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Current Affairs May 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 **May 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: Dilip Tuli to be In-charge as the Senior Vice President of Housing.com

The renowned real estate platform, Housing.com, hands over the charge of Senior Vice President - Strategy & New Business Initiatives to former KPMG Director Dilip Tuli to assist with strategy and oversee the new business initiatives, such as transaction facilitation and fulfilment services. Tuli's appointment follows closely on the heels of the recent addition of Vineet Singh, Former Business Head of 99acres, who joined the company in a senior advisory role and invested an undisclosed amount in Housing.com.



At KPMG, he was a Director with the Deal Advisory Practice assisting a cross section of clients in evaluating Financial, Commercial and Forensic Risks and Opportunities of their investment plans. During the last two years, Dilip was a senior member of the sector team responsible for Logistics and Industrial Markets at KPMG.

News 2: Eminent Statistician, Dr. Radha Binod Barman, Nominated as the Chairperson of the National Statistical Commission

Dr. Radha Binod Barman, an eminent statistician, has taken over as the part-time Chairperson in the National Statistical Commission. Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Prof. Rahul Mukherjee, Dr. Rajiv Mehta and Dr. Manoj Panda are the other part-time Members in the Commission.



The Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog is the ex-officio Member in the Commission. The Commission is an advisory body on all statistical matters, set up to enhance public trust in official statistics.

News 3: Kishore Biyani Appointed as the MD of Bharti Retail

Future Group's Chief Executive Kishore Biyani has been appointed as the Managing Director of Bharti Retail. Future group, in May 2015, agreed to merge its retail business with rival Bharti Retail in an all-stock deal worth Rs. 750 crores to create one of the biggest supermarket chains with Rs. 15,000 crore turnover.



Mr. Rakesh Biyani, who is also a director at the Future Group, has also been appointed as the Joint Managing Director of Bharti Retail, which will be later renamed as the Future Retail Ltd.

News 4: Sameer Chadha Appointed as the CEO in KPMG India

KPMG's offshore arm in India appointed Mr. Sameer Chadha as their Partner and CEO. Chadha was earlier working with Barclays Shared Services, where he was the Chief Executive Officer. Prior to working with Barclays, he held strategic leadership roles at firms such as Bank of America, First Source Solutions and Lehman Brothers. He has 25 years of experience with leading organizations across the financial services and consumer goods sectors.



He is a chartered accountant and holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University.

News 5: Sunil Lanba to Assume Charge as the Next Chief of Naval Staff

Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Western Naval Command will assume charge as the new Chief of Naval Staff. He will replace Admiral RK Dhowan. The 58-year-old Lanba is a specialist in Navigation and Direction and also a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal. He will assume charge on the 31st of May and will have the full three-year tenure as the Navy Chief.



Lanba was commissioned into the executive branch of the Navy on January 1, 1978 and has held several commands as well as staff appointments during his 38-year career with the Navy.

News 6: Ferrari Named Sergio Marchionne as its CEO

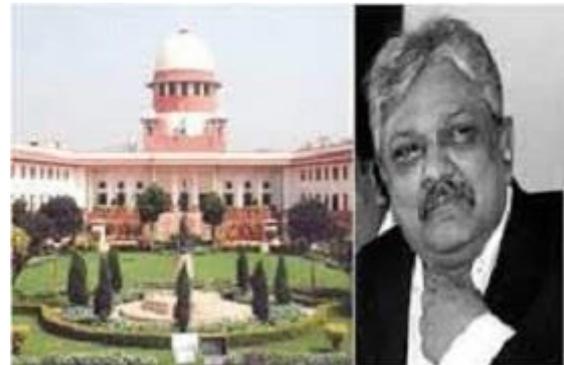
Ferrari announced Sergio Marchionne as its CEO. It has though retained his position as the Chairman. Marchionne, who is also the CEO of the mass-market carmaker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, replaces long-time CEO Amedeo Felisa, who is retiring after 26 years at Ferrari.



The appointment was followed after Ferrari posted its best first-quarter earnings ever, a 19 percent increase in the net profit which went up to 78 million euros (\$89.5 million). That compares with the €65 million (US\$75.1 million) in the same period last year.

News 7: SC Collegium Recommended the Transfer of Uttarakhand Chief Justice to Andhra Pradesh

The Supreme Court (SC) Collegium, headed by the Chief Justice of India TS Thakur recommended transfer of Uttarakhand High Court Chief Justice KM Joseph to Andhra Pradesh High Court.



Justice Joseph, 57, was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court by the President in July 2014. He was elevated to the post of the Chief Justice on recommendation of the then CJI Rajendra Mal Lodha. In April 2016, a bench of Uttarakhand High Court, presided over by him quashed the Union Government's decision to impose President's rule in the state. However, the ruling was stayed by the Supreme Court.

News 8: SC Collegium Recommended 4 Names for Elevation to the Apex Court

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended elevation of three High Court Chief Justices and a senior lawyer to the apex court. The Collegium headed by the Chief Justice of India T S Thakur has recommended the elevation of Chief Justice A M Khanwilkar of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud of the Allahabad High Court and Chief Justice Ashok Bhushan of the Kerala High Court to the Supreme Court. The Collegium also recommended the appointment of former Additional Solicitor General and Senior Advocate L Nageswara Rao as a Supreme Court judge.



This now takes the number of Supreme Court Judges to 29 from 25, still two short of its approved strength.

News 9: Kumar Rajesh Chandra Appointed as the Chief of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the name of the Senior IPS officer Kumar Rajesh Chandra as the Chief of Bureau of the Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). He has been appointed in the place of IPS Officer G S Malhi. The position was lying vacant since November 2012. Chandra is currently working as the Additional Director General (Modernisation), Bihar Police.



The main responsibility of a BCAS is to lay down standards and measures in respect of security of civil flights at the international and domestic airports in India.

News 10: Sudhir Yadav is the new Tihar Director-General

Sudhir Yadav has been appointed as the new Director-General (DG) of the Tihar Central Jail. Mr. Yadav is a 1985 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer. Currently, he is serving as the Special Commissioner of Police (Provision and Logistics) in Delhi. He had earlier served as the DGP of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2013.



Yadav has been appointed in the place of J K Sharma who had resigned hours after taking charge on April 20. Mr. Sharma was appointed by the Aam Admi Party and his appointment order was nullified as the government had not sought prior approval of the Lt Governor Najeeb Jung before the appointment.

News11: Somnath Ghosh appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Tajikistan

Shri Somnath Ghosh (IFS – 1997), presently the Ambassador of India to Mongolia, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Tajikistan. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

He has so far served in Russia, Tajikistan and Belgium (European Union Headquarters). He has also served as the Assistant High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh. Apart from that, he has also handled various desks in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.



News 12: Bombay HC Senior Advocate Atma Ram Nadkarni appointed as the Additional Solicitor General

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed the Senior Advocate of the Bombay High Court, Atma Ram Nadkarni, as the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) in Supreme Court for a period of three years.



An Additional Solicitor General acts as the law officer to advise the Central government on various legal matters. Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor General's assist the government's top legal adviser Attorney General. He was the Advocate General for the state of Goa since 2012.

News 13: Sanjay Kaul is the new Country Head for Apple India

Mr. Sanjay Kaul has been promoted to the position of the Country Manager for Apple India. Kaul has been associated with Apple since November 2011. He has now taken over the role of Country Head from Manish Dhir, who had quit the company in January.



Kaul was associated with BlackBerry as the Director of Channel Sales for India for over two years before joining Apple. He completed his Msc (Tech) Engineering Technology, Industrial Engineering from BITS Pilani. He completed his MBA in International Business from Gustavson School of Business, Canada in 1998.

News 14: Mrugank Paranjape takes charge as the MD & CEO of MCX

Mr. Mrugank Paranjape today took charge as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), and as a Director on the Board. Mr. Paranjape's appointment has been approved by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), for a period of three years with effect from May 09, 2016. Prior to joining MCX, he was the India Head/CEO of DB Centre — a unique front office desk extension of Deutsche Bank.



Mr. Paranjape is an alumnus of IIT Mumbai (Electrical Engineering), and holds a PGDM (Specialization in Information Systems) from IIM Ahmedabad.

FYI: Chairman of the MCX is Mr. Satyananda Mishra.

News 15: Indian-American, Manjit Singh, appointed to a key administration post by President Obama

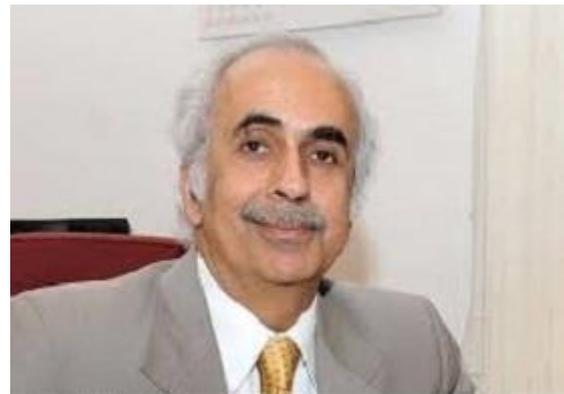
US President Barack Obama has appointed Indian-American engineer, Manjit Singh, as the member of the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Manjit Singh is the co-founder of the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF). He is also the President of Agilious, a software technology consulting firm founded by him in 2013.



He completed his Bachelor of Engineering from University of Bombay in India. He received his Master of Science degree from the State University of New York at Albany.

News 16: NSE welcomes Mr. Ashok Chawla as its Chairman

With the approval of SEBI, the Board of directors of NSE has elected Mr. Ashok Chawla as the Chairman. The appointment is effective from 3rd May 2016 and is valid till the 27th March 2019.



Prior to joining NSE, Mr. Ashok Chawla was till recently, the Chairman of the Competition Commission of India ("CCI"). He obtained his Masters in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics in 1972 and joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1973. He started his career in the State of Gujarat and also served as Finance Secretary and Civil Aviation Secretary, among other posts.

News 17: Justice Naveen Sinha sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Rajasthan HC

Justice Naveen Sinha was sworn in as the 31st Chief Justice of Rajasthan. Governor Kalyan Singh administered the oath to the new Chief Justice. He was appointed by the President Pranab Mukherjee as per the provisions of Article 222 of the Constitution as per the recommendation of the Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) T.S. Thakur. He was earlier the Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court.



He was a Judge in the Patna High Court since 2004 before moving to the Chattisgarh HC.

News 18: Justice Tinlianthang Vaiphei sworn in as the acting Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court

Justice Tinlianthang Vaiphei was sworn in as the acting Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court. Governor Tathagata Roy administered the oath of office to Vaiphei at the Raj Bhavan in Agartala. He succeeds Justice Deepak Kumar Gupta, who was transferred as the Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. Currently Vaiphei is the Acting Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court.



He has been practicing since 1980 in Manipur. He was also the Advocate General of Mizoram. He was made a permanent Judge of Guwahati High Court in February 2005. In October 2015, he was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the High Court.

News 19: Justice Deepak Gupta sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court

Justice Deepak Gupta has been sworn-in as the new Chief Justice (CJ) of the Chhattisgarh High Court. He was administered the oath of office by the Chhattisgarh Governor Balram Das Tandon at the Raj Bhawan in Raipur.



Justice Deepak Gupta was transferred from the Tripura High Court by President Pranab Mukherjee following recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) T.S. Thakur. He will take over from Justice Naveen Sinha who was the Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court since 2013. He was elevated as the Judge of Himachal Pradesh High Court in October 2004.

News 20: Barco Appoints Rajiv Bhalla as the MD for India

Barco, a global leader in visualization technology, has appointed Mr. Rajiv Bhalla as the Managing Director for India. Rajiv will help formulate and execute business strategy with the goal of tapping into India's enormous potential and expand Barco's local business presence.



Rajiv holds a BE (Electronics) degree as well as an MBA with more than 22 years of senior leadership experience in technology organizations like Thomson Consumer Electronics, Microsoft, NEC and Intel & has a deep understanding of the B2B and B2C aspects of the business.

News 21: Manzil Saini Appointed as the First Woman SSP of Lucknow

Manzil Saini, a 2005 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, has been appointed as the First Woman Police Chief of Lucknow. She is popular as "Lady Singham". Saini has replaced outgoing SSP Rajesh Pandey. She was earlier the District Police Chief of Etawah.



Her priority would be safety of woman and sensitizing the lower-level police personnel towards the public. She topped MBA from Delhi School of Economics and cleared the civil services exam in her first attempt.

News 22: IndiGo appoints Rohit Philip as its new CFO

Rohit Philip has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of IndiGo. Philip replaces Pankaj Madan and will assume charge from July 18. Rohit is currently working with global document management and business services major Xerox Corporation. He also worked at United Airlines for 17 years as a senior vice-president, corporate strategy and business development.



IndiGo is the country's largest carrier by market share.

News 23: Shell India appoints Mr. Nitin Prasad as their new Country Head

Shell India appointed Nitin Prasad as its new India head with effect from October 1, 2016. Dr. Yasmine Hilton, currently the Chairman of Shell Companies in India and VP of the IT Project Excellence, Royal Dutch Shell (Shell) will end her assignment on 30th September 2016, after a distinguished career spanning 37 years.



Mr Prasad took up his current appointment in 2011 as General Manager. Currently he is the cluster general manager for lubricants sales and marketing for India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

News 24: Rakesh Kumar Mishra appointed as the CCMB director

Rakesh Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the new Director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).



He had joined CCMB in 2001. He was also elected as a fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, India, Indian National Academy of Sciences and Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences. He has more than 95 articles published in the national and international journals.

News 25: UN Secretary-General appoints Mexican Diplomat to head the UN Climate Change Framework

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon appointed Patricia Espinosa Cantellano of Mexico as the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on the Climate Change (UNFCCC). She will succeed Christiania Figueres of Costa Rica.



Currently the Ambassador of Mexico to Germany (since 2012 and from 2001 to 2002), Ms. Espinosa Cantessllano was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico from 2006 to 2012, bringing more than 30 years of experience at the highest levels in international relations, specialized in climate change, global governance, sustainable development, gender equality and protection of human rights.

News 26: Mary Robinson and Macharia Kamau appointed as Special Envoys on El Niño and Climate

Mary Robinson of Ireland and Macharia Kamau of Kenya have been appointed as Special Envoys on El Niño and Climate by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.



Ms. Robinson is currently the President of the Mary Robinson Foundation — Climate Justice. She was the President of Ireland and previously served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Mr. Kamau is the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations. He is a former President of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Board.

News 27: Ratan P Watal to take charge as Niti Aayog's Principal Adviser

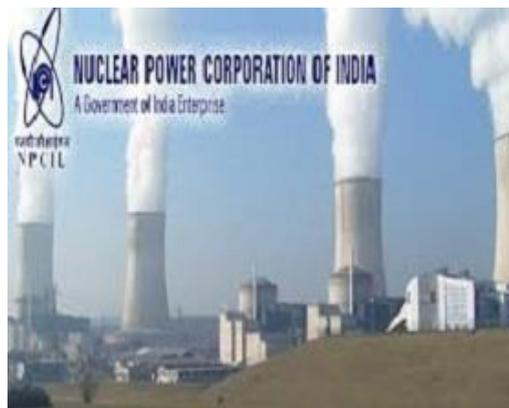
The NITI Aayog has appointed Former Finance Secretary Ratan P Watal as their Principal Adviser (Social Sector) for 3 years, as per the order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Arvind Panagariya are the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the institution respectively. Amitabh Kant is the Chief Executive Officer of the NITI Aayog.



Retired IAS officer Watal of Andhra Pradesh cadre, had been the Finance Secretary between August last year and April this year.

News 28: S K Sharma to take charge as the CMD of Nuclear Power Corporation of India

Shri S K Sharma has been appointed for 5 years as the new CMD of NPCI. Shri Sharma takes responsibility for neighborhood development under the Corporate Social Responsibility. Sharma will be responsible for design, construction, commissioning and operation of nuclear power reactors.



He introduced a number of new initiatives for improving safety & reliability of nuclear power stations and was a part of the leadership team when MAPS-2, NAPS-2 and RAPS-5 were established following new records of continuous operation.

News 29: Vice Admiral Girish Luthra Takes Over Western Naval Command

Vice Admiral Girish Luthra took over the reins of Western Naval Command (WNC) as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) on 31 May 16 from Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba at a ceremonial parade held at INS Shikra. Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba will take over as the Chief of Naval Staff.



Vice Admiral Luthra was commissioned in the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy in July, 1979. He was awarded Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2012 and Vishisht Seva Medal in 2008.

News 30: Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, AVSM assumes charge as Vice Chief of Naval Staff

Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, AVSM, assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff. He was commissioned into the Indian Navy in July 1980. He is a graduate of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and College of Naval Warfare Mumbai.

The Admiral has been commended by the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief and is a recipient of the prestigious Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) awarded by the Hon'ble President of India.



AWARDS

News 1: Three Indian names on the list of 50 Scientists elected as Fellows of the Royal Society

Physicist Sriram Ramaswamy, Director of the TIFR Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Hyderabad; Biochemist Ramanujan Hegde, MRC Laboratory of Microbiology, U.K. and Applied Mathematician Lakshminarayanan Mahadevan, Harvard University are three Indians on the list of fifty scientists elected as Fellows of the Royal Society, a premier Scientific Academy of the U.K. and the Commonwealth.



Ardaseer Cursetjee, an engineer was the first Indian to be inducted in 1841. Srinivasa Ramanujan was the second Indian to be inducted, in 1918. Sriram has received the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (2000) and the Infosys Prize (2011) for his research.

News 2: Edgar A. Poe award by US President given to an Indo-American Journalist

Neela Banerjee, an Indian-American journalist and three of her colleagues from Inside Climate News — John Cushman Jr, David Hasemyer and Lisa Song were all together presented with the prestigious Edgar A. Poe award by the U.S. President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama during the annual White House Correspondents Dinner. The award was shared by Terrence McCoy of the Washington Post.



Previously, Banerjee was an energy and environmental reporter for the Los Angeles Times' Washington bureau. She covered global energy, the Iraq War and other issues with the New York Times. Misha Euceph, a Pakistani radio journalist from Rawalpindi was among the 18 budding journalists selected for WHCA annual scholarship. She was also felicitated by the US President and the First Lady.

News 3: Indian Cricket players Virat Kohli recommended for Khel Ratna and Ajinkya Rahane for Arjuna Award by BCCI

The BCCI has nominated Indian cricket player Virat Kohli for the esteemed Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, and Ajinkya Rahane for the Arjuna Award. The BCCI had earlier nominated Rahul Dravid for the award four years ago in 2012.



Kohli was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2013 and has been nominated for the Khel Ratna after his heroics in the recent World T20. So far, the only cricketers to have been honoured with the Khel Ratna are legendary batsman Sachin Tendulkar (1997-98) and India's ODI skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (2007). For the Arjuna award, apart from Rahane, athletes Lalita Babar and OP Jaisha, shooters PN Prakash and Apurvi Chandela and archer Laxmirani Majhi have been nominated.

News 4: The 63rd National Film Awards presented by President Pranab Mukherjee

President Pranab Mukherjee presented the 63rd National film awards for different categories at an event held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.



The 2015 Dada Saheb Phalke Award ceremony was also held at the same event by presenting this award to veteran actor Manoj Kumar. The major category award for best actor and best actress was honored to Amitabh Bachchan and Kangana Ranaut respectively.

Other Major Recipients:

- Best Director –Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Bajirao Mastani
- Best feature film – SS Rajamouli for Bahubali
- Best children's film – Duronto
- Best Child Artist - Gaurav Menon for Malayalam movie 'Ben'
- Best Music Direction - M Jayachandran

News 5: Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics announced

The Selection Committee of the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics announced a Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics recognizing scientists and engineers contributing to the momentous detection of gravitational waves. The \$3 million prize will be shared between LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) founders Ronald W. P. Drever, Kip S. Thorne and Rainer Weiss and 1012 contributors to the discovery.



The Special Breakthrough Prize can be conferred at any time in recognition of an extraordinary scientific achievement.

News 6: President of India confers the Niryat Shree and Niryat Bandhu Awards

The Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the 15th Set of FIEO "Niryat Shree" and "Niryat Bandhu" Awards to companies from various sectors of exports during the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) here at New Delhi.



Reliance Industry was adjudged as the top foreign exchange earner and leading exporter of last 50 years. TCS bagged the Gold Award in IT services. Amongst the supporting institutions, State Bank of India got the Gold award followed by Canara Bank and Punjab National Bank.

News 7: Parashar Kulkarni won 2016 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for Asia Region

Parashar Kulkarni, an assistant professor in Social Sciences at Yale NUS College Singapore, won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize for 2016, for the Asia region for his unpublished short fiction 'Cow and Company'. He will receive a cash prize of 2500 pounds.



The winners from other four regions are:

- **Faraaz Mahomed** - 'The Pigeon' with its playful tone and unreliable narrator
- **Stefanie Seddon** - Eel, a simply told and moving story of childhood
- **Lance Dowrich** - comedic 'Ethelbert and the Free Cheese'
- **Tina Makereti** - 'Black Milk', which impressed with a lyricism that takes the reader into another world while keeping them always on earth.

News 8: Musician Angélique Kidjo and African youth activists honoured with the Amnesty International Award

World-renowned musician Angélique Kidjo and three inspirational African youth activist movements have been declared this year's joint winners of the prestigious Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award for 2016.



The award will be shared between Angélique Kidjo and the activist groups Y'en a marre from Senegal, le Balai Citoyen from Burkina Faso and Lutte pour le Changement (LUCHA) from DRC. All will be honoured at the awards ceremony in Dakar, Senegal, on 28 May. The Ambassador of

Conscience Award celebrates individuals and groups who have shown exceptional courage standing up to injustice, who have used their talents to inspire others and who have furthered the cause of human rights.

News 9: President presents Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Decorations to Defence Personnel

President Pranab Mukherjee presented the Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Decorations to Defence personnel at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



Constable Gautam Koch of Assam Armed Branch who made supreme sacrifice fighting UPLA insurgents in Assam's Difu was awarded Kirti Chakra posthumously. Naib Subedar Rajesh Kumar Singh who also made supreme sacrifice while fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir was awarded Kirti Chakra posthumously. President also conferred the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Kirti Chakra, Uttam Yudh Sewa Medal, Atti vishisht Sewa Medal and Shaurya Chakra.

News 10: Indian scientist Manvendra K Singh awarded SGD 3 million as grant from Singapore's NRF

Indian scientist, Dr. Manvendra K Singh, has been awarded a grant of SGD 3 million (about Rs 14.7 crore) by the National Research Foundation of Singapore to research in congenital and adult cardiovascular diseases. Dr. Singh belongs to Gorakhpur city of Uttar Pradesh. He is among the seven young scientists from across the world to be endowed with the Singapore NRF fellowship to carry out cutting-edge research this year. The NRF is a department within the Prime Minister's Office in Singapore.



News 11: Commemorative Coin on Maharana Pratap released

As a part of the 475th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Maharana Pratap, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Dr. Mahesh Sharma released a Commemorative coin of Rs. 100/- and a Circulation coin of Rs. 10/- in New Delhi.



The Ministry of Culture has been celebrating the 475th Birth Anniversary of Maharana Pratap during the 2015-16 in association with the State Government of Rajasthan. The Government of India and the State Government of Rajasthan have decided to create a multi-purpose indoor stadium at Khel Gaon, Udaipur in his memory. The Ministry of Culture has agreed to give a sum of Rs. 9.50 crores to the State Government for this purpose.

News 12: BAFTA TV awards 2016 has been announced

The winners of the House of Fraser British Academy Television Awards were announced at the ceremony hosted by Graham Norton at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on Sunday 8th May 2016.



The winners are:

- Mark Rylance - Leading Actor - Wolf Hall
- Suranne Jones - Leading Actress - Doctor Foster
- Tom Courtenay - Supporting Actor - Unforgotten
- Chanel Cresswell - Supporting Actress - This Is England '90
- Peter Kay - Male Performance in a Comedy Programme - Peter Kay's Car Share
- Michaela Coel - Female Performance in a Comedy Programme - Chewing Gum
- Entertainment Performance - Leigh Francis - Celebrity Juice
- Drama Series - Wolf Hall
- The award for Single Drama - Don't Take My Baby
- Comedy and Comedy Entertainment Programme - Have I Got News For You
- The award for single documentary: My Son the Jihadi
- The Special Award in Honour of Alan Clarke - Lenny Henry
- The Fellowship, the highest accolade the Academy bestows - Ray Galton and Alan Simpson

News 13: Indian-American Revathi Balakrishnan honoured as the 2016 Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year

An Indian-American Revathi Balakrishnan was honoured by the US President Barack Obama as the 2016 Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year for her excellent work in the field of education. She will now represent Texas in the National Teacher of the Year competition.



Ms. Revathi Balakrishnan originally is from Chennai, Tamil Nadu. She is currently teaching math classes in third through fifth grade at Sommer. The 'National Teacher of the Year Program' identifies exceptional teachers in the country. This program further empowers them to participate in policy discussions at the state and national levels.

News 14: N K Singh gets Japan's second highest national award

Mr. N K Singh was awarded with Japan's Second Highest national award for his contribution towards the Indo-Japan economic relations in the field of trade and investment over the last few decades. The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star' award was conferred on Mr. Singh by the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a glittering ceremony at the Imperial Palace. A total of 91 eminent personalities, including eight foreign recipients have been conferred with this award.



Mr. Singh is a politician, economist and a former top bureaucrat.

News 15: The President Confers Florence Nightingale Awards to 35 Nurses

The President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred the Florence Nightingale Awards to 35 nurses from across the country on the occasion of International Nurses Day at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.



The Florence Nightingale awards are given to the outstanding nursing personnel employed in Central, State/UTs. Nurses working in Government, Voluntary Organizations, Mission institutions and the private institutions can apply with the due recommendation of concerned State Government. The Florence Nightingale Awards carries Rs.50,000/- cash, a certificate, a citation certificate and a Medal.

News 16: Indian artist wins an award at the UN Poster Contest on N-disarmament

Ms. Anjali Chandrashekar, a New York-based designer and "artist", won the third prize in the UN Poster for Peace contest presented by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) to raise awareness of the need for nuclear disarmament. The poster was titled 'Cutting Barriers through Peace', and featured a peace dove slicing through a nuclear weapon.



The first prize went to 38-year-old Ivan Ciro Palomino Huamani from Peru for his 'Spinning Peace', which features a nuclear weapon being unraveled into a string which is then used to fly kites and balloons, and to jump rope. The second placed winner, 15-year-old Michelle Li, named her poster 'Peace in our Hands', which features a shadow puppet of a peace dove above a broken nuclear weapon.

News 17: Former ISRO Chief U R Rao to be honored with the 'Hall of Fame' award

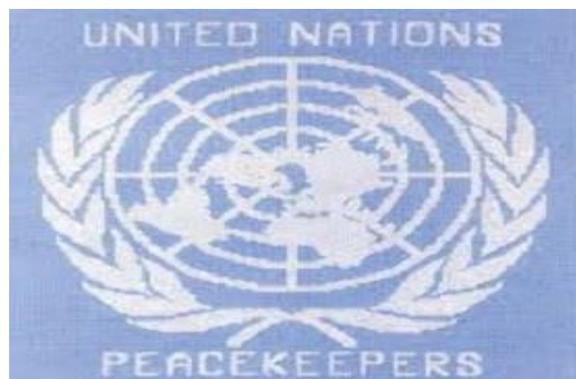
Eminent Space Scientist Prof Udupi Ramachandra Rao will be honoured by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) with the 2016 'IAF Hall of Fame Award' for his outstanding contribution to the progress of astronautics within the framework of the IAF activities.



The IAF award is intended to reward personalities for their contributions to the progress of astronautics and the Federation. He will receive the 'IAF Hall of Fame' Award during the 67th International Astronautical Congress in September 2016.

News 18: United Nations to honor 4 Indian Peacekeepers and a Civilian

Four Indian Peacekeepers and a Civilian will be honoured along with other 124 personnel with a prestigious U.N. Medal awarded posthumously for their courage and sacrifice. They laid down their lives while serving in the U.N. Peacekeeping Operations last year. They are to be posthumously awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld medal which is named after the second U.N. Secretary General on the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.



The fallen Indian peacekeepers who will be honoured are Head Constable Shubhakaran Yadav, Rifleman Manish Malik, Havildar Amal Deka, Naik Rakesh Kumar and Gagan Punjabi.

News 19: Celina Jaitly received Harvey Milk Foundation Medal

Bollywood actress Celina Jaitly was honoured with the Harvey Milk Foundation's Lilla Watson Global Champion Medal for her advocacy and support for the LGBT rights movement in India. She has dedicated it to the two Bangladeshi LGBT activists who were murdered recently. She also wanted to share it with Indian LGBT activists.



The award is in the name of Harvey Bernard Milk, an American politician who became the first open gay person to be elected to public office in California.

News 20: IIT student Nandini Bhandaru bags the Young Scientist Award by European Materials Research Society

Nandini Bhandaru, a PhD student at IIT Kharagpur has been recently conferred with the European Materials Research Society's Young Scientist Award at EMRS 2016 Spring Meeting Lille France.



She won the award based on her outstanding contribution to Material Science and Nano Technology, particularly Nano patterning of soft films and surfaces. Nandini's area of doctoral research is on nanofabrication including Soft-Lithography, thin film dewetting, polymer blend films and self-assembly.

News 21: The Vegetarian, authored by Han Kang, wins Man Booker International Prize

The Vegetarian, authored by Han Kang, has won the 2016 Man Booker International Prize. This novel is about a woman who "wants to reject human brutality" and gives up eating meat and wants to become a tree. The book was translated by Deborah Smith, who only learned Korean three years before.



The writer and her British translator will share the award's £50,000 prize money. Han Kang is the first South Korean to win the prize.

News 22: JK Rowling receives the highest French Civilian Honor

Harry Potter Author JK Rowling has been made an Honorary Knight in the French Legion Of Honor, France's highest civilian award by President Nicolas Sarkozy at a ceremony in Paris. The title constitutes the country's elite national merit society.

The title was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in the early 19th century and constitutes the country's elite national merit society.

Foreigners cannot be officially inducted. Other foreign celebrity knights include Jerry Lewis, Steven Spielberg and Barbara Streisand.



News 23: Indian-American teenager Syamantak Payra wins the Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award

A 15-year-old Indian-American boy has won the prestigious 'Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award' for developing a low-cost electronically-aided knee brace. The knee brace allows a person with a weakened leg to be able to walk better. Payra won \$50,000 award for his effort along with Kathy Liu who was awarded for developing an alternative battery component that could significantly improve battery performance and safety.



The first prize, Gordon E. Moore Award of 75000 US dollars, went to Han Jie (Austin) Wang for developing microbial fuel cells (MFCs) that more efficiently convert organic waste into electricity. The award was given by Intel Corporation and the Society for Science and the Public (SSP) at the 2016 'Intel International Science and Engineering Fair' in Arizona.

News 24: US National Medal of Science Award given to Indian-American Rakesh K Jain

Indian American scientist, Rakesh K Jain, will receive the prestigious 'National Medal of Science' award from the US President Barack Obama. An IIT-Kanpur alumnus, he is a Professor of Tumor Biology at Massachusetts General Hospital in the Harvard Medical School. He has received numerous awards for his work on Tumor Biology.



The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science, engineering and mathematics. The National Medal of Science is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation.

News 25: Indian-American Rupa Iyer Awarded for Teaching in US

Indian-American, Rupa Iyer, has received the University of Houston's highest teaching award for her sustained and significant contributions to education. A biotechnologist by profession, she has been presented the "Distinguished Leadership in Teaching Excellence Award".

She is an Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies at the University of Houston's College of Technology. Her research is in the area of Environmental Biotechnology. She has received many recognition, awards and grants for her outstanding contributions.



News 26: Top Chemical Industry Award for Mukesh Ambani

Mr. Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited, was presented with the prestigious 'Othmer Gold Medal' by Mr. Carsten Reinhardt, President & CEO of CHF, and Mr. Raj Gupta, Chairman of Delphi Automotive, for his entrepreneurial leadership that has resulted in the expansion of India's petroleum refining industry, creation of the Jamnagar Refinery in Gujarat.

Mr. Ambani dedicated the award to the indomitable spirit of his father, Dhirubhai Ambani who encouraged Mr. Ambani to pursue chemical engineering at a time when Reliance only dealt in textiles. The medal is presented annually and co-sponsored by the CHF and its four affiliated organizations.



News 27: Nepal's prestigious literary award conferred to Sikkim's Chief Minister

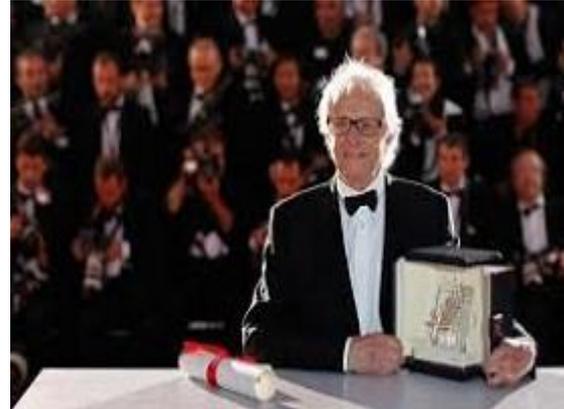
The Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was honored with the 'Yug Kavi Siddhicharan Award' by Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli for his commendable contributions in promoting Nepali literature in India at an award ceremony organized by Siddhicharan Shrestha Academy.

This award carries a certificate of appreciation and a sum of NRs 100,000. Pawan Chamling has been awarded twice by the Sikkim Sahitya Parishad - Chintan Puraskar in 1987 for the best poem and Bhanu Puraskar in 2010. His other works in Nepali include Prarambhik Kavita (poems, 1978), Antyaheen Sapana: Mero Bipana (poems, 1985) and Sikkim ra Nariko Maryada.



News 28: Daniel Blake bagged the top prize 'Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival

British film-maker Daniel Blake won the top prize, the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, which was presented by Mel Gibson. The jury prize was given to Andrea Arnold for American Honey. Sasha Lane stars alongside Shia LaBeouf and Riley Keough.



Two filmmakers were given the honor of best director: Cristian Mungiu for Graduation and Olivier Assayas for Personal Shopper. Jaclyn Jose, the star of Filipino auteur Brillante Mendoza's Ma' Rosa, took home best actress honors. The best actor prize was awarded to Shahab Hosseini, the star of Asghar Farhadi's 'The Salesman'. The jury included President George Miller, Kirsten Dunst, Mads Mikkelsen, Vanessa Paradis and Donald Sutherland.

News 29: US engineer Frances Arnold becomes first woman to win Millennium Technology Prize

Internationally recognized American scientist and engineer, Frances Arnold has been awarded the Millennium Technology Prize. She was honored for her "directed evolution" method, which creates new and better proteins in the laboratory using principles of evolution. The prize is worth one million euros (approximately \$1.1 million).



The Millennium Technology Prize is the world's most prominent award for technological innovations that enhance the quality of people's lives and is awarded every two years by Technology Academy Finland (TAF).

News 30: Indian-American scientist wins Springer Theses Award

An Indian-American scientist, Arnab De, has received the prestigious Springer Theses Award. He was awarded for his outstanding research on developing transgenic mice to study a critical tumor-suppressor called A20. His thesis was nominated by New York's Columbia University.



Internationally top-ranked research institutes select their best thesis annually for publication in the book series: "Springer Theses: Recognising Outstanding PhD research". Winners get a cash prize of 500 euros. Springer is a leading global publisher of renowned scientific journals and books, to recognize outstanding PhD research.

DEATHS

News 1: Veteran Leftist leader Chennamaneni Rajeswara Rao passed away

Veteran Communist leader and five-time-MLA Chennamaneni Rajeswara Rao passed away in Hyderabad following illness at the age of 93 years.

His brother Ch. Vidyasagar Rao is the Governor of Maharashtra. He had participated in the famous Telangana Armed Struggle against the Nizam and also actively participated in the Quit India Movement. He was the president of the Telangana Freedom Fighters Association and the president of the farmers' wing of CPI.



News 2: Australian TV Producer Reg Grundy dies

Pioneering Australian TV Producer Reg Grundy, who helped create successful programs such as Neighbours, Prisoner, and Wheel of Fortune, has died at his home in Bermuda, aged 92.

Grundy was inducted into the Logies Hall of Fame in 1993, and was given an International Emmy Founders Award in 1996. He was named a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2008 for his outstanding contributions to the television industry and promotion of Australia overseas.



News 3: Veteran American Actor William Schallert died

Prolific character actor, William Schallert, passed away at the age of 93 years. He was best known in the US for his roles in The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis and The Patty Duke Show. He also appeared in the Oscar-winning film In The Heat Of The Night. Most recently, he had a guest appearance in the Desperate Housewives series and True Blood.

In 2004, TV Guide recognized his portrayal of Martin Lane on The Patty Duke Show as Number 39 on its list of 50 Greatest TV Dads.



News 4: Rajya Sabha MP Praveen Rashtrapal dies

Rajya Sabha Member, Praveen Rashtrapal, passed away on 11th May 2016 after suffering a massive heart attack at the age of 76. He was a representative of the Indian National Congress.

He was an Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax before he moved into politics. He was elected to the 13th Lok Sabha (1999-2004). He was a member from the Upper House from April 2006 to April 2012 and was re-elected in April 2012. He was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 2G scam in the previous Lok Sabha.



News 5: Renowned West Indies Cricket Writer and Commentator, Tony Cozier, passed away

Renowned West Indies Cricket Writer, Journalist and Commentator, Tony Cozier, passed away at the age of 75 years following a prolonged illness.

He covered almost every West Indies Series since 1962. He began his commentary career with the Australia tour of the West Indies in 1965. He wrote the acclaimed book, *The West Indies: 50 Years of Test Cricket*. In 2011, the MCC awarded Cozier life membership for his services to the game. Wisden in 2003 reported that he had watched 266 Tests in his 40-odd years of covering the game up to that point.



News 6: Head of Sant Nirankari Mission passes away

Indian spiritual leader and current leader of the Sant Nirankari Mission, Baba Hardev Singh, passed away at the age of 62 years. He was killed in a car accident in Canada's Montreal.

He completed his education in Patiala and Delhi University and joined the Nirankari Sewa Dal in 1971 as a primary member. He succeeded his father Satguru Sant Gurbachan Singh after his assassination. The Sant Nirankari Mission was established in 1929 and is also known as Universal Brotherhood Mission. It has over 100 branches outside India in 27 countries.



News 7: Former India cricketer Deepak Shodhan passed away

India's oldest living Test cricketer, Deepak Shodhan, passed away at his residence in Ahmedabad at the age of 87 years. He had been suffering from lung cancer.

He was the first Indian to make a Test century in his debut innings. He was a left-hand batsman and bowled left-arm pace as well. He became famous for scoring a century (110) on Test debut against Pakistan at the Eden Gardens in December 1952 while batting at No. 8.



News 8: Discoverer of Neptune's rings expired

French Astrophysicist Andre Brahic passed away in Paris at the age of 73 years. He was one of the people who discovered the rings of Neptune.

The Frenchman was one of the first to spot the rings in 1984, naming them Equality, Fraternity and Liberty after the motto of the French Republic. A minor planet numbered 3488 was named Brahic in tribute to his work. His last book "Worlds Elsewhere; Are We Alone" was published in 2015 by Odile Jacob.



News 9: Gujarati Folk Singer Diwaliben Bhil passed away

Folk Singer and Padma Award Winner Diwaliben Punjabhai Bhil passed away at the age of 80 years. Her final rites were performed in Junagadh. She became the voice of hundreds of Gujarati folk songs and garbas, including the famous "Marey todle betho mor", "Sona Vatkdi Re Kesar Gholya" and "Vage che re" and Ram Na Ban Vagya, Hari Na Ban Vagya Re.

She received fame after Akashwani team found out her singing talent and recorded her song when she was singing Garba in Vanzari chowk area of Junagadh. Diwaliben achieved commercial success and was acknowledged in 1990 for her contribution in the field of folk music with Padma Shree by the Government of India.



News 10: Morley Safer, Reporter of '60 Minutes' dead

The legendary broadcast newsman Morley Safer, who retired from CBS News just a week ago died at the age of 84. He is best known for his 1965 report which showed U.S. Marines torching the homes of Vietnamese villagers in Cam Ne. The newsman also served as the head of the CBS Saigon bureau from 1964 to 1966.



A huge presence on 60 Minutes for 46 years, Safer experienced the longest run anyone ever had on Primetime Network Television.

News 11: English actor-comedian Alan Young passed away

Emmy award-winning English-born actor-comedian Alan Young died at the age of 91 years. He was in the mind of comedian George Burns, who ran a TV production company, when they were casting for the show Mr. Ed. Burns.



Mr. Young had been a popular radio and television personality and had appeared in several films, including "Tom Thumb" (1958) and "The Time Machine" (1960). Young, who also gave the voice of cartoon characters including Disney's Scrooge McDuck, died from natural causes at the Motion Picture & Television Country House and Hospital, Los Angeles.

News 12: Actor Suresh Chatwal passed away

Veteran film and television actor Suresh Chatwal passed away in Mumbai due to prolonged illness.



Chatwal made his acting debut in the year 1969 with "Rakhi Rakhi" and was seen in films like "Karan Arjun", "Koyla" and "Munna Bhai MBBS". He was last seen on the big screen in "Nakshatra" in 2010. The veteran actor is known for playing the role of Dhukhiya in Doordarshan's "Nukkad" and was last working on the popular comedy show "F.I.R.," which airs on SAB TV.

DEFENCE

News 1: Reliance Defence to tie up with 3 Ukranian companies

State Owned Ukroboronprom of Ukraine and Reliance Defence, made an effort to collaborate with Antonov for its range of military and commercial transport aircraft. They will unite for assembly, manufacture and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of Antonov series of aircraft to fulfil the requirements of the Indian market and also the agreed global markets.

The unity between Reliance Defence and Spetstechno Exports will focus on updated programs for the BMP 2 and armored vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles and marine gas turbines for the Indian Navy's frigate program in India. This effort involves the public sector, private sector and global OEM as part of the 'Make in India' and 'Skill India' initiatives of the government with the value of programs exceeding Rs 50,000 crores.



News 2: Offshore Patrol Vessel, ICGS Shaurya, launched

The Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) launched the fifth of a series of six Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS), Shaurya.

This 105-metre new generation OPV will be commissioned into service in early 2017. The vessel is capable of cruising at a speed of 23 knots and has a range of 6000 nautical miles. It is powered by twin diesel engines and carries four boats for boarding party operations. It will be deployed for ocean surveillance and for monitoring sea lanes of communication.



News 3: Indian Army concludes ‘Chakravyuh-II’ Training Exercise in Rajasthan

In a follow up to ‘Exercise Shatrujeet’ by the Strike Corps (Strike One) last month, the pivot formations held the fortnight-long military training exercise codenamed “Exercise CHAKRAVYUH-II” which concluded on 10th May in the general area of Suratgarh in Rajasthan.



The exercise conceptualized by the Pivot Corps involved rapid mobilization and execution of plans in sync with the Air Force in desert terrain and was declared a success. The exercise validated the battle readiness and operational effectiveness of the RAPID Division along with all its affiliated components.

News 4: Indian Navy Decommissioned Fighter Planes Sea Harriers, Inducts MIG 29K

The Indian Navy decommissioned its fleet of iconic Sea Harriers after nearly 33 years of service. The Navy simultaneously inducted the Russian MIG 29K fighter aircraft.



The aircraft was developed by the British in the 1960s. It is best known for its ability to take off and land vertically, and for being the only class of jet that can hover like a helicopter. The Sea Harrier was used by the British during the Falklands War. The retired aircraft will be put on display in museums. They were popularly known as 'white tigers'. The newly inducted MIG 29 Ks will be operational from INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier. At present, 45 MIG 29K are being introduced.

News 5: Two Harbour Defence Systems Commissioned at Vizag

Two Harbour Defence Systems namely – the Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System (IUHDSS) and the Mine Warfare Data Centre (MWDC) were inaugurated at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. These two Harbour Defence Systems would enhance the Navy's surveillance capability and response to security threats.



The IUHDSS is a multi-sensor system capable of detecting, identifying, tracking and generating warnings for all types of surface and underwater threats to Vizag harbour. The MWDC will collate, analyses and classify data collected by the Navy's Mine Hunting Ships from various ports along the east coast.

News 6: Indian Air Force's Electronic Maintenance Management System launched

An Electronic Maintenance Management System (e-MMS) was inaugurated by the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha at the Air Force Station in Pune. Project e-MMS was conceptualized to address the need of automating maintenance management process in the IAF. It is considered to be one of the biggest automated military maintenance systems in the world. The project has introduced some of the latest technologies like mobility devices and RFID technology to aid maintenance activities in the IAF.



The contract for the project e-MMS was signed with Wipro as a System Integrator (SI).

News 7: Exercise Red Flag: The IAF Team Sets Course Back at the end of a 'Perfect Flag'

Red Flag Alaska 16-1, which was an advanced aerial combat training exercise hosted at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska (a successor to the previous COPE THUNDER exercise series) concluded on 14th May 2016. The main phase of this exercise had commenced on 28th April 2016 with a mix of combat and support elements participating from IAF, USAF and USN.



The Exercise saw the IAF's potent SU-30 MKI aircraft and the IAF Jaguars DARIN II perform their roles exceptionally well. The SU-30s will additionally participate in exercise 'Desert Eagle II' with UAE Air Force on their way back.

News 8: India Successfully Test Fired its Indigenous Supersonic Interceptor Missile

India on Sunday successfully test-fired its indigenously developed Advanced Air Defence Supersonic Interceptor Missile, capable of destroying any incoming hostile ballistic missile. The missile was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range of Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. The missile has been named as Ashwin.



India became the fourth country to have successfully developed this anti-ballistic missile system, after United States, Russia and Israel. It was the twelfth test of interceptor missiles fired from a warship.

News 9: India successfully test fires Prithvi-II missile

India has successfully test fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile as part of a user trial by army from test range at Chandipur in Odisha. Prithvi II is the first missile to be developed by DRDO under the prestigious Integrated Guided Missile Development Program.

This missile is thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines and has a strike range of 350 kms. It is capable of carrying 500 kgs to 1,000 kgs warheads. The naval operational variant of Prithvi-II class missiles are known as Dhanush.



News 10: Fast Attack Craft INS Tarmugli commissioned into Indian Navy

A Fast Attack Craft INS Tarmugli is commissioned into Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam under the Naval Officer-in-Charge (Andhra Pradesh) and deployed for coastal patrol and surveillance operations along the East Coast of India. The first of the four highly fast attack crafts built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) of Kolkata, the ship will bolster the coastal patrol and surveillance operations along the east coast.



This ship is capable of operating in shallow waters at high speeds and is equipped with enhanced fire power, advanced MTU engines, water jet propulsion and the latest communication equipment. The ship is named after an island in the Andaman group.

News 11: IAF Participation in Exercise Desert Eagle – II at UAE

A bilateral Air Force exercise between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) is underway at Al-Dhafra Air Base in UAE from 24th May 16 to 03rd Jun 16. The Su-30 MkI of the Indian Air Force and the Mirage 2000-9 along with the F-16 of the UAE Air Force are participating in this exercise.

The Desert Eagle – II will be played under multiple simulated scenarios which provides exposure towards mission planning and execution in a simulated high threat combat environment. It also helps to grow the bonhomie with friendly Air Forces of India and United Arab Emirates.



ECONOMIC

News 1: One Employee – One EPF Account scheme introduced by EPFO

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, the Union Minister for Labour & Employment (Independent Charge) introduced a special drive "One Employee – One EPF Account" for members of the EPFO. The initiative of launching "One Member One EPF Account" is an initiative towards empowering EPF members to access enhanced IT enabled services through UAN accounts that are linked with Aadhaar and enjoy multiple facilities by just one EPF account.



An EPF member would be requested to provide all his earlier EPF accounts along with his UAN linked account, Member ID and registered Mobile Number. And EPFO would facilitate the transfer of all these accounts into his present account, increase transparency and ease settlement of claims.

News 2: Saudi's 1st all-women IT park set up by Wipro and Partners

Wipro and its partners launched Saudi Arabia's first all women business and technology park (WBP) at the Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University in Riyadh. The idea of the business park was conceived in September 2014 when Saudi Aramco signed a Memorandum of Understanding with PNU.



Wipro joined the partnership because of its experience in managing talent and providing IT services to a multi-industry customer base. This joint venture will be responsible for developing the park's facilities and infrastructure as well as training and employing up to 21,000 Saudi women.

News 3: ECB ends the Production and Issuance of €500 Banknote

The European Central Bank (ECB) has decided to permanently stop producing the €500 banknote and to exclude it from the Europa series, taking into account concerns that this banknote could facilitate illicit activities. The issuance of the €500 will be stopped around the end of 2018, when the €100 and €200 banknotes of the Europa series are planned to be introduced.



The 500 euro note will remain legal tender, will always retain its value and can be exchanged at the national central banks of the Eurosystem for an unlimited period of time.

News 4: CCEA approved 2844.72 Cr four lane project of Shimla Bypass on NH-22

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its nod for development of two laning with the formation of four lane of Shimla Bypass (Kaithlight to Shimla section) on the National Highway – 22 in Himachal Pradesh.



The project is estimated to cost Rs. 1,583.18 crores and covers about 28 kms of road length. The cost is estimated to be Rs. 2,844.72 crores including the cost of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and other pre-construction activities. The total length of the road will be approximately 128 kms.

News 5: BHEL Commissions a Mega Thermal Power Plant in MP

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd announced the commissioning of a 600 MW coal-based thermal power plant at the Jhabua Thermal Power Project (TPP) located in Seoni district in Madhya Pradesh.



BHEL manufactured 600 MW rating sets that include a 4-cylinder turbine, which is an in-house design. So far, the company has done MOU for 21 sets of 600 MW each, of which 16 have already been commissioned. In Madhya Pradesh, BHEL is presently executing two supercritical units of 800 MW for NTPC at Gadawara.

News 6: MoU between RBI and Central Bank of United Arab Emirates on Currency Swap Agreement

The Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in February, 2016 between Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of United Arab Emirates (UAE) on co-operation regarding the currency swap agreement. The Agreement was signed in February, 2016 during the official state visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India.



A currency swap involves exchange of principal and interest in one currency for the same in another currency like a foreign exchange transaction.

News 7: Google Acquires Synergyse Founded by Varun Malhotra

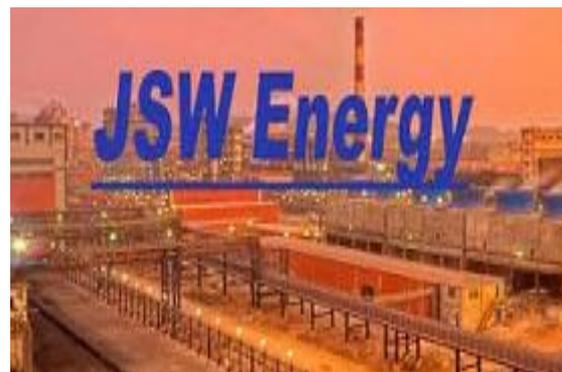
Google has acquired Toronto-based Synergyse, a business technology startup founded by an Indian-origin entrepreneur Varun Malhotra, as part of its plans to scale training offerings for Google Apps to its customers and customers' users for an undisclosed amount.



Synergyse was launched in 2013 with an aim to teach users how to use Google Apps. With this acquisition, Synergyse will unite with the Google Apps team and help it to achieve its mission and build Google Apps.

News 8: Jindal Brothers Sign Rs 6,500 Crore Power Deal

Billionaire Sajjan Jindal's JSW Energy Ltd has agreed to buy a 1,000 megawatt power plant from the heavily indebted Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. The deal is valued at up to Rs 6500 Crores. After the acquisition, JSW Energy will have a total power generation capacity of 5,531 megawatts. The transaction is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2018.



The deal would help reduce debt at Jindal Steel. Presently, Jindal Steel's net debt at the end of 2015 stood at Rs. 46,000 crores, seven times its current market valuation.

News 9: Uber ties up with Alipay globally

Uber entered into a global partnership with third-party payment platform, Alipay. It will enable Chinese travelers avail rides through this solution in more than 400 cities.

Uber riders in India can avail of the facility through Paytm platform. China's Alibaba Group and its affiliate Ant Financial had earlier picked up stake in One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm. It aims to bring better experiences for its users globally.



News 10: NSE to launch a new exchange for MSME

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) is planning to launch a new trading platform for bill discounting or trade receivables of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME). This new exchange will help the MSMEs to file their bill against large companies, which can be accepted electronically and auctioned so that these small enterprises are paid immediately.

This will be the first specialized exchange for MSME, operational by December. It will be a joint venture of NSE and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). NSE and SIDBI are planning to call the new platform 'trades exchange'.



News 11: Reliance Power to setup LNG based plant in Bangladesh

Anil Ambani-led Reliance Power has won approval of the Bangladesh Government for the first phase of the 3000 megawatts LNG-based power plant which will be set up at Meghnaghat (Narayanganj district), around 40 kms South-East of Dhaka. It paves the way for the largest Foreign Direct Investment in the neighboring country with a potential investment of over Rs 8700 crores (\$1.3 billion).

The company will set up a two million tonne a year floating LNG import terminal with a floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU) to bring the fuel in ships for firing the power plant. The first phase will be commissioned in 2018-19.



News 12: NASSCOM signs MoU with Facebook to launch a Product Design Initiative

NASSCOM has announced its partnership with Facebook to build a 'Product Design Initiative' in the country. This will be a flagship program of the NASSCOM Product Council. NASSCOM aims to support over 500 product startups on product design and train over 5000 product designers over a period of two years.



It will offer focused programs to build awareness around product design, training on design tools, design lab, awards, design sprints and mentorship.

News 13: Snapdeal buys TargetingMantra

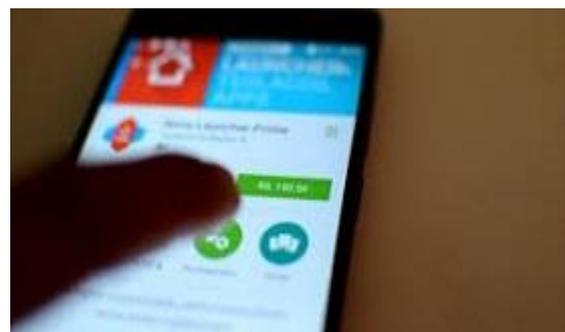
Snapdeal has acquired TargetingMantra for an undisclosed amount. It will help Snapdeal enhance personalization of shopping experience of customers.



TargetingMantra is a Gurugram-based predictive marketing technology startup founded by Saurabh Nangia and Rahul Singh in March 2013. It specializes in building products for enhancing customer buying process and boosting conversion rates through intuitive product discovery, recommendations and channel selection. In 2014, TargetingMantra raised \$1.1 million in seed funding led by 500 Startups and others.

News 14: Idea Cellular offers direct billing for Google Play Store

Idea Cellular and Google inked a partnership of direct carrier billing for the 184 million Idea subscribers. With the launch of direct carrier billing, Idea Cellular customers can buy any app or pay for an in-app feature on Google Play Store and they will be charged from their respective postpaid or prepaid mobile accounts.



The customer will have to pay a convenience fee apart from the price of the App. The amount of convenience fee was not disclosed.

News 15: Flipkart launches its own map services

Flipkart has partnered with 'MapUnity' to launch its map services. MapUnity is a Bangaluru based social technology company. The network will cover the 126 cities including those chosen in the 'Smart Cities' mission. It will help Flipkart to improve its supply chain and logistics business, which it plans to expand to new cities in the country.



Flipkart had purchased a 34% minority stake in MapMyIndia in a Rs 1600 crore deal in December 2015, to advance into GPS navigation and services providing tracking of location. Now, in collaboration with MapUnity, Flipkart has launched its map services for smart cities to solve issues related to transportation and facilities.

News 16: ADB keen to raise lending to India to USD 3 Billion

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is keen to enhance its lending to India to 3 billion US Dollars this year to support 'robust growth' in the country. ADB President Takehiko Nakao said at the annual meet in Frankfurt that India needs more infrastructure funding and we are very happy to do this to support more robust growth in India.



He said the bank plans to increase its lending to 3 Billion US dollars this year as against about 2.2 billion dollars in 2015.

News 17: Paytm opens online mall, signs up 1,000 brands

Paytm has signed up more than 1000 brands like Samsung, Dell, HTC, HP, Whirlpool, Woodland, Lakme, Casio, Samsonite and Puma to open online mall. The brands will manage these stores themselves. The move will help curb frauds ranging from unauthorized discounts to duplicate products. The Paytm store can be integrated with the brands' own website as well. Paytm will provide everything the brand needs, from catalogues, payment tools and logistics support.



This is not a new concept with Snapdeal to have started it already in 2012. Flipkart and Amazon also have it, but not on the scale that Paytm is modelling it.

News 18: Jaguar Land Rover to launch smartphone in partnership with Bullitt Group

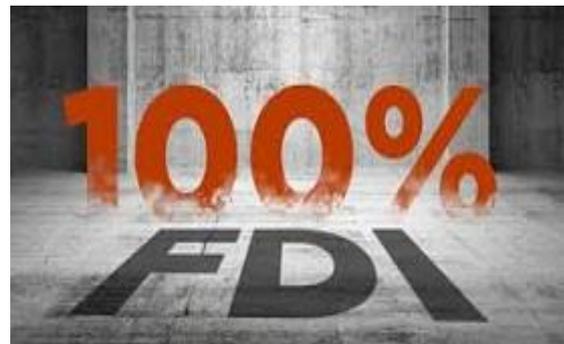
British Automotive Brand, Jaguar Land Rover has tied up with the UK-based Bullitt Group and is all set to launch smartphones and accessories by early 2017. The idea is to match the phone to Land Rover's reputation of making tough and rugged cars.



Bullitt Group is a consumer electronics company of England and is the same company which has made rugged custom devices for the likes of Caterpillar, JCB and Ministry of Sound in the past. Many big car making companies like Ferrari, Aston Martin and Bentley in the past too, have tried their hands in making smartphones but have not been successful.

News 19: Govt paves way for 100% FDI in ARC through Automatic Route

The Centre has allowed 100 percent foreign direct investment (FDI) in asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) under the automatic route. It features that FII/FPIs have been permitted to invest up to 100 percent of each tranche in security receipts issued by ARCs and total shareholding of an FII/FPI shall be below 10 per cent of the total paid-up capital.



The said decision would be a big boost for companies which are struggling for funds, as banks refuse to give steep discounts on stressed assets and the ARCs have to make upfront payment of 15 per cent of the cost of the asset.

News 20: Crony-Capitalism Index ranks India at 9th position

Crony Capitalism is an index that aims to indicate whether the livelihood of the people from certain country or city with capitalist economy is easily affected by crony capitalism. India is ranked ninth in crony-capitalism with crony sector wealth accounting for 3.4 percent and the non-crony sector wealth amounts to 8.3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), released by the Economist. India has also been ranked at the same position in 2014 also.



The data is calculated from a list of the world's billionaires and their worth published by Forbes, each individual is labelled as crony or not based on the source of their wealth. Germany emerged as the cleanest whereas Russia emerged as the worst, followed by Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

News 21: Food Grain Output Expected to be at 252.23 Million tonnes this year

The Country is expected to produce 252.23 million tonnes of food grains in 2015-16, despite deficient rainfall and shortage of water in reservoirs. It is 2.1 lakh tonne higher than the previous crop year.

As per the 3rd advance estimates for 2015-16 released by the Agriculture Ministry in New Delhi, the total production of rice is estimated at around 103 million tonnes, which is lower by around two million tonnes than 2014-15. Production of wheat estimated at 94 million tonnes is higher by 7.51 million tonnes. Production of pulses at 17.06 million tonnes which is marginally lower than the previous year's production of 17.15 million tonnes. Production of sugarcane at 346.72 million tonnes, is also lower by 15.61 million tonnes than its production during 2014-15.



News 22: Knowlarity Communications Acquired Smartwards

Cloud telephony start-up Knowlarity Communications Pvt. Ltd has acquired Smartwards Services Pvt. Ltd, a Delhi-based start-up. Smartwards is a customer engagement platform for local businesses to identify, reward and engage with their customers. As part of the deal, Shantanu Mathur and Dhanraj Singh Bisht, who are the co-founders of Smartwards, will lead the India operations for Knowlarity. Smartwards has presence in over 150 locations across 8 cities.



Knowlarity was founded by Ambarish Gupta in 2009 and is backed by Sequoia Capital and Mayfield.

News 23: Amazon launched its YouTube style Online Video Service

The US Based Online Retail Giant, Amazon, launched Amazon Video Direct where anyone with an Amazon account can upload videos they have made or own the rights to on to the company's Video Direct service, like at YouTube. Video Direct is currently only available in the US, UK Germany, Austria and Japan.

The videos can be free with providers taking a cut of ad revenue, offered for rent or purchase, put on a subscription channel or made available only to people paying for Amazon's Prime packages.



News 24: Quikr Acquires Beauty Services Start-up and its Partner Salosa

Quikr, India's No. 1 cross category classifieds business, has acquired Salosa, an on demand in-home beauty services provider. This strategic acquisition is a part of Quikr's plan to invest Rs.250 crores in its home services vertical, QuikrServices.

Founded by Ex-P&G professionals, Piyush Dhanuka and Anurag Nair, Salosa was launched in September 2015, serving customers in Gurgaon and parts of Delhi. QuikrServices has 250,000 service providers offering over 80 types of services for consumers and is being used by 1,00,000 customers every day.



News 25: Marine Fish Production in the Country Stands at 35.83 Lakh Tonnes (Provisional) in 2015-16

The marine fish production in the country during the last four years has been reported as 33.20 lakh tonnes in 2012-13; 34.39 lakh tonnes in 2013-14; 36.55 lakh tonnes (Provisional) in 2014-15 and 35.83 lakh tonnes (Provisional) in 2015-16 respectively, against the potential yield of 44.12 lakh tonnes estimated for the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).



The variations in the fish production may be attributed to several reasons such as high fishing pressure, changes in fishing gear dimensions, over capacity, pollution, environmental factors, climate change etc.

News 26: NPPA fixes ceiling price of 54 drug formulations

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the ceiling price of 54 drug formulations used for treatment of cancer, diabetes rheumatoid arthritis, bacterial infections and hypertension. It has also fixed the retail price of 11 drugs. NPPA is the regulator of pharma prices. It monitors the prices of decontrolled drugs in order to keep them at reasonable levels.



The companies are allowed to hike prices of such drugs by up to 10% in a year.

News 27: Government inks MoU with NDTV Ethnic Retail Ltd. to popularize India Handloom products

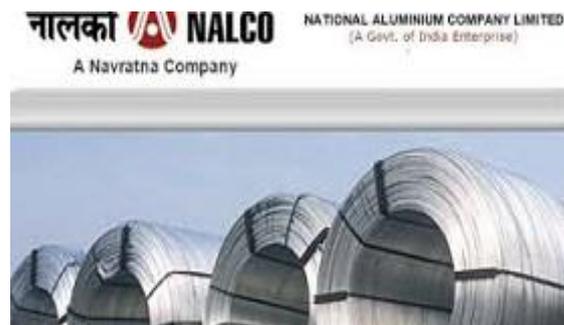
A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between The Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and NDTV Ethnic Retail Ltd. for popularizing India Handloom textiles as a fashionable product for youth. The three-year MoU was signed on 10th May, 2016 at Udyog Bhawan.



This joint endeavor will endorse and launch a project, Indianroots Fashion Accelerator (IFA), a project by NDTV to support fresh talent and to support new and innovative ventures in fashion industry. Government will support the project with incubation and production support.

News 28: NALCO inks R&D Agreement with BARC

Navaratna PSU NALCO signed an MoU with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, for Research and Development (R&D) cooperation in the fields of mutual interest. Under the MoU, R&D projects like: Extraction of Gallium from Bayer liquor, Extraction of Rare earth elements from Red Mud and Development of Reference Standards would be taken up within the framework of this MoU.



This MoU was signed by Dr. B.K. Satpathy, Executive Director (Business Development), NALCO and Dr. Jagtap, Director (Chemistry Group), BARC in presence of NALCO CMD, Dr. Chand and Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt. of India and Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet, Dr. Rajagopal Chidambaram.

News 29: Reliance Jio Infocomm launches digital wallet

Reliance Jio Infocomm has launched its digital wallet service, JioMoney Wallet. Jio has signed up more than 50,000 online merchants already for the wallet service. JioMoney will also be accepted at thousands of offline stores across India. JioMoney is available on Google Play Store and Apple App Store. It is the second application from Reliance Jio to go live after messaging app Jio Chat. The company also has received a payments bank licence in partnership with State Bank of India.



The customers can make bill payments, mobile recharges and insurance premium payments, as well as do online shopping. It also allows users to send and receive money to and from family and friends.

News 30: SC slaps Rs. 10 Lacs on Spicejet for offloading a disabled flyer

The Supreme Court has directed budget airline Spicejet to pay 10 Lakh rupees as damages for offloading a disabled flyer. The disabled flyer Jeeja Ghosh, suffering from cerebral palsy, was forcibly offloaded in 2012 from Kolkata when she was going to attend a conference in Goa. The apex court noted that the manner in which she was de-boarded depicts total lack of sensitivity.



A bench comprising Justices A K Sikri and R K Agrawal said, the decision to offload Ghosh was taken by the airlines without any medical advice or consideration and her condition was not such which required any assistive devices or aids.

News 31: Retail inflation jumps to 5.39% in April on high food prices

The Retail Inflation climbed to 5.39 percent in April this year, on the back of higher food prices. Inflation based on the consumer price index had stood at a six-month low of 4.83 percent in March this year, and at 4.87 percent in April last year. According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, food inflation rose to 6.32 percent in April, from 5.21 in March.



The Retail Inflation in vegetables increased to 4.82 percent, while in cereals and products it remained unchanged at 2.43 percent in April. But retail inflation in the fuel and light segment softened to 3.03 percent during the month.

News 32: Industrial Output Growth Down to 0.1% in March

The Growth in our country's industrial production slowed to 0.1 percent in March this year, due to poor performance of the manufacturing and mining sectors, and a sharp fall in capital goods output.



Factory output measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production, IIP, had expanded 2.5 percent in March last year. According to the data released by the Central Statistics Office, manufacturing sector output, which accounts for over 75 percent of the index, contracted 1.2 percent in March, and mining sector output shrank 0.1 percent during the month. But electricity generation surged 11.3 percent in March. Capital goods output, which is a barometer of investment, contracted 15.4 percent in March. And the consumer goods sector recorded a small growth of 0.4 percent in March.

News 33: MoU between SEBI and FSRA, Abu Dhabi for Mutual Co-operation and Technical Assistance

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), Abu Dhabi for mutual co-operation and technical assistance between the two regulators.



This MoU will promote further development of economic links and cooperation between the two signatories and will help create conditions for development of securities markets in the two countries. It would also contribute towards strengthening the information sharing framework between the two regulators.

News 34: Foreign Investors Sell Rs. 178 Crores Worth Shares in 2 weeks

Foreign investors sold shares worth Rs. 178 crores in the first two weeks of May, as worries over global economy and amended Indo-Mauritius tax treaty hurt the sentiment. However, Foreign Portfolio Investors have invested 595 crore rupees in the debt markets during the period under review.



In March-April, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) had pumped in a net Rs. 29,558 crores into the equity markets. So far this year, FPIs have invested Rs. 12,733 crore rupees in equities while withdrawing Rs. 345 crore rupees from the debt market, resulting in a net inflow of Rs. 12,388 crore rupees.

News 35: Wholesale inflation turns positive after 18 months; 0.34% in Apr

The wholesale price-based inflation rose in April driven up by higher costs for food and manufactured items. Turning positive after a period of 18 months, wholesale inflation rose to 0.34 percent in April this year. Wholesale inflation had stood at minus 0.85 percent in March this year, and minus 2.43 percent in April last year.



The data from the Commerce and Industry Ministry showed that food inflation rose to 4.23 percent in April. Wholesale inflation in vegetables climbed to 2.21 percent in April, and in pulses it increased to 36.36 percent. Wholesale inflation in manufactured products was 0.71 percent during the month.

News 36: BHEL bags a Rs. 16,000 Million order for setting up a Thermal Power Project in Odisha

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has bagged an order for setting up a coal-based thermal power project in Odisha. The 1x250 MW coal-based thermal unit will be set up at Rourkela Power Project on Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) basis. Valued at over Rs. 16,000 Million, the order for the Stage-III of the brownfield power project, located in Rourkela district of Odisha, has been placed on BHEL by NTPC-SAIL Power Company Private Limited (NSPCL), a Joint Venture of NTPC & SAIL.



BHEL had earlier executed the coal-based 2x250 MW Bhilai Expansion power plant for NSPCL.

News 37: Moody's Forecasts India's Growth Rate at 7.5% in 2016 & 2017

Moody's Investors Service has made a forecast for the Indian economy to grow at 7.5% in the year 2016 and 2017 largely driven by private consumption growth. The rating agency said that India has a strong GDP growth, but private investment remains weak.



The Indian economy had grown by 7.3% in 2015-16. It maintained expectation of Chinese economy gradually slowing down to around 6.3% in 2016 from 6.9% in 2015, with significant fiscal and monetary policy support. The report also indicated the G20 advanced markets to grow at 1.7% for 2016 and 1.9% for 2017, compared to 1.9% in 2015.

News 38: NTPC ventures with Coal India Limited into the Fertilizer Sector

NTPC has signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) with state-run miner Coal India to revive plants of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) at Sindri in Bihar and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. The joint venture company will set up an ammonia urea plant at each location.



The JV company would initially be incorporated with a 50:50 equity participation from both, but also "contains provision of inducting strategic partners at a later date depending upon business requirement of JV company.

News 39: Pfizer to Acquire Anacor

Pfizer Inc. and Anacor Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced that they have entered into a definitive merger agreement under which Pfizer will acquire Anacor for approximately \$5.2 billion. The offer price is \$99.25 per share in cash.



The acquisition will give Pfizer access to a non-steroidal topical gel, Crisaborole, which is currently under review by the US Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of mild to moderate eczema. Pfizer expects Crisaborole to reach or exceed peak sales of \$2 billion.

News 40: Government approves 3 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amounting to Rs. 60.73 crores

Based on the recommendations of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), the Government has approved following three FDI proposals involving FDI of Rs. 60.73 crore (which includes post facto amount of Rs. 0.25 crore):



- Wockhardt Limited: 0.25 Cr (already brought in)
- Aurobindo Pharma Ltd: 0.40 Cr
- Advanced Enzyme Technologies Ltd: 60 Cr

The FIPB has also recommended to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for approval the Axis Bank proposal to increase the foreign investment limit in the bank to 74 percent from the current 62 percent. This is in line with the government's decision to refer all FDI proposals above Rs. 5,000 crores to the CCEA.

News 41: Apple announces opening of its map development centre in Hyderabad

Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, who is on his maiden visit to India announced the opening of its Hyderabad Technology Centre that will focus on the development of maps for Apple products, including iPhone®, iPad®, Mac® and Apple Watch. The centre which has drawn in estimated investment of \$25 million will employ up to 4000 people. Hyderabad was selected due to the abundance of local talent supported by a flourishing mapping industry built around The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).



The new facility, located on the Waverock campus, will provide a world-class, LEED-certified home for the expanding Maps team.

News 42: BHEL commissions 250 MW thermal unit in Maharashtra

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned another 250 MW Thermal Power Plant at Parli Thermal Power Station (TPS), located in Beed district of Maharashtra. The project is owned by Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (Mahagenco). It is the eighth coal-based unit commissioned by BHEL at Parli TPS.



BHEL has been a major partner in the power development program of the state and has contributed to more than 16000 MW of power generation capacity in Maharashtra, its highest in any single state.

News 43: Tata Power Renewable Energy bags 100 MW Solar Projects in Karnataka

Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL), a 100% subsidiary of Tata Power, has won two solar grid-connected photovoltaic projects of 50MW capacity each in Pavagada Solar Park in the Tumkur district of Karnataka awarded under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM). TPREL will sign a 25-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam.



The JNNSM, launched in January 2010, is a major initiative of the government of India that had set a target to complete 20GW of solar installations by 2022 and was reset to achieve five times more at 100GW by 2022.

News 44: Nomura Exits Mutual Fund JV with LIC

Japanese Financial Company Nomura has fully exited its Mutual Fund Joint Venture with Insurance Giant, LIC. The LIC Nomura Mutual Fund has now been renamed LIC Mutual Fund. Nomura held a 35 percent stake in the asset management company.



The new shareholding pattern of the new AMC is: LIC – 45 percent, LIC Housing Finance Ltd – 39.3 percent, GIC Housing Finance – 11.7 percent and Corporation Bank – 4 percent. The current AUM is Rs 14000 crores and is ranked 18th in the industry.

News 45: Five Indian Car Models Fail NCAP Crash Test

Five popular Indian car models have failed the crash test carried out by the Global NCAP, a U.K.-based safety and testing organization. The cars that failed the crash tests are the Renault Kwid, Maruti Suzuki's Celerio and Eco, Mahindra Scorpio and Hyundai Eon.



The Global NCAP have rated all five models in the zero-star category since all of them showed low levels of adult occupant protection. Global NCAP participated in a two-day conference on road safety hosted by the Institute of Road Traffic Education in Faridabad.

News 46: Ola signs MoU with KIAB to provide reliable transportation access to travelers

The App-based cab service provider Ola has signed an MoU with Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB) to have a designated Ola Zone at the airport. Ola driver-partners can park their vehicles inside KIAB premises, with specifically demarcated areas at the Ola Zone to offer uninterrupted service to travelers arriving in the city.



This move will help users to get an Ola cab within less than three minutes. Customers can book an Ola cab from their app on their arrival at KIAB.

News 47: Apple announces iOS App Design and Development Accelerator in Bengaluru

Apple announced a new initiative to support engineering talent and accelerate growth in India's iOS developer community. The company will establish a Design and Development Accelerator in Bengaluru, the home of India's startup scene. Tens of thousands of developers in India make apps for iOS, the world's most powerful mobile operating system. This initiative will provide additional, specialized support for them.



The iOS App Design and Development Accelerator is expected to open in early 2017.

This facility is in addition to the Development Office that was formally opened by Apple's CEO Tim Cook in Hyderabad on 19 May 2016.

News 48: IFC to invest \$20 Million through equity linked instruments in FCEL

Private sector investment arm of World Bank, IFC will invest \$20 Million in the Future Consumer Enterprise Ltd through equity-linked instruments. Funds will be used in making growth plans of food and consumer goods, bringing long term financing capital and further strengthening its balance sheet.



The Future Consumer Enterprise is a FMCG company that markets brands such as Tasty Treat, Nilgiris, Golden Harvest, Sunkist, Sangi's Kitchen, Desi Atta Company, Kara, Swiss CareMate, Clean Mate, Think Skin, Fresh & Pure, among the other.



News 49: P-Notes norms to be made stricter by SEBI to curb money laundering

To be more vigilant in following its norms to check any misuse of controversy-ridden PNotes, regulator SEBI made it compulsory all end-users of these overseas instruments to follow anti-money laundering law in India and asked their issuers to report any suspected breach immediately.



These P-Notes are instruments that are typically issued by the registered foreign institutional investors to overseas investors, who wish to invest in Indian markets without registering themselves directly in India to save on time.

News 50: About 270.10 Million Tonnes of Food Grains production targeted for the Year 2016-17

With an anticipation of a good monsoon, the government has set an ambitious target of food grains production as 270.10 million tonnes for the year 2016-17. It is estimated at about 252.23 million tonnes of food grains in the cycle of 2015-16.

A target of 108.50 million tonnes rice production has been fixed for the year 2016-17 and 96.50 million tonnes for the crop of wheat.

For all kinds of pulses, the target has been fixed at 20.75 million tonnes. Whereas it is 35 million tonnes for oilseed. A target of 355 million tonnes production of sugarcane has also been earmarked.



News 51: Fitch projects India's GDP to 8 percent in FY2019

According to the US based global rating agency Fitch, India's economic growth rate will slowly increase to 8% by F.Y. 2019, 7.5% in fiscal year ending March 2016 and further to 7.9% in the fiscal year ending March 2018 due to the gradual implementation of structural reforms, higher disposable income and improvement in economic activity.

The global agency said that the passage of the Bankruptcy Code earlier this month showed that implementation of big ticket reforms is possible in India, even though reforms related to land acquisition and a Goods and Services Tax have not passed thus far.



ENVIRONMENT

News 1: The Insect Museum of West China announced Chan's Megastick as the World's Longest Insect

With a length of 62.4 centimeters, *Phobaeticus Chani* or Chan's megastick insect has been declared as the world's longest insect by The Insect Museum of West China, breaking the world record of Malaysian 56.7-centimeter-long stick insect discovered in 2008. The bug is named after amateur Malaysian Naturalist, Datuk Chan Chew Lun. The species has also been listed as one of the top 10 discoveries of the decade in the BBC television documentary Decade of Discovery.



This *Phobaeticus Chani* was spotted on a mountain in the Guangxi Zhuang region. It was selected as one of The Top 10 New Species described in 2008 by the International Institute for Species Exploration.

News 2: Biologists report draws attention to Vultures Decline and its impact on the Ecosystem

The Biologists of University of Utah released a report titled "Why Vultures Matter – and what we lose if they're gone" which draws attention towards a dangerous impact of vultures declining ratio on the ecosystem and human life. According to a study, poisoning is the greatest extinction risk facing vultures, and impacts 88 percent of threatened vulture species as hundreds of vultures feed on a single carcass. This extinction will allow other scavengers to live long which would in turn bring bacteria and viruses from carcasses into human cities.



The Researchers report states that following the decline of vultures, India experienced a strong uptick in feral dogs in 2010, by an estimated seven million. The increase in dogs, potentially feeding on disease-ridden carcasses, is thought to have at least partially caused the rabies outbreak that was estimated to have killed 48,000 people from 1992-2006 in India. Now, the centre of the vulture crisis is in sub-Saharan Africa. According to researchers, In Africa, it is a lot more challenging to face such crisis.

News 3: Uma Bharti Launched Rural Sanitation Initiatives for Ganga Rejuvenation in Jharkhand

Union Minister Uma Bharti launched nine projects for rural sanitation initiatives under the Namami Gange Program for conservation of river Ganga in Sahibganj, Jharkhand. The entire 83 Km stretch of Ganga in Jharkhand will be covered under this program. UNDP will provide technical and implementation support.



- 78 units will be established in project villages for collection, storage and composting of degradable solid waste and for setting up small enterprises for non-biodegradable material.
- 5,460 households will be supported for adoption of composting facilities using vermin composting for productive use of animal and agro-waste.
- 1,860 households will be supported for adoption of biogas plants to facilitate safe disposal of animal waste.
- 8 village level crematoriums and 32 bathing Ghats will be constructed along with 40 community toilets.
- 152,000 meters of open channel drains in project villages.
- 92 community ponds to enable bio-treatment and safe disposal of domestic waste.

News 4: Union Government launched Web-Based Application on Integrated Waste Management System

The Government has launched a web-based application on Integrated Waste Management System (IWMS) – www.iwms.nic.in for better management of waste. The user-friendly application can track the movement of hazardous waste and will also help in ensuring its proper management.



Key benefits:

- Availability of State-wise and national database on generation of various types of waste and number of waste generating/ processing industrial units in the country at one place. This will help the authorities further to identify the problem areas and plan accordingly.
- Single Window Access

News 5: Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) warns 40 million Indians from rising sea levels risk

According to the UN Environment Report over 40 million people in India will be put at risk from rising sea levels by 2050. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) released a report titled Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6): Regional assessment for Asia and the Pacific.



Due to the rising sea level, rapid urbanization and socio-economic growth, areas of storm surge zones will be more probable for Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines, with a combined total of over 58 million people at risk by 2050. India tops the chart with nearly 40 million people in the country projected to be at risk from rising sea levels. The worst impact of climate change is projected to happen in the Pacific and South and South-East Asia. Mumbai and Kolkata have the maximum exposure to coastal flooding in future due to rapid urbanization and economic growth.

News 6: NGT restricts heavy diesel vehicles older than 10-years in 6 Kerala Cities

The National Green Tribunal Circuit Bench restricted light and heavy diesel vehicles, which are more than 10 years old, in six major cities like Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kochi, Thrissur, Kozhikode and Kannur.



The NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar restricted state government not to register any diesel vehicle in the capacity of 2000cc and more, except public transport and local authority vehicles. If any vehicle found to be violating the rules issued, it shall have to pay fine of Rs. 5000 as environmental compensation and this will be collected by the traffic police or the pollution control board.

News 7: UNEP releases a report titled Actions on Air Quality

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) released a report titled Actions on Air Quality during the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2).

Key Highlights of the report:

- Only 29 percent of the countries worldwide has adopted Euro 4 vehicles emissions standards or above.
- Less than 20 percent of countries regulates open waste burning, which is a leading cause of air pollution.
- At least 82 countries out of 193 analyzed have incentives that promote investment in renewable energy production.
- 97 countries have increased the percentage of households that have access to cleaner burning fuels to more than 85 percent.

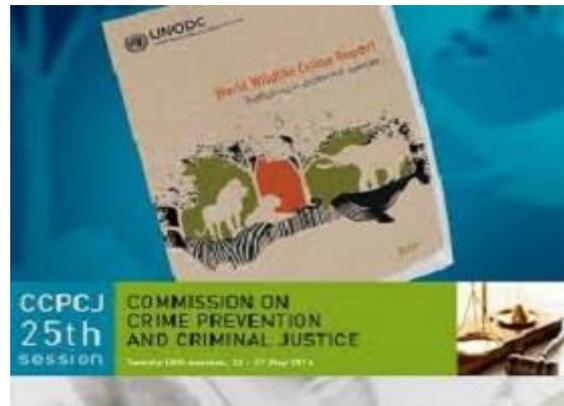


News 8: First World Wildlife Crime Report Launched by UNODC

The UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) launched its inaugural World Wildlife Crime Report. The report is a part of UNODC's ongoing Global Program on Wildlife and Forest Crime. The report was launched by UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov.

This report highlights the poaching and illegal trade of thousands of different species across the globe as well as urges for shared responsibility in tackling this crime.

It also highlights the real environmental dangers and ultimately undermines the rule of law by potentially fueling conflict.



BANKING

News 1: Kotak Mahindra Bank opens IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City

The Kotak Mahindra Bank has set up its International Financial Services Center Banking Unit [IBU] in Gujarat International Finance Tec – (GIFT) City, Gujarat. GIFT is India's first global financial and IT services hub designed on the lines of global financial centers. IBU allows an Indian bank to deliver a varied range of products to its clients with foreign currency funding requirements.



The bank offers the following products at the IBU:

- Loans
- Foreign currency current accounts
- Term Deposits from overseas corporate bodies [maturity greater than one year]
- Treasury activities including derivatives and structured products

News 2: IREDA may be transformed into a Green Bank

The State-run Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) might be converted into a Green Bank to enable it to access funding from overseas banks and support local renewable energy projects. Large banks in India are hesitant to fund the solar and wind projects.



A green bank provides low-cost financing support to clean and low-carbon projects. India is estimated to need about USD 264 billion (EUR 230m) in financing to meet its 160-GW wind and solar goal by 2022. So far, green bonds have financed roughly USD 1.85 billion of clean energy projects in the country.

News 3: Willful defaulters owe Rs 66,000 Cr to PSBs

There were 7,686 willful defaulters owing Rs. 66,190 crores to state-owned banks as of December 2015 while the total outstanding amount in top 100 non-performing accounts (NPAs) was Rs. 1.73 lakh crore. The number of willful defaulters of PSBs rose from 5,554 to 7,686 in three years to December 2015 while the amount involved more than doubled to Rs. 66,190 crores from Rs. 27,749 crores.

Banks have aggressively started reporting bad loans after the RBI set a target of March, 2017 to clean-up their balance sheets. Willful defaulters are those who have the ability to pay back the banks but wouldn't do so deliberately.



News 4: SBI launches 'mVisa' – a mobile-based payments solution

The State Bank of India (SBI) announced the launch of mVisa, a mobile-based payment solution. The service will enable customers to make payments from their smartphones, by simply scanning the unique merchant QR (Quick Response) code, at merchant outlets.

This mVisa is a card-less solution which facilitates payment by scanning the QR code displayed at the merchant outlet or from the merchants mobile. In first phase, State Bank of India's mVisa service has been introduced in Bangalore city and the facility will be gradually expanded to other cities. ICICI Bank and Axis Bank have already introduced the mVisa application for their customers.



News 5: ICICI Bank signs an MoU with BRICS promoted New Development Bank

The ICICI Bank became the first financial institution in the country to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the New Development Bank (NDB) promoted by BRICS Group. The MoU was signed by KV Kamath, President of NDB and ICICI Bank Head, Chanda Kochhar in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



The scope of the partnership will include the following:

- This partnership will help the NDB in exploring bond issuance opportunities in the Indian and international bond markets, particularly INR-denominated bonds.
- Both the banks will collaborate in the area of funding development projects in India.
- The ICICI Bank and NDB will also leverage a mutually beneficial partnership in other areas of operations such as treasury risk management, account and cash management services and human resource development.

News 6: The YES BANK granted in-principle approval by SEBI for Custodian of Securities Business

The YES BANK, India's 5th largest private sector Bank, has been granted an in-principle approval by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for acting as Custodian of Securities. The YES BANK shall now invest in developing Operations, Technology and Human Capital capabilities and seek registration with SEBI as a Custodian of Securities. As per the in-principle approval, YES BANK shall establish this business within 12 months of this approval. The approval from SEBI is subsequent to the Reserve Bank of India's approval granted to YES BANK for the Custodian of Securities Business.



The "Custodian of Securities" is a license granted by SEBI to eligible entities allowing them to offer custodial services to financial market participants including Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).

News 7: Saraswat Bank donates Rs. 1 crore relief for drought in Maharashtra

The Saraswat Bank has announced a donation of Rs. 1 crore towards drought relief in Maharashtra. It is the country's largest urban co-operative bank.

Mr. Gautam E Thakur, Vice Chairman of the bank, handed over a cheque of Rs 50,00,000 to Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis as donation to the Chief Minister's Drought Relief Fund, Maharashtra. Similarly, Kishore Rangnekar, Director, handed over another cheque of Rs 50,00,000 to Nana Patekar of NAAM Foundation, an NGO started by actors Nana Patekar and Makarand Anaspure.



News 8: The South Indian Bank ties-up with the National Australia Bank for online inward remittance

The South Indian Bank has tied-up with The National Australia Bank (NAB) for faster and hassle-free online inward remittance at the best exchange rates. The remittance fee is as low as AUD 7.

As the exchange rate is decided by the South Indian Bank, the customers will always be given the best possible rate. The customer will have the option to either convert the proceeds into INR or store it in Australian Dollars. The South Indian Bank also has tie-ups with other leading banks and exchange houses in the USA, Europe, and Asia.



News 9: Draft Guidelines to tap Licensing of Universal Banks in the Private Sector released by RBI

The Draft guidelines have been released by RBI to tap licensing of universal banks in the private sector. The Organization has invited views and comments on the draft guidelines from banks, non-banking financial institutions, industrial houses, other institutions and the public at large latest by 30th June 2016 before issue of final guidelines.



These new guidelines suggest that 'Eligible Promoters' could be one existing NBFCs that are controlled by residents and have a successful track record for at least 10 years or professionals who have 10 years of banking and finance experience or groups in the private sector which have a successful track record for at least 10 years. Other guidelines include that the bank shall have a minimum net worth of 5 billion rupees at all times and bank's aggregate foreign investment limit should be 74 percent.

News 10: P to P lending consultation papers classified as NBFC by RBI

The RBI released consultation paper that aims to classify P2P as an NBFC, sets the minimum capital requirement at Rs. 2 crores, allow a platform to operate only as an intermediary and proposes that no entity other than a company can undertake this activity. P2P lending is an online platform that matches lenders with borrowers in order to provide unsecured loans.



The Organization has invited views and comments from banks, non-banking financial institutions, industrial houses, other institutions and the public at large latest by 31st May 2016 before issue of final guidelines.

News 11: RBI to issue Rs. 1000 banknotes with inset letter R

The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue 1000 Rupee Banknotes with inset letter 'R' in both the number panels. In a release, RBI said that the banknotes will also have on the obverse, all the other security features, including ascending size of numerals, bleed lines and enlarged identification mark.



It added that the banknotes bearing signature of RBI Governor Raghuram G Rajan, will also have the year of printing '2016' printed on the reverse. It also added that all the banknotes in the denomination of 1000 rupees issued by RBI in the past, would continue to be legal tender.

News 12: Seven NBFCs surrender licenses, RBI bars four others

The Reserve Bank of India said that seven Maharashtra-based Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs) have surrendered their registration certificates following which they won't be allowed to transact their financial business. Moreover, RBI has also said that it has cancelled registration certificate of four other NBFCs.



The NBFCs which have surrendered their certificates include:

- M/s V.H Doshi & Sons Investment Pvt. Ltd.
- M/s Vinodchandra Doshi Investment Co Private Limited
- M/s Samarth Doshi Investment Co. Private Limited
- M/s Echjay Overseas Trades Private Limited
- M/s Hari Mahavin Investment Private Limited
- M/s Baroda Industries Private Limited
- M/s Eureka Finvest Private Ltd.

The NBFCs whose certificate of registration were cancelled include –

- M/s Neelanjali Engineering Private Limited
- M/s Novoflex Tradecom Private Limited
- M/s Guide Investments and Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd
- M/s Enol Ventures Private Limited

News 13: Karnataka Bank Launches 'Cash Back Campaign' On Visa Debit Cards

The Karnataka Bank has launched a 'Cash Back Campaign' on its VISA Debit Cards. The campaign will be in force for one month from 10th May 2016 to 10th June 2016, under which more than 3200 cardholders i.e., top spenders both in terms of value & volume of transactions, will get Cash Back aggregating to `10,00,000/-.



The Cardholders who have done minimum 5 POS (swiping) /Online transactions with a min value of Rs. 200/- each will qualify.

News 14: ICICI Bank launches contactless credit card with Jet Airways for SMEs

The ICICI Bank Ltd. announced the launch of the country's first contactless business credit card in association with Jet Airways, India's premier international airline, for small and mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their employees. Christened 'Jet Airways ICICI Bank Business Advantage Card', this co-branded credit card helps customers to save on their business expenses. It also provides customers opportunities to earn JPMiles on both spends as well as repayments on a list of business expense categories including travel, dining, office stationary, online advertising and vendor payments among others.



This card is powered by the 'VISA payWave' contactless technology that enables the cardholder to make payments by simply tapping the card at contactless enabled terminals in more than 48 countries including India.

News 15: RBI issues norms for establishment of Branch Office (BO)/ Liaison Office (LO)/ Project Office (PO) in India by foreign entities

The RBI has issued norms for establishment of Branch Office (BO)/ Liaison Office (LO)/ Project Office (PO) in India by foreign entities. An application from a person resident outside India for opening of a BO/LO/PO in India shall require prior approval of Reserve Bank of India in the following cases:

- The applicant is a citizen of or is registered/incorporated in Pakistan;
- The applicant is a citizen of or is registered/incorporated in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iran, China, Hong Kong or Macau and the application is for opening a BO/LO/PO in Jammu and Kashmir, North East region and Andaman and Nicobar Islands;
- The principal business of the applicant falls in the four sectors namely Defence, Telecom, Private Security and Information and Broadcasting. In the case of proposal for opening a PO relating to defence sector, no separate reference or approval of Government of India shall be required if the said non-resident applicant has been awarded a contract by/ entered into an agreement with Ministry of Defence or Service Headquarters or Defence Public Sector Undertakings. There shall be no requirement of any approval from RBI also only for such cases;
- The applicant is a Non-Government Organization (NGO), a Non-Profit Organization, or a Body/ Agency/ Department of a foreign government.



News 16: RBI authorizes 29 agency banks to accept payments of I-T dues

The Reserve Bank of India has appealed to the income tax assesses to remit their income tax dues sufficiently in advance of the due date. It has also stated that assesses can use alternate channels like select branches of agency banks or the facility of online payment of taxes offered by these banks.



RBI said assesseees can pay their dues at authorized branches of SBI and its five associate banks, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Punjab National Bank, Allahabad Bank, Syndicate Bank, Andhra Bank, UCO Bank, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Bank of India, United Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Vijaya Bank, Canara Bank.

Among others are Central Bank of India, Corporation Bank, Dena Bank, IDBI Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Punjab & Sindh Bank.

News 17: DBS Bank to set up a new technology hub in Hyderabad

Singapore-based DBS Bank is planning to set up its biggest technology hub outside its headquarters in Hyderabad and to have over 1500 headcounts. Mohit Kapoor has been appointed as the head of its Technology Development Centre in Hyderabad. Prior to joining DBS, he was the global delivery leader and Chief Technology Officer at Bank of America – Continuum, based in Hyderabad.



As per the bank, the hub will help in strengthening the lenders technological capabilities across Asia as well as its digital banking strategy.

News 18: RBS to shut down operations in India

The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), Britain's largest state-owned bank, has decided to shut down its banking operations in the country. The bank will however be retaining the back office.



RBS will wind up its corporate, retail and institutional operations in India and shut its 10 retail branches as part of RBS's global plan to reduce its international operations to 13 countries from the current 38. Earlier this year, the lender moved 60 back-office roles from the UK to India.

News 19: SBI to merge 5 associate banks, Bharatiya Mahila Bank with itself

The State Bank of India has proposed the merger of its five associate banks and newly created Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) with itself to emerge as a financial giant, with assets worth Rs. 37 lakh crore (\$550 billion). The current balance sheet of the bank is worth Rs. 28 lac crore. It has sought the government's approval for the same.



Its five associates are State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Patiala (SBP) and State Bank of Travancore (SBT). BMP, started in 2013, is a Delhi-based public sector lender.

News 20: HDFC Bank launches SmartUp for start-ups

HDFC Bank launched SmartUp, a first-of-its-kind dedicated solution for start-ups, to fulfill all their banking needs. SmartUp was launched in association with Zone Startups India, a start-up accelerator in Mumbai. SmartUp is tailored to meet all the requirements of a start-up, offering banking and payment solutions, along with advisory and forex services.



The benefits also include recommendation of a Chartered Accountant for Tax, Regulatory and Compliance issues.

News 21: Nepal SBI Bank launches payment gateway

The largest overseas subsidiaries of SBI, Nepal SBI, has launched a payment gateway to facilitate online trade and non-trade transactions between Nepal and India. The bank has 59 branches and 3 Regional Offices in the Himalayan nation.



The Payment Gateway was inaugurated by SBI Managing Director B Sriram, and the Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Ranjit Rae. The bank also launched the mobile banking during the event. Henceforth, a customer can utilize various features of mobile banking and other value added services along with the platform of the payment gateway.

News 22: PNB reports worst loss in the Indian banking history

The Punjab National Bank reported a net loss of Rs. 5,367.14 crores for the fourth quarter that ended in March 2016 against a net profit of Rs. 306 crores in the same quarter a year ago, the largest-ever loss reported by an Indian lender. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) rose to 12.90 percent at the end of March, from 6.55 percent a year ago. The net NPAs too jumped to 8.61 percent as against 4.06 percent.

India's banks are being forced to clean up their books under an asset quality review (AQR) initiated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Other banks like UCO Bank, Central Bank of India, Allahabad Bank and Dena Bank have also reported steep losses in the just-concluded fourth quarter of FY16.

WORST QUARTERLY LOSSES

			Net loss (₹ crore)
PNB	Mar 16	-5,367.14	
BOB	Dec 15	-3,342.04	
BOB	Mar 16	-3,230.14	
IDBI	Dec 15	-2,183.68	
Syndicate Bank	Mar 16	-2,158.17	
UCO Bank	Mar 16	-1,715.16	
Central Bank	Sep 13	-1,508.74	
Bank of India	Dec 15	-1,505.58	
UCO Bank	Dec 15	-1,497.01	
IOB	Dec 15	-1,425.06	

Source: Capitaline

News 23: HSBC to curtail down half of its branches in India

The HSBC Holdings Plc plans to close 24 branches in India, a decision that will impact around 10 percent of the company's retail customer base and lead to 300 jobs losses. HSBC's decision to downsize its India operations comes after a strategic review of its retail banking and wealth management business, which showed customers are increasingly opting for digital banking services.



HSBC said it would consolidate from 50 branches across 29 cities to 26 branches across 14 cities, and the closures will take place gradually over the next few months. With HSBC taking the lead, its major competitors, including Singapore's DBS Group Holdings Ltd., is also following the digital strategy in India with a mobile banking initiative. The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) also announced plans of closing 10 branches in India.

News 24: India Post Payments Bank to be in operational by March 2017

The payment bank of India Post will start functioning from March 2017 to serve as a wider platform to implement Financial Inclusion program. The Postal department has a network of 1,54,939 post offices in the country.

In August 2015, the RBI had given in-principle nod to 11 entities to start payment banks, including the postal department. The postal department has opened 85.28 lakh accounts with deposit money of Rs. 4500 crores under the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana during 2015-16 and over 4 lakh policies of Atal Pension Yojana, Prime Minister Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Beema Yojana.



News 25: Foreign Investment Limit of Yes Bank increased from 41.87% to 74%

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs granted ex-post facto approval to the proposal of M/s Yes Bank Ltd. for increase in the foreign investment limit to 74% from the existing foreign equity of 41.87% without any sub-limits.

The mode of instruments includes Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP) of equity shares and/or issue of ADRs/GDRs and/or QFIs/FPIs under the Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) by acquisition of permissible securities on stock exchange (except NRIs). This will result in a Foreign Direct Investment of US \$ 1 billion (Rs. 6885 crores approx.) in the country.



News 26: Revised norms introduced to improve performance in Credit Rating Scheme

The Government has approved the revision in guidelines of the Performance in Credit Rating Scheme, aiming to increase its credibility and effectiveness for both borrowers and banks. Under the revised guidelines, the fee to be paid to the rating agencies shall be based on the turnover of the micro and small enterprises which has been classified into three slabs.



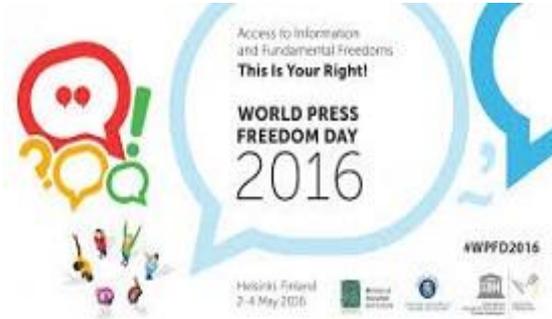
The first slab includes micro and small enterprises having turnover above Rs. 2 crores, the fee to be reimbursed will be 75 percent of the fee charged by the rating agency subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40,000. Second slab says that for a turnover up to Rs. 50 lakhs, the fee to be reimbursed by the MSME Ministry will constitute 75 percent of the fee charged by the rating agency subject to a ceiling Rs. 15,000. Third slab includes a turnover between Rs. 50 lakhs and Rs. 2 crores, the fee to be reimbursed will be 75 percent of the fee charged by the rating agency subject to a ceiling of Rs 30,000. It is expected that the Rating Scheme would encourage MSE sector, since a good rating would enhance their acceptability in the market.

IMPORTANT DAYS

News 1: 3rd May – World Press Freedom Day

The World Press Freedom Day is observed annually on 3rd May across the world. The day celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom. It also reminds that many journalists brave death or face jail to bring daily news to the public.

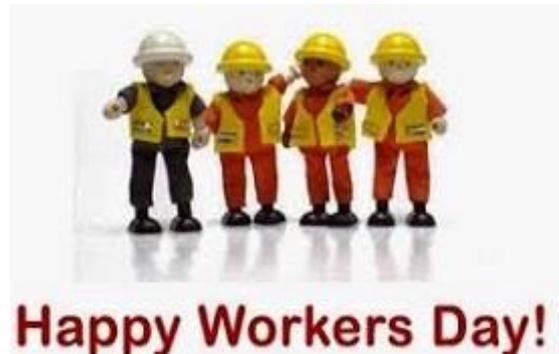
UNESCO and the Government of Finland will co-host the World Press Freedom Day's main event and the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize Ceremony in 2016 which took place in Helsinki, Finland, from 2-4 May 2016. World Press Freedom Day 2016 is organized under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Finland Sauli Niinistö. This year's theme is Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms – This Is Your Right!



News 2: International Labour Day celebrated

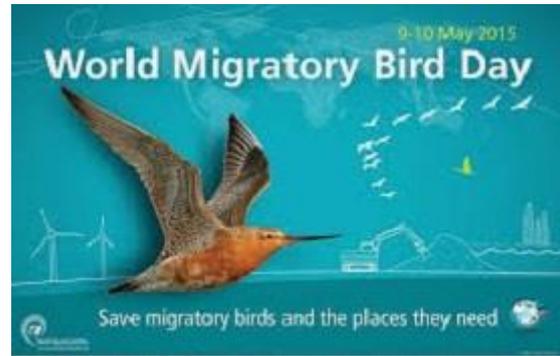
International Labour Day, known as May Day was celebrated on 1st May 2016. The theme of International Labour Day of 2016 is "Celebrating the international labour movement". It assumes further significance with economic relationships undergoing rapid change in the emerging global economic order. Around 80 countries across the world have declared it as national holiday.

Labour is one of the four key factors of production along with Land, Capital and organization. Effectiveness of workforce is the key to economic growth. May Day reminds all concerned of the need to ensure welfare of workers.



News 3: World Migratory Bird Day celebrated

The World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) was celebrated across the world on 10th May 2016. This year's theme was Stop the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds. It is a 2-day event annually held on the second weekend of May to highlight the need to protect migratory birds and their habitats. The day is celebrated by organizing public events such as bird festivals, education programs and bird-watching excursions.



The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) announced the creation of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean composed of Governments and the European Commission.

News 4: President of India to attend the National Technology Day Celebrations

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee will attend the National Technology Day Celebrations at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on May 11, 2016.



The National Technology Day is being celebrated every year on May 11 by the Ministry of Science & Technology to commemorate achievements of Innovation and Technology in the country. This year's theme for celebrations of the Technology Day is 'Technology enablers of Startup India'.

News 5: International Day of Families 2016 observed

The International Day of Families is observed annually on the 15th of May. The theme for the year 2016 is Families, healthy lives and sustainable future.

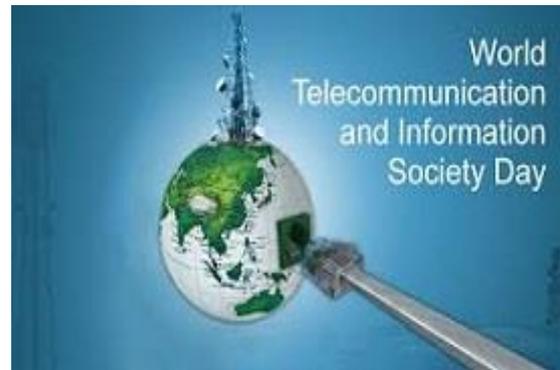


The International Day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993, reflecting the importance the international community attaches to families.

News 6: World Telecommunication and Information Society Day observed

The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed annually on 17th May. The theme for 2016 was ICT entrepreneurship for social impact.

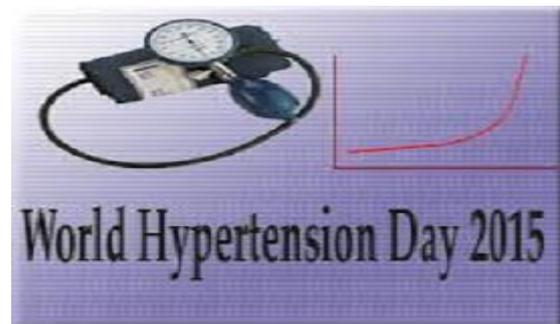
The theme for 2016 is in line with the work of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in unlocking the potential of ICTs for young innovators and entrepreneurs, innovative SMEs, start-ups and technology hubs as drivers of innovative and practical solutions for catalyzing progress in achieving international sustainable development goals, with a focus on SMEs from developing countries.



News 7: The World Hypertension Day observed on May 17th

The World Hypertension Day (WHD) was observed on the 17th of May. The theme for World Hypertension Day this year is "Know Your Numbers", with the goal of increasing awareness about high blood pressure (BP) within all populations around the world.

The day was initiated by the World Hypertension League (WHL) to increase awareness about hypertension. The League is an umbrella to 85 national hypertension societies and leagues. The recommended blood pressures are less than 140/90 mm Hg for the general population and for the hypertensive population without any complications it is less than 130/80 mm Hg.



News 8: International Day to save Biological Diversity observed across the world

The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually on 22nd May to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The theme for the year 2016 was "Mainstreaming Biodiversity; Sustaining People and their Livelihoods, highlighting the role of biodiversity in underpinning development".

The UN also marked attention to the role of biodiversity in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 13) to be held in Cancun, Mexico from 4 to 17 December 2016 will focus on the mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors, which is closely linked to this year's IDB theme.



News 9: International Day to End Obstetric Fistula celebrated

The International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is observed on 23rd May. The theme of this year's International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, "Tracking Fistula – Transforming Lives,". The day is sponsored by UNFPA.

Obstetric fistula is a hole between the birth canal and the bladder or rectum caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without treatment. It is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth. It is a hole between the birth canal and the bladder or rectum caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without treatment.



INTERNATIONAL

News 1: ASEAN Defence and Partners start Military Exercise on Maritime Security in Brunei

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus Maritime Security and Counterterrorism Exercise 2016 began with an opening ceremony at the Multinational Coordination Center in Muara, Brunei. Eighteen countries, including Vietnam, are taking part in an international military exercise focused on maritime security and counterterrorism.



Navies of the 10 ASEAN countries are participating along with their counterparts from Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the US. Around 3,000 personnel, 18 ships, 16 helicopters, two maritime patrol aircraft and Special Forces from the participating ASEAN nations and its dialogue partners are currently deployed for the ADMM – Plus exercise. The exercise will come to an end on May 12th.

News 2: ADB's 49th Annual Meeting in Frankfurt

The 49th Annual Meeting was held from 2 to 5 May 2016 in Frankfurt, Germany with 4 and 5 May as official days. This was to provide guidance on ADB administrative, financial and operational directions; and the chance for member governments to communicate with ADB staff, non-government organizations, the media and representatives of observer countries, international organizations, academia and the private sector.



The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley represented India in the meeting. He also met Mr. Hans-Joachim Fuchtel, Parliamentary State Secretary to German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

News 3: Five day Tagore Festival in Egypt to celebrate his 155th Birthday

The Indian embassy in Cairo and the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture hosted Tagore Festival from May 8-12 to mark the 155th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. He visited Egypt in 1878 and later in 1926, when he met King Fouad and interacted with scholars in Alexandria and Cairo. He also wrote about the relationship between the Nile river and the Egyptian civilization.



Egyptian scholars have translated many of Tagore's works into Arabic and have also written several books on Tagore. The festival will conclude on May 12 with a seminar on contemporary literature "Tagore, Shawky & Mahfouz".

News 4: US jury ordered Johnson & Johnson to pay 55 million dollars in talc-powder trial

Johnson & Johnson (JNJ.N) was ordered by a U.S. jury to pay \$55 million to a woman, Gloria Ristesund, who said that using the company's talc-powder products for feminine hygiene caused her to develop ovarian cancer.



Ristesund, in her suit claimed that she used J&J's talc-based powder products which include the Baby Powder and Shower to Shower Powder on her genitals for decades. The company is facing about 1,200 lawsuits accusing it of not adequately warning consumers about its talc-based products' cancer risks.

News 5: Zimbabwe to print local 'US dollar' to ease severe cash crunch

Zimbabwe is set to print its own version of the US dollar in order to ease a cash shortage in the country. The cash, known as bond notes, will be backed by \$200m (£140m) support from the Africa Export-Import Bank. The new notes in denominations of \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20 will have the same value as their US dollar equivalents.



The Central Bank Governor, John Mangudya, also announced limit on withdrawals to \$1,000 or 20,000 South African Rand per day. In addition, the amount of cash that can be taken out of the country per trip has been cut from \$5,000 to \$1,000.

News 6: Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny re-elected

Enda Kenny has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Ireland after 10 weeks of deadlock when the general election had produced no outright winner. He was re-appointed with 59 votes in favour and 49 votes against. His re-election followed a deal with a number of independent elected members and the Republic of Ireland's second largest party, Fianna Fail.



Enda Kenny belongs to Fine Gale party and the main opposition party is Fianna Fail.

News 7: Landmark meeting of SAARC Countries on protection of Children to be held in Delhi from 9th-11th May, 2016

The eight SAARC nations composing the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) assembled in New Delhi from 9th – 11th May, 2016 for their 4th Ministerial Meeting, to set strategies and agree on commitments to ensure the protection and security of the children of the region. The landmark meeting is being hosted by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.



Delegates from the governments and civil society organizations of the eight SAARC nations will assess progress and developments of the past decade of regional effort and identify priorities for SAIEVAC for the next five years.

News 8: Nepal recalled its Ambassador to India, Deep Kumar Upadhyaya, over charges of non-cooperation

Nepal recalled its Ambassador to India, Deep Kumar Upadhyaya, over charges of non-cooperation and indulging in anti-government activities. The Ambassador had a "confrontation" with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli regarding the cancellation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari's scheduled visit to India, Nepalese Foreign Ministry sources said.



He has been accused of being involved in toppling the government and visiting some western Nepal districts accompanying India's ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae without informing the government.

News 9: UN launches Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Zika virus response

The United Nations announced the establishment of the UN Zika Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) to finance critical unfunded priorities in the response to the Zika outbreak.



This Fund, which aims to provide a rapid, flexible and accountable platform to support a coordinated response from the UN system and partners, will directly support the Zika Strategic Response Framework, developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in consultation with UN agencies, partners and international epidemiological experts. The Zika Strategic Response Framework aims to investigate and respond to the medical disorders linked to Zika virus, increase preventive measures, communicate risks, and provide care and support to those affected.

News 10: Airport Show opens in Dubai

The 16th edition of the Airport Show was held from 9th - 11th May, 2016 at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre (DICEC). Airport Show is the world's largest annual airport event and provides an ideal B2B platform for companies to present airport and aviation-related products and services.



Over 300 leading global companies participated at the 2016 event, showcasing their latest technology, innovation and product offerings to a 7,500 attendees, including 150 hosted buyers and over 50+ regional aviation authorities who attended the event.

News 11: Sadiq Khan Elected First Muslim Mayor of London

Sadiq Khan has been elected as the new Mayor of London after beating Tory Zac Goldsmith by 1,310,143 votes to 994,614. He is the city's first Muslim mayor. He was a Labour Party candidate. His victory marks the return of Labour Party rule in the British capital after eight years of Conservatives in power.



Born in London to a working-class British Pakistani family, Khan gained a degree in Law from the University of North London. He subsequently worked as a solicitor specializing in human rights.

News 12: Rodrigo “Digong” Duterte wins presidency election in Philippines

Eccentric anti-crime candidate Rodrigo “Digong” Duterte won the Philippine presidential elections, following the withdrawal of his opponents. Duterte had almost 39 percent of votes cast. He has credited his success to his tough stance on law and order. He had stirred controversy during campaigning with his provocative comments.



The closest rival was Grace Poe followed by President Benigno Aquino’s choice Mar Roxas. He is a lawyer by profession and he became vice-mayor of Davao in 1986 and mayor in 1988.

News 13: American Bison is the national mammal of the United States

President Obama signed the National Bison Legacy Act into law, officially making the American Bison, the national mammal of the United States. This majestic animal joins the ranks of the Bald Eagle as the official symbol of the country.



The Yellowstone National Park is the only place in the U.S. where bison’s have continuously lived since prehistoric times. As of July 2015, Yellowstone’s bison population was estimated at 4,900, making it the largest bison population on public lands.

News 14: Social Fridges Scheme open in Argentina as poverty rises

Argentina has adopted a scheme from Europe`s economic crisis, which is putting food in outdoor "Social Fridges" for the needy. The country is facing hardship due to increase in job cuts and high inflation as high as 40 percent. It is called so because people leave food in outdoor "social fridges" for those who need it.



With inflation at around 40 percent, domestic prices are at the highest level and Argentines are finding their salary is not enough to buy the food they need 34.5 percent of the nation`s 40 million people are living below the poverty line.

News 15: Legislation to strengthen US-India Defence relationship introduced in Senate

The US-India Defence Technology and Partnership Act was introduced in the Senate by Senators Mark Warner and John Cornyn, who are the Co-Chairs of the Senate India Caucus. If the Act is passed by the Congress, it will elevate the status of the Indo – US defence relationship on par with that of America's closest allies like NATO and Israel.



The legislation has been sent to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for necessary action. Defence trade has risen from some USD 300 million to over USD 14 billion over the last 10 years. The Act urges US to facilitate the transfer of defence technology and maintain a special office in the Pentagon dedicated exclusively to the US-India Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

News 16: India to develop \$5 billion infrastructure projects in South Asia

The Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das, while speaking at the South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) 2025 workshop organized by ADB, has said that India is planning to develop regional connectivity projects worth \$5 billion in South Asia.



India is currently developing two priority road corridors with the support of Asian Development Bank. The first will connect India with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan through the 'chicken's neck' area of North Bengal and the second road corridor will establish India-Myanmar connectivity in Manipur. India is also developing the East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), with ADB as the lead partner.

News 17: Bangladesh hangs Islamist leader Motiur Rahman Nizami for war crimes

Bangladesh hanged the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, Motiur Rahman Nizami inside Dhaka central jail amid tight security. The 73-year old was executed for his role in acts of genocide and war crimes during the country's independence war against Pakistan in 1971.



Nizami was convicted of three major charges stemming from the 1971 war, including the killings of 480 people. He was also held responsible for the killings of dozens of intellectuals, including teachers, journalists and doctors, just two days before Bangladesh gained its independence in 1971.

News 18: World's oldest known ground-edge stone axe found in Australia

A fragment of the world's oldest known ground-edge axe has been found in the remote Kimberley region of northern Australia. The tool fragments are estimated to be between 46,000 and 49,000 years old. The fragment is 10,000 years older than the previous oldest known fragments found in northern Australia in 2010. Archaeologists said the original axe would have been hafted — meaning it was made with a handle attached.



Professor Sue O'Connor found the thumbnail-sized fragment in the early 1990s at Carpenters Gap — a large rock shelter in Winjana Gorge National Park — one of the first sites in Australia known to be occupied by modern humans.

News 19: Rwanda hosted the 26th World Economic Forum on Africa

Rwanda hosted the 26th Annual World Economic Forum on Africa in its capital Kigali from 11th to 13th May. The theme of this year's summit was: Connecting Africa's Resources Through Digital Transformation. The event focused on how to diversify economies, tackle inequality and strengthen collaborations among countries.



It attracted more than 1,500 delegates from Africa and beyond, including heads of states and governments, Chief executives of global and regional Corporations, and technology experts and enthusiasts. South Africa has been selected to host the 2017 World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa.

News 20: Iran ends free shipping of oil to India

Iran has ended free shipping of crude oil to India. Iran had offered free delivery of crude oil to Indian refiners in November 2013 as tough Western sanctions crippled its exports. National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has informed oil-importing companies that the future delivery would be based on Free on Board (FOB) basis and the freight has to be arranged by the buyer.



It also terminated a three-year-old system of getting paid for half of the oil dues in rupees and is now insisting on being paid in Euros for the oil it sells to Indian refiners. Further it wants refiners like Essar Oil and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MPRL) to clear nearly USD 6.5 billion of past dues in Euros.

News 21: Brazil President Dilma Rousseff suspended for six months, to face impeachment trial

Brazilian senators voted 55-22 to suspend President Dilma Rousseff and begin an impeachment trial. She was stripped of her presidential duties for up to six months. She is accused of illegally manipulating finances to hide a growing public deficit ahead of her re-election in 2014. She now has 20 days to present her first defence before the Senate and the trial can last up to six months.



She has been replaced by Vice President Michel Temer.

News 22: CASA-1000 power project launched in Tajikistan

Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Pakistan launched the construction of an electricity power grid to link the four nations to a jointly operated power supply and promote regional stability, security and prosperity.



The CASA-1000 project comprises the development, financing, construction, ownership and operation of a 750-kilometer high voltage direct current transmission system between Tajikistan and Pakistan via Afghanistan. It will enable Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to supply 1000 megawatts of surplus electricity in summer months to Pakistan and 300 megawatts to Afghanistan. The project is expected to be completed by 2018 with an estimated cost of 1.2 billion dollars. Prime Minister Sharif while addressing today's event declared it a flagship project that will promote regional connectivity.

News 23: Kenya to close the World's Largest Dadaab Refugee Camp

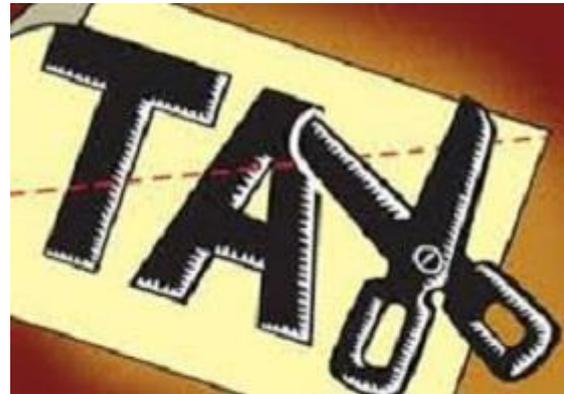
The Kenyan government has decided to close the Dadaab refugee camp, which is the largest in the world saying that the camp harbored terrorists. The Kenyan government also announced to close Kakuma, a refugee camp housing 190,000 people, mostly South Sudanese fleeing civil war.



The Dadaab camp, with an estimated 328,000 refugees mostly from Somalia, compromises Kenya's security because it harbors some of Somalia's al-Shabab Islamic extremists. The UN has urged Kenya to reconsider its decision to close Dadaab camp.

News 24: India and four other countries sign agreement on tax info sharing

Canada, Iceland, India, Israel, New Zealand and the People's Republic of China signed the Multilateral Competent Authority agreement for the automatic exchange of Country-by-Country reports ("CbC MCAA"), bringing the total number of signatories to 39 countries. The signing ceremony took place in Beijing, China.



The agreement will help automatic exchange of information on tax issues and develop new tools and standards for tackling tax base erosion and evasion. Other countries which have already signed the pact include Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Italy and the UK. G20 Leaders endorsed the wide-ranging BEPS package in November 2015, marking an historic opportunity for improving the effectiveness of the international tax system.

News 25: UNWTO and China organize the First World Conference on Tourism for Development

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Government of the People's Republic of China will organize the First World Conference on Tourism for Development in Beijing on 18-21 May 2016. Under the theme 'Tourism for Peace and Development', the event aims to kick start a high level debate on the contribution of tourism to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Several heads of state and government as well as tourism ministers and senior officials from over 100 countries are expected to participate in the conference.



The conference coincides with the China Tourism Day. On this occasion, China, as chair of the G20, will also host the 7th G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting under the theme "Sustainable Tourism – An Effective Tool for Inclusive Development".

News 26: Rwanda Captain Eric Dusingizimana bats for 51 hours straight to set new world record

Captain of the national Cricket Team of Rwanda, Eric Dusingizimana, has set a new Guinness world record by batting out a straight 51 hours, the longest individual net session. He has beaten the record set last year by India's Virag Mane, who had batted a straight 50 hours.



He was raising money for the Rwanda Cricket Stadium Foundation – a charity set up to raise money and build the first dedicated international cricket ground in Rwanda. He began his batting on the 11th May and finished it on 13th May. Eric was bowled to by Tony Blair, Miss Rwanda and many others.

News 27: US and NATO Officials activate land-based missile defence station in Romania

The US has activated a land-based missile defence station in Deveselu, southern Romania. It will help protect NATO countries from short and medium-range missiles, particularly from the Middle East. A similar project is set to be launched on Friday (13 May) in Poland, which will become operational in 2018.



The site hosts radar and SM-3 missile interceptors, and will be integrated into NATO's missile shield at the July NATO summit meeting in Warsaw. It has reportedly been set up at a cost of \$800m (£554m).

News 28: Jamala of Ukraine wins Eurovision Song Contest

Ukraine's Jamala has won this year's Eurovision Song Contest, held in Stockholm, Sweden. The country scored 534 points with its song 1944, about the deportation of Crimean Tatars under Josef Stalin. Australia finished second with 511 points, while Russia was third with 491 points. Jamala is the first Crimean Tatar to perform at the contest and her song caused controversy because of alleged political overtones.



It references the year when Stalin deported almost all of the Tatar ethnic group from its native region of Crimea in what was then the Soviet Union.

News 29: British Royals launched Heads Together campaign

Prince William, Princess Kate and Prince Harry launched the Heads Together campaign at Queen Elizabeth Park in East London. In the "Heads Together" campaign, the trio will work with charities "to change the national conversation on mental wellbeing".



The Funds for this campaign will be raised through the 2017 Virgin Money London Marathon. Prince William will target young men at risk for suicide while Kate will focus on childhood mental health. Similarly, Prince Harry will focus on military members and veterans.

News 30: Port State Measures Agreement by FAO to enter into force on June 5

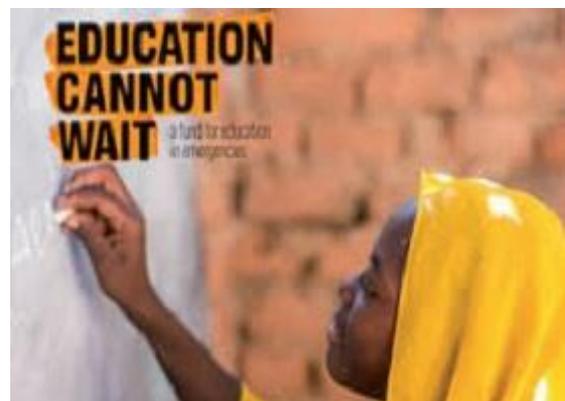
The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), a ground-breaking international accord by FAO is set to enter into force from June 5, 2016. It is the world's first-ever international agreement specifically targeting illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.



Around 29 countries and the European Union – which signed as a single party, have signed the agreement. The treaty refers to actions taken to detect IUU fishing when ships come to port. The new treaty requires ships provide local authorities with information, including on the fish they have on board, and allowing inspection of their log book, licences, fishing gear and actual cargo, among other things.

News 31: UN creates new education fund "Education Cannot Wait"

A new fund, "Education Cannot Wait fund" was launched by the United Nations at the two-day World Humanitarian Summit in held in Istanbul, Turkey to assist millions of children whose education has been disrupted by conflicts and natural disasters.



The fund seeks to raise USD 3.85 billion from 100 donors in the public and private sectors over the next five years. The new fund will be utilized towards schooling of 1 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. It will also be used in Nepal where 900,000 children are out of school because of the earthquake emergency, in South Sudan where one third of children are denied schooling and in Nigeria where Boko Haram have closed 5,000 schools.

News 32: UNICEF and EU launch #EmergencyLessons campaign on Education in Conflict Zones

The European Union and UNICEF today launched #EmergencyLessons, a new campaign to highlight the importance of education for children affected by emergencies. The social media-driven public awareness campaign aims to reach 20 million Europeans.



The #EmergencyLessons campaign draws on the real-life experiences of children living through emergencies in countries such as Guinea, Iraq, Nepal and Ukraine. Over the next seven months, their stories on the extraordinary lengths they go to obtain an education, will be shared on social media through #EmergencyLessons and raise awareness, understanding and support among Europeans.

News 33: World Bank Approves \$625 Million to Support Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Program in India

The World Bank Board has approved a \$625 million loan to support the Government of India's program to generate electricity from widespread installation of rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV). The Board also approved a co-financing loan of \$120 million on concessional terms and a \$5 million grant from Climate Investment Fund's (CIF) Clean Technology Fund.



The World Bank loan has a 19.5-year grace period, and a maturity of 20 years. The loan from CIF's Clean Technology Fund has a 10-year grace period, and a maturity of 40 years. The overall potential demand for rooftop solar is estimated at about 124,000 MW.

The project will finance the installation of at least 400 MW of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic (GRPV) across India. The project will be implemented by the State Bank of India (SBI) who will on-lend funds to solar PV developers/aggregators and end-users.

FYI: The World Bank Country Director in India is Onno Ruhl.

News 34: US and India held first Maritime Security Dialogue

India and the US held their first Maritime Security Dialogue in New Delhi. The first round of discussions under the recently-constituted dialogue aims at deepening the evolving partnership between the two nations in the maritime domain. The dialogue was held between officials of Defence and External Affairs ministries and their U.S. counterparts.



The discussion focused on strategic maritime security issues like Asia-Pacific maritime challenges, naval cooperation, and multilateral engagement.

News 35: World's first robot lawyer, ROSS, hired by a US law firm

One of the biggest law firms of the US, BakerHostetler, has become the first to hire a robot lawyer, called ROSS, to assist with bankruptcy cases. The robot has been marketed as "the world's first artificially intelligent attorney."



The robot is built upon Watson, IBM's cognitive computer. Watson has cognitive computing and natural language processing capabilities. The Robot reads through the law, gathers evidence, draws inferences and then returns highly relevant, evidence-based answers. Ross also learns from experience, gaining speed and knowledge.

News 36: US Senate Approves \$1.1 Billion in Emergency Zika Funding

The Senate approved \$1.1 billion in emergency funding to combat the Zika virus, less than the \$1.9 billion requested by the White House. The fund would be designated for both international and domestic Zika control and prevention efforts.



About 361 million US dollars will be directed to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for programs, and 200 million US dollars will be directed to the National Institutes of Health to aid in vaccine research.

News 37: Nokia signs intellectual property licensing agreement with HMD global

Nokia signs a strategic brand and intellectual property licensing 10-year agreement to let HMD global create new generation of Nokia-branded mobile phones and tablets. Under the agreement, Nokia Technologies will receive royalty payments from HMD for sales of Nokia-branded mobile products, covering both brand and intellectual property rights. HMD's new smart-phone and tablet portfolio will be based on Android.



HMD intends to invest over USD 500 million over the next three years to support the global marketing of Nokia-branded mobile phones and tablets. Nokia will in turn provide HMD with branding rights and cellular standard essential patent licenses but will not be making a financial investment or holding equity in HMD.

News 38: Indian journalist Philip Abraham to take charge of Deputy Mayor in UK

Indian journalist Philip Abraham has been elected unanimously as the Deputy Mayor of Loughton. Mr. Abraham, a journalist from Kerala and Editor of Kerala link, had won the election to the Loughton Town Council in 2012.



Loughton is a vibrant town in the Epping forest district of Essex. The elected deputy mayor normally goes on to become the mayor for the following year. Councilor Carol Davis, the newly-elected mayor presented the Deputy Mayor's Badge to Philip Abraham.

News 39: Tsai Ing-wen to be in-charge as the first woman President of Taiwan

Tsai Ing-wen has been sworn-in as the new President of Taiwan. She became the island's first female leader to be the President. She succeeds outgoing President Ma Ying-jeou.



Tsai led the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) to a landslide win in parliamentary and presidential elections. This is the only second time that DPP has won an election in Taiwan. The Kuomintang (KMT) has been in power for most of the past 70 years.

News 40: Nepal Organizes International Buddhist conference

A two-day international Buddhist conference was organized to mark the 2,560th birth anniversary of Lord Buddha advocating Buddhism as a means to avoid extremism in all forms. Over 1,200 delegates and observers from 28 countries were present from around the world for the conference from May 19-20, themed "Lumbini, Nepal: The Birth Place of Lord Buddha and the Fountain of Buddhism and World Peace".



During the conference, around two dozen Buddhist scholars and renowned monks presented working of Buddha. During the event, the president announced the winner of 'Lord Buddha Peace Prize' worth USD 50,000.

News 41: Beijing–New Delhi Yoga Conference 2016 held in China

Over 1,000 Chinese yoga practitioners gathered for a group performance in Kunming city to begin Indo-China Yoga Conference, presenting activities including courses from Indian yoga masters and yoga introductions for communities. It was jointly organized by the foreign affairs and overseas Chinese affairs offices and the China-India Yoga College in Kunming.



It was a 5-day conference held from May 18 to May 22.

News 42: G-7 Finance chiefs summit at Sendai

Finance ministers and central bank chiefs from the Group of Seven developed nations attended G-7 meeting to boost the global economy. The finance chiefs discussed efforts to regain the world economy, to boost demand for monetary and fiscal, as well as structural reforms. It was also discussed that G-7 has to pay attention to the downside risks facing the world economy, including geographical tensions related to terrorism, refugee crises and BREXIT from European Union.



It was mentioned by senior officials, that the strong concerns over China's economic growth have eased, and the plunge in oil prices has partly recovered.

News 43: US House of Representatives Approved Legislation to Strengthen Defence Relations with India

The US House of Representatives approved legislation that is set to elevate its defence ties with India by amending National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA). The amendment on "Enhancing Defence and Security Cooperation with India" was approved weeks before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to the US on 8th June.



According to the Press Trust of India, the changes made to this act will encourage the designation of a US official that will focus solely on US-India defence cooperation, facilitate the transfer of defence technology and ease restrictions on sale of defence equipment. The official is also expected to have an office in the Pentagon that will be dedicated to the US-India Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

News 44: AKP's Binali Yildirim to be sworn in as new Prime Minister of Turkey

Turkey's governing party tapped Transport Minister Binali Yildirim as its candidate to lead the party and become the Country's next Prime Minister, succeeding Ahmet Davutoglu. Yildirim is Turkey's minister of transport, maritime and communication as well as a founding member of the AKP. Traditionally, the placement of the post of Prime Minister in Turkey goes to the leader of the largest party in the Parliament. He was named as the Prime Minister after he was formally chosen for the post in a closed vote.



The supporters appreciate Yildirim for his role in developing the President's signature infrastructure projects, which have helped buoy Turkey's economy and boost the party's popularity.

News 45: Belawan concluded India-Indonesian CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol)

Belawan, Indonesia conducted the 27th edition of the India-Indonesian CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol). On the occasion of its closing ceremony, Belawan saw the two navies conducting interactive session on measures to enhance inter-operability, held from 16 May to 19 May 2016.



The Indian and Indonesian navies have been carrying out Coordinated Patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2002, to keep the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade relations. The CORPAT has boosted understanding and interoperability between the two navies.

News 46: Hypersonic Superjet Technology HIFiRE tested in Australia

A joint US-Australian military team of researchers successfully tested hypersonic superjet technology as part of the Hypersonic International Flight Research Experimentation (HIFiRE) program in Woomera in South Australia, and at Norway's Andoya Rocket Range. The first test was conducted in 2009 with the project expected to be completed in 2018.



Hypersonic flight involves travelling at more than five times the speed of sound, by reducing travelling time from Sydney to London as two hours for the 17,000-kilometre (10,560-mile) flight.

News 47: World Bank Group launched innovative Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility

An innovative, fast-disbursing global financing mechanism, Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF), was launched by World Bank Group. It will protect poorest countries against deadly pandemics which will create the first-ever insurance market for pandemic risk, built and designed in collaboration with the World Health Organization.



The announcement came a week ahead of the May 26-27 Summit of Group of Seven Leaders in Ise-Shima, Japan. The PEF is in view of an insurance window, which combines funding from the reinsurance markets with the proceeds of World Bank-issued pandemic (catastrophe, or Cat) bonds, as well as a complementary cash window.

News 48: Four Agreements on defence cooperation signed by India and Oman

The Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar during his visit to Oman signed four Memorandums of Understanding on bilateral defence co-operation including enhanced military to military exchanges.



These four MOUs include an MOU on defence cooperation between the ministry of defence of Sultanate of Oman and Ministry of Defence of Republic of India; an MoU was signed between the Royal Oman Police (Coast Guard) and the Indian Coast Guard in the field of marine crime prevention at sea. Another MoU was signed on maritime issues and a protocol between Oman represented by Royal Air Force of Oman and India represented by the Indian Air Force was signed on flight safety information exchange.

News 49: India and Iran ink 12 Bilateral Agreements

India and Iran inked 12 MOU to jointly combat terror, radicalism and cybercrime as the two strategic partners in the form of 12 agreements including a "milestone" pact on developing the key Chabahar port for which India will provide \$500 million. 12 agreements include cultural exchange program, policy dialogue, training of diplomats, protocol on science and technology, cooperation between ICCR and ICRO, Chabahar Port, EXIM bank and Central bank of Iran cooperation etc.



The bilateral agreement to develop the Chabahar port and related infrastructure, and availability of about \$500 million from India for this purpose, is an important milestone.

News 50: Erdogan likely to take charge as Turkish PM

Turkey's Transport Minister Binali Yildirim emerged as the likely new leader of the ruling AK Party and therefore the next prime minister, cementing President Tayyip Erdogan's hold. Yildirim, 60, and a close ally of Erdogan for two decades, will be the sole candidate for the AKP leadership at a special party congress.



The AKP will elect a new leader after Ahmet Davutoglu announced his retirement and therefore as prime minister following an increasingly public rift with Erdogan. A new cabinet could be announced soon.

News 51: Maldives' Ex-President Mohamed Nasheed Granted Asylum by UK

Britain has granted political refugee status to ousted former President of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed. The 49-year-old Nasheed had been allowed to go to Britain in January for a spinal cord surgery following a deal brokered by Sri Lanka, India and the UK.



Mr. Nasheed became Maldives' first democratically elected leader in 2008. He was supposed to return to Maldives after the treatment, but remained in London where his wife and daughters have been living since he was jailed. Nasheed was jailed for 13 years on terrorism charges. He was accorded a red carpet welcome by Prime Minister David Cameron after arriving in Britain for his treatment.

News 52: Obama announced an end to its restriction on sales of lethal weapons to Vietnam

The US has announced an end to its restriction on sales of lethal weapons to Vietnam during President Obama's official three-day visit to Vietnam, where he made the announcement. The embargo partially lifted in 2014 by Obama allowed Vietnam to purchase naval-defense equipment.



It was a move by US to strengthen its relationship with its Pacific allies, as China asserts territorial claims. Vietnam is one of several countries in the region involved in maritime disputes with China. The US insists on the right to freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

News 53: New Disability Charter Endorsed at the UN Humanitarian Summit

A new charter named as the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, to significantly improve living conditions of persons with disabilities during emergencies has been endorsed at the United Nations World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.



This Charter is based on five principals:

- Non-discrimination and recognition of the diversity of people with disabilities;
- Involvement of people with disabilities in developing humanitarian programs;
- Ensuring services and humanitarian assistance are equally available for and accessible to all people with disabilities;
- Implementation of inclusive global policies; and
- Cooperation and coordination among humanitarian actors to improve inclusion of people with disabilities.

News 54: Baciro Dja appointed as Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau

The President Jose Mario Vaz of Guinea Bissau named Baciro Dja as Prime Minister according to a Presidential Decree. Dja succeeds Carlos Correia, who was sacked earlier this month. Political opponents have opposed the appointment terming it to be unconstitutional.



The ruling party which is known as the Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), said it would not support Dja.

The West-African nation has not seen a democratically elected leader serve a full term since independence in 1974.

News 55: World Humanitarian Summit Concludes in Istanbul

The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit concluded in Istanbul. The summit endorsed five responsibilities to improve aid delivery, support refugees, uphold international law, increase financing and prevent the crises generating the largest migration flows in 70 years.

The two-day Summit brought together 55 Heads of State and Government and other officials from 173 countries. The main achievement of the summit was the Grand Bargain, which is the name for a set of 51 commitments to reform humanitarian financing to make emergency aid finance more efficient and effective.



MISCELLANEOUS

- The World Press Freedom Day was observed across the world on 3 May 2016. The theme was **Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms - This Is Your Right!**
- **Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) RM Lodha** is appointed as the head of a three-member panel by the Supreme Court of India to oversee the functions of the Medical Council of India.
- European Commission will grant conditional approval for visa-free travel within the EU's Schengen area to **Turkey**.
- The combined output of eight Core Sector accelerated in March 2016 to 16-month high of **6.4%**.
- **INA Airavat** will participate in the ADMM Plus (ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus) Exercise on Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism (Ex MS & CT) from 1 May to 9 May 16.
- The United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, has called for immediate transfer of refugees and asylum seekers out of the Australian-run detention camps on both - **Manus Island and Nauru**
- World Asthma Day was observed globally on 3 May 2016. The theme was **You Can Control Your Asthma**.
- **Uber** will allow Paytm wallet users to pay for their cab rides abroad in Indian rupees by the end of May 2016.
- A mango that fights night blindness and found in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh saves high-value 'nutraceutical' plants is **Manoranjitam**.
- The world's largest unmanned surface vessel, **Sea Hunter**, was tested by United States of America (US) Navy in San Diego.
- Madhya Pradesh Government will launch Nagaroday Abhiyan on the lines of Gramoday **Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan**.
- **Eduardo Cunha**, Brazil's Lower House Speaker, was suspended by Brazil's top court from his mandate, following a request by the country's Attorney General.
- **Infosys** proposal to set up an IT/ITeS special economic zone in Bengaluru was approved by Union government.
- **Leander Paes and Sam Groth** won the doubles title of Busan Open Challenger tennis tournament.
- **Novak Djokovic** won 2016 Mutua Madrid Open men's singles title.
- Atomic Oxygen was detected in the upper layers of the Martian atmosphere called as **Mesosphere** and the instrument used was **Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)**.

- The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion allowed 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) into **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) sector**.
- The Union Government constituted the three member **Sanjay Mitra** committee to prepare a policy framework for taxi and other transport operators.
- The 3-member State Food Commission headed by **Ranglal Jamuda, former Union secretary, Food Processing Industries** was constituted by Odisha Government in May 2016.
- **Werner Faymann**, Austrian Chancellor, resigned after losing the support of Social Democratic party colleagues.
- India finished **third** in the overall standings of 7th Asian Youth Championships held in Pavlodar, Kazakhstan.
- In Mizoram, the administration of **Mamit** district on the Mizoram-Bangladesh border issued an order prohibiting import of chicken, bird, duck and eggs from Bangladesh and Tripura.
- **Facebook** won the trademark case in China.
- Who killed Swami Laxmananada is a book written by **Kuldip Nayar**.
- The Supreme Court struck down the order of **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** making it mandatory for telecom companies to compensate subscribers for call drops.
- An ASSOCHAM study indicates the drought in 10 Indian states may lead to a **Rs. 650000 crores** losses to the Indian economy.
- The author of the novel named The Drowned Detective is **Neil Jordan**.
- The Union Government has declared May 16 as National Dengue Day.
- The Union Government has asked the **Odisha government** to lay aerial Optical Fibre Cable on electric poles in rural areas so that internet connections can be provided to gram panchayats at a lower cost under the Digital India scheme.
- The Maharashtra Ex-Servicemen's Corporation recently launched a military tourism initiative in Pune, named **Veer Yatra**.
- Chief of Air Staff **Arup Raha** became the first CAS to fly the indigenously designed and produced Light Combat Aircraft Tejas.
- Himalayan brown bears came into news after being sighted for the first time after 1999 in **Kargil**.
- Draft National Policy for Women that was unveiled for consultation by Union Government seeks to replace **National Policy for Empowerment of Women, 2001**.

- **NK Singh** heads the five-member committee to give recommendations on the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM).
- The British publicist who coined the phrase "Fab Four" to describe the early Beatles, and died in May 2016 is **Tony Barrow**.
- The 27th series of CORPAT was conducted between the Indian Navy and **Indonesian Navy**.
- Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer **A V S Ramesh Chandra** was appointed as the Ambassador of India to Romania.
- The cyclonic storm over the west central Bay of Bengal that will strike Andhra Pradesh coast is **ROANU**.
- As per the World Health Statistics 2016, the life expectancy for children born in India in 2015 is **68.3 years**.
- India signed 4 MoUs/Agreements on defence cooperation with **Oman**.
- Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram Hospital has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for opening an Ayurvedic centre in **China**.
- S K Sharma was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited**.
- The Indian para-athlete who clinched gold medal in the men's club throw F-51 event at the 2016 French Open Athletics Championship is **Amit Kumar Saroha**.
- A jury in San Francisco cleared Google of copyright infringement in a case brought by Oracle over - **Google's use of Java in Android**
- **Sanjay Bangar** was appointed as the head coach of Indian Cricket team for Zimbabwe tour.
- The National Academy For Training & Research In Social Security (NATRSS) has been renamed as Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS).
- **"Mission 11 Million"** to engage more than 11 million children in activities relating to Football to be launched in **October, 2016**.

News 1: Prime Minister launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Ballia

01/05/2016. On the occasion of Labour day, PM launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh with the objective to provide benefit of cooking gas connections to five crore below-poverty-line beneficiaries over the next three years and unite workers across the world.



The Prime Minister emphasized that schemes must be designed keeping in mind the welfare of the poor, and not merely to derive electoral benefit. He said that the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will benefit the poor, especially the women.

News 2: Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016 to be in action

01/05/2016. Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 came into action on 1 May 2016 for necessary operational rules and creation of institutional infrastructure for protecting the interests of consumers. It promotes the growth of real estate and increase transparency in execution of projects.



Act envisages setting up of Real Estate Regulatory Authorities and Appellate Tribunals for adjudication of disputes. The Act also empowers appropriate Governments to designate any officer preferably Secretary of the Department dealing with Housing, as the interim Regulatory Authority.

News 3: India, New Zealand inked MOU on Air Services

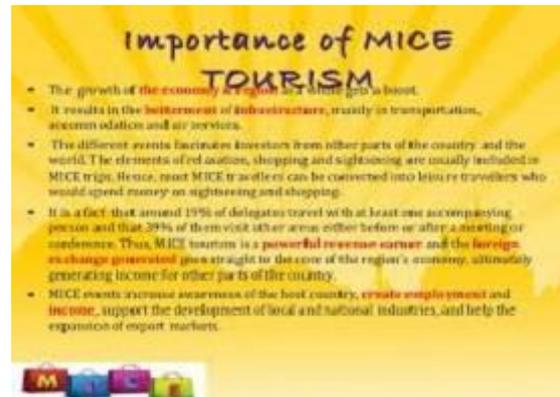
The Air Services Agreement signifies an important landmark in the civil aviation relations between India and New Zealand and has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges between the two countries. India and New Zealand signed MOU on Air Services Agreement in the presence of the President Pranab Mukherjee and the New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, to facilitate direct flights between the two countries and promote international air services between their respective territories.



News 4: MICE tourism initiative introduced by Ministry of tourism

The newly introduced tourism policy named as MICE initiative is going to increase tourism in India which was promoted at an event with theme 'Thought Leadership Meet on MICE Tourism in India,' organized by industry body ASSOCHAM. The Ministry is also pushing the case that the facility of e Tourist Visa should be extended to MICE segment as well.

Specialized MICE tour operators will be employed for the growth in this sector in 2016. Overall, with the recent developments by the ministry for this segment, industry expects MICE to be the next big game changer for the Indian economy.



News 5: The Supreme Court sets-up RM Lodha-panel to reform MCI

The Supreme Court has set-up a 3-member panel headed by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) RM Lodha to regulate the Medical Council of India. The other two members in the panel are former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai and Dr. SK Sareen.

The court appointed the panel citing the repeated failure of MCI towards its duties and degrading quality of the medical education in the country. The high-powered committee will take over the functions of MCI.



News 6: MoU inked for plantation of trees alongside Railway Track

Indian Railways Chief Engineer Pankaj Saxena inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of Railways with forest departments of Haryana and Punjab for plantation alongside around 5 lakh trees alongside Railway Track on Railway Land Boundary, thus contributing towards the Green India Mission.

Forest department will be involved in the plantation as well as maintenance and disposal of trees, thus bringing afforestation and protecting railway land from encroachment. All Zonal railways have been asked to execute similar agreement between their zones and concerned State Forest departments as early as possible.



News 7: Portal for Contract Labour Payment Management System launched

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy launched 'Contract Labour Payment Management System'- a portal of Coal India Limited (CIL). Through this portal, the wages will be calculated and credited directly in bank account of the all contractual labourers.



The portal will be handled by the Central Mine Planning and Development Institute (CMPDI), Ranchi. It provides access to all contract workers, through a Workers Identification Number (WIN), to look into their personal details and payment status.

News 8: Memorandum of Cooperation to be signed between MWCD and BMGF

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) between Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). The MoC was approved for the cooperation in Information and Communication Technology enabled Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and other related technical matters.



The MoC would cover 162 high malnutrition burden districts of eight States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

News 9: Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill passed by Lok Sabha

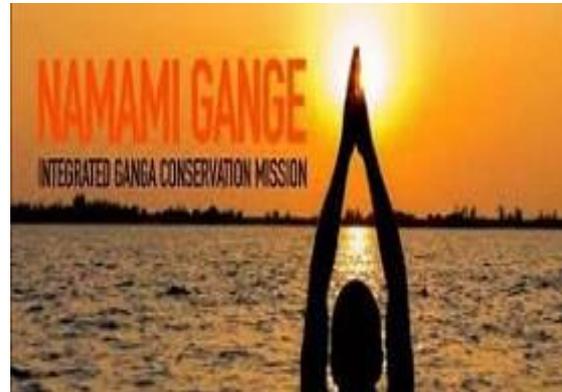
Lok Sabha has passed the Compensatory Afforestation Fund bill, 2015. The Bill seeks towards setting up of a National Compensatory Afforestation Fund and also a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund. It will ensure utilization of accumulated unspent amounts of Rs 41000 crore available with the ad hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).



The bill also ensures that the funds encourage compensatory afforestation. The national fund will receive 10% of it, and the remaining 90% by the states.

News 10: Projects worth Rs. 2446 Crore approved under Namami Gange Program

The Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has approved projects worth Rs. 2446 crores. These projects have been carved to improve the facilities of Ghats and crematoria for reduction of pollution load into river Ganga as well as afforestation along the banks from Haridwar to Uttarakhand Border in Uttarakhand, Garhmukteshwar in UP, Buxar, Hajipur and Sonapur of Bihar, Sahibganj, Rajmahal and Kanhaiya Ghat of Jharkhand and Delhi.



All the projects will be implemented under centrally sponsored scheme of Namami Gange and Government of India would bear 100% costs.

News 11: Ministry of Commerce launches web-based dashboard for export, import data

The Commerce Ministry launched a web-based dashboard to provide an easy access to detailed trade data of the country with the help of a graphical collection of export and import from India

At present, monthly data from April 2014 till January 2016 has been provided. Older data will be added soon. The dashboard would give an accurate data on the facts around the trade performance in India.



Such initiative will help upcoming entrepreneurs to explore global trade by merely looking at turnover trade data of country.

News 12: Suresh Prabhu Launches Wi-Fi hotspot at Kachiguda, Vijayawada and Raipur

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhu launched a high speed Wi-Fi hotspot at the three Railway Stations namely, Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Kachiguda (Telangana) & Raipur (Chhattisgarh). The Wi-Fi facility has been commissioned by Railway Ministry PSU RailTel in association with Google in order to provide high speed internet experience to the travelers.



The Railway is soon going to launch Wi-Fi at 14 more stations & will cover 100 stations by the end of this year. In this project Wi Fi will be provided at approximately 400 stations i.e. all A1 / A category Railway stations.

News 13: Lok Sabha passes the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Bill

The Lok Sabha passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill 2016 based on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015 chaired by Bhupender Yadav. The law will ensure time-bound settlement of insolvency, enable faster turnaround of businesses and create a data base of serial defaulters — all critical in resolving India's bad debt problem which has crippled bank lending.



This Bill is being seen as a "transformational" legislation that will help improve India's ranking in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' index.

News 14: Railway Minister launches new passenger train services for J&K

The Indian Railways has launched two new passenger train services in Kashmir Valley. Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu launched the new passenger trains between Banihal-Baramulla and Baramulla-Budgam regions through video conferencing. The two trains will enhance the rail movement in the region. It will also help the visiting tourists in the valley.



At present 13 pairs of DEMU services already ply on the rail sections providing all-weather connectivity in the region.

News 15: Union Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Qatar

The Union Cabinet was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Qatar for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of Information Communication Technology signed in March, 2015. The MoU was ratified by both India and Qatar on 1st January, 2016 and 12th January, 2016.



The MoU will result in active cooperation and exchanges between the private entities, capacity building institutions, Governments and other public organizations of the two countries in the field of ICT.

News 16: Swinburne University of Technology in Australia inked two MoU with India to provide medical technology

The Swinburne University of Technology in Australia is partnering with the leading Indian medical organizations to address the growing health issues. It will work closely with Medanta, one of India's largest private hospitals, to improve the diagnosis of epilepsy in villages and remote communities across India.



Swinburne also signed a memorandum of understanding with the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences to develop a cutting edge 'smart helmet' that will reduce the incidence of head injuries for motorcyclists.

News 17: India–Japan to sign MOU for Cooperation in Sports

India and Japan will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the field of sports and the two countries agreed for exchange of sportspersons, coaches, sports experts, sports administrators etc. With India ready to host Under-17 FIFA World Cup in 2017, the two countries will also play friendly football matches.



Mr. Hase Hiroshi, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Government of Japan informed that the Government of Japan has launched 'SPORT FOR TOMORROW' to promote sports to more than 10 million people in 100 nations between 2014 and 2020, the year when Tokyo will host the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports will also attend "World Forum on Sport and Culture" to be held in October 2016 in Tokyo.

News 18: Government starts UBIN drive for new entrepreneurs

The Government of India has begun an exercise for issuance of Unique Business Identification Number (UBIN) for budding entrepreneurs to start their new businesses without any delay. It will help them to seamlessly interact with a host of government departments.



The drive has been launched by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) under the aegis of Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The UBIN would be automatically linked to Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) portal and will be subsequently sent to the CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) which would nomenclature it as PAN for UBIN.

News 19: All India Single Emergency number 112 from 1 January 2017

The Government of India has come up with single emergency number '112' to be operational throughout India from January 2017 to help people reach immediate services of police, ambulance and fire department. As soon as new number will be in action, all other existing emergency numbers will be phased out. The process to transfer calls made on to 112 to concerned departments is being worked out by Telecom operators.



A user will be able to make communication via SMS or landline and the system will learn about the location of the caller that will be shared with the nearest help centre. The best feature of this facility is that callers will be able to feed '112' in panic button system and panic button will enable users to make emergency call or send alerts to multiple numbers just by pressing a button.

News 20: Anti-Hijacking bill passed in Parliament

The Parliament has passed the Anti-Hijacking Bill, 2016 after Lok Sabha approved it. The Rajya Sabha had passed it earlier. The Bill provides for the death penalty even if ground handling staff and airport personnel are killed during such acts.



In the previous Bill, hijackers could be tried for the death penalty only in the event of death of hostages, such as flight crew, passengers and security personnel. It says, Hijacking and the related offences shall be extraditable.

News 21: Railwire – an Initiative of the RailTel

RailWire was in news Google launches Free Public Wi-Fi Service at 5 Railway Stations as part of it. It is a retail Broadband initiative of the RailTel, with a mission to make available "ICT (Information and Communications technology) to Common Man" & "Internet, Education and Health Services to Masses".



RailTel extends broadband and application services to the masses through the RailWire platform. RailWire leverages RailTel's considerable infrastructure and presence Pan-India. RailWire aims to provide value-added services in Retail sector, Education sector, Health & Spiritual Lifestyle. RailWire is all about managing the end-broadband-customers through own infrastructure.

News 22: India signs revised tax treaty with Mauritius

In a bid to prevent "abuse" of the tax avoidance treaty, India signed with Mauritius an amendment to the pact to get rights to tax capital gains on shares of Indian company sold after April 1, 2017. With the signing of the amendment to the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) with Mauritius, sale of shares of an Indian resident company will be taxed at 50 per cent of the applicable rate between April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2019. Full capital gains tax will apply from April 1, 2019.



It will tackle the long pending issues of treaty abuse and round tripping of funds attributed to the India-Mauritius treaty, curb revenue loss, prevent double non-taxation, streamline the flow of investment and stimulate the flow of exchange of information between India and Mauritius.

News 23: Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Sets Up Committee to Frame Policy for Taxi Operators

The Union government has set up a committee to prepare a policy framework for taxi and other transport operators. The panel will be headed by Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Sanjay Mitra, and have Joint Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and Delhi Transport Commissioner as its members.



A group of taxi and other transport operators had met Shri Nitin Gadkari apprising him of the situation that has emerged following Supreme Court's order dated 15th December 2015 and directions of EPCA dated 29th April 2016 banning diesel taxis in the NCR, and the various problems they are facing as a result of the ban.

News 24: Parliamentary Panel recommended PM-headed authority on Ganga Rejuvenation

The Estimates Committee of Parliament, chaired by BJP Veteran Murli Manohar Joshi, recommended an overarching and fully empowered authority headed by the Prime Minister to restore the purity and glory of River Ganga by July 2018 after Ganga was declared one of the 10 most polluted rivers in the world. The panel has recommended to cut down on the red tape involving various ministries and state governments.



The empowered authority will comprise of the representatives of all the concerned Union ministries and state governments.

News 25: Rajya Sabha passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

The Rajya Sabha passed a major economic reform Bill moved by the Government i.e. 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016'. This is considered as the biggest economic reform next only to GST. The Lok Sabha had earlier passed the Bill on 5th May, 2016. The Bill is based on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015 chaired by Bhupender Yadav. The committee submitted the report to government on 28 April 2016.



For further details: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=0>

News 26: Inter-Governmental Agreement between India and Mauritius on cooperation in cooperatives and related fields

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of an Inter-Governmental Agreement between India and Mauritius on cooperation in cooperatives and related fields. The Agreement between the two countries will be for a duration of five years after which it will be automatically extended for another five years.



The Government of Mauritius has shown keen Interest to develop Institutional Mechanism between Cooperative Development Fund (CDF) set up by it and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) so as to benefit from NCUI's experience in Cooperative Development.

News 27: NITI Aayog to replace 5-year plans with 15-year vision document

The Central Government has decided to get rid of the five-year plans. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog will come up with a 15-year vision document in tandem with global trends and economic growth. The current 12th Five-Year Plan will be terminated in the current financial year, 2016-17. The first 15-year vision document will start from 2017-18, along with a seven-year National Development Agenda.



The 15-year vision document will also include internal security and defence that have not been a part of five-year plans.

News 28: Govt approves Rs 1,984-cr Delhi-Meerut Expressway stretch

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the widening of the crucial UP Gate to Dasna stretch of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway. The project will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 1,983 crore. It includes the cost of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and other pre-construction activities. The total length of the road will be approximately 19 kms.



The other two stretches – Akshardham temple to UP Gate and Dasna to Hapur have already been approved by the Cabinet.

News 29: Railways to constitute Mobility Directorate, Non-Fare Revenue Directorate

The Indian Railways have set up two new directorates - Non-Fare Revenue and Mobility directorates. The Non-Fare Revenue Directorate (NFR) to increase revenue by 10 per cent to 20 per cent from non-tariff sources like advertising and commercial exploitation of vacant rail land. The Mobility Directorate will address various factors affecting train movement at enhanced speeds in a focused manner.



The new Directorate would work directly under the supervision of Chairman, Railway Board.

News 30: Working visit of President of Sri Lanka to India (May 13-14, 2016)

H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, made a working visit to India on May 13 and 14. He addressed the valedictory session at the Vaicharick Mahakumbh which being held as part of the Simhastha Mahakumbh in Ujjain on the 14th of May. He also visited Sanchi where he toured the World famous Sanchi Stupa and attended a function by the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka during which he unveiled a statue of Angarika Dharmapala.



This visit by H.E. Sirisena will contribute to further strengthening the close and cooperative relations between India and Sri Lanka.

News 31: Cabinet approves National Intellectual Property Rights Policy

The Union Cabinet approved the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy that will lay the future roadmap for intellectual property in India. The Policy recognizes the abundance of creative and innovative energies that flow in India, and the need to tap into and channelize these energies towards a better and brighter future for all.



The National IPR Policy is a vision document that aims to create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies. The National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy will endeavor for a "Creative India; Innovative India: रचनात्मक भारत; अभिनव भारत".

News 32: India's first Solar-Powered Train Set for Trial in Jodhpur

In line with its 'Solar Mission', the Indian Railways will soon commence trials of coaches fitted with solar panels which will power all the electrical appliances inside a train. The first trial run will be conducted in Jodhpur. It will help reduce 239 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions by saving approximately 90,800 liters of diesel per rake.



A Noida-based firm Jakson Engineers Limited (JEL), which was awarded a Rs 1.57-crore contract last October by the Indian Railways Organisation for Alternate Fuels for fitting solar panels on 50 DEMU coaches, has completed the work on one rake of Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU), which has six coaches.

News 33: India signs an agreement with WHO to promote yoga, Ayurveda

India has signed a historic Project Collaboration Agreement (PCA) with the World Health Organization (WHO) for cooperation on promoting the quality, safety and effectiveness of service provision in traditional and complementary medicine.



The PCA aims at supporting WHO in the development and implementation of the 'WHO Traditional and Complementary Medicine Strategy. It will also contribute to the global promotion of traditional Indian Systems of Medicine. The PCA for the period 2016-2020 will deliver for the first time WHO benchmark document for training in Yoga, and WHO benchmarks for practice in Ayurveda, Unani and Panchakarma.

News 34: Indo-US Brain Trust formed to deepen scientific collaboration

India and the US have formed a Brain Trust aimed at strengthening cooperation between the scientific community of the two countries. It is to enable strengthening the collaboration in various areas like science, research, academia, entrepreneurship and innovation.

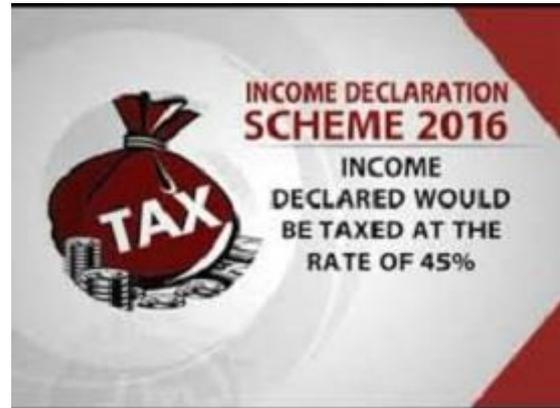


Dr. Krishna Banaudha spearheaded the efforts to establish the Indo-U.S. Brain Trust, along with Ron Somers, the founder of the India First Group and a former president of the U.S.-India Business Council.

News 35: The Income Declaration Scheme 2016 to open from 1st June 2016.

The Income Declaration Scheme, 2016 incorporated as Chapter IX of the Finance Act 2016 provides an opportunity to all persons who have not declared income correctly in earlier years to come forward and declare such undisclosed income(s).

Under this Scheme, such income as declared by the eligible persons, would be taxed at the rate of 30% plus a 'Krishi Kalyan Cess' of 25% on the taxes payable and a penalty at the rate of 25% of the taxes payable, thereby totaling to 45% of the income declared under the scheme.



News 36: 'Simhastha Declaration' released in Ujjain

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena released 'Simhastha Declaration' at Ninora village in Ujjain during the two-day visit of the Sri Lankan President to India from 13 May to 15 May 2016. 51 sacred points have been included in this declaration for betterment of mankind.



During the event, sessions on sanitation, sustainable development and climate change, values of life, peace, agriculture and cottage industry were organized. Saints and seers, scholars and subject experts from the country and abroad discussed on various issues in the sessions of 'Vichar Mahakumbh'.

News 37: Indian short film 'Beti' to be screened at Seattle International Film Festival

The Indian short film "Beti" has been invited for a special screening at the 42nd Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF), Washington DC. It is a non-fiction short film on girl child education. This four-minute documentary is made by young student filmmakers of Chandigarh. It is the only short film from India to be featured amongst 421 films representing 85 countries.



This movie is directed by Shivain Arora. The film narrates real life story of three girls from a government school and their dream for the future.

News 38: Union Government launched INFRACON, ePACE and Up-Scaled INAM PRO

The Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari launched ePACE, INFRACON and an updated version of INAMPRO, three innovative IT initiatives of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, developed in house by NHIDCL (National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.)



- **ePACE** (Projects Appraisal & Continuing Enhancements) is an online integrated Management Information System that brings projects from all wings of the Ministry under a common platform, ensuring their effective and real time tracking.
- **INFRACON** is the National Portal for Infrastructure Consultancy Firms and Key Personnel. This portal acts as a kind of bridge between consultancy firms working in the road engineering and construction sector and domain experts and key personnel who are deployed both for project preparation and supervision.
- **INAM PRO** has been developed as a web-based application (www.inampro.nic.in) for Infrastructure and Material Providers. It is a kind of a web based market place that brings together the material providers and the prospective buyers on a common platform.

News 39: India Post goes Hi-Tech by Geo-Tagging the Post Offices

India Post is going hi-tech. The Postal Department has started monitoring timely clearance of the letter boxes through a mobile app.

In association with the Department of Space, it has geo-tagged over 1.5 lakh post offices on the indigenous geo-portal Bhuvan, developed by ISRO, in order to help people search the nearest post office and know about services and timings. India Post has over 1.55 lakh post offices of which more than 1.39 lakh are in the rural areas.



News 40: Centre Approves Proposal to Set Up Kalinganagar National Investment Manufacturing Zone

The Union Government has approved the Odisha Government's proposal to set up Kalinganagar National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (KNNIMZ) at Kalinganagar in Jajpur district. It will be a mega industrial zone.

The project is expected to invite Rs1 lakh crore investment and generate 1.5 lakh direct jobs. This is the third Investment and Manufacturing Zone of India. The state government plans to establish the zone on over 40 thousand acre of land by spending more than 10 thousand crore rupees.



News 41: India and Bangladesh sign Nuclear Agreement

India has signed a nuclear agreement with Bangladesh. The nuclear agreement has signed between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Bangladesh department of science and technology. The core of the new engagement is all 21st century — Energy, Connectivity, Security. As per the deal, India will equip and train Bangladesh to import their first nuclear power plant from Russia.

India wants to transport LPG and LNG to the northeastern states — through Bangladesh. New Delhi also wants to generate power in the northeast and have it pass through Bangladesh.



News 42: 15 day Swachh Office drive launched across the country

A 15-day special 'Swachh Office Drive' for ensuring cleanliness at all Government offices across the country was launched by the Union Government as an intensive thematic campaign under Swachh Bharat Mission.

Norms suggested therein include ensuring water supply @ 45 liters per head per day, one toilet for every 25 persons, urinals to be provided based on employee strength, removal of stains every week, checking electrical fittings twice a week, acid cleaning and scrubbing of toilets daily, schedule of inspections etc.



News 43: Govt unveils Draft National Policy for Women

Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi today unveiled a Draft National Policy for Women that focuses on safety and security aspect of women, their economic upliftment and nutrition. The Minister has sought comments on the draft policy so that the final document can be a true reflection of the voice of all women.



Ms. Gandhi said, her Ministry is also considering to put in place a mobile application with panic button for the help of women in case of emergency. She said, sex ratio for girl has risen from 830 to 907 per thousand male children in the state.

News 44: Improved VRS for employees of Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to the proposal for offering an improved Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) package based on 2007 notional pay scales for the employees of Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation (HVOC). The Government assistance will be in the form of non-plan grant of approximately Rs.27.56 crore to the company. HVOC is a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).



The employees of HVOC are in very old pay scales of 1992 due to sickness of the company. The improved VRS package will give fair amounts of compensation to the employees and help them in their post retirement rehabilitation.

News 45: Centre to issue Universal Identity Cards to Divyangs

The Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Krishna Pal Gurjar has announced that the Central Government will soon issue Universal Identity Cards to Divyangs in the country.



The Universal Identity Card will be valid throughout the country. According to 2011 census report, there are 2 crore 68 lakhs divyangs living in the country. MOS social justice said that central is already implementing several schemes to make them self-sufficient. On this occasion he distributed tricycles, wheel chairs and ear implants to 504 divyangs of Amorha district.

News 46: Site for construction of National War Memorial and National War Museum

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised of the decision taken by the Empowered Apex Steering Committee (EASC) that Princess Park Complex would be the suitable site for construction of the National War Museum.

With regards to the National War Memorial, the same would be constructed at 'C' Hexagon of India Gate as approved by the Cabinet in its meeting held in October, 2015.



News 47: Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer Scheme – 2016 to be Made Central Sector Scheme

The Government is revising the rehabilitation of bonded labour scheme and increasing the quantum of financial assistance from Rs. 20 thousand to one lakh rupees. This scheme proposes to increase the budget provision from Rs. 5 crores to about Rs. 47 crores per annum. While the most deprived and marginalized like the disabled, female and children rescued from trafficking, sexual exploitation and transgender will get Rs. 3 lakhs, the next in order is the special category comprising of females and the minors who will now get Rs. 2 lakhs. A normal adult male bonded labour will get Rs. 1 lakh, the Minister added.



The money will remain in an annuity account, controlled by the District Magistrate and a monthly earning will flow to the beneficiary account for his/her comfortable living. The corpus remains untouched until decided by the DM.

News 48: Ola signs MoU with Government to benefit National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation

The Mobile app based cab service Ola inked an MoU with National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) established under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will focus at benefitting these people and their dependents by enabling livelihood opportunities, especially for women beneficiaries identified by NSKFDC.



This initiative of NSKFDC, serves the twin purpose of security for women and their economic empowerment by giving training to women drivers. Ola aims to add 10,000 driver-partners on its platform over the next five years by mobilizing, training and engaging with aspirants through such partnerships. Under this MoU, Ola will provide driver-partner micro-entrepreneurship opportunities on its platform for those who are identified and trained by NSKFDC.

News 49: Web portal e-nivaran launched to fast track taxpayer grievances

A separate and dedicated window for grievance redressal has been launched in the Income Tax Business Application (ITBA) to be popularly known as 'e-nivaran' in order to fast track taxpayer grievances and ensure early resolution of their complaints.



Grievances will be directly handled by concerned dept and maintains the database of the origin of grievance in electronic form. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has made a separate structure in the department to deal with these issues called-- Taxpayer Services unit. Top officials of the department have been allotted a specific class of complaints to monitor and track, from their origin to successful resolution.

News 50: Union Health Ministry introduced Kayakalp Fortnight scheme

To implement the vision of Swatch Bharat Mission, Union health ministry launched 'Kayakalp Fortnight' at AIIMS, which shall be observed throughout the country in various central government hospitals from 20th May, 2016 to 3rd June, 2016.

As part of Kayakalp, various support services such as laundry and food are provided at various locations; waste management as per standards is undertaken; and infection control measures are taken. Committees and sub-committees are formed to periodically review and monitor the progress made in these areas.



News 51: Launch of a Mobile App Monitor and Intelligent Operations Centre by the Indian President

President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated an Intelligent Operations Centre and a Mobile App Monitor for transformation of President's Estate into a smart township which will work on 4H theme of a Humane, Hi-tech, Heritage and Happy Township.

The IOC is a software solution designed by IBM which helps collect and make sense of the rich data streaming in from several sources within the Estate to provide intelligent insights, integrated data visualization, near real-time collaboration and deep. The "Monitor" mobile application will enable residents to report issues such as broken street lights, electricity failure, water wastage etc. and check resolution status using their mobile devices and provide enough details such as location coordinates, address etc. to concerned departments.



News 52: Centre for Environmental Health launched to assess environmental effect on health

The Health Ministry launched the Centre for Environmental Health to assess the impact of environment-related problems like air pollution, climate change, pesticide use and sanitation on health by conducting a conduct research across a range of environmental health issues, including chemical exposure, water and hygiene with the help of Public Health Foundation of India and the Tata Institute of Social Science.



It has been decided that Centre will also establish a policy engagement platform with regular meetings with the government, civil society, academia and the private sector to develop pathways for better implementation of the eco-friendly policies.

News 53: Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement inked between India and Slovenia

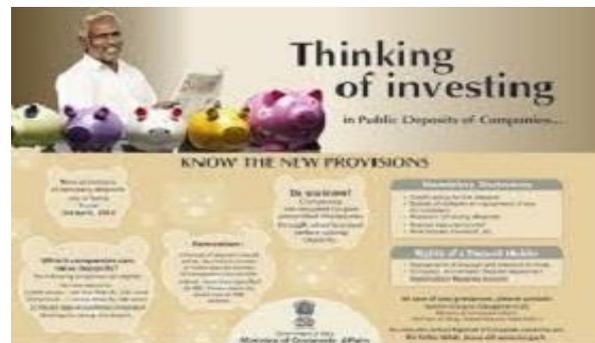
India and Slovenia have signed a Protocol in Ljubljana to make changes in the existing Convention and Protocol between the two countries for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.



The Protocol will not only broaden the area of the existing framework of exchange of tax related information which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance between the two countries but also enable mutual assistance in collection of taxes. Mr. Sarvajit Chakravarti, Ambassador of India to Slovenia on behalf of India and Mr. Dusan Mramor, the Slovenian Minister of Finance on behalf of Slovenia, signed the protocol.

News 54: Govt creates Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority

Government has constituted the six-member Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority under the chairmanship of Corporate Affairs Secretary Tapan Ray, to improve the framework for safeguarding the interest of investors.



The authority will take care of the fund as well as maintain separate accounts and other records as prescribed by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). Other members include SEBI Executive Director Gyan Bhushan and RBI Executive Director U S Paliwal. Amardeep Singh Bhatia has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer to the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority.

News 55: The second batch of 13 Smart City Mission announced by the Centre

The first batch of 20 smart cities was announced on 28 January 2016. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Smart City Mission announced 2nd batch of 13 smart cities. Lucknow topped the list of winners of the Fast Track competition conducted for 23 cities from as many States and Union Territories.



Besides Lucknow, Warangal (Telangana), Dharamsala (Himachal Pradesh), Chandigarh, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), New Town Kolkata (West Bengal), Bhagalpur (Bihar), Panaji (Goa), Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Imphal (Manipur), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Faridabad (Haryana) make it to the list of cities that will be developed as smart cities.

News 56: Trilateral Transit and Transport Corridor agreement between three countries

India, Iran and Afghanistan inked the agreement on Trilateral Transit and Transport Corridor to ease transport of goods between India and Afghanistan via the Chabahar port. This would not only curtail down cargo tariffs but also increase regional economic development. Besides, India and Iran also signed an agreement for the development of the Chabahar port in Iran at an estimated cost of 150 million US dollars.



The agreement was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Hassan Rouhani of Iran and the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Tehran.

News 57: State boards excluded from NEET this year, ordinance signed by President

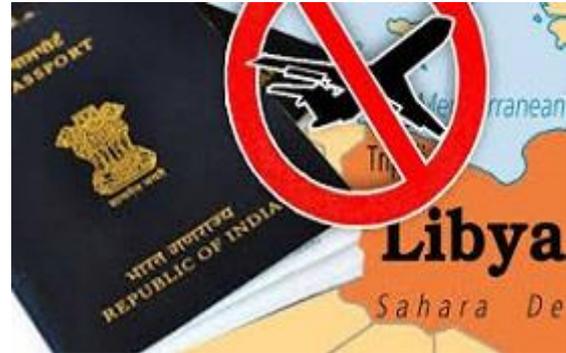
President Pranab Mukherjee signed the Ordinance to keep state boards excluded of the common entrance test (NEET) for MBBS and dental courses for this year. The President asked for clarification by Health Minister J. P. Nadda before signing the ordinance on three main issues including different exams of state boards, syllabi and regional languages.



The President took legal advice as well before signing the ordinance. The court had directed that a common entrance test — NEET— will be held across India for MBBS and dental courses but due to opposition raised by state governments, it has been ordered to keep state boards out of NEET this year.

News 58: India bans its nationals from travelling to Libya

Due to security concerns, India has banned its nationals from travelling to Libya. There has been security threats and challenges to lives of Indian nationals in Libya. The travel ban is effective from 3 May, 2016 till further orders. The said decision was announced as a Libyan former minister being killed in clashes between unity government forces and fighters of the Islamic State jihadist group in Sirte.



There has been violence observed in Libya and the said ban is for security and safeguard of Indian citizens.

News 59: Lok Sabha Speaker to conduct a 3-day Northeast Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference

The Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan would inaugurate the three-day conference of the Northeast Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (NERCPA) in the Assembly house of Tripura on May 30. The Conference would be conducted to make strong the NERCPA for further development of Northeast region states and soil erosion in Northeast India and its impact on the local population and how political intervention could help to resolve the issue.



Speakers and Deputy Speakers of all the eight North-eastern states are expected to attend the conference.

News 60: I&B Ministry Frames Policy guidelines for Central Government advertisements on websites

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has framed guidelines and criteria for Empanelment of suitable agencies and Rate fixation for advertisements on websites. Only websites which are owned and operated by companies that are incorporated in India will be considered for empanelment by Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP).



However, websites owned by foreign companies/origin can still be empaneled if such companies have branch offices which are registered and operating in India for at least one year.

News 61: Ministry of Railways to launch “Rail Humsafar Saptah”

The Ministry of Railways has decided to launch RAIL HAMSAFAR SAPTAAH' – a week-long celebration, from 26th May to 1st June 2016, to highlight railway achievements during the last two years.



Each day of the week will focus on a particular theme and hence the days have been named as 26th May-Swachhta Diwas, 27th May-Satkar Diwas, 28th May-Sewa Diwas, 29th May-Satarkata Diwas, 30th May-Saamanjasya Diwas, 31st May-Sanyojan Diwas and 1st June-Sanchaar Diwas.

News 62: Cabinet gives Ex-Post Facto Approval to the Amendment to The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961

The Union Cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to the Amendment to The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 for incorporation of six new IITs at Tirupati (AP), Palakkad (Kerala), Dharwar (Karnataka), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Goa, Jammu (J&K) and conversion of ISM, Dhanbad to an IIT under the Institutes of Technology Act.



The Cabinet has also approved introduction of a Bill namely the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016 for inclusion of the NIT Andhra Pradesh in its First Schedule.

News 63: Union Government releases Draft Model Rules under Juvenile Justice Act, 2015

The Union Minister of Women and Child Development released the Draft Model Rules under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 in New Delhi for stakeholder comments and suggestions. The Act has come into force from 15th January, 2016 repealing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.



Some of its key features include: special provisions for children who commit heinous offences in the age group of 16-18 years; sale and procurement of children for any purpose, corporal punishment in child care institutions, etc.; mandatory registration of all Child Care Institutions with punishment in case of non-compliance; and giving statutory status to the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) to enable it to perform its function more effectively.

News 64: Union HRD Minister Launches Bharatavani Portal

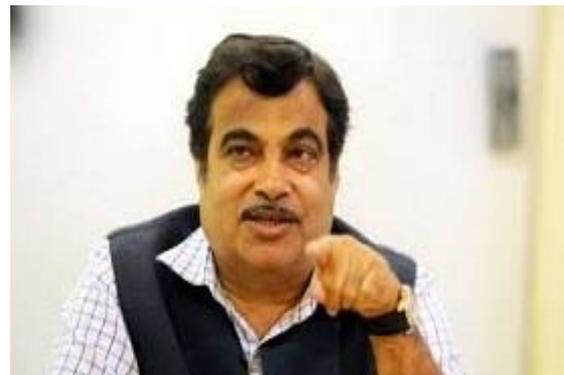
The Union HRD Minister, Smt. Smriti Irani launched the multilingual knowledge portal www.bharatvani.in at Lucknow. The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru is implementing this ambitious project of MHRD.



Bharatavani is the first knowledge portal of its kind in India which focuses on becoming a single point source for multiple language learning, content and technology. The minister also launched the Bharatavani Multi-lingual App called Bharatavani. This App will enable users to search for one language text in another language as well as get meanings in different languages. Currently the App has 35 multilingual Dictionaries and MHRD aims to extend it to 250 dictionaries in a year's time. It became the largest Online Repository of Dictionaries in India on its very first day.

News 65: Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari dedicates NIRBHAYA buses to the public

As an initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways under the NIRBHAYA Scheme, 10 luxury buses, 10 general buses of the Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation have been provided with Vehicle Tracking System (VTS), CCTV cameras and Panic Buttons on every seat to provide safe and secure transport to women.



The Ministry will issue a notification after 2nd June 2016, making it mandatory for public vehicles with seating capacity of 23 or more to have CCTV camera, Vehicle Location Tracking Device and Panic Buttons. Those with seating capacity of less than 23 will be required to have Vehicle Tracking Device and emergency buttons. A draft notification has already been issued in this regard.

News 66: Financial restructuring of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited for faster revival of Barauni Unit

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for financial restructuring of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL). The Cabinet approved waiver of GoI loan of Rs. 1916.14 crores (as on 31.03.2015) and the outstanding interest on GoI loan as on date (the interest amount was Rs. 7163.35 crores as on 31.3.2015).



The Cabinet also approved transfer of 56 acres of Ash Dyke land of Barauni unit to Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited (BSPGCL) to settle dues of HFCL for faster revival of Barauni Unit.

News 67: Financial restructuring of Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for financial restructuring of Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited (HSCL) and its takeover by National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC).



The Government of India will provide one-time support of Rs. 200 crores for settling term loans availed from commercial banks. It will also bear the contingent liability of Rs. 110 crores (approximately) for VRS liabilities. In addition, it will also pay the outstanding interest on the bank loans for the financial year 2015-16 amounting to Rs. 44 crores approximately (till 31.03.2016) and the amount of interest up to the date of takeover of HSCL by NBCC.

News 68: MoU between Indian Space Research Organisation and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency

The Union Cabinet was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency (UAESA) for cooperation in the exploration and user of outer space for peaceful purposes.



The MoU would result in setting up a Joint Working Group with members from ISRO and UAESA, which will further work out the plan of action including the time-frame and the means of implementing this MoU.

News 69: National Capital Goods Policy

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the National Capital Goods Policy. This is first ever policy for Capital Goods sector with a clear objective of increasing production of capital goods from Rs. 2,30,000 crores in 2014-15 to Rs. 7,50,000 crores in 2025 and raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million.

The policy envisages increasing exports from the current 27 percent to 40 percent of production. It will increase the share of domestic production in India's demand from 60 percent to 80 percent thus making India a net exporter of capital goods. The objectives of the policy will be met by the Department of Heavy Industry.



News 70: Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval to the MOU between India and Maldives

The Union Cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Maldives for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism.



The main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are:

- To expand bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector.
- To exchange information and data related to tourism.
- To encourage cooperation between tourism stakeholders, including hotels and tour operators.
- To promote safe honorable and sustainable tourism.

News 71: Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval to the MOU between India and Japan

The Union Cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to the MOU between India and Japan for promoting sustainable, stable and low-carbon thermal power development in India.



The proposal includes update on the current and future policy trend in Indian power sector with wide coverage from R&M (Renovation and Modernization) and Life Extension(LE) to new power development in India. The MoU also includes consideration of the identified barriers to find out those which could be addressed through mutual collaboration by the Central Electricity Authority(CEA) and Japan Coal Energy Centre(JCOAL).

News 72: National Education Policy Committee submits their report to the Ministry of HRD

The Committee for the evolution of a National Education Policy has submitted the report containing its recommendations to the Ministry of HRD. The committee comprised Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, former Cabinet Secretary as the Chairman and Smt. Shailaja Chandra, former Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi, Shri Sevaram Sharma, former Home Secretary, NCT of Delhi, Shri Sudhir Mankad, former Chief Secretary, Gujarat & Prof. J.S. Rajput, former Director, NCERT as members of the Committee.



The online consultations on www.MyGov.in portal were held from 26th January, 2015 to 31st October, 2015 and over 29,000 suggestions were received.

News 73: Storage status of 91 major reservoirs of the country

The water storage available in 91 major reservoirs of the country for the week ending on May 26, 2016 was 26.816 BCM which is 17% of total storage capacity of these reservoirs. This was 55% of the storage of corresponding period of last year and 79% of storage of average of last ten years.



The total storage capacity of these 91 reservoirs is 157.799 BCM which is about 62% of the total storage capacity of 253.388 BCM which is estimated to have been created in the country. About 37 Reservoirs out of these 91 have hydropower benefit with installed capacity of more than 60 MW.

News 74: Portal launched to promote Net Zero Energy Buildings

The Ministry of Power and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched India's first integrated web portal, www.nzeb.in, designed to promote and mainstream Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) in India.



The portal which is a first of its kind, provides complete information about Net Zero Energy Buildings – those that generate as much energy as they use – as well as how to achieve near-zero energy status through the use of efficient lighting and equipment, integration of renewable energy technologies, and best practice design strategies.

News 75: Govt loan waiver of Rs 9,000-cr loans to HFCL

The Cabinet approved waiver of government loan of Rs. 1,916.14 crores as on March 31, 2015 and the outstanding interest amount of Rs. 7,163.35 crores facilitating de-registration of HFCL from the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) by making its net worth positive.



The Cabinet has also approved the transfer of 56 acres of ash dyke land of Barauni unit to Bihar State Power Generation Company Ltd to settle dues of HFCL for faster revival of the unit. It will clear the way for faster revival of Barauni unit of HFCL. This unit will create 400 direct and 1,200 indirect employment opportunities. This unit was lying defunct since January 1999.

News 76: Dial 139 ticket cancellation service introduced by Railway ministry

The Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu launched the 139 service where now confirmed, wait-listed and reservation against cancellation (RAC) train ticket holders can cancel their tickets online or by dialing 139 but only 4 hours before the scheduled departure of the train. Earlier only confirmed ticket holders could cancel their tickets through 139 dial service.



Besides, the option of cancellation of tickets at the counter is also available for passengers. The refund amount can be collected from the station where the journey commenced or nearby notified satellite Passenger Reservation System location. The facility will be available on the mobile number which was given at the time of booking.

News 77: CCEA gives nod to Railway projects worth Rs 11,000 crore

CCEA gave its nod for Railway projects worth Rs. 11,000 crores which includes Bina-Katni 3rd line project at an estimated cost of nearly Rs. 2,500 crores and Vizianagaram and Titlagarh 3rd line project, costing nearly Rs. 2,335 crores. The 279 km and 265 kilometer long railway line will be completed in 5 years. It also included doubling of Surendranagar-Rajkot project, Pune-Miraj-Londa railway line and Roza -Sitapur Cantt. - Burhwal Broad Gauge single line.



The benefit of these projects will mainly benefit 2 states immensely, one is Gujarat and the other one is Uttar Pradesh.

News 78: US\$100 million loan agreement signed between India and World Bank

An agreement for an IBRD loan of US \$100 million was signed between the Government of India and the World Bank for the Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization project. The work has already been initiated to avail city-wide piped water to the state of Karnataka and to bolster the service delivery arrangements at the city level. The project will be applied over a period of 6 years in the cities of Hubballi and Dharwad and later be explored for other eligible cities too.



The project will have three components which are Financial Support for Sustainable and Affordable Housing for NHB, capacity Building of the NHB and to develop prudent lending standards to serve the more vulnerable, lower income households.

News 79: All School Monitoring Individual Tracing Analysis launched

The HRD Minister Smriti Irani launched a student tracking system program called as the School Monitoring Individual Tracing Analysis that would be the world's largest student tracking system under Shala Asmita Yojana.



Shala Asmita Yojana (SAY) is an online database to be maintained for the educational journey of close to 25 crore school students from Class I to Class XII across 15 lakh schools in the country and it will maintain a complete database of a student, which will include student attendance and enrolment, mid-day meal service, learning outcomes and infrastructural facilities, among other things, on one platform for both private and government schools. It will be done with the help of student's Aadhaar numbers provided at the time of admission.

News 80: Sushma launches PMO India website in 6 regional languages

The Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office, www.pmindia.gov.in can now be accessed in six regional languages namely Bengali, Gujarati, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu in addition to English and Hindi.



The website was inaugurated by the Minister for External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj. The initiative is part of the on-going efforts of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to reach out to the people and communicate with them in their own language.

News 81: Railways holds censor trial of high-speed Spanish Talgo coaches

Indian Railways conducted the first ever trial run for high-speed Spanish Talgo trains on the Bareilly-to-Moradabad stretch in Uttar Pradesh. The trial run will be conducted in a series of phases to test the riding, safety and stability of Talgo trains which will continue till June 12. The second trial run will be conducted on the Palwal-to-Mathura section. Reportedly, the coaches would run at a speed of 115 km per hour.



Talgo is a Spanish leading manufacturer of semi-high speed (160-250 kmph) and high-speed (350 kmph) passenger trains. It consumes 30% less energy and can run on curves without decelerating.

News 82: India and Australia sign MoU to enhance R&D in biotech

India and Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance research and development in biotechnology. BIRAC, a PSU under the Ministry of Science and Technology signed the MoU with Horticulture Innovation Australia for launching a joint funding call.



The MoU seeks to stimulate and enhance the strategic research and innovation capabilities of the Indian biotech industry. The focus of the funding call is to undertake horticultural research in order to develop and deploy modern tools of plant biotechnology to improve crop productivity. The funding commitment from BIRAC and Horticulture Innovation is up to 6 million Australian dollars over a period of 3 years.

News 83: GoI signs agreement with JICA for loan of Rs. 1,548 crores towards TN Urban Healthcare

The Government of India signed an agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for a loan of Rs. 1,548 crores to improve the quality of urban healthcare services in Tamil Nadu. The Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan will be provided at 0.3% interest rate for a period of 40 years (including 10 years of grace period).



It will be implemented in 17 cities in Tamil Nadu. The loan will be utilized for increasing the capacity of key hospitals, upgrading facilities and improving hospital management and primary healthcare. JICA has given Rs. 19,870 crores through ODA loans since 1981 for comprehensive development in Tamil Nadu.

News 84: India Signs Grant Agreement with World Bank for efficient bus service

The Government of India has signed an agreement for Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Grant of USD 9.20 Million with the World Bank for "Efficient and Sustainable City Bus Service Project" on behalf of IBRD.

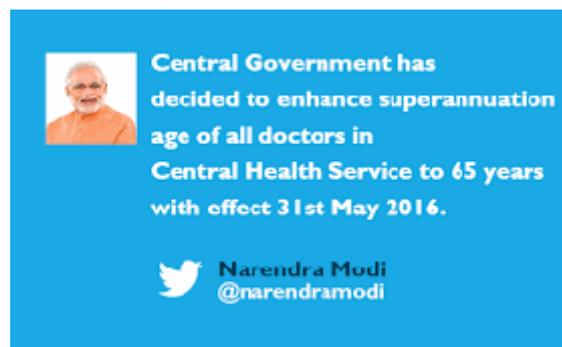
The total program cost is USD 113.0 million, with USD 9.20 million as grant from the GEF and USD 103.07 million from Government of India and state & city governments for funding of buses and ancillary infrastructure. The project's development objective is to improve the efficiency and attractiveness of city bus transport and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the demonstration cities.



News 85: Prime Minister approves retirement age of doctors of Central Health Services to 65 years

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for enhancing the age of superannuation of all doctors of the Central Health Service to 65 years with effect from 31st May 2016.

This will enable the Government to retain experienced doctors for a longer period, and to provide better services in its public health facilities.

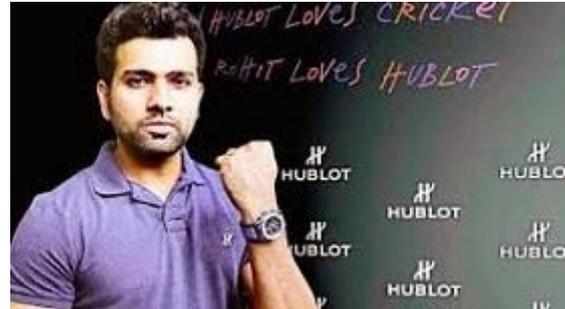


PERSONS IN NEWS

News 1: Rohit Sharma to be Brand Ambassador for Hublot Watches

Indian batsman Rohit Sharma today became the Brand Ambassador of the world famous watch brand Hublot becoming the second cricketer after former Australian captain Michael Clarke to be associated with this brand.

Hublot were happy to be associated with the star performer and Mumbai batsman who has the highest individual ODI score to his credit and is among the top-10 ODI batsmen in the ICC list.



News 2: Sachin Tendulkar joins the league as India's third goodwill ambassador at Rio Olympics

Sachin Tendulkar agreed to become India's third goodwill ambassador for the 2016 Rio Olympics along with Olympic shooting champion Abhinav Bindra and Bollywood superstar Salman Khan. Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar expressed his interest in meeting the athletes before they leave for Rio and any other awareness campaigns to inspire athletes.

According to the IOA Secretary, these iconic sportspersons and celebrities will spread the idea of Olympic movement in every nook and corner of the country, every village, block and city of India so as to create a sporting culture environment in the country.



News 3: Swiss Government honors Late Yash Chopra

Indian filmmaker and director Late Mr. Yash Chopra was honoured by the Swiss Government with a sculpture made of pure bronze, and weighing about 350 kilos, presenting Chopra in an iconic pose of directing a film. The statue was inaugurated in the presence of his wife Pamela Chopra and daughter-in-law Rani Mukherjee. The event was organized by Interlaken Tourism and Jungfrau Railways.

The statue will be installed at the heart of Interlaken, inside the KURSAAL area, near the Congress Centre. The statue will remind many of the cinematic splendor that Yash Chopra had created for this picturesque nation.



News 4: Australian entrepreneur Craig Wright claimed to be creator of Bitcoin

Australian Entrepreneur Craig Wright has publicly identified himself as the Bitcoin creator Satoshi Nakamoto. Wright claimed to be the currency's creator in interviews with the BBC, The Economist and GQ. The entrepreneur has also provided technical proof to back up his claim using coins known to be owned by Bitcoin's creator.



Bitcoin is often referred to as a new kind of currency. It allows consumers to make electronic transactions without commercial banks as intermediaries, and outside the reach of central banks. There are around 15.5m bitcoins currently in circulation. One bitcoin is currently worth around £306 (US\$449).

News 5: Rohit Sharma inaugurated India's first Sports Expo in Pune

Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma inaugurated India's first sports expo, Pune International Sports Expo at the Agriculture College Ground in Pune. It is being organized by the city-based Steps Sports Entertainment Private Limited and will remain open till May 8. The Expo will showcase various products and modern technologies for fitness and sports by Indian as well as multinational brands.



The events will also feature talks by Zaheer Khan, Dhanraj Pillai, Sunil Chettri, Prarthana Thombe and Milkha Singh in the coming days.

News 6: A.R. Rahman named India's fourth Goodwill Ambassador for Rio-Olympics

Oscar winning music composer, A. R. Rahman has been invited as a Goodwill Ambassador for the Indian contingent at the Rio Olympics 2016. Rahman now joins the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, Bollywood actor Salman Khan and ace Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra to become the fourth goodwill ambassador.



The IOA said that it has also received an official written confirmation from Rahman. Rahman has received huge appreciation for his work on the latest track 'Ginga' of the film, 'Pele: Birth of a Legend', a biopic based on soccer superstar Pele who belongs to the Olympic host nation, Brazil.

News 7: Nepalese Woman Lhakpa climbs the Mt Everest for the seventh time

Nepalese woman Lhakpa, who is 42 years old and works in a 7-Eleven shop in Connecticut in the US, reached the summit of the 8,850-metre peak for the seventh time from the Tibetan side and has broken her own record for the most summits of the world's highest mountain by a woman.



Sherpa was accompanied to the top by a Nepalese guide. Three hours later, eight members of a Russian team and eight guides climbed the same northern route. Two Sherpa climbers share between them the record of 21 ascents of Everest, the most number of climbs by men.

News 8: Madhavan appointed as goodwill ambassador for LEPRO India

Actor R Madhavan has been appointed as the goodwill ambassador of LEPRO India organization. Telangana based LEPRO India is a Non-Government Organisation working in the fields of leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV or AIDS and community health.



The actor feels proud to be the goodwill ambassador for the LEPRO India organization. The Actor who was last seen in the film "Saala Khadoos", has been appearing in films from seven different languages.

PLACES IN NEWS

News 1: India's 1st solar-powered e-boat introduced by PM Modi in Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Varanasi visit launched a scheme for environment-friendly solar-powered 'e-boats' at the Assi Ghat. PM Modi said in his speech that e-boats will not only reduce pollution but also help boatmen save Rs. 500 a day by not spending on diesel. The Hon'ble Prime minister distributed eleven e-boats to their owners after which he himself took a ride on one.



It is an initiative by the government to keep Ganga clean and aimed at imparting dignity to boatmen who have rendered invaluable service towards making the ancient city of Kashi famous around the world. Before addressing the gathering, PM also handed out LPG connections to 10 BPL women.

News 2: Enclave Dwellers of Cooch Behar to vote for first time in Bengal polls

A total of 9776 people in Cooch Behar made history as they exercised their right to vote for the first time in West Bengal assembly polls' sixth and final phase. The enclaves were swapped with Bangladesh after the Land Boundary Agreement was implemented last year.



According to the agreement, 51 Bangladeshi enclaves (area of 7110 acres) situated at Indian soil in Cooch Behar District of West Bengal were united with India, while 111 Indian enclaves (area of 17160 acres) in Bangladeshi territory were integrated with that country. The 51 enclaves are spread across Dinhat, Mekliganj, Sitai, Sitalkuchi and Toofanganj Assembly constituencies.

News 3: World's largest cargo aircraft AN-225 Mriya lands at Hyderabad

The world's largest aircraft Antonov AN-225 Mriya landed at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International airport for a 24-hr halt en-route to Australia from Turkmenistan. The aircraft will proceed to Jakarta in Indonesia and from there to Perth.

This aircraft is powered by six turbofan engines and is the longest and heaviest airplane ever built, with a maximum takeoff weight of 640 tonnes. The aircraft is 84 meters long, 18.1 meters high, has a wingspan of 88.4 meters and a fuel capacity of 300,000 kg. Its maximum speed is 850 km per hour with a 15,400 km range and 11,000 meters cruising altitude.



REGIONAL

News 1: Madhya Pradesh High Court calls reservation in promotions as unconstitutional

The Madhya Pradesh High Court division bench chaired by Chief Justice A M Khanwilkar has termed reservation in promotions in the state as unconstitutional. The petitions were filed by several employee associations and social organizations challenging the rules of the state government which provided reservation in promotion for Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes.



The Court clearly stated that reservations in promotions frustrate talented people. Giving priority to reserved categories over general classes in promotions is not justice.

News 2: MoU inked for setting up of educational hub IIT-Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir government inked Memorandum of Understanding for setting up of educational hub IIT, Jammu on 625 acres of land. It was mentioned by Deputy CM that the setting up of this IIT, will help the students of the State to study in various branches of engineering and technology parallel to other IIT's in the country.

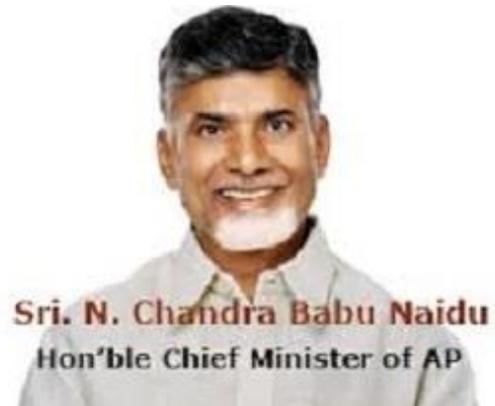


The MoU was signed by Secretary, Higher Education Department Hemant Kumar Sharma and Director, IIT Delhi Prof V Ramgopal Rao. According to Deputy CM, IT Jammu has been established at Jagti Nagrota on about 5000 kanal of land and the regular classes will commence from the current session in the temporary campus.

News 3: Chandranna Bima Yojana launched by AP Govt

On the occasion of May Day, AP CM N Chandrababu Naidu flagged off Chandranna Bima Yojana in Vijayawada, covering 1.5 crore workers of the state. It is an insurance scheme for the working class people. The Chief Minister informed that the government will conduct enumeration and ensure enrollment of all the eligible workers under the scheme. He said the government would earmark 132 crore rupees for its implementation.

Under this scheme any insured worker who meets an accidental death and permanent disability will be paid 5 lakh rupees. Any worker who suffers partial disability will be paid a sum of 3 lakh rupees.



News 4: Agriculture project 'Harita-Priya' of Andhra Pradesh won WSIS prize 2016

Harmonized Information of Agriculture, Revenue and Irrigation for a Transformation Agenda- Precision Technology for Agriculture or HARITA-PRIYA has won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2016 prize in the e-Agriculture category at Geneva. HARITA-PRIYA is a pilot project assigned to C-DAC, Hyderabad by Andhra Pradesh State Government, India to acquire micro-climate information from farmer fields using Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN).



The award was declared in Geneva by International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Secretary-General Houlin Zhao.

News 5: Sulabh group to set up 'hybrid toilet complexes' in 9 Odisha cities

The Odisha government signed a memorandum of understanding with Sulabh International Social Service Organisation for construction and maintenance of 'hybrid toilet complexes' in its nine cities. The hybrid toilet complexes having 5,957 seats will come up in urban centers under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Yojana.



The hybrid complexes comprising five, seven and 10 toilet seats with urinal will be maintained by Sulabh International for 10 years with a renewal provision for another 10 years. The State government has targeted to end open defecation in all municipal areas in the State by October 2nd, 2019.

News 6: Banks in Telangana to provide Rs. 6000 crores worth loans to the poor under Mudra Yojana

Union Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya has informed that the banks in Telangana state will provide 6000 crores worth loans to the poor under the Mudra Yojana this year which will benefit about 8 lakh people for their small business. About six lakh poor entrepreneurs have been benefited through loans to a tune of over 4500 crore rupees in the state during the last financial year.



He also informed that the Agriculture loans to a tune of 40000 crore rupees will be disbursed during the current year. Mr. Dattatreya further requested the state government to release the third instalment of farm loan waiver program in the state.

News 7: Karnataka Government to establish Asia's first Rice Technology Park in Gangavati

The Karnataka Government will establish Asia's first-ever Rice Technology Park at Navali-Karatagi villages on the outskirts of Gangavati along with a Maize Technology Park at Ranebennur in Haveri district. Gangavati is often known as Rice Bowl city of Karnataka.



These parks will be established under public private partnership (PPP). The Rice Technology Park will help convert Gangavati into a major agri-business centre in the State. It will also end the dependence of rice growers in the region on mills in neighboring States for processing paddy. The maize technology park would be established at a cost of Rs. 111 crores and will have a storage capacity of 32,000 tonnes.

News 8: Gujarat Government grants minority status to Jain community

The Gujarat Government has accorded minority status to the Jain community. The previous UPA Government at the Centre had conferred the minority status on the community at the national level in January 2014. Jains are the 6th community to have minority status after Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis.



The poor among the Jain community will be benefitted with this move of the government as they can avail of various scholarships, government welfare schemes. In addition, Jain institutions will get special status like those granted to Christian and Muslim institutions.

News 9: SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring Service of Nagaland bags National Award for smart policing

The Nagaland police has bagged a National Award for Smart Policing instituted by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for its SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring System. The SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring System was executed by Ben Imchen, a post-graduate from IIT Delhi and proprietor of Elysium Enterprises for Nagaland Police Department.



The project which was launched in April last year provides an easy platform for policemen and citizens to report vehicle theft and alert the various field formations of police across the state by sending one SMS. Nagaland Police was among the six state police selected for making presentations on the best smart policing initiatives across the country.

News 10: MP Tourism wins “Best Indian Destination for Wildlife Award”

The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Department (MPT) won the Best Indian Destination for Wildlife Award presented by the Lonely Planet Group.

Madhya Pradesh has 25 wildlife sanctuaries including nine National Parks. Among them Kanha, Bandhavgarh and Pench are ideal habitat for tigers. Kanha and Pench were regarded as the most beautiful national parks in Asia while Bandhavgarh and Pench are known world over because of their tiger reserves.



News 11: UP Government approved bicycle highway between Taj and lion safari in Etawah

The Uttar Pradesh Government has given approval for developing a 197 km long bicycle highway from Agra to the lion safari in Etawah with an aim to promote eco-tourism in the vicinity of the Taj Mahal.

Starting from the eastern gate of the Taj Mahal, it will cover areas such as Raja Bhoj ki Haveli, Bateshwarnath Temple, Mela Kothi Jarar, and Naugava ka Quila and other rural areas to reach the lion safari in Etawah.



News 12: Haryana Government approves the up-gradation of five roads under the PMGSY

The Haryana Government has approved the proposal of up-gradation of five roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna (PMGSY). The roads with a total length of 52.56 Kilometers would be upgraded at the cost of Rs. 47.07 crores which includes 60 percent share of the Centre and 40 percent of the State.

These five roads include Budain-Makhand-Sandlana length, NH-352 Dumerkha Khurd-Sudkain Kalan-Kabarchha-Alipura-Karsindhu-Uchana, Kinana to Brar Khera to Buwana to Kharanti to Karela Jhamola, Barwala Matloda Sandlana road and Jatai to Pur via Village Talu.



News 13: Delhi is not the most polluted city in the world: WHO

According to the latest air quality report from the World Health Organization (WHO), Delhi is no longer the most polluted city in the world.

The most polluted air was recorded at Zabol in Iran. Four Indian cities are among the world's ten most polluted in terms of PM 2.5. Ten out of the top 20 are also in the country. Gwalior and Allahabad come a close second and third, while Patna and Raipur are ranked 6th and 7th. PM 2.5 refers to atmospheric particulates with a diameter less than 2.5 micrometers. The report compared data collected from 795 cities in 67 countries between 2008 and 2013.



However, New Delhi was the most polluted, followed by Cairo and Bangladesh's capital Dhaka in terms of PM10 levels.

News 14: Maharashtra declares drought in 29000 villages

The Maharashtra government has declared drought in over 29,000 villages of the state, most of them in parched Marathwada and Vidarbha regions.

The state government had informed the High Court that all relief prescribed in the Drought Manual, 2009 would be provided. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and requested Rs. 10,000 crores as relief. Of this, Rs. 7,500 crores were to be spent on completing irrigation projects in Marathwada and Vidarbha over the next three years, while the remaining would be used for projects in Western Maharashtra.



News 15: The second phase of the Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojana launched at Dahod in Gujarat

The BJP National President Amit Shah inaugurated the second phase of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Dahod in Gujarat. He congratulated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan for this unique scheme.

In the second phase of the scheme, free LPG connections will be given to BPL families in tribal district of Dahod. The second phase will also cover the Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh along with Gujarat.



News 16: The World's largest Single Rooftop Solar Power Plant inaugurated in Punjab

The World's largest single rooftop solar power plant was inaugurated in Beas near Amritsar in Punjab. The plant has been set up with the cost of Rs. 139 crores. It is spread at a single rooftop stretch of 42 acres at Dera Baba Jaimal and has 11.5 MW capacity. The EPC contractors for the project were Tata Power and Larsen and Toubro.

The seven other rooftop solar power plants of 8 MW capacity were also inaugurated in the campus. Punjab aims to generate solar power of close to 1000 MW by the end of FY 2016-17. Solar projects have been executed on BOO (built-operate-own) basis in the state.



FYI: GoI has set a target of power generation of 40,000 Mw from different resources of renewable energy to be achieved by 2022.

News 17: Odisha Government to launch Green Passage Scheme for Orphan Students

The Odisha government has decided to launch a Green Passage scheme to provide free of cost higher education in the state for orphan students. As per the scheme, orphan students pursuing higher education from Plus-II level to post-graduation level, will no longer have to bear the education expenses. This scheme will function under the higher education department. They will be provided free hostel facilities and food also.



According to the sources, 16,382 orphans are currently pursuing higher studies in 272 institutions in the State. The state government will bear all cost of the orphan students.

News 18: Driverless Metro Train on trial run flagged off

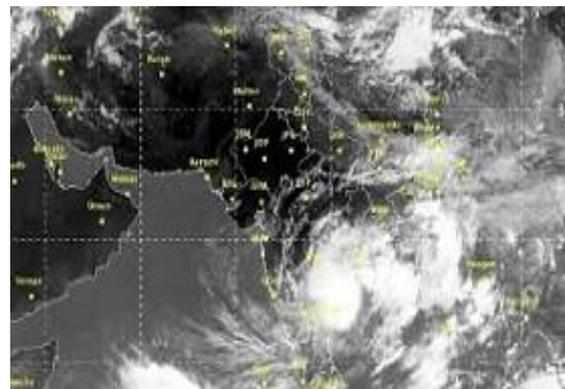
The trial run of India's first ever Metro train, equipped to run on the 'Unattended Train Operation' mode, was ceremonially flagged off by the Union Minister for Urban Development, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and Delhi Chief Minister, Shri Arvind Kejriwal.



This trial run started at the Mukundpur depot of Delhi Metro and ended at Majlis Park station on the Majlis Park – Shiv Vihar corridor of phase 3. The driverless train is manufactured at Changwon in South Korea.

News 19: Odisha issues alert on Cyclonic storm ROANU to strike Andhra Pradesh coast

The Odisha government today issued an alert in at least 12 districts and asked the authorities to be prepared to face cyclonic storm ROANU that emerged in the west central Bay of Bengal. At present, ROANU is moving northeastwards and lay centered at the south-southeast of Machilipatnam, about 290 kms south-southwest of Visakhapatnam and 160 kms south-southwest of Kakinada.



The IMD has issued heavy to very heavy rainfall warning to coastal Andhra Pradesh, coastal Odisha and coastal Gangetic West Bengal under the influence of the cyclonic storm coupled with gusty winds speeds reaching 90-100 kmph. The districts have been told to keep food stuff and other essential materials ready and Fishermen have been advised not to venture into sea.

News 20: Jayalalithaa's AIADMK retains power in Tamil Nadu

For the first time in 32 years, Tamil Nadu has chosen to give a consecutive term to one party All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) chief and Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, who was able to retain the power. Election Commission on 19 May 2016 announced results of 2016 Legislative Assembly Election in the state of Tamil Nadu.



It was a prediction by many exit polls that the 67-year-old's arch rival, M Karunanidhi and his DMK would return to power of which Tamil Nadu has been a long-time subscriber. Ahead of the election, Jayalalithaa promised to gift voter's cellphones and other freebies – her last election campaign five years ago pledged mixer-grinders to housewives. Her Amma canteens, which provide highly subsidized food, have been a runaway success.

News 21: Mamta Banerjee's AITMC storms in with two-third majority in West Bengal

Led by Mamata Banerjee, Trinamool Congress stormed back to power in West Bengal defeating her nearest Congress rival Deepa Dasmunshi by over 25 thousand votes, more than two-thirds majority decimating the opposition Left-Congress alliance while BJP captured three seats.



This historic win could be attributed to her campaign "Maa, Maati, Maanush". It has been assumed that the huge margin of victory signifies that Mamta is heading on the way in which she will break the record of late Communist leader Jyoti Basu, who remained chief minister of West Bengal for 23 consecutive years.

News 22: The Left Democratic Party regains power in Kerala

The CPI(M)-led LDF returned to power in Kerala getting a majority of 84 seats out of 140 assembly seats to the ruling Congress-led UDF. While BJP created history by making its single seat win in Nemom, a suburb of state capital Thiruvananthapuram. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called up new Chief Minister of the state, V S Achutanandan and congratulated him for the LDF's resounding victory.



In the 140-member assembly, LDF won 91 seats, UDF 47, BJP and Independents, one each. Elated over the victory, 92-year-old Achutanandan, said it was an LDF wave and the victory was a reflection on the anger of the people on the "corrupt and anti-people policies of the UDF government.

News 23: PEHAL initiative launched in Shimla by the Himachal CM

The Shimla District Administration has introduced PEHAL program in the district to identify certain thrust areas which have a direct impact on the lives of the people such as Primary Education, Forest Rights, Health and Sanitation, Campaign against drugs and skill development and Women Empowerment.



Various stakeholders will also be involved for the development of district. Shimla is first such district where PAHEL scheme was introduced. The district authorities have already begun works on all these areas with a distinct strategy.

News 24: Sarbanand Sonowal to take oath as the Assam CM

The BJP leader Sarbananda Sonowal will take oath as Assam's new Chief Minister at an event to be attended also by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP president Amit Shah. The oath-taking ceremony will be held at Khanapara field in Guwahati.



The BJP is in alliance with Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodo Peoples Front who won 14 and 12 seats respectively. The result was historic because it was for the first time that BJP is forming government in Assam.

News 25: Universal Health Insurance Scheme approved by Goa Government

The Goa Government will introduce its universal health insurance scheme on 30th May. It is the first of its kind in the country in the name of Deendayal Swasthya Seva Yojana. The State Government expects returns of about Rs. 50 crores from the government hospital bills paid by the insurance company. The patients will start getting the insurance cover benefit from the next Independence day. The medical insurance cover will be of Rs. 2.5 lakhs for a family of 3 members and Rs. 4 lakhs to the family of 4 or more persons annually.



Out of a total 950 ailments, 447 ailments are listed for Insurance and 226 ailments will be looked after by the state run hospitals. The government hospitals will provide free of cost services to the people for the remaining 500 ailments.

News 29: Execution of Odisha Official Language (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016

The state government of Odisha has issued an ordinance to make use of Odia language compulsory in all official communication in the state. The Odisha Official Language (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016, empowers the state to make rules, review and monitor whether the direction contained in sub-section 2 of Section 2 of the 1954 Act has been implemented.



The Odisha Official Languages Act was passed in 1954 by the Nabakrushna Choudhury government, but it was not enforced. According to the 1954 Act, Odia language and numerals have to be used for all official purposes.

News 30: Centre approves third NIMZ of India in Odisha

The Centre has approved the Odisha government's proposal to set up a National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) at Kalinga Nagar in Jaipur district. It would be the third Investment and Manufacturing Zone of India involving a massive area of 163 sq. km.



A total of Rs. 4,241 crores will be invested and the first phase of the project will be completed by 2020 with initial investment of Rs. 3,816 crores. The NIMZ would create estimated employment opportunities for over 1.5 lakh people. It would be a mega industrial zone having a world-class township to cater to the needs of the investors.

News 31: Lakshadweep signs 24x7 'Power for All' document

Lakshadweep became the first Union Territory (UT) to sign "24x7 Power for All" document. The document chalks out a plan to increase solar capacity of the region from 2.15 MW to 8.45 MW.



As a part of the energy efficiency measures, 1 lakh LED bulbs will be distributed by UT administration and 3000 conventional street lights will be replaced with LED street lights. The aim is to provide each household access to electricity, 24x7 Power supply by 2019. 22 States have already signed the '24x7 Power for All' Documents.

News 32: V Narayanaswamy to be Puducherry Chief Minister

Congress leader V Narayanaswamy has been named as the new Chief Minister of Puducherry. Mr. Narayanasamy did not contest in the Assembly polls. Senior Congress leader and former Delhi chief minister Shiela Dikshit and party general secretary Mukul Wasnik attended the meeting as AICC observers.



Mr. Narayanasamy was a three-time Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha. He became the Union Minister of State for PMO in the UPA II Government.

REPORTS

News 1: 'Protecting People through Nature' report revealed by WWF

A Report on 'Natural world heritage sites as Drivers of sustainable development' titled under heading 'Protecting people through nature', was released by World Wildlife Fund for the year 2016 regarding 229 natural and mixed World Heritage sites in 96 countries around the world, including Western Ghats that face significant threats.



Report talked about India's Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, Kaziranga National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks, Sundarbans National Park and Western Ghats. It also discussed about Sundarbans National Park and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary facing non-extractive threats. Such threats include include dams, water use (unsustainable water use), Logging/wood harvesting, marine/fresh water aquaculture (overfishing), roads/railways, shipping lanes and utility/service lines.

News 2: Uday Kotak, only Indian in Forbes list of Most Powerful People in the Financial World

Uday Kotak, the managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, is the only Indian to feature in the list of the 40 most powerful people in the financial world. Kotak, with a net worth of \$7.1 billion, has been ranked 33 in the Forbes list of Money Masters: The Most Powerful People in the Financial World.



The list is topped by Blackstone Group's CEO Stephen Schwarzman, who has a net worth of \$10.2 billion and oversees assets worth \$344 billion. The list also includes JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon on the third spot, Berkshire Hathaway head Warren Buffet (4), Goldman Sachs Chairman Lloyd Blankfein (9) and Soros Fund Management chief George Soros (10).

News 3: Parkash Singh Panel on Jat Quota Stir Submits Report

The Prakash Singh probe panel on Jat quota stir submitted its report to Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. The Committee produced a comprehensive report within a period of 71 days. The panel reprimanded over 90 officers including IAS/IPS officers besides various state cadre officers for lapses on their part.



The Report, which is in two volumes, runs into about 450 pages out of which the Main Report is in about 200 pages and there are another 200 pages of Annexures. The second volume, which has only about 40 pages, deals with the role of Intelligence in the context of the riots. The Report has examined the role of officers in the affected districts who showed soft corner for the agitators.

News 4: Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index: India Ranks Third

The Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) has ranked the renewable energy sector of India at the third position. The United States of America ranks first while China holds the second rank. Chile, Brazil, Germany, Mexico and France were ranked from 4th to 8th position respectively while Canada and Australia secured 9th and 10th position respectively.



This report, released by Global organization EY, reveals 40 countries on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities based on a number of macro, energy market and technology-specific indicators.

News 5: Lancet study reveals one-third of mentally ill people untreated in India and China

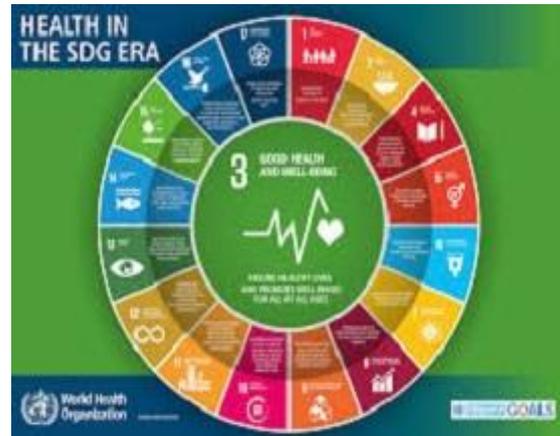
The Lancet Journal reveals countries like India and China are home to more than a third of the mentally ill people who need urgent medical help. Report suggest that by 2025, 39.6 million years of healthy life will be lost to mental illness in China (10 percent increase) and 38.1 million in India (23 percent increase).



The Lancet Psychiatry also gives report by comparing alcoholic use and drug dependency in men and women. In India and China, substance use disorders and drug dependence disorders was more than twice as high for men as women. Dementia is a growing problem for both countries. From 2015 to 2025, it is estimated that the number of healthy years lost due to dementia will increase by 82 percent in India.

News 6: World Health Statistics 2016 for the SDGs released

The World Health Statistics 2016 focuses on the proposed health and health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets. As per the statistics, life expectancy increased by 5 years since 2000, but major inequalities persist within and among countries. Major findings of the report states that Sierra Leone has the world’s lowest life-expectancy for both sexes whereas Switzerland and Japan to experience longest live span for men and women respectively.



Healthy life expectancy, a measure of the number of years of good health that a newborn in 2015 can expect, stands at 63.1 years globally (64.6 years for females and 61.5 years for males). Important statistics show that 303000 women die due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth whereas more than 10 million people die before the age of 70 due to cardiovascular diseases.

News 7: India emerges as the fifth largest producer of e-waste in the world: ASSOCHAM-KPMG study

According to an ASSOCHAM-KPMG joint study, India has emerged as the fifth largest producer of e-waste in the world, discarding roughly 18.5 lakh metric tonnes of electronic waste each year with telecom equipment alone accounting for 12% of the e-waste.



The government has notified e-waste management rules, 2016, in which producers are for the first time covered under extended producers’ responsibility (EPR). The unorganized sector in India is estimated to handle around 95 per cent of the e-waste produced in the country.

News 8: First Passenger Satisfaction Survey at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSI) Airport

In a first of its kind, a survey of Passenger Satisfaction levels of customs clearance process at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai was conducted by CBEC. The survey was conducted by L.N. Welingkar Institute of Management, Mumbai (WE School) for CBEC. The scope of the Survey was to assess Passenger Satisfaction levels with the Customs Clearance Process, focusing on three aspects, i.e. Information, Behavior and Process.



69% rated their experience with Mumbai airport customs as better or somewhat better than other international airports, 15% rated on par and about 16% felt, it was worse.

RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS

News 1: Shashank Manohar resigned as the BCCI president

Shashank Manohar resigned as the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). Mr. Manohar had also served as the president of the BCCI from September 2008 to September 2011.

Mr. Manohar is anticipated to be projected as its ICC presidential candidate by BCCI. The position of ICC Chief can now only be held by an independent candidate. The election of the ICC chairman will be held later this month. The BCCI will have to elect its new president within 15 days.



News 2: Michel Platini resigns as the UEFA President

The UEFA President Michel Platini will resign from the European football's governing body. This decision came after losing his battle to appeal against his ban from all football. The Court of Arbitration for Sport's refusal to overturn the ban imposed on him by Fifa's ethics committee.

The court found him guilty of ethics breaches over £1.3 million given to him by Sepp Blatter. However, the panel reduced the ban to four years from six years and the fine from 80000 Swiss francs to 60000 Swiss francs.



SPORTS

News 1: English Premier League championship for Leicester City in the club's 132-year history

Leicester City secured its first position in the Premier League without playing after the second-place based Tottenham drew 2-2 with Chelsea. The Premier League is an English professional league for men's association football clubs in which the 20 member clubs act as shareholders for promotion and relegation with the Football League.



This is the first time in the club's 132-year history that Leicester is the Champion of England. Chelsea's draw also ensured Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri became a league title winner for the first time in his career, 12 years after the 64-year-old Italian was fired by the Blues.

News 2: Jamie Vardy from Leicester City honoured with the prestigious FWA accolade Footballer of the Year 2016

Leicester forward Jamie Vardy has been voted the 2016 Footballer of the Year by the Football Writers' Association with 36 percent of the vote. Vardy, 29, topped the poll of 290 journalists ahead of teammates Riyad Mahrez and N'Golo Kante. The 29-year-old striker scored 24 goals for club and country so far this season as the Foxes close in on what would be a remarkable Barclays Premier League title win.



Mahrez was named the PFA's Footballer of the Year last month, and it is the first time that two players from the same club have claimed both awards in the same season since Everton's Neville Southall and Peter Reid in 1985.

News 3: 2016 Russian Grand Prix championship earned by Germany's Nico Rosberg

Nico Rosberg from Germany won 2016 Russian Grand Prix by making it his fourth win in a row this season followed by Lewis Hamilton of United Kingdom at second position and Ferrari driver Kimi Räikkönen of Finland secured 3rd place in the tournament held at Sochi, Russia. He joins Michael Schumacher, Sebastian Vettel and Alberto Ascari as one of only four drivers to manage seven wins in a row.



Russia's Olympic city is set to host the Grand Prix for another four years, after securing the rights to the annual race from 2014-2020.

Putin was on hand to present the trophy to the winner in 2014 and 2015, when he was infamously caught in the champagne crossfire as Lewis Hamilton celebrated his victory.

News 4: Indian team bagged one silver, two bronze in Archery World Cup

Indian women's team settled for the silver after losing to Chinese Taipei in the final, while men's trio and mixed pair won their respective bronze playoffs in the first stage of Archery World Cup at Shanghai.



The Women's team players Deepika Kumari, Bombayla Devi Laishram and Laxmirani Majhi put up an effort to score five in the crucial third set by defeating Chinese Taipei 2-6 in the final. Later, the third seeded Indian men's recurve team of Atanu Das, Jayanta Talukdar and Mangal Singh Champia scored ninth seed British team 6-0 to bag the bronze medal. An improved performance which had two perfect 10s along with three 9s ensured that the Indians stayed alive to win by two points and level 2-2.

News 5: The fifth consecutive knock-out win by boxing champion Vijendra Singh in Professional Boxing breaking records

Boxer champion Vijender Singh created records by marking his fifth consecutive victory in Professional Boxing by defeating Frenchman Matiouze Royer at London's Copper Box Arena via knock-out.



Royer has been Vijender's most experienced rival till date, with 44 bouts, including 14 wins, under his belt before the match. Boxing champion Vijender, whose last four wins were all knock-outs or technical knock-outs, was declared the winner in the fifth round of the six-round super middleweight contest.

News 6: India finish fourth in the Junior Shooting World Cup

The Indian shooters ended their campaign at the International Shooting Sport Federation Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany at a respectable fourth position. The Indian team won three gold, four silver and three bronze medals. Rituraj Singh, Shivam Shukla and Arjun Das won Gold medals for India.

A total of 585 junior athletes from 48 countries participated but only 24 nations made it to the medals table. Italy, Russia and Germany topped the three places respectively. Italy won seven gold, four silver and one bronze. Russia won five gold, six silver and nine bronze and Germany won five gold, three silver and three bronze medals.



News 7: Pakistan won 2016 Asia Kabaddi Championship Cup

Pakistan defended the Asian Kabaddi Championship (Circle Style) after they defeated India. The championship was held at Wah Cantonment in Pakistan. Pakistan had previously won the Asian Kabaddi title in 2012. The Pakistani team achieved 50 points against 31 by their opponents in the final of the tournament.

The Pakistan Kabaddi Federation (PKF) in collaboration with POF Sports Control Board under the banner of the Asian Kabaddi Federation organized the championship. Seven teams including India, Iran, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan participated in the international event.



News 8: Mickey Arthur appointed as Pakistan's Head Coach

Mickey Arthur has been appointed as the head coach of Pakistan Cricket Team. A panel constituted by Pakistan Cricket Board, involving former greats of the game — Wasim Akram, Ramiz Raja, and Faisal Mirza — finalized Arthur's name. The 47-year-old South African will replace Waqar Younis, who resigned from the post last month.

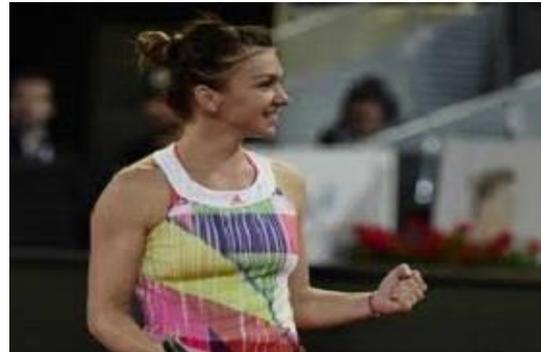
Arthur had previously coached South Africa from 2005 to 2010, and Australia from 2011 to 2013. He is slated to join the team at the end of May. He will oversee the Pakistan's tour of England in his first assignment with the team.



News 9: Women singles of Madrid Open championship won by Simona Halep

Mutua Madrileña sponsored Madrid Open, held in Madrid, Spain was won by Simona Halep in women's category defeating Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia, creating her rank at No.5 in WTA Top 5 players.

Halep then had to fend off three break points on her way to sealing the set 6-2, but immediately took control of the second by breaking in the opening game. It is one of her first title in 14 months. This win is a booster to her upcoming French open.



News 10: Men singles of 2016 Madrid Open championship claimed by Novak Djokovic

Novak Djokovic's dominant hold over Andy Murray continued as the world No 1 claimed his 12th win in their last 13 meetings to win a record 29th Masters title at the Madrid Open.

Ever since beating Djokovic in the Wimbledon final in 2013, Murray has struggled to get the better of his arch-rival – his one victory coming in Montreal last August – and the trend continued on Sunday night as Djokovic saw off another spirited challenge from the Brit, triumphing 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in two hours and six minutes.



The quirks of the ranking system mean that Murray now drops below Roger Federer – who did not even compete in Madrid due to a back injury - to world No 3 after failing to defend his title.

News 11: Indian boxers fetch four medals from Asian Youth Championships

Indian boxers bagged three silver and a bronze medal, to finish third in the overall standings, in the 7th Asian Youth Championships held in Kazakhstan.

National Champion Ankush Dahiya in 60 Kilograms, Ashish Kulhirya in 64 Kilograms and Reyal Puri in 81 Kilograms categories fetched silver medals for the contingent, while Manjeet Singh contributed the solitary bronze to the tally. India was placed behind Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in the medals tally. The tournament featured more than 150 boxers from 23 countries.



News12: Hockey India recommended Ritu Rani and VR Raghunath for Arjuna Award

Hockey India has recommended Indian women's team captain Ritu Rani and senior's men's team drag-flicker V.R. Raghunath and Dharamvir Singh for the Arjuna Award. Former player Sylvanus Dung Dung has been recommended for the Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award and veteran Coach CR Kumar recommended for the Dronacharya Award.



VR Raghunath and Dharamvir Singh helped Indian team to win gold in the 2007 Asia Cup. Ritu Rani led the team from the front and helped achieve the much-awaited Rio Olympic berth.

News 13: Stephen Curry named NBA's Most Valuable Player

Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors became the first unanimous selection and the 11th player in the NBA history to win back-to-back Most Valuable Player's Awards after he won the Maurice Podoloff Trophy as the 2015-16 Kia NBA Most Valuable Player.



He swept away all the 131 votes. San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard was second in the voting, followed by Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James. He secured 1310 points to top in the list.

News 14: Shashank Manohar elected unopposed as independent ICC Chairman

Mr. Shashank Manohar has been elected by the Board unanimously and unopposed as the as the first independent Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) following the ICC Full Council's approval of constitutional amendments proposed by the Board following its April meeting. He will commence his two-year term with immediate effect. The Chairman's role is an honorary one. The ICC's Full Council comprises 10 Full Members, 38 Associate Members and 57 Affiliate Members (who are collectively represented by five regional Affiliate Member representatives).



Manohar has served two terms as BCCI president - from 2008 to 2011, and from October 2015 to May 2016. During his second term, he had also served as ICC chairman by virtue of being the Indian board's nominee to the ICC.

News 15: ICC lifts suspension on Sri Lankan Batsman Kusal Perera

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that it has withdrawn disciplinary charges against Sri Lanka batsman Kusal Perera and lifted the provisional suspension previously imposed on him in December 2015. Perera is now free to return to domestic and international cricket without restriction and with immediate effect.



The ICC has made the decision after the WADA-accredited laboratory in Qatar today withdrew its original Adverse Analytical Finding following further investigations. The laboratory earlier had reported to the ICC in November 2015 about the presence of 19-Norandrosteredione, an anabolic steroid prohibited by WADA in his urine samples.

News 16: England Women’s Cricket Captain Charlotte Edwards Retires from International Cricket

England Women’s Captain, Charlotte Edwards, has announced her retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. The 36-year-old is the only player - man or woman - to captain England in 200 internationals. She made her international debut in 1996, becoming the youngest player to represent England. During her captaincy Charlotte led England to victory in every major women’s competition, whether it was the ICC Women’s World Cup, the ICC World Twenty20 or the Women’s Ashes which England won thrice.



She also won the ICC Women’s Cricketer of the Year award in 2008. She is also only the second woman ever to be named as a Wisden Cricketer of the Year, and was the first female cricketer to be nominated for the coveted ICC LG People’s Choice Award. With 5,992 runs, she is the current all-time leading ODI run-scorer in women’s cricket, and has scored more T20I runs (2,605) than any other player in the world (man or woman).

News 17: Anil Kumble reappointed as the ICC Cricket Committee head, Rahul Dravid made a member

Anil Kumble has been re-appointed as the Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee for a three-year term. The former India captain was appointed as the Chair in 2012 and will now continue to head the group until 2018. Meanwhile, Rahul Dravid was named member of the top panel along with Mahela Jayawardena.



Dravid has been elected as current player representatives and will replace Kumar Sangakkara. Similarly, Former Australia off-spinner and ex-Chief Executive of Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA), Tim May, has also been elected as current player representative, replacing Laxman Sivaramakrishnan. Jayawardena has been appointed as a past player representative and takes over from former Australia captain Mark Taylor. Richard Kettleborough, three-time ICC Umpire of the Year, has been appointed as umpires' representative in the committee and replaces Steve Davis, who retired last year.

News 18: Fatma Samba Diouf Samoura appointed as the First Female Secretary General of FIFA

The FIFA Council appointed Fatma Samba Diouf Samoura of Senegal as FIFA Secretary General (SG). She is the first female to be appointed for the position. The announcement was made by FIFA President Gianni Infantino at the 66th FIFA Congress in Mexico City. She will assume the role of FIFA Secretary General before mid-June. Ms. Samoura will undergo an eligibility check administered by the independent Review Committee, per Article 37 of the FIFA Statutes.



She is a 21-year veteran of United Nations Programs and is currently the UN's Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Nigeria.

News 19: FIFA appoints Justice Mukul Mudgal as deputy chairman of its Governance Committee

FIFA has appointed Justice Mukul Mudgal as deputy chairman of its governance committee. Mudgal hinted that he would take up the offer.

Portuguese Luis Miguel Maduro, who is a former European Court of Justice Advocate General, will head FIFA's governance committee. Mudgal and Maduro will also head FIFA's International Review Committee, which will assess all major decisions. Mexico City hosted the 66th FIFA Congress where newly elected president Gianni Infantino moved a slew of resolutions and promised massive reforms.



News 20: Indian women win Silver Medal in the Asian Team Squash Championships

Indian women's squash team have won the Silver medal in the Asian Team Squash Championships. In the final played at Taipei in Chinese Taipei, they lost to Malaysia by a 0-2 margin. India had finished with a bronze-medal in the earlier edition of the Championship.

Sachika Ingale lost in straight games 7-11, 6-11, 10-12 to Sivasangari Subramaniam in the first match. Later, Delia Arnold prevailed over India's top player Joshna Chinappa 9-11, 13-11, 11-8, 11-9.



News 21: Max Verstappen becomes the youngest Formula 1 Winner

Max Verstappen of Holland, became Formula One's youngest race winner in a sensational Spanish Grand Prix, as Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg crashed out of the race.

Red Bull's Verstappen, still only 18 years old and making his debut for the former world champions after being promoted from Toro Rosso a week earlier, beat Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen, at 36 twice his age, by 0.616 seconds.



News 22: Andy Murray wins first Italian Open title, beats Novak Djokovic

Britain's Andy Murray defeated Novak Djokovic to win his maiden Italian Open Men's Singles Tennis title. Third-ranked Murray defeated the top-ranked Djokovic 6-3, 6-3 in the final.

Andy Murray is the first British singles champion in Rome since Virginia Wade in 1971. It was a first win on clay against Djokovic in five attempts and second only in 14 matches altogether. He will return to second in the world rankings before the French Open, which begins on 22 May. The event is also known as the Rome Masters and the Italian Championships.



News 23: Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis win Italian Open title

The World No. 1 Women's Doubles Team of Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis won the Italian Open Women's Double title by beating their Russian opponents Elena Vesnina and Ekaterina Makarova 6-1, 6(5)-7, 10-3 in the final.

The duo has now won more than two dozen titles. The Rome Master's title is their fifth title for the year, and their first on clay court. The pair will now play at the French Open.



News 24: Serena Williams wins Italian Open title

Serena Williams of the United States won the Italian Open Women's singles final after defeating compatriot Madison Keys 7-6 (5), 6-3 in the final. It was her first WTA title in nine months and the fourth Rome Masters title since 2002. She will now begin the defence of her French Open title.

Serena Williams became just the fifth woman to win 70 WTA titles, following Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Steffi Graf and Margaret Court.



News 25: Sudha Singh creates a new national record in 3,000m steeplechase

Sudha Singh has created a new national record in women's 3000m steeplechase event at the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) Diamond League Meet in Shanghai.



She clocked 9 minute 26.55 seconds to better the earlier national record of 9:27.09 set by Lalita Babar at the Federation Cup at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. Sudha finished eighth in the second leg of the IAAF Diamond League Meet while Babar came 13th. Sudha as well as Babar have already booked their berth for Rio Olympics. Their Coach is Belarusian Nikolai Snesev.

News 26: FC Barcelona Crowned La Liga Champions

Barcelona sealed their 24th La Liga Title. Barca won the La Liga for the second consecutive season. Real Madrid lost out to the arch rivals by 1 point. Real won their last 12 league games, but Barca ended with five victories in a row. Barca have won six of the last eight titles. Luis Enrique won the title in both his seasons in charge of Barcelona. Similarly, Captain Andres Iniesta has now won eight La Liga titles.



The title triumph for Barcelona was motivated by a hatrick from Luis Suarez against Granada. Suarez took his tally to 40 goals and won the Pichichi award for most number of goals in the season.

News 27: Joe Root bags top three England cricket awards

England Cricketer Joe Root won the Test Cricketer of the Year, the Limited-overs Cricketer of the Year, and the Fans' Player of the Year awards for 2015. The 25-year old posted a whopping 2,228 runs in 2015, which is the most by an English batsman in a calendar year. Root stands second in the ICC Test rankings.



Anya Shrubsole bagged the England women's cricketer of the year and Callum Flynn was named the best cricketer with a disability. The ECB's special achievement award was given to David Lloyd for his 50-year stint as a player, umpire, commentator and coach.

News 28: Sevilla wins the Third Consecutive Europa League Crown

Sevilla won for the third straight year the UEFA Europa League champions. In the final, they defeated Liverpool 3-1 at the St. Jakob-Park in Basel.

Liverpool secured the lead with a goal from Daniel Sturridge in the first half before Sevilla stormed back in the second half to score three goals and defend their title. The first goal for Sevilla was scored by Kévin Gameiro while the second and the third goals were scored by Captain of the team, Coke. Daniel Sturridge who was the only scorer for Liverpool also became the first English player to score in the Europa League final since 2001.



News 29: Indian Women's 4 x 100m Relay national record broken at IAAF World Challenge

The Indian women's 4x100 relay team broke an 18-year-old national record of 44.43s created by the quartet of Saraswati Dey, Rachita Mistry, EB Shyla and PT Usha on July 22, 1998 in Fukuoka, Japan.

The team of Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda, HM Jyoti and Merlin Joseph clocked 44.03s to achieve fourth position at the IAAF World Challenge. China A Team and China B Team won the Gold and Bronze award while Japan won the Silver award.



News 30: Uber Cup 2016, India lose to China in semi-finals

China defeated India in the semi-finals of the Uber Cup. China are set to face the winner of the other semi-final between Korea and Japan. Indian women's team settled for a bronze medal after losing semi-finals.

After the top shuttlers Saina Nehwal and P V Sindhu went down narrowly against their respective opponents in the two singles match, Jwala Gutta and N Sikki Reddy also bit the dust in the first doubles, ending India's campaign.



News 31: Mohun Bagan becomes Champion of the 14th Federation Cup Title 2016

Mohun Bagan defeated Aizawl FC by a record 5-0 margin and won the Federation Cup football title after eight years, at the Indira Gandhi Stadium. The Kolkata giant extended the record of winning the title to 14.



The last time this club had won the title was in 2008, when it beat Dempo. The winner of the Federation Cup gets a chance to compete in the continental level in AFC Cup.

News 32: Uber Cup Badminton Championship won by China for the 14th time

Chinese women won the title by defeating South Korea 3-1 in the final and retained their Uber Cup Title. The Chinese won the championship for the 14th time in front of their home crowd in the Kunshan Sports Centre Gymnasium in Beijing.



Olympic champion Li Xuerui and former world number one Wang Shixian won their singles matches before Cheng Qingchen partnered Tang Yuanting to win the second doubles and secure China's third successive Uber Cup triumph. The Indian team won the bronze medal of the tournament for the second consecutive time.

News 33: Thomas Cup Badminton Championship's First Time Winners: Denmark

The Thomas Cup also known as Men's World Team Championships is an international badminton competition. Denmark created history by winning the Thomas Cup Finals for the first time beating Indonesia 3-2 in the final and become the first European country to win the World Team Title.



The 30-year-old Vittinghus stayed calm throughout the match to beat an inexperienced 21-year-old Ihsan Maulana Mustofa 21-15, 21-7 in the decider. Earlier, Denmark had won two points through Viktor Axelsen and Jan O Jorgensen. Indonesia's two points came through their doubles players - Mohd Ahsan-Hendra Setiawan and Angga Pratama-Ricky Karanda Suwardi.

News 34: Anurag Thakur to take charge as the new BCCI president

Anurag Thakur became the 34th BCCI President, unanimously elected at the board's Special General Meeting (SGM) in Mumbai. The Maharashtra Cricket Association chief and business magnate Shirke expectedly filled in the secretary's post which was left vacant by Thakur's resignation.



The Supreme Court had asked BCCI to follow all Lodha Panel recommendations, but the Board feels many of those are impractical, one of them being the suggestion of removing advertisements in between overs. The newly-elected BCCI president explained that taking away advertisement from in between the overs during a cricket match will have an impact on revenue generation of Indian cricket.

News 35: Pankaj Advani created history by winning the Asian 6-Red Snooker title championship

India's Pankaj Advani became the first in the world to hold both world and continental titles in 6-Red snooker at the same time by clinching the Asian 6-Red snooker title, thus creating history. The double International Billiards & Snooker Federation (IBSF) World Six-Red Snooker Champion proved his talent again in the short format of the game, defeating top seeded Malaysian Keen Hoh Moh by 7-5



Advani will now spearhead the Indian challenge in the team event with Aditya Mehta, Manan Chandra and Kamal Chawla.

News 36: Indian boxer Sonia won the silver medal at the AIBA Women's World Championships

Indian boxer Sonia Lather (57kg) settled for a silver medal at the AIBA Women's World Championships after going down to top seed Alessia Mesiano of Italy. India's last gold at the prestigious tournament came in 2010 when M C Mary Kom had finished on top in the 48kg category to clinch her fifth world title.



In the 2014 game played in South Korea, India had won two silver medals through Sarjubala Devi (48kg) and Saweety (81kg), both of whom lost in the quarterfinals this time. The low medal counts aside, none from the country could qualify for the Rio Games in the three Olympic categories of 51kg, 60kg, 75kg.

News 37: Indian Para Athlete Saroha wins gold in 2016 French Open

At the 2016 French Open Athletics Championship held in Paris on May 23 and 24, one of the Indian Para Athlete Amit Kumar Saroha from Haryana won the gold medal in men's club throw (F-51). His effort of 26.58m broke the Asian record which he had himself set at last year's World Championships in Doha on way to winning a silver medal.



The player has already qualified for the 2016 Rio Paralympics scheduled to be held this September and one of 15 Indian para athletes currently being supported by the GoSports Foundation through the Para Champions Program.

News 38: SRH win their maiden Indian Premier League title

Sunrisers Hyderabad clinched the IPL title for the first time after they defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) by eight runs at the Chinnaswamy stadium in Bangalore.



List of Awards and Winners:

- Best Batsman Award (Orange Cap) - Virat Kohli (973 runs with 4 centuries)
- Best Bowler Award (Purple Cap)- Bhuvneswar Kumar (Total 23 wickets)
- Man of the Match in Final - Ben Cutting (39 runs and 2 wickets)
- Vitara Brezza Glam- David Warner
- Emerging Player - Mustafizur Rahman
- Most Valuable Player- Virat Kohli

News 39: Kohli named T20 Player of Year in CEAT Award event

Virat Kohli has been named 'CEAT T20 Player of the Year' during the CEAT Awards Event 2016 in Mumbai. He was announced the Player-of-the-Tournament in the recently concluded IPL after scoring 973 runs in 16 matches. Former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award. One special award was handed over to Ajinkya Rahane, who has become the fifth Indian Cricketer to score a century in each inning of a Test Match.



- The Young Player of the Year award: Rishabh Pant
- Domestic Cricketer of the Year award: Shreyas Iyer
- CEAT International Cricketer of the Year: Joe Root
- CEAT International Batsman of the Year: Joe Root
- CEAT International Bowler of the Year: R Ashwin
- CEAT Indian Cricketer of the Year: Rohit Sharma
- CEAT Test Cricketer of the Year: Kane Williamson
- CEAT ODI Cricketer of the Year: Martin Guptill

News 40: Alastair Cook becomes Youngest Cricketer to score 10000 Test runs

England captain Alastair Cook became the youngest batsman to score 10,000 runs in Test cricket. He also joined the elite 10,000-run club in Test cricket and is the 12th batsman in the list. Cook achieved the landmark on Day 4 of the second Test against Sri Lanka at Chester-le-Street. He is also the first Englishman to score 10,000 runs in Test cricket.



Cook, who is 31 years and five months old, beat Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar's record, who was 31 years and 10 months old when he crossed 10,000 runs.

News 1: IITM to study Rain Formation & Randomized Cloud Seeding

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) is in the process to understand rain formation in clouds through a research program called Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX).

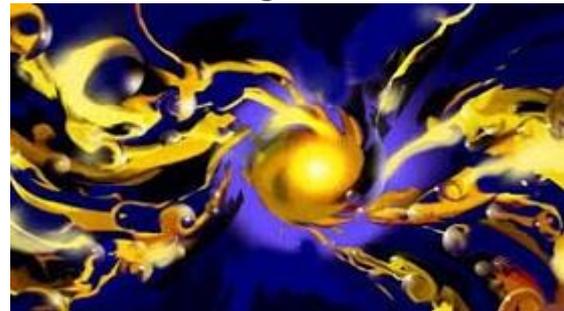
Artificial rain making techniques involving cloud seeding cannot be used for bringing rain clouds to rainfall deficit/drought areas, however, these techniques can only induce potential clouds, already passing over a given place, to produce enhanced quantum of rain. These operations include detailed measurements of aerosols, cloud droplets, raindrops and ice particles, registering the growth of clouds before and after the seeding.



News 2: British Scientists developed world's tiniest engine

Scientists at the University of Cambridge have constructed a nanoscale working engine - world's tiniest engine. It's been christened the ANT or Actuating Nano-Transducers. The prototype device is made of tiny charged particles of gold and stores large amounts of elastic energy in a fraction of a second.

It is believed to be up to a hundred times more powerful than any other engine known to man taking its force to weight ratio into account.



News 3: Scientists discovered dwarf star surrounded by trio Earth like Exo-planets

The Scientists have discovered 3 Earth-like exo-planets orbiting a dwarf star 40 light-years away in another star system using the TRAPPIST telescope. The ultra-cool dwarf star is named as TRAPPIST-1. It is red and barely larger than Jupiter.

The planets are about the size of Earth and given the proximity of two of them to the dwarf star, they receive about four times the amount of radiation than we do from the sun, which suggests they are in the "habitable zone. Scientists believe the two planets are tidally locked. This means that the planets always face one way to the star. One side of the planet is perpetually night, while the other is always day.



News 4: SpaceX successfully lands rockets after space launch

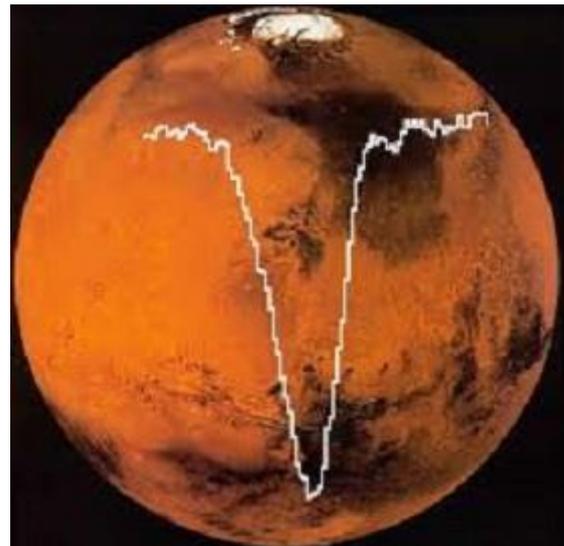
SpaceX has once again successfully landed a booster rocket on an ocean platform. The feat was accomplished after the rocket deployed a Japanese commercial telecommunication satellite, JCSat-14, into orbit. The unmanned Falcon 9 rocket landed on a drone ship in the Atlantic Ocean off the southeastern U.S. coast of Florida. Last month, internet entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX successfully landed a used booster rocket after it launched an unmanned cargo ship to the International Space Station.



The SpaceX is striving to perfect the technique of landing the booster rockets, making them as reusable as aircraft rather than dumping the expensive equipment into the ocean after each launch.

News 5: Researchers Study Detects Presence of Atomic Oxygen in Mesosphere

An instrument onboard the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) detected atomic oxygen in the atmosphere of Mars for the first time since the last observation 40 years ago, published in the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*. These atoms were found in the upper layers of the Martian atmosphere known as the mesosphere. Scientists detected only about half the amount of oxygen expected.

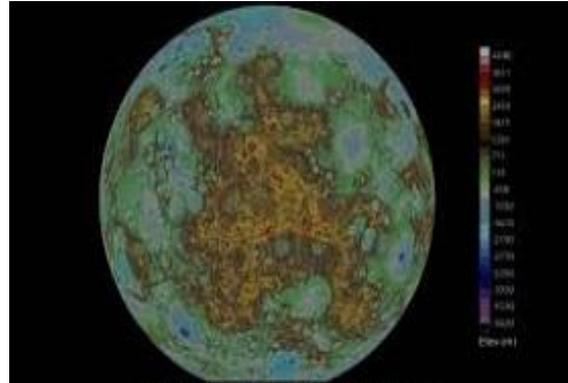


SOFIA which was used to detect, is a Boeing 747SP jetliner modified to carry a 100-inch diameter telescope. A detailed study is required to study how other gases escape Mars and therefore has a significant impact on the planet's atmosphere.

News 6: NASA Unveils First Global Topographic Model of Mercury

NASA's MESSENGER (Mercury Surface, Space ENvironment, GEOchemistry, and Ranging) mission has unveiled the first global digital elevation model (DEM) of Mercury.

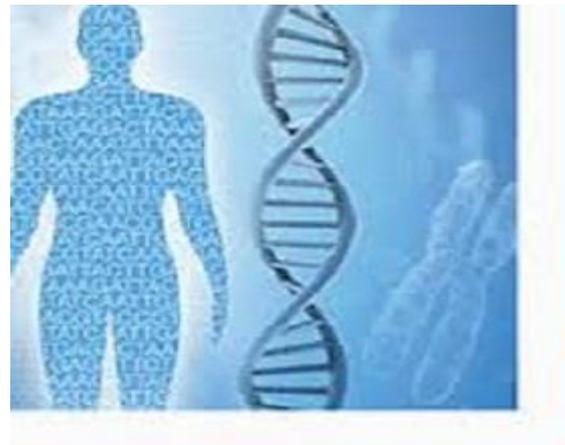
The MESSENGER mission shows stunning detail the topography across the entire innermost planet of our solar system. The model was created using more than 100,000 images acquired by the MESSENGER which orbited the planet between 2011 and 2015. The mission has shared more than 10 terabytes of Mercury science data, including nearly 300,000 images, millions of spectra, and numerous map products.



News 7: First UK baby born using the Next-Generation DNA sequencing method

UK's first baby resulting from an embryo that was screened using the Next-Generation DNA sequencing has been born in Oxford. Ewa Wybacz, 36, gave birth to her son, Biagio Russu.

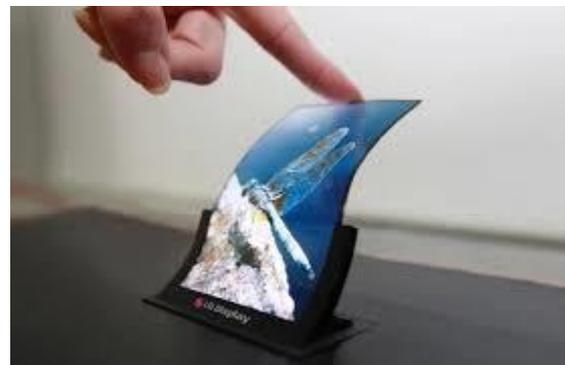
This Next-generation sequencing uses a revolutionary In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) technique and helps select embryos which are most reliable to implant and produce healthy babies. The technique currently costs between £2000 and £3500 on top of the standard IVF fees. It was first used successfully in the USA in 2013, with the first baby, Connor Levy, born in June 2013 in Pennsylvania.



News 8: World's First Holographic Flexible Phone Developed

The researchers at the Queen's University Human Media Lab, Ontario, have developed the world's first holographic flexible smartphone. It has a bendable display that allows multiple people looking at the device to see different 3D images and videos without any headgear or glasses.

The device called "HOloFlex", features a 1920x1080 full high-definition Flexible Organic Light Emitting Diode (FOLED) touchscreen display. The HOloFlex incorporates bending and flexing the device as another kind of control, which the team calls "Z-Input".



News 9: China launches Yaogan-30 remote sensing satellite

China has successfully launched their Yaogan-30, which is a remote-sensing satellite into the sun-synchronous orbit (SSO). This satellite will be used for experiments, land surveys, crop yield estimates and disaster relief. The Yaogan-30 was carried by a Long March-2D rocket, the 227th mission for the Long March rocket family. The rocket was launched from their Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center that is located in the Gobi Desert.



The first in the series, Yaogan-1, was launched in 2006.

News 10: Australian researchers build the world's first scanning helium microscope

The World's first "Scanning Helium Microscope" (SHeM), has been built by the Australian researchers. Paul Dastoor of University of Newcastle, had been working on the SHeM for two decades.



The new microscope could be path breaking for many new discoveries by allowing scientists to scrutinize materials without disturbing them. It will allow to study human, animal and plant samples, as well as computer chips and pharmaceutical drugs, without damaging or changing them, in their true state, as against the traditional microscope which uses light to penetrate samples and this can damage them.

News 11: NASA super pressure balloon launched in New Zealand

NASA successfully launched a super pressure balloon from New Zealand's South Island Wanaka Airport to conduct near-space scientific investigations. It was the fifth attempt to get the massive balloon airborne.



The 532,000 cubic meter balloon is expected to circumnavigate the globe about the southern hemisphere's mid-latitudes once every one to three weeks, depending on wind speeds in the stratosphere and remain airborne for more than 100 days. Long-duration balloon flights provide inexpensive access to the near-space environment for science and technology.

News 12: Scientists Genetically Engineered World's First Zika Virus Infectious cDNA Clone

A multidisciplinary team from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston is the first in the world to genetically engineer a clone of the Zika virus strain. It could expedite the vaccine and therapeutics development as well as many more research related to the virus.



The infectious cDNA clone allows researchers to make Zika virus from test tube and cells on petri dishes.

News 13: Indigenous faecal incontinence management device Qora launched

The indigenously developed faecal incontinence management system 'Qora' was launched by the Minister of State for Science & Technology Shri Y. S. Chowdary in New Delhi. It is developed by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology and supported by Bio-design Program by M/s. Consure Medical, New Delhi.



As of now, implemented at AIIMS and IIT, Delhi, Fecal incontinence (FI) is a medical condition marked by inability to control one's bowel movements, causing stool (faeces) to leak unexpectedly from the rectum. The Qora technology has the potential to expand globally and benefit more than 100 million fecal incontinent patients each year.

News 14: ISRO launches indigenously winged RLV-TD reusable launch vehicle

The Indian Space Research Organization successfully developed a space vehicle that can fly many times into space by successfully conducting the maiden test flight of a Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology. It is India's first winged body aerospace vehicle operating in hypersonic flight. After successfully tolerating the high temperatures of re-entry with the help of its Thermal Protection System (TPS), RLV-TD successfully landed to the defined landing spot.

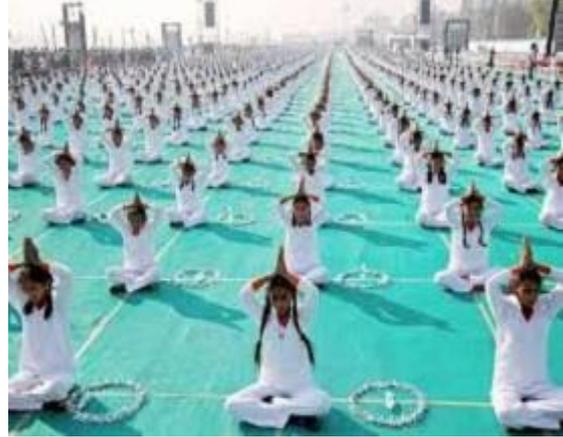


The RLV –TD is an initial step to develop a Two Stage-2-Orbit (TSTO) fully reusable vehicle. The hypersonic flight experiment (HEX) will be followed by a landing experiment (LEX), a return flight experiment (REX) and a scramjet propulsion experiment (SPEX) soon.

VARIOUS COMMITTEES

News 1: H R Nagendra Committee submitted its recommendations on Yoga Education in Universities

The H.R. Nagendra Committee on Yoga Education in Universities, in its report submitted to the Union Government, has recommended seven programs for implementation in universities viz. (i) Certificate Course in Yoga (CCY) of 6 to 12 months duration; (ii) Bachelors of Science (Yoga)-BSc.(Yoga) of 3 to 6 years; (iii) Post Graduate Diploma in Yoga (PGDY) of 1 to 2 years; (iv) Post Graduate Diploma in Yoga Therapy(PGDYT) of 1 to 2 years; (v) Masters of Science (MSc.)- Yoga of 2 years to 4 years; (vi) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)-Yoga of 3 to 5 years; and (vii) Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated)- Yoga of 4 to 6 years.



The committee has also prescribed the qualifications for faculty of yoga. The committee has made other recommendations for promotion of yoga in universities. The recommendations of the committee are being examined.

News 2: Centre forms panel to give recommendations on FRBM roadmap

The Centre has constituted a 5-Member Committee to review and give recommendations on the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM), headed by former Revenue and Expenditure Secretary N.K. Singh. Other members of the Committee are Sumit Bose, former Finance and Revenue Secretary, Dr. Arvind Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser, Urijit Patel, Deputy Governor, RBI and Rathin Roy, Director, National Institute Public Finance and Policy, NIPFP.



The Committee will examine the need and feasibility of having a 'Fiscal Deficit Range' as the target in place of the existing fixed percentage of GDP and make specific recommendations. It will also examine the need and feasibility of aligning the fiscal expansion or contraction with credit contraction or expansion respectively in the economy and submit its report by 31st of October this year.

News 3: DB Shekatkar Committee constituted to re-look defence spending

The Government has constituted a 11-member committee led by Lieutenant General DB Shekatkar (Retired) to recommend measures to "re-balance" the overall defence expenditure in view of the escalating salary and pension bills. The committee is expected to submit its report by August 2016.



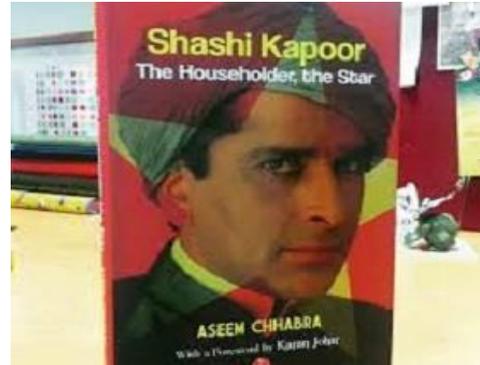
The committee will also identify areas to "rationalize manpower", examine possible areas of multi-tasking by troops and induction of more technology so as to reduce the number of manpower.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

News 1: Biography of Shashi Kapoor – ‘Shashi Kapoor – The Householder, The Star’ released

A biography on veteran actor Shashi Kapoor, unveiling the chapters of his personal and professional life was released on 6th May. The biography has been titled “Shashi Kapoor – The Householder, The Star”. It has been authored by film journalist Aseem Chhabra.

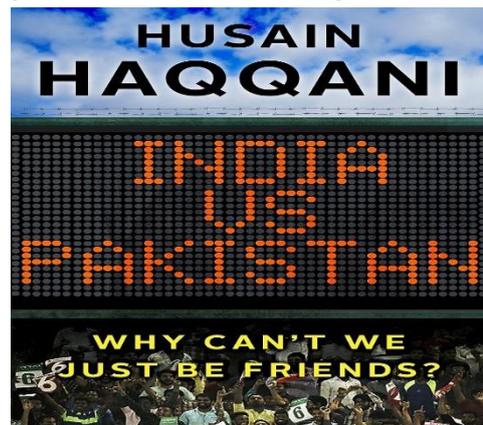
The actor is known for his work in films like 'Waqt', 'Deewar', 'Trishul' and 'Utsav'. Kapoor was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2015. Apart from acting in movies, he also had worked as a film director, assistant director and film producer.



News 2: India vs Pakistan: Why Can't we just be Friends? by Husain Haqqani

A forthcoming book titled India vs Pakistan: Why Can't we just be Friends? authored by former Pakistani Ambassador to the U.S. Husain Haqqani, stirred a controversy because it exposed Pakistan's role in the 26/11 terror attacks. The book recounts the visit by ex-ISI chief General Pasha to Washington on 24 and 25 December 2008, where he made the startling admission.

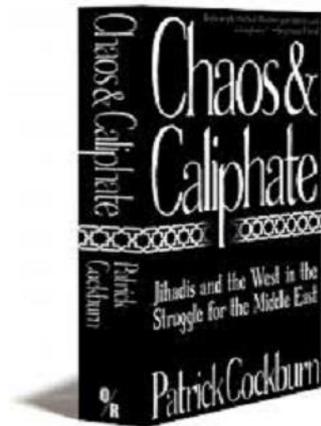
Mr. Haqqani faced charges of treason in Pakistan in 2011 after the military accused him of writing a “Memo” to the U.S. government on the Osama Bin Laden killing.



News 3: Chaos and Caliphate: Jihadis and the West in the Struggle for the Middle East, authored by Patrick Cockburn

The book titled *Chaos and Caliphate: Jihadis and the West in the Struggle for the Middle East* authored by Patrick Cockburn was in news in the recent times as it exposed how millions of people were killed by a series of disastrous Western interventions in West Asia. The book highlights the conflicts that have tossed the Middle East and beyond from 2001 to the present times.

Patrick Oliver Cockburn is an Irish journalist. He has written four books on Iraq's recent history and won the Martha Gellhorn Prize in 2005, the James Cameron Prize in 2006 and the Orwell Prize for Journalism in 2009.



News 4: Ruskin Bond set to release two new books

Prolific author Ruskin Bond is set to release his two new books, 'My Favourite Nature Stories' and 'The World Outside My Window' - themed on nature, the writer's first love. The books are being published by Rupa Publications.

The author has over 500 short stories, essays and novels to his credit. He has also received the Padma Shri (1999), the Padma Bhushan (2014) and two awards from the Sahitya Akademi one for his short stories and another for his writings for children. In 2012, the Delhi government gave him its Lifetime Achievement award.



News 5: Unreleased writings by Mother Teresa to be published

A collection of previously unreleased writings, "A Call to Mercy: Hearts to Love, Hands to Serve", by Mother Teresa will be published in August, weeks before her canonization. The book was compiled by Fr Brian Kolodiejchuk.

The book focuses on how we can show mercy and compassion in our day-to-day lives. Kolodiejchuk also edited *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta*, published in 2007.



News 6: “Gujarat Files: Anatomy of a Cover Up” authored by Rana Ayyub released

“Gujarat Files: Anatomy of a Cover Up”, a book authored by Rana Ayyub was released.

The book is the account of an eight-month long undercover investigation by journalist Rana Ayyub into the Gujarat riots, fake encounters and the murder of state Home Minister Haren Pandya that brings to the fore startling revelations. She conducted the sting posing as an NRI film maker in the name of Maithili Tyagi from US, who was making film on “Vibrant Gujarat.”

