

CURRENT AFFAIRS



February 2016

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Current Affairs February 2016

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

Audience

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

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

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APPOINTMENTS

News 1: Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi is appointed as India's Envoy to Mexico

Senior IFS officer, Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi was appointed as India's Ambassador to Mexico on January 29, 2016. Pardeshi is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1991 batch. He was the Joint Secretary (Passport division) in the Union Ministry of External Affairs before this. He has also served as the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of India in Jakarta from 2007 to 2010. During 1993-2001, he worked with the Indian Missions in Mexico, Colombia as well as in Nepal.



News 2: P Harish is appointed as India's Envoy to Vietnam

The Union Government of India has appointed P Harish on January 30, 2016 as India's Envoy to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Harish is an Indian Foreign Services (IFS) officer of the 1990 batch. He was the Consul General in Houston, United States before taking up this new assignment. He has also been in other top positions like serving in the Indian Missions of Cairo and Riyadh, where he was handling Political, Commercial, Project, Press and Information portfolios.



News 3: Swati Bhattacharya is appointed as FCB Ulka's Chief Creative Head

Swati Bhattacharya has joined FCB Ulka Advertising as its chief creative head on February 01, 2016. She was the principal partner of Dentsu Mama Labs before this stint. She will replace Sarbir Singh, who resigned in December 2015.

Bhattacharya was with JWT India in the beginning of her career and she served the agency for over two decades. She joined Dentsu in 2014. Her exemplary work for brands like Horlicks, Maggi sauces, Pizza Hut, Pepsi and UNICEF are well admired.



News 4: Datta Padsalgikar is the new Mumbai Police Commissioner

Datta Padsalgikar is the new Police Commissioner of Mumbai with effect from January 31, 2016. He will replace Ahmed Javed, who is now the Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Padsalgikar was a 1982-batch IPS officer from the Maharashtra cadre. He is the 40th police commissioner of the city. He was the Additional Director in the Intelligence Bureau before this police commissioner role. He is not only one of the most senior-most officers in Maharashtra but he also has the image of an honest and non-controversial officer.



News 5: Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey is appointed as the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey is the new Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) from January 30, 2016. He is appointed for a period of three years. The CCPD is appointed by the Central Government.

Dr. Pandey is a Medical Graduate from Agra University (1990 batch) and has worked with Sewa Bharti, an NGO in the field of rehabilitation of slum dwellers and Akhil Bhartiya Dristihin Kalyan Sangh, an NGO for the visually challenged. Before joining CCPD, Dr. Pandey was with Saksham, an NGO working in the domain of disabilities.



News 6: Archana Ramasundram is the first woman to become Chief of a Paramilitary Force

Ms. Archana Ramasundram was appointed the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) on February 01, 2016. She is the first woman to become the head of a paramilitary force. She is a Tamil Nadu cadre IPS Officer. She was the Director of National Crime Records Bureau before joining SSB. She will replace Bihar's 1981-batch IPS cadre A R K Kini. The SSB is the force that guards India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan. Ms. Ramasundram will remain the DG of SSB till 30 September 2017.



News 7: Saroj Kumar Jha is appointed on a key World Bank position

India's Saroj Kumar Jha has been appointed the Senior Director at the World Bank's key department on February 02, 2016. This position is at the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group of the Bank.

He was World Bank's Global Manager for Disaster Risk Management Practice before being promoted to this position. Mr. Jha studied in the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and he has enough experience with the Indian government and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).



News 8: J K Garg is elected as the MD of Corporation Bank

Mr. JK Garg has been appointed as the new Managing Director of Corporation Bank from February 01, 2016. He will replace S R Bansal. Mr. Garg was the Executive Director in UCO Bank before joining this position in Corporation bank.

He joined Corporation Bank in 1986. He has experience in the fields, of credit management, recovery, forex, retail banking and managerial administration.



News 9: Virender Sehwag is appointed as the mentor of Kings XI Punjab

Virender Sehwag has become the mentor of the Kings XI Punjab team of Indian Premier League (IPL) on February 01, 2016. He will work with coach Sanjay Bangar and will be responsible for motivating and mentoring the team. He has ties with the KXIP team for over two years as a player. Now, he will be associated as their mentor. Sehwag, on his part, said he is looking forward to his new role with the franchise.



News 10: S N Prasad is appointed as the Marketing Director of CIL

SN Prasad has become the Marketing Director for Coal India Limited from February 01, 2016. He replaced B K Saxena. Mr. Prasad was the General Manager (Sales & Marketing) in South Eastern Coalfields Limited, a subsidiary of CIL before getting promoted to this role. Prasad was an officer of sales and marketing discipline all through his career.

He joined CIL in 1982 as a management trainee and has also worked in coal mines as well as corporate offices of the coal companies.



News 11: SC appoints Lodha Committee to oversee the sale of PACL assets

The Supreme Court has conferred an overseeing committee on February 03, 2016 with the lead of Chief Justice RM Lodha to sell the physical assets of Pearls Agrotech Corporation Ltd (PACL). The sale is aimed to reach and refund 49 thousand crore rupees of the investors.

The refund will be made to the public who invested in the company's collective investment scheme (CIS) that was later found illegal by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).



News 12: Ambiga Dhiraj is appointed as the CEO of Mu Sigma

Ambiga Dhiraj has been appointed as the CEO of Mu Sigma, a Data Analytics firm on February 03, 2016. Ms. Dhiraj becomes the first ever woman CEO of an IT firm that has assets worth at least \$1 billion.

She was the COO of Mu Sigma and joins the position of her husband Dhiraj Rajaram as CEO. Rajaram is scheduled to relocate to the United States to deal with the 'Fortune 500' clients.



News 13: Major General Jai Shanker Menon is appointed as the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

India's Major General Jai Shanker Menon will be the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). He was appointed by the UN Secretary, General Ban Ki-moon on February 03, 2016.

As per the United Nations statement, Major General Menon will replace Lt General Purna Chandra Thapa of Nepal. Major General Menon occupied the post of Additional Director, General Equipment Management in the Indian Army. From 2012 - 2013, he was General Officer, Commanding an Infantry Division.



News 14: Aruna Sethi is appointed as the Head of Indian Cost Accounting Service

Ms. Aruna Sethi became the head of Indian Cost Accounting Service with effect from February 01, 2016. She was the Principal Adviser (Cost) before joining this position. She is the first woman to head the Indian Cost Accounting Service (ICoAS). Aruna has worked in the Ministries of Consumer Affairs, Corporate Affairs, Finance, Department of Expenditure, Food and Public Distribution, among others.



News 15: RS Mann is appointed as the Chairman of Punjab Pay Commission

Punjab Chief Secretary, R S Mann is the new Chairman of the Sixth Punjab Pay Commission. He was appointed by the Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal with effect from February 3, 2016. The new chairman, Mr. Mann is expected to mandate recommendations about new pay scales for the employees and revision of pension for pensioners of the state government employees. This will be done after having detailed deliberations with the various state employees' and pensioners' associations.



News 16: DJ Pandian is appointed as the Vice president of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved appointment of Mr Pandian, Gujarat's former chief secretary, as the vice-president and chief investment officer on February 03, 2016.



AIIB is a 100-million-dollar multi-lateral financing company based in Beijing, China. This bank was established with the view to lend funds for infrastructure projects such as energy, transportation, urban construction and logistics apart from education and healthcare in Asia.

News 17: Justice R S Reddy is appointed as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court

Justice Ramayyagari Subhash Reddy is the new Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court from February 03, 2016. He will replace Justice Jayant M Patel. Prior to the appointment, Justice Reddy was Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. He has become the first judge to be elevated as the Chief Justice of a High Court since the government had brought into force the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, which had overturned the collegium system of appointing judges.



News 18: HL Samariya is now the Central Provident Fund Commissioner

Mr. Heera Lal Samariya has been offered the additional charge of Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC). He is a 1985 batch IAS officer from the Telangana cadre. He has been given the charge for three months or till the appointment of a regular commissioner. Mr. Samariya is the Additional Secretary in the Labour Ministry before this. He was promoted from the post of Joint Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. He has previously held top portfolios as being the Director of Madras Fertilizers Limited and has also served as an Independent Director of Indian Potash Limited as well.



News 19: US General John Nicholson is appointed as the NATO commander in Afghanistan

Army Lieutenant General John Nicholson has been named as the commander of the NATO forces in Afghanistan. Nicholson takes the position from US General John Campbell.

Nicholson is the US Army commander of NATO land forces currently. He has experience of working as the chief of staff of operations for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and US Forces - Afghanistan, director of Pakistan and Afghanistan Coordination Cell for the Joint Staff and deputy commander - Stability of ISAF Regional Command - South.



News 20: Viacom names CEO Philippe Dauman as Executive Chairman

Viacom's CEO, Philippe Dauman has been named the executive chairman on February 04, 2016. Dauman will occupy the position of founder, Sumner Redstone. Redstone has also left the executive chairman position of CBS Corps being replaced by CEO Leslie Moonves. The 92-year-old Redstone has now become the chairman emeritus of Viacom. Dauman will now serve as a Redstone trustee. It is being rumored that Dauman's compensation will not increase with the added title.



News 21: Rahul Dravid is now a member of Anti-Corruption Unit Oversight Group of ICC

Former Indian cricket player, Rahul Dravid has been named as a member of the newly formed Anti-Corruption Unit Oversight Group of International Cricket Council (ICC) on February 04, 2016. ICC Chairman Shashank Manohar took this decision in a meeting at ICC Headquarters in Dubai. Apart from Dravid, as a member, this group will have a Chairman, two members and two ex-officio members. The team will provide independent input to tackle corruption and its implementation.



News 22: World Bank expert Parameshwaran Iyer is appointed to lead the Swachh Bharat Mission

World Bank's water and sanitation specialist, Parameshwaran Iyer, has been named as the new Secretary of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department in Swachh Bharat Mission on February 04, 2016. Prime Minister Narendra Modi allotted the post for a period of two years. Iyer, an IAS officer of the UP cadre, had launched Jal Suraj program in India. He had taken voluntary retirement in 2009 and joined the World Bank.



News 23: Indian Origin Singaporean, Vishal Mehta is the Diamond Trade Body's New President

A 34-year-old Indian-origin businessman based in Singapore, Vishal Mehta, was appointed as the President of the newly-formed International Grown Diamond Association (IGDA) on February 06, 2016. Mehta is the CEO of Singapore-based IIA Technologies. This firm grows diamond in its state-of-the-art facility. IGDA is a platform of more than 10 leading grown diamond producers, distributors and retailers across the world under the same umbrella.



News 24: Soumitra Dutta appointed as Dean of Cornell's New Business College

It was announced on February 05, 2016 that Indian origin academician, Soumitra Dutta, will become the dean of the prestigious Cornell University's new College of Business. The institute will start with in the academic year 2016-17. Dutta is an alumnus of the IIT-Delhi. He is the current dean and professor of management and organizations in the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at the Cornell University. His work has been widely published in the Harvard Business Review, European Management Journal, Management Science, and other journals.



News 25: Brijbhushan Sharan Singh Appointed as the President of SAWF

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief, Brijbhushan Sharan Singh is named the president of the South Asian Wrestling Federation (SAWF) on February 08, 2016. Tabiur Rehman of Bangladesh was also elected the Secretary General. The federation has unanimously authorized Mr. Singh to appoint one Joint Secretary from India and a Treasurer from Afghanistan and one executive member from each of the SAF (South Asia Foundation) countries. These include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.



News 26: R.K. Pachauri Appointed as Executive Vice Chairman and Ajay Mathur as New DG of TERI

TERI Chief, RK Pachauri was on February 08, 2016 appointed as the Executive Vice Chairman of the organization after the new Director General Ajay Mathur took over the charge from him. Pachauri headed TERI works in sustainable development, energy and climate change. He has been involved with TERI for the past 35 years. Mathur is a former Director General of Bureau of Energy Efficiency, under the Power Ministry. The post of Executive Vice Chairman has been recently created and Dr. Pachauri will be the first to hold the post.



News 27: Harinder Sidhu is the new Australian High Commissioner to India

Indian-origin Harinder Sidhu has been appointed as the nation's new High Commissioner to India by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia on February 11, 2016. Sidhu, has worked in Moscow and Damascus and will replace Patrick Suckling. Australian foreign affairs minister, Julie Bishop on the occasion said that India is one of Australia's closest and most significant partners in the Indo-Pacific region. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Economics degrees from the University of Sydney.



News 28: R K Verma: The New Secretary of Railway Board

Mr. R K Verma has assumed the charge as Secretary, Railway Board on February 09, 2016. He is a 1980 batch officer of Indian Railway Services of Engineers. Verma was an Adviser (Public Grievance) to the Minister of State (MoS) for Railways earlier. He also has Life Fellowship of the Institution of Engineers (India), Institution of Permanent Way Engineers (India) and the Indian Institute of Bridge Engineers as well. He has also undergone first hand training in the Heavy Haul Operations in South Africa.



News 29: Tamar Hahn is appointed as the Director of UN Information Center

United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon on February 10, 2016 appointed Tamar Hahn as the Director of United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires. Hahn was engaged as the Regional Adviser for Resource Mobilization and Partnerships at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office in Panama City, Panama. She is fluent in English, Spanish and Hebrew. Ms. Hahn holds a master's degree in Journalism and Latin American studies from New York University, and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tel Aviv in Israel.



News 30: Ashok Bhargava is re-appointed as the Chairman of Indian Tea Association

Ashok Kumar Bhargava has been re-appointed on February 05, 2016 as the Chairman of the Indian Tea Association. He will also be the chairman of Consultative Committee of Plantation Associations (CCPA). Bhargava is the Managing Director of Apeejay Tea Limited. Further, Azam Monem, Director, McLeod Russel India Limited and Vivek Goenka, President, Warren Tea Limited have also been re-elected as the Vice Chairman and the Additional Vice-Chairman of the association respectively.



News 31: Lawyer Davinder Singh is appointed as the Vice Chairman of ICC

A top Indian origin lawyer, Davinder Singh on February 11, 2016 has been named as Vice-Chairman of the Paris based International Chamber of Commerce Commission (ICC) on Corporate Responsibility and Anti-corruption. Mr Singh, a member of parliament from 1988-2006 and chief executive of the local law firm Drew & Napier, is appointed to the leadership of one of 13 policy commissions under the ICC, which forges international rules, mechanisms and standards used across the globe.



News 32: Ashok Chawla is appointed as the Chairman of TERI

TERI's governing council appointed Ashok Chawla on February 12, 2016 as its new Chairman. Mr Chawla is by career a bureaucrat and a former finance secretary, who last month retired as the Chief of Fair Trade Regulator Competition Commission, as the new Chairman of its Governing Council. He has said that he has had a preliminary discussion with Teri Director General Ajay Mathur on having an external ombudsman to help address issues faced by employees.



News 33: Piruz Khambatta is named as the ambassador of Make in India initiative

Rasna's Chairman, Piruz Khambatta was recently named the ambassador of the government's 'Make in India' initiative on February 13, 2016. The company, Rasna, said it will support entrepreneurs, who wish to develop plants in India to manufacture food products. Rasna is the leader in the concentrated drinks category and the largest manufacturers of instant powder in the world. They have been a stellar example of an outstanding "Made in India" global iconic brand. Rasna has a 90% market share and actually owns the category.



News 34: Sri Srinivasan: The 1st Indian American Judge of the US Supreme Court

It was announced on February 14, 2016 that Sri Srinivasan will be the first Indian-American Judge of the US Supreme Court to replace Justice Antonin Scalia after his unexpected death. Srinivasan is originally from a village near Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli. He is 48 years old and was born in Chandigarh. He has served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit since he was confirmed on a 97-0 bipartisan vote in the U.S. Senate in May 2013. Republican senators who supported him then would likely be asked to justify why they couldn't back him for the Supreme Court.



News 35: Prof. Yogesh Tyagi: New Vice Chancellor of the Delhi University

President Pranab Mukherjee appointed Yogesh Tyagi, dean of the law faculty at South Asian University (SAU), on February 15, 2016 as the new Vice Chancellor of Delhi University (DU).

The HRD ministry had forwarded a panel of four names to the President, who is the Visitor of all Central Universities, to make the final selection. Other contenders for this post were Professor R N K Bamezai of JNU, Bidyut Chakrabarty of DU and UPSC member Hemchandra Gupta.



News 36: U.K. Sinha gets Extension as the SEBI Chairman

Mr. UK Sinha will remain India's capital and commodities market regulator for one more year. The government on February 15, 2016 extended Sinha's term as the chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) till March 01, 2017.

His extension was approved by the appointments committee of the cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sinha is a Bihar-cadre IAS officer. He is the second-longest serving chief in SEBI's over two-decade history after DR Mehta.



News 37: Vilas A. Tonapi is appointed as the Director of Indian IIMR

Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi is the new Director of Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Rajendranagar. He is currently the Principal Scientist at Seed Science and Technology of the IIMR. He holds a Ph.D. from Tamil Nadu Agriculture University and did his Post-Doctoral from the University of Queensland, Australia. His special attainments include Planning, development and management of crop improvement programs and strategies. He has 50 research papers to his credit in peer reviewed journals, 30 authored and edited books.



News 38: Devaraja Reddy is the new ICAI President

The CA Institute appointed a new President in M Devaraja Reddy from February 12, 2016. He is a fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) with more than 28 years of involvement. Before taking this role, Mr. Reddy was the Vice-President of ICAI. Mr. Reddy is a resident of Hyderabad and a fellow member of the ICAI with more than 28 years of professional standing. He will be having this stint as the President for one year.



News 39: RD Mathur is promoted to the rank of Air Marshal

Air Vice Marshal, Rajiv Dayal Mathur, on February 15, 2016 was promoted to the rank of Air Marshal. He was the Assistant Chief of Air Staff in charge of the Indian Air Force's Air Warfare Strategy Cell. He was also involved in the air force's space, cyber, Air Traffic Services and Media & Public Relations Directorates. He had earlier served as Air Defence commander and commanded a frontline Air Force Station and a fighter aircraft squadron as well. For his meritorious service, he has been awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2003 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2014 by the President of India.



News 40: Alok Kumar Verma is appointed as the Delhi's new Police Commissioner

Alok Kumar Verma was appointed as Delhi's new Police Commissioner on February 17, 2016. He will replace BS Bassi with effect from March 1, 2016. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has selected Verma from a list of three IPS officers to the Cabinet Committee on Appointments (CCA). A 1979-batch Union Territory cadre officer, 58-year-old Verma is currently serving as the Director General of Tihar Jail and will serve as the top police officer of the national capital for close to 17 months.



News 41: Jayant Misra is appointed as the DG of DRI

Senior IRS officer, Jayant Misra has been appointed on February 17, 2016 as the Director General of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). He is the DG (Systems) at the Directorate General of Systems and Data Management currently. This move comes after a Special Investigation Team (SIT) asked the DRI to verify if USD 505 billion was transacted out of the country between 2004-2013 as part of trade-based money laundering. With the approval of competent authority, Jayant Misra has been transferred to DG DRI, Delhi, a government order said.



News 42: KM Mammen is the new Chairman of ATMA

Mr. K M Mammen (CMD, MRF Ltd.) was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) on February 17, 2016. Mammen will take over from Raghupati Singhania, who is also the Chairman and Managing Director of JK Tyres & Industries Ltd.

While, Satish Sharma, President (Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa) Apollo Tyres Ltd has been elected as the Vice Chairman of this association. There are eleven tyre companies comprising Indian and international tyre majors and representing over 90% of production of tyres in India are the members of ATMA.



News 43: Christine Lagarde to serve second term as the IMF Chief

Ms. Christine Lagarde, 60, was named the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a second term on February 19, 2016. Lagarde, a former French finance minister became the MD of IMF after the resignation of Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Ms. Lagarde was first appointed Managing Director on July 5, 2011. The selection process was initiated by the Board on January 20, 2016, when it adopted a merit-based and transparent process. The Managing Director is the chief of the IMF's operating staff and Chairman of the 24-member Executive Board.



News 44: Kalikho Pul is sworn in as the CM of Arunachal Pradesh

Mr. Kalikho Pul was sworn in as the state's Chief Minister by Governor J P Rajkhowa on February 19, 2016. This was done after President Pranab Mukerjee revoked the President's rule in Arunachal Pradesh. Pul met the Governor J.P Rajkhowa and staked the claim to form the government in the state. He took 31 members to Rajbhavan and he claims to have support of 19 Congress, 11 BJP and 2 independent MLS's. Following the expulsion of two MLA's, the strength of the state assembly is now reduced to 58.



News 45: Amit Mitra is elected as the new chairman of empowered committee on GST

West Bengal Finance Minister, Amit Mitra was elected on February 20, 2016 as the new Chairman of the Empowered Committee of the State Finance Ministers. The empowered committee is working with the Center to bring out the goods and services tax (GST) regime. Mr. Mitra was the Secretary General of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry before he joined politics in 2011 and became a minister in the TMC government in West Bengal. The head of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has always been from an opposition ruled state.



News 46: Shinjini Kumar to join as the CEO of Paytm's payment bank

Ms. Shinjini Kumar, a Director at the research and consultancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has been appointed as the chief executive officer at Paytm's payments bank. Paytm is a mobile wallet and E-commerce company, which received in-principle approval from RBI to set up a Payments bank in 2015.



Ms. Kumar, who also has had a stint at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, is expected to join the company in March as the Alibaba-backed Paytm is gearing up to start its payments bank operations after June this year. The initial plan was to start operations in the first quarter of the new fiscal, but it is now expected to be delayed slightly.

News 47: Vinay Kumar Singh is appointed as the MD of NCRTC

Indian Railway Officer, Vinay Kumar Singh has been appointed on February 22, 2016 as the Managing Director of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), which is the the implementing agency for the three corridors of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in the NCR zone.



He was working with Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a railway PSU involved in the study of high speed rail corridors till now. The high-speed connectivity will facilitate seamless travel between the capital and suburbs.

News 48: Mortaza named as the UNDP's National Goodwill Ambassador for Youth

On February 23, 2016, Bangladesh's cricketer, Mashrafe Mortaza was appointed as the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) "National Goodwill Ambassador for Youth". Mortaza is the captain of Bangladesh's One-Day International and T20 international teams. According to the news reports, he had received the proposal a month ago and was extremely excited to receive the opportunity. The UN agency had said it will hold an official signing ceremony and make a formal announcement soon.



News 49: K N Vyas is appointed as the new BARC Chief

On February 19, 2016, K N Vyas was appointed as the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), India's multi-disciplinary nuclear research center. He is a distinguished scientist and has also made notable contributions in the areas of design and development of a unique fuel. Mr. Vyas is also a recipient of the Science and Technical Excellence awards. He is currently working as the associate director at BARC, as per their website. The BARC is India's premier nuclear research facility based in Mumbai.



News 50: Udai Kumar is appointed as the Full Time MD and CEO of MSEI

The Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India (formerly MCX Stock Exchange) has appointed on February 22, 2016 its interim Managing Director & CEO, Udai Kumar as their full time MD & CEO after receiving necessary approvals from the securities regulator, SEBI. He has been in the role on an interim basis since October. A veteran of the capital and financial markets, Kumar has over two decades of rich experience in stock exchange administration, capital markets, fund-raising, restructuring and merger and acquisition functions.



News 51: Rahul Taneja is appointed as the Chief Peoples Officer of Jet Airways

India's 2nd largest airline, Jet Airways India Ltd named Rahul Taneja on February 23, 2016 as its Chief People Officer. He will be responsible for shaping the operations and performance of the entire group. Mr. Taneja has previously headed Corporate Human Resources at the diversified Essar Group will now be a part of the airline's Executive Management Committee. He has more than 25 years of experience in various industries and would be based at the Jet Airways' corporate headquarters which are in Mumbai and will report to the CEO.



News 52: Justice Vineet Saran is appointed as the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Justice Vineet Saran as the new Chief Justice (CJ) of Orissa High Court on February 21, 2016. His appointment was made under the provisions of Article 217 of Constitution. Prior to his present appointment, Justice Saran was officiating as a senior judge of Karnataka High Court.



The post of Orissa Chief Justice was lying vacant ever since Justice D. H. Waghela took over as the CJ of Bombay High Court on February 15th. Justice Saran graduated from the Allahabad University in 1976 and obtained his LL.B. Degree in year 1979-80.

News 53: Rajendra Singh is Appointed as the First Non-Navy Officer to Head Coast Guard

Mr. Rajendra Singh was appointed as the first non-navy officer to head the Coast Guard on February 24, 2016. The force will get a chief from its own internal cadre for the first time, since it was set up in 1978 as the country's fourth armed force after the Army. Rajinder Singh is currently additional director general of the Coast Guard. A 1980 batch officer, he was the first from the Coast Guard cadre to be elevated to three-star officer when the defence ministry approved his appointment to his current post in 2013.



News 54: Gianni Infantino is elected as the new FIFA President

On February 26, 2016 Swiss National, Gianni Infantino overtook Sepp Blatter as the president of the World football governing body, FIFA. Infantino polled 115 votes, 27 more than closest rival, Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim al-Khalifa, who received second highest votes. Infantino becomes just the third Fifa president in 40 years personified by Blatter and his Brazilian predecessor João Havelange, during which Fifa's revenues soared but scandals involving World Cup tickets, TV rights and corrupt bidding races multiplied.



News 55: Jonathon Sinclair Neal is appointed as the CEO of AAE Travel

Expedia, the online travel company has appointed Jonathon Sinclair Neal on February 24, 2016 as the Chief Executive Officer of AAE Travel. This AAE Travels is the joint venture between AirAsia and Expedia Inc. Jonathon will be located in Singapore. Prior to assuming his current role, Jonathon was the Chief Financial Officer of AAE Travel, where he was responsible for all aspects of finance as well as corporate strategy and business analytics. AirAsiaExpedia is the joint venture company between the world's leading online travel company, Expedia Inc. and the world's best low cost airline, AirAsia.



News 56: Justice Dinesh Maheshwari is appointed as the Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court

On February 24, 2016, Justice Dinesh Maheshwari has been selected as the Chief justice of the Meghalaya High Court. Before this appointment, he was a senior judge in the Allahabad High Court. The Governor V Shanmuganathan administered the oath of office to the Chief Justice at a ceremony in Raj Bhavan, where Chief Minister Mukul Sangma and his cabinet colleagues, judges and government officials were also present. He Graduated in Law from the Jodhpur University in year 1980.



News 57: Ashwini Nangia becomes the Director of CSIR-National Chemical Lab, Pune

On February 24, 2016, Ashwini Nangia became the Director of the CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. He is an alumnus of the IIT Kanpur. After his Ph.D. (1988), he worked in NOCIL Agrochemicals R&D Centre, Navi Mumbai for a year, and then joined the University in 1989. He is a JC Bose National Fellow, Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, London, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, according to a release from the UoH.



News 58: USL appoints MK Sharma as their new Chairman

The Diageo-Controlled United Spirits Limited (USL) has announced on February 26, 2016 the appointment of MK Sharma as its new chairman. This occurred after Vijay Mallya resigned from the post. Vijay Mallya will have the honorary title of founder emeritus, USL.



The USL is now controlled by the world's largest spirits maker, Diageo, which had acquired an additional 26% stake in USL for Rs 11,448.91 crores in July to take its total share in the Indian firm to 54.78%.

News 59: Ratan Tata to Head Indian Railways' Innovation Committee

Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railway has announced on February 25, 2016 that Ratan Tata will head the Indian Railway Innovation Committee. In 2016-2017, Prabhu had announced plans to set up a dedicated cross functional team called Special Unit for Transportation Research and Analytics (Sutra). The Ministry has set aside a sum of Rs 50 crores for providing innovation grants to employees, start-ups and growth oriented small businesses to support internal and external innovation. A program management structure will be put in place to manage this initiative.



AWARDS

News 1: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar selected for the K Veeramani Award for Social Justice

Bihar's Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar was selected on January 29, 2016 for the prestigious K Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2015. The award is given for his contribution towards social justice in Bihar as Chief Minister. This award is organized by Periyar International, a Chicago-based voluntary organization. However, the date and venue of the award function have not been mentioned yet. The award is instituted in Dr. K. Veeramani's name to accept and flourish his initiatives in creating an awareness on social equality and respect for human dignity in India.



News 2: 'Titli' bags the prestigious French Critic Award

Kanu Behl directed 'Titli' has won the Best First Foreign Film Award from the French Syndicate of Cinema Critics (FSCC) 2016 on February 02, 2016. The award was offered in Paris. The FSCC declares four prestigious prizes for Best French Film, Best First Foreign Film, Best International Film and Best Short Film annually. 'Titli', the film was co-produced by Dibakar Banerjee Productions Pvt. Ltd and Aditya Chopra's Yash Raj Films. Ranvir Shorey, Amit Sial, Shashank Arora, Lalit Behl and Shivani Raghuvanshi are in the lead roles in this film.



News 3: Bhimsen Joshi Award goes to Sarangi Maestro Pandit Ram Narayan

Sarangi Maestro, Pandit Ram Narayan has been chosen for the Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Classical Music Award 2015-2016. The announcement was made by Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Minister, Vinod Tawde on February 03, 2016. Pandit Ram Narayan achieved India's second highest civilian honor, the Padma Vibhushan, in 2005. The award, finalised by a committee of top music artistes and exponents, comprises Rs.5 lakhs in cash, a trophy and a citation.



News 4: Kerala's all women taxi cab service gets Chief Minister's Award for Innovation in Public Policy

Kerala's all women taxi cab service, India's first 24x7 taxi network for women has won the prestigious Chief Minister's Award for Innovation in Public Policy 2014. 'She-Taxi' has been lauded for its unique model and the ability to be replicated in all cities. It won the award in the developmental interventions category, announced on February 04, 2016. The venture is run by women under an autonomous institution, The Gender Park.



News 5: PM Shram Awards for the Year 2014 Announced

The Government of India has announced the Prime Ministers Shram Awards for the year 2014 on February 09, 2016. It will be awarded to 54 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings and Public Sector. This year, nine nominations for the Shram Bhushan Award, nineteen nominations for Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana and twenty-six nominations for Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards have been selected. These include 36 workers from the public sector and 18 workers from the private sector.



News 6: Anirban Lahiri wins Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Year award

India's Anirban Lahiri has been voted on February 12, 2016 as the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of Year by fans in an online poll. Lahiri reinforced his stature as one of the global game's rising young stars with a spectacular season to remember in 2015.



Lahiri triumphed at the Maybank Malaysian and Indian Open before finishing fifth at the PGA Championship last year. He also became the first Indian to feature at The Presidents Cup and ended the year by winning the Asian Tour Order of Merit title and finishing in 40th place in the world rankings.

News 7: Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2015 goes to Vinita and Nilesh Gupta

Lupin CEO, Vinita Gupta and Managing Director, Nilesh Gupta have been chosen the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 on February 11, 2016. The winners will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo from 7-12th June 2016. The awards were presented by Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Honourable Union Minister for Road Transport, and Highways, and Shipping, who was the Chief Guest at the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards' Banquet here today.



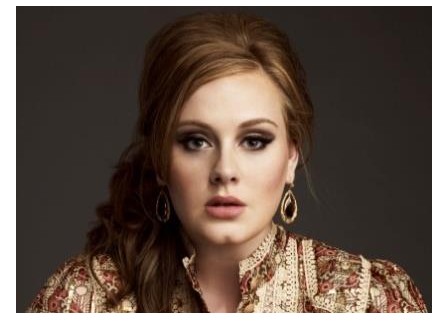
News 8: Lionel Messi Named La Liga Player of the Month

FC Barcelona striker, Lionel Andres Messi has been named Liga BBVA Player of the Month for January on February 12, 2016. The award is offered from 2013-14 Primera División season, but the five-times Ballon d'Or winner has won it for the first time. Messi, 28, was recognised after an opening month to 2016 in which he scored six times in five league games, including key goals at Malaga and at home to Atletico Madrid as Barca took control of the title race.



News 9: International Federation of the Phonographic Industry names Adele best-selling artist

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) named Adele as the best-selling artist of 2015 on February 08, 2016. The British ballad singer broke many records with her single "Hello". Her latest album "25" broke records for first-week sales in the United States and Britain. IFPI, which stands for the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, presents its annual award based on an artist's physical and digital sales as well as streaming, although the group does not release figures.



News 10: Eight scientists win UNESCO Medals

Professor Lei Jiang - China, Professor Isamu Akasaki - Japan, Professor Philippe Pernod - France, Academician Gennady Krasnikov - Russia, Professor Nicholas Kotov - US, Professor Igor Ashurbeyli - Russia, Dr Mikhail Dubina - Russia and Dr Natalya Mikhaylova - Russia have been honoured with UNESCO medals for their contribution to the development of nanoscience and nanotechnologies on February 09, 2016. Established in 2010 is an initiative of the International Commission responsible for developing the Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies theme for the Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS).



News 11: Karnataka's mobile-one governance project wins' gold at the m-governance awards

On February 11, 2016, in the fourth World Government Summit, Karnataka's flagship mobile-one governance project won gold at the m-governance awards in Dubai. This award was instituted for the first time at the Summit and India also won it for first time. This award, instituted for the first time at the Summit, has been given to India just ahead of the state visit by Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi & Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE. Armed Forces.



News 12: Asif Kapadia's Amy wins BAFTA for Best Documentary

The acclaimed documentary "Amy", which is based on the life of late singer Amy Winehouse, on February 15, 2016 won the prize for Best Documentary at the 2016 BAFTA. Directed by Indo-British filmmaker, Asif Kapadia, this film depicts the life of the troubled singer, who died in 2011 at a very young age. Kapadia's Oscar nominated film beat "Cartel Land", "He Named Me Malala", "Listen to Me Marlon" and "Sherpa" to win this honor.



The filmmaker in his acceptance speech paid tribute to the tragic star, who died in 2011 at the age of 27, following a battle with drug and alcohol.

News 13: Vidya Balan Awarded with the Pride of Kerala Award

Bollywood actress, Vidya Balan has been awarded on February 14, 2016 with the 'Pride of Kerala' award by the World Malayalee Council and Kairali TV. National Award-winning actress, Vidya Balan is from Kerala. She is 38 years old. The National award-winning actress has starred in films like "Parineeta", "Paa", "No One Killed Jessica", "The Dirty Picture" and "Kahaani". Balan will be next seen in Sujoy Ghosh-produced "TE3N", which also stars Amitabh Bachchan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui. She is also part of the sequel of "Kahaani", which is one of her favorite movies as well.



News 14: Tata Steel wins TIME's Best in Class for Manufacturing Award

US agency, Time Inc. has announced on February 13, 2016 the winners of the inaugural TIME India awards, honoring leaders for manufacturing excellence in India. Tata Steel has been bestowed with the 'Best in class manufacturing' award at the Time India Awards held at the National Sports Council of India in Mumbai during the Make in India Week. McKinsey & Company is the knowledge partner for these awards. Hero MotoCorp was named the manufacturing innovator of the year, while Yogesh and Rajesh Agrawal of Ajanta Pharma Limited were declared winners of the TIME India Young Maker of the Year.



News 15: Manish Arora Awarded Knight of the Legion Honor

It was announced on February 17, 2016 that Fashion Designer, Manish Arora will be conferred with the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honor), France's highest civilian award. This award is offered for creations and significant contribution to the fashion world as well as his longstanding ties with France. Created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Legion of Honour is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.



News 16: Warren Richardson Wins World Press Photo Contest of 2015

The jury of the 59th annual World Press Photo Contest has selected on February 18, 2016 an image by Australian Photographer, Warren Richardson as the World Press Photo of the Year 2015. Richardson is currently based in Budapest, Hungary. He is a freelance photographer. The premier award, the World Press Photo of the Year, carries a cash prize of 10,000 euros. In addition, Canon will present the winning photographer with the recently launched Canon EOS-1D X Mark II camera and lens kit.



News 17: Karnataka Bank bags IBSA Banking Technology Award

Karnataka Bank Ltd. has won the 'IBA Banking Technology Award' on February 18, 2016. It was offered in the category of 'Best Risk and Fraud Management Initiative - Runner Up'. This award was announced as part of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) Technology Conference, Expo and Awards 2016. Mahabaleshwara MS, Chief General Manager of the bank has received the award from HR Khan, Deputy Governor of RBI and Ashwani Kumar, Chairman of IBA in Mumbai.



News 18: Indologist David Schulman wins Israel Prize for religious studies

Renowned Indologist, Professor David Dean Shulman was awarded the Israel Prize for Religious Studies on February 15, 2016. Shulman is a professor of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. His groundbreaking research on the religion has received widespread acclaim. The 67-year-old Shulman is known to be active in a left-wing organisation, Ta'ayush, a joint Israeli-Palestinian initiative active in the south Hebron Hills. Professor Shulman has also made an important contribution towards research management and teaching in the Israeli universities.



News 19: Malayalam Film 'Ottal' Wins Award at the Berlin Film Festival

The National award winning Malayalam film, 'Ottal' has been named as the best children's film at the 66th Berlin International Film Festival on February 21, 2016. It was also honoured with the Crystal Bear award in the 'Generation KPlus' section. This film is directed by Jayaraj Rajasekharan Nair and is about the story of an old fisherman and his grandson. The movie is an adaptation of Anton Chekhov's short story 'Vanaka'. This is the third year in a row that Indian films have triumphed. Earlier winners were "Killa" 2014 and "Dhanak" 2015.



News 20: Yes Bank receives the inaugural Green Bond Award in UK

On February 23, 2016, Yes Bank received the inaugural Green Bond Award in UK. The award was organized by the Climate Bonds Initiative to recognize the 'Pioneers in Emerging Markets-India.' Yes Bank was recognized for its pioneering efforts in the Green Bonds market; including the highly successful issuance of India's first ever Green Infrastructure Bonds. The bank is gradually getting into the race as one of the leading private lender among other biggies of the banking sector.



News 21: Global CSR Excellence & Leadership Award goes to GVK Biosciences

GVK Biosciences bagged the Global CSR excellence & Leadership Award on February 25, 2016 in the category of Best Environment Friendly Project. The award was offered in recognition of its mega plantation drive conducted in January 2015. The global CSR awards are constituted by the World CSR Congress every year on the World CSR Day and are presented to companies who believe in the value of sustainable corporate social responsibility. GVK BIO has also tied up with the GHMC for watering and soil maintenance of the plants for the next 3 years.



News 22: Ismail Mahomed Conferred Knighthood in France

On February 23, 2016, Indian-origin playwright Ismail Mahomed was knighted by the French government. The Knight of the Order of Arts and Literature (The Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres) was awarded by French Ambassador Elisabet Barbier in Johannesburg. The Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) is an Order of France, established on 2 May 1957 by the Minister of Culture, and its supplementary status to the Ordre national du Mérite was confirmed by President Charles de Gaulle in 1963.



News 23: Tamil film Kanavu Variyam wins 2016 Remi Award

On February 23, 2016 Tamil film Kanavu Variyam won the prestigious 2016 Remi Award in the United States. Directed and produced by a Chennai-based techie Arun Chidambaram and Karthik Chidambaram, the film deals with the incessant power cuts. The award will be handed over to Chidambaram during the 49th WorldFest Houston International Film Festival, where the movie will have its world premiere. WorldFest Houston International Film Festival will be conducted from April 8 to 17.



News 24: Ex-DRDO Chairman Dr Avinash Chander receives Aryabhata Award 2013

Former Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister and ex-DRDO chief, Dr Avinash Chander on 25 February 2016 received the prestigious Astronautical Society of India's Aryabhata Award 2013. The award is presented for outstanding lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics. The Aryabhata Award, named after the fifth century Indian astronomer and mathematician and also in commemoration of the first Indian Satellite, Aryabhata, is presented annually to an individual for outstanding lifetime contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India.



News 25: Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Ranveer Singh to get Dinanath Mangeshkar Award

Actor Ranveer Singh and filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali were on 26 February 2016 selected for Pandit Dinanath Mangeshkar Award. This award will be bestowed upon them by Lata Mangeshkar at a function to be held in Pune. On April 24 every year, the Mangeshkars honor the finest artistes in India to commemorate Lataji's father Pandit Dinanath Mangeshkar's death anniversary.



DEATHS

News 1: Oscar nominated British actor Frank Finlay passes away

British actor Frank Finlay took his last breath at the age of 89 on January 30, 2016. Finlay was instrumental in 'Othello' and 'The Three Musketeers'. Finlay was popular for his stints in 'The Adventures of Don Quixote' and 'Voltaire in Candide'. He was awarded a CBE gong in 1984. He was married to his wife, Doreen Shepherd, for 50 years until her death in 2005. They had three children as well. In a wide-ranging career across stage and screen, Finlay starred as Porthos in the Three Musketeer films of the 1970s, alongside Oliver Reed, Richard Chamberlain and Michael York.



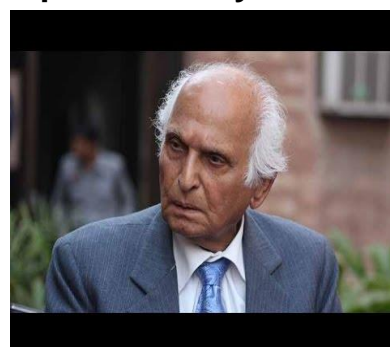
News 2: Former Lok Sabha speaker Balram Jakhar passes away

Once the Lok Sabha speaker, Balram Jakhar took his last breath at the age of 93 on February 03, 2016. Jakhar was the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1989. He played an important role in the automation and personalization of the parliamentary activities. The Parliament museum was built while he was the speaker. He was the Agriculture Minister in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. Later he served as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh from 2004 to 2009.



News 3: Acknowledged Urdu writer Intizar Hussain passes away

Veteran Urdu literature's writer and poet, Intizar Hussain died in Lahore at the age of 92 on February 02, 2016. Hussain was the finalist among the top 10 for the Man Booker International Prize for fiction in 2013. He also received the 'Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters' by the French Ambassador to Pakistan in 2014. His acclaimed novels include Basti, 'Shehr-i-afsos', 'Din Aur Dastan', 'Kachhuay', 'Khaimay Say Door', 'Khali Pinjra', 'Morenama', 'Kankari' and 'Sheharzad Kay Naam'.



News 4: Former RBI Deputy Governor S.S. Tarapore passes away

S.S. Tarapore, the former RBI deputy governor passed away in Mumbai on February 02, 2016 at the age of 80. Tarapore had joined RBI as a research officer in 1961 and became the Deputy Governor in September 1992. He served as the RBI deputy governor till 1996.

Post retirement, Tarapore became the chairman of two committees on full capital account convertibility and to streamline the RBI. He had a BA in Economics from Sheffield University and received his Masters degree in Economics from London University.



News 5: NASA Astronaut Edgar Mitchell died

NASA Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, the sixth man to walk on the Moon expired on February 05, 2016 at his West Palm Beach residence in Florida. The Apollo 14 lunar module pilot died at the age of 85. It was the eve of the 45th anniversary of his lunar landing, on 5 February 1971, when the astronaut died.

Mitchell is survived by two daughters, Karlyn Mitchell and Elizabeth Kendall; his adopted children Kimberly Mitchell, Paul Mitchell and Mary Beth Johnson; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mitchell was preceded in death by his son, Adam B. Mitchell.



News 6: Noted Political Cartoonist Sudhir Tailang passes away

Noted political cartoonist, Sudhir Tailang, passed away in Gurgaon, Haryana on February 06, 2016. He would have turned 56 on February 26 and is survived by his daughter and wife. Tailang was under treatment for brain cancer since 2014 and breathed his last at his east Delhi residence in Mayur Vihar.

Tailang was awarded Padma Shri in 2004. As a cartoonist, many politicians including Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Atal Behari Vajpayee, PV Narasimha Rao, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi bore the brunt of his brush.



News 6: Noted Poet Nida Fazli passes away

Muqtida Hasan Nida Fazli expired on February 08, 2016. The Indian Hindi and Urdu poet was 78. He was given the Sahitya Akademi Award in Urdu for Khoya Hua Sa Kuchh in 1998. Then in 2003, he got the Star Screen Award for the Best Lyricist for Sur. In 2003 Bollywood Movie Award - Best Lyricist for Aa Bhi Ja from Sur and in year 2013, he received the prestigious Padma Shri award as well. He was born in Delhi to a Kashmiri family and he had attended school in Gwalior. His father was also an Urdu poet.



News 7: Former Nepal Prime Minister, Sushil Koirala passes away

Nepal's former Prime Minister, Sushil Koirala took his last breath at his residence on February 08, 2016. He was 78 years old. Koirala was suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). He was also receiving treatment for "tongue cancer". He was appointed the President of the Congress party in 2008 by President Girija Prasad Koirala. The Nepali Congress, under his leadership, emerged as the largest party during the second constituent assembly election in November 2014, from a distant second in the 2008 polls.



News 8: Veteran director Aurobindo Mukherjee passes away

Recently, veteran film-maker Aurobindo Mukherjee passed away at his residence on February 11, 2016. Mukherjee was ailing from geriatric problems for some time. He is survived by two sons and a daughter. His wife died earlier. Mukherjee was the maker of cult Bengali classics like 'Agniswar', 'Mouchak' and 'Nishipadma'. He also discovered Jaya Bhaduri, who later become famous as a Bollywood actress and married superstar Amitabh Bachchan in his movie titled Dhanyee Meye in year 1971.



News 9: Siachen Avalanche Survivor Lance Naik Hanamanthappa passes away

Lance Naik Hanamanthappa, who had been battling for life at the Army's Research & Referral hospital, breathed his last on February 11, 2016. He continued to be on ventilator support since his admission in the hospital owing to continued multi-organ dysfunction.

He was one of the total 11 persons, who were buried in Siachen during duty. He was attached to the 19 Madras Regiment and is survived by his wife and a daughter.



News 10: Pulitzer-winning composer Leslie Bassett passes away

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, Leslie Bassett passed away on February 04, 2016 in Georgia. He was 93. Bassett got the Pulitzer for Music for Variations for Orchestra, which originated in Rome in 1963. Over the years, Mr. Bassett's compositions were performed by the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, the Chicago Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Juilliard String Quartet. Leslie Raymond Bassett was born on Jan. 22, 1923, in Hanford, Calif., and grew up on ranches in the San Joaquin Valley, where his father raised hogs.



News 11: Noted Malayalam poet O N V Kurup passes away

Noted Malayalam poet, lyricist and public figure ONV Kurup passed away on February 13, 2016 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Kurup, 84, was an illustrator of Kerala's cultural landscape through poetry for nearly seven decades. A recipient of the Padma Shri and the Padma Vibhushan awards, besides numerous other literary awards, Kurup also has national film awards and 13 state film awards to his credit for his lyrics. His love for poetry began during his school days. The period saw his poem "Munnottu" about his patriotic feelings, being first published in year 1946.



News 12: Rajamani: Music Director and Composer passes away

Rajamani, noted music director and composer passed away on February 15, 2016. He is well known in the Malayalam film industry and had composed music for over 70 films. He was 60 and suffered a sudden cardiac arrest and expired in Chennai, Tamilnadu. He composed music for nearly 70 films and rendered background score for over 700 films. His last film as a composer was 2012 Malayalam romantic-drama "Hide n' Seek". He is survived by his wife and son, Achu Rajamani, who too is a music composer.



News 13: Indian Ambassador to Tajikistan, Biraja Prasad, passes away

Biraja Prasad, India's Ambassador to Tajikistan passed away on February 13, 2016 due to a cardiac arrest. The youngest Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer working as India's Ambassador to any country belonged to Odisha. He had held different diplomatic assignments such as third secretary and then second secretary in the Embassy of India, Moscow. The diplomat had Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) in Electronics and Communication Engineering.



News 14: Former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali passes away

Former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali passed away on February 16, 2016 in Cairo, Egypt. He was 93. Mr. Boutros-Ghali had served as the sixth UN Secretary-General from 1992 to 1996. He was Egyptian. Mr. Boutros-Ghali had a long association with international affairs as a diplomat, jurist, scholar and widely published author. He became a member of the Egyptian Parliament in 1987, and at the time of his appointment as UN chief, he had been Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt since May 1991, and had served as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs from October 1977 until 1991.



News 15: Malayalam Writer Akbar Kakkattil Passes Away

Renowned Malayalam novelist and story writer Akbar Kakkattil passed away in Kozhikode on February 17, 2016. He was 62. Kakkattil was undergoing treatment for a lung-related ailment for a year. A two-time winner of the prestigious Kerala Sahitya Akademi award, he was also recipient of the first-ever award in humour section in 1992 for his 'School Diary'- an anthology of short essays and in the year 2004 his 'Vadakkuninnoru Kudumba Vrithantham' was awarded as the best novel.



News 16: Noted vocalist Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan passes away

Noted Hindustani classical vocalist, Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan passed away on February 18, 2016 at the age of 107 at his residence in Kolkata. Khan received Padma Bhushan in 2013 and Sangeet Natak Akademi award. He was commissioned as a resident guru at the ITC Sangeet Research Academy in the Kolkata. Born on August 19, 1908, Khan traced his lineage to Behram Khan of the Gwalior gharana and learnt the ropes of gamak, layakari and firat, and other signatures of the gharana.



News 17: Legendary writer Harper Lee passes away

Legendary American writer Harper Lee passed away on February 19, 2016 at the age of 89. She won the Pulitzer Prize for the novel 'To Kill a Mockingbird'. This book was one of the most significant texts on racial problems in southern America.



The sequel to "Mockingbird," titled "Go Set a Watchman," was finally published in 2015. In 2007, Lee suffered from a stroke but recovered and continued to live on in Monroeville.

News 18: Singer Bhubaneshwari Mishra passed Away

Renowned Odissa singer, Bhubaneshwari Mishra passed away on February 20, 2016 following a cardiac arrest in New Delhi. She was 67. She was from Odisha and was renowned as classical and playback singer. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik condoled the sudden demise of Ms. Mishra describing her as a very talented artist. The classical singer began her career with the song 'Tiki Mora Naa Ti' for the mythological Odia movie Krushna Sudama in the 1970s. The entire Odia film and music industry condoled Ms Mishra's demise.



News 1: Flipkart invests Rs.666 crores in Ekart

Flipkart has freshly injected Rs.666 crores in its logistic arm Ekart. This was announced on February 01, 2016. This is Flipkart's second fund infusion in seven months into this logistics subsidiary. Ekart is included in a newly-created entity called Instakart Services after Flipkart bought Ekart from WS Retail. Ekart had a total warehouse space to 1.6 million sq. ft. in 2015 in its 17 delivery or fulfilment centers across India.



News 2: IIT panel suggests 200% fee rise, creation of a Rs. 2,000 crore NBFC

A panel made up of IIT Directors has recommended a proposal to gain greater financial autonomy for IITs. It has recommended a threefold increase in the course fees. The panel also suggested to set up a Rs 2,000 crore non-banking financial company (NBFC) on February 02, 2016. The raise in this fee will let the body cover costs for salaries and maintenance. A half of the total corpus will be funded by the government and the rest by the corporates. The main objective is to become supportive to offer interest-free, 5-10 year loans to all higher education institutes in India. The NBFC is made to offer interest-free loans for future projects, build research infrastructure and provide an efficient use of campus space.



News 3: Sequoia Capital closes India's largest, \$920 million VC fund

Sequoia Capital has raised a massive \$920 million fund that will be invested in the Indian companies. This raise is the biggest by any VC fund for Indian companies. The news was released on February 02, 2016. Sequoia has invested in over 90 companies in India across sectors like technology, healthcare, consumer and finance, etc. Some of the renowned companies it has funded are Justdial, Zomato, Grofers, and CraftsVilla, Freecharge, Oyo Rooms etc. As per reports, Sequoia Capital has invested about \$1.5 billion in Indian companies and the recent raise takes its total investments up to over \$3 billion in India.



News 4: Alphabet Inc. is the world's most valuable company

Alphabet Inc. has become the world's most valuable company on February 01, 2016. The top rank was occupied by Apple before this. Alphabet's market capitalization stands at \$547.1 billion whereas Apple's market cap is \$529.3 billion. The change took place after Alphabet released a fourth-quarter earnings report that showed robust growth and this hit the share value of the company. Alphabet Inc., the California based multinational that has Google as the parent company is headed by Google co-founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin. Mr. Larry Page is the current CEO of Alphabet Inc.



News 5: Ontario to invest Rs.300 Crores in India's Cleantech sector

Government of Ontario, Canada have recently committed on February 19, 2016 to invest Rs 300 crores in India's Cleantech sector. The Canadian state's objective is to enhance renewable and other innovative clean technologies. Ontario is putting its new 'Climate Change Strategy' into action by investing nearly USD 100 million from the Ontario Green Investment Fund into projects that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency and support cleantech innovation.



News 6: PIB Clears India Post's Rs 800 Cr Proposal for Payments Bank

The Public Investment Board has approved the Rs. 800-crore proposal on February 21, 2016 from India Post for setting up a payments bank and it will be placed before the Cabinet within a month for final approval. The department is also in the process of finalizing selection of a consultant for setting up of the India Post payments bank. It had shortlisted six consultants, but only three of them have submitted the bids.



News 7: Beijing becomes the new billionaire capital of the World

Beijing became the new 'billionaire capital' of the world, having the highest number of billionaires living in it for the first time, surpassing New York. The report found that Beijing added 32 new billionaires since the last year that helped it leave behind New York, which saw only four new billionaires. China took the No. 1 spot with 568 billionaires after it gained 90 new ones over the past year, compared with the U.S.'s total of 535 billionaires.



News 8: China to start a fund for unemployed workers who lost jobs in massive industrial restructuring

It was announced on February 25, 2016 that China will create a \$15.3 billion fund to assist the workers, who lost their jobs due to a massive industrial restructuring undertaken by the government. The Chinese government has stepped up efforts to slash excess production capacity in saturated sectors, especially in steel and coal resulting in huge job losses. From 2011 to 2015, 91 million tonnes of outdated capacity in the iron industry and 94.8 million tonnes in the steel industry were eliminated.



News 9: FINO PayTech with Reliance commercial Finance to offer credit to rural poor in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh

The Payments technology company, FINO PayTech tied up with Reliance Commercial Finance on February 24, 2016 to provide credit to rural poor in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. FINO Fintech Foundation, an associate company of FINO, would source and service customers on behalf of Reliance Commercial Finance. Reliance Commercial Finance will offer small ticket size loans to women borrowers for a tenor of up to 24 months for carrying out revenue-generating activities as part of the tie-up.



News 10: Railway Budget 2016-2017 presented by Suresh Prabhu

Railway Minister, Suresh Prabhu presented his second rail budget this year on February 25, 2016. The fares remained unchanged. The railway minister said that for this budget he owes its inspiration to the vision of PM Modi to make railways the backbone of India's progress and economic development. This budget comes at a time when the railways are floundering in a financial crisis with passenger and freight revenue falling which is straining the finances of the railways.



News 11: India extends \$1 million aid to cyclone-hit Fiji

Cyclone-hit Fiji will get \$ 1 million as immediate assistances from the Indian Government. This was announced on February 24, 2016 by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson, Vikas Swarup. The island nation was hit by the severe cyclone which brought with it wind gusts of 325kmph and waves up to 12 metres high, flattening crops and decimating villages completely. As per the reports, at least 20 people have been killed in the first degree cyclone that hit the island.



News 12: Economic Survey 2016-17 tabled ahead of annual budget

On February 26, 2016 India's Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley tabled the Economic Survey for the Financial Year 2016-17 in Parliament before the annual budget. The survey includes the analysis and research of economic condition in various sectors and reform programs in the past 12 months, and also presents projections for 2016-17.



On the domestic side, two factors can boost consumption, increased spending from higher wages and allowances of government workers if the Seventh Pay Commission is implemented and return of normal monsoon.

News 13: EPFO Tightens Norms for Withdrawal of Funds

Retirement fund body EPFO (Employees Provident Fund Organization) published new norms for withdrawal of provident fund and investment of such an amount in the Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana for its over five crore subscribers on February 26, 2016. The new norms say that subscribers will not be able to claim withdrawal of their provident fund after the age of 54 years.



As per the earlier norms, the EPFO subscribers were allowed to claim 90 per cent of their accumulations in their PF account at the age of 54 years.

ENVIRONMENT

News 1: India, NASA to study Ladakh region under Spaceward Bound Program

India and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of America have entered into a partnership to explore Ladakh's environment under NASA's Spaceward Bound Program. A team of scientists from NASA, the Mars Society, Australia and Lucknow's Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany will start an expedition in August 2016 in Ladakh. During this 10-day expedition, the scientists will judge and ascertain the similarities of specific sections of Ladakh's topography and microbial life to the surroundings of Mars.



BANKING

News 1: Corporation Bank Signs MoU with Universal Sampo for Accident Death Coverage

Corporation Bank has inked an MoU with Universal Sampo General Insurance Co. Ltd. for offering accidental death coverage to its savings bank account holders. Under this agreement, the bank will provide free personal accident death cover of Rupees 10 lakh to its Corp Signature and Rupees 5 lakh to its Corp Super account holders. Mr. Jai Kumar Garg, Managing Director and CEO of the Corporation Bank, and VV Vendhen, Head (Bancassurance), Universal Sampo General Insurance Co Ltd were the leads, while signing this MoU.



News 2: YES Bank ties-up with Smartbox Ecommerce Solutions

The YES Bank tied-up with Smartbox Solutions Ecommerce on February 09, 2016 to solve problems related to last-mile delivery for e-commerce players. The bank's co-operation will power the payment solutions for Smartbox network of Automated Parcel Delivery Terminals. Cash-on-delivery is the most preferred payment mode for e-commerce consumers. The market is expected to reach \$100 billion by 2020. The partnership with YES Bank will bring down costs for these e-commerce firms.



News 3: RBI tells Banks to set aside more for Stressed Loans

The Reserve Bank of India has directed commercial banks on February 11, 2016 to accelerate provisioning requirement, from April 1, 2016. This amendment was meant for the existing stock of restructured loans that are showing signs of stress. RBI has identified specific accounts in which the respective lenders have to make higher provisioning from the new financial year. The account restructuring was done earlier.



News 4: RBI signs Currency Swap Pact with UAE

The Reserve Bank of India entered into a Currency Swap Agreement with the UAE on February 11, 2016 to nourish and enhance the economic ties with the Gulf nation. This was signed during the bilateral meeting between Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The United Arab Emirates are India's third-largest trading partner, after US and China.



News 5: RBI announces liquidity measures for March 2016

The central bank of India, Reserve Bank will inject adequate additional liquidity to the economy. The bank will be using a combination of required instruments, while continuing with its normal liquidity adjustment facility operations. The RBI said, this will be done with a view to addressing the expected tightening of liquidity conditions next month on account of advance tax payments by corporate and in order to provide flexibility to the banking system in its liquidity management towards March-end 2016.



News 6: World Bank commits \$150 million to combat Zika

The World Bank announced on February 18, 2016 that it will provide \$150 million to Latin American countries and the Caribbean to fight against Zika virus. The World Bank's estimates that the short-term economic impact on these regions is around \$3.5 billion. The World Health Organization (WHO) have also launched a global response plan to address the ongoing spread of Zika virus outbreak, with 56 million dollars required for implementation.



News 7: YES Bank and UltraCash partner to launch payments service

The YES Bank and UltraCash Technologies has partnered to launch payments processing through sound waves. It was announced on February 16, 2016. UltraCash's patent technology, where payment data is transferred using unique ultra-high frequency sound waves will be utilized. Their sound wave technology enables mobile payments to be done without the need for internet connectivity using any of the options such as bank account and cards.



News 8: State Bank of India (SBI) launches 'Japan Desk'

State Bank of India (SBI) on February 16, 2016 launched 'Japan Desk', a first-of-its-kind initiative to facilitate Japanese corporates looking to invest in India. This SBI Japan Desk will serve as a single point comprehensive and reliable information support source for India-bound investments of Japanese companies. These companies are keen to see more reform measures on the ground. The main areas that require focused attention are taxation, financial sector reforms.



News 9: Axis Bank partners with Suvidhaa to offer loans to urban poor

The private sector lender Axis Bank tied up with domestic remittance company, Suvidhaa on February 19, 2016 in order to lend to the urban poor. This will help the taxi drivers, rickshaw pullers, tailors, etc., who do not get loans as the bank considers them to be mere workers and not entrepreneurs. Suvidhaa has processed the transaction history of its 35 million customer base who have been doing remittances through its retail touch points for years.



News 10: ICICI Bank takes over Rs 1800 Crores land from Jaypee Group

ICICI Bank took over about 275 acres' land, worth an estimated Rs1,500 -1,800 crores on February 22, 2016 in Noida and Greater Noida from a flagship company of the Jaypee Group. The land was acquired since the company could not service its debt on a quarterly basis. Of the total 275 acres that ICICI Bank has acquired, 250 acres are on the Yamuna Expressway, while 20 acres are in the Jaypee Sports City in Greater Noida. The remaining 4-5 acres are in the prime Jaypee Wish Town on the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway.



News 11: Standard Chartered posts first loss in global operations in 26 years

The British Lender, Standard Chartered recorded its first loss in global operations in 26 years. On February 24, 2016 the bank reported a loss worth \$1.3 billion or Rs. 9,781 crores due to its loans given in India. India was the largest contributor to StanChart's profits until 2010. The bank had bet big on India and was the only multinational entity to list here under the Indian Depository Receipts route in 2010.



News 12: RBI extends currency swap arrangement with SAARC nations

To strengthen economic cooperation and increase financial stability, RBI has extended the \$2 billion currency swap arrangement to SAARC nations till mid-November 2017. The facility will be available to SAARC nations – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The swap amount available to various member central banks has been arrived at broadly based on two months import cover subject to a floor of \$100 million and a maximum of \$400 million per country.



News 13: IDBI receives SEBI's nod to raise Rs 3771 Crores

IDBI Bank recently received the approval of SEBI on February 23, 2016 to raise Rs. 3771 crores from qualified investors. The bank will sell some of its non-core assets and is to place equity with the largest domestic investor, Life Insurance Corporation to raise their capital. If the bank raises the entire amount of Rs 3771 crore through the QIP route, government holding in the bank would fall to 65% from the current level of 80%. The shares of the bank closed at Rs 55.70 on Tuesday down 2% over Monday's close.



News 14: PNB Declares 904 Firms as Willful Defaulters

CState-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has declared 904 borrowers on February 24, 2016, who owed it a combined Rs. 10,869.71 crores as of December-end as defaulters. The bank added 140 new companies to the list of willful defaulters in the last quarter. As part of its balance sheet clean-up exercise, PNB plans to sell up to Rs. 3,000 crore worth of bad loans to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) in the ongoing 4th quarter of the current fiscal year.



News 15: SBI launches new branch for e-commerce loans

Banking giant, SBI launched SBI e-Smart SME, a working capital loan offering for sellers on ecommerce platforms on February 24, 2016. Now, sellers can apply for the loan online on the e-commerce platform and get instant sanctioning of the loan. This product was launched in partnership with e-commerce platform Snapdeal in the presence of bank's chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya & Snapdeal CEO Kunal Bahl.



News 16: MasterCard to launch payments by selfie

MasterCard said on February 23, 2016 that it is launching new mobile technologies that will allow customers to authenticate their online purchases using selfies or fingerprints. The technology will be rolled out by big banks in the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and some European countries in a few months.



News 17: India's largest lender SBI to raise Rs. 15,000 crore

On February 26, 2016 India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) announced that it has got the approval of share-holders to raise Rs. 15,000 crores by issuance of shares. In January 2016, SBI had announced its plans to raise this sum of Rs. 15000 crores by March 2017.



IMPORTANT DAYS

News 1: February 4 Observed as World Cancer Day

February 4th was observed as the World Cancer Day. This year's theme 'We can. I can' has an objective to prove that every single individual can make a difference in fighting against cancer. World Cancer Day is observed as a part of the World Cancer Campaign.

The campaign was adopted after the World Summit Against Cancer for the Millennium, on February 4, 2000. The World Health Organization has warned that tobacco and alcohol abuse, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity enhances the risk of cancer.



News 2: Safe Internet day observed on 9th February

February 9th is observed as the Safe Internet Day. This year's theme was 'Play Your Part for a Better Internet'. On this occasion, social media site Facebook offered helping tips to young netizens to take more control over their security and privacy in the virtual world.

Some tips were also offered to parents to ascertain their children's safety online. Facebook's Head of Global Safety, Antigone Davis said Facebook will provide its users with tools for their safety and urged users to act responsibly.



News 3: 13th February celebrated as World Radio Day

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on February 13th celebrated the World Radio Day. This year, the theme was "Radio in Times of Emergency and Disaster".

World Radio Day is about celebrating radio, why we love it and why we need it today more than ever.



News 4: February 11 observed as International Day of Women and Girls in Science

The UN General Assembly designated February 11th as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This is aimed at complete and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.

This event is a collective effort by several UN agencies including UNESCO, UN-Women, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to recognize the importance of women and girls in scientific communities and to promote their full and equal participation in all aspects of science education and scientific careers.



INTERNATIONAL

News 1: Fukuoka and Doha to host Swimming World Championships

The International Swimming Federation (FINA) declared that Fukuoka (Japan) will host the 2021 World Aquatics Championships for the second time. Doha, the capital of Qatar, will host the 2023 edition. The decision was made at the FINA executive committee voting in Budapest, Hungary on January 31, 2016. The 2017 championship will be held in Budapest, while the 2019 event will be held in Gwangju of South Korea.



FÉDÉRATION
INTERNATIONALE
DE NATATION

News 2: India, Afghanistan make a deal for visa-free travel by diplomats

India and Afghanistan have made a deal for visa-free travel by the diplomats of the two countries on February 01, 2016. The pact was signed when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with top Afghan officials. The meeting involved various discussions on the matters of major bilateral and regional issues, such as security cooperation. India has also approved the development projects it is carrying out in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan-India relations



The third phase of development project includes 92 small-scale projects. India has also granted three multi-purpose Mi-35 helicopters to Afghanistan to fight against terrorism. The prime minister has committed a fund of \$2 billion for the reconstruction.

News 3: WHO Declares Zika Virus as a Global Emergency

The premier health and wellness body, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a global emergency for the Zika virus on February 01, 2016. The organization had a meeting for an emergency in which independent experts assessed the outbreak after a suspicious link was found between Zika's arrival in Brazil in 2015.

This was followed by a sudden increase in the headcounts of babies born. The babies affected by Zika Virus are found to have abnormally small heads.



News 4: Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement is signed by Pacific Rim Nations

US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement has been signed by the 12 Pacific Rim Countries in New Zealand on February 04, 2016. The New Zealand Prime Minister, John Key and US Trade Representative, Mike Froman led the deal at Auckland's Skycity Convention Centre.

The 12 nations in this partnership are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States of America and Vietnam. Cumulatively, 40% of the world economy is accounted for by these nations.



News 5: 35,000 Syrian Refugees Assemble at the Turkish border

More than 35,000 Syrian refugees congregated on February 07, 2016 along the Turkish border of Kilis after escaping the war-ravaged country.

The Governor of Kilis has already announced that the Turkish government would provide aid to the migrants in case of an "extraordinary crisis." Turkey has allowed about 3 million refugees, including 2.5 million Syrians in its country.



News 6: Thailand Kicks-Off Largest Multilateral Military Exercise in Asia-Pacific

Cobra Gold 2016, the largest multilateral exercise in Asia-Pacific started at the Royal Thai Marine Corps Headquarters, which is based in Bangkok, Thailand on February 09, 2016.

Around 8,500 soldiers from seven participating nations, namely, Thailand, U.S.A, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia took part in the 11-day exercise.



News 7: NATO signs agreement with EU on Cyber Defence Cooperation

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) signed an agreement on February 11, 2016 to improve cooperation in the area of cyber defence co-operation.

NATO Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg termed this as an example of the two organizations based in Brussels joining forces to contain contemporary forms of hybrid warfare.



News 8: US Imposes Sanctions on North Korea

US President Barack Obama signed a law imposing sanctions on North Korea on February 19, 2016. These sanctions were taken over the nation's nuclear program and the cyber-hacking incidents.

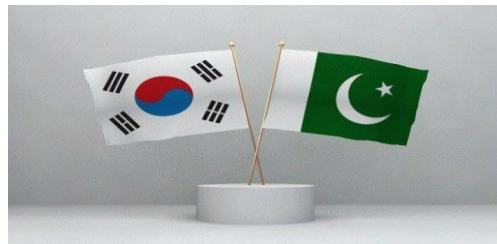
North Korea has tested a long-range rocket, considered a test of banned missile technology and did its fourth underground nuclear test as well.



News 9: South Korea to build \$50m IT park in Pakistan

To improve its ties with Pakistan, South Korea will build a \$50-million IT park in Islamabad, the nation's capital. It was announced on February 18, 2016.

The South Korean Ambassador, Song Jong-Hwan told that Korea will provide \$50 million for the establishment.



News 10: E-Tourist Visa Scheme extended to 37 more countries

The Union Government announced on February 27, 2016 that it has extended e-Tourist Visa Scheme to 37 more countries. With this, the total count of countries under this scheme will become 150.

The new 37 countries included in e-Tourist Visa scheme are Albania, Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, and Greece.

Others are Guinea, Iceland, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Moldova, Namibia, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Trinidad & Tobago, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



MISCELLANEOUS

News 1: IT leader of India, Infosys will build the tallest clock tower of the world at its 345-acre global education center in Mysore. The estimated cost of about Rs. 60 crores will be required and it may take 20 months to complete. This was released on February 02, 2016.

News 2: RMZ Corp has bought Essar Group's Equinox Business Park on February 03, 2016 for a sum of Rs 2,400 crores net. The 1.25 million square foot office is located near Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex. It is the largest real estate property transaction in this year.

News 3: Yahoo has announced on February 02, 2016 that it will lay-off about 1,700 employees. The decision will lead to an expected to lay off of 15% of Yahoo's workforce. This move is for cost-cutting and to save an estimated \$400 million annually.

News 4: Indian biotechnology company, Bharat Biotech said on February 03, 2016 that it has developed a vaccine to fight the Zika virus. If accepted, it will be world's first Zika vaccines. The two ZikaVac vaccines include one vaccine that is in pre-clinical testing on animals, and a recombinant vaccine.

News 5: Cisco Systems announced on February 03, 2016 that it will acquire Jasper Technologies Inc., an internet of things start-up dealing in connecting medical devices to the Internet, for \$1.4 billion. It is Cisco's largest acquisition since 2013 after Sourcefire was bought for \$2.7 billion.

News 6: The ICICI academy and the RSETIs are going to train 45,000 candidates in the fiscal year 2017. This was announced on February 06, 2015 that the total number of trained youth from economically weaker sections will go over one lakh.

News 7: Mahindra Asset Management Company (AMC) has got the final nod from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to start the Mahindra Mutual Fund business. Mahindra Finance is a NBFC with over rupees 40,000 crores in managed assets. It has about 40 lakh customers in over 2.6 lakh villages.

News 8: It was announced on February 06, 2016 that YES Bank and the Indian Railways will set up 1,000 water purifiers on stations across the country by 2019. The objective is to provide safe and clean drinking water to passengers.

News 9: In a maiden initiative, starting February 07, 2016, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is raising a squad of 162 dogs to aid its personnel in rescuing people trapped under debris in the aftermath of natural calamities like earthquake.

News 10: External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the Rise of Digital India Exhibition in Colombo on February 06, 2016. It was inaugurated as a part of Sangam -The Festival of India in Sri Lanka 2015-16.

News 11: Ratan Tata, chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, has decided on February 08, 2016 to invest in the B2B platform Moglix. This is Tata's sixth investment this year.

News 12: US President Barack Obama has unveiled new cyber security national action plan on February 09, 2016 in order to reconstruct old government networks and install a

high-level commission to improve security awareness. An investment of \$19 billion for cyber-security efforts with a 35% increase has been made.

News 13: The Indian government sanctioned Rs.580 crores for the vital rail link on February 10, 2016. The 15-km-long rail line to connect Agartala with Akhaura will be completed by 2017. This track has 10 kms in the Bangladesh side and the rest in India.

News 14: United Arab Emirates Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan came on a 3-day India visit along with seven ministers on February 10, 2016. He signed a landmark civil nuclear cooperation pact.

News 15: The world's biggest concentrated solar plant, Noor Complex, is set to come up in the Moroccan city of Quarzazate. The plant could generate electricity for over one million households by 2018. An estimated carbon emission reduction of 760,000 tonnes will occur per year as well.

News 16: Recently, Coca-Cola India's bottling arm, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd (HCCB) will cease manufacturing at 3 units in India. These include Kaladera near Jaipur (Rajasthan), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Brynihat (Meghalaya) plants having at least 300 employees will be shut down. This was announced on February 11, 2016.

News 17: Wipro, headed by Azim Premji, on February 11, 2016 acquired US based HealthPlan Services for Rs. 3150 crores. Wipro will acquire 100% ownership of HealthPlan Services and the transaction will be completed in the next 60-90 days.

News 18: The Union Ministry of Railways launched three Information Technology enabled apps on February 10, 2016 in accordance with Digital India initiative by Union Railway Minister, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu.

News 19: Amazon has announced on February 11, 2016 that it will invest in Westland, a Trent Ltd Subsidiary (Tata Group). The investment will increase its international reach and scale its physical and digital book businesses.

News 20: Scientists have observed a stunning discovery on February 11, 2016. They have observed the warping of space time generated by the collision of two black holes, more popularly called gravitational waves more than a billion light-years from Earth.

News 21: Apple has confirmed on February 16, 2016 that its 1st technology center in India will come up at Hyderabad, at a cost of \$25 million. It will be spread across 2,50,000 square feet. This center will help Apple develop maps for iPhones and Mac systems.

News 22: On the starting day of the 'Make in India' week in Mumbai, three MoUs between Maharashtra government bodies and various companies have been signed for total investment worth Rs. 21,000 crores.

News 23: Around 25 Indian and 100 Israeli firms were on the same platform for a unique business seminar on defence and security in Israel, which was organized jointly by SIBAT, the Israeli defence ministry, the International Defence Cooperation Directorate and FICCI. The seminar will be held on 21-25 February 2016.

News 24: Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) has launched a mobile application on February 14, 2016 for cargo operations to reduce paper work and track movement of shipments on real time.

News 25: E-commerce major Amazon announced the launch of 'Amazon Tatkal' on February 17, 2016. This service will help small and medium business (SMB) to go online and sell products on Amazon.

News 26: HCL Technologies have acquired Volvo Group's external IT business on February 16, 2016. HCL closed the deal in \$1 billion-plus. HCL claims it to be one of the largest IT deals signed by any Indian IT company.

News 27: A Tata Group company, TAL Manufacturing Solutions, is expected to launch the first ever India-made robot before May 2016. Dubbed as 'Tata Brabo', it was showed in the Make in India week in Mumbai.

News 28: Cipla Ltd announced on February 18, 2016 that it has acquired 2 US generic drug companies, InvaGen Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Exelan Pharmaceuticals Inc. to increase its revenue and introduce new products for oncology and diabetes.

News 29: Microsoft has announced on February 18, 2016 that they're going to begin rolling out an update to Skype for iOS and Android that will support group video calling. The video call can now be shared among 25 persons on Skype.

News 30: Aditya Birla Nuvo, one of the eleven entities that have received in-principle approvals from the RBI to set up payments banks, said it has incorporated Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd, is a 51:49 joint venture (JV) between it and Idea Cellular, its telecom subsidiary in which it owns 23.26%.

News 31: On February 05, 2016, a US investigative body decided to carry out anti-dumping investigations into certain category of tyres imported from India that may damage US' domestic industry. US industry may be materially injured by the imports of new pneumatic off-the-road tyres, United States International Trade Commission (USITC) decided.

News 32: Scientists have discovered five new Jupiter-like planets on February 18, 2016 that are similar in characteristics to our solar system's biggest planet. The newly discovered planets are WASP-119 b, WASP-124 b, WASP-126 b, WASP-129 b and WASP-133 b.

News 33: Ricoh India has received an order worth Rs 344 crores from Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation to supply computer hardware to 2,000 government schools in Odisha.

News 34: The Public Sector Oil Major, ONGC has approved an investment of Rs 5,050 crores in Tripura for drilling of wells and creation of surface facilities on February 20, 2016 to produce 5.1 mmscmd gas from the states fields.

News 35: Ather Energy, a Bengaluru based hardware start up launched on February 23, 2015 India's first electric scooter S340. The scooters will be available in the market by the end of 2016.

News 36: World's first fast-acting anti-rabies drug, Rabies Human Monoclonal Antibody (RMAb) will be produced by Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) and US-based MassBiologics of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. It was announced on February 24, 2016.

News 37: French Government authorities demanded Google to pay 1.6billion (\$1.8bn; £1.3bn) of the unpaid taxes on February 25, 2016. The amount is a lot higher than the £130million tax the company agreed to pay UK authorities recently.

News 38: The Afghanistan's National Women's Cycling Team was nominated by a group of Italian MPs for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize on February 22, 2016. This Team is among the first Afghan girls to be riding bikes socially.

News 39: Facebook has announced on February 22, 2016 that the Telecom Infra Project will look at developing new and alternative technologies to build and deploy telecom infrastructure, with partners including Aricent, HCL Technologies, Intel, Nokia and T-Mobile.

News 40: Taxi aggregator Ola has entered into an agreement with the Uttar Pradesh government on February 24, 2016 to create over 50,000 entrepreneurship opportunities across the state. Ola will work with the state government towards skill development of youth in state and provide entrepreneurship opportunities to youth of the state.

News 41: Times Internet announced on February 25, 2016 a strategic partnership with Investopedia.com. Investopedia and Times Internet will collaborate to create and curate a blend of local and international content.

News 1: CBDT signed two bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with the United Kingdom

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed two bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with the United Kingdom On February 01, 2016. With this signing, CBDT has totally signed three bilateral APAs. The first was signed with Japan in December 2014. This is a major step for providing a stable and predictable tax regime. CBDT has so far signed 41 APAs. Of which, 38 of these are unilateral and three are bilateral.

Two of the bilateral APAs were signed with two Indian group entities of a UK based Multi-National Company (MNC). The two APAs addresses the issues of payment of management and service charges and payment of royalty as well.



News 2: India signs three MoU's with Brunei for bilateral cooperation

Vice President Hamid Ansari's visit to Brunei has led India to sign three Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Brunei on February 02, 2016. The MoU on health cooperation will find cooperation by gathering scientific, financial, technical and human resources and benefit medical education and research in the two countries.

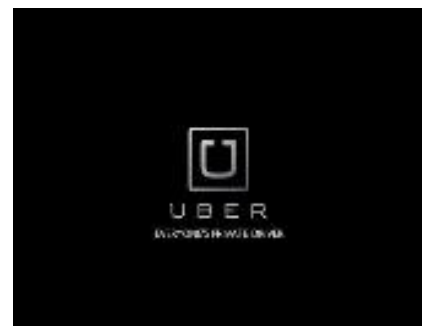
The MoU in defence will establish defence cooperation between the two countries. The MoU on youth and sports affairs will seek to exchange of sports persons and sports teams and help in coaching, identifying sports talent, and find resources for sports management among other things.



News 3: Labour Ministry Partners with Uber to Create Micro-Entrepreneurial Opportunities

Uber and the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment have signed an agreement that will let people to sign up via the National Career Service online portal. The National Career Service online portal lets people connect with career counsellors, placement organizations and employers.

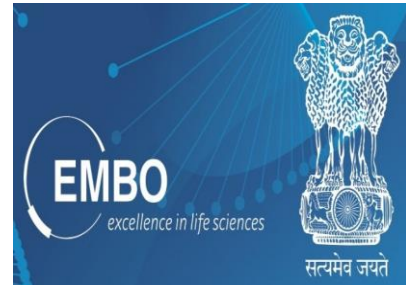
The Ministry of Labour and Employment seeks to enhance micro-entrepreneurship through technology platforms such as Uber. It will create a 'Start Your Own Business' page on its website to further take the initiatives ahead.



News 4: India to Become an Associate Member State of European Molecular Biology Organization

The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology of India has signed a Cooperation Agreement to become the Associate Member State European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) on February 04, 2016.

After Singapore, India will now be the second such member country outside the European region. EMBO has more than 1700 leading researchers to promote excellence in the life sciences.



News 5: India and Sri Lanka signs MoU on Health and School Renovation

India and Sri Lanka has signed two MoUs in the health sector and renovation of schools on February 06, 2016. The health MoU states that India will build a surgical unit at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital and supply medical equipment.

The school renovation MoU states that India will aid in the renovation of 27 schools in Sri Lanka's Northern Province.



News 6: India, China conduct first-ever joint tactical exercise in Ladakh

Starting February 07, 2016, India and China have conducted their first joint tactical exercise in eastern Ladakh to make soldiers on the Line of Actual Control friendlier and to enhance their confidence-building measures (CBMs).

The exercise was held in the Chushul-Moldo area. The joint exercise concentrated on co-ordination of operations to jointly undertake disaster relief and humanitarian aid.



News 7: Indian Coast Guard to Induct 38 Aircraft and Helicopter by 2020

The Indian Coast Guard has proposed on February 08, 2016 to include 38 more aircraft and helicopters into its fleet by 2020. Currently, the CG has a fleet of 62 airplanes and helicopters.

The aim is to boost its surveillance along with search and rescue capabilities. The maritime security will sign a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to collect 16 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs) in the next three-four months.



News 8: Rs. 1 L Crore Disbursed Under the PRADHANMANTRI MUDRA YOJANA

It was announced on February 08, 2016 that loans worth about Rs. 1 lakh crore have been disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana.

Emphasizing that the government wants the youth to be job creators and not job seekers, the PM Narendra Modi hailed the contributions of Banks and financial institutions.



News 9: India tops the list of major milk producing countries

As per the data available till February 10, 2016, India is the most milk-producing country in the world in 201-15. It has recorded a milk production figure of 146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15 as compared to 137.7 million tonnes the previous year. India is followed by countries such as USA, China, Pakistan and Brazil



News 10: US, India considering joint naval patrols in South China Sea

As per recent developments on February 10, 2016, the United States and India discussed about a joint naval patrol in the disputed South China Sea.

The countries are discussing to launch the joint exercise within a year. The US wants a more united stand on the issue after Beijing constructed seven man-made islands in the sea.



News 11: India to export 120 LBH railway coaches to Bangladesh

In its biggest consignment so far, it was announced on February 10, 2016 that Indian Railways will export 120 modern Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches to Bangladesh by March 2016.

The estimated cost of the project will be around Rs.367 crores. The manufacturing of these stainless steel LHB broad gauge coaches will be done at the Rail Coach Factory (RCF) in Kapurthala.



News 12: India Australia Energy Security Dialogue Held at Canberra, Australia

Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of State (IC) for Coal, Power and New and Renewable had an Energy Security Dialogue with Australian Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia, Mr Josh Frydenberg at Canberra on February 10, 2016. This was aimed to implement the Prime Minister's vision of affordable energy for all.



News 13: India and UAE Signed 9 Agreements to Boost Bilateral Cooperation

India and the United Arab Emirates signed 9 bilateral agreements on February 12, 2016 in various sectors during the visit of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi in India. Sectors of agreement include currency, infrastructure, culture, renewable energy, space research, cyber security, insurance, skill development and commercial information sharing.



News 14: Sagarmala Initiative launched to augment infrastructure in coastal areas

On February 14, 2016, the government declared that it has identified 150 critical projects in 13 states along the 7,500 kms coastline of India, to get infrastructure development in coastal areas under the ambitious Sagarmala Project.

The project includes modernization of our ports and islands, setting up coastal economic zones, new major ports and fish harbours.



News 15: Union Government Launches Non-Tax Receipt Portal

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has launched on February 15, 2016 a Non-Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP) to electronically collect over Rs.2 trillion annually in non-tax receipts. The portal was launched as a part of Union Government's flagship Digital India campaign.

The portal provides a one-stop platform to citizens /corporates/other users for making online payment of Non-Tax Receipts to Government of India. The annual collection of Non Tax Receipts is over Rs. 2 lakh crores.



News 16: ENVIS Portal: Launched By Union Government

Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched the Environment Information System (ENVIS) portal and mobile application on February 18, 2016. It was launched as a part of the national interaction-cum-evaluation workshop for Environment Information System.



ENVIS Portal (<http://envis.nic.in>) runs parallel with the objectives of Digital India which works on improving the digital literacy in the environment sector and deliver services digitally. It will play important role integrating network of ENVIS centres.

News 17: Cabinet Approves Trade Facilitation Agreement

The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal on February 17, 2016 to notify the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Decision in this regard was taken in the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.



The Trade Facilitation Agreement contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.

News 18: Government of India Approves Highway Contracts worth Rs. 6000 Crores

GOI has approved eight highway projects worth Rs. 6,000 crores on February 19, 2016 for six states - Punjab, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha.



The Road Transport and Highways Ministry has this month approved 37 projects entailing a total investment of about Rs. 34,000 crores.

News 19: PM Inaugurated Rurban Mission in Chhattisgarh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ambitious 'Rurban Mission' for developing 300 villages across the country on February 21, 2016. These villages will be made urban growth centers aimed at improving the country's basic infrastructure, at Dongargarh in Chhattisgarh.



The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban (rural-urban) project will focus on improving infrastructural facilities such as power lines, shelters, roads, drinking water connections and drainage, and creating community assets such as schools, colleges and health centres.

News 20: Government will sell its 5% stake in NTPC

It was announced on February 22, 2016 that the Indian government will sell its 5% stake in India's largest power producer NTPC. The expressed floor price will be Rs. 122 per share to raise Rs. 5,029 crores. The government owns almost 75% of the company.



The Centre has 74.96 per cent stake in NTPC and will sell 412 million shares, a fifth of these being reserved for retail investors

News 21: INS Arihant – India's first nuclear submarine ready to operate

INS Arihant, India's first nuclear armed submarine will start full-fledged operations from February 23, 2016. Several deep sea diving drills and weapons launch tests have been done over the past five months.



The indigenously-built boat is now fully operational and over the past few months, several weapon tests have been taken place in secrecy that have proven the capacity of the vessel.

News 22: India to induct women in combat roles

The Government has decided to induct women in all military combat roles in the future. The announcement has been made by President Pranab Mukherjee on February 23, 2016 during the joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.



The President announced that the government would in the future recruit women for fighting roles in India's armed forces.

News 23: India and UK sign a deal to establish joint crop science research

On February 25, 2016, Department of Biotechnology of India and a consortium of top UK research institutions signed a MoU to form a joint India-UK collaboration program in crop science.



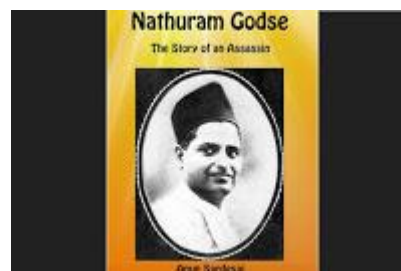
The agreement seeks to establish a joint UK-India crop science programme. It is also aimed at enhancing collaborative research, promoting knowledge exchange, and supporting capacity building to develop resilience in food security.

NEW BOOKS

News 1: Nathuram Godse - The Story of an Assassin released

The book titled Nathuram Godse - The Story of an Assassin written by Anup Ashok Sardesai has been released. The book was released in Goa by BJP leader Damodar Naik on January 31, 2016. The book narrates the story of Nathuram Vinayakrao Godse, who dies prematurely.

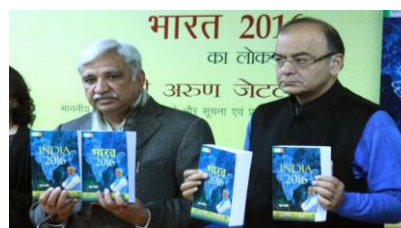
Nathuram's brother had suffered a life of immense mental torture. The book also speaks about the family of Godse facing countless abuses and humiliations.



News 2: 'India-2016' And 'Bharat-2016' Year Books released

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Arun Jaitley on February 18, 2016 released 'Bharat 2016' and 'India 2016' year books. These books offer information about the country and various States and Union Territories including functioning of the Government and the economy.

The electronic version for both the yearbooks were also launched simultaneously with the print version for the first time. The E versions will be cheaper and easier to store and will be priced at 75% of the print book cost.



News 3: Tendulkar's autobiography enters Limca book of Records

Sachin Tendulkar's autobiography "Playing It My Way" on February 18, 2016 entered the Limca Book of Records. It is the best-selling adult hardback till now. The book boasts of a record in sales revenue terms having registered Rs.13.51 crores with its cover price being Rs.899.

The book, published by Hachette India, was released on November 6, 2014 and has broken all records for an adult hardback across both fiction and non-fiction categories with 1,50,289 copies confirmed on order subscriptions.



PERSONS IN NEWS

News 1: Mark Zuckerberg is now the world's fourth richest person

Mark Zuckerberg is the world's fourth-richest person. This happened as Facebook shares fended off plunging the stock markets on February 02, 2016.

The Facebook founder, Zuckerberg has a net worth of \$50 billion that makes him richer than America Movil's Carlos Slim and Amazon's Jeff Bezos.



News 2: Snapdeal won't renew Aamir Khan's brand ambassador contract

E-Commerce player Snapdeal has denied the renewal of its brand ambassador, Aamir Khan's contract on February 05, 2016. This decision may have been influenced by Khan's controversial 'intolerance' remark that affected Snapdeal adversely. Snapdeal has exclusively featured Khan in its 'Dil Ki Deal' print, television and digital campaigns.



Snapdeal's announcement comes almost a month after Incredible India, the signature advertising campaign for the tourism ministry to promote India globally, dropped the actor as its brand ambassador.

News 3: Sundar Pichai becomes highest paid CEO in US

On February 08, 2016 Google CEO, Sundar Pichai got \$199 million worth of shares making him the highest paid CEO in the US. He has got 273,328 shares that will have quarterly increments through 2019, if he continues on the job. Pichai's holdings in the parent company Alphabet is around \$650 million.



But it is still far short of the fortunes made by Google's founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, who are worth \$34.6bn and \$33.9bn according to Forbes. It is also a lot less than Google's former CEO, Eric Schmidt, who holds shares worth \$3bn.

News 4: Mumbai-based Robin Chaurasiya among 2016 Global Teacher's Prize finalists

Robin Chaurasiya a teacher from Mumbai was named one of the top 10 finalists on February 17, 2016 for the Global Teacher's Prize 2016. The prize is considered as the Nobel Prize for teaching.

Chaurasiya has founded the Kranti School for daughters of commercial sex workers of Kamathipura. There were more than 8,000 nominations from 148 countries and the final award will be announced on March 13. The prize has a cash prize of \$1 million.



News 5: Vijay Mallya declared willful defaulter by PNB

Vijay Mallya led United Breweries Holdings Ltd was termed a willful defaulter by Punjab National Bank on February 16, 2016. On 13 November 2015, State Bank of India (SBI) had declared Mallya as a willful defaulter, after talks to get the UB Group chairman to clear debt of Rs 8,700 crore to a 17-bank consortium failed. Mallya had pledged his shares in United Breweries, United Spirits and United Breweries (Holdings) to banks, against which loans were given to Kingfisher Airlines.



News 6: Lyricist Sameer Anjaan Enters Guinness Book of World Records

Bollywood's lyricist, Sameer Anjaan entered Guinness Book of World Records. He was rewarded for writing the most number of songs for Bollywood films on February 17, 2016. Sameer wrote 3,524 songs for 650 Bollywood movies, as verified on December 15, 2015.

Son of veteran lyricist Anjaan (Lalji Pandey), Sameer started his career as a lyricist in 1983 with Bekhabar. Later, films such as Dil and Aashiqui established him as the undisputed champion of romantic songs. He has three Filmfare awards in his list of accolades.



News 7: Vishal Sikka's term as Infosys CEO extended

India's second largest software exporter Infosys announced on February 24, 2016 that Vishal Sikka will have an extended term of 2 years as the Chief Executive Officer, along with a bumper raise in annual salary.

Under Sikka, who took over as the CEO and Managing Director in August 2014, the company is now posting strong growth numbers for the last few quarters.



PLACES IN NEWS

News 1: 30th Surajkund International Crafts Mela started at Faridabad

On February 1, 2016, the 30th Surajkund International Crafts Mela started in Surajkund of Faridabad. The Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated this event. At least 23 countries will take part in it, China and Japan being the major ones. The theme state in this year's mela is Telangana. The Mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority and Haryana Tourism.



News 2: PM Modi Inaugurates Petrochemical Project in Dibrugarh

On February 06, 2016, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a petrochemical project in Lepetkata in Dibrugarh (Assam). The project is named as Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Ltd (BCPL).



The total cost of the project is around 10000-crore rupees and it will be producing raw material for manufacturing plastic. The Prime Minister also dedicated India's highest wax producing unit in Numaligarh Refinery Limited to the nation.

News 3: International Fleet Review 2016 kick starts in Vizag

Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh kick started the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2016, an international military exercise hosted and conducted by Indian on February 04, 2016.



The theme of this edition on IFR is "United Through Oceans." The major objective of the exercise is to enhance mutual trust and confidence with neighboring Navy's. The last IFR was held by the Indian Navy in 2001 in Mumbai, Maharashtra in which 29 countries from across the globe had participated.

News 4: Zimbabwe's President declares a state of disaster in rural parts of the country

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe announced a state of disaster hit by a drought on February 05, 2016 in rural parts of the country.



The declaration was made days after the European Union urged Mugabe to do so. This declaration of disaster will let the international organizations to raise and donate money quickly to provide food aid to the nation.

News 5: Indian Navy's International fleet review 2016 concludes in Vizag

The Indian Navy's International Fleet Review (IFR) 2016 ended in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on February 09, 2016. Navy personnel from 50 nations participated in this five-day event.

It was also attended by our President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The PM vowed to make Indian Navy a recognized force in the world. The event is aimed at establishing mutual understanding among various naval forces.



News 6: The 3rd Edition of Taj Literature Festival held in Agra

The 3rd edition of the Taj Literature Festival began in Agra (UP) on February 10, 2016. It was a 3-day long festival and did not have any particular theme.

This edition will have 16 categories ranging from music, theater, politics, women cooking and comedy among others. This edition will have 16 categories ranging from music, theater, politics, women cooking and comedy among others etc.



News 7: The 6th National Science Film Festival Begins in Mumbai

The 6th National Science Film Festival & Competition (NSFF) began on February 09, 2016 at the Nehru Science Center in Mumbai. The event is aimed at popularizing science among kids and youth through motion pictures.

This festival was initiated by Nehru Science Centre and Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Science and Technology. It showcased key scientific movies.



News 8: Narendra Modi opens 'Make in India' center in Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Make in India Centre at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai on February 13, 2016. The Make in India week concluded on February 18, 2016.

The centre is dedicated to the Make in India campaign that focuses and asks companies to produce their products in India. PM Narendra Modi has urged all to make India a manufacturing hub of the world.



News 9: Mahamagam festival celebrated in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu

The Mahamagam festival that comes once in 12 years in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu is underway from February 13, 2016 and thousands of devotees are took the holy dip in the Mahamagam tank.

It is often termed as equivalent to the grand religious event Kumbh Mela that takes place in Allahabad. The gathering and celebrations are of the nature of Kumbh Mela as well.



News 10: Tamil Nadu to start free bus pass scheme for senior citizens

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalithaa announced free bus service for senior citizens in Chennai on February 18, 2016. Karnataka was the first state to do so.

Making the statement, Jayalithaa said that the scheme will come to effect from February 24, 2016 which is also her 68th birthday. This initiative is aimed at making journey for the senior citizen's hassle free and enjoyable.



News 11: The 58th Grammy's Award 2016 ceremony starts in California

The 2016 Grammy Awards took place on February 15, 2016, at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California. The Grammy Awards are considered to be one of the top award categories in the domain of music worldwide.

The ceremony recognizes the best contributions to the music industry, including recordings, compositions and artists of the eligibility year, which was from October 1, 2014, to September 30, 2015.



News 12: Mumbai to host BRICS Summit 2016

Mumbai will host the BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave, on April 14. The three-day conclave of BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) is another important event after Make in India week.

Delegations representing at least two cities from each BRICS country will visit the city during April 14-16, and discuss aspects of urbanization for Mumbai. It is considered to be a very important international event.



News 13: Mercer's Finding - Hyderabad best city in India in terms of quality of living

As per the Mercer's Quality of Living rankings 2016 published on February 23, 2016, Hyderabad remains the best city in India in terms of quality of living the second time in a row. Hyderabad globally ranks at the 138th position in a list of 230 cities around the world in terms of standard of living.



Internationally, Vienna has topped, as the city with the best quality of living. Vienna is followed by Zurich, Auckland, Munich, Vancouver and Dusseldorf.

News 14: Katni will have the longest railway bridge in India

It was announced on February 21, 2016 that Katni in Madhya Pradesh to have India's longest railway bridge of 14 kms in length. This bridge will be the only one to be built by all Indian engineers.



The designing and survey of the bridge is over and a 5-year timeframe has been scheduled for completion and its expected cost is said to be around 600 crores. The timeframe has not been set yet, as far as planning and implementation is concerned.

News 15: Haryana to become the first state in India to have Aquifer Mapping

To find out the exact location of the Aquifer rocks to locate groundwater resources, a new mapping technique is to be introduced in Haryana by May. This was announced on February 16, 2016 and it is going to be the first of its kind in India.



An aquifer is a layer of water-bearing rock, from which groundwater can be extracted. The mapping will help in estimating the quantity and quality of groundwater.

News 16: Pakistan's Parliament - World's first to run entirely on solar power

According to a report published on February 14, 2016, Pakistan's parliament became the first in the world to run entirely on Solar power. First announced in 2014, the venture has been funded by the Chinese government as an act of friendship, with the solar power plant costing around USD 55 million. The project was launched in 2015



when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited and addressed the parliament.

News 17: First Knowledge Economy Zone (KEZ) in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government and the Confederation of India Industry (CII) announced on February 23, 2016 that they will establish the first Knowledge Economy Zone (KEZ) in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh.

It is aimed to progress the economy of this region. Andhra Pradesh is renowned for making Hyderabad a global city in an earlier initiative. This initiative will do something similar to Amravati, the CM of the state said.



News 18: Naval Exercise IBSAMAR 2016 between India, South Africa, Brazil kicked off in Goa

The fifth edition of IBSAMAR 2016 trilateral naval exercise between Brazil, India and South Africa started on February 23, 2016 in Goa.

IBSAMAR means India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime in short. It is a joint naval exercise of the nations, whose names are included in the name of the exercise. The PM and President of India attended and gave a speech as well in this event.



News 19: India approves \$150 million credit line for Iran's Chabahar port

India has approved a \$150 million credit on February 24, 2016 for the development of Iran's Chabahar port. This port is instrumental for India to circumvent arch-rival Pakistan and open up a route to landlocked Afghanistan.

The initiative paves a new way in bilateral relationships of India with Iran. This development is being considered a breakthrough in terms of relationship with Iran.



REGIONAL

News 1: Maharashtra announces Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Special Collective Incentive Scheme

Maharashtra state cabinet has declared on February 03, 2016 that Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Special Collective Incentive Scheme will be constituted for the economically deprived Dalit entrepreneurs.

This scheme will provide special facilities to Dalit entrepreneurs. Under this scheme, 20% plots with Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) for small and medium scale industries will be reserved for the Dalits.



News 2: MoU between CIPET and Karnataka Government for setting up Advanced Polymer Laboratory in Bengaluru

The Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Karnataka Government on February 03, 2016 to build an Advanced Polymer Design and Development Research Laboratory cum High Learning Centre at Bengaluru.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Ananth Kumar and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The initiative will improve polymer based industries.



News 3: Centre Approves Heritage Development Projects in Andhra & Telangana

The Union Ministry of Urban Development has initiated a heritage development project on February 06, 2016 for improving tourist infrastructure in Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh and Warangal in Telangana.

An Inter-Ministerial National Empowered Committee for the Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) approved the projects. The project includes a heritage park in Amaravati, development of the 1000 Pillar Temple and Kazipet Durgah and reconstruction of pondat Padmakshi Temple in Warangal city.



News 4: Union Government to set up National Organic Farming Research Institute in Gangtok, Sikkim

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare will build the National Organic Farming Research Institute in Gangtok, Sikkim. By upgrading the existing Regional Centre of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in Gangtok, the institute will be formed.



This decision was made on February 06, 2016 by the Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh and Sikkim Agriculture Minister Somnath Poudyal in New Delhi.

News 5: Geographical Indication tag for Basmati Rice of 7 states approved

The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) has ordered the Chennai based Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) on February 07, 2016 to issue 'Geographical Indication' tag for basmati rice. This tag will be attached to basmati rice varieties grown in 7 states in the Indo-Gangetic Plains (IGP). These seven states are Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, parts of Uttar Pradesh along with Jammu & Kashmir. This tag is going to preserve the originality and identity of India's aromatic basmati rice in the international markets.



News 6: Project Sunrise launched for prevention of AIDS in NE states

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, J P Nadda has launched Project Sunrise on February 06, 2016 for prevention of AIDS in North Eastern States. This is specially aimed for people injecting drugs in the 8 NE states. This special program on AIDS prevention aims to diagnose 90% of drug addicts with HIV and put them under treatment by 2020.



News 7: India's first aviation park to come up in Gujarat

The Gujarat government decided on February 08, 2016 to set up an aviation park in the state. This will be the first ever aviation park in India. It is going to improve research and development in the aviation sector. This park will be equipped with amenities such as an airstrip, training school, helipad and space for setting up small manufacturing units, among others.



News 8: Karnataka first state to record winter crop failure this year

On February 10, 2016, Karnataka became the first Indian state to have failure of winter yield this year. The state asked for a Central financial aid of Rs. 1,417 crores after Rabi crops worth Rs. 7,209 crores were ruined. Crops of above 70% of the sown were ruined. Many farmers' suicide incidents have been reported earlier. The losses are going to affect the GDP of the country in the long run.



News 9: Union Government Releases Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for NE India

Union Ministry of State for Petroleum and Natural gas (MoPNG) published the Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for North-East India on February 09, 2016. This report outlines steps to leverage the hydrocarbon sector for social and economic development of the north-east region. The states covered under it are Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram and Tripura. This hydrocarbon initiative is going to help the NE States economically.



News 10: India set to get its first bio-fuel refinery in Assam by 2019

It was announced on February 11, 2016 that India will get its first biofuel refinery in Assam by 2019. Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), in partnership with a Finland-based company, Chempolis Oy, will take up the Rs. 950-crore project.

It will use bamboo as its feedstock and produce fuel grade bio-ethanol. This initiative is aimed at making Assam a rising force in bio fuels and alternative fuels sectors.



News 11: UP passes Land Revenue Act, 2015

The Uttar Pradesh Land Revenue Act, 2015, came into effect on February 12, 2016, which will replace around 39 old land revenue acts. This new act also overtook the pre and post-British-Era Land Revenue Act of 1901 and Zamindari Abolition and Land Reform Act 1950. These land revenue acts are considered the key in deals of land including sale and acquisition of farmers lands for commercialization.



News 12: Elephanta Island to be electrified before Independence Day

It was announced on February 11, 2016 that Elephanta Island will get electricity by the Independence Day, 2016. Currently, this island is dependent upon diesel-powered generators for electricity. The Maharashtra Chief Minister has allocated a Rs. 25 crores project to connect the island with undersea power cable network with Mumbai. This initiative will help the island's tourism business and overall economy of the region.



News 13: Chhattisgarh and Railways Signed a Joint Venture for Infrastructure Development

The Indian Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chhattisgarh Government on February 09, 2016 to establish a joint venture (JV) for laying tracks and expedite implementation of railway projects. For the Railway Minister, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, it is the fifth such JV setup with states following Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. This also marks a new model of rail infrastructure development in India.



News 14: Oracle to Setup Its Campus in Bengaluru

Oracle will set up a campus in Bengaluru and will help more than half a million students in India develop computer science skills. This was conveyed by Oracle's Global CEO, Safra Catz to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 12, 2016. "She apprised the Prime Minister of Oracle's plans for a state-of-the-art campus centered in Bengaluru and an initiative to help more than half a million students in India develop computer science skills through Oracle Academy," a PMO statement said.



News 15: Maharashtra to get India's first International Arbitration Centre

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis declared on February 07, 2016 that India's first International Arbitration Centre is set to come up in Mumbai. This centre is going to provide a variety of arbitrary services to the business community across the world. This will facilitate negotiations on various domains of the industry and will pave a way to do more impactful business in this region.



News 16: Banaras Hindu University turns 100 years' old

This Basant Panchami, the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will turn 100 years old. Founded by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya in 1916, BHU is known for special significance, and its contribution is multi-dimensional in India.

It was not established just as a university to disseminate knowledge. It was a university of the people to inculcate the passion for knowledge. Perhaps, that is why the Bharat Ratna was conferred to Malaviya.



News 17: Homeo Vision 2016 - Inaugurated at Nagpur

The 24th National Homoeopathic Congress Homeo-Vision 2016 was on February 13, 2016 inaugurated by the Minister of State for AYUSH and Health and Family Welfare, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik in Nagpur.

This initiative will help many devotees to the profession of homeopathic treatments, which is considered to be a cost effective way of treating various diseases. It is also considered to have lesser side effects to the human body.



News 18: Jharkhand to get the First Mega Food Park

On February 15, 2016 Union Food Processing and Industry Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Chief Minister Raghubar Das started the activities of the first mega food park at Village Getalsud, Ranchi in Jharkhand.

This food park will not only be a place for entertainment, but it will also have a much wider impact in research and innovation in the field of food processing and creation.



News 19: Andhra Pradesh Government and USTDA signs agreement

A memorandum of understanding was signed on February 12, 2016 between the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and the Andhra Pradesh State Government on developing Visakhapatnam as a smart city.

CM Chandrababu Naidu is renowned for taking such initiatives that help the regions economically. The city of Hyderabad was opened for global investments in his tenure as a CM earlier.



News 20: BHEL commissions 270 MW unit GVK power plant in Punjab

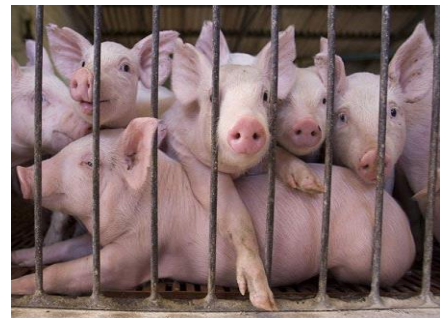
Power plant equipment manufacturer Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) on February 18, 2016 commissioned a 270 MW generation unit in Punjab. The commission was made at the Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Project.



This power station will erase the much needed gap between supply and demand and can even offer electricity to neighboring states in case of a special demand.

News 21: Punjab to sign MoU with British Pig Association

The Punjab government signed a MoU with British Pig Association (BPA) on February 17, 2016 to develop and promote piggery in the State. Although not seemingly very important, the initiative will have a much wider impact on agriculture and husbandry industries of the region. The State Animal Husbandry department's tie-up with BPA would turn around the stagnant economy of the peasantry and would instill progress in this sector.



News 22: World Bank extends support to Rajasthan on energy reforms

The World Bank on February 19, 2016 extended its support to the Rajasthan government on energy reforms. A meeting between World Bank's Country Director in India, Onno Ruhl and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje brought this deal.



The deal is going to support Rajasthan employ its energy sufficiency initiatives in a better and more profound manner. This can be a boon for a more developed state in the long run.

News 23: Uma Bharti to Inaugurate Jal Manthan 2016 in New Delhi

Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Uma Bharti inaugurated an event named "Jal Manthan -2" on February 22, 2016 in New Delhi.



The major aim of this two-day event was Integrated Approach for Sustainable Water Management. Various other water management issues were also discussed in this event. This is especially important since the PM has announced the plans to refine the Ganga and make it pure again.

News 24: M Venkaiah Naidu led committee to look into Jat Reservation Issue

To contain the escalating issue of Jat Reservation, a committee under Union Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu was set up on February 21, 2016. The reservation issue took the main stage of a political debate as the Jat community sought reservation in government jobs and other initiatives.



This decision was taken while the Home minister Rajnath Singh met some Khap panchayat leaders. This committee will submit a report to the Central government.

News 25: India set to sign major power deal with Bangladesh

India is set to finalize a major power deal with Bangladesh, making it the biggest project by an Indian power firm, BHEL. This plant once made will be bigger than the plant already built in Rwanda or the one proposed in Sri Lanka. BHEL will seal build a \$1.6 billion power plant in Bangladesh, announced on February 22, 2016. This joint initiative will help reduce energy shortage in both countries.



News 26: Andhra Pradesh saves 421 million units of power in 2015 using LED bulbs

An independent survey conducted by Andhra University and Engineering Staff College of India - has revealed on February 22, 2016 that the state saved about 421 mn unit of power, in 2015 given the state government's initiative to use LED bulbs. This is for the first time in any Indian state that conservation has been beefed up to such a huge level.



News 27: MP, Rajasthan set up SPV for implementation of Smart City Plans

Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Government have commissioned Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) for the implementation of Smart City Plans. SPVs are in five cities – Jabalpur, Indore and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jaipur and Udaipur in Rajasthan. The PM has announced 100 cities that will be made smart cities with the help and process implementations supported by the central government and these cities are included among the finalists of the list.



News 28: Vibrant North East event concludes in Guwahati

The three-day long Vibrant North East event concluded in Guwahati, Assam on February 20, 2016. It was inaugurated by Union Minister Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur.



This event was jointly organized by the Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) and ASSOCHAM. It is aimed at improving the infrastructure and investment sectors to make the North East, a vibrant region.

News 29: 42nd Khajuraho Dance Festival Begins in MP

The 42nd Khajuraho Dance Festival began in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh on February 20, 2016. The festival began with Odissi group dance of Ranjna Gauher and others.



Khajuraho is famous for the erotic sculptures that illustrate the science of sex in terms of vedic cultures. The location is a major tourist hub and is well flocked by tourists from both national and international fraternities.

News 30: President to declare Kerala as the first digital state

President Pranab Mukherjee recently declared Kerala as the first digital state of the country thereby adding another feather in the cap of the southern state. Kerala was declared the first digital state on account of its high e-literacy rate and mobile penetration (32 m connections). The state is one of the most sought after regions for mobile and internet oriented initiatives.



REPORTS

News 1: Companies Law Committee submits report recommending changes in Companies Act, 2013

The Companies Law Committee formed in June 2015 to check and suggest changes on implementation of the Companies Act, 2013 has submitted its report to the Union Government on February 02, 2016. The Committee Chairperson was Tapan Ray, Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs. This committee have received more than 2000 suggestions during the consultation phase. The panel made changes in 78 sections of the Act.



News 2: Tata Consultancy Services rated the most powerful Brand in IT Services

As per a recently released report on February 03, 2016, by Brand Finance, a global brand valuation firm, India's Tata Consultancy Services has been rated as the most powerful brand in Information Technology Services across the world.

The firm evaluated thousands of top brands to find the ones that are most powerful and valuable. The selection was Based on a multiple section scoring system such as familiarity, loyalty, staff satisfaction and corporate reputation.



News 3: Maharashtra tops the Index of the Internet Readiness of Indian States

The Internet and Mobile Association of India's (IAMAI) published a report titled "Index of Internet Readiness of Indian States" on February 09, 2016. According to it, Maharashtra is the topper in terms of overall internet readiness in India.

Other states like Karnataka, Gujarat, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have also scored well on the index, but the progress of eastern states is poor. The index took into consideration various parameters such as e-infrastructure, e-participation, IT services and e-governance.



News 4: The US Chamber of Commerce Ranks India 37th in IP Readiness

The US Chamber of Commerce has ranked the country 37th in an International Index of Intellectual Property (IP) environment among 38 economies. Indian law does not have adequate measures for enforcement mechanisms to curb online piracy, the report published on February 10, 2016 said.

The US was the topper of the index followed by the UK, Germany, France and Sweden. BRICS nations, Russia obtained 20th rank, China (22nd), South Africa (26th) and Brazil (29th) were also ranked by the report.



News 5: Neem extract may help treat Pancreatic Cancer: Study

A new study has stated on February 12, 2016 that a natural extract derived from the neem tree can treat pancreatic cancer without harming normal, healthy cells. The findings were published in the journal Scientific Reports. The study was conducted by scientists from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso). Neem has been long hailed as an important medicinal plant and the research adds more weightage to the fact.



News 6: India ranks 54th in terms of domestic policies supporting innovation

As per a report published by Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) on January 20, 2016, India ranks 54th in terms of its domestic policies supporting global innovation. This report considered 56 countries that comprise of 90% of the total world's economy. The report was analyzed on a per capita basis to study the economic and trade policies of countries that contribute to and detract from innovation globally.



News 7: India remains world's largest arms importer

A report on international arms transfers by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) revealed on February 22, 2016 that India is the top arms importer with a 14% share in the world. Other countries like China (4.7%), Australia (3.6%), Pakistan (3.3%), Vietnam (2.9%) and South Korea (2.6%) follow India in terms of arms import according to this report. The high percentage of import may be due to the fact that India is a vast country and security threats have been immense in the recent times.



News 8: Indian sport-stars lead Forbes list of promising young under 30

Forbes' inaugural list of top "promising young leaders and game changers" under the age of 30 in Asia, published on February 25, 2016 provided a glimpse of Indian sportsperson lead the pack of 56 Indians on the list. Tennis star Sania Mirza, Indian Batsman Virat Kohli and top-seeded badminton player Saina Nehwal are among the few who have made it to this list.



RESIGNATIONS

News 1: Mukesh Bansal & Ankit Nagori to Quit Flipkart

Mukesh Bansal, the head of commerce and advertising business and Ankit Nagori, Chief Business Officer of Flipkart will quit the company. This was announced on February 10, 2016. Mr. Nagori will quit the firm to start an entrepreneurial venture in the sports domain. Bansal had joined Flipkart when the online marketplace acquired fashion retailer, Myntra in 2014. He will remain an adviser to the company. Binny Bansal will now be the head of the commerce and advertising platforms of Flipkart.



News 2: Facebook India's Managing Director Kirthiga Reddy Steps Down

After the controversy ridden free basics program in India, Facebook India Managing Director, Kirthiga Reddy resigned from her current role. Facebook has aborted 'Free Basics' in India and the initiative had caused a large public outcry against it. The telecom regulator TRAI did not allow operators to charge discriminatory rates for internet access based on content. Facebook finally decided not to give it a 'Go Ahead' in India.



News 3: Vijay Mallya steps down as the Chairman of USL

Vijay Mallya, chairman of the UB Group has stepped down on February 25, 2016 as the Non-Executive Chairman of United Spirits Ltd. UK firm Diageo agreed to drop all charges of irresponsibility against him, and pay him \$75 million over five years in return of his resignation. Mallya has been accused of cheating the nation and its own employees and he has gone to a foreign nation, when the matter worsened in India.



SPORTS

News 1: Brazilian Pietro Fittipaldi wins MRF Challenge

Brazilian racing driver, Pietro Fittipaldi topped the 2015 MRF International Challenge series, the fourth edition of this event, held at Madras Motor Racing Track in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu on January 31, 2016.

Fittipaldi is the 17-year old grandson of former Formula One World champion Emerson Fittipaldi. He won a pair of the total four races and collected 244 points to win this challenge.



News 2: Novak Djokovic (men's) Angelique Kerber (women's) winners of 2016 Australian Open

German female tennis ace, Angelique Kerber won the women's singles title in the 2016 Australian Open final on January 30th. She defeated Serena Williams 6-4 3-6 6-4. This is Kerber's first grand slam title.

In the men's competition, Serbian player Novak Djokovic won the title for the sixth time, equaling Roy Emerson's record. Djokovic beat Andy Murray 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 to claim his 11th grand slam.



News 3: Kidambi Srikanth wins the Syed Modi International badminton Title

Kidambi Srikanth won his first Syed Modi International Badminton Championship on January 31, 2016. He beat China's Huang Yuxiang 21-13, 14-21, 21-14 in the final held at Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium, Lucknow. Srikanth has won the Thailand Grand Prix Gold, Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold and India Super Series and China Super Series premier previously.



South Korean Sung Ji Hyun was the women's singles title winner. The championship prize money includes \$ 120,000.

News 4: Aditya Mehta wins the 83rd Senior National Snooker Championship

Aditya Mehta won the 83rd Senior National Snooker Championship held in Indore. He defeated Manan Chandra 6-3 in the final of the National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2016 on 31 January.

Vidya Pillai won the National Snooker Championship in the women's category by defeating Ameer Kamani 4-2.



News 5: Kohli Replaces Finch as No 1 Batsman in T20 Internationals

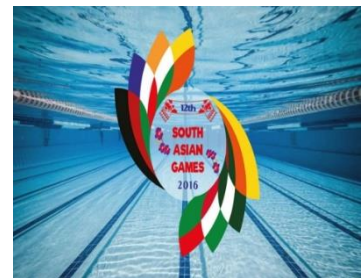
Virat Kohli was named the top ranked batsman in the T20 format on February 06, 2016. He replaced Aaron Finch in the ICC list for the shortest format of cricket. Kohli had scores of 90 not out, 59 not out and 50 in the three-match series, which brought 47 rating points to take Kohli ahead of Finch with 892 points to Kohli's credit. The latest rankings also show India to be No.1 T20 team in the world.



News 6: 12th South Asian Games inaugurated in Guwahati

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 12th South Asian Games 2016 on February 05, 2016 at the Indira Gandhi Athletics Stadium in Guwahati, Assam. The South Asian Games are focused on 3-Ts of Teamwork, Togetherness and Talent.

There are 8 participating nations in the game that are India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.



News 7: Sapna Devi bags gold in 12th Asian Games' women's Wushu Taolu competition

On February 07, 2016 in the 12th Asian Games held at the Rising Sun Sports Complex in Assam, India's Sapna Devi won a gold medal in the women's Wushu Taolu (Changquan) competition. Sapna scored the best 9.45 points to win the gold. Nepal's Susmita Tamang won the silver scoring 8.72 and Pakistan's Nazia Parvaiz bagged the bronze scoring 6.30 points.



News 8: Australian team wins three-match women's ODI series against India

On February 07, 2016, the Australian women's cricket team emerged victorious in the three-match ODI series against India by 2-1. The first two matches were won by Australia but India somehow managed to clinch a victory in the third one day international. The Indian team collected a five-wicket victory in the third and last match so as not to suffer a complete whitewash.



News 9: Chinappa Wins Gold in Squash in 12th South Asian Games

On February 08, 2016, India's ace squash player Joshna Chinappa won the gold medal in the women's individual category at the 12th South Asian Games (SAG). India has topped the medal charts due to exemplary performance of its athletes in the event that is held in Guwahati for the first time. Pakistan's Maria Wazir was defeated by Joshna 10-12, 11-7, 11-9, 11-7.



News 10: The New Zealand cricket team wins Chappell-Hadlee Trophy

New Zealand cricket team won the three-match Chappell-Hadlee Trophy of cricket against Australia, 2-1 on February 08, 2016. The trophy is an important event in the region due to the subdued potential conflicts between the nations. To clinch the title, in the third and final match played at Seddon Park, Hamilton, NZ defeated Australia by 55 runs. The NZ team was led by Brendon McCullum.



News 11: New Zealand cricketer Brendon Barrie McCullum retired from One-Day Internationals

Brendon Barrie McCullum of New Zealand on February 08, 2016 retired from One-Day Internationals (ODIs). However, He had announced about his retirement on 22 December 2015.

In his debut ODI, he was a 20-year-old batsman in 2001 against Australia at Sydney. Brendon played the last match against the same side in 2016. He was considered a very good batsman and a renowned captain for the Kiwi's team.



News 12: Lord's to Host Women's World Cup Final in 2017

Lord's is going to host the Women's World Cup Cricket in 2017, the ICC has announced on February 08, 2016. The fixtures have been allocated to Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire and Somerset during the tournament that takes place between June 26 and July 23. Eight teams will participate in the single-league format, where each team will be playing with the other at least once.



The top four will qualify to the semi-finals. The winners of semifinals will play in the final at Lord's on July 23.

News 13: Quinton de Kock becomes the youngest player to score 10 ODI centuries

South Africa's Quinton de Kock on February 10, 2016 became the youngest player to have 10 One Day International cricket centuries. He broke the record of Indian cricketer Virat Kohli in the third ODI against England in Centurion. De Kock's age was 23 years and 54 days when he scored the 10th century. Kock has been under consideration for the most promising young player as well.



News 14: Kavita Raut Clinches Gold in the South Asian Games Marathon

India's long distance runner, Kavita Raut clinches gold in the marathon of the South Asian Games on February 12, 2016. The games were held in Guwahati for the first time. The 30-year old Raut easily clinched the marathon gold in 2 hours 38 minutes and 38 seconds. She has also been nominated as the 4th Indian woman to have qualified for Rio Games women's marathon.



News 15: Mirza, Hingis win St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy

On February 14, 2016, in St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy, Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis bagged their 13th women's double titles. The duo is one of the top seed pairs in the doubles version of the game. The Indo-Swiss pair defeated Czech-Russian pair of Barbora Krejčíková and Vera Dushevina 6-3, 6-1 in the finals that lasted for an hour. The Mirza-Hingis pair clinched an easy victory overall.



News 16: West Indies Beat India in the Under 19 World Cup

The West Indies won the Under-19 World Cup final on February 13, 2016 for the first time in their history after beating India by five wickets in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Put in to bat by the Caribbean's, who won the toss, the script went completely out of control for the Indians. The Indian team was dismissed for 145 in 45.1 overs. Sarfaraz Khan's 89-ball 51 was the only noteworthy contribution. In reply, the West Indies went on to overhaul the score in 49.3 overs.



News 17: India tops the medal charts at the 12th South Asian Games

The 12th South Asian Games recently concluded in Guwahati, Assam. India topped the medal count with a total of 308 medals - 88 gold, 99 silver and 30 bronze. On February 17, 2016, the last day of the event, female Indian boxers - M.C. Mary Kom (51kg), former world champion L. Sarita Devi (60kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) - won gold in their respective categories.



News 18: Brendon McCullum scores fastest test century

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum scored the fastest Test century on February 20, 2016. The New Zealand captain was playing his 101st and final Test, where he reached his 12th Test century from just 54 balls. McCullum was out at 145 when Nathan Lyon took a stunning catch in the deep to dismiss a 179-run partnership with Anderson.



News 19: Punjab Warriors Win 2016 Hockey India League

The Jaypee Punjab Warriors has won the fourth Coal India Hockey India League (HIL) title 2016 on February 21. The Jaypee Punjab Warriors clinched their Hockey India League (HIL) title at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Ranchi. The Chandigarh-based outfit beat Kalinga Lancers 6-1. Armaan Qureshi, Matt Gohdes and Satbir Singh scored a field goal each for the Warriors. The unique fact of the tournament was that each field goal counted for two.



News 20: Dnipro FC Wins 2016 Nagjee International Club Football Tournament

Ukraine's Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk Football Club has won the Sait Nagjee International Club Football Tournament of 2016 on February 21, 2016 in Kozhikode. Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk FC defeated Brazilian FC Atletico Paranaense by 3-0 goals.

Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, being victorious, became the first European team to win this prestigious Football tournament held in India. The final was played at the EMS Corporation stadium at Kozhikode (Kerala), Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk FC defeated Atletico Paranaense FC of Brazil.



News 21: The Asia Cup cricket tournament begins in Bangladesh

The 2016 Asia Cup is a Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket tournament began in Bangladesh. It was played from February 24 to 6 March 2016. It is the 13th edition of the Asia Cup, the fifth to be held in Bangladesh, and the first to be played using the T20 format. This tournament will be followed closely by the T20 World Cup, which will be hosted by India. The tournament will be a matter of much interest for the Asian cricket-loving community.



News 22: Rohit Sharma named the Global Ambassador of Nissan

Japanese Carmaker Nissan on February 24, 2016 named Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma as their new global ambassador. Rohit Sharma is an ace batsman in the Indian team and is known for superb performances, especially in tests and one day internationals.



West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell and New Zealand women's team captain Suzie Bates are also recruited in same designations. The stint is backed monetarily.

News 23: Long Distance Runner Lalita Babar Named as the Sports Person of the Year

Lalita Babar was named as the Sports Person of the Year in the India Sports Awards 2015 in a ceremony on February 22, 2016. The Indian Sports Awards were offered at the conclusion of day one of 'Turf 2015-16', organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) with the support of the Sports Ministry. Babar qualified for Rio Olympics recently in the 3000m steeplechase event. She is also the current Indian national record holder.



News 24: Mumbai won Ranji Trophy for the 41st time

Mumbai on February 26, 2016 won the Ranji Trophy with an innings and 21 run victory over Saurashtra. It won the trophy for the first time in three seasons.

Mumbai has won 41 titles in 45 finals with 10 of them being an innings victory. Mumbai is already reckoned as the capital of cricket in India and this victory will make it subtler.



News 1: Amazon Web Services builds 5 data centres in Mumbai

Amazon Web Services has installed 5 data centers in its India operations hub, Mumbai. The company wants to tap on the growing influence of e-tailing and cloud computing in India. The news came in while Amazon's rivals like Flipkart and Microsoft and IBM have increased their data service operations in India. Companies in India can use AWS (Amazon Web Services) infrastructure to build up their businesses and run the applications in the cloud.



News 2: Maharashtra set to be India's first silicon chip-manufacturing hub

Maharashtra will be India's first silicon chip-manufacturing hub. It will also become the fourth country in the world after China, South Korea, and Japan to develop touchscreen technology. The state has taken a new policy to bring silicon chip-manufacturing companies to set up units in Maharashtra. The government has signed an MoU with major electronic chip makers in the industry in 'Make in India Week' starting February 13, 2016.



News 3: Freedom 251 - world's cheapest smartphone launched

Indian firm Ringing Bells launched Freedom 251, the world's cheapest smartphone on February 17, 2016. At Rs. 251 (\$3.67; £2.56), this phone offers 8GB storage and front and rear cameras, 1.3 GHz quad-core processor, 1GB RAM and Android 5.1 Lollipop OS, among other features. This phone will end the long hauled position of the well-earners who could only afford a smartphone. Now, it will be in the hands of everyone.



News 4: Prithvi II Missile Successfully Test Fired

India test-fired its indigenously developed Prithvi-II missile on February 16, 2016. This missile is a very important addition to India's armory and it can carry 500 kgs to 1000 kgs of warheads. Prithvi II missile was tested as part of a user trial by the army from a test range at Chandipur. India continues its dominance in missile technology with this successful launch.



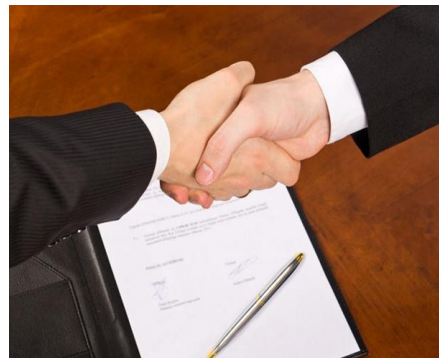
News 5: India's 1st Lightest Gun "Nidar" Launched

India's first indigenously developed lightest revolver (gun), Nidar was successfully launched on February 12, 2016. It was part of the "Make in India" initiative. Designed and manufactured by the state-run Rifle Factory in Ishapore located in West Bengal, the gun weighs merely 250 grams. This arm will be a mini version of security weaponry for the needy individuals, apart from being included in security forces for its efficiency.



News 6: NRDC inks MoA with IACS on Technology Transfer

NRDC has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) on February 16, 2016 for commercialization of technologies and intellectual properties (IP) developed at IACS. Under this MoA, NRDC will provide its services in IP Evaluation and Valuation to IACS. Director, IACS Professor Santanu Bhattacharya and Chairman Managing Director of NRDC Dr. H. Purushotham exchanged the Memorandum of Agreement.



News 7: Japan launches ASTRO- H satellite

Japan launched the ASTRO H satellite from the Tanegashima Space Center on February 17, 2016 in order to study X-rays coming from black holes in space. The satellite has been designed in collaboration with NASA and other space agencies and it will pave new ways to study the mysterious X-rays that are scattered from Black holes when they are created.



News 8: ISRO successfully test cryogenic engine of GSLV Mark 3 rocket

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted hotbed test of the indigenously developed high-thrust cryogenic engine (CE20) of the GSLV Mark 3 (LVM3) rocket on February 20, 2016.

GSLV stands for Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle and is intended to launch satellites into geostationary orbit and as a launcher for an Indian crew vehicle.



The GSLV-III has an Indian cryogenic third stage and it has a higher payload capacity than the current GSLV

News 9: Harsh Vardhan Dedicates Ksheer-Scanner Systems

The Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Vice President, CSIR Dr. Harsh Vardhan, on February 20, 2016, dedicated Systems for Detection of Adulteration and analysis of Milk. India is the leading producer of milk with 18% contribution of world production and it consumes about 146 million tonnes of milk. Out of all, 60% of the milk is contaminated with Urea, detergent, liquid soap, caustic soda, boric acid etc.



Initially NITI Aayog invented a technology to detect adulteration at a cost less than 4 rupees, but now with KSHEER SCANNER, the cost has come down to 50 paise.

News 10: Indian Government to provide wi-fi at 25,000 spots in country

It was revealed on February 24, 2016 that the Indian government has planned to set up wi-fi facilities at 25,000 spots in the country by March 2016.

At present, the facilities are available at three hundred spots across India. The stand has been taken looking at the popularity of Wi-Fi spots due to large scale use for personal laptops for various reasons.



News 11: ISRO to set up Satellite Centre for in ASEAN countries in Vietnam

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) announced on February 27, 2016 that it will establish a Satellite Tracking & Data Reception Station and Data Processing Facility for ASEAN Member countries in Vietnam.



This satellite centre is a program of Union Government as part of Space Cooperation between India and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). India is a leader in space technology among ASEAN region.