

CURRENT AFFAIRS



NOVEMBER 2015

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Current Affairs November 2015

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and big collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **November 2015**. 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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1. Appointments

News 1. Surojit Chatterjee joins Flipkart as the Senior Vice President

Flipkart has appointed Google's executive Surojit Chatterjee as Senior Vice President and Head of Consumer Experience and Growth. Mr. Chatterjee was heading mobile search advertising and AdSense for Search (AFS) in Google.



News 2. Justice T S Thakur is the new CJI

Justice T S Thakur will be the 43rd Chief Justice of India. He took over from the incumbent Justice H L Dattu. He will have the tenure as CJI for a little over one year and would retire on January 4, 2017. He was sworn in as Chief Justice of India by our President, Pranab Mukherjee at a function in the Rashtrapati Bhavan.



News 3. Raghuram Rajan appointed as the vice chairman of the Bank for International Settlements

Mr. Raghuram Rajan, the Governor of Reserve Bank of India, has been elected as VC of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). He became the first Indian Central Bank Governor to be appointed as the Vice-Chairman of BIS. The current Chairman of BIS is Jens Weidmann.



News 4. Subir Gokarn appointed as IMF's Executive Director

Former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Subir Vithal Gokarn was appointed as an Executive Director on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He replaces Mr. Rakesh Mohan at the IMF. Mr. Gokarn will represent India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh on the Executive Board of IMF.



News 5. New people nominated as members of FTII

The Government has nominated Bhawana Somaaya, Satish Shah and Brijendra Pal as members of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Society. Bhawana and Satish were nominated in the category of eminent persons connected with films. Whereas, Brijendra was nominated as an alumnus of the FTII.



News 6. Syed Akbaruddin appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the UN

Syed Akbaruddin was appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at New York. He will replace Mr. Asoke Kumar Mukerji from this position. Mr. Akbaruddin is currently serving as an Additional Secretary in the MEA. As a Permanent Representative, his main job would be to push for India's bid to gain permanent membership in the UN Security Council.



News 7. Vijay Keshav Gokhale appointed as India's ambassador to China

Shri Vijay Keshav Gokhale (IFS Batch 1981), currently the Ambassador of India to Federal Republic of Germany, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China. He will replace Mr Ashok Kantha.



News 8. Nitish Kumar sworn-in as Bihar Chief Minister

Nitish Kumar was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the fifth time. Governor Ramnath Kovind administered the oath of office and secrecy to Nitish Kumar.



News 9. FICCI elects Harshavardhan Neotia as the new President

Mr. Harshavardhan Neotia, Chairman of the Ambuja Neotia Group, was elected as the President of Industry Body, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for the year 2016. Mr. Neotia will succeed the current FICCI President, Jyotsna Suri.



News 10. Conservative Mauricio Macri wins Presidential run off in Argentina

The conservative candidate, Mauricio Macri won Argentina's 2015 Presidential election. He will succeed Christina Kirchner. The ruling party candidate was Daniel Scioli.



News 11. Anju Bobby George appointed as new Chairperson of TOPS

Anju Bobby George, the former long jump world champion, was appointed as the chairperson of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). She will be assuming the charge in the first week of December 2015. This TOP Scheme under the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was formulated with the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games. They are focusing on the field of Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Wrestling and Shooting.



News 12. Antonio Costa is the new PM of Portugal

Indian origin, Antonio Costa of the Portugal's Socialist Party was appointed as Prime Minister of the country. He was given oath by the President Anibal Cavaco Silva. Antonio Costa was the mayor of Lisbon.



News 13. Patricia Scotland is the new Secretary General of the Commonwealth

British lawyer Baroness, Patricia Scotland (60) has been elected as the new Secretary General of the Commonwealth. She thus becomes the first woman and also the first British citizen to be elected on this post. She will succeed Kamalesh Sharma from India. She had served as the Attorney General under Gordon Brown.



News 14. Ex-Cabinet Secy. to head panel on the new education policy

The former Cabinet Secretary T.S.R. Subramanian has been appointed as the chairperson of a committee set up by the Human Resource Development Ministry to draft the new education policy. This five-member committee will be entrusted with the responsibility of drafting the country's third National Education Policy (NEP), since Independence.



News 15. AK Jha takes over as CMD, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

Mr. Anil Kumar Jha took over the charge of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL), a leading subsidiary of Coal India. Before joining MCL, Jha was the Director (Production & Planning) in MOIL Limited.



News 16. Navtej Singh Sarna appointed as Indian High Commissioner to United Kingdom

The Government of India appointed Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna as the Indian High Commissioner to United Kingdom (UK). Sarna is a 1980 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. He is presently serving as Secretary West.



News 17. V Sivaramakrishnan appointed as MD of Oxford University Press India

Mr. V. Sivaramakrishnan (Siva) has been appointed as the Managing Director by the Oxford University Press India (OUPI). Mr Siva has also been given the added regional responsibility of that of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. He will join OUP India from Manipal Global Education Services, a privately owned service provider to the higher education and training sectors.



News 18. Shashank Manohar nominated as new Chairman of ICC by BCCI

BCCI decided to recall N Sinivasan as ICC Chairman and nominate its recently-elected President Shashank Manohar as the chief of the world body. The decision to remove Srinivasan was taken at the BCCI's 86th Annual General Meeting. In Manohar's absence, Mumbai Cricket Association Chief and former ICC President, Sharad Pawar will represent the BCCI at the global body.



News 19. Standard Chartered names Zarin Daruwala as new India CEO

Ms. Zarin Daruwala will join as the India's Chief Executive Officer at the Standard Chartered Bank. She was working with the ICICI Bank as President of the Wholesale Banking group. Ms. Daruwala will take-over from Mr. Sunil Kaushal.



News 20. Swati Dandekar appointed Executive Director to Asian Development Bank by Obama

Ms. Swati Dandekar, an Indian Origin American politician, was nominated as the Executive Director to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with ambassadorial rank by the US President, Barack Obama. She will replace Mr. Robert M Orr. She was the first Indian-born American citizen to win a state legislature seat in the United States.



News 21. Sunil Kanoria appointed as President of ASSOCHAM

Mr. Sunil Kanoria was appointed as the President of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). Mr. Kanoria has succeeded Rana Kapoor, Yes Bank's Managing Director and CEO. The appointment was a conclusion of the ASSOCHAM's 95th Annual General Meeting in New Delhi. Mr. Kanoria is the Vice Chairman of a reputed non-banking finance company, SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited.



News 22. Dubai Bank Mashreq appoints Subroto Som as the new Retail Bank Head

Dubai's third-biggest bank by assets, Mashreq, appointed Mr. Subroto Som as the head of its retail banking group. Mr Som was the Head of Consumer Banking of the ASEAN region of Standard Chartered before. He will take over from Farhad Irani.



2. Awards

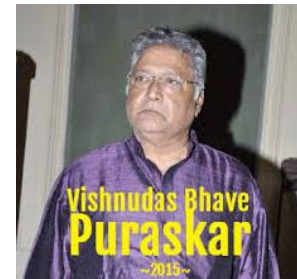
News 1. AIR Program on Child Labour wins ABU prize

All India Radio's (AIR's) Program on child labor has won the first prize at the 2015 Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Prize ceremony. This program has won the award under the Community Service Announcement Category. It was announced at the 52nd General Assembly of ABU held in Ankara, Turkey. The name of this program is Nilkkam Ivarkkoppam meaning Stand Beside Them, and is a Malayalam program.



News 2. Vikram Gokhale receives Vishnudas Bhave award

Renowned film, television and stage actor Vikram Gokhale was awarded with the prestigious Vishnudas Bhave Award. He was conferred with this award for his outstanding contribution to Marathi theatre. The annual award was instituted by Akhil Maharashtra Natya Vidya Mandir in the memory of Marathi Dramatist, Vishnudas Bhave.



News 3. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma receives Aditya Vikram Birla Kala Shikhar Award

Santoor Maestro, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma was presented with the 2015 Aditya Vikram Birla Kala Shikhar Award for Lifetime Achievement. He is instrumental for making the Santoor a popular Classical Instrument globally. It is a folk instrument from the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The Kala Shikhar award was instituted by the Sangit Kala Kendra, headed by Rajashree Birla.



News 4. UNHCR chosen for Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2015

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was chosen for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for year 2015. The UNHCR was chosen for this award in recognition of its immense contributions in assisting millions of refugees in their rehabilitation and resettlement. Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace is the prestigious annual award accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Trust, since 1986. It is presented to individuals or organizations in recognition of creative efforts towards promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order.



News 5. 2015 UNESCO Fellini Medal: Bengali and Marathi film shortlisted

Among the twelve films shortlisted for the prestigious 2015 UNESCO Fellini Medal are a Marathi film *Katjar Kaljat Ghusali* and a Bengali movie *Cinemawala*. The Marathi feature, *Katjar Kaljat Ghusali* has been directed by actor-turned director Subodh Bhawe, while Kaushik Ganguly has directed *Cinemawala*. In order to safeguard the cinematographic heritage, UNESCO's Member States had instituted this prize in year 1995.



News 6. Kuldip Nayar honoured with Ramnath Goenka Lifetime Achievement Award

Kuldip Nayar, a veteran journalist, columnist and author was honoured with Ramnath Goenka Lifetime Achievement Award. He was awarded for his contribution in the field of journalism. He was conferred with this award at the eighth edition of the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Excellence awards ceremony held in New Delhi.



News 7. Abraham M Keita from Liberia won the 2015 International Children's Peace Prize

Liberian teenager Abraham M Keita was awarded with the International Children's Peace Prize 2015. He was awarded for his extraordinary and peaceful fight for justice of child victims of physical or sexual violence, and for successfully campaigning for the Liberian Parliament to adopt the Children's Law.



News 8. Khel Ratna to be conferred posthumously on former footballer Late Ram Bahadur Chetri

The names of former footballer and Asian games gold medalist Late Ram Bahadur Chetri and renowned athletics coach Renu Kohli have been officially approved by the state sports ministry for the prestigious Khel Ratna (posthumous) and Devbhoomi Uttarakhand Dronacharya respectively this year.



News 9. Sameer Panda-led Indian team won NASA award for Burst Prevention & Puncture Curative technology

A team of Indian scientists led by Sameer Panda from Odisha won the NASA award for an innovative technology named Burst Prevention & Puncture Curative (BPPC) technology. Udit Bondia, KN Panda and Smitiparna Satpathy are the other members of this team. They won the award in the Create the Future Design Contest – 2015 conducted by NASA Tech Brief in New York. It was for the Mild Run Flat Tyre based on BPPC technology and developed by TycheeJuno. This tyre is a multi-chambered tubeless tyre with sealant inside the chamber to take care of any puncture in the tread and sidewall. This technology decreases the possibilities of bursts, takes care of punctures and dynamic wheel balancing. It helps to increase the fuel efficiency as well as life and can also be manufactured with the existing technology.



News 10. University of East London awarded honorary doctorate to Ashok Amritraj

Tennis champion-turned Hollywood filmmaker, Ashok Amritraj was awarded with an Honorary Doctorate of Arts by the University of East London. Amritraj was honored for promoting talented moviemakers from across the world, including India.



News 11. UNESCO Fellini medal to be awarded at IFFI for the first time

The UNESCO Fellini medal will be awarded in India for the first time at the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in collaboration with the International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication (ICFT), Paris. The medal is given to a film that reflects UNESCO's ideals.



3. Deaths

News 1. Archaeologist Virendra Nath Misra passed away

Virendra Nath Misra, the doyen of Indian prehistoric archaeology is no more. He was 81. One of the eminent archaeologists of post-Independent India, he was known for his extensive field studies and excavations in Central India and Rajasthan.



News 2. Brijmohan Lall Munjal passes away

Founder of the Hero MotoCorp and a well-known personality in the Indian two-wheeler industry Brijmohan Lall Munjal passed away. He was 92. He was conferred with the 'Padma Bhushan' in 2005.



News 3. CPI(M) leader Hasim Abdul Halin passes away

Veteran CPI(M) leader and former Speaker of the West Bengal Assembly, Hasim Abdul Halin passed away. He was 80. He was the longest serving speaker in the country and held the post from 1982 to 2011.



News 4. Oscar-winning British writer and actor Colin Welland passed away

Oscar-winning British writer and actor Colin Welland passed away at the age of 81. He was suffering from Alzheimer's disease for several years. Welland had won an Academy Award (Oscar) for the best original screenplay in 1982 for the movie Chariots of Fire.



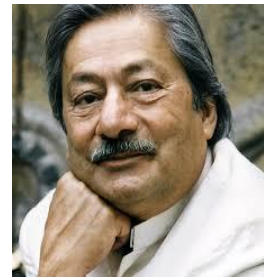
News 5. Bimal Prasad passes away:

India's former Ambassador to Nepal and Modern India Historian, Bimal Prasad passed away at the age of 92.



News 6. Actor Saeed Jaffrey passes away:

Veteran actor Saeed Jaffrey has passed away in London at the age of 86. He starred in as many as 100 Hindi films. Apart from that, he worked in some international films along-side actors like Sean Connery, Michael Caine, Roshan Seth, James Ivory, Richard Attenborough and Daniel Day-Lewis. He received a BAFTA nomination for "My Beautiful Laundrette". He is also the first Indian to receive the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his contributions towards drama.



News 7. Ashok Singhal passes away

Senior Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader, Ashok Singhal passed away in Gurgaon, Haryana. He played a leading role in the Ram Janma Bhoomi Movement. He was a metallurgy engineering graduate from Banaras Hindu University and a RSS Pracharak all his life.



News 8. Ex-RAW Director K Shankaran Nair passes away

Former Director of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), K. Shankaran Nair passed away in Bengaluru. He was 94 years old. Mr. Nair wrote his memoir Inside IB and RAW: The Rolling Stone That Gathered Moss, which was published in year 2008.



News 9. Ram Krishna Trivedi passes away

Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Ram Krishna Trivedi passed away. He was also the former Governor of Gujarat. Trivedi was honored with Padma Vibhushan as a recognition to his services towards the nation. He was also the first person to introduce the Election Photo identity card (EPIC) i.e. Voter ID Card in the Indian Elections.



News 10. Indian Red Cross Society Secretary General SP Agarwal died

Eminent neurosurgeon and Secretary General of the Indian Red Cross Society, Satya Paul Agarwal died at the age of 70. He was honored with the Padma Bhushan.



News 11. Noted economist T.S. Papola passes away

Noted labor economist, Dr. T.S. Papola passed away in New Delhi at the age of 74. He had served as an advisor with the erstwhile Planning Commission of Union Government for eight years from 1987 to 1995.



4. Economic

News 1. Jet Airways, Indigo and Spicejet imposed with Rs. 258 crores fine by CCI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed penalties worth Rs 258 crore on Jet Airways, IndiGo and SpiceJet. The penalty was slapped on account of cartelisation in fixing cargo fuel surcharge by the three airline carriers. The complaint against the carriers was filed by Express Industry Council of India. The CCI is a statutory body established to look into adverse practices that affect competition in different industries and protect interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade.



News 2. Disinvestment of 10% paid up equity capital in Coal India Limited

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the disinvestment of 10% paid up equity capital of Coal India Limited (CIL). After this disinvestment, the Government's shareholding in CIL would come down to 68.65%. The Government is planning to make around 20,000 crore rupees with this disinvestment. At the market capitalization, based on the CIL stock price, a 10% stake sale could fetch about 21137.71 crore rupees. This disinvestment transaction will be an Offer for Sale (OFS) of shares by the Promoters through the Stock Exchange Mechanism method as per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Rules and Regulations.



News 3. 7th Central Pay Commission submitted its report; recommended 23.55% hike

The 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) headed by Justice AK Mathur submitted its report to the Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley. The commission recommended 23.55% hike in pay and allowances of government employees. The total impact of this Commission's recommendation will raise the ratio of expenditure on salary and wages to GDP from 0.65% points to 0.7%. The recommended pay revision will come into effect from 1 January 2016. The minimum pay for government employees is recommended to be set at 18,000 rupees per month. The maximum pay is recommended to be 2,25,000 rupees per month for Apex Scale and 2,50,000 per month for Cabinet Secretary and others presently at the same pay level.



News 4. ADB to provide 120-million-dollar loan for India-Bangladesh Electricity link

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has confirmed to provide a 120-million-dollar loan towards financing the cross-border electricity link between Bangladesh and India under the South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Co-operation (SASEC) Program. The loan agreement was signed by ADB Country Director, Kazuhiko Higuchi and Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Senior Secretary of Bangladesh Finance Ministry.



This sub-regional partnership will help to –

- Strengthen regional economic cooperation.
- Boost trade among member countries.
- Improve cross-border connectivity.

News 5. SEBI signs MOU with its counterpart in Bangladesh

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has signed an MOU with the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on bilateral cooperation and technical assistance. It will help to enhance investor protection and create conditions for effective development of securities market in both these countries. This MoU was signed by SEBI Chairman U K Sinha and BSEC Chairman M Khairul Hossain. As of now, SEBI has signed 20 such bilateral MoUs with different countries.



News 6. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Signs 11 new Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAS)

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into 11 new unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs). While seven (7) of these APAs have rollback provisions contained in them. The other four (4) are Agreements for the coming five years. The APAs with rollback provisions can cover a maximum period of 9 years in total. With this CBDT has so far signed 31 APAs. These APAs were signed with Indian subsidiaries of foreign companies operating in various segments of the economy. The APA Program was introduced in 2012 as per the provisions of the Income Tax (IT) Act, 1961. It helps in determining the price and ensuing taxes on intra-group overseas transactions.



News 7. NPPA capped prices of 18 formulations packs

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) capped prices of 18 drug formulations under the Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO) 2013. This move is likely to bring down the prices of a few medicines for treatment of diabetes, hypertension and severe infections like pneumonia. These 18 formulations packs include anti-diabetic Metformin HCl tablets, anti-bacterial Ceftriaxone Sodium injection packs and devices among others.



News 8. PM Narendra Modi launched three gold related schemes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Swarna Bharat Yojana (SBY), which covers three gold related schemes:

- Gold Monetization Scheme
- Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme
- Indian Gold Coins.

The primary purpose of this SBY is to reduce dependence on imported gold, recycle the unutilized gold in the country and most importantly, streamline the gold business in the country. At present, India is the largest consumer of gold in the world.



News 9. Union Cabinet approved UDAY for financial turnaround and revival of DISCOMS

The Union Cabinet gave its nod to the **Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojna (UDAY)**. This scheme allows the DISCOMs to convert their debt to state bonds. This scheme aims at alleviating the financial crunch faced by **Power Distribution companies (DISCOMs)** that has impaired their ability to buy electricity. This scheme targets the revival of DISCOMs. It will also ensure a sustainable permanent solution to the problem. UDAY is optional for all States. However, the states are encouraged to take the benefit at the earliest as benefits are dependent on the performance.



News 10. RBI issued revised and Uniform Guidelines on Internet Banking for Cooperative Banks

The RBI has issued revised and uniform guidelines on the usage of internet banking in Co-Operative banks. As per the new guidelines, State Co-Operative Banks and district central Co-Operative banks, which have implemented Core Banking Solution (CBS) and migrated to the Internet Protocol Version 6 can offer internet banking with "View Only" facility. Such banks wanting to give internet banking with transactional facility must get RBI approval with the conditions that capital adequacy ratio is not less than 10%, net worth is Rs. 50 crores or more as on March 31 of the preceding fiscal and gross non-performing assets (NPAs) are less than 7% and net NPAs are not more than 3%.



News 11. Government to impose 0.5% Swachh Bharat Cess on all services from November 15, 2015:

The Union Ministry of Finance has declared to impose 0.5 percent Swachh Bharat Cess (SBC) on all taxable services in addition to the 14 percent service tax that is prevailing now. This SBC will come into force from 15 November 2015. The proceeds of this Swachh Bharat Cess will be exclusively used to support the Swachh Bharat initiative. It may yield the government an additional revenue of about Rs. 400 crores during the remainder of the current fiscal. The Union Government under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is planning to spend around 1,34,000 crore rupees by 2019 to construct 11 crore 11 lakh toilets in the country.



News 12. Governing Council constituted under the chairmanship of Finance Minister to oversee the activities of NIIF

The Union Ministry of Finance constituted the Governing Council (GC) of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

The GC will be chaired by the Union Finance Minister and has the **following five members** –

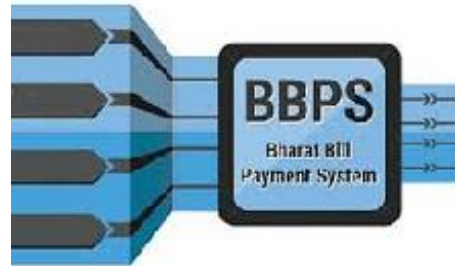
- Secretary, DEA
- Secretary, Financial Services
- Arundhati Bhattacharya
- Hemendra Kothari and
- T V Mohandas Pai



NIIF was approved by the Union Cabinet on 23 July 2015 with an initial corpus of 20,000 crore rupees. Its objective is to back new and stressed projects and help restart the investment cycle.

News 13. NPCI granted in-principle approval by RBI to function as the central unit for Bharat Bill Payment Systems

The Reserve Bank of India decided to grant in-principle the approval to the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to function as the **Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU)** in **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**.



The BBPS is an integrated bill payment system providing convenience of anytime anywhere bill payment to customers. As the central unit, NPCI will set necessary operational, technical and business standards for the entire system and its participants, and also undertake clearing and settlement activities. The present scope of BBPS will include utility bill payments, such as, electricity, water, gas, telephone and Direct-to-Home (DTH). Based on the experience, this would be extended to include other types of repetitive payments, like school / university fees, municipal taxes etc. in future.

News 14. RBI granted in-principle approval for setting up TReDS to three applicants:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted in-principle approval to three applicants to set up and operate Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) under the Payment and Settlement System (PSS) Act 2007.



- NSE Strategic Investment Corporation Limited (NSICL) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Mumbai.
- Axis Bank Limited, Mumbai.
- Mynd Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon, Haryana.

This TReDS will help to improve the flow of funds to MSME sector by reducing the receivables realization cycles. The TReDS will allow SMEs to post their receivables on the system and get them financed. This will not only give them greater access to finance, but will also put greater discipline on corporates to pay their dues on time.

News 15. FIPB clears four FDI proposals worth Rs. 384 cr

The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has cleared four FDI proposals worth ₹384 crores. The proposals cleared were:



- **Lupin** pertained to grant of ESoPs to non-resident employees of the company amounting to Rs 331.64 crore
- BF Elbit Advanced Systems' Rs 37.8 crore proposal
- Eucare Pharmaceuticals
- Hanon Systems

News 16. Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. (IHFL) buys a 40% stake in OakNorth Bank of the U.K.

The Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. (IHFL) has acquired a 40% stake in OakNorth Bank of the U.K. for \$100 million, making it the largest shareholder of a full service universal bank. IHFL is led by Mr. Sameer Gehlaut. With this venture, the total



investments of Indiabulls Group in the vibrant economy of London would be in excess of Rs. 4,200 crores.

News 17. Practo, Uber enter into pact

Healthcare booking platform, Practo and taxi-hailing platform Uber entered into a global partnership to help people reach doctors easily. Those who book an appointment on Practo's mobile application will be able to view the closest Uber available along with the appointment reminder alert.



News 18. Thomas Cook India signs pact with OYO Rooms

Travel services provider, Thomas Cook India has entered into a partnership with OYO Rooms, the online aggregator of budget hotels. The company's partnership with OYO Rooms aims at providing a wide range of standardized stay options, optimal locations (both business and leisure areas) and maximized savings.



News 19. Walmart offers entrepreneur development program for women

Walmart India launched an entrepreneur development program for women. It is a move to encourage women owned businesses (WOBs) in the supply chain. This will include softer payment terms for them in their first year of empanelment with Walmart India.



News 20. AAI inked MoU with IL&FS to bolster overseas expansion

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IL&FS Global Financial Services to spread its business overseas. AAI aims to go global from local with its expertise and capabilities in airport development. The authority will get an opportunity to identify airport development opportunities in the Middle Eastern and African regions as well as in the CIS countries.



News 21. Foodpanda ties up with IRCTC

Food ordering portal, Foodpanda has tied up with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) for order and delivery of food to its passengers. The IRCTC Chairman and Managing Director is Mr. A K Manocha, while Mr. Saurabh Kochar is the CEO of Foodpanda. The service will be initially launched at the New Delhi Railway Station post and later it will be rolled out in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune and Chennai. Customers will have the choice to order meals at least 2 hours in advance of their travel.



News 22. HSBC to shut down private banking business in India

HSBC Holdings Plc is shutting its private banking unit in India. The private banking clients of this bank have the choice to move to HSBC Premier, the bank's global retail banking and wealth management platform. The process is likely to be completed in the first quarter of 2016.



News 23. Govt. extends RuPay insurance cover period

The Government has extended the RuPay Card usage condition to 90 days for a claim under an inbuilt accident insurance cover in case of RuPay Classic cardholders with effect from 25th November 2015. As on 20.11.2015, out of 697 claims lodged under Accidental Insurance under RuPay Debit Card in Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts, 644 claims have been disposed-off. Under PMJDY, RuPay Debit Card with an inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs.1 lakh is also provided to the account holders.

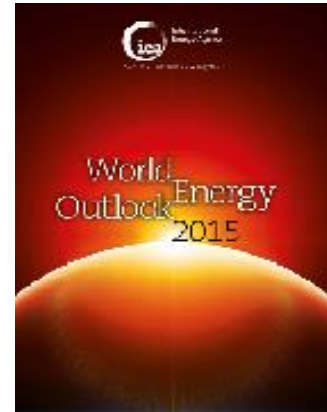


5. Environment

News 1. IEA released World Energy Outlook 2015

The International Energy Agency (IEA) released the World Energy Outlook 2015 (WEO-2015). The WEO-2015 presents updated projections for the evolution of the global energy system to 2040. The *WEO-2015* is informed by in-depth analysis on several topical issues

- A lower oil price future.
- India's Energy Outlook.
- Renewables and Energy Efficiency.
- Unconventional Gas.



6. Banking

News 1. Prime Minister Launches Gold Monetization Scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three gold related schemes named Gold Monetization Scheme (GMS), Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme (SGBS) and Indian Gold Coins (IGC). These ambitious schemes were launched to reduce the physical demand for gold in the country.

Gold Monetization Scheme (GMS) 2015

- GMS 2015 will offer option to resident Indians to deposit their precious metal and earn an interest on it and will replace the existing Gold Deposit Scheme (GDS) 1999.
- Scheme tagline: Earn, while you secure
- Minimum deposit at any one time of raw gold in the forms of bars, coins, jewelry excluding stones and other metals is 30 grams with 995 fineness. There is no maximum limit for the deposit.
- Banks will accept gold deposits under the Short Term of Bank Deposit (STBD) of 1-3 years, Medium (5-7 years) and Long (12-15 years).
- Banks are free to fix the interest rates and it will be denominated in gold.
- All residents can invest in this scheme but are subjected to Know Your Customer (KYC) Scheme.

Gold Monetization Scheme 2015



Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme (SGBS) 2015

- Scheme tagline: Invest wisely. Earn Safely.
- RBI on behalf of Union Government will issue the Gold bonds in the denominations of one gram and its multiples.
- Seeks to shift part of physical gold in form of bars and coins for investment into Demat (Dematerialized) gold bonds in order to reduce the demand for physical gold.
- 8 years is maximum tenure.
- Minimum investment: 2 grams of physical gold; Maximum investment: 500 grams.



Indian Gold Coin 2015

- It is Indian's first ever Indian gold coin and bullion to be officially issued by Union Government.
- The gold coins will bear national emblem Ashok Chakra on one side and Mahatma Gandhi's engraved image on the other side.
- Available at: 125 Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) of India outlets across the country. These coins and bullion are easily liquidated.
- The coins will be available in denominations of 5 and 10 grams and a 20-gram bullion.



News 2. SBI has announced partnership deal with Emirates NBD

Emirates NBD, a leading UAE-based bank has announced a partnership deal with State Bank of India to help NRI customers in the Gulf to carry out their remittances instantly and more conveniently. The partnership will allow fund transfers to SBI bank accounts across India in 60 seconds at zero fees. Emirates NBD, currently has existing tie-ups with HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank in India. With this partnership, the bank's Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers, who also bank with SBI can now avail themselves of the fastest remittance service in the UAE a lot more easily than before.



State Bank of India

7. Important Days

News 1. National Legal Services Day: 9th November

Every year 9th November is celebrated as the National Legal Services Day (NLSD) in India to spread awareness for ensuring reasonable fair and justice procedure for all citizens. This year it was 21st National Legal services day.



News 2. World Science Day observed on 10th Nov

Every year 10th November is being observed as the World Science Day (WSD) for Peace and Development to demonstrate the importance of science in our daily life. The theme of 2015 WSD is **Science for a Sustainable Future**, which has been chosen in line with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development approved by the United Nations (UN).



News 3. International Day for Tolerance observed on 16th November

The International Day for Tolerance was observed worldwide on 16th November. The aim was to educate people about the need for tolerance in society and help them understand the negative effects of intolerance.



News 4. World Toilet Day observed on 19 November with the theme Sanitation and Nutrition

World Toilet Day (WTD) was observed on 19 November all across the world with the theme Sanitation and Nutrition. The aim of WTD is to raise awareness about the people in the world who don't have access to a toilet.



News 5. November 25th observed as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Every year 25th November is being observed as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW) across the world. The importance of this day is to raise awareness about violence against women and girls and to end it.



News 6. National Milk Day observed on 26th November

The National Milk Day (NMD) is being observed on the 26th of November every year to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien also called as the Father of the White Revolution. As a social entrepreneur, he had started the billion-liter Idea-Operation Flood, which was the world's largest agricultural development program. This operation had helped to transform India from a milk-deficit country into the world's largest milk producer.



News 7. Constitution Day observed on 26th November

The first observance of Constitution Day was observed across India on the 26th of November 2015 to mark the adoption of Indian Constitution, which was done in the year - 1949.



8. International

News 1. Ruling party wins' election in Turkey

Ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) won the critical 2015 Parliamentary Elections, regaining the majority it lost in June. AKP won 49.4% of the votes, while the main opposition CHP won 25.4% votes.

- President of Turkey: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
- Prime Minister of Turkey: Ahmet Davutoğlu



News 2. Cyclone Chapala hits Yemen

Cyclone Chapala has slammed into the war-torn Yemen triggering heavy flooding and causing damage in the coastal region. This cyclone is the most powerful storm that has hit Yemen in the last five decades. The pressure of Chapala was 922 mb. The storm produced rainfall amounts over 600mm (nearly 24 inches) in the hardest hit areas. In some areas, this amount was seven years' worth of rain in just 48 hours.



News 3. Disarmament Committee of the UNGA adopts draft resolution backing abolition of nuclear arms

The Disarmament Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a draft resolution calling for the abolition of nuclear arms. The resolution was submitted by Japan and was adopted by 156 member countries. It aims to raise awareness of the humanitarian impact on the use of the nuclear weapons. China and Russia opposed the resolution, while the United States of America, United Kingdom and France abstained from the voting.



News 4. State of Emergency declared in Maldives

The President of Maldives, Abdulla Yameen has declared a state of emergency for 30 days on grounds of threat to national security. The declaration with effect to emergency was made on November 4, 2015. Further on 10th November, 2015, the State of Emergency was lifted with immediate effect.



News 5. Justin Trudeau – New PM of Canada

Justin Trudeau of the Liberal Party was sworn in as the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada. With this Mr. Trudeau (43) became the second youngest PM of Canada after Joe Clark (40). Mr. Trudeau follows in the footsteps of his father, who held the office for nearly two decades.



News 6. France to deploy aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle in Iraq and Syria

France has deployed its largest warship aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle (R91) in order to further boost its operations against the Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria. The deployment of this aircraft carrier would allow the country to be more efficient in coordination with the allies.



News 7. WHO declares Sierra Leone Ebola free

Sierra Leone has been officially declared Ebola-free by the World Health Organization prompting nationwide celebrations. A total of 42 days had passed with no new cases reported in this West African country, where nearly 4,000 people died of the virus. Sierra Leone's neighbor Guinea is the only western African country still having a few reported cases of Ebola, since the deadly outbreak began in December 2013.



News 8. Philippines hosts 2015 APEC Summit

Philippines hosted the 2015 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit on 18–19 November 2015 in its capital city, Manila. The theme of this 2015 APEC Summit was – “Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World”. Under this theme, Philippines is going to push for its inclusive growth and highlight the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).



There are also four priorities set for APEC 2015:

- Investing in Human Capital Development.
- Fostering Small and Medium Enterprises' (SMEs) Participation in Regional and Global Markets.
- Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities.
- Enhancing the Regional Economic Integration Agenda.

News 9. G-20 Summit Concludes in Antalya

The leading economies across the world have concluded the G20 summit in Antalya, Turkey affirming their resolve to fight terrorism and tackle global uneven economic growth.

The 2015 G-20 Antalya Summit:

- G-20 leaders noticed the risks and uncertainties in the financial markets.
- G-20 has developed a package under the "Base Erosion and Profit System" project to tackle the problem of transferring profits to tax havens.
- G20 leaders condemned terrorism and have collectively resolved to choke terror funding.

This G-20 Antalya Summit accommodates several concerns about India, which were raised in various multilateral forums.



News 10. UNSC adopts Resolution 2249 (2015)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously adopted a Resolution 2249 (2015), calling on all nations to re-double and co-ordinate action to prevent further attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other extremist groups. This Resolution 2249 does not provide any legal basis for military action and does not invoke chapter seven of the UN charter that authorizes the use of force.



News 11. State Emergency declared in Mali

Following a terrorist attack in the country's capital city, Bamako, a 10-day state of emergency was declared in Mali by the **President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita**. The government "declared a state of emergency across the nation" following a crisis cabinet session presided over by the President giving security officials extra powers to enter homes without a warrant and to ban public rallies or marches. The president also declared three days of national mourning.



News 12. ASEAN leaders launch EU style “ASEAN Economic Community”

The leaders of ASEAN have signed a declaration for launching ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), a regional economic bloc on the lines of European Union. The Kuala Lumpur declaration on the establishment of the AEC was signed at the 27th Summit of ASEAN held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The summit was chaired by the Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak. The AEC envisages a single market with a free flow of goods, capital and skilled labor across borders. The ASEAN leaders also adopted the declaration on "ASEAN 2025, forging ahead together". ASEAN 2025 declaration is about combating challenges like terrorism, human trafficking, drug related crimes and maritime issues through various initiatives and projects. These ten members of ASEAN includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.



News 13. Saudi Arabia allows women to vote and contest in local elections:

Saudi Arabia has allowed women to cast their first vote in local elections in the history of male dominated country. Women were also standing elections for the first time in the history of the country in the same elections. 978 women were running for office alongside 5938 men.



News 14. Russia signs deal with Egypt to build Egypt’s first nuclear plant at Dabaa

Russia and Egypt have signed an agreement to build a third generation nuclear power plant at Dabaa with total capacity of 1200 MW. Russia will extend loan to Egypt to cover the cost of construction of the nuclear plant. The project is expected to be completed by 2022. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said the loan from Russia would be paid off over 35 years.



News 15. Mahatma Gandhi International Centre inaugurated by Sri Lankan President in Matale

The President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi International Centre (MGIC) in Matale. This center was inaugurated as a tribute to the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi. It was built at a cost of \$6.1 lakh. Overall Indian assistance of India in Sri Lanka amount to \$2.6 billion, out of which \$436 million is through full grant assistance as informed by Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr. Y K Sinha.



News 16. South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise 2015 (SAADMEx - 2015) concluded

The South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise (SAADMEx) 2015 was concluded on the 26th November 2015 by the Union Government in Delhi. This was the first-ever joint exercise to be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) of India. This joint exercise was attended by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries. It aimed to synchronize efforts to institutionalize regional cooperation on disaster response among SAARC member countries. The main focus was to test the inter-governmental coordination, create synergy and synchronize efforts to institutionalize regional cooperation on disaster response among the member countries of SAARC.



9. Miscellaneous

1. **Arisal** village of Maharashtra, also, called as the 'capital of malnutrition' will be the first digital village in the country.
2. The 21st International Conference on Frontiers in Yoga Research and its Applications will be organized from 3 to 7 January 2016 in **Bengaluru**.
3. The name of scheme approved by the Union Cabinet to revive Power Distribution companies is: **Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojna**
4. **Madhya Pradesh** on 5 November 2015 proposed 1656 crore rupees for AMRUT Action Plan to improve the urban infrastructure.
5. First female Vice President of Tanzania is **Samia Suluhu**.
6. The veteran film, television and stage actor who was honoured with the Vishnudas Bhave Award: **Vikram Gokhale**.
7. **Madhya Pradesh** passed an 8000 crore rupee budget to provide relief to drought-hit farmers.
8. The book titled Rebooting India: Realizing a Billion Aspirations is authored by - **Nandan Nilekani and Viral Shah**.
9. **V Sivaramakrishnan** was appointed as the Managing Director of the Oxford University Press India (OUPPI) on 5 November 2015.
10. The bonus amount approved by the Union Cabinet for Rabi pulses of 2015-16 season over and above the recommendations of the CACP is - **75 rupees per quintal**.
11. The Pan-IIT and IISc joint research project launched by PM Narendra Modi on 5 November 2015 is - **Imprint India**.
12. **France** committed 2 billion euros to fund smart cities mission of India.
13. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of 1-crore rupees on **Dhanlaxmi Bank** for non-adherence of Know Your Customer (KYC) norm.
14. King Digital acquired by Activision Blizzard at the cost of 5.9 billion dollars is the maker of popular gaming franchise - **Candy Crush**.
15. Indian-born Sikh **Harjit Sajjan** was sworn-in as Defence Minister of Canada.
16. Irrigation Minister of **Andhra Pradesh** announced to link all important rivers in the state.
17. The drone-based delivery service technology that is being developed by Google is code named - **Project Wing**.

18. The Odisha government on 3 November 2015 announced a scheme for the construction workers of the state under which they will get one lakh rupees for building a house - **Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana**.
19. The scheme approved by the Maharashtra Government to provide free hot cooked meal to pregnant and lactating women is - **APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Yojna**.
20. **Odisha** decided to bring transgenders under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
21. Paragliding world cup was organized in **Kangra** district of Himachal Pradesh.
22. **Switzerland** is identified as the most 'Black Money' friendly country in the world as per the Global Financial Secrecy Index released on 2 November 2015.
23. **Jimmy Morales** was elected as the president of **Guatemala**.
24. The most prosperous country in the Legatum Prosperity Index 2015 is - **Norway**.
25. **Suresh N Patel** was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Andhra Bank**.
26. Name of the Rugby World Cup won by New Zealand on 31 October 2015 - **Webb Ellis Cup**.
27. **India** with a brand value of 2.1 billion dollars is the world's seventh most valued nation and USA tops the chart.
28. The 20th anniversary of the 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11) is scheduled to be held in 2016 at **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.
29. The former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor **Subir Gokarn** was appointed as an Executive Director on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in November 2015.
30. Former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, **Justice Ajit Prakash Shah** was appointed as the ethics officer (Ombudsman) at Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
31. OECD predicted that Indian economy in FY 2015-16 is expected to expand by **7.2 percent**.
32. **Asian Development Bank's 273 million US dollar** loan agreement with Indian Government to continue improving rural roads in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.
33. The person appointed as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Odisha on 8 November 2015 - **Kanwar Brajesh Singh**.
34. **Nigeria** won the U-17 FIFA Football World Cup 2015 by defeating Mali in the final. **India** will host the 17th Under-17 (U-17) FIFA Football World Cup in 2017.

35. **Saaransh**, a mobile App, was launched by Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani on 7 November 2015 to identify areas of improvement in students, teachers and curriculum to facilitate and implement change.
36. Name of the web portal launched by Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) to host educational resources for students, teachers, parents, researchers and educators is **e-Pathshala**.
37. The cricketers who on 6 November 2015 became the first cricketers to ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange – **Sachin Tendulkar, Shane Warne**.
38. The UN agency that was chosen for 2015 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
39. The 23rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Summit concluded on 19 November 2015 in – Manila, Philippines.
40. The loan amount pledged to be financed by Asian Development Bank for increasing transmission capacity of cross-border electricity link between Bangladesh and India - 120 million dollars.
41. Seventh Central Pay Commission that submitted its report to the Ministry of Finance on 19 November 2015 was headed by – Justice (retd) AK Mathur.
42. The theme of International Men's Day (IMD) celebrated on 19 November 2015 was Make a Difference for Men and Boys.
43. Bangladesh blocked social media platform Facebook and online messaging and calling services WhatsApp and Viber on security grounds.
44. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 18 November 2015 approved 10 percent of disinvestment in Coal India Limited (CIL).
45. The scheme approved by CCEA under which all exports of MSME and 416 tariff lines will get an interest subvention up to 3% with effect from 1 April 2015 is - Interest Equalization Scheme.
46. The Union Cabinet approved **German** as an additional language to be taught in Kendriya Vidyalayas.
47. Zarin Daruwala was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Standard Chartered Bank, India on 17 November 2015.
48. Delhi will host the first International Qawwali Festival called 'Taali Ho' in February 2016.
49. Syed Akbaruddin was appointed as the India's permanent representative to the United Nations.
50. The strike range of indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II surface-to-surface missile that was test-fired on 26 November 2015 is – **350 kms**.

51. Idea Cellular bought the spectrum of Videocon in two circles, namely Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh (West) for 3310 crore rupees.
52. Strategic coach for the Indian Men's Hockey is Roger Van Gent.
53. US military operation for the intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is - **Operation Inherent Resolve**.
54. The Union Government is committed to develop Mizoram as the Bamboo State of India.

10. National

News 1. Draft Aviation Policy 2015 announced

In order to popularize air travel among the people of the country, the Union Government has announced the Draft Aviation Policy 2015.

The Key Highlights of this Policy are –

- Improve air connectivity among the smaller cities
- Bring India to third position from the current 10th position in the global aviation sector
- Tax incentives to airlines to boost the aviation sector
- Increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in domestic airlines to over 50 per cent
- To operationalize about 300 airports and air strips in smaller cities. Government will provide money towards it by setting up a special fund.
- 2 per cent levy proposed on all domestic and overseas tickets in order to fund the Scheme.



News 2. Vikalp Scheme launched by Indian Railways

With an aim to get an alternative train accommodation to facilitate waitlisted passengers, Indian Railways launched the Vikalp scheme. It was launched on pilot basis in trains running on Delhi-Lucknow and Delhi-Jammu sectors for a duration of 6 months. The option will be limited to Mail and Express trains only.



The Twin Objectives of this Scheme are –

- Providing confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers.
- Ensure optimum utilization of available accommodation for the waitlisted passengers.

News 3. Facebook partners with BSNL

The State-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has partnered with social media giant, Facebook with an idea of setting up 100 Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) Hotspots across Western and Southern India. Facebook will pay 5 lakh rupees for BSNL bandwidth for each Hotspot per annum. The agreement will be for three years.



News 4. India is ranked as the world's 7th most valuable nation

In a recently released annual report compiled by **Brand Finance**, India was placed at 7th position in the world's most valuable nation brands report among the 100 assessed nations. United States topped this edition of list with a brand valuation of 19.7 billion dollars.



News 5. BrahMos launched successfully

The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired. It successfully hit decommissioned target ship "Alleppey". This successful test provides much-needed strength to INS Kochi making it another lethal platform of Indian Navy.



About Brahmos: It is a supersonic cruise missile designed and developed by BrahMos Aerospace, which is a joint venture of India and Russia. This Missile's name has been derived from the names of two rivers, India's Brahmaputra River and Russia's Moskva River. INS Kochi can carry a total of 16 BrahMos missiles in two 8-cell vertical launch systems along with other modern weapons and sensors.

News 6. India-Indonesia sign two MOUs

India has signed two key Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Indonesia. These MoUs were signed in the presence of Vice President Hamid Ansari and Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kala.



The MoUs signed are –

- New and Renewable Energy sector: To reduce carbon emissions by 2030 by 35% in India and 29% in Indonesia.
- Cultural Exchange program for three years from 2015 to 2018.

News 7. ICGS Arinjay commissioned in Kochi

An Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Arinjay was commissioned by the Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba at a ceremony held at the Naval Base of Kochi. The 50-metre indigenous FPV has a displacement of 290 tonnes and can achieve a maximum speed of 33 knots with an endurance of 1500 nautical miles at economical speed of 13 knots. The ship is capable of undertaking multifarious tasks such as surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue and medical evacuation as well.



News 8. Union Cabinet approves MOU with Belgium

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Belgium. The focus of the MOU was on development of new and renewable energy technologies.



News 9. Forbes list of World's Most Powerful People 2015 released, PM Modi ranked 9th in the list

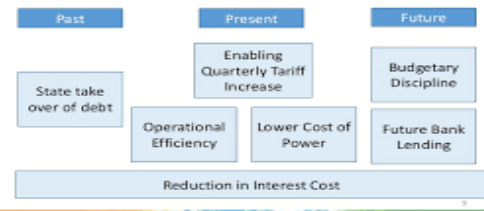
The Forbes list of the World's Most Powerful People 2015 was released on 4 November 2015. The list was topped by Russian President Vladimir Putin for the third year in a row. Putin is followed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel (Rank 2) and President Barack Obama (Rank 3), making it the first year a sitting US President has not made it into the top 2 spots. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was ranked as the world's ninth most powerful person. In 2014, Modi was placed at 14th position.



News 10. Union Cabinet approved UDAY Yojana:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave his nod to Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY). The UDAY scheme aims for financial restructuring of debt of power distribution companies and improve efficiency at power plants. The scheme also aims for financial turnaround as well as revival of Power Distribution companies (DISCOMs).

UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) aims at permanent resolution of DISCOM issues



News 11. MSP of Rabi crops announced by government for 2015-16:

Government has hiked the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rabi crops including wheat and pulses for the Rabi season of 2015-16.

MSP per quintal of Rabi Crop for season 2015-16 (in Rs.) –

- Wheat – 1525
- Gram (Chana) – 3500
- Lentil (Masur) – 3400
- Mustard – 3350
- Safflower – 3300
- Barley – 1225



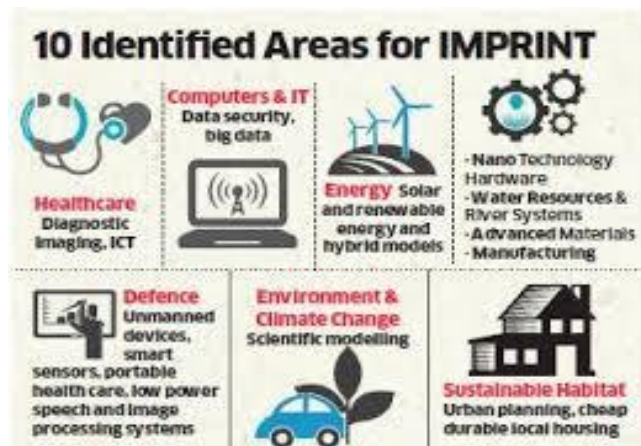
News 12. MOU between India and Colombia approved by the Union Cabinet

Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Colombia to strengthen cooperation in the field of Tourism. The main aim of this MOU is expanding bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector and exchanging information and data related to tourism.



News 13. President launches IMPRINT to boost research:

President Pranab Mukherjee along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 1000 crore rupee or 150 million dollars – Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India to further boost research in the country. IMPRINT India initiative seeks to develop a roadmap for research in order to solve major engineering and technology challenges in 10 identified technology domains.



These 10 domains are: Health Care, Computer Science and ICT, Advance Materials, Water Resources and River systems, Defence, Nano-technology Hardware, Environmental Science, Sustainable Urban Design, Climate Change and Energy. It is a joint initiative of Indian Institute of Technology and Indian Institute of Science.

News 14. Indo-Russia joint military exercise “Indra - 2015” begins

The seventh edition of India-Russia Joint Military Exercise ‘Indra-2015’ began in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. The fourteen days training schedule is focused on training in ‘**Counter Terrorism Operations in Desert Terrain under a United Nations Mandate**’.



News 15. China and India sign two agreements

China and India have signed two agreements:

- First in the field of water resources: Sharing of hydrological data on Sutlej River.
- Second on cultural agreement: India will hold exhibition of art from the Gupta period, which is known as the golden period in the country. During this period the famous Chinese traveler, Fa Hien visited the country.

These agreements were signed after talks between the Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari and his visiting Chinese counterpart Li Yuanchao in New Delhi.



News 16. India signs MOU at ICAN, 2015

India has inked six Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) with different countries in the field of International Civil Aviation Negotiations. These 6 MoUs are signed with Oman, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway. ICAN (International Civil Aviation Negotiations) 2015 was held in Antalya, Turkey from 19th to 23rd October, 2015. The Conference was attended by 106 countries out of ICAO membership of 191 countries.



News 17. Prime Minister inaugurates Ambedkar memorial in London

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the recently acquired Ambedkar Memorial by Maharashtra Government at King Henry's Road in London, United Kingdom. The initiative to acquire the private property in London was taken by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The property was purchased for Rs. 40 crores.



News 18. MHA declares insurgent outfit NSCN (K) as a terrorist organization

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has declared the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) as a terrorist organization. It was previously known as NSCN (K).

About NSCN (K): NSCN (K) came into existence in 1988 under the leadership of S.S. Khaplang, which was established with an objective of forming a sovereign state of Nagalim by unifying all the areas inhabited by the Naga people in Northeast India and Myanmar. Presently NSCN-K is active along the Indo-Myanmar border and has the strength of around 1,000 cadres.



News 19. India and Bangladesh sign SOP

India and Bangladesh signed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in New Delhi to operationalize the "Agreement on Coastal Shipping" signed between the two countries in June, 2015.

Advantages of the Agreement:

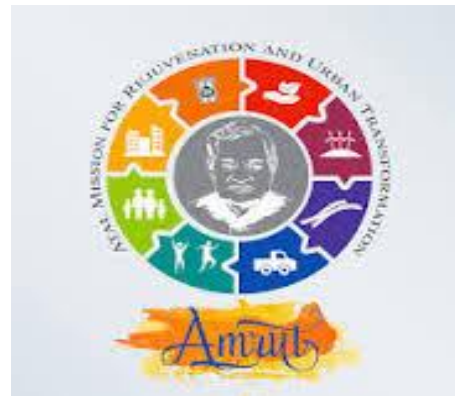
- The opening of coastal shipping between India and Bangladesh would enable the movement of cargo to the North East through coastal shipping up to Chittagong and thereafter by road/inland waterways.
- The deep draft ports on the eastern coast of India can be 'hub ports' for the onward transportation of cargo to Bangladesh via the coastal mode through RSV category of vessels.
- The Indian ports will attract enhanced cargo and also the overall transportation cost to Bangladesh will get reduced.
- The Indian ports serving as trans-shipment ports for Bangladesh cargo will derive benefits by way of enhanced throughput as a result of Indo-Bangladesh coastal trade.



News 20. Government approves AMRUT action plan for 81 cities

The Union Government has approved Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Action Plans with a total project outlay of 5,748 crore rupees. As many as 81 cities in 5 states will use the fund to enhance the basic infrastructure including water supply and sewerage connections under AMRUT action plans for the year 2015-16. The cities are approved in the following 5 states, which are Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Mizoram.

The central assistance will be to an extent of Rs. 2,440 crores, while the remaining funds will be pumped in by the respective state governments. Under the approved State Annual Action Plans (SAAP), Tamil Nadu with 27 AMRUT cities would invest Rs. 3,249 crores followed by MP (32 cities) Rs. 1,656 crores, Odisha (9 cities) Rs. 456 crores, Jharkhand (7 cities) Rs. 313 crores and Mizoram will invest Rs. 73 crores in Aizawl. For cities with population up to 10 lakhs, the central government will provide an assistance of up to 50% of the project cost, while that for the cities with more than 10 lakh population, it will provide an assistance of 1/3rd of the project cost.



News 21. MOU between India and Vietnam in the field of animal health

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Vietnam for cooperation in the field of Animal Health.

The **MoUs** were –

- Set up a Mutual Recognition Agreement on Veterinary hygiene along with health certificate between competent authorities.
- Mutually cooperate in the field of upgrading and training human resources in the field of animal health.



News 22. Union Cabinet approves setting up of NARF

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved setting up of a National Resource Facility for Bio-medical Research (NARF) at Genome Valley in Hyderabad, Telangana. The estimated project cost is Rs. 338.58 crores and the resource center is expected to be functional by 2018-19. The institution will be the first of its kind for quality laboratory animals for basic and applied biomedical research in the country.



News 23. CCEA decides to pay production-linked subsidy to sugarcane farmers

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has decided to pay a production-linked subsidy of Rs 4.50 per quintal directly to sugarcane farmers in the current crushing season to help the cash-starved sugar mills and reduce their arrears. This move will help the sugar mills to get a timely payment of arrears amounting to over Rs 6,500 crores, which is expected to cost the exchequer about Rs 1,147 crores.



News 24. Suresh Prabhu inaugurates Silchar-Lumding broad gauge rail line

Union Railways Ministry has inaugurated the landmark Silchar-Lumding broad gauge rail line in Assam. The salient features of the completed section of Phase-I are as follows:



Phase – I	Lumding – Silchar Section (210 Km)
Cost	Rs 3500 Crore
Number of Major Bridges	79
Number of Major Bridges	340
Total Number of Tunnels	21 (Total length 12.86 KM)

News 25. Solar energy to light up the border posts in Rajasthan

The India-Pakistan border in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan has been successfully lighted with solar energy. The Union home ministry as a pilot project has set up a solar power house of 5MW capacity at the Tala area, which is in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan at a cost of 6 crores and 45 lakh rupees.



News 26. Government reduces deadline for the completion of PMGSY

The Union Government reduced the deadline for completion of rural connectivity through all-weather roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) from 2022 to 2019. It also increased the annual allocation to the states by 5,000 crore rupees. With this, the total Central allocation to states under PMGSY scheme would now be 15,100 crore rupees. This PMGSY was launched in year 2000 and after 15 years of implementation so far, about 1,12,550 habitations, which is 63% of the target have been connected with PMGSY roads.



News 27. India-Singapore sign joint declaration

India and Singapore signed ten bilateral agreements as well as a joint declaration on 'strategic partnership', including pacts for enhanced cooperation in areas like defence, cyber security and civil aviation. The declaration was signed when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong and President of Singapore Tony Tan Keng Yam.



The bilateral agreements signed are:

- MoUs on curtailing drug trafficking and improving cybersecurity.
- Operationalization of the Technical Agreement on sharing white-shiping information to enhance bilateral maritime security.
- Extending of long-term loan of Indian artefacts to the Asian Civilizations Museum of Singapore.
- Cooperation in the field of arts, museums, archives and monuments.
- Collaboration in urban planning and wastewater management.
- MoU for cooperation in civil aviation services and airport management beginning with Jaipur and Ahmedabad airports.

News 28. The Indian Coast Guard Service commissions ICGS-422, enhances vigil

The Indian Coast Guard Service has commissioned their interceptor boat 'ICGS C-422' into its fleet. This boat will help to increase the ICG's vigilance along Pondicherry and South Tamil Nadu coast in the Bay of Bengal. It is the 36th interceptor boat inducted into the Coast Guard service. This boat is capable of multiple tasks including interdiction, surveillance as well as search and rescue.



News 29. India re-elected as the member of IMO for the next two years

India has been re-elected unopposed to the Council of the International Maritime Organization [IMO] under Category "B" at the 29th session of the Assembly of the IMO. This 29th Session of the IMO Assembly were held at IMO Headquarters London from 23 November to 02 December, 2015. India's overseas seaborne EXIM trade, which is presently about 600 million tonnes per annum, is expected to be quadrupled to about 2,200 million tonnes by year 2020. In value terms, the commensurate figures thereof are in the region of US\$ 900 billion and US\$ 2100 billion respectively.



News 30. Indian Railways awards Rs. 40,000 crores worth projects in Bihar to GE, Alstom

Indian Railways awarded contracts to General Electric Co. (GE) and Alstom to set up diesel and electric locomotive factories in Bihar at a cost of about Rs. 40,000 crores. The award of the contract will mark the first big foreign direct investment in the railway sector. GE is expected to manufacture 1000 diesel locomotives over a period of 10 years. There will be two types of diesel locos — a 4,500 horsepower (HP) and another 6,000 HP — manufactured by GE. Two locomotive sheds will be built in Gandhidham (Gujarat) and Bhatinda (Punjab) for maintenance of these modern diesel locomotives. Alstom, the lowest bidder for the Madhepura electric locomotive factory, will manufacture 800 high-power electric locomotives in the next 10 years. Railways will have a 26% equity and also provide land, while the foreign companies will have a stake of 74% in each of these plants.



News 31. India re-elected to the UN Commission on International Trade Law

India has been re-elected by the General Assembly to a six-year term on the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The mission of UNCITRAL, which specializes in commercial law reform is "the modernization and harmonization of rules on international business."



News 32. Ministry of Defence launched Army Cloud, Data Centre & Digi-Locker for the Indian Army

The Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parrikar inaugurated the Central Data Centre, Army Cloud and Digi-Locker for the Indian Army. The three initiatives are aimed at catalyzing

automation and digitization of the Indian Army and help in transforming it from a Platform Centric to a Network Centric Force.

Army Cloud: It includes a Central Data Centre, a Near Line Data Centre, both in Delhi and a Disaster Recovery site for replication of its critical data along with virtualized servers and storage in an environmentally controlled complex.

Digi Locker: This will provide a secure and exclusive data storage space to all the units and formation headquarters of the Army over its dedicated data network. It is similar to e-Locker of Digital India program and has all the advanced features like digital signatures and watermarking.



News 33. Union Government inked Loan Agreement with Asian Development Bank

The Union Government signed a Loan Agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for \$273 Million under the Rural Connectivity Investment Program for Improving Rural Roads in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. This loan represents the third tranche, which is also the last tranche of the 800 million US dollars. The loan will help in constructing over 6000 kilometers of all-weather rural roads and will benefit over 4200 rural habitations. Miss Teresa Kho is the country director of ADB.



News 34. Union Government issued notification for implementation of OROP

The Union Government issued the notification regarding implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP) in respect of ex-servicemen. The notification is almost similar to the announcement made on 5 September 2015.

Features of the OROP scheme -

- Pension will be re-fixed for all pensioners retiring in the same rank and with the same length of service as the average of minimum and maximum pension in 2013.
- This benefit will be given with effect from 1 July 2014 to the ex-servicemen of all the three forces.
- Those drawing pensions above the average will be protected.
- In future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 years.
- Arrears will be paid in four half-yearly instalments.
- All widows, including war widows, will be paid arrears in one instalment.
- Personnel who voluntarily retire will not be covered under this scheme.
- The estimated cost to the exchequer would be Rs. 8000 to Rs. 10000 crores at present, and will increase further in future.



News 35. Defence Minister commissioned India's largest Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel 'Samarth'

The Defence Minister, Mr. Manohar Parrikar commissioned India's largest and latest Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), 'Samarth' at Vasco in Goa. It is the Coast Guard's largest OPV. It has a maximum speed of 23 knots and has an endurance of 6000 nautical miles at an economical speed. The displacement capacity is of 2450 tonnes. The ship is equipped with sophisticated technologies including sensors, navigation, communication and weapon systems. Samarth is first in the series of six 105 meter based offshore patrol vessels and has been built from the scratch in the Goa Shipyard.



News 36. India, UK announced commercial deals worth 9 billion pounds

India and the United Kingdom have announced commercial deals worth 9 billion pounds in London. The two countries have signed a civil nuclear pact and decided to collaborate in the field of defence and cyber security besides launching a railway rupee bond. The British government listed more than 20 deals and collaborations, including a 1.3 billion-pounds (\$1.98 billion) investment by Vodafone. The two prime ministers also welcomed a package to promote clean energy worth 3.2 billion pounds of commercial agreements, joint research programs and initiatives to share technical, scientific, financial and policy expertise.



News 37. Maareech, an Advanced Torpedo Defence System, handed over to Indian Navy

The Defence Minister, Mr. Manohar Parrikar handed over the Maareech – An Advanced Torpedo Defence System – developed by the DRDO to the Navy Chief Admiral Robin K. Dhowan in Vishakhapatnam. This system is capable of detecting, confusing, diverting and decoying the incoming torpedoes.



News 38. New schemes PRASAD and Swadesh Darshan launched by the government to promote tourism

In pursuance of the budget announcement of 2014-15, the Ministry of Tourism has launched two new schemes namely – "National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)" and "SWADESH DARSHAN". These schemes were launched to achieve 1% share of international tourist arrivals by 2016-17 from the present 0.68%. Both these schemes are to be implemented in mission mode. Developing world-class infrastructure in the respective destinations / circuits is one of the mission objectives of



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

these schemes. 'PRASAD's' objective is to augment religious and spiritual tourism in the country as India is a land of many religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism and Sufism. Under PRASAD, initially, twelve cities namely Amritsar, Ajmer, Amaravati, Dwaraka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Vellankani have been identified for development. As part of the SWADESH DARSHAN scheme, theme based tourism circuits are identified for infrastructure development across the country.

News 39. Global cancer summit from Nov 18-20

The Global Cancer Summit, a three-day program focused on understanding and suggesting strategies to tackle cancer, was organized from November 18-20 at the Indian Institute of Science. This event was organized by BioGenesis – the Euro-Indian Health Cluster (India), Global Cancer Foundation and supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research. This conclave was expected to have 700 experts from the field of oncology and related sectors and is dedicated to the late US Senator Ted Kennedy.



News 40. Union Cabinet approved signing of Tripartite Agreement on IBSA Fund for Poverty Alleviation

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the Tripartite Agreement among India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) on the IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger. The decision will help in strengthening the IBSA Fund, which is a unique vehicle in the context of South-South cooperation. The IBSA countries contribute 1 million US dollars each annually to the Fund, which till January 2015 had accumulated around 28.2 million US dollars. India on its part has contributed US\$ 9.1 million so far to this Fund.



News 41. The Indian Resource Panel (InRP) based on Resource Efficiency constituted

The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Mr. Prakash Javadekar announced the formation of an Indian Resource Panel (InRP) on Resource Efficiency. India is the first country to constitute a National Resource Panel. The InRP was formed with an aim to promote sustainable development of the country by utilizing secondary resources to meet the developmental needs. He also highlighted that India can hope to recover over 1.5 million tonnes of steel scrap, about 180,000 tonnes of aluminum scrap and 75,000 tonnes each of recoverable plastic and rubber from scrapped automobiles by the year 2020.



News 42. Technology Acquisition & Development Fund under National Manufacturing Policy launched

The Minister of State for Commerce & Industry (I/C), Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, launched the Technology Acquisition and Development Fund (TADF) under National Manufacturing Policy being implemented by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion(DIPP). TADF is a new scheme to facilitate acquisition of Clean, Green & Energy Efficient Technologies, in the form of Technology / Customized Products / Specialized Services / Patents / Industrial Design available in the market available in India or globally, by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The Scheme is conceptualized to catalyze the manufacturing growth in the MSME sector to contribute to the national focus of "Make in India". The Scheme would be implemented through Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA).



News 43. India ratified Articles of Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for the ratification and submitting of the Articles of Agreement (AoA) of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). It is expected that with membership in AIIB, India would be able to raise and obtain more resources for much needed infrastructure development. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a proposed international financial institution, which is focused on supporting infrastructure construction in the Asia-Pacific region. The bank was proposed by China and supported by 37 regional and 20 non-regional Prospective Founding Members, 53 of which have signed the AoA that form the legal basis for the proposed bank. India will be the second-biggest shareholder with 8.4%.



News 44. CCEA approved extension of Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved extension of the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) for five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20. The extension was approved by the Prime Minister-headed CCEA in view of the continued relevance of this scheme. IDEAS attempts to promote India's strategic political and economic interest abroad by positioning it as an emerging economic power, investor country and partner for developing countries. The Government of India has been extending Lines of Credit to African and other developing countries under this Scheme since 2005-06. The first extension to this scheme was granted in 2009-2010. During the extended period, about 3771 crore rupees will be utilized as part of this scheme.



News 45. HRD Ministry sets up exclusive panel on Sanskrit promotion

The human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has constituted a 13-member expert committee exclusively on Sanskrit in its attempt to revive interest in the ancient language. The committee is headed by the former chief election commissioner (CEC) N Gopalaswami. This committee will recommend measures to integrate the study of the ancient language with other disciplines such as physics, chemistry, mathematics, medical science and law, suggest changes in Sanskrit education in schools and universities and recommend ways to impart Sanskrit education through modern tools. The committee is also tasked with charting out an action plan to develop the language in the next 10 years.



News 46. Union Government announced 10 New/Revised Schemes for Disabled Persons under the National Trust

The Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot has announced the launching of **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign)**. He also announced that the number of categories for disability will also be increased from 7 to 19, so that more number of disabled could be brought into the ambit of Government's new initiatives.



On this occasion the following schemes were launched:

- DISHA: Early Intervention and School Readiness Scheme.
- VIKAAS: Day Care Scheme.
- SAMARTH: Respite Care Scheme.
- GHARAUNDA: Group Home for Adults Scheme.
- NIRAMAYA: Health Insurance Scheme.
- SAHYOGI: Caregiver Training Scheme.
- GYAN PRABHA: Educational support Scheme.
- PRERNA: Marketing Assistance Scheme.
- SAMBHAV: Aids and Assisted Devices Scheme.
- BADHTE KADAM: Awareness and Community Interaction Scheme.

News 47. India to launch \$1-billion equity fund for renewable energy

India proposes to launch a \$1-billion equity fund, with seed capital from public sector units, to support renewable energy companies. Apart from the private equity fund, Goyal also said that the country expects to collect \$4 billion a year in the next three-four years for the National Clean Energy Fund through a cess on coal mining.



News 48. NHAI approves a pilot project for developing greenbelts along the National highway

NHAI has approved a pilot project submitted by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur for undertaking scientific studies on designing greenbelts along the national highways.

Key Facts –

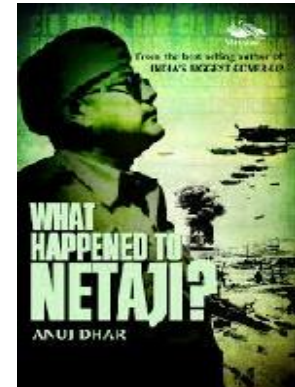
- The pilot project will be implemented on a 5 km stretch on the NH-7 (Varanasi to Kanyakumari) between Jam and Hinganghat in Nagpur region.
- Around 20,000 scientifically chosen species of trees are proposed to be planted on both the sides of this stretch in multiple rows at an estimated cost of 11 crore 80 lakh rupees. The project will run for five years' time span.



11. New Books

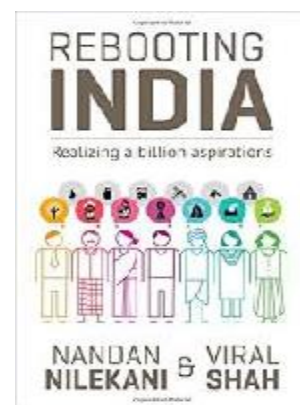
News 1. “What Happened to Netaji?” written by Anuj Dhar released

The Book titled “What Happened to Netaji?” written by Anuj Dhar was released. Anuj Dhar is a former renowned journalist. This book is all about the controversy surrounding the fate of Subhas Chandra Bose and throws light on the factual position with regards to the air crash that reportedly killed Netaji in 1945.



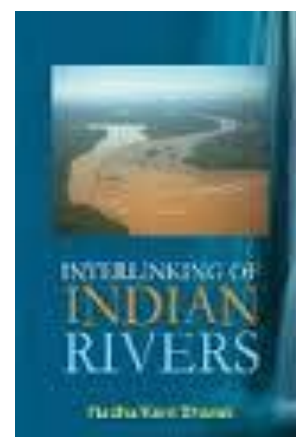
News 2. “Rebooting India” authored by Nandan Nilekani & Viral Shah released

“Rebooting India: Realizing a Billion Aspirations” authored by Nandan Nilekani and Viral Shah was released. The focus of this book is the demographic dividend of India, as it is expected to be the world’s youngest country by 2020 with 64 percent (roughly 800 million) of its population of working age.



News 3. Interlinking of Indian Rivers authored by Radha Kant Bharati released

The Chairman of Central Water Commission (CWC), Shri AB Pandya released a book titled “**Interlinking of Indian Rivers**” authored by Radha Kant Bharati. This book is based on a comprehensive research and explains the social, economic and commercial significance of linking of rivers in the country. This book provides a platform for discussion regarding the prospects and problems in inter basin transfer of water in India. It also discusses National Water Policy and disputes over the sub-continent of India.



12. Persons in News

News 1. Shekhar Kapur to head the jury and Anil Kapoor will be the chief guest at IFFI 2015

Anil Kapoor will be the chief guest of the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) that was held in Goa. Eminent Director Shekhar Kapur was selected as the head of the jury. **The Man Who Knew Infinity**, a British film on the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan's life, will open the 46th International Film Festival of India.



News 2. Indian-origin barrister Kalyani Kaul sworn-in as the Circuit Judge in United Kingdom

Ms. Kalyani Kaul, a prominent Indian origin lawyer in the UK, was sworn-in as a Circuit Judge. Her new office is the Snaresbrook Crown Court with immediate effect. She is 54-year-old and is popular for her extensive and wide ranging experience in heavy-weight criminal defense work.



News 3. Prithvi Raj Singh elected to the Board of Governors of World Water Council

Mr. Prithvi Raj Singh of Jal Bhagirathi Foundation was elected to the Board of Governors of World Water Council (WWC) for the tenure of 2016-18. The elections took place during the 7th General Assembly of WWC Members held in **Marseille, France**.



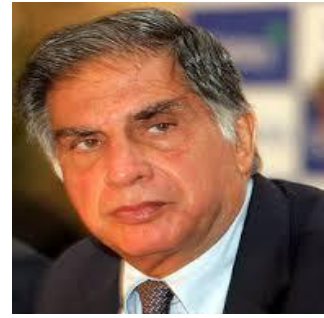
News 4. Lionel Messi appointed Tata Motors' global brand ambassador

Tata Motors has roped in famous Football star Lionel Messi as their global brand ambassador for its passenger vehicles. The initial contract is for 2 years. The theme of their first campaign starring Messi is "Made of Great".



News 5. Ratan Tata invests in Singapore's data start-up

Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata has invested an unspecified amount in Crayon Data, a Singapore-based startup. Crayon's flagship product 'Maya' is a personalization engine that empowers enterprises to deliver ultra-personalized choices to their consumers.



News 6. Dhoni becomes brand ambassador for a Dubai-based company

Mahendra Singh Dhoni has bagged his first endorsement deal outside the country, signing up to be the brand ambassador of Dubai-based hospitality and event management company, Grand Midwest Group for three years. The group's event management arm — GM Sports — was recently in the news for announcing the launch of a Twenty20 international cricket tournament called the Masters Champions League (MCL), which is scheduled to be played starting the end of January 2016.



13. Places in News

News 1. Terra Madre – 2015 begins in Shillong:

International Indigenous Terra Madre – 2015 or slow food festival started in Shillong, Meghalaya. The theme is "The Future We Want: Indigenous Perspectives and Actions". This five-day festival brings in the cuisine of over 100 indigenous tribes from nearly 60 countries. This event allows guests to visit 41 tribal partner villages in the state, where sharing of indigenous knowledge on food and sustainability will be availed for these guests.



Tera Madre, a network of Indigenous food communities, involves in promotion of Indigenous culture and conservation of bio-diversity.

News 2. NGT ban led to coal miners of Lakadong to switch to turmeric farming

Lakadong, a village in Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya, was in the news as the coal miners of the village largely switched to turmeric farming in order to sustain their livelihood. The switch came after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) put a ban on coal mining and transportation of coal in Meghalaya's Jaintia Hills region.



News 3. 21st INCOFYRA to be organized in Bengaluru in 2016

The 21st International Conference on Frontiers in Yoga Research and its Applications (INCOFYRA) will be organized by the **Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Sansthana** from 3 to 7 January 2016 at Prashanti Kutiram, Bengaluru. The 21st INCOFYRA will bring together the traditional and modern medical systems. The theme of this conference is **Yoga in Integrated Healthcare Systems**.



News 4. 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers' meeting organized in Luxemburg

The 12th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM12) was organized in Luxembourg. The theme of this meeting was **Working Together for a Sustainable and Secure Future**. This meeting involved a series of priority subjects such as climate change, the Sustainable Development Program for 2030, the management and reduction of disaster risks, connectivity and the future of ASEM. The chairperson of this meeting was Jean Asselborn, the Luxembourg Minister for Foreign Affairs. The next ASEM Summit (ASEM11) is scheduled to be held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in July 2016.



News 5. 2015 G20 Summit held in Antalya, Turkey

The 2015 G20 Summit was held in Antalya, Turkey. It was the tenth summit since the inception of G20 in 1999. Turkey had proposed three I's in this meeting – **Inclusiveness, Implementation and Investment for growth**. The next G20 summit will be held in **China for 2016**. The 2014 Summit was held at Brisbane in Australia. The G20 Member countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union.



News 6. APEC Economic Leaders issue declaration in Manila

The 23rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Summit was held in Manila, Philippines. The summit was chaired by Philippines President, Benigno S. Aquino III. The theme of this Summit was **Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World: A Vision for an Asia-Pacific Community**. Peru will chair this APEC throughout 2016 and host the 24th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting as well.



News 7. 10th East Asia Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 10th East Asia Summit (EAS) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The theme of this summit was **Our People, Our Community, Our Vision**. It is an annual meeting of national leaders from the East Asian region and adjoining countries. It was the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the East Asia Summit. This summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Najib Razak and attended by the Heads of State / Government of ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Korea, Russia and the United States of America. The 11th East Asia Summit will be held in **Laos** in 2016. Whereas, the 9th East Asia Summit was held in **Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**.



News 8. National Tribal Crafts Mela Aadishilp–2015 inaugurated by Jual Oram in New Delhi

The 11th National Tribal Crafts Mela Aadishilp, which began in New Delhi was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram. Aadishilp has been organized by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) at Delhi Haat. Unique and exquisite tribal artefacts of more than 90 tribal artisans from all over the country were exhibited in this Exhibition. TRIFED, under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, is the only apex body of Government of India, which is engaged in the development and marketing of traditional tribal products.



News 9. Mysuru Railway Station is the first blind-friendly Railway Station in India

The Mysuru Railway Station in Karnataka became the first blind-friendly Railway Station in India. Tactile maps of the railway station and train schedules in Braille were unveiled on the occasion of its inauguration. The authorities have also put up 400 metal signage's in Braille along the railings of the staircases leading to various platforms. Anuprayaas, a Non – Governmental Organization assisted the railways in making Mysuru railway station blind-friendly.



News 10. Hundred Drums Wangala Festival begins in Meghalaya on a cultural fervor

The Annual Hundred Drums Wangala Festival began at Asanang near Tura town in Meghalaya. The three day-long ceremony started with the arrival of ten Wangala Dance Troupes from various parts of Garo Hills. The Wangala Festival is an annual post-harvest festival of the Garos tribes of the North East India.



News 11. World Robot Olympiad, 2015 held in Doha

The World Robot Olympiad (WRO), 2015 was held in Doha, Qatar. The theme of this event was Robot Explorers. Students from more than 55 countries participated in this event. For the first time in the history of WRO, Indian students were able to win three medals (1 – Gold & 2 – Silver) and one position (Eighth). This 13th World Robot Olympiad was held in Delhi. It was organized by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) with India STEM Foundation (ISF).



14. Regional

News 1. Odisha Government imposes ban on fishing

In order to protect the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles, Odisha Government has imposed a seven-month ban on fishing along the Puri coast. The ban will be in force from November 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016. This restriction has been imposed as per the Odisha Marine Fishing Act (OMFA). Fishermen have been directed not to fish within 20 kms off the coastline in the turtle nesting sites.



News 2. APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Yojana Launched by Maharashtra Government

The Maharashtra Government has approved the APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Yojna scheme for pregnant and lactating women in the tribal areas. It will help curb malnutrition among the tribal children. This meal will be provided free for six months (three months before and after the delivery). About 1.9 lakh women will benefit from this scheme in the first year itself. This meal includes vegetables, boiled eggs, fruits, rice and pulses with occasional supply of milk. This scheme was rolled out on 15th November, 2015 with a budget of Rs 75 Crores per annum. It will be implemented with the help of the anganwadi workers.



News 3. Meghalaya High Court asks centre to impose AFSPA in Garo Hills

The Meghalaya High Court has asked the Central Government to consider enforcing Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 in the Garo Hills region of the state. The High Court wanted the AFSPA to be implemented only for the purpose of enabling the civil authorities in the state to effectively deal with militancy and restore law and order.



News 4. First AMRIT outlet is opened at AIIMS in New Delhi

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) pharmacy outlet at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi with the aim to reduce the expenditure incurred by patients on the treatment of cancer and heart diseases. The AMRIT pharmacy would be selling 202 – cancer and 186 – cardio-vascular drugs, and 148 – types of cardiac implants at 50 to 60 percent cheaper prices than the open market.



News 5. Odisha implements National Food Security Act in 14 districts

The Odisha Government implemented the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 in 14 of the 30 districts. It is the first phase and will cover 26.33 lakh families. The beneficiaries will get 5 kgs of rice at Rs 3 or 5 kgs of wheat at Rs 2 from the Public Distribution System (PDS) Centre. The second phase will be implemented in the remaining 16 districts from 1st December, 2015.



News 6. 50 out of total 75 districts declared drought hit in UP

As many as 50 districts out of total 75 in Uttar Pradesh have been declared drought-hit by the state government. These districts were declared drought hit after they received less than 60% rain during the 2015 Monsoon period. The state government has suspended recovery of all dues from the farmers by the end of current financial year in the drought affected districts.



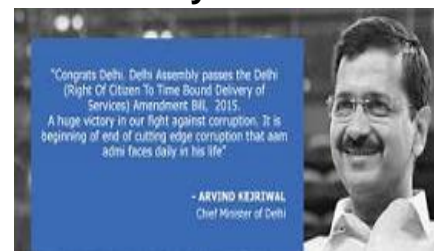
News 7. Clean UP, Green UP creates Guinness Book of World Records

The Uttar Pradesh government has earned itself a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for its green drive initiative, when 10 lakh saplings were planted in one day within a span of eight hours in the state. The saplings were planted under the ambitious **Clean UP, Green UP** initiative.



News 8. Delhi Assembly passes Bill on time bound delivery of services

The Delhi State Assembly passed the Delhi (Right of Citizen to Time Bound Delivery of Services) Amendment Bill. Each government department now needs to put out a comprehensive Citizens Charter. The bill seeks to provide time bound services to common man and will make government officials liable to automatic deductions from their salaries in case of delayed delivery of service.



News 9. Bihar becomes 6th dry State

The Bihar Government has banned the sale of liquor in the state from 1st April 2016. The move is expected to lead to a revenue loss of nearly Rs 4000 crores. Bihar becomes the 6th dry state / UT in the country. The other dry states or UTs are Gujarat, Manipur, Nagaland, Kerala and Lakshadweep.



News 10. World Bank, AP sign \$75 million credit deal for rural project

The Centre, Andhra Pradesh and the World Bank have signed a \$75 million (₹500 crores) credit deal. This deal was made for the Andhra Pradesh Rural Inclusive Growth Project. This project is focused on increasing economic opportunities for small and marginal farmers. It will also help link small and marginal farmers to urban markets and further make them competitive across the value chain.



News 11. Delhi Government approved the Jan Lokpal Bill, 2015

The Delhi Cabinet has approved the Delhi Jan Lokpal Bill, 2015. This Bill envisages the establishment of an independent authority to investigate offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. It also covers the Chief Minister's Office.



News 12. Rajasthan, South Australia signed Sister-State Agreement

Rajasthan and South Australia have signed the historic Sister-State Agreement to boost export and investment opportunities between the two states. This agreement provides partnership opportunities across key sectors. Also, the expertise of South Australia in sustainable water management will play a critical role to further improve water access in Rajasthan.



15. Reports

News 1. Eight Core Industries grew at a 4-month high rate of 3.2% in September 2015

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) announced that the eight core industries of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 3.2% in September 2015 as compared to the 2.6% in September 2014. The growth was calculated with the base year 2004-05. The eight core industries — natural gas, coal, crude oil, steel, refinery products, fertilizers, cement and electricity — comprises about 38% of IIP. The accelerated growth in September 2015 was attributed to fertilizer production and electricity generation.



News 2. IAMAI released Internet in India 2015 report

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) released a report called Internet in India 2015 report. The number of Internet users in India is expected to reach 402 million by the end of December 2015, which is a growth of 49% over last year. Thus, India will surpass the USA and will have the second largest user base next only to China.



News 3. Indian economy grew by 7.4% in the Second Quarter of FY 2015-16: CSO

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 7.4% in the second quarter (July-September) of 2015-16 financial year compared to the same period during 2014-15. China's GDP for the same quarter grew by 6.9%. The high growth was driven by a robust 9.3% rise in gross value added (GVA) in the manufacturing sector.



News 4. Arundhati Bhattacharya of State Bank of India tops Fortune India list of Most Powerful Woman in Indian Business

The Chairperson of SBI, Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya, is the most powerful woman in the Indian business sector, according to Fortune India. Ms. Chanda Kochhar of the ICICI bank and Ms. Shikha Sharma of the Axis Bank have been ranked second and third place, respectively. Similarly, HPCL Chairperson and Managing Director (MD) Ms. Nishi Vasudeva has earned the fourth position, and AZB & Partners Co-Founder Ms. Zia Mody and Ms. Aruna Jayanthi (Chief Executive of Capgemini India) shared the fifth rank.



News 5. Global Gender Gap Report 2015 released by World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum (WEF) published the Global Gender Gap Report 2015. The Global Gender Gap Index 2015 ranks 145 economies according to how well they are leveraging their female talent pool, based on economic, educational, health-based and political indicators. Among the 145 countries surveyed, Iceland topped the Gender Gap Index for the seventh year in a row and India stood at the 108th position.



Top 5 Countries	Bottom 5 Countries
Iceland	Iran
Norway	Chad
Finland	Syria
Sweden	Pakistan
Ireland	Yemen

16. Resignations

News 1. COO of IPL Sundar Raman resigns

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Indian Premier League (IPL) Sundar Raman has resigned from his position. Raman resigned as the COO after his name had cropped up in the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal.



News 2. Romania's Prime Minister Victor Ponta resigned

Romania's Prime Minister, Victor Ponta resigned from his position following a deadly nightclub blaze, which left 32 dead and nearly 200 injured. Mr Ponta had been under tremendous pressure from the President, Klaus Iohannis to resign. He is the only sitting prime Minister to face corruption charges.



News 3. Australian cricketer Mitchell Johnson retires from International cricket

Australian fast bowler, Mitchell Johnson (age 34) has announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket. He made this announcement after conclusion to the second Test match against New Zealand at the WACA.



17. Sports

News 1. New Zealand defeat Australia to win record third Rugby World Cup

New Zealand proved their status as the greatest team in the rugby history, when they defeated Australia 34-17 at Twickenham to become the world champions for a record third time. They are now the first nation to retain the Webb Ellis Cup.



News 2. Sania-Hingis win 2015 WTA finals women doubles trophy

Sania Mirza (India) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland) won the 2015 WTA Finals in the Women doubles category. In the final match played in Singapore, the Indo-Swiss duo defeated the Spanish pair of Garbine Muguruza and Carla Suarez Navarro.



News 3. 2015 SWISS Indoors Basel Title won by Roger Federer

Roger Federer has won the 2015 Swiss Indoors Basel Title of Tennis in the men's single category. It was played at Basel. He defeated Rafael Nadal of Spain in the final match. This was Federer's 7th Basel trophy win of his glorious career.



News 4. Nico Rosberg wins Mexican Grand Prix 2015

Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg from Germany has won the 2015 Mexican Grand Prix title of Formula One (F1) held in Mexico City. It was his fourth win of the season and 12th of his career. The second position was taken by Lewis Hamilton (Britain) of the Mercedes team.



News 5. Shoaib Malik announces retirement

The former Pakistan Captain Shoaib Malik announced his retirement from Test cricket and will only play ODIs as well as T20Is. He played his last test match against England in Sharjah. Shoaib said his focus would be on the upcoming 2019 World Cup.



News 6. Indian Boxer Shiva Thapa ranked No 2 in world rankings

Shiva Thapa became the highest ranked Indian boxer after he attained second rank in the latest international rankings of boxing. Shiva was placed second with 1550 points in the 56kg category. The top spot was occupied by Michael Conlan (2150 points) from Ireland. Thapa's ranking improved from seventh to second after winning a bronze medal at the World Championships held in Doha.



News 7. 13th Asian Shooting Championship: Jitu Rai wins the silver medal

Jitu Rai won India's first senior medal at the 13th Asian Shooting Championship in Kuwait. He bagged the silver in the finals of the men's 50-meter pistol event. It was India's first senior medal in the history of the Asian Shooting Championship. Korea's Park Daehun, who won the gold medal of the event, shot finals world and Asian record score of 199.2, while Jitu finished with a finals score of 189.5.



News 8. 13th Asian Shooting Championship: Heena Sidhu wins Gold medal

Heena Sidhu has won the Gold medal in the 10- meter Air Pistol event of the women's category at the 13th Asian Shooting Championships held in Kuwait.



The other medal winners at this 13th Asian Shooting Championships are –

- 10M air pistol junior women's event: Shri Nivetha of India.
- 10M air pistol youth women's team event: Indian trio of Harshada Nithave, Nayani Bharadwaj and Malaika Goel.
- 25M pistol men's junior event: Shivam Shukla of India.
- Junior skeet men's competition: Angad Bajwa of India.

News 9. Indian Railways wins Surjit Memorial Hockey Tournament

The 32nd edition of Indian Oil Surjit Memorial Hockey tournament was won by Indian Railways for the first time. In the finals, they defeated Indian Oil Mumbai, defending champions, by a score of 4-. Malak Singh of Indian Railways was adjudged Player of the tournament. It is an annual hockey tournament organized by Surjit Hockey Society in Jalandhar, Punjab in the memory of Surjit Singh Randhawa.



News 10. Nico Rosberg wins the Brazilian Grand Prix

Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg from Germany has won the 2015 Brazilian Grand Prix title of Formula One (F1) held at Autódromo José Carlos Pace in Socorro district of Sao Paulo. He beat Lewis Hamilton for the second race in succession. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel was third ahead of team-mate Kimi Raikkonen. It was Rosberg's fifth win of 2015 and the 13th of his career.



News 11. Saina Nehwal settles down for silver medal at 2015 China Open

Ace Indian Shuttler Saina Nehwal has won the silver medal at 2015 China Open Superseries Premier Badminton tournament. She lost to Xuerui Li in the final. It was Saina's fifth final of the year. She won the India Grand Prix Gold and India Open Superseries, but has lost every final since then.



News 12. FIFA bans ANFA President Gagan Thapa

The World football governing body Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has banned Ganesh Thapa, President of the All-Nepal Football Association (ANFA) for 10 years. He was banned by FIFA's ethics committee over corruption allegations after the Himalayan country's football team's image had deteriorated as its several national football players were accused of match-fixing.



News 13. Siril Verma loses BWF World Junior Championship final

Young Indian Shuttler, Siril Verma has clinched a silver medal at the 2015 BWF World Junior Badminton Championships. In the final he lost to Taipei's Chia Hung Lu. Siril has now become a part of the elite list of Indians such as Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu, RMV Gurusaidutt, HS Prannoy and Sameer Verma, who have won medals for India in the Junior World Badminton Championships.



News 14. Pankaj Advani wins IBSF World Snooker Championship

Pankaj Advani has won the 2015 IBSF World Snooker Championship, played at Hurgada (Egypt). He defeated his Chinese opponent, Zhua Xintong in the final to take his world title count to 15.



News 15. India wins Men's Junior Asia Hockey Cup

India won the Eight edition of Men's Junior Asia hockey cup. India defeated arch rivals Pakistan in the finals played at Kuantan (Malaysia).



Other Awards of this Cup:

- **Top goal scorer:** Harmanpreet Singh of India. He scored 14 goals.
- **Man of the Match:** Harjeet Singh (India)
- **Best Player of the Tournament:** Shahril Saabah (Malaysia)
- **Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament:** Vikas Dahiya (India)
- **Fair Play Award:** Japanese Team.

News 16. Novak Djokovic wins record fourth ATP World Tour finals

World number One, Novak Djokovic became the first tennis player to win the ATP World Tour Finals for the record fourth consecutive time. It was overall the fifth ATP World tour finals win of his career. He defeated Roger Federer in the finals. Djokovic also won three of the year's four grand slams.



News 17. Australia New Zealand play first day-night test cricket

Australia and New Zealand have created history by playing the first day-night Test match at the Adelaide Oval Cricket Stadium with a pink Kookaburra ball. It's a real departure from tradition, with the relatively untested pink leather ball replacing the standard red for the first time in a test match.



News 18. ICC suspends Sunil Naraine

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended West Indies off-spinner, Sunil Narine from bowling in any form of international cricket with an immediate effect due to his bowling action being termed illegal after the 3rd ODI match of West Indies against Sri Lanka in Pallekele in November 2015.



News 19. Nico Rosberg wins the season ending F1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg from Germany has won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix title of Formula One (F1) held at Yas Marina Circuit. He completed a hat-trick of victories ahead of world champion Lewis Hamilton. It was Rosberg's sixth win of the year and the 14th of his career.



News 20. Great Britain wins 2015 Davis Cup

Andy Murray led Great Britain have won the 2015 Davis Cup for first time since 1936 and for the 10th time in the competition's 115-year history. Great Britain tennis team defeated the Belgium team. Andy Murray defeated David Goffin in the finals.



News 21. PV Sindhu defends 2015 Macau Open Grand Prix Badminton tournament

Two times defending champion, P V Sindhu has won the 2015 Macau Open Grand Prix Gold Badminton tournament in the women's single category. In the finals, she defeated Minatsu Mitani of Japan. The winner received \$1,20,000 as prize money.



News 22. Michelle Payne became the first female jockey to win the Melbourne Cup

Michelle Payne became the first female jockey to win 6.2 million Australian dollars' worth Melbourne Cup as she rode rank outsider Prince of Penzance to a famous victory. The Melbourne Cup is one of Australia's most prestigious Thoroughbred horse races. This race is conducted annually by the Victoria Racing Club on the Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne, Victoria.



18. Technology

News 1. GSAT-15 of ISRO launched successfully

The GSAT-15, India's communication satellite, was launched successfully by the European Ariane 5 VA-227 launch Vehicle. This massive 3164 kgs GSAT-15 carries communication transponders in Ku-band as well as a GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) payload operating in L1 and L5 bands. This is the 3rd satellite to carry GAGAN payload after GSAT-8 and GSAT-10. Navigation payload GAGAN would provide orbital backup to ensure safety of life navigation services in the civil aviation sector.



News 2. Agni-IV missile test fired successfully

The Nuclear capable surface-to-surface Agni-IV missile was successfully test-fired by the Indian Army's Strategic Forces Command (SFC). This two-stage solid-propelled, surface-to-surface ballistic missile is designed to carry a one-tonne payload to a distance of 4,000 kms. During the test fire, this missile covered a range of more than 3,500 kms, before splashing down in the waters of Bay of Bengal.



News 3. Chinese Supercomputer Tianhe – 2 declared the most powerful supercomputer for sixth straight time

China's Tianhe-2 supercomputer has emerged as the world's most powerful supercomputer system for the sixth consecutive time. This supercomputer also called as the Milky Way 2 has been developed by China's National University of Defense Technology. The supercomputer Titan of the US Department of Energy and supercomputer Sequoia of the Tech giant IBM have been placed at second and third position respectively.



News 4. EKS Cosmos – 2510, Russia's defence satellite launched successfully

The EKS Kosmos-2510, Russia's newest defence satellite, was successfully launched into space. It has been placed into its dedicated orbit. EKS Kosmos-2510 is an early warning satellite in order to detect enemy missile heading towards the Russian territory.



News 5. India successfully test fires Supersonic interceptor AAD missile

The supersonic Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor missile was successfully test fired from the Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. The interceptor AAD missile has been indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) under the Ballistic Missile Defence Program. This AAD missile is capable of destroying any incoming hostile ballistic missile at lower (endo-atmospheric) altitude.



News 6. Dhanush ballistic missile test fired successfully

The nuclear-capable Dhanush ballistic missile was successfully test fired from the warship Subhadra, off the Puri coast of Odisha in the Bay of Bengal. This surface-to-surface missile is a naval variant of Prithvi-II missile. The test was conducted by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). The strike range is 350 kms and it can carry a nuclear payload of up to 500 kgs.



News 7. Union Government to roll out BS V norms from April 1, 2019

The Union Government has decided to advance the date for implementation of Bharat Stage (BS) V and BS VI emission norms for four-wheelers by three years. Bharat stage (BS) norms are emission standards decided by the government to regulate the amount of air pollutants from vehicles. They were adopted in line with European regulation standard 'Euro Norms' in 2000. As per the advanced dates, BS V norms will be rolled out from 1st of April, 2019 and BS VI norms from 1st April, 2021.



News 8. LRSAM, co-developed by India and Israel tested successfully

The Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) co-developed by India and Israel was successfully test-fired for the first time from an Israeli Naval Platform. LRSAM is also called Barak 8 missile in Israel. It is an advanced, long-range missile defence and air defence system. Its main features are longer range, active radar seeker missile, vertical launch and multiple simultaneous engagements.



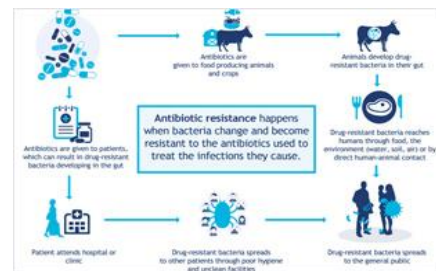
News 9. Interceptor boat commissioned into Indian Coast Guard service

The Indian Coast Guard has commissioned the interceptor boat 'ICGS C-422' into its fleet to further enhance its vigil along the Pondicherry and South Tamil Nadu coast in the Bay of Bengal. The ICGS C-422 is the 36th interceptor boat to be inducted into the Coast Guard service. This boat is capable of multiple tasks including interdiction, surveillance and search and rescue. This 27.80-meters-long boat can achieve a maximum speed of 45 knots. It is equipped with two diesel engines and will have an endurance of 500 nautical miles.



News 10. WHO launched the World Antibiotic Awareness Week

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the World Antibiotic Awareness Week with the theme – **Antibiotics: Handle with care.** The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness and encourage best practices among the public, policymakers, health and agriculture professionals to avoid further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.



News 11. India successfully test-fires nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile

The Strategic Forces Command personnel successfully test-fired India's indigenously developed nuclear capable, Prithvi-II missile, which has a strike range of 350 kms. This missile test was carried out from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur. The surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile is capable of carrying 500 kgs to 1000 kgs of warheads.



News 12. GRSE handed over Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette 'Kadmatt' to Indian Navy

The second Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, Kadmatt built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) was formally handed over to Indian Navy at Kolkata. This Corvette would be joining the Eastern Fleet shortly. It has a maximum speed of 25 Knots and its main role is to protect the nation's maritime interests against possible submarine attack. It is a potent platform for neutralizing the enemy submarines using weapons like torpedoes, rocket launchers and a helicopter as well. The first ship in the class was INS Kamorta, handed over to the Navy last year.



19. Various Committees

News 1. Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee submitted its report

Dr. T K Viswanathan committee on the Bankruptcy Law Reforms submitted its report to the Union Ministry of Finance. The draft Bill has consolidated the existing laws relating to insolvency of companies, limited liability entities, unlimited liability partnerships and individuals, which are presently scattered in a number of legislations, into a single legislation. This committee was formed by the government to introduce an entrepreneur-friendly legal bankruptcy framework in order to improve the ease of doing business.



News 2. Empowered Committee constituted by the Central Government to approve schemes under the Nirbhaya Fund

The Union Government constituted an Empowered Committee, which consists of officials from various ministries, including Women and Child Development, Home Affairs, Road Transport and Railways, to approve schemes suggested under the Nirbhaya Fund. The Secretary of the Women and Child Development Ministry will be the chairperson of the committee. The Nirbhaya Fund has a total of 3000 crore rupees.



News 3. Independent Commission on Doping in Sports chaired by Richard Proud submitted its report to WADA

An Independent Commission (IC) on doping in sports chaired by Richard Proud submitted its report to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The IC was launched by WADA in December 2014 to investigate the validity of allegations of doping practices, corrupt practices around sample collection, results management, etc. that implicates Russian Government agencies, labs, athletes, coaches among others. The allegations were based on a documentary titled, Top Secret Doping: How Russia makes its Winners that was aired by the German television channel ARD.

