

IIFT & XAT GK COMPENDIUM

2016-17

Dear Future Business Leaders,

We are delighted to present to you this IIFT & XAT (GK Compendium) 2016-17. The purpose of this compendium is to provide relevant General Knowledge data which is very much useful for your forthcoming IIFT & XAT examinations that will be held in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

The compendium is divided in two parts:

The Part-I covers important static general knowledge facts from History, Geography, Polity, Science and Miscellaneous GK and the Part-II-covers important current and business general knowledge facts.

This GK compendium covers the following IMPORTANT areas.

Part – I : Static GK Facts

1. Important Historical Facts
2. Important Geographical Facts
3. Important Facts of Indian Constitutions
4. Important Science Related Facts
5. Important Miscellaneous GK Facts

Part – II : Current and Business GK Facts

1. News Points from January, 2016 to October, 2016
2. International and National Organizations their heads and headquarters
3. Countries and their heads of Governments
4. Banks their heads, headquarters and punch lines
5. Private Indian Banks and their heads
6. Foreign Banks and their countries of origin
7. Name of G-20 nations, stock exchange and official currency:
8. Brand and their tagline (World and Indian)
9. Government schemes
10. Economic data
11. Important Demographic Facts of India – Census 2011
12. International and National awards and their latest winners
13. Latest Books and Authors

We sincerely hope and believe that this compendium will add value to learning and serve the intended purpose.

All the best!!

Team CL

PART – 1: Static GK Facts

In this section of compendium we have compiled some very important facts from static general knowledge segments which we feel are quite relevant from IIFT & XAT examinations 2016-2017 perspective. This section has important selected facts from History, Geography, Indian Polity, Science and Miscellaneous GK which are taken based on the analysis of past years papers of IIFT & XAT respectively. We believe that this compilation will serve the intended purpose effectively.

1. Important Historical Facts

(A) Significant events related to Indian Freedom Movement:

Year	Important events happenings in that year
1885	Formation of Congress by A. O. Hume
1905	Partiton of Bengal, launching of swadeshi movement
1906	Formation of Muslim League by Nawab Salimullah of Dacca
1907	Surat session of Congress, where congress got split into moderates and extremists
1909	Morley-Minto Reforms, in which separate electorates for Hindus and Muslims was introduced for the first time.
1911	Capital shifted from Calcutta to New Delhi (architected by Lutyen)
1916	Lucknow session of Congress, where the famous Lucknow pact was signed between congress and muslim league. Formation of home rule league by Annie Besant.
1917	Champaran satyagraha (champaran is a place in Bihar) by Mahatma Gandhi. His first satyagraha in India.
1919	The draconian Rowlatt Act, Jalliyawallah massacre at Amritsar on the orders of General O'Dyer; Montague-Chemlsford reforms.
1920	Khilafat Movement against British by Shaukat and Muhammad Ali. Launching of non cooperation movement by Mahatama Gandhi.
1922	Chauri chaura, incident in UP and widhrawl of NCM by Gandhi, formation of Swaraj party by Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das and N. C. Kelkar.
1927	Simon Commission to India, which was protested by Lala Lajpat Rai. He died during a lathi charge during the protest.
1929	Passing of Purna Swaraj resolution at Lahore session of Congress under the presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru.
1930	Dandi March (Salt Satyagrah) by Mahatma Gandhi from Sabarmati ashram (a palce in Gujrat). First round table conference in London
1935	Government of India Act
1937	Formation of Congress Ministries in provinces
1939	Out break of World War II, resignation of Congress ministries
1942	Quit India Movement, Wavell plan and Shimla conference. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad attended the conference representing Congress
1945	Cabinet Mission Plan which envisaged forming of the interim government and to determine means of transferring power.
1946	Formation of Constituent Assembly under Rajendra Prasad (Muslim league did not participate)
1947	Mountbatten Plan (June 3 plan) and partition of India

(B) Important Governor General and Viceroy associated with British rule and related events:

Name	Events associated with
Lord Dalhousie (1848-1856)	Mainly known for Doctrine of Lapse , responsible for annexing number of states on the basis of this philosophy. First train from Bombay to Thane started during his reign in 1853.
Lord Cornwallis (1786-1793)	Credited with a new revenue system under the permanent settlement of Bengal . Introduction of Civil services.
Lord Canning	The revolt of 1857. The first Viceroy of India
Lord Wellesley (1798-1805)	The subsidiary alliance system.
Lord Curzon (1899-1905)	Partition of Bengal
William Bentinck (1828-35)	Abolition of Sati and reducing the female infanticide.
Thomas B. Macaulay	His advice was instrumental in introducing English, under the leadership of William Bentinck.
Lord Hastings (1813-1823)	Associated with Ryotwari settlement.
Robert Clive	He was the first British Governor of Bengal.
Warren Hastings (1773-1785)	The first Governor-General of India; Regulating Act 1773 and Pitt's India Act of 1784 were passed during his tenure.
Lord Mountbatten	The first Governor-General of Free India.
C. Rajagopalachari	First Indian and last Governor-General of Independent India.

(C) Firsts in India

Women		
1.	First woman Prime Minister	Mrs Indira Gandhi
2.	First woman Chief Minister of a State	Mrs Sucheta Kripalani
3.	First woman Minister	Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit
4.	First woman Central Minister	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
5.	First woman Speaker of Lok Sabha	Mrs Meira Kumar
6.	First woman Governor of a State	Mrs Sarojini Naidu
7.	First Indian woman President of Indian National Congress	Annie Besant
8.	First Indian woman President of UN General Assembly	Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit
9.	First Muslim woman to sit on the throne of Delhi	Razia Sultana
10.	First woman to swim across the English Channel	Miss Arti Saha (now Mrs Arti Gupta)
11.	First woman to climb Mount Everest	Bachhendri Pal
12.	First woman to circumnavigate (sail round the world)	Ujjwala Rai
13.	First woman IAS Officer	Anna George Malhotra
14.	First woman IPS Officer	Kiran Bedi
15.	First woman Advocate	Corknelia Sorabji
16.	First woman Judge	Annna Chandi
17.	First woman Judge of a High Court	Annna Chandi
18.	First woman Judge of Supreme Court	M. Fathima Bibi
19.	First woman Chief Justice of a High Court	Leila Seth
20.	First woman Doctor	Kadambini Ganguli
21.	First woman to pass MA	Chandra Mukhi Bose

22.	First woman editor of English newspaper	Dina Vakil
23.	First woman Chief Engineer	P.K.Thresia
24.	First woman to receive a Sena Madel	Constable Bimla Devi (88 BN of CRPF)-1990
25.	Youngest woman to climb Mount Everest	Dicky Dolma (19) from Manali - 1993
26.	First woman to climb mount Everest two times	Santosh Yadav (ITBP Officer) - 1993
27.	First Lady Magistrate	Omana Kunjamma
28.	First woman to win Nobel Prize	Mother Teresa
29.	First to be crowned Miss India	Pramita (Ester victoria Abraham) - 1947
30.	First to be crowned Miss Universe	Sushmita Sen
31.	First to be crowned Miss World	Reita Faria (1966)
32.	First woman President	Pratibha Devi Singh Patil
33.	The first woman Speaker of a State Assembly	Shano Devi (Punjab)
Men		
1.	First Indian to swim across the English Channel	Mihir Sen
2.	First to Climb Mount Everest	Tenzing Norgay
3.	First to Climb Mount Everest without Oxygen	Phu Dorjee
4.	First Indian to join I.C.S.(ICS now is IAS)	Satyendra Nath Tagore
5.	First Indian to get Nobel Prize	Rabindranath Tagore
6.	First Indian in Space (first Indian cosmonaut)	Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma
7.	First British Governor general	Warren Hastings
8.	First Governor General of Free India	Lord Mountbatten
9.	First Viceroy of India	Lord Canning
10.	Last Governor General of Free India	C. Rajagopalachari
11.	First President of India	Dr Rajendra Prasad
12.	First Vice-President of India	Dr S. Radhakrishnan
13.	First Muslim President of India	Dr Zakir Hussain
14.	First Sikh President of India	Giani Zail Singh
15.	First Prime Minister	Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru
16.	First Speaker of Lok Sabha	G.V.Mavlankar
17.	First Chief Justice of India	Justice H.L.Kania
18.	First President of Indian National Congress	W.C.Bannerjee
19.	First Indian to become member of Viceroy's Executive Council	Lord S.P.Sinha
20.	First Indian to become President of International Court of Justice	Dr Nagendra Singh
21.	First Emperor of Mughal Dynasty	Babur
22.	First Field Marshal	S.H.F.J.Manekshaw
23.	First Indian Commander-in-Chief of India (now Field Marshal)	Gen. K.M.Cariappa
24.	First Chief of the Army Staff (Indian)	Gen. Maharaja Rajendra Sinhji
25.	First Chief of the Naval Staff (Indian)	Vice-Admiral R.D.Katari
26.	First Chief of the Air Force Staff (Indian)	Subroto Mukherjee
27.	First Indian in British Parliament	Dadabhai Naoroji
28.	First Indian recipient of Victoria Cross (highest gallantry award before independence)	Khudada Khan
29.	First Indian to circumnavigate the globe	Lt Col K.S.Rao
30.	First Indian to reach the South Pole	Col J.K.Bajaj (1989)

31.	First Indian High Court Judge	Justice Syed Mehamood (1878)
32.	First Indian to make a solo air flight	J.R.D. Tata
33.	First Indian to visit England	Raja Rammohun Roy (1878)
34.	First Indian Member of House of Lords (British)	Lord S.P.Sinha
35.	First Bar-at-Law	J.M.Tagore
36.	First Chairman of Raiya Sabha	Dr S. Radhakrishnan (1952 - 62)
37	First Air Marshal	Arjan Singh
38	First Judge to face impeachment in the Lok Sabha	Justice V.Ramaswami (1993)

2. Important Geographical Facts

(A) Important facts about Planets:

As per the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the planet is a celestial body which-

1. is in orbit around the sun.
2. has sufficient mass to assume hydrostatic equilibrium (a nearly round shape) and
3. has 'cleared the neighbourhood' around its orbits.

According to the definition, there are currently eight planets and five dwarf planet in the solar system.

- (1) Mercury (Closest to the Sun and is the fastest planet to revolve around the Sun)
- (2) Venus (The Brightest and hottest planet in all)
- (3) Earth (Only known planet to possess life)
- (4) Mars (Known as the Red planet. Explored for life by astronomers now, as it is having similarities with Earth)
- (5) Jupiter (The largest planet of the solar system)
- (6) Saturn (System of rings are the characteristic feature of this planet)
- (7) Uranus
- (8) Neptune

*Please note that Pluto used to be a planet but recently has been discarded as a planet and is no longer counted as a planet.

(B) Important facts about Earth

It is the fifth largest planet in the solar system. It is the third closest planet to the sun. Its shape is oblate spheroid, like a ball which is flattened at the poles.

Important facts about Earth:

- (i) Mean distance from the Sun: 1,49,407,000 km.
- (ii) Time taken by Earth to revolve around the Sun: 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45.51 seconds.
- (iii) Time taken by Earth for rotating on its own axis: 23 hours 56 minutes and 4.09 seconds.
- (iv) Earth is covered 70% by water and 30% by land.

Movements of Earth:

- (i) **Revolution:** The Earth revolves around the Sun in an elliptical orbit. One complete revolution is called a year and this revolution of Earth causes change of seasons.
- (ii) **Rotation:** Earth rotates on its own imaginary axis also, simultaneously revolving around the Sun. It moves from west to east. This causes day and night.

Note: Duration of days and nights is equal at the equator.

(C) Important Countries and their Parliaments

Country	Name of the Parliament
Afghanistan	Shura
Argentina	National Congress
Australia	The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia
Bahamas	General Assembly

Country	Name of the Parliament
Bangladesh	Jatiyo Sangsad
Bhutan	Tshogdu
Brazil	National Congress
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranieye(National Assembly)
Myanmar	Pyithu Hluttaw
Cambodia	National Assembly
Canada	Parliament of Canada
China (Mainland)	National People's Congress
China (National)	Li fa Yuan (Legislative Yuan)
Colombia	Congress of the Republic
Cuba	National Assembly of People's Power
Denmark	Folketinget
Ethiopia	Shergo
Egypt	Consultative Council and People's Assembly
Finland	Eduskunta/Riksdagen
France	Parlement
Germany (United)	Bundestag (Lower House)
	Bundestrat (Upper House)
Greenland	Landstinget
Hungary	National Assembly
Iceland	Althingi
India	Sansad [Lok Sabha (Lower House) and Rajya Sabha (Upper House)]
Indonesia	People's Consultative Assembly and House of Representatives
Iran	Majles
Iraq	National Assembly
Israel	The Knesset
Japan	The Diet
Laos	National Assembly
Libya	General People's Congress
Maldives	Majlis
Mongolia	Great Hural
Nepal	Sansad
Netherlands, The	Staten-Generaal
New Zealand	House of Representatives
Norway	Stortinget
Papua New Guinea	National Parliament
Poland	Sejm
South Africa	House of Assembly
Spain	Cortes Generales (General Courts)
Surinam	Staten
Sweden	Riksdagen
United Kingdom (UK)	Parliament (House of Commons and House of Lords)
United States	Congress (House of Representatives and Senate)

(D) Important Geographical facts about India

- **India covers 2.4 per cent of the Earth's surface.**
- Total land area of India is 32,87,263 sq.km.
- Distance from east to west is 2,933 km.
- Distance from north to south is 3,214 km.
- **The total length of the coastline of the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is 7,516.6 km. The coastline of only mainland is about 6300 km.**
- **Major rivers of India: The longest Indian river is Ganga, its length is 2,640 km.** The other major rivers of India are Indus (has five major tributaries: Sutlej, Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi and Beas), Brahmaputra, Godavari, Krishna, Narmada, Tapi, Cauvery, Damodar, Mahanadi and Periyar.
Note: The world's largest delta, (in West Bengal) Sundarban, is made by Brahmaputra and Ganga.
- **Mountains:** They are Himalayas (**highest mountains in the world and one of the youngest mountain ranges**), Vindhyas, Satpura, Sahyadri, Aravallis (one of the oldest mountain ranges of the world), Patkai (Purvanchal or Eastern mountains) and the Eastern Ghats.
- **Agriculture**
Agriculture in India: More than 50 percent of the area of the country is under the cultivation and **about 64% of the Indian population is engaged in agriculture.**
There are two major crop seasons in India, viz.:
 - (i) **Rabi**
 - (ii) **Kharif****Rabi:** It is **sown in October or December** and **harvested in April or May**. Major crops are: **barely, wheat, peas, gram and mustard.**
Kharif: It is **sown in June or July** and **harvested in September or October**. Major crops are: **bajra, cotton, jowar, rice and jute.**
- **Forests:** India is covered about 24.01% by forest area (as per Forest Survey Report 2013). The target as per the national forest policy is to cover 33% of area by forests.

(E) Important National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves of India:

(i) Important National Park / Sanctuary

Name	Location
Bandipur National Park	Border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
Jim Corbett National Park	Nainital, Uttaranchal
Dachigam Sanctuary	Dachigam, Kashmir
Ghana Bird Sanctuary	Bharatpur, Rajasthan
Gir National Park	Junagadh, Gujarat
Kanha National Park	Chhattisgarh
Kaziranga National Park	Jorhat, Assam
Periyar Sanctuary	Idukki, Kerala
Ranthambore Tiger Sanctuary	Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan
Sariska Sanctuary	Alwar, Rajasthan
Sharavathy Sanctuary	Shimoga, Karnataka
Similipal Tiger Sanctuary	Mayurbhanj, Orissa
Sonai Rupai Sanctuary	Tezpur, Assam
Sunderbans Tiger Reserve	South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Name	Location
Tungabhadra Sanctuary	Bellary, Karnataka
Wild Ass Sanctuary	Little Rann of Kutch, Gujarat
Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary	Bharatpur, Rajasthan
Jaldapara Bird Sanctuary	Kuch Bihar District, West Bengal

(ii) Important Biosphere Reserves of India

In total there are 15 Biosphere Reserver of India which are as follows.

S. No.	Name of the Biosphere reserve	Location	State
1	Great Rann of Kutch	Part of Kutch ,Rajkot and Surendranagar District	Gujarat
2	Gulf of Mannar	Indian part of Gulf of Mannar between India and Sri Lanka	Tamil Nadu
3	Sunderbans	Part of delta of Ganges and Barahamaputra river system	West Bengal
4	Nanda Devi	Parts of Chamoli District, Pithoragarh District & Almora District	Uttarakhand
5	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve	Part of Wynad, Nagarhole, Bandipur and Mudumalai, Nilambur, Silent Valley and Siruvani Hills	Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka
6	Dehang Debang	Part of Siang and Debang valley	Arunachal Pradesh
7	Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve	Parts of Betul District, Hoshangabad District and Chhindwara District	Madhya Pradesh
8	Simlipal	Part of Mayurbhanj district	Orissa
9	Achanakamar - Amarkantak	Part of Annupur, Dindori and Bilaspur districts	Madhya Pradesh Chattisgarh
10	Manas	Part of Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup and Darrang District	Assam
11	Kanchanjunga	Parts of Kanchanjunga Hills	Sikkim
12	Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve	Neyyar, Peppara and Shenduruny Wildlife Sanctuary and their adjoining areas	Kerala
13	Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve	Southern most islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
14	Nokrek	Part of Garo Hills	Meghalaya
15	Dibru-Saikhowa	Part of Dibrugarh District and Tinsukia District	Assam
16	Cold Desert	Pin Valley National park and surrounding; Chandratat Wildlife Sanctuary	Himachal Pradesh
17	Seshachalam Hills	Seshachalam Hill Ranger covering parts of Chittoor and Kadapa District	Andhra Pradesh

(F) Important Nuclear Power Stations

Tarapur	Maharashtra
Kalpakkam	Tamil Nadu, called Indira Gandhi Nuclear Power Station
Narora	UP
Rawatbhata	Kota, Rajasthan
Kaiga	Karnataka
Kakrapara	Gujarat
Kundnkulam (TN)	Under construction with the assistance of Russia.

(G) Countries, their capitals and currencies

Country	Capital	Currency	Continent
Afghanistan	Kabul	Afghani	Asia
Argentina	Buenos Aires	Peso	South America
Australia	Canberra	Australian Dollar	Australia
*Austria	Vienna	Schilling/Euro	Europe
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Taka	Asia
*Belgium	Brussels	Belgian Franc	Europe
Bhutan	Thimphu	Ngultrum	Asia
Brazil	Brasilia	Cruzeiro Real	South America
Bulgaria	Sofia	Lev	Europe
Canada	Ottawa	Canadian Dollar	North America
Chile	Santiago	Chilean Peso	South America
China	Beijing (Peking)	Renminbi Yuan	Asia
Colombia	Bogota	Colombian Peso	South America
Democratic Republic of Congo,	Kinshasa	Zaire	Africa
Croatia	Zagreb	Kuna	Europe
Cuba	Havana	Cuban Peso	North America
*Cyprus	Nicosia	Cyprus Pound/Euro	Europe
Czech Republic	Prague	Koruna	Europe
Denmark	Copenhagen	Danish Krone	Europe
Egypt	Cairo	Egyptian Pound	Africa
Fiji	Suva	Fijian Dollar	Australia
*Finland	Helsinki	Markka/Euro	Europe
*France	Paris	French Franc/Euro	Europe
*Germany	Berlin	Deutsche Mark/Euro	Europe
*Greece	Athens (Athinai)	Drachma/Euro	Europe
Hungary	Budapest	Forint	Europe
India	New Delhi	Indian Rupee	Asia
Indonesia	Jakarta	Indonesian Rupiah	Asia
Iran	Teheran	Iranian Rial	Asia
Iraq	Baghdad	Iraqi Dinar	Asia
*Ireland	Dublin	Irish Pound/Punt/Euro	Europe
Republic of Israel	Jerusalem	New Israeli Shekel	Asia
*Italy	Rome	Italian Lira	Europe
Japan	Tokyo	Yen	Asia
Kenya	Nairobi	Kenyan Shilling	Africa
Korea, South	Seoul	Won	Asia

Country	Capital	Currency	Continent
Libya	Tripoli	Libyan Dinar	Africa
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysian Dollar/Ringgit	Asia
Maldives	Male	Rufiyaa	Asia
Mauritius	Port Louis	Mauritian Rupee	Asia
Myanmar (Burma)	Naypyidaw	Kyat	Asia
Nepal	Kathmandu	Nepalese Rupee	Asia
*Netherlands	Amsterdam	Guilder	Europe
New Zealand	Wellington	New Zealand Dollar	Oceania
Nigeria	Abuja	Naira	Africa
Norway	Oslo	Norwegian Krone	Europe
Pakistan	Islamabad	Pakistan Rupee	Asia
Peru	Lima	New Sol	South America
Philippines	Manila	Philippine Peso	Asia
Poland	Warsaw	Zloty	Europe
*Portugal	Lisbon	Escudo	Europe
Qatar	Doha	Qatar Riyal	Asia
Russia	Moscow	Rouble	Asia/Europe
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Saudi Arabian Riyal	Asia
South Africa	Cape Town (Legislative) Pretoria (Administrative) Bloemfontein (Judicial)	Rand	Africa
South Sudan	Juba	South Sudanese Pound	Africa
*Spain	Madrid	Peseta	Europe
Sri Lanka	Sri-Jayawardenapura (since 1983); former capital, Colombo	Rupee	Asia
Sweden	Stockholm	Swedish Krona	Europe
Switzerland	Berne	Swiss Franc	Europe
Syria	Damascus	Syrian Pound	Asia
Thailand	Bangkok	Baht	Asia
Turkey	Ankara	Tunisian Lira	Asia
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates	Asia
United Kingdom (UK)	London	Pound Sterling	Europe
United States of America	Washington, DC	US Dollar	North America
Venezuela	Caracas	Bolivar	South America
Vietnam	Hanoi	Dong	Asia
Yugoslavia	Belgrade (Serbia)	Yugoslav Dinar	Europe
Zimbabwe	Harare	Zimbabwe Dollar	Africa

3. Important Facts Of Indian Constitutions

(A) The Sources of Our Constitution

The framers of the Indian Constitution referred to various provisions of the existing Constitutions of the world, weighed their merits, and applied them according to their suitability to our country. The major sources of the Constitution of India are as under:

1. **The Government of India Act, 1935**, the Centre / State List System, Federal Set-up, centre-state autonomies (federal set-up).
2. **The British Constitution**: Parliamentary Privileges, Unitary Citizenship, and the Rule of Law.
3. **The Australian Constitution**: Preamble, Concurrent List, Freedom of trade and commerce.
4. **The American Constitution**: Fundamental Rights, Judicial Review, and Impeachment of the President.
5. **The Japanese Constitution**: The Procedure established by the Law.
6. **The South African Constitution**: The Amendment clauses.
7. **The Irish Constitution**: The Directive Principles, Nominations to Rajya Sabha (The Council of States).
8. **The Russian Constitution**: The Fundamental Duties.
9. **The Canadian Constitution**: The Federal structure.
10. **The German Constitution**: The Emergency Provisions.

(B) A short note on the Right to Property:

There have been several amendments on this issue, viz, the 1st amendment (1951), the 4th amendment (1955), the 17th amendment (1964), the 25th amendment (1971), the 42nd amendment (1976) and the 44th amendment (1978). The effect of all these amendments on the Right to Property has been the reduction in status of this right from a FR to a **Constitutional Right**, covered under **Article 300(A)**; thus, **Article 19 (1)(f)** has accordingly been repealed. The basic objective behind the state acquiring personal properties shows its superiority over the individual's right, i.e. the **Doctrine of Eminence**. This was also necessary for the successful implementation of the Land Reforms. The **Ninth Schedule to the Constitution** has also been added for this purpose.

Remember that there is a distinction between a **Fundamental Right** and a **Constitutional Right**. Since the Right to Property is no longer a FR, the Supreme Court can no longer issue any writ on this regard; the High Courts can, however, look into these matters on the same footing as any other ordinary suit. Since this is a legal right, in the event that the Government acquires any private property, it will have to do so in accordance with the law, and it will then have to pay compensation for the same.

(C) The President

The President is the first citizen of India, and heads the Union. He is an integral part of the Parliament along with the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha (Parliament = President + LS + RS). In order to be **elected** as the President of India, a person must:

- (a) Be an Indian citizen;
- (b) Have completed 35 years of age;
- (c) Be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha; and
- (d) Must not hold any office of profit under the Government of India / State Government/ Local Government (**Article 58**).

The President is indirectly elected by the people of India, in accordance with the system of proportional representation through the **single transferable voting system**, by an electoral college comprising of (a) elected members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, and (b) the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States and those from Delhi and Pondicherry(UT). The **duration** of his office is for a period of 5 years. He may seek re-election.

The President **can be removed** from office if he (a) dies, (b) resigns, (c) is removed through the process of impeachment, or (d) on the expiry of his tenure. In case of the death of the President, the Vice-President will assume the position until a new President is elected. In the case of completion of his tenure, the President can continue in office until such time as the new President takes charge. In case of his inability to exercise his duties on grounds of illness, or during his visits abroad, etc., the Vice-President discharges the functions of his office.

The Constitution has vested **wide powers** in the President, such as:

1. **Administrative Powers:** He can appoint the Prime Minister, the other Union Ministers, the Attorney General, the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, the Governors of the States, the members of the Finance Commission, the members of the Union Public Service Commission and joint commissions for two or more States, the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners, officers for official languages and linguistic minorities, and for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes / Schedules Tribes.
2. **Legislative Powers:** He exercises these powers on ministerial advice. He can summon, prorogue and dissolve the Lok Sabha and joint parliamentary sessions. He can nominate 2 Anglo-Indians to the Lok Sabha and 12 persons to the Rajya Sabha.
3. **Judicial Powers:** He has powers to grant pardons, reprieves, respite, suspensions, remissions or commutations in respect of sentences of courts martial, punishment for an offence against the law or in even in cases of death sentence. Pardoning powers of the President are set out in **Article 72 of the Constitution**.
4. **Military Powers:** He is the supreme commander of our Armed Forces, but these functions are to be carried out according to the law. He can declare war or peace, with the consultation of Council of Minister.
5. **Diplomatic Powers:** He represents India internationally as the Head of State. He can appoint Indian representatives in foreign countries and receives foreign diplomatic representatives.
6. **Other Powers:** He has a mixture of absolute, suspensive and pocket vetoes.

(D) Vice President

The Vice President acts as the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The following are a few basic facts about the Vice President that you should keep in mind:

1. He is elected by the elected members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha only.
2. He is elected through the same system as applies to the President.
3. Requisite qualifications for appointment as Vice President are the same as apply to the office of the President, except for his qualification for election to the Rajya Sabha.
4. The term of office of the Vice President is for 5 years or less. He is eligible for re-election.
5. The Vice President can be removed either by resignation addressed to the President or may be removed by resolution of the Rajya Sabha passed by a majority, and agreed to by the Lok Sabha.
6. If the post of President is vacant, the Vice President carries out all his functions and then receives the salary of the President. For that period he is not the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
7. The Supreme Court is competent to deal with disputes over the election of the President and Vice President.

(E) House of the People (Lok Sabha)

- Presided over by a Speaker
He certifies a bill as a Money Bill (**Article 110**). He also presides over the joint Sessions.
- **Strength: 552** members of which-
 - (a) Not more than **530** are representatives from the States.
 - (b) Not more than **20** representatives of Union Territories.
 - (c) Not more than **2** nominated Anglo Indians
- **Term:** Normally for 5 years, but can be dissolved earlier also and can be extended during Emergency.
- **Election:** Directly elected by the people, through universal adult franchise (the voting age has been reduced from 21 to 18 years by the **61st Amendment to the Constitution in 1989**.)
- **Qualification:** For membership
 - (a) He / She must be a citizen of India.
 - (b) He / She must be not less than 25 years of age.**Additional qualifications:**
 - (a) He/She should not hold any office of profit under the government.
 - (b) He / She should not be of unsound mind.
 - (c) He / She should not be declared insolvent.
 - (d) He / She should not be disqualified under any law.

(F) Council of the States (Rajya Sabha)

- Presided over by a chairman (Vice President acts as ex-officio chairman). RS cannot be dissolved.
- **Strength:** not more than 250 members of which-
 - (a) Not more than **238** States and Union Territories representatives.
 - (b) **12** nominated by the president.
- Term:** 6 years. It is not subject to dissolution. One-third of its members retire every second year.
- **Election:** By the elected Members of the State Legislatures.
- **Qualification:** for membership-
 - (a) He / She must be a citizen of India.
 - (b) He / She must be not less than 30 years of age.
- **Additional qualifications:** (Same as Lok Sabha)

(G) Important Articles in Indian Constitution and their areas of concern

	Articles	Area of concern
1	Article 5 –11	Citizenship
2	Article 21	Right to life
3	Article 32	Right to constitutional remedies
4	Article 44	Uniform civil code
5	Article 51A	Fundamental duties
6	Article 61	Impeachment of president
7	Article 110	Definition of money bill
8	Article 123	Ordinance making powers of president
9	Article 324	Establishment of election commission of India
10	Article 300A	Right to property
11	Article 280	Finance commission
12	Article 352	National emergency
13	Article 356	Emergency in states
14	Article 360	Financial emergency
15	Article 368	Amendment of Constitution
16	Article 370	Special status of Jammu and Kashmir

(H) List of Schedules in the Constitution of India and their areas of function.

Schedule	Area of function
First	All the States and Union Territories of India
Second	Salaries and allowances of the President, Governor, Chief Justice, Judges of High Court and Supreme Court and CAG
Third	Prescriptions regarding forms of affirmations and oaths for the new entrants to the public offices
Fourth	Allocation of seats in Rajya Sabha to each Union Territory and State
Fifth	Provisions to the control of administration of scheduled areas
Sixth	Administrative provisions for tribal areas in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam
Seventh	Three lists of subjects and powers to be looked after by the State and the Union, i.e.: (1) Union list, containing the subjects of national importance, railway, defence, income tax, etc. (2) State list contains locally important subjects. (3) Concurrent list contains subjects under the authority of the Parliament and the State Legislature
Eighth	Deals with 18 (now 22) officially recognized regional languages by the Constitution.
Ninth	Contains acts and regulations dealing with abolition of zamindari system and land reforms of the State Legislatures. The provisions of this schedule cannot be challenged in Supreme Court.

Schedule	Area of function
Tenth	Contains provisions for the disqualification of members on the grounds of defection.
Eleventh	Deals with implementation of schemes needed for social justice and economic development at the rural levels.
Twelfth	Deals with municipal committees and their categorizations.

Note: Originally, there were eight schedules. Later, four more schedules were added to it, taking the total tally of schedules to twelve.

Here is a quick look at the most important Amendments to the Constitution so far. You should know this list well, since a few questions are often from this area!

(I) Important Amendments

1st Amendment (1951): Schedule IX added, in order to save land reforms laws from judicial review. A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court has now been asked to lay down the guidelines for the inclusion of any law in this Schedule. This has been caused due to the efforts on the parts of some States to include their reservation policy implementation laws in the Schedule.

42nd Amendment (1976): This amendment was also called the “Mini Constitution”, as it is the largest amendment ever. Some of the changes it introduced are:

- The Preamble was amended to include the words ‘Secular’, ‘Socialist’ and ‘integrity’.
- ‘Fundamental Duties’ added in Article 51A.
- The new Directive Principles in Articles 39A, 43A and 48A were added.

44th Amendment (1978): The Right to Property (Article 31) was abolished from the chapter of Fundamental Rights, and included under Article 300A, to remain a constitutional right.

61st Amendment (1989): Voting Age reduced from 21 to 18 years.

73rd and 74th Amendments (1992): Provisions relating to Panchayats and Municipalities revived, and Schedules XI and XII added.

84th Amendment (2000): Three new states, Chhatisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand created.

86th Amendment (2002): The Right to Education was made a Fundamental Right under the new Article 21A. A new Fundamental Duty was added under Article 51A(k), relating to a Parent’s fundamental duty to ensure that his child is not prevented from enjoying free and compulsory education up to the age of Fourteen. Article 45 of the Directive Principles was also amended, and it now provides that early childhood care (up to the age of Six) shall be the responsibility of the state.

91st Amendment (2003): Anti-defection law, *i.e.* disqualification of a Member of Parliament or a Legislative Assembly on the ground of defection. The strength of the Council of Ministers in the Union Government, as well as in any State Government, is now restricted to not more than 15% of total membership.

92nd Amendment (2003): VIII Schedule amended to include four new languages, *i.e.*, Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali.

93rd Amendment (2005): Article 15 amended to include a new clause empowering the Government to make laws to provide reservations to the socially and educationally backward classes in all educational institutions, including private institutions, but not in minority educational institutions.

94th Amendment Act (2006): Freed Bihar from the obligation of having a tribal welfare minister and extended the same provision to Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. This provision will now be applicable to the newly formed states and Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, where it has already been in force (Article 164(1)).

95th Amendment Act (2010): The extend the reservation of seats for SC’s and ST’s in the Lok Sabha and States assemblies from sixty to seventy years (Article 334)

96th Amendment Act (2011): Substituted “Odia” for “Oriya” (Schedule 8)

97th Amendment Act (2012): Amended article 19 and Part IX B. Added words “or cooperative societies” after the word “or unious” in article 19(1)(c) and inserted article 43B and added Part IX B.

98th Amendment Act (2013): Inserted article 371J in the constitutional and empowered Governor of Karnataka to take steps to develop Hyderabad-Karnataka Region.

4. Important Science Related Facts

(A) Various Important Branches of Science

Name of science	Related to
Acoustics	Sound and sound waves
Aeronautics	Activities of flying
Agronomy	Production of crops and soil management
Anatomy	Dissectional learning of animal and human body
Anthropology	Origin, cultural and physical development of man
Archaeology	Study of material remains of past as proofs
Astronautics	Space vehicles and travelling in space
Astronomy	Planets (the heavenly bodies)
Biology	Science of living organisms
Botany	Plants
Cardiology	Heart and related diseases
Ceramics	Manufacturing of clay objects
Cetology	Aquatic mammals, especially the whales
Cosmology	Universe
Cryogenics	Studying effects of low temperature
Cytology	Structure and function of cells
Dactylogy	Study of fingerprints
Dermatology	Skin
Dietetics	Diet and nutrition
Ecology	Organisms and environment relationship
Entomology	Insects
Endocrinology	Endocrine glands
Etymology	Origin and history of words
Genetics	Heredity and its laws
Geology	Earth's (chemical and physical) structure
Gerontology	Ageing process, problems and diseases
Gynaecology	Female diseases of reproductive system
Haematology	Blood and related disorders
Histology	Tissues
Immunology	Body's immune system
Morphology	External structure of living organisms
Mycology	Fungi and fungal diseases
Nephrology	Kidney
Obstetrics	Pregnancy, child birth and their follow up
Ornithology	Birds
Orthopaedics	Human skeletal system
Osteology	Study of bones
Paediatrics	Child diseases
Palaeontology	Fossils and ancient life-forms
Pathology	Mechanisms and manifestation of diseases
Pharmacology	Drugs and their effects on the body

Name of science	Related to
Physiology	Life processes of various organs of living beings
Psychiatry	Mental disorders
Semiology	Sign language and signs
Seismology	Earthquakes
Theology	Religions
Toxicology	Toxic substances and poisons
Zoology	Animal life
Zymology	Fermentation process

(B) Important Information About the Human Body

Blood: It is a red, viscous fluid which circulates in the human body. It is basically a connective tissue which is contained in the blood vessels. A healthy man possesses on an average, 5 litres of blood in the body.

Composition: It is made up of two chief constituents:

(a) **Plasma (fluid)**, constitutes the **major part** while (b) **Blood cells (solid)**, which constitutes the **minor part**.

The blood cell corpuscles are of two types: **(1) RBC (2) WBC**. The RBC is **red blood corpuscles** which contains a **pigment called haemoglobin which is responsible for the red colour of the blood. Iron is the element which is present in the haemoglobin**. The **WBC are white blood corpuscles** which are primarily responsible for **combating with the infection of the body or they fight with the foreign harmful organisms of the body**.

Blood groups: They are of four types, viz.

(i) **A-type** (ii) **B-type** (iii) **AB-type** (iv) **O-type**

AB - type is called **universal recipient** as it can receive all the four types (mentioned above) of blood and **O-type** is called as **universal donor** as it can be given to any of the four types of blood groups (mentioned above).

Bones:

- (i) There are **206 bones** in the **skeletal system of an adult**.
- (ii) The **largest bone** is **femur** present in the **thigh**.
- (iii) The **shortest bone** is the **stirrup** which is **present in the middle ear**.

Other important facts about the various organs of the human body:

- The **largest organ** of the human body is **skin**.
- Heart is responsible for regulating the circulation of blood in the body. The heart beat of adult males is **72 beats per minute**.
- Liver is the largest gland** of the human body. It is concerned with the digestion of the food intake.
- Two kidneys are responsible for the filtering of nitrogenous waste of the body and throw it all in the form of urine.
- Pituitary gland** is called **the master gland as it influences the growth and metabolism by controlling the other ductless glands**, viz. thymus, thyroid, adrenal, prostate, pancreas and gonads.

(C) Vitamins, Their Sources and Diseases Caused Due to Their Deficiencies

Name of the vitamin	Main source	Disease caused due to their deficiencies
Vitamin A	Milk, carrot, egg, animal fat, etc.	Night blindness
Vitamin B₁ (Thiamine)	Cereals, pulses, carrots	Beriberi
Vitamin B₂ (Riboflavin)	Liver, kidney, milk	Chilosis, dermatitis
Vitamin B₆ (Pyridoxine)	Yeast, cereals, liver	Anaemia
Niacin (Nicotinic acid)	Peas, tomato, eggs	Polyneuritis
Folic Acid	Green leafy vegetables, meat, egg	Anaemia
Pantothenic Acid	Kidney, meat, yeast	Dermatitis
Vit. B₁₂ (Cyanocobalamin)	Milk, liver, meat	Pernicious anaemia

Name of the vitamin	Main source	Disease caused due to their deficiencies
Vitamin C (Ascorbic acid)	Lemons, milk, oranges, fresh fruits and vegetables	Scurvy , sore mouth and gums bleeding
Vitamin D (Calciferol)	Dairy products, sun rays, eggs, oily fish, milk	Many diseases of the bones, rickets in children, osteomalacia
Vitamin E (Tocopherol)	Milk, soyabeans, egg yolk	Interferes with reproduction and causes abortion and menstrual irregularities
Vitamin K (Menadione)	Fish, peas and green vegetables	Causes the delayed clotting of blood

(D) Other Diseases of the Human Body

Name of the disease	Caused by	Affected part of the human body
Anaemia	Deficiency of haemoglobin	
AIDS (acquired immuno deficiency syndrome)	Virus	Weakness in the immune system of the body
Asthma	Allergens	Lungs
Diabetes	Less production of insulin hormone which causes an increase in the sugar level of the blood	Pancreas and blood
Diphtheria	Bacteria	Throat
Glaucoma	High pressure in the eyes	Eyes
Goitre	Deficiency of iodine	Throat
Hepatitis	Virus (mainly)	Jaundice
Malaria	Plasmodium	
Polio	Virus	Legs
Rheumatism	Streptococcus bacteria in children	Joints
Tonsillitis	Bacterial and viral infection	Glands in throat
Tuberculosis	Bacteria	Lungs

5. Important Miscellaneous GK Facts

(A) United Nations

United Nations is world's largest organization which was **formed on October 24, 1945**. Since then **October 24 is celebrated as the United Nations Day**. The main objective of the United Nations is to make the world a better place to live in by maintaining peace and security all over the world. There are **193 members** at present in the UN and **South Sudan** is the last entrant. The organisation headquartered at New York has got **five countries** as the **permanent members** in its security council. **They are China, UK, USA, Russia and France**; Besides this they have 10 non-permanent members.

(1) Structure of the Organization: The following principle bodies of United Nations Organization.

- (i) **General Assembly:** It is **headquartered at New York**. Its members are all member states of the United Nations Organization (UNO).
- (ii) **Security Council:** **Headquartered at New York**, it has **five permanent members** (mentioned earlier) who enjoy veto power and 10 non-permanent elected members. The non-permanent elected members are elected by the General Assembly and retire on rotation, every two years. The main function is to look after the international peace and security.
- (iii) **The Economic and Social Council:** **Headquartered at New York**, it consists of **representatives of 54 member countries** elected by two-third majority in the General Assembly. It functions in international economic, social and culture-related matters.
- (iv) **Trusteeship Council:** **Headquartered at New York**, it looks after the interests of inhabitants of territories which are not yet fully self-governing and are governed by any administrating country.

- (v) **International Court of Justice: Headquartered at the Peace Palace The Hague, in Holland**, it consists of 15 judges elected by General Assembly and Security Council for a term of nine years. Its function is to give legal advice on legal matters to the bodies and special agencies of the UNO and considers the legal disputes which are brought before it. Peter Tamka is current President of International court of Justice.

Note: Four persons from India have been elected as Judges of International Court of Justice till date. They are:

- (1) Sir Benegal Rau (19508)
- (2) Dr. Negendra Singh (1970-80)
- (3) R. S. Pathak (1988-90)
- (4) Dalveer Bhandari (2012- 2018)

- (vi) **Secretariat:** It is headed by the Secretary - General who is the Chief Administrative Officer of the UNO and supervises the activities of UNO. **The Secretary - General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.** The term is of five years and can be re-elected after the expiry of the term.

➤ **Secretary - General of UNO:**

- (i) **First Secretary - General was Trygve Lie, from Norway.**
- (ii) **At present, Ban-Ki-Moon of South Korea is the Secretary - General of UN.**

➤ **Official languages of the UNO:** They are **six** in number, viz.:

- (i) **English** (ii) **Chinese** (iii) **French**
- (iv) **Spanish** (v) **Russian** (vi) **Arabic**

(B) Important agencies related to United Nations Organization

Name of the organization	Headquartered at
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Geneva
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Vienna
United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Paris
World Metrological Organization (WMO)	Geneva
World Health Organization (WHO)	Geneva
Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)	Rome
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	New York
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)	Geneva
[Now known as World Trade Organization (WTO)]	
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	New York
International Development Association (IDA)	Washington DC
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Nairobi
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Washington
United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)	New York
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Geneva

(C) Important Sobriquets

Distinctive Name	Country / Place
Bengal's Sorrow	Damodar river
Blue Mountains	Nilgiris
City of Arabian Nights	Baghdad
City of Palaces	Kolkata
City of Seven Hills/Eternal city	Rome
City of Skyscrapers /Empire city / Big Apple	New York
City of the Golden Gate	San Francisco
City of Joy	Kolkata

Distinctive Name	Country / Place
Commercial Capital of India	Mumbai
Dairy of Northern Europe	Denmark
Dark Continent	Africa
Forbidden City	Lhasa (Tibet)
Garden of England	Kent
Garden City of India	Bangalore
Gate of Tears	Bab-el-Mandab, Jerusalem
Gateway of India	Mumbai
Gift of the Nile	Egypt
Golden City	Johannesburg
Great White Way	Broadway (New York)
Hermit's Kingdom	Korea
Holy Land	Palestine
Island of Pearls	Bahrain
Key to the Mediterranean	Gibraltar
Land of Five Rivers	Punjab
Land of a Thousand Lakes	Finland
Land of Cakes	Scotland
Land of Kangaroos	Australia
Land of Lillies /Lady of Snow	Canada
Land of Morning Calm	Korea
Land of the Golden Fleece	Australia
Land of the Golden Pagoda	Myanmar
Land of the Midnight Sun	Norway
Land of the Rising Sun	Japan
Land of Thunderbolt	Bhutan
Land of White Elephants	Thailand
Manchester of South India	Coimbatore
Mother-in-Law of Europe	Denmark
Never, Never Land	Prairies (North America)
Pink City of India	Jaipur
Playground of Europe	Switzerland
Queen of the Arabian Sea	Cochin (India)
Roof of the World	Pamir (Tibet)
Sick Man of Europe	Turkey
Sorrow of China /Yellow river	River Hwang Ho
Spice Garden of India	Kerala
Sugar Bowl of the World	Cuba
Sugar Bowl of India	Uttar Pradesh
The Battlefield of Europe	Belgium
The Down Under	Australia
The Imperial City	Rome
The Promised Land	Canaan

Distinctive Name	Country / Place
The Saw Mill of Europe	Sweden
The Sea of Mountains	British Colombia
The Spice Island of the West	Grenada
Twin City	Budapest
Valley of Kings	Thebes
White City	Belgrade
White Man's Grave	Guinea Coast (West Africa)
Windy City	Chicago
Workshop of Europe	Belgium
World's Bread Basket	Prairies of North America

(D) Important Facts about World and India

(a) World's Largest, Longest and Highest Man-made Structures

Structure	Name	Location
Longest Rail Line	Trans-Siberian line from Moscow to Nakhodka, 9,438 kilometres long	Russia
Largest Temple (Hindu)	Angkor Vat	Cambodia
Longest Wall	The Great Wall of China	China
Longest Railway Platform	Gorakhpur (1,366.33 m)	Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh
Largest Cathedral	Diocese of New York	New York
Longest Railway Bridge	Huey P. Long Bridge	Metairie, Louisiana, US
Busiest Airport	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Georgia, USA
Highest Road Bridge over Water	Royal Gorge	River Arkanas, Colorado
Largest Library	The Library of Congress	Capital Hill, Washington, DC

(b) Important Natural Entities of the World

Natural Entity	Names
Largest Ocean	Pacific
Largest Gulf	Gulf of Mexico
Largest Island	Greenland (renamed Kalaallit Nunaat)
Largest Bay	Hudson Bay, Northern Canada
Tallest Animal	Giraffe
Largest Bird	North American Ostrich
Largest Animal	Blue Whale
Largest Egg	Ostrich Egg
Smallest Bird	Bee Hummingbird
Smallest River (shortest)	Roe River in Montana
Largest Sea	South China Sea
Largest Delta	Sunderbans
Driest Place	Atacama Desert, Chile
Highest Waterfall	Salto Angel, Venezuela
Largest Desert	The Sahara, North Africa
Hottest Place	Aziza, Libya
Largest Glacier	Siachen, Indo-Pak border
Coldest Place	Vostok Staion (Antarctica)

(c) Important Facts of India.

National Insignia and Other Important Facts

1. **National Flag:** It was **adopted** by Constituent Assembly on July **22 1947**. Ratio of width to length is 2 : 3 having three bands of equal width; lowest is green, middle one is white and saffron is the colour at the top. A wheel is at the centre of the flag of navy blue colour **having 24 spokes**. **Madam Bhikaji Cama was the first to unfurl the tri-colour at an international body.**
2. **National Emblem:** It was adopted by the Government of India on January 26 1950. Basically, it is a replica of the capitol of Ashoka's pillar at Sarnath.
3. **National Anthem:** Composed by **Rabindranath Tagore**, have wordings: Jana Gana Mana..., in 1911. Adopted on January 24 1950, by the Constituent Assembly of India and takes about **52 seconds** to sing it completely. It was first sung on 27th Dec. 1911 at Calcutta session of Congress.
4. **National Song:** **Composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**, wordings: Vande Mataram ..., **taken** from 'Anand Math', a novel by him and was adopted on **January 24 1950**.
5. **National Flower** is Lotus.
6. **National Animal** is Tiger.
7. **National Bird** is Peacock.

(d) Important Boundaries and Lines of the World

1. **Durand Line:** It is the line which separates India and Afghanistan.
2. **MacMahon Line:** It demarcates the boundaries of China and India.
3. **Radcliffe Line:** It demarcates the boundary between India and Pakistan.
4. **38th Parallel:** It is the parallel separating North Korea and South Korea.
5. **49th Parallel:** It is the boundary between USA and Canada.
6. **Siegfried Line:** It is the line between Germany and France, from German side.
7. **Maginot Line:** It is the line between Germany and France from French side.
8. **17th parallel:** It is the parallel (latitude) which separated north Vietnam from south Vietnam.

(E) International and National days

Generally 1 to 2 questions are asked from this segment. Here is the list of some very important international and national days.

(i) International Days

Date	Name of the Day
January 26	International Customs Day
March 8	International Women's Day
March 15	World Consumers' Day
March 21	World Forestry Day
March 22	World Day for Water
March 23	World Meteorological Day
April 7	World Health Day
April 17	World Haemophilia Day
April 18	World Heritage Day
April 22	World Earth Day
May 1	International Labour Day
May 3	International Press Freedom Day
May 8	World Red Cross Day
May 24	Commonwealth Day

Date	Name of the Day
May 31	Anti-tobacco Day/World No Tobacco Day
June 5	World Environment Day (Theme of 2015: Seven Billion Dreams. One planet. Consume with care)
June 8	World Ocean Day (Theme of 2015: Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet)
June 12	World Day against Child Labour
June 20	World Refugee Day (Theme of 2015: With courage let us all combine)
June 21	International Yoga Day
June 26	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
July 11	World Population Day
July 15	International Youth Skill Day
September 8	World Literacy Day
September 16	World Ozone Day
September 27	World Tourism Day
October 1	International Day for Older Persons
October 3	World Habitat Day
October 5	World Teachers Day
October 9	World Post Day
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child
October 14	World Standards Day
October 16	World Food Day
October 17	International Day for Eradication of Poverty
October 24	United Nations Day
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 3	International Day for Disabled Persons
December 7	International Civil Aviation Day
December 10	World Human Rights Day

(ii) National Days

Date	Name of the Day
January 12	National Youth Day (birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda)
January 15	Army Day
January 23	Netaji S.C. Bose's Birth Anniversary
January 24	National Day for Girl Child
January 25	National Voters Day
January 26	Republic Day
January 30	Martyr's Day (Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary)
February 24	Central Excise Day
February 28	National Science Day
May 21	Anti-terrorism Day (Rajiv Gandhi's death anniversary)

Date	Name of the Day
June 29	National Statistics Day
August 7	National Handloom Day
August 15	Independence Day
August 29	National Sports Day
September 5	Teachers' Day
October 2	Gandhi Jayanti/International Day for Non-Violence
October 8	Indian Air Force Day
November 14	Children's Day
November 26	National Legal Day
December 4	Navy Day
December 23	Kisan Divas (Farmers' Day-Chowdhary Charan Singh's Birthday)

(F) Sports Data

In this section generally questions are asked from cups and trophies and terms associated with various sports disciplines. Here is the compilation of important sports and related facts.

(i) International Cups, trophies and associated sports disciplines

Name of the cup/trophy	Associated sport
Davis Cup (Men)	Lawn tennis
Federation Cup (Women)	Lawn tennis
Weightman Cup	Lawn tennis
ATP Tournament	Lawn tennis
Wimbledon Trophy	Lawn tennis
Australian Open,	Lawn tennis
US Open	Lawn tennis
French Open	Lawn tennis
Merdeka cup	Football
FIFA cup	Football
Copa America Cup	Football
Euro Cup	Football
Champions League	Football
Thomas Cup (Men)	Badminton
Uber Cup (Women)	Badminton
All England Badminton Championship	Badminton
Yonex Cup	Badminton
Walker Cup	Golf
PGA Tournament	Golf
Ryder Cup	Golf
Canada Cup	Golf
Champions Trophy	Hockey

Name of the cup/trophy	Associated sport
Beighton Cup	Hockey
Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Hockey
William Jones Cup	Basketball

(ii) National cups/trophies and associated sports disciplines

Name of the cup/trophy	Associated sports
ICC Cricket World Cup	Cricket
Asia Cup	Cricket
Sharjah Cup	Cricket
Duleep Trophy	Cricket
Sheesh Mahal Trophy	Cricket
Ranji Trophy (National Title)	Cricket
Vijay Hazarey Trophy	Cricket
Irani Trophy	Cricket
Deodhar Trophy	Cricket
Vizzy Trophy	Cricket
Durand Cup	Football
Santosh Memorial Trophy	Football (School Championship)
Subroto Cup	Football
Rovers Cup	Football
Sanjay Gold Cup	Football
Durand Cup	Football
Lal Bahadur Shastri Trophy	Football
Nizam Gold Cup	Football
Dr. B.C. Roy Trophy (National Junior Championship)	Football
Rangaswami Cup (National Title)	Hockey
Lady Ratan Tata Trophy (Women's)	Hockey
Nehru Trophy	Hockey
Aga Khan Gold Cup	Hockey
Guru Nanak Championship (All - India Women)	Hockey
Dhyan Chand Trophy	Hockey
Murugappa Gold Cup	Hockey
Ezar Cup	Polo

(iii) Terms associated with various sports disciplines

Sports	Terms associated with sports disciplines
Badminton	Luv, deuce, drop, smash, double touch, let, double fault
Basketball	Pivot, dribble, basket, block, held ball, free throw, holding, jump ball
Billiards	Spider, baulk, cue, scratch, cannon
Boxing	Hook, rounds, punch, jab, countdown, knock-outs, all the weights, (flyweight, middleweight, heavyweight, etc.)
Bridge	Tricks, trump, suite, little slam, rubber
Chess	Knight, king, Sicilian defence, move, gambit, checkmate, rook, stalemate, queen, bishop, pawn, castle
Cricket	Gully, hat-trick, pull, beamer, hook, googly, flick, follow-on, maiden, declare, Silly point, Leg Before Wicket (LBW), Ashes, Duck, Popping crease, Maiden over, Square leg, Amour chinaman
Golf	Tee, birdie, club, course, Iron, eagle, links, caddie, putt, hole, bogey, fore, niblic
Hockey	Centre, penalty-stroke, free-hit, foul, carry, stick, corner, dribble, trapping, short corner, tie-braker, scoop, penalty corner
Table tennis	Deuce, drop, spin, smash, let, serve
Lawn-Tennis	Grand slam, lob, ace, passing shot, top-spin, forehand, crosscourt, deuce, down the line, slice, half volley, smash
Volleyball	Heave, serve, blocking, point, doubling

PART – 2 : Current and Business GK Facts

1. News Points from January, 2016 to October, 2016

January

NATIONAL

Government clears tax information exchange pacts with Maldives and Slovenia

- The Cabinet on 30th December, 2015 approved the signing and ratification of an agreement between India and Maldives for exchange of information aimed at curbing tax evasion and avoidance.

Cabinet approves MoU with Bloomberg Philanthropies

- The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Urban Development and Bloomberg Philanthropies (BP), New York to support the development of Smart Cities.

CBSE launches 'E-CBSE' mobile app for e-learning material

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched its latest mobile application 'E-CBSE' for providing e-learning material for students and teachers.
- Taking it a notch forward, CBSE has released several of its text books online, under e-CBSE.

NABARD and NRSC sign MoU for web-based monitoring of watershed projects

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) for web-based monitoring of watershed projects.

Government sets up panel to revamp Censor Board

- The government has constituted a committee headed by noted film-maker Shyam Benegal to look into revamp of Censor Board.

Government forms panel to study wage structure of gramin dak sevaks

- Kamlesh Chandra, a retired member of the postal services board, will constitute the committee, which will be assisted by T Q Mohammad, a senior administrative grade officer, who will act as secretary.

Mumbai, Delhi figure in world's top-30 'super cities'

- Two Indian cities -- Delhi and Mumbai -- have made it to a top-30 list of the world's most powerful, productive and connected cities.
- According to the study conducted by international real estate consultancy JLL, India's financial capital Mumbai has been ranked 22nd while the national capital Delhi is placed at 24th.

India climbs 13 steps on tourism ladder

- The Indian tourism industry has won accolades across the world this year with the country also climbing 13 positions-- from 65th to 52nd rank-- in the tourism and travel competitive index, according to a World Economic Forum report.

"Amma Seeds" scheme for farmers

- Implementing an announcement made in the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 2014 for farmers' welfare, Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa has launched the scheme 'Amma Seeds' which is aimed at providing quality seeds.

President Pranab Mukherjee gives assent to five key legislations

- President Pranab Mukherjee on 3rd January, 2016 gave his assent to the five legislations which have been passed by Parliament in the recently concluded winter session.
- These legislations are the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Act, and the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Act, 2015.
- As per Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, an arbitrator will have to settle a case within 18 months.

- The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Act will allow state-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) to have collaboration with other public sector undertakings in the nuclear field.
- Where as the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act is aimed at creating commercial benches in select high courts.
- The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Act, 2015, provides for enhancing bonus calculation ceiling to 7,000 rupees from the existing rupees 3,500.

Telangana become first state to accept e-motor insurance policies

- Electronic motor insurance policies are legally accepted by the police and transport authorities in Telangana from 4th January, 2016, making it the first state in the country to do so.

Country's first Rs. 250cr urban yacht marina project at Howrah

- India's first urban yacht marina project, along with a residential area, will come up in Howrah on the banks of the Hooghly river.

Indo-French military exercise Shakti-2016 begins

- India and France will begin their eight-day counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency joint exercise Shakti-2016 in Rajasthan on 8th January, 2016.

Sam Pitroda appointed Technical Advisor to Odisha government

- Well-known telecom engineer and inventor Sam Pitroda has been appointed Technical Advisor to the Odisha Government.

River Information System Launched to Facilitate Safe, Accurate Navigation

- In a first of its kind of initiative, the Union Government on 6th January, 2016 launched a River Information System (RIS) that will facilitate safe and accurate navigation on National Waterway - 1 on River Ganga.

Sailesh appointed as the new Registrar General, Census Commissioner 7th

- Senior IAS officer Sailesh was on 7th January, 2016 appointed as Registrar General and Census Commissioner.

'Operation Dhangu'

- The Army on 6th January, 2016 justified the deployment of NSG in the operation against the six fidayeen at the Pathankot airbase saying that the three service chiefs had taken the call jointly so that the elite combat force could deal with any hostage crisis in the airbase which had around 3,000 family members of IAF personnel and 23 trainees from four foreign countries at the time of the attack.

2015 hottest year on record: IMD

- 2015 was the hottest year on record.

International kite festival underway in Ahmedabad

- In Gujarat, international kite festival is underway at Sabarmati River front in Ahmedabad.

World Hindi Day

- World Hindi Day was observed in 10th January, 2016 to make people aware about the importance of Hindi language and to promote the language globally.

Kullu folk dance enters Guinness Book

- In Himachal Pradesh, the Nati folk dance of Kullu district has made a world record by entering the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest folk dance in the world.

Gender education compulsory

- Telangana has become the first State to introduce compulsory gender education at the graduate level; without repeating gender stereotypes in its bilingual textbook titled, 'Towards a World of Equals.'

Kerala becomes 1st state in country to achieve 100% primary education

- Vice-President Hamid Ansari has officially declared the 100% primary education status achieved by Kerala on 13th January, 2016.
- This has been achieved through the primary education equivalency drive of the state literacy mission — Athulyam.

Silicon Valley's 'Girls in Tech' begins operations in India

- San Francisco-based global non-profit organisation Girls in Tech (GIT), working towards empowering women in technology and entrepreneurship, has launched India operations and made Hyderabad its hub.

Varanasi and Jaipur make it to Unesco's Creative City Network

- For the first time, two Indian cities have made it to the Unesco's Creative City Network.
- The PM's constituency Varanasi and Rajasthan's capital Jaipur have made it to the network in the categories — City of Craft and City of Music.

India's Diaspora population is the highest in the world

- India's Diaspora population is the highest in the world with 16 million people from India living outside their country in 2015, according to a recent UN survey on international migrant trends.
- The survey was organised by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Sikkim becomes India's first organic state

- Sikkim has become India's first fully organic state by implementing organic practices on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land.

Indo Japan coast guards to conduct joint exercise

- The Coast Guards of India and Japan will be conducting their 15th joint exercise off the coast of Chennai on 15 January 2016, 2016.
- For the bilateral training called "Sahyog-Kaijin," India's Coast Guard vessel Samudra Pehredar and the Japanese vessel Echigo are berthed at Chennai Port.

Start Up India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the 'Start-up India, Stand-up India' action plan in New Delhi on 17th January, 2016 to boost startup ventures in the country.
- The main aim of action plan of 'Start-up India, Stand-up India' is to give impetus to innovation and encourage the talent among young people and remove onerous government regulations and red tape.

Shillong Geophysical Research Centre

- To understand better and possibly predict earthquakes, the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) has opened its third regional centre in Shillong, a region, which is highly prone to tremors.
- IIG is a premier research organisation under Department of Science and Technology and is involved in research on Geomagnetism and allied fields.
- Its Headquarters is located at New Panvel near Mumbai.

Maharashtra first state to grant 180 days maternity leave

- Maharashtra will be the first state in the country where women employees in government jobs can avail up to 180 days' maternity leave while having a baby through surrogacy.

'Bharat Parv' event begins on Red Fort lawns

- The rich cultural and ethnic heritage of India, including cuisine and handicrafts from across the country, is being showcased in Delhi as part of a festival, 'Bharat Parv', which got underway at the Red Fort lawns on 26th January, 2016.

India gets more voting rights in IMF

- In long-pending reforms that came into effect on 27th January, 2016, emerging and developing economies gained more influence in the governance architecture of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- India's voting rights increase to 2.6 per cent from the current 2.3 per cent, and China's, to six per cent from 3.8, as per the new division. Russia and Brazil are the other two countries that gain from the reforms.

INTERNATIONAL

Copyright of Adolf Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' expires

- For the first time in 70 years, Adolf Hitler's Nazi manifesto Mein Kampf is to be available to buy in Germany.

China's country code domain ".cn" becomes world's largest:

- China's country code domain '.cn' has become the world's most commonly used in the internet with 16.36 million users, surpassing Germany's '.de' domain.
- According to the data released on 7th January, 2016 by the China Internet Network Information Centre (CNNIC), which manages the domain, '.cn' had 16.36 million users by the end of 2015.

Nepal elected as UNICEF's executive board

- Nepal has been elected to the UNICEF Executive Board, representing the group of Asia-Pacific countries for the term 2016-2018.

PEN award for J.K. Rowling

- The Harry Potter author is to receive the PEN/Allen Foundation Literary Service Award, PEN America told The Associated Press on 25th January, 2016.

CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Nai Manzil: India signs financing deal with World Bank for \$50mn for minority education

- India has signed financing agreement of 50 million dollar with World Bank for Nai Manzil Education and Skills Training for Minorities.
- The project takes an integrated and holistic approach to address the high dropout and unemployment rate among minority youth.
- Minority BPL (below poverty line) youth in the age group of 17-35 years will be the main beneficiaries of the project.

Atul Sobti appointed as the new CMD of BHEL

- Atul Sobti – who has been working as a board director in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) – was appointed as the chairman and managing director (CMD) of the company on 1st January, 2016.

MPTDC develops 'Hanuwantiya Island'

- The Madhya Pradesh government has developed 'Hanuwantiya Island', located in the reservoir of Indira Sagar Dam on river Narmada, as a tourism destination to promote water tourism in the state.

BHEL commissions first 600MW thermal unit in Telangana

- State-run power equipment maker BHEL has commissioned a 600 MW unit at Kakatiya Thermal Power Project, Telangana.

India to grow at 7.8% in current year: World Bank

- The World Bank has projected a robust 7.8 percent growth for the Indian economy in the current year.
- In its Global Economic Prospect report released on 7th January, 2016, the World Bank cited strong investor sentiment in India and the positive effect on real incomes of the recent fall in oil prices.
- The report said, India's currency and stock markets were largely resilient over the past year, even during bouts of volatility in global financial markets.

ICICI Bank to partner FINO PayTech

- ICICI Bank will partner FINO PayTech to foray into the payments bank space, a top official said on 7th January, 2016.
- FINO Paytech has received 'in principle' licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a payment bank.
- RBI regulations allow universal banks to invest up to 30 per cent in payments bank.
- RBI regulations also mandate 51 per cent of the equity of the payments bank should be with domestic entities, In FINO PayTech, about 70 per cent stake is with foreign entities.

Raghuram Rajan conferred Central Banker of the Year Award

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan has been awarded the Central Banker of Year Award (Global and Asia Pacific) for 2016 by The Banker, on 7th January, 2016.
- The Banker is a monthly banking publication of the Financial Times group.

Cairn and Rajasthan government ink pact to provide drinking water in Barmer

- Cairn Enterprise Centre Society and Rajasthan Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) on 7th January, 2016 signed a pact to provide clean and safe drinking water in 800 villages in Barmer district of Rajasthan.

NDMC plans to launch initiative 'Aatm Nirbhar'

- The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) will launch an initiative called 'Aatm Nirbhar' with an aim to empower beggars and ragpickers in the national capital.
- Under the scheme, the beggars and ragpickers will soon manage toilet complexes in the city.

BSE to get its own postal stamp

- Asia's oldest stock exchange, Bombay Stock Exchange, will get its own postage stamp, telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on 10th January, 2016.
- BSE had recently become the world's fastest stock exchange clocking a median trade speed of six micro seconds.

SBI opens first dedicated banking branch for startups

- The country's largest public sector bank, State Bank of India (SBI), has opened its first branch dedicated to serving startup companies in Bengaluru.
- The bank has opened its first InCube branch in Bengaluru since the city is the hub for startups in the country.
- It also plans to open centers in Pune and Delhi-NCR in the coming months, but will limit opening them only in cities that have a large presence of startups.

Climate change and involuntary migration top threats to global economy in 2016

- The World Economic Forum, WEF, says climate change and involuntary migration are the two top concerns for global economies in 2016.

Exim Bank inks pact with AP to promote exports

- The Exim Bank of India and Andhra Pradesh government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for promotion of exports from the State.

India elected to Board of Directors of China-backed AIIB

- India, one of the founding members of the AIIB, has been elected to the board of directors of the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank which is expected to begin loan approvals before the end of 2016.
- However, the Vice President post for which India as the second largest shareholder aspired for will be selected on merit.
- Earlier, Dinesh Sharma, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Finance was elected to the 12-member board for which a secret ballot was held on 18th January, 2016.

Easwar panel calls for lower TDS rates

- The first draft of the Justice RV Easwar committee to simplify the Income Tax Act, 1961, has called for doubling the turnover limit for the presumptive income scheme for individual, Hindu Undivided Family or a partnership firm to 2 crore annually from the current 1 crore.

World Bank loan to develop Kosi basin

- India and the World Bank on 20th January, 2016 signed a \$250 million financing agreement for Bihar Kosi Basin development project.

RBI allows banks to sell India Gold Coins

- Reserve Bank has permitted banks to sell India Gold Coins (IGC) with Ashok Chakra minted by Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) through their branches.

- In a notification issued by RBI on 21st January, 2016, it has been decided to allow designated banks to sell the IGCs manufactured by MMTC.
- Coins are available in denominations of 5 and 10 grams while a 20 gram bullion is also being manufactured by MMTC.

FDI flows into India nearly doubled in 2015

- According to United Nations' trade agency UNCTAD, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into India nearly doubled to 59 billion dollars in 2015.

ONGC gets environmental nod for KG basin project

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has received environmental clearance for drilling 45 developed wells at Block KG-DWN-98/2, KG offshore in the Krishna Godavari basin in Andhra Pradesh. The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 53,000 crore.

SPORTS

Virat Kohli named Cricketer of the Year' 2015

- Indian Test captain Virat Kohli has been selected for 'Cricketer of the Year' award 2015, while Mithali Raj was picked for the top women's award in the BCCI annual honours to be given away on 5th January in Mumbai.

India beat Afghanistan 2-1 to lift SAFF Cup title for 7th time

- India beat defending champions Afghanistan 2-1 in the summit clash in a dominating display to lift the South Asian Football Federation Cup for the seventh time on 3rd January, 2016.

Pranav Dhanawade hits world record 1009 runs at school level tournament

- A 15-year-old Pranav Dhanawade scored an unbeaten 1009 — the first ever batsman to reach a four-figure mark — during an inter-school tournament.

India wins first T20 blind Asia Cup

- India defeated Pakistan by 44 runs to win the first blind T20 Asia Cup in Kochi on 24th January, 2016.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Government approves 'Raptor MoU'

- The government on 30th December, 2015 gave its approval for signing an MoU for conservation of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia, which will help India gain knowledge in effectively managing the habitats of these raptors.
- India will become the 54th signatory to the MoU.
- Raptor MoU was concluded on October 22, 2008 and came into effect on November, 1 2008. The Raptor MoU is an agreement under Article IV paragraph 4 of the CMS and is not legally binding.

Landing site of China's first lunar lander named "Moon Palace"

- China on 5th January, 2016 named the landing site of its first moon lander Chang'e-3 as "Guang Han Gong" or "Moon Palace", more than two years after the spacecraft made a successful soft-landing on the earth's only natural satellite.

Indian Army tests Pinaka II multi-barrel rocket launcher system

- The Indian Army has successfully completed user-assisted trials of Pinaka II, a multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) system, at Pokhran field firing range in Rajasthan, India.

The Zika Virus

- A once rare mosquito-borne virus called Zika is spreading rapidly through the Americas since arriving in Brazil in May, 2015 with a case confirmed in Texas in January, 2016 week in a traveler returning from Latin America.
- Zika virus is a virus that can make people sick with rash, fever, joint pain, and pinkeye, according to the Centers for Disease Control.
- Zika can be transmitted when someone with the virus is bitten by a mosquito and then that mosquito bites another human.

February

NATIONAL

Archana Ramasundaram is SSB chief

- Senior IPS officer Archana Ramasundaram was on 1st February, 2016 appointed Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), the first woman to head a paramilitary force.

Atulesh Jindal to be New CBDT Chief

- Senior Indian Revenue Service officer Atulesh Jindal on 1st February took charge as the new chairman of the CBDT, the controlling body of the income tax department.

MGNREGA completes 10 years

- The MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) scheme completes 10 years of implementation on 2nd February, 2016.
- The scheme, aimed at generating employment in rural areas, was first conceived and implemented during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance rule in 2006.
- More than 65 percent of work taken up under the scheme was linked to agriculture and allied activities.

'Titli' awarded by French Syndicate of Cinema Critics

- Indian filmmaker Kanu Behl directorial "Titli" has bagged the Best First Foreign Film Award conferred by the French Syndicate of Cinema Critics 2016 (FSCC).

United Nations Appoint Major Menon as UNDOF Head

- Major General Jai Shanker Menon of India was on 3rd February, 2016 appointed as the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

TCS rated world's most powerful brand

- India's top multinational IT company Tata Consultancy Services has been rated as the world's most powerful brand in Information Technology Services by a leading global brand valuation firm.
- Brand Finance's 2016 annual report evaluated thousands of the world's top brands to determine which are the most powerful and the most valuable.

Government launches YouTube channel

- In keeping with the Narendra Modi-led NDA government's plan to reach out to people directly, the government has launched a YouTube channel for Finance Ministry.
- The YouTube channel will disseminate information of the ministry through videos.

PM to visit Assam to dedicate NE's first petro-chemical project BCPL

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Assam on 5th February, 2016 to dedicate the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL) at Lepetkata to the nation. The plant is the first ever petro-chemical project in the entire North-East.
- He will also dedicate India's highest wax producing unit using indigenous technology in Numaligarh Refinery Limited to the nation.

International Fleet Review-2016

- The opening ceremony of International Fleet Review 2016 will be held on 5th February in Visakhapatnam at Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet Command Stadium, INS Satavahana.

Govt to set up National Organic Farming Research Institute

- A National Organic Farming Research Institute will be established in Sikkim by upgrading the Regional Centre of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Gangtok.

Paradip refinery is 'Vikas Deep' for Odisha

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Paradip refinery on 6th February, 2016.
- PM call it the 'Vikas Deep' for the state.

India's first Aviation Park to come up in Gujarat

- To strengthen the aviation sector in Gujarat, the state government has planned to set up the country's first-ever Aviation Park having a slew of facilities including an airstrip, training school, helipad and space for setting up small manufacturing units among others.

JP Nadda launches National Framework for Malaria Elimination

- JP Nadda, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), launched the National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030 in New Delhi, which outlines India's strategy for elimination of the disease by 2030.

Mobile One m-governance model wins gold at World Government Summit

- Karnataka's flagship mobile-one governance project took on the British e-governance app, one of the biggest in the world, to win gold at the m-governance awards at the fourth World Government Summit in Dubai on 10th February, 2016.

'Walk of hope'

- "The Walk of Hope", is a padyatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.
- The padyatra was kickstarted on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, who undertook a similar journey to connect with the people and spread the message of communal harmony.

Maiden Maritime India Summit

- The Maritime India Summit was held in Mumbai in April, 2016.
- The Republic of Korea was the partner country for the MIS 2016

Vibrant North East expo kicks off in Guwahati

- A three-day 'Vibrant North East' expo will begin on 18th February, 2016 in Guwahati, Assam.

Manish Arora to get highest French honour

- Fashion designer Manish Arora will be conferred with the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour), France's highest civilian honour.

Bubnal: a village governed by women

- The Bubnal village council is the first in Maharashtra to have all women members in the Panchayat.
- All its eleven members are women. And none of them have political backgrounds or come from families with political heritage.

1st ever Gender Park inaugurated at Kozhikode

- In Kerala, the first ever Gender Park in the country to promote research and other initiatives to enable total gender equality will be inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee at Kozhikode on 27th February, 2016.

MP to have India's longest railway bridge

- Katni in Madhya Pradesh will have India's longest railway bridge, 14 km on the up line, almost three and half times longer than Vembanad rail bridge in Kerala that connects Edappally and Vallarpadam in Kochi and is 4.62 km long.

Ex-CJI Justice Dattu to head NHRC

- The government on 16th February, 2016 chose former Chief Justice of India H L Dattu for appointment as the next chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

India, Brazil, South Africa joint naval exercise

- The fifth edition of the 11-day IBSAMAR naval exercise between Brazil, India and South Africa is currently underway off the coast of Goa.

India's first indigenous Nuclear Submarine - the INS Arihant

- India's first nuclear armed submarine is now ready for operations.
- It has passed all the deep sea diving drills and launch tests over the last few months, and is ready to be a part of the Indian Navy.
- The INS Arihant can be armed with 12 Short Range K-15 Missiles or four K-4 ballistic missiles. It can launch nuclear weapons from underwater.

NULM renamed as DAY-NULM

- The government on 20th February, 2016 announced renaming of National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) as "Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-NULM", which will now cover all 4,041 statutory urban local bodies in the country.

Afghanistan invites India to join 6+1 group

- Afghanistan has invited India to join a new regional consultative mechanism to weigh in on the critical challenges facing the war-torn country.
- The new body, a 6+1 group, will include India, Pakistan, Iran, Russia, the US and China in addition to Afghanistan.

Kerala the first digital State

- President Pranab Mukherjee, on 27th February, 2016, declared the State the first digital one in the country, while inaugurating UL Cyber Park, an IT park under the Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society.

Ahmedabad to host World Spice Congress

- The 13th World Spice Congress (WSC) was held from February 27 to 29, 2016 in Ahmedabad.
- The theme of the biennial global event will be 'Target 2020: Clean, Safe and Sustainable Supply Chain'.

International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Rome

- Shri Dinesh Sharma, India's Governor to the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Rome was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Council of IFAD for a period of two years in its 39th Session held in Rome, Italy on 17th and 18th February, 2016.
- IFAD was set-up in 1977 as the 13th Specialised Agency of the United Nations and works towards removing poverty and hunger in rural areas all over the world. India is a founder member of IFAD and a key contributor among the member countries.

INTERNATIONAL

Biggest ever trade deal signed

- The biggest trade deal in history was signed on 4th February, 2016, yoking 12 Pacific rim countries in a US-led initiative aimed at wresting influence from booming China.
- The ambitious Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) aims to slash tariffs and trade barriers for an enormous 40 percent of the global economy -- but pointedly does not include Beijing.
- Trade ministers from 12 participating countries -- Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam -- signed the pact in Auckland.

France becomes first country in the world to ban supermarket food waste

- The war against food waste has had another triumph after France became the first country to ban supermarkets from throwing away or spoiling perfectly good food.

India and China hold first joint tactical drill on border

- The border troops of India and China held their first joint tactical exercise in the Chushul-Moldo area along the northern border.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali dies at 93

- Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the former UN secretary general, has died aged 93 on 16th February, 2016.
- He was Egyptian politician and diplomat who was the sixth Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) from January 1992 to December 1996.

Venezuelans face a 6000% hike in gasoline price

- On 17th February, 2016 President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuelans announced the hike in price of gasoline.
- Before the announcement, a liter of high-quality gas in Venezuela cost about 10 centavos or one U.S. penny. Now it costs 6 bolivars or about 60 U.S. cents -- a 6000% price increase.

CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Honda Cars ties up with Magma Fincorp

- Honda Cars India on 30th January, 2016 has signed a pact with Magma Fincorp to provide loans to its customers for buying vehicles.

Former Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor S S Tarapore is no more.

- Former Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor S S Tarapore, known for his contribution to first-generation reforms in the financial sector, died early on 2nd February, 2016 morning.

Microsoft acquires SwiftKey

- Technology giant Microsoft is all set to buy software keyboard and SDK application maker SwiftKey.
- SwiftKey is a free keyword application that powers more than 300 million Android and iOS devices.

DJ Pandian appointed AIIB Vice-President

- Former chief secretary of Gujarat DJ Pandian has been appointed vice-president and chief investment officer of the newly-created Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

JP Nadda Launches Project Sunrise in Manipur

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda has launched Project Sunrise on 6th February, 2016 at City Convention Centre, Palace Gate, Imphal.
- Project Sunrise is a five year programme aimed at complementing the ongoing National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) which is to primarily improve coverage, quality and scale of HIV interventions among People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) in eight North East States.

Indian-origin Singaporean is diamond trade body's new president

- Vishal Mehta, CEO of a Singapore-based company which makes lab diamond, was named president of the IGDA, a platform of more than 10 leading grown diamond producers, distributors and retailers.

Wipro buys US IT firm

- Wipro is buying US-based insurance technology platform HealthPlan Services for \$460 million (over Rs. 3,000 crore), its fourth acquisition in less than six months and its biggest since the \$600-million buyout of US data centre provider Infocrossing in 2007.

Axis Bank to launch wearables for its customers

- Axis Bank has tied up with fitness firm GOQii to collaborate on wearable devices for its customers.
- This would be the first MasterCard certified wearable device.
- The device will allow consumers to make NFC payments, and will come loaded with the regular fitness related features like the coach etc that the GOQii bands come with.

Kalyani Group and Saab Tie Up for Air Defence Systems

- Kalyani Group has tied up with Swedish defence major Saab to form a joint venture firm for the multi-billion dollar contract for short range surface to air missile and man-portable very short-range air defense (VSHORAD) programmes.

Lupin's Vinita and Nilesh Gupta bag EY Entrepreneurs of the Year award

- Vinita Gupta, chief executive of Lupin Ltd, India's third largest pharmaceutical company by sales, and her brother Nilesh Gupta, the firm's managing director, were named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year in a ceremony held in Mumbai on February 11, 2016.

USTDA and Andhra Pradesh government ink pact to develop Visakhapatnam as Smart City

- US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) on 12th February, 2016 inked an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Government to develop infrastructure, communications and data systems in Visakhapatnam, in line with its goal to become a Smart City.

SBI opens 'Japan Desk'

- State Bank of India (SBI) on 16th February, 2016 launched 'Japan Desk', a first-of-its-kind initiative to facilitate Japanese corporates looking to invest in India with banking and advisory services.
- This SBI Japan Desk will serve as an one-point comprehensive and reliable information support source for India-bound investments of Japanese companies.

Amit Mitra appointed as chairman of GST committee of State FMs

- West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra has been appointed as the new chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers on Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- He will succeed Kerala Finance Minister K M Mani who had to resign in November last year over corruption charges.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA and India join hands for astrobiology mission

- For the first time India is part of Spaceward Bound programme, which funds expeditions to places with extreme climate conditions in January, 2016.
- Even as India prepares for a second mission to Mars, a team of scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Mars Society Australia and the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, will mount an expedition to Ladakh this August to study the similarities of certain parts of the region's topography and microbial life to Martian surroundings.
- India's second mission to Mars — scheduled to be in 2020 — will involve collaboration with France and may include a lander or rover — remote controlled vehicles — which can ostensibly better analyse a planet's surface.

India's first fully solar-powered educational institute

- Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education, Puducherry has become India's first fully solar-powered educational institute.
- The institute has been self-reliant in energy since September 2014.

GI tag for Basmati rice of 7 states approved

- The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) has directed the assistant registrar of the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai, to proceed with registration of a geographical indication (GI) tag for Basmati rice according to the geographical demarcation conducted by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- This means seven north Indian Basmati rice-producing states like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir will get the GI tag.

Google releases 'Places of Pride' map to spread love

- Internet giant Google has released a custom map called 'Places of Pride', which allows people to add rainbow pride pins to mark places that mean something special to them.

Google and TechHub join hands to boost 'Startup India'

- Internet giant Google and global community for tech entrepreneurs TechHub on Wednesday announced their global partnership that will benefit startups from India for the first time.

Satellite Centre in Vietnam

- As part of Space Cooperation between India and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), at the behest of Government of India, is working towards the establishment of a Satellite Tracking & Data Reception Station and Data Processing Facility in Vietnam for ASEAN Member countries.
- This facility is intended to acquire and process Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data pertaining to ASEAN region and disseminate to ASEAN Member countries.

Novak Djokovic retains Australian Open Men's Singles Title

- Novak Djokovic has retained the Australian Open Men's Singles Title.

National Snooker Championship 2016

- Aditya Mehta won the National Snooker Championship 2016.

Fukuoka named host city of 2021 World Championships

- The Japanese city of Fukuoka will host the 2021 World Aquatics Championships, with the Qatari capital Doha staging them two years later, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) announced on 31st February, 2016.

South Asian Games kicks off in Guwahati

- The 12th South Asian Games held in Guwahati in February, 2016.

Dravid in ICC's Anti-Corruption Oversight Group

- Batting great Rahul Dravid has been named in ICC's newly appointed Anti-Corruption Oversight Group as part of the recommendation from its Integrity Working Party of the parent body.
- Dravid is currently coaching the Indian team in the ongoing U-19 World Cup, which is being held in Bangladesh.

BCCI bans Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf

- Tainted Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf was on 12th February, 2016 banned for five years by the BCCI after its disciplinary committee found him guilty of corrupt practices and bringing the game into disrepute.

ICC and UNICEF launch Team Swachh clinics

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF in partnership with Indian cricket board (BCCI) launched Team Swachh clinics at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium on 15th February, 2016.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Anti Leprosy Day was observed on January 30, 2016. Hind KushtNivaranSangh (Indian Leprosy Association) observes every year Anti Leprosy Day on January 30 to coincide with the Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 2 February each year is World Wetlands Day. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
- Kerala's all-women taxi cab service 'She-Taxi', touted as the country's first 24x7 taxi network by women for women, has bagged the prestigious Chief Minister's Award for Innovation in Public Policy 2014. Owned and operated by women entrepreneurs, She-Taxi was selected for the recognition in the 'developmental interventions' category.

March

NATIONAL

Highlights of Union Budget 2016-17

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on 29th February, 2016 presented the Union Budget for 2016-17.

Tax

- Infrastructure and agriculture cess to be levied.
- Limited tax compliance window from Jun 1 - Sep 30 for declaring undisclosed income at 45% incl. surcharge and penalties
- 0.5 per cent Krishi Kalyan Cess to be levied on all services.
- Pollution cess of 1 per cent on small petrol, LPG and CNG cars; 2.5 per cent on diesel cars of certain specifications; 4 per cent on higher-end models.

Personal Finance

- No changes have been made to existing income tax slabs
- Rs 1,000 crore allocated for new EPF (Employees' Provident Fund) scheme
- Govt. will pay EPF contribution of 8.33% for all new employees for first three years
- Additional exemption of Rs. 50,000 for housing loans up to Rs. 35 lakh, provided cost of house is not above Rs. 50 lakh.
- 15 per cent surcharge on income above Rs. 1 crore

Social

- Rs. 38,500 crore for Mahatma Gandhi MGNREGA for 2016-17
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan allocated Rs.9,500 crores.
- Hub to support SC/ST entrepreneurs
- 2.87 lakh crore grants to gram panchayats and municipalities - a quantum jump of 228%.
- 300 urban clusters to be set up under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Urban Mission

Health

- 2.2 lakh renal patients added every year in India. Basic dialysis equipment gets some relief.
- A new health protection scheme for health cover upto 1 lakh per family.
- Senior citizens will get additional healthcare cover of Rs. 30,000 under the new scheme
- PM Jan Aushadhi Yojana to be strengthened, 300 generic drug store to be opened

Education

- Scheme to get Rs.500 cr for promoting entrepreneurship among SC/ST
- 10 public and 10 private educational institutions to be made world-class.
- 62 new navodaya vidyalayas to provide quality education
- Digital literacy scheme to be launched to cover 6 crore additional rural households
- Entrepreneurship training to be provided across schools, colleges and massive online courses.
- Objective to skill 1 crore youth in the next 3 years under the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojna

Energy

- Govt drawing comprehensive plan to be implemented in next 15-20 years for exploiting nuclear energy
- Govt to provide incentive for deepwater gas exploration
- Deepwater gas new disc to get calibrated market freedom, pre-determined ceiling price based on landed price of alternate fuels.

Investments and infrastructure

- Rs. 27,000 crore to be spent on roadways
- Rs. 55,000 crore for roads and highways. Total allocation for road construction, including PMGSY, - Rs. 97,000 crore

- India's highest-ever production of motor vehicles was recorded in 2015
- Total outlay for infrastructure in Budget 2016 now stands at Rs. 2,21,246 crore
- New greenfield ports to be developed on east and west coasts
- 100 per cent FDI in marketing of food products produced and marketed in India
- Dept. of Disinvestment to be renamed as Dept. of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)

Agriculture

- Total allocation for agriculture and farmer welfare at Rs. 35984 crores
- 28.5 lakh hectares of land will be brought under irrigation.
- 5 lakh acres to be brought under organic farming over a three year period
- Rs 60,000 crore for recharging of ground water recharging as there is urgent need to focus on drought hit areas cluster development for water conservation.
- Dedicated irrigation fund in NABARD of Rs. 20,000 cr
- Banking
- Banks get a big boost: Rs. 25,000 crore towards recapitalisation of public sector banks.
- Target of disbursement under MUDRA increased to 1,80,000 crore
- Process of transfer of government stake in IDBI Bank below 50% started
- General Insurance companies will be listed in the stock exchange

Raisina Dialogue held in New Delhi

- The Raisina Dialogue on Geopolitics and Geo-economics held in New Delhi from 1st March, 2016.
- The Dialogue was based on India's vital role in the Indian Ocean Region and how India along with its partners can build a stable regional and world order.

Visa on Arrival for Japanese nationals

- The Visa on Arrival will be given to Japanese nationals from 1st March, 2016.
- This facility will be available at six airports Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Kerala begins air ambulance facility

- In a first of its kind initiative, Kerala government has launched an air ambulance to be used exclusively for speed in organ transplant.
- The brand new six-seater ambulance is owned by the state-owned Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology, Thiruvananthapuram that imparts training to commercial pilot.

India at 90th Rank in Terms of Energy Security, Access

- India has been ranked at the 90th place in a list of 126 countries compiled by WEF on the basis of their ability to deliver secure, affordable and sustainable energy, which was topped by Switzerland.
- The list was topped by Switzerland followed by Norway and Sweden in the second and third place, respectively.
- Among the BRIC nations, Brazil was the top performer as it was ranked at the 25th place, followed by Russia (52nd), India (90th), China (94th).

PM to launch Setubharatam project

- The Government has decided to launch 'Setubharatam' project to make all National Highways railway crossing free by the year 2019.

India's first solar ferry

- A 75-seater solar-powered passenger ferry, the first of its kind in the country, is quietly taking shape at Aroor in Alappuzha district.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) observed its 9th Foundation Day on 5th March 2016.
- This year's Foundation Day- themed Naya Sawera- has been dedicated to Children in Conflict With Law with the aim to create awareness among these children about their rights.

Manipur revive tradition of Polo

- The modern game of polo, which is played professionally in over 16 countries, has its roots in Manipur, therefore, authorities in Manipur are making efforts to revive and popularize the sport in India and rest of the world.
- India's northeastern state of Manipur has been associated with Polo game for centuries. In other parts of the world, Polo has largely been patronized by the royalty and the upper crust of society.
- However in Manipur, it has always been a game of the common man.
- Along with the suitable ambiance for the sport, Manipur also possesses 'Mapal Kangjeibung', which is one of the oldest polo grounds in the world. Traditionally, polo is called 'Sagol Kangjei' and is played with seven players in each side. The players are mounted on the indigenous Manipuri pony.

Madhya Pradesh to promote widow marriages

- In Madhya Pradesh, widow marriage will also be solemnised under state government's Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana to promote marriage of widows.

Lok Sabha passes Aadhaar Bill

- The Lok Sabha passed the Aadhaar Bill, providing statutory backing to the unique identification number for transferring government subsidies and benefits, as a money Bill after the government overruled the Opposition's objections.
- The Bill will empower the States to distribute resources to deserving people and save the resources that undeserving people get.

Government of India (GoI) has reduced the green nod period to 190 days

- GoI has brought down the time taken for obtaining environmental clearance for projects to 190 days, from the earlier norms of 600 days.

President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurates India Aviation 2016

- President Pranab Mukherjee has inaugurated the fifth edition of the India Aviation 2016, the biggest aviation show, in Hyderabad.

'Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction' to be held in New Delhi

- Ministry of Home Affairs will organize 'Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction' in New Delhi later this year.
- The 3-day conference will be held from November 3-5, 2016, aiming to provide a platform to member countries for sharing best practices in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.
- This is the first Asian Ministerial Conference being held after the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan in March last year.

Israel keen to partner with India irrigation, Clean Ganga projects

- Israel has been named as country partner for India Water Week 2016 which is being organized by the Ministry of Water Resources, starting from April 4.

INTERNATIONAL

Peru declares emergency

- Peru has declared an emergency for three weeks after a major oil pipeline burst affecting two rivers in the country's northwest.
- The pipeline spilled 3,000 barrels of crude oil into the Chiriaco and Morona Rivers, which are the main source of water and food for several indigenous communities.

Myanmar's Parliament elects Suu Kyi's close aid as President

- Myanmar's Parliament elected Aung San Suu Kyi's close aid Htin Kyaw as President.
- Htin Kyaw is the first civilian to lead the country after more than 50 years of military rule.
- Kyaw is a close ally of Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party swept to victory in historic elections in last November.
- Ms Suu Kyi is barred from the post by the constitution, but has said she will lead the country anyway.

Obama on visit to Cuba

- The US President Barack Obama has opened a new era in the United States' relationship with Cuba during a history-making trip to Cuba.
- Obama is the first American leader to visit Cuba in nearly 90 years.

Nepal, China sign first-ever transit treaty; agree to have rail link to end dependency on India

- Nepal and China have signed 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), including the transit and transportation treaty, and exchanged letters on various areas of cooperation during Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's ongoing visit to the country.
- China agreed to Nepal's request to build a strategic railway link between the two countries through Tibet to reduce land-locked Nepal's total dependence on India, as the two sides cemented their ties by signing 10 agreements including a landmark transit trade deal.
- Among the most important deals is the transit and transportation treaty that Nepal and China signed for the first time.
- It will end the Himalayan nation's total dependency on an Indian sea port for third-country trade links.
- Nepalese banks can also open their branches in China.

India to host 8th BRICS Summit in Goa

- India will host the eighth annual Summit of BRICS from October 15-16 in Goa in its capacity as chair of the influential bloc comprising five countries with 42 per cent of the world population and combined GDP of over USD 16 trillion.

Global water demand to rise 400% by 2050, Asia at risk of severe shortage: UN

- United Nations says, the global demand for water is expected to rise by 400 percent by 2050.

CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PM Ujjwala Yojana will be given in the name of women to the BPL Family

- The government of India has announced that under PM Ujjwala Yojana, LPG connections will be given in name of women to the BPL family and this will prove to be a game changer.
- Rs 8000 Crore has been earmarked for providing LPG Connections to BPL households.

Tata Housing partners with State Bank of India for Women's Day offer

- Real estate developer Tata Housing has partnered with the country's largest lender, State Bank of India, on the occasion of the International Women's Day.
- Tata Housing will allow its women customers to pay only 20% of the agreement value while the balance can be paid on taking possession of the property.

SBI among 4 new foreign banks allowed to operate in Myanmar

- The State Bank of India is among four new foreign banks given preliminary approval to open 100 per cent-owned branches in Myanmar, the latest move by the Southeast Asian nation to woo investment to the country long ruled by the military and hit by Western sanctions.

Yes Bank launches all-women branch in Bengaluru

- Private lender Yes Bank on 8th March, 2016 launched an all-women operated bank branch 'Yes Grace' on Cunningham Road here aimed at offering customised banking solutions to women.

P2P Landing

- Peer-to-peer lending, sometimes abbreviated P2P lending, is the practice of lending money to individuals or businesses through online services that match lenders directly with borrowers.

India aims to capture 20% market share in IoT: Nasscom

- India aims to capture 20 per cent market share in Internet of Things (IoT), an emerging sector which would be worth USD 300 billion by 2020.
- The IoT is driving the fourth wave of industrial revolution dramatically alerting manufacturing, energy, transportation, medical and other industrial sectors while emerging worldwide.

Swavalamban subscribers can switch to APY: PFRDA

- Subscribers of micro-pension scheme 'Swavalamban', which closes on March 31, can switch to the 'Atal Pension Yojana' (APY) and retain the government's co-contribution.

- Swavalamban' scheme, which was launched in 2010-11, is a government-backed micro-pension scheme aimed at the unorganized sector and applicable to those who joined the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

High levels of insulin affect lungs, says study

- High insulin levels are bad for lungs, and for Indians who have the lowest lung function the focus should be on improving diet and lifestyle to tackle pre-diabetes and diabetes, according to a study.

What is insulin?

- Insulin is a hormone made by the pancreas that allows your body to use sugar (glucose) from carbohydrates in the food that you eat for energy or to store glucose for future use. Insulin helps keeps your blood sugar level from getting too high (hyperglycemia) or too low (hypoglycemia).

ExoMars 2016 spacecraft successfully launched by Europe and Russia

- The joint European/Russian ExoMars spacecraft successfully launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan atop a Proton-M rocket with the goal of searching for signs of life on the Red Planet.

India's defence lab develops thermal imaging radar to look through walls

- The Through Barrier Imaging Radar, named 'Divyachakshu' (divine eye), has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE) based in Bangalore.
- It can look through walls of 20-30 cm thickness made of any material, by using thermal imaging.

IMD develops Drishti for providing real time visibility information to pilots

- Drishti, an instrument indigenously developed by the surface instruments division of India Meteorology Department (IMD), Pune, has enabled in transferring the crucial visibility updates to the pilots, who can now use this real time information that will be updated every minute.
- This will help pilots in quick decision-making during critical landings and take-offs of aircraft. The need for this instrument was felt as airports in north India are severely affected due to fog during the winter months.

NASA's manned mission to Mars by 2030

- NASA is set to put people on planet Mars by 2030 even as plans are afoot to put the next 'lander' on the red planet in 2018.

India-Bangladesh drill in Sundarbans

- In an attempt to bring in more synergy in coordinated border management, border-guarding forces of Bangladesh and India conducted their first-ever joint exercise in the riverine borders of the Sundarbans.
- The exercise between the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) commenced with troopers, including dog and bomb squads, from both the forces carrying out joint searches of cargo vessels on the Ichamati River.
- The second day of the drill called 'Sundarbans Maithri'.

One in four deaths are due to environmental factors: WHO

- One in four deaths worldwide are due to environmental factors like air, water and soil pollution, and also unsafe roads and workplace stress, World Health Organization.
- According to the new study, an estimated 12.6 million people died in 2012 as a result of living and working in unhealthy environments, 23 per cent of all deaths reported globally.

World Sparrow Day

- World Sparrow Day is a day designated to raise awareness of the house sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations, observed on 20 March.
- The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated in 2010 in different parts of the world.

India's Agasthyamala among 20 UNESCO world biosphere reserves

- The sustained campaign to include the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve (ABR) in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (BR) has eventually paid off.
- The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve was included at the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere programme of UNESCO that concluded in Peru on March 19.
- The ABR covers the Shendurney and Peppara wildlife sanctuaries and parts of the Neyyar sanctuary in Kerala and the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu.

SPORTS

Asia Cup Twenty20 championship

- India demonstrates its dominance in Twenty20 cricket and regains continental supremacy, downing host Bangladesh by eight wickets in the final of the Asia Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium.

Patna Pirates won maiden Pro Kabaddi League title

- The Patna Pirates lifted their maiden Pro Kabaddi League title as they once again stamped their authority in the tournament with a 31-28 victory over U Mumba in the final in New Delhi on 6th March, 2016.

First ever Paralympics Games begins in Arunachal Pradesh

- The first ever Paralympics Games in Arunachal Pradesh kicks off at Sangay Lhaden Sports Academy, Chimpu, in Itanagar.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dr Bhagwati Lal Vyas

- Eminent poet Dr Bhagwati Lal Vyas has been chosen for the 2015 Bihari Puraskar for his anthology of Rajasthani poems 'Katha Sun Aawe Hai Sabad'.

Zero Discrimination Day

- The Zero Discrimination Day was observed on March 1, 2014 for the first time, after UNAIDS, a UN program on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on World AIDS Day in December 2013.

Pookutty becomes first Asian to win Golden Reel Award

- Resul Pookutty has made the country proud by becoming the first Asian to win the award for best sound for documentary "India's Daughter" at the coveted Motion Picture Sound Editors' 63rd annual Golden Reel Awards.

World's most expensive train station opened

- In US, the world's most expensive train station opened in New York, nearly 2 billion dollars over budget and years behind schedule.

Delhi airport bags three international awards

- Indira Gandhi International Airport - IGIA has received three international awards, including for best airport by size in the Asia Pacific region.
- These awards have been given by the Airports Council International - ACI for 2015.
- Delhi airport has retained the world's number one position for the second consecutive year in 25 to 40 Million Passengers Per Annum category.
- The two other awards are for best airport by size & region Asia Pacific and second best airport by region.

Nari Shakti Awards on Int'l Women's Day

- International Women's Day has been celebrated on 8th March, 2016 as governments, NGOs and other organisations across the globe observe International Women's Day on the 8th of March every year to highlight the achievements of women while calling for greater equality.
- This year's theme for the Day is "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality".

Bombay House

- Bombay House, the Tata group's headquarters, on 8th March, 2016 became the first heritage building in India to be awarded a platinum rating by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

President inaugurates celebrations marking 150 years of Allahabad High Court

- President Pranab Mukherjee lighted the lamp and inaugurated the celebrations marking 150 years of Allahabad High Court and called upon the judiciary to facilitate early disposal of long-pending cases so as to serve the cause of justice and bring relief to those affected by the delay in disposal of such cases.

India ranked 118th in UN's world happiness index; behind Pak, China

- India did not make any improvement in its happiness quotient, ranking 118th out of 156 countries in a global list of the happiest nations, down one slot from last year on the index and coming behind China, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- Denmark takes the top spot as the happiest country in the world, displacing Switzerland, according to The World Happiness Report 2016, published by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a global initiative for the United Nations.
- The report takes into account GDP per capita, life expectancy, social support and freedom to make life choices as indicators of happiness.
- Switzerland was ranked second on the list, followed by Iceland (3), Norway (4) and Finland (5).
- India ranked 118th, down from 117th in 2015.

US Defence Secretary nominates first female in military history to lead a combatant command

- In US, Defence Secretary Ash Carter has nominated the first female in military history to lead a combatant command.

Auditorium named after Tagore planned in Sri Lanka

- A 1,500-seating capacity auditorium named after India's celebrated litterateur-philosopher Rabindranath Tagore is expected coming up in Matara in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka by September 2017.
- The structure will be located on the campus of the University of Ruhuna.

PM Modi to join world leaders in wax at Madame Tussauds

- The world famous wax museum announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join the ranks of prominent global leaders at Madame Tussauds in London, Singapore, Hong Kong and Bangkok next month.

108 ft tall Jain idol makes Guinness World Record

- A 108-feet tall idol of the first Teerthankar of Jains Lord Rishabhdeva, located at Nasik in Maharashtra, has entered the "Guinness World Records" as the world's tallest Jain statue.
- Before this statue, the 57 feet idol of Lord Bahubali at Shravana-bela-gola in Karnataka was considered the world's tallest Jain statue.

NOTA symbol for first time

- For the first time, the Election Commission has introduced a new symbol for the NOTA (none of the above) in EVMs (electronic voting machines) in the upcoming five Assembly elections in April-May.
- The symbol designed by the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad will be on the bottom of the candidates' list to facilitate the voters to choose if they do not want to vote for any of the candidates.

PM laid the foundation stone for Ambedkar memorial in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of a state of the art memorial to B R Ambedkar in New Delhi.
- The three-storied memorial spread over 1.85 acres on Alipur Road in north Delhi will be in the shape of an open Constitution with a dome in the middle.

Kejriwal named among world's 50 greatest leaders by Fortune

- Arvind Kejriwal has been named among the world's 50 greatest leaders by Fortune magazine with the Delhi Chief Minister being the sole Indian leader on the list topped by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos.
- 47-year-old Aam Aadmi Party chief is ranked 42nd on the list and is the sole leader from India.

NATIONAL

SC extends ban on high-end diesel cars, SUVs

- The SC court had banned registration of diesel-run private cars of the capacity of 2000 CC and above and SUVs in Delhi on December 16, 2015, in a bid to cut down air pollution in the city. The ban was to continue till March 31, 2016.

Western Command launches think tank 'Gyan Chakra'

- A think tank on Defence and Strategic Affairs has been formed by the Army's Western Command, aimed at providing an outlet to veterans for pursuing research on strategic and national security issues.

India outlines nuclear security steps

- India pledged a contribution of \$1 million to the IAEA nuclear security fund at the fourth and final Nuclear Security Summit (NSS).

Landmark project Aadhar reaches 1 billion marks

- The unique Identification number has ensured direct benefit transfer of government schemes to poorest of the poor and helped save millions of rupees in terms of leakage.
- Under this scheme Biometric details along with iris mapping and fingerprints are digitally tagged to the number to eliminate ghosts and duplicates.

Mehbooba Mufti sworn in as J&K's first woman CM

- Mehbooba Mufti, president of the Peoples Democratic Party, took the oath as the first woman Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

PM Modi conferred Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour, 'Abdulaziz al Saud, by the King of Saudi Arabia.

White tiger safari inaugurated in MP's Satna district

- Union Minister for Environment and Forests inaugurated the world's maiden white tiger safari at Mukundpur in Satna district.

Indian Navy's first training squadron deployed in Phuket

- Indian naval ships "Tir" and "Sujata", and sail-training ship "Sudarshini" along with Indian Coast Guard's Varuna, reached Phuket in Thailand as part of an overseas deployment during spring.

Government's mission is to achieve one nation, one grid, and one price by 2019.

Objective

- Uniform power rates across the country i.e. Rs. 4.40.
- Year 2016-17 is dedicated to hydro power.

OROP gets retrospective Cabinet nod

- The One Rank One Pension scheme, brought in November-2015 to benefit more than 2.5 million ex-servicemen and war widows, on April 6, 2016 received ex-post facto approval from the Cabinet.

UNcommemorated 125th birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar on April 13 in New York

- The United Nations hosted an event to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of the Father of the Indian Constitution on April 13 in New York, which will also be the first event at the global body on BR Ambedkar.
- The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York hosted this special event at the UN headquarters.

PM inaugurated international meet on Tiger conservation

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the third Asia ministerial conference on tiger conservation in New Delhi, where tiger range countries will discuss key issues including anti-poaching strategies.

India, Germany join hands to clean river Ganga

- India has joined hands with Germany to attain pristine status of Ganga by adopting river basin management strategies used for cleansing rivers like Rhine and Danube of pollutants.
- The agreement was signed between Ministry of Water Resources and German International Cooperation in New Delhi.

PM to inaugurate Maritime India Summit in Mumbai

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the first ever Maritime India Summit 2016 in Mumbai.
- The Prime minister also unveils the National Maritime Perspective Plan with an aim to attract 12 lakh crore rupees investments into the sector.

PM Modi inaugurates broadband connectivity to North-East states

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates broadband connectivity to North-East states via Bangladesh to strengthen telecom services in the region.

Paris Agreement on climate change signed in New York

- India will sign the Paris Agreement on climate change in New York at a high-level ceremony convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Heart of Asia conference began in New Delhi

- Heart of Asia (HoA) conference began in New Delhi. The conference is with the objective of bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan and speeding up its reconstruction with a focus on enhancing investment and connectivity to the country.

All new mobiles to have panic button from 2017

- The Panic button and Global Positioning System facility in all mobile phone handsets Rules, 2016, notified by the Department of Telecommunications on April 22, are aimed at improving the safety of women and ensuring a quick response from security agencies.

President embarks on two-nation tour to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand

- President Pranab Mukherjee is embarking on a two-nation tour to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.

NABARD partners Germany for food security initiative

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has entered into collaboration with German government for a special programme on 'Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security'.

INTERNATIONAL

Focus on safeguards framework

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Washington DC to attend the two-day Nuclear Security Summit (NSS), an initiative of President Barack Obama to coordinate international efforts to prevent terror organisations from acquiring nuclear weapons or material.

Highlights of India-European Union strategic partnership

- The 13th Summit between the European Union and India took place in Brussels on 30 March 2016.
- The leaders reconfirmed their commitment to give new momentum to the bilateral relationship endorsing the EU-India Agenda for Action 2020 as a common roadmap to jointly guide and strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership in the next five years.

Philippines launches world's first mass dengue vaccination

- The Philippines has launched the first public immunization program for dengue fever, seeking to administer to a million schoolchildren the world's first licensed vaccine against the disease.

Over 50% rise in Death penalty in 2015: Amnesty

- As per the Amnesty International, there is a surge in the number of executions recorded worldwide saw more people put to death last year than at any point since 1989.
- Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were responsible for 89% of the executions.

World military spending up in 2015, India in sixth position

- India is the sixth largest military spender in 2015 having spent \$51.3 billion even as the world spent \$1,676 billion reversing a global trend which was on the decline since 2011 as per the latest report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- The U.S. remained by far the world's largest spender in 2015 despite its defence expenditure falling by 2.4 per cent to \$596 billion followed by China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and U.K.

Ambedkar's birth anniversary to be observed for 1st time at UN

- Ambedkar was born on April 14, 1891. He died in 1956 and was posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1990.

Europe becomes world's first region to end malaria: WHO

- Europe has become the world's first region to wipe out malaria with zero cases reported last year.

CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Finance Ministry cuts EPF interest rate to 8.7%

- The government announced an 8.7 per cent return on Employees' Provident Fund deposits for 2015-16, evoking protests from trade unions.

About Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

- It is a statutory body of the Government of India under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, which administers a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme, Pension Scheme and an Insurance Scheme.

LPG subsidy for high income consumers goes

- Oil and Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan told Parliament that his Ministry is "excluding" people earning more than Rs.10 lakh a year from LPG subsidies.

FDI inflows hit record \$51 bn in April-February last fiscal

- India received \$51 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI), the highest-ever FDI inflow in a fiscal, during April-February FY16, according to Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
- The increased FDI inflow was the result of the government's efforts to improve the ease of doing business and initiatives such as 'Make In India.'

Japan to lend Rs.14,000 crore for Indian projects

- Government of Japan has committed a total of JPY 390 billion in the current financial year which is the highest amount committed in a year.

Germany's Development Bank KfW to provide loan assistance to metro system for Nagpur

- Germany's Development Bank KfW will provide loan assistance of three thousand and 750 crore rupees for the modern and sustainable metro system for Nagpur city being executed by Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Limited.

India jumps to 6th place in top-10 manufacturers list

- India has been ranked sixth among the world's Top-Ten largest manufacturing countries. Previously, India was 9th rank in the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) report.
- The Yearbook, published by the UNIDO says that in India, the Manufacturing Value Added grew by 7.6 per cent in 2015 compared to the previous year.
- China tops the list followed by US, Japan, Germany and Korea. Indonesia was at the bottom.

U.P. tops growth in enterprises, jobs

- According to data from the Sixth Economic Census released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, among the larger States, Uttar Pradesh has seen the highest growth in enterprises and employment generation over the past decade, outstripping the economically strong states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Punjab.
- The national average was 38 per cent.
- "There were positive growth rates in all the States/UTs in terms of number of establishments," according to the Economic Census.

Syndicate Bank issues Basel-III compliant bonds

- Public sector Syndicate Bank, in a BSE filing, had issued bonds in the form of unsecured, non-convertible (Basel-III compliant) perpetual debt instruments in the nature of debentures for inclusion in additional Tier-I capital.

Basel 3 measures aim to:

- Improve the banking sector's ability to absorb shocks arising from financial and economic stress, whatever the source
- Improve risk management and governance
- Strengthen banks' transparency and disclosures.

NTPC suspends power generation from Farakka

- An unprecedented dip in the water level of Farakka feeder canal has yet again forced National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), to suspend generation at five units of Stage I and II of the Farakka Super Thermal Power Station.
- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is the country's largest power producer.

MCL emerges top coal producer in FY 2016

- The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has become the number one coal producer in the country by producing a record 137.90 million tonne (MT) of coal in 2015-16, contributing 39 per cent to the growth of the Coal India Limited.

Swachh Bharat finds special mention in Jim O'Neill's report on war against superbugs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan found a special mention in British economist Lord Jim O'Neill's report highlighting the importance of infection prevention, control in combating drug-resistant infections.
- O'Neill, better known as the man who invented the Bric moniker for Brazil, Russia, India and China, is leading a mission to tackle antimicrobial resistance, or AMR, globally.

Nita Ambani most powerful businesswoman in Asia: Forbes

- Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani has been named the most powerful businesswoman in Asia by Forbes, leading a list of 50 women leaders from the region that includes eight from India.
- SBI Chairman and Managing Director Arundhati Bhattacharya has been ranked second on the 2016 'Asia's 50 Power Businesswomen'.
- Apart from Ambani and Bhattacharya, six women from India have made it to the list, including Mu Sigma CEO Ambiga Dhiraj (14), Welspun India CEO Dipali Goenka (16), Lupin CEO Vinita Gupta (18), ICICI Bank Managing Director & CEO Chanda Kochhar (22), VLCC Health Care Founder and Vice-Chairman Vandana Luthra (26) and Biocon Founder, Chairman & Managing Director, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (28).

Bharti dials Rs. 3.5k crore deal with Aircel

- Bharti Airtel on April 8, 2016 announced a Rs. 3,500 crore spectrum deal with Aircel in eight circles, which will give it pan-India footprint to offer fourth-generation (4G) telecom services and directly take on Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio, which is readying a national rollout over the next few months.

Masala bonds can be new funding source for Indian companies: IFC

- Part of the World Bank Group, IFC has been issuing offshore rupee bonds better known as 'Masala Bonds' In March, it issued such securities worth USD 30 million having 15-year tenure — the longest-dated offshore rupee bond.

Haryana to soon have VITA milk booths at IOC pumps

- Haryana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation will soon open VITA milk booths at several petrol pumps of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) in the state.

India world's largest remittance recipient in 2015: World Bank

- India remained the world's largest remittance recipient in 2015 despite experiencing a one billion US dollar drop from the previous year.
- In its annual report Migration and Development Brief, World Bank said, India retained its top spot in 2015, attracting about 69 billion US dollars in remittances, down from 70 billion in 2014.

Forex reserves at record high, sniff at \$360 bn

- As per the RBI, the foreign exchange reserves touched a new life-time high of \$359.917 billion after they surged by \$157.4 million in the week ended April 8, helped by rise in foreign currency assets.

US jury slaps \$940 million fine on TCS, firm denies wrong doing

- A U.S. grand jury has imposed a \$940-million fine on two companies of the Tata group in a trade secrets lawsuit filed against them.

BRICS bank Okays first loan of \$811 mn: Russian media

- The New Development Bank (NDB), formed by the BRICS group of emerging nations, has approved its first loans - \$811 million for renewable energy projects in Brazil, China, India and South Africa, Russian news agencies reported.
- As per RIA news agency, the BRICS bank, with authorised capital of \$100 billion, started work last year on funding initiatives for infrastructure projects in emerging markets and in its initial foray has lent \$300 million to Brazil, \$81 million to China, \$250 million to India and \$180 million to South Africa.

Uttar Pradesh tops in PPP project investments: Study

- The study titled 'PPP Investment in Indian Infrastructure: Need for growth and development' concluded that Uttar Pradesh has claimed the top spot with the highest share in public-private partnership (PPP) projects across India, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Services dominate in FDI inflows

- Although India received an all-time high annual foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2015, the surge is led by the inflows into the services sector rather than manufacturing or infrastructure. The 'Make in India' initiative has not yet materialised into FDI inflows.
- More than half of total FDI inflows in 2015 came into the services sector, comprising software, financial services, trading, hospital and tourism, according to an analysis of the official data by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Citi Research.

India-UAE agreement for \$75 billion investment in NIIF gets clearance

- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to mobilize up to \$75 billion long-term investment in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

India replaces China as top FDI destination

- India has replaced China as the top Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) destination.
- According to FDI Intelligence, India was the highest-ranked country by capital investment last year, with 63 billion dollars-worth of FDI projects announced.

Jet shareholders approve merger with JetLite

- Shareholders of Jet Airways (India) have approved the merger of its wholly-owned subsidiary JetLite (India) with itself.

India ratifies WTO's trade facilitation agreement

- India says it has formally ratified the WTO's trade facilitation agreement, which aims at easing customs procedures to boost commerce.
- The move will supplement India's ongoing reforms to bring in simplification and enhanced transparency in cross border trade in goods.

Govt to sell 11.36% stake in NHPC

- Kick-starting the disinvestment process of the current fiscal, the government has decided to sell 11.36 per cent stake in National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at Rs.21.75.
- NHPC would be the third PSU to be sold under the new offer for sale rules notified by SEBI.
- NHPC is engaged in generating power through conventional and non-conventional sources, and dedicated to the planning, development and implementation of an integrated and efficient network of power projects in India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Fresh Ebola outbreak claims one in Liberian capital

- The Liberian government on 1st April, 2016, confirmed a new Ebola case traced to a 30-year-old woman.
- The World Health Organisation reported Ebola symptoms in Guinea on March 16 while at the same time it made reference to another case in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

India's very own GPS is ready with seventh navigation satellite launch

- India's own navigational system, the set-up with the launch of the seventh and final satellite, will be called NAVIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced after the launch.
- The seventh and final satellite of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, the IRNSS 1G, was launched into a sub geosynchronous transfer orbit with a perigee (nearest point to earth) of 284 km and an apogee (farthest point to earth) of 20,657 km. The satellite was launched on board the Polar Satellite

NASA's Juno spacecraft to arrive at Jupiter on July 4

- NASA's Juno spacecraft will arrive at Jupiter on July 4th to study the planet's origins and composition.
- Juno was built by the Denver based Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company.

El Nino's impact may disrupt marine food chain: NASA

- El Nino years can have a big impact on phytoplanktons - the tiniest plants in the ocean - disrupting the marine food chain and affecting fisheries and the livelihoods of fishermen.
- These tiny plants, called phytoplankton, are fish food - without them, fish populations drop, and the fishing industries that many coastal regions depend on can collapse.

'Coral bleaching hits 93% of Great Barrier Reef'

- Australia's Great Barrier Reef is suffering its worst coral bleaching in recorded history with 93 per cent of the World Heritage site affected,.

Abnormal conditions

- Bleaching occurs when abnormal environmental conditions, such as warmer sea temperatures, cause corals to expel tiny photosynthetic algae, draining them of their colour.

World's longest aircraft readies for first flight in Britain

- The world's longest aircraft, an airship spanning more than six double-decker buses, is set to make its maiden flight later this Spring, British manufacturer Hybrid Air Vehicles.
- The Airlander can take off and land vertically meaning it does not need a tarmac runway.

Panama disease stalks banana cultivation in Kerala

- The Panama disease caused by a soil-borne fungus is threatening banana crops across Kerala, posing a potential crisis for farmers, even as global efforts to control the disease gain momentum.

China unveils 1st security robot

- China's first robot security guard made its debut, an electrical anti-riot device that can be activated through remote control in case of a threat.
- The 1.49-metre-tall, 78-kg "AnBot" unveiled at the ongoing China Chongqing Hi-Tech Fair has a

SPORTS

Govt to provide Rs. 1 lakh per month to Rio-bound athletes

- Union Sports Ministry has decided to provide one lakh rupees per month as out of pocket allowance to the sports persons under the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme in their preparation for the Olympics and Paralympics Games at Rio de Janeiro.
- 77 Indian athletes in eight disciplines have qualified for the Olympics till date and many more are likely to qualify in the next two months.

- Target Olympic Podium scheme is a sports ministry initiative under which Olympic medal prospects are funded by the government for top class training as part of their preparations for the Games.

Mairaj wins India's first skeet medal at a shooting WC

- Indian shooter Mairaj Ahmed Khan has won the silver medal in the Men's Skeet event of the ISSF Shooting World Cup in Rio De Janerio.
- Mairaj's feat, gave India its first skeet medal at a World Cup.

India to host 2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships

- India will host the 2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships in Jaipur.

Windies beat England by four wickets to lift World T20 title

- West Indies won a tense World T20 final in spectacular style, when Carlos Brathwaite hit the first four balls of the final over for four sixes, making a mockery of what looked a stiff task of 19 off six Ben Stokes deliveries.

Virat Kohli awarded 'Man of the Tournament' in World T20

- India's premier batsman Virat Kohli was deservingly awarded the 'Man of the Tournament' for his brilliant performance in the ICC World T20 that concluded, here tonight.

Women's WT-20: WI beat Australia in final

- In a historic first, the West Indies women's cricket team ended three-time defending champions Australia's domination by winning the ICC World T20 title with an emphatic eight-wicket victory in the final.

Waqar Younis resigns as Pakistan chief coach

- Pakistan cricket coach Waqar Younis has resigned weeks after his team's humiliating exit from the World Twenty20 in the group stages.

Viswanathan Anand to be honoured

- Chess legend Viswanathan Anand will be honoured with the Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award. Maharashtra Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao will present the award in Mumbai on April 12.

Dipa Karmakar, first Indian woman gymnast to seal Olympics berth

- Dipa Karmakar created history by becoming the first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for Olympics as she booked a berth for the Rio Games after a strong performance at the final qualifying and test event.
- The 22-year-old garnered a total score of 52.698 points in the Olympics qualifying event to book a berth for artistic gymnastics in Rio Games to be held here in August.

Hockey team returns with silver from Azlan Shah Cup

- The Indian hockey team returned home after clinching the silver medal at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia.

Djokovic, Serena bag top honours at Laureus World Sports awards

- Novak Djokovic walked away with his third 'Sportsperson of the Year' trophy, while Serena Williams also bagged the women's top honour for a third time as tennis became the toast of the 16th Laureus World Sports awards presented in a glittering ceremony.
- Soccer genius Lionel Messi, who had been nominated for a fifth time, once again lost out on the top award.

BCCI appoints Rahul Johri as its CEO

- Board of Control for Cricket in India – BCCI appointed Rahul Johri as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- Mr. Rahul Johri, was last serving as Discovery Networks - Asia Pacific's Executive Vice-President and General Manager for South Asia. He will take on his new role starting from 1st of June.

New emblem of Tokyo 2020 Olympics unveiled

- The new emblem of Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games was unveiled here on Monday, featuring an indigo-coloured check in the design.
- The logo features a circular Japanese traditional checkered pattern. Below the design are the words "Tokyo 2020" and under them the five interlocking Olympic rings, reports Xinhua.

India to host 2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships

- India will host the 2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships in Jaipur.
- This was announced by the Judo Federation of India in a press release in New Delhi.

MISCELLANEOUS

NSC and KVP will now be issued in electronic mode

- National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) will now be issued in electronic mode with government deciding to discontinue the system of pre-printed paper certificates.
- The existing system of physical pre-printed certificates for KVP and NSC has been discontinued from 1st of April, 2016, and will be replaced by certificate on electronic mode.

India's fastest train Gatiman Express from Delhi to Agra has been flagged off

- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the much-awaited Gatiman Express for Agra from Nizamuddin station.
- The Nizamuddin-Agra Gatiman Express is the first semi-high speed service in railways, which runs at a speed of 160 kilometer per hour and is expected to cover the 200 km distance in 100 minutes.
- The launch of this train heralds a new era of high speed rail travel in India.

Government ranks IIT-Madras, IIM-Bangalore among top education institutions

- IIT-Madras, IIM-Bangalore, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences-Manipal and Indian Institute of Science-Bangalore topped their respective categories in India's first ever ranking of higher education institutions released by the government on 4th April, 2016.

Simhastha Kumbh mela 2016 begins in Ujjain

- The month-long Simhastha Kumbh mela, the largest congregation of Hindus, began in Ujjain.
- Large number of people has converged in the holy city for the mela, held after a gap of every 12 years.
- Over five crore people, including seers, are expected to visit the city during the month.

Pachauri quits TERI

- Environmentalist R.K. Pachauri, accused of sexual harassment by his former women colleagues in the recent past, has stepped down as a member of the governing council of TERI "to get engaged in other interests."

Google India awarded 'most attractive employer' in India, in Randstad Award 2016

- Google India has emerged as the winner of the 6th edition of Randstad Award 2016 for the second consecutive year and was awarded the 'Most Attractive Employer' in India. Mercedes-Benz India was the runner-up.

LED Bulb Ujala Yojana inaugurated in Bhopal

- Over ten crore LED bulbs have been distributed so far across the country under the Centre's LED Bulb Ujala Yojana.
- There is plan to distribute over 70 crore LED bulbs till 2019.

Japanese honour for N.K. Singh

- Former bureaucrat and parliamentarian N. K. Singh will receive one of Japan's highest civilian honours for promoting economic, educational and cultural ties between India and Japan.

May

NATIONAL

PM Modi launches country's 1st solar-powered e-boats

- The country's first solar powered e-boats were launched in river Ganga by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his parliamentary constituency –Varanasi.

Andhra Pradesh CM launches Chandranna Bima Yojana

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched Chandranna Bima Yojana, an insurance scheme by the State government for the working class people on the occasion of May Day in Vijayawada.

President Mukherjee presents Niryat Shree, Niryat Bandhu Awards

- President Pranab Mukherjee presents Niryat Shree and Niryat Bandhu Awards in New Delhi
- Both Awards were instituted by the Federation of Indian Export Organization (FIEO) in the year 1995-96 with the aim to motivate exporters.

SC asks Gujarat to pay Rs. 3L damages to silicosis hit workers

- Supreme Court has directed Gujarat government to provide the compensation of three lakh rupees each to the families of 238 workers who died of silicosis.
- These workers died after working in the quartz industries the state. Silicosis is an occupational hazard for certain industrial workers.

Agriculture project in Andhra Pradesh wins WSIS 2016 prize

- An agriculture project in Andhra Pradesh meant to collect very specific climate data from farms and give farmers personalized information through SMS has won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2016 prize in e-Agriculture category.

Govt retires 33 tax officials for non-performance

- Cracking the whip on non-performing officials, the government, for the first time, has prematurely retired 33 tax officers, including seven Group 'A' officers.
- The Finance Ministry said in a statement that 72 officers have been dismissed, including six Group 'A' officers, in other departmental or disciplinary actions in the last two years.

4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi

- The eight nations composing the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children, SAIEVAC, are assembling in New Delhi next week for their 4th Ministerial Meeting.
- The meeting will set strategies and agree on commitments to ensure the protection and security of the children of the region.

Andhra Pradesh CM launches loan waiver scheme for horticulturists

- "Runa upasamanam" programme is launched in Kadapa by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, under which loan waiver of Rs. 10,000 per acre would be extended to horticulturists in the State.

India's 911-like emergency number '112' to be active from January 1

- The single emergency number '112' will be operational throughout India from January 1, 2017 to help people reach immediate services of police, ambulance and fire department. The provision of a single number for various emergency services that would be similar to the '911' all-in-one emergency service in the US.

Food grain output expected to be at 252.23 mn tonnes this year

Capital gains on FDI from Mauritius to be taxed

- Starting next year, the Centre will tax capital gains on investments from Mauritius, the tiny island from where India has received nearly a third of its total FDI inflows since 2000.

- The source of the leak in tax revenue was plugged after the two countries signed a protocol at Port Louis, Mauritius.
- The 1983 Double Taxation Avoidance treaty made Mauritius, which taxes capital gains at near-zero rates, an attractive “post box address” for foreign investors to route investments into India.

AP govt to set up healthcare ATMs in interior areas

- Andhra Pradesh government has decided to expand the reach by permitting the Health and Family Welfare department to set up healthcare ATMs in 25 primary health centres located in interior areas.
- To provide uninterrupted medical services in tribal and interior rural areas.
- The decision was taken in view of the shortage of doctors in the PHCs in the State which stands at 18 per cent as against the national average of 26 per cent.

DGNP Visakhapatnam celebrates Golden Jubilee

- Director General Naval Projects (DGNP) Visakhapatnam, which undertakes creation and augmentation of infrastructure for the Eastern Naval Command, is celebrating its Golden Jubilee.
- Established in June 1967, DGNP has built the Naval Dockyard at Visakhapatnam and undertaken a large number of marine infrastructure works and other technical works of various shore establishments.

RBI issues norms for prior approval of branch offices by foreign entities in India

- RBI has released new guidelines for foreign entities to open a branch office (BO) or a liaison office (LO) or a project office (PO) in India.
- According to it the entities from Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and four other regions including Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iran and Hong Kong or Macau will require its prior approval to establish branch office or project office in India.

Govt approves Rs. 1,984-cr Delhi-Meerut Expressway stretch

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for development of 8 and 6 laning of Delhi-Meerut Expressway - Package-II on NH-24 in Uttar Pradesh.
- The cost is estimated to be around Rs. 1984 crore including cost of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and other pre-construction activities.

India, China, four others sign pact on tax info sharing

- India has signed a multilateral pact for automatic exchange of information on tax issues and developing new tools to tackle the tax evasion.
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in a release said; India, Canada, Iceland, Israel, New Zealand and China signed the Multilateral Competent Authority agreement in efforts to boost transparency by multinational enterprises.

Delhi not ‘most polluted’, but dirty air fouls many cities

- The ‘Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database (update 2016)’ released by WHO placed the capital in the 25th place based on bigger particulate or PM 10 levels.
- Delhi is no longer the most polluted city in the world, the latest air quality report from the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The national capital, which earned notoriety for the state of its environment, now stands 11th among 3,000 cities in 103 countries in terms of fine particulate matter or PM 2.5.
- Particulate matter affects everyone but causes harm faster to children and senior citizens.
- Although Delhi improved its ranking, four Indian cities are among the world’s 10 most polluted.
- In 2014, Delhi was ranked the most polluted globally in terms of PM 2.5, for which the WHO had monitored 1,600 cities.

Sri Lankan President on two-day India visit

- President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena will arrive in New Delhi on a two day visit.
- He will address the valedictory session at the Vaicharick Mahakumbh which is being held as part of the Simhashta Mahakumbh in Ujjain on the 14th of this month.
- He will also visit Sanchi where he will tour the World famous Sanchi Stupa and attend a function by the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka during which he will unveil a statute of Angarika Dharmapala.

Maharashtra declares drought in 29,000 villages

- Maharashtra government has declared drought in over 29,000 villages of the state, most of them in parched Marathwada and Vidarbha regions.

PM to embark on a two-day visit to Iran beginning May 22

- The Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and will hold talks on a wide range of subjects of mutual interest with President Dr. Hassan Rouhani.
- The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Iran will provide a timely thrust to the ongoing efforts of the two countries and their business entities to expand bilateral cooperation and mutually benefit from new opportunities in the wake of lifting of secondary sanctions against Iran earlier this year.
- Iran is situated in India's extended neighbourhoods and the two countries have significant overlap in their economic and security space.

Geospatial Bill: India upset as Pak. moves UN

- The draft Geospatial Information Bill plans to bring in a set of legally binding regulations regarding the geospatial information of India.
- The draft Geospatial Information Bill plans to bring in a set of legally binding regulations regarding the geospatial information of India which may include provisions to penalize inaccurate depiction of India in maps.

Aizawl has highest incidence of cancer in men: Report

- The latest cancer data, released, shows that Aizawl in Mizoram has the highest incidence of cancer in men, while Papumpare in Arunachal Pradesh accounted for maximum cases in women.
- While north-eastern States have traditionally reported high incidence of cancer compared to the rest of the country, the latest data reveals that the cancer burden in the north-east is among the highest in the world.

Govt wants to reduce import dependence in defence sector to below 40% in next 8 years: Parrikar

- The government wants to reduce import dependence in defence sector to below 40 percent from the present 60-65 percent in the next five to eight years through Make in India.

Himachal CM launches PEHAL programme

- In Himachal Pradesh, the Shimla District Administration has introduced PEHAL programme in the district.
- The aim of the programme is to identify certain thrust areas which have a direct bearing on the lives of the people at grassroots.
- The five areas identified under PEHAL are Primary Education, Forest Rights, Health and Sanitation, Campaign against drugs and skill development and Women Empowerment.

40 million Indians at risk from rising sea levels: UN report

- According to a UN environment report, nearly 40 million Indians will be at risk from rising sea levels by 2050, with people in Mumbai and Kolkata having the maximum exposure to coastal flooding in future due to rapid urbanization and economic growth.
- The 'Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-6): Regional Assessments' said the worst impacts of climate change.

Odisha: Centre to undertake 3D structural analysis of Jagannath Temple

- The Centre has said it would undertake a 3D structural analysis of the over 800-year-old Jagannath Temple in Puri to further strengthen it and assured the Odisha government that the 12th century shrine will remain intact.

Pinarayi is Chief Minister

- Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] Polit Bureau member Pinarayi Vijayan will be the next Chief Minister of Kerala.

Bedi made Puducherry L-G

- BJP leader and former IPS officer Kiran Bedi has been appointed Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, a post that has been vacant for the past two years. .

Taj Mahal turns green, Akhilesh orders probe

- The Taj Mahal in Agra was "turning green" due to an attack of insects.
About Taj Mahal
- Built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, the grandson of Akbar, in memory of his queen Mumtaz Mahal (Arjumand Bano Begum), the white marble structure is known world over for its splendour and intricate designs.

India imposes ban for travel to Libya in view of prevailing security situation

- India has banned its nationals from travelling to Libya, irrespective of the purpose of the visit, in view of the prevailing security situation in that country.

India to develop Chahbahar port

- India and Iran signed a series of agreements that will allow New Delhi to use the port of Chahbahar to access Central Asia and Afghanistan.

Amaravati's 'Smart' chances brighten

- Amaravati, the new Capital city of Andhra Pradesh, found its way into the fresh list of cities competing for the Smart City status in the next round.

Draft rules of Juvenile Justice Act 2015 released

- Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi has released draft model rules to repeal the existing rules for effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Act.
- The rules take care of the development needs of children and child friendly procedures are incorporated in it.
- According to the draft rules 2016, no child between 16 and 18 years of age in conflict with law will be handcuffed or sent to jail or lock-up.
- Proper medical and legal aid will be provided to juvenile criminals and their parents and guardians will be duly informed.
- Every state government is required to set up at least one place of safety for the rehabilitation of such children.

Govt approves Capital Goods Policy, aims 21 million new jobs by 2025

- The government has approved the first-ever policy for the country's capital goods sector envisaging creation of over 21 million new jobs by 2025.
- The objectives of the new policy are to create an ecosystem for a globally competitive capital goods sector to achieve total production in excess of Rs. 7.5 lakh crore by 2025 from the current level of Rs. 2.3 lakh crore.

Telangana household survey enters Limca book of records

- Telangana state Government has entered the prestigious Limca Book of Records for its Intensive Household Survey conducted two years ago.
- As per the government statistics, the massive exercise had involved about 4 lakh government employees who covered over 1.09 crore households in a single day.

Portal launched to promote Net Zero Energy Buildings

- Ministry of Power and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched India's first integrated web portal designed to promote and mainstream Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) in India.

Registration must include woman's name under PMAY urban: Venkaiah Naidu

- As per the Union Urban Development Minister, it would be mandatory for houses built in urban areas under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, to be registered in the name of a woman alone or jointly with a man.
- Since construction of two crore houses for urban poor is being envisaged to address housing shortage, as many poor urban women stand to benefit under this scheme.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) launched in June last year, two crore houses for urban poor is to be built by 2022.

INTERNATIONAL

CBEC launches mobile app for baggage rules information

- The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has launched a mobile app for international travellers to inform them about customs and baggage rules.
- 'Indian Customs- Guide to Travellers' mobile app has been developed by Bengaluru Customs to inform international travelers - who may be traders, exporters or importers - about the customs baggage rules.

Indo-China Border Trade through Nathula in Sikkim completes 10 years

- The Indo-China Border Trade through a snow clad Nathula in Sikkim is completing its 10th year.
- Coming to an abrupt halt during the 1962 War between the two Asian giants, the centuries old trade through this traditional silk route had resumed on 6th July, 2006.

UNICEF: 75 million children in desperate need of education support

- According to a new report by UNICEF, some 75 million school age children in crisis areas around the world are in desperate need of educational support.
- As per the reports, one in four children aged 3-18, 462 million, live in countries affected by humanitarian crises.

Bangladesh hangs Jamaat-e-Islami chief Nizami for war crimes

- Bangladesh authorities have hanged fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami for war crimes committed during the country's 1971 Liberation War.
- He is the senior most Islamist to be executed in Bangladesh for war crimes during the liberation war against Pakistan.

Obama to visit Hiroshima

- President Barack Obama is to visit Hiroshima this month, the first serving US President to travel to the Japanese city since it was hit by a US nuclear bomb in 1945.

Corruption costs world economy \$2 trillion a year: IMF

- Bribery and corruption cost the world economy as much as 2 trillion dollars every year.
- A new report by the International Monetary Fund says, the money lost to corruption every year is 2 percent of the global gross domestic product.

Kenya to close World's biggest refugee camp in Dadaab

- The Kenyan government has decided to close World's biggest refugee camp in Dadaab.
- An estimated 328,000 refugees mostly from Somalia are staying in Dadaab camp.
- Kenyan Government sources said, the camp compromises Kenya's security because it harbors some of Somalia's Al-Shabab militants and is a conduit for smuggling weapons.

'New China missile can hit U.S. territory'

- China's new 'Guam killer' missile, capable of hitting targets some 5,500 km away, is raising new fears of a growing Chinese threat to key American military facilities and stability in the Pacific Rim, the Congress has been warned.

UK grants asylum to Maldives' ex-president Mohamed Nasheed

- Britain has granted political refugee status to ousted former President of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed.

Indian-American scientist wins Award

- Indian-American scientist Arnab De has received the Springer Theses Award for research on developing transgenic mice to study a critical tumour-suppressor.

CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Real Estate Regulation and Development Act, 2016 comes into effect

- As per the notification of the Ministry, rules under the act have to be formulated by the Central and State Governments within a maximum period of six months.

RBI allows up to 60 % foreign holding in Yes Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has allowed foreign investors to buy up to 60 per cent stake in mid-sized private sector lender Yes Bank from the existing 49 per cent.

EPFO launches One Employee-One EPF Account drive

- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, EPFO has launched a special drive to encourage EPF members to consolidate their multiple accounts in New Delhi.

Taxpayers account for just about 1% of India's population

- Taxpayers account for just about one per cent of India's population, as per the latest data disclosed by the government for assessment year 2012-13.
- The data has been made public as part of a transparency drive.

Chrome beats IE as top Internet browser

- Google Chrome became the top Internet browser, officially ending the long reign of Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE).
- Mozilla's Firefox browser was third, according to market tracker NetMarketShare.

IMF retains India growth forecast at 7.5% for 2016-17

- Noting that India remains the fastest-growing large economy in the world, the International Monetary Fund has retained its growth forecast for the country at 7.5 percent for this year.

Zimbabwe to print own version of US dollar

- Zimbabwe is set to print its own version of the US dollar in order to ease a cash shortage in the country.
- Central bank Governor John Mangudya said the cash, known as bond notes, will be backed by 200 million dollars support from the Africa Export-Import Bank.
- The specially-designed two, five, 10 and 20 dollar notes will have the same value as their US dollar equivalents.

Background

- Zimbabwe introduced the US dollar after ditching its own currency in 2009 following sustained hyperinflation.

India–South Korea Pact for Development of Ports

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Shipping of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in Port related Industry on 13.04.2016.

BHEL commissions 660 MW thermal unit

- BHEL announced the commissioning a 660 MW supercritical thermal unit in Maharashtra.

Income Declaration Scheme for domestic black money to commence from June 01

- The 'Income Declaration Scheme' or four month window for declaration of domestic black money will commence from 1st of next month. It will remain in force till 30th of September.
- Declarations can be filed online or with the Principal Commissioners of Income-tax and surcharge and penalty must be made latest by 30th November, 2016.

Govt opens Tatkal window for faster patents to startups

- In a bid to encourage start-ups to patent their technologies, the government has slashed the fee by up to 80% and opened a special (Tatkal) window to expedite clearances for them as well as entities that route their global patent applications via the Indian Patents Office.
- Applying to the special window will attract up to three times of normal fees.
- This is the first time the government has opened a window for faster patents along with efforts to speed up application clearing process.
- Under the faster clearance route, application fees for individuals and start-ups have been kept at Rs. 8,000, while for companies, it could be as much as Rs. 60,000.

Cabinet approves National Intellectual Property Rights Policy

- The Union Cabinet approved the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy that will lay the future roadmap for intellectual property in India.
- The Policy recognizes the abundance of creative and innovative energies that flow in India, and the need to tap into and channelize these energies towards a better and brighter future for all.
- The National IPR Policy is a vision document that aims to create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies.

Govt. slaps anti-dumping duty on steel pipes from China

- The Government has imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty for six months on seamless tubes, steel pipes, among others imported from China.

Moody's pegs India's growth rate at 7.5% in 2016 & 2017

- Global rating agency, Moody's has forecast a growth rate of about 7.5 percent for the Indian economy in 2016 and 2017.
- This growth will be driven largely by private consumption growth.

Indian Ocean Rim nations to boost cooperation on SEZs

- India and several other nations bordering the Indian Ocean have decided to evolve a regional mechanism for cooperation on Special Economic Zones (SEZ) – or duty-free enclaves with tax holidays — to boost exports.
- The first-of-its-kind meeting between SEZ authorities from these Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) nations was held on May 19-2016 at Chabahar, Iran, which houses a Free Trade Zone (FTZ) – a synonym for SEZs.

Govt. aims at top 30 slot for ease of doing business

- Amitabh Kant, Niti Aayog Chief Executive Officer, said the government wants India to be among the top 30 countries in terms of ease of doing business over the next three to four years.
- According to the World Bank's Doing Business Report 2016, India ranks 130 out of 189 countries.

A.P. to top country with solar capacity of 4,000 MW

- Andhra Pradesh will house solar parks with a total capacity of 4,000 MW, the highest in the country, with Rs. 225.5 crore already being sanctioned.
- A total of 33 solar parks have been commissioned across the country under the Centre's scheme for the development of solar parks and ultra mega solar power projects.

RBI says one-third of ATMS non-functional, warns of penal action

- A survey of 4,000 ATMs conducted by a Reserve Bank team recently wherein it has found that almost one-third of these machines are not in working conditions.

India global 5th in green energy jobs, China on top

- India ranks fifth in the world in renewable energy (RE) job creation, with 416,000 employed in the sector during 2015.
- In the world, 8.1 million persons are employed in the clean energy space.
- China tops the list with 3.5 million, followed by Brazil with 918,000.
- According to the International Renewable Energy Agency's (Irena) Annual Review 2016, there was a five per cent increase over a year before in the sector, with new jobs being created even as employment in the broader energy sector falls.
- Countries with the most RE jobs in 2015 were China, Brazil, America, India, Japan and Germany.

56 Indian companies among world's largest public firms: Forbes

- As many as 56 Indian companies have featured in the Forbes 'Global 2000' list for 2016, which is a snapshot of the world's largest and most powerful public companies.
- The Forbes list features 2,000 public companies from around 63 countries which account for US \$35 trillion in revenue, US \$2.4 trillion in profit, US \$162 trillion of assets, and have a combined market value of US \$44 trillion.
- List of featured Indian companies is as:
 - Reliance Industries leads the pack as the largest public company in India and has been ranked 121st.
 - State bank of India (149)
 - Oil and Natural Gas ranked (220)
 - ICICI Bank (266)
 - HDFC Bank (275)
 - Indian Oil (371)
 - Tata Consultancy Services (385)
 - NTPC (400)
 - Bharti Airtel (453)
 - Axis Bank (484)
 - Infosys (590)
 - Bharat Petroleum (650)
 - Wipro (755)
 - Tata Steel (1178)
 - Adani Enterprises (1993).
 - The list also features Coal India (465), Larsen and Toubro (505), ITC (781), Kotak Mahindra Bank (899), Mahindra and Mahindra (901) and HCL Technologies (943) among others.

Intel to work with govt on 100 learning centres

- Intel India would be working with state governments and the central government to set up 100 digital learning centres at Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas.

- It had launched three projects — designed to accelerate digital literacy at the grassroots level, by reaching out to the population in non-urban India, upskilling citizens in Tier-two cities and beyond, and encouraging innovation from the local level.

RBI to issue Rs. 1000 banknotes with inset letter R

- Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue banknotes of 1000 rupees denominations with inset letter 'R' in both the number panels.

Second Phase of PM Ujjwala Yojna launched at Gujarat's Dahod

- BJP National president Amit Shah inaugurated the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Dahod in Gujarat.
- Centre has planned to provide 1 lakh free LPG connections to each parliamentary constituency of the country.
- The first phase of the scheme was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ballia in Uttar Pradesh on 1st May 2016.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Air Chief Marshal Raha takes his maiden flight in home grown Light Combat Aircraft Tejas

- Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha took his maiden flight in India's home grown Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, calling it good for induction.
- An ace pilot himself, Raha is the first Chief of Air Staff to fly the indigenously designed and produced Tejas.

Solar-powered aircraft soars again

- Solar Impulse 2, an experimental aircraft flying around the world to draw attention to clean energy technologies, took flight again.

Mangoes that pack a vitamin punch

- A mango that fights night blindness is the focus of horticulture scientists who want to save high-value 'nutraceutical' plants that have long been neglected.
- Manoranjitam found in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, that it helps fight night blindness as it is high in vitamin A.
- Preserving and promoting them will have twin benefits – higher revenue for farmers, and improved health of people.

Zika Test

- Scientists from Harvard University and MIT have developed a paper-based sensor system for detecting the Zika virus within an hour.

World's first holographic flexible phone is here

- Scientists claim to have developed the world's first holographic flexible smartphone, HoloFlex, that lets users interact with 3D videos and images without any headgear or glasses.
- HoloFlex offers a completely new way of interacting with your smartphone. It allows glasses-free interactions with 3D video and images in a way that does not encumber the user.

Oldest axe was made by early Australians

- A tiny stone flake from north-western Australia is a remnant of the earliest known axe with a handle, archaeologists have claimed.
- The fingernail sized sliver of basalt is ground smooth at one end and appears to date from 44 to 49,000 years ago.

Indian Navy decommissions fighter planes Sea Harriers

- Indian Navy has decommissioned its fleet of iconic Sea Harriers. The planes were decommissioned at a function organised at INS Hansa base in Vasco, Goa.
- Indian Navy has decommissioned its fleet of iconic Sea Harriers. The Harriers will be replaced by a squadron of Russian Mig 29k jets.

PM greets people on National Technology Day

- May 11 is annually observed as National Technology Day all over India.

Indian Navy launches underwater vigil system in Visakhapatnam

- Indian Navy has launched the state-of-the-art Harbour Defence Systems, viz., Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System (IUHDSS) and Mine Warfare Data Centre (MWDC) which would enhance the Navy's surveillance capability and response to security threats at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

China opens its first deep-sea research institute

- China has opened its first deep-sea research institute, which experts said will be useful to identify marine resources and to improve naval technology.
- The Institute of Deep-Sea Science and Engineering (IDSSE) located in Sanya, Hainan province passed an acceptance inspection and began official operations, authorities.
- It is the first scientific research base for study of the deep seas and is also China's first public platform for deep-sea research.

A strange project to 'revive' the brain dead

- Project ReAnima, the world's first clinical trial on the revival of brain dead patients.

India successfully test fires indigenous Advanced Air Defence interceptor missile "Ashwin"

- India successfully test fired an indigenously developed Advanced Air Defence interceptor missile which is capable of destroying any incoming hostile ballistic missile.
- Dubbed as Ashwin, the missile was test-fired from the launch complex of Abdul Kalam Island in Bhadrak district of Odisha.

15-year old Indian-American student wins prestigious Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award

- A 15-year old Indian-American student has won the prestigious Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award for creating a device for people who can not walk well through disease or injury.
- Syamantak Payra, a student at Clear Brook High School in Friendswood, Texas, received one of two Intel Foundation Young Scientist Awards worth 50,000 dollars for developing a low cost electronically aided knee brace that allows an individual with a weakened leg to walk more naturally.

Google's new 'Assistant' helps with daily tasks

- Google Inc unveiled its answer to Amazon's Alexa virtual assistant along with new messaging and virtual reality products at its annual developer conference, doubling down on artificial intelligence and machine learning as the keys to its future.
- Google Chief Executive Sundar Pichai introduced Google Assistant, a virtual personal assistant, along with the tabletop speaker appliance Google Home.

Eco-friendly drive launched along Yamuna to control mosquito breeding

- Nipping the problem in the bud, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) launched a drive to remove mosquito larvae from the Yamuna riverbank using eco-friendly techniques.

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

101 species of spiders found in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary

- Researchers recently spotted 101 species of spiders belonging to 65 genera from Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Idukki, Kerala, when documenting spider diversity in the Sanctuary.
- The spider population from the sanctuary accounted for 6.98 per cent of the Indian spider species.

Western Ghats under threat: Report

- As per the recent reports, many natural and mixed World Heritage Sites, including the Western Ghats, are threatened by harmful industrial activities such as mining.
- According to the report, the harmful industrial activities include oil and gas exploration and extraction, mining, illegal logging and large-scale constructions.
- The reports, 'Protecting people through nature,' prepared by the World Wildlife Fund and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Three of the seven such Indian sites — Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Sundarbans, and the serial sites of Western Ghats — have been listed as being under threat.
- The report highlights that the Western Ghats support "the single largest population of endangered Asian elephants and vulnerable Indian bison."

Rare sighting of Amur falcon near Nagpur

- Birdwatchers in Maharashtra were thrilled by the sighting of an unexpected visitor, an Amur falcon at the Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary near the Pench Tiger Reserve, 60 km from Nagpur.
- The raptor (bird of prey), the size of a pigeon, makes its home in Nagaland, flying a staggering 22,000 km from there to South Africa, then onto Mongolia and back to Nagaland.
- The bird has one of the longest and most fascinating migratory paths in the avian world.
- The falcon breeds in south-eastern Siberia and north-eastern China, where the Amur River divides the Russian Far East and China.

8,000-year-old paddy discovered in China

- A paddy field dating back more than 8,000 years has been discovered by Chinese archaeologists who

Ken-Betwa gets wildlife go-ahead before site visit report

- The standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) decided to clear Phase-I of the Ken-Betwa river linking project even though the expert committee constituted by the board is yet to submit its site visit report.
- The Rs. 10,000-crore project requires diversion of 5,258 hectares of forest land, including 4,141 hectares of Panna Tiger Reserve.
- The standing committee chaired by environment minister Prakash Javadekar went ahead and decided to clear the irrigation project "to help the drought affected areas of Bundelkhand".

Arunachal tiger reserve bags biodiversity award

- Pakke Tiger Reserve in East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh has received the 'India Biodiversity Award 2016' in one of its four categories.
- The Hornbill Nest Adoption Programme of the Pakke Tiger Reserve in East Kameng district was awarded the prize under the category, "conservation of threatened species".

Nicaragua attracts lava-loving tourists

- Nicaragua's Masaya volcano is active once again.

Hangul, the rare Kashmir deer, may soon go extinct

- The endangered hangul, also known as Kashmir deer, is in the throes of extinction, largely because of human intrusions and domestic livestock grazing at its only habitat here.

Gurgaon to develop a reserve forest for black bucks

- The Gurgaon district is all set to have a reserved forest zone for black bucks.
- An area of 140 hectares has been allotted by the forest department that will be the reserved forest zone for the endangered species.

SPORTS

Sachin accepts IOA's invitation to become goodwill ambassador

- Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar has accepted Indian Olympic Association - IOA's request to become India's goodwill ambassador for Rio Olympics.

Sania-Hingis continue to lead Women's Doubles rankings

- In Tennis, Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis continue to lead the latest Women's Doubles rankings.
- Sania and Hingis, who have won 13 titles together including 4 this year, maintained their joint position with 12,045 points each.

Michel Platini to resign as UEFA President

- Suspended European Football Chief Michel Platini has announced to resign as UEFA President.

Shashank Manohar resigns as BCCI President to contest for ICC Chairman post

- Shashank Manohar stepped down as Board of Control for Cricket in India, BCCI, President barely seven months after being appointed.

India to send largest ever contingent to Rio Olympics

- India will send its largest ever contingent - about 90 sports persons - to Olympics being held in Rio beginning 5th of August.

FIFA appoints Justice Mukul Mudgal as deputy chairman of its governance committee

- In a major development for Indian football and judiciary, world governing body FIFA has appointed Justice Mukul Mudgal as deputy chairman of its governance committee.
- Portuguese Luis Miguel Maduro, who is a former European Court of Justice Advocate General, will head FIFA's governance committee.

Max Verstappen becomes youngest Formula 1 winner

- Dutch teenager, Max Verstappen, became Formula One's youngest race winner in a sensational Spanish Grand Prix, as Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg crashed out of the race.

India lose to China in semi-final of Uber Cup

- Indian women's team settled for a bronze medal after suffering a 0-3 defeat at the hands of defending champions China in the semifinals of the Uber Cup badminton championship, at Kunshan in China.

Kumble gets another term, Dravid included

- Former India captain Anil Kumble was on Friday re-appointed ICC Cricket Committee chairman for a second term of three years, while batting great Rahul Dravid was named member of the top panel.
- Dravid and former Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene, who have been appointed to the Cricket Committee for a three-year term, will attend their first meeting at Lord's on May 31 and June 1.

China dominates S. Korea, wins Uber Cup

- Olympic champion Li Xuerui led the Chinese national squad to victory over South Korea at the Uber Cup final, securing the country's 14th World badminton team championship title in dominant fashion.
- Li, the World No 3, brushed off an early deficit after dropping the first game to seventh-ranked Sung Ji-hyun.
- China has won three-straight Uber Cups and 14 in total since the team first started competing in the tournament in 1984.

Mohun Bagan floors Aizawl, wins 14th Fed Cup title

- Mohun Bagan perfected a spectacular second-half resurgence to floor Aizawl FC by a record 5-0 margin and regain the Federation Cup football title after eight years, at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here.

MISCELLANEOUS

Indian American Sikh woman elected to key Republican position

- An Indian American Sikh woman from California has been elected to an important position in the Republican party at the US national level.
- Chandigarh-born Harmeet Kaur Dhillon was elected as the newest national committee woman of the Republican National Committee.
- She was the first woman elected to this position of vice chair of the California Republican Party.

HDFC MF chief Milind Barve gets Rs.26 cr in 2015-16

- Top fund house HDFC Mutual Fund's chief Milind Barve has received a total annual remuneration of Rs. 26.21 crore for the latest fiscal 2015-16.

IISc Professor among Royal Society Fellows

- Three Indian names are on the list of fifty scientists elected as Fellows of The Royal Society, a premier scientific academy of the U.K. and the Commonwealth.
- Physicist Sriram Ramaswamy, Director of TIFR Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Hyderabad; biochemist Ramanujan Hegde, MRC Laboratory of Microbiology, U.K. and applied mathematician Lakshminarayanan Mahadevan, Harvard University have earned the top honour.

Guinness record for man with golden shirt

- Maharashtra's well-known businessman-politician Pankaj Parakh, called 'The Man with the Golden Shirt' by his friends, has earned a place in the Guinness World Records (GWR).

Gangavati in Koppal district to get Asia's first Rice Technology Park

- The State government has decided to go ahead with the establishment of Asia's first Rice Technology Park at Gangavati in Koppal district and a Maize Technology Park at Ranebennur in Haveri district on the public-private participation model as a one-stop solution to all problems of rice and maize growers.
- These parks would pave the way for opening new avenues for rice and maize growers to add value to their produce and get better returns and also enhance quality of the produce.

Sadikh Khan elected as first Muslim Mayor of London

- In UK, Sadiq Khan has been elected as the first Muslim Mayor of London, boosting Labour party after it slumped in Scotland's elections.
- He is a former human rights lawyer and an MP from Tooting, east London, since 2005.

Nagaland's SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring Service bags award

- An SMS-based vehicle monitoring system of the Nagaland police has bagged the 'National Award for Smart Policing' instituted by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Indian-origin Murali Pillai elected to Singapore parliament

- An Indian-origin man from Singapore's ruling People's Action Party (PAP) was elected member of the parliament on Saturday following his victory in the by-election held at suburban Bukit Batok constituency.

About Dr. Rakesh K. Jain

- Rakesh K Jain, a professor of tumour biology at Massachusetts General Hospital in the Harvard Medical School, will receive the award from Obama along with 16 other recipients of the 'National Medals of Science and National Medals of Technology and Innovation' on May 19.

World's biggest cruise ship sets sail from Saint-Nazaire, France

- The \$1 billion Harmony of the Seas cut a gargantuan silhouette as it left the western port town of Saint-Nazaire.
- The 16-deck ship is bigger than the Eiffel Tower and holds the record for being the widest cruise ship ever built – boasting a 6,360-passenger capacity.

Trial run of Delhi Metro's new driverless trains flagged off

- Union Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal flagged off the trial run of Delhi Metro's new driverless trains.
- This train equipped to travel on Unattended Train Operations mode.
- The new trains will undergo rigorous trials to ensure that they are ready for smooth operations.

World's largest Single Rooftop Solar Power Plant inaugurated in Amritsar

- In Punjab, Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal inaugurated the World's largest Single Rooftop Solar Power Plant with capacity of 11.5 MegaWatt (MW) at Dera Baba Jaimal Singh at Beas, in Amritsar district.
- This is the largest Solar Power Plant spread over 82 acres of rooftop in single campus on multiple roofs with installed capacity of 19.5 MW.
- The plant has been set up with the cost of 139 crore rupees.

Infosys CEO Sikka gets Rs.49 crore salary in FY16

- Infosys paid Vishal Sikka, its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), \$7.45 million (Rs. 48.73 crore) as his salary for the financial year 2015-16.

Now, an e-nose to sniff out pesticides in tea

- The Tea Research Association (TRA) has developed an 'e-nose,' a bio-sensing system for detection of pesticides in tea.
- The project, implemented by the C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing), Kolkata, has reached the prototype stage.

India fifth largest producer of e-waste: Study

- India, which has emerged as the world's second largest mobile market, is also the fifth largest producer of e-waste, discarding roughly 18.5 lakh tonnes of electronic waste each year, a study says.
- With more than 100 crore mobile phones in circulation, nearly 25 per cent end up in e-waste annually, it said.

Indian author Aditi Krishnakumar wins Asian Book Award

- A 31-year-old Indian woman author in Singapore has won the 'Scholastic Asian Book Award' for her 32,000-word manuscript rooted in "love of Indian history".

Sunil Mittal receives this year's Harvard Alumni award

- Bharti Enterprises founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has received this year's Harvard Business School Alumni Achievement Award.

Nepalese runner wins world's 'highest' marathon

- Gasping for breath and clad in trekking boots, more than 150 local and foreign runners took part in the world's highest marathon in the snow-covered foothills of Mount Everest.

World's oldest person dies in New York at age 116

- Susannah Mushatt Jones, the world's oldest person, has died in New York at age 116. 116-year-old Emma Morano, of Italy, just a few months younger than Jones, is now said to be the world's oldest.

June

NATIONAL

India, Morocco launches Chamber of Commerce

- The India-Morocco Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IMCCI) was inaugurated by Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Moroccan Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane in Rabat.
- The Chamber is a new initiative taken by the two countries to strengthen their relations in trade and investment.
- The motto is, "Shake hands, strengthen ties, go with IMCCI."

India gifts 2,000 bicycles to poor dalit girls in Nepal

- India has gifted 2,000 bicycles to poor dalit girls in Nepal to encourage them to enrol in schools and enhance the literacy rate among them.

Minimum 9 sq mt enhancements to house must for central assistance

- Government has said the minimum addition of nine square metres of carpet area to the existing house will be mandatory for being eligible for central assistance under a component of Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (Urban) scheme.

India, Tunisia sign MoUs for co-operation in IT, handicrafts sector

- India and Tunisia have signed Memoranda of Understanding for co-operation in Information Technology and promotion of traditional handicrafts.
- The MoUs were signed after the delegation level talks between the two countries in the presence of Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid in Tunis.

Govt. says user's identity proof a must for matrimonial portals

- The government is issuing an advisory to make it mandatory for users of matrimonial websites to provide an identity proof before creating an account on match-making portals.

PM Narendra Modi conferred with the Highest Civilian Honour of Afghanistan

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been conferred with Amir Amanullah Khan Award, Afghanistan's highest civilian honour.

India Post to boost financial inclusion

- India Post with its vast network of more than 1.5 lakh offices, 90 per cent of which are in rural areas, can aid in financial inclusion.
- The new entity would be known as India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a public limited company under the Department of Posts, with 100 per cent Government of India equity.

PM Narendra Modi, Ashraf Ghani inaugurates Afghan-India Friendship Dam

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the Afghan-India Friendship Dam in Herat province in Western Afghanistan.
- The dam was inaugurated during PM Narendra Modi's first stop to Afghanistan as part of his five- nation tour which will also take him to Qatar, Switzerland, US and Mexico.

WCD Ministry holds first ever All India Women Journalists workshop

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organizing the first ever All India Women Journalists workshop in New Delhi.

India, US announce \$60 million clean energy financial support

- India and the US announced the setting up of two financial assistance programmes worth \$60 million for supporting India's much-needed clean energy initiatives including in solar power and other renewables.
- This would help in expansion of handholding support to Indian utilities that are scaling up rooftop solar and continuation of successful cooperation with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on "Greening the Grid".

Govt procures 1.11 lakh tonne of pulses to control retail prices

- The government has procured 1.11 lakh tonnes of pulses so far from farmers for creating buffer stock and also contracted to import 38,500 tonnes as part of its effort to control the retail prices.
- 51,000 Ton of pulses have been procured in Kharif season and 60,000 Ton in Rabi season so far.

Odisha government to hold first travel bazaar

- The first travel bazaar will be held by Odisha government between November 27 and 29 in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- The event, to be organized, will act as a platform to bring together tour operators from across the globe alongside local operators and various stakeholders under one roof to promote the state's tourist destinations.

Maharashtra government to celebrate 21st of every month as Yoga Day

- 21st of every month has been decided as the Yoga day across all schools, colleges and universities in the state of Maharashtra.
- And the 'Yoga Mahostav' (Yoga Festival) every year will be observed between January 12 and 21.

IAF makes history, India's first women fighter pilots get wings

- Flying cadets Bhawana Kath, Avani Chatuvedi and Mohana Singh were commissioned as the first women fighter pilots in the Indian Air Force.
- On completion of successful training at the Air Force Academy in Dundigal on the outskirts of Hyderabad, the trios were formally commissioned into Indian Air Force by Defence Minister. The three women are the first batch of female pilots inducted in an IAF fighter squadron.
- The event was reviewed by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad.

Aadhaar to be linked with caste certificate

- All State governments have been asked to link Aadhaar with caste and domicile certificates to be issued to school students, as part of a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Centre.
- The States have been told to ensure that such certificates are issued within 60 days to the students when they are studying in Class V or VIII.

ISRO's 20-satellite launch, its largest ever, successful

- India took a big leap in space technology when Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) used its workhorse PSLV-C34 to inject 20 satellites including 17 foreign satellites into orbit in a single mission and set a new record.
- The 320-tonne Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C34) took off on its 36th flight at 9.26am from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre with 20 satellites including its primary payload Cartosat-2 series, which provides remote sensing services, and earth observation and imaging satellites from US, Canada, Germany and Indonesia. It was also 14th flight of PSLV in 'XL' configuration with the use of solid strap-on motors.
- Cartosat-2 was placed in orbit at 9.44 am. With Cartosat-2 weighing 727.5 kg, PSLV lifted off a total of 1,288 kg in to space and began placing the satellites into orbit about 17 minutes later.

- ISRO set a world record for the highest number of satellites launched in a single mission when it placed 10 satellites in a PSLV on April 28, 2008. NASA in 2013 placed 29 satellites in a single mission and Russia in 2014 launched 33 satellites in one launch.

Indian art and culture fete to be held in Australia

- India's art and culture will be on display during the first-ever 'Festival of India' to be held across Australia in August.

Indian bags UN honour

- Zubaida Bai, an Indian social entrepreneur working for women's welfare, is on the United Nations' latest list of 10 champions of sustainable development goals.

Now AYUSH Ministry to certify yoga institutes

- Amid the Modi government's push for yoga, AYUSH Ministry has decided to certify institutes imparting training in the ancient discipline for physical and mental well-being to ensure quality control and check mushrooming of centres which do not meet even the basic standards.

India among top 3 regions in corruption-linked fraud

- An overwhelming 80 per cent of companies polled in India said they had been victims of fraud in 2015-16, up from 69 per cent in 2013-14, according to a survey report.
- The Global Fraud Report 2015-16 by risk mitigation consultancy Kroll, with the aid of the Economist Intelligence Unit, found that the perceived prevalence of fraud in India is the third-highest among all countries and regions surveyed across six continents. Only Colombia (83 per cent) and Sub-Saharan Africa (84 per cent) surpass India.

India enters elite missile tech group

- In a boost to its non-proliferation credentials, India joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)
- India had intensified efforts at gaining membership of the MTCR, the NSG, the Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement since getting a waiver at the NSG in 2008. Membership of these groups would help India trade more effectively in critical high tech areas.

Karnataka all set to build one lakh farm ponds

- Congress-ruled Karnataka is set to complete the construction of one lakh such ponds, with a variation that is more beneficial to farmers.
- Other states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat are also constructing farm ponds at a rapid rate, but the Karnataka model has an add-on element: it is mandatory for the farm pond to have drip or sprinkler irrigation system attached.

Over 23% pay hike likely for govt. employees, pensioners

- The Finance Ministry is set to propose a 23.55 per cent overall increase in salaries and pensions for more than 1 crore government employees and pensioners, in line with the 7th Pay Commission's recommendations. The cost to the exchequer on this account is estimated at Rs.1.02 lakh crore.
- It remains to be seen if the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will seek to emulate the UPA government, which had in 2008 approved increases that surpassed the recommendations received from the 6th Pay Commission.
- In November 2015, the pay panel had recommended increases of 16 per cent in pay and 24 per cent in pensions within the overall 23.55 per cent. Its estimate was that these recommendations could result in an additional outgo of almost 0.65 per cent of the GDP.

Rs. 50-crore 'Jewellery Park' set to come up in Mumbai in bid to boost exports

- A Rs. 50-crore 'jewellery park' is set to come up in Mumbai as part of the central government's two-pronged efforts to boost exports that include common facilitation centres for diamond jewellery workers in small units where they will be able to share expensive equipment on pay-per-use basis.

Anti-submarine torpedo Varunastra inducted in navy

- Indigenously-built heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo Varunastra has been successfully inducted in the navy, making India one of the eight countries to have the capability to design and build such a system.

INTERNATIONAL

World's longest rail tunnel to be inaugurated in Switzerland

- In Switzerland, the world's longest and deepest rail tunnel, running under the Swiss Alps, will be inaugurated.

- The 57-kilometer long Gotthard Base Tunnel will connect northern and southern Europe and shorten travel time for many rail routes. It overtakes Japan's Seikan tunnel, which measures 53.9 kilometers, as the longest rail tunnel in the world.

Asia's largest tech trade show COMPUTEX kicks off in Taipei

- Asia's largest technology trade show COMPUTEX kicked off in Taipei, attracting more than 1,600 companies from 30 countries to showcase their latest products.

Renewable energy surges to record levels around the world

- A study says that new solar, wind and hydropower sources were added in 2015 at the fastest rate the world has yet seen. Investments in renewable during the year were more than double the amount spent on new coal and gas-fired power plants, the Renewable Global Status Report found.
- For the first time, emerging economies spent more than the rich on renewable power and fuels. Over 8 million people are now working in renewable energy worldwide.
- China, the US, Japan, UK and India were the countries adding on the largest share of green power, despite the fact that fossil fuel prices have fallen significantly. Investment in renewable reached 286 billion dollars worldwide in 2015.

India's NIIT to train 50,000 China students on 'Big Data'

- To enhance innovation and research, the company sealed an agreement with the provincial government to establish a Big Data Talent Research Centre in Guiyang.
- This will allow trainers to connect with multiple locations in real time.

India eyes uranium from Africa

- India is likely to ask African countries to relax commitment to the Pelindaba Treaty which controls supply of uranium from key mineral hubs of Africa to the rest of the world.
About Pelindaba Treaty
- It is a 2009 treaty to prevent nuclear proliferation in Africa and to stop clandestine supply of uranium to nuclear power of the world.
- It is also known as the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, and was signed in 1996 and came into effect on July 15, 2009.
- It aims at preventing nuclear proliferation and preventing strategic minerals of Africa from being exported freely.
- All of the African Union including island states, are signatories of the treaty through many of them are yet to ratify the treaty.

France launches 'terror alert' smartphone app

- A new smartphone app to alert users to possible terror attacks was launched by the French government in time for the start of Euro 2016, amid growing security concerns over the tournament.
- The application, which is free to download in both French and English, will send users a warning "in case of a suspected attack."

Scientists find 'super bacteria' in Rio's Olympic venues, top beaches

- A dangerous drug resistant super bacteria were found off beach in Rio de Janeiro.
- Rio de Janeiro is hosting Olympic swimming events, where rowing and canoe athletes will compete when the Games start early August.

World Day against Child Labour: 12 June

- 2016 Theme: End child labour in supply chains - It's everyone's business!
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.
- This year, the focus for World Day against Child Labour is on child labour and supply chains.

Sirisena opens stadium in Jaffna renovated by India

- The renovated Duraipappah stadium in Jaffna, inaugurated by Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena with Prime Minister Narendra Modi watching the event from New Delhi through video teleconferencing, forms part of the several projects funded by the Indian government in the Northern Province in recent years.
- Named after Jaffna's ex-Mayor Alfred Thambirajah Duraipappah, the stadium, which was abandoned during the civil war and was in disuse since 1997, was renovated at a cost of Sri Lankan Rs. 146 million in 18 months.

Tom Hanks to get Rome Film Fest honour

- Hollywood star Tom Hanks will receive the lifetime achievement award at the upcoming Rome Film Fest.
- The 59-year-old two-time Academy Award-winning actor will join in a public conversation with the fest's

CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Google says online to drive 25% of organised retail sales in India

- India's digital shoppers will continue to buy products online even without discounts, which are the current trend among e-tailers, according to a report released by Google.
- E-tailing will become a substantial channel for the organised retail sector, contributing 25 per cent of the total organised retail sales by 2020 in the country, according to the report.
- At present e-commerce contributes about 15 per cent of the organised retail and it is expected to reach a gross merchandising value (GMV) of \$60 billion by the end of 2020.
- The report titled 'Digital Retail 2020' released by Google in partnership with A.T. Kearney captures the evolving industry dynamics and key consumer insights that will drive the next phase of e-commerce in India.

TRAI launches mobile app for subscribers to register complaints against pesky calls, SMSes

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched a mobile application for telecom subscribers to register their complaints against pesky calls and SMSes to tighten the noose on telemarketers.
- The DND (do not disturb) services mobile app is an easy alternative for filing pesky calls and SMS complaints.

India's growth to remain 'strong'; to hover around 7.5%: OECD

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD, has said that India is projected to see a growth of around 7.5 per cent in the current fiscal even as the world economic growth is stuck in a low-growth trap.
- OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría

MSP of pulses hiked to boost output

- In a bid to boost the domestic production of pulses during the kharif season, the Centre announced a hike by up to Rs. 425 per quintal in the minimum support price (MSP) for pulses.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), which met here, gave approval to the MSP for kharif crops of the 2016-17 seasons.

Bonus on pulses

- The MSP has been increased of all kharif crops for the coming season.
- Bonus is also giving on pulses and oilseeds.
- With substantial increase in the MSP for pulses the farmers will be motivated to bring more area under pulses.

India, EU aim to break FTA impasse

- To discuss revival of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will discuss with European Union Commissioner for Trade, Cecilia Malmström, on the sidelines of an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris.

Background

- The FTA talks have been deadlocked since 2013 after 16 rounds of negotiations.
- The talks had begun in 2007. During the meeting, the EU is also likely to raise its concern over what it called India's "unilateral termination" of existing Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) with "a significant number of" EU-member countries.

AAI crosses Rs.10,000 cr revenues in 2015-16

- The growth in passenger traffic has pushed the Airport Authority of India (AAI)'s revenues past a record Rs. 10,000-crore mark in 2015-16, helping it clock a robust 30 per cent growth in its net profit.
- For the first time, AAI's revenue has crossed Rs. 10,000-crore mark.

India Post's payments bank gets Cabinet nod

- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of India Post's payments bank at a total project cost of Rs. 800 crore.
- The India Post Payment Bank (IPPB), which will generate employment opportunities for about 3,500 skilled banking professionals, will set up 650 branches and 5,000 ATMs across the country.

- A Payments Bank can hold a maximum balance of Rs. 1 lakh per customer; can issue ATM/debit cards but not credit cards; offer payments and remittance services; deal in simple financial products like mutual fund units and insurance products.

Rs. 19,762-cr. package to decongest Delhi

- The Ministry of Urban Development announced a package of Rs. 19,762 crore for decongestion of the national capital and recommended a set of stringent measures, including the introduction of a Congestion Tax.

ICICI Bank to go paperless in green drive

- ICICI Bank plans to go paperless by putting a host of services on a digital platform as part of its environmental sustainability drive.

India ranks second on GRD index on ease of doing business: study

- India has jumped 13 positions from last year to rank second among 30 developing countries this year on ease of doing business, according to a study topped by China.
- According to 2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI), which ranks top 30 developing countries for retail investment worldwide, a pick-up in GDP growth and better clarity regarding FDI regulations have helped India achieve a second ranking.

India, US ink MoU to facilitate hassle-free entry of Indians into US

- India and the USA have signed a MoU, providing for expedited security clearances, and aimed at facilitating hassle-free entry of Indians into the US, at selected airports.

India, ADB sign \$120 mn loan pact for irrigation in Odisha

- India has signed loan agreement of USD 12 crore with the Asian Development Bank in New Delhi to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in Odisha.

'India incurs \$21.3 bn loss due to road traffic delays'

- As per the latest study, India suffers a huge loss of \$21.3 billion annually on account of delays and additional fuel consumption due to poor road conditions and frequent halts.
- According to the estimates, the cost of delay was \$6.6 billion per year and the cost of additional fuel consumption due to delay was \$14.7 billion per year.
- The report, which was released by Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, is based on joint survey of road freight transportation along 28 key routes in the country.
- The share of waterways and airways in carrying domestic freight was almost insignificant.
- Railways, on the other hand, suffered from inefficiency, poor service, loading delays and the unavailability of rakes.

SBI merger with associates to boost market share: Bhattacharya

- State Bank of India's merger with its five subsidiaries will strengthen and boost its market share exponentially.
- SBI will be three times bigger than its nearest competitor once the merger takes place. The move will also bring down several costs.

World Bank slashes global growth forecast to 2.4 per cent

- The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim has slashed its 2016 growth forecast by 0.5 per cent to 2.4 per cent.

BEL plans 150 MW solar plant

- Defence manufacturer Bharat Electronics Ltd is initiating a Rs. 600-crore, 150-MW solar power plant with other defence public sector units for joint consumption, BEL's Chairman & Managing Director S.K.Sharma.

India becomes third largest oil consumer

- According to BP Statistical Review of World Energy, India has surpassed Japan to become the world's third-largest oil consumer, with its oil demand galloping 8.1 per cent in 2015.
- With demand of 4.1 million barrels a day, India is the third-largest consumer behind the U.S. (19.39 million bpd) and China (11.96 million bpd).
- India accounted for 4.5 per cent of world oil consumption in 2015.

India denies Google's street view of its cities

- India has said no to Google's plan to put Indian cities and rivers in its application Google Street.
- The application of the internet service giant was rejected by the security agencies and defence forces.
- The Google Street, if permitted, would have covered most of the Indian Territory.

20 central government services integrated on e-biz portal: DIPP

- A move aimed at improving ease of doing business, 20 central government services including industrial license and employer registration have been integrated with the e-Biz platform.
- The e-biz project has started with an objective of providing government services through a single-window portal.

Mormugao Port posts highest growth in 2015-16

- As per the Shipping Ministry, Mormugao Port Trust, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust have been labelled as best performers for 2015-16 for achieving the Results Framework Document targets for 2015-16.
- Kandla Port Trust bagged the Special Award for achieving 100 million tonnes traffic in 2015-16.

SEBI issues stricter KYC, disclosure norms for P-Notes

- Markets regulator SEBI has put a stricter KYC norms and disclosure regime for Participatory Notes.
- The aim is to make it tougher to use these offshore instruments without disclosing the money-trail and details of their users.
- Under the new norms, all the users of P-Notes would have to follow Indian KYC and Anti Money Laundering Regulations, irrespective of their jurisdictions.
- The P-Note issuers will be required to file suspicious transaction reports with the Indian Financial Intelligence Unit.

NRIs can now apply online for National Pension Scheme

- The Centre announced that non-resident Indians (NRIs) can now open National Pension Scheme (NPS) accounts online.
- All that is required is an Aadhaar or PAN card.

Siemens, Gamesa to form biggest wind power firm

- Siemens of Germany and Gamesa of Spain have decided to come together to form the world's biggest wind power company.
- Under the agreement, initialed, the wind power business of Siemens, including wind services, will be merged with Gamesa.
- Siemens will receive newly-issued shares of the combined company and will hold 59 per cent of the share capital. The existing shareholders of Gamesa will hold 41 per cent.

AIIB approves first loans for projects in four countries

- Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Tajikistan will get the first set of loans totalling US 509 million from China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in which India is a founding member.
- The Beijing-based AIIB will disburse US 509 million to finance four projects in the four countries.
- The four projects were approved in Board of Directors meeting held here.

ADB nod for \$500 mn loan for bridge over Ganges

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$500 million loan to build a bridge across the Ganges River in Bihar. "The 9.8 km road bridge in Bihar will be India's longest river bridge and will provide a vital transport link between the northern and southern parts of the state and neighbouring Nepal."
- The new bridge will make it easier for people to move between jobs and markets, particularly for poorer communities in the north wishing to travel to the state capital Patna, to the south of the river.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana data till April 25: Of 17.58 lakh candidates skilled, 81,978 get placed

- Kaushal Bharat, Kushal Bharat" — it's with this slogan that the government had launched its ambitious Skill India Mission in July last year, but the transformation from Kaushal to Kushal seems to be faltering at the last mile.

Centre notifies amended RBI Act to usher in MPC

- The Centre brought the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) one step closer to reality by notifying the changes made to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act.
- The six-member Committee will comprise three members from RBI, including the Governor, who will be the ex-officio chairperson, a Deputy Governor and one officer of the central bank.
Composition
- The other three members will be appointed by the Centre on the recommendations of a search-cum-selection committee to be headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

- “These three members of MPC will be experts in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy and will be appointed for a period of four years and shall not be eligible for re-appointment,” according to the statement.
- The Committee is to meet four times a year and make public its decisions following each meeting.

Government appoints NS Vishwanathan as new RBI deputy governor

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has cleared the appointment of NS Vishwanathan as the new deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Vishwanathan will succeed HR Khan whose term ends this week.

India ranks low at 105th on human capital index, Finland tops

- India was ranked low at 105th position globally on a worldwide Human Capital Index, which measures countries' ability to nurture, develop and deploy talent for economic growth and was topped by Finland.
- India ranks much below China's 71st position while Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka are also placed higher on the index released by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) in this Chinese city at its Annual Meeting of New Champions also known as 'Summer Davos' summit.
- Giving India 105th rank out of the total 130 countries included in the index, the country has optimised just 57 per cent of its human capital endowment – placing it in the top of the bottom quartile of the Index.
- India was ranked 100th last year out of total 124 countries included in the 2015 index.

Banks bad loans may rise to 8.5 per cent by March 2017: Reserve Bank of India

- Gross bad loans at banks may rise to 8.5 percent of total assets by March 2017 from 7.6 percent in March 2016 if the central bank orders them to conduct a second round of asset quality reviews, a Reserve Bank of India report said.

India jumps 19 places in World Bank's global logistics performance ranking

- India has jumped 19 places in the latest World Bank ranking in the global logistics performance, reflecting the improvement in movement of goods inside the country thus facilitating better trade.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Rare 'Einstein ring' discovered

- An international team of astrophysicists has stumbled upon an unusual astronomical object — an Einstein ring which is a distorted image of a very distant galaxy termed as “the source”.
- The distortion is produced by the bending of the light rays from the source due to a massive galaxy, termed “the lens”, lying between it and the observer.
- The University of La Laguna (ULL) discovered the phenomenon.
- The results were published in the international journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Hague Code of Conduct: India joins ballistic missile proliferation regime

- The HCoC is a voluntary, legally non-binding international confidence building and transparency measure that seeks to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles that are capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction.
- India has joined the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) against Ballistic Missile Proliferation by notifying the HCoC Central Contact in Vienna through diplomatic channels.
- The HCoC is a voluntary, legally non-binding international confidence building and transparency measure that seeks to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles that are capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction.

International Space Station now opens for the world to see

- The European Space Agency has recently uploaded on its YouTube channel, a video of the International Space Station (ISS).
- For space fans dreaming about orbiting the earth in a floating artificial satellite, this is a chance to take a look at the ISS, which was launched into orbit in 1998.

World's first 3D printed plane unveiled

- Airbus' windowless 'Thor' aircraft could pave the way for cheaper and faster flights. It was presented at the Berlin air show.

Arctic regions getting greener due to climate change: NASA

- According to a new NASA study, due to changing climate, Arctic regions of North America are getting greener, with almost a third of the land cover looking more like landscapes found in warmer ecosystems.

China launches 23rd BeiDou navigation satellite

- China launched a satellite to support its global navigation and positioning network.
- It is the 23rd satellite in the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, which is being developed as an alternative to US GPS.

NASA, ISRO join hands to develop data satellite

- NASA and ISRO are working together to develop a synthetic aperture radar satellite to observe and measure ecosystem disturbances, ice-sheet collapses and natural hazards.
- The data gathered from this mission will help build climate resilience and potentially save lives, said U.S. Ambassador to India Richard Rahul Verma.
- The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, is also working with the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to develop high resolution seasonal and long-term climate forecasts to prepare for the monsoons.

First home-grown fighter jet Tejas to be inducted

- India's first home-grown fighter jet will finally be inducted into the IAF this week after a tortuous saga spread over 33 long years.

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

NGT tells Art of Living to pay Rs. 4.75 cr. in a week

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) rejected the Foundation's plea to pay by way of a bank guarantee the Rs. 4.75-cr. environmental compensation slapped on it for hosting the World Culture Festival on the Yamuna floodplains.

Australia's Great Barrier Reef, a third of coral killed due to bleaching

- Mass bleaching has killed more than a third of the coral in the northern and central parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, though corals to the south have escaped with little damage, scientists said

Environment Ministry to create 'urban forests' in 200 cities to increase green cover

- On the World Environment Day, Urban forestry is the new thrust area and Environment Ministry taking up massive tree plantation drive in as many as 200 cities and towns across the country.
- The Environment Ministry has launched the 'Urban Forestry Scheme' in Pune, where 6000 saplings will be planted to create an 'urban jungle' on about 80 acres of land.
- This year's theme of the World Environment Day – "Go Wild for Life".
- The Government began this year's World Environment Day celebrations by launching Asia's first Vulture Re-introduction Programme at Pinjore in Haryana.

Suresh Prabhu launches Tiger Express train on the World Environment Day

- In terms of Budget Announcement 2016-17, Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu flagged off the inaugural run of the Tiger Trail Circuit Train from Delhi Safdarjung Station.
- The train with 5 days/6 nights itinerary will start from Delhi Sudharjung railway station and travel via Katani, Jabalpur, Bandhavgarh, Kanha.
- The semi-luxury train will take the guests onboard to the world famous Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks in Madhya Pradesh.
- In addition the trip will also take tourists to Dhuadhar Waterfall in Bedhaghat near Jabalpur.

Gangetic river dolphin to be city animal of Guwahati

- Assam's Guwahati became the first city in the country to have its own city animal with the district administration declaring the Gangetic river dolphin as the mascot.

Nature Forever Society's 'I love sparrows' enters Limca Book of Records

- Nature Forever Society's (NFS) 'I love sparrows' global campaign, which was aimed at highlighting the common man's love for the house sparrow.
- It entered the Limca Book of Records recently with about one million people from all walks of life, including children, senior citizens, homemakers and corporate executives, participating in the event that was held in connection with the World Sparrow Day on March 20th.

Nilgiri wood pigeon reappears after 27 years

- Nilgiri wood pigeon (*Columba elphinstonii*), an endemic and threatened bird species of the Western Ghats, was sighted at Arippa Ammayambalam Pacha reserve forest area bordering Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts after a gap of 27 years.
- The last sighting was in 1989. The Nilgiri wood pigeon is a forest bird of the higher elevation shola forests of the Western Ghat.

SPORTS

White tiger mascot of 2018 Winter Games

- A cheerful white tiger cub, named 'Soohorang', was unveiled as the official mascot for South Korea's 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

Novak Djokovic wins 2016 French Open title

- World number one Novak Djokovic beat Britain's Andy Murray to win his first French Open title and complete the career Grand Slam.
- The Serb, 29, won his 12th major title and become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all four Grand Slams at once.

World's highest-paid athletes: Cristiano Ronaldo tops Forbes 2016 list

- Real Madrid Cristiano Ronaldo has become the first athlete from a team sport in almost 20 years to top Forbes annual list of the World's Highest Paid Athletes.

Maria Sharapova receives two-year ban for failing drug test

- Maria Sharapova has been banned for two years by the International Tennis Federation for using a prohibited drug.
- The Russian tennis sensation was provisionally banned in March after testing positive for meldonium at Australian Open in January this year.
- The heart disease drug, which 29-year-old Sharapova says, she has been taking since 2006 for health issues, became a banned substance on 1 January 2016.

Saina Nehwal lifts Australian Open Super Series Badminton trophy

- Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal has lifted the Australian Open Super Series Badminton tournament title.
- In the final match played at Sydney, Saina defeated Chinese Sun Yu to claim her first title of year 2016.

Ranchi to host 2017 Asian meet

- The 22nd Asian athletics championship will be held in India after a gap of four years. The Birs Munda Stadium at Ranchi will host the event from July 1 to 4, 2017.

Mohun Bagan wins first pink-ball contest

- Mohun Bagan sailed on pacer Mohammad Shami's fine performance to beat Bhowanipore Club by 296 runs and win the CAB Super League title at the Eden Gardens.
- Mohun Bagan, which is the oldest football club in Asia, thus earned the distinction of winning the first ever pink-ball day-night cricket tournament of the country.

Anil Kumble appointed India's new head coach

- Anil Kumble has been named head coach of the Indian team for the next 12 months.
- He will take charge at the squad's preparatory camp ahead of the upcoming tour of the West Indies next month.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sachin to help Kerala govt. score against liquor, drugs

- Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will be the face of the Kerala government's awareness campaign against the consumption of liquor and drugs.

Obama endorses Indian-American for House

- Raja Krishnamoorthi, an Indian-American Democrat in fray for election to the U.S. House of Representatives, has won a crucial endorsement from President Barack Obama, who said being “the son of immigrants” he understands challenges facing America’s working families.

N K Chari takes over as MD of State Bank of Mysore

- N.K. Chari took over as the Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of Mysore.

Army officer crowned Miss USA

- An Army Reserve officer and IT analyst from the District of Columbia has been crowned Miss USA 2016 after mounting a strong defense of women in combat roles in the military.
- Deshauna Barber, a 26-year-old from the nation’s capital, gave the answer during the interview section of the pageant in Las Vegas.

Dia named ambassador for ‘Swachh Saathi’ programme

- Actor Dia Mirza has been named the ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission’s youth-based ‘Swachh Saathi’ (student internship) programme.

Former Adobe South Asia and India MD Umang Bedi to join Facebook as MD for India region

- Former Adobe South Asia and India MD Umang Bedi is joining Facebook as managing director for India region, taking over from Kirthiga Reddy, who is relocating to the United States to take a new role at Facebook’s Menlo Park Headquarters.

AIR celebrates 80 years of existence

- All India Radio (AIR) celebrated completion of 80 years of its existence.
- On June 8 in 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio.
- To mark the 80th anniversary of the world’s largest radio network, the Social Media team started an online campaign, asking people to share their memories, pictures using #80YearsOfAIR.

Dead Sea drying: A new low-point for Earth

- The Dead Sea, the salty lake located at the lowest point on Earth, is gradually shrinking under the heat of the Middle Eastern sun. For those who live on its shores it’s a slow-motion crisis - but finding extra water to sustain the sea will be a huge challenge.
- If there’s one thing everyone knows about the Dead Sea it is that you can’t sink in it.

Panama Papers awarded Investigation of the Year

- The Panama Papers probe, a collaborative work of more than 100 media organisations including The Indian Express, has won the Data Journalism Awards 2016 for Investigation of the Year. The award was presented at the Global Editors Network (GEN) summit in Vinna.
- The Indian Express is the India partner in the Panama Papers probe, and its editors Ritu Sarin, P Vaidyanathan Iyer and Jay Mazoomdaar were among over 300 journalists from more than 75 countries who worked together on 11.5 million files — the biggest data leak ever — since 2015.
- The Panama Papers investigation was based on 2.6 terabyte of data — primarily on offshore entities set up for clients of Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca — obtained by German daily Süddeutsche Zeitung and shared through the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

Former cricketer and two-time BJP MP Chetan Chauhan is NIFT chief

- Chetan Chauhan, is now the chairman of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

July

NATIONAL

AIR band to compose for Swachh Bharat

- The government has roped in India’s first national orchestra band - All India Radio’s Vaadya Vrind - to prepare a musical composition for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s address ‘Mann Ki Baat’ to be broadcast in Bangladesh

- Mann Ki Baat will be broadcast in Bangladesh on All India Radio’s upcoming Bangla language service channel

Akashvani Maitree, for which AIR has made arrangements to receive comments and voice messages from Bangladeshi citizens.

- The PM's speech is likely to be about Indo-Bangladesh "relationship and friendship".

Indigenous Tejas joins IAF's fighter squadron

- Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas,' designed and built in India, joined the Indian Air Force's squadron called Flying Daggers.
- Tejas has been developed for the IAF and the Navy by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) starting 1985 and produced by the public sector aircraft manufacturer, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, both based in Bengaluru.

Kerala government to ban e-cigarettes

- Kerala government has decided to ban 'electronic cigarette' in view of studies claiming that its use can cause various health issues, including cancer and heart ailments.
- E-cigarettes are handy devices that emit doses of vaporised nicotine.

Centre okays Rs. 250 crore for Ramayan circuit in Ayodhya

- Centre has put Ayodhya on its development agenda by okaying Rs. 250 crore for Ramayan Circuit comprising the temple town.

Cabinet nod to change names of High Courts

- The Cabinet approved a change in the names of the Madras, Bombay and Calcutta High Courts to reflect the changes in the official nomenclature of these cities to Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata, respectively.
- The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 will facilitate the changing of the names of 'Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court' and 'Madras High Court as Chennai High Court' respectively.

Andhra Pradesh launches 'Smart Pulse' survey

- The AP government launched its prestigious 'Smart Pulse' socio-economic survey. This survey is based on latest IT tools and would be the most comprehensive survey ever. Just by a touch of button, we can get all details of the socio-economic status of families and we will ensure that all cash benefits to genuine beneficiaries are directly credited into their bank accounts.

Kudankulam power plant reaches another milestone

- The second reactor of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) attained criticality.
- Once the reactor starts generating 400 MWe of power, possibly within 45 days from the date of criticality, it is likely to be connected to the grid. Generation of power will be raised to 500 MWe, 750 MWe, 900 MWe and 1,000 MWe in stages.

SC quashes Arunachal Governor's order, Tuki takes charge as CM

- A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously quashed Arunachal Pradesh Governor's order to advance the Assembly session. A five-judge Bench, led by Justice J.S. Khehar, directed status quo ante as on December 15, 2015.
- The nine-judge Bench in the historic S.R. Bommai judgment, which condemned the arbitrary use of Article 356 invoking President's rule, none have gone so far as to restore a government ousted by emergency.

Census 2011 records rise in literacy among disabled

- More than half of the total disabled populations in India are now literate, new numbers released from Census 2011 show. The literacy rate among the disabled has increased from 49.3 per cent in 2001 to 54.5 per cent in 2011. However, this is significantly lower than the overall literacy level of India which stands at 74 per cent.

Ancient Nalanda University Declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO

- The ruins of the ancient Nalanda University dating back to the third century BC have been declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO.
- The Nalanda site comprises of the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BC to the 13th century AD.

Madhya Pradesh becomes first state to have 'Happiness Department'

- Madhya Pradesh became the first state in the country to set up 'Happiness Department'. The concept of happiness was already there in Bhutan which has "Happiness Index" to measure happiness of its people.

Amitabh Bachchan will be the face of 'city compost' campaign under Swachh Bharat Mission

- Megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be the face of the "city compost campaign" under Swachh Bharat Mission to encourage citizens to use compost produced from municipal solid waste.

WHO report sounds alarm on 'doctors' in India

- Almost one-third (31 per cent) of those who claimed to be allopathic doctors in 2001 were educated only up to the secondary school level and 57 per cent did not have any medical qualification, a recent WHO report found, ringing the alarm bells on India's healthcare workforce.
- The situation was far worse in rural India, where just 18.8 per cent of allopathic doctors had a medical qualification, the study titled The Health Workforce in India, published in June 2016, revealed.

Khangchendzonga National Park

- Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP) in Sikkim has been named a world heritage site by the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO.
- The KNP is the first 'mixed' heritage site from India to make it to the list. A 'mixed site' exhibits qualities of both natural and cultural significance. The KNP became India's first mixed World Heritage Site.
- India now has 35 sites, including 27 cultural properties, seven natural sites and one mixed site, notified as World Heritage Sites.

Country's First E-Court Opened At Hyderabad High Court

- India's first e-court was opened at High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad, which is the common high court for the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Life term means imprisonment till death, says Constitution Bench

- A Constitution bench of the Supreme Court, pronounced its verdict rejecting multiple life terms for a convict guilty of heinous crimes, on a reference from a three-judge Bench of the apex court.
- "Logic behind life sentences not running consecutively lies in the fact that imprisonment for life implies imprisonment till the end of the normal life of the convict," Chief Justice.

Rohit Khandelwal is Mr World 2016

- For the first time ever, an Indian has won the coveted title of Mr World. Rohit Khandelwal of Hyderabad has won the prestigious title of Mr World 2016.

Petrapole Integrated Check Post

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the Petrapole Integrated Check Post (ICP) through video-conferencing. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee also participated from Kolkata in the video-conference.

SC allows rape victim to abort 24-week foetus

- The Supreme Court allowed a rape victim based in Mumbai to abort her 24-week-old abnormal foetus after the Centre clarified that a 20-week cap on termination of pregnancy is not applicable if the woman's life is found to be in grave danger. "If the mother is in danger, there is no time limit for conducting an abortion. If you have to save life, you need to cross the limit of 20 weeks," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

Lok Sabha passes bill providing for opening of 6 new IITs

- THE Lok Sabha unanimously passed amendments to the Institutes of Technology Act to establish six new IITs, with MPs cutting across party lines urging the government to focus on quality and inclusive education in the premier institutes.

- The new IITs which the Bill promises are IIT Tirupati, IIT Palakkad, IIT Goa, IIT Dharwar, IIT Bhilai and IIT Jammu. It also aims to declare ISM Dhanbad as an institute of national importance, and to integrate it with the IIT system.

Don't send children to school in Islamabad: MEA to envoys

- MEA has classified the Indian mission in Islamabad as a "non-school-going mission". This means that diplomatic staff can no longer make their school going children stay with them. However, their spouses are allowed to stay in Islamabad.

Blow to India as arbitration tribunal rules against Antrix

- A Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) tribunal in The Hague has ruled against Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of India's space organisation, ISRO, in the ongoing case with Devas Corporation over sharing of spectrum on satellites. Following the ruling, India may have to fork out \$ 1 billion as compensation to Devas.

India's parliament passes controversial child labor bill

- India's parliament approved a controversial law that would allow children to work for family businesses, despite widespread concern by the United Nations and other rights advocates that it will push more children into labor.
- Now children will be allowed to work in family businesses, outside of school hours and during holidays, and in entertainment and sports if it does not affect their education.
- A 2015 report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) put the number of child workers in India ages 5 to 17 at 5.7 million, out of 168 million globally.
- The new legislation extends a ban on child labor under 14 to all sectors. Previously, only 18 hazardous occupations and 65 processes such as mining, gem cutting and cement manufacturing were outlawed.
- The government says the exemptions aim to strike a balance between education and India's economic reality, in which parents rely on children to help with farming or artisanal work to fight poverty or pass on a family trade.

Irom Sharmila to end fast, contest Manipur elections

- Sixteen years after starting her hunger strike demanding the repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, Irom Chanu Sharmila has decided to end her fast on August 9 and contest the Manipur Assembly elections as an Independent candidate.

Eminent writer, social activist Mahasweta Devi passes away

- Mahasweta Devi, a colossal figure in Bengali literature and a respected social activist who lent her voice to the poor, passed away at a private hospital. The litterateur, who was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi, Jnanpith and the Magsaysay awards, was 90.

Give development vision for 15 years, PM tells NITI Aayog

- The Prime Minister asked the Aayog to create a vision document and road map for India's development for the next 15 years.
- PM also stressed on the need to develop India's tourism potential. Partnerships with States for promoting development and boosting exports were need of the hour, he said.

An-32

- The An-32, with 29 personnel, went missing over the Bay of Bengal, when flying from Chennai to Port Blair.

INTERNATIONAL

European Union extends Russia's sanctions to Jan 2017

- The European Union formally extended damaging economic sanctions against Russia by six months due to a lack of progress in resolving the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Record EU migration to Germany

- Immigration to Germany from other European Union countries hit a new record of over 6, 85,000 people last year, led by Romanians, Poles and Bulgarians.
- Germany's economic success and relatively low unemployment has drawn people from the EU's poorer members in search of work. Romanians topped the list of new arrivals with nearly 1, 75,000, followed by Poles with almost 1, 50,000 and Bulgarians with just over 70,000.

4-nation Africa tour: PM Narendra Modi arrives in Mozambique

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Mozambique as part of his four-nation Africa tour aimed at enhancing ties with that continent, particularly in the economic sphere and people-to-people contacts.
- Modi begins his five-day tour with Mozambique and will then travel to South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya.

Tribunal rejects Beijing's claims on South China Sea

- A tribunal ruled that China has no legal basis for its vast claims in the South China Sea and had aggravated the seething regional dispute with its extensive construction of artificial islands that destroyed coral reefs and infringed on the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.
- The Philippines, under a U.N. treaty governing the seas, asked in 2013 for arbitration. The five-member panel from the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Netherlands, unanimously concluded that China had violated its obligations to refrain from aggravating the dispute while the settlement process was under way.

Evidence of war crimes in Ukraine: UN

- The United Nations said Ukraine's forces had indiscriminately shelled residents while pro-Russian insurgents and Kiev battalions had summarily killed civilians in what may have constituted "war crimes".
- The UN report estimated that about 2,000 civilians have died in one of Europe's bloodiest conflicts since the 1990s Balkans wars.

Over 250 die in failed Turkey coup

- Turkey's government rounded up thousands of military personnel, who were said to have taken part in an attempted coup, moving swiftly to re-establish control after a night of chaos that left hundreds dead.
- Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, declared a three-month state of emergency that gave the state extra powers to pass laws as the authorities pursue individuals suspected of attempting to topple his government.

1,23,000 Venezuelans cross Colombia border for food

- More than 1,00,000 Venezuelans, some of whom drove through the night in caravans, crossed into Colombia over the weekend to hunt for food and medicine that are in short supply at home. It was the second weekend in a row that Venezuela's government opened the long-closed border with Colombia, and, by 6 a.m., a line of would-be shoppers snaked through the entire town of San Antonio del Tachira.
- But shortages have continued to mount in Venezuela amid triple-digit inflation, currency controls that have restricted imports and investment and the world oil price slump that has caused a collapse in the oil revenues.

China, Pak. conduct joint patrol along PoK border

- Chinese and Pakistan border troops have for the first time launched joint patrolling of the border connecting Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) with Xinjiang Province amid reports that over 100 Uighurs have fled the restive region to join the Islamic State (IS).

Armenia to have the world's largest Yazidi temple

- A huge Yazidi temple is under construction in a small Armenian village, intended as a symbol of resilience for a persecuted religious tradition. Democrats make Hillary Clinton historic nominee
- Madam President," chanted supporters, as Hillary Clinton sealed the Democratic Party nomination for the President of the U.S. The 68-year-old former First Lady and former Secretary of State will be the first woman to run for the most powerful office in the world on the ticket of either of the two major parties in the country.

South Africa to host BRICS office

- South Africa is set to reinforce its position as a regional economic hub as it prepares to open a regional office that would channel funding drawn from the New Development Bank (NDB) of the Brazil-Russia-China-India-South Africa (BRICS) grouping. The Africa Regional Office (ARO) is expected to open in Johannesburg.

CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

IRDA issues first Indian private sector reinsurance licence

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) has given its first phase of licence to ITI Reinsurance, thus clearing the first ever Indian private sector reinsurance company in the country.
- State-owned 'GIC Re' has been the country's sole reinsurance company so far. Four global players Munich Re, Hannover from Germany, Swiss Re from Switzerland and French major SCOR have also received R1 licences and they are awaiting final clearance from the regulator. Lloyd's of London has also got the initial clearance from the IRDA.

World Bank funding for India's solar projects

- The World Bank Group president signed an agreement to be the financial partner for the International Solar Alliance

that aims to collaborate on increasing solar energy use around the world, with the goal of mobilising \$1 trillion in investments by 2030.

- The Alliance, consisting of 121 countries, is led by India.

Google reveals Android N's name

- Google has finally revealed the name of its next Android version 'Android N' is Nougat.
- The latest version Android Nougat is based after a popular dessert which originated in Europe.

State Bank of India launches new digital offerings

- The country's largest lender State Bank of India launched 3 new digital offerings on the occasion of 61st State Bank Day.
- SBI has partnered with Flipkart to offer its consumers the facility of pre-approved EMI Facility on purchases. Under this partnership SBI will provide overdraft facility to pre-qualified set of customers for transacting on Flipkart for a minimum purchase of Rs. 5000.
- The EMI facility will be available in 3 tenures - 6, 9 and 12 months. The bank will not charge any fees to process the facility.

Equitas gets final nod to start small finance bank

- Equitas Holdings Ltd said it has received final licence from Reserve Bank to launch a Small Finance Bank (SFB) and will commence operations in few months with a network of around 400 branches.
- Equitas to be a first Private Bank from Tamil Nadu and the city of Chennai

SBI to offer banking services on Facebook, Twitter

- State Bank of India (SBI) launched 'SBI Mingle', allowing its customers access various banking services via these social platforms.
- "Using SBI Mingle, the bank's customers can do a host of banking services on their Facebook or Twitter accounts at their own convenience," the bank said in a press release.
- The new initiative was launched by SBI Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya.

Banks will not exchange pre-2005 notes, only 20 RBI offices will swap them

- Banks will no longer exchange notes introduced prior to 2005. If anyone has such notes he would need to approach one of the 20 offices of the Reserve Bank of India directly to get such notes exchanged.
- However, there's a way out: If one has such notes, the person can deposit those notes in his bank account and the bank will send those notes to RBI.

India keeps lead over China in pharma exports

- India's pharmaceutical exports have maintained their lead over China's in 2015, according to a commerce ministry statement.
- While India's pharma exports grew year-on-year by 7.55 per cent to \$12.54 billion in 2015 from \$11.66 billion in the year-earlier period, China recorded only a 5.3 per cent growth in the same period to \$6.94 billion from \$6.59 billion.
- India overtook China in important markets such as the U.S., EU and Africa, according to the ministry. India's pharmaceutical exports to the U.S. rose from \$3.84 billion in 2014 to \$4.74 billion (23.4 per cent growth) in 2015 as against China's marginal rise from \$1.16 billion to \$1.34 billion (15 per cent growth) in the same period.

Banks need \$90 bn to meet Basel-III norms

- Domestic banks will need a whopping \$90 billion capital to meet the Basel-III norms which will be fully implemented by the March 2019, according to rating agency Fitch.
- Out of the total capital requirement, more than 50 per cent has to be met via core equity and the rest largely via Additional Tier-1 (AT1) debt capital instruments.
- Public sector banks have seen sharp rise in bad loans in the second half of 2015-16 and many of them reported heavy losses.

Nasscom unveils first CoE-IoT-focused centre

- National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) unveiled India's first centre of excellence focused on Internet of Things (CoE- IoT).
- The CoE is a joint initiative between the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY), education and research network (ERNET) and the IT industry body.

TCS non-executive director Vandrevala steps down

- Country's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) said its Non-Executive Director Phiroz Vandrevala resigned from the company. "Phiroz Vandrevala has relinquished office of Non-Executive Director of the company, due to personal reasons, with effect from July 8, 2016," TCS said in a filing to BSE. He had been a director on the TCS board since September 2007.

Govt. to announce recapitalisation of public sector banks

- As early as Centre is likely to announce the first tranche of the Rs. 25,000 crore capital infusion for public sector banks (PSBs), planned for this financial year (2016-17). The first tranches could add up to about Rs.10, 000 crore.
- The recapitalisation is aimed at shoring up the PSBs lending capacities that are restricted by poor asset quality and weak capitalisation.
- Gross bad loans, as a proportion of the total advances by these banks, rose to 7.6 per cent, a 12-year high in March 2016, according to the Reserve Bank of India's latest financial stability report released on June 28.
- PSBs account for about 70 per cent of the total banking system assets.

Sun Pharma rolls out anti-cancer 'bag' in Europe

- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. has announced the roll-out of Gemcitabine InfuSMART, the world's first licensed, ready- to-administer bag for oncology treatment in Europe.
- This is part of the company's plans to build a presence in the global oncology therapy market. Sun Pharma is the world's fifth largest specialty generic pharmaceutical company and India's largest. The company said Gemcitabine InfuSMART has been developed by its R&D team in India.
- "InfuSMART is a technology in which oncology products are developed in a Ready-To-Administer (RTA) bag.

IDFC Bank buys micro lender Grama Vidiyal

- IDFC Bank has decided to acquire micro-lender Grama Vidiyal in an all-cash deal as it seeks to expand its customer base and gain access to loan portfolios that enjoy priority sector status.

Cabinet nod for 15 % stake sale in NBCC

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the disinvestment of 15 per cent paid up equity of National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC) out of its 90 per cent shareholding.

Taj Group sells Boston hotel for \$125 mn

- Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (IHCL) which owns and operates the Taj Group of hotels has announced the sale of its Taj Boston Hotel to AS Holdings LLC, Boston for an aggregate consideration of \$125 million.

Tata is most valuable brand despite 11% decline in value

- Tata remained India's most valuable brand in 2015-16 with a brand valuation of \$13.7 billion despite 11 per cent value erosion during the year due to troubles concerning its steel business in the U.K, according to Brand Finance India.
- The top 10 brands of 2015-16 include Tata, LIC (\$6.6 billion), Airtel (\$5.7 billion), SBI (\$5.7 billion), Infosys (\$4.7 billion), Reliance (\$3.5 billion), ONGC (\$3.4 billion), L&T (\$3.3 billion), Indian Oil (\$3.2 billion) and HCL (\$3.2 billion).

Spice Jet tops aviation list

- spice Jet has topped the list among domestic private airlines in a study titled 'India's Most Reputed Aviation Brands 2016', followed by Jet Airways with a 34 per cent lower Brand Reputation Score. The study was conducted by media analytics firm BlueBytes in association with TRA Research.
- IndiGo has trailed Jet Airways with a Brand Reputation Score 9 per cent lower. Air India is the only contender and winner in the category of Government Airline Reputation.

Union Cabinet Okays Setting Up Of AIIMS in UP's Gorakhpur

- The government gave its nod to the establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, a move which aims at providing super-specialty health care to people of the state and creating a large pool of doctors.
- The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of AIIMS under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,011 crore.
- Under this scheme, similar health facilities have been established in Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Raipur, Jodhpur, Rishikesh and Patna while work on AIIMS, Rae Bareilly is in progress.
- Three new AIIMS at Nagpur (Maharashtra), Kalyani (West Bengal) and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh) have been sanctioned last year.

7 Indian companies on Fortune's list

- Seven Indian companies have made it to the latest Fortune 500 list of the world's biggest corporations in terms of revenue, with the retail giant Walmart topping the global rankings.
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is ranked highest at 161st among Indian firms, while another state-run firm Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has moved out of the rankings for 2016. Private gems and jewellery major Rajesh Exports has made its debut at 423rd position.
- Among the seven Indian companies, four are from the public sector while Reliance Industries (RIL) is the top-ranked among private sector firms, followed by Tata Motors and Rajesh Exports.

Govt appoints Ajay Bhushan Pandey UIDAI CEO

- Government promoted DG and Mission Director of Unique Identification Authority of India Ajay Bhushan Pandey its chief executive officer. He has been involved with UIDAI established under the Aadhaar Act and implementation of Aadhaar since September 2010.

Verizon is winner in Yahoo sale with \$4.8B bid

- Verizon is making a major bet that it can put together two fading giants — Yahoo and AOL — to create a new mobile and online powerhouse.
- The telecommunications giant announced that it will spend \$4.8 billion to acquire Yahoo's operating business, which includes advertising technology and popular online content such as Yahoo Sports, Yahoo Finance and micro-blogging site Tumblr. Also included in the deal: the Yahoo brand and real estate attached to the core business including Yahoo's headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif.

Essar Ports to expand Hazira terminal capacity

- Essar Ports has announced plans to expand the capacity of its bulk terminal at Hazira, Gujarat, with an investment of Rs.750 crore.
- The berth at this terminal is being expanded by a further 1,100 metres to accommodate the steady growth in cargo throughput at the port, the company said. With the expansion, the capacity of the Hazira terminal will increase from the existing 30 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 50 MTPA.

Indo-U.S. expedition discovers natural gas in Indian Ocean

- A large natural gas discovery has been made in the Indian Ocean following a joint expedition by India and the U.S., opening up a new resource to meet energy needs.
- India's Oil Ministry and the U.S. Geological Survey made the discovery of large, highly enriched accumulations of natural gas hydrate — an icy form of the fuel — in the Bay of Bengal.
- Natural gas hydrates are a naturally occurring, ice-like combination of natural gas and water found in oceans and Polar Regions. The amount of gas within the world's gas hydrate accumulations is estimated to greatly exceed the volume of all known conventional gas resources. India had in September 2014 agreed to collaborate to explore gas hydrates potential in the country and identify sites for pilot production testing.

Myntra buys Jabong for \$70 mn

- India's biggest online retailer Flipkart is buying a smaller rival Jabong for \$70 million (Rs.470 crore) in cash, according to Jabong's parent company Global Fashion Group (GFG).
- GFG which is backed by Germany's highest-profile startup investor Rocket Internet SE and Sweden-based investment AB Kinnevik. Flipkart's unit Myntra, an online fashion retailer which is buying Jabong said it aims to create India's biggest online fashion retailing business.

Pay Re. 1, get insurance cover for train travel

- Train passengers booking their tickets online through the IRCTC website will be able to opt for travel insurance cover from September for a premium of just one rupee.
- The scheme is being implemented by IRCTC in partnership with ICICI Lombard General Insurance, Royal Sundaram and Shriram General. A total of 19 companies participated in the bidding process out of which these three were selected, he said.

'RERA to redefine the future of realty sector'

- The Real Estate Regulation Act (RERA) passed by Central Government recently, will bring in the much-needed transparency in the real estate sector and this will ultimately lead to flow of funds from foreign and domestic investors, according to experts at the CII Realty and Infrastructure Conclave

NDDDB chief resigns

- T. Nanda Kumar, Chairman of Gujarat-based National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB), has resigned. Short route to Green Card

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Juno sends first image while orbiting Jupiter

- JunoCam, the electronic photographer affixed to the NASA spacecraft that locked into orbit around Jupiter has now met the bar set in the Instagram age. The images transmitted back to Earth after Juno began orbiting Jupiter confirm the beginning of the space probe's 20-month mission around the solar system's largest planet.

SPORTS

Delhi will host the ISSF World Cup finals in 2017.

- The International Shooting Sport Federation Executive Committee, which met in Moscow, made the decision to award the 2017 edition of the ISSF World Cup finals (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun combined) to the Indian capital.

Reliance Jio is principal partner of Rio contingent

- Reliance Jio, the digital platform of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), has announced its partnership with India's Olympic contingent as its principal partner. Reliance Jio is honoured to be part of India's largest ever contingent for the Olympic Games 2016.

Ashwin makes a big leap with his feat

- R. Ashwin's seven for 83, a fabulous fourth-innings effort in the first Test of the ongoing four-Test series against West Indies at Antigua's North Sound, made him only the second Indian bowler to claim seven wickets in an innings in the Caribbean Islands.
- The first Indian bowler was the famous leg-spinner Subhash Gupte who took seven for 162 in India's first

August

NATIONAL

Kudankulam plant safest in the world

- The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) is the first in the world to have post-Fukushima safety enhancement requirements implemented and operated successfully, said a Russian nuclear industry official.
- As part of India-Russia nuclear cooperation, the Rosatom state nuclear corporation is scheduled to construct six units of VVER-1000 light-water reactors at Kudankulam. In December 2014, both sides announced a decision for the construction of at least 12 more units in India. On India's request, additional safety measures are being enforced in Units 3 and 4 to withstand even higher seismic, climatic and technical impact. The reactor is protected from the impact of any earthquake, tsunami, tornado and hurricane.

Prabhu lays foundation stone of rail project in Nagaland

- Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu laid the foundation stone of the Dhansiri (Dimapur)-Zubza broad gauge line at the Dimapur railway station. The present project would be completed in 2019.

Sawai Madhopur's artistic railway station bags national tourism award

- The Sawai Madhopur railway station in eastern Rajasthan, gateway to the renowned Ranthambore National Park, has won the National Tourism Award 2014-15 for the 'best tourist-friendly railway station'.
- India's first heritage railway station, boasts of world-class facilities in drinking water, retiring rooms and bio-toilets, and passenger-friendly platforms.

Anandiben Mafatlal Patel becomes the first CM to announce her resignation on social media

- Anandiben Mafatlal Patel became the first CM to announce her resignation on social media. In a video released on Facebook and Twitter, she expressed her desire to step down to give way for the new generation to work “in keeping with the imitable tradition of the party”.

The SAARC Home Ministers’ conference 2016 held in Islamabad

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh visit Pakistan to attend the SAARC Home Ministers’ conference as scheduled.

West Bengal to be renamed

- The West Bengal government passed a proposal to rename the State as just Bengal.
- It was during Partition in 1947 that the British province of Bengal was split into West Bengal, which stayed with India, and East Bengal, which went to the newly-created Pakistan. While East Bengal went on to become Bangladesh in 1971, its Indian counterpart continued to be called West Bengal.
- In Bengali, the name of the State will be Bangla or Banga. In English, it will be Bengal.

Himachal Pradesh to start battery-operated electric buses

- Himachal Pradesh is set to start plying battery-operated electric buses on the Manali-Rohtang route.

BSF to replace PT drills with yoga

- Border Security Force (BSF), the country’s largest border guarding force, has decided to replace the routine physical training drills for its jawans and officers with yoga.

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to split assets in 52:48 ratio

- Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have finally agreed to amicably divide assets and institutions in the 58:42 ratios on the basis of population.

Aadhaar-based e-signature launched

- Online legal documentation startup, LegalDesk.com, has announced the launch of its electronic signing feature ‘eSignDesk’ that allows people to sign documents from remote places.
- Built on the Aadhaar platform, eSign is an initiative of the Government of India and meant to save money and time for citizens. It was launched by Nandan Nilekani, former Chairman of UIDAI. South India’s first Doppler weather radar inaugurated

PM Narendra Modi to launch PMO app at MyGov anniversary event

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the new PMO app at a function organised by MyGov.
- MyGov has 3.52 million registered members, 1,82,000 submissions in 491 tasks and 3.40 million comments in 590 discussion themes.

ScatSat- 1 to help in predicting cyclones

- India acquire the capability for more accurate prediction and tracking of cyclones, with the launch of the ScatSat-1 satellite. The indigenously developed weather forecasting satellite is equipped with on board instruments to monitor sea surface winds and help predict the genesis of cyclones.
- It was launched by the PSLV- C35, the satellite is expected to replace Oceansat-2 which is out of service after completing its life span.

Gujarat BJP president Vijay Rupani becomes new CM of Gujarat

- Gujarat BJP president Vijay Rupani being declared as the new Chief Minister of the state. The new government will take oath of office at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar.

\$1.5 billion loan from World Bank to be given to states depending on performance in building toilets

- The \$1.5 billion (Rs 10,000 crore) loan from the World Bank for the Centre’s Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) project will be given as an incentive to states, depending on their performance in building toilets and making their villages free of open defecation.
- The Centre told all states that an annual survey will be conducted to gauge their performance and implement the ‘performance-based incentive grant scheme’ for disbursing the World Bank funds over the next five years.
- Prime Minister’s Office had rebooted the scheme in June after finding that major opposition-ruled states Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Tamil Nadu had fallen way behind target, while BJP-ruled Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Haryana had galloped ahead. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had set a deadline of October 2, 2019 for making all villages open defecationfree, but only 11% of the target has been achieved so far.

Venkaiah launches Swachhata app to help improve hygiene

- The mobile app called Swachhata would enable people to share “photos of unhygienic places in urban areas; they will be informed of action taken by the respective urban local bodies in a specific time period”.

Ponzi schemes not under our purview: SEBI

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) denied any regulatory purview over ponzi schemes, squarely placing the responsibility of protecting investors on State governments.
- It is banned under the Prize Chit and Money Circulation (Banning) Act, 1978 and the State government concerned is the enforcement agency.
- Though it is a Central Act, the respective State governments are the enforcement agency of this law.

Home Ministry issues notice to Zakir Naik's foundation

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued an inspection notice to Islamic preacher Zakir Naik's Islamic Research Foundation (IRF) for alleged Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) violations.

Former Arunachal CM Kalikho Pul found hanging

- Former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Kalikho Pul allegedly committed suicide, less than a month after the Supreme Court unseated him and reinstated his rival Nabam Tuki.

M.S. Subbulakshmi to be honoured by A.R. Rahman at UN on Independence Day

- Legendary carnatic vocalist M. S. Subbulakshmi was honoured at the United Nations on India's 70th Independence Day by a performance by Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman at the world body's iconic General Assembly. Rahman was paid homage to Subbulakshmi, the first musician ever to be awarded India's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna.

Paid maternity leave increased to 6 months

- The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act of 1961 to increase paid leave for expectant mothers from three months to six and a half months.
- In a first, women adopting a newborn and those having babies through surrogacy will also be entitled for maternity leave for three months. The government says these amendments, which are applicable to factories with at least 10 workers, will help around 18 lakh women workers in the organised sector.
- The proposed amendment also “facilitates work from home” and “mandatory provision for crèche” for factories with at least 50 workers.

LS pass Factories Amendment Bill to increase overtime hours for workers

- The Lok Sabha passed the Factories Amendment Bill to increase the overtime limit of factory workers from 50 hours to 100 hours in a quarter.

Azim Premji, Shiv Nadar in 'Forbes' list of 100 richest tech tycoons

- Wipro Chairman Azim Premji and HCL co-founder Shiv Nadar are the only two billionaires from India in Forbes' list of the world's 100 richest people in technology, ranking in the top 20 ahead of Google boss Eric Schmidt and Uber CEO Travis Kalanick.
- The '100 Richest Tech Billionaires in the World 2016' list has been topped by Microsoft founder Bill Gates with an estimated fortune of \$78 billion.
- Mr. Premji ranks 13th on the list with a networth of \$16 billion and Mr. Nadar come in on the 17th spot with \$11.6 billion of net worth. Citizens honoured for fighting for clean environment

Cultural ministry shows Chinese jet with Indian flag in I-day video

- In an embarrassment to the government, the Ministry of Culture in its Independence Day celebration video has shown a Chinese built JF-17 fighter jet flying with an Indian flag.
- The JF-17 Thunder multi-role fighter has been jointly developed by China and Pakistan. Pakistan intends to make it the main stay of its fighter fleet to replace all the legacy fighters in service.

Satyarthi launches campaign for youth against child labour

- Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi announced that he was planning to launch a campaign — 100 million for 100 million — targeting 100 million youth, whose idealism, energy and enthusiasm would help liberate the 100 million children shackled in slavery and poverty across the world.

Tribal groups to resume stir against ILP in Manipur

- The tribal groups in Manipur will launch in protest against the government's move to introduce and pass again an Inner Line Permit (ILP) System Bill in the Assembly.

Honour for Havildar Dada, Nirranjan

- Havildar Hangpan Dada, who died in Kupwara after killing three terrorists, has been awarded Ashok Chakra, while Lt. Col. Nirranjan Ek of the National Security Guard, who died during Pathankot operations, was awarded Shaurya Chakra on the eve of Independence Day by President Pranab Mukherjee.

Bihar Assembly ratifies GST Bill in special session

- Bihar became the second state in India and the first Opposition-ruled state to ratify the Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014 enabling implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), following its passage by both houses of Parliament this month.

Najma Heptullah appointed Manipur Governor

- Former Union Minister Najma Heptullah was appointed Governor of Manipur as President of India announced new gubernatorial appointments for three States and a Union Territory.

Century-old silent film boosts NFAI heritage plan

- The National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has acquired surviving footage of the Indian silent film Bilwamangal (1919) from the Cinematheque Francaise, France. The film produced by the Elphinstone Bioscope in Calcutta later renamed as Madan Theatres Ltd, was directed by Rustomji Dotiwala. NFAI has acquired 594 metres. (28 minutes footage at 18 fps) of this film. The film was originally 12,000 feet long.

Urjit Patel named Rajan's successor

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) announced the appointment of Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Urjit Patel as successor to Governor Raghuram Rajan.
- Dr. Patel will take up the top job for a three-year term on September 4; the day Dr. Rajan's three-year term expires.

Modi's monogrammed suit enters Guinness Book

- The monogrammed suit donned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama in New Delhi last year, which had kicked up a controversy, entered the Guinness World Records as "the most expensive suit sold at auction".
- The Guinness World Records acknowledges the suit as the "most expensive suit (clothing) sold at auction is Rs. 43,131,311 and was bought by Laljibhai Tulsibhai Patel (India) in Surat, Gujarat, India on February 20, 2015."
- The money raised from the auction of the suit has been earmarked for the Centre's clean Ganga mission.

Maharashtra to have own law for internal security

- The newly drafted Maharashtra Protection of Internal Security Act (MPISA) has proposed setting up of Special Security Zones (SSZ) where movement of arms, explosives and inflow of unaccounted funds will be prohibited.
- The government made public the draft MPISA, 2016, defining Critical Infrastructure Sectors (CIS), and bringing nuclear reactors, dams, major projects, coastal areas under its ambit, with an emphasis on maintaining law and order and combating terrorism, insurgency, caste-related violence and communalism.
- Maharashtra is the first State in the country to draft its own internal security act.

Shakti Sinha, new chief of NMML chief

- Shakti Sinha, who was private secretary to Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he was Prime Minister, has been appointed Director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, a source said.

EC to now review national, State status of political parties every 10 years

- The Election Commission amended rules whereby it will now review the national and state party status of political parties every 10 years instead of the present five.
- A Commission notification said while the criteria of being recognised as a national and state party will remain unchanged, the review of the status will take place every two consecutive Lok Sabha or assembly elections instead of one.

Surrogate children only for married couples: Bill

- The Union Cabinet cleared the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016, banning commercial surrogacy in India.
- The Bill also bars foreigners, homosexual couples, people in live-in relationships and single individuals, making only childless, straight Indian couple married for a minimum of five years eligible for surrogacy.
- Eligible couples will have to turn to close relatives, not necessarily related by blood for altruistic surrogacy — where no money exchanges hands between the commissioning couple and the surrogate mother.

Scorpene

- Scorpene is a conventional powered submarine weighing 1,500 tonnes and can go up to depths of 300m. It is built by DCNS of France.
- In October 2005, India had signed a USD 3.75 bn deal for six of submarines to be built by Mazgaon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai with transfer of technology. Additional deals were signed with Thales and MBDA for systems and weapons.

After dismal Rio show, PM forms task force to plan for next three Olympics

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the setting up of a task force which will help to plan for the “effective participation” of Indian sportspersons in the next three Olympics, to be held in 2020, 2024 and 2028. “The task force will prepare an overall strategy for facilities, training, selection procedures and other related matters...,” officials said, quoting Mr. Modi.

Rajasthan transgenders to get separate I-cards

- In an effort to bring transgenders to the mainstream, separate identification cards will be issued to them in Rajasthan to enable them to receive benefits of various schemes in the health and education sectors.

Maharashtra to have only Aarey milk brand

- The Maharashtra government will consolidate the milk brands in the State to ward off competition from neighbouring Gujarat. The government has decided to bring various brands like Chitale, Gokul, Mahananda, Mother Dairy, and Warna under a single brand: Aarey.

India, U.S. to sign logistics agreement

- India and the U.S. are formally signed the long pending Logistics agreement. The text of the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), which allows both sides access to each other's military facilities for refuelling and replenishment, was finalised during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington in June.

5 towns in Maharashtra, Telangana declared open defecation free

- The urban development ministry has certified 10 towns - five each in Maharashtra and Telangana - as Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- A total of 141 towns in 7 states have claimed to have become Open Defecation Free including 100 in Maharashtra. These claims are under verification.

India, Myanmar sign four agreements

- India and Myanmar signed four agreements following bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Myanmar President Htin Kyaw here.
- The first agreement pertains to construction of 69 bridges on the Tamu-Kalewa section of the trilateral highway connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand.
- The second agreement is on upgrading the Kalewa-Yargi section of the trilateral highway.
- The third agreement is on cooperation in the field of renewable energy, while the fourth agreement is on cooperation in the field of traditional medicines
- This is the first presidential visit from Myanmar to India after Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) came to power in March this year.

Centre gives final shape to first Value Capture Financing policy

- Working on the directives of Prime Minister's Office, the Centre has given a final shape to India's first VCF policy, which would help the government recover some value that public infrastructure investments generate for private landowners.
- VCF is based on the principle that the government makes large investments in developing public infrastructure leading to rapid economic development in those areas, including higher land prices. National Value Capture Policy Framework has been framed to tap into this increment through additional taxes and then using finances to fund future infrastructure projects in the same area.

Asli Tarakki, new awareness campaign on Swachh Bharat, to be launched

- “Asli Tarakki” (Real development) would be the name of the new awareness campaign for Swachh Bharat across six cities in the National Capital Region with 450 selected youth ambassadors.

Sindhu brand ambassador for CRPF

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has decided to appoint Olympic silver medallist P. V. Sindhu as its brand ambassador.
- 21-year-old badminton player had agreed to become the force’s brand ambassador.
- CRPF, the largest paramilitary force in the country, has 3 lakh personnel in its fold.

PM Modi inaugurates Rs. 12,000 crore irrigation project in Jamnagar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avataram for Irrigation) project in which nearly 10 dams and reservoirs of Rajkot, Jamnagar and Morbi would be filled up with the water of Narmada River.

INTERNATIONAL

Singapore-India collaboration for better child health services

- To enable doctors and staff nurses in the State-run hospitals to handle high-risk pregnancies, obstetric and neonatal emergencies better, the State Institute of Health and Family Welfare (SIHFW) has collaborated with the Singapore International Foundation (SIF).
- Under the collaboration, a three-year pilot project on ‘Enhancing Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services’ has been taken up in association with Singapore Health Services (SingHealth).

Sole Afghan woman governor in a man’s world

- Afghanistan’s only female governor, Muradi’s ascent to the top post in remote Daikundi province is a remarkable feat in Afghanistan, where stubborn patriarchal traditions are at odds with progressive ideas about a woman’s place in the world.

IMF to release final instalment of \$6.6 bn loan to Pakistan

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced it will release the last instalment of a \$6.6 billion economic bailout package to Pakistan, as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif hailed an end to the country’s reliance on the lender.

Iran hangs n-scientist for ‘revealing secrets’ to U.S.

- “Shahram Amiri was hanged for revealing the country’s “confidential and vital” information to the United States. The New York Times reported in July 2010 “Shahram Amiri described to American intelligence officers details of how a university in Tehran became the covert headquarters for the country’s nuclear efforts.

G20 Hangzhou Summit in 2016

- The G20 Hangzhou Summit in 2016 will be held on 4-5 September with a theme ‘Towards an Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy’.

G20 forum

- The G20 is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies.
- It was founded in 1999 with the aim of studying, reviewing, and promoting high-level discussion of policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.
- It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any one organization.
- The G20 heads of government or heads of state have periodically conferred at summits since their initial meeting in 2008, and the group also hosts separate meetings of finance ministers and central bank governors.
- The members include 19 individual countries—Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States—along with the European Union (EU).
- The EU is represented by the European Commission and by the European Central Bank.
- Collectively, the G20 economies account for around 85% of the gross world product (GWP), 80% of world trade (or, if excluding EU intra-trade, 75%), and two-thirds of the world population.

Aditya Birla Nuvo to merge with Grasim Industries

- Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd (ABNL) will merge with Grasim Industries Ltd in a bid to unlock shareholder value and create a \$9 billion (Rs 59,766 crore) enterprise. With the merger, the Aditya Birla Group decided to hive off its financial services business into a separate entity, which will be listed later.

PM Narendra Modi's 'Neel Kranti' for fishing needs Rs. 17,199 crore, government talks to World Bank

- The Prime Minister's ambitious Neel Kranti (Blue Revolution) plan to triple the country's earning from fish exports would entitle an investment to the tune of a whopping Rs. 17,199 crore as per an Integrated National Fisheries Action Plan, 2020 prepared by the Centre.

RBI makes certification necessary for bank employees involved in specialised jobs

- Bank employees working in specialised areas such as treasury, risk management and accounting will need to be specially trained and go through certification programmes, Reserve Bank of India directed banks. The central bank said that bank staff would have obtained the requisite certification before April 1, 2018 for getting posted in these functional areas.
- RBI also said that employees engaged in marketing should also get approved certification to prevent mis-selling of products and reduce customer complaints.

Hindu Marriage Bill tabled in Pakistan's National Assembly

- After decades of delay and inaction, the much-debated Hindu Marriage Bill 2016 that seeks to give a legal framework to the marriages in minority community, has finally been tabled in Pakistan's National Assembly.
- The bill is expected, to put an end to the practice of abduction of married Hindu women, may curtail forced conversions.

Indo-Canadian Sikh MP becomes Canada's 1st woman House leader

- Indo-Canadian Sikh MP Bardish Chagger has been named as the new Leader of the government in Canada's House of Commons, becoming the first woman to hold the post in the country's history.
- Ms. Chagger, the 36-year-old Waterloo MP and Minister of Small Business and Tourism, was among 19 Indian-origin candidates who won in last year's general election.
- The latest development makes her the first woman in Canadian history to hold the job of guiding government legislation through Parliament and replaces Dominic LeBlanc.

Dubai set to open world's largest indoor theme park

- The world's largest indoor theme park is set to open in Dubai this month to lure back some of the tourists and residents who often flee abroad during the scorching desert summer.

U.S. Postal Service to issue Diwali stamp

- The U.S. Postal Service said it will issue a Diwali postage stamp, meeting one of the long pending demands of Indian-American community here. The Diwali stamp is being issued as a "Forever" stamp. The stamp design, unveiled by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), is a photograph featuring a traditional diya oil lamp lit in a sparkling gold background.

'Silk Road' train to reach Afghanistan on Sept. 9

- The first cargo train from China is set to reach Afghanistan illustrating Beijing's efforts to consolidate ties with Kabul as part of the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative along the ancient Silk Road.
- The train left China's eastern city of Nantong on August 25, to undertake a 15-day journey to Hairatan, a town on Afghanistan's border with Uzbekistan.

China's first driverless subway line to launch in 2017

- China's first driverless subway line in Beijing is expected to start operations by the end of 2017.

CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NSEL settlement scandal is back in spotlight

- The Rs.5, 600 crore settlement scam at the National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL), which came to light in July 2013, is back in the news.

India plans to set up SEZ in Myanmar

- India plans to set up a SEZ in Sittwe in Myanmar where it has already built a port. The proposed SEZ by India will rival Chinese SEZ located 80 km down of strategically-located Sittwe as Delhi plans to make it as an economic hub.

Ashish Vohra to take over as Reliance Life CEO

- Ashish Vohra, chief distribution officer at Max Life, is joining Reliance Life as CEO.

Sun Pharma gets FDA nod for generic diabetes drug

- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has received final nod from the U.S. health regulator for its generic Metformin Hydrochloride extended release tablets used for treatment of diabetes, and plans to launch them in next few weeks in the American market.

Army to get steep-dive BrahMos missile regiment for China front

- The NDA government has given the final go-ahead for the Army to induct and deploy an advanced version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, with "trajectory manoeuvre and steep-dive capabilities" for mountain warfare, in the northeast as a conventional deterrent against China.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, cleared this fourth BrahMos regiment at a cost of over Rs. 4,300 crore. The regiment consists of around 100 missiles, five mobile autonomous launchers on 12x12 heavy-duty trucks and a mobile command post, among other hardware and software.
- The 290-km range BrahMos is a tactical or non-nuclear missile with "nine times more kinetic energy than sub-sonic missiles" for greater destructive potential. Jointly developed with Russia, it has become the preferred precision-strike weapon for the Indian armed forces. SBI to become a single entity by April 2017 with its subsidiaries

BHEL commissions 500 MW Marwa Thermal Power station in Chhattisgarh

- State-run BHEL has commissioned the second 500 MW thermal units at Marwa Thermal Power Station in Chhattisgarh.
- Located in Janjgir-Champa district of Chhattisgarh, Marwa TPS has been set up by Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company (CSPGCL).

Four new major ports to be set up

- Four new major ports are proposed to be set up, including in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- "The government has proposed to set up four new major ports - Enayam in Tamil Nadu, Sagar in West Bengal, Dugarajpatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Vadhawan in Maharashtra."

RBI launches portal to curb illegal money pooling by firms

- To curb illegal and unauthorised pooling of funds by unscrupulous firms, Reserve Bank launched a website, which will help people obtain information about entities allowed to collect deposits.

Anand Sinha to replace Vinod Rai on IDFC Bank board

- Private sector lender IDFC Bank has appointed former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor Anand Sinha on its board as an independent director.

Takehiko Nakao re-elected as Asian Development Bank president

- The board of Asian Development Bank has re-elected Takehiko Nakao as the multilateral funding agency's president for a five-year term beginning November.

Karnataka emerges as investors' favourite

- Gujarat, which was ranked first among all States in 2015 for attracting maximum 'investment intentions' in value terms, has lost its position to Karnataka halfway through this calendar year.
- Gujarat received investment intentions worth only Rs.21,309 crore during January-June 2016, while Karnataka — which topped the list — received over thrice that amount, or Rs.67,757 crore, during the same period, government data showed.

Pawan Munjal reappointed Hero MotoCorp CMD

- Hero MotoCorp has reappointed Pawan Munjal as its Chairman, Managing Director and CEO for a period of five years. The company has also elevated its Head of Operations and Supply Chain Vikram Kasbekar as a Director on the company's board.

MHRD's new project Vishwajeet aims to put IIT in top league of global rankings

- It's called Project Vishwajeet. The name which means Conqueror of the Universe may suggest it is a defence mission, but it isn't that. The project is aimed at catapulting Indian Institutes of Technology to the top league of global academic rankings.
- The game plan is currently being worked on at the Ministry of Human Resources Development. VISHWAJEET will aim to pick the IITs with greatest potential to climb up the global pecking order and then ensure close focus on them, backed with funding, so that they excel on all parameters.

Yes Bank rolls out adoption leave under 'Yes We Care' initiative

- Private sector lender Yes Bank has rolled out adoption benefits for its workforce, in an effort to align organisational objectives with the needs of employees. Under the new policy, called "Bringing A Beautiful Yes" and rolled out under the 'Yes We Care' initiative, leave will now be allowed for employees adopting a child.
- Women employees adopting a child can take two months of paid leave for adopting a child of 6 years of age or below, and one month of paid leave for adopting a child over the age of six years (upto 14 years).

TCS ranks among top 100 US brands: Survey

- Indian IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been ranked among the top 100 brands in the US in a survey by a leading brand valuation firm.

First Solar's 130 MW solar powers to light 227,500 homes

- 'First Solar in India' has connected 130 mw solar power utility to the national grid.
- The company announced commercial operations of two of its units at Andhra Pradesh (80 megawatt) and Telangana (50 megawatt). These projects are part of the 260MW project portfolio wholly owned by First Solar in India.

NITI Aayog signs statement of principle with US and UK to set up India's first energy data agency

- As a step towards setting up India's first energy data agency, government's premier think-tank NITI Aayog signed statement of principle with US and UK to host all the data related to energy sector in the country including oil and gas, coal, solar and thermal energy, much on the lines of the Energy Information Administration of US.
- The NEP, which will replace the Integrated Energy Policy of the UPA government, is based on four objectives, namely accessible energy at affordable prices, energy security and independence, sustainability and economic growth.

Gadkari to lay the foundation for multi-modal terminal at Varanasi

- Union Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stone for a multi-modal terminal at Varanasi and flag off the trial run of two vessels carrying Maruti Suzuki cars and construction material, as a part of National Waterway-1 development.
- The phase-I of the multi-modal terminal will be built by AFCONS Infrastructure at an estimated cost of Rs.170 crore and is slated to complete by August 2018.

Union Bank of India launches USSD based mobile app for basic banking needs with NPCI

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation for all retail payments system in the country has partnered with Union Bank of India to launch an USSD based *99# mobile application for their customers.

ONGC unveils start-up fund

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) unveiled a Rs.100 crore start-up fund to foster, nurture and incubate new ideas related to the oil and gas sector.
- The initiative, christened as 'ONGC Start-up', is in line with the Government of India's initiative 'Start-up India'.

Lupin named most reputed pharma brand in India

- Lupin has been named as the most reputed pharmaceutical brand in India followed by Sun Pharma, Cipla and Dr.Reddy's in that order in 'India's Most Reputed Brands' list. Among the global brands, GSK leads the way followed by Pfizer and Abbott.

Doha Bank set to open branch in Kerala

- Qatar-based Doha Bank will open a state-of-the-art branch in Kochi next week, the only branch of a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-based bank in India.

India ranks 39th in Asia Pacific on fixed broadband

- India ranks a low 39th in terms of fixed broadband adoption among Asia Pacific countries, with just 1.3 per cent of its citizens subscribing to such a service in 2015, according to a study by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- India ranks lower than countries such as Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in ESCAP countries.

Electricity body gives nod for 1,000 MW Turga hydel project

- Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has given conditional clearance to the Rs. 4,500-crore 1,000 mw Turga Pump Storage Hydel Power Project in West Bengal's Purulia district.

China's high-speed train maker launches operations in India

- China's largest high speed train maker has announced that its first \$63.4 million joint venture plant in India to repair and manufacture railway locomotive engines has started operations. The joint venture named CRRC Pioneer (India) Electric Co. Ltd., is housed in Haryana.

Vistara appoints Deepika Padukone as brand ambassador

- In a first among Indian carriers, Vistara announced that Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone will be their new brand ambassador.

India figures in 10 wealthiest countries at No. 7

- India has figured among the top 10 wealthiest countries in the world with a total individual wealth of \$5,600 billion while the U.S. topped the chart.
- According to a report by New World Wealth, India was ranked 7 ahead of Canada (\$4,700 billion), Australia (\$4,500 billion) and Italy (\$4,400 billion), which came in at 8 and 10 slots, respectively. The U.S. is the wealthiest in the world in terms of total individual wealth held (\$48,900 billion) while China stood second and Japan third, with total individual wealth of \$17,400 billion and \$15,100 billion, respectively.
- Others in the top 10 club include the United Kingdom with a total individual wealth of \$9,200 billion, followed by Germany \$9,100 billion) and France \$6,600 billion).

Reliance Cement becomes subsidiary of Birla Corp

- Reliance Cement Company Private Ltd. (RCCPL) has become a subsidiary of the city-based Birla Corporation Ltd., the company said in a stock exchange filing. "The company has acquired 100 per cent of the equity shares of RCCPL from Reliance Infrastructure Ltd."

Hyderabad hosted International Medical Tourism Congress

- Hyderabad hosted the third edition of International India Medical Tourism Congress (IIMTC) in September in a bid to push India's image as the preferred medical tourism hub.

Cabinet clears India-Cyprus DTAA

- The Cabinet approved the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Cyprus, a move that gives India the right to tax capital gains on investments routed through Cyprus prospectively from April 1, 2017.
- The fresh DTAA with Cyprus, which is considered a haven for money laundering, round-tripping, and profit-shifting, assumes significance coming soon after the signing of the revised pact with Mauritius. India is also in the process of revising its treaty with Singapore.

RBI retains 'too big to fail' tag for SBI, ICICI Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India retained the 'too big to fail' tag for the state-owned SBI and private lender ICICI Bank for the second year in a row, calling them systemically important banks for 2016 requiring higher level of supervision.
- In 2015, these two were identified for the first time as the domestic systemically important banks. Such banks are subjected to higher levels of supervision to prevent disruption to financial services in the event of any failure.

Patanjali becomes 3rd largest FMCG seller at Future Retail

- Baba Ramdev promoted Patanjali Ayurved has become the third largest seller of FMCG products at the shelves of Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail.
- "Patanjali has become number three in sales at Future Retail's stores. The number one is HUL followed by P&G and Patanjali is at number three at our place,".

Unified Payments Interface to go live for customers of 21 banks

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) will go live for customers of 21 banks.
- The relevant details of the service would be available on the website of 21 banks, the NPCI said.

Huawei sets up biggest global service centre in Bengaluru, invests Rs. 136 crore

- China's leading telecom gear maker, Huawei is setting up its biggest Global Service Centre (GSC) in Bangalore at an investment of Rs. 136 crore.

GMR to build Goa's Mopa airport

- GMR Airports Ltd (GAL) has won an international competitive bid for the development and operation of Mopa Greenfield airport in North Goa.

MS Dhoni's 11-year innings with PepsiCo ends, Virat Kohli the new icon

- PepsiCo has ended its 11-year association with MS Dhoni, the captain of India's one-day and Twenty20 cricket teams, indicating that the flamboyant cricketer's marathon run with advertisers may be slowing down.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India ranked third in ecological footprint in the world, after China and USA.

- India's carbon footprint currently makes up 53 per cent of the country's overall Ecological Footprint, the WWF has said.
- Ecological footprint is the measure of the impact humans have on the environment. A country's ecological footprint is the sum of all the cropland, grazing land, forest and fishing grounds required to produce the food, fibre and timber it consumes, to absorb the wastes emitted when it uses energy and to provide space for infrastructure, according to the WWF.

Made-in-India leprosy vaccine to be launched

- A first-of-its-kind leprosy vaccine developed in India is to be launched on a pilot basis in five districts in Bihar and Gujarat.

Microsoft buys artificial intelligence startup Genee

- Software giant Microsoft has bought a smart scheduling app Genee, as part of its effort to embed artificial intelligence (AI) to compete with the likes of Google Now and Apple.

World's first self-driving taxis debut in Singapore

- The world's first self-driving taxis began picking up passengers in Singapore started.
- Select members of the public can hail a free ride through their smartphones in taxis operated by nuTonomy, an autonomous vehicle software startup. While multiple companies, including Google and Volvo, have been testing self-driving cars on public roads for several years, nuTonomy says is the first to offer rides to the public.

Monsanto pulls new GM cotton seed from India in protest

- Monsanto Co. has withdrawn an application seeking approval for its next generation of genetically modified cotton seeds in India, a major escalation in a long-running dispute between New Delhi and the world's biggest seed maker.
- The unprecedented decision to pull the application could set back Monsanto's efforts to introduce its new seed, called Bollgard II Roundup Ready Flex technology, for years and lead to further losses.

India ranked 77 in disaster risk index of the world

- While Bangladesh is among the top five countries at risk of disaster, India ranks 77 on the World Risk Index - marginally better positioned than Pakistan which is placed at 72.
- The index is part of the World Risk Report 2016 released by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft in cooperation with the University of Stuttgart in Germany.
- The index assessed the risk of disaster in 171 countries through the combined analysis of natural hazards and societal vulnerabilities.
- Ranking No.1, the island state of Vanuatu displayed the greatest risk in 2016.

Indians spend 8 times more on private hospitals than on govt. ones

- Indians spent eight times more on private hospitals and twice as much on transporting patients compared to costs in government hospitals, according to the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for the financial year 2013-14. The data was recently released by the Health Ministry after almost a decade.
- The estimates say that households spent Rs. 64,628 crore on private hospitals compared to just Rs. 8,193 crore on government hospitals. A total of Rs. 18,149 crore was spent on patient transportation services, like use of an ambulance.

'Collar Wali' cynosure of all eyes in Pench Tiger Reserve

- An 11-year-old Royal Bengal tigress has set a record of sorts by begetting 22 cubs since 2008 in Madhya Pradesh's Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), thus becoming the cynosure of all eyes as tourists flock in large numbers to catch a glimpse of the majestic beast.

- Forest experts say the tigress' popularity is akin to India's most famous feline 'Machhli', of Ranthambore, Rajasthan, who died last week.
- "Royal Bengal Tigress T-15, popularly known as 'Collar Wali' (one with a collar), has given birth to 22 cubs in six separate litters since 2008. I have not heard of any tigress that has given birth to 22 cubs anywhere," Pench Tiger Reserve's field director Subharanjan Sen said.

SPORTS

Sixth win in seven races for Hamilton

- Lewis Hamilton extended his lead in the Formula One drivers' championship to 19 points after winning the German Grand Prix with Mercedes teammate and title rival Nico Rosberg only fourth.
- Second was Daniel Ricciardo, with Max Verstappen, his Red Bull team-mate, third.

Patna Pirates keeps its crown

- Patna Pirates became the first team to defend its title when it got the better of former champion Jaipur Pink Panthers 37-29 in the STAR Sports-ProKabaddi League Season 4 final at the Gachibowli Stadium.

BCCI appoints Markandey Katju to interact with Lodha panel

- To manage the complexity in implementation of Lodha Committee's recommendations on the overhaul of BCCI, the Indian cricket board has decided to set up a panel headed by retired Judge of the Supreme Court Markandey Katju assisted by three eminent counsels including Abhinav Mukerjee, the counsel of BCCI.
- His panel will be a single point interface for the board to interact with the Justice Lodha Committee as well advice and guide the BCCI.

Nita Ambani becomes first Indian woman member of IOC

- The founder and chairperson of the Reliance Foundation Nita Ambani became the first Indian woman member of International Olympic Committee after being elected at the 129th IOC Session in Rio.

Baseball to come back at 2020 Games

- Baseball won a return to the Olympics as youth-friendly surfing, skateboarding, climbing and karate also got the nod in a package of five sports approved for Tokyo 2020.
- The International Olympic Committee voted unanimously for the proposal

Thrasher claims Rio's first gold

- US teenager Virginia Thrasher claimed the first Rio Olympics gold medal with her final shot in the shooting.

Sania-Bopanna enter mixed doubles semis

- The star Indian duo of Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna entered the semi-finals of the mixed doubles tennis event at the ongoing Rio Olympics by defeating Andy Murray and Heather Watson of Britain in straight sets here.

Nadal, Lopez win Olympic tennis men's doubles

- Rafael Nadal added a second Olympic tennis gold medal to all of those Grand Slam trophies, teaming with Marc Lopez to win the men's doubles championship for Spain at the Rio de Janeiro Games.
- Nadal and Lopez came back from a break down in the third set and claimed the last three games to beat Florin Mergea and Horia Tecau of Romania 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in the final.

Lalita Babar makes the 3000m steeplechase final

- Lalita Babar did herself and the country proud as she made it to the final of the women's 3000m steeplechase at the Olympic stadium.

US wins 1,000th Olympic gold medal

- Simone Manuel anchored the U.S. women's 4x100 metres medley relay team to the 1,000th gold medal in her country's summer Olympic history and the second of her career.

Murray defends gold

- Andy Murray celebrated his glowing career by defending his Olympic gold, won back home in London, with a 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina.

Dipa impresses all despite missing a medal

- Dipa Karmakar impressed all with her 'Produnova' vault but an Olympic medal eluded her as she finished fourth in the vault final at the Rio Olympic arena.
- It was an improvement for the 23-year-old Dipa, as she had placed fifth in the last World championship.

Guwahati to host ISL 2016 opener

- NorthEast United FC and Kerala Blasters FC will kick off the third season of the Indian Super League (ISL) in Guwahati, which will also host the opening ceremony.

With Neymar's golden kick, Brazil wins first Olympic soccer title

- Brazil won its first Olympic gold medal in soccer with a dramatic penalty kick by Neymar to defeat Germany, sending the nation into a frenzy after a 1-1 (5-4 shootout) victory.

Sakshi Malik to carry tricolour at Olympics closing ceremony

- Wrestler Sakshi Malik, who opened India's account at the Rio Olympics with a bronze medal in the women's 58 kilogram freestyle category, carried the flag at the closing ceremony.

Vikash Anand bags crown

- Vikash Anand won a 'double' to clinch the title in the MRF Formula 1600 category and a ticket to the 'Mazda Road to Indy' shoot-out, as the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Racing Championship concluded at the MMRT track in Sriperumbudur.

Sindhu, Sakshi, Dipa, Jitu Rai to get Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

Abhinav Bindra to head NRAI review committee on Rio debacle

- India's first and only individual Olympic gold-medallist Abhinav Bindra was named Chairman of a five-member review committee to probe the shooters' Rio Games debacle but has recused himself from questioning them as he was himself a part of the team.

September

NATIONAL

Petroleum companies held first international conference on cooking gas in Bhubaneswar

- State-owned petroleum companies held the nation's first international conference on cooking gas in Bhubaneswar.

BRICS Convention on Tourism held in Madhya Pradesh

- As a precursor to the BRICS Summit to be held in Goa in October this year, the two day "BRICS Convention on Tourism" began at World heritage site, Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh. Assam's Majuli announced as the first island district of the country

Majuli

- In an announcement on 8th Sep, 2016, in Assam, Majuli is now become the first island district of the country.
- Majuli covers an area of around 340 miles and one of the prime tourists destination of North East. Nearly 1 lakh 60 thousand people reside at the Majuli river island.

India-Africa Health Sciences Meet held in New Delhi

- Continuing with sustained engagement with Africa a three day India-Africa Health Sciences Meet, is being jointly organised by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Ministry of External Affairs.
- This event is a follow up to Third India Africa Forum Summit held here in October 2015. Kiran M Shaw appointed 'Knight of Legion of Honour' by France

India and Vietnam agree to elevate bilateral relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership; Sign agreements

- To have stability, security and prosperity of the region, India and Vietnam have agreed to elevate bilateral relations from Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

NBW against Mallya for Rs. 1,000 cr. service tax evasion

- The chief metropolitan magistrate on 3rd September issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Vijay Mallya and Sanjay Agarwal in connection with service tax evasion to the tune of Rs.1,000 crore. Vijay Mallya, former CEO and Sanjay Agarwal, former CFO of the now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines Ltd.
- Indian Embassy in Hanoi sets up grid connected solar energy generation plant
- The Indian Embassy in Hanoi has set up a grid connected solar energy generation plant in its office building recently.

Haryana govt to develop 340 villages as Horticulture Villages

- Haryana Government has decided to develop 340 villages as Horticulture Villages at a cost of 93 crore rupees during the Golden Jubilee year of the State.
- Under this project, producers in Haryana will supply fruits, flowers, vegetables and dairy products to these areas.

India on path of becoming hub for hi-tech world manufacturing: UN

- According to UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) report, India is on the path of becoming a hub for high-tech world manufacturing.

SC directs states, UTs to upload FIRs on websites within 24 hours

- The Supreme Court has directed all States and Union Territories to upload the FIRs on their websites within 24 hours of registration at police stations.
- But it has extended the time up to 72 hours for those states which are located in difficult terrains where internet connectivity is poor.
- The court also exempted the police authorities from uploading the FIRs on sensitive cases pertaining to insurgency and sexual offences against women and children.

Over 15cr LED bulbs distributed UJALA programme: Govt

- As per the Power Ministry, over five crore households have already benefited from the programme under Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs (UJALA) programme.
- UJALA is the world's largest LED programme for the residential sector. The scheme is presently operational in 18 states and 4 Union Territories.

Sikkim cleanest state: NSSO sanitation survey

- According to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) release on 9th September, 2016, Sikkim has been adjudged the cleanest state while Jharkhand comes last in the list on the condition of sanitation in rural areas of 26 states in India.
- Sikkim scored 98.2 per cent on a scale of 100.
- It has listed Kerala, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Meghalaya among the top 10 states.

India proposes Joint Task Force on extension of India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highways

- India has proposed a joint task force on connectivity in India-ASEAN Region to work on extension of India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highways to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

Railways to implement Flexi Fare system in Rajdhani, Shatabdi & Duronto trains

- From 10th September, 2016, Indian Railways has decided to implement Flexi Fare system in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.
- But there will be no change in the existing fare for 1AC and Executive class of travel and also there will be no Premium Tatkal Quota in these trains.

Complete ban on use of polythene in all national monuments and tourist destinations from 2nd October

- Union Government has announced complete ban on use of polythene in all national monuments and tourist destinations from 2nd October.
- This is an initiative to carry forward the Swachh Bharat Mission, and the government chose the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to impose this ban.
- The ban would be applicable to the protected zone or 100-m radius of the monuments.

Govt. to start nationwide mission to provide clean drinking water where it is contaminated with fluoride and arsenic

- Union government to start a nationwide mission to provide clean drinking water in areas where water is contaminated with fluoride and arsenic.
- The guidelines for its implementation are being developed in consultation with NITI Aayog and the states.

India to lead global coalition to fight epidemics

- Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) with its headquarters at the Norwegian Institute for Public Health, in Oslo.
- The coalition will not focus on diseases that already have sufficient attention, but will be guided by WHO's R&D blueprint (2016), which lists eleven illnesses to focus on.
- This includes Chikungunya, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic fever etc.

Cauvery Supervisory Committee meets in New Delhi

- To decide on the quantum of Cauvery water to be released to Tamil Nadu and other states, the Cauvery Supervisory Committee meets in New Delhi.
- The committee is headed by Union Water Resources Secretary Shashi Shekhar.

Centre issues fresh guidelines for flexi-fund for CSS

- To meet local developmental requirements, government has issued fresh flexi-fund guidelines that will give more freedom to states in spending money under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).
- Under the new norms, flexi-funds in each CSS have been increased from the current 10 per cent to 25 per cent for states and 30 per cent for Union Territories.

Jawans posted at Ladakh to get climate-controlled outposts

- To provide better working conditions to jawans guarding the border, especially those posted at high altitudes the government has started the first state-of-the-art composite border outpost (BoP) work for ITBP jawans in Ladakh.
- The first composite BoP at a forward location near the China border at a height of 15,000 feet. The eco-friendly BoP, the first of its kind, will keep the temperature inside at 20-22 degree celsius even if it is freezing outside.
- It plans to construct 50 such BoPs in the region, where temperatures usually hit minus 40 degree celsius.

Union Cabinet approves formation of GST Council

- The Union Cabinet approved the process, formation and functioning of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council.
- The council will consist of the Finance Minister and State Finance Ministers.
- It will make recommendations on important issues related to GST, including items and rates.

India takes US renewable energy dispute to WTO

- India has complained to the World Trade Organization about support given to the renewable energy industry in eight U.S. states.
- The complaint alleges an obligation to buy local goods rather than imports.

3rd BRICS Urbanization Forum Meet held in Vishakhapatnam

- The 3rd BRICS Urbanization Forum Meet begins in the Visakhapatnam.
- The delegates from the BRICS nations, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, will discuss investments, urbanization, formation of new cities and others during the three-day deliberations.
- 'Vizag Declaration' will be prepared, which would play a vital role in the ministers' conference of BRICS to be held on October 15 and 16 in Goa.

Centre bans sharing of individual's Aadhaar details publicly

- Under the Aadhaar Act, Agencies in possession of Aadhaar number of an individual will have to ensure security and confidentiality of the 12-digit resident identification number.
- Any violation of the Aadhaar Act will constitute an offence and is punishable under the Act.

AIR to launch multimedia website & mobile app of its Baluchi services today

- Aiming at making the contents and programmes of Baluchi language available at multimedia platforms for easy access of listeners and create a global audience, All India Radio has launched a multimedia website and a mobile application of its Baluchi services.

Arunachal CM joins 'People's Party of Arunachal Pradesh' along with 43 MLAs

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu joined the People's Party of Arunachal Pradesh along with 43 MLAs.

Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari held bilateral meeting with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro

- Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari has reached the Margarita Island, Venezuela to attend the 17th NAM Summit.

Union Water Resources Ministry signs MoU with Agriculture Ministry to take up organic farming

- The Union Water Resources Ministry has signed an MoU with the Agriculture Ministry to encourage farmers of over 5,000 villages along the Ganga to take up organic farming, which will help curb pollution caused by chemical fertiliser-laden runoff in the river.

- As per the MoU, the Agriculture Ministry will develop organic farming in over 5,000 villages along the Ganga with each Gram Panchayat representing a cluster under Paramaparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.

Centre approves 500 crore rupee projects for development of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir

- Under Swadesh Darshan scheme, the Centre has approved projects worth 500 crore rupees for integrated development of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Tripartite meeting between Centre, Odisha and Chattisgarh over Mahanadi water issue will be held in New Delhi

- Odisha and Chhattisgarh are at loggerheads over sharing waters of the Mahanadi River. And the tripartite meeting between the Centre, Odisha and Chattisgarh over the Mahanadi water issue is being in New Delhi.

Newborns in Maharashtra to be Aadhaar-linked.

- Maharashtra government has decided to give Aadhar number to every newborn child and link the child's number with that of its parents.
- As per a new government resolution, Aadhaar enrolment will be undertaken simultaneously with the birth registration at the hospital.

World Bank to invest Rs. 1,000 cr. for improvement of inland waterways in Assam

- World Bank will invest Rs. 1,000 crore rupees in Assam for the betterment of infrastructure and develop the inland waterways.

HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launches supercomputer Param-Ishan at IIT Guwahati

- Union Human Resource Development minister Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated the super computer PARAM ISHAN at IIT Guwahati campus. PARAM ISHAN, jointly developed by IIT Guwahati and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing(C -DAC),
- It is the fastest and most powerful computer in North East, Eastern and Southern region.

Railway to introduce Yatri Mitra Sewa to book wheelchair cum porter services

- Indian Railways have decided to introduce Yatri Mitra Sewa for enabling passengers to book wheelchair cum porter services, to provide Wheel chair cum porter services to Divyang and senior citizens.
- IRCTC may provide this service free of cost through some NGO's, charitable trust, PSUs etc under Corporate Social Responsibility.

Union govt. announces the third list of smart cities

- Union Minister of Urban Development Venkaiah Naidu has announced the third list of smart cities. The new list accommodates 27 cities from 12 states.
- Each city will receive Central assistance of 200 crore rupees in the first year and 100 crore rupees over the three subsequent financial years.
- Over 1 lakh 44 thousand crore rupees have been proposed for 60 cities under smart city plans.

China, Russia conducted joint naval exercises Joint Sea-2016

- Chinese and Russian naval forces began joint naval exercises in the South China Sea. The 8-day exercises would highlight Marine Corps units in "live-fire drills, sea crossing and island landing operations and island defense.

One-third of total maternal deaths in 2015 happened in India: Report

- According to the report of Lancet series on maternal health reveals that nearly one quarter of babies worldwide are still delivered in the absence of a skilled birth attendant.
- One-third of the total maternal deaths in 2015 happened in India, or childbirth while Nigeria shouldered the maximum burden of 58,000 maternal deaths.

Only one college gets an A++ in NAAC test

- St. Joseph's College, Devagiri, Kozhikode in Kerala, among a total of 328 educational institutions in the country has bagged the prestigious A++ grade awarded by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) under the new grading pattern.
- The new method was introduced to encourage healthy competition among institutions so that they would strive for excellence.

Cabinet approves merging of Rail budget with Union Budget

- Union Cabinet has approved the merger of Rail budget with Union Budget.
- The decision has been taken on the recommendation of a NITI Aayog committee headed by Bibek Debroy.
- Vadodara to host Power Ministers' conference on October 7.

Niti Aayog chalks up plan to secure 50 medals in 2024 Olympics

- Niti Aayog has devised a short-term (4-8 years) and medium-to-long term (8-15 years) action plan to help India achieve 50 medals in 2024 summer Olympics.
- According to Niti Aayog, it will polish the talent of Indian sports persons and make them at par with their global counterparts by means of development of sports infrastructure through private or PPP mode and developing a health and psychological support division.

Centre appoints three members to Monetary Policy Committee

- The Centre has appointed 3 members to the Monetary Policy Committee.
- The members will have a term of four years.
- The names are as: Chetan Ghate, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute; Pami Dua, Director, Delhi, School of Economics; and Ravindra Dholakia, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Childhood cancer awareness exhibition to be held at Taj Mahal

- Childhood cancer awareness exhibition will be held at the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra from 25th -27th September.
- The exhibition 'CanKids-Kids' can is being organised by National Society for Change for Childhood Cancer in India.

International airport to come up at Purandar, Pune

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has announced that proposed Pune International Airport will now come up in Purandar taluka, which is about 42 km from Pune.

Delhi government raises Doctors retirement age to 65

- The Delhi government has increased the retirement age of city government services doctors from 62 years to 65 years.

Union Govt. to launch Mission Parivar Vikas for improved family planning services

- To accelerate access to high-quality family planning choices based on information, reliable service and supplies within a rights-based framework, Union Government has decided to launch Mission Parivar Vikas Scheme.
- The scheme is planned to launch in 145-districts in seven states having the highest total fertility rates are in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam.

India to ratify Paris climate pact on Gandhi Jayanti

- India ratified its U.N. climate change commitments on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.

Centre to block online content on child abuse

- In an attempt to protect children from sexual abuse online, the government to issue an advisory to Internet Service Providers, asking them to filter and block related objectionable images, videos as well as text.
- This will be as per the draft note prepared by the Ministry of Electronics and IT In compliance with the provision of the (IT) Act. About 850 sites were banned last year after an SC order.

India suspends talks on Indus water pact

- In the wake of the Uri attack, the Indian government has decided to suspend the talks on the India-Pakistan Indus Waters Treaty. According to Article VIII of the Indus Waters Treaty, the Commission must meet once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan.
- The last meeting was held in July 2016.

Indo-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas concludes in Uttarakhand

- Aimed at building positive military relations between the two countries, the Indo- US joint military exercise- Yudh Abhyas concluded at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand exercise.

NHRC issues notice to MP govt over reported deaths of children due to malnutrition

- National Human Rights Commission, NHRC has issued notice to Madhya Pradesh overnment over reported deaths of 116 children due to malnutrition in Sheopur district and sought a report within four weeks.
- It observed that the reports indicate towards violation of human rights of children due to malnutrition and lack of health care by the state.

UGC brings out syllabus for NET examination for yoga subject

- The University Grants Commission, UGC has brought out the syllabus for NET examination for the subject of yoga.

INTERNATIONAL

US commercial flight lands in Cuba

- A US commercial flight arrived in Cuba for the first time in more than half a century.
- It marks the latest development between US and Cuba since they restored diplomatic ties in December 2014.

Brazilian Senate Removes President Dilma Rousseff From Office

- Brazil's Senate has removed President, Dilma Rousseff, from the office for breaking budgetary laws. This ends an impeachment process that polarized the country and paralyzed its politics for nine months.
- It has ended 13 years of leftist Workers Party rule in Latin America's largest economy. Ms Rousseff, Brazil's first female President, became the President on 1st January 2011.

President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, is arrived on a three-day visit to India.

- Accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Ministers, officials and business leaders, President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi visited India for three days.

Hurricane Hermine hits Florida and killed one person and caused severe damage along the state's northern Gulf Coast

- Hurricane Hermine, the first to hit Florida in a decade, has killed one person and caused severe damage along the state's northern Gulf Coast.

Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov dies

- Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov has died after remaining in power for over 25 years, since it gained independence from Soviet Union in 1991.

China ratifies Paris global climate agreement

- China has ratified the Paris global climate agreement.
- China is the world's largest emitter of harmful carbon emissions causing climate change.
- The Paris deal is the world's first comprehensive climate agreement. It will only come into force legally when it is ratified by countries producing 55 per cent of global carbon emissions.
When the US follows China's lead, it will bump the tally up to 40 per cent.

India grants \$500 mn to Vietnam for defence ties

- India extended a \$500-million line of credit to Vietnam to deepen their defence cooperation and signed 12 agreements including a deal to construct offshore patrol boats, amid China's muscle flexing in the disputed South China Sea and "emerging regional challenges".
- The two countries have decided to elevate their strategic ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to provide it a new momentum.

World's largest gorillas near extinction

- At the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) global conference in Honolulu, the world's largest gorillas Eastern gorillas, have been declared as critically endangered.

ASEAN Summit held in Laos capital Vientiane

- The 28th ASEAN Summit begins in Vientiane, capital of Laos on 6th September, 2016. Leaders will review the progress of implementation of ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025.

WHO declares Sri Lanka to be 'malaria-free'

- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared and also certified Sri Lanka as Malaria-free.
- It could be possible due to well-calibrated, responsive policies implementation.
- India is in the "control phase" with regard to malaria and is working to reach pre-elimination by 2017 and to complete elimination thereafter, according to a 2015 WHO report.

India free from Yaws, Maternal & Neonatal Tetanus, WHO certifies

- The World Health Organization recognized the elimination of Yaws and Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) from the country. India is the first country under the 2012 WHO neglected tropical diseases (NTD) roadmap to eliminate yaws, a disease known to affect the most underserved population.

US and Russia ink a deal to a nationwide ceasefire in Syria

- US and Russia have agreed to a nationwide ceasefire in Syria from 12th September, 2016.
- Under the plan, the Syrian Government will end combat missions in specified areas held by the opposition and both US and Russia would establish a joint implementation Group Centre to fight the Islamic State group and the al-Qaeda-allied Nusra fighters.

US Congress unanimously passed a Bill allowing 9/11 victims' families to sue Saudi government

- US Congress has unanimously passed a Bill allowing 9/11 victims' families to sue the Saudi government, on the eve of the attacks' 15th anniversary.

China has world's longest bullet train network

- With the operation of the new line, China's high-speed railway lines have exceeded 20,000 kms in total length, the world's longest.

Ashraf Ghani visited India

- Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani has arrived in New Delhi on a two-day visit, to hold the discussions covering range of matters of mutual interest.

Long-standing trade sanctions against Myanmar to be lifted: Obama

- Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi reached Washington on her first official visit and called on the US Congress to eliminate all remaining sanctions against Myanmar.
- Myanmar's access to trade benefits for poorer nations had been suspended in 1989 over human rights abuses.

G4 issues joint statement for UN reforms

- India, Germany, Japan and Brazil (G4 members) released a joint statement saying that, "More than 70 years after the founding of the UN, the Security Council also has to adapt in order to cope with the ever growing global challenges".
- G4 countries want permanent membership of the Security Council for themselves, and wide and far-reaching reform of the UN.

Colombia to sign peace with Marxist rebels, ending half-century war

- Colombian President, Juan Manuel Santos, and Marxist rebel leader, Timochenko, to sign a deal ending a half-century war.
- Their deal to end Latin America's longest-running conflict will turn the FARC guerrilla group into a political party fighting at the ballot box instead of the battlefield it has occupied since 1964.

Japan to host 2026 Asian Games

- Japan will host the Asian Games in 2026 after Aichi prefecture and its capital Nagoya were confirmed as the venue for the multi-sport event by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).
- The Japanese bid was the only one put forward to host the continental gathering, which will be staged in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia in 2018 and the Chinese city of Hangzhou in 2022. Japan will host 2017 Asian Winter Games, 2019 Rugby World Cup and 2020 Summer Olympics.

World's first baby born using new three person fertility technique

- The world's first baby has been born using a new three person fertility technique, New Scientist reveals. The baby boy has the usual DNA from his mother and father, plus a tiny bit of genetic code from a donor.
- It is an entirely new method in fertilizing babies that have DNA from three people, the breakthrough that began in the late 1990s.

CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KICCI: Now farmers have opportunity to turn into entrepreneurs

- Kisan Indian Chamber of Commerce (KICCI)'s tagline is 'Kisan Banega Udyogpati' or Farmer will become an industrialist.
- KICCI aims at economic empowerment of farmers so that the vicious circle of poverty breaks on its own. There are 60 primary members to begin with.

HDFC's second masala bonds aid lower fund costs

- India's largest mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) has sold its second series of masala bonds paying less than its domestic borrowing cost.
- The masala bonds are rupee-denominated securities sold to overseas investors, who are supposed to take the exchange rate risk.

India, Egypt sign MoU to exchange terrorism information

- In the backdrop of common threats and rise of radicalization, India and Egypt signed Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the two National Security Councils that entails sharing of information to combat growing trends of terrorism.

India inks open skies pact with Greece

- India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Greece to allow unlimited number of flights into each other's countries.
- Greece will become the first country with an open sky arrangement under our new civil aviation policy.

Paytm's Vijay Shekhar Sharma's

- Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar

GST bill gets nod by President Pranab Mukherjee

- The legislation amending the Constitution to enable goods and services tax (GST) has become a law with President Pranab Mukherjee giving his assent to the bill ratified by more than 50 per cent state assemblies.
- The Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill allows for introduction of GST that will replace multiple indirect taxes levied by centre and states, creating one national market that is expected to bump up GDP by as high as 2 per cent. GST will come into effect from April 1, 2017.

ICICI Bank: First bank to introduce Software Robotics for power banking operations

- The ICICI bank is the first in the country and among few globally to deploy 'Software Robotics' that emulates human actions to automate and perform repetitive, high volume and time consuming business tasks cutting across multiple applications.

RComm-Aircel announce merger: now third-largest teleco firm in India

- Anil Ambani's Reliance Communications (RComm) on has signed a deal with Aircel, to create the country's third-largest mobile firm by subscribers as well as spectrum holding.

AirAsia India to have 20 aircraft by 2018

- AirAsia India, a joint venture between Tata Sons Limited and AirAsia Bhd plans to have a fleet size of 20 by end of 2018. This will help operate international routes as well.

India to become 3rd largest construction market by 2025: KPMGs

- As per the KPMG report, India is set to become the third largest construction market in the world by 2025 with a size of \$1 trillion, thanks to ramped up activity in the roads, buildings, irrigation, urban infrastructure and railways.

Bayer to buy Monsanto for \$66 billion

- German drug and farm chemical maker Bayer AG finally reached an agreement to buy U.S. seed and weed-killer company Monsanto, in a deal that is valued at \$66 billion.

India down to 112th spot on World Economic Freedom Index

- According to the Economic Freedom of the World: 2016 Annual Report, India has slipped by 10 positions to 112th, out of 159 countries and territories, as it "fared badly" across categories including legal system and regulation.
- Hong Kong has the highest level of economic freedom worldwide, followed by Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, Canada, Georgia, Ireland, Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, and the UK.

Govt to expand DBT to 147 schemes by next March

- The Government planned to extend DBT to 147 schemes by March 2017. So far the benefits and subsidies in as many as 74 schemes of 17 government departments and ministries were paid directly to beneficiaries under DBT.

India, Sri Lanka to run oil farms in Trincomalee

- India and Sri Lanka will jointly operate 30 oil tanks in Trincomalee, kick-starting a plan to develop the coastal town into a regional petroleum hub. Given the strategic importance of Trincomalee, which has a large natural harbour, India is keen on expanding its operations at the oil farm in the coastal city.

Flipkart crosses 100 million customers

- India's largest online retailer Flipkart witnessed a strong growth in its customer base over the last six months with 100 million registered users. With this, Flipkart becomes the first company to reach this milestone in a single country outside the United States and China.

GST council sets exemption threshold for tax at Rs.20 lakh

- The Goods & Services Tax (GST) Council has decided that businesses in the north-eastern and hill states with annual turnover below Rs.10 lakh would be out of the GST net, while the threshold for the exemption in the rest of India would be an annual turnover of Rs.20 lakh.
- For GST, the exemption threshold is fixed at Rs.20 lakh.
- A higher threshold of Rs.20 lakh a good move, as many small scale traders and service providers would be saved from undertaking GST compliances and it also reduces a substantial burden for tax authorities to assess small time dealers.

Chinese city Yangzhou to host India business, culture fest

- China's Yangzhou city hosted India Week celebrations from.
- As part of Yangzhou's International Cuisine Festival, an 'Incredible India Pavilion' will also be inaugurated, showcasing select Indian food delicacies and for promoting tourism-related travel options for Yangzhou visitors to India.

Google launches instant messaging mobile app Allo

- Google has launched its latest mobile chat application "Allo" along with Google Assistant.
- Allo can be used in online conversations with friends. The messaging app is similar features to most other messaging applications available for Android and the iPhone.

Microsoft Signed Adobe for Azure Cloud Computing Services

- Tech giants Microsoft and Adobe have announced a major partnership to promote the use of each other's cloud-computing tools among their mutual customers.

Infosys introduces Skava Commerce

- India's second largest IT services company, Infosys, introduced Skava Commerce, a modern, mobile-first and modular e-commerce platform.
- It will allow businesses to leverage flexible cloud-based micro-services and white label applications to new offerings and improve conversion in digital channels.

HCL and IBM enter 15-year partnership

- HCL and IBM have entered a 15-year partnership for automation and development and operations. While automation helps organizations efficiently manage their workloads, develops is now an essential part of the software development process as it improves the speed, quality and predictability of development projects.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World's oldest fossils unveil life 3.7 billion years ago

- Scientists have discovered the world's oldest fossils - about 3.7 billion years old - which pushes back the previous record by 220 million years and captures the earliest history of our planet.
- The discovery of the Isua stromatolite fossils provides a greater understanding of early diversity of life on Earth which researchers say could have implications for our understanding of life on Mars.

Genetically Modified mustard gets scientific nod, safe tag from Ministry of Environment

- Risk assessment report on Genetically Modified Mustard was put in public domain by the Environment Ministry. The report categorically states that the variety does not "pose any risk of causing any adverse effects on human and animal health and safety", as per the provisions of Rules, 1989.

ISRO launched advanced weather satellite INSAT-3DR

- The ISRO launched India's advanced weather satellite INSAT -3DR from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikotta.
- The launch vehicle equipped with indigenous cryogenic upper stage carrying the satellite.

Road clear for Chandrayaan-2

- The space road to Chandrayaan-2 is now clear. The interfaces between GSLV-Mk II and Chandrayaan-2 have been finalized.
- A GSLV-Mk II vehicle will put Chandrayaan-2 with a lander and a rover into orbit in the first quarter of 2018. It will be a totally indigenous mission — the vehicle, the spacecraft, the lander and the rover are all made in India.

NASA spacecraft starts mission to collect samples from asteroid

- OSIRIS-REx (which stands for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer) catapulted into space on 9th September, 2016. This is the first extraterrestrial step in its voyage to the asteroid Benu and back.

Papaya leaf extract pill for dengue

- Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has come out with Pop-e pill, an ayurvedic medicine made from papaya leaf extract for treatment of dengue.

GSAT-11 to be launched in early 2017

- GSAT-11, India's advanced and heaviest communication spacecraft to date at 5,700 kg, is to be launched early next year on the European Ariane launch vehicle.
- GSAT-11 is designed to generate a bandwidth of more than 12 gbps primarily for users of Internet driven services, VSAT operations and rural connectivity.

Solar Impulse 2 marks first round-the-world journey

- The world's first round-the-world flight to be powered solely by the sun's energy landed in Abu Dhabi, where it first took off on an epic 40,000 kilometre journey that began more than a year ago. Since its March 2015 take off, the Swiss-engineered Solar Impulse 2 has made 16 stops across the world without using a drop of fuel to demonstrate that using the plane's clean technologies on the ground can halve the world's energy consumption, save natural resources and improve quality of life.

India successfully test fires long range surface-to-air Barak-8 missile off Odisha coast

- India has successfully test-fired its new, long-range surface-to-air missile jointly developed with Israel from a defence base off Odisha coast.
- The missile was launched from a mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur.

Rafale deal cleared

- The government has cleared the much-anticipated deal with France for 36 Rafale fighter jets which will cost 7.878 billion Euros.

IAF successfully test fires long range air-to-air MICA missile

- Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully fired long-range air-to-air MICA missile from Mirage-2000 Upgrade combat aircraft on a manoeuvring target.
- The missile achieved a direct hit on a target which was much smaller than an actual aircraft and flying at a low altitude.

Mars Orbiter Mission completes two years around orbit in Red Planet: ISRO releases first year data of MOM to public

- India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also called Mangalyaan, has completed two years around the Martian orbit on September 24, accomplishing its planned mission objectives.
- Mangalyaan is the first Indian spacecraft to escape the Sphere of Influence of Earth and orbit Sun.
- ISRO also won the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development is awarded in recognition of its path-breaking achievement, culminating in MOM, its significant contribution in strengthening international cooperation in peaceful use of outer space.

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C35 creates history

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C35 created history by launching multiple satellites in two different orbits in space in a single mission.
- The launch vehicle lifted off with eight satellites on board including the primary payload SCATSAT-1 of India from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

CSIR celebrates its platinum jubilee

- India's largest civilian research and development agency Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR is celebrating its platinum jubilee.
- The platinum jubilee celebrations will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is also the President of CSIR.

Giant panda is no longer endangered, experts say

- Due to aggressive conservation efforts, the giant panda, one of the symbols of China, is off the endangered list.
- It is now classified as a “vulnerable” instead of “endangered” species, reflecting its growing numbers in the wild in southern China.
- The WWF, whose logo has been a panda since 1961, celebrated the panda’s re-classification.

Great Barrier Reef recovering from coral bleaching

- Australia’s Great Barrier Reef has almost fully recovered from the worst coral bleaching ever known in recent history.

GM mustard is tolerant of herbicides, says geneticist

- If cleared by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, it will be the first time a herbicide-tolerant crop would be cleared for commercial use in India.

International Ozone Day

- The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated every year on September 16 to commemorate the day when several nations signed the Montreal Protocol, agreeing on the substances that deplete the ozone layer from the atmosphere and trying to banish them.

Centre notifies BS-VI emission standards

- The Centre has notified the Bharat Stage (BS)-VI emission standards for two-wheelers and four-wheelers from April 2020 throughout the country.
- The government has decided to skip the BS-V norms and move to the BS-VI norms from BS-IV being followed now.

Ken Betwa Phase 1 gets wildlife clearance

- The National Board of Wild Life (NBWL) Standing Committee has given a go ahead to Phase I of the Rs. 9,300 crore Ken-Betwa project.
- Aimed at improving water supply to the Bundelkhand area, the river interlinking project to connect the river Ken in Madhya Pradesh with the Betwa in Uttar Pradesh.
- It involves submergence of over 4,000 hectares land in the Panna tiger reserve would result in direct loss of tiger habitat of 105 sq.km.

Nine Indian islands chosen for Singapore-like tourism boost

- The azure seas and white coral beaches of Lakshadweep and the tropical lushness of Andaman & Nicobar have been identified as tourism growth zones with nine islands selected as part of a Niti Aayog masterplan. Among the islands identified are Smith Island, Ross Island, Avis Island and Long Island in Andaman & Nicobar. In the Lakshadweep, Bangaram, Thinnakara, Suheli, Cheriya and Minicoy are among those slotted for development.

SPORTS

Serena Williams sets women’s record of 307 victories in grand slams

- In Tennis, world number one Serena Williams has created history by setting a record of most number of Grand Slam matches wins by a woman in the Open era.
- Serena is now tied with Roger Federer who holds the record for men.

Virat Kohli holds on number two position in latest ICC ODI rankings

- India’s batsman Virat Kohli held on to the number two positions in the latest ICC ODI rankings for batsmen in the latest ODI rankings.
- AB de Villiers of South Africa is the number-one ranked ODI batsman, and he is followed by India’s Virat Kohli and team-mate Hashim Amla, in second and third positions, respectively.

Summer Paralympic Games

- Summer Paralympic Games 2016 held in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro at the Maracana Stadium. More than 4,000 athletes from over 160 countries competed in 22 different sport disciplines in the 12-day event.

Rio Paralympics: Mariyappan Thangavelu wins gold medal in men’s high jump

- India’s Mariyappan Thangavelu created history on 9th September, 2016 by winning a gold medal in the men’s high jump event at the Rio Paralympics. His compatriot Varun Singh Bhati clinched the bronze medal the same event.

5,000 runners participat in 5th Ladakh Marathon

- Ladakh Marathon is an annual event which is held every year in the second week of September.

Deepa Malik wins Silver in women's Shot-Put event in Rio Paralympics

- Deepa Malik has created history by winning silver medal in Women's shotput at Rio Paralympics 2016. It is the first Medal by an Indian Woman in Paralympics games.
- It is India's 3rd medal in the ongoing games at Rio.

SAI-AIFF launch online portal for Global Scouting Programme

- Sports Authority of India (SAI) and All India Football Federation jointly launched an online portal for its Global Scouting Programme, which will conduct off-field trials for NRI boys.

Stanislas Wawrinka beats Novak Djokovic to win US Open men's title

- In the US Open, World number one and defending champion Novak Djokovic has been beaten by third seed Stanislas Wawrinka in the summit clash.
- Newly-crowned world number one, Angelique Kerber of Germany beat Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic to lift the Women's Singles title.

Track Asia Cup cycling held in New Delhi

- India is hosted the Track Asia Cup cycling competition at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi. The event, recognized by the International Cycling Federation, is part of the World Championship.

Indian football team jumps four places in latest FIFA rankings

- The Indian football team has jumped four places in the latest FIFA rankings released.
- India are now placed at the 148th spot, on the back of an impressive 4-1 win over higher-ranked Puerto Rico last week in an international friendly in Mumbai.

India Blue wins Duleep Trophy; beats India Red by 355 runs

- Gautam Gambhir-led India Blue has clinched the inaugural day/night Duleep Trophy Cricket tournament played with a pink ball. In the Final they defeated India Red, captained by Yuvraj Singh, by a massive 355 runs.

Davis Cup: Spain beat India 5-0

- India lost to by Spain 0-5 in the Davis Cup World Group Play-off tie.

Subhankar Pramanick wins gold at ISSF Junior World Cup

- Indian shooters called the shots and won seven medals, including three gold, on the opening day of ISSF Junior World Cup for pistol, rifle and shotgun here on Sunday.

Dhoni named captain of India's all-time Test XI by Wisden

- Captain of the Indian national cricket team in limited-overs formats Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been named the captain of the all-time India Test XI chosen by cricket magazine Wisden. The openers in the side are Sunil Gavaskar and Virender Sehwag, followed by Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, all-rounder Kapil Dev and Dhoni (wicket-keeper batsman).

Misbah-ul-Haq becomes first Pakistani to receive Test mace from ICC

- Test captain of the Pakistan national cricket team Misbah-ul-Haq has received the prestigious ICC Test Championship mace for inspiring Pakistan to the top of the ICC Test Team Rankings. This is for the first time a Pakistani cricketer has received the award.

India loses to Bangladesh

- India lost to host Bangladesh 5-4 in the under-18 Asia Cup hockey opener on 24th Sep, 2016.

India wins historic 500th Test by 197 runs against NZ

- India have won the opening Test against New Zealand by 197 runs on the fifth day at Green Park.

Sania Mirza continues to dominate doubles ranking

- India's Sania Mirza maintained her numero uno position in the latest WTA women's doubles ranking following her recent victory in the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, partnering Barbora Strycova of Czech Republic.

R Ashwin is fastest Indian & second overall to take 200 Test wickets

- Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest Indian and second overall to take 200 wickets, reaching the milestone in his 37th Test. With this feat, Ashwin left behind the likes of Dennis Lillee and Waqar Younis, who took 38 Tests to get to 200 wickets.

Official emblem for 2017 Fifa U-17 World Cup to held in India unveiled

- The official emblem for the world cup at Margao, Goa unveiled by the Local Organizing Committee of the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 (LOC).
- The emblem of the first ever FIFA tournament in India is designed as a celebration of the country's rich and diverse culture, with its main elements being the Indian Ocean, the banyan tree, the kite and the starburst, which is an interpretation of the Ashoka Chakra, an integral part of the national identity.
- The FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 will happen in six venues across the country.

MISCELLANEOUS

Odisha CM to share his thoughts through Radio every month

- Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, would share his thoughts on different issues through the radio for 10 minutes every month.
- The State government has decided to launch 'Biju Goan Radio' through which the Chief Minister would address the people. The programme would provide information on agriculture, cooperation, health, education, irrigation and culture.

Mother Teresa is now a saint

- Pope Francis on 4th September, 2016, proclaimed Mother Teresa of Kolkata a saint, hailing her as the personification of maternal love and a powerful advocate for the poor.

Indian film 'Thithi' wins best film award at BRICS Film Festival

- Indian film Thithi won the best film award at the BRICS Film Festival concluded in New Delhi last evening.

Half-Indian beauty crowned Miss Japan

- Priyanka Yoshikawa, a half-Indian beauty queen with an elephant trainer's licence was crowned Miss Japan.

Asnani takes charge as UCIL Chairman

- C.K. Asnani, a chemical engineer from Osmania University, has taken charge as Chairman and Managing Director of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), an undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy.

8th September is International Literacy Day and was established in 1966 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

- The day is observed every year to emphasize the importance of literacy to individuals, society and communities.
- This year, the world is celebrating 50th International Literacy Day and the theme is, 'Reading the Past, Writing the Future'.

Book on Indian tribe wins U.K. fiction award

- Stuart Blackburn was presented the M.M. Bennetts Award for Historical Fiction 2016 in the U.K. for his novel Into the Hidden Valley.
- This book tells the story of the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh during British India.

Zuckerberg's philanthropic arm invests in Byju's

- Education-tech startup Byju's has raised \$50 million (about Rs. 332 crore) led by Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI). This is the first Asian investment from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative – which is the philanthropic arm created by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan in 2015.

World's highest bridge nears completion in China

- The Beipanjiang Bridge, in mountainous southwestern China, soars 565 metres (1,854 feet) above a river, has become the world's highest bridge.

Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chanda Kochhar, Shikha Sharma among most powerful women outside US in Fortune list

- According to a list by Fortune which is topped by Banco Santander's boss Ana Botin, India's top women bankers, SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya, ICICI head Chanda Kochhar and Axis Bank CEO Shikha Sharma, are among the 50 most powerful women based outside the US.
- Bhattacharya, 60 is ranked second on the list, while Kochhar comes in on the fifth spot and Sharma on the 19th position in the Fortune's '50 Most Powerful Women International' list, which has ranked the women based outside the US.

National highways to turn 'no advertisement' zones

- India's highways will become no advertising zones as the government has ordered the removal of all advertisement hoardings across the length and breadth of national highways.
- The government is working on a national roadmap to reduce the number of road accidents in India and feels that advertisements cause distraction which often leads to accidents.
- The roads ministry has also launched Pradhan Mantra Surakshit Sadak Yojana with a corpus of Rs. 2,000 crore to fix the black spots on highways where accidents occur regularly.

Anand Mahindra gifts Mariyappan Thangavelu a golden car

- Anand Mahindra, the chairman and managing director of Mahindra Group, gifted a golden car worth 10 Lakhs to Mariyappan Thangavelu (paralympian gold winner).

World Bank chief Jim Yong Kim heads for 2nd 5-year term

- World Bank President Jim Yong Kim effectively won a second five year term after nominations to lead the global development bank closed with no other candidates proposed.

World's oldest man turns 113, readies for Bar Mitzvah

- The Guinness Book of World Records in March recognized Yisrael Kristal, 113 years old as the world's oldest man.

5 Indian museums figure among the best 25 in Asia

- Five Indian museums feature among the best 25 in Asia while Leh's 'Hall of Fame' has topped the India list as a "must-visit" place by travellers in a latest survey. The other top four most rated museums of India are — 'Bagore Ki Haveli' (Udaipur); 'Victoria Memorial Hall' (Kolkata); 'Salar Jung Museum' (Hyderabad); and 'Jaisalmer War Museum' (Jaisalmer).

Book on M.S. Subbulakshmi released

- In a fitting tribute to legendary Carnatic musician M.S. Subbulakshmi on the occasion of her birth centenary, a book titled 'MS Revisited' was released.

Trafficking survivor from Yazidi community made UN Ambassador

- A young Iraqi woman, who survived trafficking at the hands of the Islamic State (IS), has been appointed a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the dignity of survivors of human trafficking.
- Nadia Murad Basee Taha (23), a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, is the Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

West Bengal to confer Bangabibhushan award to Lata Mangeskar

- To honour her contributions to Bengali songs, West Bengal government will confer this year's 'Bangabibhushan' to legendary singer Lata Mangeskar.
- Banga Bibhushan is a title instituted by the West Bengal Government to honour the services of personalities in various fields.

'Selfie with toilet' to boost Swachh Bharat in Ludhiana

- To make the Swachh Bharat Mission successful and encourage people to use clean toilets, the Ludhiana district administration has started a 'Selfie with my Shauchalya' campaign.

Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi to get humanitarian award

- Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been honored as the 2016 humanitarian of the year by students and faculty at the Harvard Foundation.
- She became one of the world's most well-known political prisoners during her 15 years of house arrest for participating in protests against the government.

Baloch leader Bugti to seek asylum in India

- Baloch leader Brahamdagh Bugti, presently in Switzerland, has initiated the move to seek political asylum in India.
- Brahamdagh Bugti is the grandson of Nawab Akbar Bugti, the patriarch and head of the Bugtis, the largest tribe of Balochistan.

BCCI appoints new selection panel with MSK Prasad as Chief Selector

- Former India wicketkeeper M.S.K. Prasad (41-year) has been appointed as the new chairman of selectors while Ajay Shirke has retained unopposed as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary at its 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Mumbai.
- Prasad will replace Sandeep Patil as Chairman of the selectors.

Junaid Ahmad is World Bank Country Director for India

- The World Bank has appointed Junaid Ahmad (Bangladesh) as its new Country Director for India, replacing Onno Ruhl.

PM's Race Course Road will now be known as Lok Kalyan Marg

- The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has approved a proposal to rename the Delhi's famous Race Course Road (RCR) on which the Prime Minister's residence is situated to 'Lok Kalyan Marg' (LKM).

Sikkim has the best workplace for women, Delhi ranks at bottom

- According to a report given jointly by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a top American think-tank, and Nathan Associates, of Sikkim has the best whereas national capital Delhi the worst working conditions for women.
- The states were ranked according to four main factors: legal restrictions on women's working hours in factories, retail, and the IT industry.
- Four states (Sikkim, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu) have removed all restrictions on women working at night in factories, retail establishments and the IT sector.

Oxford tops world university rankings

- Oxford University (UK) topped the list as the world's leading university in the latest Times Higher Education world rankings index.
- The top 5 universities are:
 - University of Oxford (U.K.)
 - California Institute of Technology (U.S.)
 - Stanford University (U.S.)
 - University of Cambridge (U.K.)
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (U.S.)

President, PM launch VP's book titled "Citizen and Society"

- President Pranab Mukherjee has released Vice President Hamid Ansari's book 'Citizen and Society' at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The book is a collection of lectures delivered by Hamid Ansari ranging from the role of women in a multicultural society to other dynamics of a democratic nation.

Navtej Sarna appointed Ambassador to the US

- India's High Commissioner to United Kingdom (UK) Navtej Sarna has been appointed as the next Ambassador to the United States of America (USA).

Syrian aid group wins 'alternative Nobel'

- The White Helmets, also known as the Syria Civil Defence, a Syrian civil organization of emergency responders in rebel-held areas, won the Right Livelihood Award.
- The group was honoured for their outstanding bravery, compassion and humanitarian engagement in rescuing civilians from the destruction of the Syrian civil war.

Visaranai nominated for Oscar

- Visaranai, the Tamil docu-drama crime thriller, has been chosen India's official entry to Best Foreign Language Film category at the 89th Academy Awards to be held in 2017.

First Jesse Owens Award goes posthumously to Muhammad Ali

- The first Jesse Owens Olympic Spirit Award will recognize the late Muhammad Ali.
- Ali won the gold medal at the Rome 1960 Olympics, then took three world heavyweight championships in 1964, 1974 and 1978.
- The Owens Award was started this year, the 80th anniversary of Owens' four-gold-medal performance at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, and is to be presented annually to recognize people who have served as an inspiration in society.

O P Singh takes charge as DG of CISF

- Senior IPS officer O P Singh (1983-batch UP cadre) has been appointed as the new Director-General (DG) of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Dr Vijay Kelkar is new President of Indian Statistical Institute

- Vijay Kelkar has been elected president of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI).
- He succeeded former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor C Rangarajan.
- Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) is an academic institute of national importance as recognised by a 1959 act of the Indian parliament.

Uttam Singh to be honoured with 'Lata Mangeskar Award'

- Famous music director and violinist Uttam Singh on 27 September 2016 was named for the 2016 Lata Mangeskar Award for Lifetime achievement of the Maharashtra Government.

Telugu writer conferred with Moortidevi Award of Bharatiya Jnanpith for 2015

- Noted Telugu writer Prof. Kalakaluri Enoch has been conferred with Moortidevi Award of Bharatiya Jnanpith for the year 2015.
- The award was given for his novel "Anantajivanam". The award carries a shawl, Saraswati Statue, Citation and a cheque of four lakh rupees.
- The Moortidevi Award is an annual literary award in India presented by the Bharatiya Jnanpith organization for a work which emphasizes Indian philosophy and culture.

Amar Chitra Katha to publish comics on Swachh Bharat

- Amar Chitra Katha, an iconic series started by creator Anant Pai to tell India's tales of mythology and folklore, has developed "Swachh Bharat, the Clean Revolution" to educate schoolchildren about the conceptualization of the campaign and success stories over last two years.

October

NATIONAL

NGO promoting clean energy bags UN climate solutions award

- Swayam Shikshan Prayog, an Indian NGO, has bagged a UN climate award for 2016 for training women to become clean energy entrepreneurs across Maharashtra and Bihar.
- The NGO is one of the 13 projects to be recognised at the forthcoming UN climate summit in Marrakesh, Morocco, in November, 2016.

India ratifies historic Paris climate deal at U.N.

- India ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change by depositing the instrument of ratification with the United Nation on the 147th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- India is the 62nd country to ratify the agreement.
- The agreement will enter into force one month after 55 countries that account for 55 percent of global emissions ratify the agreement.

Arunachal CM flags off all-women Mt Gorichen expedition

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu lagged off an all-women Mt Gorichen expedition in Itanagar.
- This will be the first all women team attempting to summit the second highest peak of the state, which is considered as a technical peak and only seasoned climbers can make it to the top (6,488 m).

Centre constitutes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

- Centre has constituted a four-member Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under the Chairmanship of M.S. Sahoo.

Gangtok conferred Cleanest Tourist Destination honour

- The Union Ministry of Tourism has conferred the Cleanest Tourist Destination on the Sikkim capital (Gangtok).
- Chandigarh and Mysore were felicitated for 'Clean Cities in million plus population category' and Gangtok for 'Cleanest Tourism Destination'.

Rajeev Sharma takes over as Power Finance CMD

- Rajeev Sharma has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC) with effect from October 1st, 2016.

Delhi Police launches Mobile App for senior citizens

- The Delhi Police has launched a mobile application “Delhi Police Senior Citizen” for senior citizens to enable them to reach out to the police quickly in emergency situations.
- The app will have the facility of pressing an SOS button for emergency call to the senior citizens helpline 1291 and will be available on Google Play Store.

Rajasthan becomes first state to adopt LED street lights under all ULBs

- Rajasthan has become the first India state to adopt Central Government’s Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) in all its urban local bodies (ULB).
- Around 5 lakh conventional street lights were replaced with LED street lights across the state.
- The project was funded by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the administration of the Union Ministry of Power.

Jharkhand becomes first state to implement DBT in Kerosene

- Jharkhand has become India’s first state to implement Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Kerosene.
- Under the Scheme, PDS kerosene is being sold at non-subsidized price and the subsidy is being transferred to consumers directly into their bank accounts.

EC launches mobile app for UP assembly polls

- The Election Commission (EC) has launched a new mobile application for better transparency and effective monitoring of electoral rolls in the ongoing revision of voters’ list in Uttar Pradesh.
- The mobile app for ERMS (Electoral Rolls Management System) will provide details regarding addition and deletion of names from the voters’ list.

Aadhaar must for LPG subsidy after November

- The government has made Aadhaar mandatory for availing cooking gas (LPG) subsidies after November.

Bias against HIV-positive people may land to jail

- Once the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014 becomes law, discriminating against people with HIV or AIDS may lead to a jail term of up to two years, and a maximum penalty of Rs. 1 lakh.

500 call centre employees detained for duping US citizens

- Over 500 employees of some call centres were detained for allegedly threatening the US citizens and siphoning off their money in Thane.

Karnataka to make Aadhaar mandatory for students

- Karnataka’s Department of Primary and Secondary Education has decided to make Aadhaar enrolment mandatory for all students in government, aided and private unaided schools, and Pre-University colleges.
- This move has been taken for ‘efficient’ delivery of government incentives such as uniforms, textbooks, cycles and scholarships.

Indian Air Force Day: 8 October

- The Air Force Day 2016 is observed annually on 8 October across India. This year is the 84th celebration of the Day which began in 1932.

India will host conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

- India will host the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR).
- The three-day conference, to be held from November 3, is being organized in collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

Hindu son can divorce wife if she tries to separate him from aged parents: SC

- As per the new verdict of Supreme Court a Hindu son can divorce his wife for cruelty if she tries to pry him away from his “pious obligation” to live with his aged parents and provide shelter for them.

India’s first international arbitration centre inaugurated by Devendra Fadnavis

- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated India’s first centre for international arbitration in Mumbai.
- The MCIA will be governed by a 17-member governing council.

SC widens ambit of Domestic Violence Act, 2005

- The Supreme Court in its judgment has widened the scope of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 by making it gender-neutral.
- The SC ordered deletion of the words “adult male” before the word ‘person’ in Section 2(q) of the Act making it gender-neutral.
- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 protects women from physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse at home.

Telangana gets 21 new districts

- Telanganagovernment carried out the biggest administrative reform, creating 21 new districts.
- With the reorganisation, the total number of districts in the State went up to 31 from 10.
- Telangana, carved out of Andhra Pradesh, came into existence on June 2, 2014 as the 29th State of India.

No playground, electricity in over 40% schools in India: DISE

- According to latest government statistics, every two in five elementary schools in India don't have playground and power connection, two of the 10 basic norms mandated under the Right to Education Act (RTE).
- The survey covered 1.5 million elementary schools in 680 districts across the states catering to 19 crore children.

India to host meeting of BRICS trade ministers

- India will host a meeting of BRICS trade ministers in New Delhi, during which the leaders will adopt a framework to enhance economic co-operation among the member nations.
- For the first time, India has organized a three day BRICS Trade fair, to push trade among the BRICS nations.

Railways signed deal with Germany for high-speed trains

- Aiming to reduce travel time significantly, Railways inked a pact with Germany for running high-speed trains in the country.

Union Cabinet clears IIM in Jammu

- The Centre on 13th Oct, 2016 has approved the setting up of an Indian Institute of Management in Jammu.

‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav’ in New Delhi

- The 10-day ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav’ (RSM) held at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi .
- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav’ in Delhi is one of the five such festivals planned for this year which will be organised at multiple venues, including Varanasi, Bangalore and Jammu and Kashmir, from November 15 to 25.

DMRC launches free Wi-Fi on Airport Express Line

- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, DMRC had launched free Wi-Fi facilities at Metro stations on its Airport Express Line.
- The commuters now will be able to avail free wifi services by logging onto ‘Oui DMRC Free Wifi’ and access internet applications like email, Facebook, Google, video chat as well as live streaming of cricket and football matches etc inside the station premises.

Kigali makes history with HFC freeze

- One hundred and seven countries came to an agreement in Kigali, Rwanda, to substantially phase out a potent greenhouse gas by 2045 and move to prevent a potential 0.5 C rise in global temperature by 2050.
- HFCs are currently the world's fastest growing greenhouse gases, with emissions increasing by up to 10 per cent each year and are one of the most powerful, trapping thousands of times more heat in the Earth's atmosphere than carbon dioxide (CO2).

India, Russia sign deal on information security

- Aimed at countering terrorism, drug trafficking and other illegal cross-border activities, India and Russia sealed a deal on ‘information security’.

Niti Aayog favours new steel policy to achieve 300 MT target

- Government think tank Niti Aayog has mooted a new and dynamic steel policy to bring the over US \$100 billion industry back on track as well as meet the target of 300 million tonnes (MT) capacity by 2025.

PM launches national hub for SC/ST entrepreneurs in Ludhiana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched national Schedule Castes/Schedule Tribes hub in Ludhiana.

- The SC/ST hub aims to facilitate technology know how to reserved categories and increasing procurement by public and government units from SC/ST industrial units from existing 0.4% to 4%.

INS Tihayu Joined the Indian Navy

- Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) INS Tihayu was commissioned into the Indian Navy.

India, China conduct first military exercise in J&K

- Amidst the growing uneasiness in the bilateral relationship, India and China for the first time conducted military exercises in Ladakh, the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

India offers solar plant in Trincomalee Sri Lanka

- In Trincomalee, India has offered to build a solar power plant in the port town in Sri Lanka.
- An initiative aimed at adding 220 MW of solar power to the island's energy grid by 2020. The island has a total installed power generation capacity of 4,050 MW.

All Singur farmers to get back land by Nov. 10, says Mamata

- The government of West Bengal announced that all farmers would get physical possession of their lands by November 10.
- Centre announces India's first Railway University in Vadodara

Aviation scheme UDAN

- Union Government has unveiled the regional air connectivity (RCS) scheme by inviting initial proposals to boost regional connectivity.
- Under the Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme the flights priced at Rs.2,500 for one hour of flying time to and from regional airports.

CERT-In warned banks of Pak cyber attacks

- The Computer Emergency Response Team-India (CERT-In), has issued a warning to all banks cautioning cyber criminals acts from Pakistan.
- CERT-In is the nodal agency of cyber security under the Ministry of Electronics and IT.

PM launches #Sandesh2Soldiers campaign

- A campaign through which people can send their Diwali greetings and messages to the soldiers to boost their morale is launched.

United Nations Day is being observed 24 October

- 24 October is celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.
- This year's UN Day will be used to highlight concrete actions people can take to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Haji Ali gives women access to sanctum sanctorum

- The Haji Ali Dargah Trust on 24th Oct 2016, allowed women to enter the sanctum sanctorum of the dargah on a "par with men" in Mumbai.

Uttarakhand latest State to adopt animal birth control

- Aimed at reducing the stray dog population, Uttarakhand has become the latest State to launch an Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme.

Women employees can now file sexual harassment complaints online

- Women employees of the Central government can now be able to file sexual harassment complaints online directly to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Justice Reddy committee on OROP submits report

Cabinet approves setting up of National Academic Depository

- Union Cabinet approved setting up of a National Academic Depository (NAD).

The Vienna Convention

- The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 is an international treaty that defines a framework for diplomatic relations between independent countries.

Hyderabad keeps business-friendly tag

- Hyderabad has maintained its record in the ease of doing business by securing first place in two parameters —

enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency — in the latest report released by the World Bank.

- It was ranked number two, next to Ludhiana, in terms of overall ease of doing business.
- Hyderabad was placed fourth in terms of starting a business where New Delhi has been ranked first.

PM to celebrate Diwali with ITBP jawans in Uttarakhand

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will spend Diwali with soldiers of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Mana post in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.
- Prime Minister Modi had earlier spent Diwali with soldiers of the Indian Army posted at the world's highest battlefield of Siachen, as well as the Dogra war memorial at Amritsar.

PM to visit Japan in November

- In a bid to strengthen bilateral ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Japan from November 11 to 12, the Ministry of External Affairs announced.

Maharashtra tops NITI Aayog's agri marketing index

- According to the government think tank, while Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana take the top five spots on the list, major agrarian states Uttar Pradesh and Punjab figure in the 13th and 14th positions.
- Bihar and Kerala were not included in the rankings as they revoked their agricultural produce marketing Acts.

DoPT launches Employees Online (EO) Mobile App

- The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has launched Employees Online (EO) App.
- The App aims to update on Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointments and postings on real time basis and to bring transparency.

PM paid tribute to Sardar Patel on his 141st birth anniversary

- Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel's 141st birth anniversary observed 31st October.
- The day is being celebrated as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' (National Unity Day).

Ease of Doing Business: A.P., Telangana top in 2016 all-India ranking

- Andhra Pradesh and Telangana topped the all-India ranking with 98.78 per cent each, followed by Gujarat with 98.21 per cent; Chhattisgarh with 97.32 per cent and Madhya Pradesh with 97.01 per cent.

INTERNATIONAL

China to build Ocean Park on South China Sea Island

- China is to build an ocean park on Hainan Island, which is located in the disputed South China Sea.

Former Portugal PM, Antonio Guterres set to become next UNSG

- Former Prime Minister of Portugal, Antonio Guterres is poised to become the next Secretary General of the United Nations after the Security Council declared him to be the unanimous choice in the sixth straw poll.

Sweden promotes innovation through Make in India initiative

- Sweden is celebrating its tenth edition of 'The Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week 2016' in India between October 1-7, 2016.
- These events are taking place across Indore, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Guwahati and New Delhi.
- The theme for the 10th edition of the Week is Swedish contributions -- "Sweden Makes in India", including sustainability and innovation.

European Parliament backs Indian Army's surgical strikes on PoK

- The European Parliament, after Russia and neighbours Bangladesh and Afghanistan, has supported India's surgical strike on terrorist training camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- This is the first endorsement of India's actions from the West. India has clearly indicated that these attacks were not against the Pakistani state, but focused against terror groups that threatened peace and stability in the region.

EU vote paves the way for Paris deal ratification

- At the plenary session of the EU Parliament in Strasbourg, a majority of the members voted in favour of ratifying the Paris Agreement.

UN authorizes EU to stop migrant-smuggling vessels off Libya

- UN Security Council has adopted a resolution authorizing the European Union and individual countries to seize migrant-smuggling vessels on the high seas off Libya for another year.
- The council's aim is to disrupt the organized criminal enterprises engaged in migrant smuggling and human trafficking and prevent loss of life.

U.S. court reinstates Apple's patent win over Samsung

- A federal appeals court reinstated a \$120 million jury award for Apple Inc. against Samsung, marking the latest twist in the fierce patent war between the world's top smartphone manufacturers.

Ethiopia declares state of emergency

- The Ethiopian government had declared a state of emergency effective immediately following a week of anti-government violence that resulted in deaths and property damage across the country, especially in the restive Oromia region.

India and China to cooperate on Delhi-Nagpur high-speed rail

- India and China have signed two inter-governmental documents and 18 other documents for cooperation covering a host of issues, including a feasibility study on Delhi-Nagpur high speed railway, construction of Delhi-Chennai high-speed railway and establishment of China-India Technology Park in Hainan Province.
- Both the countries have also agreed to cooperate on redevelopment of stations. Bhubaneswar in Odisha and Devanahalli near Bengaluru have been identified as being the pilots for the project.

Abdelilah Bekirane elected as Prime minister of Morocco

- Abdelilah Bekirane was re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Morocco for second term. Benkirane has been serving as Prime Minister since November 2011.

US military strikes Yemen after missile attacks on US Navy ship

- The US military launched cruise missile strikes on three coastal radar sites in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, retaliating after failed missile attacks this week on a US Navy destroyer.
- The strikes authorised by President Barack Obama represent Washington's first direct military action against Houthi-controlled targets in Yemen's conflict.

India, Russia to sign deal

- India and Russia signed an agreement on S-400 Triumph anti-missile defence systems during BRICS Summit.

Maldives Leaves Commonwealth After Warnings Over Democracy'

- Maldives Government has decided to withdraw from the Commonwealth bloc. The country becomes the latest to leave the Commonwealth after Gambia which quit in October 2013.

Antonio Guterres formally appointed as UN chief

- The UN General Assembly on 13th Oct, 2016, formally appointed Antonio Guterres as the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, replacing Ban Ki-moon.
- The 193 member states adopted by acclamation a resolution appointing the former Prime Minister of Portugal for a five-year term beginning January 1, 2017.

BRICS agrees to set up credit rating agency

- The five-nation group BRICS agreed to set up an independent rating agency based on market-oriented principles.

Stanford University to go solar

- US based Stanford University declares that 50% electricity needs by the campus will be met by Solar plant.

Beijing to have world's biggest air purifier tower

- In its smog-hit capital Beijing, China will deploy the world's largest outdoor air purifier, 'Smog Free Tower'. The tower can capture about 75 per cent of PM 2.5 and PM 10 tiny particles.

New Zealand PM is in Delhi

- New Zealand Prime Minister John Key on a three-day India visit.

Iraq, Myanmar home to world's most generous people

- According to World Giving Index 2016, Iraq and Myanmar are home to the world's most generous people.
- The annual ranking places Myanmar at the top of the list for the third year in a row.

- China is named as the least generous country.

Pakistan ranked as second-worst country in gender gap index

- As per the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Report 2016, released Pakistan is ranked 143 out of 144 countries in the gender inequality index.
- Bangladesh and India which have been ranked 72nd and 87th respectively.

Yazidi women who escaped from Islamic State win EU human rights prize

- Nadia Murad Basee and Lamiya Aji Bashar, who escaped sexual enslavement by Islamic State in Iraq in 2014, have won Europe's top human rights award, the Sakharov prize.

ADB declines to fund big dam project in PoK

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has refused to commit funds for Pakistan's \$14 billion dam project on the Indus in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), two years after the World Bank declined to fund the project following Islamabad's refusal to seek an NoC from India.

Mariano Rajoy

- Spain's acting prime minister and leader of its center-right Popular Party, was re-elected after winning a parliamentary vote.
- Mr Rajoy has led a caretaker administration since losing his overall majority in an election December 2015.

CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rs. 65,250 cr declared in Income Disclosure Scheme

- According to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley 65 thousand 250 crore rupees have been declared in the Income Disclosure Scheme (IDS) so far.
- The scheme was announced by the government from 1st June to 30th September this year with an aim to bring out black money from the domestic economy.
- Those disclosing assets under the IDS will have to pay 45% tax with penalty. The payments can be made in three installments till September 2017.

SBI Chairman gets one-year extension

- The government extended the term of Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairman, State Bank of India (SBI) by a year.
- Ms. Bhattacharya, 60, was appointed on October 7, 2013, for 3 years.

Reliance inks defence deal with Dassault

- To execute offsets for the Rafale deal, the Anil Ambani led-Reliance Group signed an agreement with Dassault Aviation of France, the makers of Rafale fighter jets, for a joint venture in India to be named Dassault Reliance Aerospace.
- India agreed to buy 36 Rafale jets in a flyaway condition from France for €7.87 billion, or about Rs. 59,000 crore, on September 23.

RBI announces 4th Bi-monthly Policy Statement

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel has announced his first and country's 4th Bi-monthly Policy Statement for the year 2016-17 and has cut the Repo rate by 25 bps to 6.25 percent.
- Reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.75 per cent.

SBI becomes first domestic bank to open branch in Yangon

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has become the first domestic bank of India to open a branch in the Yangon, Myanmar.
- The SBI Yangon branch is the 54th foreign branch of the State Bank of India.
- Ghanshyam Srivastava will be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the SBI Yangon branch.

FIR against Citibank over multicrore scam

- An FIR has been filed in Gurugram against Citibank, alleging its complicity in the several hundred crore fraud that came to light in 2010 with a bank employee being convicted for running a Ponzi scheme of sorts, in 2014.

Finance Ministry sets up Public Debt Management Cell

- To streamline government borrowings and better cash management with the overall objective of deepening bond markets, the Union Finance Ministry has set up a Public Debt Management Cell (PDMC).

250 mandis in 10 states linked with e-agriculture market in first phase

- Government has integrated 250 mandis in ten States with the electronic national agriculture market (e-NAM) in the first phase.
- The highest of 67 mandis in Uttar Pradesh have been brought under the e-NAM portal followed by 44 in Telengana, 40 in Gujarat, 36 in Haryana and 20 in Madhya Pradesh.

Payment Banks need RBI's Prior product approval

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified entities that have been granted a payments bank (PB) licence will need to take specific approval for products they would be offering to customers.
- RBI has issued separate operating guidelines for payments banks in view to focus on financial inclusion.

Adoption of GST tax will boost India's medium-term growth: IMF

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that adoption of Goods and Services tax (GST) will boost India's medium-term growth.

Janani Suraksha Yojana pays dividends: Study

- JSY has led to an enhancement in the utilisation of health services among all groups especially among the poorer and underserved sections in the rural areas, thereby reducing the prevalent disparities in maternal care.
- The JSY was launched in 2005 as part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to improve maternal and neonatal health by promotion of institutional deliveries (childbirth in hospitals).

IAE to tie up with India for its global LED programme

- The International Energy Agency (IAE) is going to partner with India to implement its Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) initiative globally for energy savings.
- UJALA scheme is LED-based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) that aims to promote efficient lighting, reducing energy consumption and energy savings.

Union Government extends anti-dumping duty on certain Chinese products

- The Union Government has extended anti-dumping duty on import of certain Chinese products, used in garment, toys and footwear manufacturing, for another five years i.e. till 2021.
- This extension will protect domestic industry from the harm caused by dumping (import) of the cheap Chinese products.

Standard Chartered Bank forms tie-up with Uber

- Foreign lender Standard Chartered Bank has announced a tie-up with Uber under which its credit cardholders, across six countries, will get a cash-back of up to 25 per cent for hailing cabs from the app.

India ranks dismal 97 in global hunger index

- India ranked 97th out of 118 countries on the International Food Policy Research Institute's (IFPRI) Global Hunger Index (GHI) in 2016.
- Nepal (72), Sri Lanka (84), and Bangladesh (90) had higher ranks among 96 countries than India's.
- India had the lowest rank among BRICS nations, with Brazil in the top 16, Russia at 24, China at 29 and South Africa at 51.

The Reserve Bank of India permitted payments banks and small finance banks to rely upon electronic authentication while opening accounts and for other transactions.

- The move will help reduce costs and bridge the gap between the customer and service provider.
- It eliminates the need for exchange of documents to complete any transaction.

Facebook launches intra-office Workplace

- Social network giant Facebook on 10th Oct, 2016 launched a new global product Workplace, a platform that it hopes will replace intranet, mailbox and other internal communication tools used by businesses worldwide.
- It is intended to compete with similar office communication products including Microsoft's Yammer, Salesforce's Chatter and Slack.
- It is the first Facebook product launched outside the United States.

IOC to lay India's longest LPG pipeline

- Indian Oil Corporation plans to lay the nation's longest LPG pipeline (1,987 km) from Gujarat coast to Gorakhpur in eastern UP.

Maruti to launch Baleno in over 100 mkts globally, first product to be exported to Japan

- Baleno is the first product from Maruti Suzuki India portfolio to be exported to Japan where its parent company Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) is based.

Google, Facebook plan submarine cable between LA, Hong Kong

- Google and Facebook have announced plans to work with a Chinese firm to connect Los Angeles and Hong Kong with a high-capacity Internet cable.

Govt to use postal network for distribution of subsidized pulses

- The Government has decided to use postal network for distribution of subsidized pulses across the country.

RCom, Brookfield ink Rs.11,000 cr. deal

- Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCom) has agreed to sell a 51 per cent stake in its nationwide tower assets to Canada's Brookfield Infrastructure Group.

Centre to set up Rs. 2, 000 crore credit guarantee fund for start-ups

- The Centre to set up a Rs.2,000 crore credit guarantee fund to support start-ups. This corpus will provide up to 80 per cent risk cover for collateral free credit being given by banks and financial institutions to start-ups.

Uber, Centre sign pact to impart skills training

- Uber has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Electronics and IT to use Common Services Centers (CSCs) to impart skills training to drivers.

Govt grants BP Plc licence to set up petrol pumps in India

- Government has formally granted a licence to BP, Europe's third-biggest oil company, to set up 3,500 petrol pumps in India.

Tata, GE to train 10,000 in healthcare

- Tata Trusts and GE Healthcare have entered into an agreement to train 10,000 youth in various technical areas of the healthcare sector in three years.

SBI declares Silchar as its 5th zone in North East

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has declared Silchar as its 5th zone in North East after Guwahati, Shillong, Dibrugarh and Jorhat.

RBI relaxes norms for foreign investment in startups

- As per the new guidelines released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCIs) can invest in Indian startups irrespective of the sector in which the startup is engaged without prior permission of the apex bank.

World Bank acknowledges Almatti dam

- Almatti dam is chosen for the World Bank's Award of Excellence for best utilization of funds for renovation to enhance the strength of the dam.

Ratan Tata replaces Cyrus Mistry as Tata Sons chairman

- In one of the biggest upheaval in the corporate sector, the Tata Sons Board has appointed Ratan Tata as the interim chairman of the group, replacing Cyrus Mistry.

Higher subsidy for airlines connecting two regional airports

- The Centre will provide a three-year subsidy to fund the losses of airlines under UDAN scheme.

FM launches SMS Alert for salaried tax payers on TDS deductions

- The SMS Alert Service for direct taxes for about 2.5 crore private and Government salaried employees launched in New Delhi.

Ola ties up with BMW India to offer luxury rides

- Taxi aggregator Ola Cabs has tied up with BMW India to provide the high-end cars to its customers for rides and on hourly basis rentals.

India ranks 130th in World Bank's ease of doing business Index

- In the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking for 2017, India has moved a place up but is still 130th among 190 countries.
- New Zealand has been ranked the top country in the world, up one place.

New 'Benami' Act to take effect from Nov. 1

- The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act will come into force on November 1, 2016, the Central Board of Direct Taxes said.

World Bank appointed Kristalina Georgieva as chief executive

- Kristalina Georgieva has been appointed the chief executive of the World Bank.
- Earlier she served as the head of EU humanitarian affairs and vice-president of the European commission.
- Georgieva is currently European commission vice-president for budget and human resource.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

After 12 years, Rosetta spacecraft bound for comet tomb

- Europe's Rosetta spacecraft was crashed into the comet it has stalked for two years.
- The craft has been sending back close-up shots of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

T.N. tops list of endemic flowering plants

- The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has revealed, almost one of every four species of flowering plants found in India is endemic to the country.
- Tamil Nadu accounts for the highest number of species with 410, followed by Kerala with 357 and Maharashtra with 278.

GSAT-18 to ISRO's communication muscle

- GSAT-18, India's heaviest satellite to date at 3,404 kg, was successfully launched from the European spacepad of Kourou in French Guiana.
- The satellite carries Ku-band beacon as well to help in accurately pointing ground antennas towards the satellite.
- Its designed in-orbit operational life is about 15 years.

Observatory to detect cosmic gravitational waves to come up in Maharashtra

- The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) – a giant facility to detect cosmic gravitational waves with US collaboration, to be set up in Hingoli district of Maharashtra.
- The LIGO -- part of collaboration between India and the US is a large-scale physics experiment and observatory to detect cosmic gravitational waves in the universe.

International body inducts renowned space scientist U.R. Rao in Hall of Fame

- As per the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), renowned space scientist U.R. Rao had been inducted into its Hall of Fame for his contribution to development of India's space technology.

Novel material powers the world's smallest transistor

- A research team led by US Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has created the world's smallest transistor with a working one-nanometre gate.
- The novel transistor made with a new combination of materials that is even smaller than the smallest possible silicon-based transistor.

Indian researcher produces stable Perovskite Nanocrystal solar cells

- For the first time, Indian researcher has successfully produced a stable, high-efficiency, all-inorganic perovskite nanocrystal solar cells.
- It was produced by Abhishek Swarnkar, a research scholar from the Department of Chemistry at Pune's Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER).
- The new inorganic perovskite nanocrystal material has 10.77% efficiency to convert sunlight to electricity. It used cesium to produce the material of cesium lead iodide.

Hubble Space Telescope detects Great Balls of Fire

- NASA's Hubble Space Telescope (HST) has detected Great Balls of Fire (GBF), a mysterious super-hot blob of gas seen near a dying star.

High-altitude glacial lab opens in the Himalayas

- Located on the Himalayas at an altitude of nearly 13,500 feet, Himansh, the glaciological research facility of India began functioning on 9th Oct 2016 in Spiti Valley.

- The facility will serve as the base for Terrestrial Laser Scanners and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to digitise glacier movements and snow cover variations.

Amur falcons

- Amur falcons, small birds of prey that undertake one of the longest migrations, started arriving on October 7 in Wokha district in Nagaland and Tamenglong district of Manipur.
- Wokha district is a declared second home of the Amur falcons.

China will be the only country to have space station by 2024

- The International Space Station retires in 2024.
- China will be the only country to have a space station in service in 2024 as the International Space Station currently in service would retire by then.

Haunting sounds recorded from Jupiter's aurora

- NASA's solar-powered Juno spacecraft recorded haunting sounds cast by Jupiter's auroras during its first full orbit around it.

Telescope near Pune tracks spacecraft's Mars landing

- On Oct, 21, 2016, the Giant Metre-wave Radio Telescope at Khodad near Pune tracked the landing of a European Space Agency's spacecraft on a Mars mission.
- The GMRT detected and tracked the weak signal emanating from Schiaparelli EDM, all the way into the last phases of the descent of the module through the Martian atmosphere.
- SpaceX's CEO Elon Musk planned to colonize Mars

China launches its longest ever manned mission to space

- In longest-ever manned mission, China has launched spacecraft taking two astronauts into orbit who will spend a month aboard an experimental space laboratory that is part of a broader plan to have a permanent manned space station in service around 2022.

WHO seeks special U.N. session on TB

- Frustrated with a lack of political will shown by nations with a high burden of tuberculosis, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is calling for the first United Nations General Assembly on the deadly but curable infection.

Range of BrahMos to be doubled

- India and Russia have agreed to double the range of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile that the two produce together.
- This follows India's recent accession to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Earlier, India was denied access to the missile technology with range over 300 km as it was not a member state.

Second Mars mission will have a closer look at the red planet

- The second Indian Mars orbiter mission, MOM-2, will focus on new ways to look at Mars from a closer orbit than MOM-1, which is being aimed for around mid-2020.

Scientists develop new Arhar (pigeon-pea) variety

- The scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute have developed a new variety of Arhar, PUSA-16 variety that matures in 120 days.

Kashmiri Red Stag to be declared as 'Critically Endangered'

- As the Kashmir Stag popularly known as Hangul is on the verge of extinction, the International Union for Conservation of Nature is all set to declare it a 'critically endangered' species to protect this beautiful animal from disappearing from the earth.

Brazil opens Latin America's first elephant sanctuary

- The first elephant sanctuary in Latin America has opened in Brazil to provide a home for an estimated 50 circus animals from across the region.

SPORTS

Annu Rani becomes 1st Indian woman to cross 60m in javelin

- Javelin thrower Annu Rani smashed her own national record to become the first Indian woman to cross the 60-metre mark.

- She has thrown 60.01 meters at the 56th Open National Athletics Championships in Lucknow (UP).
- Annu, a bronze medal winner at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games.

Kieren Dsouza becomes the first Indian to complete World's toughest race, Spartathlon

- Bengaluru's Kieren Dsouza has become the first Indian to complete the Spartathlon, widely described as the "world's toughest race".
- The 23-year old completed the 246.6 km distance in the 2016 edition, in 33 hours, one minute and 38 seconds.
- The Spartathlon is an annual run between Athens and Sparta in Greece, with a reported success rate of 50%.

Daniel Ricciardo wins 2016 Malaysian Grand Prix

- Daniel Ricciardo from Australia has won the 2016 Malaysian Grand Prix held at the Sepang International Circuit in Selangor, Malaysia.

Women's India Open golf from Nov. 11

- The 10th Women's India Open golf will be held from November 11 to 13 with the tournament returning to the DLF Golf and Country Resort.

India's Gaganjeet Bhullar wins Korea Open

- India's Arjuna awardee golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar (28-year) has won the 6th Asian Tour title, Korea Open 2016 in Incheon, South Korea.

India won Test series against New Zealand

- India had won the 2nd cricket Test match at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata defeating New Zealand by 178 runs. The New Zealand team was all out for 197 runs in their second innings.
- Team India has won the series by 3-0.
- With the victory, India regained its status as the world's number one Test team from Pakistan.

Pakistan debarred from kabaddi world cup 2016

- Because of a spike in tensions between the two nations after the Uri attack, Pakistan has been debarred from the kabaddi world cup 2016.

Shooter Jitu Rai bags silver at World Cup in Italy

- Indian shooter Jitu Rai clinched a silver medal in the 50 meter pistol event of the ISSF World Cup Final at Bologna, Italy.

Harika Dronavalli Beats Hou Yifan At International Chess Meet

- India's Harika Dronavalli defeated World No. 1 Hou Yifan of China to be at joint fourth position in the Isle of Man international Chess tournament.

Virat Kohli presented with ICC Test Championship mace

- Indian captain Virat Kohli was presented with the ICC Test Championship mace for leading his team to the top of the Test Team Rankings.
- The mace was presented by former India captain and ICC Cricket Hall of Famer Sunil Gavaskar at a ceremony following the conclusion of the third and final Test against New Zealand in Indore after the home team completed a 3-0 whitewash.

Kabaddi World Cup held at Ahmedabad in Gujarat

Ashwin regains number one spot in Test rankings

- Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin reclaimed the number one spot in Test rankings for bowlers following a career-best match haul of 13 for 140 in the third Test against New Zealand in Indore.
- Ashwin, who was named man of the series after he finished with 27 wickets in a 3-0 sweep by India, now has 220 wickets, the most by any bowler after 39 Tests.

Indian shuttler Ruthvika Shivani wins Russian Open title

- Indian shuttler Ruthvika Shivani Gadde clinched the Russian Open title after defeating Russia's Evgeniya Kosetskaya (180) in finals of the women's singles event at the Russian Open Grand Prix here in Vladivostok (Russia).

Tashkent Challenger: Leander Paes-Andre Begemann suffer defeat in final

- India's Leander Paes and his German partner Andre Begemann suffered a defeat in the doubles finals of the Tashkent ATP Challenger.

Brazil crowned BRICS under-17 champion

- Brazil, which exhibited one touch football with swift short passes, demolished South Africa 5-1 in the final to win the inaugural BRICS under-17 football tournament.
- Russia came from behind to down China 2-1 to take the third spot.

Chinese Taipei Open: Sourabh Verma wins men's singles title

- Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma clinched the men's singles title at the Chinese Taipei Open badminton, defeating Malaysia's Daren Liew in the summit clash of the Grand Prix tournament in Taipei City.

Saina Nehwal appointed member of IOC's Athletes' Commission

- Saina Nehwal has been appointed as a member of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Commission.
- The Athletes' Commission is chaired by Angela Ruggiero and it comprises nine vice presidents and 10 other members.

Kochi first to get FIFA nod for under-17 World Cup

- Kochi became the first Indian city to be officially declared as one of the venues for hosting the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup.

FIFA unveils mascot for 2018 World Cup

- Zabivaka means "the one who scores", named as the official mascot of the 2018 World Cup on 22nd Oct, 2016.

India beat Iran 38-29 to win 2016 Kabaddi World Cup

- India beat Iran 38-29 to win their third successive Kabaddi World Cup in Ahmedabad.
- Ajay Thakur was the star performer claiming 12 points in the final.

Lewis Hamilton wins 2016 United States Grand Prix

- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (England) has won the 2016 United States Grand Prix.

India beat Pakistan in final to win Asian Champions Trophy

- India won gold medal in the Men's Asian Champions Trophy by beating arch-rivals Pakistan 3-2 in the final in Malaysia.
- This is the second time India had won the title of this tournament. India won the inaugural tournament in 2011.

After seven years, Jhulan Goswami became world number 1 bowler again

- Jhulan Goswami, affectionately known as the 'Chakdaha Express' in Bengal, has become the world number 1 women bowler.

Sania Mirza retains World Number One ranking in Women's Doubles for 2nd consecutive year

- Ace Indian tennis star Sania Mirza has become the world's top doubles Tennis player for the second straight year.
- Sania finished this season with seven Women's Tennis Association, WTA titles, a Grand Slam and a semi-final finish in the year ending WTA Finals in Singapore.

MISCELLANEOUS

1st October: International day of Older Persons

- The International Day of Older Persons is observed on 1st October every year.
- The theme of this year is "Take A Stand Against Ageism".

Riyadh Mathew is new PTI Chairman

- Riyadh Mathew, Director of Malayala Manorama has been unanimously elected as the Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI).
- He succeeds Hormusji N. Cama.

Somesh Sharma elected as new INS president

- Somesh Sharma of Rashtradoot Saptahik has been elected as President of The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) for the year 2016-17 at the 77th annual general meeting of the INS.

Tirupati Airport awarded as "Best Tourist Friendly Airport"

- Airports Authority of India's Tirupati Airport has been awarded as "Best Tourist Friendly Airport" under the category for "State Annual Excellence Awards for the year 2015-16" by Andhra Pradesh Tourism.

International day for non violence: 2nd October

- The International Day of Non-Violence is marked on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian

independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

Gujarat world heritage site: Rani ki Vav bags 'Cleanest Iconic Place' award

- Gujarat's 900-year-old World Heritage Site 'Rani ki Vav' beat 10 other iconic heritage structures across the country to bag an award for the "Cleanest Iconic Place" at the Indian Sanitation Conference (INDOSAN) 2016 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

"Murga" wins first prize at Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival

- Maharashtra Young filmmaker Katyayan Shivpuri has won the first prize at the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival (SBSFF) for his work "Murga".

Indian-origin teen Kiara Nirghin, wins Google Science Fair prize

- A 16-year-old Indian-origin South African teen Kiara, Nirghin has won a \$50,000 scholarship, the grand prize at the annual Google Science Fair for her work using orange peel to develop a cheaper "super-absorbent material" that helps soil retain water.
- The Google Science Fair is a programme for budding scientists between the ages of 13 to 18, who are invited to solve the world's biggest challenges using science and technology.

Prasar Bharati CEO Jawhar Sircar resigns

- Prasar Bharati Corporation CEO Jawhar Sircar has submitted his resignation four months ahead of the end of his tenure, which was to draw to a close in February 2017.

'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness',

- Arundhati Roy's fiction novel is to be published in 2017.

Elephant researcher Prajna Chowta conferred with knighthood by France

- Elephant researcher and Film-maker Prajna Chowta (46-years) has been appointed Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight in the National Order of Merit) by the French government.
- She is the founder of Aane Mane Foundation, researching and conserving wild Asian elephants.

Yesudas to be brand ambassador of 'Haritha Keralam' project of Kerala

- Eminent playback singer K J Yesudas (76-year) has been Chosen as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'Haritha Keralam' project by the Kerala government.
- Haritha Keralam (Green Kerala) project is a massive initiative envisaged for a garbage-free and clean state.

Kersti Kaljulaid Elected First Female President of Estonia

- Kersti Kaljulaid (46-years) has been elected as the President of Estonia by the parliament.

Nayanjot Lahiri bags prize for book on Ashoka

- Nayanjot Lahiri, Professor of History at the Ashoka University, has been awarded the 2016 John F. Richards Prize for her book Ashoka in Ancient India.
- The Richards Prize is awarded annually by the American Historical Association (AHA) to the best book in South Asian history.

Indian mountaineer Arjun Vajpai scales world's sixth highest mountain

- Professional Indian mountaineer Arjun Vajpai scaled the world's sixth highest mountain Cho Oyu.
- With the Cho Oyu summit, Arjun has climbed five of the 14 highest mountains in the world that tower over 8000 metres and holds world records as the youngest summiteer on Mount Lhotse.

Haj comes under the control of new Ministry

- Central government announced that the work related to management of Haj pilgrimage, including administration of the Haj Committee Act, 2002 and rules has been transferred from the Ministry of External Affairs to Ministry of Minority Affairs with effect from October 1, 2016.

Nobel Peace Prize for Colombia's Juan Manuel Santos

- Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2016 for his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end.

Rajeev Rishi elected IBA Chairman

- Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Central Bank of India Rajeev Rishi has been elected as the Chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for the financial year 2016-17.

- Rishi took charge from Chairman and Managing director of Dena Bank Ashwani Kumar.

Former CIC Shailesh Gandhi authors e-book on RTI

- Shailesh Gandhi, former Central Information Commissioner (CIC) has authored an e-book in order to lend a better interpretation of the Right To Information (RTI) legislation for common people.
- The e-book named 'RTI Act- Authentic Interpretation of The Statute'.

New Solar Powered Guard Van of Goods Train flagged off

- Union Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off the newly manufactured 'Guard Van of Goods Train', in New Delhi.
- The train has been equipped for the first time with Solar powered Light, Fan, Mobile Charging Point along with the facility of Zero discharge Bio Toilet.

Free Wi-Fi in Mysuru city railway station

- After registering their mobile with the service provider, the train travellers can now enjoy free Wi-Fi at the Mysuru City Railway Station.

Statue of Liberty to get new museum

- A new Statue of Liberty Museum, spanning 26,000-sq.ft. and a rooftop terrace that offers views of New York City, is being planning on Liberty Island.
- The statue was designed by sculptor Auguste Bartholdi and built by Gustave Eiffel. It was donated by France on the 1876 centenary of US independence and inaugurated on Liberty Island in 1886.

Doordarshan, IGNOU sign agreement for telecast of Gyan Darshan channels

- Doordarshan and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have entered into an agreement for transmission of four Gyan Darshan educational channels.
- Gyan Darshan ran successfully till June 2, 2014, but was shut down by ISRO to facilitate its migration from INSAT 3C to GSAT-10.

Bathukamma Event Enters Guinness Book of World Records

- The event, 'Bathukamma', organised by the Telangana government attended by about ten thousand women, found a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.
- It has also been declared as the as a state festival.

Luo Zhaohui, China's new ambassador to India

- China's President Xi Jinping appointed Luo Zhaohui, a senior diplomat with previous assignments in Pakistan and Canada, as China's new ambassador to India.

Union Power Minister assures electricity for all by May 2017

- Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal assured that India would have 100 per cent electrification for all by May 1, 2017.
- He also launched the Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Mobile (Urja) app, developed by the state-run Power Finance Corporation, to enhance consumer connect with the urban power distribution sector.

PV Sindhu now brand ambassador of Vizag Steel

- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), the corporate entity of Vizag Steel, has roped in top ranked Indian Badminton Player PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador.
- Sindhu, currently amongst the top 10 ranked players in the world, is the first Indian female athlete to win the Olympic silver medal at the Rio Olympics and she is also the first athlete to win back-to-back medals at the World Badminton Championships.

5 Indian-Americans in Forbes list

- Five Indian-Americans are among the richest in the U.S., according to a Forbes list of 400 people which has been topped by Microsoft's co-founder Bill Gates for the 23rd year in a row.
- Symphony Technology founder Romesh Wadhvani; co-founder of Syntel Bharat Neerja Desai; Airline veteran Rakesh Gangwal; entrepreneur John Kapoor; and Silicon Valley angel investor Kavitar Ram Shriram have featured in Forbes 'The Richest People In America 2016' list.

Oliver Hart and Bengt Holmstrom win 2016 Nobel Prize in Economics

- Two economists Oliver Hart and Bengt Holmstrom have won the 2016 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

- Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has selected them for their contributions to contract theory which tells how contracts help people deal with conflicting interests.

International Day of the Girl Child :11 October

- International Day of the Girl is observed annually on 11 October with the theme “Girls’ Progress = Goals’ Progress: What Counts for Girls”.
- On December 19, 2011, United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls’ rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

Jailed Chinese activist wins top rights prize

- Chinese scholar Ilham Tohti, who is at present in jail for life or defending China’s mostly-Muslim Uighur minority, was awarded the Martin Ennals human rights award on Tuesday, a move swiftly condemned by Beijing.

Gal Gadot (Wonder Woman) to be UN ambassador for women’s empowerment

- Gal Gadot, the comic and television series heroine will be officially designated as the UN honorary ambassador for the empowerment of women and girls during a ceremony on October 21, 2016.
- The UN will launch a year-long campaign on gender equality and women’s empowerment, which is one of the UN’s new global goals for the next 15 years.

UN picks comic superhero Wonder Woman for mascot

- To promote women and girls, it is picking a cartoon character as its mascot: Wonder Woman.
- Wonder Woman, created by William Moulton Marston, first appeared in October 1941.

Central govt. identifies 25 acre plot for Ramayana Museum in Ayodhya

- Union govt. to set up a Ramayana Museum in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.
- The site where the government plans to build the museum would be part of Ramayana Circuit.

World Food Day 2016

- World Food Day, 17th October is a day of action against hunger. This day marks the foundation of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) that happened on October 16, 1945.
- The website of Global Hunger Index noted, out of the 118 countries ranked in the global hunger index in 2016, India ranked at 97.

BCCI president Anurag Thakur part of powerful ICC sub-committee

- BCCI president Anurag Thakur has taken charge as the member of the ICC’s powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs committee.
- Anurag Singh Thakur is a member of Lok Sabha from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh.

Irom Sharmila launches party

- Rights activist Irom Sharmila announced a new political party, named as “the Peoples Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA)”. The party will contest the Assembly polls in Manipur in 2017.

Indian Railways wins World Railway Shooting Championship Cup

- Indian Railways have won the World Railway Shooting Championship Cup held at Saint Mandrier, France. This is the first time that Railways have won this competition.

India’s first startup magazine launched

- The Cofounder, founded by Adhish Verma and Arunraj Rajendran, is the first startup magazine that will talk about real stories behind the early stage startups and entrepreneurs.

AIR wins ABU award

- All India Radio has won the first prize in the Community Service Announcement category of the prestigious Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) awards for 2016.
- AIR’s entry, “Diary of a Tiger”, was declared the winner at a glittering award ceremony held in Bali, Indonesia.

Paul Beatty becomes first American to win Booker Prize

- Paul Beatty has become the first US author to win the Man Booker Prize.
- He won the award for his racial satire, ‘The Sellout’ London.

Karnal Singh appointed as chief of Enforcement Directorate

- Senior IPS officer Karnal Singh has been appointed as the chief of Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Sunil Bharti Mittal Becomes the First Indian to be Elected as GSMA Chairman

- Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Sunil Mittal has been elected as GSMA (Global System Mobile Association) Chairman for a two-year period from January 2017.
- Mittal becomes the first Indian to be elected as GSMA Chairman.

Legendary Kashmiri singer Raj Begum passes away

- Raj Begum, whose captivating voice earned her the title of 'Nightingale of Kashmir', passed away on 26th Oct 2016.
- 47th international film festival of India to be held in Goa in November

"Daughters of Mother India" film win at CAM International Film Festival

- Indian National Award winning documentary "Daughters of Mother India" has won the first prize in the Documentary Film category at the sixth CAM International Film Festival in Cairo, Egypt.

Vigilance Awareness Week being observed from 31st October to 5th November 2016

- The theme of the week this year is "Public participation in promoting integrity and eradicating Corruption".

47th international film festival of India to be held in Goa

- The 47th International Film Festival of India will be held in Goa from 20th-28th November.
- Film Festival being held jointly by the Goa Government, Information and Broadcasting Ministry and Directorate of Film Festivals.

2. International and National Organizations their heads and headquarters

S.NO.	Name of the organization	Headquarter	Head of the Organization/(Designation)
1	United Nations	New York, USA	Ban Ki Moon (Secretary-General)
2	UNICEF	New York, USA	Anthony Lake (Head)
3	UNESCO	Paris, France	Irina Bokova (Director General)
4	FAO	Rome, Italy	Graziano Da Silva (Head)
5	WHO	Geneva, Switzerland	Dr. Margaret Chan (Director General)
6	ILO	Geneva, Switzerland	Guy Ryder (Head)
7	ICJ	The Hague, The Netherlands	Ronny Abaraham (President)
8	UNCTAD	Geneva, Switzerland	Mukhisa Kituyi (Secretary-General)
9	ADB	Manila, Philippines	Takehiko Nakao (President)
10	OECD	Paris, France	Jose Angel Gurría (Secretary General)
11	OPEC	Vienna, Austria	Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo (Nigeria) (Secretary General)
12	EU	Brussels, Belgium	Jean Claude Juncker (President of European Commission)
13	G-8	Nil	Nil
14	G-20	Nil	Xi Jinping (Chairman-2016)
15	NATO	Brussels, Belgium	Jens Stoltenberg (Secretary-General)
16	IAEA	Vienna, Austria	Yukiya Amano (Head)
18	SAARC	Kathmandu	Arjun Bahadur Thapa (Secretary General-2015)
19	IBSA	Political Forum	India+ Brazil+ South Africa
20	National Development Bank	Shanghai, China	K.V.Kamath (President)

S.NO.	Name of the organization	Headquarter	Head of the Organization/(Designation)
21	Asia Infrastructure Bank (AIB)	Beijing, China	Jin Liqun (President) Dr. D.J. Pandian to the position of Vice President, Chief Investment Officer
22	World Bank	Washington D.C	Jim Yong Kim (President)
23	IMF	Washington D.C	Christine Lagarde (Managing Director)
24	WTO	Geneva, Switzerland	Roberto Azevêdo (Director-General)
25	European Central Bank	Frankfurt, Germany	Mario Draghi (President)
26	Bank for International Settlements	Basel, Switzerland	Jaime Caruana (General Manager)
27	Federal Reserve Bank of America	Washington D.C	Janet L. Yellen (Chairperson of Board of Governors)
28	Financial Action Task Force (FATF)	Paris	Juan Manuel Vega-Serrano (Chairman)
29	RBI	Mumbai	Urjit R. Patel (Governor)
30	NABARD	Mumbai (Maharashtra)	Harsh Kumar Bhanwala (Governor)
31	SEBI	Mumbai (Maharashtra)	Upendra Kumar Sinha (Chairman)
32	IRDA	Hyderabad	T S Vijayan (Chairman)
33	SIDBI	Lucknow	Dr. Kshatrapati Shivaji (CMD)
34	TRAI	New Delhi	R S Sharma (Chairman)
35	Competition Commission of India	New Delhi	Devender Kumar Sikri (Chairman)
36	Niti Aayog	New Delhi	Narendra Modi (Chairman) Arvind Panagariya (Vice Chairman)
37	IDFC Ltd.	Mumbai	Vikram Limaye (MD & CEO)
38	EXIM BANK	Mumbai	Yaduvendra Mathur (CMD)
39	ECGC	Mumbai	Geetha Muralidhar (Chairperson & MD)
40	NHB	New Delhi	Sriram Kalyanaraman (MD & CEO)
41	IIFL	Mumbai	Nirmal Jain (Chairman)
42	ICICI	Mumbai	Chanda Kochhar (MD & CEO)
43	CAG	New Delhi	Shashi Kant Sharma
44	CEC	New Delhi	Dr. Nasim Zaidi
45	14th Finance commission	-----	Y.V.Reddy (Chairman)
46	CBDT	New Delhi	Anita Kapur (Chairperson)
47	CBEC	New Delhi	Najib Shah (Chairman)
48	Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)	New Delhi	Union Finance Minister (Chairman)
49	PFRDA	New Delhi	Hemant G Contractor (Chairman)

3. Countries and their heads of Governments

S.No.	Country	President	Prime Minister
1	Afghanistan	Ashraf Ghani	CEO: Abdullah Abdullah
2	Argentina	Mauricio Macri	
3	Australia		Malcolm Turnbull
4	Bangladesh	Abdul Hamid	Sheikh Hasina
5	Bhutan	Jigme Kheysar Namgel Wangchuck	Tshering Tobgey
6	Brazil	Michel Temer	
7	Canada		Justin Trudeau
8	Democratic Republic of Congo	Joseph Kabila	Augustin Matata Ponyo
9	Czech Republic	Milos Zeman	Bohuslav Sobotka
10	Egypt	Abdel Fateh el-Sisi	Sherif Ismail
11	Fiji	Ratu Epeli Nailatikau	Frank Bainimarama
12	France	Francois Hollande	Manuel Valls
13	Georgia	Giorgi Margvelashvili	Iraki Gribashvili
14	Greece	Prokoyis Pavlopoulos	Alexis Tsipras
16	India	Pranab Mukharjee	Narendra Modi
17	Indonesia	Joko Widodo	
18	Iran	Hasan Rouhani	Supreme Leader – Ayatollah Ali Khamenei*
19	Iraq	Fuad Masum	Haider -al Abadi
20	Israel	Reuven Rivlin	Benjamin Netanyahu
21	Italy	Sergio Mattarella	President of council of ministers: Matteo Renzi
22	Japan		Shinzo Abe
23	Jordan		Abdullah Ensour
24	Kazakhstan	Nursultan Nazarbayev	Bakytzhan Abdirovich Sagintayev
25	Kenya	Uhuru Kenyatta	
26	Kyrgyzstan	Almazbek Atambayev	Sooronbay Jeenbekov
27	Liberia	Ellen Jhonson Sirleaf	
28	Libya		Abdullah -al-Thani
29	Malaysia		Najib Razak
30	Mauritius	Ameen Gurib	Sir Anerood Jugnauth
31	Mexico	Enrique Pena Nieto	
32	Myanmar	Htin Kyaw	
33	Nepal	Bidhya Devi Bhandari	Pushpa Kamal Dahal
34	Nigeria	Muhammadu Buhari	
35	North Korea	Kim Jong Un	
36	Pakistan	Mamnoon Hussain	Nawaz Sharif
37	Palestine	Mahmoud Abbas	Rami Hammadallah
38	Philippines	Rodrigo Duterte	
39	Russia	Vladimir Putin	Dmitry Medvedev
40	Saudi Arabia	Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud	
41	Singapore	Tony Tan	Lee Hsein Loong
42	South Africa	Jacob Zuma	

S.No.	Country	President	Prime Minister
43	South Korea	Park Geun Hye	Hwang Kyo Ahn
44	Sri Lanka	Maithripala Srisena	Ranil Wickremesinghe
45	Syria	Bashar al -Assad	Wael Nader Al Halqi
46	Thailand		Prayuth Chan -Ocha
47	Turkey	Recep Tayyip Erdogan	Binali Yildirim
48	Ukraine	Petro Poroshenko	Volodymyr Groysman
49	United Arab Emirates	Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan	Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum
50	USA	Barack Obama	
51	UK		Theresa May
52	Venezuela	Nicolas Maduro	
53	Yemen	Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi	Kahled Bahah
54	Zimbabwe	Robert Mugabe	

4. Banks their heads, headquarters and punch lines

S.No.	Name of the bank	Head/Chairman	Headquarter	Punchline
1	Allahabad Bank	Rakesh Sethi (CMD)	Kolkata	A tradition of trust
2	Andhra Bank	Sri Suresh N Patel	Hyderabad	Where India Banks
3	Bank of Baroda	Ravi Venkatesan (Chairman)/ P.S. Jayakumar (MD & CEO)	Mumbai	India's International Bank
4	Bank of India	Melwyn Rego (MD & CEO)	Mumbai	Relationship beyond banking
5	Bank of Maharashtra	Ravindra Prabhakar Marathe	Pune	Ek Parivar Ek Bank
6	Bhartiya Mahila Bank	S.M. Swathi (Executive Director)	New Delhi	Empowering women Empowering India
7	Canara Bank	Chairman: T.N. Manoharan, MD & CEO: Rakesh Sharma	Bangalore	Together we can
8	Central Bank of India	Chairman and Managing Director : Rajiv Rishi	Mumbai	"CENTRAL" to you since 1911
9	Corporation Bank	Jai Kumar Garg (MD& CEO)	Mangalore	Sarve Janah Sukhino Bhavantu
10	Dena Bank	Chairman and Managing Director : Ashwini Kumar	Mumbai	Trusted Family Bank
11	Indian Bank	Executive Director (Add charge of MD & CEO) : Mahesh Kumar Jain	Chennai	Your own Bank
12	Indian Overseas Bank	R. Subramaniakumar	Chennai	Good people to grow with
13	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Animesh Chauhan (MD&CEO)	New Delhi	Where every individual is committed
14	Punjab National Bank	MD & CEO: Usha Ananthasubramanian	New Delhi	...the name you can BANK upon!
15	Punjab & Sindh Bank	Chairman and Managing Director: Jatinder Bir Singh	New Delhi	where service is a way of life
16	Syndicate Bank	MD & CEO: Arun Srivastava	Manipal	Faithful Friendly
17	Union Bank of India	Chairman and MD : Arun Tiwari	Mumbai	Good people to bank with
18	United Bank of India	MD & CEO: P. Srinivas	Calcutta	The Bank that begins with "U"

S.No.	Name of the bank	Head/Chairman	Headquarter	Punchline
19	UCO Bank	J.K. Garg Executive Director & Charan Singh: Executive Director	Calcutta	Honours your trust
20	Vijaya Bank	MD & CEO: Kishor Kumar Sansi	Bangalore	A friend you can bank upon
21	IDBI Bank Ltd.	MD & CEO: Kishore Kharat	Mumbai	_____
22	State Bank of India	Chairperson : Arundhati Bhattacharya	Mumbai	The Banker to every Indian

SBI has 5 more associate banks attached with it which are : Mysore, Patiala, Bikaner and Jaipur, Travancore, Hyderabad

5. Private Indian Banks and their heads

Sr No.	Bank	Head	Head Office	Punch line/Motto
1.	HDFC Bank	Aditya Puri, MD	Mumbai	We Understand Your World
2.	ICICI Bank	Chanda Kochhar, MD & CEO	Mumbai	"Khayal Aapka"
3.	Axis Bank	Shikha Sharma, MD & CEO	Mumbai	-----
4.	Yes Bank	Rana Kapoor , MD & CEO	Mumbai	-----
5.	Kotak Bank	Uday Kotak, MD	Mumbai	Lets make money simple
6.	Bandhan Bank	Chandrashekar Ghosh, MD & CEO	Kolkata	"Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai"
7.	Indusind Bank	Romesh Sobti, CEO	Mumbai	-----
8.	IDFC Bank	Dr. Rajeev B. Lall, MD & CEO	Mumbai	-----
9.	Karur Vysya Bank	K. Venkata Raman, MD & CEO	Karur	Smart way to Bank

6. Foreign Banks and their countries of origin

Given below is the list of foreign banks operational in India as on 31st October 2015.

Name of the Bank	Country of their origin
Australian banks	1. Australia and New Zealand Banking Group 2. Commonwealth Bank of Australia 3. National Australia Bank 4. Westpac Banking Corporation
Bahraini bank	1. Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait
Bangladeshi banks	1. AB Bank 2. Sonali Bank
Belgian bank	1. Antwerp Diamond Bank
Canadian bank	1. Bank of Nova Scotia
Chinese bank	1. Industrial & Commercial Bank of China
French banks	1. BNP Paribas 2. Credit Agricole 3. Societe Generale
German banks	1. Deutsche Bank
Indonesian bank	1. Bank Internasional Indonesia
Japanese banks	1. Mizuho Corporate Bank 2. Sumitomo Mitsui Banking 3. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi
Mauritian bank	1. State Bank of Mauritius
Dutch bank	1. Rabobank
Qatari bank	1. Doha bank

Name of the Bank	Country of their origin
Russian banks	1. Sberbank 2. VTB
Omani bank	1. HSBC Bank Oman
Scottish bank	1. Royal Bank of Scotland
Singaporean banks	1. DBS Bank 2. United Overseas Bank
South African bank	1. FirstRand Bank
South Korean banks	1. Shinhan Bank 2. Woori Bank
Sri Lankan bank	1. Bank of Ceylon
Swiss banks	1. Credit Suisse 2. UBS AG
Taiwanese bank	1. Chinatrust Commercial Bank
Thai bank	1. Krung Thai Bank
UAE banks	1. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank 2. Mashreq Bank
UK banks	1. HSBC 2. Barclays Bank 3. Standard Chartered Bank 4. The Royal Bank of Scotland(RBS N.V)
US banks	1. American Express 2. Bank of America 3. Citibank 4. J.P. Morgan Chase Bank

7. Name of G-20 nations, stock exchange and official currency:

S.No.	Country	Stock Exchange	Official Currency
1	Argentina	Buenos Aires Stock Exchange (BCBA)	Argentine Peso
2	Australia	ASX (Australian Securities Exchange)	Australian Dollar
3	Brazil	BM&F BOVESPA	Brazilian Real
4	Canada	TSX (Toronto Stock Exchange)	Canadian Dollar
5	China	Shanghai Stock Exchange & Shenzhen Stock Exchange	Renminbi (Yuan)
6	France	Euronext Paris	Euro
7	Germany	Frankfurt Stock Exchange & DAX	Euro
8	India	BSE & NSE	Rupee
9	Indonesia	IDX (Indonesia Stock Exchange)	Indonesian Rupiah
10	Italy	Borsa Italiana	Euro
11	Japan	Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE)	Yen
12	Mexico	Mexican Stock Exchange (BVM)	Mexican Peso
13	Russia	Moscow Exchange	Ruble
14	Saudi Arabia	Tadawul (Saudi Stock Exchange)	Saudi Riyal
15	South Africa	Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE)	South African Rand
16	South Korea	Korea Exchange (KRX)	South Korean Won
17	Turkey	Borsa İstanbul	Turkish Lira
18	United Kingdom	London Stock Exchange	Pound sterling

S.No.	Country	Stock Exchange	Official Currency
19	United States	NYSE & NASDAQ	US Dollar

8. Brand and their tagline (India and World)

Tagline	Brand (Indian)
The taste of India/ Utterly Butterly Delicious	Amul
Daag Acche hain	Surf Excel
Har Ghar Kuchch Kahta hein	Asian Paints
Simplifly Deccan	Air Deccan
The Complete Man	Raymond
Born Tough	CEAT
Tyres with Muscle	MRF
An Idea can Change your life	Idea
The King of Good Times	Kingfisher
Express Yourself	Airtel
Desh ki Dhadkan	Hero Motocorp
Total health Total water purification	Aquaguard
Is se sasta aur accha kahin nahi	Big Bazaar
Connecting India	BSNL
Building India	DLF
Creating tomorrow today	GMR
No dream too big	Jaypee
Growth is life	Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)
Flying for everyone	Spicejet
Experience certainty	TCS
Moving Forward	Toyota
Applying thoughts	Wipro
Do you have it in you?	Indian Army
Isko laga dala to life to life zinga lala	Tata Sky
Zindagi ke Saath bhi, zindagi ke baad bhi	LIC
Desh ka namak	Tata Salt
The Power of Knowledge	The Economic Times
Jiyo sar utha ke	HDFC Std Life
The Indian Multinational	Videocon
Jio Digital Life	Reliance Jio
Wah Taj!	Taj Mahal Tea
Tedha Hai Par Mera Hai	Kurkure
India ka Dil India ka AC	Voltas
Fly the good times	Kingfisher Airlines
Journalism of Courage	The Indian Express
Stay ahead of times/India's National Newspaper since 1878	The Hindu
Let the Truth Prevail	Times of India
Jiyo befikar	Bajaj Allianz
Taking India to the World	Aditya Brila Groups

Tagline	Brand (Indian)
BE 100% Sure	Dettol

Tagline	Brand (World)
Better by Adobe.	Adobe
The road will never be the same.	Acura
We know money.	AIG
Something special in the air.	American Airlines
Don't leave home without it.	American Express
Do more.	American Express
My life. My card.	American Express
"For fast, fast, fast relief."	Anacin
Think different.	Apple Computer
The power to be your best.	Apple Computer
Think outside the box.	Apple Computer
Never follow.	Audi
We try harder.	Avis
Higher standards.	Bank of America
Sheer driving pleasure.	BMW
The ultimate driving machine.	BMW
Better sound through research.	BOSE
The way to fly.	British Airways
The world's favourite airline.	British Airways
Wassup?!	Budweiser
The king of beers.	Budweiser
Inspiration comes standard.	Chrysler
Empowering the Internet generation.	Cisco Systems
Live richly.	Citi
The most trusted name in news.	CNN
Coca-Cola refreshes you best.	Coca-Cola
The pause that refreshes.	Coca-Cola
Have a coke and smile.	Coca-Cola
"Healthy, beautiful smiles for life."	Crest
"Look, Ma, no cavities!"	Crest
A diamond is forever.	DeBeers
Easy as Dell.	Dell Computer
You'll love the way we fly.	Delta Airlines
We love to fly and it shows.	Delta Airlines
We move the world.	DHL
Yellow. The new Brown.	DHL
Competition. Bad for them. Great for you.	DHL
Time to make the doughnuts.	Dunkin Donuts
The miracles of science.	DuPont
Better living through chemistry.	DuPont
The power of all of us.	eBay
The world's online marketplace.	eBay

Tagline	Brand (World)
Nothing sucks like an Electrolux.	Electrolux
"It keeps going, and going, and going..."	Energizer Batteries
Quality in everything we do.	Ernst & Young
Don't just travel. Travel right.	Expedia.com
"Relax, it's FedEx."	FedEx
The world on time.	FedEx
"When it absolutely, positively has to be there overnight."	FedEx
Built for the road ahead.	Ford
Ford has a better idea.	Ford
Quality is job one.	Ford
Fair and balanced.	Fox News
Extinct is forever.	Friends of the Animals
Imagination at work.	General Electric
We bring good things to life.	General Electric
Celebrate the moments of your life.	General Foods
"Look sharp, feel sharp."	Gillette
The best a man can get.	Gillette
Never let 'em see you sweat.	Gillette Dry idea
The best tires in the world have Goodyear written all over them.	Goodyear
American by birth. Rebel by choice.	Harley Davidson
Hertz puts you in the driver's seat.	Hertz
57 varieties	H.J. Heinz
Invent.	Hewlett Packard
The power of dreams.	Honda
We're behind you every step of the way.	Huggies
Solutions for a small planet.	IBM
Intel Inside.	Intel
Finger-lickin' good!	Kentucky Fried Chicken
Nobody does chicken like KFC.	KFC
Share moments. Share life.	Kodak
It's time for clarity.	KPMG
Betcha can't eat just one.	Lay's Potato Chips
Because I'm worth it.	L'Oréal
"Melts in your mouth, not in your hands."	M & Ms
Come to Marlboro Country.	Marlboro
There are some things that money can't buy. For everything else there's MasterCard.	

9. Government schemes

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**

- Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services.
- Special Benefits under PMJDY Scheme:
 - No minimum balance required.
 - Accidental insurance cover of Rs. 1 lac
 - After satisfactory operation of the account for 6 months, an overdraft facility will be permitted

- PMJDY was launched on 28 August 2014.
- It is run by Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- By 28 September 2016, over 24.74 (247.4 million) bank accounts were opened and Rs. 43,532.53 crore (US\$6.632 billion) were deposited under the scheme.
- **Sukanya Samriddhi Account**
 - It is a saving scheme targeted at the parents of girl children. The scheme encourages parents to build a fund for the future education and marriage expenses for their female child.
 - The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 January 2015 as a part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign
 - The account can be opened at any India Post office or a branch of some authorised commercial banks.
 - Initially, the interest rate was set at 9.1% but later revised to 9.25 in late March 2015.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**
 - This yojana is under the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) Bank is a new institution being set up by Government of India for development and refinancing activities relating to micro units.
 - The purpose of MUDRA is to provide funding to the non corporate small business sector and to serve those three categories of interventions has been named which includes:
 - Shishu :- Loan upto Rs. 50000
 - Kishore :- Loan ranging from Rs. 50000 to Rs. 5 lakh
 - Tarun :- Loan above Rs. 5 lakh and below Rs. 10 lakh
 - It was launched on 8 April 2015
- **Sansad Adarsh Gram yojana (SAANJHI)**
 - This yojana is launched by the Rural Development Ministry is aimed at improving the quality of all sections of the population in the villages.
 - The goal is to develop three Adarsh Grams by March 2019, of which one would be achieved by 2016. Thereafter, five such Adarsh Grams (one per year) will be selected and developed by 2024.
 - Under this scheme, each MP adopts a village every year for all-round development and helps in development of the selected villages using the programme of the Centre and States and their constituency development funds (MPLADS).
 - It was launched on 11th October, 2014 (Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Ji's birth anniversary)
- **Indira Awas Yojana:**
 - It is a social welfare flagship programme, created by the Indian Government, to provide housing for the rural poor in India.
 - It provides financial assistance to rural poor for constructing their houses themselves.
- **Janani Suraksha Yojana:**
 - It is an Indian Government scheme proposed by the Government of India.
 - It was launched on 12 April 2005 by the Prime Minister of India.
 - It aims to decrease the neo-natal and maternal deaths happening in the country by promoting institutional delivery of babies.
- **Digital India Programme:**
 - Digital India is an initiative by the Government of India to ensure that Government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity.

- It was launched on 1 September 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high speed internet networks.
- Digital India has three core components:
 - The creation of digital infrastructure
 - Delivery of services digitally
 - Digital literacy
- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)**
 - The DDUGJY is one of the flagship programmes of the Ministry of Power and will facilitate 24x7 supply of power.
 - It focuses on feeder separation (rural households & agricultural) and strengthening of sub-transmission & distribution infrastructure.
 - The earlier scheme for rural electrification viz. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) has been subsumed in the new scheme as its rural electrification component.
 - Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) was launched on 25th July 2015 in Patna.
 - This scheme will enable to initiate much awaited reforms in the rural areas.
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**
 - The APY will be focussed on all citizens in the unorganised sector, who join the National Pension System (NPS) administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and who are not members of any statutory social security scheme.
 - The minimum age of joining APY is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years.
 - The Central Government would also co-contribute 50% of the subscriber's contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower, to each eligible subscriber account, for a period of 5 years.
 - Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is open to all bank account holders who are not members of any statutory social security scheme.
 - It was formally launched on 9 May 2015 in Kolkata.
- **One Rank One Pension scheme (OROP)**
 - The Central Government allotted Rs. 1000 Crore for the implementation of one rank one pension scheme.
 - According to the scheme, the armed forces personnel holding the same rank will get the same pension, regardless of the last drawn pay, years of service and the years served in a particular rank.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)**
 - It aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**
 - It is a State Plan Scheme of Additional Central Assistance launched in August 2007 as a part of the 11th Five Year Plan by the Government of India.
 - It was launched under the aegis of the National Development Council; it seeks to achieve 4% annual growth in agriculture through development of Agriculture and its allied sectors.
- **Saksham or Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Boys**
 - Its aims at all-round development of adolescent boys and make them self-reliant, gender sensitive and make them aware when they grow up. It covers all adolescent boys in the age group of 11-18 years.

- **Sabla or rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls**
 - The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) Sabla is a centrally sponsored program of Government of India initiated on April 1, 2011 under Ministry of Women and Child Development.
 - It was launched to enable the adolescent girls for self-development and empowerment, and also to improve their nutrition and health status.
- **Skill India Programme**
 - It aims to provide a strong institutional framework at the Centre and States for implementation of skilling activities in the country.
 - It seeks to provide the institutional capacity to train a minimum of 40 crore skilled people by 2022.
- **Swabhiman**
 - This nationwide programme on financial inclusion was launched in February, 2011 with its focus on bringing the deprived sections of the society in the banking network to ensure that the benefits of economic growth reach everyone at all levels.
- **Swavlamban**
 - This Yojana was a government-backed pension scheme targeted at the unorganized sector in India.
 - It was applicable to all citizens in the unorganized sector that joined the National Pension Scheme (NPS).
 - The scheme was announced by the Finance Minister in Budget 2010-11.
 - This scheme has been replaced with Atal Pension Yojana.
- **Swavlamban Health Insurance Scheme**
 - This scheme provides affordable Health Insurance to the persons with disabilities (PwDs).
 - The scheme has been designed to deliver comprehensive cover to the beneficiary as well as his family.
- **Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)**
 - HRIDAY was launched on 21 January 2015 with the aim of bringing together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner to preserve the heritage character of each heritage city.
- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**
 - AMRUT is a mission aimed at transforming 500 cities and towns into efficient urban living spaces, with special focus on a healthy and green environment for children.
 - AMRUT was launched 24 June 2015.
- **National Rural Health Mission (NHRM)**
 - It is an initiative undertaken by the government of India to address the health needs of underserved rural areas.
 - It was launched in April 2005.
 - NRHM was initially tasked with addressing the health needs of 18 states that had been identified as having weak public health indicators.
- **Public Distribution System (PDS)**
 - PDS is a government-sponsored chain of shops entrusted with the work of distributing basic food and non-food commodities to the needy sections of the society at very cheap prices.
 - It is procured and maintained by Food Corporation of India.
 - Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced with effect from June 1997.

- **National Food Security Mission**
 - In view of the stagnating food grain production and an increasing consumption need of the growing population, Government of India has launched this Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' in October 2007.
 - The aim of the scheme is to increase production and productivity of wheat, rice and pulses on a sustainable basis.
- **Minimum Support Prices Scheme**
 - It is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
 - The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- **Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)**
 - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner, as mandated by 86th amendment to the Constitution of India making free and compulsory Education to the Children of 6-14 years age group, a Fundamental Right.
 - SSA has been operational since 2000-2001.
 - The expenditure on the programme was shared by the Central Government (85%) and the State Governments.
 - Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat is a nationwide sub-programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- **DEEN DAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA / Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)**
 - Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011.
 - NRLM set out with an agenda to cover 7 Crore rural poor households, across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats and 6 lakh villages in the country through self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs).
 - November 2015, the program was renamed Deen Dayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).
- **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)**
 - It is a certificate savings scheme was launched by the Government on 1st April, 1988. The scheme provided facility of unlimited investment by way of purchase of certificates from post offices in various denominations.
 - After the Shayamla Gopinath committee recommendation the Government of India decided to close this scheme and KVP was closed in 2011.
 - The new government re-launched it in 2014.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sinchai Yojana**
 - This Yojana is aimed at irrigating the field of every farmer and improving water use efficiency to provide 'Per Drop More Crop'.
 - The primary objectives of PMKSY are to attract investments in irrigation system at field level, develop and expand cultivable land in the country.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**
 - It was launched on 18 February 2016.
 - It envisages a uniform premium of only 2 per cent to be paid by farmers for Kharif crops, and 1.5 per cent for Rabi crops.
 - The premium for annual commercial and horticultural crops will be 5 per cent.
 - the new crop insurance scheme is that losses incurred by them at any stage of the farming activity — from the sowing to the post-harvest season — would be covered.
 - The biggest thrust of PMFBY has been the use of technology which would be encouraged to a great extent.

10. Economic data

1. **GDP size:** \$2.29 trillion (nominal; 2016)
\$8.64 trillion (PPP; 2016) [By IMF]
2. **GDP rank:** 7th (Nominal) / 3rd (PPP)
3. **GDP growth:** 7.2% (2014), 7.6% (2015e),
4. **GDP per capita:** \$1,820 (nominal; 129th; 2016)
\$6,664 (PPP; 108th; 2016) [By IMF]
5. **GDP by sector:**
 - (i) Agriculture: 16.1%
 - (ii) Industry: 29.5%
 - (iii) Services: 54.4%
6. **Main industries:** Software, petroleum products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, textiles, steel, transportation equipment, machinery, leather, cement, mining and construction.
7. **Ease-of-doing-business rank:** 130/189 countries (2016)
8. **Export goods:** software, petrochemicals, agriculture products, Jewellery, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, textiles, chemicals, transportation, ores and other commodities.
9. **Import goods:** crude oil, gold and precious stones, electronics, engineering goods, chemicals, plastics, coal and ores, iron and steel, vegetable oil and other commodities
10. **Public debt:** 66.5% of GDP (2016)
11. **Foreign reserves:** \$366.77 billion (as of 26 August 2016)
12. **Repo Rate:** 6.25 %
13. **Reverse Repo Rate:** 5.75 %
14. **Marginal Standing Facility Rate:** 6.75%
15. **Bank Rate:** 6.75%
16. **CRR:** 4%
17. **SLR:** 20.75%
18. Fiscal Deficit is 4 per cent of GDP for the 2015-16 and 3.9 percent targeted in 2016-17.

Details of FDI Investments in Various Sectors

- India today has been rated as Number 1 FDI Investment Destination by several International Agencies.

(A) Sectors with Restrictions

- Lottery Business including Government/private lottery, online lotteries, etc
- Gambling and Betting including casinos etc.
- Chit funds
- Nidhi company-(borrowing from members and lending to members only).
- Trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDRs)
- Real Estate Business (other than construction development) or Construction of Farm Houses
- Manufacturing of Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes
- Activities / sectors not open to private sector investment e.g. Atomic Energy and Railway Transport (other than construction, operation and maintenance of (i) Suburban corridor projects through PPP, (ii) High speed train projects, (iii) Dedicated freight lines, (iv) Rolling stock including train sets, and locomotives/coaches manufacturing and maintenance facilities, (v) Railway Electrification, (vi) Signaling systems, (vii) Freight terminals (viii) Passenger terminals, (ix) Infrastructure in industrial park pertaining to railway line/sidings including electrified railway lines and

connectivity to main railway line and (x) Mass Rapid Transport Systems.)

- Services like legal, book keeping, accounting & auditing.

(B) Permitted Sectors:

- Foreign Investment in Defence Sector up to 100%
- Foreign investment beyond 49% has now been permitted through government approval route, in cases resulting in access to modern technology in the country or for other reasons to be recorded.
- FDI limit for defence sector has also been made applicable to Manufacturing of Small Arms and Ammunitions covered under Arms Act 1959.
- Teleports, Direct to Home, Cable Networks, and Headend-in-the Sky Broadcasting Service(100% automatic)
- **Pharmaceutical:**
- 100% FDI under automatic route in Greenfield pharma.
- FDI up to 100% under government approval in brownfield pharma. With the objective of promoting the development of this sector, it has been decided to permit up to 74% FDI under automatic route in brownfield pharmaceuticals and government approval route beyond 74% will continue.
- **Civil Aviation Sector:**
- 100% FDI under automatic route in Airports Greenfield Projects.
- 74% FDI in Brownfield Projects under automatic route. FDI beyond 74% for Brownfield Projects is under government route.
- 100% FDI in Air Transport Service/ Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline and regional Air Transport Service (49% automatic route beyond 49% through Government approval)
- For NRIs, 100% FDI will continue to be allowed under automatic route.
- **Private Security Agencies:**
- FDI up to 49% is now permitted under automatic route in this sector and FDI beyond 49% and up to 74% would be permitted with government approval route.
- **Agriculture**
- FDI in Animal Husbandry (including breeding of dogs), Pisciculture, Aquaculture and Apiculture is allowed 100% under Automatic Route under controlled conditions.
- Development and Production of seeds and planting material
- Services related to agro and allied sectors

Note: Besides the above, FDI is not allowed in any other agricultural sector/activity

- **Plantation Sector**
- Tea , Coffee , Rubber , Cardamom, Palmand Olive oil tree plantations (100% under Automatic Route)
- Besides the above, FDI is not allowed in any other plantation sector/activity.
- 100% FDI through automatic Route in Mining and Exploration of metal and non-metal ores; Coal & Lignite.
- 100% FDI through automatic Route in Petroleum & Natural Gas
- 100% FDI through automatic Route in Construction Development: Townships, Housing, Built-up Infrastructure.
- 100% FDI through automatic Route in Industrial Parks -new and existing.
- 100% FDI through government Route in Satellites- establishment and operation, subject to the sectoral guidelines of Department of Space/ISRO.
- 100% FDI (automatic up to 49% and government route beyond 49%) in Telecom Services
- (Including Telecom Infrastructure Providers.
- 100% FDI through automatic Route in Cash & Carry Wholesale Trading/Wholesale Trading (including sourcing from MSEs).
- 100% FDI through automatic Route in E-commerce activities
- 100% FDI (automatic up to 49% and government route beyond 49%) in Single Brand product retail trading.

- 51% FDI Cap through government route in Multi Brand Retail Trading.
- 100% FDI through automatic Route in Duty Free Shops.
- 100% FDI through automatic Route in Railway Infrastructure.
- 74% FDI cap in Banking- Private Sector (Automatic up to 49% government route beyond 49% and up to 74%).
- 20% FDI cap in Banking- Public Sector (through government route)
- 49% FDI cap in Infrastructure Company in the Securities Market (automatic route)
- 49% FDI cap in Insurance and Pension Sector (automatic route)
- 49% FDI cap in Power Exchanges (automatic route).
- 100% FDI through automatic Route in White Label ATM Operations.
- 100% FDI through automatic Route in Non-Banking Finance Companies (some activities).

Note: According to FDI Policy Circular of 2016 (From June 07, 2016)

11. Important Demographic Facts of India – Census 2011

Following are few selected, important demographic facts, that you should always keep on your finger tips. You can expect atleast one question from them.

The 15th Indian National census was conducted in two phases, house listing and population enumeration. House listing phase began on April 1, 2010 to collect of information on all buildings. Information for National Population Register was also collected in the first phase, which will be used to issue a 12-digit unique identification number (Adhar) to all registered Indians by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIAI). The second phase of population enumeration was conducted between 9 to 28 February 2011. Census has been conducted in India since 1872. In Census - 2011 biometric information was collected for the first time.

Shri C. Chandramouli is the Registrar General and commissioner of 2011 indian census.

1. Absolute population of India - 121.02 crores. It comprises 62.37 crores males and 58.65 crores females.
2. Population growth during the decade remained 17.64 percent.
 - Total absolute increase in population during the decade is 18.15 crores.
 - Sex ratio - 940 females per 1000 males. Child sex ratio for females is 914 per 1000 males.
3. Highest sex ratio - Kerala
4. Lowest sex ratio - Haryana
5. Most populous state - Uttar pradesh
6. Least populous state - Sikkim
7. Most populous union territory - Delhi
8. Least populous union territory - Lakshadweep
9. Population density (people living in one square km) of India - 382.
10. Highest population density - Bihar
11. Lowest population density - ArunachalPradesh
12. Literacy rate of India - 74.04% (males: 82.14%, female: 65.46%). Literacy rate of India has gone up to 74.04 percent from previous figure of 64.83 percent.
13. States with highest literacy - Kerala (93.9%)
14. State with lowest literacy - Bihar (63.82%)
15. Urbanization (% of population living in urban areas) - 27.8% (India)
16. Most urbanised state (1991 census) - Mizoram
17. Speakers of language (in descending order) - Hindi > Bengali > Telugu > Marathi > Tamil > Urdu
18. Census commissioner of India for the census 2011 is Dr. C. Chandramouli

Census-2011 data

Rank	State /Union Territory	Type	Population	%	Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Literacy	Rural Population	Urban Population	Area (km ²)	Density (/km ²)
1	Uttar Pradesh	State	199812341	16.5	104480510	95331831	930	67.68	131658339	34539582	240928	828
2	Maharashtra	State	112374333	9.28	58243056	54131277	929	82.34	55777647	41100980	307713	365
3	Bihar	State	104099452	8.6	54278157	49821295	918	61.8	74316709	8681800	94163	1102
4	West Bengal	State	91276115	7.54	46809027	44467088	950	76.26	57748946	22427251	88752	1030
5	Andhra Pradesh + Telangana	State	84580777	6.99	42442146	42138631	993	67.02	55401067	20808940	275045	308
6	Madhya Pradesh	State	72626809	6	37612306	35014503	931	69.32	44380878	15967145	308245	236
7	Tamil Nadu	State	72147030	5.96	36137975	36009055	996	80.09	34921681	27483998	130058	555
8	Rajasthan	State	68548437	5.66	35550997	32997440	928	66.11	43292813	13214375	342239	201
9	Karnataka	State	61095297	5.05	30966657	30128640	973	75.36	34889033	17961529	191791	319
10	Gujarat	State	60439692	4.99	31491260	28948432	919	78.03	31740767	18930250	196024	308
11	Orissa	State	41974218	3.47	21212136	20762082	979	72.87	31287422	5517238	155707	269
12	Kerala	State	33406061	2.76	16027412	17378649	1084	94	23574449	8266925	38863	859
13	Jharkhand	State	32988134	2.72	16930315	16057819	948	66.41	20952088	5993741	79714	414
14	Assam	State	31205576	2.58	15939443	15266133	958	72.19	23216288	3439240	78438	397
15	Punjab	State	27743338	2.29	14639465	13103873	895	75.84	16096488	8262511	50362	550
16	Chhattisgarh	State	25545198	2.11	12832895	12712303	991	70.28	16648056	4185747	135191	189
17	Haryana	State	25351462	2.09	13494734	11856728	879	75.55	15029260	6115304	44212	573
18	Delhi	UT	16787941	1.39	8987326	7800615	868	86.21	944727	12905780	1484	11297
19	Jammu and Kashmir	State	12541302	1.04	6640662	5900640	889	67.16	7627062	2516638	222236	56
20	Uttarakhand	State	10086292	0.83	5137773	4948519	963	78.82	6310275	2179074	53483	189
21	Himachal Pradesh	State	6864602	0.57	3481873	3382729	972	82.8	5482319	595581	55673	123
22	Tripura	State	3673917	0.3	1874376	1799541	960	87.22	2653453	545750	10486	350
23	Meghalaya	State	2966889	0.25	1491832	1475057	989	74.43	1864711	454111	22429	132
24	Manipur	State	2570390	0.21	1290171	1280219	992	79.21	1590820	575968	22327	122
25	Nagaland	State	1978502	0.16	1024649	953853	931	79.55	1647249	342787	16579	119
26	Goa	State	1458545	0.12	739140	719405	973	88.7	677091	670577	3702	394
27	Arunachal Pradesh	State	1383727	0.11	713912	669815	938	65.38	870087	227881	83743	17
28	Pondicherry	UT	1247953	0.1	612511	635442	1037	85.85	325726	648619	479	2598
29	Mizoram	State	1097206	0.09	555339	541867	976	91.33	447567	441006	21081	52
30	Chandigarh	UT	1055450	0.09	580663	474787	818	86.05	92120	808515	114	9252
31	Sikkim	State	610577	0.05	323070	287507	890	81.42	480981	59870	7096	86
32	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	UT	380581	0.03	202871	177710	876	86.63	239954	116198	8249	46
33	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	UT	343709	0.03	193760	149949	774	76.24	170027	50463	491	698
34	Daman and Diu	UT	243247	0.02	150301	92946	618	87.1	100856	57348	112	2169
35	Lakshadweep	UT	64473	0.01	33123	31350	946	91.85	33683	26967	32	2013
Total	India	29 + 7	1210854977	100	623724248	586469174	943	73	833087662	377105760	3287240	382

12. International and National awards and their latest winners

International Awards

- **Nobel prizes 2016**
- **The Nobel Prize in Physics 2016:**
- David J. Thouless, F. Duncan M. Haldane and J. Michael Kosterlitz “for theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter”.
- **The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016:**
- Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L. Feringa “for the design and synthesis of molecular machines”.
- **The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2016:**
- Yoshinori Ohsumi “for his discoveries of mechanisms for autophagy”.
- **The Nobel Prize in Literature 2016:**
- The Nobel Prize in Literature 2016 was awarded to American singer songwriter Bob Dylan “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition”.
- **The Nobel Peace Prize 2016:**
- Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos for his resolute efforts to bring the country’s more than 50-year-long civil war to an end, a war that has cost the lives of at least 220 000 Colombians and displaced close to six million people.
- **The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2016:**
- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel (The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences) 2016 was awarded jointly to Oliver Hart and Bengt Holmström for their contributions to contract theory.
- **International Man Booker Prize (2016)**
- Han Kang from South Korea writer for her fiction novel ‘The Vegetarian’.
- **Oscar awards latest (88th Academy Awards)**
- Best actor: Leonardo Di Caprio (The Revenant)
- Best Actress: Brie Larson (Room)
- Movie: Spotlight
- Director: Alejandro González Iñárritu for the Revenant.
- Foreign language film : Son of Saul
- **Magsasay award 2016(only Indian):**
- Mr. T. M. Krishnaawardee for “social inclusiveness in culture,”
- Bezwada Wilson awardee for “asserting the inalienable right to a life of human dignity.”
- **Abel prize (2016):**
- Sir Andrew J. Wiles (62), University of Oxford, “for his stunning proof of Fermat’s Last Theorem by way of the modularity conjecture for semi stable elliptic curves, opening a new era in number theory.”
- **Right livelihood awards (2016):**
- The ‘White Helmets’, also known as the Syria Civil Defence, a Syrian civil organization of emergency responders in rebel-held areas, won the Right Livelihood Award 2016.
- **Templeton Awards (2016) :**
- Jonathan Sacks
- **World Food Prize (2016):**
- Dr. Maria Andrade
- Dr. Robert Mwanga
- Dr. Jan Low
- Dr. Howarth Bouis

National Awards

- **Bharat Ratna:**

- The country's highest civilian honor Bharat Ratna 2015 was conferred to freedom fighter Madan Mohan Malaviya posthumously & Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

- **Padma Vibhushan 2016:**

- Ms. Yamini Krishnamurthi
- Shri Rajinikanth
- Smt. Girija Devi
- Shri Ramoji Rao
- Dr. Viswanathan Shanta
- Shri Shri Ravi Shankar
- Shri Jagmohan
- Dr. Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre
- Shri Avinash Dixit (Foreigner)
- Late Shri Dhiru Bhai Ambani (Posthumous)

- **Padma Bhushan 2016:**

- Shri Anupam Kher
- Shri Udit Narayan Jha
- Shri Ram V. Sutar
- Shri Vinod Rai
- Ms. Saina Nehwal
- Ms. Sania Mirza
- Ms. Indu Jain
- Late Swami Dayanand Sarawasati (Posthumous)
- Shri Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry (NRI/PIO)

- **National Film awards 2016:**

- Best Feature Film: Baahubali: The Beginning
- Best Debut Film of A Director: Masaan
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Bajrangi Bhaijaan
- Best Direction: Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Bajirao Mastani)
- Best Actor: Amitabh Bachchan (Piku)
- Best Actress: Kangana Ranaut (Tanu Weds Manu Return)
- Best Supporting Actor: Samuthirakani (Visaranai)
- Best Supporting Actress: Tanvi Azmi (Bajirao Mastani)
- Best Male Playback Singer: Mahesh Kale
- Best Female Playback Singer: Monali Thakur

- **Gyanpeeth awards (2015):**

- Raghuveer Chaudhari [note 1] is a novelist, poet and critic from Gujarat, India.

- **Saraswati samman (2016):**

- Jammu-based poet and novelist Padma Sachdev was awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman today for the year 2015 for her autobiography 'Chitt-Chete' in Dogri language.

- **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Puraskar (2016):**

- P.V. Sindhu,
- Dipa Karmakar

- Jitu Rai
- Sakshi Malik
- **Sahitya Akademi awards -2016 (Hindi):**
- Nilotpal Mrinal for Dark Horse - Ek Anakahi Dastan (Novel)
- **Dada Saheb Phalke Award- 2016:**
- Manoj Kumar will be conferred the 47th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2015. The award — conferred by the Centre for outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian Cinema — consists of a Swarn Kamal (Golden Lotus), a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh and a shawl.

13. Latest Books and Authors

In management examinations, it is seen that questions from the works of very famous authors is generally asked. Here is the list of some very important authors and their respective works.

1	Arundhati Roy	The God of Small Things, Power Politics, War Talk, Public Power in the Age of Empire, An Ordinary Person's Guide to Empire, The Algebra of Infinite Justice, Capitalism: A Ghost Story, The Hanging of Afzal Guru, 13 December, India: A Mosaic
2	Chetan Bhagat	Half Girlfriend, What Young India Wants, Revolution 2020, 2 States, The 3 Mistakes of my Life, One Night @ the Call Center, Five Point Someone
3	V.S. Naipaul	An Area of Darkness, Mr Stone And The Knights Companion, A Flag on the Island, The Loss of El Dorado: A Colonial History, Finding the Center, Bombay, Adventures of Gurudeva, Fireflies, The Mystic Masseur, In a Free State, India: A Wounded Civilization, India: A Million Mutinies Now, Half a Life, Magic Seeds, A House for Mr Biswas, A Bend in the River, The Enigma of Arrival
4	Amitav Ghosh	Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke, The Glass Palace, The Circle of Reason
5	Anita Desai	Midnight's Children, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, Fasting, Feasting, The Village by the Sea, Fire on the Mountain, Games at Twilight, The Village by the Sea
6	Kiran Desai	The Inheritance of Loss, Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard, India Pack – 2003, AIDS Sutra: Untold Stories from India, Generation 1.5
7	APJ Abdul Kalam	Ignited Minds: Unleashing the Power within India, Turning Points: A Journey through Challenges, India 2020: A Vision for The New Millennium, My Journey: Transforming Dreams into Actions, Indomitable Spirit, Inspiring Thoughts, The Scientific Indian: A Twenty-first Century Guide to the World around Us, Mission India: A Vision for Indian Youth, You Are Born To Blossom: Take My Journey Beyond., You are Unique: Scale New Heights by Thoughts and Actions, Forge your Future, The Luminous Sparks, Spirit Of India, India My Dream, Transcendence My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji, Scientist to President, The Righteous Life: The Very Best of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Wings of Fire: An Autobiography, The Family and The Nation
8	Salman Rushdie	Midnight's Children, The Satanic Verses, The Ground beneath Her Feet, Shame, Khalifa Brothers, Haroun and the Sea of Stories, Shalimar the Clown, Grimus, The Jaguar Smile: A Nicaraguan Journey, Joseph Anton, Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights
9	Taslima Nasareen	Lajja, Amar Meyebela, Utal Hawa, Dwikhondito, Oporpokkho (The Opponent), Shodh, Nimontron (Invitation), Phera (Return), Bhromor Koio Gia (Tell Him The Secret), Forashi Premik (French Lover), Nirbasan
10	Jhumpa Lahiri	Hell-Heaven, Brotherly Love, The Lowland, Improvisations: Rice, Unaccustomed Earth, The interpreter of maladies, The Namesake, The Third and Final Continent
11	Vikram Seth	A Suitable Boy, The Golden Gate, An Equal Music: A Novel, A Suitable Girl, The Golden Gate, Three Chinese Poets, The Humble Administrator's Garden, Rivered Earth, The, All You Who Sleep Tonight
12	Aravind Adiga	The White Tiger, Last Man in Tower, Between the Assassinations

List of books and authors

1. *The Courage to Act - A Memoir of a Crisis and Its Aftermath* : Ben S. Bernanke
2. *Two Years Eight Months and Twenty Eight Nights* : Salman Rushdie
3. *To the Brink and Back: India's 1991 Story* : Jairam Ramesh
4. *Globalisation, Democratization and Distributive Justice* : Dr. Mool Chand Sharma
5. *30 Women in Power: Their Voices, Their Stories* : Naina Lal Kidwai
6. *Ramcharitmanas (105-year-old Urdu copy)* : Shiv Brat Lal
7. *Mrs Funnybones* : Twinkle Khanna
8. *Making India Awesome* : Chetan Bhagat
9. *The Kumbh Mela : Mapping the Ephemeral Megacity* : Tarun Khanna
10. *R.D. Burman : The Prince of Music* : Khagesh Dev Burman
11. *Ghosts of Calcutta* : Sebastian Ortiz
12. *Green Signals : Ecology, Growth, and Democracy in India* : Jairam Ramesh
13. *Transcendence : My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji* : Abdul Kalam
14. *Beyond Doubt : A Dossier on Gandhi's Assassination* : Teesta Setalvad
15. *Modi - Incredible emergence of a star (in Chinese language)* : Tarun Vijay
16. *Education of Muslims* : Professor JS Rajput
17. *Sourav Ganguly : Cricket, Captaincy and Controversy* : Saptarshi Sarkar
18. *Flood of fire* : Amitav Ghosh
19. *Super Economies* : Raghav Bahl
20. *Complete Story of Indian Reforms : 2G, Power & Private Enterprise* : Pradeep Baijal
21. *Unbelievable – Delhi to Islamabad* : Prof Bhim Singh
22. *Food for All* : Uma Lele
23. *Family Life* : Akhil Sharma (winner of the Folio Prize 2015)
24. *Faces and Places* : Prof. Deepak Nayar
25. *Indian Parliamentary Diplomacy- Speaker's Perspective* : Meira Kumar
26. *Editor Unplugged: Media, Magnates, Netas and Me* : Vinod Mehta
27. *Kiran Bedi — Kaise Bani Top Cop* : Kiran Bedi
28. *Fragile Frontiers: The Secret History of Mumbai Terror Attacks* : SK Rath
29. *Book on Sonia Gandhi titled The Red Sari* : Javier Moro
30. (Tamil Novel) *Madhorubhagan* : Perumal Murugan
31. *Why I Assassinated Gandhi* : Nathuram Godse and Gopal Godse

Wish you all the very best!

Team CL