 in Baku, Azerbaijan under the Co-chairmanship of Shri Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary, FT (CIS) Division, Department of Commerce.



The issues pertaining to Cooperation in the field of increasing bilateral trade and enhancing bilateral investment, Cooperation in the field of small and medium enterprises, Transport, Energy were discussed and at the end of the deliberations, a protocol was signed by both sides.

#### **5. UK announced new visa policy for non-EU nationals**

UK announced changes to its visa policy for non-EU nationals, which will affect a large number of Indians especially IT professionals.



Under the new visa rules, anyone applying from now onwards under the Tier 2 intra-company transfer (ICT) category would be required to meet a higher salary threshold requirement of 30,000 pounds from the earlier 20,800 pounds.

Nationals outside the European Union, will be affected by new English language requirements when applying for settlement as a family member after two and a half years in the UK on a five-year route to residency settlement in the UK.

## 6. UK High Court puts brakes on Brexit

Britain Government will fight a High Court ruling that could frustrate its timetable for Brexit, as 17.4 million Leave voters had given the government the biggest mandate in history to leave the EU.

The High Court ruled that the Government cannot start exit negotiations without a vote in Parliament.

Prime Minister Theresa May will use royal prerogative to invoke Article 50 of the EU treaty, which launches two years of exit negotiations. The powers enable decisions about international treaties and other issues to be made without a vote of Parliament.



## 7. India - Sri Lanka Meeting on Fishermen issues

India–Sri Lanka fisherman meeting was held on issues in New Delhi. In order to reduce fishing pressure in the coastal areas and to encourage the Deep-sea fishing the Government of India considered the modalities for implementation of a Scheme, in which it was proposed to incentivize the traditional fishermen for Deep-Sea Fishing.



At the same time, efforts were also being made regarding construction of fishing harbors at Rameshvaram and Ennore in Tamil Nadu, to solve the fishermen issues between India and Sri Lanka. Besides, meeting empathized to introduce modern technical information to the fishermen and train them.

## 8. New Delhi Declaration, Asian Regional Plan adopted at AMCDRR 2016

The three-day Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016 came to an end with the adoption of the 'New Delhi Declaration' and the 'Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework'.

The 'New Delhi Declaration' is a political statement spelling out the commitment of participating governments towards preventing and reducing disaster risk, and strengthening the resilience of communities, nations and the Asian region. It also emphasises the need to enhance the capacity of communities and ensure participation of all stakeholder groups towards achieving resilience.



## 9. Latvia became first to link with Belt & Road Initiative in Baltic Sea area

Latvia has become the first country in the Baltic Sea area to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to link up with China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The initiative, which comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, aims to boost connectivity and trade across Asia, Africa and Europe. It was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013.



Li and Kucinskis also witnessed the signing of five agreements on cooperation in such areas as small and medium-sized enterprises, transportation and logistics.

## 10. Sri Lankan President arrived in India for global anti-tobacco conference

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena arrived in New Delhi to take part in a global anti-tobacco conference hosted in Greater Noida on the outskirts of Delhi.



Sri Lankan President, who served as the Minister of Health during the previous government, is a strong advocate of tobacco control and successfully implemented laws to display pictorial warnings up to 80 percent on both sides of cigarette packets.

The convention was attended by 180 countries as well as regional economic integration organizations like the European Union.

## 11. More than 2200 migrants rescued in Mediterranean

More than 2,200 migrants were rescued in the Mediterranean as they tried to reach Europe and 10 bodies were recovered. The migrants were picked up from 13 rubber dinghies, two small boats and one large vessel in 16 separate rescue operations.



4,220 migrants had died in the Mediterranean so far in 2016, compared with 3,777 in the whole of 2015. As of November 2 2016, 159,496 people had reached Italy by sea.

## 12. Nicaraguan President wins third consecutive term in office

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega won a third consecutive term in office. With two-thirds of the votes counted, the left-wing leader secured an irreversible lead with 72 per cent. Centre-right candidate Maximino Rodriguez, only had 14.2 per cent of the vote.

Mr Ortega has led Nicaragua through a period of economic stability which has made him popular with Nicaragua's business sector and foreign investors.



Mr Ortega had been widely expected to win both due to the popularity of his social programmes and because he faced no obvious political challenger.

## 13. Sinhala & Tamil to get equal status along with English as third official language in Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, Minister for official language has advocated for providing Sinhala and Tamil language equal status along with making English as the third official language for the country.

Nearly one-fourth of the country's population is Tamil speaking but most of them cannot interact and mingle with rest of the population because of the language barrier.

The Minister asserted that bridging of language identity will go a long way in solving the ethnic problem of the country, which has led to three decades long war.



Mr. Ganeshan, who represent the Tamils of Indian origin in Sri Lanka, expressed skepticism at the progress made in last one year towards reconciliation.

## 14. China adopted law on cybersecurity

China adopted a cybersecurity law to safeguard sovereignty on cyber space, national security and the rights of citizens. The law was passed by China's legislature, the National People's Congress.

According to the new law, the government will take measures to monitor, defend and handle cybersecurity risks and threats originating from within the country or overseas sources, protecting key information infrastructure from attack, intrusion, disturbance and





damage. Efforts will also be made to punish criminal activities online and safeguard the order and security of cyberspace.

### 15. China passed interpretation of Hong Kong's Basic Law

China's Parliament passed an interpretation of Hong Kong's Basic Law. The interpretation amounts to Beijing's most direct intervention in the territory's legal system since the 1997 handover to Chinese rule.

The prospect of the ruling, expected to bar two pro-independence lawmakers from taking office in Hong Kong's legislature, had sparked protests in the city.



### 16. India raised issue of visa fees, student visa with UK

India raised the issue of visa fees, student visa as Britain has ceased to be a preferred destination for students wanting to pursue higher studies in British universities.

The UK visa regime discourages a lot of Indian students from going to Britain and they are now preferring other destinations.

On issues related to the IT visa fee are also being discussed. India would want them to consider Indian professionals who want to go to the UK as part of a company or group which has won a project.



### 17. Germany unveiled world's first zero-emissions hydrogen train

World's first zero-emission, hydrogen passenger train unveiled by Germany termed as 'Coradia iLint' to be in operations soon. The train which is powered by a hydrogen fuel tank on its roof, emits excess steam into the atmosphere. It is designed and developed by French rail company Alstom.

Hydrail has fuel cell, supplied with hydrogen and oxygen from the air, which it converts into electrical energy with low level of noise. It has hydrogen storage capacity for a 497-mile range with speed of 87 mph.



## 18. Trump became 45th President of United States beating Hillary Clinton

Donald Trump became 45th US President after a stunning victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton ending eight years of Democratic rule and sending the United States on a new path.

The Republican nominee defied pre-election polling to claim swing states, winning the key battlegrounds of Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Global markets plummeted, with the US dollar diving and gold prices surging. As poll counting went late into the night, it was Mr Trump's shock victory in Wisconsin that put him over the 270 out of 538 electoral-college votes needed to win the White House.



## 19. Five people of Indian origin elected to the US congress

Five Indian-Americans were elected to the US Congress. Indian-American women put up a good show in the 2016 elections, with Kamala Harris, 51, a two-term attorney general from California, created history by winning the US Senate seat from the state.

Pramila Jayapal, 51, won the Congressional seat from Seattle to enter the House of Representatives, the first Indian-American woman to accomplish this feat.



## 20. India pledged USD 10.95 mn for UN development activities

India pledged about 10.95 million dollar for development activities across several UN bodies for the year 2017, besides processing contribution for the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and for the Victims of Torture and UN Volunteers, at a Pledging Conference for Development Activities in Geneva.

India announced contribution of about 10.95 million dollar development activities for 2017, including 4.5 million dollar for the UN Development Programme, 1.92 million dollar for the World Food Programme, 1.25 million dollar for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Near East and a million dollars towards UN Women.



## 21. Bilateral Trade agreement inked between India and Bhutan

Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman and H.E. Tengye Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Minister for Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan signed the Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between India and the Royal Government of Bhutan.



The new bilateral Trade Agreement aims to enhance trade between the two countries through trade facilitation by improving procedures, cutting down on documentation and adding additional exit/entry points for Bhutan's trade with other countries. It is also expected to further strengthen the excellent relations between the two countries.

## 22. Many UN members favor UNSC permanent seat for India

India's bid for a permanent seat in a reformed UN Security Council has received a strong support from many UN member states, including the UK and France. They emphasized that the world body's top organ must reflect the emergence of new global powers.



Among the large number of nations supporting a permanent seat for India and other emerging powers like Brazil and Germany, were two veto-wielding permanent members of the Council, the United Kingdom and France.

## 23. India to preside next edition of COP in Geneva in 2018

India will preside the eighth edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which to be held in Switzerland's Geneva in 2018.



CK Mishra has been chosen as the President of the COP Bureau, for the next two years, after a unanimous decision by the COP7 Plenary session.

The World Health Organizations Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is the world's biggest convention to frame the anti-tobacco policies.

## 24. Colombia, FARC rebels announced new peace deal to end 52-year war

The Colombian government and the FARC rebel group announced a new peace agreement, six weeks after the original deal was rejected in a popular vote.

Alvaro Uribe, a former President who led the no campaign, was involved in this round of negotiations intended to end 52 years of civil war.

A joint statement has reached a new final agreement to end the armed conflict, which incorporates changes, clarifications and some new contributions from various social groups.



## 25. India, Myanmar and Thailand Friendship Motor Car Rally, 2016 Flagged-off

The Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Chemical Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Lal Mandaviya flagged off a Friendship Motor Car Rally from Delhi to Bangkok. The objective of the rally was to improve connectivity by road in the South-East Asian region and to sensitize the stakeholders of India Myanmar and Thailand Motor Vehicle Agreement regarding potential benefits of such a regulatory regime.



The rally will further cement cultural and economic ties among the three nations.

## 26. India, Israel inked two agreements on water resource management and agriculture

India and Israel inked two agreements in the field of water resources management and agriculture following the delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Israeli President Reuven Rivlin in New Delhi.

The two countries also agreed to enhance their cooperation against the growing threat of terrorism. The bilateral trade between the two nations reached \$5.19 billion in 2011. Since then it has stagnated around \$4.5 billion.



## 27. India elected as Vice Chair of Kimberly Process Certificate Scheme for 2018

India was elected as the Vice Chair for 2018 and Chair for 2019 of KPCS. The announcement was made at the recently held KP Plenary Meeting 2016 at Dubai.

Earlier, India had held this position of KP Chair in 2008. Vice Chair of WGS will also help India in preparing to take bigger responsibility of the Chair seamlessly.

India has been an important member in the world gem and jewellery industry and this position as chair of KPCS reinforces our position and acceptance by the world.



## 28. COP 22 Concluded at Marrakech, Overall Outcomes Represent Forward Movement in Climate Action

The “Marrakech Action Proclamation for our climate and sustainable development” captured the sense of urgency to take action on climate change, while ensuring sustainable development.

It initiated work on Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement. The Pre-2020 action, including mobilization of \$ 100 billion per year and other support to developing countries was a key element of the Proclamation.

India participated in the Facilitative Dialogue on Pre-2020 actions and highlighted various time-bound actions that can be taken to bridge the emission gap and provide accelerated support to developing countries.



## 29. Turkish PM withdraws controversial Underage marriage bill

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim has withdrawn a bill that pardons men convicted of sex with underage girls if they have married them. The bill, part of a package of amendments to the legal system, was sent back for further work just hours before a final vote in Parliament.

UN agencies had called on the government not to approve the bill, arguing that it would



damage the country's ability to combat sexual abuse and child marriage.

### **30. APEC leaders vow to keep markets open and fight against protectionism**

The leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation reaffirmed the commitment to keep their markets open and fight against all forms of protectionism.

In a closing statement after meeting of the group at Lima in Peru, they pledged to work towards a sweeping new free trade agreement despite the political climate.

The talks were dominated by doubts over the future of free trade and in particular the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact following the election of Donald Trump as President of United States.



### **31. Russian foreign ministry announced its withdrawal from International Criminal Court**

Since prosecutors announced that Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 could be considered as an act of war, an order was signed by Russian President 'Vladimir Putin' stating that the country has withdrawn all support from International Criminal Court treaty.

The founding treaty of the International Criminal Court was already signed by Russia in 2000, which states that Russia was never its member and could not be subjected to its jurisdiction. Recently, South Africa, Gambia and Burundi also withdrew their memberships.



### **32. India becomes Associate Member of CERN, Geneva**

India and European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) signed an agreement making India an Associate Member State of CERN. This follows CERN Council's adoption of the resolution to this effect on September 15, 2016.

As an Associate Member of CERN, India will be a part of the huge scientific and technological endeavor. The India-CERN association as a whole is interdisciplinary in nature and the



involvement of physicists, electronics hardware and software engineers will pave the path for overall knowledge development in the best possible way.

### 33. Intelligence sharing deal with Japan, approved by South Korea cabinet

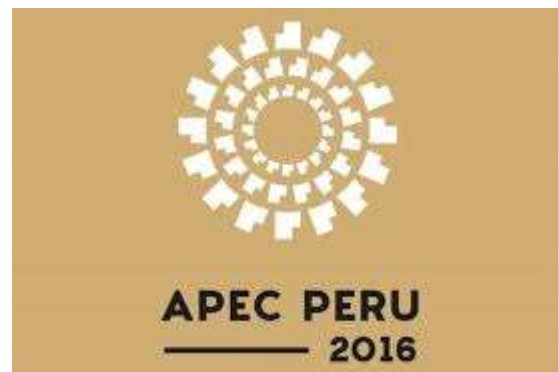
General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was approved by South Korean cabinet and further inked between the South Korean defence chief and Japanese ambassador for sharing intelligence information on submarine-launched ballistic missiles and military information.



Previously, trilateral deal was signed in 2014 between Japan, US and South Korea but since it was a cumbersome process, now it is signed between two countries. However, the agreement might enhance threat to peace and security in northeast Asia and the world.

### 34. 24th edition of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation held in Peru

24th edition of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was organized in Lima, Peru based on theme "Quality Growth and Human Development" which was concluded with adoption of the 2016 Leaders Declaration. It was a joint pledge to work following a new free trade agreement that would include all 21 members as a move towards sustainable development.



Other themes that were discussed were human capital development, development of SMEs, upbringing of regional food market and regional economic integration agenda.

### 35. China 'green' sector seen growing to 3% of GDP by 2020: Official

China expects the output value of its energy saving and environmental protection industry to rise from 4.5 trillion yuan (that is, 653 billion dollars) last year to more than 10 trillion by 2020, lifting its share of gross domestic product from 2.1% to 3%.



The Chinese government approved a "five-year plan" for the environment earlier this month, promised to make significant decrease in total emissions and bring environmental risks in effective control by 2020.

### 36. Turkey to chair 2017 Energy Club of SCO

Turkey will chair the Energy Club of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2017. Turkey, thus became the first non-member country to do so after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hinted at joining the non-Western body instead of the EU.



Turkey applied for “dialogue partnership” in SCO in 2011 and its status was approved in June 2012. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) consists of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Turkey, Afghanistan, Iran, Mongolia, Belarus and Sri Lanka are members of the SCO Energy Club.

### 37. 7000-year-old city unearthed in Egypt

Egyptian Archaeologists have discovered a 7,000-Year-Old lost city along the Nile in Egypt’s southern province of Sohag. The city lies 400 metres away from the Temple of Seti the First in the Egyptian city of Abydos.



Archaeologists have found 15 huge graves, some of which are larger than the royal graves discovered in Abydos. They also found iron tools and pottery, plus 15 giant tombs. The discovery might be a boon for the tourism industry in Egypt.

### 38. Francois Fillon wins France's Conservative Presidential primary

Former French Prime Minister Francois Fillon has won France's Conservative Presidential primary, beating rival Alain Juppe. In the first U.S. style primary contest for French Republicans, Fillon, won 68 percent of the vote against Juppe, another former Prime Minister.



He is likely to face a Socialist candidate and the far-right's Marine Le Pen in next April's election. During the campaign, ex-Prime Minister Fillon proposed economic reforms that include slashing 500,000 public jobs, ending the 35-hour week, raising the retirement age and scrapping the wealth tax.



### 39. Lieutenant-General Qamar Javed Bajwa appointed Pakistan's 16th COAS

Lieutenant-General Qamar Javed Bajwa was appointed as Pakistan's new COAS, or Chief of Army Staff. He will replace General Raheel Sharif. Lt General Bajwa is currently Inspector General (training and evaluation) at the general headquarters of the Pakistan army.



Lieutenant-General Qamar Javed Bajwa also served as a peacekeeper in the UN mission in Congo as a brigade commander. He holds extensive experience in dealing with affairs related to Kashmir and the northern areas of Pakistan.

### 40. Pink invited for special screening at UN Headquarter

Amitabh Bachchan starrer Pink, which dealt with crime against women, has been invited for a special screening at the United Nations headquarters in New York.



The film throws light on the issue of sexual harassment and other crimes against women in Delhi and other parts of the country. The film also starred Taapsee Pannu, Andrea Tariang and Kirti Kulhari in lead roles. The movie was directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury and released on September 16.

# Miscellaneous

- India signed ten agreements including **Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy** to boost the bilateral cooperation with Japan.
- UN's Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in its report claimed that the Arab Spring protest movement has cost the region **614 billion dollars in lost growth since 2011**.
- **Peru** hosted the 24<sup>th</sup> **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** 2016 in Lima. The theme of the Summit was Quality Growth and Human Development.
- Himachal Pradesh recently received the Union Government's nod to introduce pneumococcal conjugate vaccine under **Universal Immunization Programme**.
- **Mumbai's Western Railways** women's team won the 33rd Indian Oil Servo Surjit Hockey Tournament.
- Twitter's Chief Operating Officer, **Adam Bain**, recently decided to quit the company.
- The 2017 ICN Annual Conference will be hosted by **Portuguese Competition Authority**.
- **Guy Ryder** was recently re-elected as the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation.
- Chhattisgarh launched **Lakshya Bhagirathi campaign** to complete the irrigation projects.
- Government is planning to make it mandatory for auto companies to provide rear view sensors or backup cameras, speed warning systems, airbags and child pedestrian system in all new vehicles from October 2017.
- India's **first LNG-powered bus** was recently launched in Kerala.
- **Kamala Harris** became the first ever India-American to win the U.S. Senate seat from California.
- **Pramila Jayapal** became the first India-American woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representative.
- The theme for the 2016 World Science Day for Peace and Development is **Celebrating Science Centres and Science Museums**.
- **Ratnesh Kumar** appointed as Managing Director and CEO of BoB Capital Markets Ltd.
- **Praveen Kumar Sharma** appointed as MD & CEO of Central Registry of Securitization Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India.

- The Uttarakhand High Court recently demanded putting a ban on all construction within **25 km radius of the glaciers**.
- Madhya Pradesh government's prestigious Rashtriya Kalidas Samman will be given to eminent theatre artists - **Raj Bisaria** and **Banshi Kaul**.
- India and UK signed two agreements in the field of **Intellectual property rights and the Ease of doing business**.
- **Aniruddha Rajput** was elected as a Member of International Law Commission (ILC) of UN.
- 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) will be held in Mongolia.
- Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016 was held in Delhi.
- **Arnab Goswami** in November 2016 resigned as the Editor-in-Chief of Times Now.
- Andhra Pradesh topped the list of state-wise **Ease of Doing Business rankings** that was released by Union Government.
- **The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016** formulated to curb black money came into effect on 1 November 2016.
- Union Government has decided to launch a clean energy equity fund of **2 billion US dollar**.
- **Rekha** will be honored by the upcoming Dubai International Film Festival with a Lifetime Achievement Award.
- **ICICI Bank** launched home loan overdraft facility for salaried customers.
- **Kim Byong-joon** appointed as the Prime Minister of South Korea.
- Indian Railways recently set the target to achieve 100 percent de-carbonisation with 90 percent electrification by 2021.
- **Narinder Dhruv Batra** was elected as the first ever non-European chief of the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- The Portal and Mobile App, **AirSewa**, was launched to offer air travelers a convenient and hassle free experience.
- **Airtel Payments Bank Limited** recently launched India's first live Payments Bank in **Rajasthan**.
- **SP Balasubramanyam** honored with Centenary Award for Indian Film Personality of the year at the 47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

- **Siby Sebastian** appointed as the CEO of State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) Group.
- India recently signed Joint Declaration for the implementation of **Automatic Exchange of Information** (AEOI) with **Switzerland**.
- Online home rental solutions provider firm, **Grabhouse**, was acquired by **Quikr**.
- Taking into consideration the problems being faced by small borrowers in repaying their loan dues, RBI decided to provide an additional 60 days' time for repayment of loan of **1 crore rupees or less**.
- India recently became an Associate Member State of **European Organization for Nuclear Research** (CERN).
- India recently signed **double tax avoidance agreement** with Cyprus.
- Pradhan Mantri Grameen Awas Yojna aims to provide affordable houses to all by 2022.
- **Sunit Amrith** received the Infosys Prize 2016 for Humanities.
- **Tata Consultancy Services** named as the 2016 Digital Innovator of the Year by GE Digital.
- India's rank in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2017 that was released by Germanwatch and Climate Action Network Europe is 20.
- **Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain** was conferred with the 2016 Mother Teresa International Award.
- **PV Sindhu** won the women's singles title of the 2016 China Open badminton tournament.
- **Jan O Jorgensen** won the men's singles title of the 2016 China Open badminton tournament.

# National

## 1. I&B Ministry to set up Film Promotion Fund to promote Indian Films in International Film Festivals

Government has taken a new initiative to create a Film Promotion Fund to promote Indian cinema in the International Film Festivals. This initiative would help independent filmmakers to promote their work across the globe.

The Film Promotion fund would provide financial assistance to the films which would be selected in any competition section of an International Film Festival of repute or being India's official nomination to the Academy Awards under Foreign Film Category for promotional activities.



## 2. PM inaugurated exhibition on “Uniting India: Sardar Patel”

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the digital exhibition “Uniting India: Sardar Patel” in New Delhi.

The Prime Minister also launched the “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” initiative, to promote greater awareness among people of various States about one another, hence promoting the spirit of Unity in Diversity.

6 MoUs between two States each were also signed on the occasion, under this initiative.



## 3. International Forum on Adopting an ICT Perspective to Education and Learning

International Bureau of Education, UNESCO in partnership with Google and in collaboration with the UNESCO International Institute of Technology for Education (IITE), the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) and the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India (MHRD-GOI) organized an International Forum on Adopting an ICT Perspective to



Education and Learning, being held in New Delhi, India from 31st October- 4th November 2016.

Sessions of the forum were designed to be interactive and to build on concrete cases of ICT integration and inclusion through practical hands-on activities.

#### 4. NITI Aayog launched the first ever Agricultural Marketing & Farm Friendly Reforms Index

NITI Aayog has launched an index to rank States and UTs that is based on implementation of seven provisions proposed under model APMC Act, joining eNAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables for marketing and level of taxes in mandis.



The Index is named as "Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index". The state of Maharashtra achieved first rank in implementation of various reforms followed by Gujarat at 2nd spot, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh at 3rd and 4th spot. Major states like U.P., Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and J&K are in this group.

#### 5. MoU inked for Palestine-India techno-park between the two countries

In order to implement the announcement made during visit of Indian President to Palestine in October, 2015, for setting up of park, MOUs were inked between the two countries.



According to MoU, the Government of India announced grant of US\$ 12 million for setting up the Park with payment of US\$ 3 million each on half-yearly basis for 2 years and Palestine will provide the land for the project in Ramallah.

The Technopark will be an IT hub in Palestine and offer job opportunities for Palestinians.

## 6. Real Estate rules notified by Union government for five UTs

Real Estate rules were notified by Real Estate Ministry of Housing & Urban Population and applicable to the five Union Territories.

Developers will have to furnish additional information regarding the ongoing projects for the benefit of the buyers besides depositing 70% of the unused funds in a separate bank account to ensure their completion.

In respect of the ongoing projects, developers will publicize the original sanctioned plans. To incentivize registration of projects and Real Estate Agents with Regulatory Authorities, fee has been reduced to Rs.5 per sq.mt. Real Estate Regulatory Authorities are required to be in effect by April 30, 2017.



## 7. Delhi-Mumbai corridors LDB container visibility tops 1 mn

Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation's (DMICDC) initiative, Logistics Data Bank (LDB), has crossed the one million mark of export-import containers tracked real time at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT).

LDB project will bring in radical change in the Indian logistics industry providing transparency and visibility in container transportation that benefits stakeholders across industries. LDB is designed to help reduce shipping lead times, inventory levels and transaction costs and improve the accuracy of production plans.



## 8. Rs.10 Lakh for each mandi for setting up Waste Management Plants Under e-Nam Scheme

The Union government has prepared the Swachhta Action Plan and made provision of Rs.10 lakh for each mandi for setting up waste management plants under the e-Nam scheme.

Cleaning drives were undertaken in 271 Agricultural Mandis. It was also decided that under one flagship scheme, namely RKVY, managed by DAC&FW, one percent funds will be spent on Solid and Waste Management.



Further, a Compost pit has been inaugurated in SLUSI, Kolkata. Compost Machines are being installed in the Mandis in coordination with States. More than 350 farmers and Scientists participated in the event.

## 9. MoU signed for enabling online submission of applications under PMAY

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Common Services Centre SPV of Ministry of Information Technology signed Memorandum of Understanding, MoU for enabling online submission of applications under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

It will enable online submission of applications by the urban poor for affordable houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).



About 60 thousand Common Services Centres located in urban areas will enable online submission at a nominal cost of 25 rupees per application.

## 10. Minister of Railways inaugurated International Conference on Decarbonization of Indian Railways - Mission Electrification

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inaugurated the International Conference on Decarbonization of Indian Railways - Mission Electrification organized by Institution of Railways Electrical Engineer (IREE) in partnership with ASSOCHAM India.

A mobile app 'RAIL SAVER' was launched by the Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu. This app is expected to reduce energy consumption by 15% to 20%.

Indian Railways has set a target of 40% of cumulative electricity generation capacity through renewable energy by 2030, with an aim to reduce dependence on imported fuel and rationalize the cost of energy for Railways.





### 11. Centre to set up \$2 bn clean energy equity fund for additional renewable energy

The Centre, along with state-run power entities National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC), will launch a 2 billion dollar clean energy equity fund to support the government's ambitious target of adding 175 GW renewable energy generation capacity by 2022.



New and Renewable Energy Ministry has already processed the proposal and sent it to the Finance Ministry to initiate a 2 billion dollar clean energy equity fund to push renewable energy capacity addition as envisaged by the central government.

### 12. PM Modi outlines 10-point agenda for disaster risk reduction

Inaugurating the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi, Mr Modi outlined a ten-point agenda for renewing efforts towards disaster risk reduction and stated that all development sectors must imbibe the principles of disaster risk management and a network of universities should be developed to work on disaster issues.



The Prime Minister called for greater involvement and leadership of women in disaster risk management and opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies should also be utilized.

### 13. Govt imposed anti-dumping duty on certain Chinese steel products

Centre imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of steel wire rods from China to protect domestic manufacturers from cheap in-bound shipments for six months.



The measure follows recommendation by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties that steel wire rods was being exported by China below the normal value and the domestic industry has suffered material injury because of such imports.

India has already slapped anti-dumping duty on certain cold-rolled flat steel products from four nations, including China and South Korea.

#### 14. SC grants pension to fake freedom fighters on humanitarian grounds

Supreme court passed orders to inquire into alleged forging of freedom fighter certificates to claim pension and grant pension to fake freedom fighters on the basis of humanity.

The decision is a result of the forging happened in august 2015, where a large number of people claimed pension as freedom fighters by allegedly forging certificates in Beed district.

Justice A B Palkar panel has been directed to submit a report to the Maharashtra government after examining claims of 354 people for freedom fighter pension.



#### 15. ECI launches online survey to assess level of awareness among Overseas Indian voters

In order to assess level of awareness about the registration and voting process, ECI has initiated an online survey for Overseas Indian Citizens. The objective of the survey is to study the participation rates among overseas electors.

The unique survey, launched by ECI in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), will help in gathering opinions and voting preferences of Overseas Indians.

Apart from the survey, ECI has also launched an online competition, as a part of the initiative, to engage with the target population and seek their contribution to the cause - 'Every Indian Vote counts'.



#### 16. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution proposes exclusive zone for street vendors in each city

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has proposed exclusive zone for street vendors in each city.

The Ministry has decided to pursue the State Governments to allocate a place and provide sanitation facility to ensure clean and hygienic food to consumers, in order to meet aim of the Swachh Bharat Mission and create a permanent mechanism through new and innovative schemes.



Under the scheme 'Clean Consumer Fora' financial assistance will be provided to Consumer Fora for sanitation facility while under the "Clean Market Scheme" the VCOs will be associated to carry out awareness activities on Swachhta.

### **17. Shri J P Nadda unveiled Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)**

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, which is aimed to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates through safe pregnancies and safe deliveries.



The national programme will provide special free antenatal care to about 3 crore pregnant women across the country in order to detect and prevent high risk pregnancies.

Shri Nadda stated that the nationwide programme will provide fixed day assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care to pregnant women on the 9th of every month. Shri J P Nadda also launched the PSMA Web Portal & a Mobile Application.

### **18. India, UNISDR signed Statement of Cooperation on Sendai Framework**

India and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction signed a Statement of Cooperation during the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016.



The cooperation aims to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework through Training and capacity building for Asian countries; promoting international and regional cooperation to reinforce political commitment, facilitate knowledge sharing and strengthen the capacity of UNISDR for monitoring and review of the Sendai Framework.

## 19. India, Sweden agree to enhance collaboration in energy sector

India and Sweden have agreed to enhance collaboration in energy sector with special focus on areas such as waste-to-energy, hydropower, smart metering and solar energy.

On an official visit to Sweden, Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines Minister Piyush Goyal had a bilateral meeting with the Swedish Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy, Ibrahim Baylan.

The ministerial delegation participated in three round tables on green financing and investment, smart grid and energy solutions, smart cities, electro mobility and waste to energy and energy efficient mining and mine automation and optimization.



## 20. Google ties up with Archaeological Survey of India for 360-degree virtual tour of monuments

In order to let people experience 360 degree virtual tour of 280-odd monuments across India on Google maps, Google will tie up with Archaeological Survey of India.

Since India is among the top five for using Google maps across the globe, Google is permitted for creating the virtual tour, which would be available in the maps.

Some of the major monuments which will be covered are Taj Mahal, Victoria Memorial and the ruins of Hampi.



## 21. Ministry of Railways organized 17th National Rail Transport Conclave

Ministry of Railways in collaboration with Centre for Transportation Research and Management (CTRAM) organized 17th National Rail Transport Conclave on "Challenges and Strategies for Indian Railways in the Emerging Economic Scenario".

The session on 'The Common Core IR's Collaboration with core sectors of the Economy' was addressed by the Secretaries to the Ministries of Power, Shri P.K.Pujari, Secretary Coal, Shri Anil Swarup, Secretary Steel Dr Aruna Sharma and Secretary Mines



Shri Balvinder Kumar. They focused on how the Railways and these key infrastructure sectors can collaborate towards attaining accelerated economic growth of the country.

## 22. Union IT Ministry emphasized role of internet services at the 57th meeting of the ICANN

During the 57th meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in Hyderabad, Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad emphasized on the need for providing internet services to common man at affordable prices, by bringing the Internet services in local languages so that the internet enabled services will be available to more number of people.



India hosted the first ever global internet summit after the US government relinquished the control over the fundamental domain names system. Over three hundred representatives from nearly 70 countries participated in the summit.

## 23. India to take strong steps to regulate smokeless tobacco products

India will continue to take strong steps to regulate smokeless tobacco products in the country. As part of the tobacco control activities, the government has implemented large pictorial health warnings at 85 per cent of the area of the packaged tobacco products. India launched a toll free tobacco cessation quitline and m-cessation services under healthy be mobile initiatives.



Under Juvenile Justice Care and Protection of Children Act, 2015 there is a provision of imposing a penalty of 7-year rigorous imprisonment and a fine of 1,000 rupees for selling tobacco products to minors.

## 24. Union Shipping Ministry laid foundation stone of three major initiatives at Mumbai Port trust

Union Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone of three major initiatives at the Mumbai Port trust. The initiatives include India's biggest Oil handling Jetty at Jawahar Dweep, the fifth oil berth at the island, first bunkering facility and Eastern Mumbai Water Transport Facility.

The projects will be beneficial not only to all the oil companies but also to passengers as the water transport service will reduce the travelling time considerably. 69 proposals of Cargo and Passenger facilities of Maharashtra Government and 9 proposals have been approved.



## 25. Historic announcements made by Indian Prime minister on ending corruption and black money

In a historical move that will add record strength in the fight against corruption, black money, money laundering, terrorism and financing of terrorists as well as counterfeit notes, the Government of India decided that the five hundred and one thousand rupee notes will no longer be legal tender from midnight, 8th November 2016.

Persons holding old notes of five hundred or one thousand rupees can deposit these notes in bank or post offices from 10th November onwards till 30th December.



## 26. 4 states gets Centres nod for Pneumonia Vaccine

Health Ministry approved introduction of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) under Universal Immunization Programme.

Himachal Pradesh will be among four other states where Pneumonia Vaccines will be introduced along with Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in a planned manner from 2017.

It is a unique opportunity to the State to demonstrate the combined effect of Diarrhea



Vaccine (Rotavirus) and Pneumonia Vaccine (PCV) reduction intervention on the overall child mortality and morbidity in the State.

## 27. Two-day Annual Convention of the Central Information Commission (CIC) concludes

The two-day Annual Convention of the Central Information Commission (CIC) concluded in New Delhi.

On the inaugural day, four technical sessions were held on the topics, - RTI in Railways, RTI online web portal, RTI in Public Sector Undertakings and RTI in Regulators.

The Annual Convention has contributed immensely in generating awareness about innovative use of RTI provisions for the benefit of the citizenry thereby strengthening public trust in democracy.



## 28. 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress Concludes

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Agrobiodiversity Congress held in New Delhi was attended by 900 participants from 60 countries. Throughout the Congress, the delegates discussed various aspects of access, conservation and use of agrobiodiversity in 16 technical sessions, four satellite sessions, a genebank roundtable, a public forum, a farmers' forum and poster sessions.

Based on these deliberations, the delegates unanimously adopted the Preamble and various declarations. The UN has urged to consider declaring soon a 'Year of Agrobiodiversity' to draw worldwide attention and to catalyze urgent action.



### 29. First Meeting of Governing Council for Indian Council for Fertilizer and Nutrient Research (ICFNR) Held

1st meeting of Governing Council for Indian Council for Fertilizer and Nutrient Research (ICFNR) was held in New Delhi. ICFNR would be having a Governing Council and an Executive Committee for monitoring the progress in the field and would be devoted to promotion of research in Fertilizer sector.



ICFNR include promotion of research in area of fertilizer manufacturing technology, use of raw material and innovation in fertilizer products, eco-friendly micro nutrients and pesticide coated slow release fertilizers, bio-fertilizers & organic fertilizers and their derivatives.

### 30. Protocol amending the Double Taxation Amending Convention between India and Japan entered into force

A Protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between India and Japan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income which was signed on 11th December, 2015, has entered into force on 29th October, 2016.



The Protocol provides for internationally accepted standards for effective exchange of information on tax matters including bank information and information without domestic tax interest. India and Japan shall now lend assistance to each other in the collection of revenue claims.

### 31. Health Ministry launched “Healthy India Initiative” magazine and “No More Tension” Mobile Application

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare released the “Healthy India Initiative/Swastha Bharat-ek pehal” magazine and launched the “No More Tension” Mobile Application.



This launch, which is part of the Government’s Digital India programme, is in line with its commitment to prioritize public health and strengthen citizen-centric health services by leveraging India’s expanding mobile phone penetration.



The “Healthy India Initiative/Swastha Bharat-ek pehal”, a quarterly magazine, will cater to health related information and will raise awareness about healthy living. Stress management mobile application “No More Tension” helps users to manage stress.

### 32. Union HRD Minister inaugurated National Integration Camp cum Social Science Exhibition-2016

Union HRD Minister inaugurated National Integration Camp cum Social Science Exhibition-2016 organized by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in New Delhi and appreciated Kendriya Vidyalaya for its quality education while emphasizing on the need to focus quality in the education.



National Integration Camp cum Social Science Exhibition comprises 25 Indian States and 25 Countries altogether in terms of the cultural heritage – Dance, Music, Song, and Socio-Economic progress. The Integration Camp provides an authentic platform to the students to develop skill such as- Oral Communication, Public Speaking etc.

### 33. Union HRD Minister launched The World’s Largest nation-Building Digital Initiative

Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the world’s largest digital national building initiative “Smart India Hackathon 2017” by handing over a torch to technology students.



Through Smart India Hackathon 2017, the HRD ministry is keen on reaching out to all technology institutions in India and challenge students to offer innovative solutions to some of the daunting problems faced by our nation.

The Hackathon will have nearly 500 problem statements in all which will be published on [innovate.mygov.in](http://innovate.mygov.in), that the students will be required to solve during the Hackathon that will take place in early 2017.

### 34. More than one crore connections released under PMUY

Minister for State (I/C) for Petroleum & Natural Gas announced that more than 1 Cr. connections have been released under the ambitious scheme to provide deposit free LPG connections in the name of women of BPL families in the country under "Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana".



On an average, 22 – 25 lakh new connections are released every month across the country under PMUY. The major beneficiaries of this scheme are from weaker sections of the society i.e. SC/ST who accounted for 44% of the connections released.

### 35. MSDE Announces Launch of Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana

Marking the 2nd Foundation Day of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana. The scheme spans over five years (2016-17 to 2020-21) with a project cost of Rs. 499.94 crore, and will provide entrepreneurship education and training to over 7 lakh students in 5 years through 3050 Institutes.



It will also include easy access to information and mentor network, credit, incubator and accelerator and advocacy to create a pathway for the youth. MSDE announced the institutionalization of National Entrepreneurship awards for first generation achievers below 30 years.

### 36. NITI Aayog conducted workshop with States to radically improve learning outcomes among school children

NITI Aayog organized the first regional workshop on the School Education Quality Index in collaboration with the Ministry of HRD to improve the learning outcomes among school children in the New Delhi. The objective was to sensitize and support States/ UTs in improving learning outcomes among school children across India.



The SEQI is a composite index that will report annual improvements of States on key domains of education quality, conceptualized and designed by NITI Aayog and the MHRD. The larger vision of the index is to shift the focus of States from inputs towards outcomes.

### 37. India, UK inked two pacts

Two pacts regarding cooperation in the field of intellectual property and ease of doing business were inked between India and the United Kingdom during British PM Theresa May's three Day visit to India. MoUs were signed because "Both UK and India face an increasing threat of cyber-attack from other states and terrorists.



MoU on Ease of Doing Business include support to businesses and start-ups, tax administration, regulatory regimes, competition economics, etc. Another MoU signed for cooperation in the field of intellectual property include exchange of best practices, experience and knowledge of IP awareness among the public.

### 38. Tourism Ministry names Narendra Modi to be mascot of Incredible India campaign

Tourism Ministry has decided to set Prime Minister Narendra Modi as mascot of "Incredible India" campaign and use video footages of Modi during the last two-and-a-half years where he has talked about tourism in India and abroad for the campaign.



It was decided because India's image has changed significantly in the last two years with Prime Minister Modi visiting a host of countries during the period.

According to Tourism Minister, the ministry is "working on selecting the footages" and campaign would be released in the next 40-45 days as the Indian "tourism season" starts by November-end.

### 39. Various initiatives inaugurated in villages adopted by Rashtrapati Bhavan under Smart Gram Initiative

Various initiatives in villages in Haryana i.e. Dhaula, Alipur, Harchandpur and Rojka Meo adopted by Rashtrapati Bhavan under its Smart Gram Initiative, were inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal.



Some of the initiatives which were inaugurated include: upgraded infrastructure in the Udyog Kunj Alipur, Smart Gram Consortium Office, Smart Gram Training Centre, Gram

Sachivalaya, Smart Gram Wellness Centre, Water ATM etc. The focus of Rashtrapati Bhavan is on creating a sustainable and inclusive development model that can be easily replicated.

#### **40. Regional Connectivity Fund under UDAN to Stimulate Growth and Development of Civil Aviation Sector**

The objective of Regional Connectivity Scheme, UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) is to enhance air passenger traffic in the country by stimulating demand on regional routes.

As per the directions of MoCA, RCF will be funded by a small levy per departure on all domestic flights other than the ones on Category II / Category IIA routes and aircraft having maximum certified take-off mass not exceeding 40,000 kg.



Amount collected as Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) will be used to provide financial support to airlines in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for operations under the Scheme.

#### **41. Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Launched logo of 'hunar haat'**

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, the Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) and Parliamentary Affairs launched the logo of 'Hunar Haat'.

"Hunar Haat" (Skill Haat) exhibition is aimed at promoting and supporting artisans from Minority communities and providing them domestic as well as international market for display and sell their products, to be held from 14 to 27 November.



This will provide an excellent platform to artisans belonging to Minority communities from across the nation to display their art and skills before the domestic and international visitors.

#### 42. NSDA inked MoU with British Council to Collaborate for Joint Research in Skills Sector

National Skill Development Agency and the British Council signed a MoU to collaborate for undertaking joint research projects in the area of skill development. The partnership aims to promote knowledge exchange and research collaborations between UK and India in the skills space.



Under this partnership, The British Council and the National Skill Research Division (NSRD), a research division under the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) will work closely with each other to build research collaborations between the UK and India over a period of three years in the skilling domain.

#### 43. Sagarmala: Funds released for Modernization of Fishing Harbour in Mumbai

As part of its Coastal Community Development under Sagarmala, the Ministry of Shipping provided Central financial assistance of Rs. 6.52 crore as part of the first installment to the Government of Maharashtra for modernization of the existing fishing harbor at Sassoon Dock, in Mumbai.



The project under Sagarmala Programme is to enhance the livelihood of the coastal communities.

The total proposed cost of the project is INR 52.17 Crore and will be funded in a convergence mode of implementation. The remaining 50% of the project cost will be funded by the State Government of Maharashtra.

#### 44. I&B Ministry simplifies Annual Renewal process for existing TV channels as part of “Ease of Doing Business”

Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Minister for Information & Broadcasting has completely done away with the process of obtaining an “Annual Renewal” for TV channels in the current form, as part of the Government’s initiative of “Ease of Doing Business”. Broadcasters who have been given the permission for Uplinking or Downlinking can continue their operations.



This initiative by the Ministry is expected to provide a major relief for ease of doing business for the permission holding companies of the TV channels and teleports. A total of 963 Channels and Teleports shall benefit from this decision.

#### **45. Partnership Summit 2017-Andhra Pradesh to Focus on “Partnerships for Sustained Growth in an Emerging Global Economic Order”**

Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh announced the Partnership Summit to be held from January 27–28, 2017 in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, as the state as not only competing with other states but also globally in ease of doing business rankings.



The Partnership Summit 2017 for global and Indian industry to discuss innovative policies and path-breaking strategies. Apart from the Plenaries, the Summit will host a Make in India virtual exhibition, the Time Awards for Business Excellence, B2B-B2G Meetings, sessions with transformational leaders and social impact icons.

#### **46. PM inaugurated International Conference and Exhibition on Sugarcane Value Chain**

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Conference and Exhibition on Sugarcane Value Chain 'Vision 2025 Sugar' at Pune. Prime Minister called for focus on higher land productivity and the requirement of pulses.



Mr. Modi outlined the steps taken by the Union Government for the welfare of farmers, including provision of soil health cards, solar pumps etc. He emphasized on how research can help our farmers in sugar sector and globally competitive bamboo products.

#### **47. Union Minister for Road Transport to set up Farm-produce Export Facilities near airports**

Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari has called for setting up of the Farm-produce Export Facilities near airports at Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad on the line of Gujarat model.

At least five acres each of the land should be made available for this purpose which would go a long way in boosting exports of the farm produce and contribute in prosperity of the farming community.



#### **48. India and Japan inked 10 MoUs in various sectors**

India and Japan inked 10 pacts and undertook a comprehensive review of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership as outlined in the "India and Japan Vision 2025."

Various agreements were signed in the field of nuclear energy, infrastructure, railways, space and agriculture, transportation; port terminals; toll roads; airport terminals and urban development.

MoU will help the two sides to explore opportunities to set up a NIIF-JOIN joint fund. Landmark deal was signed for civil nuclear cooperation, cooperation in areas of joint survey and research, and exchange of scientific visits by researchers.



#### **49. Union Ministry for Science, Technology and Earth Science inaugurated Platinum Jubilee Techno Fest at the India International Trade Fare**

The Union Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Science, Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated 'Platinum Jubilee Techno Fest' and a Micro Site of CSIR Platinum Jubilee Techno Fest at the India International Trade Fare New Delhi.

Techno Fest is an Opportunity for the young students, scientists and the common people to come under one roof and witness the knowledgebase of achievements and researches by CSIR.



There are 14 theme pavilions deal with CSIR work in various areas including Water, Aerospace & Strategic Sector, Energy, Leather, Healthcare and Generics.

## 50. Union Tourism Secretary, Shri Vinod Zutshi inaugurated 'Incredible India' stand at the India International Trade Fair 2016

Union Tourism Secretary, Shri Vinod Zutshi inaugurated 'Incredible India' stand at the India International Trade Fair 2016, which aims to nurture the tourism potential of less frequented destinations which are located closer to the popular destinations for attracting domestic visitors.

Inbound travel to India has increased. Foreign Tourist arrivals in India during the period January- September, 2016 were 6.2 million with a growth of 10.5% as compared to the Foreign Tourist Arrival of 5.6 million with a growth of 4.8% in January-September, 2015 over January- September, 2014.



## 51. Cabinet approves enhanced MSP for Rabi Crops of 2016-17 season

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all Rabi Crops of 2016-17. Government has announced a bonus on these crops, payable over and above the following approved MSP.



Food Corporation of India (FCI) will be the designated central nodal agency for price support operations for cereals, pulses and oilseeds. The Government had declared a bonus, over and above the MSP, of Rs 75 per quintal for Rabi pulses of 2016-17 marketing season.



## 52. Cabinet approves Development of Trunk Infrastructure Components

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to the construction of trunk infrastructure for Phase II of Part I of Shendra Bidkin Industrial Area, investment of Rs. 2,397.20 crore as equity of DMIC Trust and issuance of EPC tenders for selection of contractors for various packages of trunk infrastructure in a phased manner.



Investment in the development of trunk infrastructure is essential for the creation of a greenfield smart industrial city. The estimated cost of the five packages of trunk infrastructure is Rs.6,414.21 crore.

## 53. Union Minister of MSME Kalraj Mishra inaugurated MSME Expo 2016 in the India International Trade Fair

Union Minister of MSME, Shri Kalraj Mishra today inaugurated MSME Expo 2016 in the India International Trade Fair. MSME Expo 2016 is organized by Ministry of MSME in the 36th IITF 2016.



Over 80 enterprises have showcased their range of products during the trade fair. The theme of the fair is "Quality Manufacturing and Inclusive Growth of MSMEs" which includes Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme, SC/ST Hub & National Award. The participants have a diverse profile such as women entrepreneurs, SC/ST and Entrepreneurs from North Eastern States & Minorities.

## 54. "Hunar Haat" Inaugurated at India International Trade Fair 2016

The Minister of State for Power and Coal inaugurated "Hunar Haat", which is being organised for the first time at India International Trade Fair. About 184 master artisans from all corners of the country are showcasing their traditional art and skills at about 100 stalls in "Hunar Haat".



A special pavilion has also been put up in "Hunar Haat" exhibition area for audio-visual depiction of schemes & programs of the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The artefacts at display include cane and bamboo work from North eastern states; cloth work of Uttar Pradesh; pottery work of Southern states etc.

### 55. NHA initiates DPRS for Logistic Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP) under Bharatmala Pariyojna

NHAI has initiated a programme entitled 'Logistic Efficiency Enhancement Programme' (LEEP) aimed to enhance the freight transportation in India through improving cost, time, tracking and transferability of consignments through infrastructure and procedural and Information Technology (IT) interventions.



As a first step towards this task, preparation of Detailed Project Reports is being undertaken by NHAI. In order to drastically reduce the time taken for conducting surveys, it has been decided to use latest technologies such as LiDAR, Satellite mapping and Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) in preparation of DPRs.

### 56. Youth Affairs and Sports Ministers Conference Concludes in New Delhi

A conference of State Ministers and Secretaries of Youth Affairs and Sports was held on issues like need for broad basing of Sports and achieving excellence in Sports through development of basic Sports facilities at grassroots levels, putting in place a robust system for identification of Sporting talent, and encouraging mass participation through annual Sports competitions.



Ministry will be launching a National Sports Talent Search Portal which will enable budding sportspersons from the entire country to stake a claim to help and support to further their sporting dreams by feeding essential data about them in the portal.

### 57. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: Govt launches contest on social innovation

The Ministry of External Affairs will be organizing a national contest to identify India's top 25 social innovators as part activities planned for forthcoming Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, to identify a pool of social impact innovators that have developed or are developing commercially feasible solutions to the socio economic problems of the country.



This would facilitate the creation of a community of innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, grant bodies and mentors to support

the selected start-ups for commercialization and scale up. The key focus sectors for the national contest on social innovation include clean tech, education, health and housing.

### **58. Govt approves highway projects worth over Rs 6,000 crore in eight states**

Centre has approved 12 highway projects worth over six thousand crore rupees in eight states namely Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Most of the 476 kilometre projects are under engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode for augmenting highways.



Four of the projects pertain to Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for augmenting of existing highway stretches on NH-39 and NH-415. The West Bengal project pertains to four-laning of Kolaghat to Haldia section of NH-41.

### **59. President of India launched National Student Startup Policy**

The President of India launched the National Student Startup Policy at the second Visitor's Conference held at Delhi. The National Student Startup Policy aims to create 100,000 technology based student start-ups and a million employment opportunities within the next 10 years.



The policy plans on achieving this by developing an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem and promoting strong inter-institutional partnerships among technical institutions. It emphasizes the much-desired need for an appropriate startup policy to propel the youth of India through and beyond the 21st century.

## 60. Revamped Aadhaar Toll-Free Helpline No. 1947 Launched

With the growing use of Aadhaar in transactions related to services like Banking, Government Welfare Schemes, etc., the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), launched a revamped version of its Toll-free helpline number: 1947, to help residents get quick access to information about Aadhaar.



The Aadhaar toll-free helpline 1947 enable residents to locate an Aadhaar Enrolment Centre, know generation status and help retrieve Aadhaar details of any person who has lost his/her Aadhaar or hasn't received it through post.

## 61. Over 12 lakh houses sanctioned for urban poor under PMAY(Urban)

Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) a total of 12,27,088 affordable houses for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in urban areas have so far been approved with a total central assistance commitment of Rs. 19,682 cr of which Rs.6,172 cr has been already released.



Under PMAY (Urban), central assistance of Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs.2.30 lakh per each dwelling unit is provided to eligible beneficiaries under the four components of the scheme. Gujarat leads in construction followed by Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

## 62. MoU with Ministry of Urban Development for Development of Railway Stations

An MOU has been entered into between Ministry of Railways (MOR) and Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD) for integrated planning of railway stations in the cities included in the 'SMART Cities' and AMRUT scheme. This would lead to an integrated public transit hub around the railway stations and encourage Transit Oriented Development.



Each Smart City has incorporated a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to execute the Smart

City Plan. The SPV may form a joint venture company with an MOR-designated entity to implement railway station redevelopment projects in that city and in its suburbs.

### 63. Revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement signed between India and Cyprus

A revised Agreement between India and Cyprus for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal evasion (DTAA) with respect to taxes on income, along with its Protocol, was signed in Nicosia. New DTAA provides for source based taxation of capital gains arising from alienation of shares.



The new Agreement also updates the provisions related to Exchange of Information to accepted international standards, which will enable exchange of banking information and allow the use of such information for purposes other than taxation with the prior approval of the Competent Authorities of the country providing the information.

### 64. India and UK Signed three Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signed three (3) Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs). These three (3) Agreements cover international transactions in the nature of payment of intra-group service charges and pertain to the telecom industry.



The Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) Programme was introduced by the Finance Act, 2012 with a view to provide a predictable and non-adversarial tax regime and to reduce the litigation in the Indian transfer pricing arena.

An APA can be entered into for a maximum of 5 years at a time.

### 65. Kala Utsav 2016 concluded and prizes awarded

The Kala Utsav 2016, an annual festival to celebrate the talent of school children all over the country, concluded with the presentation of prizes in four segments of music, dance, theatre and visual arts to the school teams representing their States and Union Territories in New Delhi.



This Kala Utsav attracted school students from every corner of the country with all States and Union Territories. The prizes were awarded by Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, the Minister of State for Human Resource Development. The Minister honored the members of jury by presenting a shawl and a memento to each.

## 66. Indian Prime Minister Launched “Housing for All” in Rural Areas

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched “Housing for All” in rural areas under which the Government proposes to provide an environmentally safe and secure pucca house to every rural household by 2022.



Named the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin), in its first phase the target is to complete one crore houses by March 2019. The unit cost for these houses has been significantly increased from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 1.6 lakh to a household is available. The programme provides for skilling 5 lakh Rural Masons by 2019 and allows over 200 different housing designs across the country.

## 67. Naidu inaugurated multimedia exhibition on 'Aazadi 70 Saal, Yaad Karo Kurban'ani

Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a multimedia exhibition on the theme of 'Aazadi 70 Saal, Yaad Karo Kurban'ani to commemorate 70 years of India's Independence and its depiction through films. The multimedia exhibition organized National Film Archives of India, NFAI at the International Film Festival of India, IFFI in Goa.



The exhibition covered films, highlighting the contributions of Indian soldiers and freedom fighters, towards independence. Mr Naidu also inaugurated the revamped website of National Film Archives and its new year calendar with a theme of dance in Indian cinema.

## 68. SC directs Centre to frame model rules for consumer courts

The Supreme Court directed the Centre to frame within four months model rules prescribing objective norms for administration of consumer courts.



The apex court issued directions, clarifying the role, powers and functions of the National Consumer Commission, State consumer commissions and district consumer fora to ensure the mechanism to protect consumers from unfair trade practices is strengthened. The Court asked the Centre and states to intervene immediately to set right the system and fill up the vacancies of members in these courts.

### 69. Rs 67.01 Crore Sanctioned under Solar City Programme

A total amount of Rs. 67.01 crore has been sanctioned for preparation of master plans, solar city cells, promotional activities and installation of renewable energy projects and an amount of Rs. 24.16 crore has been released under Solar City Programme.



Out of 7 identified solar cities in Maharashtra, an amount of Rs. 7.74 crore has been sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 3.04 crore has been released for 6 solar cities.

### 70. Setting up of Driving Training Institutes in each State for Improvement in Road Safety

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has a scheme for setting up one Model Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) and vehicle Inspection & Certification Centre (I&C) in each state for improvement in road safety.



In addition, the Ministry under the Central Sector scheme has been providing cranes and ambulances to States/ UTs for relief and rescue measures in the aftermath of accidents and road safety equipment for enforcement and implementation of various rules & regulations relating to road safety.

### 71. Government has Adopted Various Measures to Make the AYUSH Systems of Medicines People Friendly

The Ministry of AYUSH adopted various measures to make the AYUSH systems of medicines people friendly through various Central Sector Schemes viz. Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Public Health Initiative (PHI), Centre of Excellence (COE), Research Councils, National Institutes etc. and Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. National AYUSH Mission (NAM).



There have been many achievements like Development of medicine through Research like AYUSH-82 for diabetes Mellitus, Training & Accreditation of Yoga Instructors, the NABH accreditation of AYUSH Colleges initiated; Signing of MOUs with various countries including USA among others.

## 72. Cabinet approved MoU among New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding among New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization, Japan and Ministries of Finance and AIIMS concerning the Demonstration Project for ICT based Green Hospital at AIIMS in Delhi.



The objectives of the project are to contribute to the efficient use of energy and the protection of the environment in India by installing the energy efficient and IT related equipment in AIIMS Delhi and demonstrating the energy management system and IT system.

## 73. Cabinet approved the third Protocol to the Convention between India and New Zealand for the avoidance of double taxation

The Union Cabinet approved the ratification and entry into force of the third Protocol to the Convention between India and New Zealand for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.



The Protocol will stimulate the flow of exchange of information between India and New Zealand for tax purposes which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance. It will also enable assistance in collection of tax revenue claims between both countries.

## 74. Cabinet approved setting up of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in 62 uncovered districts of the country

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved opening of one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each of the 62 uncovered districts with an outlay of Rs.2,871 crore.



These JNVs will provide good quality modern education to the talented children prominently from rural areas. It is expected that nearly 35,000 students will be benefitted from these JNVs.

JNVs will provide employment to 47 persons and accordingly 62 JNVs will provide direct permanent employment to 2914 individuals.



## 75. Construction and Up-gradation of Airports Approved

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) granted 'in-principle' approval for setting up of 18 Greenfield Airports, namely, Pakyong in Sikkim, Navi Mumbai, Sindhudurg and Shirdi in Maharashtra, Mopa in Goa, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Hasan and Shimoga in Karnataka, Kannur in Kerala, Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh, Dholera in Gujarat, Dagadathi (Nellore), Bhogapuram (Vizianagram) and Oravakallu (Kurnool) in Andhra Pradesh, Durgapur in West Bengal, Gwalior and Karaikal in Madhya Pradesh.



The timeline for construction of airport projects depends on land acquisition and availability of mandatory clearances. Government regularly monitors the projects to ensure timely completion and fulfilment of budgetary obligations.

## 76. Cabinet approves introduction of the revamped Merchant Shipping Bill 2016

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016 for introducing it in the Parliament. The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016 is a revamped version of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.



The provisions of the Bill will simplify the law governing the merchant shipping in India. Further, certain redundant provisions will be dispensed with and remaining provisions will stand consolidated and simplified so as to promote ease of doing business, transparency and effective delivery of services.

## 77. Lok Sabha passed Income tax amendment bill amid ruckus

The Lok Sabha passed the Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill 2016. The bill has been brought with an intention to discourage those who are trying to convert black money into white after demonetization.



The bill proposes to levy a 30% tax, a penalty of 10% and 33% surcharge of tax on the deposit of undisclosed income thus making an individual to pay 50% in the form of tax.

The rest 25% of the undisclosed income will remain parked for four years in a Deposit scheme known as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Scheme- 2016. The fund deposited in the

scheme will be used for poverty alleviation programmes. Those found to be involved in conversion of black money into white through other means will have to pay sixty per cent tax and penalty totaling to 85 per cent of the undisclosed income.

### **78. Union Cabinet approves introduction of Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016**

The Union Cabinet has approved the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016 for introducing it in the Parliament. The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2016 is a revamped version of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

The Bill provides for repealing of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 as well as for the repealing of the Coasting Vessels Act, 1838. The provisions of the Bill will simplify the law governing the merchant shipping in India.



# Persons in News

## 1. Kathmandu University conferred Honorary Doctorate on President Mukherjee

The Kathmandu University conferred an Honorary Doctorate on the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The President congratulated Kathmandu University on its Silver Jubilee and appreciated the University for established of itself as a focal point of higher learning in Nepal, offering academic courses in humanities, science, engineering, medicine, management and law.



The President thanked Vice Chancellor Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shreshtha, Senate Members and the Faculty of the Kathmandu University for conferring upon him the Honorary Doctorate.

## 2. Anurag Bhushan unveiled Mahatma Gandhi statue at Consulate office in Dubai

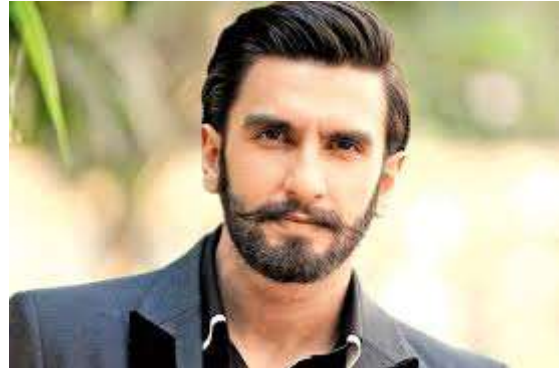
The Consul General of India in Dubai Anurag Bhushan unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Consulate office in Dubai. The statue of Mahatma Gandhi is about two-and-a-half feet in height and weighs around 10 kgs.



This will be the first of its kind initiative in the Middle East region. The Consulate in Dubai also celebrated the 141st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India. The Consul General announced to open a Gandhi Centre in the Consulate premises in association with the Karnataka Gandhi Smarak Nidhi.

### 3. Switzerland tourism announced Ranveer Singh as its brand ambassador

India, Switzerland Tourism director Claudio Zemp announced Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as brand ambassador for Switzerland Tourism. With this assignment, Ranveer Singh becomes first Indian ambassador for Switzerland Tourism.



Ranveer who enjoyed himself indulging in a huge variety of different experiences on his recent trip to Switzerland, will promote Switzerland Tourism's campaign for 2017 – "Nature wants you back!" The actor will visit Switzerland in winter 2017.

### 4. Mark Zuckerberg named as Business Person of the Year by Fortune

Fortune magazine named Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg as Business Person of the Year for 2016 based on various criteria, including the company's performance year over year as well as his vision for growth and the ability to achieve it.



Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos was ranked second. While Mary Dillan- founder of the Ulta beauty cosmetics store stands on 3rd place. Other tech luminaries in the top 10 include Alphabet's Larry Page, Microsoft's Satya Nadella and Nvidia's Jen-Hsun Huang. Apple CEO Tim Cook was No. 11.

### 5. Jackie Chan won honorary Oscars

Chinese actor and martial arts star Jackie Chan won his first honorary Oscar for his decades of work in film. He became the first Chinese in history to receive this award.



British film editor Anne V. Coates, casting director Lynn Stalmaster, and documentarian Frederick Wiseman were also honored with an honorary Oscar by the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences at the 8th Annual Governors Awards in Los Angeles.

## 6. Honor for software writer on Apollo Moon Mission

80-year-old Margaret Hamilton, who wrote software for the Apollo space missions, has been given the United States' highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was one of the 21 people awarded the medal by President Barack Obama in a star-studded ceremony. It is almost 50 years since her initial work on the Apollo 11 moon mission.



Mrs Hamilton's pioneering software helped land the lunar module and its crew on the Moon in 1969. Other notable medal recipients included comedian and talkshow host Ellen DeGeneres, actor Tom Hanks and musicians Diana Ross and Bruce Springsteen.

## 7. Portuguese PM Antonio Costa to be Chief Guest at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

The Union Ministry of External Affairs announced that Antonio Costa, the Prime Minister of Portugal, accepted the proposal to be the Chief Guest at the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas whereas Michael Ashwin Satyandre Adhin, Vice President of the Republic of Suriname, will be the Special Guest at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.



The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is scheduled to be held from 7 January to 9 January 2017 at Bengaluru in Karnataka. The Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held on 7 January 2017.

# Places in News

## 1. International Seminar on 'Understanding the tribes of Asia' inaugurated in Shillong

The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram, inaugurated the International Seminar on 'Understanding the tribes of Asia' at Synod College, Shillong. Recently, UNESCO declared around 190 languages of India as vulnerable or endangered.



The two day programme which has drawn participation from India and abroad is being organized by the department of History and Education of Synod College Shillong so that such seminars will promote better understanding of the tribal population, their culture and their languages.

## 2. Grand Hearing Aid Distribution function held at Imphal

Grand Hearing Aid Distribution function was held at Imphal with an attempt to provide hearing aid to around 6,300 beneficiaries with an estimate cost of 444 lakh rupees. 4,345 such camps were held in the last two years all over India and till now 560 thousand hearing impaired have been benefited.



Centre is planning to provide Universal Identity Card to such beneficiaries. In addition to the central funding, additional 250 lakh rupees was also contributed from the state government.

## 3. Competition Commission of India (CCI) selected to host ICN 2018 Annual Conference in New Delhi

International Competition Network (ICN) has accepted the proposal and decided that Competition Commission of India would host the 2018 ICN Annual Conference. This will be held at Delhi in March –April 2018, to recognize the growing stature of Competition Commission of India (CCI) in the world.



CCI has also been inducted as an ex-officio member of the steering group member of the ICN for a period of 3 years. CCI eagerly looks

forward to host this international event which will provide a rare opportunity to attract domestic and international competition enforcement experts.

#### **4. 9th International Regulatory Cooperation Meeting for Herbal Medicines inaugurated in New Delhi**

The Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the 9th Annual Meeting of International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH) in New Delhi. The three-day meet was organized by the Ministry of AYUSH in New Delhi.



The objectives of IRCH meeting were to Globally promote and facilitate the safe use of herbal medicines, through regional initiatives, sharing information and fostering dialogue; facilitate and strengthen cooperation between national regulatory authorities. IRCH is a global network of regulatory authorities created by WHO.

#### **5. President of India inaugurated 36th edition of the India International Trade Fair**

The President of India inaugurated the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the India International Trade Fair 2016 in New Delhi. India International Trade Fair is commitment towards bringing the benefits of economic reform to its people. 2016 theme was 'Digital India'.



It provided information of the policies, progressive reforms and the new schemes launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India under the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020).

Apart from featuring the state-of-the-art technologies, products, services and innovations along-with CSR initiatives, the fair showcased immense variety and kaleidoscopic repertoire of India's handicrafts and handlooms.

## 6. Festival of India to be organized in Oman from 15 November, 2016 to 24 March, 2017

A Festival of India is being organized in Oman from 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 to 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, to showcase diverse Indian culture, i.e. classical and folk dance, music, Indian cuisine and Exhibition on Islamic Art Calligraphy.

The events will be held in four cities of Oman, namely, Muscat, Sur, Sohar, and Salalah.

Various events are being organized like Food Festival by India Tourism Development Corporation, fashion show by NIFT, exhibition of Islamic Art Calligraphy, classical dance and Vocal Sufiana music.



## 7. Aligarh topped Swachh Bharat awareness campaign in urban areas

Aligarh topped 500 cities in undertaking Swachh awareness generation activities under the fortnightly thematic activities as required under the Swachh Survekshan-2017, launched by the Ministry of Urban Development.

During the evaluation of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities by the Ministry, Aligarh scored the maximum marks. IEC performance has been assessed by the Ministry while evaluation of other parameters of Swachh Survekshan-2017 will be done by the Quality Council of India.



The other cities in the top slot in this regard were Vasai-Virar (Maharashtra), Hyderabad, Gurugram, Chandigarh, Madurai (Tamil Nadu) and Vadodara and Rajkot (Gujarat).



### 8. Sachin Tendulkar's adopted village declared as open defecation free

Rajya Sabha member Sachin Tendulkar announced that his adopted village Puttam Rajuvari Kandriga in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh is open defecation free. Tendulkar visited the village in Gudur mandal that he had adopted under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana two years ago.

Upon adoption, Sachin had contributed almost 3 crore rupees to PR Kandriga and the district administration mobilized another 3 crores for taking up various works.



### 9. India's first Cherry Blossom Festival celebrated in Meghalaya

Meghalaya became the first state to start India's first Cherry Blossom Festival. The four-day festival is widely celebrated in Japan. It provided opportunities to showcase the unique beauty of pink and white cherry blossoms as well as Meghalaya's traditional arts, culture and cuisine to the naturalists and tourists.

The festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister Mukul Sangma. Cherry blossoms are in full bloom in several parts of the city and the suburbs.



### 10. ITPO to hold national participation in 'INTERMODA' FAIR, MEXICO

India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) will be holding India's country level participation in IM INTERMODA-International Apparel & Textile Fair at Expo Guadalajara Exhibition Centre, Guadalajara (Mexico) from January 17 to 20, 2017.

Being a regular participant, ITPO aims to provide an excellent business opportunity in high potential Mexican markets which attract a large number of buyers from North America and Latin American regions.



The participation offers excellent opportunities for Indian companies to export apparel, textile, leather garments, fashion accessories blouses, skirts, evening wear, etc.

## 11. 2016 World Internet Conference organized in Wuzhen

Third World Internet Conference was organized in Wuzhen, China, based on theme 'Innovation-driven Internet Development for the Benefit of All – Building a Community of Common Future in Cyberspace' and 'World Internet Conference Internet Culture Forum' was organized in the Wuzhen based on theme 'Mutual-learning among Civilizations and Development of the Internet Culture'.



Three sessions with two panel discussions were conducted under themes 'Enhancing People-to-People Exchanges, Promoting Mutual Learning among Civilizations and Pushing for Better Cyberculture'.

## 12. 5<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Mart being organized in Imphal, Manipur from 23-25 November, 2016

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in association with the North Eastern States and West Bengal organized the "International Tourism Mart" in Imphal, Manipur from 23rd to 25th November, 2016.



This was the 5<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Mart and an annual event organized in the North Eastern region with the objective of highlighting the tourism potential of the region in the domestic and international markets.

Buyer and Media delegates from around the world and from different regions of the country are participated in the Mart and engaged in one-to-one meetings with sellers.

## 13. 47th International Film Festival of India concluded at Goa

The 47th International Film Festival of India concluded at Goa. Iranian film "Daughter" bagged the Best film award at the IFFI with a cash prize of 40 lakh rupees.



Iranian actor Farhad Aslani won the Best Actor (male) award for his portrayal of the strict father in the same film 'Daughter'.

### Other awards:

- Best Director: Baris Kaya and Soner Caner for the Turkish film Rauf
- Best Actress: Elina Vaska for the Latvian film "Fellow Mud"

- Special Jury award: Lee Joon-ik for the Direction of the movie “The Throne”
- ICFT -UNESCO Gandhi Medal: Turkish film maker Mustafa Kara’s ‘Cold of Kalandar’.
- Special Mention under the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal competition: Canadian multi-lingual film ‘The Apology’

# Regional

## 1. Environment Ministry Reviewed Ambient Air Quality Status of Delhi

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change reviewed the ambient air quality status of Delhi. It has been observed that open burning of solid waste in and around Delhi, vehicular emissions in Delhi, dust by the roadside and around construction sites in Delhi and stubble burning of crop residue in neighboring States of Delhi are major contributors to pollution in Delhi.



Therefore, it has been decided that CPCB will direct Punjab, Haryana and other NCR States to effectively enforce ban on stubble burning in agriculture fields and check open burning of solid waste.

## 2. First instalment of Special Assistance for Permanent Restoration of Damaged Infrastructure in State of Jammu & Kashmir

Ministry of Finance, Government of India has released the 'Special Assistance' amounting to Rs.1093.34 crore towards first instalment for repair and permanent restoration of damaged public buildings such as schools, hospitals and other critical public infrastructure in the State of J&K under the Prime Minister Reconstruction Plan. A total sum of Rs. 2,000 crore has been provided under PM Reconstruction Plan for J&K.



The Government of India has also given its approval for one-time relaxation of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture cost norms for restoration of damaged horticulture areas and development of horticulture in State.

## 3. Kerala became 3rd Open Defecation Free state

Kerala became the third Open Defecation Free state in the country. The state government had constructed about 175,000 toilets in the last four months. The day marked the 60th anniversary of the state.

On the occasion, the state also launched four major programmes — Parippida Mission, Haritha Keralam, Ardram and Life — in the education, health, housing and sanitation



sectors. Earlier, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim had declared themselves Open Defecation Free. Over 1 lakh villages across the country have become ODF.

#### 4. 'Saur Sujala Yojana' launched in Chhattisgarh state to benefit 51000 farmers

In order to provide facility of solar powered irrigation pumps to farmers of state Chhattisgarh, Prime minister Modi launched 'Saur Sujala Scheme' for farmers. Under this scheme, beneficiaries will get solar powered irrigation pumps of 3HP and 5HP capacity worth Rs 3.5 lakh and Rs 4.5 lakh by March 31, 2019.



Around 51,000 farmers would be benefitted in the state, giving priority to areas with frequent power cut. Scheme has been launched with aim to generate good number of jobs with less investment.

#### 5. Maharashtra first state to launch cyber police stations in all districts

Maharashtra is converting 42 state-of-the-art cybercrime labs into cyber police stations. The move is part of BJP-led government's strategy to take on cyber criminals. Maharashtra is the first state in the country which will have a cyberpolice station in each district.



Any offence related to cyber-crime will be registered in these police stations at the district level. Additional cyber police stations will also be set up in some cities. Cyber police stations will also be set up at police commissionerate and Range IG offices.

#### 6. WB CM distributed 43,000 bicycles to students

West Bengal Chief Minister distributed 43,000 bicycles under 'Sabuj Sathi' to class eleventh students of state-run, aided and sponsored schools at a function at Jamboni, West Midnapore.



The Chief Minister also inaugurated a nursing training college in Lalgargh, a number of Karma Tirthas, government buildings, road projects, flood shelters, marketing hubs and a host of other projects. She also distributed benefits of various schemes including Kanyashree, Yuvashree, Geetanjali, land-pattas, agricultural equipment, computers and books.

## 7. Assam inked MoU with Civil Aviation ministry, AAI under Regional Connectivity Scheme

Assam Government inked a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airports Authority of India under Regional Connectivity Scheme.

As per the MoU, the State Government shall reduce VAT to 1% or less on ATF at RCS Airports and for RCS flights from other airports located within the state.

Security and fire services shall be provided free of cost at RCS Airports and electricity, water, other utility services shall be provided at substantially concessional rates. Assam shall also provide minimum land, if required, free of cost for development and expansion of RCS Airports.



## 8. Maharashtra CM sets new deadline for Indian, African safari at Gorewada Zoo

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has set a fresh deadline for African and Indian safari of the Gorewada Zoo Project. He has directed the State Forest Department to start both the safaris by November 2017.

Chief Minister Fadnavis approved up-gradation of 16 kilometer stretch of roads for the jungle safari in the ambitious Gorewada Zoo Project.

Fadnavis also gave in-principle clearance to a four-Kilometre long ropeway ride. The forest officials have been instructed to prepare a detailed project report for the ropeway and submit it to the Centre for approval.



## 9. Nagaland state's Disaster Management Authority issued weather warning

Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority issued a weather warning, as Indian Meteorological Department cautioned a list of states including neighboring states of Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram of heavy rainfall and cyclonic storm.

In this regard, the State Department and concerned Disaster Control Special Force was asked to keep close watch on the weather condition and the State Disaster Response Team on alert 24 by 7. State Disaster Management Authority informed all concerned groups and individuals to keep a close co-ordination and update the State Emergency Operation Centre.



## 10. Haryana Govt conferred with e-governance award

The Haryana government was conferred with prestigious award for outstanding work in the field of e-governance at the 'State of the States Conclave 2016' organized by private media channel, India Today, in New Delhi.

On behalf of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal, his Additional Principal Secretary Dr Rakesh Gupta received the award from Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

Notably, the Haryana government has taken many initiatives using information technology like e-birth registration, e-registry of land, e-PDS system to provide e-governance to the people.



## 11. Odisha Govt signed MoU to set up four more STPI centres

Odisha Government signed MoU with the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) for setting up of four more centres in the State. The new centres would come up at Angul, Jajpur, Koraput and Sambalpur. With this, the number of STPI centres will rise to eight in the State which is highest in the country.

The state government would provide 3 acres of developed land and minimum 20,000 sq ft



built-up space for each centre. The STPI centres would act as resource centres for IT and IT enabled services and export of software.

## 12. Odisha Govt offered special monetary aid to drought-affected farmers

The Odisha government offered special monetary assistance of Rs 100 per quintal of paddy to the drought-affected farmers of three districts of the state. The financial assistance will be given up to 50 quintals of paddy sold to the government.

The compensation amount will be directly credited to the bank account of the farmers whose crops were destroyed due to drought in the 2015 Kharif season. At least 3 lakh farmers will be benefited from the scheme. Farmers of the remaining 25 of the 28 drought-affected districts will get the special assistance in different phases.



## 13. Punjab CM dedicated Jang-E-Azadi Memorial to the nation

Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal inaugurated Jang-E-Azadi Memorial at Kartarpur near Jalandhar. He thanked the freedom fighters because of whom we are living in the free country. He dedicated the memorial to the country.

Families of freedom fighters were honored on the occasion. The project is worth 200 crore rupees and is spread over 25 acres.



The memorial displays scenes from the freedom struggle including the Gadar movement, Kuka movement, Pagri sambhal Jatta movement, Jallianwala Bagh massacre and Barbara Akali movement. The Memorial will be opened for public.

## 14. Delhi government starts deregistration of 15-year-old diesel vehicles to check pollution level

Delhi government has started deregistration of 15-year-old diesel vehicles plying on the roads in the national capital to check rising pollution level.

Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung at a high-level meeting asked the Registering Authority and Motor Licensing Officers to start the deregistration of such vehicles in the city.





The decision will lead to the reduction of two lakh vehicles on the city roads. The City Police and Transport Department have also been directed to immediately stop entry of overloaded trucks and non-destined trucks in Delhi.

### 15. Haryana government to implement multi-pronged strategy to deal with air pollution

Haryana Government decided to implement a multi-pronged strategy to effectively deal with the prevailing menace of air pollution. State are being encouraged to use 'Happy Seeder', a unique technique which is used for sowing wheat without burning of paddy residue.



A high-level committee has been constituted to explore the possibilities of setting up plants in the State for converting agriculture and urban waste into energy and submit the report within a month. Straw-baler would also be set up at each block to deal with the problem of burning of agricultural residue in the fields.

### 16. Meghalaya government to amend IT policy to new digital policy

Meghalaya Government decided to amend its existing Information Technology Policy to a new digital policy. The new policy is set would focus on several issues pertaining to Information Technology besides improving the internet and mobile connectivity in the state.



The proposed IT Park would have call centres and workshops for IT related infrastructure to make Shillong an IT destination. The State Government has also allotted 70 acres of land to the department for the setting up of the proposed park. The estimated cost of the project is around Rs 550-600 crores.

### 17. More islands to be opened for tourists in Andaman Nicobar

The Andaman-Nicobar Administration is promoting tourism to attract more tourists and some more islands will be opened for the tourists. The islands administration is promoting water sports activities. Apart from these efforts are being made to re-start the Sea Plane service.



To promote islands as a year-long tourist destination and make the visitors aware of unity and diversity aspect of the islanders, the home stay project is also being implemented. The administration also has plans to introduce adventure sports like submarine scooter.

### 18. Operation School Chalo launched in South Kashmir

After 'Operation Calm down' in South Kashmir, Indian Army launched 'Operation School Chalo' under which it aims to provide students with free coaching and involve them in sports. It has been launched because over 30 schools were burnt down over the past weeks and many educational institutions remained closed for about five months.



Various teachers and classes are being identified to hold classes in schools or community houses to teach children. The army has also come up with "Naujawan Club" where children and youth get a chance to show their talent in sports.

### 19. First LNG fuelled bus in the country launched by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in Kerala

For the 1st time in the Country, an LNG fuelled bus has been launched in Kerala. The LNG fuelled bus is being launched as part of a plan of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to use LNG directly for mass transportation and to reduce carbon emissions in the Country simultaneously generating savings.



The Government of India has already announced that it is planning to use LNG, which is cheaper than diesel, as a fuel for Railways and long-haul transportation. Introduction of LNG in transport segment will also help India to meet its COP21 commitment.

## 20. Uttarakhand High Court orders declaring hill stations as eco-sensitive

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Rajeev Sharma and Justice Alok Singh ordered Uttarakhand state's all hill stations and glaciers to be declared as eco-sensitive within three months, put a ban on all construction within 25 km radius of the glaciers and no fossil fuel be burnt within a radius of 10 km around rivers.



It has also been advised to restrict on the number of people visiting the glaciers even after levying tax on them. It was decided as a plea was filed requiring the court's action to stop illegal construction in Nainital.

## 21. 1st Indian National Open Accuracy Paragliding held in HP

In Himachal Pradesh, as many as 107 pilots from 15 countries took part in the first Indian National Open Accuracy Paragliding Championship at Bir-Billing, 60 kilometres from Dharamsala.



Nine women paragliders, three of them Indians, two Russian and one each from South Africa, Italy, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey completed four-day international meet.

One has to complete at least three of a total of four tasks assigned during the course of the competition.

## 22. Maharashtra signed MoU with Canada for improvement of state's urban infrastructure

In order to implement a joint action plan on improvement of the Maharashtra's urban infrastructure, an MoU was inked between Maharashtra government and Canada. It would benefit smart city project financing, improve affordable housing, skill and training. This would also strengthen Indo-Canadian relationships.



Projects under this plan will be overviewed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority and a group of officials from the Consulate General of Canada and Maharashtra's housing development, labour, information and technology departments.

### 23. Centre approves over Rs 70 crore disaster relief to Uttarakhand

Centre has approved the assistance of over 70 crore rupees for Uttarakhand from the National Disaster Relief Fund, which was announced at Centre has approved the assistance of over 70 crore rupees for Uttarakhand from the National Disaster Relief Fund.

The Committee examined the proposal based on the report of the Inter-Ministerial Central Team which visited the state affected by severe drought.



### 24. Nitish Kumar launched free power connection programme

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar launched free power connection programme, "Har Ghar Bijli Lagataar". Under the programme, the state government will provide free electricity connection to about 50 lakh households above the poverty line.

It aims to supply power to every household in Bihar by 2018. The aim is to provide free electricity connection and not free power. Beneficiaries will have to pay for the power consumed by them. The budget set aside is Rs 1857.5 crore, supported by Asian Development Bank.



### 25. Maharashtra became first state to adopt Fly Ash Utilization Policy

Maharashtra became the first state to adopt Fly Ash Utilization Policy. Maharashtra Cabinet approved a policy for 100% use of fly ash generated from thermal power plants and biogas plants for construction activities.

This fly ash will be used to make bricks, blocks, tiles, wall panels, cement and other construction materials.

It will protect the environment and help soil excavation. It will also create employment opportunities.



## 26. Union Government launches 'Kahin Bhi-Kabhi Bhi' medical facilities for ESIC beneficiaries of Delhi

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour and Employment, Bandaru Dattatreya launched the Kahin Bhi-Kabhi Bhi' initiative of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for its beneficiaries of Delhi. Kahin Bhi means any dispensary/Hospital and Kabhi Bhi means anytime.

With this initiative, all the network of dispensaries of Delhi has been made accessible to insured persons and their family members all the time. Besides, Bandaru Dattatreya also inaugurated the '06 bedded Day Care Unit' of ESI Dispensary in Sector 7, Dwarka in Delhi.



## 27. J&K Govt provides free education for school girls

With an aim to provide free education to all girls, the Jammu and Kashmir government ordered waiving off their school fees in the state-run educational institutions up to higher-secondary level.

An order to this effect was issued by Commissioner Secretary of Education Department, Shaleen Kabra in Jammu.



The move will help encourage enrolment of the girl students in the schools and further incentivise their education. The step comes as a fulfilment of the announcement in the budget of PDP-BJP government in 2016.

## 28. Mehbooba Mufti launched World Bank funded Jhelum-Tawi Flood Recovery Project

In order to implement World bank funded Rs 1,600-crore Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project, Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Mehbooba Mufti formally launched mega development Jhelum-Tawi flood recovery project to give massive progress for reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure post-2014 floods in the state.



World bank funding was inked in January 2016 between the Government of India and the World Bank of worth US \$250 million under the Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project.

### 29. UP CM Akhilesh Yadav launched integrated emergency services

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Akhilesh Yadav launched state-wide integrated emergency services UP-100. It is the official name of the Police Emergency Management System of Uttar Pradesh.

Previously, it was known as dial 100 Project. The state government has allocated 2200 crore rupees for the project.

It will be available initially in 11 districts of the state. It will ensure that police reach a caller in a maximum of twenty minutes in rural areas and within 15 minutes in urban areas. It is a 24-hour service.



### 30. Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu launched water distribution monitoring portal

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched the 'Smart Water Distribution Monitoring' web interface through which people can check the status of drinking water in the water tanks nearby.

The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system helps in reduction of water wastage as well as ensure seamless supply to the households. The monitoring portal is a part of ourvmc.org from where it can be accessed.



### 31. Andhra Pradesh CM launched Water Monitoring Portal

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N Chandrababu Naidu, launched the 'Smart Water Distribution Monitoring' web interface, which will enable the people to check the status of drinking water in the nearby water tanks.

The Water Distribution Monitoring portal is a part of the website ourvmc.org from where it can be assessed. The portal has Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that helps in reduction of water wastage as well as ensures seamless water supply to the households.



### 32. AROGYA fair organized in Himachal Pradesh

The Union Ministry of AYUSH, the Confederation of Indian Industry and the State Ayurveda Department has organized AROGYA fair in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

The Fair aims to promote and popularize Indian Systems of Medicine among the general public as well as bring the industry up to date about new developments in the sector.

It is for the first time that such kind of AROGYA fair has been organized in the state.



# Reports

## 1. India's gross-value added growth to hit 7.6% in 2016: DBS

India's gross value added growth is expected to reach 7.6 per cent in 2016 from 7.2 per cent in 2015. While private sector activity remains subdued, high frequency fiscal numbers point to sustained support from public capex spending, according to a report by global financial services major, DBS.

According to DBS, after an upside surprise from China, India manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, PMIs also jumped in October, affirming signs of a cyclical upturn in the region.



## 2. Forbes Fab 40 announced 'Dhoni' as most valued Indian athlete and Federer globally

India's cricket skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni retained most valued Indian athlete position in Forbes Fab 40 brand value of top sports labels list of 2016. Veteran tennis player Roger Federer marked his top-most position as the most valued athlete globally.

Sports business category revealed Nike, ESPN and Adidas as the top three spots. The Forbes Fab 40 list reveals the notional value of each brand's name. In the sports event category, American football tournament Super Bowl topped the list.



## 3. India rises to second spot on global business optimism index

A survey says, India has improved its ranking by one spot in a global index of business optimism, with policy reforms and Goods and Services tax expected to become a reality soon.

The report is prepared on the basis of a quarterly conducted global business survey of 2,500 businesses across 36 economies.

According to the latest Grant Thornton International Business Report, India was ranked second on the optimism index during





the third quarter (July-September 2016). Indonesia took the top spot, with the Philippines coming in third.

#### 4. Freedom of the Press 2016 report revealed

Freedom House revealed the Freedom of the Press 2016 report on theme 'The Battle for the Dominant Message'. According to annual report, press freedom declined to its lowest point in 12 years in 2015.



India's score was 41 on a 0 to 100 scale, as the report revealed that freedom to the press is partly free. Its major finding is that only 13 percent of the world's population enjoy a Free press and 41% of world's population has a Partly Free press.

#### 5. Scientists discovered lost river Chandrabhaga in Odisha

Panel who recently confirmed the existence of the mythical Saraswati river in India's North-West, have found another 'lost' Indian river in Odisha. Scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur now claim that they have found evidence.



IIT study that aims to verify this myth, confirms the presence of the Chandrabhaga river in the proximity of the Sun Temple of Konark. According to their report, the satellite imagery and Google Earth image showed an inactive river, passing north of the Sun Temple extending approximately parallel to the coast.

#### 6. India placed at 20th position in Climate Change Performance Index 2017

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2017 was revealed by German watch and Climate Action Network Europe, stating that with the historic Paris Agreement having recently entered into force, index 2017 has shown a boost for renewable energy and positive developments in energy efficiency. However, the necessary energy revolution is still happening too slowly.



India was positioned at 20th place. Since there wasn't any big emitter in line with the 1.5–2°C limit, none of the countries were placed at first three places, whereas France ranked 4th and Sweden ranked 5th.

## 7. 2016 edition of the Measuring the Information Society Report released

The 2016 edition of the Measuring the Information Society Report was launched during the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) 2016, in Gaborone, Botswana by UN International Telecommunication Union. Survey was done among 175 world economies, where Republic of Korea topped the list.



The Sub-Saharan Africa's Niger ranked lowest and India was placed at 138th position. The report includes a chapter looking into the current status of mobile adoption and analyze trends and developments in the digital world.

## 8. IIT Kharagpur ranked top varsity in India in international survey

For the second time in a row, IIT Kharagpur has been ranked as the top institution in the country by QS Employability Ranking, with IIT Bombay also figuring in the list of top 100 universities in the world.

The IIT Kharagpur has been ranked in the range of 71-80, the highest position among Indian institutions, out of 200 universities from across the world.

IIT Bombay, ranked next to IIT Kharagpur, is the only other institution from India to have been ranked among the top 100.



## 9. Singapore tops global education rankings

Singapore has the highest-achieving primary and secondary pupils in international education tests in Maths and Science. Primary school pupils in Northern Ireland were ranked sixth at Maths, the highest of any in Europe.

These international rankings, Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, are published every four years, based on tests taken by more than 600,000 students, aged nine to 10 and 13 to 14 in 57 countries.



## 10. New Zealand, Australia most preferred destination for Indian travelers

According to global travel search engine, Skyscanner, New Zealand emerged as a favorite among Indian travelers whereas, Australia was the second most searched destination. New Zealand witnessed a growth of 52% in travel searches from last year, whereas, Australia recorded an increase of 47% in travel searches.



Malaysia saw a rise of 28 per cent in travel searches and the United Kingdom, recorded a 15 per cent surge in searches since 2015.

## 11. India ranked 138 in ICT Development Index 2016

India has been ranked a low 138th out of 175 nations on a global index that measures the level of information and communication technology access, even as the number of households with Internet and computer has increased in the country over the last five years.



The index was released as part of the annual Measuring the Information Society Report for 2016 of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

# Resignations & Retirements

## 1. Organisation of Islamic Cooperation chief Iyad Madani resigned

The Secretary-General of the world's largest pan-Islamic body, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Iyad Madani resigned days after infuriating Egypt over a remark that mocked President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

Madani previously served as Saudi Arabia's Information Minister before being appointed to the Jeddah-based OIC.

Saudi Arabia had nominated Yusuf al-Othaimeen, a former minister of social affairs, as Madani's replacement. The 57-nation OIC is the largest body of Islamic nations.



## 2. World Cup top-scorer Miroslav Klose retired

Germany's prolific footballer, Miroslav Klose, the all-time World Cup top-scorer, announced his retirement at the age of 38 years.

Germany's leading scorer with 71 goals in 137 internationals was without a club after his Lazio contract expired last season and he will now join the national side's coaching team.

Klose now plans to join Germany's coaching staff after an invitation from head coach Joachim Loew.



## 3. Twitter's India Head Rishi Jaitly resigned from his duties

Rishi Jaitly who was Vice-President for Asia-Pacific, which includes India & Middle East, North Africa, for Twitter, resigned from his duties after four years in the company. However, he will resume his work till November-end and thereafter, he will return to the US.

Former Google India executive Jaitly had joined Twitter in November 2012. Prior to joining Twitter, he worked with Knight Foundation where he headed the investment arm in media and technology firms.



#### 4. Sprinter Dharambir handed eight-year ban

Haryana sprinter Dharambir Singh, who was barred from representing the country in the Rio Olympics at the last minute for failing a dope test, has been slapped an eight-year ban by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

200-metre runner Dharambir had returned positive for an anabolic steroid in an in-competition test conducted by the NADA during the Indian Grand Prix Meet in Bengaluru on July 11.



Since this was his second dope-related offence, the NADA Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel has handed him a lengthier ban of eight years.

#### 5. Cyrus Mistry removed as Chairman of Tata Global Beverages

The Board of Tata Global Beverages voted to remove Cyrus Mistry as the Chairman of the company and appointed Harish Bhat as the Chairman who is currently the Non-Executive Director on the board of the company.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) had also replaced Mistry with Ishaat Hussain as the Interim Chairman. Mistry continues to head several listed companies ranging from Tata Motors to Tata Steel and Tata Power.



#### 6. Tata Steel removed Cyrus Mistry as Chairman

Tata Steel's board passed a resolution to remove Cyrus Mistry as Chairman and named independent director O.P. Bhatt, a former State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman, as interim replacement. Mr. Bhatt will serve as chairman till the outcome of the company's Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), which has been convened on December 21.

Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services and Tata Global Beverages have removed Mr. Mistry as Chairman. While Ishaat Hussain replaced Mr. Mistry at TCS, Harish Bhat replaced him at Tata Global as interim chairman.



## 7. Nalanda University Chancellor George Yeo resigned

George Yeo, the second chancellor of Nalanda University, resigned from the post. Earlier on November 23, Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen had resigned as a Chancellor. He said the university's autonomy was being affected as he was "not even given notice" of leadership changes in the institution.

George Yeo is a former Singapore foreign minister. Prior to entering Parliament, he was a Brigadier-General in the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF).



## 1. NASA's most powerful space telescope completed

NASA successfully completed building its largest space telescope, which will be 100 times more powerful than the Hubble probe and may find the first galaxies that formed in the early universe.

The James Webb Space Telescope will be the successor to NASA's 26-year-old Hubble Space Telescope.

The Webb telescope's infrared cameras are so sensitive that it needs to be shielded from the rays of the Sun. A 5-layer sunshield of the size of a tennis court will prevent the background heat from the Sun from interfering with the telescope's infrared sensors.



## 2. Researchers of IISER ease recovery of marine oil spills

Compound 'gelator' developed by Indian Institute of Science Education and Research researchers, has made it easy to recover marine oil spills. Gelators are eco-friendly and could be applied over oil-water mixture in the form of powder thus extracting oil from oil-water mixture and could be reused.

Dr. Kana M. Sureshan's team from the School of Chemistry used glucose as a starting material and through chain of chemical reactions produced compounds (gelators).



## 3. India invited to join Russia's MBIR nuclear reactor development project

India has been invited by Russia to join so as to develop next-generation nuclear reactors and partner in its fast reactor research project, known as MBIR. A fast neutron reactor, is a type in which nuclear fission chain reaction is sustained by fast neutrons.

Fast research reactors development shows that by 2025, MBIR can be special kind facility in the world. The MBIR's design facility will help in conducting material testing research in those different environments.



#### 4. Mumbai based researchers identify biomarkers to diagnose TB

Mumbai-based researchers discovered two microRNA biomarkers present in serum samples that could be used for TB diagnosis.

The study covered measuring of the levels of 4 miRNAs in 30 newly diagnosed TB patients, 19 Multi Drug Resistant (MDR TB) patients and 10 patients who were cured of the disease. The use of these biomarkers may expedite the diagnosis of MDR-TB.

The researchers are still studying, to cover a larger population of drug-sensitive, MDR-TB and extra pulmonary TB patients.



#### 5. Indo-Japan MOU for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)

A Memorandum of Understanding with Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) and the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India has been approved by the Cabinet.

The advancement of academic research in the field of Earth Sciences for the benefit of the peace and human welfare is the prime objective of the MOU.

The collaboration with JAMSTEC will not only enhance capability in the field of atmospheric and climate research, ocean technology observation and hazard mitigation but also provide much needed exposure and hands-on experience to Indian scientists.



#### 6. NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale mission creates Guinness World Record

NASA scientists' new discovery insight into Earth's magnetosphere, has created Guinness world record for highest altitude fix of a GPS signal. Under Magnetospheric Multiscale mission, signal is fixed at 70000 kilometers above the surface of the Earth.

To complete such mission, scientists require four individual satellites that fly in a pyramid formation to map magnetic reconnection because GPS tracking allows the satellites to maintain a tight formation and obtain high resolution three-dimensional observations. The four MMS spacecraft required GPS





measurements with accurate tracking systems and orbit calculations to guide tight flying formations.

## 7. Water existence found on solar system's largest metallic asteroid Psyche

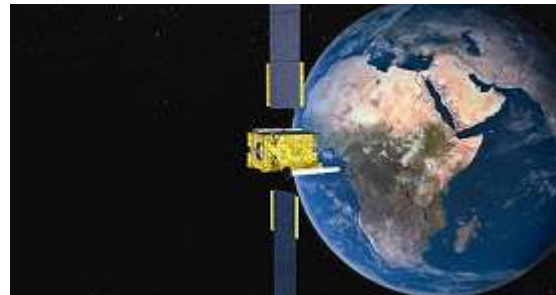
Solar system's largest metallic asteroid Psyche is found to have presence of water in a study published by Astronomical Journal. According to new observations by US Geological Survey and NASA, research was made using NASA Infrared Telescope Facility and found presence of water or hydroxyl on its surface which may be helpful in possible mechanisms of water molecules formation.



Psyche is made of pure nickel-iron metal, located in the asteroid belt and could be considered as a budding planet that was mostly destroyed by impacts billions of years ago.

## 8. China launched XPNAV-1 pulsar navigation satellite

China launched XPNAV-1 navigation satellite from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center to conduct in-orbit experiments and experiment new technologies. However, the satellite is still undergoing tests to check detector functions and space environment adaptability.



A unique feature about XPNAV-1 navigation satellite is that it can determine the location of a spacecraft in deep space and lead to autonomous spacecraft navigation in the future, with the help of its periodic X-ray signals emitted from pulsars. Satellite is designed and developed by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation

## 9. US scientists develops long acting malaria drug

Scientists in US have developed a new long acting drug capsule that that may effectively treat malaria and many other diseases. The capsule remains in the stomach for up to two weeks after being swallowed, gradually releasing its payload, paving the way for a long acting pill.



This type of drug delivery could replace inconvenient regimens that require repeated doses, which would help to overcome one of the major obstacles to treating and potentially eliminating diseases such as malaria.

## 10. China's Sunway TaihuLight topped TOP500 Supercomputer list

Semi-annual TOP500 Supercomputer list unveiled China's Sunway TaihuLight as world's fastest supercomputer with Chinese Tianhe-2 supercomputer at 2nd place and Supercomputer Titan of US Department of Energy at 3rd place. TOP500 list is based on machines' performance on the Linpack benchmark.



Semi-annual TOP500 crown included China's super computer in its topmost list for the consecutive 8th time and it has been for the 1st time that a Chinese supercomputer has bagged top slot without any U.S. processors or technology.

## 11. Ministry of Culture Sets up Science Cities

The Ministry of Culture sets up Science Cities namely Science City, Kolkata and Regional Science City, Lucknow. The Science Cities Scheme provides for setting up of Science Cities in all the states of the country subject to availability of funds for this purpose.



The states willing to avail of this Scheme have to provide land and share the cost of setting up of facility and corpus for upkeep and maintenance. The tentative time of completion of the project as per the Science Cities Scheme is 54 months from the date of start of the project.

## 12. Scientists discovered exoplanet GJ 536 b around red dwarf star GJ 536

Spain Scientists Alejandro Suarez Mascareno from the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias (IAC) and the University of La Laguna (ULL) discovered a super-Earth like exoplanet GJ 536 b revolving around a red dwarf star GJ 536.



This exoplanet revolving the star GJ 536 is not within the star's habitable zone but its short orbital period of 8.7 days and the luminosity of its star. Exoplanet is rocky in nature whereas the star is much smaller and cooler than the sun.

### 13. NASA successfully launched NOAA Advanced Geostationary Weather Satellite

NASA successfully launched for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) the first in a series of highly advanced geostationary weather satellites.

NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R (GOES-R) will boost the nation's weather observation capabilities, leading to more accurate and timely forecasts, watches and warnings.

GOES-R also will be part of the Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) System, an international satellite-based search and rescue network operated by NOAA. The satellite is carrying a special transponder that can detect distress signals from emergency beacons.



### 14. Tianlian I-04 satellite was successfully launched by China

Tianlian I-04 satellite was successfully launched by China, which is the fourth in a constellation and was launched with an objective to achieve global network operation. It was designed by China Academy of Space Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

It has been estimated that network will provide measurement and control services for China's manned spacecraft, space labs and space technology. Prior to this, China launched its first data relay satellite, the Tianlian I-01, in April 2008.



### 15. Prototype mySmartCane developed for blind

A PhD student, Vasileios Tsormpatzoudis, from The University of Manchester has developed a prototype tool, mySmartCane, that could help transform the lives of the blind and visually impaired.

He has added a low-cost embedded computer to the white cane that functions in a similar way to a car parking sensor. mySmartCane allows visual impaired people to sense their environment beyond the physical length of their cane. The ultrasonic ball wirelessly measures the distance to approaching objects and converts this data into an audio signal.



## 16. Nasa developing breakfast food bars for deep space mission

NASA scientists have developed a variety of food bars that astronauts can eat for breakfast in the Orion spacecraft to explore deep space destinations. Orion has limited room inside it to accommodate the supplies and food astronauts will need during their missions.

These specially developed food bars will help reduce the amount of supplies Orion will carry for its crew. Orion's first mission with crew will launch as early as 2021 atop the powerful Space Launch System rocket currently in development.



# Sports

## 1. Lewis Hamilton bagged 2016 Mexican Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton defeated Nico Rosberg by 19 points to win the 2016 Mexican Grand Prix. Daniel Ricciardo scored 3rd position followed by Max Verstappen at 4th and Sebastian Vettel at 5th spot.

With this win, Hamilton has cut Nico Rosberg's championship lead to 19 points. It gave him his 51st victory, equaling the great Alain Prost in second on the all-time list. Only Michael Schumacher has tasted more victories in Formula One's long history.



## 2. India defeated Pakistan to win Asian Champions Trophy

Men's Asian Champions Trophy was bagged by India defeating Pakistan by 3-2 in the final in Malaysia. It is India's second title of this tournament as first time it was in 2011 when India won.

Goals from Rupinder Pal Singh (18th minute), Yousuf Affan (23rd) and Nikkin Thimmaiah (51st) helped India win the challenge from Pakistan.



This was the first time the teams clashed in the finals of a continental tournament since India displaced Pakistan as the Asian Games champions held in Incheon, South Korea in 2014.

## 3. Women's national team cricketer Jhulan Goswami became world number 1 bowler, after 7 years again

Seven years after reaching the pinnacle of the sport, the 33-year old Jhulan Goswami, has regained the world number 1 bowler position. She replaced England pacer Katherine Brunt. Jhulan is affectionately known as the 'Chakdaha Express' back home in Bengal.

The Australian team retained its topmost spot. India is currently holding sixth position out of eight teams.



#### 4. Sania Mirza retained topmost position in Women's Doubles for 2nd consecutive year

Women's doubles topmost position is retained by Indian tennis player Sania Mirza, for the second consecutive year. She has gone on to hold the No.1 ranking for 81 consecutive weeks. Sania has won Australian Open with Hingis, Cincinnati Masters with Barbora Strycova in 2016.



Sania played 7 Women's Tennis Association, WTA titles, a Grand Slam and a semi-final finish in the year ending WTA Finals in Singapore.

#### 5. NSFs to get grant only after registering with NGO-PS Portal

The Sports Ministry has made it mandatory for all the National Sports Federation to register themselves with NGO-PS Portal to receive grants. NITI Aayog has made it mandatory for all non-government organisations to register with 'NGO-PS (Partnership System) Portal' for seeking grants from any Department/ Ministry of Government of India.



The requirement for registration on the NGO-PS Portal is in the interest of transparency and urged NSFs to get themselves registered.

#### 6. NSFs advised to Identify Medal Prospects for 2020 Olympics by November-End

Department of Sports has advised NSFs to identify medal prospects and their support staff for the 2020 Olympic Games by 30th November 2016. This is to ensure that the core probable get support of dedicated world class support staff on a continuing basis to be able to work as a coherent team and deliver.



The Department has further advised NSFs to prepare the programme of training and exposures of the medal prospects for the year 2017. In respect of the sports discipline(s) in which NSFs are suspended, this exercise is to be undertaken by Sports Authority of India.

## 7. Special Certificate Course in Sports Coaching for J&K Sportspersons Started at NIS Patiala

The Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel inaugurated Special Certificate Course in Sports Coaching for Jammu and Kashmir sportspersons at Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports (NSNIS) Patiala.



Each batch consists of 60 sportspersons, coaches and physical education teachers. National Sports University is being planned in Manipur and a Paralympics Centre at Hyderabad. The Minister distributed sports kit to all the participants of the course and the copies of Syllabus in Hindi in 26 sports disciplines were released.

## 8. Indian shuttler Pratul won maiden title at Bahrain International Challenge

Young Indian shuttler Pratul Joshi clinched his maiden international title by notching up a hard-fought win over Aditya Joshi in the finals of the Bahrain International Challenge badminton tournament at Segayya in Bahrain. Pratul won USD 17,500 as prize money.



Other Indians to reach the finals in men's doubles was the pair of Vighnesh Devlekar and Rohan Kapoor. Farha Mather and Ashna Roy reached women's doubles finals.

### 9. Indian won 8 gold medals in Commonwealth Championship

India won eight gold medals and as many silver in the Commonwealth Wrestling Championship held in New Delhi.

**Results:**

Category		Gold	Silver
Freestyle	61 Kg	Harful	Vikas
	65 Kg	Bajrang	Rahul Maan
	74 Kg	Jitender	Sandeep Kate
	86 Kg	Deepak	Arun
	125 Kg	Hitender	Krishan
Greeco-Roman	59 Kg	Ravinder	Krishan
	71 Kg	Dipak	Rafiq
	98 Kg	Hardeep	Sachin



### 10. Andy Murray achieved world number one ranking in Tennis

In Tennis, Briton Andy Murray attained the world number one ranking for the first time replacing Novak Djokovic. Murray is now the first Briton to hold the top ranking.

Murray became is the 26th man to hold the spot since computerized rankings began in 1973. Djokovic would have retained the top spot had he entered the Final.

Murray needed to enter the Final of the ongoing Paris Masters to go at the ATP rankings and he did so after Milos Raonic pulled out before their semi-final due to injury.



### 11. Pacquiao reclaimed WBO welterweight title for third time

Filipino southpaw Manny Pacquiao reclaimed the World Boxing Organization welterweight title for the third time in Las Vegas, USA. He was given a unanimous decision victory over former champion Jesse Vargas in his comeback fight.

The 37-year-old Pacquiao systematically dismantled the former welterweight champion despite Vargas' size and reach advantage. Pacquiao won the WBO title for the first time in 2010 when he beat Miguel Cotto.





## 12. Indian Women's hockey team won Asian Champions Trophy 2016

Indian Women's hockey team lifted the Asian Champions Trophy 2016 in Singapore and defeated China 2-1. The first goal for India was scored by Deep Grace Ekka in the 13th minute which was equalized by Zhong Mengling in the 44th minute.

This is for the first time that Indian eves won the Asian Champions Trophy competition. Top five women's teams of Asia took part in this tournament. This was also the qualifying round for the 2017 Asia Cup.



## 13. Air Force Club Iraq lifted Asian Federation Cup by defeating Bengaluru FC

Air Force Club, Iraq lifted the Asian Federation Cup by defeating Bengaluru Football Club 1-0 at Doha. After a scrappy first half, that left the two sides in a deadlock at 0-0, top scorer in the Cup, Hammadi Ahmed tapped in a goal in the 70 minute to seal the fate of the match in favour for Air Force Club Iraq.

Bengaluru FC became the first Indian club to qualify for the final. No Indian team in the sport has ever won an Asian level title since the national side bagged the Asian Games Gold at Jakarta in 1962.



## 14. Indian Wushu team won 5 medals in 8th Sanda World Cup

India Wushu team bagged an impressive five medals, including four silver and one bronze, in the eighth Sanda World Cup held at Xian, China. Arjuna Awardee and world silver medalist Y Sanathoi Devi won the silver for India in 52kg category after losing to China's Luan Zhang.

The other silver medalists for India were Uchit Sharma in the 52kg, Suraya Bhanu Pratap Singh in 60kg and Monika in 56kg categories. Pooja Kadian in 75kg category secured the lone bronze medal.



### 15. 2016 BNP Paribas Masters Doubles title bagged by Henri Kontinen and John Peers

ATP World Tour Masters 1000 team title 2016 BNP Paribas Masters held in Paris was bagged by Henri Kontinen and John Peers defeating Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut. With this win, they have attained No. 5 spot in the Emirates ATP Doubles Race to London.

Herbert/Mahut were trying to clinch their fourth Masters 1000 crown of the season after securing back-to-back-to-back Masters 1000 titles. Herbert/Mahut will receive 600 Emirates ATP Doubles Rankings points and get €108,750 in prize money.



### 16. Petra Kvitova clinched 2016 WTA Elite Singles Trophy

2016 WTA Elite Singles Trophy held at Zhuhai, China, was bagged by two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova defeating Ukrainian Elina Svitolina. Venus Williams was the defending champion for the title but she chose to withdraw her participation despite qualifying for the edition.

With this win, Petra is ranked world no. 13 by the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA). Zhuhai, China, hosts the Elite Trophy for the first five years until 2019. The WTA Elite Trophy is the secondary year-end professional women’s tennis tournament on the WTA Tour.



### 17. Narinder Batra elected as new president of International Hockey Federation

Narinder Batra became the first Indian to be elected the President of the International Hockey Federation. He was voted to the top post during the penultimate day of the 45th FIH Congress in Dubai.

Batra, who is the president of Hockey India, defeated David Balbirnie of Ireland and Australia's Ken Read to become the 12th FIH President and also the first Asian to grab the post. Batra got 68 votes in his favor.



### 18. Roger Federer honored with Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award

Roger Federer was honored with Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award for a 12th time. Selection was made by fans via ATPWorldTour.com. He received 56 per cent of all votes cast by fans followed by Andy Murray, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Kei Nishikori. He has been winner of the award six straight years from 2004-09.



Federer has won a record total of 33 ATP World Tour Awards. The Bryan brothers also extend their reign in the doubles category for ATPWorldTour.com Fans' Favorite presented by Moët & Chandon to a record 12th straight year.

### 19. Padmini Rout won National Women Premier Championship for third time

International Master Padmini Rout won the National Women Premier Chess Championship for the third time after she played out a draw with her Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB ) teammate Eesha Karavade. The latter won the bronze while S Vijayalakshmi of Air India won silver medal.



She will be a part of the Indian women team in the next World team chess championship along with Grandmasters Koneru Humpy and D Harika. Padmini Rout was honored with the Ekalavya Award by Odisha Government in 2009.

### 20. SP Chawrasia won first Asian Tour title outside India

India's S.S.P. Chawrasia won his maiden Asian Tour title outside India to win the US\$1 million Resorts World Manila Masters. Nicholas FUNG of Malaysia and Sam CHIEN of USA stood second and third respectively. This was Chawrasia's second Asian Tour title of the season, having won the Hero Indian Open in March, and fifth overall.



The Resorts World Manila Masters is a golf tournament on the Asian Tour. It was played for the first time in November 2013.

## 21. Aditi Ashok won Women's Indian Open

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok became the first Indian woman to win a Ladies European Tour title by clinching the Hero Women's Indian Open.

She shot an even par-72 in the final round to win the title. Brittany Lincicome of the US and Belen Mozo of Spain finished tied second.

Aditi won a prize money of USD 60,000. The win propelling her to the top spot in the Rookie of the Year rankings.



## 22. Lewis Hamilton won Brazilian Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton won the Brazilian Grand Prix 2016 in Interlagos circuit, Sao Paulo. Hamilton was followed by his Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg in second position and Red Bull's Max Verstappen in third position.

This was Hamilton's third straight race. It was also his first Brazilian Grand Prix win in 10 attempts. It was the 52nd of his career, taking him ahead of Alain Prost in the all-time list, with only Michael Schumacher (91) ahead of him now.



## 23. International Olympic Committee stripped 10 athletes of their medals from 2008 Olympics

Since banned steroids were found during retests of samples from the games, IOC announced to strip medals from 2008 Olympics athletes. No gold medalists were among the 10, nine of whom belong to former Soviet nations. 6 athletes who did not win medals in 2008 were also disqualified.

Three silver medalists whose medals were stripped were Vitaly Rahimov, Khasan Baroev and Irina Nekrasova. Canadian weightlifter Christine Girard has chances to move up to the bronze spot because of Nekrasova's disqualification.



## 24. Super Series Premier title bagged by PV Sindhu

PV Sindhu bagged Super Series Premier title defeating Sun Yu of China in the USD 700,000 China Open badminton tournament. Recently, she became first Indian women to win a silver at Rio Games.

Prior to this win, the same title has been bagged by Malaysia's Wong Mew Choo in 2007 and India's Saina Nehwal in 2014.

Winners in other categories were Denmark's Jan O Jorgensen in Men's singles and Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon in Men's doubles category.



## 25. Ethiopia's Worknesh Degefa and Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge bagged Delhi Half Marathon

Delhi Half Marathon race winners were Ethiopia's Worknesh Degefa in women's category and Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge in Men's category. Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge finished off race in his style in 59 minute and 44 seconds and covered the 21.097km distance whereas Ethiopia's Worknesh Degefa finished her race in one hour, seven minutes and 42 seconds.

Winners were honored with USD 27,000 for their historic win. Kipchoge won a silver in 5000m race in the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games. Around 34000 people participated in the marathon in different categories.



## 26. Argentina won their first ever Davis cup

Argentina have won their first Davis Cup title after defeating Croatia in the final. Argentina was playing in its fifth final. Federico Delbonis swept past Ivo Karlovic in straight sets to complete a stirring 3-2 comeback win over hosts Croatia.

Argentina became only the third team to come back from 2-1 down in the final since the World Group Davis Cup format was introduced in 1981. At present, Argentina is Number 1 on the Davis Cup ranking by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).



## 27. Mariamma Koshy takes over as new Hockey India President

Hockey India announced Ms. Mariamma Koshy as its new President with effect from 25 November 2016. She has replaced Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra.

Mohd. Mushtaque Ahmad, HI Secretary General, has taken over as the Chairman of the Hockey India League Governing Board. Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra made history after he became the first non-European candidate to be elected as the President of the International Hockey Federation. It is also the first time an Indian has headed an international Olympic sports governing body.



## 28. Gaganjeet Bhullar won 2016 Indonesia Open

Gaganjeet Bhullar won the BANK BRI-JCB Indonesia Open at the Pondok Indah Golf Course in Jakarta for the second time in his career after closing with a four-under-par 68. He had earlier won the event in 2013. It was his seventh Asian Tour victory and a second title this season.

Jeev Milkha Singh came second. Bhullar became the fifth player to win the event twice. In October 2016, Bhullar won the 2016 Shinhan Donghae Open in South Korea. He was awarded Arjuna Award in 2013.



## 29. Karen Rolton inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame

Former Australia women's captain Karen Rolton was inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame by ICC Chief Executive David Richardson.

Rolton became the 81st player to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame and the sixth woman to receive the accolade. She played in 14 Tests and 141 One-Day Internationals. She is the first recipient of the ICC Women's Player of the Year award in 2006.



### 30. Sachin Singh won gold at the AIBA Youth World Championships

Sachin Singh became the third Indian boxer ever to bag gold at the AIBA Youth World Championships.

In the 49 kg weight class, Sachin recorded a stunning unanimous victory over Cuban national champion Jorge Grinan in the summit clash at St Peterburg, Russia. India finished the tournament with one gold and a bronze, a marked improvement from the solitary bronze won in the 2014 edition. Naman Tanwar in the 91 kg had settled for a bronze after losing in the semifinal.

