

CURRENT AFFAIRS



JUNE 2016

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Current Affairs June 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 **June 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: NK Chari Appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of Mysore

Mr. NK Chari has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the State Bank of Mysore (SBM) with immediate effect from 30th May. He was earlier the Deputy Managing Director of the State Bank of India.

He joined the State Bank of India as a Probationary Officer in September 1978. He also served as the Chief Operating Officer in the National Banking Group, the retail branch network of SBI. He has also served as the Managing Director of Nepal SBI Bank Limited for four years from 2007.



News 2: Navin Agarwal Appointed as the DG of National Anti-Doping Agency

Mr. Navin Agarwal, a 1986 batch IPS officer of Jammu and Kashmir cadre, has been appointed as the Chief of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved his appointment. He has been appointed to the post for five years. He is currently posted as the Director General of Police (Prisons) PHQ, Jammu & Kashmir Police.

NADA works for dope free sports under the Departments of Sports, Ministry of Sports, Government of India.



News 3: Sasikumar Appointed as the new Managing Director of SBT

Mr. CR Sasikumar has taken over as the Managing Director of the State Bank of Travancore (SBT). Before joining SBT, he was working as the Deputy Managing Director, Inspection & Management Audit, at the SBI Corporate Centre in Hyderabad. He started his career as a Probationary Officer with State bank of India in 1978 and has held several key positions in the bank including an overseas assignment heading the China Operations of SBI.



The State Bank of Travancore (SBT), is a subsidiary of the State Bank Group and is the premier bank of Kerala, India.

News 4: Former Adobe Executive Umang Bedi takes over charge as the Facebook India MD

Mr. Umang Bedi will take over as the Managing Director of Facebook India, from Kirthiga Reddy who will be returning to the United States to take on a new role at the company's headquarters at Menlo Park.



Mr. Umang will officially start at Facebook in July 2016. He will lead in building and maintaining strategic relationships with top clients and regional agencies in the country. At Adobe, Umang Bedi was responsible for growing their business in India and helping India grow amongst the leading markets for Adobe.

News 5: Shahid Rasool Appointed as the Director of Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia

Dr. Shahid Rasool, a former US Fulbright Fellow in Communication Technology, took charge as the Director of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA).



He was earlier the Director of the Educational Multimedia Research Centre, University of Kashmir. Dr. Rasool is a Communication Technology Specialist and earned his MS Degree in Communication Technology from Syracuse University, USA. He has a doctorate in Mass Communication and Journalism from the University of Kashmir.

News 6: IATA reappoints Jet Airways Chairman Naresh Goyal to its Board of Governors

Jet Airways Chairman Naresh Goyal has been re-elected to the prestigious International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Board of Governors for a fifth successive tenure. Mr. Goyal will serve a three-year term, lasting until the close of IATA's 75th AGM in 2019. Mr. Naresh Goyal is the only representative from India on this board.



IATA represents more than 260 member airlines, and plays a key role in helping formulate the global policy on critical aviation issues. As a member of the Board of Governors, Mr. Goyal will participate in providing policy directives and guidance to IATA Industry Committees and to their subsidiary bodies.

News 7: Rama Mohana Rao Appointed as the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu Government appointed P Rama Mohana Rao as the new Chief Secretary of the State. Mr. Rao would also hold full additional charge of Vigilance Commissioner and also the Commissioner for Administrative Reforms.



Mr. Rao replaces K Gnanadesikan who has been transferred to act as the Chairman and Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO). Santha Sheela Nair has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty in the Chief Minister's Office.

News 8: G Kalyanakrishnan took charge as the New Chief Executive of the Nuclear Fuel Complex

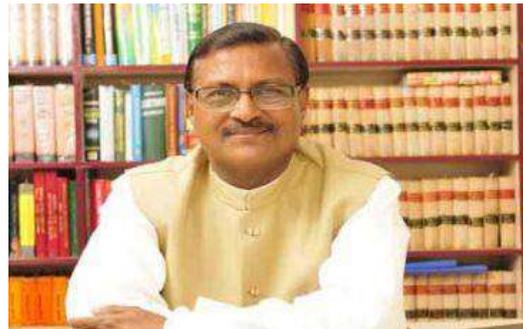
Distinguished Scientist, G Kalyanakrishnan, has taken over as the Chief Executive of the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad. He took over the charge from N Saibaba, who has retired on completion of two years of extended period of service. Mr. Kalyanakrishnan will also be the Chairman of the NFC Board. Prior to this assignment, Kalyanakrishnan was holding the position of the Deputy Chief Executive, NFC.



He has a vast experience in erection & commissioning as well as operation of Heavy Water Plants. He has also contributed in the successful commissioning of the Zirconium Complex (ZC – a Unit of NFC) at Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu.

News 9: Satya Pal Jain Appointed as the Law Commission Member

Former Parliamentarian Satya Pal Jain has been appointed as a part-time member of the Law Commission of India. This appointment is in addition to his charge as an Additional Solicitor General of India. He is a noted constitution lawyer and a senior BJP leader.



The President of India had constituted the 21st Law Commission of India on the 14th September, 2015 to study judicial reforms in the country. Retired Judge of the Supreme Court, Dr. Justice B.S. Chauhan, is the Chairman of this Commission.

News 10: Dr. M Beena is Appointed as the new MD of the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation

Dr. M Beena has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA). Dr. Beena is currently the Managing Director of KSIDC (Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation) and KSIE (Kerala State Industrial Enterprises).



The head office of KINFRA is located in Thiruvananthapuram. KINFRA aims at bringing together all the suitable resources available in the state and developing infrastructure to woo the industrial growth of the state.

News 11: Ranu Langthasa Unanimously Appointed as the first woman Chairperson of NCHAC

Ms. Ranu Langthasa became the first woman Chairperson of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council in Assam after she was unanimously appointed as the Chairperson in a special session held in the NCHAC.

The North Cachar Hills district, Dima Hasao, is an Autonomous District (Lok Sabha Constituency) enjoying the Sixth Schedule status granted by the Constitution of India. The Autonomous Council is a powerful body and almost all the Departments of Government are under its control except the Police and Law & Order, which is under the Assam Government.



News 12: Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad assumes charge as the Chief Justice of Manipur HC

Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad has assumed charge as the Chief Justice of the High Court on 13th June. He was earlier the Judge of the Jharkhand High Court and was transferred to the Manipur High Court by the President of India. His appointment came after the retirement of present incumbent Laxmi Kanta Mohapatra.

Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad is a Science graduate and obtained his LL.B. Degree from Patna Law College. He joined as the Registrar General in the High Court of Jharkhand on 8th June 2001.



News 13: Sunil Mittal takes charge as the Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce

The Paris based International Chamber of Commerce appointed Founder Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, Mr. Sunil Mittal as the Chairman of the Paris based International Chamber of Commerce, replacing Mr. Terry McGraw.



Presently, Mr. Mittal also serves as the Chairman of the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Telecommunications Steering Committee, Member of International Business Council –WEF, GSMA Board, Telecom Board of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Commissioner of the Broadband Commission, International Advisory Panel of the Monetary Authority of Singapore as well as the Prime Minister of Singapore's Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council.

News 14: Doordarshan Appointed IAS Officer Supriya Sahu as its Director General

Senior IAS Officer Supriya Sahu has been appointed as the full-time Director General of the State-run broadcaster Doordarshan by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, replacing Aparna Vaish who was the acting head of Doordarshan. She has been appointed to the post on a deputation basis for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge.



Ms. Sahu has earlier worked as the Director and Joint Secretary in Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Nodal Authority for the National Broadcaster Doordarshan.

News 15: UN Women declared Anne Hathaway as its Global Goodwill Ambassador

The UN Women declared actor Anne Hathaway as its Global Goodwill Ambassador. The actress will have to put the efforts on the issue of the unequal burden of care work in the home as one of the key barriers to gender equality. Other services include affordable childcare services and shared parental leave at both government and corporate levels.



Ms. Hathaway has previously served as an advocate for Nike Foundation. She travelled to Kenya and Ethiopia to raise awareness on child marriage. Women’s economic empowerment is one of UN Women’s core strategic pillars, and a priority focus under Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka’s leadership.

News 16: Suresh Chandra takes over charge as the Union Law Secretary

The Senior Legal Service Officer Suresh Chandra was appointed as the Union Law Secretary who is presently serving as the Additional Secretary in the department. This is the first time the Government had issued a notification for this post, even seeking candidates from outside the Law Ministry.



Previously, the ministry received 45 applications from across the country, including those from serving Sessions Judges as well.

News 17: PayPal Appoints Anupam Pahuja as the Country Manager for India and the MD

The Global Payments Platform PayPal appointed Mr. Anupam Pahuja as the Managing Director and Country Manager for its India operations. Mr. Pahuja will be responsible for all aspects of PayPal’s India business and further strengthening the company’s operations in the country.



He has been with the company for over six years and has been heading the technology for APAC. Prior to PayPal, he was the Managing Director for India for NASDAQ listed SumTotal Systems, the world’s largest eLearning company.

News 18: Niraj Mittal joins DBS Bank as their Institutional Banking Head

The DBS Bank (India) decided to appoint Mr. Niraj Mittal as the Managing Director and Head of their Institutional Banking for India. His reporting will be to Jeanette Wong, Group Executive and Head of Institutional Banking Group in Singapore and Surojit Shome, CEO of DBS India. His roles and responsibilities will be for scaling up business with institutional banking clients by driving both new client acquisition and deepening existing relationships.



Mr. Mittal previously served in The Royal Bank of Scotland NV (RBS) as its Managing Director and Head of Institutional Banking Business (North India).

News 19: Mr. Brijesh Mehra to head RBL Corporate Banking

The RBL Bank (formerly known as The Ratnakar Bank Limited) has appointed Mr. Brijesh Mehra as the head of its corporate, institutional and transactional banking. He was earlier working with the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) as its India chief. The appointment comes within a month of RBS announcing its withdrawal from customer facing activities in India.



Mr. Mehra will be reporting to the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Vishwavir Ahuja. He will be responsible for developing and managing relationships with large corporates, public sector undertakings, financial institutions, multinational corporations and local administration.

News 20: Yasmin Sooka, an Indian-origin lawyer, to chair panel on human rights in South Sudan

An Indian-origin lawyer from South Africa Yasmin Sooka has been appointed to chair a UN commission to monitor the human rights situation in South Sudan. The long-time human rights activist is then to make recommendations for their improvement. She will work together with Kenneth Scott from the USA and Godfrey Musila of Kenya.



Sooka is currently the Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) in South Africa. The UN resolved to establish the Commission following calls for investigation into

alleged atrocities by both government and rebel forces before an independent South Sudan was carved out of the larger Sudan in 2011.

News 21: Sanjay Malik is appointed as the India head of Nokia

Nokia has appointed Sanjay Malik as the head of the Indian market. The appointment is effective August 1. He is currently Head of Network Implementation (NI) at Nokia Global Services. He will be based in Gurgaon and will lead customer operations, drive the business growth strategy and superior customer engagement services for the India market.



Sanjay is credited with efficiently driving growth and delivering strong performance both in terms of revenue and operational efficiency. Previously, he was heading Bharti GCBT (Global CBT).

News 22: Sujoy Bose appointed as the CEO of NIIF

The Union Government has appointed Mr. Sujoy Bose, Director and Global Co-Head, Infrastructure and Natural Resources, International Finance Corporation, Washington, as the Chief Executive Officer of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Ltd. He has extensive international experience in the infrastructure sector including experience in raising funds from international investors.



The NIIF has been established with the aim to attract investment from both domestic and international sources for infrastructure development in commercially viable projects.

News 23: Nestle appoints Ulf Mark Schneider as their CEO

Nestle SA has appointed Ulf Mark Schneider to be its new Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Schneider is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Germany based Fresenius SE and has been working here since 2003. He will succeed the current Chief Executive Officer Paul Bulcke. Mr. Bulcke will succeed Peter Brabeck-Letmathe as the chairman at Nestle's next annual general meeting in April 2017.



Mr. Schneider will join on September 1 and start as the CEO on January 1 after "an introductory period".

News 24: Suzuki Motors appoints Toshihiro Suzuki as their CEO

The board of Suzuki Motor Corporation has appointed Toshihiro Suzuki, son of Chairman Osamu Suzuki, as its next Chief Executive officer with immediate effect. Osamu stepped down as the CEO to take responsibility for the firm's use of incorrect testing methods to calculate vehicle mileage. He will remain the Chairman of the corporation.

Mr. Toshihiro joined Suzuki in 1994 after a stint at Toyota-affiliated parts supplier Denso Corp., and led the company's product planning and global marketing divisions.



AWARDS

News 1: Raghavan Seetharaman awarded the Green Economy Visionary Award

Mr. Raghavan Seetharaman, who is the Group Chief Executive Officer of Doha Bank, was awarded the Green Economy Visionary award at the 2016 Union of Arab Banks International Banking Summit held in Rome for his contribution in environment friendly activities and for promoting green economy for nearly two decades. The award was presented to him by Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman of Union of Arab Banks.



In 2015, Business Magazine Forbes ranked Seetharaman 6th in the Forbes' Top Indian Leaders in the Arab World 2015 list.

News 2: V.O. Chidambaranar Port Bags National Award for Excellence in Cost Management

The V.O. Chidambaranar Port has bagged the National Award for Excellence in Cost Management for the year 2015, for the third time, from the Institute of Cost Accountants of India under the category of Public Service Sector – Small.



This award has been given for exemplary performance of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port towards optimization of manpower, savings in electricity, implementation of Solar Energy Systems, reduction of overall cost of handling by mechanization and improving efficiency and logistics support.

News 3: PM Narendra Modi conferred with the Highest Civilian Honor of Afghanistan

Our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has been conferred with Amir Amanullah Khan Award, Afghanistan's Highest Civilian Honor. He was bestowed with this honor by the Afghan President, Ashraf Ghani.



It is the Highest Civilian Honor bestowed by the Afghan Government to an Afghan national as well as foreigners in appreciation of their services. The citation on the reverse of the

medal reads: "Nishan-e-Dawlati Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan", or "State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan."

News 4: IOA Chief Conferred with the Olympic Order Award

The President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Mr. N Ramachandran was conferred with the highest award of the Olympic Movement 'Olympic Order' by the International Olympic Committee for his outstanding services to the Olympic Movement. This award is honored for the efforts made by the people in the cause of sports.



Mr. N Ramachandran is the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) since February 2014 and is the second Sports Administrator from Tamil Nadu to receive the award after the late B.S. Adityan, a former IOA president.

News 5: UN Chief Ban Ki-moon awarded with Russia's Order of Friendship

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has been honored with Russia's Order of Friendship for special merits in strengthening peace, friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding between people.



The order was set up in 1994 and is meant to honor Russian Citizens and Foreign Nationals for outstanding accomplishments in strengthening peace and cooperation with Russia, as well as for charity activities. Notable recipients in the past include Prince Michael of Kent, Oscar Niemeyer and former President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge.

News 6: Queen Elizabeth II Awards Regius Professorship to Indian-origin Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya

Queen Elizabeth II has awarded the prestigious Regius Professorship in Manufacturing to Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) at the University of Warwick, founded by an Indian Origin Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya, for its academic research which has contributed to driving growth and improving its productivity.



Professor Bhattacharyya, who is an IIT-Kharagpur alumnus, has advised the UK

Government on manufacturing, innovation and technology. The creation of Regius Professorships falls under the Royal Prerogative, with each appointment being approved by the Queen upon Ministerial advice.

News 7: Ridley Scott to be honoured with the 30th American Cinematheque Award

The English film director and producer, Ridley Scott, will be honoured with the 30th American Cinematheque Award at the Beverly Hilton. Some of his notable movies are Balderunner, Thelma & Louise, Gladiator, Black Hawk Down, Hannibal, American Gangster, Prometheus and The Martian. He has received the BAFTA Award for outstanding British contribution to cinema and was also knighted for his services to the British film industry.



The previous honorees of this award include Tom Cruise, Al Pacino, Reese Witherspoon and The Martian actor Matt Damon.

News 8: AAI received the National Award for best performing Central PSU for Green Energy Initiatives

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been conferred the National Award for Best Performing Central PSU for Green Energy. The award was given for AAI's Roof Top Solar Power initiatives.



AAI has been successful in installing 4.8 MWp roof top solar plants at 13 airports and further work for 4.9 MWp at 14 airports is likely to be completed by December, 2016. The solar power generation is 51 Lakhs units (Approx.) from the completed solar power plants at various airports.

News 9: 'Sansad Ratna' awards given to 5 MPs

The 'Sansad Ratna' awards instituted by the Prime Point Foundation and E-magazine PreSense, were given to four first time Lok Sabha MPs and one former Rajya Sabha member for their performance in the Parliament.



The First time MPs who were awarded the 'Sansad Ratna' are:

- BJP's PP Chaudhary, representing Pali in Rajasthan
- Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, BJP MP from Nandurbar, Maharashtra

- Shrirang Appa Barne, Shivsena MP from Maval, Maharashtra
- Congress MP Raajeev Shankarrao Satav from Hingoli, Maharashtra

The Shiv Sena MP from Shirur in Maharashtra, Shivaji Adhalrao Patil, and former RS Member and CPI (M) leader from Kerala, P Rajeev, were also honoured for their work.

News 10: Singer Rod Stewart Knighted in Queen's Birthday Honor

Renowned Singer Rod Stewart has been Knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honors. The legendary Singer – Songwriter has been honored by her Majesty for his services to Music and Charity. His smash hits include You Wear It Well, Hot Legs, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy, Some Guys Have All the Luck, Maggie May and Young Turks.



Astronaut Tim Peake, meanwhile, became the first Briton honoured for work in space. Major Peake is currently on the International Space Station. He would become a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George for services to Space Research and Scientific Education.

News 11: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation gets award for Smart City strategy

The Canadian Institute of Planners, a professional institute working for effective planning on land use, has awarded the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation under planning excellence merit category. The award has been given to the Capital City of Odisha for its Smart City strategy.



According to the Institute, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has played a pivotal role in redefining existing planning processes.

News 12: Priyanka Chopra Nominated for Teen Choice Awards

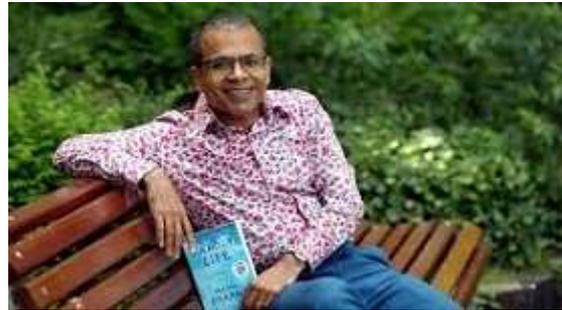
Actress Priyanka Chopra has been nominated at the 2016 Teen Choice Awards for her stint as FBI Trainee Alex Parrish in American TV series "Quantico". She got the final nomination in the Choice TV Breakout Star category. The Awards will be announced and distributed in Los Angeles on July 31.



Priyanka had earlier won the Favorite Actress title in a New TV series award at the People's Choice Awards 2016 for the same role.

News 13: Akhil Sharma wins the 2016 International Dublin Literary Award

Family Life, a novel written by an Indian – American writer, Akhil Sharma, has won the 2016 International Dublin Literary Award. The award carries a cash prize of €100,000. The novel is about an eight-year-old Indian boy who moves to the US with his family in the late 1970s and mirrors the author's own experience of emigrating from India to America as a child.



The novel, Family Life is Sharma's second novel and took him 13 years to write. The novel has also won the prestigious 2015 Folio Prize. Akhil's first novel was 'An Obedient Father' published in year 2000 which won the prestigious PEN/Hemingway Foundation Award in 2001.

News 14: Mohun Bagan Ratna award honoured to Syed Nayeemuddin

Kolkata Giants declared in an executive committee meeting to honor Indian footballer and coach Syed Nayeemuddin with the Mohun Bagan Ratna 2016 for his outstanding contribution to the club and the country both as a player and as a coach.



He joined Mohun Bagan as a coach in 1992 and became the second Indian coach to win the treble in a season. In 1994, Mohun Bagan won Federation Cup, Calcutta League and Rovers Cup under his leadership as a coach.

News 15: 2016 PEN Pinter Prize conferred to Canadian poet Margaret Atwood

The 2016 PEN Pinter Prize for 2016 was conferred to poet, novelist and environmental activist Margaret Atwood. The Award Ceremony will be at the British Library on the 13th October 2016. The judges appreciated Atwood as a 'consistent supporter of political causes', adding 'her work championing environmental concerns comes well within the scope of human rights due to which she is considered as a very important figure in terms of the principles of PEN and of Harold Pinter.



Margaret Atwood's British Library address will be published by Faber & Faber and will be available to the audience at the event.

News 16: Professor Sanjay Mittal of IIT-Kanpur awarded with the G D Birla Award

Professor Sanjay Mittal from the Department of Aerospace Engineering of IIT-Kanpur received the prestigious G D Birla Award for Scientific Research for 2015. He was instrumental in establishing the High Performance Computing (HPC) facility at the IIT Kanpur and heads the National Wind Tunnel Facility.



Professor Sanjay Mittal is also a recipient of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology. He also works in the area of sports aerodynamics. His team was able to bring out the aerodynamic difference between a duck-feather and synthetic shuttle cock. Currently, the team is working at the aerodynamics of the swing and reverse-swing of a cricket ball.

News 17: Shashank S Shah conferred with Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award 2016

Dr. Shashank S. Shah, MBBS, MS, FAIS, FICS (Hon), FMAS (Hon), FIAGES (Hon), FALS (Hon), DLS (France) was conferred with the American Diabetes Association's 2016 Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award given by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) for his contribution in research on diabetes in South Asia. He was given award for his research on Gastric Bypass vs. Medical/Lifestyle Care for Type 2 Diabetes in South Asia with BMI 25-40 kg/m² — The COSMID Randomized.



Dr. Shah is presently the Director of the Laparo-Obeso Centre in Pune, India. The center provides comprehensive treatment for obesity and related metabolic diseases and is also a training site for laparoscopic and bariatric surgery. Shah is one of the pioneering bariatric surgeons in India and laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy in Asia.

News 18: President Pranab Mukherjee honored by Ivory Coast

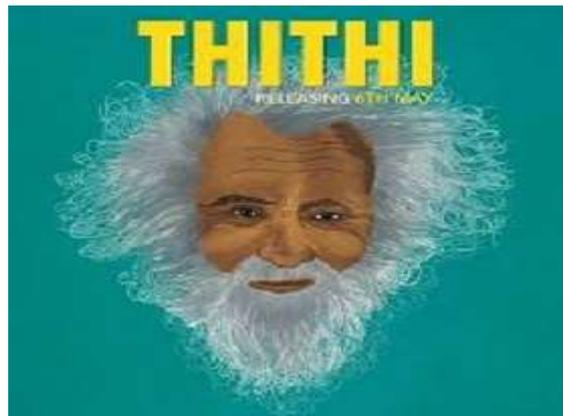
Indian President Pranab Mukherjee was honored with the Grand Cross National Order of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire by its President Alassane Ouattara on his maiden visit to India. It is the highest civilian honor and first such honor accorded to Mukherjee. According to the President's statement, India's public and private sector aims to join Cote D'Ivoire in setting up agro-based industries because of its fertile soil as well as its agricultural and mineral resources.



The President promised that India will remain a steadfast partner in assisting Cote D'Ivoire in its economic development and growth. It is said that trade relations between the two nations is expected to touch USD 1 Billion in the next few years.

News 19: Kannada movie, Thithi, won top awards at the 19th Shanghai International Film Festival

Kannada film Thithi has bagged the Best Film award at the 19th Shanghai International Film Festival. This film also won the Best Script Writers Award under the Asia New Talent Awards Category. The movie was directed by debutante filmmaker Raam Reddy.



Other films nominated in the best film category were One Night Only (China), Hana's Miso Soup (Japan), Land of the Little People (Israel) and Detective Chinatown (China).

News 20: CAG Shashi Kant Sharma conferred honorary professorship by Nanjing Audit University in China

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Shashi Kant Sharma has been conferred the Honorary Professorship by the Nanjing Audit University in China. It is the only university which is recognized by the Institute of Internal Auditors.



Mr. Sharma is in Beijing to take part in the first meeting of Supreme Audit Institution (SAIs) of BRICS countries. BRICS SAI leaders have agreed to actively enhance quality of auditors to enable SAIs to play a bigger role in advancing economic and social development.

News 21: The 17th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2016 Presented

The 2016 IIFA Awards, officially known as the 17th International Indian Film Academy Awards ceremony, presented by the International Indian Film Academy were announced on 26th May, 2016 in Madrid, Spain honoring the best films of 2015. The list of winners:



Award	Winner
Best Film	Bajrangi Bhaijaan
Best Director	Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Bajirao Mastani
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Ranveer Singh for Bajirao Mastani
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Deepika Padukone for Piku
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Anil Kapoor for Dil Dhadakne Do
Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Priyanka Chopra for Bajirao Mastani
Best Male Debut	Vicky Kaushal for Masaan
Best Female Debut	Bhumi Pednekar for Dum Laga Ke Haisha
Best Performance in a Comic Role	Deepak Dobriyal for Tanu Weds Manu Returns
Best Performance in a Negative Role	Darshan Kumar for NH10
Best Story	Juhi Chaturvedi for Piku
Best Debut Couple	Sooraj Pancholi and Athiya Shetty for Hero
IIFA Award for Woman of the Year	Priyanka Chopra

News 22: Sri Sri Ravi Shankar awarded Honorary Fellowship in UK

Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was honoured by an Indian student's body in the UK for his contributions to world peace and culture. National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) have awarded Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with an Honorary Fellowship. The NISAU awarded Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with the fellowship for furthering Yoga, Meditation and Spiritual Studies.



NISAU was created to provide a unifying voice for students with Indian heritage and promote, educate and celebrate Indian culture with people of all communities.

News 23: Indian Social entrepreneur Zubaida Bai bags UN Honour for Corporate Sustainability Initiative

An Indian social entrepreneur, Zubaida Bai, has been named among 10 "Champions and Pioneers" by the UN chief Ban Ki-moon under the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. She was named among the 10 '2016 Global Compact SDG Pioneers', an initiative launched by UN to search for "entrepreneurs" who can play a pivotal role with respect to universal principles of human rights, environment and anti-corruption.



Zubaida is the founder of 'ayzh', a for-profit social venture providing health and livelihood solutions to impoverished women worldwide.

News 24: India's Kartik Sawhney and Neha Swain won the 2016 Queen's Young Leaders Award

Kartik Sawhney and Neha Swain of India have won the 2016 Queen's Young Leaders award in the United Kingdom which was presented by the British monarch in Buckingham Palace. The name of these awardees had been announced last year in December.



Sawhney and Swain have won the prestigious award for their exceptional work in transforming the lives of others and making a lasting difference in their communities.

DEATHS

News 1: Former Eden Gardens Curator Prabir Mukherjee died

The former chief curator of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Prabir Mukherjee, passed away in Kolkata at the age of 86 years after suffering from liver problems and depression.

Mr. Mukherjee was in charge of the tracks at the Eden Garden for close to 25 years. He also served as the manager of Bengal and East Zone teams. His association with Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) began in 1979. His last assignment at the Eden Gardens was for a Twenty20 International between India and South Africa in October 2015.



News 2: Tamil Actor-Director Balu Anand passed away

Popular Tamil actor and director Balu Anand passed away following a cardiac arrest in Coimbatore at the age of 62 years. Anand has acted in some 100 films and directed a few Tamil movies.

The actor-director is known for movies like Anbe Sivam, Unakkaga Ellam Unakkaga, Rajadhi Raja, and Raja Kulothunga. 'Annanagar First street' and 'Nane Raja Naane Mantri' were some of his hit films.



News 3: Boxer Muhammad Ali passed away

The three-time World Heavyweight Champion boxer Muhammad Ali passed away at an Arizona Hospital where he was being treated for a respiratory issue. He was 74 years. He was battling Parkinson's disease for the last 32 years.

He won the World Heavyweight Championship in 1964 at the age of 22. He was crowned the Sportsman of the Century by the Sports Illustrated Magazine and also was awarded the Sports Personality of the Century by the BBC. He also wrote several best-selling books about his career, including The Greatest: My Own Story and The Soul of a Butterfly.



News 4: Veteran Actor Sulabha Deshpande died

Veteran theater and film actor Sulabha Deshpande passed away at the age of 79 years at her Mumbai residence after a prolonged illness.

She featured in several Marathi and Hindi films and TV serials. Some noteworthy Hindi films in which she appeared included "Bhumika" (1977), "Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan" (1978) and "Gaman" (1978). Recently, she had appeared in Gauri Shinde – directed "English-Vinglish". She was the recipient of the 1987 Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Hindi – Marathi theatre acting.



News 5: Manohar Aich, India's First Mr. Universe, passed away

India's first Mr. Universe, Manohar Aich died in Kolkata at the age of 104 years. He became India's first Mr. Universe in 1952. At just four feet and 11 inches, he was given the name "Pocket Hercules". Manohar Aich is also a three-time Asian Games Gold Medalist in body building. In 1950, at the age of 36, Aich won the Mr. Hercules contest.

Mr. Manohar Aich joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 where he began to work on his body.



News 6: Nepali National Anthem Composer Amber Gurung passed away

Amber Gurung, the legendary Nepali musician and composer of Nepal's national anthem 'Sayaun Thunga Fulka Hami' passed away due to diabetes and Parkinson's disease. He composed more than a 1,000 songs including many era-defining numbers during his career.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Bhim Rawal, reached Pashupatinath temple and draped the national flag over Gurung's body for cremation.

He was a self-taught musician who learned both western and eastern classical music entirely on his own.



News 7: Chess legend Viktor Korchnoi dies

Chess Grandmaster, Viktor Korchnoi died on 6th June in Wohlen, Switzerland. He was 85 years old.

He is considered as one of the strongest players never to have won the World Chess Championship. He was a four-time USSR champion and ranked number one in the world in 1965. He was the oldest active chess grandmaster on the international tournament circuit for many years and won the World Senior Chess Championship in 2006.



News 8: Veteran Journalist KK Katyal died

Veteran journalist KK Katyal died at the age of 88 years. He passed away in a hospital in Delhi after a brief illness.

Mr. Katyal had worked with various newspapers including The Statesman, Hindustan Times and The Hindu. He had a stint with the United States Information Services as well. He also served as the President of the South Asia Free Media Association. He started his career by working in the News Chronicle soon after Independence.



New 9: Former Kerala Assembly Speaker T S John died

Former Kerala Assembly Speaker, T S John passed away at the age of 74 years due to old age related ailments. He had served as a Minister in the A K Antony cabinet. He was one of the founder members of the Kerala Congress and was elected to the assembly from Kalooppara constituency four times.

John was the Speaker of the fourth Kerala Assembly from February 17, 1976 to March 25, 1977. Born at Kaviyoor in Thiruvalla in 1939, he was a lawyer by profession.



News 10: Gordie Howe, known as “Mr Hockey” passed away

Legendary Canadian Ice Hockey player Gordie Howe, who was nicknamed "Mr. Hockey", passed away at the age of 88 years.

Mr. Howe was the National Hockey League’s leading scorer six times and a six-time winner of the Hart Trophy as the league’s most valuable player. He led the Detroit Red Wings to four Stanley Cup championships, and in 2008 he received the NHL’s first Lifetime Achievement Award.



News 11: M.S. Krishna Bhat, former Chairman of Karnataka Bank, passed away

M.S. Krishna Bhat, the former Chairman of Karnataka Bank (1995–2000), passed away at the age of 78 years. He is credited with consolidating the position of the Bank. Karnataka Bank witnessed new highs under his able leadership.

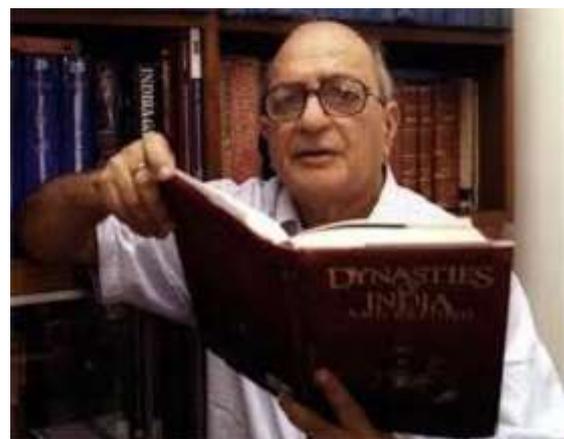
Mr. Bhat joined Karnataka Bank in 1970. During his tenure as Chairman, the total business more than tripled. The Bank also secured the highest P1+ rating for its Certificate of Deposits from CRISIL. Computerization of banking operations was initiated during his tenure.



News 12: Veteran Journalist Inder Malhotra passed away

One of the most respected journalists of the country, Inder Malhotra, passed away at the age of 86 years. The veteran had worked with The Statesman and The Times of India, New Delhi. He began his career with the United Press of India. He also wrote for The Guardian (1965-95).

He is a recipient of the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Award (Lifetime Achievement). He also has authored few books including former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's biography, 'Indira Gandhi: A Personal & Political Biography (1989)'. He is both a Nehru Fellow (1986-87) and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow (1992-93).



News 13: Former England Skipper Donald Carr passed away

The former Derbyshire and England batsman, Donald Carr, died at the age of 89 years. He was an astute captain of Derbyshire, and in one Test led England. He made almost 20,000 first class runs and claimed 328 wickets with his left-arm spin in his 23-year career and was also named the Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1960.



After retiring as a player in 1962, he continued to serve the game as a cricket administrator, serving as the secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board.

News 14: Noted Playwright and Actor Achyut Lahkar passed away

Noted playwright and actor Achyut Lahkar passed away at the age of 85 years following a protracted illness. He was the doyen of Assam's mobile theatre movement and founded Nataraj Theatre, the first mobile theatre company of Assam in 1963. He is also referred to as the 'Father of Assamese Mobile Theatre'.



The State Government has announced to accord full state honors and to declare one-day state mourning in his respect. He was awarded the Kamal Kumari National Award in 1997. He also received the Bhaben Barua Award, Mancha Prabhakar Award and Braja Nath Sarma Award.

News 15: Eminent Hindi Novelist Mudrarakshasa dead

Eminent Hindi Novelist Mudrarakshasa passed away following a prolonged illness at the age of 82 years. His real name was Subhash Chandra and wrote novels and other forms of Hindi prose besides producing literature for children with his pen name.



He graduated from Lucknow University and was then employed as Assistant Editor of Gyanodaya (published from Calcutta) from 1955 to 1958. He had also edited Hindi journal Anuvarta and was also associated with All India Radio.

News 16: Actress Ann Morgan passed away

Popular TV actress Ann Morgan Guilbert passed away due to cancer at the age of 87. Some of her best works were five-season run on classic sitcom Dick Van Dyke Show, I Dream of Jeannie, My Three Sons, The Alfred Hitchcock Hour, The Partridge Family, Love, American Style, and The New Andy Griffith Show.

She was last seen performing in CBS's Life in Pieces which was a James Brolin's comedy. A Minnesota native, she left her hometown and headed for California to study theater and began working as a performer.



News 17: Assam's Congress President Anjan Dutta died

Mr. Anjan Dutta, President of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee passed away at the age of 64 years due to cardiac failure at the AIIMS Hospital in Delhi. He previously served as in-charge of several departments of the state including transport and was also elected as the MLA of Amguri constituency in the state thrice.

He became the president of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee on Dec. 13, 2014. Dutta was a cabinet minister and a close associate of Tarun Gogoi, the former Chief Minister of Assam.



News 18: Noted Telangana poet and lyricist Guda Anjaiah passed away

Noted Telangana poet and lyricist Guda Anjaiah passed away at his residence in Hyderabad at the age of 61 years. He was suffering from kidney problems and jaundice. Anjaiah was born in Lingapuram village of Dandepalli mandal in Adilabad district in 1955.

His famous song, Oooru Manadira, was translated in 16 different languages. He played a significant role in the Telangana agitation. He received Suddhala Hanumanthu – Janakamma Memorial's Suddhala Foundation National Award, Sahithya Ratna, Dalitha Kalaratna and Dalitha Sevaratna.



News 19: Quiz Master Neil O'Brien passed away

Educationist Neil O'Brien, credited with pioneering quizzing in the country, died in Kolkata at the age of 82 years. He was a former member of Lok Sabha and also a three-time nominated Anglo-Indian MLA in West Bengal.

Neil O'Brien had conducted the first well-organized, formal quiz in 1967 at Christ the King Church Parish Hall in Kolkata (then Calcutta). He was also a former chairman of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination and the Inter State Board of Anglo-Indian Education and also as managing director of Oxford University Press, India.



News 20: Beehive Hairstyle Creator, Margaret Vinci Heldt, passed away

Margaret Vinci Heldt, the creator of the beehive hairstyle, passed away at the age of 98 years. She became a hairstyling celebrity after she created the famous beehive hairdo in 1960. She ran a salon in Chicago and first debuted the hairstyle for a magazine cover in 1960. She won the National Coiffure Championship in 1954.

The cone-shaped hairdo was popular among first lady Jacqueline Kennedy and actress Audrey Hepburn.



News 21: Renowned Educationalist Jeppiaar died

Renowned Politician turned Educationist, Jeppiaar, died in Chennai at the age of 85 years. Jesadimai Pangiraj also known as JPR was the Founder Chancellor of the Sathyabama University in Chennai. The Jeppiaar Educational Trust, established by him, runs several well-known engineering colleges in and around Chennai. He also established the St. Joseph's College of Engineering and the St. Mary's School of Management Studies in 1994.

He was the AIADMK secretary of the Chennai District from 1972 to 1987 and was the Special Envoy to the Chief Minister.



News 22: Veteran Malayalam Theatre Artist Kavalam Narayana Panicker passes away

Veteran Malayalam Theatre Artist Kavalam Narayana Panicker passed away at the age of 88 years. He was a well-established poet, lyricist and theatre director. He has written over 26 Malayalam plays, many adapted from classical Sanskrit drama and Shakespeare. His notable works are Madhyamavyayogam, Kalidasa's Vikramorvasiyam, Shakuntalam, Karnabharam, Bhasa's Uru Bhangam, Swapnavasavadattam and Dootavakyam.



In 1961, he was nominated as the Secretary of Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi. He also won a number of honours, including Sangeeth Natak Akademy award, Sangeeth Natak Fellowship and Kerala State Film Award for the best lyricist.

News 23: Founder of Titan, Xerxes Desai, passed away

Xerxes Sapur Desai, the man who founded Titan Co. Ltd passed away because of acute gastroenteritis in Bengaluru at the age of 79 years. He played a key role in introducing India to its first quartz watch after he set up Titan Co. Ltd (part of Tata Sons).



Mr. Desai graduated from the Oxford University and joined Tata Administrative Service (TAS) in 1961. He worked with Tata Press, Tata Chemicals and Taj Hotels and went on to set up Titan in 1986. He also started Tanishq, the jewelry business which is now a trusted brand and India's largest jewelry firm.

News 24: NSCN (IM) Chairman Isak Chishi Swu passes away

The Chairman of the NSCN (IM) Isak Chishi Swu passed away in New Delhi after a prolonged illness at the age of 87 years.



He joined the Nagaland Underground Force in the late 1950's and served as the Foreign Secretary of the Naga National Council (NNC) which was a political organization of Naga People. Isak Chishi Swu is one of the founding leaders the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) in January 1980.

His death comes at a time when the NSCN (IM) and the Indian government are still negotiating for the final conclusion of the Naga Peace Accord.

News 1: Exercise Desert Eagle II Concludes

Desert Eagle II, a ten-day air combat exercise and the second in the series of bilateral exercises between Indian Air Force (IAF) and United Arab Emirates Air Force (UAE AF), concluded on 03rd Jun 2016. The IAF and the UAE Air Force undertook air exercises from Al-Dhafra Air Base, Abu Dhabi starting from 22nd May 2016.



The Exercise Desert Eagle II saw the IAF Su 30 MKI participating along with Mirage 2000-9 and F-16 block 60 of the UAE Air Force. The Indian Air Force had participated previously in Desert Eagle I in 2008.

News 2: Joint Naval Exercise Malabar 2016 begins

India, the United States and Japan began the annual exercise Malabar 2016 on 10th June in Japan. Indian Navy ships Satpura, Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch are participating in the 20th edition of Exercise MALABAR – 16 with the US Navy and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF). The harbour phase was conducted at Sasebo from 10 to 13 June and the sea phase in the Pacific Ocean from 14 to 17 June.



The 19th edition of the exercise, Exercise MALABAR – 15, was conducted off Chennai. The primary aim of this exercise is to increase interoperability amongst the three navies and develop common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.

News 3: Indian Air Force inducts the first batch of three women pilots

The Indian Air Force commissioned its first batch of three women pilots - Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh into its fighter squadron. On successful completion of their Stage III training at Bidar in adjoining Karnataka next year, they will get to fly fighter jets like the Sukhoi and Tejas.



The achievement of the three is a significant milestone for the Indian military. The government has decided to open the fighter stream for women on an experimental basis for five years.

News 4: HAL Unveils Indigenous Basic Trainer Aircraft HTT-40

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) inaugurated indigenous Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA) HTT-40. It contains close to 80% indigenous contents and almost 505 of the components are manufactured by private players of the Indian aerospace ecosystem. It will be used for the first-stage training for all flying cadets of the three services.



The project is expected to get BTA certified in 2018. The commercial production of the trainer aircraft can generate nearly Rs 3,000-4,000 crore. HAL's initial investment is Rs. 350 crores, when it took it up in August 2013.

News 5: DRDO signs an MoU with the Jadavpur University to establish a Rs. 100 crore research centre

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Jadavpur University for setting up of the Rs. 100 crore Jagdish Chandra Bose Centre for Advanced Technology (JCBCAT), a research centre, at the university.



Expected to be ready in the next two years, the focus of the centre will be on pursuing collaborative advanced research, starting with secure systems and cognitive technologies, directed energy, unmanned and robotics technologies and then venturing towards other futuristic technologies.

News 6: First Flight of BrahMos air to ground missile from a Sukhoi-30 Aircraft successful

BrahMos Aerospace successfully demonstrated the integration of the world's most formidable supersonic cruise missile system BRAHMOS on the frontline strike fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force Sukhoi-30.



With this successful flight, the Brahmos air version program now inches closer towards actual test firing when a 2.5-ton BRAHMOS air-to-ground missile will be fired from the Sukhoi-30 in the coming months. It is first in the World combination of supersonic cruise missile with a long range fighter aircraft. The powerful missile will enable the IAF to penetrate deep inside the enemy territory to deliver a deadly blow to their vital installations from stand-off ranges.

News 7: Defence Ministry gives their nod for purchase of 145 Ultra-Light Howitzers guns from the US

The Defence Ministry gave its nod for the purchase of 145 Ultra-Light Howitzers guns, worth about 750 million dollars from the US. The Defence Acquisition Council, DAC chaired by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar approved this in New Delhi. While 25 guns will come to India in a fly away condition, the rest will be assembled at the proposed Assembly Integration and Test facility for the weapon system in India in partnership with Mahindra and Mahindra company. The guns will be deployed in high altitude areas in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh.



During the meeting, the DAC also approved bulk production of 18 Dhanush artillery guns. Another key project that got approval will allow the Navy to issue tenders to build six next generation missile vessels under Buy Indian category for 13 thousand 600 crore rupees.

News 8: India officially joins as the 35th full member of Missile Technology Control Regime

India has officially become the 35th full member of Missile Technology Control Regime. As a new member India will be entitled to “full participation” in organizational activities including the October 2016 plenary of the regime which will take place in South Korea. India had firmed up its claim to MTCR by joining The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC).



MTCR membership will enable India to buy high-end missile technology and also enhance its joint ventures with Russia.

News 1: BSE gets RBI approval for online bidding platform for Sovereign Gold Bond

The Bombay Stock Exchange has got the Reserve Bank of India's nod to start an online bidding platform for Sovereign Gold Bond scheme. SGBs offer an alternative to holding gold in physical form. The bond is issued by RBI on behalf of government and investors can apply for the bonds at the price as decided by the Central Bank.



BSE plans to offer an online bidding platform which is a part of the iBBS (Internet-based Book Building System), for collecting bids for the SGB issue.

News 2: HDFC Ergo acquired L&T Insurance for Rs 551 crores

HDFC Ergo General Insurance has acquired 100% stake of L&T General Insurance for an aggregate all cash consideration of Rs 551 crores. It is the first instance of consolidation in the domestic general insurance space. Currently there are 29 general insurance companies in India.



L&T General Insurance wrote gross premium of Rs. 483 crores for the financial year ending 31 March 2016. It reported Rs 102 crore loss for 2015-16. HDFC Ergo is a 51:49 joint venture between HDFC and Germany-based Ergo Insurance Group and made a profit after tax of Rs 151 crores during the financial year that ended March 2016.

News 3: Cairn Energy's Rs. 29,000 crore Arbitration gets underway

British explorer Cairn Energy's arbitration against Rs. 29,047 crores retrospective tax demand has begun with the adjudicating panel fixing timelines so as to complete the arbitration in less than 12 months. The three-member arbitration panel headed by Geneva based arbitrator Laurent Levy held its first procedural hearing in Paris. The Indian government will fix its 'statement of defence' by the fourth quarter of the 2016 calendar year and evidential hearing is expected to commence in early 2017.



It has been declared by the company that the company will claim full compensation for the \$1 billion value lost following the tax notice and freezing of its 9.8% shares in Cairn India.

News 4: Ashok Ganapathy to take charge as the Director of Airtel Business

Ashok Ganapathy has been appointed as the Director of Bharti Airtel Ltd. with effect from 1 July 2016 replacing Manish Prakash. Ganapathy joined Airtel in 2013 and has experience of 26 years across FMCG, retail, entertainment and telecom sectors.



He will be responsible for driving the growth of Airtel's Business-to-Business portfolio that serves top corporations, government entities and other corporates with end-to-end solutions.

News 5: World Bank Slashes Global Growth Forecast to 2.4%

The World Bank has slashed its 2016 global growth forecast to 2.4% from the 2.9% pace projected in January. The move is due to sluggish growth in advanced economies, stubbornly low commodity prices, weak global trade, and diminishing capital flows.



The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said it is critically important for governments to pursue policies that boost economic growth and improve the livelihood of those living in extreme poverty.

News 6: Forex reserves at all-time high of \$363.46 Billion

The Country's foreign exchange reserves have increased by 3.27 Billion US Dollars to hit an all-time high of 363.46 Billion US Dollars in the week to June 3. According to an RBI release, the reserves had earlier touched a record high of 363.12 Billion US dollars in the week to April 29.



This surge in the reserves during the week under review was on account of a healthy rise in foreign currency assets (FCAs). The FCA has increased by 2.99 Billion Dollars to 339.22 Billion Dollars in the reporting week, Central Bank data showed.

News 7: Tata Power Acquires Welspun's renewable energy assets

Tata Power has acquired the renewable energy (RE) subsidiary of Delhi based Welspun Energy. Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL), a subsidiary of Tata Power, signed a share purchase agreement with Welspun Energy to acquire Welspun Renewables Energy Pvt Ltd (WREPL) in a Rs 9,249-crore deal. This represents the largest transaction in the renewables space in India till now.



TPREL had acquired 1,140 MW of solar and wind power assets of Welspun Energy Private Ltd. The deal is expected to close in September.

News 8: Inflation climbs to 5.76% in May on costly food items

Retail inflation climbed to 5.76% in May due to an increase in food prices, a rise for the second month in a row. Retail inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index has been revised upwards to 5.47% for April this year. Retail inflation had stood at 5.01% in May 2015.



According to official data, the overall food inflation moved up to 7.55% in May, from 6.32% in April. Inflation in the vegetable basket more than doubled, to 10.77% in May.

News 9: SEBI issues stricter KYC, disclosure norms for P-Notes

Markets regulator SEBI has put in place stricter KYC norms and disclosure regime for Participatory Notes with an aim to ensure this route is not used for money laundering.

Under the new norms, all the users of P-Notes would have to follow THE Indian KYC and Anti Money Laundering Regulations, irrespective of their jurisdictions. The P-Note issuers will be required to file suspicious transaction reports with the Indian Financial Intelligence Unit.



News 10: Microsoft to Acquire LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion

Microsoft will acquire LinkedIn in an all-cash transaction valued at \$26.2 billion. LinkedIn will retain its distinct brand, culture and independence. Jeff Weiner will remain CEO of LinkedIn, reporting to Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft. The transaction is expected to close in this calendar year. The transaction has been unanimously approved by the Boards of Directors of both LinkedIn and Microsoft.



LinkedIn is the world's largest and most valuable professional network.

News 11: Tech Mahindra acquires leading UK-Based Digital Change Agents: The BIO Agency

Tech Mahindra Limited announced the acquisition of The BIO Agency (BIO), headquartered in the UK for 40 million pounds in an all-cash deal to expand its digital portfolio. The deal also includes a surplus cash component not exceeding 5 Million Pounds as at the completion date.



The BIO Agency specializes in digital transformation and innovation, helping organizations change the way they engage with their customers. BIO is expected to help Tech Mahindra compete with larger global rivals, Accenture and Cognizant.

News 12: WPI inflation at 0.79% in May, vegetable prices soar

The wholesale price-based inflation rate rose to 0.79% in May 2016, due to a double-digit increase in vegetable prices. WPI inflation had stood at 0.34% in April 2016, and at -2.2% in May 2015. Government data showed that wholesale food inflation rose to 7.88% in May, from 4.23% in April.



The wholesale inflation in vegetables surged to 12.94% in May 2016, from 2.21% in April 2016. Wholesale inflation in pulses stood at 35.56%. Manufactured products inflation rose up to 0.91% in May 2016, from 0.71% in April this year. Fuel and power inflation was -6.14% in May 2016.

News 13: BHEL Commissions a 195 MW unit at their Muzaffarpur plant

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has commissioned a 195 MW unit at their Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station in Bihar. This is the second 195 MW unit to be commissioned by BHEL at the 2×195 MW Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station Stage II of Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited (KBUNL). KBUNL is a joint venture (JV) of NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) and BSPGCL (Bihar State Power Holding Company Limited).



The first 195 MW unit was commissioned in March, 2015.

News 14: Cabinet approves Disinvestment of 10% paid up equity of Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for disinvestment of 10% paid up equity of Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) out of Government of India's shareholding of 100% through Initial Public Offering (IPO) in the domestic market as per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Rules and Regulation.



The paid up equity capital of HUDCO is Rs. 2001.90 crores and Government of India owns 100% of the equity at present. The net worth of the Company is approximately Rs. 7,800 Crores.

News 15: Union Government radically liberalized the FDI regime; Grants 100% FDI in Defence Sector

The Union Government has radically liberalized the FDI regime today, with the objective of providing major impetus to employment and job creation in India.

Following are the grants given in various sectors:

- Permit 100% FDI under government approval route for trading, including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India.



- Foreign Investment in Defence Sector up to 100%; Foreign investment beyond 49% has now been permitted through government approval route.
- Pharmaceutical: permit up to 74% FDI under automatic route in brownfield pharmaceuticals and government approval route beyond 74% will continue.
- The government has permitted 100 per cent FDI in India-based airlines. However, a foreign carrier can only own up to 49 per cent stake in the venture, and the rest can come from a private investors including those based overseas. 100 per cent FDI in existing airport projects has been allowed.
- Private Security Agencies: FDI up to 49% is now permitted under automatic route in this sector and FDI beyond 49% and up to 74% would be permitted with government approval route.
- Animal Husbandry: FDI in Animal Husbandry (including breeding of dogs), Pisciculture, Aquaculture and Apiculture is allowed 100% under Automatic Route
- Single Brand Retail Trading: relax local sourcing norms up to three years and a relaxed sourcing regime for another five years for entities undertaking Single Brand Retail Trading of products having 'state-of-art' and 'cutting edge' technology.

News 16: India's holding of US Securities jumps to new high of over \$121 Billion in April

The latest data from the US Treasury Department shows that India's holding of American government securities has reached 121.6 billion US Dollars in April amid uncertain global economic cues. This also marks a steep rise from the level seen in April 2015 when the country held American Government securities to the tune of 110.3 billion dollars.



China owned the US Government securities worth 1.24 trillion dollars in April, while that of Japan touched USD 1,142.8 billion dollars. During the same period, Brazil's exposure went up to 249.1 billion dollars whereas Russia trimmed its holding to 82.5 billion dollars.

News 17: Govt reduces prices of 42 drugs by up to 15%

The Government has capped the prices of 42 essential medicines used in treatment of various ailments including tuberculosis, cancer and cardiac diseases thereby reducing their cost by up to 15%. The Drug Price Regulator, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, has fixed or revised ceiling prices of 45 scheduled formulations of Schedule-I under Drugs (Price Control) Amendment Order, 2016.



Out of the 45 drugs, the prices of 42 medicines have been reduced by up to 15% and manufacturers not complying with the ceiling price would be liable to deposit the overcharged amount along with interest.

News 18: Cabinet considers Model Shops and Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2016

The Union Cabinet has considered the Model Shops and Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2016. The Bill will now be sent to the States/UTs to enable them to modify their individual Acts. The Model Bill would bring about uniformity in the legislative provisions, making it easier for all the States to adopt it and thereby ensuring uniform working conditions across the country.



The main features of the draft model Bill are as follows:

- It will cover only establishments employing ten or more workers except manufacturing units.
- The Bill provides for freedom to operate 365 days in a year and opening/closing time of establishment.
- Women to be permitted during night shift, if the provision of shelter, rest room ladies toilet, adequate protection of their dignity and transportation etc. exists.
- Five paid festival holidays in addition to national holidays etc.

News 19: The Union Cabinet approves recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission

The Union cabinet approved a big jump in salaries of central government staff and similar raises in pensions. The new salaries and pensions will be effective from January 1, 2016. The minimum pay has been increased from existing Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 18,000 per month. A fitment factor of 2.57 would apply for pay revision of all employees. And the rate of annual increment has been retained at 3%.

Gratuity has been increased from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs and the House Building Advance was raised from Rs. 7.5 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs.



ENVIRONMENT

News 1: Asia's first 'Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Program' launched

Union Environment Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar launched Asia's first 'Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Program' along with the Haryana Chief Minister, Shri Manohar Lal, at Pinjore. They jointly released two Himalayan Griffons into the wild from the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore.



While releasing the captive vultures in a pre-release aviaries close to the breeding centre, he gave one the name 'Jodh Singh'. The government has fixed a target to increase the existing forest cover in the country to 33%, he added.

News 2: India announces plan to double investment in Clean Energy Research

The Union Minister for Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan announced that India's current investment in Clean Energy Research is about \$72 million which is planned to be doubled to \$145 million in the next five years. He was speaking at the 7th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM7) and the Inaugural Mission Innovation Meet at San Francisco, held on 1st and 2nd of June, 2016.



He also announced to launch a new Research Track on Smart Energy Grids and Energy Storage under the Indo-US Partnership to Advance Clean Energy Research (PACE-R) as well as setting up a Joint Virtual Clean Energy Centre with the UK.

News 3: Popcorn-like fossils give Evidence of Environmental Impact on Species Numbers

According to a new research led by the University of Southampton, the number of species that can exist on Earth depends on how the environment changes. The researchers analyzed the fossil record of microscopic aquatic creatures called planktonic foraminifera. These fossils resemble small popcorn. The research on these fossils provided the statistical evidence that environmental changes put a cap on species numbers.



Dr. Thomas Ezard is the lead author of the study and the research was published in the Journal Ecology Letters.

News 4: Norway becomes the First Country to Ban Deforestation

Norway became the first country in the history of the world to ban deforestation after the Norwegian Parliament pledged to be deforestation-free. The ban is a part of the government's procurement policy and includes eliminating the use of any product that contributes to deforestation.



Norwegian lawmakers also committed to find a way to source essential products such as palm oil, soy, beef and timber which are responsible for 40 percent of deforestation between 2000 and 2011. Norway is also in the process of restricting the sales of gas-powered cars by 2025.

News 5: Darjeeling Zoo to receive snow leopard from Dudley Zoological Gardens in London

The Padma Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZZP) in Darjeeling is expected to receive a snow leopard from Dudley Zoological Gardens in London. The two-year-old male snow leopard is named 'Makalu', named after the world's fifth highest peak at 27,765 feet. PNHZZP currently has nine snow leopards, eight of them are females while one is male.



The snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) is categorized as an endangered species in the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list.

News 1: The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS to issue first Yuan Denominated bonds

The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries is set to issue its first renminbi-denominated bonds and is eyeing future funding for infrastructure projects. Its first five-year yuan-denominated bonds, also referred as green bonds, will be issued after receiving a rating from international ratings agencies as well as getting authorities' approval. The bank plans to release more bonds in local currencies including in Indian Rupee.



The NDB had announced its first batch of loans on April 16, providing \$300 million to Brazil, \$81 million to China, \$250 million to India and \$180 million to South Africa.

News 2: Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy released for 2016-17 by RBI

RBI kept the Repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent, Reverse Repo at 6% and Cash reserve ratio or CRR unchanged at 4%. The rate at which the RBI lends to commercial banks is called repo rate and the rate at which banks park money with the central bank, is known as the reverse repo rate. The rates were kept unchanged so as to cope up with inflation.

RBI predicted GDP for 2016-17 at 7.6%. It will soon take a review on implementation of the Marginal Cost Lending Rate framework by banks.

Liquidity Adjustment Facility will remain unchanged at 6.0% i.e. The facility when banks need liquidity to meet its daily requirement, they borrow from RBI through repo. MSF rate and the Bank Rate unchanged at 7.0%.



News 3: Axis Bank lists Asia's first certified Green Bond on London Stock Exchange

Axis Bank opened trade at London on the 6th June 2016 to celebrate the bank's landmark issuance of Asia's first internationally listed certified green bond on London Stock Exchange. The bond, certified by the Climate Bonds Standards Board, raised USD 500 million.



It is the first green bond for Axis Bank within its USD 5 billion Medium Term Note (MTN) program. The proceeds of the bond will be invested in green energy, transportation and infrastructure projects.

News 4: SBI, CaixaBank sign MoU to fund Indo-Spanish joint ventures

The State Bank of India (SBI) and Spain's CaixaBank have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide loans to Indo-Spanish joint ventures. The banks will collaborate in areas of mutual interest such as syndicated loan business, guarantee transactions, trade finance and export credit agency finance, infrastructure finance and networking services.



The CaixaBank had established its representative office in New Delhi in 2011. It offers business counseling and helps Spanish companies to develop their business in the South Asian region and Indian companies with interest in Spain.

News 5: RBI introduces a 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets'

The RBI has formulated a 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets' (S4A) as an optional framework for the resolution of large stressed accounts. According to it, a bank can determine the amount of debt that it thinks a firm can service with its current cash flows. This proportion of debt must not be less than half the loans or funded liabilities of the company.



Once the sustainable level of debt has been determined, banks can convert the rest of the debt into equity or quasi-equity instruments governed by a set of valuation criteria laid down by RBI.

News 6: Merger of SBI with its five subsidiaries approved

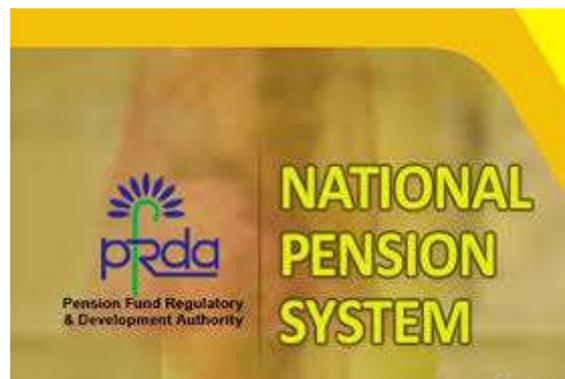
The cabinet approved the merger of the subsidiaries — State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore — and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank Ltd with SBI. The merger will see the combined entity's balance sheet at a whopping Rs. 37 trillion, making it one of the top 50 banks in the world.



The merger will create an asset base of 37 lakh crore rupees with 22500 branches and nearly 60000 automated teller machines. The government has indicated that the consolidation process will be guided by the aim of making the combined entity stronger and more competitive.

News 7: Non Resident Indians (NRIs) can now subscribe to NPS online through eNPS

NPS has been available to NRIs for some time through Bank offices and now, to further ease the process of joining, eNPS is being extended to Non-Resident Indian subscribers and further NRIs can now open NPS Accounts online providing Aadhaar Card or a PAN card.



Through eNPS, a subscriber will be able to open an NPS account both on Repatriable and on Non Repatriable basis from the comfort of his home. All he will need is an internet connection and an Aadhaar/ PanCard. Both Repatriable and Non-Repatriable schemes will greatly appeal to NRIs who intend to return to India after their employment abroad, in view of their attractive returns, low cost, flexibility and their being regulated by the PFRDA, a Regulator established by the Central Government.

News 8: South India Bank launches Remit2 India Service

The South Indian Bank has launched its Remit2India service. It is a secure online money transfer service for NRIs. The new arrangement facilitates faster, cost-effective remittance from the US to South India Bank accounts in India.



The customers can avail this service by registering on www.southindianbank.com. Currently, South Indian Bank's facility is available for remittances from Europe, Australia, the UAE and Singapore.

News 9: RBI releases “Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision-2018”

The Reserve Bank of India has released the “Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision-2018”. The Vision-2018 aims at building best in class payment and settlement systems for a ‘less-cash’ India.



The broad contours of Vision-2018 revolve around 5 Cs – coverage, convenience, confidence, convergence and cost. To achieve these, Vision-2018 will focus on four strategic initiatives which are responsive regulation, robust infrastructure, effective supervision and customer centricity. The focus is on improving the infrastructure and regulations in the country to reduce cash transactions and increase use of technology.

News 10: Cabinet approved SBI merger with its associates

SBI mooted the proposal for merger of its five subsidiary banks with itself and acquisition of the newly set up Bharatiya Mahila Bank which has been approved by a cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Currently, no Indian bank features in the top 50 banks of the world which will be possible with this merger.



Customers of associates and subsidiaries of the Bank will also be beneficiaries. Among the associate banks, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Travancore are also listed.

News 11: Aadhaar enabled ATM installed in Bengaluru by DCB

The DCB Bank installed Bengaluru's first ATM that accepts Aadhaar number and Aadhaar fingerprint (biometric) instead of ATM/Debit Card and PIN to dispense cash. The "cardless and PIN less" ATM was introduced by former Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India, Nandan Nilekani. In April 2016, the Bank installed India's first Aadhaar enabled ATM in Mumbai followed by launch of Aadhaar based ATM in Odisha and Punjab.



The DCB Bank's branches in Bengaluru provide a range of banking products for micro business, small business, NRIs and individuals, including loans for individuals and business purpose.

News 12: SBI in Hall of Shame of Banks funding Cluster Bomb Makers

SBI has been named in a 'Hall of Shame' list of 158 banking and financial institutions globally that have invested billions of dollars in companies making cluster bombs. It is the only Indian entity in the list. The list was prepared by Dutch campaign group, PAX Worldwide Investments, in Cluster Munitions report.



The maximum number of 74 banks are from the US, followed by China (29) and South Korea (26). SBI has been included in the list because of its exposure to Orbital ATK, a US-based company. SBI has made an estimated \$87 million available to the companies on the red flag list since June 2012.

News 13: Government initiates process to constitute Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

The Government has decided to bring the provisions of amended RBI Act regarding constitution of MPC into force. The MPC will have 6 members: 3 Members will be from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), including the Governor, who will be the ex-officio Chairperson, the Deputy Governor and one officer of RBI. The other 3 Members of MPC will be appointed by the Central Government, on the recommendations of a Search-cum-Selection Committee, which will be headed by the Cabinet Secretary.



These 3 Members of MPC will be experts in the field of economics or banking or finance or Monetary policy and will be appointed for a period of 4 years and shall not be eligible for re-appointment. The meetings of the MPC shall be held at least 4 times a year and it shall publicize its decisions after each such meeting.

News 14: N S Vishwanathan appointed as the new Deputy Governor of RBI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) announced the appointment of N S Vishwanathan as new Deputy Governor at Reserve Bank of India. He will succeed H R Khan on July 3, 2016. Vishwanathan has been executive director at RBI since April 2014. He served as Principal Chief General Manager in the Department of non-banking supervision at RBI.



He has served as the Chief General Manager of Vigilance at IFCI Ltd, which is a Delhi based Government owned finance company.

IMPORTANT DAYS

News 1: World Milk Day Observed across the Globe

The World Milk Day 2016 was celebrated across the world on the 1st of June. The day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to recognize the importance of milk as a global food. It is celebrated annually after it was first observed in year 2001.

The Day also provides an opportunity to focus attention on milk and to publicize activities connected with milk and the milk industry. India celebrates National Milk Day on 26 November in memory of Dr. Verghese Kurien, Father of India's White Revolution.



News 2: Global Day of Parents Observed across the World

The Global Day of Parents is observed annually on the 1st of June every year. This day honors parents and their commitment towards their children. This Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012 with resolution A/RES/66/292.

This resolution recognizes the role of parents in the rearing of their children and invites Member States to celebrate the Day in full partnership with the civil society, particularly involving young people and children.



News 3: World No Tobacco Day 2016 Observed Globally

The World No Tobacco Day is celebrated annually on May 31st. This day is celebrated to create awareness and encourage people to reduce or completely stop the tobacco consumption in any form all across the globe. The Day was first introduced by the World Health Organization to make the whole world free of tobacco and healthy world of people.

WHO and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat (WHO FCTC) have initiated a move to introduce plain (standardized) packaging of tobacco products so that demand for tobacco products is reduced.



News 4: The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression 2016 Observed

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed annually on June 4 to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.

This Day celebrates the millions of individuals and organizations working to protect and preserve the rights of children and affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children.



News 5: World Environment Day observed globally

World Environment Day was observed worldwide on 5th June 2016 with the theme Zero tolerance for the illegal trade in wildlife to fight against the illegal trade in wildlife and threats on survival of the Elephants, Rhinos and Tigers. The 2016 slogan "Go Wild for Life" empowers people to spread the word about wildlife crime and the damage it does. In India, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu introduced the Tiger Express, a semi-luxury tourist train to create awareness among people for Tiger conservation.

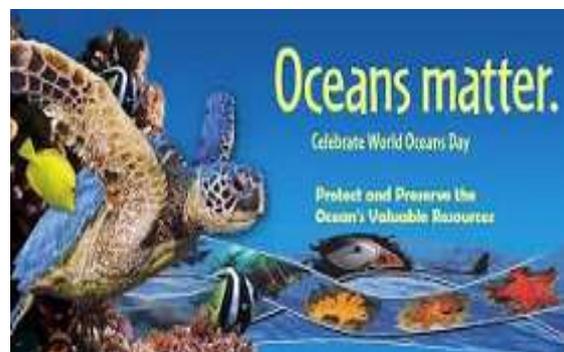


It was an effort by the whole world to stop eroding Earth's biodiversity and driving whole species to the brink of extinction.

News 6: World Oceans Day celebrated across the world

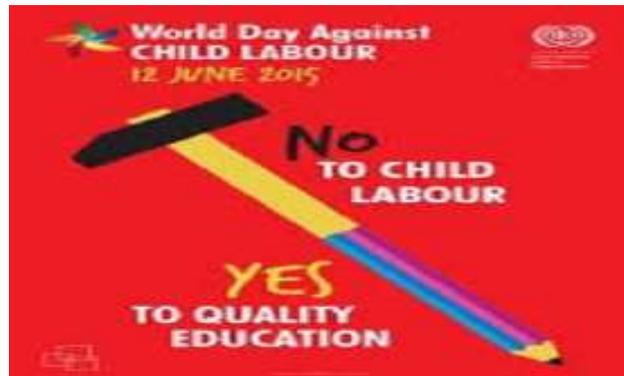
The World Oceans Day is celebrated annually on the 8th of June throughout the globe. The theme for this year was Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet. The main focus of this year's theme is prevention of plastic pollution in the ocean.

The Day is celebrated to honor the world's oceans, celebrate the products the ocean provides such as seafood. It reminds every one of the major role the oceans have in everyday life and inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean.



News 7: World Day against Child Labour observed globally on 12th June

The World Day Against Child Labor is observed annually on the 12th June to raise awareness of the plight of child laborers worldwide. This year's focus for the Day is on child labour and supply chains. The theme for this year's U.N. observance is "End Child Labour in Supply Chains - It's Everyone's Business." Around 168 million children are still in child labour.



As many as 65% children in India suffer from poor health, while 40% are child labourers.

News 8: International Albinism Awareness Day Observed Worldwide

The International Albinism Awareness Day is observed annually on June 13. This year it was the second International Albinism Awareness Day. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2014. The day focuses on raising public awareness of albinism and preventing attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism. People with albinism face multiple forms of discrimination worldwide.



Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited difference present at birth. Almost all people with albinism are visually impaired and are prone to developing skin cancer.

News 9: World Blood Donors Day 2016 observed

The World Blood Donor Day is observed annually on the 14th of June across the world. This year, the theme of the World Blood Donor Day is "Blood Connects Us All", highlighting the common bond that all people share in their blood while the slogan is "Share Life, Give Blood". According to WHO, about 108 million blood donations are collected globally every year.



Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General said that "Voluntary, Unpaid Blood Donation is the Act of Giving Life – the Greatest Gift any Person Can Give or Receive."

News 10: World Day to Combat Desertification 2016 Celebrated Globally

The World Day to Combat Desertification (WCD) 2016 was observed globally on 17th June 2016 with theme 'Inclusive Cooperation for Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality' to promote public awareness of the issue, and the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought. The theme focuses on the importance of comprehensive participation and cooperation in working towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality.



This event has been conducted every year since 1995 where country parties and civil society organizations are invited to celebrate the World Day to Combat Desertification as an additional opportunity to increase awareness.

News 11: United Nations Public Service Day 2016

The United Nations' Public Service Day is held annually on the 23rd of June. This day intends to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

The United Nations (UN) holds a Public Service Awards ceremony each year. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions worldwide.

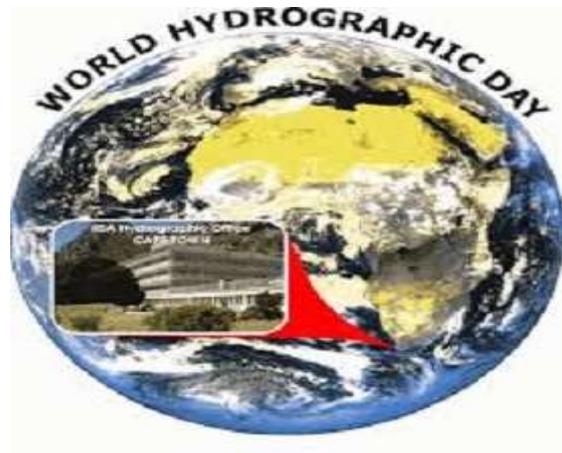


News 12: World Hydrography Day 2016 observed

The World Hydrography Day is celebrated annually on June 21 to give suitable publicity to the work of hydrographers at all levels and increase the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis.

The theme for this year's celebrations is 'Hydrography – The Key to Well Managed Seas and Waterways'.

It seeks to highlight the fundamental importance of hydrography. Hydrography is the science of surveying and charting bodies of water, such as oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers.



News 13: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day observed globally

The World Celebrated the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15th of June to raise voice against violence related with older people. Various events were organized across the globe to raise awareness of elder abuse and highlight ways to challenge such abuse. It has been observed that a global population of people aged 60-years and older will more than double, from 542 million in 1995 to about 1.2 billion in 2025 and around 4 to 6% of elderly people have experienced some form of maltreatment at home.



The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) via its resolution 66/127, assigned June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD).

News 14: International Day of Yoga 2016 observed across the globe

The International Day of Yoga was observed across the globe on 21st June. The theme was – “Connect the Youth”. The United Nations General Assembly has declared 21st of June as an International Yoga Day on 11th of December in 2014. The day is also called as the World Yoga Day.



In India, the Union Government organized the event titled The National Event of Mass Yoga Demonstration at the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh where Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself performed yoga.

News 15: World Refugee Day observed across the World

The United Nations' (UN) World Refugee Day is observed annually on June 20 ever since the UN General Assembly, on 4th December 2000, adopted resolution 55/76. The day honors the courage, strength and determination of refugees who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence.



The UN Refugee Agency launched its #WithRefugees petition on June 20th to send a message to various Governments that they must work together and do their fair share for refugees.

News 16: International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

The United Nations adopted 19th June as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict in 2015. The day is observed annually and aims to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence and to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world.

The term "Conflict-Related Sexual Violence" refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization and forced marriage.



News 17: International Olympic Day observed on 23rd June

The International Olympic Day is celebrated on the 23rd June annually. It was introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on the 23rd June 1894 at the Sorbonne in Paris. The goal was to promote participation in sport across the globe regardless of age, gender or athletic ability. The three pillars of the day are - "Move", "Learn" and "Discover".



Over the last 20 years, this Olympic Day has been associated with Olympic Day Runs all over the world. McDonald's in 2003 became the worldwide partner of this event.

News 18: Day of the Seafarer 2016 celebrated globally

The Day of the Seafarer 2016 was celebrated across the globe on the 25th June 2016. The campaign theme this year is: "At Sea for All". The theme has a clear link with the 2016 World Maritime Day theme, "Shipping: Indispensable to the World", emphasizing that seafarers serve at sea not just for the shipping industry or for their own career purposes but for all of us – and, consequently, they are also "Indispensable to the World".

The decision to celebrate 25th June as the Day of the Seafarer was taken by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2010. The Day was first observed by IMO in 2011.



News 19: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking celebrated

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed on the 26th June 2016 with the theme "Listen First". It is a day to reaffirm our commitment to the global war on substance abuse. The observance was instituted by the United Nations General Assembly on Dec 7, 1987. The day is celebrated worldwide to make people aware and emphasize the hazards of drug addiction and illegal trafficking.

On this day, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also released the World Drug Report 2016.



News 1: India joins Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation

India has joined The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC) by notifying the HCoC Central Contact in Vienna through diplomatic channels.

The HCoC was formed in November 2002 with 137 members. China, Pakistan, Israel and Iran have not yet joined the voluntary regime. India will now have to provide pre-launch notifications on ballistic missiles, space launch vehicle launches and test flights. India will also need to submit an annual declaration of policy on satellite launch vehicles and ballistic missiles.



News 2: PM Modi jointly inaugurates Afghan–India Friendship Dam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the Afghan–India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam) at Chist-e-Sharif in Herat province of Western Afghanistan. The Salma Dam is a landmark infrastructure project undertaken by the Government of India on river Hari Rud and is a Multipurpose project planned for generating 42 MW of power, irrigating 75000 hectares of land, water supply and other benefits to the people of Afghanistan.



The Rs. 1775 crore project was executed and implemented by WAPCOS Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

News 3: The IISS Shangri-La Dialogue: The 15th Asia Security Summit inaugurated in Singapore

The 15th Asia Security Summit opened in Singapore with a keynote speech by Thailand's Prime Minister, Retired General Prayut Chan-ocha. The three-day annual summit, Shangri-La Dialogue is run by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies think tank. This forum gets its name from the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore where it has been held since year 2002.



The 2016 discussions are expected to be dominated by the issues like Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea, Military Provocations of North Korea and Islamist extremism, Migration, Counterterrorism, Military Competition and Cybersecurity.

News 4: IMF Executive Board approves US\$1.5 Billion Extended Arrangement for Sri Lanka

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a 36-month extended arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with Sri Lanka for an amount equivalent to SDR 1.1 billion (about US\$1.5 billion) to support the country's economic reform agenda. An additional US \$650 million is expected to be catalyzed in other multilateral and bilateral loans, bringing the total support to about \$2.2 billion.



Sri Lanka has an IMF quota of 578.8 million SDR.

News 5: EU Court directs for no detention of illegal migrants under 2008 Return Directive

The European Court of Justice has given directions to not detain the non-EU migrants who have illegally crossed borders inside the visa-free Schengen area. The court ruled that, instead of putting them into jail, migrants staying illegally in the Schengen area should face procedures under Europe's 2008 Return Directive and thereafter returned to the country from which they came.

The ruling was triggered by the case of a Ghanaian migrant, Selina Affum, who was placed in police custody on grounds of illegal entry into French territory. The 2008 Return Directive takes into consideration the best interests of children, as well as the family life and the health, of any illegal migrant.



News 6: Thailand becomes the first Asian Country to eliminate mother to child HIV and SYPHILIS

Thailand became the first country in Asia and the Pacific region to have eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. Thailand received the validation from the World Health Organization (WHO).

The number of babies contracting HIV dropped from more than 3,000 in the late 1990s to 86 in 2015. Cuba became the first country to reach the goal in 2015. Belarus also successfully eliminated the mother-to-child spread of HIV and syphilis, Armenia did for HIV and Moldova did for syphilis.



News 7: NATO Allies Launch their biggest ever Joint Military Exercise Anaconda-16 in Poland

More than 20 NATO and partner countries have started a large-scale military training exercise in Poland. Some 31,000 Polish, US and other troops are participating in the land, sea and air exercises called Anaconda-16. The exercises are intended to test Nato's ability to respond to threats.

The exercise involves manoeuvres such as a night time helicopter assault and the dropping of US paratroopers to build a temporary bridge over the Vistula river.



News 8: WHO Validates four countries to have eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis

The World Health Organization has validated that Thailand and Belarus have eliminated mother-to-child transmission of both HIV and syphilis. Similarly, Armenia and the Republic of Moldova have eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and syphilis, respectively. WHO Director General Dr. Margaret Chan congratulated the four nations.



Eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis is key to the global effort to combat sexually transmitted infections and to end AIDS by the year 2030.

News 9: Pakistan tops in 2016 Malware Infection Index

A study by Microsoft has placed Pakistan on the top of the list of countries figuring in the Malware Infection Index 2016. India has been ranked 8th in the list. At least four out of ten computers in Asia-Pacific countries are likely to be infected with malware. The index has also identified the top three most encountered malware – Gamarue, Skeyeah and Peals.



Out of the top five locations across the globe most at risk of infection, a total of four are from the Asia Pacific – Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Nepal.

News 10: UN appoints Per Gustaf Lodin of Sweden as Head of the Mission, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan

The United Nations has appointed Major General Per Lodin of Sweden as Chief Military Observer and Head of Mission for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). He will succeed Major General Delali Johnson Sakyi of Ghana, who will complete his two-year assignment on 2 July 2016.



Major General Lodin most recently held the position of Director of Procurement and Logistics for the Swedish Armed Forces. Previous to this he was the Deputy Director of the National Armaments for Sweden (2012-2014).

News 11: Pedro Pablo Kuczynski wins the Peru Presidential Election

Pedro Pablo Kuczynski won the Presidency Elections of Peru after opponent Keiko Fujimori conceding defeat. Kuczynski took 50.122% of the vote. While Fujimori, the daughter of disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori, took 49.878%. This has been the tightest fought election in Peru in five decades. He will take over from the current President Ollanta Humala.



Kuczynski is a former World Bank executive and former Prime Minister of Peru. He has also served as the finance and energy minister previously.

News 12. Petroleum Minister represented India at St Petersburg International Economic Forum

Dharmendra Pradhan, the Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas attended St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) to represent India. SPIEF is the leading economic event of Russia, drawing participation of important political leaders and some of the largest companies and global business leaders. The hallmark of the visit was the signing of a Sales Purchase Agreement for acquisition of 23.9 per cent stake in Vankor oil block by an Indian Consortium of Oil India Ltd., Indian Oil and Bharat Petro Resources Ltd. (Subsidiary of BPCL) with ROSNEFT.



At the SPIEF, Mr. Pradhan participated in the Panel discussion on 'New Global Petroleum Market Realities' along with Russian and Venezuelan Energy Minister. Petroleum minister invited Rosneft, Gazprom and other Russian companies to invest in Indian hydrocarbon sector, including in the recently launched auction of Small Discovered Fields.

News 13: Six Indian WWI warriors included in Digital Archive of the United Kingdom

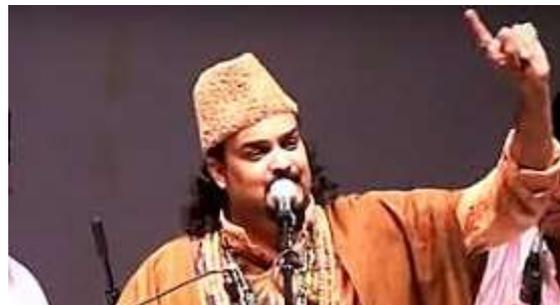
Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has launched a new digital archive telling the inspiring stories of war heroes. It is a part of the UK government's centenary celebrations to mark World War I. The new digital archive can be accessed through the UK government's official gov.uk portal.



The new Digital Archive included 6 Indians - Risaldar Badlu Singh from Punjab, Sepoy Chatta Singh from UP, Naik Darwan Singh Negi and Rifleman Gabar Sing Negi from modern day Uttarakhand, Lance - Daffadar Gobind Singh from Rajasthan, and Lance Naik Lala from Himachal Pradesh.

News 14: Famed Pakistani Qawwal Amjad Sabri shot dead in Karachi

Renowned Pakistani Qawwal, Amjad Sabri, was gunned down by unidentified motorcycle-borne gunmen in Karachi when he was travelling with an associate in a car in Karachi's Lihqatabad area.



He was one of Pakistan's finest qawwals and was the son of renowned Qawwal, Ghulam Farid Sabri of 'Bhar Do Jholi Meri' fame. The Sabri family is famous in the subcontinent for their contribution to this sufi art and mystic poetry.

News 15: UK votes to leave European Union in an historic referendum

UK has voted to leave the European Union in a historic referendum on 24 June 2016. The people of Britain voted 51.9% in favor compared to 48.1% in against. More than 17.4 million people voted in the referendum to sever ties with the European Union, and about 16.1 million to remain in the bloc. Referendum turnout was higher than at 2015 general election.



After the result, the pound fell to its lowest level since 1985 and David Cameron resigned as Prime Minister of this country.

News 16: Colombia Government and FARC rebels sign a historic ceasefire deal

The Colombian government and FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) guerrillas, Colombia's largest guerrilla group, signed a ceasefire agreement in Havana, Cuba to end more than 50 years of bloodshed. The agreement was signed by the Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC chief Timoleón "Timochenko" Jiménez.



Peace talks started in Havana in November 2012, but both parties have yet to negotiate a number of issues before signing a final agreement.

News 17: Mahashangarh declared as the SARRC cultural capital for 2016-17

Mahasthangarh, one of the earliest urban archaeological sites so far discovered in Bogra, Bangladesh, has been declared as the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SARRC) cultural capital for the year 2016-17. The 3rd century BC archaeological site was in use till the 18th century AD.



As a SARRC cultural capital, the historic place will host festivals on literature, films, food and dances from October 2016 to September 2017. Besides, the year 2016-17 has also been declared as the SAARC Year of Cultural Heritage.

News 18: SCO summit 2016 began in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The 2016 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) annual summit started in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The 2-day summit (June 23-24) is being conducted under the presidency of Uzbekistan where leaders will discuss the issues related to regional security and cooperation. This 16th summit may also see India and Pakistan join the group's six present full members.



The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and military Organisation which was founded in 2001. It is headquartered in Beijing, China. The current members are China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

News 19: Bangladesh becomes one of the 1st countries to secure loan from China-led AIIB

Bangladesh has become one of the first nations to have secured a loan from the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. It will get \$165 million as loan for a power distribution system upgrade and expansion project. The board of the bank approved its first 4 loans totaling \$509 million to 4 countries within 6 months of its establishment. The other 3 countries are Pakistan, Indonesia and Tajikistan.



The AIIB has set a target to lend \$1.2 billion in 2016. Germany, South Korea and Britain are among its 57 members.

News 20: The World's longest and deepest rail tunnel opens in Switzerland

The world's longest and deepest rail tunnel has officially opened in Switzerland. The tunnel has been constructed at the cost of 12 billion dollars and completed after almost two decades of construction work.



The 57-kilometer (35-mile) twin-bore Gotthard base tunnel will provide a high-speed rail link under the Swiss Alps between Northern and Southern Europe. About 260 freight trains and 65 passenger trains will pass through the tunnel each day in a journey taking as little as 17 minutes. The tunnel has overtaken Japan's 53.9-kilometre Seikan rail tunnel as the longest in the world and pushed the 50.5-kilometre Channel Tunnel linking the UK and France into third place.

News 21: Israel Elected as the Chair of Permanent UN Committee for The First Time Ever

The United Nations General Assembly, for the first time, has elected Israel to chair its Legal Committee which is also known as the Sixth Committee. In the secret ballot election in the 193-member world body, Israel received 109 "yes" votes. The Legal Committee oversees issues related to international law. Israel U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon will represent his country.



The General Assembly has six standing committees: Disarmament, Economic and Financial issues, Human Rights, Decolonization, the U.N. Budget, and Legal Issues.

News 22. UNGA elected Peter Thomson as the President of 71st session

Fijian diplomat Peter Thomson has been elected as the President of its upcoming 71st session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) replacing Andreas Mavroyiannis of Cyprus by a secret-ballot vote. Thomson will start his tenure in September 2016 at the beginning of the 71st General Assembly session.



The selection of the President of the General Assembly follows a geographical rotation system, with respective regional groups putting forward a consensus candidate every year. If a group cannot reach consensus on a nominee, a vote by secret ballot will take place. Mr. Thomson thrown light on the fact that his election marked the first time that a representative of a Pacific small island developing State will serve as Assembly President. He added that as a representative of such a State, he decided to be vocal on the issue of climate change.

News 23: Martian Crater named after Nepal Quake hit Village

A 9.8 kms (six mile) wide crater on Mars has been named after Langtang, one of the villages in Nepal, worst hit by the earthquake in 2015. Langtang was a popular trekking site and at least 215 people were killed when the quake-triggered avalanche submerged the village.



The International Astronomical Union Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature approved the name. Dr Tjalling de Haas, the researcher behind the move, said it was "a tribute" to the Nepali village.

News 24: Nepal bars its citizens from working in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya

The Nepal Government has banned its citizens from working in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya until further notice. A cabinet meeting decided to suspend issuing labour permits to Nepalese nationals for these countries after 13 Nepali Security Guards were killed in a Taliban suicide bombing in Kabul.



The Government also evacuated 24 other Nepalese nationals who were working as security guards in the Canadian Embassy in Kabul following the terror attack.

News 25: Sri Lankan Parliament passes Right to Information bill with minor amendments

Sri Lanka's parliament unanimously passed the Right to Information (RTI) bill with some minor amendments. The RTI bill had failed to get approval for several years. The bill seeks to restore transparency and good governance in the country. Subject to the provisions of section 5 of this Act, every citizen shall have a right of access to information which is in the possession, custody or control of a public authority.



A five-member Right to Information Commission will be formed to monitor and ensure compliance.

News 26: Sweden Inaugurates the World's First Electric Road

Sweden has become one of the first countries in the world to conduct tests with electric power for heavy transports on public roads. The test will be conducted on parts of road E16, and involves a current collector on the roof of the truck cab feeding the current down to a hybrid electric motor in the truck.



The tests will continue up through 2018. Three Government agencies, Swedish Transport Administration, Swedish Energy Agency, and the country's innovation agency Vinnova, are partially funding the project, while the participants are paying for the rest.

News 27: Gudni Johannesson elected as the first new president of Iceland in 20 years

Gudni Johannesson has won Iceland’s presidential election riding a wave of public anti-establishment sentiment in the wake of the Panama Papers scandal. He won 39.1% of the vote. Halla Tomasdottir, a businesswoman without party affiliation, came second with 27.9%. David Oddsson, a former conservative Prime Minister won just 13% of the vote.



Johannesson will replace President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, 73, who has served as Iceland's head of state since 1996.

News 28: IMF clears payment of USD 501 million to Pakistan

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cleared the immediate disbursement of USD 501 million to Pakistan. The total disbursement so far to the country since 2013 is USD 6.1 billion.



The Executive Board of the IMF has completed the eleventh review of Pakistan’s Economic Performance under a three-year program supported by an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement.

News 29: Ethiopia, Bolivia, Sweden, Kazakhstan elected to Security Council

The 193 members of the United Nations General Assembly elected Sweden, Bolivia, Ethiopia and Kazakhstan to serve on the world body’s Security Council for a period of two years, starting from 1 January 2017. Now only one non-permanent Council seat remains to be filled with Italy and Netherlands vying for it.



The Security Council has the primary responsibility for international peace and security, with all UN Member States required to comply with Council decisions. The Council’s 10 non-permanent seats are allocated according to a rotation pattern.

The Council’s 10 non-permanent seats are allocated according to a rotation pattern.

MISCELLANEOUS

- San Francisco, United States hosted the 7th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM7) and Mission Innovation (MI) meet.
- The President has nominated Shri Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati to the Rajya Sabha to fill the vacancy of nominated member.
- The Mega Luxury Cruise Vessel that was called at the Cochin Port for a 2-day stop-over in its circuit of Dubai-Muscat-Kochi-Penang-Singapore is MV Ovation of the Seas.
- A pair of distant galaxies 10000 and 6000 million light years away happen to be in the perfect position relative to Earth to create a rare Einstein Ring.
- Former Eden Gardens curator, Prabir Mukherjee, recently passed away.
- India has recently gifted 2000 bicycles to poor Dalit girls in Nepal to encourage them to enroll in schools.
- German Parliament passed a resolution recognizing the massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces during First World War (1915) as genocide.
- India signed MoU with Tunisia for co-operation in Information Technology and promotion of traditional handicrafts.
- India signed exchange of terrorist screening information Arrangement with the United States.
- **Rajiv Gauba** headed the inter-ministerial Committee on Decongestion of Traffic in Delhi that submitted its report to the Union Government.
- Scientists of **Harvard University** developed Bionic Leaf that turns sunlight into liquid fuel.
- **Gujarat** State government announced the IT and Electronics Start-up Policy to develop 2000 start-ups.
- **Soohorang**, white tiger, was named as the mascot for 2018 winter Olympics to be held in South Korea.
- Farzad gas field that was in news recently is located in **Iran**.
- The Delhi Government recently announced implementation of its solar policy, which aims at installation of 1 GW solar power capacity by **2020**.
- The estimated package for implementing suggested measures by the High Power Committee on decongesting Delhi is **Rs. 19762 crore rupees**.

- Kulmeet Bawa was recently appointed as Managing Director for **Adobe South Asia**.
- An international team of astrophysicists discovered an unusual astronomical object that formed when two galaxies are exactly aligned, called **Optical Einstein ring**.
- India became the ninth country to enter into an agreement with US for its International Expedited Traveler Initiative, which is also known as **The Global Entry Program**.
- Professional mixed martial artist, **Kimbo Slice**, died on 6 June 2016 at age 42 years.
- Scientists unlocked a crucial part of the mystery as to how the DNA can replicate and repair itself for which the research was conducted at **University of Sheffield**.
- **Jharkhand** will be providing medical insurance of two lakh rupees for BPL families.
- Railways intends to fit all the railway coaches with bio-toilets under 'Clean Railways – Clean India' initiative by **2019**.
- Name of the book that highlighted President Mukherjee's contribution to the field of higher education as Visitor to 116 institutions of higher learning in India is **The Education President**.
- The World in 2050- Striving for a more just, Prosperous and Harmonious Global Community was written by **Harinder Kohli**.
- India organized the 1st Yoga Championship in June 2016 in **Egypt**.
- **Singapore** decided to cut off Internet access for government work stations within a year for security reasons.
- **Himachal Pradesh** became the first Indian state to launch a green-concept based State Data Centre.
- **Rajasthan** became the first Indian state to launch the App on Air Quality Index.
- **Eden Gardens** will host India's first pink-ball multi-day cricket match.
- Amazon.com will be setting up its Web Services Cloud Region in **Hyderabad**.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** topped the 2016 World's Highest-Paid Athletes List.
- The founder of Amazon.com, **Jeff Bezos**, received the USIBC Global Leadership Award from the visiting PM Narendra Modi in Washington DC.
- Narendra Modi became the fifth Indian Prime Minister to address the legislature of **the USA**.
- **France** launched the 'SAIP' smart phone app to alert users on terror attacks and other disasters.

- The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim slashed global growth forecast by 0.5 percent to **2.4 percent**.
- India released a Joint Statement along with USA to endure as global partners in the 21st Century.
- International team of astronomers found a giant hot Jupiter exoplanet tidally spinning up its parent star named HATS-18b.
- National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) signed a license agreement with Chaturbhuji Pharmaceutical Co for commercialization of Ayush-82.
- National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) inked a Memorandum of Agreement with the Centre for Nano and Material Sciences, (CNMS) to commercialize CNMS developed technologies.
- The Raging Bull actress who died recently is Theresa Saldana.
- The politician who emerged victorious in the Peru's 2016 Presidential Election is Pedro Pablo Kuczynski.
- Akhil Sharma won the 2016 International DUBLIN Literary Award for his novel titled Family Life.
- Bengal off-spinner, Saurasish Lahiri, announced his retirement in June 2016, ending a first-class cricket career of 17 years.
- Prof V S Chauhan was appointed as the head of Pay Revision Committee by the UGC to suggest on pay revision of academic staff of Universities and Colleges.
- UEFA Euro 2016 football championship began on 10 June 2016 in France.
- NR Visakh from Tamil Nadu became the first Indian to clinch the Mumbai Mayor's International Open Chess Tournament.
- King of Thailand who is marking 70 years at throne as the world's longest reigning living monarch, ascended to the throne is King Bhumibol Adulyadej.
- Maharashtra state government has decided to celebrate the 21st of every month as Yoga day across all schools, colleges and universities in the state.
- To meet the shortage of teachers in the regional languages, the Odisha state government has decided to appoint large number of language teachers, including for Telugu and Bengali languages.
- Chief of Army Staff, General Dalbir Singh flagged in the first ever all girls National Cadet Corps (NCC) expedition team for Mount Everest.
- President of **Russia** ordered an unannounced inspection in country's Armed Forces to assess the readiness of military arsenals.

- **Odisha** State government served Leave India notice to eight Chinese nationals working under a Thai company at the Dhamra Port in Bhadrak district.
- Union Government constituted a five-member team to assess the existing water bodies, farm pond and other sources of irrigation in the selected districts of **Western Uttar Pradesh including Meerut and Muzaffarnagar**.
- The e-ticketing company in which Ratan Tata recently invested is **Kyazoonga**.
- Indian Railways launched **Janani Sewa** to provide for baby food items at stations and children's menu items on trains.
- A cashless payment mechanism, FASTag, was launched at toll plazas on National Highways by the National Highways Authority of India.
- Consumer Price Index for May 2016 was pegged at **5.76 percent**.
- Name of the web portal and mobile app that will be launched by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development for IIT JEE aspirants **IITPAL**.
- The autobiography of Sania Mirza that will be released in July 2016 is **Ace Against Odds**.
- Online search engine giant Google launched a new keyboard app for Apple iOS users in India called '**Gboard**'.
- Union Government asked all state governments to link Aadhaar with caste and domicile certificates of school students in class **V and VIII**.
- United States plans to provide **more than 3 billion dollars** annually in support for the Afghan national security forces from 2018 through 2020.
- United States donated 20 million dollars in humanitarian aid to the United Nations' effort to help the thousands of refugees who have fled fighting in the Iraqi city of **Fallujah**.
- Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya temple is an annual festival of the state **Assam**.
- The number of international matches captained by Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni equaling Australian Ricky Ponting record is **324**.
- **Lionel Messi** scored his 55th goal in the ongoing Copa American Cup to become the all-time leading scorer for Argentina.
- **European Union** agreed to set up a new border and coastguard force to curb the influx of migrants.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the signing of a Protocol amending the Agreement between India and Belgium for avoidance of double taxation.

- Indian Olympic Association and the ad-hoc committee had sent a request for wildcard entry to Rio Olympic for **MC Mary Kom**.
- The retired Bombay High Court judge appointed to probe charges of alleged financial irregularities against former State Revenue Minister Eknath Khadse is **Dinkar Zoting**.
- **Afghanistan** made a strong pitch for making India a party to the already operational Afghan-Pakistan transit and trade agreement, APTTA.
- The 3rd century archaeological site called Mahasthangarh in Bogra was selected to function as the SAARC cultural capital in 2016 lies in **Bangladesh**.
- The theme for the Day of the Seafarer 2016 is **Sea for All**.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi dismissed Pakistan's assertions that Afghan refugees have become a source of **terrorism in the country**.
- **Essar** became the largest producer of unconventional gas in India with its Raniganj block in West Bengal achieving an industry-size pumping rate of over 1 mcmd (million cubic meters per day) of coal bed methane.
- India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish formal cooperation in the fields of skills development and vocational education with **Switzerland**.
- National Pension System (NPS) to observe Service Fortnight from June 27 to July 9, 2016; Fortnight long campaign aims at awareness creation, service orientation and information dissemination along with subscriber's registration.
- Percent of government equity in India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) that will be set up under the Department of Posts is **100 percent**.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism with **Qatar**.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the field of wildlife conservation and combating wildlife trafficking with **the United States (US)**.
- A study by researchers at major excavated site of Bhirrana, Haryana suggests that the Indus Valley Civilization is **8000 years old**, much older than thought before.
- The National Film Archive of India acquired 1790 songbooks of Hindi films belonging to every decade of the country's cinematic heritage starting from **1934 to 2012**.
- UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, asked the Security Council to add just over 2500 peacekeepers to the UN peacekeeping mission in **Mali**.

- Wildlife authorities of **Thailand** said that they will press charges against a Buddhist temple where the bodies of 40 dead tiger cubs were found.
- **Guinea** was declared free from Ebola virus transmission by World Health Organization.
- **Sri Lanka** decided to gradually stop sending house maids abroad, mainly to the Middle East.
- **Telangana** unfurled the second largest National flag of 291 foot on its foundation day on 2 June 2016.
- The 7th Pay Commission was headed by **Justice AK Mathur** whose recommendations were approved by the Union Cabinet.
- Statue of prominent Tamil saint poet, **Thiruvalluvar**, was unveiled in Dam Kothi compound of holy city Haridwar in Uttarakhand.
- The web portal that launched for online submission and monitoring of environmental approvals for mining of sand and minor minerals was launched by **Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar**.
- State-run airlines **Air India** will now fly unconfirmed passengers of Rajdhani trains at the fares matching with the AC first class ticket prices.
- Head of New Health Emergencies Program appointed by World Health Organisation (WHO) in June 2016 is **Peter Salama**.
- The TOP500 list declared SERC as the fastest supercomputer in India is located at **IISc, Bangalore**.
- 106-year old, **Aida Gemanque of Brazil**, became the oldest Olympic torch bearer in the world.
- **Rajasthan** decided to establish model madrasas with modern education in every district.
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and India Ports Global Private Limited (IPGPL) signed MoU for implementation of the three additional works on **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project**.
- The populist anti-corruption Five Star Movement (M5S) activist who was elected as the first female mayor of Rome is **Virginia Raggi**.
- Kenya's ex-Chief Justice **Willy Mutunga** was appointed as Commonwealth Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Maldives.
- The 2016 US Open Golf Championship was won by **Dustin Johnson**.
- Tata Advanced Systems and Boeing jointly laid the foundation of a new production facility in this city **Hyderabad**.

- **Assam** state government announced free admission for Divyang students in government institutes.
- India bagged two gold and an equal number of silver medals in men's and women's categories of Javelin throw at **the Budapest Open Athletics meet**.
- **Tamil Nadu** closed down 500 state-run liquor outlets.
- **Cleveland Cavaliers** clinched the National Basketball Association (NBA) Finals.
- **Brazil** will host the 2019 Copa America football championship.
- **American Medical Association** in its report claimed that excessive blue light emitted by light emitting diodes (LED) can adversely impact human health.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the "Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision-2018" that aims at building a "less-cash" society by encouraging greater use of **Electronic payments by all sections**.
- Assam Government decided to set up a Special Protection Force for Kaziranga national park comprising of **112-member**.
- In Moldova, a court has sentenced former Prime Minister **Vlad Filat** to nine years in prison after finding him guilty of corruption and abuse of power while in office.
- Three Indian naval ships have reached Russia as part of effort to enhance maritime cooperation between the navies of both countries are: **INS Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch**
- **Malaysia** has appointed two women as judges of Islamic Sharia High Court for the first time in the history of the judiciary of the Muslim-majority country.
- At least 2186 nationals of **Latvia** have supported the idea that the country should leave the European Union.
- The stronghold of the Islamic State (IS) terror group that was seized by the Iraqi army is **Falluja**.
- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict that was observed on 26 June 2016 was adopted by UNGA via a resolution adopted in the year **1997**.
- **Assam** dissolved all school management committees to make educational institutes free from politics.
- The first Cabinet of the Assam Government has decided to set up a 112 members Special Protection Force for Kaziranga national park.
- European Union has appointed Belgian Didier Seeuws to head the union's special task force to negotiate Britain's exit.

- Maharashtra government decided to make the ancient Bhima River at Pandharpur pollution free and revive its sanctity through **Namami Chandrabhaga project**.
- The Draft National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy 2016 seeks to install **10 GW** wind-solar hybrid power by 2022.
- Under the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**, the Ramayana and Krishna Circuit will be developed in different states of India.
- **Canada's** House of Commons voted for gender neutral national anthem.
- **France** became the second European country to ratify the Paris Agreement, a deal on curbing global warming reached in 2015 by 195 countries.
- **Assam** passed the Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2016 in its Assembly.
- The train that was recently flagged off from Delhi Safdarjung Station to spread awareness about the wildlife is **Tiger Trail Circuit Train**.
- Businessman Bipin R Patel was on 18 June 2016 appointed as the President of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) for the term 2016-17. He succeeds Rohit J Patel.
- The Assam Government has launched a unique initiative 'Maitree Ek Gyan Yatra' to link primary schools to high schools to colleges.
- Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Boeing have celebrated the foundation laying of a new facility in Hyderabad for its joint venture named Tata Boeing Aerospace (TBAL).
- The BCCI has suspended and issued show-cause notices to the top Goa Cricket Association officials, who were arrested for alleged misappropriation of organization funds.
- A bronze statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose has been unveiled at the Indian cultural centre premises in Malaysia
- Former cricketer and BJP MP Chetan Chauhan has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (FTII).
- India's largest public sector lender State Bank of India (SBI) has created a dedicated IT innovations and startup fund and have set aside Rs 200 crore for investment in promising startups up to Rs 3 crore.
- Government has decided in principle to allow export of 10% missile systems to 'certain' countries who have friendly relationship with India.

News 1: Prime Minister Modi releases National Disaster Management Plan

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). It is the first ever national plan prepared in the country and aims to make India disaster resilient and significantly reduce the loss of lives and assets.



The plan is based on the four priority themes of the "Sendai Framework," namely: understanding disaster risk, improving disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction (through structural and non-structural measures) and disaster preparedness, early warning and building back better in the aftermath of a disaster.

News 2: Union Cabinet approves India Post's Payments Bank proposal

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for setting up the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts, with 100% Government of India (GOI) equity. The total expenditure involved in this project is Rs 800 Crores and will be rolled out in the entire country in a phased manner.



The IPPB will obtain banking license from the RBI by March 2017 and by September 2017, its services will be available across the country through 650 payments bank branches, linked post offices and alternative channels. Around 40% of the country's population that is outside the ambit of formal banking in the country will benefit from this IPPB.

News 3: India and US ink an agreement to exchange terrorist screening information

India inked an agreement with the United States to join the global terror database maintained by the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) of the U.S.



The agreement will facilitate exchange of terrorist screening information in a move to further boost counter-terrorism cooperation between the two countries. Both the sides shall provide each other with access to terrorism

screening information through designated contact points, subject to domestic laws and regulations. Indian intelligence agencies had earlier opposed giving the United States unhindered access to the database of terror suspects in India.

News 4. India gifts 2,000 Bicycles to poor Dalit Girl Students in Nepal

India has gifted 2,000 bicycles to poor Dalit girl students in Nepal. The aim was to enhance the literacy rate among them and also to encourage girls from poor and Dalit families to enroll in schools. It received a total financial assistance of NRs 13.65 million through the government of India under its Small Development Project scheme.



India has also gifted 59 ambulances, 7 buses and one eye care van in four districts to cater to the medical and educational needs of the local people. The India-Nepal Economic program has an outlay of over Nepali Rupees 76 billion.

News 5: Union Cabinet approves the proposal for Extension of Corridor-1 of the Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase-I

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the proposal for Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I Project from Washermanpet to Wimconagar. It will be executed by the existing SPV of Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu having 50:50 equities of each i.e. Chennai Metro Rail Ltd.



The project covers a length of 9.051 kms at a total cost of Rs. 3770 crores and is scheduled to be completed by March 2018. In the total project cost, Government of India's (GoI) share will be Rs. 713 crores and Government of Tamil Nadu's (GoTN) share will be Rs. 916 crores. The balance amount of Rs. 2141 crores will be met from the loan which they are getting from multilateral/bilateral/domestic funding agencies.

News 6: Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of India Sign a \$200 Million Loan Agreement

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India has signed an agreement for \$200 million new loan to upgrade 176 Kilometers of State roads in the State of Jharkhand. The total cost of the project, due to be completed by December 2019, is \$306.25 million. In addition to ADB's loan, the State Government of Jharkhand will provide counterpart assistance equivalent to \$106.25 million.



The project design includes over 60 bus stop shelters; 50 kms of raised sidewalks in urban areas; 4 kms of dedicated bicycle lanes; and solar-powered street lights.

News 7: TRAI Releases 'DND Services' Mobile App for managing Unsolicited Commercial Communications

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched a mobile App for telecom subscribers for easy registration of Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) complaints to the service providers. With this App, the consumer can also check the status of his complaint. The app is available in the Google App store and Mobile Seva App store.



The DND (do not disturb) services mobile app is an easy alternative for filing pesky calls and SMS complaints. Earlier, subscribers had option of filing complaint by forwarding SMS to 1909.

News 8: Government constitutes National Company Law Tribunal and Appellate Tribunal

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) have been constituted by the Central Government with effect from 1 June, 2016. This would effectively dissolve the Company Law Board (CLB) as constituted under the Companies Act, 1956 from the same day.



The NCLT will start functioning with eleven Benches – two at New Delhi and one each at Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Bengaluru,

Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. The Principal Bench of the NCLT will be at New Delhi. Justice SJ Mukhopadhyaya, Judge (Retd.), Supreme Court of India has been appointed as the Chairperson of the NCLAT while Justice MM Kumar, Judge (Retd.) as the President of the NCLT.

News 9: CCEA approved Minimum Support Prices for Kharif Crops for 2016-17 Season

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Kharif Crops of 2016-17 season. The prices would be effective from 1st October 2016. The approved MSP is based on recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which takes into account the cost of production, overall demand-supply among others.



The government hiked the minimum support price (MSP) of paddy by Rs. 60 to Rs. 1,470 per quintal for the 2016-17 Kharif season. CCEA has decided to give a bonus, over and above the recommendations of the CACP of Rs. 425/- per quintal for Kharif pulses, namely Arhar (Tur), Urad and Moong, a bonus of Rs. 200/- per quintal for Sesamum and a bonus of Rs. 100/- per quintal for Kharif oilseeds namely, Groundnut-in-shell, Sunflowerseed, Soyabean, and Nigerseed.

News 10: Singapore International Arbitration Centre Signs Memorandum of Agreement with GIFT City

The Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited (GIFTCL) and GIFT SEZ Limited (GIFT SEZ). SIAC will establish a representative office in the IFSC-GIFT.



SIAC, GIFTCL and GIFT SEZ will collaborate to promote the use of arbitration, mediation, and other dispute resolution mechanisms, including the innovative Arb-Med-Arb service offered by the SIAC and the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC), to resolve international commercial disputes in the IFSC-GIFT.

News 11. Cabinet Committee approves Mau–Tarighat Railway line project

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for a new broad gauge line between Mau Station of North Eastern Railway and Tarighat Terminal station of East Central Railway. The total length of this new broad gauge line will be 51 kilometers.

The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 1765.92 crores and the expected completion cost is Rs. 2109.07 crores with 5% escalation per annum. The project is expected to be completed in the next 6 years.



News 12: India, US inked MoU to enhance Cooperation on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change

India and USA inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation on energy security, clean energy and climate change through increased bilateral engagement and further joint initiatives for promoting sustainable growth.



The Priority initiatives under the MoU would be as follows:

- US-India Energy Smart Cities Partnership
- Greening the Grid.
- Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy (PEACE) expansion
- Energy Efficiency including space cooling
- Renewable energy.
- Energy security.
- Clean energy finance
- U.S-India partnership for Climate Resilience
- Air quality
- Forestry, Landscapes and REDD+
- Fellowships
- Accelerating innovation on clean energy and climate change

News 13: Government launches a helpline under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan launched a toll free helpline, 1800 266 66 96, for the consumers to be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Now people can call on this number to get a solution of their problems related to the scheme. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, the government has set a target of providing LPG connections to the five crore women of BPL households with a support of 1600 rupees per connection in the coming three years.



News 14: PM's visit to Afghanistan, Qatar, Switzerland, USA and Mexico

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi visited Afghanistan, State of Qatar, Switzerland, United States of America and Mexico from June 4, 2016 to June 8, 2016. He joined President Ashraf Ghani to inaugurate the Afghanistan–India Friendship Dam in Herat. He visited the State of Qatar on 4th & 5th June at the invitation of His Highness, Sheikh Tamim, the Emir of Qatar.

He reached Geneva in the evening of 5th June on a bilateral visit to Switzerland where he held talks with President Schneider-Ammann to deepen the bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Then he reached Washington DC on a bilateral visit in the evening of 6th June at the invitation of President Barack Obama. Finally, he met President Peña Nieto on June 8th during his visit to Mexico.



News 15: Suresh Prabhu launches Tiger Express train on the World Environment Day

The Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu flagged off the inaugural run of the Tiger Trail Circuit Train from Delhi Safdarjung Station. The objective of the train is to create awareness about our national animal, the Tiger. The launch of this Tiger Express on World Environment Day is to highlight the significance of environment in our lives.



This tourist train will be operated by Indian Railway PSU namely Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The train with 5 days / 6 nights' itinerary will start from the Safdarjung railway station in Delhi and travel via Katani, Jabalpur, Bandhavgadh, Kanha. The semi-luxury train will take the guests onboard to the world famous Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks in Madhya Pradesh. In addition to this the trip will also take tourists to Dhuadhar Waterfall in Bedhaghat near Jabalpur.

News 16: India, Qatar sign seven agreements in various fields

India and Qatar signed seven agreements in various fields including assistance in custom matters, skill development and recognition of qualifications and health after delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at Doha.



The MoUs are as follows:

- MoU for Investment in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund to facilitate foreign investment from the gas-rich Gulf state.
- MoU in Cooperation in Skill Development.
- MoU in Recognition of Qualifications and Agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in custom matters.
- MoU in Cooperation in Tourism.
- MoU in the field of youth and sports.
- MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Health.

- MoU on Finance Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and Qatar Financial Information Unit (QFIU).

The two countries also agreed to engage more often on annual basis.

News 17: Swachh Yug campaign launched to make Ganga river open defecation free

The Centre has asked for co-operation from five States namely – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, to make all villages along the banks of the Ganga – Open Defecation Free and this campaign will be popularly known as 'Swachh Yug'. 'Swachh Yug' is an initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission and Namami Gange project.



A 5-day training will be provided to 50 youth volunteers in each location through massive local youth involvement through a series of video conferences. It is a focus on Swachhta' at the village through proper Solid and Liquid Waste Management and maintaining general cleanliness.

News 18: Swachh Saathi program announced actress Dia Mirza as its ambassador

Actress Dia Mirza has been named as the ambassador of 'Swachh Saathi' (student internship) program. This Swachh Saathi program aims at a mission where more than 2,000 interns would be enrolled, who would coordinate with around 10,000 schools across the country and ensure that all students in these schools take the pledge for Clean India.



Dia Mirza the actress would have to visit schools and colleges and interact with the students from across the country through awareness sessions, community cleaning activities and motivational videos.

News 19: India becomes member of the Working Group on Maritime Situational Awareness under CGPCS

India has been selected to co-chair the important Working Group on Improving Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) under the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, in the Region through consensus. It may be recalled that the CGPCS was set up as a group of interested and affected nations, industry associations and multilateral agencies to take pro-active steps for checking piracy in the Indian Ocean region through a UN Security Council resolution and improving Maritime Situational Awareness in Indian Ocean Region.



Seychelles is the current chairman of the CGPCS for the biennium 2016-17.

News 20: India and US sign an MoU for hassle-free entry of Indians into the USA

India and U.S.A entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for providing quick security clearances and hassle-free entry of Indians into the US at selected airports. India is the 9th such country to enter in such a MOU with U.S.A. Several other initiatives have been introduced by the Government of India for easing travel from the United States to India, which includes issuance of long term visas and introduction of electronic tourist visas for US citizens.



The Global Entry Program is implemented at more than 40 US airports and 12 pre-clearance locations. More than 1.8 million people are enrolled in this Global Entry and approximately 50,000 new applications for the program are filed every month.

News 21: Around 1.11 lakh tonnes of pulses procured by the Government from farmers

The Government has collected close to 1.11 lakh tonnes of pulses from farmers for creating buffer stock and also contracted to import 38,500 tonnes as part of its effort to control the retail prices and selling at a price not exceeding Rs 120 per kg. About 13,000 tonnes of pulses has already been imported in the country and 6,000 tonnes are in pipeline out of 38,500 tonnes of contracted pulses.



India is the world's largest producer of pulses, but it has been observed that its domestic demand outstrips production. The shortfall is met from imports through private traders. Pulses output is estimated at 17.06 million tonnes in the 2015-16 crop year (July-June).

News 22: Surya Mitra Mobile App launched by the Union Government

The Union Government launched "Surya Mitra" mobile App developed by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), an autonomous institution of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE). The trained Suryamitra's who opt for entrepreneurship have joined in the Mobile App in several states.



The App is currently available in Google play store. It helps to serve customers at their doorsteps with quality installation, repair, and O&M services. NISE has fixed a price Rs 150/- per visit as visiting charges for Suryamitra Services and for installation and O&M Charges Suryamitra's would charge standard charges as per MNRE advised rates.

News 23: India set to become a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime

India is all set to become a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) as it cleared the final hurdles in getting the membership of the key anti-proliferation grouping. The plenary meeting of the 34-nation grouping will take place later this year in Seoul during which India will be formally inducted as a new member into the bloc.



A Membership of MTCR will help India procure high-end missile technology and surveillance

systems by leading manufacturers which are allowed to be accessed only by the MTCR member countries. India received strong backing from the US President Barack Obama on the issue of New Delhi's entry into the NSG and Missile Technology Control Resume (MTCR).

News 24. Union Government to introduce International Yoga Award Scheme

The Union Government has decided to introduce an International Yoga Award Scheme with a view to promote yoga and it will start giving the award from 2017. It was announced by the Minister of State for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik while inaugurating the National Health Editors' Conference in New Delhi. The theme of the conference was Yoga for Holistic Health – Recent Researches.



The conference is a part of the series of planned events leading to the International Day of Yoga – 2016.

News 25: New Indian Reserve Battalion to be named after Maharana Pratap

The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has announced that a new Indian Reserve Battalion in Rajasthan will be named after the great warrior of Mewar region, Maharana Pratap. The battalion will be named as Maharana Pratap reserve battalion. He also announced a new Global Counter Terrorism Centre at the Sardar Patel Police University in Jodhpur.



The announcement to set up the Maharana Pratap Reserve Battalion is in accordance with the Government's decision this January to set up 17 new reserve battalions for J&K and Left Wing Extremism affected areas.

News 26: India and the USA signed 8 MoUs

India and the USA have signed eight agreements after the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama.

These include:

- Exchange of terrorist screening information between the Multi-Agency Centre/Intelligence Bureau of India and the Terrorist Screening Center of the US.



- To enhance the cooperation on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change.
- To enhance co-operation in Wildlife Conservation and Combating Wildlife Trafficking.
- An MoU between the Consular, Passport and Visa Division of India's Ministry of External Affairs and US Customs and Border Protection.
- A Technical Arrangement between the Indian Navy and the US Navy concerning Unclassified Maritime Information Sharing.
- An MOU between India's Petroleum and Natural Gas ministry and the Department of Energy of the US for cooperation in Gas Hydrates.
- An Information Exchange Annex (IEA) was held between the Ministry of Defence and the US' Department of Defense regarding Aircraft Carrier Technologies.
- A Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement between the two defence ministries aimed at facilitating mutual logistic support between India and the US.

News 27: Union Government releases the report “Road Accidents in India 2015”

The Minister of Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari launched the report “Road Accidents in India 2015” in New Delhi.

The analysis of road accident data 2015 reveals that about 1,374 accidents and 400 deaths take place every day on Indian roads which further translates into 57 accidents and loss of 17 lives on an average every hour in our country. About 54.1% of all people killed in road accidents were in the 15 -34 years age group during the year 2015.



News 28: India signs Europe led crackdown on Tax Evasion

India has signed a Europe led crackdown on tax evasion and corruption. A total of nearly 40 countries have joined committing to automatically exchange information on beneficial ownership data between law enforcement agencies and tax authorities of partner countries. The signatories to the scheme will have to provide one another free access to information on who ultimately owns these companies.



The new initiative was announced by Prime Minister David Cameron at the Anti-Corruption Summit 2016. Most European countries except Switzerland have signed the agreement. Other non-European countries include Afghanistan, Nigeria, Mexico and the UAE.

News 29. An MoU signed between NIIF Ltd. and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA)

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Ltd. entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) to facilitate investment from Qatar in the infrastructure sector in India. The MoU was signed during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Doha.



It will remain in effect for twelve months and during this period, both parties will discuss and agree on the terms, principles, criteria for such investments. The NIIF shall share with QIA a pipeline of investment opportunities available in the infrastructure sector in India. Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) is the sovereign wealth fund of the State of Qatar.

News 30: Union Government frames New Print Media Advertisement policy

The Union Government has framed a New Print Media Advertisement Policy for Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP) with the objective to promote transparency and accountability in issuing of advertisements in print media.

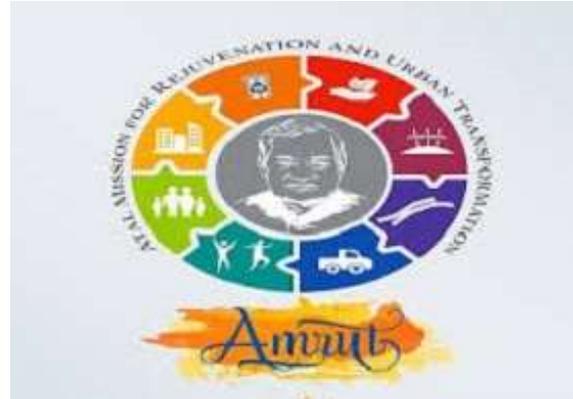


The key highlights of the policy are as follows:

- The New Marking System for newspapers to incentivize Newspapers who have better professional standing and get their circulation verified by ABC/RNI.
- Circulation verification Procedure for empanelment of Newspapers/Journals with DAVP.
- Empanelment procedure for Multi-Editions of a newspaper
- The policy has classified Newspaper/Journals into three categories namely Small (<25,000 copies per publishing day), Medium (25,001-75,000 copies per publishing day) and Big (>75,000 copies per publishing day).

News 31: Rs. 37.5 crores sanctioned for development of Machilipatnam town under the AMRUT Scheme

The Union Urban Development Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 37.5 crore rupees for development of the Machilipatnam town under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme. The funds under this scheme should be used for the development of amusement parks and beautification of the town, apart from development of cemeteries.



About Rs. 18 crores will be used for completion of the pending drainage project, while two pump houses will be constructed to treat storm water and avoid water logging and inundation of low-lying areas.

News 32: Union Government to invest around Rs. 75,000 crores to strengthen highway infra in UP

The Union Government will invest about 75,000 crore rupees in augmenting highway infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh over the next two years through National Highways Authority of India, NHA and State Public Works Department, PWD.



The work on 31 major highway projects is underway at a cost of over nineteen thousand crore rupees. Besides, 24 major projects were also awarded during last two years at a cost of about 17 thousand core rupees. Eight projects have been completed in the state during last two years while 15 projects are likely to be awarded in the next 12 months.

News 33: President embarks on a three nation Africa tour

President Pranab Mukherjee has embarked on a six-day visit to Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Namibia from Sunday, June 12. The President will hold meetings with respective heads of the three nations and a number of bilateral agreements are also likely to be signed during the visit.



The President will address a Joint Business Forum and the students and faculty of University of Ghana. He will also unveil a statue of Mahatma Gandhi gifted by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations. He will have a meeting

with Republic of Cote d'Ivoire President Alassane Ouattara and also sign a number of agreements. He will arrive in the Namibian capital Windhoek on June 15.

News 34: 'Yoga Medals' to be instituted for paramilitary troops

The Union Government has proposed to institute 'Yoga Medals' for Central paramilitary troops for displaying exceptional skills in the ancient discipline for physical, mental and spiritual well-being. It also has plans to re-employ retiring personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces as Master Yoga Trainers which will help create a constant resource pool of teachers.

Around 30,000 personnel will take part in the International Yoga Day, which will be held on June 21.



News 35: India to provide a Rs. 48 million worth financial assistance for a College Building in Nepal

India has promised a financial assistance of 48 million rupees to Nepal for construction of a college building in the capital Kathmandu. Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Ranjit Rae laid the foundation stone of the building for Koteshwor Multiple Campus in the Kathmandu district.

India has provided a financial aid of over 500 million rupees to Nepal in the last financial year to help the quake struck country renovate, restore and upgrade its various religious, cultural and educational institutions.



News 36: Work on Jal Marg Vikas project takes off

The Jal Marg Vikas (National Waterway – 1) project has taken off with a \$3.5 million funding from the World Bank. It is a project on the river Ganga, being developed between Allahabad and Haldia to cover a distance of 1620 kms at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,200 crore, to be completed in six years. The project envisages development of a fairway with three-meter depth, which would enable commercial navigation of at least 1500 tonne vessels on the river.



The Central Government has designated the IWAI as the implementing agency.

News 37: 'The Central Port Authorities Act' 2016' to replace the 'Major Port Trust Act, 1963'

The Ministry of Shipping has prepared a draft bill 'The Central Port Authorities Act, 2016' which will replace the 'Major Port Trust Act, 1963' in order to give more autonomy and flexibility to the Major Ports and to bring in a professional approach in their governance.



The salient features of this new Bill are:

- Composition of board has been simplified.
- Concept of internal audit of the functions and activities of the Central Ports has been introduced on the lines of Companies Act, 2015 (Section 25).
- Provisions of CSR & development of infrastructure by Port Authority have been introduced.

News 38: India and Ghana sign three agreements

India and Ghana have signed three bilateral agreements during the first ever visit of President Pranab Mukherjee to Ghana. The agreements were signed after delegation-level talks between President Pranab Mukherjee and President of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama.



These include:

- The exemption of VISA requirements of diplomatic passport holders.
- A Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of Joint commission which will periodically review various aspects of the multi-dimensional ties between the two countries.
- A Memorandum of Understanding on foreign services between the two Foreign Affairs Ministries.

India is the largest foreign investor in Ghana with more than 700 projects.

News 39: The Draft Wetlands Conservation and Management 2016 Rules released

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change unveiled the Draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016 for public comments, replacing the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules of 2010.

The new set of rules will protect the wetlands across the country in a more effective way from damage inflicted upon the network of lakes and water bodies spread across the two cities that used to act as natural buffers/storage points of seasonal rain water.



News 40: National Wind–Solar Hybrid Policy 2016 released

The Draft National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy 2016 unveiled by Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy with the aim of installing capacity of 175 Gigawatts (GW) from renewable energy sources by 2022. It includes 100 GW from solar and 60 GW from wind. The country has already achieved target of 26.8 GW of wind and 7.6 GW of solar power installed capacity during May 2016.

This Draft National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy is made and kept for views of the stakeholders. The same will be submitted by June 30, 2016. Under the category of wind-solar hybrid power plants, wind and solar PV systems will be installed to operate at the same point of grid connection.



News 41: Indian Prime Minister’s RAPID mantra for Tax Administrators

The Prime Minister outlined a five-point charter for tax administrators – RAPID: R for Revenue, A for Accountability, P for Probity, I for Information and D for Digitization at the Rajasva Gyan Sangam, a two-day Annual Conference of Senior Tax Administrators in New Delhi. He stressed on the need for tax administrators to engender trust in the system and encouraged the officers for a free and frank exchange of ideas.

Some of the officers expressed their views on diverse subjects such as digitization, voluntary tax compliance, facilitation for taxpayers, increasing the tax base, upgradation of digital and physical infrastructure for tax administrators etc.



News 42: Vidyanjali Mobile App launched by the HRD Ministry

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development launched a mobile app Vidyanjali – a school volunteer program to the nation. Vidyanjali is a step forward in creating an ecosystem, wherein education will be attached with imbibing knowledge and improving learning output. This program is designed to involve volunteers from different walks of life to strengthen the co-scholastic activities in government schools.



This program will be piloted across 21 States.

The volunteers can register for free by visiting the MyGov.in or through the mobile app. MyGov team will create a module under Vidyanjali, wherein the NRI community or others, who want to contribute by providing additional teaching-learning aids like books etc. and other resources, can do so in conjunction with the state and district administration.

News 43: Railway Ministry unveiled policies on Parcel Leasing and Parcel Cargo Train Express

The Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu launched a liberalized comprehensive parcel leasing policy and a liberalized policy for parcel cargo express trains. This Liberalized 'Comprehensive Parcel Leasing Policy (CPLP)' will bring stability and adequate time for business development as the duration of parcel leasing is increased from 3 years to 5 years.



This Liberalized policy on 'Parcel Cargo Express Trains (PCET)' will increase duration of contract from 3 years to 6 years to give stability and

minimum composition of PCET reduced to 15 vans. These policies were launched as a part of the Rail Budget announcement of the fiscal year 2016-17. It seeks to make the policy related to Parcel more liberalized and customer friendly.

News 44: The Union Cabinet approved a Bill to fast track recovery of bad loans

The Cabinet approved an ex-facto bill called as 'The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 2016 to amend the debt recovery laws, improving the ease of doing business and facilitate investment leading to higher economic growth and development.



The bill seeks to make changes to four legislations (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 and the Depositories Act, 1996. A Parliamentary Joint Committee has invited views and suggestions from various stakeholders and public on the provisions of the Bill by June 22.

News 45: Vidyut Pravah and Urja Mobile App launched in Goa

The Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy launched 'URJA' – Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Mobile app developed by the Power Finance Corporation to enhance consumer connect with the Urban Power Distribution sector by providing information of IT enabled towns on important parameters which concern the consumers like outage information, timely release of connections, addressing complaints, power reliability etc.



The Union Minister also launched the Pradhan Mantri UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED for all) Yojana in Goa with a target of replacing approximately 15 lakh LED bulbs, impacting nearly 5 lakh households. Under the scheme, consumers are entitled to 3 LED bulbs of 9W each at a subsidized rate of Rs.25/, as against a market price of Rs. 300-350. It will help save over 78 million kwh every year in the state and about Rs. 850-1000 on annual electricity bills.

News 46: Thailand PM on a three-day New Delhi visit

The Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha came to India on a 3-day visit in New Delhi to boost bilateral cooperation in areas of trade and investment, defence, security and tourism. Discussions took place to expand maritime security cooperation, deal with threat of terrorism, strengthen trade relations, mainly situation related to South China Sea and issues related to the proposed Free Trade Agreement.



Earlier Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra had paid a State visit to India in January 2012 and was the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations. Thailand has shown interest in joint ventures in defence production and procurement of defence platforms from India.

News 47. Cargo Express the 1st time-tabled freight train flagged off by the Railway Ministry

The Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off their first time-tabled container train to be popularly known as 'Cargo Express' between stations Domestic Container Terminal (Okhla) and Bengaluru, to ensure the goods train reach on time.



Two pairs of time-tabled trains have been proposed by the Container Corporation of India (Concor) to start with between Delhi-Bengaluru (2,278 kms) and Delhi-Chennai (2,160 kms). The transit time for both the services is of 70 hours on each side. A wide range of domestic piecemeal traffic is targeted for movement between these two pairs (terminals).

News 48: A new SoS Mobile App launched to help senior citizens

The HelpAge India introduced a security app for elders in connection with the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day launched by Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi at the Raj Nivas. This App serves the main purpose of helping senior citizens in distress. It has a 24*7 emergency SOS – Save our Seniors button to immediately reach to the counsellor desk of Help Age for rendering emergency help and assistance, apart from health related information.



This app can be downloaded from www.helpageindia.org or from the Google Play Store. This app is GPS enabled and picks up the location of the caller and will dial into the particular State Office.

News 49: Cabinet approves a Special Package for Job Creation & Export Promotion in Textile & Apparel Sector

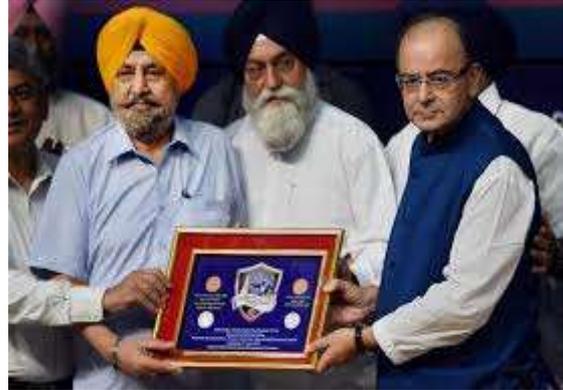
The Union Cabinet has given its approval for a special package for employment generation and promotion of exports in Textile and Apparel sector. The Government will infuse an additional 10% subsidy on new units in textiles in addition of 15% it is already giving in the sector. It is expected that the measures will result in generation of more than one crore jobs. The sector will also witness a record investment of Rs. 74000 crores which will result in a cumulative increase of US \$30 Billion in the export earnings.



The Government shall bear the entire 12% of the employers' contribution of the Employers Provident Fund Scheme for new employees of garment industry for the first 3 years who are earning less than Rs. 15,000 per month. Apart from that the Overtime hours for workers will not exceed 8 hours per week in line with ILO norms.

News 50: Arun Jaitley releases a Commemorative Silver Coin to mark 300th Martyrdom Day of Banda Singh Bahadur

The Union Minister Arun Jaitley released a Commemorative Silver Coin to mark the 300th martyrdom day of the Sikh General Banda Singh Bahadur.



General Bahadur is considered to be the first sovereign ruler of Punjab. He was given the title of Bahadur by the 10th Sikh Guru Guru Gobind Singh who appointed him as his deputy and military lieutenant. He sacrificed his life at the age of 46 to protect honor and tradition. He established his rule by defeating Mughals in 1710. Later in 1716, he was captured and executed by the Mughals in Delhi.

News 51: Withdrawal of the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Union Cabinet has decided to withdraw the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2013, after it was examined by the Standing Committee of Parliament which had made a number of recommendations for changing the provisions of the Bill.



The Cabinet has decided that it will not be appropriate to carry out further amendments in the present Act especially as newer areas of biological, stem cells and regenerative medicines, medical devices and clinical trial/investigation, etc. cannot be effectively regulated under the existing law.

News 52: Cabinet approves MoU between India and Germany

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Steinbeis GmbH Co. KG for Technologietransfer, Germany on technology resourcing in manufacturing, including sub-sectors of Capital Goods. The MoU was signed on the 25th April, 2016 during the Industrial Exhibition Hannover Messe 2016 in Hannover, Germany.



This MoU will provide a platform to various public sector undertakings and Capital Goods Sector units to have easy access to capabilities and expertise of Steinbeis GmbH for identifying and plugging technology gaps.

News 53: Establishment of Fund of Funds for funding support to Start-ups

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a "Fund of Funds for Startups" (FFS) at Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for contribution to various Alternative Investment Funds (AIF), registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) which would extend funding support to Startups. This is in line with the Startup India Action Plan unveiled by Government in January 2016.



The corpus of FFS is Rs. 10,000 crores which shall be built up over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles subject to progress of the scheme and availability of funds. An amount of Rs. 500 crores have already been provided to the corpus of FFS in 2015-16 and Rs. 600 crores earmarked in the 2016-17. The Fund is expected to generate employment for 18 lakh persons on full deployment.

News 54: Cabinet clears way for a mega auction of over 2300 MHz Spectrum

The Union Cabinet cleared the way for a mega auction of more than 2300 Megahertz of spectrum across seven bands. The bands are 700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz. The availability of such a large quantity of spectrum will allow telecom operators to purchase spectrum at par with international holding values and end spectrum shortage. The auction is expected to commence in September.



The auction would include sale of the most premium 700 Mhz band at a reserve price of Rs. 11,485 crores per Mhz. The cost of delivering mobile services in this band is estimated to be around 70% lower than 2100 Mhz band, used for providing 3G services. This band alone has the potential to fetch bids worth over Rs 4 lakh crore. The total potential revenue of Rs. 5.66 lakh crore from the spectrum sale is more than double of telecom services industry gross revenue of Rs. 2.54 lakh crore reported in 2014-15.

News 55: Union Cabinet extends the deadline for implementing UDAY scheme

The Union Government has extended the deadline till 31st March, 2017 for the states to join the Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme for the revival of the debt-laden power distribution utilities. The deadline for transferring discoms' debt to state budget and issuing bonds for 50% outstanding was done in March 31, 2016.



Only 19 States have given in-principle approval to join the scheme, out of which 10 states — Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab, Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir — have signed MoUs with the Centre.

News 56: Union Government launched the country's first pilot program for CNG-fueled two-wheelers

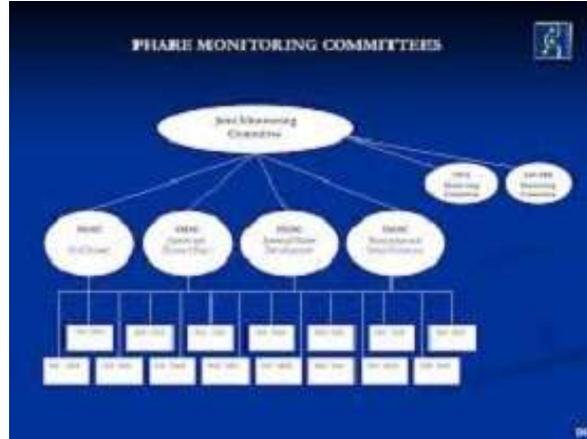
In a major step to curb rising air pollution in the Indian cities, the Union Government launched the country's first pilot program to run two wheelers on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in New Delhi under the "Hawa Badlo" movement, a people's initiative to fight air pollution.



- This program is implemented by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) and GAIL (India) Limited.
- It involves 50 CNG retrofitted two wheelers.
- The CNG kit is manufactured by Ituk Manufacturing India Pvt. Ltd.
- The approval of the CNG kit has been taken from Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) as well as Delhi's Transport Department.

News 57: Centre approves setting up of District Level Advisory and Monitoring Committees

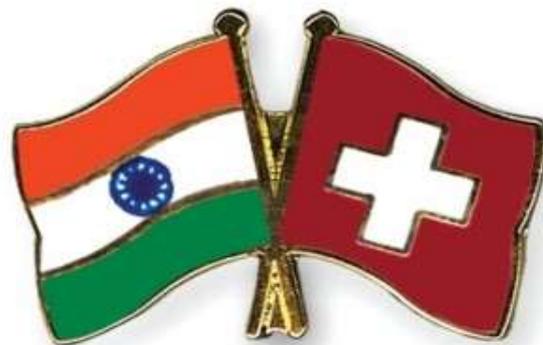
The Union Ministry of Urban Development gave its approval to set up District Level Advisory and Monitoring Committees to promote people centric planning and execution of new urban development schemes. These Committees, a first of its kind, will oversee, review and monitor implementation of urban development, affordable housing and urban poverty alleviation programs. It will monitor schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Housing for All (Urban) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission.



The States/UTs would appoint the senior most Member of Parliament as the Chairperson of the Committee and two more MPs, one each from Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha will be the Co-chairpersons.

News 58: India, Switzerland sign MoU to establish cooperation in skill development

India and Switzerland signed MoU to enhance formal cooperation in the fields of skills development and vocational and professional education and training. The agreement will help institutionalize cooperation between the two countries in the field of skill development as well as it aims to promote Swiss vocational and professional education and training internationally.



The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between State Secretary Mauro Dell' Ambrogio and Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajiv Pratap Rudy in Winterthur.

News 59: Six States/UTs signed 24x7 “Power for All” documents

Three States Mizoram, Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh and three Union Territories Delhi, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have signed the 24x7 “Power for All” (PFA) documents during the two day States Power Minister’s Conference held on 16-17th June, 2016 at Goa.



As on date, in partnership with all the States/UTs, 24x7 PFA documents have been finalized except Uttar Pradesh, out of which 28 States have already signed the Documents. The plans aim to provide each household access to electricity, 24x7 reliable Power supply and adequate supply to Agricultural consumers as per state policy by 2019.

News 60: MoU inked between RD Ministry & ISRO for Geo-Tagging Assets

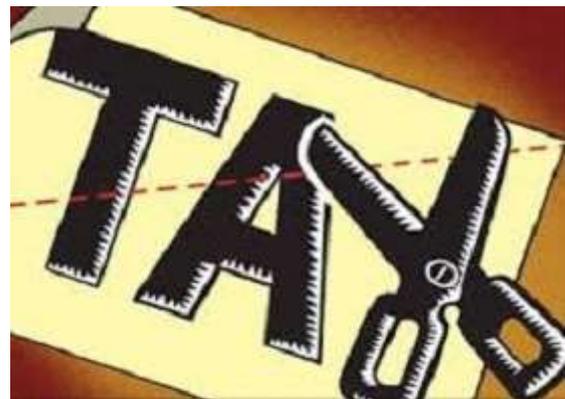
A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Rural Development Ministry and ISRO, Department of Space for geo-tagging the assets created under MGNREGA in each gram panchayat.



Around 30 lakh assets are created annually across the country under the rural job scheme and the Ministry has decided that through convergence with other schemes, the geo-tagging of such assets will be done on a mission mode.

News 61. The Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme 2016 becomes effective from 1st June

The Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2016 incorporated as Chapter X of the Finance Act, 2016, came into force on the 1st of June, 2016 and Declarations under this Scheme may be made on or before the 31st December, 2016 in respect of tax arrears & specified tax.



The scheme allows for settlement of cases pending in various courts, tribunals, arbitration or mediation under the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (BIPA). Besides this scheme, a 6% equalization levy on cross-border digital transactions also came into force on 1st of June.

New 62: Index of Eight Core Industries (Base: 2004-05 = 100) April, 2016

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) of eight Core Industries for April 2016 was released on 31 May 2016. These eight industries comprise nearly 38 percent of the weight of items included in the Index.

The total of Indices of Eight Core Industries stands at 176.4 in April 2016 which is 8.5 percent more than that of April 2015. Its cumulative growth during April to March 2015-16 was 2.7 percent.



News 63: Cabinet approves MoU between USA and India to enhance cooperation in wildlife conservation

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between United States of America and India to enhance cooperation in the field of wildlife conservation and combating wildlife trafficking. The MoU seeks cooperation between the two countries in the following areas:



- Wildlife Forensics and Conservation Genetics:** Useful in species conservation efforts and better scientific evidence collection in wild life crimes leading to better enforcement.
- Natural World Heritage Conservation:** Facilitating the institutional capacity of the existing UNESCO Category -2 - centre at Wildlife Institute of India.
- Nature Interpretation and Conservation Awareness:** Use of information technology in strengthening interface of forest managers with the people for sensitising people, especially the youth and children in understanding complex issues of conservation of biological diversity.

News 64: Indian Railways launches Janani Sewa Scheme

The Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu in a program held at Rail Bhawan, launched and dedicated the following services to the nation:

- Making catering optional in identified Trains (Shatabdi & Rajdhani).
- Announcement for Initiation of "Janani Sewa" – i.e. Hot Milk, Hot Water and Baby Food items at stations and children’s menu items on Trains.
- Release of Brochure on "Passenger Business Initiatives".
- Release of Photo-Write- up on "Rail Hamsafar Saptah".



S.No	ITEMS	QUANTITY	RATE (RS)
1	CERELAC	200GM	AS PER MRP
2	LACTOGEN	200GM	AS PER MRP
3	MILK	150ML	RS.10/-
4	FEEDING BOTTLES (BPA)	200ML	AS PER MRP
5	HOT WATER	200ML	

"JANANI SEWA" is being introduced on Indian Railways in order to mitigate the hardships of the mothers travelling with their infant. Under this scheme, Railways shall ensure availability of essential baby items like baby food, hot milk and hot water etc. at Railway Stations. This facility is being introduced at over 25 stations including New Delhi, Mumbai CSTM, Mumbai Central, Howrah, Chennai Central, Nagpur, Pune, Surat, Lucknow, Moradabad etc.

News 65: Centre orders import of 12,500 tonnes of pulses for buffer stocks

The Union Government has ordered import of 12,500 tonnes of pulses for buffer stocks to ensure the availability of commodity at reasonable prices. Of this, 10,000 tonnes will be Masur and 2500 tonnes will be Urad. So far, over 14000 tonnes of pulses have already been imported by the government agencies against the total contracted quantity of 38500 tonnes.



The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation, NCCF has been asked to start distribution of Tur and Urad pulses through mobile vans in Delhi at the rate of 120 rupees per kilogram. Procurement of Rabi pulses has reached to 64000 tonnes till 13th of June. With this so far total domestic procurement of pulses by government agencies has reached 1,15,000 tonnes.

News 66: Measures approved by Cabinet for Conservation & Preservation of Lakes in Bengaluru

The Government has approved a series of measures for the abatement of pollution and for the conservation and preservation of lakes in Bengaluru. It has been decided to initiate 24x7 online monitoring of all Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), as well as lake water quality to be by concerned authorities in Bengaluru.



The lakes will be restored in a bio-diverse manner in Public-Private Partnership mode. Some of the other actions include to install STP in all residential group housing projects/apartments with >20 units and total build-up area of 2000 sq. meters. Lake Wardens will be appointed for involvement of public in lake conservation. Projects totaling to Rs. 887.97 crores relating to sewerage system and STPs in Bengaluru have been approved under AMRUT program of Ministry of Urban Development.

News 67: Cabinet approved signing of contract for Exploration of Poly Metallic Sulphides

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given his approval for signing of 15 years contract by the Ministry of Earth Sciences with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for undertaking exploration and other developmental activities related to Polymetallic Sulphides in the allotted area of 10,000 sq. km.



By signing the 15-year contract, India's exclusive rights for exploration of Polymetallic Sulphides in the allotted Area in the Central Indian Ridge, and South West Indian Ridge in Indian Ocean will be formalized. Further, it will enhance India's presence in the Indian Ocean where other players like China, Korea and Germany are active.

News 68: Cabinet approved India's Membership of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for Indian membership of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP) consortium by signing an MoU with the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam GFZ German Research Centre for geosciences.

By signing the MoU on the membership for a period of five years with ICDP, India would enable engaging internationally renowned experts with profound expertise in different aspects of scientific drilling in order to accomplish deep drilling and associated investigations in Koyana region. As a part of the membership agreement, India will get a seat on two ICDP panels - Executive Committee (EC) and Assembly of Governors (AOG).



News 69: Bilateral relations MOU approved between India and Taiwan

India's cabinet gave its nod to the signing of an air services agreement between India and Taiwan and in the field of in the field of agriculture and related sectors. The MOU will help to boost bilateral relations between the two countries and advance bilateral economic and trade cooperation. The other MOU approved by the cabinet provides for cooperation in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, aquaculture and food processing.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the inking of the Air Services Agreement between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India and the India-Taipei Association in Taiwan.

News 70: Government Launches a Scheme for setting up a 1000 MW CTU

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched Scheme for setting up of 1000 MW Wind Power Project connected to transmission network of Central Transmission Utility (CTU) with an objective to facilitate supply of wind power to the non-windy states at a price discovered through transparent bidding process.



The Government of India has set an ambitious target of achieving 175 GW power capacity from renewable energy resources by 2022 and out of this 60 GW has to come from wind power. The Scheme will be implemented for setting up 1000 MW capacity of CTU connected Wind Power Projects by Wind Project Developers on build, own and operate basis. However, the capacity may go higher than 1000 MW, if there is higher demand from Discoms of non-windy states.

News 71: Cabinet approves Civil Aviation Policy

The much awaited National Civil Aviation Policy that seeks to strengthen the regional connectivity and tap the sector's high growth potential was today cleared by the Union Cabinet. The Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju said the policy is a "game changer" and that the country's aviation sector is poised to become the world's third largest by 2022.



This policy has been finalized after nearly eight months since the Ministry came out with the revised draft in October 2015 and follows many rounds of deliberations with stakeholders. The NDA government had for the first time unveiled the policy draft in November 2014.

News 72: Cabinet appraisal of MoU between ISRO and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) on cooperation in the field of outer space

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Space / Indian Space Research Organization (DOS/ISRO) and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) on cooperation in the field of outer space. The MoU was signed in Ottawa, Canada on 15th April 2015.



The MoU would lead to establishment of joint team, drawing members from ISRO and CSA, which will further work out the plan of action including examination and defining cooperative projects and the time-frame. This will also provide opportunities for diverse research in the field of peaceful uses of space technologies.

News 73. Cabinet approves the Agreement between India and Saudi Arabia on Labour Co-operation for General Category Workers' Recruitment

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the Agreement on Labour Co-operation between India and Saudi Arabia. The Agreement was signed in Riyadh on 2-3 April, 2016 during the visit of the Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia.



The Agreement would benefit the Indian emigrant workers, especially in the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled categories of workers who are working in Saudi Arabia without consideration of caste, creed, religion or gender.

“The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for the Agreement on Labour Co-operation between India and Saudi Arabia,” a press release said.

News 74: Union Ministry of AYUSH released a song for the International Day of Yoga – 2016

The Ministry of AYUSH released a Yog Geet (song) with regards to the celebration of the second International Day of Yoga. The three-minute-15-seconds song in Hindi, is written and produced by Deeraj Saraswat and has been voiced by Gandhar TD Jadhav and Gatha Jadhav. The music of the song is composed by Sumanto Ray.



A National-Level Competition for selection of a 'Yog Geet' was organized by the Ministry of AYUSH. Around 1000 entries were received by the Ministry and the song was finalized from 19 short-listed songs.

News 75: The Union Government bans the use of Potassium Bromate as a food additive

The Government has banned the use of potassium bromate as a food additive. The notification regarding it was issued after a Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) study that found its presence in bread to be carcinogenic.



The Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has also referred potassium iodate to a scientific panel since it is also claimed to be carcinogenic and is being used as a food additive.

News 76: The Union Government launches Urja Mobile App

The Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy Shri Piyush Goyal today launched 'URJA' – Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Mobile app. This app is developed by the Power Finance Corporation.



This app was developed to enhance the consumer connect with the Urban Power Distribution sector. It provided information on important parameters which concern the consumers like outage information, timely release of connections, addressing complaints, power reliability etc.

News 77: Microsoft inked agreement with AICTE to build app for HRD ministry's SWAYAM platform

Microsoft has signed a deal of 38 crore rupees with All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) to build a mobile Application (app) for Union Human Resources Development Ministry's SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) platform. The platform will launch 2000 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) for over three crore students in 2016.



Microsoft will run the app for three years and then it will be taken over by AICTE.

News 78: India and Thailand signed 2 agreements on cooperation in culture and education sectors

India and Thailand have signed two agreements in culture and educational sectors to boost bilateral ties. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between India's Nagaland University and Thailand's Chiang Mai University. While, an agreement was signed for the extension of the Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) between both the countries for the tenure of 2016-19.



The agreements were signed in New Delhi during the official 3-day state visit of the Thailand Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha.

News 79: India, South Korea launch Korea Plus

India and South Korea launched Korea Plus, a special initiative to promote and facilitate Korean Investments in India. Korea Plus will act as a mediator in arranging meetings, assisting in public relations and research/evaluation and provide information and counselling in regard to Korean companies' investing in India.

Korea Plus comprises of a representative from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy, Government of the Republic of Korea and representative from Korea Trade Investment and Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and three representatives from Invest India, the National Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency of India.



News 80: India signs two MoUs with Namibia on capacity building for civil servants, centre of excellence in ICT

India and Namibia signed two Memorandums of Understandings (MoU) after a dialogue between President Mukherjee and his Namibian counterpart Hage Geingob.

The two MoUs are:

- Capacity building for civil servants of Namibia
- To set up of centre of excellence in Information and Communications Technology (ICT)



Namibia has also assured to honour the deal signed with India in 2009 to supply Uranium for civil use. The two countries also discussed ways to enhance co-operation in the mining and exploration of other minerals including zinc and marble.

News 81: ADB has approved \$500 million loan to build India's longest river bridge (9.8 km) across Ganga near Patna

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$500 million loan to build a bridge across India's Ganges River. The 9.8 kilometer (km) road bridge in the northeastern state of Bihar will be India's longest river bridge. The bridge is expected to provide vital transport links between the northern and southern parts of the state and with neighboring Nepal.



Along with ADB's loan and \$900,000 in technical assistance to improve bridge operation and management, the state government of Bihar will provide support equivalent to \$215 million. The project will run for about 4 years with an expected completion date of the end of December 2020.

News 82: Prime Minister launches the Smart City Mission into implementation mode

Our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the flagship Smart City Mission into implementation mode with launch of 14 projects of Pune’s Smart City Plan, exactly a year after he set off the mission by releasing the Mission Guidelines. The mission is meant for ensuring availability of all basic services to the people through necessary infrastructure including houses for urban poor in a comprehensive manner.



The Prime Minister also launched 'Make Your City Smart' contest inviting people to come out with designs for street, junctions and open spaces and a 'Smart Net Portal' which is a net based platform for sharing of ideas and sourcing of solutions for smart city development.

News 83: MNRE sets Target of Setting up One Lakh Family Type Biogas Plants for FY 2016-17

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has allocated to the States /UTs an annual target of setting up one lakh family size biogas plants (1 m³ to 6 m³ capacity) for the current year, 2016-17. This will result in a likely saving of about 21,90,000 LPG cooking cylinders annually.



The MNRE is implementing a National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP) for setting up family type biogas plants in the country. The objective of the scheme is to provide clean gaseous fuel for cooking and organic bio-manure as a by-product in the form of biogas plant left over slurry, which contains higher values of Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (N, P&K).

News 84: Union Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

The Union Government on 9th June 2016 launched the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA). The scheme has been launched with the objective of boosting the health care facilities for the pregnant women, especially the poor. It is applicable only to the women in their pregnancy period of 3 to 6 months and will be given free health check-up and required treatment on 9th of every month.



The highlights of Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan are:

- Tests will take place at the medical centres, government and private hospitals and private clinics across the country.
- Women will be marked differently based on their health problems so that doctors can easily detect the problem.
- The women belonging to semi urban, poor and rural areas will be given preferences.

News 85: Exercise Jalrahat a Joint Initiative by State Govt and Armed Forces for Flood Relief in Assam Commences

The much awaited event, Exercise JALRAHAT commenced at Narangi Cantt. Exercise JALRAHAT is a joint initiative taken by the Assam State Govt and the Armed Forces that is being led by GAJRAJ Corps with full support from HQ Eastern Command.



In addition to Exercise Jalrahat based on Flood Relief in an urban setting, Indian Navy will be carrying out Exercise Prakampana based on relief and assistance in case of a super cyclone at Vizag, Andhra Pradesh in August 2016 and Indian Air Force will be undertaking Exercise Sahayta based on relief and assistance in case of a major earthquake at Bhuj, Gujrat. All these will be joint exercises like Exercise Jalrahat.

News 86: CSIR-CIMFR signed MoU for coal quality analysis

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Centre Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Coal Supplying companies and Power Utilities for quality analysis of coal being supplied to power utilities by coal companies.



The CSIR-CIMFR would make use of its knowledge based support in maintaining the quality of coal at national level for the entire power sector. It is estimated that about 300 million metric tons of coal samples would be analyzed for quality per year. The contract value of the project is around Rs 250 crore per annum at minimum.

News 87: World Bank Approves US\$ 201.50 Million for Improving the Quality of Engineering Education

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved 201.50 million US dollars for Technical Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQIP III) in India to enhance quality and equity in participating engineering education institutes and improve the efficiency of the engineering education system in focus states.



The maturity period for the project is 25 years with an additional 5-year grace period. The total project cost is USD 403.00 million.

News 88: FSSAI signed MoU with ASCI to address misleading advertisements in the F&B sector

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has signed an MoU partnering with the Advertising Standard Council of India (ASCI). ASCI will comprehensively monitor these advertisements across various media. It has been given a suo moto monitoring mandate by FSSAI to process complaints against misleading F&B advertisements.



This MoU also requires ASCI to report to FSSAI noncompliance of ASCI's decisions for further action as required per provisions of FSSAI Act.

News 89: Cabinet clears National Mineral Exploration Policy

The Union Cabinet has cleared the National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP). The NMEP primarily aims at accelerating the exploration activity in the country through enhanced participation of the private sector. With the approval, the government can auction 100 blocks that have been identified by the Geological Survey of India for exploration.



The Ministry of Mines will carry out auctioning of identified exploration blocks for exploration by private sector on revenue sharing basis in case their exploration leads to auctionable resources. The revenue will be borne by the successful bidder of those auctionable blocks.

PERSONS IN NEWS

News 1: Nita Ambani nominated to International Olympic Committee

Nita Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, has been nominated as a member of the International Olympic Committee. She is the first Indian to be nominated to the apex sporting body. She will formally become an IOC member in elections to be held for 2-4 August. Once elected, she will continue to be a member until the age of 70.



The category under which Nita Ambani is being considered is the one for volunteers who represent the IOC and Olympic Movement in their country. They are not delegates of their country within the IOC.

News 2: Sudarsan Pattnaik wins the Gold Medal in the World Sand Art Championship

Renowned Sand Artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won the gold medal at the World Sand Art Championship that was held in Bulgaria from May 26 to June 3, 2016. He won people's choice prize for his sand sculpture 'Drugs kill Sports' which highlights the issue of drugs in the sporting field.



In his sculpture, he had created the two faces – one of Lance Armstrong and the another of Maria Sharapova, the two iconic players who were mired in the drug controversy, thus bringing a bad name for themselves and the entire sports world.

News 3: Maria Sharapova received a 2-year suspension for Failed Drugs Test

Maria Sharapova has been banned for two years for failing a drugs test. She was tested positive during the Australian Open in January. The richest athlete in the history of women's sport, intends to appeal against the decision.



Sharapova became the first Russian to win Wimbledon in 2004. She won the US Open in 2006 and the Australian Open in 2008. Later she completed a career Grand Slam with the French Open title in 2012.

News 4: M S Dhoni roped in as the Brand Ambassador of Exide Life Insurance

Exide Life Insurance announced to have roped in India's ODI and T20 cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador. It is his first endorsement deal in the insurance category. The brand has already launched a marketing campaign with the ace cricketer - 'Lamba saath, bharse Ki baat.'



The insurance company considered Dhoni as its Brand Ambassador as he is Dependable, Dynamic, Responsive and Foresighted. The private Life Insurance has commenced its operations in 2001-02 and is headquartered in Bengaluru.

News 5: Sachin Tendulkar to be the face for Kerala Government's Anti-Drug Campaign

Sachin Tendulkar has accepted the request of Kerala Government to use his name in a campaign against drug and liquor abuse in the state. Tendulkar met Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan along with three other co-owners of the Kerala Blasters Football Club (KBFC) at the state secretariat.



Mr. Vijayan also said the KBFC has agreed to set up a residential Football Academy to train young talents in the state.

News 6: Vijay Mallya Declared an Offender by Court

A special PMLA court in Mumbai declared businessman Vijay Mallya as a proclaimed offender in connection with its money laundering probe against him in an alleged bank loan fraud case. The agency had moved the court to issue such an order as he has multiple arrest warrants pending against him, including a non-bailable warrant, NBW under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, PMLA.



A person can be termed a proclaimed offender in a criminal case probe if the court believes that the accused has absconded or is concealing himself so that such warrant cannot be executed.

PLACES IN NEWS

News 1: The Ganges-Danube Cultural Indian Festival organized in Hungary

The "Ganges-Danube Cultural Festival of India" in Hungary was inaugurated by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (I/C) and Civil Aviation on 17 June 2016 at Vigado Theatre in Budapest, Hungary.

During the period of the festival (17-19 June 2016), various events like dance, music, yoga, film and exhibitions were performed in different cities of Hungary, namely, Budapest, Debrecen, Szeged, Eger, Nagykanizsa, Esztergom, Szentendre and Balatonfured.

Hungarian artists, proficient in Indian art forms have also participated in this program.



News 2: Yellow Fever Vaccination facility inaugurated at Tuticorin

A Yellow Fever Vaccination Facility was inaugurated by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Smt. Dr. Megha Pravin Khobragade. Tuticorin is the 35th centre in the country to provide Yellow Fever Vaccination Facility and would pave way to save money and time to the intending travelers from this part of the state.

The Port Health Organisation has scheduled the vaccination for every Tuesday i.e. from 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM. The charges for vaccination & issue of certificate would be Rs. 300 per person. Intending travelers can avail the facility by registering themselves.



News 3: Shiyal Bet, island in Gujarat, gets electricity for the first time

The residents of Shiyal Bet, an island in Gujarat's Amreli district, received electricity for the first time after 70 years of Independence. State-run Pashchim Gujarat Vij Company Limited (PGVCL) is supplying power to the island through a 6-km undersea cable. The island is surrounded by Arabian Sea from all sides.

The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 18.5 crores within two years. Gujarat now has its every nook and corner connected to electricity.



News 4: India’s 1st case of Harlequin Baby reported in Nagpur

India's first Harlequin baby was born in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The baby girl weighing 1.8 kgs with almost no external skin, no eyes and ears was suffering from a rare congenital disorder called Harlequin Ichthyosis, in which the baby's skin is covered with hardened, cracked skin and her internal organs are visible. The baby passed away three days after her birth.



The ABCA12 gene mutation leads to Harlequin disorder. "Such babies are prone to infection as their internal organs are exposed. We are keeping her skin moist by applying petroleum jelly. For now, we are not sure whether she even has eye balls," said Pediatrician Yash Banait.

News 5: Mori Village in Andhra Pradesh to be developed as a smart village

Mori Village in Sakhinetpalli mandal in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh will be developed as a 'Smart Village'. The Garwood Centre for Corporation Innovation at the UC-Berkeley-Haas School of Business will develop this and its surrounding villages.



Under this project, the village will be equipped with fiber optic connectivity. Around 1900 households will be connected with a 15 Mbps link. E-commerce to be introduced for local weavers to help them strengthen their brand image. Organic farming for shrimp hatcheries will be encouraged. Direct marketing facilities will be offered to cashew farmers. Power supply to be reviewed and UPS provided.

News 6: Scientists successfully introduce Sericulture in Poyen Village of Kargil

Scientists of Temperate Sericulture Research Institute of SKUAST – Kashmir have successfully introduced Sericulture in Poyen Village of Kargil. About 31 unemployed girl’s/women farmers received training at Poyen village and produced quality Bivoltine cocoons for the first time in the Kargil district.



It will help increase employment and generate income for rural youth and tribal farmers.

News 7: Majuli in Assam declared as an Island District

The Assam State Government has decided to grant district status to Majuli, a 400 sq. km island in the river Brahmaputra. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had won the assembly election from Majuli.

Majuli is currently a sub-division of Jorhat district. It will become the 34th district of Assam. It is the largest mid river delta system in the world. It is also comprised of many islets locally called the Chaporis. It has shrunk from about 1250 sq. kms in 1891 to about 515 sq. kms now because of massive river-bank erosion caused by the Brahmaputra.



News 1: Chief Minister of Haryana lays the foundation stone for Jai Jawan Awas Yojna

The Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, laid the foundation stone of Jai Jawan Awas Yojna (JJAY). It is an initiative to provide affordable housing for the serving and retired JCOs and Other Ranked officials

This project is being executed by the Army Welfare Housing Organization. This housing project has been named in the memory of Late Major Rajiv Joon, recipient of the Ashok Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.



News 2: LDF Candidate Sreeramakrishnan elected as the Kerala Assembly Speaker

The Ruling LDF candidate P. Sreeramakrishnan has been elected as the Speaker of the 14th State Assembly in Kerala. He won the contest against the opposition UDF candidate V. P. Sajeendran.

The Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala and other legislative party leaders congratulated Mr. Sreeramakrishnan. The House is scheduled to reassemble on the 24th June, when the Governor will make a policy declaration of the Government.



News 3: Odisha demands rollback of 1% Cess Hike on Service Tax

The Odisha Government demanded the rollback of 1% cess hike of service tax increased in past one year. The centre had earlier raised the Service tax from 14% to 14.5% with the imposition of 0.5% Swachh Bharat Cess from November 2015. The Centre has further raised it from 14.5% to 15% by imposition of 0.5% Krishi Kalyan Cess on all taxable services with effect from beginning of this month.

The State Finance Minister Pradip Kumar Amat said he has written a letter to Union finance minister Arun Jaitley to lodge Odisha's protest against increase of cess and surcharge.



News 4: Odisha becomes the first state to give social welfare benefits to the transgender community

Odisha became the first state to provide social welfare benefits – such as a pension, free housing and 100 days of paid work annually as well as loans to start up their own businesses to the transgender community with an aim to improve their overall social and economic status. They would also be entitled for 5 kgs of food grains every month under the National Food Security Act.



The Members of the Community will be given Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards that will allow them to access benefits under various Government Welfare Programs.

News 5: Assam Assembly passes Ease of Doing Business Bill 2016

The Assam Assembly has passed Assam Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2016. The bill has the provision for speedy processing of applications and issue of clearances for setting up industries. It will help the state attract fresh investment through an easy computerized clearance system.



The basic aim of this bill is to create an investment friendly environment for economic development of the state. A bureau will be formed under the name and style of Assam Bureau of Investment Promotion that will take care of overall supervision and administration of the speedy processing of applications and issues related to various clearances.

News 6: Bihar Government launches Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act

The Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar launched the Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act. The act seeks disposal of peoples' complaints or redressal of grievances from Government officials within 60-days. All the 42 Departments of the State government will be covered under the new Act and has strict provisions in non-compliance of applications. Officials not adhering to provisions of the law could be dismissed from service or face a penalty of from Rs. 500 to Rs. 5000.



The Government has designated one Grievance Redressal Officer in each department as well as first and second Appellate authorities. Complaints relating to subjects covered under the Right to Information Act, Right of Public Service Act and cases pending in courts will not be entertained under Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act.

News 7: V Narayanasamy takes oath as the Puducherry CM

Former Union Minister of State and AICC General Secretary V. Narayanasamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry. Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Narayanasamy and the five Ministers namely – A. Namassivayam, Malladi Krishna Rao, M. Candassamy, M.O.H. F. Shahjahan and R. Kamalakannan.



Mr. Narayanasamy, for whom this is the first term as the Chief Minister, is the second Congress leader after P. Shanmugam, to head a Ministry without being a member of the Assembly.

News 8: Gujarat Government revealed the IT and Electronics Start-up Policy 2016

The Gujarat Government announced its first IT and Electronics Start-up Policy, implementing subsidies and state assistance for incubators and start-ups over the next five years where the State Government will develop 50 incubators to mentor and guide 2000 start-ups by 2020.



The subsidy will be provided upon capital investment, software purchase, and waiver of stamp and registration fees, among others, for startups and incubators. The incubators will get 5 lakh rupees per annum. The State Government will allot around 10 lakh sq. feet of land for development of these incubators. The State Government in this field has special focus on encouraging new ventures by providing them various incentives and subsidies.

News 9: Guwahati announces the Gangetic River Dolphin as its ‘City Animal’

Guwahati announced the Gangetic River Dolphin as its City Animal, which is also called as ‘Sihu’. The ‘Sihu’ lives in River Brahmaputra along Guwahati. Online voting was made open by District Administration for public to opt among 3 endangered species which were – Gangetic River Dolphin, Black Softshell Turtle (Bor Kaso) and the Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila).



Assam's Guwahati became the first city in the country to have its own city animal. In the three-month long voting process Gangetic River dolphin received 24247 votes out of 60003 total votes.

News 10: Green Data Centre to be established by Himachal Pradesh

The Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister announced establishment of eco-friendly State Data Centre designed using green data centre concept, to offer 101 people-oriented service online through an integrated data base by minimizing power requirement and maximizing power utilization efficiency.



Its online facility will save infrastructure cost. It is the first SDC in the country which has been designed using green data centre and implemented cloud technology. It costs Rs. 58 crores to implement this technology.

News 11: Mobile App Raj Vayu and Drishti launched by the Rajasthan Govt to check air pollution

A mobile app 'RajVayu' and 'Drishti' was launched by Rajasthan government on the World Environment Day, for sharing information about air quality index of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur and monitoring pollution levels in industrial regions respectively. The Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) is the first state Board in the country to have this app for its citizens.



The weather sensors of app will check pollutant levels, temperature, humidity, wind speed and weather forecast.

News 12: Govt and ADB inked a \$120 million loan agreement for Odisha

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$120 million loan agreement to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in Odisha. It is purposely for modernizing seven irrigation subprojects resulting in improved irrigation in over 100,000 hectares, and strengthening of Water User Associations (WUAs) and the institutional capacity of Odisha's Department of Water Resources.



The project will complete by September 2018 thus improving existing irrigation infrastructure, operation and maintenance, and water use efficiency that will lead to higher agricultural productivity.

News 13: ADB and Union Government signed Loan Agreement to upgrade 176 Kms of roads in Jharkhand

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed an agreement for \$200 million new loan to upgrade 176 Kilometers of State roads in the State of Jharkhand. The financing for the Jharkhand State Roads II Project will upgrade the existing sections of four State roads to two lane standard and will also support improvements in the design, safety and maintenance of the network.



Several safety and environmentally friendly features included in the project design, which include over 60 bus stop shelters; 50 kms of raised sidewalks in urban areas; 4 kms of dedicated bicycle lanes; and solar-powered street lights.

News 14: UP Govt constitutes Mirza Imtiaz Judicial Commission to probe Mathura violence

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Akhilesh Yadav constituted a one-member judicial inquiry headed by retired High Court judge, Justice Mirza Imtiaz Murtaza, into the Mathura violence. Justice Murtaza has been given two months to submit the report.



The commission has been mandated with 6 key tasks, the reasons for which the violence erupted and led to the death of 29 persons. Measures to prevent such incidents from re-occurring would also be suggested.

News 15: Google and Tata’s joint-initiative, Internet Saathi, launched in West Bengal

Google and Tata Trusts have jointly launched an initiative called 'Internet Saathi'. The initiative is initially rolled out in 400 villages of Purulia district in West Bengal. It will focus on training women and larger communities in the state to learn and explore various uses and benefits of the Internet.

The initiative is a part of Google's 'Helping Women Get Online' campaign, designed to create awareness about the benefits of Internet among women in rural India. It was launched in July 2015 and has trained and benefitted over 2 lakh women across villages in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.



News 16: ADB approved \$100 million loan for irrigation system and water management in TN

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$100 million loan to strengthen a key irrigation system and improve water management in the Vennar sub-basin of the Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu. The project will strengthen the embankments of six major irrigation water channels in Vennar system to make them more resilient to floods and upgrade water regulators, sluices and pump stations.



The work is expected to be completed in December 2020. The Cauvery delta, on the east coast of Tamil Nadu, is considered as the 'Rice Bowl' of the state.

News 17: Researchers at the Assam Agricultural University develop two new rice variants

Researchers at the Assam Agricultural University have developed two new rice varieties – Ranjit Sub-1 and Bahadur Sub-1 to get better yields under submerged conditions. The farmers of the Barak Valley have already been farming the Ranjit and Bahadur Varieties for more years. The variants are suitable for Kharif season which is from July–October during the south–west monsoon in the Barak Valley.

An additional gene has been incorporated in the new variants which ensure productivity even if the crops remain submerged during flash floods.



News 18: NRDC inks MoA with the Andhra Pradesh Government to start Agribusiness Incubation Centers

The Andhra Pradesh Government has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) to strengthen the Agribusiness & Food Processing sector by establishing Smart Agribusiness Platform Networks of Andhra Pradesh (SAPNAP). These networks will focus on accelerated growth of agribusiness.



SAPNAP will have two key development platforms:

- **Smart Agribusiness Value-chains:** will focus on Intelligence / Analytics / Big Data, Innovations and Partnerships.
- **Smart Agribusiness Incubators & Accelerators:** will focus on establishment of 13 district level incubators with enabling infrastructure and ecosystem for start-ups, enterprise development and FPO mentoring.

News 19: Telangana Government to set up a 12,500-acre Pharma City near Hyderabad

The Telangana government has ordered setting up of a 'Pharma City' on 12,500 acres of land in the Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar districts. The Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) shall send a detailed project proposal (DPR) to the Government.

The proposed park will have components and other related activities with regard to antibiotics, fermentation products, synthetic drugs, vitamins, vaccines, drug formulations, nutraceuticals, herbal medicinal products etc.



News 20: FICCI to be the National Partner at the 8th Vibrant Gujarat Summit

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has been appointed as the National Partner for the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2017 organized by the State's Industrial Extension Bureau (iNDEXTb). The core theme of the eighth edition of the biennial industrial extravaganza will be 'Connecting India to the World'. The event will be organized during January 10-13, 2017 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar.



FICCI would work closely with another premier industries body Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for the biennial summit.

News 21: V Vaithialingam elected unopposed as the Puducherry Assembly Speaker

Former Chief Minister and Senior Congress leader, V. Vaithilingam, has been elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Puducherry Legislative Assembly. V. P. Sivakolundu has also been elected unopposed to the post of Deputy Speaker.



Mr. Vaithilingam will be the 19th Speaker of the Assembly. He was the Chief Minister between 1991-1996 and replaced Rangasamy as the Chief Minister of the Congress Government in 2008. He was also the Leader of Opposition in the last Assembly. Mr. Vaithilingam was elected for the third successive term from the Kamaraj Nagar constituency.

News 22: Sikkim becomes India’s first State to launch an Open Government Data Portal

Sikkim became the first Indian State to have an Open Government Data Portal, 'Sikkim.data.gov.in' and Open Government Data Platform (Sikkim). The portal was launched by the Lok Sabha MP, P D Rai. The portal has been developed by the Government of Sikkim’s Information Technology Department and NIC team from Delhi.



On the Open Government Data Portal, the data produced or commissioned by the government or government controlled entities can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone.

News 23: Assam Government announces free education up to undergraduate level

The Assam Government today announced free education up to undergraduate level for all the students from poor and lower middle class families.



The Government has decided that all admission, tuition and allied fees for admission into higher secondary first year, degree first year and diploma polytechnic first year classes from this session will be completely waived for students whose family income does not exceed Rs One Lakh per annum.

News 24: Use of Plastic Waste in Building Roads, an initiative introduced by Maharashtra Government

The Government of Maharashtra introduced a way to use plastic waste, along with tar for construction of roads to improve the durability and longevity of asphalt roads and reduce soil pollution.



It has been decided that initially municipal corporations with a population of over 5 lakh and municipal councils that have a population of over 2 lakhs will be asked to include plastic waste for building roads in the 50-km radius. Studies have revealed that plastics waste have great potential for use in bituminous construction as its addition in small doses. The use of waste plastic thus contributes to construction of green roads.

News 25: Rs. 2,070 crore highway project approved by the Punjab Government

The Union Cabinet approved a Rs. 2,070 crore highways project on 383.22-hectares of land in Punjab to ensure faster movement of traffic between Chandigarh and Ludhiana. Under this project, two major and one minor bridges will be built besides a 7.9 kms bypass at Samrala. Six or four laning of Kharar to Ludhiana section of NH 95 (New NH 5) has been approved by the Cabinet.



Under the hybrid annuity mode, the government will bear 40% of the cost to the developer while the remaining 60% has to be contributed by concessionaires.

News 26: Andhra Pradesh to Start Internet-based Phone Service

The Telecom Ministry has started its own Internet Protocol based Television network — as part of its Fiber Grid project. Andhra Pradesh can issue phone numbers starting with the '797' series. Another benefit from the project is that the Government can provide free telephone services within the region through internet which means one can also make free internet skype calls.



For a basic cost of Rs. 149 per month, the AP Government aims to make available interactive connections with digitized channels, internet, Wi-Fi and net telephony. It aims at providing affordable net connectivity to the State.

News 27: Madhya Pradesh creates Guinness World Record for Karma Dance

Close to 3,049 people of Madhya Pradesh State entered the Guinness Book of World Records for performing the largest Karma Naach dance at an event held in Mandla district. This dance was choreographed for a minimum of five minutes to celebrate the culture and history of the Gond tribes of Central India organized by the district administration association.



The participants formed 61 large circles of 50 people and performed the traditional tribal dance. India has already played host to a multitude of impressive mass participation dances, including the Largest Bollywood dance, which took place in Amritsar in January with 8,726 people.

News 28: Andhra Postal Circle Releases Stamps on Yoga Booklet

The Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle released "Information Booklet, Stamps on Yoga" and "12 stamps on Suryanamaskarams" to commemorate the 2nd International Day of Yoga. The booklet contained illustrations and description of 24 yoga asana (postures) while 12 stamps on Suryanamaskarams were released. It also provides a brief description on the various Yoga postures depicted in the original Stamps.



The booklet contains 4 Commemorative stamps released in 1991 on various yoga postures- Bhujangasana, Dhanurasana, Ushtrasana and Utthita Trikonasana. The booklet and stamps were released to encourage customers and employees to take to yoga.

News 29: Maharashtra Government Accords Minority Status to Jews

The Maharashtra State Cabinet, based on the Maharashtra State Minorities Commission Act, 2004, which empowers the government to declare a community as minority, approved the decision to grant minority status to the Jews.



Maharashtra thus became the second state in India to grant minority status to the Jewish Community in the country. There are 2,466 Jews in the state. The status will now make the community eligible to avail various development schemes that the state launches for the minority communities.

News 30: Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya temple in Assam begins

The annual Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya temple in Assam began on the 22nd of June and lasted till the 26th June.



It is the most important festival of the Kamakhya Temple of Guwahati. The Ambubachi is a ritual of ascetes observed with "Tantrik means". It is believed that the presiding goddess of the temple, Devi Kamakhya, the Mother Shakti, goes through her annual cycle of menstruation during this time stretch.

News 31: Nagpur and Jinan city of China become 'Sister Cities'

The Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and Jinan Municipality in the People's Republic of China, entered into an agreement to develop a sister city relationship between the two cities for exchange of ideas and technology in the field of Education, Urban Planning, Youth Affairs, and Sports.

This is for the first time that Nagpur has developed a sister city concept with any foreign city. There are also plans to execute similar agreements with Santa Clara in California.



News 32: President Pranab Mukherjee returned 3 bills for reconsideration of the Manipur Legislative Assembly

President Pranab Mukherjee returned the following 3 bills to the Manipur Legislative Assembly for reconsideration after the bills had triggered violence leading to the death of nine people in the State:

The bills are:

- The Manipur Land Reforms and Land Revenue (7th Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- The Manipur Shops and Establishment (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2015.
- The Manipur Protection of Peoples Bill, 2015.



News 33: Odisha Government approves 500 new Gram Panchayats

The Odisha Government approved the proposal of the Panchayati Raj Department for 500 new Panchayats in the State. The new Gram Panchayats will be added before the 2017 three-tier panchayat polls. The decision has been taken based on the recommendation received from the district level.

Presently, the state has 6,211 Panchayats. The new Gram Panchayats are being created by bifurcating the Gram Panchayats that had population of over 10,000 people.



News 34: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the Child Labour Tracking System

The Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the 'Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS)'. It will help to keep a track of rescued Child Labour for their proper rehabilitation. The Chief Minister also announced a financial help of Rs. 25,000 for every rescued child labour to be given from Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The money would directly be credited to their bank account.



The Chief Minister also announced setting up a committee headed by Chief Secretary for implementation of children's demands.

News 35: Government Sanctions Rs. 164 Crores for Rajasthan, Rs. 156 Crores for Telangana for Compensatory Afforestation

The Union Government has sanctioned Rs. 164 crores for Rajasthan and Rs. 156 crores for Telangana, following a meeting on Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) with the two States. The money was sanctioned for afforestation, relocation and other biodiversity works in the two states. As per the court's guidelines, only 10% of the funds can be released this year.



The Union Minister Prakash Javadekar expressed the hope that the Compensatory Afforestation Bill will be passed in the Monsoon session, making available more money for afforestation and related activities.

News 36. Ministry of Railways Signs JV Agreement with Government of Odisha

The Ministry of Railways signed a Joint Venture Agreement with the Government of Odisha for the formation of a Joint Venture Company towards the development of Railway Infrastructure in the State. The company shall identify projects to be developed and find avenues for financing of the same. Ministry of Railways and the Government of Odisha shall be essentially funding a part of such identified projects.



About 17 State Governments consented for the formation of these Joint Venture Companies in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways. MoUs have already been signed by the Ministry of Railways with seven State Governments viz. Odisha, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Haryana.

News 37: Punjab Government launched Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund

Punjab became the first State in the country to provide free treatment to confirmed cases of Hepatitis C after the state government created a special fund with an initial contribution of Rs.20 crore called the Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund for this purpose.

Free treatment for Hepatitis C would be provided to the patients in the state government medical colleges at Patiala, Amritsar and Faridkot besides 22 district hospitals. The patient has to pay only for the viral load and the genotype of the Hepatitis C Virus for which the Punjab Government has



also done rate contract with Lal Path Laboratories.

News 38: Nagaland Governor Launches Women's Helpline Number '181'

Nagaland Governor P B Acharya launched a women helpline – 181 in the premises of the District Hospital Dimapur in Nagaland. He also inaugurated Sakhi, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, a one stop Centre which is intended to support women affected by violence both in private and public spaces under one roof.

The Governor highlighted the multiple roles played by women as home makers, guardians of children and the hard work put in by them in every field.



HELP-LINE
NUMBER
181

News 39: Andhra Pradesh becomes the 13th State to join the UDAY Scheme

Andhra Pradesh became the 13th State to sign the agreement and formally join the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), a central scheme for reviving financially-stressed electricity distribution utilities. The move will help Andhra Pradesh's electricity sector get a Rs. 4,400 crore benefit over the next three financial years.



The Andhra Pradesh Government will take on Rs. 11,000 crore of debt at its electricity distribution utilities, which would help them save Rs. 330 crores of interest cost a year. Andhra Pradesh is one of the top three states for achieving 100% electrification. The other two are Gujarat and Punjab.

News 40: Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana launched by the Odisha Government

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana (KSSY). Under this scheme, the state government will provide education loan at 1% interest to students for pursuing higher studies. The state government will meet the fund requirement of about Rs 500 crore from its own resources.



Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana (KSSY)

Poor students aspiring to pursue professional and technical education can now avail themselves of study loan up to 10 lakh rupees at the 1% interest rate.

News 41: World Bank approves \$63 million for Tejaswini Project in Jharkhand

The World Bank Board approved US\$ 63 million for Tejaswini Project in Jharkhand. Tejaswini: Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls & Young Women Project will support adolescent girls and young women, ages 14-24, to complete their secondary level education and acquire relevant skills for the job market. The credit is from the International Development Association (IDA) – the World Bank's concessionary lending arm with a maturity of 25 years, including a 5-year grace period.



This is the first World Bank project in India that is solely focused on the welfare of adolescent girls and young women. It is expected to benefit about 680,000 adolescent girls and young women in the 17 project districts.

News 1: Two Indian Origin Women in Forbes 'Richest Self-Made American Women' List

India-born Neerja Sethi (61), co-founder of Syntel, and London-born Jayshree Ullal (55), president and CEO of Arista Networks have been featured on the Forbes' Annual List of America's 60 Wealthiest and most successful self-made women entrepreneurs. These women have "crashed ceilings through invention and innovation".



Neerja Sethi is ranked 16th while Jayshree Ullal (55) is ranked 30th. The first in the list is Diane Hendricks, the owner of ABC Supply, the largest wholesale distributor of roofing and siding in the country with a net worth \$4.9 billion. TV empress Oprah Winfrey moved up three spots to number two.

News 2: India ranks 70th on the Good Country Index

According to the 'Good Country' 2015 index, Sweden has been voted as the best country in the world while India figured low at the 70th position. The report ranked a total of 163 countries taking 35 different UN and World Bank indices into account. It seeks to measure how countries contribute to the global good.



The Top 10 Best Countries included Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, the UK, Germany, Finland, Canada, France, Austria and New Zealand. Libya was ranked as the least "Good" country in the world. China was ranked 27th.

News 3: GRD Index topped by China, India at second position

The 2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI) unveiled the list of 30 developing countries this year on ease of doing business, where China topped the list and India stood at rank second among 30 developing countries for retail investment globally, GDP growth and better clarity regarding FDI regulations.

India has revised Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regulations in single-brand retail and this has paved the way for multinational firms to enter the market. India's retail sector has expanded at a compound annual growth rate of 8.8%.



News 4: Walmart maintains topmost position in Fortune 500

It has been for the 4th consecutive time that Walmart topped the Fortune 500 list. It was based on total revenues for their fiscal years. Other companies among the list were ExxonMobil, Apple, Berkshire Hathaway, McKesson, UnitedHealth Group, CVS Health, General Motors, Ford Motor and AT&T.

More than half of Fortune 500 companies saw sales drop, including Walmart, which had a sales decline of 0.7% in 2015. For the entire list, revenues were down 4.2% from 2015. Overall, Fortune 500 profits fell by 11%.



News 5: Serena replaced Sharapova as the World's Highest-paid Sportswoman

The Forbes Magazine recently reported that Serena Williams has replaced Maria Sharapova as the world's highest-paid sportswoman. Williams earned \$28.9 million over the past 12 months. Williams's career prize money of \$77.6 million amounts to more than twice as much as any other sportswoman's.

Sharapova earned \$21.9 million over the past 12 months, down almost \$8 million from the previous year. American mixed martial arts sports icon Ronda Rousey was third on the list with \$14 million, just ahead of NASCAR stock car driver Danica Patrick, who earned \$13.9 million.



News 6: Forbes released the World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2016 list; 4 Indian Women feature in the list

Forbes released the ranking of 'The 100 Most Powerful Women in the World'. The world's most powerful woman in the list is German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who fetched the first spot for the sixth consecutive year. The list includes four Indian women: Arundhati Bhattacharya (30), Chairperson of SBI bank; Chanda Kochhar (40), MD and CEO of the ICICI Bank; Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (77), Chairman and MD of Biocon; and Shobhana Bhartia (93), Chairperson and Editorial Director of HT Media Ltd.



The Top 10 powerful women in the list are:

- Angela Merkel
- Hillary Clinton
- Janet Yellen
- Melinda Gates
- Mary Barra
- Christine Lagarde
- Sheryl Sandberg
- Susan Wojcicki
- Meg Whitman
- Ana Patricia Botín

News 7: India ranked 141 out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index 2016

India has been ranked 141 out of 163 countries in the recently released 10th edition of the Global Peace Index 2016 with violence taking a 679.80-billion-dollar toll on its economy in 2015 or 9% of India's GDP. It has been ranked fifth out of the seven countries in the South Asia region. The report was released by Institute for Economics and Peace. Iceland was ranked as the world's most peaceful country, followed by Denmark and Austria. Syria has been named the least peaceful, followed by South Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.



According to the report, India has deteriorated in peace by 5% in the last decade. The report also highlights the growing inequality in global levels of peacefulness between the most and least peaceful countries.

News 8: India Rises as the Third Largest Oil Consumer

India has become the World’s Third Largest Oil Consumer according to a report released by the BP Statistical Review of World Energy. India has surpassed Japan with its oil demand rising 8.1% in 2015. India accounted for 4.5% of world oil consumption in 2015.



The top three countries in terms of oil consumption are USA, China and India respectively. Oil accounted for 32.9% of global energy consumption while coal and natural gas accounted for 29.2% and 23.8% respectively.

News 9: Forbes releases 2016 World's 100 Highest Paid Athletes list

The Forbes Magazine has released the list of top 100 highest paid athletes for year 2016. The list has been topped by Soccer Icon Cristiano Ronaldo with earnings of 88 million US dollars. This is the first time since 2000 that someone besides Mayweather or Tiger Woods has held the top spot.



The top 100 athletes earned a total of \$3.15 billion over the last 12 months.

The World’s Top 10 Highest-Paid Athletes:

Rank	Athlete	Sport	Salary (\$mil)	Endorsements (\$mil)	Total Earnings (\$mil)
1	Cristiano Ronaldo	Soccer	\$56	\$32	\$88.0
2	Lionel Messi	Soccer	53.4	28	81.4
3	LeBron James	Basketball	23.2	54	77.2
4	Roger Federer	Tennis	7.8	60	67.8

5	Kevin Durant	Basketball	20.2	36	56.2
6	Novak Djokovic	Tennis	21.8	34	55.8
7	Cam Newton	Football	41.1	12	53.1
8	Phil Mickelson	Golf	2.9	50	52.9
9	Jordan Spieth	Golf	20.8	32	52.8
10	Kobe Bryant	Basketball	25	25	50.0

News 10: UNEP and INTERPOL release “The Rise of Environmental Crime” report

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and INTERPOL released a rapid response report, "The Rise of Environmental Crime" on the eve of World Environment Day. According to the report, the value of environmental crime is 26 per cent larger than previous estimates, at \$91-258 billion today compared to \$70-213 billion in 2014.



The environmental crime includes the illegal trade in wildlife, corporate crime in the forestry sector, the illegal exploitation and sale of gold and other minerals, illegal fisheries, the trafficking of hazardous waste and carbon credit fraud.

News 11: India ranks 10th in the FDI inflows as per the UNCTAD released World Investment Report 2016

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published its annual report titled The World Investment Report 2016 – Investor Nationality: Policy Challenges. According to this report, India ranks 10th in the FDI inflows which increased to 44 billion dollars in 2015 as compared to the 35 billion dollars in 2014.



The Top 10 countries in terms of FDI inflows in decreasing order is: The USA, China, Hong Kong, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Singapore, Brazil, Canada and India. The Global foreign direct investment (FDI) jumped to \$1.76 trillion in 2015.

News 12: World Bank Releases India Development Update 2016

The World Bank released the India Development Update. This Update expects India's economic growth to be at 7.6% in 2016-2017, followed by a modest acceleration to 7.7% in 2017-2018 and 7.8% in 2018-2019. The GDP has accelerated to 7.6% in 2015-16 from an average of 6.5% during the three-year period 2012-13 to 2014-15.



This Update also reviews the current challenges in India's financial sector and analyzes some of the impacts of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission on Indian states.

News 13: Mercer's Cost of Living Survey 2016 released; Mumbai costliest in India

According to the Mercer's 2016 Cost of Living Survey, Hong Kong tops the list of most expensive cities for expatriates. The survey is one of the world's most comprehensive, and is designed to help multinational companies and governments determine compensation strategies for their expatriate employees. New York City is used as the base city for all comparisons and currency movements are measured against the US dollar.



Other cities appearing in the top 10 of Mercer's costliest cities for expatriates are Luanda (2), Zurich (3), Singapore (4), Tokyo (5), Kinshasa (6), Shanghai (7), Geneva (8), N'Djamena (9), and Beijing (10). The world's least expensive cities are Windhoek (209), Cape Town (208), and Bishkek (207). Five Indian cities were also ranked in the list. They are – Mumbai – Rank 82, New Delhi – Rank 130, Chennai – Rank 158, Kolkata – Rank 194, Bangalore – Rank 180.

News 14: Asian Millionaires now control more wealth in the World

According to a new World Wealth Report from Capgemini, Millionaires in Asia are wealthier than their peers in North America, Europe and other regions. The Asian Millionaires saw their wealth jump by 9.9% in 2015, while North America witnessed a sluggish 2.3%. Latin America suffered a decline in net worth of 3.7%. Europe's growth was steady, with a 4.8% increase.



The total wealth of Asia's Richest Residents totaled \$17.4 trillion in 2015, up from \$8.4 trillion in 2006. According to the report, there were 5.1 million Asian millionaires in 2015, the majority, 2.7 million coming from Japan and another one million from China.

News 15: India ranked 105th out of 150 countries on the Human Capital Index

India was today ranked at 105th position globally on a worldwide Human Capital Index released by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) at its Annual Meeting of New Champions — also known as 'Summer Davos' summit. The index measures countries' ability to nurture, develop and deploy talent for economic growth.



Finland, Norway and Switzerland hold the top three positions. Japan and Sweden have moved up to 4th and 5th places and are followed by New Zealand, Denmark, the Netherlands, Canada and Belgium in top ten. Mauritania, Yemen, Chad, Nigeria and Mali are placed in the bottom-five. Among BRICS countries, Russia is ranked 28th, China 71st, Brazil 83rd and South Africa 88th. Pakistan has been ranked 118th in the list.

RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS

News 1: Nikesh Arora resigns as the SoftBank President and COO

The SoftBank Group Corporation President Nikesh Arora resigned from the Telecom Giant effective June 22nd. Mr Arora had taken over as the President and COO of SoftBank in May 2015. He will assume an advisory role, effective July 1. The SoftBank Group has named Ken Miyuchi as its new President and Chief Operating Officer after the resignation of Nikesh Arora.



SoftBank said Arora and Chairman and Chief Executive Masayoshi Son had disagreed over when Arora would replace Son as the head of the group. Arora was a former Chief Business Officer at Google Inc.

News 2: Anju Bobby George Resigned as the President of the Kerala Sports Council

Olympian Anju Bobby George resigned as the President of the Kerala Sports Council after she felt humiliated by the State's Sports Minister, EP Jayarajan, who's accused her of corruption. The job was assigned to her by the previous Congress led government in the State eight months ago.



She won the Gold Medal at the IAAF World Athletics Final in 2005 and won the bronze medal clearing 6.49 meters at the 2002 Commonwealth Games at Manchester. She also won the Gold Medal at the Asian Games in Busan. She was awarded the Arjuna Award in year 2002.

News 3: Aavek Sarkar Resigns as the Editor-In-Chief of ABP Group of Publications

Mr. Aavek Sarkar has stepped down as the Chief Editor of ABP Pvt. Ltd publications, The Telegraph and The Anandabazar Patrika. He has been replaced by his brother Arup Sarkar. R. Rajagopal has been appointed as the Editor of the English daily – The Telegraph and Anirban Chattopadhyay will now be the Editor of the Anandabazar Patrika.



Mr. Sarkar is taking up the role of Vice-Chairman and Editor Emeritus. He will now oversee the Digital Operations of the ABP Group and continue to support and consult news operations of the group.

News 4: Prime Minister David Cameron announced to step down after the Brexit vote

The UK Prime Minister David Cameron announced to step down as the Prime Minister of the country in October after the UK voted to leave the European Union(BREXIT). The PM had urged the country to vote "BREMMAIN" in the European Union. However, in the referendum that was held on 23rd June 2016, he was defeated by 51.89% to 48.11%.



It will be now for the new Prime Minister to carry out negotiations with the EU and invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which would give the UK two years to negotiate its withdrawal.

News 5: S K Roy Resigns as the Chairman of LIC

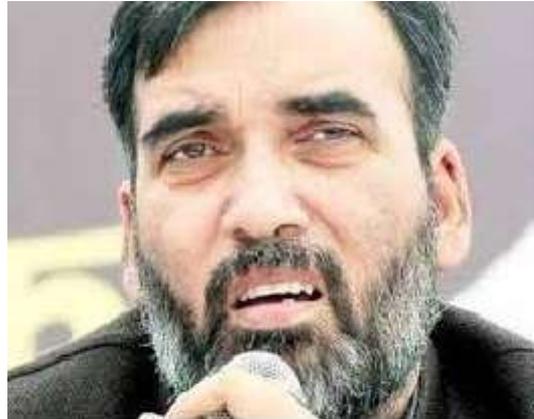
Mr. S.K. Roy has resigned as the Chairman of LIC nearly two years ahead of completion of his five-year term. He took charge as the chairman of the State-run Life Insurance Giant in June 2013 and has been with LIC since 1981. Roy has written to the finance ministry but his resignation is yet to be confirmed.



The State-run insurer is the largest single investor in stocks in India and holds close to 18 trillion rupees (\$267.25 billion) in assets.

News 6: Gopal Rai stepped down from the post of Delhi Transport Minister

Mr. Rai stepped down as the Delhi Transport Minister due to health reasons. His resignation was accepted by the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who gave this responsibility to Health and PWD Minister Satyendar Jain. With this resignation, the departments pending with Rai are the Labour, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, the General Administration Department and the Development and Employment Department.



At present, Rai is facing allegations of corruption in connection with a proposal for a premium, app-based bus service in Delhi. The bus service was supposed to begin during the second phase of the odd-even traffic rule in Delhi.

News 7: Gunit Chadha resigned from the Deutsche Bank

The Deutsche Bank announced the resignation of Gunit Chadha as its Chief Executive Officer for the Asia-Pacific region from 17th July 2016. He joined The Deutsche Bank in 2003 as the CEO for the global lender's India business. The 16 countries he covered included India, ASEAN, Greater China, Australia and Japan. The region was considered a significant contributor to the business, with five of the top 10 countries globally for Deutsche Bank.



His resignation decision came out of decision of restructure of business including closing down operations in 10 countries, reducing risks, strengthening the capital position and laying off around 15,000 people.

News 8: Lionel Messi retires from International Football

Lionel Messi announced his retirement from international football after Chile beat Argentina in the Copa America final for the second straight year. He also missed the penalty in the Copa America final. Argentina lost 4-2 on penalties to Chile. It was his third Copa America final, and fourth major final after Argentina's loss to Germany at the 2014 World Cup.



He is the only footballer in the history to win five FIFA Ballons d'Or and is winner of four Champions League titles and eight Spanish La Liga crowns with Barcelona.

News 1: Novak Djokovic becomes the first player to win \$100M Prize Money

The world number one, Novak Djokovic, became the first professional tennis player to earn more than \$100 million in prize money after his win over Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut to make his way to the quarter-finals of the French Open for the 10th time. He entered the Roland Garros tournament with a total prize money of \$99,673,404.



Roger Federer, having earned \$98,011,727 is the next closest player to breaking that barrier. Serena Williams is the leader among the women, having earned a total prize money of \$75,929,696 in 21 years.

News 2: League System for Test matches could be possible by 2019

According to the ICC Chief Executive, Dave Richardson, a league system for Test cricket could be in place by 2019. Currently, the only global competition for Test cricket are the ICC rankings.



Under the league system, teams would be provided the same number of fixtures, home and away so that at the end of a league period, a champion team can be crowned. However, considering the five-day length of the match and all teams willing to play, ICC can have two groups or two divisions for the league system.

News 3: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu becomes first Indian to lead a European Top Division team - Tippeligaen

The National Football Team Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu became the first player from the country to be chosen as the captain of a top division team in Europe. He plays for the Norwegian Premier League (Tippeligaen) Club Stabaek FC. The goalkeeper made more than 100 appearances for East Bengal between 2010 and 2014 before going to Stabæk for a trial.



Gurpreet is the fifth Indian player to play professionally in Europe after Mohammed Salim, Baichung Bhutia, Sunil Chhetri and Subrata Paul.

News 4: Argentina continues to remain No. 1 in FIFA rankings, India slips to 163rd

Argentina has retained the No. 1 spot in the latest FIFA ranking. Belgium is ranked second and Colombia made a move into the top 3, while England dropped out of the top ten at the expense of Austria. Indian football team slipped one place to occupy 163rd position.



Iran and Korea are the two highest ranked teams in Asia, at 39th and 50th respectively. The top ten teams are Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, Germany, Chile, Spain, Brazil, Portugal, Uruguay and Austria.

News 5: Indian Boxing Council gets affiliation from the Commonwealth Boxing Council

The Indian Boxing Council (IBC), a licensing body for professional boxers in India, has been granted affiliation by the Commonwealth Boxing Council (CBC). It was communicated by CBC Honorary secretary Simon Block to IBC President Brig (Retd) P K Muralidharan.



IBC is a National Boxing Governing body that sanctions professional boxing matches and awards national and subordinate championship titles, the first time in India and has so far conducted two fight cards. Indian boxer Vijender Singh will be competing for the WBO Asia title against a yet-to-be-named opponent on July 16 under IBC.

News 6: Leander Paes completed a ‘Career Slam’ in the mixed doubles with Swiss partner Martina Hingis

Leander Paes completed a "Career Grand Slam" in the mixed doubles with Swiss partner Martina Hingis by winning the French Open final against Sania Mirza and Ivan Dodig. The unseeded Indo-Swiss pair battled out a 4-6 6-4 10-8 win over the second seeds in the summit clash.



The Indo-Swiss pair had won Australian Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open titles in 2015. It was the 18th Grand Slam title for Paes and 10th

in the mixed doubles. For the 35-year-old Martina Hingis, it was Grand Slam title number 22nd and the 50th trophy in the mixed doubles segment.

News 7: Garbine Muguruza wins French Open Final

Garbine Muguruza of Spain has won the woman's singles title of French Open after she defeated the world number one and defending champion Serena Williams of America by 7-5 and 6-4 in the final at the Roland Garros in Paris. She had lost to Williams in the last year's Wimbledon final.



The 22-year-old fourth seed is Spain's first female champion at Roland Garros since Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in 1998. Williams's career record in major finals is now 21-6.

News 8: Novak Djokovic completes his "Career Grand Slam" after winning the 1st French Open Title

The World Number One Novak Djokovic completed the career Grand Slam after he defeated Britain's Andy Murray 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 in the final to win his first French Open title. Djokovic won his 12th major title. He also became the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all four Grand Slams at once.



He becomes only the eighth man in history to have won all four of the sport's major singles prizes.

News 9: Lucknow to host the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2016

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has confirmed that the men's Hockey Junior World Cup 2016 will be played in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh between 8-18 December, 2016.



This event will feature 16 of the world's best junior men's teams. Those qualified are: Argentina; Australia; Austria; Belgium; Canada; Egypt; England; Germany; India; Japan; Korea; Netherlands; South Africa; New Zealand; Pakistan and Spain. The women's junior World Cup will take place in Santiago, Chile, from November 24 to December 4.

News 10: Tintu Luka won the Silver at the Josef Odlozil Memorial Athletics Meet in Prague

India's Tintu Luka won a Silver Medal in the 800m in the Josef Odlozil Memorial Athletics Meet in Prague in Czech Republic. The Rio-bound athlete ran her season's best of 2:00.61 to finish second in the race behind 2013 World Youth Championship Gold Medal winner Anita Hinriksdottir of Iceland who ran 2:00.54.



The reigning Asian Champion qualified for the Rio Olympics during the World Championships in Beijing last year. She holds the national record of 1:59.17 which she did way back in 2010.

News 11: Saina Nehwal clinches the Australian Open Super Series Badminton trophy

Saina Nehwal clinched her second Australian Open Super Series Badminton tournament title after she defeated Chinese Sun Yu in a thrilling 3-game final match played at Sydney. It was her first title of the year 2016. Saina beat World No. 2 Yihan Wang of China in the semi-finals. She had previously won the title in 2014.



The Badminton Association of India (BAI) announced a reward of Rs. 10 lakhs for Saina Nehwal for winning the title.

News 12: USA won the 3rd Consecutive FINA Women Water Polo World League Super Final Title

The United States women's water polo team won their 3rd consecutive title, defeating Spain 13-9 to claim the gold medal at the 2016 FINA Women's World League Super Final in Shanghai. Australia defeated hosts China 11-3 for the bronze medal.



Courtney Mathewson of the US was named as the most valuable player; the best scorer went to Roser Tarrago of Spain while Australia's Lea Yanitsas was named the best goal-keeper. Eight best teams qualified for the super final.

News 13: Lewis Hamilton wins the Canadian Grand Prix 2016

Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won the Formula 1 Canadian Grand Prix. In the 2016 season, it was the second title for him as he already secured the Monaco Grand Prix. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel stood second in the race. Lewis Hamilton has closed to within nine points of Nico Rosberg's world championship lead. Nico Rosberg finished only fifth.



Valtteri Bottas came third in the race while Max Verstappen claimed the fourth spot for Red Bull.

News 14: Indian men's 4x400m relay team breaks 18-year-old National Record

The Indian men's 4x400m relay team, comprised of Asian Games Bronze medalist Arokiya Rajiv, Mohd. Anas, A Darun and Mohd Kunhu, broke an 18-year-old national record when they clocked 3:02.17 seconds at the International Sprint and Relay Teams Cup at Erzurum, Turkey. The team bettered the previous record of 3:02.62 seconds set at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok.



The men's relay team is currently placed on No 17 in the world. The Indian women's 4x400m relay team clocked 3:30.16 seconds and jumped to world No. 12 in the rankings. The IAAF Regulations allow only the top 16 teams to participate in the Rio Olympics. Hence, the women's team is a strong contender while the men's team with a couple of more matches can improve on their rankings to book a berth.

News 15: 'A New World' Rio 2016 slogan unveiled for the Olympics and Paralympic Games

Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee unveiled their official slogan 'A New World' for the First Olympic and Paralympic Games in South America. For Rio 2016, the core values of the slogan and the manifesto are unity, respect for diversity and the will for change. The theme stands for changing the world for the better.



Olympic motto is 'Citius, Altius, Fortius' which means faster, higher and stronger. According to Thomas Bach, slogan is all about creating a better world and leaving this as a legacy to the generations to come. Besides, the organizing committee also unveiled the designs for the 2488 gold, silver and bronze medals.

News 16: AIFF to launch 'Mission 11 Million' for football

The All India Football Federation is all set to launch a football promotion program, titled 'Mission 11 Million', in October. It aims to engage more than 11 million children in football-related activities. The program will reportedly be launched in 30 cities. AIFF also hopes to tap into the Indian Diaspora in countries that already have strong football infrastructure (Germany, US, Australia) as part of their strategy.



This program encourages anyone under the age of 16 with an Indian passport to post, on a soon-to-be-launched portal, a two-minute video from a competitive match.

News 17: Aegon Championships: Andy Murray wins a record fifth Queen's Club title

Andy Murray became the first player to win the Aegon Championships five times. He defeated Milos Raonic 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 in the final. It was Murray's 37th career ATP title and his second of 2016. The 29-year-old had earlier won the Aegon Championships in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015.



Andy Murray is currently ranked World No.2 and has now reached the final of his last four tournaments. John McEnroe and Boris Becker have won the Queen's title four times.

News 18: India Beat Zimbabwe to win the T20 Series 2-1

India defeated Zimbabwe by three runs in the third and final match of the T20 series between the two nations to clinch the series by 2-1. Zimbabwe defeated India by 2 runs in the first match while India had defeated Zimbabwe by 10 wickets in the second match.



Indian bowler Barinder Sran was adjudged Man of the Series. Indian captain M S Dhoni equaled Ricky Ponting's record of captaining in 324 international matches.

News 19: Anil Kumble appointed as the new coach of the Indian Cricket Team

Former Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble has been appointed as the new coach of Indian Cricket Team for a tenure of 1 year. The decision of his selection was taken in the BCCI working committee meeting in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. Kumble's first assignment will be India's Four-Test tour of West Indies.



The Forty-five-year-old Anil Kumble was among the 57 candidates who applied for this position advertised by the BCCI earlier this month. The Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman and Saurav Ganguly then proposed the name of Kumble after interviewing a number of candidates.

News 20: Russian Hockey Winger Artemi Panarin wins the 2015-2016 Calder Memorial Trophy

The US National Hockey League announced that the Russian Hockey Winger Artemi Panarin, playing for the Chicago Blackhawks, has won the 2015-2016 Calder Memorial Trophy.



The Calder Memorial Trophy is an annual award given to the player selected as the most proficient in his first year of competition in the National Hockey League. Panarin, 24, surpassed all the rookies in goals 30, assists 4, points 77, power-play goals 8, power-play points 24 and game-winning goals 7 in 80 games in 2015-16.

News 21: Harika wins the best women's player award in the Eurasian Blitz Chess Tournament

Grand Master Harika Dronavalli has won the best women's player award in the Eurasian Blitz Chess Tournament in Kazakhstan. She received a cash prize of USD 2500 and 60 ELO points to regain her position in the top 10. She is currently ranked as the World Number 9 in the Classical Rankings list.



The win was a big confidence booster for her since the elite field also included World No. 1 Hou Yifan. She had won the best woman's prize at the Zalakaros International Chess Festival in Hungary.

News 22: Usain Bolt wins the 100m in 9.88 seconds at Racers Grand Prix 2016

The Six-time Olympic champion, Usain Bolt, won the men's 100 meters at the inaugural Jamaica National Racers Grand Prix at the JN Racers Grand Prix in Kingston with season's best run of 9.88 seconds. Nickel Ashmeade and Yohan Blake were second and third respectively in 9.94, while Asafa Powell finished fourth in 9.98 seconds.



Bolt clocked the second fastest time of the year behind Frenchman Jimmy Vicaut's 9.86 seconds.

News 23: India set for their maiden show at U17 Futsal World Cup

India is ready to make its maiden appearance in the U-17 Futsal World Cup next month in Paraguay. India was given a wild card entry by the sport's governing body, Association Mundial de Futsal (AMF). The competition will be held from July 11 to 20. India is among 12 nations taking part. It is drawn in Zone A along with Paraguay, Catalonia and Kazakhstan.



The Futsal Association of India (FAI) is the AMF-accredited governing body for futsal in the country.

News 24: India won the Silver Medal at the Archery World Cup in Antalya

The Indian mixed recurve team of Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das won a Silver Medal at the Archery World Cup in Antalya, Turkey. The Indian team lost to South Korea 1-5 in the final at Konyaalti Beach Park against the top-seed Korean pair of Choi Misun and Ku Bonchan.



The women's recurve team of Deepika Kumari, Bombayla Devi Laishram and Laxmirani Majhi lost their bronze medal clash to Italy 1-5. Atanu Das lost to Woojin Kim in a thrilling shoot-off for bronze in the men's individual competition.

News 25: Nico Rosberg won European Grand Prix

Mercedes Driver, Nico Rosberg of Germany, clinched the European Grand Prix Formula 1 championship in Baku, Azerbaijan. With this win, Rosberg extended his championship lead over reigning world champion, Hamilton, to 24 points. It was his fifth victory of the Formula One season as he won in Austria, Bahrain, China and Russia also.



Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari finished second while Sergio Perez, the Force India driver, came third. Rosberg completed second career Grand Slam during the process. Grand Slam in Formula One racing denotes winning a race from pole while leading every lap and scoring the fastest lap.

News 26: Australia defeat India to win the Hero Hockey Champions Trophy 2016

Australia won the Hero Hockey Champions Trophy 2016 after they defeated India 1-3 in a shoot-out in the final at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in London. Australian goalkeeper Tyler Lovell conceded just once in the shoot-out. It was the 14th Champions Trophy title for Australia. India won the silver medal. Germany edged past Great Britain to win the bronze medal. The last two teams were Belgium and Korea respectively.



Germany's Tobias Hauke was named as the best player in the competition, with Great Britain's George Pinner taking the best goalkeeper award. India's Harmanpreet Singh was named as the best junior player. The top scorer was Marco Miltkau (Germany).

News 27: BCCI announces to host mini IPL in September

The BCCI is planning to host a shortened version of the IPL overseas every September, beginning this year, branding it the "mini IPL" or "IPL overseas" in the time window they got after Champions League T20 was scrapped from the calendar. However, the final dates and format is yet to be announced. The USA and the UAE were two options that were discussed at both the IPL governing council meeting and the working committee meeting.



The full-fledged IPL lasts about for almost two months. The ninth edition of the tournament was held in India from April 9 to May 29.

News 28: Jitu Rai wins a Silver Medal in the ISSF World Cup

'Pistol King' Jitu Rai won the silver medal at the ISSF Shooting World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan. He shot 199.5 in the finals to bag the silver medal in men's 10m air pistol. Brazilian Felipe Almeida Wu won the gold medal with a total of 200.0, while Jongoh Jin of Korea totaled 178.8 to win bronze.

It was Rai's sixth World Cup medal and second this year after winning one in Bangkok.



News 29: Anju Bobby George & Pullela Gopichand taken as members of Khelo India

India's lone athletics World Championship Medal winner Anju Bobby George and Chief National Badminton Coach Pullela Gopichand have been drafted as members of Khelo India. The Khelo India initiative is a national program, an enterprise by the Government of India, for the development of sports in the country. The duo has been appointed members to the seven-member committee.

This committee will be headed by Sports Secretary Rajiv Yadav.



News 30: Chile beat Argentina to win the 2016 Copa America Football tournament

Chile successfully defended the Copa America football title after they defeated Argentina 4-2 through penalties shootout in the final clash played at MetLife Stadium. Chile had won the first title in 2015 and it was Argentina they played against in the final.

The winners in other different categories are:

- **Golden Ball:** Alexis Sanchez (Chile)
- **Golden Boot:** Eduardo Vargas (Chile)
- **Golden Glove award:** Claudio Bravo (Chile)
- **Fair Play Award:** Argentina



News 31: N Srinivasan re-elected as the President of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association for the 15th term

The Former BCCI Chief and ICC Chairman, N Srinivasan, was unanimously re-elected as the President of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) for a 15th consecutive term. Kasi Viswanathan was also re-elected secretary for the 10th year in succession. VP Narasimhan was also appointed as its Treasurer.

All candidates, including four City Vice Presidents and two District Vice Presidents were also elected unopposed. There was no election since there were no opponents.



News 32: Argentina women win a record seventh Champions Trophy Hockey title

The Argentina women's team won their record seventh Champions Trophy hockey title. They defeated the reigning World and Olympic champions, The Netherlands by 2-1 in the final at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.

Argentina captain Carla Rebecchi was named as the competition's best player. Netherlands' shot-stopper Joyce Sombroek was named as best goalkeeper while Argentina's Maria Granatto was named as the best junior player.



Final standings: 1: Argentina, 2: The Netherlands, 3: USA, 4: Australia, 5: Great Britain, 6: New Zealand

News 33: India's Rajput wins a Silver Medal in the ISSF World Cup

Ace shooter Sanjeev Rajput clinched the silver medal for India in men's 50-metre rifle 3 position event of the ISSF World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan. Rajput shot 456.9 to win the silver medal. Croatia's Petar Gorsa won the gold medal with 457.5, while Hyeonjun Kim of Korea bagged the bronze after he shot 445.5.

Rajput finished seventh in the qualification with a score of 1167 in kneeling, prone and standing position, while Olympic bronze medalist Gagan Narang was 23rd with 1161. Chain Singh was placed 32nd with a total of 1159.



News 34: National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships began in Hyderabad

The 56th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships, a qualifying event for the Rio Olympics, began in Hyderabad. As many as 744 athletes, including 264 women from 26 states will take part in the five-day event.

So far, 21 athletes have qualified for the Rio Olympic Games besides the women's 4x400m relay squad. A Sri Lankan relay team will also take part in the event in its bid to attain the Rio qualification standard.



News 35: India retain third position in the ICC ODI team rankings

India retained its number three position in the ICC ODI team rankings which is being headed by world champions Australia. With 110 rating points, India are placed below Australia (123) and second-placed New Zealand (113).

In the ICC Player Rankings for ODI batsmen, India's Virat Kohli is placed second while Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan occupy the sixth and eighth positions respectively. South Africa's AB de Villiers has continued to lead the ODI batsmen chart while his countryman Hashim Amla is placed third.



The top 10 of the ICC Player Rankings for ODI bowlers is being headed by West Indian Sunil Narine, followed by New Zealand's Trent Boult and Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan. Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is the highest placed Indian in the 11th spot.

News 36: Amul signs up as the official sponsor of the Indian team to the Olympics

Amul has signed up as the official sponsor for the Indian contingent to the Rio Olympics 2016. In 2012 too, Amul sponsored the Indian contingent at the London Olympics. The company will launch a series of advertising campaigns for milk and other dairy products to promote this association.

Amul has embarked upon an 'Eat Milk with Every Meal' campaign. Asia's largest milk brand will use "Amul Doodh Pita Hai India" ad campaign to cheer the Rio-bound Indian athletes.



News 1: NASA Satellite Finds Unreported Sources of Toxic Air Pollution

Scientists at NASA, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and two universities have located 39 unreported and major human-made sources of toxic sulfur dioxide emissions. The 39 unreported emission sources, found in the analysis of satellite data from 2005 to 2014, are clusters of coal-burning power plants, smelters, oil and gas operations found notably in the Middle East, but also in Mexico and parts of Russia.



Sulphur dioxide is a known health hazard and cause of acid rain.

News 2: Scientists develop “Bionic Leaf” that turns sunlight into liquid fuel

Professor Daniel Nocera at Harvard University and Pamela Silver, Professor of Biochemistry and Systems Biology at Harvard Medical School have co-created a “bionic leaf” which uses the sun’s energy to split water molecules and hydrogen-eating bacteria to produce liquid fuels.

The new system can convert solar energy to biomass with 10% efficiency. Its efficiency is much higher than the 1% seen in the fastest growing plants. It has been dubbed as “bionic leaf 2.0”.



Bionic leaf turns sunlight into liquid fuel

News 3: THOR – World's first 3D-printed aircraft revealed at Aerospace Exhibition

Test of High-tech Objectives in Reality, world's first 3D-printed aircraft unveiled at International Aerospace Exhibition in Schoenefe on 1st June 2016. It appears like a large, white model airplane, weighs 21 kgs and 13 feet long. Airbus and Boeing are using 3D printing to make parts for their huge passenger jets the A350 and B787 Dreamliner.



The 3D printed pieces have the benefit of no tools requirement and that they can be made very quickly. 3D printing also ensures ecological benefits as lighter jets use less fuel and expels out fewer pollutants. It brings big cost reductions on parts manufacturing.

News 4: ESA's LISA Pathfinder mission paves way to detect gravitational wave

LISA Pathfinder has successfully tested a key technology needed to build a space-based observatory for detecting gravitational waves. The mission is led by the European Space Agency (ESA) with contributions from NASA.



It has opened the doors to the development of a large space observatory capable of detecting gravitational waves emanating from a wide range of exotic objects in the Universe. Gravitational waves, predicted by Albert Einstein a century ago, are oscillations in the fabric of space-time, moving at the speed of light and caused by the acceleration of massive objects.

News 5: IUPAC names four new periodic table elements

The IUPAC Inorganic Chemistry Division has reviewed and recommended the following four new elements to be added to the periodic table:

										Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar					
Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr									
Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe									
Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn									
Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Fl	Lv													
										Pr	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
										Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr

- Nihonium and symbol Nh, for the element 113,
- Moscovium and symbol Mc, for the element 115,
- Tennessine and symbol Ts, for the element 117, and
- Oganesson and symbol Og, for the element 118

This discovery helped complete the seventh row of the Periodic Table.

News 6. Iceland scientists turn CO2 into Stone under CarbFix Project

Researchers working in Iceland have discovered a new way to trap the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO2) deep underground: by changing it into rock. The CarbFix Project has converted 95 percent of the CO2 emissions from a geothermal plant into solid carbonate minerals. The technique has to clear some high hurdles to become commercially viable.



Dozens of pilot projects around the world have sought to test carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a way of curbing CO2 emissions from power plants.

News 7: Hubble Telescope clicks a mysterious solitary Dwarf Galaxy

The Hubble Space Telescope has uncovered a mysterious solitary dwarf galaxy - known as UGC 4879. It is an irregular dwarf galaxy. It is about 2.3 million light years away from its closest neighbor, Leo A. It is an ideal laboratory for studying star formation uncomplicated by interactions with other galaxies.



The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is a project of international cooperation between NASA and the European Space Agency.

News 8: China launches their 23rd BeiDou Navigation Satellite

China has successfully launched their 23rd satellite in the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province. It was taken into orbit by a Long March-3C carrier rocket. It was the 229th launch of the Long March Carrier Rocket.



This satellite will support China's global navigation and positioning network and is being developed to rival the US' Global Positioning System.

News 9: China's Supercomputer Tianhe-3 to be in operation by 2020

China has declared to operationalize its supercomputer Tianhe -3 by 2020 as a part of its 13th Five-Year-Plan period (2016-2020), developed by Binhai New Area, NUDT and the National Supercomputing Center in Tianjin. The team is still working on this project. Tianhe 3 is capable of at least a billion calculations per second and is the fastest in the world at 33.86 petaFLOPS (PFLOPS), or 33.86 quadrillions of FLOPS.



In 2010, China unveiled the first petaflop supercomputer Tianhe-1 which is capable of performing at least a million billion calculations per second.

News 10: Russia launched Project 22220 'Arktika' Nuclear Icebreaker

The new Project 22220 nuclear icebreaker called 'Arktika' was successfully launched by Russia. The Arktika became the first Russian nuclear icebreaker to be fully built in modern-day Russia. The Project 22220 vessel is 189.5 yards long and 37.1 yards wide. The ship displaces 33,540 metric tons and is attached with two specifically designed RITM-200 nuclear-power reactors, breaking ice up to almost 10 feet thick.



The Project 22220 is the world's largest and most powerful vessel of its kind and it has been built at the Baltic Shipyard of the United Shipbuilding Corporation of Russia. It is estimated that Russia may need at least five Project 22220 nuclear icebreakers for Arctic exploration.

News 11: Underwater Robots are set to study Indian monsoon

Scientists from Britain and India will release underwater robots into the Bay of Bengal to provide more accurate data and predict the Indian monsoon. Researchers will also fly a plane packed with scientific equipment over the bay to measure the atmosphere. It will cost eight million pounds.



The robots, which have computers onboard and appear like miniature yellow submarines, will spend a month moving through a southern section of the bay, to calculate temperature, salinity and currents. Climate experts in India will use instruments on board the plane flying from the southern city of Bangalore to predict heat and moisture in the air.

News 12: NASA's K2 Finds Newborn Exoplanet Around Young Star

Astronomers have discovered the youngest fully formed exoplanet ever detected using NASA's Kepler Space Telescope and its extended K2 mission, as well as the W. M. Keck Observatory on Mauna Kea, Hawaii. Exoplanets are planets that orbit stars beyond our sun.



The newfound planet, K2-33b, is a bit larger than Neptune and whips tightly around its star every five days. It is only 5 to 10 million years old, making it one of a very few newborn planets found to date.

News 13: ISRO launches a record 20 satellites in 26 minutes from Sriharikota

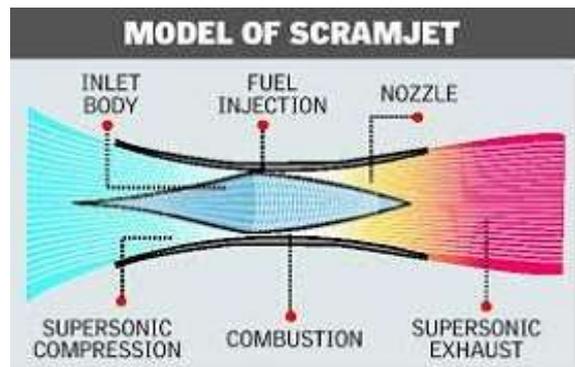
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in a span of 26 minutes, launched a record 20 satellites in a single mission on board ISRO's PSLV-C34 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.



The 20 satellites included India's latest earth observation satellite Cartosat-2, and other 19 satellites from US, Canada, Germany and Indonesia as well as one satellite each from Chennai's Sathyabama University and College of Engineering, Pune.

News 14: ISRO gears up to test an Indigenously Developed Scramjet Engine

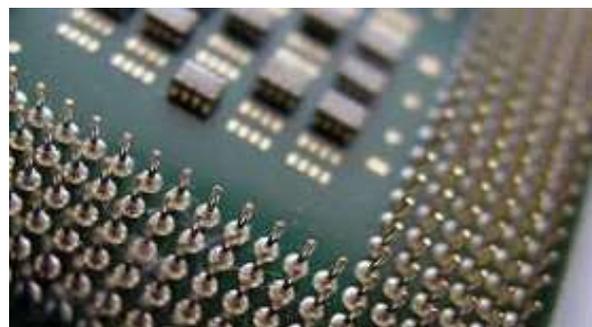
Riding high on the success of the technology demonstration flight of its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV- TD) last month, ISRO is gearing up to test an indigenously developed scramjet engine based on air-breathing propulsion. The test flight of the scramjet engine is scheduled to take place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in July. Called as Advanced Technology Vehicle (ATV), the test platform will comprise a scramjet engine hitched to a two-stage sounding rocket (RH-560).



The vehicle has been characterized and being fabricated at the VSSC (Vikram Sarabhai Space Center) and the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri. The test is expected to help ISRO to achieve good thrust value with the scramjet engine as maintaining combustion in hypersonic conditions poses technical challenges.

News 15: World's first 1000-processor computer chip, KiloCore

A team of scientists at the University of California, Davis, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, have successfully designed a microchip containing 1,000 independent programmable processors. The chip named "KiloCore", has a maximum computation rate of 1.78 trillion instructions per second and contains 621 million transistors. It was released at the 2016 Symposium on VLSI Technology and Circuits in Honolulu.



The team was led by Bevan Baas, professor of electrical and computer engineering.

News 16: China launches first dark sky reserve in Tibet to limit light pollution

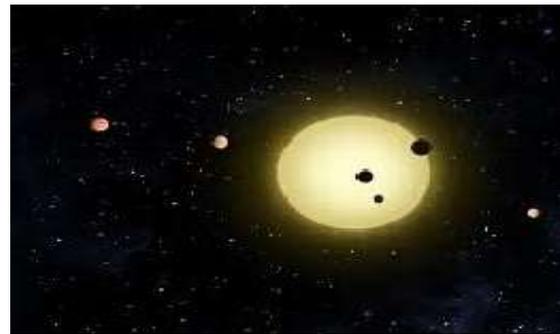
China has set up its first "Dark Sky Reserve" in the Tibet autonomous region's Ngari Prefecture bordering Nepal and India with an aim to limit light pollution by stepping up protection of dark-sky resources for astronomical observation. The reserve covers an area of 2,500 sq.km. and was jointly launched by the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation and the regional government of Tibet.



This reserve is trying for accreditation from the International Dark-Sky Association, a non-profit Organisation based in the US.

News 17: Jupiter like planet, Kepler-1647b, orbiting two stars discovered

A Jupiter like planet, Kepler-1647b, has been discovered orbiting a system of two stars, making it the largest such cosmic body ever found. The planet is located in the constellation Cygnus. It was discovered by astronomers from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre and San Diego State University in the US.



The Kepler-1647 is 3,700 light-years away and about 4.4 billion years old, roughly as old as the Earth. The planet has a mass and radius nearly identical to that of Jupiter.

News 18: Australian Great Barrier Reef Rodent is the First Mammal Made Extinct by Human-Driven Climate Change

The Bramble Cay Melomys, a rodent which is found only on a tiny island on the Great Barrier Reef of Australia has been declared extinct by scientists. It is the first mammal known to be wiped out by human-induced climate change. The long tailed rodent looked like a small brown rat was known to have lived only on Bramble Cay, a hump of coral just 340 meters long and 150 meters wide that juts out three meters or less above the water between Queensland in Australia and Papua New Guinea.



This is the first documented extinction of a mammal because of climate change. The key factor responsible for the death of the Bramble Cay Melomys is high tides and surging seawater, which has traveled inland across the island.

News 19: Chinese Supercomputer, Sunway TaihuLight declared as the World's Fastest Supercomputer

A new Chinese supercomputer, Sunway-TaihuLight, built using domestic chip technology has been declared as the world's most powerful and the fastest supercomputer. It is developed by the National Research Centre of Parallel Computer Engineering and Technology (NRCPC) and is built entirely using processors designed and made in China.



It topped the list of the Top 500 supercomputers with 93 quadrillion calculations per second. With processing capacity of 125.436 petaflops (PFlops) per second, it is the first supercomputer to achieve speeds in excess of 100 PFlops. In 2011, there were no Chinese supercomputers in the world's top 500 ranking. Now, there are 167 – more than the US, which has 165 entries.

The fastest Supercomputer in India is SERC at IISc Bangalore with a speed of 0.90 PFLOP/S and ranked 109 in the list.

News 20: NASA unveils X-57 Hybrid Electric Research Plane

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) unveiled the X-57 Hybrid Electric Research Plane nicknamed as **Maxwell**. With 14 electric motors turning propellers and all of them integrated into a uniquely-designed wing, NASA will test new propulsion technology using this plane.



“Maxwell” will be powered only by batteries, eliminating carbon emissions. The X-57's electric propulsion technology is expected to significantly decrease aircraft noise, making it less annoying to the public.

News 21: Scientists develop new bio-ink for 3D printing with stem cells

Scientists at the University of Bristol have developed a new kind of bio-ink, which could eventually allow the production of complex tissues for surgical implants. The new stem cell-containing bio ink allows 3D printing of living tissue, known as bio-printing.



The bio-ink contains two different polymer components: a natural polymer extracted from seaweed, and a sacrificial synthetic polymer used in the medical industry. The synthetic polymer causes the bio-ink to change from liquid to solid when the temperature is raised, and the seaweed polymer provides structural support when the cell nutrients are introduced.

News 22: CSIR launches anti diabetic Ayurvedic drug BGR-34

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched BGR-34, an anti-diabetic Ayurvedic drug designed for type 2 Diabetes mellitus. BGR-34 is developed jointly by National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) and Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP).



The BGR-34 has been economically priced at 5 rupees per tablet as compared to latest DPP4 inhibitors globally. While the modern diabetes drugs are known for side-effects and toxicity, BGR-34 works by controlling blood sugar and limiting the harmful effects of other drugs.

News 23: NASA tests a Deep Space Rocket Booster ahead of the 2018 space mission

NASA performed its second and last test-fire of a rocket booster for the Space Launch System (SLS) at Orbital ATK's test facilities in Promontory, Utah. NASA has described the SLS as the "world's most powerful rocket." This was the last full-scale test for the booster before SLS's first un-crewed test flight with NASA's Orion spacecraft in late 2018.



When completed, two five-segment boosters and four RS-25 main engines will power SLS on deep space missions. They will provide more than 75 percent of the thrust needed for the rocket and Orion spacecraft to escape Earth's gravitational pull.

VARIOUS COMMITTEES

News 1: Kishore Tiwari headed Taskforce on Maharashtra Agrarian Crisis submits a report to the Government

Vasantrao Naik Sheti Swavlamban Mission (VNSSM), a Maharashtra State Government appointed taskforce and headed by Kishor Tiwari, has suggested a five-point agenda to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The taskforce was appointed for redressal of farmers' grievances and was asked to submit a report on measures needed to tackle agrarian crisis in the 14 drought-prone districts of Maharashtra.



- Start a crop loan helpline with details published in leading newspapers.
- Set up village and taluka-level crop loan committees comprising of ground staff and sarpanch which will prepare a list of hardships being faced by credit-starved farmers.
- All banks should put big flex boards requesting farmers to come for fresh crop loans.
- Contact numbers of all senior bank officials, the District Collector and the VNSSM chairman should be displayed prominently.
- A nodal officer for each bank branch to be appointed by the District Collector who would be required to provide a daily update of crop loan disbursement.

News 2: Government forms a panel to list RBI Governor Candidates

The Government has formed a selection committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha to shortlist candidates for the Reserve Bank of India Governor Post. It is the first time that the RBI governor will be appointed from a list of candidates nominated by the Financial Sector Regulatory Appointment Search Committee (FSRASC).



This committee also comprises additional principal secretary to Prime Minister, P K Mishra, who is a permanent government nominee, and three outside experts – Rajiv Kumar of Centre for Policy Research, Manoj Panda of the Institute of Economic Growth and Bimal N Patel from Gujarat National Law University. A finance ministry representative will be a special invitee.

News 3: Anand Desai Committee on Specific Relief Act, 1963 submitted its report

The Expert committee led by Anand Desai to examine the Specific Relief Act, 1963 submitted its report to Union Law & Justice Minister DV Sadananda Gowda. The committee has recommended modifications in the Specific Relief Act, 1963. The recommendations are aimed at ensuring that public works contracts happen without unnecessary delays.

One of the highlights of the recommendations of the committee is that even if contractual obligations cannot be met, the court could ask the parties to fulfil terms of the contract.

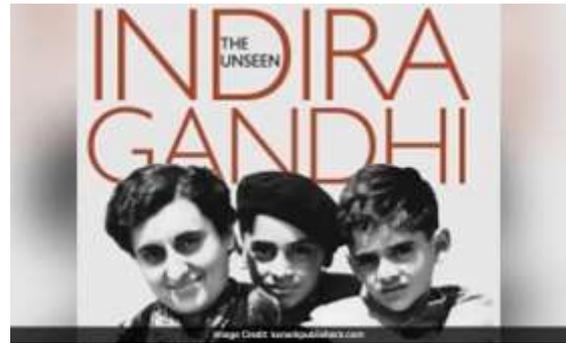
Monetary compensation will be an alternative when contracts cannot be fulfilled.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

News 1: The Unseen Indira Gandhi Authored by Dr. KP Mathur

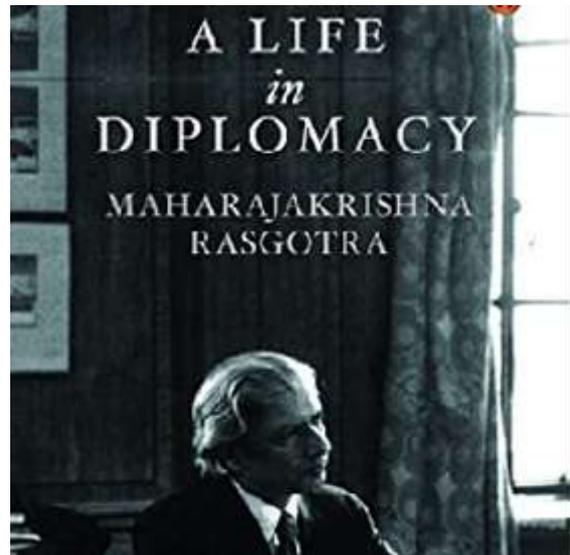
A new book "The Unseen Indira Gandhi" authored by Dr. KP Mathur, the personal physician of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was released in May 2016. The Book, published by Konark Publishers, recalls her cool composure under pressure and her evolution into a leader. The foreword of the book was written by her granddaughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.



The 151-page book covers several milestone moments in Mrs. Gandhi's life: the 1971 Bangladesh War; Pokhran nuclear tests of 1974, imposition of Emergency; death of her younger son Sanjay and circumstances in which the latter's widow Maneka walked out of the family.

News 2: A Life in Diplomacy written by MK Rasgotra

The book titled *A Life in Diplomacy*, authored by Former Indian Diplomat Maharaja Krishna Rasgotra, was in news in the third week of June 2016. The book is a narrative of India's evolution from a newly independent nation to a credible global player.



Maharaja Krishna Rasgotra joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1949 and rose up to the rank of Foreign Secretary. His other books include – *America in the Asian Century*, *The New Asian Power Dynamic* and *Science and Technology in China: Implications and Lessons for India*.

News 3: PM releases a book titled “The Birds of Banni Grassland”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book titled “The Birds of Banni Grassland” in New Delhi. The Book is a compilation of the research work, relating to more than 250 species of birds found in the Banni area of Kutch, Gujarat.

The book was presented to the Prime Minister by the Scientists of Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology. The Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, located at Bhuj, has been studying the plant, bird and marine life in the Rann of Kutch for over 15 years.

