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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**June 2015**

**Compilation of GK & Current Affairs as Published on GKTODAY**

[Useful for SSC, Bank PO, Bank Clerical, IBPS etc. Examinations]

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## Month Highlights

### Persons in news - Appointments / Elections

#### Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa

- Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa was sworn-in as the 19th Governor of Arunachal Pradesh. President Pranab Mukherjee had appointed him as Governor after then Governor Lt General (Retired) Nirbhay Sharma was transferred to Mizoram.

#### Meena Hemchandra

- Meena Hemchandra was appointed as the Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). She will be in charge of RBI's department of banking supervision, non-banking supervision and department of co-operative banking supervision.

#### Syed Asif Ibrahim

- Former Director of Intelligence Bureau (DIB) Syed Asif Ibrahim was appointed as Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Counter Terrorism and Extremism in National Security Council (NSC) Secretariat. His rank will be of Secretary to the government for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

#### R Seshasayee

- India's second largest software services firm, Infosys has appointed R Seshasayee as non-executive chairman. He will replace KV Kamath, who stepped had down to take over as President of the Shanghai based BRICS New Development Bank.

#### Ameenah Gurib-Fakim: first woman President of Mauritius

- Prominent scientist Ameenah Gurib-Fakim was sworn in as President of Mauritius. She became first woman to become President of Indian Ocean island nation which is a ceremonial position.

#### RC Tayal

- Union Home Ministry has appointed Senior IPS Officer RC Tayal as the new Director General (DG) of India's elite counter-terror force National Security Guard (NSG). He will have tenure till August 2016.

#### KV Chowdary



- President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed KV Chowdary new Central Vigilance Commissioner. He is first Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the Income Tax cadre to be appointed as CVC.

**Vijai Sharma**

- President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Vijai Sharma as Chief Information Commissioner. He will have tenure of for 5 years or till they attain the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

**Mahendra Kumar Sharma**

- Mahendra Kumar Sharma was appointed as non-executive chairman of ICICI Bank. He will replace K V Kamath who had resigned to join as President of the Shanghai based New Development Bank established by the BRICS nations.

**Dr.Srivari Chandrasekhar**

- Dr.Srivari Chandrasekhar was appointed Director of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) a premier research institute of Union Government based in Hyderabad, Telangana.

**Dr Bimal K Roy**

- Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has sacked Dr Bimal K Roy as the Director of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI). He was removed from the office on charges of indiscipline one-and-a-half months before the end of his term.

**Mogens Lyketoft**

- Mogens Lyketoft from Denmark was unanimously elected as President of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

**Keith Vaz**

- Britain's longest-serving Indian-origin MP Keith Vaz, has been re-elected as Chairman of Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) in House of Commons of UK Parliament for third time.

**Steffanie Graf**

- Kerala government has appointed Tennis Icon Steffanie Graf as Ayurveda brand ambassador to promote Ayurveda tourism of state in North America and Europe with theme Visit Kerala Destination.

**Places in News****Delhi Metro's first driver-less train**

- Delhi has received its first driver-less train from Republic of South Korea which is capable of running without a driver. The six-coach train has been manufactured at Changwan in South Korea.

**India's first green police station: Maurice Nagar of north Delhi**

- India's first green police station was inaugurated at Maurice Nagar in north Delhi. The police station has various provisions for preservation and safety of the environment.

**Jind, Karnal and Muzaffarnagar districts added in National Capital Region**



- Haryana's Jind, Karnal districts and Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district have been added into the conurbation National Capital Region (NCR). Decision in this regard was taken at 35th meeting of National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) held in New Delhi.

**Kamalasagar border haat**

- The second border haat (rural market) was opened for common people at Kamalasagar in Sipahijala district of Tripura bordering Brahmanbaria district of Bangladesh. This market is set up at the zero line of the international border with one part on the Indian side and the other in Bangladesh.

**Kunming: first India-China Yoga College**

- First India-China Yoga College was inaugurated at Yunnan Minzu University in Kunming, China. It is a first Indian government institution related Indian spiritual art form i.e. Yoga in China inaugurated.

**Sri Anandpur Sahib City**

- In Punjab state, 350th years of foundation of holy city Sri Anandpur Sahib was observed which was founded in 1665 by the Sri Guru TeghBahadur, ninth Guru of Sikhs. Later in 1699, KhalsaPanth was created here by the Tenth Guru Sri Guru Gobind Singh.

**Nathu La border crossing**

- China has opened 2nd land border crossing in Tibet via Nathu La, Sikkim to allow the Indian pilgrims for Kailash-Mansarovaryatra. The new route is in addition and alternative to the existing Lipulekh Pass route located in Uttarakhand which was only route earlier.

**Chennai Metro service**

- First phase of Chennai Metro service was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa after she flagged off inaugural train. The first phase of Metro service covers the 10-km overhead (elevated) stretch connecting Alandur in south Chennai to Koyabedu in the north.

**Sports****Deepika Kumari**

- Ace Indian archer DeepikaKumari won the bronze medal in the women's individual Women's Recurve event at Antalya Archery World Cup held in Turkey.

**Dilawar Singh**

- Dilawar Singh of Haryana won 'Pedal for Kashmir' cycling competition, held along the banks of picturesque Dal Lake in Srinagar.

**Gurpreet Singh**

- Ace Indian shooter Gurpreet Singh has secured India a fifth quota place in shooting for the 2015 Rio Olympics. He achieved this feat by finishing fourth in the Men's 10



metre Air Pistol final at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shooting World Cup held in Munich, Germany.

**MohunBagan Football Club: I-League title 2015**

- Kolkata's MohunBagan Football Club (FC) has won the I-League title by defeating Bengaluru Football Club. They won the title after a 1-1 draw score against Bengaluru FC in their final game of the 2014-15 season played at the Kanteerva Stadium, Bengaluru.

**Ravi Shastri**

- Former Indian Cricket Captain, Ravi Shastri was named interim coach of the Indian cricket team for the tour of Bangladesh which had hosted 1 Test and three One-Day Internationals (ODIs).

**Sepp Blatter**

- President of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Sepp Blatter has resigned amid of a corruption scandal which under investigation in United States.

**Sundaram Ravi**

- India's Sundaram Ravi was inducted into the Elite Panel of International Cricket Council (ICC) Umpires for year 2015-2016 along with New Zealand's Chris Gaffaney. Both of them were promoted from the International Panel to the Elite Panel.

**Machettira Raju Poovamma & Liksy Joseph**

- India's Machettira Raju Poovamma and Liksy Joseph have won silver medal each in 21st Asian Athletics Championships held in Wuhan, China.

**Barcelona FC**

- Barcelona FC has won 2015 Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League trophy for the fifth time by defeating Juventus FC by 3-1 goals score.

**2015 French Open title of Tennis**

- Men's Singles Title: Stanislas Wawrinka.
- Women's Singles Title: Serena Williams.
- Men's Doubles Title: Ivan Dodig and Marcelo Melo.
- Women's Doubles Title: Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Lucie Šafářová.
- Mixed Doubles Title: Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Mike Bryan.

**Mahendra Singh Dhoni**

- Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni is the only Indian to find place in the Forbes magazine's list of 100 World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2015. This edition of list was again topped by US boxer Floyd Mayweather for third time.

**Sir Wesley Winfield Hall**

- Former West Indies paceman Sir Wesley Winfield Hall has been inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. He is 80th cricketer to be inducted in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame and 18th from West Indies.

**Rohan Bopanna and Florin Mergea**



- Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna along with his Romanian partner Florin Mergea won the ATP's Stuttgart Open final doubles trophy in Germany.

#### Sunil Chhetri

- Sunil Chhetri became the first Indian footballer to score 50 international goals. He achieved this feat in his 87th match i.e. during 2018 World Cup qualifying match between India and Guam.

#### Anti-Doping Rule Violations Report

- India has been ranked third in Anti-Doping Rule Violations Report for year 2013 released by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) with 91 athletes from Indian have been tested positive for banned substances of which 20 were women athletes.

#### Nico Rosberg

- Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg from Germany has won the Austrian Grand Prix Formula One (F1) World Championship title. It was his eleventh overall championship title and the third win in the 2015 season.

#### Roger Federer

- World number two Roger Federer has won the Halle Open ATP title in Germany for eighth time. In the final match he defeated Andreas Seppi of Italy by 7-6, 6-4 score.

#### Sachin Tendulkar

- India's legendary batsman and Bharat Ratna recipient Sachin Tendulkar has been voted the 'Best Test player' of the 21st century in an online poll which was conducted by Cricket Australia's website for the list of the 100 best Test players since 2000.

#### Satnam Singh Bhamara

- Satnam Singh Bhamara became the first Indian born basketball player to be drafted in the National Basketball Association (NBA). He was chosen by the Dallas Mavericks team as the 52nd pick in the NBA Draft.

#### Zaheer Abbas

- Former Pakistan cricket team captain Zaheer Abbas has been selected the new President of International Cricket Council (ICC) for one year term. He will be 13th President of ICC.

#### Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponappa

- Indian pair of Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponappa won the women's doubles title of the Canada Open Badminton tournament.

### Persons in news: Died

#### Hemant Sonawala

- Hemant Sonawala, one of the pioneer founders of India's information technology (IT) industry passed away. He was founder and chairman of Hinditron Group.
- As a visionary industrialist and entrepreneur he had played important role laying the foundations of Indian IT industry which has grown and subsequently shown meteoric rise in past two decades.

#### Irwin Rose



- Renowned biochemist Irwin Rose who was awarded 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering molecule Ubiquitin passed away. He had shared this noble prize with Aaron Ciechanover and AvramHershko.

**Dr. Mahesh N. Buch**

- Former bureaucrat Dr. Mahesh N. Buch who was widely regarded as the architect of modern Bhopal, passed away. He was known for his clear views in context of urban planning and environment protection for betterment of Bhopal and Madhya Pradesh.

**Dasaradhi Rangacharya**

- Legendary Telugu writer Dasaradhi Rangacharya passed away.

**Sir Christopher Lee**

- Legendary English actor, singer and writer Sir Christopher Lee passed away in London, United Kingdom. The veteran actor was famously known as the master of horror for his famous villainy acting roles in numerous movies.

**Nek Chand Saini**

- Nek Chand Saini, creator of Chandigarh's iconic Rock Garden passed away. He was as a self-taught Indian artist awarded the Padma Shri in 1984.

**Sheila Kaul**

- Former Himachal Pradesh governor and ex-union minister Sheila Kaul passed away. She was a sister-in-law of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi's maternal aunt.

**Charles Correa**

- India's greatest contemporary architect Charles Correa passed away. He had played a pivotal role in the creation of architecture for post-Independence India and was known for his sensitivity to the needs of the urban poor and use of traditional methods and materials for construction.

**Kirk Kerkorian**

- Kirk Kerkorian was a billionaire Las Vegas mogul and casino tycoon and was also Hollywood tycoon and had diversified investments in airlines and auto industry.

**ShashiBala**

- Former Indian women hockey team captain ShashiBala passed away. She was a former hockey player and had made international debut in 1987and had captained Indian hockey team for women.

**Sister Nirmala Joshi**

- Sister Nirmala Joshi,former Superior General of Missionaries of Charity passed away. She had taken over as Superior General in March 1997 after the death of Mother Teresa.

**James Horner**

- James Horner, the two-time Oscar-winning composer died. In 1997, Horner had won two Oscars (Academy Awards) for best original score and along with original song of the biggest Hollywood hits movie Titanic directed by James Cameron.



#### **Praful Bidwai**

- Veteran journalist, author, political analyst and anti-nuclear activist Praful Bidwai passed away in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

#### **Yevgeny Primakov**

- Former Prime minister Yevgeny Primakov passed away in Moscow after a prolonged illness. He had served as PM for just eight months between September 1998 and May 1999.

### **Science, Technology & Environment**

#### **World's first ATM with Facial Recognition Technology**

- Researchers from China have successfully developed the first automated teller machine (ATM) with facial recognition technology.
- The machine has unique security feature which does not allow users to withdraw cash unless their face matches their facial ID.

#### **World's first partial skull and scalp transplant**

- Doctors from Texas State of United States have done the world's first partial skull and scalp transplant from a human donor. This rare medical feat was achieved by team of Doctors from Houston Methodist Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

#### **Cyclonic storm Ashobaa**

- Cyclonic storm Ashobaa in Arabian Sea is the first tropical storm of the pre-monsoon season in the Indian seas. It was formed after intensified deep depression (low pressure zone) was developed over east central Arabian Sea.

#### **World's first prosthetic leg with feelings**

- World's first prosthetic (artificial) leg capable of simulating the feelings of a real limb and fighting phantom pain was unveiled by researchers in Vienna, Austria. This prosthetic leg was fitted on Wolfgang Rangger who had lost his right leg in 2007.

#### **Yellow-Breasted Buntings: verge of extinction**

- As per recent study published in the Conservation Biology journal, Yellow-breasted buntings (*Emberiza aureola*), a songbird are near to extinction. The population of this bird species which is also known as the "rice bird" in China has plunged by 90 percent since 1980 and disappearing from Eastern Europe, Japan and parts of Russia.

#### **Philae comet lander**

- Philae comet lander has woken on the surface of Comet 67P (Churyumov-Gerasimenko) from seven-month hibernation. It was announced by European Space Agency (ESA).

#### **Sakaar application**

- Union Government has launched Augmented Reality technology based mobile application named 'Sakaar' to highlight the achievements of the Department of Space.

#### **World's thinnest light bulb using graphene**



- Researchers have created the world's thinnest light bulb using graphene as filament which produces exceptionally bright light.

#### US ban trans-fats

- United States (US) has announced to curb and eliminate majority of partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) commonly called trans-fats from the country's food supply by 2018.

#### Translocation of Brow Antlered (Sangai) deer

- Manipur State Forest Department has decided to translocate a section of critically endangered species of Brow Antlered (Sangai) deer with an aim to save it from extinction.
- Sangai deer is endemic to Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP). It will be translocated to Pumlen Pat which is close existing habitat to Loktak.

#### BX1E: world's first electric passenger aircraft

- The world's first electric passenger aircraft named BX1E was manufactured in China and was designed by Shenyang Aerospace University and Liaoning General Aviation Academy.

#### Galaxy CR7

- Astronomers have named a newly discovered galaxy as CR7 (COSMOS Redshift 7) after Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo.

#### Blue Mormon: State butterfly of Maharashtra

- Maharashtra has officially declared Blue Mormon species as State butterfly becoming first State in the country to have a State butterfly. Blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*) is the second largest butterfly species in terms of size, after the southern birdwing (*Troides minos*).
- It is endemic to Sri Lanka, Western Ghats of Maharashtra, South India and coastal belts of the country.

#### June 22: Snake Bird Day

- Kerala Government has declared June 22 as 'Snake Bird Day' in a bid to protect the endangered species which is also known as Indian darter.

#### India, fourth largest carbon emitter

- India is fourth largest carbon emitter in the world in terms of per capita emission accounting for 6.6 % of global emissions for the year 2012. It was revealed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) in its latest analysis.

#### First 3D anatomic heart model

- Team of heart experts including an Indian-origin surgeon Dr. Joseph Vettukattil for first time have printed three dimensional (3D) anatomic heart model using multiple imaging techniques.

### Events & Observances

#### 2015-16 Year of development year in Punjab





- Punjab government has announced that year 2015-16 will be observed as development year to give further fillip to the all-round development of the state.

**June 05: World Environment Day (WED)**

- Every year World Environment Day (WED) is observed on 05 June to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth. The theme for year 2015 is Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.

**June 12: The World Day Against Child Labour**

- The World Day Against Child Labour is being observed annually across world on 12 June to bring awareness against child labour.
- The theme of this year is No to Child Labour, Yes to Quality Education.

**Ladakh Singhey Khababs / Sindhu Darshan Festival**

- Three day long tourism promotional Ladakh Singhey Khababs Sindhu (also known as Sindhu Darshan) Festival has begun on the bank of the Indus River near Shey village in Ladakh.

**June 14: World Blood Donor Day**

- World Blood Donor Day was observed across the world on 14 June to raise the public awareness about the need for safe blood donation. The theme of this year's campaign is Thank you for saving my life.

**June 21: International Yoga Day (IYD)**

- The first International Yoga Day (IYD) was celebrated across the world on 21 June 2015 which was led by India and was marked by 192 countries across the globe. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led thousands of participants of all ages at Rajpath yoga event.

**June 20: World Refugee Day**

- Every year June 20 is observed as World Refugee Day to raise awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world. The theme for year 2015 is With courage let us all combine.

**200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo**

- 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo was held in Belgium. The battle is a pivotal moment in modern History of Europe in which around ninety thousand French troops led by Napoleon Bonaparte were defeated.

**Defence Related****Pinaka mark-II rockets**

- Advanced version of indigenous Pinaka mark-II rockets were successfully tested in Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan. They were test-fired using a multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL).

**India- US 10 year defence framework agreement**



- India and United States (US) have signed a new strategically important 10-year defence framework agreement which provides avenues for high level strategic discussions between both nations along with continued exchanges of armed forces and strengthening of defence capabilities.

**INS Vikrant**

- India's first indigenously-built largest aircraft carrier INS Vikrant was successfully undocked at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Cochin district of Kerala.

**Wu-14 hypersonic vehicle**

- China has conducted the fourth successful test of a new Wu-14 hypersonic strike vehicle which is capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

**Finance, Business and Economy****RBI reduces the policy repo rate**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 7.5 per cent to 7.25 per cent with immediate effect. It was announced in the second bi-monthly policy of RBI.

**LIC gets nod to do business in Bangladesh**

- Bangladesh has granted permission to India's state-owned insurance group Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to do business in the country.

**India loses poultry case against US at WTO**

- India lost a poultry case against United States at World Trade Organization (WTO) after WTO's Dispute Settlement Board (DSB) ruled that India's ban on import of poultry meat, eggs and live pigs from US is inconsistent with the international norms.

**India's first Tier-I Oil Spill Response Centre (OSRC)**

- India's first of its kind Tier-I Oil Spill Response Centre (OSRC) was inaugurated for Mumbai Port Trust (MBT), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and ONGC's facilities at Nhava and Uran.

**Anti-dumping duty on imports of certain steel products**

- India has slapped anti-dumping duty on imports of certain steel products from three South Asian countries viz China, Malaysia and South Korea.
- It was imposed by Union Finance Ministry on the recommendation of Directorate General of Anti-Dumping Duty (DGAD).

**Padmasree Warrior**

- Padmasree Warrior, India-born Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at global IT giant Cisco has stepped down from her post.

**The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA)**

- African countries have signed a historic The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) that facilitates creation of Africa's largest free-trade zone. It will cover 26 countries in an area from southernmost tip of African continent i.e. Cape Town (South Africa) to Cairo (Egypt) in the north.

**United States: World's largest oil producer in 2014**



- As per recently released report by British Petroleum (BP) Energy Company, United States (US) became the world's largest oil producer in 2014 surpassing Saudi Arabia. It was revealed in BP Energy Company report titled Statistical Review of World Energy.

**Freight train service between China and Europe**

- China has launched a freight train service between its northeastern city of Harbin and Europe. The 9,820-km-long distance rail route will open new trade options for Chinese goods in the European Market.

**Cairn India merger with Vedanta Ltd**

- Metal and mining giant Vedanta Ltd and its subsidiary oil explorer Cairn India have announced to merge to create India's largest diversified Natural Resources Company.

**Snapdeal acquires Letsgomo Labs**

- Domestic e-commerce giant Snapdeal has acquired Gurgaon based mobility solutions company Letsgomo Labs. It will help to strengthen Snapdeal position in the m-commerce domain by further strengthen its mobile technology capabilities.

**BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)**

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) have inked a Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) for the regulation of passenger, personnel and cargo vehicular traffic for the economic benefit of the entire region.

**HDFC Bank's paperless instant loan Scheme**

- HDFC Bank, India's second-largest private sector lender has launched a 10-second paperless instant loan Scheme for its existing customers.

**Haryana's Village Mentoring Project (VMP)**

- Haryana Government has launched a Village Mentoring Project (VMP) in a bid to improve healthcare and education of the villagers with a special emphasis on girl child.

**Rajasthan tops in solar energy in India**

- Rajasthan has become number one state in the country in terms of total installed capacity of solar energy with total 1,167 megawatt (MW) installed capacity and has surpassed Gujarat (1000 MW) which was previous number one state in the country.

**Government Policy and Schemes****Khoya Paya web platform**

- Union Government has launched KhoyaPaya web platform for people to directly report, track and upload information on missing children. It is joint initiative of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).

**IAP HealthPhone programme**

- Union Government has launched IAP HealthPhone programme. It is world's largest digital mass education programme to address malnutrition in women and children.

**Renewable Energy Policy 2015 of Maharashtra government**



- Maharashtra government has approved a new Renewable Energy Policy which aims at achieving 14,400 MW of installed capacity over a period of five years i.e. till 2020. The policy aims at achieving installed capacity of renewable energy of 21,100 MW by 2020 from current installed capacity of 6,700 MW.

#### **Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project of J&K**

- World Bank has approved 250 million US dollars loan for Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). The project will be funded by loan credit from International Development Association (IDA), World Bank's concessionary with a maturity of 25 years, including a 5 year grace period.

#### **Sustainable Urban Development Project of Tamil Nadu**

- Union Government has signed a loan and project agreement with World Bank to provide \$400 million to the Tamil Nadu government for its Sustainable Urban Development Project which aims at improving urban services in participating Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in a financially sustainable manner.

#### **Jal Kranti Abhiyan**

- Union Government launched nationwide JalKrantiAbhiyan which aims at turning one water scarce village in each district of the country into water surplus village water through a holistic and integrated approach by adopting conservation and management techniques.

#### **Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) at Chennai**

- Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) was set up in Chennai by the Union Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and Tamil Nadu state government. It will provide migrants and overseas Indian workers with information, advice, counseling and guidance on all aspects of overseas employment.

#### **Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP)**

- Union Government launched an Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) of 1,500 crore rupees as per the mandatory provision under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLND), 2010.
- With this launch, INIP became 27th nuclear insurance pool in the world that manages nuclear liabilities. India also has joined an exclusive list of countries having nuclear pools.

#### **Bibek Debroy Committee**

- BibekDebroy Committee on the restructuring of Indian Railways has submitted its final report to the Union Ministry of Railways. The committee has suggested measures for restructuring the Railway Board and its departments so that policy making is separated from day-to-day operations.

#### **New Industrial Policy 2015 of Telangana**

- Telangana government has unveiled New Industrial Policy 2015 to boost industrial activity and employment opportunities in the state.

#### **BSNL's free pan India roaming scheme**



- State owned telecommunications giant Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched free pan India roaming scheme in order to achieve dream of 'One Nation One Number'.

#### **New IT & ITES policy 2015 of Maharashtra**

- Maharashtra Government has given nod to new Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) policy which aims at making state an IT, animation and gaming industry hub by attracting 50,000 crore rupees of investment and creating 1 million jobs in next five years i.e. by 2020.

#### **Asia Pacific region: world's second richest region**

- Asia Pacific region has overtaken Europe as the world's second richest region for the first time in terms of global wealth management as per BCG report.

#### **NOWCAST weather alert system**

- Union Government has launched NOWCAST weather alert system to provide free SMS service alerts on extreme weather conditions (ex-hailstorm) to over one crore registered farmers on their mobile phones.

#### **Insurance Web-Portal**

- Insurance Web-Portal will be used to create awareness and encourage farmers to insure their crops by taking advantage of existing three schemes.

#### **National Dairy Plan- I (NDP-I)**

- CCEA has given its approval for inclusion of Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand under the National Dairy Plan- I (NDP-I) and also extended the implementation period to achieve key outputs NDP-I upto 2018-19.

#### **Maharashtra tops in Patent filing**

- Maharashtra has topped in Patent filing in India during year 2013-14. While, the Bengaluru was the top city in IPR filing in the country.

#### **Bhuvan Ganga Mobile Application**

- Union Government has launched Bhuvan Ganga Mobile Application and Web Portal to aid flagship mission to Clean Ganga.

#### **India Army and Indian Railways**

- Two Indian organizations, India Army and Indian Railways are among the world's biggest employers. It was revealed in a research published by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Both organisations employ around 2.7 million people together.

#### **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**

- 50 founding nations including India have signed 60-article agreement of China-led multilateral Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

### **Awards**

#### **Atal Bihari Vajpayee: Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War Award**

- Former Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee will be conferred with Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War Award by Bangladesh government for his outstanding



support for the Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan in 1971 when he was member of Lok Sabha.

**Edward Snowden: Norwegian prize for freedom of expression**

- Edward Snowden, former US security contractor and electronic surveillance whistleblower has been awarded a Norwegian prize for freedom of expression (also known as Bjornson Prize). The award was bestowed upon him for his work protecting privacy and for shining a critical light on US surveillance of its citizens and others.

**International Indian Film Academy (IIFA)**

- 16th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) informally known as the "Bollywood Oscars," was held in Malaysia. Best Film was awarded to Queen.

**Parkash Singh Badal: Sant Namdev National Award- 2015**

- Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Parkash Singh Badal was conferred the prestigious 14th SantNamdev National Award- 2015 by Pune based Sarhad foundation for promoting peace, communal harmony and universal brotherhood.

**C.N.R. Rao: Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star**

- Eminent scientist and Bharat Ratna awardee C.N.R. Rao was conferred with Japan's highest civilian award the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

**Ramachandra Guha: Fukuoka Prize 2015**

- Eminent Historian-writer RamachandraGuha has been selected for Japan's Fukuoka Prize 2015 in the Academic category for his outstanding contributions to academia, arts and culture across Asia.

**Sanjay Subrahmanyam**

- Sanjay Subrahmanyam, one of the foremost south Indian classical vocalists has been selected for the 'Sangita Kalanidhi' award 2015.

**National Union of Seafarers of India: Best Welfare Organisation of the Year 2015**

- India's oldest and largest shipping trade union, National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) has been honoured with the 'Best Welfare Organisation of the Year-2015' award.

**Nadia district:United Nations Public Service Award 2015**

- Nadia district in West Bengal has won the United Nations Public Service Award 2015 in the category of improving delivery of public services for or eliminating open defecation in the district.

**Miscellaneous Terms and Facts****Re-promulgation of land ordinance for 3rd time**

- President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to re-promulgation of land ordinance for third time as per provisions of Article 123 of Indian Constitution.

**Gatimaan Express: first semi high-speed train service**

- Gatimaan Express is the first semi high-speed train service launched between Delhi and Agra. The train will run at a maximum speed of 160 kmph and is expected to cover the 200-km distance between both destinations in about 105 minutes.



### Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

- MERS belongs to the family of coronaviruses which includes large family of viruses such as common cold and Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). It was discovered in 2012 and was mostly centred in Saudi Arabia. Two people had died of MER in South Korea making it country's first fatalities from the disease.

### Jaipur Metro

- Jaipur Metro's Phase-1 was inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Minister VasundharaRaje by flagging off the inaugural train. Phase 1 of Pink City's Metro covers 9.6 km long route from Mansarovar to Chandpole with nine metro stations.

### Maharashtra invokes MCOCA against ration mafia

- Maharashtra government has invoked stringent provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against ration mafia with an aim to weed out the widespread corruption by taking stringent action against those who tamper the public distribution system (PDS) mechanism.

### Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) ratified

- India and Bangladesh signed pact to operationalise the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) between both nations by swapping instruments of ratification regarding the LBA. The operationalisation of LBA paves the way for exchange of 161 enclaves under the control of either country as per the 1974 pact.

### Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- FSSAI is a nodal statutory agency responsible for protecting and promoting public health in India through the regulation and supervision of food safety. It was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and operates under aegis of Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

### Promulgation of Ordinance to amend Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881

- Union Government has given nod for promulgation of Ordinance to amend Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. The ordinance paves way for filing of cheque bounce cases in place where the cheque was issued.

### SC cancels AIMPT 2015

- Supreme Court has cancelled the All India Pre-Medical Test (AIMPT) 2015 and directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to re-conduct the test within one month.

### Haridwar Mail renamed as Yoga Express

- Indian Railways has named Haridwar Mail as Yoga Express with an immediate effect.

### 800 years of signing of Magna Carta

- United Kingdom (UK) celebrated 800 years of signing of Magna Carta on 15 June 2015. It was signed on 15 June 1215 at Runnymede alongside the River Thames in the English county of Surrey.

### Japan lowers voting age to 18

- Japan has passed a law lower the voting age to 18 years from its current 20 years.



### Global Peace Index (GPI) 2015

- As per recently released Global Peace Index (GPI) for year 2015, India was placed at 143th rank out of 162 countries.

### Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015

- The bill seeks to replace the existing Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 1986 with an aim to bring in more products under the mandatory standard regime and end the inspector raj.

### International Yoga Day creates 2 World records

- India has set two Guinness world records (GWR) in Rajpath yoga event held on the eve of first International Yoga Day led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Two records are Largest number of participants and Most number of nationalities at a single event.

## COMPENDIUM 150 MCQS

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1. The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial corridor (DMIC) project covers how many states?

- [A] Four
- [B] Six
- [C] Five
- [D] Seven

**Answer:** Six

### Explanation:

DMIC covers six states – Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. It is a State-Sponsored Industrial Development Project of the Government of India. The \$100 billion ambitious project aimed at developing Industrial zones spanning across the above six states which would spur economic development in the region and develop industries.

2. Who has been conferred with the Asian Athletics Association President Award?

- [A] Suresh Kalmadi
- [B] Lalith Soori
- [C] Ramachandran
- [D] Sharad Pawar

**Answer:** Suresh Kalmadi

### Explanation:

Suresh Kalmadi has been conferred with the Asian Athletics Association President's award. Kalmadi won the award for his contribution towards the development of athletics in the continent at the Asian Athletics Association. Kalmadi served as president of AAA for 13 years from 2000 to 2013 and was also credited with the introduction of top events like Asian Grand





Prix series, Asian Indoor Championships and Asian All Star Meet, besides other competitions. He was also named Life President of Asian Athletics Association.

3. Which among the following is the theme of World Environment Day-2015?

[A] Give Earth a Chance

[B] Our Earth, Our Habitat, Our Home

[C] Seven Billion Dreams, One Planet, Consume with Care

[D] Forests: Nature at your Service

**Answer:** Seven Billion Dreams, One Planet, Consume with Care

**Explanation:**

World Environment Day is celebrated on 5 June every year. It has been started celebrating as an annual event on every 5th of June since 1973 in order to raise the global awareness about the importance of the healthy and green environment in the human lives, to solve the environmental issues by implementing some positive environmental actions as well as to make aware common public worldwide. The theme of this year world environment day is Seven Billion Dreams, One Planet, Consume with Care.

4. Government of India has launched Modified Special Incentive Proposal Scheme (M-SIPS) for which of the following sectors?

[A] Textile sector

[B] Electronic sector

[C] Automobile sector

[D] Agriculture sector

**Answer:** Electronic sector

**Explanation:**

The Government of India launched the Modified Special Incentive Proposal Scheme (M-SIPS) to promote expansion of manufacturing, diversification and modernization in the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector. The scheme has a provision of providing 20% subsidy for investments in capital expenditure within SEZs and 25% in non-SEZs.

5. Which is the most common chemical used in cloud seeding?

[A] Potassium bromide

[B] Silver iodide

[C] Potassium chloride

[D] Magnesium iodide

**Answer:** Silver iodide

**Explanation:**

The most common chemicals used for cloud seeding include silver iodide, potassium iodide



and dry ice (solid carbon dioxide). Cloud seeding process involved a furnace in which coal is burnt at 1,350 degrees Celsius in which powdered Silver Iodide is sprinkled. These particles rise in the air to cloud level in 10-12 minutes. After these particles travel upwards, they crystallize at minus-five degrees and since clouds have both ice and water crystals, the particles attract the water, its weight increases and they fall down in the form of rain within a couple of hours.

6. Panama disease is a destructive fungal disease of which crop?

- [A]Wheat
- [B]Banana
- [C]Tomato
- [D]Mango

**Answer:** Banana

**Explanation:**

Fusarium wilt of banana, popularly known as Panama disease, is a lethal fungal disease caused by the soil-borne fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. Sp. Cubense (Foc). The fungus enters the plant through the roots and colonizes the xylem vessels thereby blocking the flow of water and nutrients. Disease progression results in the collapse of leaves at the petiole, the splitting of the pseudostem base and eventually plant death. Once established in a field, the fungus persists in soil for an indefinite period of time and cannot be managed using chemical pesticides. The solution best adapted to the continued production of bananas in infested soils is replacing susceptible cultivars by resistant ones. Fusarium wilt is the first disease of bananas to have spread globally.

7. The Jamdani style is the famous traditional sari of which country?

- [A]Sri Lanka
- [B]India
- [C]Bangladesh
- [D]Nepal

**Answer:** Bangladesh

**Explanation:**

Jamdani is one of the famous muslin textiles produced in Bangladesh for centuries. The traditional art of weaving jamdani has been declared by UNESCO as a Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

8. As on June 2015, which is the leading state in the country in terms of solar installed capacity?

- [A]Gujarat



- [B]Rajasthan
- [C]Tamil Nadu
- [D]Madhya Pradesh

**Answer:** Rajasthan

**Explanation:**

India's total solar installed capacity has crossed the 4,000Mw. Rajasthan with 1,128 Mw of projects has taken the lead ahead of all other states. Rajasthan surpassed Gujarat, which has 957 Mw of solar power projects.

9. In which state, India's first eco-friendly police station was commissioned, recently?

- [A]Goa
- [B]Kerala
- [C]New Delhi
- [D]Assam

**Answer:** New Delhi

**Explanation:**

India's first eco-friendly police station was opened at Maurice Nagar in North Delhi. This police station has Medieval Indian Construction Methodology of applying coating of fresh lime, that will increase 'Albedo' and reduce the heat which helps to save electrical power. "The police station is a unique blend of modern technology and ancient practices used in palaces of Orcha in MP and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. The police station has biodegradable toilets, LED lights, five-star rated electrical equipment and a dose of medieval Indian techniques aiming at bringing the carbon footprint down to zero.

10. Which team has won the 2015 UEFA Champion League title?

- [A]F C Barcelona
- [B]Real Madrid
- [C]Liverpool
- [D]Juventus

**Answer:** F C Barcelona

**Explanation:**

F C Barcelona has won 2015 UEFA champion league title. Barcelona defeated Juventus in 3-1 to clinch the title. The victory gives FC Barcelona their fourth Champions League title in the last 10 years after their 2006, 2009 and 2011 triumphs.

11. The ONE Campaign is a non profit organisation that fights extreme poverty particularly in which region?

- [A]Asia



[B]South America

[C]Africa

[D]Europe

**Answer:** Africa

**Explanation:**

The ONE Campaign is an international, nonpartisan, non-profit, advocacy and campaigning organisation that fights extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa, by raising public awareness and pressuring political leaders to support effective policies and programmes that are saving lives and improving futures.

12. Who has won the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction 2015?

[A]Ali Smith

[B]Rachel Cusk

[C]Anne Tyler

[D]Sarah Waters

**Answer:** Ali Smith

**Explanation:**

Ali Smith won the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction 2015. She was chosen for the award for her novel *How to Be Both*. *How to Be Both* is a novel all about art's versatility. Borrowing from painting's fresco technique to make an original literary double-take, it's a fast-moving genre-bending conversation between forms, times, truths and fictions. *How to be Both* was shortlisted for the 2014 Man Booker Prize, won the 2014 Goldsmiths Prize and Saltire Literary Book of the Year 2014 award. Launched in 1996, the Prize is awarded annually and celebrates excellence, originality and accessibility in women's writing from throughout the world. The winner receives a cheque for £30,000 and a limited edition bronze known as a 'Bessie', created by the artist Grizel Niven.

13. Which of the following has been named World's most valuable football brand?

[A]Manchester United

[B]Bayern Munich

[C]Manchester City

[D]F C Barcelona

**Answer:** Manchester United

**Explanation:**

Manchester United has been named the world's most valuable football brand. Manchester United replaced German's Bayern Munich, according to a report from consultancy Brand Finance. English club Manchester City and Chelsea ranked fourth and fifth respectively.



14. Who has been named India's special envoy for counter-terrorism and extremism?

[A] Ravicharan Reddy

[B] Syed Asif Ibrahim

[C] Mohamud Ashim Khan

[D] Bhakta Srivatsav

**Answer:** Syed Asif Ibrahim

**Explanation:**

Former IB chief Syed Asif Ibrahim was appointed as Special Envoy for counter terrorism and extremism. He will be in the rank of Secretary to the government and will hold the post for a period of three years or until further orders. Ibrahim, the 1977 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, retired as Intelligence Bureau Director in December 2014.

15. Which country providing technology to develop coastal road project in Maharashtra?

[A] Netherland

[B] Japan

[C] China

[D] Australia

**Answer:** Netherland

**Explanation:**

Maharashtra government inked an MoU with Netherland government to develop coastal road project in the state. The road will be constructed based on Dutch technology. The project envisages a 35-km road from Nariman Point to Kandivli, and the Metro III Colaba-Bandra-Seepz corridor will integrated with it. The project includes road construction on 10 km of land reclaimed for the purpose, and will house two 3.5-km submarine tunnels as well.

16. The 25th African Union Summit is scheduled to be held in which country?

[A] Nigeria

[B] Ghana

[C] South Africa

[D] Kenya

**Answer:** South Africa

**Explanation:**

South Africa is hosting the 25th African Union Summit from 7 to 15 June, 2015. The theme of 25th African Union Summit is "Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063".

17. From which country Delhi Metro has received its first driver less train?



- [A]Japan
- [B]Russia
- [C]South Korea
- [D]China

**Answer:** South Korea

**Explanation:**

Delhi Metro received its first driver less train from South Korea. These trains equipped with several advanced features, will ply on sections of Phase-III of the network, set to be operational by next year end. They would run on the over 58 km-long Majlish Park-Shiv Vihar (Line 7) and the over 38 km-long Janakpuri (West)- Botanical Garden (Line 8) corridors of the Phase-III, and both these sections are expected to be operational by the end of 2016. They are designed for a maximum speed of 95 kmph and operational speed of 85 kmph.

[Economic Times]

18. Who is the current Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India (June 2015)?

- [A]K V Chowdary
- [B]Vijay Sharma
- [C]Sunil Chandra
- [D]Gautham Karnik

**Answer:** K V Chowdary

**Explanation:**

K V Chowdary, the former chairman of central board of direct taxes has been appointed as central vigilance commissioner. Mr. Chowdary had been working as the adviser to the Supreme Court appointed special investigation team, which is probing black money cases. Vijay Sharma, senior-most information commissioner has been named the new Chief Information Commissioner.

19. Which country has registered top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2014-15?

- [A]Singapore
- [B]Mauritius
- [C]Japan
- [D]Netherland

**Answer:** Mauritius

**Explanation:**

Mauritius has emerged as top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2014-15. Mauritius replaced Singapore to second position in 2014-15. Mauritius accounted for about 29 per cent of the country's total FDI inflows last fiscal. In 2013-14, Singapore had replaced



Mauritius as the top source of FDI into India. According to the data of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), India attracted USD 9.03 billion in FDI from Mauritius in 2014-15, whereas it was USD 6.74 billion from Singapore.

20. Who has been appointed as India Under-19 and A teams cricket coach?

- [A]Rahul Dravid
- [B]Saurav Ganguly
- [C]Sachin Tendulkar
- [D]Robin Singh

**Answer:** Rahul Dravid

**Explanation:**

Former India captain Rahul Dravid has been appointed as coach of the India Under-19 and A teams.

21. India's first exclusive hospital for elephant will come up in which state?

- [A]Tamil Nadu
- [B]Karnataka
- [C]Kerala
- [D]Andhra Pradesh

**Answer:** Kerala

**Explanation:**

India's first exclusive hospital for elephant will be set up in Kerala. The hospital will have an in-patient treatment facility for 10 elephants at a time. The hospital will also have state-of-the-art laboratory facilities. The proposed hospital will come up on a five-acre plot in the Kerala veterinary and animal science university, Mannuthy.

22. What was India's rank in the medal tally at the 21st Asian Athletics Championship?

- [A]Fourth
- [B]Fifth
- [C]Third
- [D]Second

**Answer:** Third

**Explanation:**

India finished third position at the 21st Asian Athletics Championship. India secured a medal haul of 4 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze in the championships behind China (15, 13, 13) and Qatar (7, 2, 1). Japan (4, 3, 11) and Bahrain (3, 3, 2) finished fourth and fifth respectively. This was India's best finish after 2007 in Amman, Jordan where country was placed second.



23. Which of the following two states of India have bus connectivity with Bangladesh currently (June 2015)?

- [A] Tripura and Manipur
- [B] West Bengal and Assam
- [C] Tripura and West Bengal
- [D] Odisha and West Bengal

**Answer:** Tripura and West Bengal

**Explanation:**

At present West Bengal and Tripura has direct bus connectivity with Bangladesh. The Kolkata– Dhaka Bus (1999) and the Dhaka–Agartala Bus (2001) are the primary road links between the two countries. Recently, Prime Minister Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Shiekh Hasina flagged off the Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala and Dhaka-Shillong-Guwahati bus services in Dhaka. The Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala service will reduce the travel time between the capitals of India's West Bengal and Tripura states by one-third.

24. Which movie has won the top honors at 16th International India Film Academy awards?

- [A] PK
- [B] 2 States
- [C] Queen
- [D] Mary Kom

**Answer:** Queen

**Explanation:**

Vikas Bahl's directional Queen movie has won top honors at 16th edition of International India Film Academy awards. Queen, a coming-of-age story of a woman's self discovery won awards in the best picture, best story and best performance in leading role female category at the three day long IIFA awards function. In the leading role male category, Shahid Kapoor won the award for his performance in Haider.

25. Lipulekh is a Himalayan pass between India and which two countries?

- [A] Nepal and Bhutan
- [B] Bhutan and China
- [C] China and Nepal
- [D] Pakistan and China

**Answer:** China and Nepal

**Explanation:**

Lipulekh is a Himalayan pass between Nepal, India and China. It has been used since ancient times by traders, mendicants and pilgrims transiting between Nepal and Tibet. This is used by





Manasarovar pilgrims. After the Indian prime minister's visit to China in 2015, India and China agreed to open a trading post in Lipulekh, which was not welcomed by Nepal.

26. As per World Bank, which country has highest investment commitment in 2014?

[A]India

[B]Peru

[C]Brazil

[D]Turkey

**Answer:** Brazil

**Explanation:**

According World Bank report, Brazil has highest investment commitment in 2014. India has figured in top five emerging economies for highest investment commitments in private sector, infrastructure sectors – energy, transport and water. The top five countries with the highest investment commitments in 2014 are Brazil, Turkey, Peru, Colombia and India.

27. Dasaradhi Rangacharya, who passed away recently, was a famous writer of which language?

[A]Malayalam

[B]Kannada

[C]Telugu

[D]Marathi

**Answer:** Telugu

**Explanation:**

Dasaradhi Rangacharya was a well known poet and writer in Telugu. H is also called as a freedom fighter. He is an active member of the Telanagana Movement against the autocratic rule of the Nizams. He went underground and took part in the Telangana Armed Struggle till Hyderabad was liberated. In 1969, his pen attracted the spotlight with 'Chillara Devullu' (The Lesser Deities). He followed it up, writing 'Modugu Poolu' (Fire Flowers) in 1971, a chronicle of the history of Telangana. Chillara Devullu brought him Central Sahitya Akademi award. Jeevanayanam was his autobiography.

28. Which space body has won the 2015 space pioneer award for science and engineering?

[A]NASA

[B]ISRO

[C]ESA

[D]RSA

**Answer:** ISRO

**Explanation:**



Indian Space Research Organisation has won the 2015 space pioneer award for science and technology. The United States Space Society presented the award in recognition of ISRO's effort in accomplishing the Mars mission in its very first attempt. The award consists of a silvery pewter Moon globe cast by the Baker Art Foundry in Placerville, California, from a sculpture originally created by Don Davis, the well known space and astronomical artist.

29. Who is the chairman of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)?

[A] President of India

[B] Vice-President of India

[C] Prime Minister

[D] Minister of Science & Technology

**Answer:** Prime Minister

**Explanation:**

Prime Minister of India is the chairman of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) established in 1942, is an autonomous body and India's largest research and development (R&D) organisation, with 37 laboratories and 39 field stations or extension centres spread across the nation, with a collective staff of over 17,000. It operates as an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act of 1860.

30. Which country is the "Country of honour" at China's South Asia Expo June 2016?

[A] India

[B] Pakistan

[C] Taiwan

[D] Sri Lanka

**Answer:** India

**Explanation:**

India will be the country of honour at China's annual five-day South Asia Expo to be held from June 12 in Kunming city, capital of southwest Yunnan Province. This is the third consecutive year that the South Asia Expo is being held by China to expand its trade and business footprints in South Asia where it is looking to firm up influence with huge investments in different countries. Each year, one South Asian country is made the country of honour to highlight the business potential. India is the 'country of honour' at this year's expo, and Thailand is the guest of honour of the Import and Export Fair.

31. NASA's Low-Density Supersonic Decelerator project aims to test technique for atmospheric entry on which planet?

[A] Jupiter



[B]Mars

[C]Venus

[D]Mercury

**Answer:** Mars

**Explanation:**

The Low-Density Supersonic Decelerator or LDSD is a re-entry vehicle designed to test techniques for atmospheric entry on Mars. The disc-shaped LDSD uses an inflatable structure called the Supersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (SIAD), which is essentially an donut-shaped balloon, to create atmospheric drag in order to decelerate the vehicle before deploying a large supersonic parachute. The goal of the project is to develop a re-entry system capable of landing 2- to 3-ton payloads on Mars, as opposed to the 1-ton limit of the currently used systems.

32. Ajeya Warrior is a biannual military exercise between India and which country?

[A]Japan

[B]Russia

[C]UK

[D]Australia

**Answer:** UK

**Explanation:**

Ajeya Warrior is a joint exercise between the armies of India and UK. The exercise will be conducted from 13 June to 28 June 2015 at Westdown Camp, Salisbury Plains Training Area, UK. The Exercise is held biannually in the two countries, alternatively. The aim of the Exercise is to build and promote positive military relations between Indian and UK Army and to enhance their ability to undertake joint tactical level operations in Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorism Environment under United Nations Charter.

33. Which among the following conventions addresses the damage caused by spills of oil?

[A]Bunker convention

[B]Nairobi convention

[C]Salvage convention

[D]Stockholm convention

**Answer:** Bunker convention

**Explanation:**

The union cabinet in India has approved the Ministry of Shipping's proposal for India's accession to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001, (Bunker Convention) of the International Maritime Organisation[IMO]. The Bunker Convention ensures adequate, prompt, and effective compensation for damage caused by



spills of oil, when carried as fuel in ships' bunkers. The territorial jurisdiction for damage compensation extends to territorial sea and exclusive economic zones. It applies to an Indian vessel, wherever it is situated, and to a vessel carrying foreign flag while it is within Indian jurisdiction.

34. On which date, World Ocean Day is observed?

- [A] June 6
- [B] June 8
- [C] June 10
- [D] June 12

**Answer:** June 8

**Explanation:**

World Ocean Day is celebrated on June 8. The Government of Canada proposed the concept of World Ocean Day in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and the day has been celebrated internationally ever since.

35. In June, 2015, World Health Organisation has declared India free of which disease?

- [A] Japanese Encephalitis
- [B] Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus
- [C] Pneumonia
- [D] Diphtheria

**Answer:** Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus

**Explanation:**

World Health Organisation has declared India free of maternal and neonatal tetanus. The elimination of neonatal tetanus is defined as less than one case in 1000 live births in every district across the country. The disease usually occurs in newborns through infection of the unhealed umbilical stump, especially when the stump is cut with a non-sterile instrument. Nagaland was the last Indian state to achieve maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination

36. The Nairobi Convention is for protection, management and development of which of the following?

- [A] Marine environment
- [B] Desert Biomes
- [C] Coastal and Inland wetlands
- [D] Arctic and Antarctic

**Answer:** Marine environment

**Explanation:**

The Nairobi Convention of 1985 or the Convention of the Protection, Management and



Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region is a regional framework agreement for marine environmental management. It is implemented by the Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C) in coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as well as non-governmental organizations such as World Conservation Union (IUCN) and Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA).

37. In 2014, which country has emerged as world's biggest oil producer?

[A] Saudi Arabia

[B] USA

[C] Russia

[D] China

**Answer:** USA

**Explanation:**

The United States has emerged as world's biggest oil producer in 2014. USA surpassed Saudi Arabia to become top oil producer in 2014. The US produced 15.9% more oil in 2014 at 11.6 million barrels of oil per day to topple Saudi Arabia's 11.5 million bpd production. Russia with 10.8 million bpd oil production was placed third. The US surpassed Russia as the world's largest producer of oil and gas, producing 1,250.4 million tons of oil and oil equivalent natural gas in 2014. This compared with Russia's 1,062 million tons of oil equivalent.

38. Currently, which are the four nations in the world capable of designing and constructing aircraft carriers?

[A] US, China, Russia, France

[B] US, Japan, Russia, China

[C] US, Russia, UK, France

[D] US, India, France, UK

**Answer:** US, Russia, UK, France

**Explanation:**

At present US, Russia, the UK and France are the four countries in the world capable of designing and constructing aircraft carriers. After successful completion of INS Vikrant 40,000 tonnes aircraft carrier India will join in the above group of countries.

39. In June, 2015, twenty six countries from which region have agreed to create The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA)?

[A] Asia

[B] Europe



[C]Africa

[D]North America

**Answer:** Africa

**Explanation:**

Leaders from 26 African countries have agreed to create the continent's largest free-trade zone, in an area from Cape Town to Cairo. The agreement is signed in Egypt. The agreement is intended to ease the movement of goods across member countries which represent more than half the continent's GDP. The pact – known as The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) – will then be officially unveiled at the upcoming summit of the African Union in South Africa.

40. Who has been conferred with prestigious Sant Namdev National Award-2015?

[A]Narendra Modi

[B]Mano Mohan Singh

[C]Parkash Singh Badal

[D]Manohar Panikar

**Answer:** Parkash Singh Badal

**Explanation:**

Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal was conferred the prestigious 14th Sant Namdev National Award- 2015 for promoting peace, communal harmony and universal brotherhood. This award was bestowed upon Badal by Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis in the presence of the organisers of the Sarhad foundation.

41. Which state gives the Bishnuram Medhi award for the State cricketer-of-the-year?

[A]Tamil Nadu

[B]Maharashtra

[C]Karnataka

[D]Andhra Pradesh

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

**Explanation:**

Bishnuram Medhi award for the State cricketer-of-the-year is given by the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association's (TNCA). Vijay Shankar has won the 2015 Bishnuram Medhi award for the State cricketer-of-the-year.

42. Which bird has been voted as United Kingdom's first national bird?

[A]Bald eagle

[B]Robin flies

[C]Barn owl

[D]Blackbird



**Answer:** Robin flies

**Explanation:**

Robin flies became national bird of United Kingdom. Robin flies the red-breasted bird has topped a poll of more than 200,000 people to choose the UK's first national bird, winning a landslide victory. The bird received 34% of votes, followed by the barn owl, which received 12%, and the blackbird, 11%.

43. Which state has highest child labour cases in India?

[A] Bihar

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Uttar Pradesh

[D] Maharashtra

**Answer:** Uttar Pradesh

**Explanation:**

Uttar Pradesh has highest child labour cases in the country. As per the latest study, more than half of working children in India are concentrated in five states namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. These states account for more than 55 lakh of child workers. Out of these five states, only Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a growth in child labour by 13 per cent with one out of five child labourers in India belonging to the state.

44. What is the maximum liability permissible for nuclear damage under Civil Liability of Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act?

[A] Rs 1000 crore

[B] Rs 1500 crore

[C] Rs 2000 crore

[D] Rs 2500 crore

**Answer:** Rs 1500 crore

**Explanation:**

The Civil Liability of Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act provides for Rs 1,500 crore as maximum liability for nuclear damage. The CLND Act also provides for state-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India, which operates all atomic power plants in India, to seek compensation from suppliers in an accident due to faulty equipment.

45. Who among the following has won the Stuttgart Open-2015?

[A] Viktor Troicki

[B] Rafael Nadal

[C] Roger Federer

[D] Novak Djokovic



**Answer:** Rafael Nadal

**Explanation:**

Former world number one Rafael Nadal has won the Stuttgart Open-2015 title. He defeated Viktor Troicki in straight sets to win the title.

46. Which of the following is India's largest pulse crop in terms of production?

- [A]Tur
- [B]Chickpea
- [C]Yellow pea
- [D]Lentil

**Answer:** Chickpea

**Explanation:**

Chana (Chickpea) is the biggest pulse crop in India with average production of 6.5 to 7 million tonnes a year.

47. Which one of the following declarations is related to working children?

- [A]Kundapur declaration
- [B]Madras declaration
- [C]Mysuru declaration
- [D]Delhi declaration

**Answer:** Kundapur declaration

**Explanation:**

The Kundapur declaration was adopted at the first International Meeting of Working Children in Kundapur, Karnataka, in 1996. These principles were agreed by representatives of working children's organisations from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

48. Against which Indian companies, United States has opened an investigation for alleged H1-B visa violation?

- [A]Infosys and TCS
- [B]TCS and Wipro
- [C]Wipro and Infosys
- [D]Infosys and Tata

**Answer:** Infosys and TCS

**Explanation:**

The United States department of labor has opened a probe against the Infosys and TCS companies for alleged H1-B visa violation. As per the report the investigation into two India-based outsourcing companies for possible violation of rules for visas for foreign technology workers under contracts they held with an electric utility, Southern California Edison.





49. Which plant species bears the largest seed known to science?

- [A]Cocos nucifera
- [B]Lodoicea maldivica
- [C]Mangifera indica
- [D]Prubus persica

**Answer:** Lodoicea maldivica

**Explanation:**

The double coconut (Lodoicea maldivica) palm species bears the largest seed in the world. Coco de mer, the seed of the Lodoicea maldivica can reach about 12 inches (30 cm) long and weigh up to 25 kg. This unique species is also the longest surviving palm which can live for as long as 1,000 years. This rare tree can be found in only two of the 115 Seychelles islands. Recently, Scientists at the Indian Botanical Garden in West Bengal have carried out artificial pollination of the Lodoicea maldivica.

50. Which country is the top destination for India's outbound investment?

- [A]Singapore
- [B]Mauritius
- [C]Netherland
- [D]USA

**Answer:** Netherland

**Explanation:**

Netherland is the top destination for India's outbound investment during June 2013 to May 2014 period. Netherlands ranked first in the chart with 26.1 per cent, followed by Mauritius with 15.9 per cent of outbound investments. Singapore has ranked third, accounting for 13.3 per cent of India's outbound investments.

51. On which date, World Day Against Child Labor is observed?

- [A]10 June
- [B]12 June
- [C]13 June
- [D]14 June

**Answer:** 12 June

**Explanation:**

World Day Against Child Labor is observed on 12 June. It is observed to raise awareness of the plight of child laborers world-wide.

52. Indian artist Nek Chand Saini, who died recently, was well known for building which of the



following?

- [A] Rock Garden, Chandigarh
- [B] Lumbini Park, Hyderabad
- [C] RBI Building, New Delhi
- [D] Konkan Railway

**Answer:** Rock Garden, Chandigarh

**Explanation:**

Nek Chand Saini was a self-taught Indian artist, known for building the Rock Garden of Chandigarh, an eighteen-acre sculpture garden in the city of Chandigarh. Nearly 40 years after it was formally inaugurated, Nek Chand Saini's Rock Garden is still the most popular tourist destination in Chandigarh.

53. The SAARC motor vehicles agreement was approved in which SAARC summit?

- [A] 16th Summit
- [B] 18th Summit
- [C] 19th Summit
- [D] 20th Summit

**Answer:** 18th Summit

**Explanation:**

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) motor vehicles agreement was approved in The 18th SAARC summit held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 26 to 27 November 2014.

54. Wess Hall, who was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame, represents which country?

- [A] Australia
- [B] West Indies
- [C] England
- [D] South Africa

**Answer:** West Indies

**Explanation:**

Wess Hall is a former West Indies fast bowler. He was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame during the opening day of the Sabina Park Test between West Indies and Australia. He became the fourth cricketer to receive the honour this year after Betty Wilson, Anil Kumble and Martin Crowe. Hall took 192 Test wickets at an average of 26.38. Overall, he played 170 first-class matches, collecting 546 wickets.

55. Jose Ely de Miranda, who died recently, was a legendary footballer from which country?



- [A] Brazil
- [B] France
- [C] Italy
- [D] Mexico

**Answer:** Brazil

**Explanation:**

Jose Ely de Miranda was a legendary Brazilian footballer. He was popularly known as Zito. Zito was a member of Brazil's World Cup winning side in 1958 and 1962. He played 52 times for Brazil, mostly as a defensive midfielder. He spent his entire club career with Sao Paulo-based club Santos FC, playing 733 games and scoring 57 goals. He won the Copa Libertadores football championship in 1962 and 1963 which catapulted him to be one of the most emblematic figures of the club team alongside fellow legend Pele.

56. In which state is located the Mandla Plant Fossils National Park?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
- [B] Tamil Nadu
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Haryana

**Answer:** Madhya Pradesh

**Explanation:**

The Mandla National fossils Park is situated in Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh. This national park has lots of plants in fossil form that existed in India somewhere between 40 million and 150 million years ago spread over seven villages of Mandla District (Ghuguwa, Umariya, Deorakhurd, Barbaspur, Chanti-hills, Chargaon and Deori Kohani). The Park is an area that spreads over 274,100 square metres. These types of fossils are also found in other 3 villages of the district, but they lie outside the park.

57. Which country successfully tested the Wu-14, a hypersonic nuclear delivery vehicle?

- [A] Russia
- [B] Japan
- [C] China
- [D] Italy

**Answer:** China

**Explanation:**

WU-14 is the Pentagon's code name for a Chinese hypersonic nuclear delivery vehicle. China confirmed the test of the hypersonic glide vehicle, on June 7 and is the missile's fourth test in 18 months. The strategic strike weapon is extremely advanced and can travel at 10 times the speed of sound, or 12,231.01kph.



58. An expert committee report “Drowning a valley: Destroying a civilization” is related to which dam project?

- [A] Sardar Sarovar Dam
- [B] Hirakud Dam
- [C] Nagarjuna Sagar Dam
- [D] Alamatti Dam

**Answer:** Sardar Sarovar Dam

**Explanation:**

A Central fact finding committee has released “Drowning a valley: Destroying a civilization” report warned against increasing the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada river in Gujarat. The report says that it could lead to a calamity bigger than the earthquake in Nepal.

59. China, Malaysia, Philippines and Taiwan claim sovereignty on which of the following island in South China Sea?

- [A] Caroline Island
- [B] Spratly Island
- [C] Senkaku Island
- [D] Mariana Island

**Answer:** Spratly Island

**Explanation:**

The Spratly Islands dispute is an ongoing territorial dispute between Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan (Republic of China), and Vietnam, concerning ownership of the Spratly Islands, a group of islands and associated maritime features located in the South China Sea. The dispute is characterised by diplomatic stalemate and the employment of low-level military pressure techniques (such as military occupation of disputed territory) in the advancement of national territorial claims.

60. Which among the following pairs has won Stuttgart Open double's title-2015?

- [A] Alexander Peya and Bruno Soares
- [B] Rohan Bopanna and Florin Mergea
- [C] Alexander Peya and Florin Mergea
- [D] Florina Mergea and Bruno Soares

**Answer:** Rohan Bopanna and Florin Mergea

**Explanation:**

Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and Romanian player Florin Mergea pair won the men's doubles title at the Stuttgart Open. The fourth seeds edged past third seeds Austrian-Brazilian Alexander Peya and Bruno Soares 5-7, 6-2, 10-7 in the hour and 12 minutes final.



61. Which Asian country parliament has recently passed a bill to lower the voting age from 20 to 18 years?

[A]South Korea

[B]Japan

[C]China

[D]Bangladesh

**Answer:** Japan

**Explanation:**

Japan's parliament passed a bill to lower the voting age from 20 to 18. The decision will result in adding 2.4 million new voters to the nation's current voting population of 104 million. The legislation will come into effect in time for next year's upper house election. The last time Japan's voting age was revised was in 1945, when the voting age was lowered from 25 to 20, and women were given the right to vote. The new law puts Japan in line with nearly 90% of the world's countries in setting the minimum voting age at 18.

62. Bibek Debroy committee report is related to which of the following?

[A]Financial inclusion

[B]Restructuring the railways

[C]Road safety issues

[D]Coastal area management

**Answer:** Restructuring the railways

**Explanation:**

Bibek Debroy committee was set up to suggest a roadmap for restructuring the Railways. The committee submitted its final report to the government. The committee has set a five- year timeframe for implementing its recommendations and has suggested doing away with the Railway Budget.

63. Who has been elected as UN general assembly president of its 70th anniversary session?

[A]Sam Kutesa

[B]Mogens Lykketoft

[C]Karl Ritter

[D]John Higgines

**Answer:** Mogens Lykketoft

**Explanation:**

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously elected Denmark's former parliament speaker Mogens Lykketoft as president of its 70th anniversary session. Lykketoft will assume



the office in September. He will replace Sam Kutesa of Uganda, the present president of UN general assembly.

64. Which city is the venue for the Global Editors Network (GEN) Summit-2015?

- [A] London
- [B] Barcelona
- [C] Tokyo
- [D] Durban

**Answer:** Barcelona

**Explanation:**

The fifth Global Editors Network (GEN) Summit will be held in Barcelona 17-19, 2015. The 3 days GEN Summit will bring together the brightest minds in the industry to discuss and challenge the future of media.

65. Who became the first Indian footballer to score fifty international goals?

- [A] Sunil Chhetri
- [B] Subrata Pal
- [C] Robin Singh
- [D] Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

**Answer:** Sunil Chhetri

**Explanation:**

Sunil Chhetri became the first Indian footballer to score 50 international goals. Chhetri achieved the feat during his team's 2018 World Cup qualifying match. Former captain Bhaichung Bhutia stays at the second spot with 42 goals in 107 matches while IM Vijayan has 40 goals from 79 games.

66. Who is the Chairman of Kendriya Hindi Samiti?

- [A] President of India
- [B] Prime Minister
- [C] Union Minister of Culture
- [D] Vice President of India

**Answer:** Prime Minister

**Explanation:**

The Kendriya Hindi Samiti was constituted in the Year 1967. It is chaired by the Prime Minister. It is the apex policy making body for the propagation and progressive use of Hindi as Official Language of the Union.

67. Charles Correa, who passed away recently, was related to which of the following fields?



- [A] Architect
- [B] Environmentalist
- [C] Journalist
- [D] Author

**Answer:** Architect

**Explanation:**

Charles Correa was a noted Indian Architect, urban planner and activist. He played a defining role in developing architecture of post-Independence India and has designed some of the most outstanding structures. He was the man behind the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial in Ahmedabad and Madhya Pradesh Assembly building. He had been awarded the Padma Shri in 1972, and second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan in 2006, given by Government of India. He was also awarded the 1984 Royal Gold Medal for architecture, by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

68. The International Date Line runs through which of the following two oceans?

- [A] Pacific and Indian Oceans
- [B] Indian Ocean and Atlantic
- [C] Pacific and Arctic Oceans
- [D] Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

**Answer:** Pacific and Arctic Oceans

**Explanation:**

The International Date Line passes through Pacific and Arctic Oceans.

69. Ron Clarke, who died recently, was a Runner known for world records from which country?

- [A] Australia
- [B] England
- [C] South Africa
- [D] Japan

**Answer:** Australia

**Explanation:**

Ron Clarke was an Australian middle- and long-distance runner who broke 17 world records, some by huge margins, in the mid-1960s. From 1963 through 1970 he won 202 of 313 races, ranging from a half-mile to the marathon (26.2 miles). His most remarkable feat came in 1965, when, on a 44-day tour of Europe, he broke 12 world records in 18 races. The records included, four days apart, the first three miles under 13 minutes and the first 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) under 28 minutes.



70. Which Indian Ocean country celebrates National Day on 18 June?

- [A] Bahrain
- [B] Comoros
- [C] Seychelles
- [D] Maldives

**Answer:** Seychelles

**Explanation:**

The Republic of Seychelles comprises 115 islands in the western Indian Ocean. June 18th is known as National Day in Seychelles. This national holiday commemorates the implementation of a multiparty democracy. Seychelles gained independence from Britain in 1976 and became a republic within the commonwealth. The republic was under single party rule until December 4, 1991, when President France Albert René announced a return to the multiparty system of government. On June 18, 1993, a new constitution was approved, and the first multiparty presidential and legislative elections were held in July.

71. Which country has been named the most peaceful country in the world?

- [A] Denmark
- [B] Iceland
- [C] Austria
- [D] New Zealand

**Answer:** Iceland

**Explanation:**

Iceland was named the most peaceful country in the world, followed by Denmark, Austria, New Zealand and Switzerland. Syrian has been ranked lowest in the list due to ongoing civil war in the country. The index has been prepared by analyzing 23 different types of data in 162 countries during the last eight years, focusing on the level of security, inbound and outbound conflicts and the degree of militarization in the countries.

72. Who has been chosen for the 2015 Liberty Medal for human right work?

- [A] Pandit Ravishankar
- [B] Dalai Lama
- [C] Edward Snowden
- [D] Baba Ramdev

**Answer:** Dalai Lama

**Explanation:**

Dalai Lama will be the recipient of the 2015 Philadelphia's Liberty Medal for his efforts to promote compassion and human rights around the globe. The medal is presented annually by





the National Constitution Center to individuals who strive to secure the blessings of liberty to people around the globe. The medal comes with a USD 100,000 cash prize.

73. Luanda, which is voted as worlds costliest city live in, is capital city of which country?

[A]Angola

[B]Denmark

[C]Netherland

[D]Mauritius

**Answer:** Angola

**Explanation:**

Luanda is the capital city of Angola. It has been rated the world's costliest city to live in, for the third consecutive year. Luanda is followed by Hong Kong (2), Zurich (3), Singapore (4) and Geneva (5) top the list of most expensive cities for expatriates. Tel Aviv (18) continues to be the most expensive city in the Middle East for expatriates. Asian cities dominate the top 10 costliest cities rankings along with major cities in Switzerland in the report. Mumbai has been ranked 74th in the list of most expensive global cities to live in. Mumbai is followed by New Delhi (132) and Chennai (157), which rose in the ranking by 25 and 28 spots, respectively. Bangalore (183) and Kolkata (193), the least expensive Indian cities, climbed in the ranking, as well.

74. Which country is the number one destination for FDI in Europe?

[A]UK

[B]Switzerland

[C]Germany

[D]France

**Answer:** UK

**Explanation:**

The UK has maintained number one destination for FDI in Europe after attracting a record number of projects from over 70 countries including India. Investment from India increased by 65 per cent, making it the UK's third largest source of FDI accounting for over 9,000 new and safeguarded jobs. US remains the largest source of inward investment, with a total of 564 projects in 2014/15, followed by France (124 projects).

75. Who among the following is the Indian American scientist recently awarded Russia's top technology award?

[A]Jayanat Baliga

[B]Arun Shoury

[C]Vikramjit Chand



[D]Vasanth Balegar

**Answer:** Jayanat Baliga

**Explanation:**

Jayanat Baliga, an Indian American scientist has been awarded Russia's top technology award in honor of his work in energy efficiency. Baliga is being recognized as the inventor of the insulated gate bipolar transistor (IGBT), which he developed while working at the General Electrical research & development center in New York state in 1983. The IGBT switches energy hundreds of thousands of times a second, raising the efficiency of any equipment manifold, according to the Indo-Asian News Service. The technology Baliga created brought about a revolution in energy management and significant savings in terms of both money and resources. Baliga earned his Bachelor's in engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras in 1969 before arriving in the United States, where he earned both an M.S. and a Ph.D from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

76. Which state has recently imposed ban on sale of thermocol plates?

[A]Odisha

[B]West Bengal

[C]Jharkhand

[D]Assam

**Answer:** Jharkhand

**Explanation:**

Jharkhand imposed a ban on the sale of thermocol plates. The move will help generate employment for the poor and tribals who are engaged in making leaf plates.

77. Who has been appointed as president of Japan's telecommunication giant SoftBank?

[A]Ashok Singh

[B]Nikesh Arora

[C]Sudhir Chandra

[D]Dilip Chaturvedi

**Answer:** Nikesh Arora

**Explanation:**

Indian born Nikesh Arora was appointed as president of Japan's SoftBank. Nikesh Arora is former Google executive.

78. Who is the chairman of the Ad-hoc committee set up for managing boxing in India?

[A]Jay Kowli

[B]Manisha Malhotra

[C]Kishen Narsi



[D]Injeti Srinivas

**Answer:** Kishen Narsi

**Explanation:**

Kishen Narsi, an AIBA representative is the chairman of the ad-hoc committee constituted by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) for finding a group which would organise and administrate the sport in India. The other members of the committee are Boxing India secretary General Jay Kowli, former tennis player Manisga Malhotra and SAI DG Injeti Srinivas.

79. Recently, a brightest early galaxy has been named after which football player?

[A]Lionel Messi

[B]Cristiano Ronaldo

[C]Manuel Neuer

[D]Neymar

**Answer:** Cristiano Ronaldo

**Explanation:**

Redshift 7 or CR7, as it's popularly known, is one of the oldest galaxies in the universe has been named after Portugal captain and the Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo. The CR7 is said to have existed when the universe was only 800 million years old, i.e. Some 13 billion years ago.

80. Who has been chosen for the Japan's Fukuoka Prize in the Academic category?

[A]Ramachandra Guha

[B]Somanath Divedi

[C]Arjun Parthasarathi

[D]Krishna Chandramohan

**Answer:** Ramachandra Guha

**Explanation:**

Ramachandra Guha, leading Indian historian has been selected for Japan's prestigious Fukuoka Prize in the Academic category. The other winners of this year award are Thant Myint-U (Grand Prize) and Minh Hanh (Arts and Culture). Fukuoka Prize honours those who have made outstanding contributions to academia, arts and culture across Asia. Previous winners of Fukuoka Awards include Mohammad Yunus, Romila Thapar, Ashis Nandy and Mo Yan.

81. Keibul Lamjao, worlds only floating national park is located in which state?

[A]Assam

[B]Tripura



- [C] Manipur
- [D] Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer:** Manipur

**Explanation:**

The Keibul Lamjao National Park is in Bishnupur district of Manipur. The Keibul Lamjao, the only floating national park in the world, is home to the last of the brow-antlered deer (*Rucervus eldii eldii*), one of the most endangered deer in the world.

82. Which country launched BX1E, the World's first electric plane?

- [A] Japan
- [B] USA
- [C] China
- [D] Russia

**Answer:** China

**Explanation:**

China has made the world's first electric passenger aircraft. The aircraft can be used in pilot training, tourism, meteorology and rescue operations. The BX1E has a 14.5-meter wingspan and a maximum payload of 230 kgs. It can fly at an altitude of 3,000 meters. Once charged the flight can fly for 45 minutes to one hour, at a maximum speed of 160 km per hour.

83. Which one of the following is the most widely produced Cacao variety in the world?

- [A] Forastero
- [B] Criollo
- [C] Trinitario
- [D] Nacional

**Answer:** Forastero

**Explanation:**

Four major types of cacao are cultivated: Criollo, Forastero, Trinitario and Nacional. The Forastero is very much cultivated in Africa, but also in Central and South America and constitutes approximately 80% of world production of cacao. This tree grows faster and gives higher yield than other types of cacao.

84. INNOPROM is the major industrial fair of which country?

- [A] China
- [B] Russia
- [C] USA
- [D] Japan

**Answer:** Russia

**Explanation:**

INNOPROM is a Russia's main industrial trade fair. The 2015 INNOPROM is the 6th in series will take place in Ekaterinburg city since 8 till 11 of July. This year is the first time when INNOPROM has a partner country. The People's Republic of China has become the official partner of INNOPROM-2015. More than 2000 Chinese businessmen and public officials will visit Ekaterinburg during the Trade Fair to present their national exposition at 7.5 sq., to discuss actual international, trans-regional and business opportunities collaborate with Russian partners.

85. Which train has been rechristened as Yoga Express?

- [A] Haridwar Mail
- [B] Bagmati Express
- [C] Danapur Express
- [D] Farakka Express

**Answer:** Haridwar Mail

**Explanation:**

Indian Railway has rechristened Haridwar Mail as Yoga express.

86. On which date, World Refugee Day is observed?

- [A] June 18
- [B] June 19
- [C] June 20
- [D] June 22

**Answer:** June 20

**Explanation:**

World Refugee Day is held every year on June 20. The event was first observed in 2001.

87. Ganiki Chasma is a rift zone on the surface of which planet?

- [A] Mars
- [B] Venus
- [C] Saturn
- [D] Jupiter

**Answer:** Venus

**Explanation:**

Ganiki Chasma is a group of rift zones on the surface of the planet Venus. As per the European Space Agency's (ESA) Venus Express spacecraft the area is believed to be active volcanic spot.



88. Who has won the Austrian Grand Prix-2015?

- [A]Felipe Massa
- [B]Nico Roseberg
- [C]Sebastian Vettel
- [D]Lewis Hamilton

**Answer:** Nico Roseberg

**Explanation:**

Mercedes' Nico Roseberg has won the Austrian Grand Prix-2015. He beat Mercedes team-mate and series leader Lewis Hamilton to triumph in Austrian Grand Prix. Brazilian Felipe Massa finished third in the race.

89. Which of the following air pollutant is not produced by coal thermal power plant?

- [A]Carbon dioxide
- [B]Sulfur dioxide
- [C]Carbon monoxide
- [D]Nitrogen oxide

**Answer:** Carbon monoxide

**Explanation:**

Coal plants are the top source of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, which are the primary cause of global warming.

90. James Salter, who died recently, was an American \_\_\_\_?

- [A]Novelist
- [B]Scientist
- [C]Musician
- [D]Film director

**Answer:** Novelist

**Explanation:**

James Salter was a famous American Novelist. He was the author of novels and short stories including A Sport and a Pastime. His most famous work was the 1967 novel A Sport and a Pastime, which focused on a US expat's affair with a French woman. Among his other noted works of fiction were the novel Light Years, several collections of short stories and the script for the 1969 film Downhill Racer, starring Robert Redford. Salter won a number of literary prizes, including two lifetime achievement awards, the Rea award and the PEN/Malamud prize. His last novel, All That Is, set in post-second world war New York, was published in 2013.



91. Which city is the venue for the International Conference on String Theory-2015?

- [A] Mumbai
- [B] Bengaluru
- [C] Chennai
- [D] Hyderabad

**Answer:** Bengaluru

**Explanation:**

Strings 2015 conference will be held from 22 – 26 June 2015 at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, IISc Campus and ICTS Campus, Bengaluru. The conference, being held in India after 14 years, brings some of the big stars of the physics world to discuss some of the deepest questions of science.

92. Which country currently (June 2015) holds the presidency of G-20 forum?

- [A] India
- [B] Turkey
- [C] Australia
- [D] Mexico

**Answer:** Turkey

**Explanation:**

Turkey is currently holds the presidency of G-20 forum. In December 2014, Turkey took over the presidency of the G-20 from Australia, and will host the group's 2015 summit in Antalya.

93. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is an inter governmental military alliance of countries from \_\_\_\_?

- [A] North America and Asia
- [B] Asia and Europe
- [C] Europe and North America
- [D] Europe and South America

**Answer:** Europe and North America

**Explanation:**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949. NATO constitutes 28 member states across North America and Europe.

94. Which state became the first in the country to have state butterfly?

- [A] Maharashtra
- [B] Uttarkhand



[C]Himachal Pradesh

[D]Haryana

**Answer:** Maharashtra

**Explanation:**

Maharashtra became the first state in the country to have state butterfly. Maharashtra government declared Blue Mormon as the state butterfly. 'Blue Mormon' (*Papilio polymnestor*) is the second largest by size, only behind the southern birdwing. It has velvet, black wings with bright blue spots. The lower end of the wings are black while the body has some red spots on one side. Interestingly, it is only found in Sri Lanka, western ghats of Maharashtra, South India and coastal belts of the country.

95. Gunther Schuller, who passed away recently, was a Pulitzer winning composer from which country?

[A]USA

[B]France

[C]Switzerland

[D]Germany

**Answer:** USA

**Explanation:**

Gunther Schuller was an American composer, conductor, horn player, author, historian and jazz musician. As a composer, Mr. Schuller wrote more than 200 compositions, including solo and orchestral works, chamber music, opera and jazz. His orchestral work, "Of Reminiscences and Reflections," dedicated to his wife Marjorie Black, won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for Music.

96. Who was chosen for Sangita Kalanidhi-2015 award?

[A]S P Balasubramaniam

[B]Sanjay Subramanyan

[C]Jesu Das

[D]Aravind Bhagavathar

**Answer:** Sanjay Subramanyan

**Explanation:**

Renowned Carnatic singer Sanjay Subrahmanyan has been selected for Sangita Kalanidhi award for his outstanding achievements in Carnatic music. The Sangita Kalanidhi is the highest honour given to Carnatic musicians in India. The first recipients of the award were T.V. Subba Rao, Vidvan T.S. Sabhesa Iyer, and M.S. Ramaswamy Iyer. They were awarded in 1929.

97. The Yulin festival or annual dog meat festival is celebrated in which country?





- [A]China
- [B]Philippines
- [C]Australia
- [D]South Korea

**Answer:** China

**Explanation:**

The Yulin festival or Lychee and Dog Meat Festival, commonly referred to as Yulin Dog Meat Festival is celebrated annually in Yulin, Guangxi, China, for the summer solstice in June, by eating dog meat. Around lakhs of dogs have been slaughtered since it started. To stop this barbaric killing of the dogs, a petition called 'StopYulinFestival', has been started. People from all over the world are signing petitions to stop the slaughter of dogs in Yulin.

98. Which is the world's costliest prime office market?

- [A]West End, London
- [B]Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai
- [C]Connaught Place, Delhi
- [D]Finance Street, Beijing

**Answer:** West End, London

**Explanation:**

London's West End is the world's costliest prime office market. West End's overall prime occupancy costs of \$267 (Rs 17,088) per sq ft per year topped the "most expensive" list. Hong Kong Central followed with total prime occupancy costs of \$254 per sq. Ft., Beijing's Finance Street (\$196 per sq. Ft.), the Beijing CBD (\$188 per sq. Ft.) and New Delhi's CBD of Connaught Place (\$157 per sq. Ft.) rounded out the top five. Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) was at the fifteenth position and the city's CBD of Nariman Point was at the thirtieth position on the Top 50 rankings for global prime office properties.

99. Which of the following is the largest produced variety of silk in India?

- [A]Mulberry
- [B]Tasar
- [C]Eri
- [D]Muga

**Answer:** Mulberry

**Explanation:**

Among the four varieties of silk produced as in 2012-13, Mulberry accounts for 79 per cent (18715 MT), Tasar 7.3 per cent (1729 MT), Eri 13.2 per cent (3116 MT) and Muga 0.5 per (119 MT) of the total raw silk production of 23,679 MT. Karnataka is leading in silk production in the country.



100. Which article of the Constitution of India directs the state to organize village panchayats?

[A]Article 38

[B]Article 39

[C]Article 40

[D]Article 41

**Answer:** Article 40

**Explanation:**

Article 40 of the Constitution which enshrines one of the Directive Principles of State Policy lays down that the State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.

101. Which country is the largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2014?

[A]China

[B]USA

[C]Russia

[D]Brazil

**Answer:** China

**Explanation:**

As per the UNCTAD world investment report, China became the largest recipient of FDI in 2014 with \$129 billion inflows. China is followed by Hong Kong (China) that received \$103 billion and the U.S. With \$92 billion. India jumped to the ninth rank in 2014 with a 22 per cent rise in FDI inflows to \$34 billion. India was at the 15th position in the previous two years.

102. Thumri Singer Girija Devi belongs to which among the following Gharanas?

[A]Banaras Gharana

[B]Agra Gharana

[C]Kirana Gharana

[D]Lucknow Gharana

**Answer:** Banaras Gharana

Girija Devi belongs to Banaras gharana. She performs classical and light classical music and has helped elevate the profile of thumri.

103. Which two countries kicked off Silk Route-2015 military exercise, recently?

[A]Sri Lanka and Pakistan

[B]Pakistan and China



[C]China and Sri Lanka

[D]India and China

**Answer:** China and Sri Lanka

**Explanation:**

The 2nd joint military training exercise code named 'Silk Route- 2015' between China and Sri Lanka has begun at Buttala in Central Sri Lanka. It is three-week long joint military training exercise will be conducted in three phases. Phase 1 will be held June 22-28, 2015; Phase 2 will be held from June 28-July 5, 2015 and Phase 3 will be held from July 5 – July 13, 2015. In the first phase of the 2nd joint exercise involves Sri Lankan Army and People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China have participated. This training will focus on weapon handling, live firing, VIP protection study and other warfare and battle skills related fields. The first stage of the 'Silk Route – 2015' exercise was conducted in China earlier between March 29 and April 17, 2015 following successful negotiations between armies of both nations.

104. Praful Bidwai, who died recently, was well known personality in which field?

[A]Journalism

[B]Sports

[C]Politics

[D]Literature

**Answer:** Journalism

**Explanation:**

Praful Bidwai, was a well know journalist and commenter. He was a founding member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Peace, the group set up after the 1998 Pokhran tests. Praful Bidwai was the author of several books, including the 1999 South Asia on a Short Fuse. Nuclear Politics and the Future of Global Disarmament, co-authored with the political scientist and activist Achin Vanaik, and the Politics of Climate Change and Global Crisis. Bidwai worked in the Times of India for many years as a Senior Assistant Editor. He wrote a regular column for Frontline and Hindustan Times for several years.

105. In which place India's first modernised anganwadi centre was launched?

[A]Mysuru, Karnataka

[B]Sonapat, Haryana

[C]Nasik, Maharashtra

[D]Ranchi, Jharkhand

**Answer:** Sonapat, Haryana

**Explanation:**

The union government launched the country's first modernised anganwadi centre (AWC) at Hasanpur village, Sonapat, Haryana. The facility is built in partnership with private mining



firm Vedanta at a cost of Rs 12 lakh. It is a part of central government's Nand-Ghar Yojna that aims at transforming the anganwadis centers, which accommodate around 50 children in daytime everyday, by making them equipped with latest facilities.

106. Which NASA mission aims to send group of sends groups of astronauts, engineers and scientists to live in Aquarius underwater laboratory?

[A]NEEMO

[B]SIAL

[C]AREVA

[D]NEERI

**Answer:** NEEMO

**Explanation:**

NEEMO or NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations, is a NASA analog mission that sends groups of astronauts, engineers and scientists to live in Aquarius underwater laboratory, the world's only undersea research station, for up to three weeks at a time in the in preparation for future space exploration. Aquarius is an underwater habitat located 3.5 miles (5.6 kilometers) off Key Largo, Florida in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. It is deployed on the ocean floor next to deep coral reefs 62 feet (19 meters) below the surface.

107. Who is the highest paid CEO of Indian Banks currently (June 2015)?

[A]Aditya Puri

[B]Chanda Kochchar

[C]Shikha Sharma

[D]Aruna Bandopadhyaya

**Answer:** Aditya Puri

**Explanation:**

Aditya Puri, the Managing Director of HDFC Bank, is currently the highest paid bank chief in the country. In financial year 2015, Puri earned a salary of Rs 7.39 crore compared to Rs 6.07 crore last year, up 21.74%. Chanda Kochhar, MD and Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Bank, the largest private sector lender in the country drew a salary Rs 5.85 crore, up 12% compared to her remuneration of Rs 5.23 crore in FY14. Shikha Sharma, the MD & CEO of Axis Bank got a salary hike of about 11.20% in FY15 to draw Rs 4.17 crore. In FY14, Sharma had drawn a salary of Rs 3.75 crore.

108. Who became the first India born basketball player to picked in National Basketball Association (NBA)?

[A]Satnam Singh

[B]Balbir Chauhan



[C]Balbir Singh

[D]Ramesh Rathode

**Answer:** Satnam Singh

**Explanation:**

Punjab born Satnam Singh became the first basketball player from India to be drafted by an NBA team. Satnam Singh was selected by the Dallas Mavericks with the 52nd pick in the draft.

109. Who has been recently chosen for Columbia's highest civilian award?

[A]Baba Ramdev

[B]Sri Pandit Ravi Shankar

[C]Pranab Mukherji

[D]Sushma Swaraj

**Answer:** Sri Pandit Ravi Shankar

**Explanation:**

Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was chosen for Columbia's highest civilian award. He is recognised for the award for his contribution in spreading the message of peace in society, inter-mediation in war, reducing stress and combating violence through yoga and breathing exercises.

110. Who is author of the book "Nehru: A Troubled Legacy"?

[A]Sanjay Jain

[B]R N P Singh

[C]Kapil Sibal

[D]Varun Yadav

**Answer:** R N P Singh

**Explanation:**

Former intelligence officer R N P Singh is the author of Nehru: A Troubled Legacy. The book, "Nehru: A Troubled Legacy", has been published by Wisdom Tree and includes letters written by Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Patel and others.

111. In which year the first India-Africa Forum Summit was held?

[A]2005

[B]2007

[C]2008

[D]2010

**Answer:** 2008

**Explanation:**



The India–Africa Forum Summit is the official platform for the African-Indian relations. It was first held from April 4 to April 8, 2008 in New Delhi, India. It was the first such meeting between the heads of state and government of India and 14 countries of Africa chosen by the African Union. The third summit in a rotation basis is scheduled to be held in New Delhi, India from 26-30 October 2015.

112. According to World Economic Forum, which is the world's biggest employer?

[A]US Department of Defence

[B]Indian Railway

[C]Chinese military

[D]Indian Army

**Answer:** US Department of Defence

**Explanation:**

According to a research published by World Economic Forum, the US department of defence is the world's biggest employer which claims over 3.2 million employees. Second is People's Liberation Army (Chinese army) with 2.3 million, and third is supermarket giant Walmart with 2.1 million workers. Indian Railways ranked at the eighth place with 1.4 million staff followed by Indian Armed Forces with 1.3 million people.

113. The proposed Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) corridor will link Kolkata to which part of China?

[A]Kunming

[B]Dongguan

[C]Wuhan

[D]Chengdu

**Answer:** Kunming

**Explanation:**

The Bangladesh–China–India–Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation (BCIM) is a sub-regional organisation of Asian nations aimed at greater integration of trade and investment between the four countries. The proposed Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) corridor project, will link Kolkata with Kunming, the capital of China's Yunnan province, passing through Myanmar and Bangladesh, with Mandalay and Dhaka among the focal points.

114. Who was conferred with Punyabhushan (Jewel of Pune) award?

[A]Vikram Simha

[B]Pratap Pawar

[C]Ashok Singhvi

[D]Murali Karthik



**Answer:** Pratap Pawar

**Explanation:**

Media personality Pratap Pawar was awarded Punyabhushan (Jewel of Pune) award. The award was presented by President Pranab Mukherji. The Punyabhushan is awarded every year to an eminent personality from the field of arts, music, culture, science, industry, social service or sports.

115. What is India's ranking in the Baseline Profitability Index (BPI) for investment?

[A]Second

[B]Third

[C]First

[D]Fourth

**Answer:** First

**Explanation:**

India was placed at First position in the Baseline Profitability Index (BPI) for investment among 110 countries. India was 6th in 2014 BPI and Hong Kong was ranked number one. The ranking is preferred on three that affect the ultimate success of a foreign investment: how much the value of an asset grows; the preservation of that value while the asset is owned; and the ease of repatriation of proceeds from selling the asset. In this edition China was placed at the 65th position and US was placed at the 50th.

116. India has decided to celebrate World Youth Skills Day on which date?

[A]June 30

[B]July 15

[C]August 12

[D]August 22

**Answer:** July 15

**Explanation:**

India will celebrate July 15 as the World Youth Skills Day. On this day major announcement on skills will be made by the Prime Minister.

117. India is planning to launch a dedicated satellite for which organisation?

[A]ASEAN

[B]BRICS

[C]SAARC

[D]SCO

**Answer:** SAARC

**Explanation:**



India will launch a dedicated satellite for the eight SAARC countries by December 2016. The two tonne satellite will have 12 Ku band transponders, with each dedicated to one country in the region. The satellite will provide communication, education, tele-medicine, disaster monitoring and other need based services. At the last SAARC Summit in Kathmandu, heads of region agreed to PM Modi's proposal for such a satellite on the lines of regional satellites in Europe and North America.

118. Which is the world's number one environment think tank in the 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index?

- [A] World Resource Institute
- [B] The Energy and Research Institute
- [C] Centre for Science and Environment
- [D] Stockholm Environment Institute

**Answer:** World Resource Institute

**Explanation:**

World Resource Institute has been ranked number one environment think tank in the 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index conducted by the University of Pennsylvania. WRI has been recognised for developing and implementing number of research-based global initiative focusing on the environment and sustainable development, producing tangible results. The Energy and Research Institute (TERI) and Centre for Science and Environment are ranked 12th and 17th respectively.

119. The Nohkalikai Falls, tallest plunge type waterfall in the country, is in which state?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Meghalaya
- [D] Karnataka

**Answer:** Meghalaya

**Explanation:**

Nohkalikai Falls is the tallest plunge waterfall in India. It is located near Cherrapunji, Meghalaya. Its height is 1115 feet (340) meters.

120. Which among the following has been ranked the World's highest paid celebrity couple-2015?

- [A] Taylor Swift and Calvin Harris
- [B] Beyonce and Jay Z
- [C] Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert
- [D] Kristen Stewart and Robert Beckham





**Answer:** Taylor Swift and Calvin Harris

**Explanation:**

Taylor Swift and Calvin Harris have been ranked world's highest paid celebrity couple of 2015 Forbes. The pop star and Scottish DJ producer surpassed Beyonce and Jay Z for the top spot with combined earning of \$ 146 million. This year, Beyonce and Jay Z are the second highest-paid celebrity couple in the world, with combined income of \$ 110 million.

121. Who is the chairman of the committee set up monitor Yamuna Clean-up project?

- [A]Anil Goswamy
- [B]Chandrashekar Javed
- [C]Shashi Shekar
- [D]Murali Manohar

**Answer:** Shashi Shekar

**Explanation:**

Shashi Shekar, secretary ministry of water resource is the chairman of the committee set up to monitor Yamuna Clean-up project. The committee was formed by the NGT to monitor Rs 4,000-crore Yamuna clean-up project. The committee in its report submitted to the NGT has recommended ensuring fresh water flow in the river.

122. Who has been chosen for the 28th Moortidevi Award for 2014?

- [A]Virendra Hegde
- [B]S L Byrappa
- [C]Vishwanath Tripathi
- [D]Suryanath Chandrapathi

**Answer:** Vishwanath Tripathi

**Explanation:**

Noted Hindi writer Vishwanath Tripathi was selected for the 28th Moortidevi Award for 2014. He won the award for his work Vyomkesh Darvesh. The fictional biography 'Vyomkesh Darvesh' is of noted Hindi critic Hazariprasad Dwivedi, considered a doyen of Hindi language. The Moortidevi Award constituted by the Bhartiya Jnanpith is presented annually for a "contemplative and perceptive work which expresses, underlines and illumines human values rooted in the broad vision of Indian philosophy and cultural heritage." Books written in English and all Indian languages are considered for the Prize, which comprises a cash award of Rs four lakhs, a statue and a citation plaque.

123. Who among the following have won the Canada Open Women double?

- [A]Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa
- [B]Eefje Muskens and Selena Piek



[C]Brigitte Yeo and Lisa Menard

[D]Lisa Menard and Selena Piek

**Answer:** Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa

**Explanation:**

India's Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa pair won the Canada open women's doubles title. They defeated Dutch pair of Eefje Muskens and Selena Piek scoring a 21-19, 21-16.

124. Which state has provisionally selected as venue for FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017?

[A]Goa

[B]Manipur

[C]Karnataka

[D]Tamil Nadu

**Answer:** Goa

**Explanation:**

Goa has been provisionally selected as a venue for the FIFA under 17 World Cup 2017. Delhi, Kolkata, Navi Mumbai, Guwahati, and Kochi have already been provisionally selected for the tournament.

125. Which country is hosting the 16th World Sanskrit Conference?

[A]Thailand

[B]Bangladesh

[C]China

[D]Sri Lanka

**Answer:** Thailand

**Explanation:**

The 16th World Sanskrit Conference was inaugurated in Bangkok, Thailand. Sanskrit scholars from 60 countries will attend the five-day conference. The World Sanskrit Conference, which was organised first in Delhi in 1972, has been held in different countries since then. It is held once after every three years.

126. Which country has highest Jewish population in the world?

[A]USA

[B]Israel

[C]France

[D]Canada

**Answer:** Israel

**Explanation:**

Israel and the United States account for 82% of the Jewish population, while a total of 18



countries host 98%. United States has the world's second largest Jewish population, at 5.7 million. France is a distant third with about 475,000 Jews, followed by Canada.

127. As per 2015 TripIndex, which is the most budget friendly city in the world?

[A] Warsaw

[B] Bangkok

[C] Hanoi

[D] Sharm I Sheikh

**Answer:** Hanoi

**Explanation:**

According to 2015 TripIndex, Hanoi in Vietnam is the most budget friendly city in the world for tourist. India's financial capital Mumbai has been ranked as the fifth most budget- friendly city among 40 key tourists countries of the world. The top five budget friendly cities are Hanoi (Vietnam), Warsaw (Poland), Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt) and Bangkok (Thailand). The most expensive destination in the world is Cancun, Mexico, Zurich in Switzerland was ranked at the second spot, followed by New York City (USA), London (UK) and Punta Cana (Caribbean).

128. In which state Bajaj Allianz has launched a weather-based crop insurance scheme?

[A] Karnataka

[B] Tamil Nadu

[C] Maharashtra

[D] Kerala

**Answer:** Maharashtra

**Explanation:**

Private insurer Bajaj Allianz has launched a weather-based crop insurance scheme for orange crops in Nagpur, Hingoli and Washim districts of Maharashtra. The index-based insurance policy will cover losses incurred by orange fruit-growing farmers due to deviation in weather conditions and has been approved by the central and state governments.

129. Yevgeny Primakov, who died recently, was a former Prime Minister of which country?

[A] South Korea

[B] Russia

[C] China

[D] Japan

**Answer:** Russia

**Explanation:**

Yevgeny Primakov was a Russia's former Prime Minister. Primakov launched his career under Leonid Brezhnev, sided with Gorbachev during the 1991 coup, served as prime minister under



Boris Yeltsin in 1998-1999. Primakov also served as foreign minister between 1996 and 1998 and headed the country's external intelligence agency SVR between 1991 and 1996.

130. As per latest report, the per capita emission of greenhouse gases is highest in which country?

- [A] China
- [B] USA
- [C] Russia
- [D] India

**Answer:** China

**Explanation:**

China is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in terms of per capita emission accounting for 25.26% of global emission. India is fourth largest carbon emitter in the world in terms of per capita emission accounting for 6.6 % of global emissions as per World Resource Institute. Top 10 emitters are China (25.26%), US (14.4%), European Union (10.16%), India (6.69%), Russia (5.36%), Japan (3.11%), Brazil (2.34%), Indonesia (1.76%), Mexico (1.67%) and Iran (1.65%).

131. Which committee was constituted to examine drug approval procedure?

- [A] P N Tandon committee
- [B] V M Katoch committee
- [C] Aggarwal committee
- [D] Pandey committee

**Answer:** V M Katoch committee

**Explanation:**

The committee under former secretary (health research) V M Katoch was formed to suggest how India could reduce its dependence on China for bulk drugs. The Committee was asked to examine the validity of the scientific and statutory basis adopted for approval of new drugs without clinical trials. Outline appropriate measures to bring about systemic improvements in the processing and grant of statutory approvals. Suggest steps to institutionalise improvements in other procedural aspects of functioning of the CDSCO.

132. Which state of India is considered as cradle of modern Polo?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Jharkhand
- [D] Haryana

**Answer:** Manipur

**Explanation:**

Manipur is the birth place of modern Polo game. It is also home to the oldest active polo ground, Mapal Kangjeibung. Before British influence, sagol kangjei, as polo was originally called here, was played with seven players per team. The mallets were made of cane, and the ball was made from bamboo root. The name polo came later: The Tibetan word for bamboo root is "pulu." Today, Manipur follows International Polo Association rules, and teams consist of four players. Sagol kangjei is played only as an exhibition sport at tournaments and festivals.

133. With which country India signed a MoU on the establishment of the Academic Chair in Ayurveda?

[A]Thailand

[B]China

[C]Sri Lanka

[D]South Korea

**Answer:** Thailand

**Explanation:**

India and Thailand inked an MoU on the establishment of the 'Academic Chair' in Ayurveda. According to which the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences will set up a Chair at Rangsit University in Thailand to undertake academic and research activities in Ayurveda.

134. Which country became first in the world eliminate mother-to-baby HIV transmission?

[A]USA

[B]Cuba

[C]Japan

[D]China

**Answer:** Cuba

**Explanation:**

World Health Organisation has announced Cuba has become the first country to eliminate the transmission of HIV and syphilis from mother to baby. Over the past five years, Caribbean countries have had increased access to antiretroviral drugs as part of a regional initiative to eliminate mother-to-child transmission. HIV and syphilis testing for pregnant women and their partners, caesarean deliveries and substitution of breastfeeding have also contributed to the breaking of the infection chain, said the WHO.

135. NASA's New Horizon probe has confirmed the presence of frozen methane on which of these bodies?

[A]Jupiter



- [B]Mars
- [C]Pluto
- [D]Neptune

**Answer:** Pluto

**Explanation:**

NASA's New Horizon probe has confirmed that there is frozen methane on Pluto's surface. Methane was detected by a team of ground-based astronomers led by New Horizons team member Dale Cruikshank of NASA's Ames Research Center, Mountain View, California. Methane is an odourless, colourless gas that is present underground and in the atmosphere on the Earth. On Pluto, methane may be primordial, inherited from the solar nebula from which the solar system formed 4.5 billion years ago.

136. As per NSSO report, which state has recorded highest literacy rate?

- [A]Mizoram
- [B]Andhra Pradesh
- [C]Kerala
- [D]Punjab

**Answer:** Mizoram

**Explanation:**

As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) with 96.2 per cent Mizoram has recorded highest literacy rate in the country. Among the states, the lowest literacy was recorded in Andhra Pradesh – 66.8 per cent. The literacy rate in the country improved considerably to 69.1 per cent in January-June 2014, compared to 64.5 per cent some six years back.

137. Which one of the following correctly represents the world's top three largest mobile operators?

- [A]China mobile, Vodafone and Airtel
- [B]Vodafone, China mobile and Airtel
- [C]Vodafone, Airtel and China mobile
- [D]Airtel, China mobile and Vodafone

**Answer:** China mobile, Vodafone and Airtel

**Explanation:**

As per the latest data published by World Cellular Information Service, China mobile, Vodafone group and Airtel are the world's top three largest mobile operators globally. Bharti Airtel has become the third-largest mobile operator in the world in terms of subscribers. Airtel mobile network covers over 1.85 billion people and carried over 1.23 trillion minutes of calls and over 333 petabytes of data in 2014-15.



138. The Rodriguez Triple Junction is a geological junction in which ocean?

- [A] Indian Ocean
- [B] Bay of Bengal
- [C] Pacific Ocean
- [D] Antarctic Ocean

**Answer:** Indian Ocean

**Explanation:**

The Rodriguez Triple Junction (RTJ) corresponds to the junction in the Indian Ocean where three tectonic plates meet the African Plate, the Indo-Australian Plate, and the Antarctic Plate.

139. Who has been voted as best test player of 21st century?

- [A] Kumara Sangakkara
- [B] Sachin Tendulkar
- [C] Adam Gilchrist
- [D] Ricky Ponting

**Answer:** Sachin Tendulkar

**Explanation:**

Former Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar has been voted the 'Best Test player' of the 21st century in an online poll conducted by Cricket Australia's website. Tendulkar got the highest number of votes to emerge on top of the list of the 100 best Test players since 2000, in a poll conducted by cricket.com.au. Sri Lanka's Kumara Sangakkara received second highest votes, followed by Adam Gilchrist and Ricky Ponting.

140. Who has been appointed as Kerala's brand ambassador for Ayurveda?

- [A] Steffi Graf
- [B] Venus Williams
- [C] Caroline Wozniacki
- [D] Martina Navratilova

**Answer:** Steffi Graf

**Explanation:**

Tennis legend Steffi Graf was appointed the Ayurveda brand ambassador of Kerala. The Kerala tourism department was given sanction to sign an agreement with Graf to become Ayurveda brand ambassador as part of the department's 'Visit Kerala Scheme'. The 46-year-old Graf, who retired in 1999, married former World number one men's tennis player Andre Agassi in October 2001.

141. Which of the following pairs has been chosen for Bhasha Samman award for their work



towards the enrichment of Kumauni language?

[A]K Meenakshi Sundaram and Acharya Munishwar Jha

[B]Charu Chandra Pande and Mathuradutt Mathpal

[C]Acharya Munishwar Jha and Mathuradutt Mathpal

[D]Mathuradutt Mathpal and K Meenakshi Sundaram

**Answer:** Charu Chandra Pande and Mathuradutt Mathpal

**Explanation:**

Charu Chandra Pande and Mathuradutt Mathpal have been jointly recognised for Basha Samman award their work towards the enrichment of Kumauni, a language not recognised by the Akademi. The 'Bhasha Samman' carries a cash prize of Rs 1,00,000, an inscribed copper plaque and a citation. In case of joint winners, the prize money is equally shared between the winners.

142. Who has been appointed as President of International Cricket Council (ICC)?

[A]Zaheer Abbas

[B]Mustafa Kamal

[C]Austin Garden

[D]John Shreff

**Answer:** Zaheer Abbas

**Explanation:**

Former Pakistan batsman Zaheer Abbas was confirmed as ICC president. He was elected as president on the third day of the ICC annual conference in Barbados.

143. Which state has declared June 22 as Snake Bird Day?

[A]Kerala

[B]Maharashtra

[C]Tamil Nadu

[D]Karnataka

**Answer:** Kerala

**Explanation:**

Kerala government has declared June 22 as Snake Bird Day. The move is a part of campaign to protect the endangered species. Known as darter-Anhinga melanogaster in scientific parlance, snake bird is a large slender long-necked water bird and is mostly black with silver wing markings. The species, which usually nests atop tall trees near wetlands, is largely found in Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, Wayanad and Thiruvananthapuram districts. As per a recent survey, there are over 1500 snake birds in the country in which majority are in Kerala.

144. The Groningen gas field, which is largest natural gas field in Europe, is in which country?





- [A]Brazil
- [B]Netherland
- [C]France
- [D]Germany

**Answer:** Netherland

**Explanation:**

The Groningen gas field is a largest natural gas field located near Slochteren in Groningen province in the northeastern part of the Netherlands. The gas field was discovered in 1959. It is the largest natural gas field in Europe and the tenth-largest in the world.

145. Hollywood composer, James Horner, who died recently, had won two academic awards for his work in which movie?

- [A]The Karate Kid
- [B]Aliens
- [C]Titanic
- [D]Avatar

**Answer:** Titanic

**Explanation:**

James Horner was a famous Hollywood composer. He won two academic awards for his work on Titanic, one for the score and one shared with lyricist Will Jennings for best original song My Heart Will Go On. He is also composed the music for Aliens, The Karate Kid, Braveheart and string of other major films.

146. Which one of the following has won the 'Best Welfare Organisation of the Year – 2015' award?

- [A]NUSI
- [B]ISRO
- [C]CITU
- [D]INTUC

**Answer:** NUSI

**Explanation:**

India's oldest and largest shipping trade union, National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) has been honoured with the 'Best Welfare Organisation of the Year – 2015' award. The award was presented to Abdulgani Y Serang, NUSI general secretary by Koji Sekimizu, Secretary General of International Maritime Organisation at a function held in London. The award is promoted by the United Kingdom based International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN).



147. Which country created the world's first highway to protect endangered bees?

- [A] Norway
- [B] Sweden
- [C] Australia
- [D] Brazil

**Answer:** Norway

**Explanation:**

World's first highway to protect endangered bees is coming up in Norway's capital Oslo. Oslo's "bee highway" aims to give the insects a safe passage through the city, lined with relays providing food and shelter, the first such system in the world.

148. Who is the chairman of the committee on innovation and entrepreneurship set up by NITI Aayog?

- [A] Gayathri Iyar
- [B] Tarun Khanna
- [C] Swati Piramal
- [D] Vallabh Bansali

**Answer:** Tarun Khanna

**Explanation:**

Tarun Khanna is the chairman of the committee formed to work out the "contours of the Atal Innovation Mission" and its underlying "Self Employment and Talent Utilization" mechanism. Apart from Khanna, a well-regarded professor of strategy at Harvard Business School who is director of Harvard University's South Asia Institute, the committee includes vice-chairman of Piramal Enterprises Ltd Swati Piramal, co-founder of Enam Securities Vallabh Bhansali, non-executive vice chairman of Genpact Pramod Bhasin, IIT Bombay director Devang Khakhar, IIM Ahmedabad director Ashish Nanda, Central Square Foundation chief executive Ashish Dhawan and Manish Sabharwal, chairman of the staffing and training company, Teamlease Services Pvt. Ltd.

149. Which organization gives Nansen Refugee Award?

- [A] World Bank
- [B] UNHCR
- [C] WTO
- [D] UNICEF

**Answer:** UNHCR

**Explanation:**

The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award is awarded annually by the United Nations High



Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to an individual, group, or organization in recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people. It was established in 1954. The Nansen Refugee Award is named after Fridtjof Nansen, the famous Norwegian polar explorer, humanitarian and Nobel Peace Prize laureate who served as the first High Commissioner for Refugees for the League of Nations.

150. Which Indian state has launched the Village Monitoring Project (VMP) to uplift villagers?

[A] Kerala

[B] Maharashtra

[C] Haryana

[D] Punjab

**Answer:** Haryana

**Explanation:**

Haryana Government has launched a Village Mentoring Project (VMP) in a bid to improve healthcare and education of the villagers with a special emphasis on girl child. VMP is the first of its kind initiative in Haryana under which villages in the state would be mentored by leading educational institutions, corporate houses and other organizations. It will be launched in a phased manner in 5 villages each of the 22 districts in the state.

## COMPENDIUM NEWS

**June 1, 2015**

### **Deepika Kumari wins bronze at Antalya Archery World Cup**

Ace Indian archer Deepika Kumari has clinched the bronze medal in the women's individual Women's Recurve event at Antalya Archery World Cup held in Turkey.

To win bronze medal Deepika outclassed Chang Hye Jin of South Korea in straight sets 6-2 (26-25, 29-26, 26-28, 28-27).

She was the only Indian who made it to the last four in the individual women's recurve competition as veteran Dola Banerjee, Satbir Kaur and Snehal Divakar all lost in the first round.

In the Antalya 2015 recurve women's event Misun Choi and Bo Bae Ki from South Korea won gold and silver medal respectively.

### **Dilwar Singh of Haryana wins Pedal for Kashmir cycling race**

Dilwar Singh of Haryana has won 'Pedal for Kashmir' cycling competition, held along the banks of picturesque Dal Lake in Srinagar.





During this cycling, Singh pipped local champion Mohammad Akbar Khan who came runner up, followed by another local cyclist Mohammad Adil Teli.

While in the under-19 category of the competition for Boys, Mohit Kumar won the first prize. Wahid Ahmad Ganie was placed second, while Amir Sadiq Gojriin finished third.

In the girls under-19 category, Komal Deshmuk from Maharashtra, beat local girl Bushra Ali to the first position. State Minister for Public Works Altaf Bukhari gave away the prizes to the winners.

This edition of Pedal for Kashmir cycling competition was organized by Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police (JKAP). In this event around 2000 cyclists, including those of national and international repute had participated.

### **Gurpreet Singh secures quota place in shooting for 2016 Rio Olympics**

Ace Indian shooter Gurpreet Singh has secured India a fifth quota place in shooting for the 2015 Rio Olympics.

He achieved this feat by finishing fourth in the Men's 10 metre Air Pistol final at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shooting World Cup held in Munich, Germany.

In the final qualification round Gurpreet scored 154. He became second Indian to have secured a 2016 Rio berth at the ongoing World Cup.

Earlier, in same world cup Abhinav Bindra, India's only individual Olympic gold-medallist, had won a quota place with a sixth place finish in the Men's 10 metre Air Rifle final.

Previously, Gagan Narang, Jitu Rai and Apurvi Chandela have secured an Olympic quota place for 2016 Rio Olympics.



### **Punjab to observe 2015-16 as Year of Development**

Punjab government has announced that year 2015-16 will be observed as development year to give further fillip to the all-round development of the state.

- It was announced by Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, in Dhuri Assembly segment of the state.
- For this state government will make concerted efforts for the overall development of the urban and rural areas in the state. In this regard, state government will be to provide ultra-modern civic amenities to the people in urban and rural areas and major schemes will be implemented in the current fiscal.
- In urban areas state government will focus to provide the facility of water supply, sewerage, Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs), streetlights, roads and parks.

Whereas in rural areas provision of roads, disposal of waste water, potable drinking water and toilets will be state government thrust areas.





## President gives assent to re-promulgation of Land Ordinance for 3rd time

President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to re-promulgation of land ordinance for



third time as per provisions of Article 123 of Indian Constitution.

Earlier, Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved re-promulgation of the ordinance, which was to expire on 3 June 2015.

Currently, The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Bill, 2015 is with the Joint Committee of Parliament chaired by BJP MP S.S. Ahluwalia for detailed discussion on the provisions of the legislation.

Earlier, Lok Sabha had passed the bill, however in Rajya Sabha it was not able to pass were as government is in minority and opposition parties including Congress and Left as well as some NDA allies had opposed it.

## Kolkata's Mohun Bagan FC wins I-League title

Kolkata's Mohun Bagan Football Club (FC) has won the I-League title by defeating Bengaluru Football Club.

Mohun Bagan won the title after a 1-1 draw score against Bengaluru FC in their final game of the 2014-15 season played at the Kanteerva Stadium, Bengaluru.

John Johnson of Bengaluru FC had scored a goal in the 41st minute and later Mohun Bagan's Bello Raseq scored the equaliser in the 86th minute.

With this win, Mohun Bagan FC ended the season with 39 points at top, while Bengaluru FC finished second on the ladder with 37.

- It should be noted that it is the fourth national title for Mohun Bagan FC after having won the last in 2002 when the I-League tournament was named the National Football League (NFL).

## Pinaka Mark-II rockets successfully tested at Pokhran

Advanced version of indigenous Pinaka mark-II rockets were successfully tested on 30 May 2015 in Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan.

They were test-fired using a multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL). In the test six rounds were successfully tested which had hit the target situated 53 kms from the firing point.

### Article 123 of Constitution

As per article 123, President can issue ordinances when Parliament is in recess i.e. not in session if there is urgent need to have a law on some urgent public matter.

The promulgated ordinance has similar effect to an act of parliament.

However, every ordinance must be laid and approved by both houses of the parliament within 6 weeks from the reassembling.

If not placed and approved by both houses of the parliament after reassembling it becomes invalid or lapses.





The MBRL version of Pinaka has high operational mobility, flexibility and accuracy which is capable of acting as a force multiplier and has been developed to supplement artillery guns.

**Facts about Pinaka II rockets**

- The Pinaka II rocket is also known as the Weapon Area System (WAS).
- Jointly and indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army.
- It has battery of six launchers which can fire rockets with a range of 40-65 kms.
- WAS can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds with 1.2 tonne of high explosives.
- Can neutralise a target area of 3.9 square km and supplement existing artillery system at a range beyond 30 km.
- Can be fitted with wide range of warheads including blast-cum-pre-fragmented high explosives to anti-tank mines.

It should be noted that Pinaka had undergone several tough tests since 1995 and already has been introduced into the Indian army.

**Key Facts about Gatiman Express**

Gatimaan Express is the first semi high-speed train service that will be launched between Delhi and Agra.

The train will run at a maximum speed of 160 kmph and is expected to cover the 200-km distance between both destinations in about 105 minutes.

**Features of train**

- It is equipped with a 5,400 Horse Power (HP) electric locomotive engine and 12 modern coaches.
- It also has extra advance features such as automatic fire alarm, emergency braking system along with the passenger information system and sliding doors inside the coaches.
- To attain high speed, railway tracks for this train route have been fenced off at certain places, signaling system has been upgraded.
- The fare of this train service will be 25 per cent more normal fare of Shatabdi express (between Delhi and Agra).

The trials of the semi-high speed train already have been conducted twice between the Agra and Delhi route. But the mandatory clearance from the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has been not granted yet.

After successful implementation of this semi high-speed train service between Delhi and Agra, Indian Railways is seeking to implement it on nine more routes. It includes Kanpur-Delhi, Hyderabad-Chennai, Goa-Mumbai, Nagpur-Bilaspur, Nagpur-Secunderabad and Chandigarh-Delhi.



### **Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa sworn-in as Arunachal Pradesh Governor**

Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa was sworn-in as the 19th Governor of Arunachal Pradesh. Acting Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Justice K Sreedhar Rao administered the oath of office as per provisions of Article 159 of Constitution.

President Pranab Mukherjee had appointed him as Governor on May 12, 2015 after then Governor Lt General (Retired) Nirbhay Sharma was transferred to Mizoram.

Mr. Rajkhowa is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from 1968 batch. He is the former Chief Secretary of Assam and had retired from service in 2004.

During his service he had served in various remote areas of the Northeast India including in Mizo Hills during the peak of the Mizo rebellion.

He holds M.A degree in Economics from the prestigious Delhi School of Economics under the aegis of Delhi University.

Mr. Rajkhowa has authored a book, *Central Vigilance Mechanism with special reference to P.S.E's*, and also had contributed by writing number of articles to leading newspapers.



### **China develops world's first ATM with Facial Recognition Technology**

Researchers from China have successfully developed the first automated teller machine (ATM) with facial recognition technology.

The machine has unique security feature which does not allow users to withdraw cash unless their face matches their facial ID.

The first of its kind ATM was developed by researchers from Tsinghua University and technology firm Tzekwan.



#### **Key facts**

- The machine has a camera installed in which captures the facial features of the user and then compares it with photos stored in a database for authentication.
- Its technology and software looks at biological features of person and has potential to identify people even if their facial features have changed.
- The machine combines high-speed banknote handling, improved counterfeit-bill recognition and facial recognition. Thus, help to curb ATM-related crimes.
- It provides 20% more accurate authenticity in verifying multiple currencies compared to present conventional ATMs used globally.



### **Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, V V S Laxman inducted in BCCI advisory committee**

Former Indian cricketers Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and V V S Laxman have joined the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI's) newly-constituted Cricket Advisory Aommittee.

They were nominated by BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya with immediate effect.

The advisory committee will guide BCCI in all matters related to the game and the national team on various progressive steps needed for future challenges on overseas engagements.

It will also provide direction to improve BCCIs talent pathway and take steps to strengthen domestic cricket to better prepare our players to handle the rigours of International Cricket. Sachin Tendulkar had played 200 Tests and had scored 15921 runs. He also had played 463 One Day International's (ODIs) and had scored 18426 runs apart from a T20 International before retiring in 2013.

Sourav Ganguly had played in 113 Tests and 311 ODIs for India apart from leading the country to the final of 2003 World Cup. V V S Laxman had played in 134 Tests and 86 ODIs.



### **June 2, 2015**

### **Atal Bihari Vajpayee to be conferred 'Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War Award'**

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be conferred with Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War Award by Bangladesh government.

He will be bestowed this award for his outstanding support for the Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan in 1971 when he was member of Lok Sabha.



Bangladesh Government will hand over this award to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his upcoming visit to the country from June 6, 2015.

Besides, Bangladesh Government headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will also honour the families of the members of Indian armed forces who had sacrificed their lives for the cause of Bangladesh's independence. In this regard, a letter alongside a certificate to be signed by the Bangladesh PM will be sent to the martyrs' family members.

#### **About Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War Award**

- Instituted in 2008 by ruling Awami League government.
- Bestowed upon individuals and organizations who had extended the most crucial support for Bangladesh's independence struggle.
- Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was the first to be honoured with award. President Pranab Mukherjee also has received this award in 2013.





## India, Sweden ink six agreements during President Pranab Mukherjee's visit

India and Sweden inked six agreements, during the visit of President Pranab Mukherjee to Sweden, key Arctic Council member.

It should be noted that Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is the first Indian President to visit Sweden.



### Following agreements were signed

- **MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development-** It aims to foster closer and long term cooperation between both nations in the field of sustainable development and protection of the environment.
- **MoU on cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** –It aims at promoting partnership projects, institution and enterprise level cooperation related to MSMEs. It also seeks development of MSMEs and facilitating exchange of business mission by initiating technology transfer and sustainable business alliances.
- **Agreement on Visa Exemption for diplomatic passports-** It aims to strengthen the friendly relations by facilitating the entry of citizens of both nations holding diplomatic passports.
- **Letter of Intent (LoI) on Collaboration in Polar and Ocean Research-** It seeks to encourage collaboration in the areas of Polar (Antarctic and Arctic) and Ocean Research. Signatory parties are Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO) of India and the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (SPRS)
- **Memorandum of Intent (MoI)** between Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Swedish Research Council for Health Working Life and Welfare (FORTE) for cooperation in the field of ageing research and health.
- **MoI** between India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and Swedish Medical Products Agency (MPA) for complimentary cooperation between both nations in the area of health, electronic submissions, pharmacovigilance, drugs, clinical trials, medical devices and diagnostic kits etc.

## Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, designated as first woman President of Mauritius

Government of Mauritius has designated internationally renowned biodiversity scientist and biologist **Ameenah Gurib-Fakim** as their new President.

This designation will make her Indian Ocean island nation's first woman and sixth President, a top ceremonial position. Now this appointment is subject to Mauritian Parliament approval.

She will succeed Former president Kailash Purryag, who had stepped down as the island's figurehead and was appointed in 2012 by then Labour party government of former premier Navin Ramgoolam.



**About Ameenah Gurib-Fakim**

- Ameenah Gurib-Fakim was born in October 17, 1959 in Mauritius.
- She is the Managing Director of Centre International de Développement Pharmaceutique (CIDP) Research & Innovation.
- Ameenah had authored numerous academic and research papers.
- She has received several accolades and honours including Laureate for the *L'Oreal-UNESCO Women in Science Award for Africa* (2007), *African Union Award for 'Women in Science' for the Easter African Region* (2009) etc.

**About Mauritius**

Mauritius is one of the richest and least corrupt countries in Africa. It is a middle-income country with population around 1.3 million and per capita GDP of just over US 9,000 dollars. The island nation has strong outsourcing and financial services sector along with an important tourism industry. Mauritius had gained independence from Britain in 1968. The President is nominal head of country and had replaced Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state in 1992.

**Hemant Sonawala, pioneer of Indian IT industry passes away**

Hemant Sonawala, one of the pioneer founders of India's information technology (IT) industry passed away on 30 May 2015 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was 78.

As a visionary industrialist and entrepreneur he had played important role laying the foundations of Indian IT industry which has grown and subsequently shown meteoric rise in past two decades.



- Sonawala was chairman of Hinditron Group which was started in 1966 and engaged in IT, scientific instrumentation and Tele-communication services. Company's computer division was started in 1971.
- He was also the founder of Digital Equipment India which was the first technology Initial public offering (IPO) company in India. Digital Equipment India later in 1988 became a part of Hewlett-Packard (HP) India.

Apart for this, he was also associated with the Computer Society of India (CSI), Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), NASSCOM.

**Meena Hemchandra appointed as Executive Director of RBI**

Meena Hemchandra was appointed as the Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

With this appointment she will be in charge of RBI's department of banking supervision, non-banking supervision and department of co-operative banking supervision.

Prior to this appointment Meena Hemchandra was in charge of RBI's Department of Supervision. Previously, she also had worked in RBI's department of external investment and operations which manages





country's reserves and Foreign Exchange Department.

She also had served as Principal of Reserve Bank's College of Agriculture Banking located in Pune. She is a chartered financial analyst from Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI) and also holds a post graduate degree in Economics.

It should be noted that RBI has 11 Executive Directors who are in charge of various departments. With this appointment the portfolios of other Executive Directors remain unchanged.

### **Ravi Shastri named as interim coach of Team India for Bangladesh tour**

Former Indian Cricket Captain, Ravi Shastri was named interim coach of the Indian cricket team for the tour of Bangladesh starting from 10 June 2015 which will host one Test and three One-Day Internationals (ODIs).

He was appointed by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Jagmohan Dalmiya. This appointment is stop-gap arrangement for the short tour as the BCCI is yet to decide on a full-time coach to replace Duncan Fletcher whose tenure had ended in March 2015.



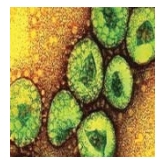
Previously, Shastri had served as Team Director during the tour of Australia and the subsequent World Cup held in February-March 2015. In 2007, Shastri also had travelled with the Indian team to Bangladesh as cricket manager after Greg Chappell resigned from the coach's post.

Shastri had represented India in 80 Tests and 150 ODIs. He was part Indian cricket team led by Captain Kapil Dev which had lifted first Cricket World Cup for India in 1983.

### **MERS claims two lives in South Korea**

Two people have died of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in South Korea making it country's first fatalities from the disease.

The first victim was a 58-year-old woman who had contact with the original case, a South Korean who visited the Middle East and second one is of a 71-year-old man.



So far, 25 confirmed cases of MERS virus have detected in South Korea and around 680 people who might have come into contact with the infected patients, have been placed in isolation.

#### **Facts about Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)**

- MERS belongs to the family of coronaviruses which includes large family of viruses such as common cold and Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).
- It was discovered in 2012 and was mostly centred in Saudi Arabia.
- **Source:** MERS is a betacoronavirus derived from bats. Camels have also shown to have antibodies to MERS, but the exact source of infection in camels has not been identified.



- **Transmission:** It can be transmitted from infected person to others after close contact via a respiratory route. It spread's in droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- **Symptoms:** fever, breathing problems, pneumonia and kidney failure.
- **Treatment:** Till date there is no vaccine available to prevent it. However intensive medical care can help patient to breath.

## June 3, 2015

### RBI lowers repo rate to 7.25 per cent

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 7.5 per cent to 7.25 per cent with immediate effect.



It was announced in the second bi-monthly policy of RBI. It says that

- Cash reserve ratio (CRR) of scheduled banks has kept unchanged at 4 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL).
- Continuation of providing liquidity under overnight repos at 0.25 per cent of bankwise NDTL at the LAF repo rate.
- Liquidity under 14-day term repos as well as longer-term repos of up to 0.75 per cent of NDTL of the banking system through auctions.
- Continuation with overnight/term variable rate repos and reverse repos to smooth liquidity.

This the third time RBI has cut interest rates in 2015. RBI has reduced the rates in order to take advantage of subdued inflation and to give more support to an economy.

### FIFA President Sepp Blatter resigns

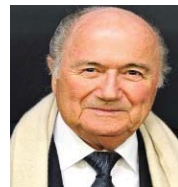
President of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Sepp Blatter has resigned amid a corruption scandal which under investigation in United States.

Earlier on 30 May 2015, he was re-elected as the FIFA President for a fifth term by defeating his rival candidate Prince Ali bins Al Hussein of Jordan.

FIFA, world soccer's governing body was hit with worst crisis in its history after U.S. investigation agency FBI had alleged its officials were involved in widespread financial wrongdoing in past years.

Swiss authorities also had started their own criminal probe into FIFA's decision of awarding 2018 and 2022 World Cups to Russia and Qatar, respectively.

Blatter, a Swiss football administrator had ruled FIFA since 1998 after he was elected for first time. Prior to his Presidency, Blatter was a public relations executive representing various organizations and had served as the general secretary of FIFA since 1981.





## Union Government launches Khoya Paya web portal to trace missing kids

Union Government has launched Khoya Paya web platform for people to directly report, track and upload information on missing children.

It was jointly launched by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi and Union Minister of Communication & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad in New Delhi.

Khoya Paya is joint initiative of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).

The first-of-its-kind web portal will serve as a platform for people to not only report a missing child but also track the efforts towards his or her recovery.

**Khoya Paya website has three sections**

- **My child is missing-** where citizens can report missing children.
- **I have sighted a child-** where citizens can report sightings and whereabouts of missing children without wasting much time.
- **Search a missing child** and the found children can also be reported on it.

The reporting to the KhoyaPaya site can be done through text, photographs, videos and other means of transmitting and uploading information.

The website will also provide links to court orders wherein police have been mandated to register an FIR in the matter of a child gone missing and treat it as either abduction or trafficking unless it is proved otherwise in the investigation.

## Edward Snowden awarded Freedom of Expression prize in Norway

Edward Snowden, former US security contractor and electronic surveillance whistleblower has been awarded a Norwegian prize for freedom of expression (also known as *Bjornson Prize*).

The award was bestowed upon him by the Norwegian Academy of Literature and Freedom of Expression for his work protecting privacy and for shining a critical light on US surveillance of its citizens and others.

In 2013, Snowden had uncovered the most extensive US global electronic surveillance programmes carried out by National Security Agency (NSA). Presently, he is leaving his exile in Russia.

Earlier, Snowden was awarded Sweden's Right Livelihood Award in 2014 but chose to accept it by video link. He was also nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for the second year in a row.

**About Norwegian prize for freedom of expression**

- Norwegian prize for freedom of expression is also known as *Bjornson Prize* named after a Norwegian Nobel literature laureate.
- It is given by Norwegian Academy of Literature and Freedom of Expression which promote understanding of cultures other than our own and for literary free speech.





- The award carries cash prize of 100,000 kroner (approximately US 14950 dollars).

### **Maharashtra government approves new Renewable Energy Policy**

Maharashtra government has approved a new Renewable Energy Policy which aims at achieving 14,400 MW of installed capacity over a period of five years i.e. till 2020.

The approval decision of new policy worth 4,156.43 crore rupees was taken by state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Devendra in Mumbai.

The policy aims at achieving installed capacity of renewable energy of 21,100 MW by 2020 from current installed capacity of 6,700 MW.

The target will be achieved through public-private partnerships (PPP) and captive power projects and rolled out of slew incentives for developers for these renewable power projects.

#### **Key facts from new policy**

- Policy aims at achieving the installed capacity of 7,500 MW solar energy, 5,000 MW of wind energy, 1,000 MW of bagasse based co-generation by 2020.
- It also seeks to achieve installed capacity 400 MW small hydro, 200 MW of industrial waste and 300 MW of agriculture waste-based products by 2020.
- In order to promote installation of new renewable projects, the state government has simplified consent norms and reduced the number of clearances.
- State government will also provide financial incentives including electricity duty exemption for ten years apart from various other capital subsidies.
- Procurement process for these projects will be done through competitive bidding with an assurance that consumers will benefit in terms of affordable tariff.



### **Life insurance Corporation gets clearance to do business in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh has granted permission to India's state-owned insurance group Life insurance Corporation (LIC) to do business in the country.

It was announced by M Shefaq Ahmed, Chairman of Bangladesh Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA).

LIC will start its operations in Bangladesh as a joint venture (JV) entity to be called LIC Bangladesh Ltd with a paid up capital of one billion Taka.

In this JV entity LIC will hold half of the amount while the rest would be owed by its Bangladeshi partners. The capital will be raised from the Bangladesh's capital market and local entrepreneurs.

Earlier in 2013, Bangladesh IRDA had rejected LIC's proposal to operate in the country citing small capital base.

It should be noted that LIC will be the second foreign insurance company to operate in Bangladesh after the US-based MetLife-ALICO.





LIC has been in the insurance business for six decades after it was established in 1956. It was established after Indian Parliament had enacted Life Insurance of India Act, 1956 for nationalising the private insurance industry in India.

Presently, LIC is worth over 15,000 billion Indian rupees and operates in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Singapore apart from India.

### **Union Government launches IAP HealthPhone programme**

Union Government has launched IAP HealthPhone programme, world's largest digital mass education programme to address malnutrition in women and children.

It was launched by Union Minister of Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi in New Delhi. This programme is initiative of *Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP)* in partnership with

- Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD).
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- Supported by Vodafone India.

It should be noted that Bollywood Actor Aamir Khan is support partner and brand ambassador of this programme.

#### **Facts about IAP HealthPhone programme**

- IAP HealthPhone aims to tackle the challenge of malnutrition in mothers and children across India.
- It is a public-private partnership (PPP) initiative that seeks to educate over 6 million girls and women between 13 and 35 years of age and their families on better health and nutrition practices by 2018 by leveraging penetration of mobile phones in the country.
- It will promote and distribute four re-edited videos from the Poshan (nutritional videos) series in 18 Indian languages, which are jointly produced by Union Ministry WCD and UNICEF.
- These videos addressed issues of status of women, care of pregnant women and children, breastfeeding. It also seeks to spread awareness and importance of balanced diet, health and simple changes in nutritional care practices to enhance nutritional levels.
- Vodafone India will encourage the viewing of the four videos by enabling its customers to view/download them for free. It will also provide its users with incentive talk time of Rs.10 on viewing the 4 videos.
- It will also send around 300 million awareness text messages to its subscribers every year to promote the viewing of the four videos.
- Vodafone India will also help for comprehensive communication campaign to promote the programme across the country via print and social media.





The three-year intensive awareness campaign under IAP HealthPhone programme is expected to benefit to improve health of around 60 million children born by 2025 in India and also play important transformative role in India's fight against malnutrition.

### **Irwin Rose, 2004 Nobel Chemistry winner passes away**

Renowned biochemist **Irwin Rose** who was awarded 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering molecule Ubiquitin passed away. He was 88.

He had shared this noble prize with Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko.



#### **Discovery of Ubiquitin**

- Rose, Ciechanover and Hershko had discovered a molecule called Ubiquitin which destroys or cleans up unwanted proteins.
- This discovery had served as the basis for developing new therapies for diseases such as cervical cancer and cystic fibrosis which are caused by failure of the clean-up mechanism.
- The Ubiquitin molecule is also involved in repairing faulty DNA and quality control of newly made proteins.

It should be noted that each human cell contains around 100,000 different proteins, which carry out different jobs such as speeding up chemical reactions and acting as signals etc.

#### **About Irwin Rose**

- Rose was born on July 16, 1926 in New York, United States.
- He had spent much of his career as a researcher at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, US.
- His Nobel-winning work was done in this cancer centre in late 1970s and early 1980s.

### **India, Belarus ink 6 agreements to boost co-operation**

India and Belarus signed six agreements to enhance bilateral co-operation. The agreements were signed in presence of President Pranab Mukherjee during his state visit to Belarus.

President Pranab Mukherjee is on two nation's tour viz Sweden and Belarus. The tour had started from Sweden on 31 May 2015 and later in Belarus on 3 June.



#### **The signed agreements are**

- **Roadmap for India-Belarus Cooperation:** for strengthening bilateral relations and co-operation in the field of trade, culture and other areas.
- **Protocol to amendment:** To amend the agreement between two countries for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Property (Capital) of September, 1997.
- **MoU on Cooperation in the field of Standardization and Information Support:** It was signed between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus.





- **MoU for cooperation on Broadcasting:** It was signed between Prasar Bharati (PB) and the National State Television and Radio Company of the Republic of Belarus (Belteleradiocompany).
- MoU on Bilateral Cooperation between the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Ministry of Finance of Belarus.
- **MoU for Manufacturing and Marketing of Light Industry Goods (concern Bellegprom):** It was signed between the Union Ministry of Textiles of India and the Belarusian State.

## June 4, 2015

### Jaipur Metro's Phase-1 inaugurated by Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje

Jaipur Metro's Phase-1 was inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje by flagging off the inaugural train.

Phase 1 of Pink City's Metro covers 9.6 km long route from Mansarovar to Chandpole with nine metro stations.

The phase 1 of Jaipur Metro was completed in record four-and-a-half-years making it one of the fastest-built rail metros in India with cost of 2,023 crore rupees.



#### Facts about Jaipur Metro's Phase-1

- Developed by Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (JMRCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Rajasthan Government.
- Will provide an affordable and reliable public transport system to people and help to spur economic development of the city.
- Up to 30 percent of metro's operation and maintenance staff, including train operators and station controllers are women.
- Stations are equipped with automatic fare collection system to collect and manage the fare revenue.

With this, Jaipur became the sixth city in India to have metro service. Other five cities are Delhi, Mumbai, Gurgaon, Bangalore, and Kolkata.

It should be noted that, in initial stages for effective execution of the project the Phase-1 work was divided into two parts viz Phase-1A and Phase-1B.

The phase 1A is from Mansarovar to Chandpole has been started with this inauguration while work on phase 1B from Chandpole to Badi Chaupad is underway.

### India joins the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Information

India has joined the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement (MCAA) on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information (AEOI).

The new global standards has wide in scope and oblige the treaty partners to exchange wide range of financial information from institutions from their country.



In order to implement these standards in India necessary legislative changes will be made in section 285BA of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Apart from India 5 other nations including Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Indonesia and New Zealand also have joined it. Now the total number of countries agreeing to exchange information automatically in accordance with MCAA has gone up to 60.

**Implications**

- When fully implemented, these standards will enable India to receive information from almost every country in the world including offshore financial centres. Thus, it will help to prevent international tax evasion and avoidance.
- It will be also instrumental in getting information about assets of Indians held abroad and their beneficial owners.
- Thus, it will directly help the Government to curb tax evasion and deal with the menace of black money stashed abroad.

**India, US ink new 10-year Defence Framework Agreement**

India and United States (US) have signed a new strategically important 10-year defence framework agreement on 3 June 2015.

The agreement was signed between Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and visiting US Defence Secretary Dr. Ashton Carter in New Delhi.

The framework agreement provides avenues for high level strategic discussions between both nations along with continued exchanges of armed forces and strengthening of defence capabilities.



Apart from signing this agreement both nations also agreed to

- Expedite discussions to take forward co-operation on jet engines, aircraft carrier design and construction and other areas.
- Pursue co-development and co-production projects that will offer tangible opportunities for American defence industries to build defence partnership with the Indian industries under Make in India programme.
- Continue efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest such as maritime security and knowledge partnership in the field of Defence.
- Jointly develop protective gear for soldiers against biological and chemical warfare.
- Develop next generation power source i.e. generators for the battlefield.

**World Bank approves \$ 250 million loan for Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project in J&K**

World Bank has approved 250 million US dollars loan for *Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project* in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

The project will be funded by loan credit from International Development Association (IDA), a World Bank's concessionary with a maturity of 25 years, including a 5 year grace period.

**About Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project**



- The recovery project will play important role in reconstruction of flood-affected public infrastructure. It includes roads, bridges and public infrastructure.
- It will also strengthen the capacity of state government to respond and better manage natural disasters in future.
- It will focus on 20 districts of state and help to rebuild damaged public buildings such as schools, hospitals, higher education buildings, fire stations, selected block and district offices.
- It also seeks to strengthen and reinforce existing weak and vulnerable flood control infrastructure. The investments will primarily include rehabilitation and renovation of storm water pumping stations in several areas.
- The project will also focus on disaster risk mitigation in state and strengthen the capacity of government entities in disaster risk management.
- It will also help in preparation of a *Hydro-Meteorological Resilience Action Plan* to enhance preparedness and achieve resilient recovery.
- The action plan will focus on river morphology study for some key rivers impacted by the disaster, extreme weather events and urban vulnerability assessment.

#### Background

- In September 2014, continuous unprecedented heavy heavy rainfall had caused Jhelum, Chenab and Tawi rivers, their tributaries to flow above the danger mark.
- It had flooded the catchment areas, particularly low lying ones for more than two weeks in the state which had severely affected livelihoods and basic infrastructure in the state.

#### Maharashtra government for first time invokes MCOCA against ration mafia

Maharashtra government has invoked stringent provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against ration mafia.

With this, state government aims at weeding out the widespread corruption by taking stringent action against those who tamper the public distribution system (PDS) mechanism.

The first case in this regard was registered against five persons from Nashik for allegedly being ration mafia and were involved in the pilferage of food grains meant for PDS. The accused were involved in the infamous *Surgana scam* which had misappropriated nearly 3,000 metric tonnes (MT) of foodgrain supplied under the PDS to the tribal-dominated Surgana region of Nashik.

#### About Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA)

- The law enacted by Maharashtra state in 1999 to combat organised crime and terrorism in the state.
- MCOCA was enacted to remove drawbacks of existing legal framework which was inadequate to curb or control the menace of organised crime.



- The law has stringent and deterrent provisions including in certain circumstances power to intercept wire, electronic or oral communication to curb the menace of organised crime.

## June 5, 2015

### Machettira Raju Poovamma and Liksy Joseph win silver medals in Asian Athletics Championship

India's **Machettira Raju Poovamma** and **Liksy Joseph** have won silver medal each in 21st Asian Athletics Championships held in Wuhan, China.

Quarter-miler Poovamma won silver medal in women's 400m finals event by clocking 53.07 secs. China's Yang Huizhen (52.37 sec) won the gold medal and Anastasiya Kudinova (53.41 sec) of Kazakhstan won bronze medal in this event.

While heptathlete Joseph won the silver medal in the 800m race with a time of 2:13.44.

Her teammate and former Asian junior champion Purnima Hembram won bronze medal in this event. Earlier, G. Lakshmanan had won bronze medal in Men's 5,000 metre race.

With this India's medal tally in 21st Asian Athletics Championships is now is 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze. On the opening day of the Championships, Inderjeet Singh had won gold in Shot put event.

### India's Sundaram Ravi inducted in ICC Elite Panel of Umpires

India's Sundaram Ravi was inducted into the Elite Panel of International Cricket Council (ICC) Umpires for year 2015-2016.

Decision in this regard was taken by the ICC Umpires Selection Panel consisting of Chairman Geoff Allardice and others members after annual review and selection process.



Apart from Ravi, New Zealand's Chris Gaffaney was also inducted in this elite panel. Both of them were promoted from the International Panel to the Elite Panel.

With this appointment, Sundaram Ravi became second Indian umpire after S Venkataraghavan to be inducted into the ICC's elite panel. S Venkataraghavan was inducted in this panel in 2004.

Now, the elite Panel of Umpires for 2015-2016 include Kumar Dharmasena, Aleem Dar, Ian Gould, Marais Erasmus, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Chris Gaffaney, Sundaram Ravi, Rod Tucker, Paul Reiffel and Bruce Oxenford.

Sundaram Ravi had made his international umpiring debut in Visakhapatnam in December 2011 in an ODI between India and West Indies. Since then he has umpired in 6 Tests matches, 24 ODIs and 12 T20Is. He also had umpired in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 held earlier in March 2015 in Australia and New Zealand.



### **Syed Asif Ibrahim appointed as PM's Special Envoy for Counter-terrorism**

Former Director of Intelligence Bureau (DIB) Syed Asif Ibrahim was appointed as Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Counter Terrorism and Extremism in National Security Council (NSC) Secretariat.

His appointment was confirmed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). His rank will be of Secretary to the government for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



Syed Asif Ibrahim's role will be to

- Help Union government to evolve strategies to deal with radicalisation of youths in India due to rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).
- Liaise security challenges with governments of West Asian countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

He will directly report to National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit K Doval and will carry out work in the National Security Council (NSC) Secretariat in New Delhi.

#### **About Syed Asif Ibrahim**

- Syed Asif Ibrahim was Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre of 1977 batch.
- He has served as Director of the Intelligence Bureau from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2014 and was the first Muslim to hold this important position.

### **Union Government inks loan pact with World Bank for Tamil Nadu Urbanisation Project**

Union Government has signed a loan and project agreement with World Bank to provide \$400 million to the Tamil Nadu government for its Sustainable Urban Development Project.

The loan agreement, signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Onno Ruhl, Country director of World Bank (India).

Tamil Nadu's sustainable Urban Development Project aims at improving urban services in participating Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in a financially sustainable manner. It also seeks at piloting improved urban management practices in selected cities.

#### **The project consists of three parts**

- Investment in urban services including water, municipal solid waste, sewerage, urban transportation and storm water drainage.
- Results-based grants for urban governance.
- Urban sector technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of ULBs and urban sector officials.

The size of the project is US 600 million dollars, of which 400 million dollars would be financed through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.



## India loses poultry case against United States at WTO

India has lost a poultry case against United States at World Trade Organization (WTO) after WTO's Dispute Settlement Board (DSB) ruled that India's ban on import of poultry meat, eggs and live pigs from US is inconsistent with the international norms.



### What is this case?

- India had banned imports of various agriculture products including poultry meat and eggs from the US in 2007. These poultry products were banned as a precautionary measure to prevent outbreaks of Avian Influenza and bird flu fears.
- In March 2012, US had dragged India to the WTO for banning these products and had contended India's import prohibition saying that it was not based on the relevant international standard or on a scientific risk assessment.
- Earlier in October 2014 WTO Appellate Body had ruled in favour of US and clearly mentioned that India's ban measures are arbitrarily and unjustifiably discrimination on international trade and constitutes a disguised restriction on it.
- India had challenged WTO's this ruling and had appealed to the Dispute Settlement Board (DSB) of the WTO.

With this WTO ruling, US which is one of the world's largest exporters of chicken meat will be able to export their poultry products to Indian market without any trade barriers.

This will help US farmers and poultry industry to supply their products to Indian broiler meat consumers which has increased to 3.72 million tonnes in 2014 from 3.45 million tonnes in 2013.

## Delhi Metro gets first driver-less train from South Korea

Delhi Metro has received its first driver-less train from Republic of South Korea which is capable of running without a driver.

The six-coach train has been manufactured at Changwan in South Korea and had arrived by sea at the Mundhira port in Gujarat and was brought to Delhi by road.



### Facts about driver-less metro train

- The train is equipped with several advanced features and will be operational from by the end of 2016.
- It has undergone significant technological as well as eco-friendly upgrades.
- It is more energy efficient as it has improved design features such as better regeneration of energy during braking, energy efficient sub systems like LED lighting and air conditioning systems.
- Many additional features have been added in this train to increase passenger comfort.
- This train can accommodate 2280 passengers, which is 240 more than the regular six-coach Metro train because of absence of cabin for the operator coach.



- It is designed for a maximum speed of 95 kmph and operational speed of 85 kmph

Such driver-less trains will ply on sections of Phase-III of the Delhi metro network. They will run on the over 58 km-long Majlish Park-Shiv Vihar and the over 38 km-long Janakpuri (West)-Botanical Garden corridors of the Phase-III.

A total of 20 six-coach trains will be manufactured in South Korea by the end 2015. While, 61 trains will be manufactured at the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) plant located in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

### 05 June: World Environment Day

Every year World Environment Day (WED) is observed on 05 June to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth.

The theme for year 2015 is **Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.** The theme highlights the need to respect the carrying capacity of the planet earth and to manage natural resources efficiently to ensure prosperity and wellbeing globally.



Observing this day is global initiative of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The host country for the WED 2015 is Italy.

To mark this day Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a tree plantation campaign across India by planting Kadamb sapling at the lawns of his Race Course Road residence.

#### About World Environment Day (WED)

- WED was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of United Nations Conference on the Human Environment 1972 which began in Stockholm.
- The first World Environment Day was observed in 1973 and since then it is being held every year with a different themes.

### Nitin Gadkari inaugurates first Oil Spill Response Centre for Mumbai & JNPT Harbour

India's first of its kind Tier-I Oil Spill Response Centre (OSRC) for Mumbai Port Trust (MBT), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and ONGC's facilities at Nhava and Uran was inaugurated on 5 June 2015.

It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari to tackle pollution and oil spills in and around Mumbai.



#### Facts about Tier-I Oil Spill Response Centre (OSRC)

- OSRC is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment in operational readiness for combating Tier-I oil spill upto 700 tones.
- The objective behind setting up this centre is to develop appropriate and effective systems for the detection and reporting of spillage of oil in order to ensure adequate protection to the marine environment and public health.



- This centre will also ensure prompt and appropriate response technique to control, combat and prevent oil pollution and dispose recovered waste material in an environmental friendly manner.
- The OSRC is equipped with skilled and trained personnel and wireless communication facilities for immediately responding to any oil spill. It will monitor on 24/7 basis.
- It also includes various plans like Contingency Plan, Health Safety and Environment Plan.
- The facility is funded by Participating Oil Companies (POCs). While, MPT will take the responsibility for tendering and monitoring of Tier-I OSR facility.

### **Kotak Mahindra, ING Bank ink MoU for cross-border business**

Kotak Mahindra Bank and ING Bank have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for exploring opportunities arising from cross-border business, investment and trade flows across various regions, including Europe.

It was signed between the two parties and covers an array of co-operation in various areas such as trade remittances, finance.

It also includes services related to non-resident Indians, corporate relationships, funding to counterparties', fee-based products, direct banking and digital strategy and cross-border debt capital markets, mergers and acquisitions.

Under the ambit of MoU, ING Bank will give its clients from The Netherlands and the other 39 countries commercial banking access to Kotak's services in the vast Indian market. At the same time it will also offer the combined clients in India the opportunities of ING's international network.

It should be noted that Kotak Mahindra and associates are significant shareholders in Business Standard Private Ltd. ING Bank holds 6.5 per cent stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank which is India's fourth largest private sector lender.

### **R Seshasayee appointed as non-executive Chairman of Infosys**

India's second largest software services firm, Infosys has appointed R Seshasayee as non-executive chairman.

He will replace KV Kamath, who stepped had down to take over as President of the Shanghai based BRICS New Development Bank.

Since 2011, Seshasayee had served as an independent director of Infosys and was the chairperson of the company's audit committee. Presently, he is also member of Infosys' nominations committee.

He is also non-executive vice chairman of Ashok Leyland and Chairman of IndusInd Bank.







R Seshasayee is a chartered accountant by profession. He had started his career with Hindustan Lever Limited in 1971.

Later in 1976, he joined Ashok Leyland Ltd. and was promoted as executive director in 1983, deputy managing director in 1993 and was elevated as managing director of the company in April 1998.

### **India's first green police station inaugurated at New Delhi's Maurice Nagar**

India's first green police station was inaugurated on the occasion of World Environment Day at Maurice Nagar in north Delhi.

It was inaugurated by Delhi Police Commissioner Bhim Sain Bassi. The police station has various provisions for preservation and safety of the environment.

Students of Delhi University along with police officials had worked on the renovation of this police station to make it unique.



#### **Key features of green police station**

- Roof of station has coating of fresh lime based upon Medieval Indian Construction Methodology. It will increase Albedo of the station and reduce the heat which helps to save electrical power.
- All light fittings at the police station have been changed to LED lights in order to reduce consumption of electricity.
- All fans installed at this police station will be of five star ratings. It also planned to use solar panels to light the police station.
- The toilets installed in this station are biodegradable and are capable of converting fecal matter into water and biogas through technique of anaerobic bacterial decomposition.
- It is also planned to replace the furniture with bamboo and cane which are believed to be environment friendly as they do not require cutting of trees.
- 400 areca palm plants have been planted in the police station and its premises in order to bring down the carbon presence, as these plants are strong in carbon consumption.
- Recycled paper for filing public's complaint will be used in bid to promote the use of recycled paper.

### **Prominent scientist Ameenah Gurib-Fakim sworn-in as first woman president of Mauritius**

Prominent scientist Ameenah Gurib-Fakim was sworn in as President of Mauritius. With this she became first woman to become President of Indian Ocean island nation which is a ceremonial position.

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim is an alumnus of the universities of Exeter and Surrey of United Kingdom. She is also the chair of organic chemistry at Mauritius University.





She is internationally renowned biodiversity scientist and biologist Ameenah Gurib-Fakim as their new President.

She had worked with the World Bank and other international institutions. She also had served as the Managing Director of Centre International de Développement Pharmaceutique (CIDP) Research & Innovation.

Ameenah had authored numerous academic and research papers. She has received several accolades and honours including Laureate for the L'Oreal-UNESCO Women in Science Award for Africa (2007), African Union Award for 'Women in Science' for the Easter African Region (2009) etc.

## **June 6, 2015**

### **Union Government launches Jal Kranti Abhiyan**

Union Government launched nationwide **Jal Kranti Abhiyan**. It was launched by Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Jal Kranti Abhiyan aims at turning one water scarce village in each district of the country into water surplus village water through a holistic and integrated approach by adopting conservation and management techniques.

Under the nationwide campaign a village with acute water scarcity on a pilot project will be selected as *Jal Gram*. In this identified village a comprehensive integrated development plan will be framed and several water conservation activities will be launched.

Activities proposed under the campaign include rain water harvesting, recycling of waste water, micro irrigation for using water efficiently and mass awareness program. Along with it, a cadre of local water professional Jal Mitra will be created and they will be given training to create mass awareness.

As pilot project, activities under this nation campaign will be run in one water stressed village in each 672 districts in the country.

### **Doctors from Texas State of US successfully perform world's first skull-scalp transplant**

Doctors from Texas State of United States have done the world's first partial skull and scalp transplant from a human donor.

This rare medical feat which opens new frontier in transplant surgery was achieved by team of Doctors from Houston Methodist Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

The recipient patient was Jim Boysen, a 55-year-old software developer who had suffered a large head wound from cancer treatment



In a 15-hour transplant operation about a dozen doctors and 40 other health workers were involved. In this operation, Boysen was given a cap-shaped, 25-by-25 centimeter (10-by-10-inch) skull graft, and a 38-centimeter (15-inch)-wide scalp graft.



This transplanted part extends from patients forehead across the top of his head and over its crown. It ends 2.5 centimeters above one ear and 5 centimeters above the other.

It should be noted that in 2014 doctors in the Netherlands had replaced most of a woman's skull with a 3-D printed plastic one.

## **June 7, 2015**

### **Barcelona FC wins 2015 UEFA Champions League trophy**

Barcelona FC has won 2015 Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League trophy for the fifth time.

In the summit clash played at the Olympiastadion in Berlin, Germany they defeated Juventus FC by 3-1 goals.

Ivan Rakitic had first scored goal for Barcelona in the fourth minute and later Luis Suárez restores at 68 minute and Neymar scored the goal in extra time.

Earlier, Barcelona FC had won UEFA Champions League trophy in 1992, 2006, 2009 and 2011,



#### **About UEFA Champions League**

- UEFA Champions League (simply known as the Champions League) is an annual continental club football competition organised by the UEFA.
- It is contested by top-division European club and is considered as one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world.
- It is also most prestigious club competition in European football, played by the national league champion and for some nations of each UEFA national association.

### **Adani, Reliance ink MoUs for power generation in Bangladesh**

Adani Power Limited (APL) and Reliance Power Limited of India have signed separate memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). These MoUs were signed on the first day of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh. The deals were signed to set up 4,600 MW power plants in Bangladesh worth \$5.5 billion.

Under the deal, APL will invest 2.5 billion dollars to set up a coal-based power plant with a capacity of 1,600 MW. While Reliance Power will set up an imported liquefied natural gas-based power plant with a capacity of 3,000 MW with an investment of 3 billion dollars.

The two Indian companies will complete construction of the plants in 13 months after final agreements are reached. These plants will help Bangladesh to tackle power shortages that are crimping its economic growth and deterring investment as country produces 7,000 MW of electricity but demand far exceeds supply, with a daily shortage up to 1,500 MW.



## India, Bangladesh sign ratification pact to operationalise the historic Land Boundary Agreement

India and Bangladesh have signed pact to operationalise the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) between both nations.

It was signed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina during his maiden visit to Bangladesh.

In this regard, two sides swapped instruments of ratification regarding the LBA. The operationalisation of LBA paves the way for exchange of 162 enclaves under the control of either countries as per the 1974 pact.

The LBA was passed unanimously by the Parliament last month. Under the Agreement, 111 border enclaves will be transferred to Bangladesh in exchange for 51 that will become part of India.

The agreement settles land boundary dispute which dates back to colonial times as India transfers 111 border enclaves to Bangladesh in exchange for 51 enclaves. It also settles the question of citizenship for over 50,000 people in these enclaves.

Apart from this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a fresh line of credit of 2 billion dollars to Bangladesh. Both nations also signed 22 agreements, including on cooperation in maritime safety and agreements to curb human trafficking and fake Indian currency.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina also flagged off the *Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala bus service* marking a historic moment in the bilateral relations between the two countries.



## Dr. M N Buch, former Bureaucrat and Architect of modern Bhopal died

Former bureaucrat **Dr. Mahesh N. Buch** who was widely regarded as the architect of modern Bhopal, passed away following a brain stroke in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. He was 80.

He was known for his clear views in context of urban planning and environment protection for betterment of Bhopal and Madhya Pradesh.

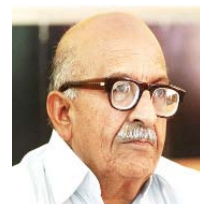
### About Dr. Mahesh N. Buch

Dr. Buch was born on October 5, 1934, in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. He graduated in Economics from the St. Stephen's College of Delhi in 1954.

He had joined government service in 1957, and later in 1964, he had passed civil services examination. He was Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre and held several important portfolios as bureaucrat in the state.

Dr. Buch had voluntarily retired from the government service after serving as Madhya Pradesh's Chief Secretary in 1984. Later he had founded the NGO named National Centre for Human Settlements and Environment in Bhopal.

In 1967-68, he had served as the Parvin Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School of the Princeton University.





In 2002, he was conferred the title Doctor of Science (DSc) from the Rajiv Gandhi Technical University. He also had served as chairman of the Board of Governors ABV – Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior.

**Awards and Honours**

- Padma Bhushan (2011) for his services to the nation.
- UNEP award (1995)- for the implementation of desertification control program in 1994-95
- Aga Khan Award for Architecture (1998).

**India slaps anti-dumping duty on steel imports from China, Malaysia and South Korea**

India has slapped anti-dumping duty on imports of certain steel products from three South Asian countries viz China, Malaysia and South Korea.

The anti-dumping duty was imposed by Union Finance Ministry on the recommendation of Directorate General of Anti-Dumping Duty (DGAD) to protect domestic producers from below-cost inbound shipments.

The duties have been imposed for five years on imports of certain varieties of steel especially on hot-rolled flat products of stainless steel used in automobile sectors.

**Background**

Earlier, DGAD, under the Union Ministry of Commerce had conducted investigation on dumping of certain Hot Rolled Flat Products of Stainless Steel of ASTM Grade 304 with all its variants exported from China, Korea and Malaysia based upon complaint filed by Jindal Stainless Limited.

DGAD in its investigation probe had concluded that these steel products have been exported to India from these countries are below its associated normal value resulting in dumping of the product.

**What is Anti-Dumping Duty?**

- It is duty imposed by government on imported products which have prices less than their normal values or domestic price.
- Usually countries initiate anti-dumping probes to check if domestic industry has been hurt because of a surge in below-cost imports.
- Anti-Dumping Duty is imposed under the multilateral WTO regime and varies from product to product and from country to country.
- In India, anti-dumping duty is recommended by the Union Ministry of Commerce, while the Union Finance Ministry imposes it.



June 8, 2015

### India, Netherlands sign MoU for development of Measles- Rubella Vaccines

India and Netherlands have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of Measles- Rubella Vaccines.

The MoU was signed under Make in India initiative of Union government in the presence of the Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte during his visit to India.



The vaccine will be manufactured by Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Ltd (BIBCOL) at its plant at Chola, Uttar Pradesh. Translational Vaccinology (INTRAVACC) a government-based institute of Netherlands will provide technical support for the development of vaccine.

INTRAVACC institute is part of Netherlands' Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. It is internationally renowned for vaccine development and has a long history in technology transfer.

BIBCOL is a Central Public Sector Unit (CPSU) under the Department of Biotechnology of Union Ministry of Science & Technology.

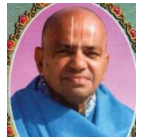
It was established as a PSU in 1989, with the aim to achieve self-sufficiency for the nation with respect to production and supply of high quality polio vaccine and other biologicals.

During India's immunisation programme BIBCOL had supplied billions of doses of oral polio vaccine and had played a major role in making India polio free.

### Legendary Telugu writer Dasaradhi Rangacharya passes away

Legendary Telugu writer Dasaradhi Rangacharya passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana after a brief illness. He was 87.

#### About Dasaradhi Rangacharya



- Dasaradhi was on 24 August 1928 in Khammam District erstwhile Hyderabad State now in Telangna.
- **Hyderabad liberation Struggle:** He had actively participated in fight against the Nizam's autocratic rule and also took part in the Telangana Armed Struggle till Hyderabad was liberated in Operation Polo.
- **Work:** He had written number of books highlighting the life and agony of the people at the grass roots level especially in the then Telangana region.
- His novels *Chillara Devullu* (The Lesser Deities)-1969, *Moduga Poolu* (Fire Flowers)-1971 are well known for influencing Telugu people against oppression by the rulers.
- He also had translated all four Vedas, Ramayana and Mahabharata into Telugu. His autobiography was *Jeevanayanam*.
- **Awards:** He was awarded Sahitya Academy award for *Chillara Devullu*.



## Winners of 2015 French Open title of Tennis

### Men's Singles Title

- *Stanislas Wawrinka* of Switzerland won his first French Open Men's single title of Tennis. In the final match he defeated *Novak Djokovic* of Serbia by 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 score.
- It is his first French Open title second grand slam title after Australian Open 2014. This victory also makes him only the second Swiss to win French Open mens single title after Roger Federer.

### Women's Singles Title

- *Serena Williams* of United States won French Open women's single title. In the final match she defeated *Lucie Safarova* of Czechoslovakia by 6-3 6-7 (2) 6-2 score.
- This was her third French Open title (earlier she had won in 2002, 2013) and overall 20th Grand Slam title.

### Men's Doubles Title

- *Ivan Dodig* (Croatia) and *Marcelo Melo* (Brazil) pair won Men's Doubles Title. In the final match they defeated *Bob Bryan* and *Mike Bryan* pair from US by 6-7(5-7), 7-6(7-5), 7-5 score.

### Women's Doubles Title

- *Bethanie Mattek-Sands* (US) and *Lucie Šafářová* (Czech Republic) won Women's Doubles Title. In the match they defeated *Casey Dellacqua* (Australia) and *Yaroslava Shvedova* (Kazakhstan) pair by 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 score.

### Mixed Doubles Title

*Bethanie Mattek-Sands* and *Mike Bryan* pair from United States won Mixed Doubles Title. In the final match they defeated *Lucie Hradecká* (Czech Republic) and *Marcin Matkowski* (Poland) pair by 7-6(7-3), 6-1 score.

## RC Tayal appointed as new DG of National Security Guard

Union Home Ministry has appointed Senior IPS Officer **RC Tayal** as the new Director General (DG) of India's elite counter-terror force National Security Guard (NSG).

He succeeds JN Choudhury who had retired on 31 May 2015. He will have tenure till August 2016.

Mr. Tayal is a 1980-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre IPS officer. Presently, he is serving as the Special Director General (DG) in paramilitary CRPF and is heading its formation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He hails from Haryana and earlier had served as an Additional DG in the Sashastra Seema Bal.

### About National Security Guard (NSG)

- Set up in 1984 as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force to tackle all facets of terrorism in the country.
- It is also nodal agency for counter-terror and counter-hijack operations and later was tasked to protect high-risk VVIPs.



- Operates under the oversight of the Ministry of Home Affairs and is headed by the Director General of the Indian Police Service (IPS).
- The NSG members are also known as Black Cats because of the black drill cotton coveralls and balaclavas or helmets they wear.
- NSG's motto सर्वत्र सर्वोत्तम सुरक्षा (Sarvatra Sarvottam Surakhsha); English: *Omnipresent Omnipotent Defence*

### Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a nodal statutory agency responsible for protecting and promoting public health in India through the regulation and supervision of food safety.

FSSAI was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and operates under aegis of Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.



**Functions:** FSSAI has been established to lay down science based standards for various food products in order to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

It also regulates the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of food products for human consumption.

**Structure:** It is led by a non-executive Chairperson. The executive head of FSSAI is the Chief Executive Officer.

**Headquarters:** New Delhi.

It also has 8 regional offices located in Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Kolkata, Cochin and Chennai.

It has 4 referral laboratories and 72 local laboratories located across India.

**June 9, 2015**

### Indian Railways ink MoU with IIT-BHU for research work

Indian Railways has inked Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) Varanasi for research and development work. This MOU is part of Malaviya Chair for Railway Technology, Varanasi.

The MoU was signed by Railway Board Advisor R K Verma and IIT (BHU)- Director, Professor Rajeev Sangal in the presence of Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu.

The pact envisages for upgradation of Railway tracks for High speed trains and developing indigenous raw material for the industry in line with Make India Programme.

Apart from signing MoU it was also announced to set up Malaviya Chair Committee to supervise research work. The chair is being named after freedom fighter and Bharat Ratna recipient Madan Mohan Malaviya who was the founder of Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu also dedicated 1500th rail engine "Gaurav" for public services from Diesel locomotive works (DLW) at Maduadeeh, Varanasi.





### KV Chowdary appointed as new Central Vigilance Commissioner

President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed KV Chowdary new Central Vigilance Commissioner. He was appointed by President on the recommendation of Select committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprising of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh as well as Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Mallikarjuna Kharge.

He is 1978-batch IRS officer of the Income Tax cadre. He also had served as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), an apex authority of the Indian Income Tax department.

Prior to this appointment Mr. Chowdary was working as the adviser to the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team which is probing black money cases.



#### About Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

- CVC was set up by the Union Government in February 1964 on the recommendations of the K. Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.
- The CVC is an apex body of Union Government formed to address governmental corruption.
- It has the status of statutory autonomous body and free of control from any executive authority as per the provisions of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003.
- The CVC is headed by a Central Vigilance Commissioner and has two Vigilance Commissioners.
- **Appointment:** Central Vigilance Commissioner and has two Vigilance Commissioners are appointed by President on the recommendations of select committee comprising of Prime Minister as Chairperson, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Leader of the second largest party in the **Lok Sabha** or majority group leader in parliament.
- **Functions:** To monitor all vigilance activity under the Union Government and advise various authorities in Union Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work.
- Nittoor Srinivasa Rau was the first Chief Vigilance Commissioner of India.

### 16th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA)

16th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) informally known as the "Bollywood Oscars," was held in Malaysia.

The award ceremony was held in Putra Indoor Stadium Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The 2015 IIFA Awards honoured the best films of 2014 and the ceremony took place from June 05 to 07, 2015. Haider was awarded the most awards (09).

Winners

#### Popular Awards

- Best Film: Queen.





- Best Director: Rajkumar Hirani – PK.
- Best Actor In A Leading Role: Shahid Kapoor –Haider as Haider Meer.
- Best Actress In A Leading Role: Kangana Ranaut – Queen as Rani Mehra.
- Best Actor In A Supporting Role: Riteish Deshmukh – Ek Villain as Rakesh Mahadkar.
- Best Actress In A Supporting Role: Tabu – Haider as Ghazala Meer.
- Male Debutant Star: Tiger Shroff – Heropanti as Bablu.
- Female Debutant Star: Kriti Sanon – Heropanti as Dimpy.
- Best Performance In A Comic Role: Varun Dhawan– Main Tera Hero as Seenu.
- Best Performance In A Negative Role: Kay Kay Menon– Haider as Khurram Meer.
- Best Story: Vikas Bahl, Chaitally Parmar, Parveez Shaikh- Queen.

#### Special Awards

- IIFA Award for Outstanding Achievement in International Cinema: Subhash Ghai.
- IIFA Award for Entertainer of the Year: Deepika Padukone

#### Musical awards

- **Best Music Direction:** 2 States – Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy.
- **Best Lyrics:** Galliyan from Ek Villain – Manoj Muntashir.
- **Best Male Playback Singer:** Ankit Tiwari for Galliyan – Ek Villain.
- **Best Female Playback Singer:** Kanika Kapoor for Baby Doll – Ragini MMS 2.
- **Best Sound Design:** Shajith Koyeri – Haider.
- **Best Background Score:** Vishal Bhardwaj – Haider.

#### Technical awards

- **Best Action:** Parvez Shaikh & Andy Armstrong – Bang Bang.
- **Best Special Effects:** Reupal Rawal (Prime Focus) – Kick.
- **Best Choreography:** Ahmed Khan – Kick.
- **Best Cinematography:** Binod Pradhan – 2 States.
- **Best Costume Design:** Dolly Ahluwalia – Haider.
- **Best Dialogue:** Abhijat Joshi & Rajkumar Hirani – PK.
- **Best Editing:** Anurag Kashyap & Abhijit Kokate – Queen.
- **Best Makeup:** Preetisheel Singh & Clover Wootton – Haider.
- **Best Production Design:** Subrata Chakraborty & Amit Ray – Haider.
- **Best Screenplay:** Vikas Bahl, Chaitally Parmar & Parveez Shaikh – Queen.
- **Best Sound Mixing:** Debajit Changmai – Haider.
- **Best Sound Recording:** Eric Pillai for Galliyan – Ek Villain.



## Vijai Sharma appointed as new Chief Information Commissioner

President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Vijai Sharma as Chief Information Commissioner. He will have tenure of for 5 years or till they attain the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

Vijai Sharma is a 1974 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh Cadre. Prior to this appointment he was serving as information commissioner in Central Information Commission since 2012.

He has rich work experience in Administration & Governance and Law & Policy in Central and State Governments and United Nations. He also had served as Environment secretary.



### Background

Vijai Sharma's name for Chief Information Commissioner was finalized on June 1, 2015 by selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprising Union minister Arun Jaitley as well as Leader of Congress in **Lok Sabha** Mallikarjuna Kharge.

### About Central Information Commission

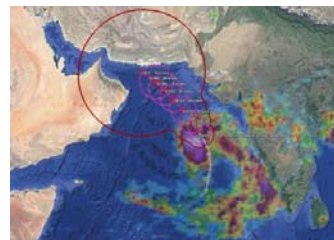
- The Right To Information (RTI) Act, 2005 provides for establishment of Central and State information commissioner as a designated statutory authority to receive and inquire into a complaint from any person.
- The general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the Commission are vested in the Chief Information Commissioner, who is assisted by the Information Commissioners.
- Under the CIC, the Chief Information Commissioner enjoys complete financial and administrative powers of a Department of the Government of India except in matters relating to the creation of posts, re-appropriation and writing-off losses for which it needs the specific concurrence of the Ministry of Finance.
- **Appointment:** The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a selection committee comprising of Prime Minister as Chairperson, the leader of single largest opposition party in the **Lok Sabha** and a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- **Tenure:** Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner hold office for a term of 5 years or till he attains the age of 65 years. The Chief Information Commissioner is not eligible for reappointment.
- Wajahat Habibullah was India's first Chief Information Commissioner. He was appointed on 26 October 2005.



## Cyclonic Storm Ashobaa: First Tropical storm of the season

Cyclonic storm **Ashobaa** in Arabian Sea is the first tropical storm of the pre-monsoon season in the Indian seas.

The cyclonic storm was formed after intensified deep depression (low pressure zone) was developed over east central Arabian Sea about 590 km west southwest of Mumbai, 470 km southwest of Veraval (Gujarat) and 960 km east-southeast of Masirah Island (Oman).



After its formation the cyclonic storm has moved northwestwards. The system has potential to intensify further. But this cyclonic storm will not hit Indian states severely as it has further moved north-northwesterly direction towards Oman. Northwestern coastal states of India such as Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat and Karnataka will only face strong winds along with showers.

### Naming

The name Ashobaa to this tropical storm was given by Sri Lanka which is one of eight countries that are naming tropical cyclones in North Indian Ocean region on rotational basis. The series of naming by countries is Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The last cyclone called Nilofer (2014) was suggested by Pakistan. Next cyclone formed in future will have name Komen, suggested by Thailand.

### Advantages of naming cyclones/ storms:

- Provide easy communication between forecasters and the general public regarding forecasts and warnings.
- Since the storms occur in the same basin at the same time, names can reduce the confusion about what storm is being described.

## World's first 'feeling' prosthetic leg fitted in Austria

World's first prosthetic (artificial) leg capable of simulating the feelings of a real limb and fighting phantom pain was unveiled by researchers in Vienna, Austria.

The first of its kind medical innovation is the result of a two-fold process which is developed by Professor Hubert Egger at the University of Linz, Austria.



This prosthetic leg was fitted on Wolfgang Rangger who had lost his right leg in 2007.

### Key facts

- The new feeling prosthetic leg was rewired to remaining foot nerve endings from Rangger's stump to healthy tissue in the thigh by surgeons.
- Six sensors are fitted to the foot sole of prosthesis which are relayed to a micro-controller and linked to stimulators inside the shaft where the stump sits.



- These small sensor devices measure the pressure of heel, toe and foot movement and send these signals to the brain every time Rangger takes a step or applies pressure.
- The sensors also tell the brain there is a foot and the wearer has the impression that it rolls off the ground when he walks.
- The prosthesis also provides another remarkable function i.e. eradicate the excruciating phantom pain Mr Rangger had experienced for years following his amputation.
- This pain occurs because the brain gets increasingly sensitive as it seeks information about the missing limb.

Earlier in 2010, Austrian scientist he presented a mind-controlled prosthetic arm or bionic hand which allowed the amputee to feel sensations from their fingers.

### **P L Subramanian appointed as non-executive Director of India Cements Limited**

P L Subramanian has been appointed as Non-Executive Director India Cements Limited (CIL) with an immediate effect.

Subramanian had joined former BCCI President N Srinivasan-led India Cements in 1986 and had served in various responsibilities.

He had retired from service in May 2015 after serving as Executive Director (Operations) of the company. He also had served as a Director of Andhra Pradesh Gas Power

Corporation Limited, India Cements Infrastructures Limited, Coromandel Electric Company Limited and Trishul Concrete Products Limited.



#### **About India Cements Limited (CIL)**

- CIL is a cement manufacturing company in India established in 1946.
- At present it has eight integrated cement plants and two grinding units with capacity over 9 million tons per annum.
- Their plants are spread over Southern India that caters to major markets in South India Sankarnagar, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu India and Maharashtra The CIL's first plant was set up at Thalaiyuthu in Tamil Nadu in 1949
- **Headquarters:** Sankarnagar in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.
- Since 2013, Indian ODI cricket team captain MS Dhoni is Vice President of the India Cements Limited.



### Mahendra Kumar Sharma appointed as non-executive Chairman of ICICI Bank

Mahendra Kumar Sharma was appointed as non-executive chairman of India's largest private sector lender Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank.

He will replace K V Kamath who had resigned from top most in order to join as President of the Shanghai based New Development Bank established by the BRICS nations.



Presently, Sharma is an independent director of two subsidiaries of ICICI Bank viz ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company and ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company.

Earlier from 2003 to 2011, he also had served as an independent director on the board of ICICI Bank.

Prior to joining ICICI Bank, Sharma was vice-president of Hindustan Unilever (HUL) and was associated with HUL from 1974 to 2007.

He has a strong understanding of legal and corporate governance matters and had joined HUL in 1974 as a legal manager.

**Government Committees:** Sharma also had served as a member of the Corporate Law Committee formed by Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs to redraft the Companies Act. He was also a member of the Committee on Corporate Governance formed by the Union Government.

### June 10, 2015

#### Jind, Karnal and Muzaffarnagar districts added in National Capital Region

Haryana's Jind, Karnal districts and Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district have been added into the conurbation National Capital Region (NCR).

Decision in this regard was taken at 35th meeting of National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) held New Delhi. The meeting was presided by Union Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu who is Chairman of the NCRPB.

The meeting was attended by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and representatives and government officials of other member states.

With this inclusion the total districts in NCR has rose to 23 (including Delhi NCT) which covers a total area of 51,109 square km.

#### About National Capital Region (NCR)

- NCR is the designation for the conurbation or metropolitan area formed by National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB).
- It encompasses the entire Delhi NCT and urban areas surrounding it in neighboring states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.



- NCRPB is statutory body established in 1985 under the National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985 to develop a planned metropolitan development NCR region.
- It also seeks to protect Delhi's infrastructure from excessive pressure by diverting increasing population from the region.
- NCR is India's largest and one of the world's largest agglomerations in terms of population (around 54,000,000 as per 2011 Census).

### **Yellow-Breasted Buntings on the verge of extinction: Study**

As per recent study published in the Conservation Biology journal, Yellow-breasted buntings (*Emberiza aureola*), a songbird are near to extinction.

The study has mentioned that population this bird species which is also known as the "rice bird" in China has plunged by 90 percent since 1980 and disappearing from Eastern Europe, Japan and parts of Russia.

The main reason mentioned in the study for decline of songbirds is illegal hunting for food and sold on the black market in China.

Earlier in 1997, China had banned the hunting of the species following initial population declines but failed to implement conservation measures to protect them.

Since 2013, Yellow-breasted buntings have been classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as an endangered species due to rapid population decline.

The paper compares hunting of this species with the North American passenger pigeon, which became extinct in 1914 due to industrial-scale hunting.

It should be noted that Yellow-breasted buntings is Eurasian passerine bird that belongs to the bunting family (*Emberizidae*). It is migratory bird wintering in south-east Asia, India, and southern China.



### **Union Cabinet approves Rs 6,000 crore interest-free loan to sugar mills**

Union Cabinet approved an interest-free loan i.e. soft loan to the tune of 6,000 crore rupees to enable sugar mills pay arrears to farmers.

Decision in this regard was taken by Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Apart from this decision cabinet also approved hike in prices of Ethanol.

As per this decision, interest on the loan will not be charged for a year but the interest will be borne by the Union government from sugar development fund. The money to be paid as arrears to farmers under this loan will be directed credited in Jan Dhan accounts of farmers.

It should be noted that Sugar mills in India owe over 21,000 crore rupees to farmers because they were not able to sell sugar stocks which have remained unsold due to falling prices of raw sugar in domestic and international markets.





Apart from these decisions Union Cabinet also

- Approved promulgation of negotiable instruments ordinance which to allow courts hear dispute of bouncing of cheques in the payee's location.
- Allowed three plants to produce urea out of Naptha in Madras Fertilizers Ltd (Tamil Nadu), Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (Andhra Pradesh) and Mangalore Chemical and Fertilizers Ltd (Karnataka) respectively.

### **June 10, 2015**

#### **Union Government gives nod to promulgation of Ordinance to amend Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881**

Union Government has given nod for promulgation of Ordinance to amend Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

Decision in this regard was Union Cabinet meet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

The ordinance paves way for filing of cheque bounce cases in place where the cheque was issued. This move that will benefit around 18 lakh people involved in such cheque bounce cases.

In May 2015, The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2015 was passed in Lok Sabha. However the bill was not able pass in Rajya Sabha where ruling NDA government is in minority.



#### **Background**

- In 2014, Supreme Court had ruled that cases against those having defaulted on their cheque payments only need be filed in courts under which jurisdiction of the bank account of the accused fell.
- However, this ruling was not payee-friendly. So in order to protect of payee Union government brought amendment bill to by-pass the court's order.

#### **About Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2015**

- The amendment bill adds provision to specify the territorial jurisdiction of the courts in cases related to bouncing of cheques which was not present in the parent Act.
- It says that cases in this regard need to be filed only in a court in whose jurisdiction the bank branch of the payee lies.
- It also adds provision related to more than one case is filed against the same person before different courts for bouncing of cheques.
- In this matter, the case will be transferred to the court that has appropriate jurisdiction. The bill also amends the definition of cheque.
- Now it defines it as cheque in the electronic form which is signed in a secure system with a digital signature or using electronic system and drawn in electronic medium using any computer resource.

#### **About Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881**





The Act defines bills of exchange, promissory notes, cheques and creates penalties for issues such as bouncing of cheques. It also specifies circumstances under which complaints for cheque bouncing can be filed.

### **Trios of 3800-year-old statuettes found in Vichama, Peru**

Researchers in Peru have discovered trios of statuettes which belong to some 3,800 years ago.

They were discovered by research team led by archaeologist Ruth Shady. The final discovery announcement was made by the Peruvian Cultural Ministry in Lima.

The mud statuettes were found inside a reed basket in a building at the ancient city of Vichama in northern Peru.



#### **Key Facts**

- These statuettes are believed to be created by the ancient **Caral civilization** some 3,800 years ago.
- They were Probably were used in religious rituals performed before breaking ground on a new building.
- Among discovered statuettes, two are of the figures consisting of a naked man and woman painted in white, black and red. It is believed that they represent political authorities.
- The third statue is of women with 28 fingers and red dots on her white face. It is believed that she represent a priestess.
- Researchers also have unearthed two mud figurines of women's faces wrapped in cloth and covered with yellow, blue and orange feathers.

The Caral civilization had emerged some 5,000 years ago and had lived in Peru's Supe Valley. They have left behind impressive architecture including pyramids and sunken amphitheatres.

### **Padmasree Warrior, India-born Chief Technology Officer of Cisco resigns**

India-born Padmasree Warrior has stepped down from her post of Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at global IT giant Cisco.

She had resigned after a significant restructuring of top management of Cisco under incoming CEO Chuck Robbins. Now she will have advisory post in Cisco till September 2015.

She had joined Cisco in 2008 and had served as CTO and senior vice-president of engineering during her seven years at the company.



#### **About Padmasree Warrior**

- Warrior is an alumnus of the IIT-Delhi and Cornell University.
- She is one of Silicon Valley's high-profile female executives and has been honored with numerous leadership awards.



- In recently released Forbes Magazine's 12th annual list of World's 100 most powerful women she was placed at 84th position.
- She is a member of the Board of Trustees for Cornell University and serves on the Board of Directors of Gap Inc. She also is on the Board of Directors for Thorn, formerly known as DNA Foundation.

### Senior scientist Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar appointed as Director of CSIR-IICT

Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar was appointed Director of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) a premier research institute of Union Government based in Hyderabad, Telangana.

He was named appointed to the top post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is ex-officio Chairman of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) functioning under Union Ministry of Science and Technology.



Dr. Chandrasekhar had joined IICT as a Junior Research Fellow in 1986. He was promoted to the level of Chief Scientist in 2010. Since 2010 he is leading Natural Products Chemistry, one of the largest groups at the IICT.

He has made significant contributions in diverse areas of organic chemistry with a special emphasis total synthesis of biologically active natural products, on chiral chemistry and pharmaceutical products.

Dr. Chandrasekhar He also has developed technologies for synthesis of latest anti-tumor and abortive drug mesoprostol, anti-tuberculosis drug bedaquiline and drug for treatment of schizophrenia asenapine etc. Apart from above contributions, he also has more than 250 publications with 5,000 citations to his credit.

### India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant undocked at Cochin

India's first indigenously-built largest aircraft carrier INS Vikrant was successfully undocked at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Cochin district of Kerala.

The ship will undergo a series of fitment and trial processes along with series of static and dynamic trials before inducting it into the Indian Navy in end-2018.

With successful completion of construction of INS Vikrant India joins elite group of four nations in the world viz United States, Russia, United Kingdom and France that are capable of designing and constructing aircraft carriers.



The carrier was officially launched in August 2013 after its first phase of construction was completed. It was first left its dry dock in December 2011.

#### Facts about INS Vikrant

- Its name Vikrant, means "courageous" in Sanskrit or "bold" in Hindi,
- The carrier has a length of over 260 metres and breadth of 60 metres. It weighs around 40,000 tonne.



- It has two take-off runways and a landing strip with three arrester wires having short-take off but arrested recovery (STOBAR) system.
- On completion it will carry up to 36 fixed-wing jets, including MiG-29 K and indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
- It will additionally carry ten helicopters such as Kamov Ka-31s, Westland Sea Kings, or indigenously-built Dhruvs.
- The basic design of the carrier is done by Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design and was developed into detailed design by the design team of CSL.

After induction into Indian Navy its primary role will only be to defend the naval fleet and will be positioned in the Indian Ocean region where the world's commercial and economic interests conflate.

### **June 11, 2015**

#### **Union Cabinet gives nod to Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement**

Union Cabinet meet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement.

The agreement which is similar to the SAARC Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) seeks to regulate the vehicular traffic of passenger, personal and cargo amongst BBIN countries.

The agreement will be signed on 15th June 2015 at the Transport Minister's meeting in Thimpu, Bhutan.

#### **Key Facts**

- BBIN agreement aims to promote safe, environmentally sound and economical efficient road transport in the sub-region of BBIN.
- It also seeks to help each member country to create an institutional mechanism for regional integration.
- BBIN agreement will benefit member nations for mutual cross border movement of passenger and goods for overall economic development of the region.
- For implementation of this agreement each signatory member will bear its own costs.

#### **Background**

- During the 18th SAARC Summit held in Kathmandu, Nepal SAARC MVA was not able to signed due to reservations of Pakistan.
- However, the SAARC declaration at the 18th Summit had encouraged Member States to initiate regional and sub-regional measures to enhance connectivity.
- In line with this declaration, BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement was pursued among four SAARC members.
- Draft of this agreement was finalized in February 2015 in the meeting of Secretaries of Transport of the BBIN countries which was organized by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH).



## 26 African countries create TFTA: Cape Town to Cairo free-trade zone

African countries have signed a historic **The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA)** that facilitates creation of Africa's largest free-trade zone.

This free-trade zone will cover 26 countries in an area from southernmost tip of African continent i.e. Cape Town (South Africa) to Cairo (Egypt) in the north.

The pact was signed in Egypt will intent to ease the movement of goods across 26 member countries which represent more than half the continent's GDP.

TFTA pact combines existing three trade blocs among the African nations viz

- Southern African Development Community (SADC).
- East African Community (EAC).
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

It will remove trade barriers on most goods, making them cheaper and stimulating \$ 1 trillion worth of

economic activity across the region of more than 600 million people. Thus bolster intra-regional trade by creating a wider market that will increase investment flow and enhance regional infrastructure development.

The pact will then be officially unveiled at the upcoming 25th summit of the African Union in South Africa. After adopting it will need parliamentary ratification from all member-nations.

**Map Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP)**

## 349 new species of flora and fauna discovered in the past one year in India

Scientists and taxonomists in India have discovered 349 new species of flora and fauna in the past one year. Of these discovered flora and fauna 173 species are genera of plants and 176 species of animals.

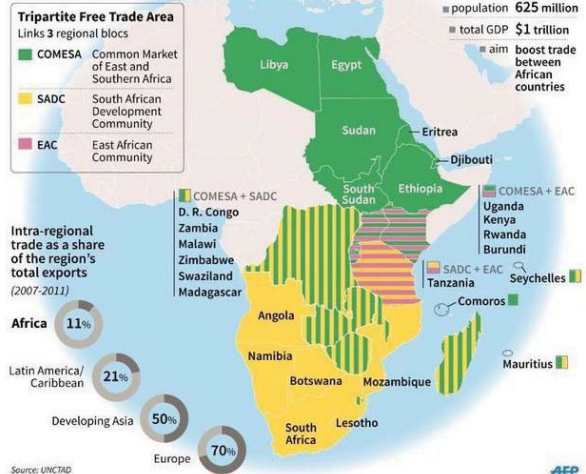
The list of new discovered species was published by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) both headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.

### Key facts

- **Biodiversity hotspots:** Most of discoveries were from India's two Biodiversity hotspots viz Western Ghats and Eastern Himalayas. Western Ghats accounted for 22 per cent of the new discoveries.

### A common market spanning half of Africa

A step towards a continental free trade area





- While, the Eastern Himalayas accounted for 15 per cent discovered species. 25 species of seed plants were alone discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Animal species:** Of the 176 new animal species discovered 93 species are of insects, 7 species are of collembolans, 12 species of arachnid, 12 species crustacean and 1 species of mollusca.
- **Reptiles:** 2 species of reptiles for the first time have been found in India. One was discovered in Tamil Nadu and another in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Fish:** 23 new fish species were discovered. Majority of fish species were discovered in north-east India.
- **Amphibians:** 24 new amphibian species were discovered. Most of the new species of amphibians were discovered in the Western Ghats.
- **New records:** Apart from the discovered new species, the BSI has also added 105 new records species and ZSI 61 new records species.
- It should be noted that new records means animals and plants that have been spotted in India for the first time and those are found elsewhere in the world.

In year 2014, 614 new species of plants and animals were discovered which included 366 plants and 248 animal species. With this, 96,891 species of animals and 47,791 species of plants have been recorded so far in India.

### MS Dhoni sole Indian in Forbes list of The World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2015

Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni is the only Indian to find place in the Forbes magazine's list of 100 World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2015

He was placed at 23rd on the Forbes list with total earnings of 31 million dollars including amount from salary at 4 million dollars and endorsements worth 27 million dollars.



This edition of list was again topped by US boxer **Floyd Mayweather** for third time. It should be noted that the earnings figures include sum of salaries, bonuses and prize money paid between June 2014 and June 2015.

#### Top ten World's Highest-Paid Athletes 2015 are

- **Floyd Mayweather** (Boxing) from US: \$ 300 million.
- **Manny Pacquiao** (Boxing) from Philippines: \$ 160 million.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** (Football) from Portugal: \$ 79.6 million.
- **Lionel Messi** (Football) from Argentina: \$73.8 million.
- **Roger Federer** (Tennis) from Switzerland: \$67 million.
- **LeBron James** (Basketball) from US: \$64.8 million.
- **Kevin Durant** (Basketball) from US: \$54.1 million.
- **Phil Mickelson** (Golf) from US: \$50.8 million.
- **Tiger Woods** (Golf) from US: \$50.6 million.
- **Kobe Bryant** (Basketball) from US: \$49.5 million.



In this edition of list only two women athletes made to the list they are

- **Maria Sharapova (Tennis)** from Russia: She was placed at 26th rank with total earnings of \$ 31 million.
- **Serena Williams (Tennis) from US:** She was placed at 47th rank with total earnings of \$ 6 million.

The 100 highest-paid athletes of this edition of list have made 3.2 billion dollars in total in last one year which is 17 percent more compared to previous year.

### **Parkash Singh Badal conferred with Sant Namdev National Award**

Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Parkash Singh Badal was conferred the prestigious 14th Sant Namdev National Award- 2015 by Pune based Sarhad foundation.

The award was presented to him by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis in the presence of the organisers of the Sarhad foundation.

He was awarded was bestowed upon him for promoting peace, communal harmony and universal brotherhood. The award comprised of citation, a monetary prize of 101000 rupees and a memento.



Parkash Singh Badal is the longest-serving Chief Minister of Punjab with over 15 years in office. Currently, he is heading Akali Dal-BJP coalition government.

He previously had served as CM for first time in 1970 to 1971. Later for second time from 1977 to 1980 and for third time from 1997 to 2002.

He is generally regarded as the second most powerful Sikh leader in world after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In 2015, he was awarded with India's second highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan.

## **June 12, 2015**

### **China conducts fourth test of Wu-14 nuclear delivery hypersonic vehicle**

China has conducted the fourth successful test of a new Wu-14 hypersonic strike vehicle which is capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

The test was conducted on 7 June 2015 and the vehicle launched atop a ballistic missile fired from a test facility in western China.

The vehicle has ability to executed extreme maneuvers that may be able to render US anti-missile defense systems obsolete.

This test was the fourth test in past 18 months. Previous tests were conducted in year 2014 in the months of January, August and December.



The Wu-14 is capable to travel in high altitude in the atmosphere on the edge of space. It can carry nuclear or conventional warheads. The high-tech vehicle can travel at speeds of up to 10 times the speed of sound i.e. around 7,680 miles per hour.



## Google Launches Special Search Mode for Slower 2G Phone Network for India, Brazil

World's largest search engine giant Google Inc has launched a new lite mode of Google search engine for India and Brazil on 2 Generation (2G) network.

This lite mode has been developed by keeping the 2G network speed in mind. Before launching this feature in

India, Google had tested it in Indonesia, where the network speed is similar to India.

The new lite mode of Google search engine loads pages four times faster than the traditional webpages and consume 80% less data and penetrate 50% faster connection compared to before. This feature is currently limited to Android smartphones.

Around 200 million people in India have access Internet through their smartphones and a majority of them still prefer 2G network due to affordable tariffs. It should be noted that in 2G network, a consumer gets 10KB/s speed in good network conditions, while it goes down to 2-3KB/s in poor network coverage.

## Union Government scraps import duties on AIDS drugs and test kits

Union Government has scrapped customs import duties for drugs and test kits used to treat Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

In this regard Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has issued a notice that will remain in effect till March 2016.

This decision will help to cut prices of AIDS drugs across the country and thus help directly in Government's national program to fight the disease. It will also make import raw materials that are used to make antiretrovirals under the national program cheaper.

This tax exemption will be applicable to certain first-line and second-line antiretroviral drugs which are used to treat adults and children. Apart from drugs certain diagnostic kits and equipment are also exempted from tax.

In India more than 2.1 million HIV/AIDS patients are provided with daily antiretrovirals for free from state-run distribution centres which are operated by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).

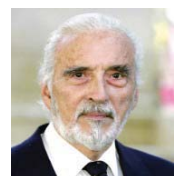
## Legendary actor Sir Christopher Lee passes away

Legendary English actor, singer and writer Sir Christopher Lee passed away in London, United Kingdom. He was 93.

The veteran actor was famously known as the master of horror for his famous villainy acting roles in numerous movies such as Dracula, The Wicker Man, James Bond, Lord of the Rings trilogy etc.

### About Sir Christopher Lee

- Christopher Lee was born in London in 1922







- **Film career:** His on screen acting career began in 1947 after he had the Rank Organisation where he was trained as an actor. His career spanned more than 7 decades.
- His famous acting roles include Francisco Scaramanga in The Man with the Golden Gun (1974), Saruman in The Lord of the Rings film trilogy (2001–2003), The Hobbit film trilogy (2012–2014), Count Dooku Star Wars trilogy (2002 and 2005) and Star Wars: The Clone Wars (2008).
- He also is known for his best performance portraying of Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the biopic Jinnah (1998).
- **Music career:** Lee was also known for his singing ability. He had recorded various opera and musical pieces between 1986 and 1998.
- He also had recorded symphonic metal album Charlemagne: By the Sword and the Cross in 2010 after he had worked with several metal bands since 2005.
- **Awards and Honours:** He was knighted in 2009 for services to drama and charity and was awarded the Bafta fellowship in 2011 and Spirit of Metal award (2010).

### RBI allows NRIs to subscribe chit funds

Reserve Bank of Indian has allowed non-resident Indians (NRIs) to invest in chit fund to encourage flow of capital into the country.

Decision in this regard was taken after RBI had revised the extant guidelines for subscription to the chit funds in consultation with the government.

Henceforth, NRIs on non-repatriation basis will be allowed to invest in chit fund without any ceiling. However, the subscription to the chit funds by NRIs will be mandatorily brought in through normal banking channel, including through an account maintained with a bank in India.

The state government may permit any chit fund to accept subscription from NRIs on non-repatriation basis. It will be permitted by the registrar of chits or an officer authorized by the state government in accordance with the provisions of the Chit Fund Act, 1982.

Earlier in May 2000, RBI had barred NRIs from investing in a company or firms engaged in the business of chit fund.

Apart from this decision, RBI also extended the scheme allowing airline companies to raise external commercial borrowings (ECB) for working capital as a permissible end-use under the approval route. Now, the ECB scheme will continue till March 31, 2016.







### **Second border haat opens in Sipahijala district of Tripura**

The second border haat (rural market) was opened for common people at Kamalasagar in Sipahijala district of Tripura bordering Brahmanbaria district of Bangladesh. The haat was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina by video-conferencing from Dhaka on June 6, 2015.



This market is set up at the zero line of the international border with one part on the Indian side and the other in Bangladesh. Initially it will facilitate bilateral trade of 16 shortlisted locally produced goods.

These goods include agricultural and horticultural crops, spices, minor forest products excluding timber, fish and dry fish, dairy and poultry products, cottage industry items, wooden furniture, handloom and handicraft items.

People residing within a distance of 5 km from along the border are entitled to do business at the haat which will take place once in a week initially. No local taxes would be levied on the goods sold in the haats and currencies of both the countries would prevail.

It is anticipated that the haat will provide basic livelihood opportunities to more than thousands of marginal income families and small traders along this border areas of both the countries.

First border haat was inaugurated on Srinagar- Purba border area in January 2015 by Union Commerce and Industries Minister Nirmala along with her Bangladeshi counterpart Tofail ahmed.

### **Renewable energy targets quadruple globally in 10 years: IRENA**

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has announced that in past one decade renewable energy targets have quadruple globally.

It was mentioned IRENA *Renewable Energy Target Setting* report which was released by IRENA Director-General Adnan Z. Amin on the side lines of IRENA's 9th Council meeting in Dubai.



As per report, 164 countries have adopted at least one type of renewable energy target compared to 43 countries in 2005. All nations are adopting renewable energy targets to meet multiple objectives including energy security, environmental sustainability and socio-economic benefits.

Developing and emerging economies are leading nations to adopt of renewable energy targets, accounting for 131 out of the 164 countries. The majority of 150 countries have focused committed renewable energy targets on the electricity sector

The numbers of countries setting renewable targets for the heating and cooling sector have increased to 47 from 2 countries in 2005. Similarly, renewable transport targets have also has doubled to 59 countries from 27 countries in 2005.

**About International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**



- IRENA is an intergovernmental organization to promote adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy.
- It is a global hub for renewable energy cooperation and information exchange within its member nations.
- **Founded:** in 2009 and its statute entered into force on 8 July 2010.
- **Headquarters:** Abu Dhabi.
- **Two governing structure:** *IRENA Assembly* which takes decisions at macro level and gives policy guidance. *IRENA Council* is main governing body and is responsible for implementing various decisions of assembly.
- **Members:** In total it has 140 Members. India is one of the 33 Permanent and founder members of IRENA.

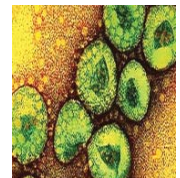
### Juvenile Camel's key source of MERS: Study

As per recently published study, camels aged less than four years might be a major source of **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)**. The study was published in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*

The research study was undertaken by international team who had looked for evidence of current or past infection in more than 800 dromedary camels (also called Arabian camels).

In this study researchers have found out that

- More than 90 per cent of camels were infected by MERS virus the age of two and virus shedding was more common in calves than in adults.
- Changes in animal husbandry may reduce the occurrence of human MERS infections.
- Dromedary camels that are living in the Middle East have antibodies that recognised MERS virus protein which is a strong sign of past infection.
- However the spread of MERS virus in humans is still unknown but it might spread due direct contact with body fluids from infected camels.
- Alternatively, it might have spread by drinking unpasteurised camel milk and possibly by transfer through the contaminated virus present in the saliva of an infected calf to their mothers.



### Facts about Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

- MERS belongs to the family of coronaviruses which includes large family of viruses such as common cold and Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).
- It was discovered in 2012 and was mostly centred in Saudi Arabia. But cases might have occurred before.
- **Source:** MERS is a betacoronavirus derived from bats. Camels have shown to have antibodies to MERS, but the exact source of infection in camels has not been identified.



- **Transmission:** It can be transmitted from infected person to others after close contact via a respiratory route. It spread's in droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- **Symptoms:** fever, breathing problems, pneumonia and kidney failure.
- **Treatment:** Till date there is no vaccine available to prevent it. However intensive medical care can help patient to breath.

### Nek Chand Saini, creator of Chandigarh's Rock Garden passes away

Nek Chand Saini, creator of Chandigarh's iconic Rock Garden passed away on 11 June 2015 in Chandigarh. He was 90.

He was born in Berian Kalan village in Shakargarh region (now in Pakistan). He was as a self-taught Indian artist. He had emigrated to India with his family during the partition in 1947 and had settled in Chandigarh in 1950.



In 1951, Nek Chand had started working as a road inspector of the Chandigarh's Public Works Department (PWD). During this time Chandigarh was redesigned as a modern utopia by the Swiss/French architect *Le Corbusier* and became first planned city in India.

**Awards:** Nek Chand was awarded the *Padma Shri* in 1984.

#### About Rock Garden

- Initially, Nek Chand Saini had built Chandigarh's iconic Rock Garden secretly from waste and other unused household materials in a forest near Sukhna Lake which is spread over an area of 40-acres.
- His secret environmental marvel was later discovered in 1972 by the municipal authorities. Later he was provided with a team of labourers and financial support to enable him to continue his work.
- The site famously came to be known as the Rock Garden. It was officially recognised in 1976 and became a key tourist attraction of Chandigarh.

### 12 June: World Day Against Child Labour

The World Day Against Child Labour is being observed annually across world on 12 June to bring awareness against child labour.

The theme of this year is *No to Child Labour, Yes to Quality Education*.

This year's World Day Against Child Labour call for:

- For all children free, compulsory and quality education till the minimum age for admission to employment and action to reach those presently in child labour.
- New efforts to ensure consistent and effectiveness of national policies on child labour and education.





- Ensure policies that provide access to quality education and investment in the teaching profession.

#### Background

- World Day Against Child Labour is an initiative of the International Labour Organization (ILO). It was launched in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and to take action and efforts needed to eliminate it.
- Since then every year on 12 June, observance of this governments, workers organizations, employers, civil society as well as millions of people from around the world come together to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.
- According to recent global estimates, around 12 crore children between the age of 5 and 14 are involved in child labour. Main reasons of child labour are poverty, lack of decent work for adults and social protection, and failure to ensure schooling of children.

### June 13, 2015

#### Twitter Inc CEO Dick Costolo resigns

Dick Costolo has resigned as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter Inc after leading the company for five years.

He will demit the office of CEO on 1 July 2015. Till his replacement is found Jack Dorsey, Twitter co-founder and Square Inc's CEO will take over as the Interim CEO.

Under the technological leadership of Costolo, Twitter had evolved from a startup to a public company. He was also had pioneered for introducing Twitter's famous 140 character messaging service which had gained cultural prominence and had become a powerful tool for worldwide celebrities, activists and citizen journalists to propagate their views.

Dick Costolo had joined the company in 2009 as its Chief Operating Officer (CTO) and later in 2010 was appointed as its CEO. In 2013, he had helped the company to go public and also had struggled to attract new users to the service.

Twitter was founded in 2006. Presently has 302 million active users and has a market value around 25 billion US dollars.



#### US opens probe against Indian IT giants TCS, Infosys for H1B visa violations

United States (US) government has opened an investigation against two of the biggest Indian Information Technology (IT) outsourcing companies for possible violations of H1-B visa rules. The two IT giants are Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys.

The investigation is being carried by US Department of Labour for against both





companies for possible violations of rules for visas for foreign technology workers under contracts they held with an electric utility Southern California Edison.

US Department of Labour investigation move comes after the power company had recently had laid off more than 500 technology workers from US. These laid off workers were made to train their replacements who were immigrants on the temporary work visas brought in by the Indian firms.

Prior to this, around 250 employees at entertainment giant Walt Disney were laid off and replaced with Indians holding H1B visas.

### **Legendary West Indies fast bowler Sir Wesley Hall inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of fame**

Former West Indies paceman Sir Wesley Winfield Hall has been inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. He is 80th cricketer to be inducted in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame and 18th from West Indies.

He is the 4th cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2015 after Betty Wilson, Anil Kumble and Martin Crowe.



#### **About Sir Wesley Winfield Hall**

- Sir Wesley Hall had played in 48 Tests in his one decade career spanning from 1958 to 1969.
- In his Test career he had taken 192 wickets which included five wickets in an innings for 9 times and 10 wickets in a match on one occasion.
- In 170 first-class matches, Hall had claimed 546 wickets at an average of 26.14.
- In 1964-65, his 16 wickets were instrumental in guiding the West Indies to its first series win over Australia. He retired in 1968-69 at the end of the tour of Australia and New Zealand.
- After retiring from cricket he entered into politics of tinny Caribbean island nation He had served in Barbados Senate and also Minister of Tourism in 1987.
- He also had as a selector and team manager and served as President of West Indies Cricket Board from 2001 to 2003.
- In 2012 for services to sport and the community he was knighted with the Knight Bachelor

#### **About ICC Cricket Hall of Fame**

- The ICC Cricket Hall of Fame recognises the achievements of the legends from the game of cricket.
- It was launched in January 2009 by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as part of its centenary celebrations in association with the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA).

### **Musicians, film-maker chosen for Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships and Akademi Puraskar for year 2014**



Sangeet Natak Akademi has announced the names of recipients of Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships (Akademi Ratna) 2014 and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) 2014.

The names of the recipients were finalized in the meeting of General Council of the Sangeet Natak Akademi which is also known as the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama.

Akademi Fellowships which carries cash prize of 3 lakh rupees were conferred on

- R. Janakiraman- Musicologist.
- S. Sathyu- film-maker.
- Vijay Kichlu- Classical singer
- Tulsidas Borkar- Musician

With this the total strength of Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows has gone up to 40.

Recipients of Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2014 are

#### **In the field of music**

- **For Hindustani vocal:** Ashwini Bhide Deshpande Nath Narelkar and Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan.
- **Hindustani instrumental music:** Pandit Nayan Ghosh (tabla) and Ronu Majumdar (flute).
- **Carnatic instrumental music:** Neyveli Santhanagopalan (Carnatic vocal), T.A. Kaliyamurthy (Thavil), Sukanya Ramgopal (Ghatam) and Dwaram Durga Prasad Rao (violin).

#### **In the field of dance**

**Nine persons have been selected in this category. They are**

- Adayar Janardanan (Bharatanatyam), Amusana Devi (Manipuri), Uma Dogra (Kathak), Sudhakar Sahoo (Odissi), Vedantam Radhesyam (Kuchipudi).
- Jagru Mahto (Chhau), Anita Sharma (Sattriya), Varanasi Vishnu Namboothiri (Kathakali) and Navtej Singh Johar (contemporary dance).

#### **In the field of drama/ theatre**

Eight theatre persons have been chosen in this category. They are

- Asgar Wajahat, Surya Mohan Kulshreshtha, Chidambar Rao Jambe, Debshankar Haldar, Ramdas Kamath, Amod Bhatt, Manjunath Bhagwat Hostota and Amardas Manikpuri.

#### **In the field of Traditional/tribal music/folk/theatre/dance and puppetry**

In this category eight artistes have been selected. They are

- Puran Shah Koti, K Kalamandalam Ram Mohan, . Kesavasamy, Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Reba Kanta Mohanta, Ramdayal Sharma, K. Shanathoiba Sharma and Thanga Darlong.

#### **About Sangeet Natak Akademi**





- Established: in 1953
- Function: Responsible for preservation and promotion of the performing arts of the country.
- It also recognizes the contribution of outstanding musicians, dancers and theatre artists by bestowing them its Fellowships and Awards.
- Its aim is to create benchmarks in the practice of the performing arts.

### Government sacks Dr Bimal K Roy, Director of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)

Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has sacked Dr Bimal K Roy as the Director of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI).

He was removed from the office on charges of indiscipline one-and-a-half months before the end of his term.

Roy who is a renowned cryptologist was appointed Director of ISI in August 2010. In April 2015, he was conferred with India's fourth highest civilian honour *Padma Shri* for his contribution in the discipline of literature and education.

Professor Sanghmitra Bandyopadhyay now will replace Dr Bimal K Roy as the Director of ISI. With this appointment she has become the first woman to lead the institute.

She is a computer scientist specialized in the field of computational biology. She had obtained a master's degree in computer science from the IIT Kharagpur and pursued Ph. D. from ISI. Her research is mainly based in the areas of pattern recognition, evolutionary computation, bioinformatics and machine learning. In 2010, she was awarded with Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for her contributions to engineering sciences.



### US becomes world's largest oil producer, surpasses Saudi Arabia: BP Report

As per recently released report by British Petroleum (BP) Energy Company, United States (US) became the world's largest oil producer in 2014 surpassing Saudi Arabia. It was revealed in BP Energy Company report titled Statistical Review of World Energy.

#### Key facts from Report

- **Oil production:** US had produced 11.6 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) i.e. 15.9% more oil in 2014.
- While, Saudi Arabia was placed second position as it had produced 11.5 million bpd in 2014.
- Russia was placed at third position with 10.8 million bpd oil production.
- **Natural gas:** US also has surpassed Russia as the world's largest producer of natural gas. In 2014, US had produced 1,250.4 million tons of oil equivalent natural gas.
- Russia had produced 1,062 million tons of oil equivalent natural gas in 2014.
- **Consumption side:** Primary energy consumption had slowed markedly with growth of just 0.9% in 2014. It was a lower rate than at any time since the late 1990s.







- Growth in consumption of China has slowed to its lowest level since 1998. The main reason for is due to its economy rebalances which are away from energy intensive sectors. But China had remained the world's largest growth market for energy in 2014.
- China had consumed 2972.1 million tons of oil equivalent energy. US had consumed 2298.7 million tons. Japan had consumed 456.1 million tons oil equivalent energy. Russia had consumed 681.9 million tons oil equivalent energy.
- **Facts related to India:** India's oil production had declined by 1.3% at 895,000 bpd, while the consumption had increased by 3% to 3.8 million bpd.
- India has shown 7.1% rise in energy consumption. It is the fastest consumption among major economies. It had consumed 637.8 million tons of oil and oil equivalent natural gas, coal, nuclear energy, hydroelectricity and renewable energy.
- **Refining:** India is self-sufficient and fourth largest in refining capacity with 4.3 million bpd. Top three nations are US (17.79 million bpd), China (14.09 million bpd) and Russia (6.3 million bpd).

### Three day Singhey Khababs Sindhu festival kicks off in Ladakh

Three day long tourism promotional Ladakh Singhey Khababs Sindhu (also known as Sindhu Darshan) Festival has begun in Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region.

It was inaugurated by Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to promote the tourism potentials of Ladakh. The inaugural function of the festival was organised this morning on the bank of the Indus River near Shey village in Ladakh.

In this edition of festival, local traditions and cultures like folk's songs and dances will be presented along with customs, traditional archery and polo games and local handicrafts.

Singhey Khababs Sindhu festival was started in 2001 by Union government to promote Ladakh as tourists' destination in the country. Since then it is organised annually.

It is celebrated to endorse the Indus River (Sindhu River) as a symbol of the communal harmony and unity of India. It also promotes cultural values and tourism in the region.

The Festival starts with a colourful ceremony on the bank of the Indus River. Since its establishment it has helped Ladakh region to become most preferred tourist's destination and also as a popular spot for shooting films.



### Government launches Migrant Resource Centre in Chennai

Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) was set up in Chennai by the Union Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and Tamil Nadu state government.

The MRC will provide migrants and overseas Indian workers with information, advice, counseling and guidance on all aspects of overseas employment.





It will include legal and regulatory requirements apart from documentation and policies, procedures, problems faced while working aboard by migrants and workers.

Following are support functions of MRCs

- Dissemination of information on safe and legal migration.
- Dissemination of information regarding status of recruiting agents along with other service providers.
- Registration and response to complaints and grievances within the redressal forum of MOIA.
- To offer counseling support in form of walk in or telephone and email support.

It should be noted that it is the fourth such MRC in India set up by MOIA. The first MRC was established in 2008 in Kochi, Kerala by MOIA. Later, fully functional MRCs in Hyderabad (Telengana & Andhra Pradesh), Gurgaon (Haryana) were established.

### **V K Singh inaugurates first India-China Yoga College at Yunnan Minzu University, China**

Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs V K Singh inaugurated first India-China Yoga College at Yunnan Minzu University in Kunming, China.

This is first Indian government institution related Indian spiritual art form i.e. Yoga in China inaugurated ahead of the first UN Yoga Day to be observed on June 21.

The Yoga College was established in lines with the MoU for establishing the Yoga College signed during the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China in May 2015.

This college seeks to provide certification courses in the Indian spiritual art with them Indian teachers who are going to help in curriculum development and training. Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) will provide two teachers to the university.

Apart from this, Minister also unveiled the bust of Rabindranath Tagore at the University to mark his 150th birth centenary. It should be noted that Nobel laureate Tagore is most popular Indian literary personality whose works are widely translated and read in China.

### **China launches freight train service connecting Europe by linking Harbin and Hamburg**

China has launched a freight train service between its northeastern city of Harbin and Europe. The 9,820-km-long distance rail route will open new trade options for Chinese goods in the European Market.

It was launched by HAO Logistics Co. Ltd which is a joint venture company that runs the freight service.

The train carrying 49 containers of domestic goods such as electronic products and auto parts worth US 3 million dollars started its journey from Harbin capital of Heilongjiang province.

The freight train will run once a week. Each single trip will take 15 days and it will transport goods from China, South Korea and Japan as well as goods from European countries such as Poland, Germany, Spain, France and Italy.





This train will pass through countries like Russia and Poland to reach its final destination in Hamburg, Germany.

Several other Chinese cities like Changsha, Chengdu, Chongqing, Yiwu, Hefei and Suzhou have launched similar freight train services to Europe.

**June 14, 2015**

### **14 June: World Blood Donor day**

World Blood Donor Day is being observed across the world on 14 June to raise the public awareness about the need for safe blood donation.

The theme of this year's campaign is *Thank you for saving my life*. This year's campaign encourages donors all over the world to donate blood voluntarily and regularly with the slogan *Give freely, give often. Blood donation matters*.



#### **Objective**

- To spread awareness about the need for safe and secure blood supplies.
- Provide an opportunity to draw public attention to the importance of blood donation for saving lives.

World Health Organisation (WHO), a nodal agency of UN for international public health has called for increased regular blood donations from voluntary, unpaid donors in order to save millions of lives globally each year.

It should be noted that World Blood Donor Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the WHO. The event was established in 2004. It was established in order to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their voluntary donations.

### **Recommendations of Bibek Debroy committee on restructuring of Indian Railways**

Bibek Debroy Committee on the restructuring of Indian Railways has submitted its final report to the Union Ministry of Railways.

The committee has suggested measures for restructuring the Railway Board and its departments so that policy making is separated from day-to-day operations.



#### **Recommendations of Bibek Debroy committee**

- Establishment of an independent regulator Railway Regulatory Authority of India (RRAI) with a separate budget and to be independent of the Ministry.
- RRAI will decide on tariffs to revamp the cash-strapped railways.
- Railway Budget should be phased out with gross budgetary support to Indian Railways.



- There is need to improve the internal resource generation and explore varied methods of financing but also to improve utilisation of available resources.
- No privatisation of Indian Railway but allowed participation of private sector in the railway projects.
- Separation of activities like running of hospitals, schools, real estate development, catering, manufacturing of locomotives, coaches and wagons from the core business of running trains.
- State governments should be asked to entirely fund the Government Railway Police (GRP).
- General Managers should have the freedom to choose between private security guards and RPF for security on trains.
- The recommended changes should be implemented only by Union Railways ministry in the first five years including the resolution of the social cost issue.

#### Background

- Union government had constituted the high-level committee in September 2014 to restructure the Railways and suggest ways for resource mobilisation.
- It was seven-member panel headed by eminent economist and NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy.
- The other 6 members are former cabinet secretary K M Chandrasekhar, Gusharan Das, Ravi Narain, Partha Mukhopadhyay, Rajendra Kashyap, Ajay Tyagi and Ajay Narayan Jha.

#### Union Government announces Rs 1500 crore Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool

Union Government has launched an Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) of 1,500 crore rupees as per the mandatory provision under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLND), 2010.

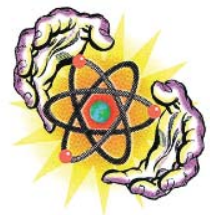
It was announced by Minister of State (MoS) in the Department of Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh in New Delhi.

With this launch, INIP became 27th nuclear insurance pool in the world that manages nuclear liabilities. India also has joined an exclusive list of countries having nuclear pools.

The pool will address third party liability insurance in a bid to offset financial burden of foreign nuclear suppliers under the CLNDA, 2010.

The pool is set up by General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India and 11 other non-life insurers. They are New India, Oriental Insurance, National Insurance and United India Insurance from the public sector apart from private insurance companies.

**Why the INIP is formed?**





A clause in the CLND Act empowers the operator the Right to Recourse and allows it to sue the suppliers in case of any accident. This was seen as a major hindrance to the growth of the nuclear industry. These concerns led to the formation of the nuclear insurance pool.

#### Implications of INIP

- To deal with management of cover to both operators and suppliers on behalf of all direct insurance companies participating in the pool.
- INIP will offer policies on the nuclear operators liability insurance policy and a nuclear suppliers' special contingency (against right to recourse) insurance policy.
- Address third-party liability insurance and later expand into property and other hot zone i.e. inside reactor areas risk. It should be noted that at present it only covers cold zones (outside reactor areas).
- Provide the risk transfer mechanism to the operators and suppliers to meet their obligations under the CLND Act.

#### Former Union Minister Sheila Kaul passes away

Former Himachal Pradesh governor and ex-union minister Sheila Kaul passed away in New Delhi. She was 101.

She was a sister-in-law of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi's maternal aunt.



#### About Sheila Kaul

- **Lok Sabha:** Kaul was elected as Member of Parliament to **Lok Sabha** five times in 1971, 1980 and 1984 (from Lucknow ) and in 1989, 1991 (from Rae Bareli).
- **Union Minister:** She had served as Minister of State (MoS) for Culture, Education and Social Welfare (Independent Charge) from 1980–84 in Indira Gandhi Government. It should be noted that during this period she was union Cabinet Minister.
- Later she had served as Union Minister for Housing and Urban Development from 1991 to 1995.
- **Governor:** She had served as Governor of Himachal Pradesh from 1995 to 1996.
- Apart from being a politician, she was also an educationist, social worker, social reformer and an independence activist in British India from Uttar Pradesh.



## Telangana government unveils New Industrial Policy

Telangana government has unveiled New Industrial Policy 2015 to boost industrial activity and employment opportunities in the state.

It was unveiled by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao in Hyderabad.



### Key facts about Telangana's New Industrial Policy

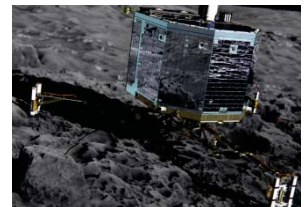
- Focuses to give quick, time-bound and transparent approvals for setting up projects in the state.
- Establishment of a single window clearance system and give clearances in 2 weeks for mega projects. Penal action against officials for delaying the process of applications.
- Prescribes norms for giving permissions to Mega project proposals with investments of Rs. 200 crore and above, large project proposals with investment of Rs 10 crore- Rs 200 crore and small and medium project proposals.
- Self-certification system has been framed for industrialists. It will be backed by the Telangana State Industrial Project Approval and Self Certification System (TS-iPASS).
- 14 identified core areas for a focused approach are Life Sciences, Information Technology, Aerospace, Pharma, textiles, minerals automobiles and transportation and logistics.
- Special incentives for entrepreneurs belonging to women and SC and STs.
- Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) will secure statutory clearances for the Industrial Parks.
- To develop Industrial Townships to make it easier to get to work.

## Philae comet lander wakes up from hibernation on Comet 67P

Philae comet lander has taken on the surface of Comet 67P (Churyumov-Gerasimenko) from seven-month hibernation.

It was announced by European Space Agency (ESA) after the comet lander managed to communicate with Earth for more than a minute.

In November 2014, Philae comet lander had created space history by becoming first to probe landed on a comet. The historic feat was achieved after it was dropped on to the surface of Comet 67P by its mothership Rosetta.



After successfully landing on the comet it had worked for 60 hours and had conducted experiments and transmitted that data to Earth before going into hibernation after its solar-powered battery ran flat.

Probe resumed its communication on 14 June 2015 by sending about 300 packages of data to Earth via its mother ship Rosetta which is still orbiting the comet.

### Timeline of Philae's journey



- **March 2004:** ESA's unmanned probe Rosetta was successfully launched from Kourou, French Guiana.
- **February 2007:** The probe carries out a close flyby of Mars.
- **September 2008:** Probe successfully passes close to an asteroid 2867 located 400 million km from Earth.
- **July 2010:** The probe transmits first pictures from the largest asteroid ever visited by a satellite Lutetia in between Mars and Jupiter.
- **August 2014:** It swings alongside comet 67P situated in between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.
- **November 2014:** Philae lander successfully lands on comet after it is released from Rosetta.

### **400 million people worldwide lack access to essential health services: WHO and WB report**

World Bank and World Health Organisation (WHO) in their latest report have reported that around 400-million people worldwide lack access to essential health services.

It was revealed in a report by the World Bank and WHO on tracking universal health care (UHC) coverage. It is the first report to measure health service coverage and financial protection and to assess countries' progress towards UHC.

#### **Key facts from report**

- It defines UHC in terms of measurable essential services and to be able to assess how governments and communities are performing.
- Apart from lack access to essential health services, the cost of health care is forcing many into poverty.
- More than 80 percent of world population has access to key health services.
- Universal health care should reach everyone regardless of socio-economic level.
- This UHC should be provided in family planning, TB treatment, antenatal care, HIV anti-retroviral therapy along with improved water sources and improved sanitary facilities.

## **June 15, 2015**

### **Supreme Court cancels 2015 All India Pre-Medical Test**

Supreme Court has cancelled the All India Pre-Medical Test (AIMPT) 2015 and directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to re-conduct the test within one month.

This verdict was given by a SC bench of Justice RK Agarwal and Justice Amitava Roy on a complaint filed by candidates. In the complaint students had alleged large-scale irregularities in AIMPT 2015, including leakage of answer keys.





Earlier on 8 June 2015, SC bench had extended the stay on the declaration of results which were to be declared on June 5. The examination was taken by over six lakh students. Large-scale irregularities had come to the light earlier including leakage of answer keys. The investigators also had informed the court that the answer keys of 123 questions were transmitted through 75 mobile phones in states like Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Bihar and Haryana.

### **Cairn India to merge with Vedanta Ltd**

Metal and mining giant Vedanta Ltd and its subsidiary oil explorer Cairn India have announced to merge.

The merger will create India's largest diversified natural resources company. It will also help Cairn spread its risk from volatile oil business to other metals and commodities.

Decision in this regard was taken by Independent directors of both the companies owned by billionaire Anil Agarwal.

The merger will be in an all share swap deal which will give the Vedanta Ltd access to Cairn India's 2.7 billion dollars (Rs 16,867 crore) cash pile. Vedanta will use this cash lying with Cairn to pay off part of its 77,752 crore rupees debt

For the merger each minority shareholders of Cairn India will receive one equity share of Vedanta. They will also receive one redeemable preference share of Rs 10 face value with 7.5% annual dividend.

Previously Vedanta was known as Sesa Sterlite Ltd. In 2013 it had consolidated its iron ore mining business by merging Sesa Goa Ltd with Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd.

### **Rohan Bopanna- Florin Mergea pair win Stuttgart Men's Double Open title 2015**

India's tennis player Rohan Bopanna along with his Romanian partner Florin Mergea has won the ATP's Stuttgart Open final doubles trophy in Germany.

The Indo-Romanian pair defeated Austrian-Brazilian pair of Alexander Peya and Bruno Soares by score of 5-7, 6-2 and 10-7 to lift the title. It is Bopanna's fourth title of 2015.



It should be noted that it was Bopanna- Mergea pair's second ATP World Tour team title in this season. Earlier they had won the Mutua Madrid Open crown in May 2015. They also had finished runners up at the Grand Prix Hassan II in Casablanca.

### **Rafael Nadal clinches Stuttgart grass-clay Men's single title**

Ace Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal has Stuttgart grass-clay Men's single title. In the final match he defeated Serbia's Viktor Troick in straight sets of 7-6, 6-3.

It was Rafael Nadal's third Stuttgart Men's single title. With this victory he also became first tennis player to win titles at the event on both clay and grass surface.

### **BSNL launches free pan India roaming scheme**





State owned telecommunications giant Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched free pan India roaming scheme.

This scheme will allow company's mobile customers across the country to receive incoming calls at no additional cost i.e. free of cost. It will benefit around 7.72 crore of its existing subscriber base as well as new subscribers.



BSNL has announced this scheme with the consent of Union Minister of Communications & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad who had earlier announced this scheme in order to achieve dream of 'One Nation One Number'.

BSNL is also planning to install 5,000 Base Transceiver Station (BTS) towers across the country in order to provide better services to its customers. Out of the 5,000 towers, 1,250 will be established in Bihar to improve the communications network in the state, especially in the interior areas.

### **Overall stockpile of nuclear weapon diminishes: Stockholm Peace Institute**

As per recently published Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2015, the number of nuclear weapons in the world decreased in 2015.

The overall stockpile of nuclear weapons has declined to 15,850 in early 2015 from 16,350 in early 2014.



#### **Key facts from SIPRI yearbook**

- Main countries possessing nuclear warheads are modernizing their arsenal.
- Reason behind the decrease in the number of nuclear warheads is because of reduction of them from two main nuclear powers United States and Russia.
- Currently Russia has 7,500 number of nuclear warheads compared to 8,000 in 2014. While, US had 7,260 nuclear warheads compared to 7,300 in 2014.
- Till date nine countries possesses approximately around 15, 850 nuclear weapons.
- They are United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.
- Of these all nuclear weapons around 1800 weapons are kept in a state of high operational alert.





### **FDI in services sector grows by 46% in 2014-15 fiscal**

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into the services sector grew by over 46 per cent to 3.25 billion dollars in 2014-15 fiscal. It was revealed by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

The FDI in this sector has increased after government had taken series of steps to improve ease of doing business and attracting domestic as well as foreign investments.

The services sector includes banking, outsourcing, insurance, Research & Development (R&D), courier and technology testing.

Earlier in 2013-14, FDI in this sector was worth 2.22 billion dollar. However, the total foreign inflow in 2014-15 in the services sector was low as compared to 2012-13 when it was 4.83 billion dollars.

Apart from services sector, overall foreign inflows in the country too have rose by 27 per cent to 30.93 billion dollars during 2014-15 fiscal. In 2013-14, the foreign inflow was 24.29 billion dollars. It should be noted that services contribute about 60% to India's GDP.

The other sectors where FDI inflows have recorded growth are telecommunications (\$2.89 billion), automobiles (\$2.57 billion) and computer software and hardware (\$2.20 billion).

Increase in foreign investments will help to improve country's balance of payments (BoP) situation and strengthen the rupee.



### **Snapdeal acquires mobility solutions company Letsgomo Labs**

Domestic e-commerce giant Snapdeal has acquired Gurgaon based mobility solutions company **Letsgomo Labs**.

With this acquisition Letsgomo team will become part of Snapdeal. It will help to strengthen Snapdeal position in the m-commerce domain by further strengthen it mobile technology capabilities.



It should be noted that 75% of the orders on Snapdeal already come via mobile-based transactions. This takeover comes in lines of Snapdeal's acquisitions of Martmobi and Freecharge to further strengthening its mobile platform.

Letsgomo Labs was founded by Manav Kamboj and Vikas Banga. Presently it has 76 members team that work across various mobile technologies including design strategy and consults in businesses right from building mobile strategies. It also helps in conceptualization of applications and mobile sites to implementation and hosting.

**June 16, 2015**

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**Indian Railways names Haridwar Mail as Yoga Express**

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Indian Railways has named *Haridwar Mail* as *Yoga Express* with an immediate effect.

In this regard the train No 19031/19032 Ahmedabad-Haridwar-Ahmedabad famously known as Haridwar Mail has been christened as Yoga Express.

This decision was taken by Indian Railways before celebration of first 'International Yoga Day' on 21st June which will be observed as global event. However, the train timings and its composition have not been changed. Yoga Express run between Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Haridwar (Uttarakhand) on daily basis covering 1208 km distance in 26 hours 05 mins.

The train has number 19031 from Ahmedabad to Haridwar and number 19032 in the reverse direction. Its average speed is below 55 km/hr. The train also has a stopover at Gandhinagar which was added in 2009 Railway Budget.



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**Union Government launches augmented reality application 'Sakaar'**

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Union Government has launched Augmented Reality technology based mobile application named 'Sakaar' to highlight the achievements of the Department of Space.

It was launched by Minister of State (MoS) in the Department of Atomic Energy Dr. Jitendra Singh in New Delhi.

Sakaar application and its multimedia content for Android devices is developed by Development and Educational Communication Unit (DECU) of ISRO.



The application consists of 3 Dimensional (3D) models of Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), RISAT, indigenous rockets such as PSLV, GSLV Mk-III etc. It also has videos of INSAT 3D-predicting cyclones, MOM launch and orbit insertion videos, 360 degree animated view of MOM, GSLV D5/Cryo and Anaglyph of Mars surface.

**What is Augmented Reality technology?**

Augmented Reality (AR) technology is computer-generated 3D models, animations, videos that augments (or supplements) the live direct view of a physical, real-world environment.

With the help of device's camera the real time augmentation and information is overlaying takes place which enhances user's current perception.

Essentially AR requires three basic elements for its functioning. They are AR application, AR Markers and Android OS enabled mobile with back camera.

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**India inks landmark MVA with Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal**

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Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) have inked a Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) for the regulation of passenger, personnel and cargo vehicular traffic for the economic benefit of the entire region.



On behalf of India, the agreement was signed by Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari in Thimpu, Bhutan.

**Key Facts about BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)**

- BBIN MVA agreement which is similar to the SAARC Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) aims to promote safe, environmentally sound and economical efficient road transport in the sub-region of BBIN.
- It also seeks to help each member country to create an institutional mechanism for regional integration.
- The agreement will be supplemented by building and upgrading roads, railways and waterways infrastructure in this region in order to ensure smooth cross-border flow of goods, services, technology, capital and people-to-people contact.
- It will benefit member nations for mutual cross border movement of passenger and goods for overall economic development of the region.
- For implementation of this agreement each signatory member will bear its own costs.

**Denmark's Mogens Lykketoft elected as President of UN General Assembly**

Mogens Lykketoft from Denmark was unanimously elected as President of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He was only the nominee put forward by the Western Europe and other group (WEOG).

Mogens Lykketoft succeeds Uganda's Sam Kutesa who was President of 69th session of UNGA. He will preside over the 193-member UNGA in its upcoming 70th session for one-year term.



Presently, Lykketoft is President (speaker) of Denmark's Parliament since 2011. Earlier he had served as Cabinet Minister in Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen led government and had held portfolios such as Finance Minister (1993 to 2000) and Foreign Minister (2000 to 2001).

**About UNGA President**

President of UNGA presides over the sessions of the General Assembly which starts every year in September.

The President is elected annually on rotational basis between the five geographic groups namely African, Asian, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean and Western European and other States

**Interesting fact:** *Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit* was first and only Indian to serve as President of UNGA in 1953. She was also the **first woman** President of UNGA.

**United Kingdom celebrates 800 years of Magna Carta**

United Kingdom (UK) celebrated 800 years of signing of Magna Carta on 15 June 2015.

The celebrations to observe signing of 8 century year old historic document which had laid foundation for modern democratic society was led by Queen Elizabeth II. UK Prime Minister David Cameron was also had joined the queen to mark the celebrations.



#### About Magna Carta

- Magna Carta is a Latin word which in English means *Great Charter*. It is most important document of England signed on 15 June 1215 at Runnymede alongside the River Thames in the English county of Surrey.
- It had originated as a peace and truce treaty between King John and a group of rebellious barons within his kingdom.
- The document had written promises between King John and his subjects mentioning that the king will govern England and deal with its people according to the customs of feudal law.
- Magna Carta had laid the first steps towards parliamentary democracy and the principle supremacy of law i.e. no one is above the law. It also laid the principle of balance of power between the governed and government.
- Its influence can be seen in other documents across the world including the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on US Constitution and Bill of Rights.
- In case of India, its influence also can be seen on Part III of constitution which contains fundamental rights, described as the magna carta of India which has been derived inspiration from Bill of Rights.

**June 17, 2015**

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#### Book on 20th century Dogri literature by Dr. Vijay Seth released

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A comprehensive book in Dogri language on the Dogri literature of 20th century entitled '*Beehmi Sadi Da Dogri Da Gadya Sahitya : Ik Jayzaa*' was released in Jammu and Kashmir.

The book has been written by a noted Dogri language scholar Dr. Vijay Seth.

The book based on extensive research work and incorporates five chapters chronologically covering the development of essays, literary sketches, travelogue, memoirs, biographic and autobiographical literature in Dogri.

In this book the author has elaborated basic elements of various forms of Dogri prose and also has incorporated critical analysis of each form of Dogri prose taken up in the book.

#### About Dogri language

- Dogri is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in India and Pakistan. In India, it is chiefly spoken in states like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and northern Punjab.
- It is one of 22 official languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of Constitution. It was inserted in this schedule by 92nd Constitutional amendment Act, 2003 along with Maithili, Santali and Bodo.
- Dogri speakers are called Dogras and the Dogri-speaking region is called Duggar.

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#### Charles Correa, face of contemporary architecture in India passes away

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डोगरी



India's greatest contemporary architect Charles Correa passed away in Mumbai following a brief illness. He was 84.

He had played a pivotal role in the creation of architecture for post-Independence India. He was known for his sensitivity to the needs of the urban poor and use of traditional methods and materials for construction.



#### About Charles Correa

- Charles Correa was born on 1 September 1930 in Secunderabad, Telangana.
- **His famous Works:** Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Museum at the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad (1958–1963), Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly in Bhopal (1967), National Crafts Museum, New Delhi (1975–1990), Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal (1982), Jawahar Kala Kendra (Jawahar Arts Centre), in Jaipur, Rajasthan (1986–1992), British Council, Delhi (1987–92), McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT, Boston (2000–2005), City Centre (Salt Lake City) in Kolkata, Champalimaud Centre for The Unknown in Lisbon, Portugal (2007–2010).
- He was Chief Architect for Navi Mumbai along with Shirish Patel and Pravina Mehta from 1970–75.
- He also had served as first Chairman of the **National Commission on Urbanization** and was appointed by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1985.
- He is founder of Mumbai's Urban Design Research Institute (established in 1984) dedicated to protect the environment and improve lives of urban communities.
- **Awards and Honours:** He had been awarded the *Padma Shri* (1972), *Padma Vibhushan* (2006) by Government of India. He was also awarded *Royal Gold Medal for Architecture* (1984) by the Royal Institute of British Architects, 7th Aga Khan Award for Architecture (1998), Praemium Imperiale of Japan.

#### Maharashtra Government gives nod to IT & ITES policy 2015

Maharashtra Government has given nod to new Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) policy.

Decision in this regard was taken by State Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Mumbai.

#### Key highlights of Maharashtra IT & ITES policy 2015

Aims at making state an IT, animation and gaming industry hub by attracting 50,000 crore rupees of investment and creating 1 million jobs in next five years i.e. by 2020.

Promotes a *walk-to-work* concept by proposing the construction of integrated IT townships along with residential apartments and social infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, multiplexes, malls and parks etc.

Offers 200% additional floor space index (FSI) over the base FSI for IT parks. This decision will help to reduce rents of commercial space in the IT parks.





Simplification in rules for payment of premium for getting additional FSI. In this case additional FSI is consumed in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Pune, the premium will be calculated at a flat 30% of ready reckoner rates. While in the rest of the state it will be charged at 10% of the ready reckoner rate.

Offers IT industry exemption from payment of stamp duty and electricity duty. It will offer electricity to the IT sector at the industrial tariff, which is lower than what the commercial sector pays.

Directs municipal corporations to charge property tax at the residential rate and not at commercial rates. Exempts IT industry from value added tax (VAT) and local taxes such as entry tax and octroi.

#### **Current status of IT industry in Maharashtra**

Presently, Maharashtra ranks second in the country for the exports of IT & ITES after Karnataka. Last two IT policies of state in 2003 and 2009 had played important role to attract investment of 3.24 trillion rupees and had created 465 private and 37 public IT parks along with 748,000 direct jobs.

#### **US bans Partially Hydrogenated Oils (PHOs)/ Trans fats by 2018**

United States (US) has announced to curb and eliminate majority of partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs) commonly called trans-fats from the country's food supply by 2018.

This decision of US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) comes after intensive lobbying by health advocates and scientists that artificial oils raise the risk of heart diseases by clogging arteries.

In this regard, US FDA has revoked the status of PHOs as a food additive from current status of safe food product. Henceforth food manufacturers in US will be no longer be able to use the PHOs in food without prior approval of FDA.



#### **Implication**

- The new policy will help to prevent at least 20,000 coronary heart attacks each year and 7,000 deaths from coronary heart disease in US.
- It will also serve as lessons for the regulation on trans-fat use in foods in developing countries such as India where heart related diseases are on rise.

#### **Background**

In United States the popularity of trans fats had soared in the 1940s. Since then it had emerged as a key ingredient in major food products as it was cheap to produce with a long shelf life.

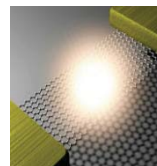
In 2006, the FDA had mandatorily insisted all food manufacturing firms to include trans fat content information on labels of each product. In November 2013, FDA had recognised trans fats as a threat to public health. WHO also consider trans fats as toxic for consumption at certain levels.



## Researchers create World's thinnest bulb from graphene

Researchers have created the world's thinnest light bulb using graphene as filament.

It was created by team of scientist led by Young Duck Kim comprising members from Columbia University School of Engineering, Seoul National University and Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science.



### Features of Bulb

- The bulb uses graphene, a perfectly crystalline form of carbon as a filament.
- The filament is attached to metal electrodes and suspended the strips above the substrate.
- After current is passed through filament it heats up to over 2,500° C and produces exceptionally bright light.

**Applications:** The new type of thinnest bulb can be used as broadband light emitter. It can also be integrated into chips which will pave the way towards the realisation of atomically flexible, thin and transparent displays. It will also help to boost graphene-based on-chip high speed optical communications.

## Sunil Chhetri becomes first Indian footballer to score 50 international goals

Sunil Chhetri has become the first Indian footballer to score 50 international goals. He achieved this feat in his 87th match i.e. during 2018 World Cup qualifying match between India and Guam.



However, India lost this match to Guam by 1-2 goals. It was India's second successive defeat in the preliminary joint qualification second round. Earlier India had lost the heir first match against Oman.

Top three Indian goal scorer footballers are

- **Sunil Chhetri:** He had scored 50 goals in 87 matches. At present, he is captain of Indian Football team.
- **Bhaichung Bhutia:** He had scored 42 goals in 107 matches. He is former captain of Indian Football team.
- **IM Vijayan:** He had 40 goals from 79 matches.

Sunil Chhetri was born 3 August 1984 in Secunderabad district of Telangana. Currently, he plays as a striker for Bengaluru FC in the I-League. He had started his professional career in 2002 with Mohun Bagan FC.



### **Japan's Cookpad acquires India's Cucumbertown**

Tokyo based online recipe network Cookpad has acquired Cucumbertown, a Bengaluru-based social network for cooks and chefs for an undisclosed amount.

After this acquisition Cucumbertown will remain independent subsidiary under Cookpad.

By acquiring Cucumbertown, Cookpad has entered into Indian market that represents a market and culture that is rich in culinary heritage. It will also enable acquired company to scale to international markets and monetize.

Earlier in 2014, Cookpad had acquired numerous startups from various countries including English language app Allthecooks, Dapur Masak in Malay, Mis Recetas site in Spanish and NetSila from Lebanon.

Cucumbertown was funded in October 2012 by Cherian Thomas and Arun Prabhakar. Since then it had grown from a simple recipe-sharing network to a food blogging platform. Presently, it has its reach to more than 160 countries and has millions of users. The company had raised capital from Silicon Valley, Helion and Ludlow ventures. The start up company has two offices in the Bay Area and Bengaluru city in Karnataka.



### **BSNL to set up 40,000 wi-fi hot spots India**

State owned telecommunications giant Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced to set up 40,000 Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) hot spots across the country.

This project will come in lines with new digital architecture which is part of Union Government's flagship Digital India Programme. The 40,000 wi-fi hot spots project will be entailed with an investment of about 6,000 crore rupees. The project is likely to be completed by 2018.

It was announced by Union Minister of Communications & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad after launching the Wi-Fi facility at Taj Mahal in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

BSNL has installed the Wi-Fi facility at the premises of Taj Mahal as part of the Union Government's plan to provide free internet services at major tourist places across country.

BSNL has introduced this Wi-fi facility with support of Quadgen, a Bengaluru-based company. The service will be freely available to everyone including tourist for half-an-hour. After half-an-hour the Wi-fi services will cost 30 rupees an hour.



### **Election Commission suspends recognition of PA Sangma-led National People's Party**

Election Commission of India (ECI) has suspended recognition of the PA Sangma-led National People's Party (NPP) which was a recognized state party in Meghalaya.





The recognition of NPP was suspended under para 16A of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 after the party failed to file the election expenditure statement incurred in 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

ECI decision in this regard comes in line with Supreme Court's judgement in the case of Common Cause Vs Union of India and others. In this judgement SC had made compulsion for all political parties to file their election expenditure statement within 75 days of assembly elections and 90 days of Lok Sabha elections.

In case of NPP, they failed to report their election expenses even after ECI had slapped two show cause notices in this regard. With this, NPP became first party to be suspended under Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968, for its failure to follow the lawful directions of the ECI.

**About National People's Party (NPP)**

- NPP was founded in January 2013 by P A Sangma, nine-time Member of Parliament from Meghalaya.
- Election symbol of party was Book.
- It is a national-level tribal-centric political party. It had most of its influence concentrated in the state of Meghalaya.
- At present NPP has one Lok Sabha member- PA Sangma from Tura constituency from Meghalaya. It also has 4 members in Rajasthan Legislative assembly and 2 in Meghalaya Legislative assembly.

**Union Government announces additional package of Rs. 2,437 crore for J & K**

Union Government has announced an additional package of 2,437 crore rupees for reconstruction and rehabilitation of flood-ravaged Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

It was announced by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi. The fund will be used for relief and rehabilitation work. Around 75,000 kacha and pakka houses will also be rebuilt under the grant which were damaged in 2014 floods.

**Background**

- In September 2014, continuous unprecedented heavy rainfall had caused Jhelum, Chenab and Tawi rivers and their tributaries to flow above the danger mark.
- They had flooded the catchment areas, particularly low lying ones for more than two weeks in the state which had severely affected livelihoods and had damaged the basic infrastructure in the state.
- After the floods Union Government had given 2,602 crore rupees to the state. It included 770 crore rupees from Prime Minister Relief Fund, 1,602 crore rupees was released under State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF).



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**Bangladesh Supreme Court upholds death sentence of Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid**

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Bangladesh Supreme Court's appellate bench upheld the death sentence of war criminal and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid.

Decision in this regard was taken by 4-member bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha. The court has found Mujahid guilty of systematically killing intellectuals in the end of the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh.

He is the third Jamaat leader to appeal in appealed in Bangladesh Supreme Court, but court ruled against them and upheld their death sentences. Two other Jamaat leaders are Quader Mollah and Kamaruzzaman. They were executed in 2013 and 2015 respectively.

**Background**

During the liberation war Mujahid was leader of the infamous Al-Badr, a militia group that was raised by Pakistan to crush the Bangladeshi independence struggle movement during the Liberation War. Earlier in 2013, International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) had sentenced him to death for his war crimes such as genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction.



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**June 18, 2015**

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**Kirk Kerkorian, billionaire Las Vegas mogul passes away**

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Kirk Kerkorian billionaire Las Vegas mogul and casino tycoon passed away after a brief illness. He was 98.

Kirk Kerkorian was born on 6 June 1917 as Kerkor Kerkorian in California, US to Armenian immigrants. Apart from being casino tycoon he was Hollywood tycoon and had diversified investments in airlines and auto industry.

Initially, he had worked as skilled aviator and had flown dangerous missions of delivering warplanes from Canada to Britain during World War II. Later, he had opened a charter flight business serving gamblers wanting to get from Los Angeles to Las Vegas more quickly than a 10-hour drive.

Kirk Kerkorian had founded MGM Resorts International and was its largest shareholder till his date. He had first made his fortune in the 1950s and 1960s in Las Vegas, the desert gambling capital and had built the world's biggest hotel in Las Vegas.

He also made fortune by investing in the automobile industry such as Chrysler in 1990s and General Motors and Ford in the 2000s.



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**President gives assent to Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015**

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President Pranab Mukherjee gave his assent to Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015. The ordinance amends Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. Earlier in June 2015, Union Cabinet had recommended promulgation of this ordinance to the President. The ordinance will help to tackle issues related to cheque bounce cases and allow filing of cheque bounce case at the place where the cheque was presented for clearance and not at the place of issue.

It will benefit around 18 lakh people facing cheque bounce cases across the country.

**Background**

Union government had taken ordinance route after Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2015 was not able to pass in Rajya Sabha in winter session of Parliament after it was passed by the Lok Sabha.

**Union Cabinet approves Solar Power capacity target to 1 lakh MW under JNNSM by 2022**

Union Cabinet approved increasing India's solar power capacity target under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) to 1 Lakh Mega Watt (MW) by 2022.

Decision to increase solar power capacity by five times from current capacity was taken by Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

1 Lakh Mega Watt (MW) target principally will comprise of 40,000 MW from Rooftop and 60,000 MW through Large and Medium Scale Grid Connected Solar Power Projects.



After meeting this ambitious target, India will become one of the largest Green Energy producers in the world by surpassing several developed countries.

Apart from this decision, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) also approved setting up of over 2,000 MW of Grid-Connected Solar Power Projects on BOOT (build, own, operate, transfer) basis. It will be set up by Solar Power Developers with Viability Gap Funding under JNNSM with total investments of 12,000 crore rupees.

These projects will help in generation of additional 2000 MW capacity of Grid-connected solar power projects and create employment of about 12,000 people in rural and urban areas. It will also help to reduce about 3.41 Million Tonnes (MT) of carbon emissions into the open environment every year.

**Asia Pacific region overtakes Europe as world's second richest region: BSG Report**

Asia Pacific region has overtaken Europe as the world's second richest region for the first time in terms of global wealth management.

It was revealed in recently released report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG), a global management consulting firm.

**Key highlights of report**



- Asia Pacific region (excluding Japan) has held around 47 trillion dollars in private wealth in 2014.
- The main reason for the growth in wealth in this region was due to increase in number of new millionaires in China and India.
- North America region has remained as the world's richest region with 51 trillion dollars.
- Asia Pacific region is going to surpass North America region in 2016 as world's richest region with forecasted wealth to reach \$57 trillion in 2016 compared to \$56 trillion of North America.
- It is also projected that Asia Pacific region will hold 34 per cent of global wealth in 2019.
- Forecasted average growth rate of private wealth is expected to be around 6 percent per year. It is going to reach \$222 trillion in 2019.
- In 2014 the private financial wealth globally has grown by nearly 12 percent to \$164 trillion.
- Nearly three-quarters i.e. 73 percent or \$13 trillion of private wealth growth was achieved through the growth of existing assets. While remainder 27 percent of wealth growth or \$5 trillion was generated by newly created wealth.

### **Japan passes law to lower voting age to 18 from 20 years**

Japan has passed a law lower the voting age to 18 years from its current 20 years.

The bill in this regard to revise the public office election law was passed by the upper house after being approved in the lower chamber.

With passing of this law, 2.4 million of its population from 18 and 19-year-olds age group will extend the franchise in future elections. This move also has brought Japan in line with other developed countries in terms of voting age.

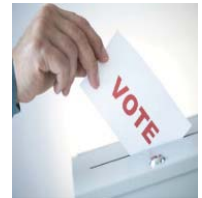
Last time, Japan had lowered the voting age from 25 to 20 years in 1945 after its surrender in World War II.

#### **Population structure of Japan**

At present, around a quarter i.e. 26 percent of Japan's 127-million population is aged 65 or over indicating population ageing with negative growth rate. Japan is in last i.e. third stage of demographic transition as a result of low birth rates and death deaths. The age structure of Japan is an inverted age pyramid representing large population of elders.

**Some facts:** Presently, 170 nations in the world have voting age of 18 years. In case of India, the voting age was lowered to 18 years by the Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988.

### **Critically endangered Sangai deer found in Manipur to be translocated**





Manipur State Forest Department has decided to translocate a section of critically endangered species of Brow Antlered (Sangai) deer with an aim to save it from extinction.

The deer is endemic to Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP) will be translocated to Pumlun Pat which is close existing habitat to Loktak.

Pumlun Pat was chosen for translocation as it is also a floating biomass (phumdi) and comprises of small hillocks which will provide natural habitat for this deer species.



#### **About Sangai deer**

Sangai Deer (*Rucervus eldii*) also called the Dancing Deer is the state animal of Manipur. Once it was found across the Manipur Valley in abundant now only its remaining natural habitat is found in Keibul Lamjao National Park.

It is listed as an critically endangered species by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Conservation efforts have helped in reviving the population of the deer to 204 in 2013 from less than 100 in 2008.

#### **About Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP)**

KLNP is a floating biomass in Manipur's Loktak Lake. It is only floating national park in the world. It is known around the world for its unique composition which is made up of biomass vegetation (locally called phumdis) that floats on the surface of the lake. The park which was initially declared as a Sanctuary in 1966 and later in 1977 it was declared as National Park through a gazette notification.

### **Union Cabinet gives nod to introduction of Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015**

Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved introduction of Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015 in coming session of Parliament.

The new bill seeks to replace the existing Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 1986 with an aim to bring in more products under the mandatory standard regime and end the inspector raj.

#### **Facts about Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015**

- Add provision for establishment of statutory Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.
- The Bureau will perform its functions through a Governing Council consisting of President and other members.
- **Standardization regime:** Besides articles and processes the goods, services and systems will be brought under the mandatory standardization regime in order to ensure quality products to consumers.
- **Mandatory certification regime:** Empower government to bring mandatory certification regime for articles, processes or services which it considers necessary.



- In this case certification will be from the point of view of safety, health, security, environment, prevention of deceptive practices, etc.
- It will help consumers to receive ISI certified products and help in prevention of import of sub-standard products.
- **Simplified conformity assessment schemes:** In order to allow ease of doing business, the bill allows multiple types of simplified assessment schemes.
- It includes Self Declaration of Conformity (SDOC) against any standard which will give multiple simplified options to manufacturers.
- **Mandatory hallmarking:** provisions related to compulsory hallmarking of precious metal articles.
- **Strengthening penal provisions:** It will help for better and effective compliance of law and enable compounding of offences for violations.

#### Implications

- Help to promote a culture of quality of products and services with a broad objective of consumer's welfare through mandatory and voluntary compliance with Indian standards.
- Improve enforcement of Indian standards through the process of product certification and Certificate of Conformity.
- Promote harmonious development of the activities of standardization including marking and quality certification of goods and services.
- It will widen the scope of conformity assessment and also enhances the penalties by making offences compoundable.

#### India ranked 143 out of 162 countries on 2015 Global Peace Index

As per recently released Global Peace Index (GPI) for year 2015, India was placed at **143th rank** out 162 countries.

The report was published by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). India's rank has remained same compared to previous year global rankings.



#### Key facts from Global Peace Index 2015

- **Top 10 peaceful countries:** Iceland (1st), Denmark (2nd), Austria (3rd), New Zealand (4th), Switzerland (5th), Finland (6th), Canada (7th), Japan (8th), Australia (9th) and Czech Republic (10th).
- **Top 10 least peaceful countries:** North Korea (153rd), Pakistan (154th), Congo (155), Sudan (156), Somalia (157), Central Africa (158th), South Sudan (159th), Afghanistan (160th), Iraq (161st) and Syria (162nd).
- **India's neighbours:** Bhutan (18th), Nepal (62nd), Bangladesh (84th), Sri Lanka (114th), Pakistan (154th).



- In 2014, the violent events had cost \$14.3 trillion from the global economy. It accounted for 13.4% of global GDP.
- About 50 million people i.e. 0.75% of the current world population are displaced.
- In 2014, deaths from terrorism were reported in 69 countries reported. It was up from 60 in 2013 highlighting the increasing use of terror tactics.
- In case of India, violence has cost it \$341.7 billion i.e. 4.7% of its GDP in 2014 which is the fourth highest cost in the world.

#### About Global Peace Index (GPI)

- It is an annual report published by the Sydney (Australia) based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) since 2007.
- GPI uses 22 indicators to measure levels of world peace. Indicators range from a nation's level of military expenditure to its relations with neighboring nations and the percentage of prison population in 162 countries. It also includes safety and security in society, extent of domestic and international conflict.
- The IEP is an international and independent think tank dedicated to draw the world's attention towards peace as a positive, achievable, and tangible measure of human well-being and development.

#### Punjab celebrates 350th years of foundation of Sri Anandpur Sahib

Punjab state is celebrating the 350th years of foundation of holy city Sri Anandpur Sahib.

The celebrations began after Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal dedicated the 81 feet high 'Khanda', installed at Sri Anandpur Sahib to the humanity. The installed Khanda symbolizes the glorious legacy and rich cultural heritage of this holy city of bliss on its 350th foundation day.



#### Facts about Sri Anandpur Sahib

- The holy city Sri Anandpur Sahib was founded in 1665 by the Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur, ninth Guru of Sikhs. Later in 1699, Khalsa Panth was created here by the Tenth Guru Sri Guru Gobind Singh.
- Anandpur Sahib is situated in a city in Rupnagar district (Ropar) of Punjab and located on the lower spurs of the Himalayas surrounded with the river Sutlej forming a border on the south west.
- It is commonly known as the holy City of Bliss which is one of the most important sacred places for Sikhs. It is closely linked with their religious traditions and history of Sikhism.



### CCEA gives nod for inclusion of Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh in National Dairy Plan-I

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval for inclusion of Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand under the National Dairy Plan- I (NDP-I).

Decision in this regard was taken CCEA meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Apart from this decision CCEA also extended the implementation period to achieve key outputs NDP-I upto 2018-19.

Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh were included in NDP-I because it has substantial milch animal population and primarily inhabited by tribal population.

While, Uttarakhand was included under NDP-I considering its potential for implementation of Fodder Development and Village Based Milk Procurement System, Ration Balancing Programme.

The implementation period of NDP-I was extended due late approval of NDP-I and the time taken in initiating the implementation of sub projects at End Implementing Agencies (EIAs) level.

#### About National Dairy Plan- I

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) had approved NDP-I in 14 milk potential through the EIAs. It was formulated with a total outlay of 2242 crore rupees for a period of 6 years from 2011-12 to 2016-17.

At present NDP I is being implemented in 15 States which account for more than 90 per cent of the country's total milk production and 98 per cent of the country's fodder resources. They also account for over 87 per cent of the breedable cattle and buffalo population.

15 states are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

### India ranks third in global doping report for year 2013 by WADA

India has been ranked third in Anti-Doping Rule Violations Report for year 2013 released by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

As per the report 91 athletes from Indian have been tested positive for banned substances in year 2013. Of these 91 Indians athletes, 20 were women athletes.

#### Key facts from report

- Russia was ranked first in this report with maximum number of doping athletes with 212 testing positive.
- Turkey was placed at second position with 155 positive doping athletes' cases.
- France came fourth in this list with 90 positive doping cases.
- Overall 1953 athletes across the globe had committed anti-doping rule violations.







- Out of 1953 athletes, 1687 were actually found guilty for using banned substances while 266 violated other rules.
- The comprehensive report had dealt with testing of 207,513 samples which were covered from 115 nationalities and 89 sports events.
- **Sports discipline wise doping cases:** Track and field athletes lead in this report with 280 global cases. In this case 30 Indian athletes were involved.
- Weightlifting is second sports event with 19 doping cases. Wrestling is third sporting event with 9 Anti-Doping Rule violation cases.
- Other sports are powerlifters (8), bodybuilding (8), judo (7), boxing (4), aquatics (2), cycling (2), kabaddi (2). Cricket, football, taekwondo and volleyball reported one case each.

## June 19, 2015

### Union Government launches NOWCAST and Insurance Web-Portals for Farmers

Union Government has launched NOWCAST weather alert system and Crop Insurance web portal for the benefit of farmers.

The new initiatives were launched by Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh at a function held in New Delhi.

NOWCAST weather alert system will provide free SMS service alerts on extreme weather conditions (ex-hailstorm) to over one crore registered farmers on their mobile phones.

The free SMS alerts will be sent in Hindi, English and regional languages as per farmers' request. It will be issued to farmers whose mobile phones are already registered on the government's mKisan portal.

The data for NOWCAST service will be taken from India Meteorological Department's (IMD's) 146 weather stations. Apart from these stations, 17 doppler radars of IMD will also provide information in this SMS service.

Under this initiative, the extreme weather data originated from IMD will be updated on mKisan portal using a web service. Later, from mKisan portal the warnings regarding extreme weather conditions will be automatically transmitted by SMS to farmers located at district and block level.

Insurance Web-Portal ([www.farmer.gov.in/insurance](http://www.farmer.gov.in/insurance)) will be used to create awareness and encourage farmers to insure their crops by taking advantage of existing three schemes.

They are Modified National Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Weather based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). Besides these schemes, Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) is also applicable in some parts of the country.

### ASCI launches ASCIonline mobile app to curb misleading advertisements





Advertising Standard Council of India (ASCI) has launched ASCIonline, a mobile application in a bid to address misleading advertisements.

The application will provide consumers/users platform to report complaint services for misleading advertisements on a mobile apart from ASCI's online complaint facility. It is India's first consumer complaint mobile app.

The mobile app is available free of cost on playstore (for android devices) and istore (for apple devices).



#### Key features of ASCIOnline app

- Consumer can file or report a complaint by simply providing advertisement details and objection.
- Complaints may also include media files such as image or video or YouTube link of that advertisement.
- The history of all previously registered complaints can be checked along with the latest status and other details.
- Status of the complaints can be simply tracked by providing the tracking code of the complaint.
- After change in status of complaint, consumers will receive automatic push notification.

#### About Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)

- ASCI is a self-regulatory voluntary non-governmental organization (NGO) of the advertising industry in India.
- **Aim-** To maintain and enhance the public's confidence in advertising.
- It was established in 1985 by three main constituents of advertising industry viz advertisers, advertising agencies and media.

#### Moon engulfed in permanent, lopsided dust cloud: Study

Recently published study in the journal Nature has revealed that Moon is engulfed in a permanent but lopsided dust cloud made up of tiny dust grains.

The study team was led by Professor Mihaly Horanyi of University of Colorado Boulder physics.



#### Key fact

- The dust cloud was discovered by using data from NASA's Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE).
- **Composition:** The cloud is primarily made up of tiny dust grains kicked up from the Moon's surface. These tiny dust grains were result of the impact of high-speed, interplanetary dust particles.



- **Formation:** Such a single dust particle from a comet striking the Moon's surface lofts thousands of smaller dust particles into moon's airless environment. This resulted in formation of lunar cloud which is maintained by regular impacts from such particles.
- With annual events like the Geminids meteor shower, the density of dust cloud increases.
- It should be noted that the dust on the Moon which is dark and sticky was created over several billion years ago. It was outcome of interplanetary dust particles incessantly pounded the rocky lunar surface.
- **Practical Applications of this Study:** Knowledge of the dusty environments in space especially knowing where the dust is and where it is headed in the solar system may help to mitigate hazards for future human exploration missions including dust particles damaging spacecraft or harming astronauts.

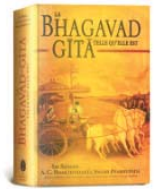
Note: LADEE was launched in September 2013. It had orbited the Moon for about six months. With the help of a detector on board LADEE a CU-Boulder was charted from more than 140,000 impacts during the six-month mission.

### First translated version of Hindu scripture Bhagavad Gita released in China

Translated Chinese version of Bhagavad Gita, a sacred ancient Indian scripture was released in China.

This is the first a well-known Hindu ancient religious text was published in China. The book was released by Indian Ambassador to China Ashok K Kantha during an international yoga conference.

It was translated in Chinese by Professor Wang Zhu Cheng and Ling Hai of Zhejiang University in Shanghai and was published by Sichuan People's Publications.



The foreword for the book was written by K Nagaraj Naidu who had served as the consulate general at the Indian Consulate in Guangzhou city of China.

Some of India's ancient are well-known in China. It includes ancient Buddhist scriptures which were introduced to them by celebrated Chinese traveler Huen Tsang after he had visited India in the 7th century.

Earlier in 2014, scholars from India and China published an Encyclopaedia on the age-old cultural contacts between both countries which had showcased their history to over 2000 years.



### HDFC Bank launches 10-second paperless instant loan Scheme

HDFC Bank, India's second-largest private sector lender has launched a 10-second paperless instant loan Scheme for its existing customers.

The 10-second loan Scheme was launched as part of HDFC Bank's digital banking platform *GoDigital*. With this, HDFC bank became first banking institution to completely automate the entire process of loan approval and disbursement.

Under this scheme, bank will now disburse personal loans to its customers in just 10 seconds and a pre-approved loan amount will be available to them 24x7.

The entire process of availing the loan under this scheme will be completely paperless. In this case, its customers by using net-banking or mobile banking avail of this loan.

Earlier, the bank had launched PayZapp application to cater to e-commerce space under its digital platform.

It should be noted that, in financial year 2014-15, 63 per cent of HDFC Bank's all transactions were conducted through various digital channels.

### World's First Electric Passenger aircraft BX1E manufactured in China

The world's first electric passenger aircraft named BX1E was manufactured in China.

The aircraft was designed by Shenyang Aerospace University and Liaoning General Aviation Academy located in the northeastern Liaoning Province of China.

#### Features of BX1E Electric Passenger aircraft

- BX1E aircraft has a 14.5-meter wingspan and a maximum payload of 230 kgs.
- It can fly at an altitude of 3,000 meters.
- The aircraft can charge within two hours.
- Fully charged aircraft can have flight time of 45 minutes to 1 hour with a maximum speed of 160 km per hour.

The first two BX1E aircrafts were delivered to Liaoning Ruixiang General Aviation Co. Ltd. These aircrafts will be used in tourism, pilot training, meteorology and rescue operations.





### Indian-origin MP Keith Vaz re-elected as chairman of UK Parliament committee

Britain's longest-serving Indian-origin MP Keith Vaz, has been re-elected as Chairman of Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) in House of Commons of UK Parliament.

He was re-elected as Chairman of HASC for third time by receiving 412 votes compared to 192 votes secured by his opponent Labour Party MP Fiona MacTaggart.

For the first time he was elected as Chairman of HASC in July 2007.



#### About Keith Vaz

- His full name is Nigel Keith Anthony Standish Vaz, but popularly known as Keith Vaz.
- Keith Vaz was born to Goan parents on 26 November 1956.
- He is a Labour Party politician and currently represents Leicester East constituency. He was elected as Member of Parliament for first time in 1987.
- He also had served as the Minister for Europe, Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 1999 to 2001 in Tony Blair led government.
- Prior to joining political career, Keith Vaz was practicing as a solicitor.

### ISRO's GAGAN to provide navigational support to Indian Railways

ISRO has announced to provide navigational support to Indian Railways through GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) system.

The navigational support along with space technology-based tools will be provided to Indian Railways for unmanned level crossings safety.

By using GAGAN software system, a train will get to know the location of any unmanned level crossing by a warning signal. Once this warning signal is given, the train's hooter will automatically start when it comes near an unmanned crossing.



#### About GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN)

- GAGAN was jointly developed by the ISRO and Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the advancement of air navigation.
- It is an indigenous navigational guide system developed on the lines of GPS system of the US.
- Presently, GAGAN signal is broadcasted through two Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellites-GSAT8 and GSAT10.
- The system was launched in 2011 as a payload with GSAT-8. With this launch India had joined the club elite nations comprising of US, Europe and Japan who have the same level of space-based augmentation for navigational purpose.



### MS Dhoni, Mustafizur Rahman fined for breaching ICC Code of Conduct

India Cricket team captain of One Day International (ODI) Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman were fined for breaching the International Cricket Council (ICC) Code of Conduct.

They were fined after being found guilty of breaching Code of Conduct during the first of ODI match between both nations played at Mirpur, Bangladesh.

Dhoni was fined 75 per cent of his match fees and Mustafizur was fined 50 per cent of his match fees.

The breach incident had happened during India's run chase when Mustafizur came in Dhoni's way while he was running for a single. Mustafizur had earlier repeated the offence when Rohit Sharma was batting.



### C.N.R. Rao conferred with Japan's highest civilian award 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star'

Eminent scientist and Bharat Ratna awardee **C.N.R. Rao** was conferred with Japan's highest civilian award the *Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star*.

He was presented with the award by Japanese Ambassador to India, Takeshi Yagi for his outstanding contributions to science and Indo-Japanese science cooperation.



#### About C.N.R. Rao (Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao)

- N.R Rao is eminent scientist and world's foremost solid state and materials chemists. He has worked mainly in solid-state and structural chemistry.
- He was first Indian scientist to reach the h-index of 100.
- He has authored of around 1600 research papers. He also has authored and edited 45 books.
- He is also an elected member of almost all scientific academies across the globe and had served as Chair of the Scientific Advisory Council to Prime Ministers of India.
- He is also the Honorary President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advance Scientific Research, Bengaluru and a former Chair of the Japan-India Science Council.
- **Awards:** In 2014, he was awarded with India's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna along with cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar.
- He has been bestowed with about 70 honorary doctorates and also has received the highest civilian award from several nations.

**Note:** h-index also called the Hirsch index or Hirsch number is a tool that measures the productivity and impact of the published work of a scientist or scholar.

**June 20, 2015**

### Jharkhand Government bans sale of thermocol plates



Jharkhand Government has imposed a ban on the sale of thermocol plates in the state. It was announced by Chief Minister Raghuvar Das.

By banning thermocol plates, the state government aims at

- Promoting of leaf plates in the state
- Generate employment for the poor and tribals who are engaged in making leaf plates.

Apart from this decision, Chief Minister also announced Rs 1 lakh to villages in states which become liquor-free.



### India, Tanzania ink agreements for cooperation in various fields

India and Tanzania have inked various agreements including for cooperation in the field of statistics, hydrography, agricultural science and tourism.

These agreements were signed in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counter Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete in New Delhi.



Apart from signing these agreements both nations also agreed to set up a joint working group on counter-terrorism and increase gas exploration cooperation in the east African nation.

It should be noted that President of Tanzania is on a five-day tour to India from 17 June to 21 June 2015. He is the first head of state from Africa to visit India after the PM Narendra Modi led Government came to power in 2014.

#### Signed agreements are

- **MoU on establishing a collaborative program in official statistics:** It was signed for capacity building of EASTC Staff and other African Countries in Official Statistics.
- Signatory parties are Tanzania's East Africa Statistical Training Center (EASTC) and India's National Statistical System Training Academy (NSSTA).
- **MoU on cooperation in Agricultural Statistics, Computer Applications and Bio-informatics:** for capacity building in Staff of Tanzania's EASTC and other African Countries in Agricultural Statistics, Computer Applications and Bio-informatics.
- Signatory parties are EASTC and Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- **MoU on Cooperation in the field of Tourism:** Enhance bilateral cooperation in Tourism and hospitality sectors.
- **Loan agreement to operationalise the LoC:** Loan agreement on LOC for US 268.35 million dollars for extension of Lake Victoria pipeline project.
- Signatory parties are Exim Bank and Government of Tanzania (GoT).
- **MOU for Cooperation in the field of Hydrography along with Protocol on exchange of Hydrographic Data:** Promote development and cooperation in the field



of Hydrography through conducting surveys, capacity building, exchange of data and infrastructure strengthening.

- **Agreement for appointing the former as PMC:** The agreement will pave way for preparing Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Lake Victoria pipeline project.
- Signatory parties are Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS), PSU under the Ministry of Water Resources of Union Government and Government of Tanzania.

### Historian-writer Ramachandra Guha selected for Japan's Fukuoka Prize

Eminent Historian-writer Ramachandra Guha has been selected for Japan's Fukuoka Prize 2015 in the Academic category.

Apart from him Thant Myint-U (Grand Prize category) and Minh Hanh (Arts and Culture category) were also chosen for this edition of award. They have been selected for their outstanding contributions to academia, arts and culture across Asia.

The awards will be presented to them on September 17, 2015 at the Fukuoka International Congress Centre. During this award ceremony Mr Guha will give a lecture on "Gandhi, India and the World".



#### About Ramchandra Guha

- He is historian and writer. His research interests include social, political, environmental and cricket history.
- He also write as a columnist in various newspapers including The Telegraph and Hindustan Times and also pens for the magazines The Caravan and Outlook.
- **His famous bibliography:** Gandhi Before India (2013), Patriots and Partisans (2012), Makers of Modern India (2010), India after Gandhi: The history of the world's largest democracy (2007) etc.
- **Awards:** Padma Bhushan (2009), Sahitya Akademi award (2011) for *India After Gandhi*.
- For year 2011–12, he had served as the Philippe Roman Chair of International Affairs and History at the London School of Economics.

#### About Fukuoka Prize

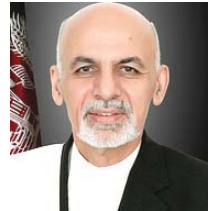
- **Established:** in 1990 by the Japanese city of Fukuoka and the Yokatopia Foundation.
- It is an annual prize that honours the outstanding work of individuals or organizations in preserving or creating Asian culture.
- Prize has three categories: Grand Prize, Academic Prize, and Arts and Culture Prize.
- The award ceremony is held in every year in September (which is also known as Asian Month in Fukuoka) along with the public forums by the prize winners.
- Winners of 2014 are Mohammad Yunus, Romila Thapar, Ashis Nandy and Mo Yan.





### **Afghanistan President issues decree to extend mandate of present Parliament**

Afghanistan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has issued a decree to extend the mandate of present Parliament which expires on 22 June 2015. President Ghani had taken this decision in consultation with the judiciary, the legislative and the executive.



With the issuing of decree, current Afghan Parliament now can continue to function until voting take place for the parliamentary elections. The date for elections to elect new Parliament will be announced later in end of June 2015.

The parliamentary elections of Afghanistan were scheduled in April 2015. However due to security reasons and disagreement on how to conduct a free and fair voting it was delayed. It should be also noted that during 2014 presidential elections, both Ashraf Ghani and his rival Abdullah Abdullah had claimed victory in the election which marred by accusations of widespread fraud on both sides.

Later, after the intervention of United States both of them agreed to form a unity government. After this deal Ashraf Ghani was chosen as President and Abdullah as Chief Executive.

### **Galaxy named as CR7 after footballer Cristiano Ronaldo**

Astronomers have named a newly discovered galaxy as CR7 (COSMOS Redshift 7) after Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ronaldo is famously known as CR7 after his initials and his jersey number. He had won Fifa's Ballon d'Or award consecutively for two years in 2013 and 2014 and has scored a staggering 66 goals this season.



#### **Facts about CR7 galaxy**

- CR7 discovered by a team of astronomers led by Dr. David Sobral from the University of Lisbon in Portugal and Leiden Observatory in the Netherlands.
- It was discovered by using European Southern Observatory's (ESO's) Very Large Telescope (VLT).
- CR7 is three times brighter compared to Himiko galaxy which was earlier thought to be as brightest distant galaxy known to mankind.
- It is part of the early universe which contains the first generation of stars i.e. known as Population III stars.
- CR7 belongs to the age of the ancient Universe which existed 800 million years after the Big Bang. This period is known as reionization period.

**Population III stars:** They are first generation of stars which are born out of the primordial material of the Big Bang. It is believed that Population III stars are several hundred or even a thousand times more massive than our Sun and it is more blazing hot, transient, exploding as supernovae after only about 2 million years ago.



June 21, 22, 2015

### Haryana Government launches Village Mentoring Project to uplift villagers

Haryana Government has launched a Village Mentoring Project (VMP) in a bid to improve healthcare and education of the villagers with a special emphasis on girl child.

The project was launched in Rajjipur village of Panchkula district of state in collaboration with Indian School of Business (ISB).

VMP is the first of its kind initiative in Haryana under which villages in the state would be mentored by leading educational institutions, corporate houses and other organizations. It will be launched in a phased manner in 5 villages each of the 22 districts in the state.

In case of Rajjipur village of Panchkula district, faculty and students of ISB will visit the village. They will present a street play on the theme of Continuing girl education, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition and also conduct a counseling session, health camps engaging with the school kids and village residents.



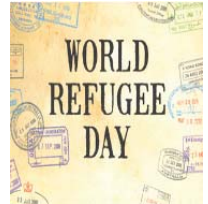
### June 20: World Refugee Day

Every year June 20 is observed as World Refugee Day to raise awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world. The theme for year 2015 is With courage let us all combine.

#### Background of World Refugee Day

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had passed a resolution to observe 20 June as World Refugee Day on 4 December 2000.

It was passed to mark 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the **Status of Refugees**. Since then it is observed annually with different themes.



Prior to passing of this resolution in 2000, African Refugee Day was formally celebrated on 20 June in several countries especially by Organization of African Unity (OAU) member states.

On this day, United Nations Refugee Agency (UNRA) hosts various events and announces a theme for its campaign.

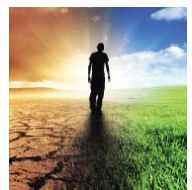
With this UNRA seeks to draw the public's attention to the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide who have fled their homes forcefully due to war, conflict and persecution.

### Humans driving Earth to sixth mass extinction: Study

As per recently published study in the journal Science Advances, humans are driving Earth to sixth mass extinction.

The study was led by team of experts from Stanford University, Princeton University and the University of California, Berkeley of United states.

#### Key facts





- The analysis of study was based on documented extinctions of vertebrate species such as frogs, tigers, reptiles and from fossil records and other historical data.
- Researchers had compared the modern rate of species loss to the natural rates of species disappearance before human activity was dominated.
- As per natural rate of extinction, two species go extinct per 10,000 species in 100 years.
- However, modern rates of extinction are 8 to 100 times higher. For example, 477 vertebrates have gone extinct since 1900, rather than 9 that would be expected at natural rates.
- The average rate of vertebrate species loss in past 100 years is up to 114 times higher than it would have been without human activity.
- Main causes for species loss include climate change, pollution, deforestation, habitat loss, over-exploitation for economic gain etc.
- As per International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) around 41 percent of all amphibian species and 26 percent of mammals are threatened with extinction.

The study calls for rapid and greatly intensified efforts to conserve already threatened species. It also calls to alleviate pressures on species populations due to over-exploitation for economic gain, habitat loss and climate change.

### **First International Yoga Day observed globally**

The first International Yoga Day (IYD) was celebrated across the world on 21 June 2015.

This edition of IYD was led by India and was marked by 192 countries across the globe. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led thousands of participants of all ages at Rajpath yoga event.

The celebrations were also held at the United Nations headquarter in New York which was led by External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj.

Numerous mass events were held in various cities across the world including New York, London, Tokyo and Sydney.



### **Background**

- The idea of celebrating the International Yoga Day was pitched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2014.
- In December 2014, UNGA had unanimously adopted India-led resolution to observe 21st June as 'International Day of Yoga'. This resolution was adopted under the agenda of 'Global Health and Foreign Policy'.
- 21st June was selected because it represents one of the two solstices and it is the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere which has special significance in many parts of the world.



### **Commemorations of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo held in Belgium**

A commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo was held in Belgium.

To mark this occasion several events were in Belgium and United Kingdom to remember the battle which led to defeat of French in June 1815.

The Battle of Waterloo was a pivotal moment in modern History of Europe.

In this battle around ninety thousand French troops led by Napoleon Bonaparte were defeated which had ended their quest of conquering major parts this region.

The battle was fought on 18 June 1815 (Sunday) near Waterloo i.e. in present-day Belgium, then part of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands. French army was defeated by the armies of the **Seventh Coalition**, comprising Anglo-allied army and Prussian arm led by the Duke of Wellington and Field Marshal Blücher. After the defeat in this war, Napoleon was exiled to the island of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean, where he died in 1821.

The battle had played important role in redrawing the map of Europe and maintaining the peace in this continent for almost a century until the World War I (started in 1914) tore it apart again.



### **Nico Rosberg of Mercedes wins Austrian Grand Prix of F1**

Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg from Germany has won the Austrian Grand Prix Formula One (F1) World Championship title.

It is Rosberg's eleventh overall championship title and the third win in the 2015 season. First was the Spanish Formula 1 World Championship title won on May 10, 2015 and second was Monaco Grand Prix on May 24, 2015.

Nico Rosberg had also won the Austrian Grand Prix of 2014 season which was maiden win for Mercedes on this track.



#### **Result of Austrian Grand Prix**

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) from United Kingdom was placed at the second position.
- Felipe Massa (Williams) from Brazil was placed at the third position.
- Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) from Germany stood at the fourth position.
- While, Force India's drivers Nico Hulkenberg from Germany and Sergio Perez from Mexico were placed at the sixth and ninth positions respectively.



### Vocalist Sanjay Subrahmanyam selected for 'Sangita Kalanidhi' award 2015

One of the foremost south Indian classical vocalists, Sanjay Subrahmanyam has been selected for the 'Sangita Kalanidhi' award 2015.

It will be bestowed upon him when he will preside over the 89th annual conference of the Academy which will be held between December 15, 2015 and January 1, 2016.

With this, he is seventh artistes to be conferred with the award before completing 50 years of age. Others are Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer, Musiri Subramania Iyer, G.N. Balasubramaniam, Semmangudi R. Srinivasa Iyer, M.L. Vasanthakumari and M. Balamuralikrishna



#### About Sanjay Subrahmanyam

- He had started performing Carnatic music from 1987.
- By profession he is Chartered Accountant but in 2000 became full-time musician.
- **Awards:** Gaana Padhmam (2013), Vani Kala Sudhakara (2010) and the title Kalaimamani by Tamil Nadu Government (2006) etc.

#### About Sangita Kalanidhi award/title

- It is a prestigious award bestowed annually upon an expert of Carnatic Music by the Madras Music Academy.
- The award's name has been derived from Sanskrit which means treasure of Music and art in English.
- This honour is considered one of the highest awards in Carnatic music.

### India sets two Guinness world records on International Yoga Day

India has set two Guinness world records (GWR) in Rajpath yoga event held on the eve of first International Yoga Day led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Two records are

- **Largest number of participants-** 35,985 people had participated in largest yoga demonstration at a single venue i.e. Rajpath yoga event.
- **Most number of nationalities at a single event-** People of 84 nationalities performed yoga at one place.



The awards were received by Union AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik from representatives of Guinness World Records.

In this event all participants of all ages had performed various yoga exercises on the entire two-km stretch from Rafi Marg crossing near Vijay Chowk to India Gate.

This mass yoga event has broken previous world record on mass yoga exercise which was set by 29,973 students from 362 schools on November 19, 2005 led by Vivekananda Kendra at



Jiwaji University Gwalior. They had performed a sequence of yogic kriyas for surya namaskar simultaneously for 18 minutes.

It should be noted that this record won't appear on the GWR book till September 2016 as the deadline for this year's book has passed.

### **Taliban capture Dasht-e-Archi district of Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan**

Taliban militants have captured Dasht-e-Archi district of Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan after heavy fighting with local security forces.

It is the second district captured by Taliban in the northern Kunduz province which borders Tajikistan. Earlier on 20th June 2015 the militants had captured Chardara district of this province.

It should be noted the internal conditions in Afghanistan have worsened in the past few months as Afghan forces have struggled to fend off Taliban advances since US and NATO combat mission officially concluded their missions in December 2014.

### **Roger Federer wins eighth Halle Open ATP title of Tennis in Germany**

World number two Roger Federer has won the Halle Open ATP title in Germany. In the final match he defeated Andreas Seppi of Italy by 7-6, 6-4 score.

It was Federer's eighth Halle Open ATP title after he had won in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2013 and 2014.

It was also his fourth title of the season 2015 after Brisbane, Dubai and Istanbul and overall 86th title of his career. It was also his 15th career title on grass.



In the Men's Doubles Halle Open ATP title, Raven Klaasen (South Africa) and Rajeev Ram (US) pair defeated Rohan Bopanna (India) and Florin Mergea (Romania) pair by 6-7, 2-6 score.

### **Queens Club Champion title**

Andy Murray (Britain) won the Queens Club title for fourth time in his career. In the final match played at London he defeated South Africa's Kevin Anderson by 6-3, 6-4 score.

With this win, he became third tennis legends to win Queen's Club champion for fourth-time after John McEnroe and Boris Becker.

It should be noted that Halle Open along with Queens are two primary warm-up tournaments for the Wimbledon Grand Slam tournament played on grass courts.

### **Former Indian women hockey captain Shashi Bala passes away**

Former Indian women hockey team captain Shashi Bala passed away on 21 June 2015. She was 45.

Shashi was killed in a car accident along with her son in Kahma village of Punjab.

She was a former hockey player and had made international debut in 1987. She had captained Indian hockey team for women in Women Hockey World Cup Qualifier held in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1997.



She was also team member of the Indian hockey team for women in 1998 World Cup played at Netherlands.

After her retirement, she had coached India Railways hockey team and was Selector of Hockey Punjab. Presently, she was posted as hockey coach for Rail Coach Facotry (RCF), Kapurthala.

### **China opens Nathu La border post as 2nd route for Kailash-Mansarovar yatra**

China has opened 2nd land border crossing in Tibet via Nathu La, Sikkim to allow the Indian pilgrims for Kailash-Mansarovar yatra.

The new route is in addition and alternative to the existing Lipulekh Pass route located in Uttarakhand which was only route earlier. This route was damaged in the devastating Uttarakhand floods in 2013.

The border crossing at Nathu La is located 4,000 metres above sea level. This route will facilitate comfortable travel for Indian pilgrims by buses compared to previous route.

By this route, pilgrims will be travel by bus to Shigatse in the Tibet Autonomous Region, around 1500 kms away from Nathula to reach their ultimate destination the Kailash-Mansarovar.

It should be noted that the opening of this route was officially announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China in May 2015.



### **India, South Africa renew science and technology cooperation pact**

India and South Africa have renewed an agreement to extend cooperation in the various fields of science and technology such as astronomy, social innovation, biotechnology, agriculture and indigenous knowledge systems.

It was renewed by signing Fourth Programme of Cooperation during the 10th Joint Committee meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation between both nations held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Now the signed agreement will extend for the next three years i.e. till 2018. It should be noted that in 1995 both nations had signed a bilateral agreement in the field of science and technology.

During these 20 years of successful science and technology cooperation both nations had undertaken 74 joint research projects in various areas and played important role in important strategic role in South-South cooperation.

They successful science and technology cooperation was undertaken in areas such as information science, biotechnology, astronomy, technologies for rural applications, food science, nanotechnology, indigenous knowledge systems and renewable energy.







**June 23, 2015**

### **Typhoon Kujira hits south China's Hainan Province**

Typhoon Kujira has made landfall in south China's Hainan island province. It is the eighth typhoon of 2015 in this South-east Asian region.

After Typhoon Kujira struck the mainland region, it had brought heavy rain with packing winds of up to 90 kilometers per hour. However, after its landfall in Hainan the typhoon (tropical cyclone) had weakened into a tropical storm.

Prior to landfall of typhoon more than 40,000 people and over 20,000 fishing boats were called back to harbor. Apart from it around 63 flights have been canceled at the Meilan International Airport in the provincial capital of Haikou and 99 flights were cancelled at Sanya Phoenix International Airport.



### **Sri Lanka, China begin joint military training exercise 'Silk Route- 2015'**

Joint military training exercise code named 'Silk Route- 2015' between China and Sri Lanka has begun at Buttala in Central Sri Lanka.

It is three-week long joint military training exercise will be conducted in three phases. Phase 1 will be held June 22-28, 2015; Phase 2 will be held from June 28-July 5, 2015 and Phase 3 will be held from July 5 – July 13, 2015.

In the first phase of the 2nd joint exercise involves Sri Lankan Army and People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China have participated.

This training will focus on weapon handling, live firing, VIP protection study and other warfare and battle skills related fields.

It will also cover other exercises such as backup vehicle movement and training, ambush drills, special mission planning, combat tracking techniques, jungle warfare and basic battle skills, aircraft and building option training, vehicle ambush drills etc.

The first stage of the 'Silk Route – 2015' exercise was conducted in China earlier between March 29 and April 17, 2015 following successful negotiations between armies of both nations.







### **NUSI gets Best Welfare Organisation 2015 award**

India's oldest and largest shipping trade union, National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) has been honoured with the 'Best Welfare Organisation of the Year – 2015' award.

The award was presented to Abdulgani Y Serang , NUSI general secretary by Koji Sekimizu, Secretary General of International Maritime Organisation at a function held in London.

The award is promoted by the United Kingdom based International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN).

The award recognise excellence of organisation in the provision of welfare services and facilities for seafarers. This award is part of ISWAN's on-going work to promote implementation of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO's) Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006.

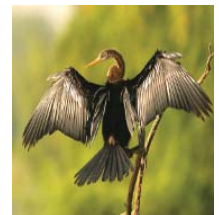
NUSI was founded in 1932 by Khansaheb Mohamed Ebrahim Serang. It was established for the right of employment, increase in wages and improvement of working conditions of seafarers. Presently, NUSI has around 80,000 seafarers as members working aboard Indian as well as foreign cargo ships.



### **Kerala Government declares June 22 as 'Snake Bird Day'**

Kerala Government has declared June 22 as 'Snake Bird Day' in a bid to protect the endangered species which is also known as Indian darter.

The formal announcement was made by State minister for forest Thiruvanchur Radhakrishnan at a function organised by Snake Bird Foundation in Thiruvananthapuram.



#### **About Snake Bird**

- It is water bird which is also known as Indian darter (Anhinga melanogaster).
- It has slender long-neck which is mostly black in colour with silver wing markings.
- **Conservation Status:** As per IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Snake Bird is classified as Near Threatened species.
- **Threat:** Its population is moderately declining owing anthropogenic reasons like pollution, drainage, hunting and the collection of eggs and nestlings.
- **Found in:** Tropical South Asia and Southeast Asia. It inhabits in shallow inland wetlands including rivers, lakes, swamps and reservoirs.
- In case of India there are over 1500 snake birds in which majority are found in Kerala.
- These species usually nests atop tall trees near wetlands. They are largely found in Kottayam, Alappuzha, Wayanad Idukki and Thiruvananthapuram districts of Kerala.



June 23, 2015

### Sister Nirmala Joshi, successor of Mother Teresa passes away

Sister Nirmala Joshi, former Superior General of Missionaries of Charity passed away in Kolkata after brief illness. She was 81.

She had taken over as Superior General in March 1997 after the death of Mother Teresa.

#### About Sister Nirmala Joshi

- Sister Nirmala Joshi was born in 1934 in Ranchi, erstwhile Bihar and Orissa province of British Indian Empire (now the capital of Jharkhand) in Hindu family.
- She had joined the Missionaries of Charity in 1976 after she had dedicated herself to the service of the poor after getting inspired by the work of Mother Teresa.
- Sister Nirmala was elected as Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity six months before Mother Teresa's death (September 5, 1997).
- She had played important role expanding the organisation's reach by opening centres in 134 countries including in Afghanistan, Israel and Thailand.
- Her term as Superior General of Missionaries of Charity had ended on 25 March 2009. She was succeeded by German-born Sister Mary Prema Pierick, M.C.
- **Awards:** She was bestowed with the *Padma Vibhushan*, India's second highest civilian award in 2009 for her services to the nation.



### Maharashtra declares Blue Mormon as 'State butterfly'

Maharashtra has officially declared **Blue Mormon** species as State butterfly as part of state symbols.

Decision in this regard was taken in State Wildlife Board meeting presided by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Mumbai.

With this, Maharashtra became the first State in the country to have a State butterfly.

#### About Blue Mormon

- Blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*) is the second largest butterfly species in terms of size, after the southern birdwing (*Troides minos*).
- **Description:** Blue Mormon has black, velvet wings with bright blue spots. The lower ends of its wings are black. Its body has some red spots on one side.
- **Distribution:** It is only found in (endemic to) Sri Lanka, Western Ghats of Maharashtra, South India and coastal belts of the country.
- In case of Maharashtra, it can be occasionally spotted in its mainland parts of Vidarbha and Western Maharashtra.



It should be noted that Maharashtra is home to nearly 225 varieties of butterflies and home to about 15 per cent of their population in the country.



Other state symbols of Maharashtra are

- **State Animal:** Indian giant squirrel (in Marathi- Shekru; शेकरू).
- **State Bird:** Yellow-footed green pigeon (in Marathi- Hariyal).
- **State Flower:** Lagerstroemia (in Marathi- Jarul).
- **State Tree:** Mango.

### James Horner, Oscar-winning Titanic composer passes away

James Horner, the two-time Oscar-winning composer died in plane crash in California, United States. He was 61.

In 1997, Horner had won two Oscars (Academy Awards) for best original score and along with original song win for Celine Dion sung *My Heart Will Go On* in one of the biggest Hollywood hits movie Titanic directed by James Cameron.



#### About James Horner

- James Horner was born on 14 August 1953 in Los Angeles, United States.
- He was an accomplished concert hall composer and later had moved into writing film scores.
- His debut film score was for film *The Lady in Red* (1979). Till date he has 95 soundtrack and 158 composes to his credits which includes music of over 100 films.
- His first major movie score in *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* (1982) film and had uncredited acting appearance in same film.
- He also had composed for the *Avatar* (£4.2 billion) and *Titanic* (£3.2 billion) both are highest-grossing films of all time.
- **Awards:** 2 Oscars won for *Titanic* and was nominated for 8 other. He also had won 2 Golden Globe Awards, 3 Satellite Awards, 3 Saturn Awards and was nominated for 3 British Academy Film Awards.

### Maharashtra tops in Patent filing in India: CGPDTM Report

Maharashtra has topped in Patent filing in India during year 2013-14. While, the Bengaluru was the top city in IPR filing in the country.

It was revealed in recently published annual report of the office of the Controller-General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM).

#### Top five states are:

- Maharashtra (2892 patents).
- Karnataka (1639 patents). The state has shown 40 per cent rise in IPR filings in a year.
- Tamil Nadu (1436 patents).
- Delhi (1009 patents).
- Andhra Pradesh (879 patents).





In Bengaluru, various tech companies and institutes had applied for IPR filing making it top city in this domain.

**Top companies in Bengaluru are:** Samsung R&D Institute (84 patents), Infosys (83 patents), Wipro Ltd (59 patents) and Samsung India Software Operations Pvt. Ltd (66 patents).

**Top Institutes in Bengaluru are:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc) (32 patents), Siddaganga Institute of Technology (24 patents), Tumakuru and Indian Space Research Organisation (12 patents).

**About Controller-General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM)**

- Office of the CGPDTM is a subordinate office under the under the aegis of Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It administers the Indian law of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks.
- It operates in five key administrative sections. They are Patents, Designs, Trademarks, Geographical indications, Patent Information System.

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## **June 24, 2015**

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### **India emerges as third largest FDI source for United Kingdom**

India has emerged as the third largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) source for United Kingdom (UK) in 2014-15.

It was revealed in recently released report Inward Investment Report 2014-15 of UK Trade and Industry (UKTI). This FDI source was based in terms of number of projects i.e. source of inward investment.

US has remained the largest source of inward investment for UK with a total of 564 projects in 2014-15 and was followed by France (124 projects) and India (122 projects).

During the year 2014-15, the FDI from India increased by 65 per cent and has resulted in creation of 7,730 jobs as well as protection of 1,620 jobs in UK. Sector wise Indian companies had invested in healthcare, agriculture-technology, food and drink.

As per the report, 70 countries have invested a record 1 trillion pounds in UK in 2014-15 making it Europe's top FDI destination. It also has mentioned that UK has attracted 12 per cent more FDI projects compared to the previous year i.e. 2013-14.



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### **Union Government cancels licences of over 2,000 NGOs**

Union Government recently has cancelled the licences of over 2000 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) across the country.

The decision to cancel the registration of these NGOs was taken by the Union Home Ministry. The registration was cancelled after these entities failed to submit their annual returns and in view of other anomalies under the provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010.



Prior to cancellation of registration, all these organisations were given proper notice by the Foreigners' Division of the Home Ministry with adequate time to reply.

It should be noted that Maharashtra tops the list with the cancellation of licences of 964 NGOs followed by Uttar Pradesh with 740 and Karnataka with 614. The licences of 88 NGOs were cancelled in Tamil Nadu.

Earlier licences of nearly 13 thousand NGOs were cancelled in two rounds of crackdown for alleged violation of FCRA, 2010. Thus, with this cancellation, these NGOs now would not be able to receive foreign funds.

As per the mandatory provisions of FCRA, 2010 it is necessary for every registered NGO to submit its returns annually, irrespective if they have or not received foreign funding in that particular year.

### EPFO makes UAN mandatory for all employers under its purview

Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has notified an order to make Universal Account Number (UAN) mandatory for all its employers.

It will be mandatory for all employers covered under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

The UAN facility was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October 2014. It is portable throughout the lifetime of an employee and removes the need for employees to apply for PF transfer claims while changing jobs



#### About Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

- EPFO is a statutory body of Union Government under the aegis of Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- Administers a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme (1952), Pension Scheme (1995) and an Insurance Scheme (1976).
- One of the largest social security organisations in India in terms volume of financial transactions undertaken and number of covered beneficiaries.

### Union Government launches Bhuvan Ganga Mobile App to aid Clean Ganga Mission

Union Government has launched Bhuvan Ganga Mobile Application and Web Portal to aid flagship mission to Clean Ganga.

The app and webportal was launched by Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti in New Delhi.

**Bhuvan Ganga application:** It will facilitate public to upload pictures of pollution sources of the Ganga River for further action by the authorities concerned. It will also serve platform for people to monitor pollution in river Ganga and enable decision makers to prioritize interventions.





**Bhuvan Ganga Portal:** It is deployed as part of Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) Bhuvan's geoportal with all geospatial layers related to Ganga River. It will be used as a tool to support decision making and planning for the Clean Ganga Mission.

Apart from this, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC). The objective of the MoU is to utilize the geospatial and crowd-sourcing technologies for monitoring pollution in Ganga River.

### **Airtel launches 4G services in Mysore**

Indian Telecom major Bharti Airtel has launched 4th Generation (4G) services in Mysuru (or Mysore), Karnataka.

With this launch, Airtel customers in Mysore can now access high speed access to the Internet using 4G LTE (Long Term Evolution) technology and enjoy the most advanced Internet experience in India.

It should be noted that Bharti Airtel is first Telecom major in India to launch 4G LTE services in the country. They had launched the India's first 4G services in Kolkata in April 2012. Later in the course of time they had expanded this service in other major cities including Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Mangalore, Pune, Chandigarh and Amritsar.



#### **About 4G LTE**

- 4G LTE is wireless communications standard developed by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).
- It is one of several competing 4G standards along with WiMax (IEEE 802.16) and Ultra Mobile Broadband (UMB).
- It is designed to provide up to 10x speeds of 3G networks for mobile devices such as tablets, smartphones, netbooks and wireless hotspots etc.
- It can provide internet speed of at least 100 Mbit per second (Mbps) to 1 GBit per second (Gbps).
- 4G technologies are designed to provide IP (Internet Protocol)-based voice, data and multimedia streaming at high speed.

### **BJP MP Dileep Singh Bhuria passes away**

Senior Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) leader and **Lok Sabha** MP Dileep Singh Bhuria passed away in Gurgaon, Haryana after a brief illness. He was 71.

He was **Lok Sabha** MP from Ratlam-Jhabua constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

Bhuria was born on June 19, 1944. He was first elected in 1972 as MLA of state legislative assembly from Petlawad seat.

He is six time **Lok Sabha** MP and was elected for first time in 1980 from Jhabua constituency on Congress ticket. Later he won from this constituency for five





times from 1980 to 1996. In 2014, **Lok Sabha** election he was elected on BJP ticket from Ratlam-Jhabua constituency.

During previous NDA government led by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee he had served as National Scheduled Castes/Schedule Tribes (SC/ST) Commission Chairman.

### **Monsoon Session of Parliament to begin from July 21, 2015**

The Monsoon Session of Parliament will begin from 21 July 2015.

The decision to convene Parliament was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs. The committee also has recommended President Pranab Mukherjee to convene the three-week Session from 21st of July.



#### **Session of parliament**

- Session of parliament is the period during which the House meets to conduct its business.
- **Article 85** of the Constitution empowers President to summon each House of the Parliament as he thinks fit.
- However he can summon the houses at intervals not be more than six month's gap between the two sessions. Thus, it is mandatory to Parliament meet at least twice a year as per constitution.

#### **By convention Indian Parliament conducts three sessions each year. They are**

- **Budget session:** February to May.
- **Monsoon session:** July to September.
- **Winter session:** November to December.

It should be noted that Article 85 also empowers President to prorogue the either house of Parliament and dissolve the **Lok Sabha** (Lower House of Parliament).

### **Tennis Icon Steffanie Graf appointed as brand ambassador of Kerala's Ayurveda**

Kerala government has appointed Tennis Icon **Steffanie Graf** as Ayurveda brand ambassador.

Decision in this regard was taken by cabinet meeting presided by Chief Minister Oommen Chandy in Thiruvananthapuram.

As an Ayurveda brand ambassador she will promote Ayurveda tourism of state in North America and Europe with theme Visit Kerala Destination.



#### **About Steffanie Graf**

- Steffanie Maria Graf from Germany is former number 1 ATP women tennis player. She holds World number 1 title for the longest period (record 377 total weeks) till date.
- She had won 22 Grand Slam single titles and also holds record for the most number of major wins by a tennis player (after introduction of the Open Era in 1968).





- Graf is the first and only tennis player (male or female) to achieve the **Calendar Year Golden Slame**. winning all four Grand Slam singles titles and the Olympic gold medal in the same calendar year.
- She is the only tennis player (male or female) to win 3 grand slams in a calendar year 5 times (1988, 1989, 1993, 1995 and 1996).
- Graf had retired from professional tennis in 1999. She is married to Andre Agassi, former World number 1 in men's tennis player.

### Rajasthan becomes No. 1 state in solar energy in India

Rajasthan has become number one state in the country in terms of total installed capacity of solar energy.

It was revealed in recently released data by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Rajasthan with total 1,167 megawatt (MW) installed capacity has surpassed Gujarat (1000 MW) which was previous number one state in the country.



**Top five states in India are (in terms of installed capacity)**

- Rajasthan: 1147 MW.
- Gujarat: 1000 MW.
- Madhya Pradesh: 58 MW.
- Maharashtra: 7 MW.
- Andhra Pradesh: 4 MW.

In 2014, Rajasthan government had released its Solar Policy which aimed at installing 25000 MW of solar power in state. In this policy state government had introduced numerous investor-friendly measures to tap full potential of solar power.

One of the key measure introduced was to installed solar plants was through State, Private Enterprises or Public-Private partnership (PPP). In this regard state government had inked agreements number of private companies to develop solar parks with a cumulative capacity of 26,000 MW.

It should be noted that Rajasthan has all natural advantage for solar parks such as abundant barren land and high solar radiation (insolation) in the country.

## June 24, 2015

### Veteran journalist Praful Bidwai passes away

Veteran journalist, author, political analyst and anti-nuclear activist **Praful Bidwai** passed away in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He was 64. He died due to cardiac arrest after he had choked on his food.

**About Praful Bidwai**

- Praful Bidwai was born in Nagpur, Maharashtra in 1949.







- He was a regular contributor to numerous magazines and newspapers like Hindustan Times, Frontline, The Nation (New York), The Guardian (London), Le Monde Diplomatique (Paris), and Il Manifesto (Rome).
- Bidwai had written number of books including the '1999 New Nukes: India, Pakistan and Global Nuclear Disarmament', The Politics of Climate Change and the Global Crisis: Mortgaging Our Future (2012). His latest book on the crisis in the Indian Left was due to be released later in 2015.
- He had worked as a senior editor for the Times of India. Later he became a freelance commentator, writer for publications in India and abroad.
- Bidwai had served as a Professorial Fellow at the Centre for Social Development in New Delhi, and also as a Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.
- He also had served as a member of the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE), and National Book Trust (NBT).
- **Awards:** He is recipient of the Sean MacBride International Peace Prize (2000) given by Geneva and London based International Peace Bureau, one of the world's oldest peace organisations.

### Maharashtra government decides to invoke MPDA, 1981 against sand mafia, black marketers

Maharashtra government has decided to evoke Maharashtra Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act (MPDA), 1981 against those involved in black marketing of essential commodities and sand mafia.

Decision in this regard was taken by state cabinet meeting chaired by Devendra Fadnavis in Mumbai. Cabinet also approved proposal to amend parent Act in order to include criminal activities related to sand mafia and black marketing.

The decision to impose MPDA was taken by government in order to tackle the menace of black marketing of essential commodities and sand mafia in state and to prevent organised attacks against revenue officials and employees by sand mafias and smugglers.

Prior to this decision, this law was only applicable against slumlords, bootleggers, drug offenders, dangerous persons and persons involved in video piracy.

In order to incorporate sand mafia and black marketers in the ambit of law, definitions of sand smuggling and sand smuggler (mafia) will be added in section 2 of the Act. Apart from this state government is also going to take action against those involved in assisting those sand mafia and smugglers.





### **Andhra Pradesh inks MoU with Australian firm for iron ore mining**

Andhra Pradesh government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with an Australian firm for iron ore mining projects in Kurnool and Kadapa districts.

The MoU was inked between Andhra Pradesh Mining Development Corporation and NSL Mining Resources India Pvt. Ltd, a subsidiary of Australian NSL Consolidated Ltd.

As per the MoU, the Australian firm will help in the process of separating the required mineral from extracted ore in order to remove unusable part of low-grade iron ore.

The MoU was signed after Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met an Australian delegation led by Steven Ciobo, Parliamentary secretary to the Australian trade and investment minister. Both sides also agreed to collaborate in areas like infrastructure, agro-processing, mining, fisheries, financial services, skill development and opportunities in the capital region.



### **India pledges 1 billion dollar aid for Nepal's reconstruction**

India has pledged an assistance of one billion US dollars to the quake-ravaged Nepal for its massive re-construction programme.

The announcement was made by Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj during the International Donors' Conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

One fourth of the assistance from India will be grant and it will be part of India's existing bilateral developmental assistance of another one billion dollars over the 5 five years.



The International Donors' Conference was organised by the Nepalese government to raise funds to re-build the country. It was attended by several countries including China, Japan and Britain, European Union (UN) besides world agencies like United Nations, World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

#### **Background**

On 25th April 2015, Nepal was struck by 7.9-magnitude devastating earthquake. In this natural disaster around 9,000 people were killed and around 23,000 were injured. It had destroyed lakhs of houses.

**June 25, 2015**

### **Union Cabinet gives nod to 6 new IIMs**

Union Cabinet has approved setting up 6 new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in the country.

Decision in this regard was taken Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Now the total strength of IIMs increases to 19 from 13.



These new IIMs will be located at Bodh Gaya (Bihar), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh), Amritsar (Punjab) and Sambalpur (Odisha).

These IIMs will begin functioning from temporary campuses and their first academic session will commence from 2015-16 with an intake of 140 students in the Post Graduate Programme (PGP) courses. The students will be get admissions to these institutes through Common Aptitude Test (CAT).

#### **Background**

In Union Budget 2015, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced a proposal for the setting up of five new IIMs in the country. Apart from them an additional IIM was also proposed for Andhra Pradesh in line with Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

#### **Zaheer Abbas appointed as ICC President**

Former Pakistan cricket team captain **Zaheer Abbas** has been selected the new President of International Cricket Council (ICC) for one year term.

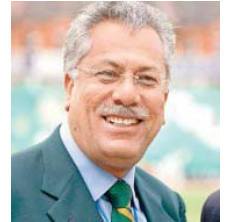
He will be 13th President of ICC and succeeds Mustafa Kamal of Bangladesh who had resigned from the post of ICC President in April 2015. Decision in this regard was taken during the ICC Annual Conference week in Barbados.

Zaheer Abbas was a right-handed batsman. He had played 78 Tests and 62 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) in his 22-year long illustrious career spanning from 1969 to 1985.

He had scored 5,062 runs in Test career and 2,572 runs in ODI career. He also had represented Pakistan in three World Cups in 1975, 1979 and 1983.

He also captained Pakistan in 14 Tests and 13 ODIs matches. In his career, he had scored 108 centuries. He was the only Asian batsman to score 100 first-class centuries and was also first batsman to score three consecutive centuries in ODIs.

It should be noted that he is the second cricketer from Pakistan to assume post of ICC President after Ehsan Mani, who was in office from 2003 to 2006.



#### **Sahitya Akademi announces Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2015**

Sahitya Akademi has announced the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for year 2015.

In this edition of Bal Sahitya Puraskar, 5 novelists, 4 writers of short stories, and 3 authors of poetries, 11 writers for their contribution to children's literature and 1 book of one-act play respectively.



**साहित्य अकादेमी**

#### **Recipients of Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2015 are**

- **Novelist:** Sowmya Rajendran (English), Nivditha Subramaniam (English), Tiren Boro (Bodo), Mukti Upadhyay 'Baral' (Nepali), Ramnath G Gawade (Konkani) and Ramdeo Jha (Maithili).



- **Writers of short stories:** Nayeem Kashmiri (Kashmiri), Krishna Kumar 'Ashu' (Rajasthani), Thokchom Thouyangba Meitei (Manipuri) and Janardhan Hegde (Sanskrit).
- **Poetry collections:** Srikanta Saren (Santali), Tara Chand Kalandri (Dogri) and Sella Ganapathi (Tamil).
- **Total Contribution to Children's Literature:** Kartik Ghose (Bengali), Eli Ahmed (Assamese), T S Nagraja Shetty (Kannada), Dhiruben Patel (Gujarati), Leeladhar Hegde (Marathi), Sivasdas (Malayalam), Sukhdev Madpuri (Punjab), Snehlata Mohanty (Odia), Chokappu Venkataramana (Telugu) and JethoLalwani (Sindhi).
- **Book of one-act play:** Bano Sartaj (Urdu).

**Bal Sahitya Puraskar:** It is instituted by the Sahitya Akademi. The award comprises 50,000 rupees along with a casket containing an inscribed copper plaque and a citation.

### **Union Cabinet gives nod to revised estimate for East-West freight corridor**

Union Cabinet has given to 81,459 crore rupees revised estimate for Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project.

Decision in this regard was taken in Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Cabinet also has given nod to include land costs and financing plan for this for East-West freight corridor.

The revised cost estimate comprises construction cost of 73,392 crore rupees of the Eastern and Western DFC along with additional land acquisition cost of 8,067 crore rupees.

In this revised estimate, the cost of the 534-km Sonnagar-Dankuni section has been excluded as this section is proposed to be implemented through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) route.

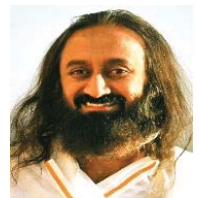
Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project on completion will pass through 9 states. They are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

This project will significantly help to reduce transportation cost and benefit mines, powerplants and ports present along its route. It will also help to boost trade and industry.

### **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar to Receive Colombia's Highest Civilian Award**

Indian spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has been conferred with Colombia's highest civilian award, Orden de la Democracia Simon Bolivar en el grado de cruz Caballero.

He was bestowed with this award for spreading the message of peace in society, reducing stress, inter-mediation in war and combating violence through yoga and breathing exercises.



#### **About Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**

- Ravi Shankar was as Ravi Shankar on 13 May 1956 in Papanasam, Tamil Nadu. He is referred as Sri Sri (honorific) or as Guruji.



- He is founder of humanitarian and educational NGO called Art of Living Foundation established in 1981. The NGO aims to relieve individual stress, societal problems, and violence.
- **Awards:** Paraguay's highest civilian award *National Order of Merito de Comuneros* (2012), Mongolia's highest civilian award *Order of the Pole Star* (2006).

### Union Cabinet gives nod to rename SECI as Renewable Energy Corporation of India

Union Cabinet has given nod to rename Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) as the Renewable Energy Corporation of India (RECI).

Apart from this decision, Union Cabinet also gave approval to SECI to convert into Section 3 Company by applying to the Registrar of Companies (ROC) from a Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013.

This decision will help SECI or renamed entity RECI

- To be a self-sustaining and self-generating organisation.
- Engage in owning solar power plants for generating and selling power.
- Engage in various other segments of solar sector activities including manufacturing of solar products and materials.



#### Background

This decision was taken after Union Government had decided to enlarge the scope of SECI to cover all renewable energy sources. It was decided in order to provide optimized and comprehensive solutions for generation of renewable energy and integrating various renewable energy sources.

#### About Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)

- SECI is a not-for-profit company under Section-25 of the Companies Act 1956.
- **Established:** 2011 as a facilitation and implementation institution dedicated to Solar Energy sector.
- **Operates under:** the aegis of Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy,
- **Objective:** To develop Solar Technologies and ensuring inclusive solar power development throughout India.
- **Functions:** Facilitate implementation of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) and achieve the targets set therein.



## Sahitya Akademi confers Bhasha Samman on 4 Scholars

Sahitya Akademi has conferred prestigious 'Bhasha Samman' on four scholars for their contribution to classical and medieval literature in various languages.

The award will be bestowed upon them by the President of the Sahitya Akademi at a special function which will be held later.



साहित्य अकादेमी

### Recipients of Bhasha Samman

- **K Meenakshi Sundaram:** For her contributions to Classical and Medieval Literature (Southern). She was conferred with this award for year 2013.
- Apart from her rich contribution to medieval Tamil literature, Sundaram also has written scholarly essays on Tirukkural.
- **Acharya Munishwar Jha:** For his contributions to Classical and Medieval Literature (Eastern). He was conferred with this award for the year 2014.
- He has made valuable contribution in the area of Sanskrit literature.
- **Charu Chandra Pande and Mathuradutt Mathpal:** Jointly recognised for their work towards the enrichment of Kumauni.

**Bhasha Samman:** The award carries a cash prize of 1 lakh rupees along with an inscribed copper plaque and a citation. In case of joint winners, the monetary prize is equally shared between the winners.

**June 26, 2016**

## India leads FDI in South Asia with 34 billion investment in 2014: UNCTAD Report

India has topped in the regional inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in South Asia region during year 2014, accounting for 34 billion US dollars investments.

It was revealed in United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD's) World Investment Report 2015.



### As per the report

- FDI inflow to India has surged by 22 per cent to about 34 billion US dollars. India has improved its position to 9th top host country in the world for FDI in 2014.
- Owing to good performance of India, the FDI inflows to South Asia region has rose to 41 billion US dollars in 2014.
- **Top five FDI recipients in South Asia:** India, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.
- The report had divided Asia into three sub-regions viz East and South East Asia, West Asia and South Asia.
- China is the world's largest recipient of FDI with 129 billion dollars investments and has topped US (92 billion dollars).
- **Outward flow of FDI:** US had largest outward flow of FDI of 337 billion dollars followed by Hong Kong-China (142 billion dollars) and China (116 billion dollars).



- India was also the biggest investor in terms of outward FDI in South Asia region with 9.8 billion dollars. It had marked an increase of 486 per cent compared to year 2013.

### RBI extends deadline for exchanging pre-2005 currency notes till December 2015

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the date to exchange pre-2005 bank notes till December 31, 2015 for third time.

Earlier in December 2014, RBI had set the last date for public to exchange these notes as June 30, 2015.

RBI has urged people to deposit the old design notes in the bank accounts or exchange them at a bank branch. The apex bank also has stated that the notes can be exchanged for their full value and all such notes continue to remain legal tender.



#### Reasons for withdrawing pre-2005 notes from circulation:

- **Security** – pre-2005 notes have fewer security features as compared to 2005 and post-2005 currency notes. Thus, lesser will be the chances of its counterfeiting newer currency notes. It will also remove fake currency notes in circulation which were being pumped in Indian economy were copies of pre-2005 notes.
- **Flushing out black money** – The spillover effect of the RBI's decision will be to flush out black money. Money has value only as long as it is a medium of exchange and store of value. It loses its value when it ceases to be a medium of exchange.
- **A disincentive for cash hoarders** – With the RBI's announcement, currency hoarders will be left with no option but to liquidate their unaccounted holdings by spending or exchanging them. Thus, this is a well thought out exercise by the RBI to capture the "money flows" into the system and also help flush out counterfeit notes.
- **International standard practice** – It is an international standard practice to remove old series notes.

### India, US ink pacts to enhance cooperation in health sector

India and United States have signed a series of agreements on health in order to enhance cooperation in health sector.

The multiple areas covered under such agreement include cancer research, medical infrastructure development and application of new diagnostic technologies.



#### Signed Agreements are

- **MoU on cancer research, control, prevention and management:** To develop collaborative research projects on population-based cancer control and implementation science.
- Apart from it will seek development of projects in the areas of pre-clinical model development, basic and epidemiological research, clinical research and oncology care delivery etc.





- **Letter of Intent (LoI) on Anti-microbial Resistance Research:** Set up mechanism of antimicrobial resistance which also include the applications of systems biology.
- It will also seek to comparative testing and assisting the validation of new diagnostics and development of novel interventions
- **MoU on collaboration in Environmental, occupational Health and Injury Prevention and Control:** Further enhance cooperation in the fields of environmental and occupational health along with injury prevention and control research.
- It will also seek to control research, infrastructure development, education and training and capacity-building for their reciprocal and mutual benefit.

### Union Government exempts educational institutions from prior green nod

Union Government has exempted builders from obtaining prior green nod for construction of Universities, School, College and Hostel facilities.

In this regard Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has issued a circular to exempt green nod for educational institutions provided they should follow sustainable environment practises of construction.

These educational institutions are exempted from prior green nod under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 subject to sustainable environmental management.

Besides, educational institutes MoEFCC has exempted builders from obtaining prior green nod for construction of industrial sheds. It also exempts godowns and buildings which are connected with production related and other associated activities of the unit in the same premise. It should be noted that industrial sheds as per this circular is a facility being used for keeping plant and machinery of industrial units.

Interestingly, in this circular MoEFCC had clarified that prior environment clearance is mandatorily required for construction of Medical Universities and institutes having hospital facilities.

### Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar voted best Test player of 21st century

India's legendary batsman and Bharat Ratna recipient Sachin Tendulkar has been voted the 'Best Test player' of the 21st century in an online poll.

The online poll was conducted by Cricket Australia's website for the list of the 100 best Test players since 2000.

In this poll, Sachin got the highest number of votes to emerge top on the list. Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara received the second highest votes. He was followed by Australian cricketer Adam Gilchrist in the third position.

In this list Sachin is lone Indian cricketer to be figured in the top-10 list, while there are four Australian, three South African and two Sri Lankan cricketers.







Sachin Tendulkar in his 24 years cricket career had played for India in 200 Tests, 463 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and one Twenty20 International.

**Test career:** In 200 Test matches he had scored 15,921 runs at an average of 53.78. It comprised of 51 centuries and 68 half centuries. Highest test score was 248 runs (not out).

**ODI career:** In 463 ODI matches he had scored 18,426 runs at an average of 44.83. It comprised of 49 centuries and 96 half centuries. Highest ODI score was 200 runs (not out).

He had retired from international cricket in 2013 after playing his 200th Test. He is the only batsman to have hit 100 international centuries and holds the record for highest run scorer in both Tests and ODIs.

## **June 27-28, 2015**

### **India becomes most attractive investment destination: BPI 2015**

India has become most attractive investment destination in world after it was ranked first among 110 countries in a ranking of destinations for attractiveness to foreign investors.

The ranking was based on baseline profitability index (BPI) 2015.

In this edition of China was placed at the 65th position and US was placed at the 50th.

India has emerged as top investment destination in BPI 2015 compared to previous 6th position held in the 2014 index. It should

be noted that high ranking in this index indicates high returns and improving economic institutions.

India was able to top in this edition of BPI because of high growth forecasts, perceptions of corruption down and investor friendly policies of Union Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### **About Baseline profitability index (BPI)**

- The ranking based on a BPI is determined by assuming three factors which affect the ultimate success of a foreign investment.
- These factors are how much the value of an asset grows; the ease of repatriation of proceeds from selling the asset and the preservation of that value while the asset is owned.
- The index combines measures for each of these factors into a summary statistic to determine country's basic attractiveness for investment.
- Thus, this index compares how local conditions and policies affect the same investment in different countries. It also helps to determine the value of the principal and the return will change depending only on where the investment is made.



### **Tribal women entitled to inherit property in accordance with Hindu Succession Act: HP-HC**



Himachal Pradesh High Court has ruled that the daughters in tribal areas in the state shall inherit the property in accordance with Hindu Succession Act, 1956.

This landmark judgment will help to bring a new resolution in the tribal society's in order to grant equal rights to the girls and bring down gender disparity.

The ruling was given by Justice Rajiv Sharma by upholding the earlier order passed by District Judge of Chamba in 2002 to grant legal rights to women in family property.

**The court rule that**

- These tribal people profess Hindu rites and customs and they do not follow different Gods.
- Though their culture may be different but their customs must conform to the constitutional philosophy.
- Women have to be advanced socially and economically to bestow upon them dignity.
- Gender discrimination violates fundamental rights so the daughters in a society cannot be segregated from mainstream. So they are entitled to equal share in the property.

It should be noted that this judgement will help tribal women in districts of Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and Chamba of state to reinforce their inherent rights in the ancestors' property same as male siblings.

**Andhra Pradesh government to form Krishi Cabinet**

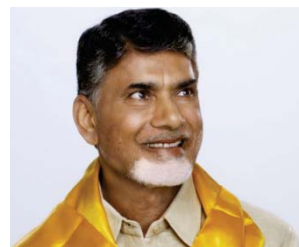
Andhra Pradesh government has decided to form a Cabinet sub-committee named as Krishi Cabinet.

This sub-committee will focus on the challenges of the Primary Sector Mission of state government undertaken to make agriculture and its allied activities profitable and sustainable for all-round improvement of the rural economy.

Decision in this regard was taken by state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in Vijaywada.

Apart from this cabinet also rechristened Primary Sector Mission of state as 'Rythu Kosam'. This mission will be part of the government's strategy to achieve 18.2 per cent growth in 2015-16 fiscal.

It will aim to enhance the contribution of primary sector to the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) from 1.43 lakh crore to 1.69 lakh crore rupees. Additional Joint Collector-rank official will be in-charge of the Primary Sector Mission's performance.





### Satnam Singh Bhamara becomes first Indian to be drafted by a NBA team

Satnam Singh Bhamara became the first Indian born basketball player to be drafted in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

He was chosen by the Dallas Mavericks team as the 52nd pick in the NBA Draft. He was selected amongst the 60 young men who will play in the next season of NBA.



#### About Satnam Singh Bhamara

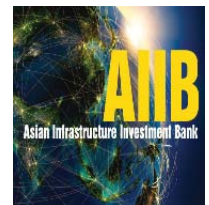
- **Born:** 10 December 1995.
- The 19-year-old Satnam hails from a small village Ballo Ke in Barnala district of Punjab. He stands 7 feet 2 inches tall and comes from a farmer's family.
- Prior to this selection he was going training at IMG Academy at Florida, US and was coached by Scott Fleming. He had played for the IMG Academy graduate team during the season 2014–15.
- He was undergoing training in the US since September 2010 as part of a scholarship program between IMG and Reliance.
- Earlier in 2011, Singh had represented the India national basketball team at the FIBA Asia Championship. He also had represented India at the 2013 FIBA Asia Championship.

It should be noted that Canada born Sim Bhullar was the first Indian origin player to play in NBA. He had briefly featured for the Sacramento Kings in the 2014 season of NBA.

### Australia to join China led AIIB

Australia has decided to join the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) as a founding member.

In this regard, Australia will contribute paid-in capital of 718.5 million US dollars over next five years i.e. till 2020. With this investment it will become sixth largest shareholder in AIIB.



#### About Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- AIIB is an international financial institution proposed by China which seeks to provide support to infrastructure projects in Asia.
- **Headquarters:** It is expected to be operational in December 2015.
- The bank is also considered as China's move to balance the power with the WB, IMF and ADB which are being controlled/dominated by the US, EU and Japan respectively.
- The authorised capital of AIIB is US \$100 billion and the initial subscribed capital is expected to be around US \$50 billion. The paid-in ratio will be 20%.
- The bank will lend designed finance to infrastructure projects like construction of roads, ports, railways etc. in Asia.



- India along with other 20 member nations was the founding member of AIIB and had signed agreement in this regard in October 2014. It should be noted that India is the second-largest shareholder of AIIB.

### **Light Combat Helicopter successfully clears hot weather trials at Jodhpur**

Indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) prototype has been successfully cleared hot weather trials at Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

The testing involved temperature survey of engine bay and hydraulic system apart from handling qualities, assessment of performance and loads at different all up weights etc.

With this successful test it will pave way for the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC), which is expected to receive it by the end 2015 and is likely to enter production from 2017-18.

Earlier in March 2015, LCH had successfully cleared cold weather trials at Leh at a temperature of  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  and at an altitude of 4.1 km.

LCH is indigenously designed and manufactured by Bengaluru based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). It is an armed helicopter designed specifically to meet the requirements of Indian Army and Air Force.

It weighs around 5.8-tonne and has twin-engine. Its successful induction in Armed Forces will add a new milestone in the development of an indigenous attack helicopter which can fight in the treacherous and mountainous fronts of north and east of country.



### **First species of Yeti crab named Kiwa Tyleri found in Antarctica**

Team of British scientists have discovered the first species of Yeti crab from hydrothermal vent systems in Antarctica. Study in this regard was published in the journal Plos One.

Researches have christened this species as Kiwa Tyleri after world-renowned British deep-sea and polar biologist professor Paul Tyler.

#### **Characteristics of Kiwa Tyleri**

- Kiwa Tyleri species are found usually in warm-water refuge of hydrothermal vent systems surrounded by the cold polar waters in the Southern Ocean near Antarctica.
- It lives in very limited sized habitat near the warm-water hydrothermal vent site.
- This species is unable to move between vent sites because of the hostile, low temperature and extreme polar environment. So they, occur in highly-packed densities.
- For food it is dependent on chemosynthetic bacteria which overgrow the surfaces of hydrothermal vent chimneys.
- Its body is densely covered by bristles known as setae. It has fur like appearance due to bacteria living on it.





### Terms

- **Hydrothermal vent systems:** It is a fissure releasing geothermally heated water which comes out on planet's surface. Commonly found in active volcanic places.
- **Chemosynthetic bacteria:** They obtain energy from exothermic oxidation of inorganic or simple organic compounds in absence of light. This energy is utilized for metabolic processes.

**June 29, 2015**

### India Fourth Largest Carbon Emitter: WRI Analysis

India is fourth largest carbon emitter in the world in terms of per capita emission accounting for 6.6 % of global emissions for the year 2012.

It was revealed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) in its latest analyses of the country-wise carbon emissions of climate-damaging greenhouse gases (GHGs).

According to the analysis figures of WRI,

- **Top 10 emitters are:** China (25.26%), US (14.4%), European Union (10.16%), India (6.69%), Russia (5.36%), Japan (3.11%), Brazil (2.34%), Indonesia (1.76%), Mexico (1.67%) and Iran (1.65%).
- **Emission Disparity:** Largest 10 emitters have contributed a majority of over 72% of global GHGs emissions (excluding change in land use and forestry). Six of the top 10 emitters are developing countries.
- On the other hand, the lowest 100 emitters had contributed less than 3% of global emissions.
- **Sector wise:** energy sector is the largest source of GHGs emissions accounting for more than 75% of global emissions.
- Industrial and agricultural sectors also have significantly contributed in GHGs emissions.



The WRI analysis was based on data from its Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT) for the year 2012. It had analysed various economic sectors for the overall emission from different countries.

### Jwala Gutta, Ashwni Ponappa win women's doubles title of Canada Open Badminton tournament

Indian pair of Jwala Gutta and Ashwni Ponappa won the women's doubles title of the Canada Open Badminton tournament.

In the finals match played at Calgary, Canada they defeated Dutch pair of Eefje Muskens and Selena Piek in straight games of 21-19, 21-16. It is their first title of this season.

**Men's Single title:** Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia won the men's single title, by defeating Ng Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong by 17-21 13-21 score in the final match.



**Women's Single title:** Michelle Li of Canada won the women's single title, by defeating Kaori Imabepu of Japan by 21-17 25-23 score in the final match.

**Mixed doubles title:** It was won by Chinese pair Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen. In the final match, they defeated Chinese pair Kaixiang Huang and Sijie Wang by 17-21 21-12 21-18 score.

### **Russia's former PM Yevgeny Primakov passes away**

Former Prime minister Yevgeny Primakov passed away in Moscow after a prolonged illness. He was 85.

He had served as PM for just eight months between September 1998 and May 1999.

During his long political career, he also had served as Foreign Minister (1996 to 1998), Speaker of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union (in 1989) and chief of the intelligence service. Prior to Gulf war, he had played a prominent role in negotiations with former dictator of Iraq Saddam Hussein.



Primakov was born in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev in 1929 in erstwhile Soviet Union. He had studied Arabic at the Moscow Institute for Oriental Studies. Prior joining politics, he had worked as a journalist for Soviet radio and for Pravda newspaper as a Middle Eastern correspondent.

### **J Jayalithaa launches first phase of Chennai Metro**

First phase of Chennai Metro service was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa after she flagged off inaugural train.

The first phase of Metro service covers the 10-km overhead (elevated) stretch. It connects Alandur in south Chennai to Koyabedu in the north.

The metro service will bear capacity of 1276 passengers with four coaches. It will cover seven stations in the stretch. They are Koyambedu, Arumbakkam, Vadapalani, Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus, Ashok Nagar, Ekkattuthangal.



The Corridor 2 or second phase of this metro connecting Chennai Central and St. Thomas Mount is will be ready by end 2015. The whole project is implemented by Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL). It was approved by then Congress-led UPA government in 2009.

With launching of this Metro service, Chennai became seventh city in India to have metro service. Other 6 cities are Delhi, Mumbai, Gurgaon, Bangalore, Kolkata and Jaipur.



### Nadia district in West Bengal wins UN Public Service Award 2015

Nadia district in West Bengal has won the United Nations Public Service Award 2015 in the category of improving delivery of public services for or eliminating open defecation in the district.

The award was presented by the acting Secretary General of the UN Lenni Montiel to District Magistrate of Nadia and Sabhapati of Nadia Zilla Parishad in Medellin, Colombia.



It should be noted that Nadia district is the first open defecation free district in India. The district had achieved this feat by making toilets available for all under state governments flagship programme Sabar Shouchagar (Toilets for All).

It was a collaborative effort with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Bank along with state government and local governments.

The programme was initiated in 2013. In one-and-a-half-years, toilets were built in 5 lakh households and over 200 cluster toilets in public places.

After completion of the building toilets under this programme, the percentage of people defecating in open has gone down to 0.02 per cent compared to 33.8 per cent when the project was started.

## June 30, 2015

### Rahul Agarwal appointed as Managing Director of Lenovo India

Technology major Lenovo has appointed Rahul Agarwal as the Managing Director (MD) of its India operations.

He succeeds Amar Babu who has been promoted to regional mandate as Chief operating Officer (COO), Asia Pacific and Chairman of Lenovo India. Agarwal has rich work experience and was associated with Lenovo India since past 10 years. Over the last three years, he had led Lenovo's commercial business and has managed various roles in sales and marketing in the past.



It should be noted that in 2014, Lenovo had held the third spot in the Indian PC segment with 15.8% market share. Currently the company is aiming to be among the top three in the Indian smartphone market.

### Facebook Lite for Android launched in India

Social network giant Facebook launched Facebook Lite, a new version of its application for Android phones in India.

Facebook Lite is a lighter version of its app which has been optimised for slower data connections and aims at catering the customers of emerging markets.

This lighter version has been developed so that the app works well across all





network conditions and on all types of phones especially on 2G (Second Generation) mobile connections. This new app is small in size (430 KB) and low data usage.

The lighter version also supports all core and basic functions of the social network such as news feed, photos, status updates, notifications, messenger and others. However, it does not support videos and there is no in-built browser.

### Indian Railways, Indian Army among world's biggest employers: WEF Study

Two Indian organizations, India Army and Indian Railways are among the world's biggest employers.

It was revealed in a research published by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Both organisations employ around 2.7 million people together.

Indian Railways was placed at 8th position with 1.4 million staff, while Indian Army was placed at 9th position with 1.3 million employees in the list of world's biggest employers.



#### Top 10 world's biggest employers are:

- **US department of Defense:** It is the world's biggest employer with over 3.2 million employees.
- **People's Liberation Army (PLA): Chinese military** is 2nd biggest employer with 2.3 million employees.
- **Walmart:** US supermarket giant is 3rd biggest employer with 2.1 million workers.
- **McDonald's:** Fast food giant is the 4th biggest employer with 1.9 million employees.
- **National Health Service of UK:** It is 5th biggest employer with 1.7 million.
- **China National Petroleum Corporation:** It is 6th biggest employer with 1.6 million employees. It is Chinese state-run company.
- **State Grid Corporation of China:** It is 7th biggest employer with 1.5 million employees.
- **Indian Railways:** 1.4 million staff.
- **Indian Army:** 1.3 million employees.
- **Hon Hai Precision Factory:** It is known around world as Foxconn, a leading electronics manufacturer. It is placed at 10th position with 1.2 million employees.





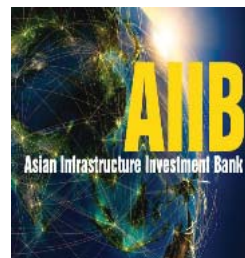
## 50 nations, including India sign 60-article agreement on China-led AIIB

50 founding nations including India have signed 60-article agreement of China-led multilateral Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Australia was the first country to sign the agreement and was followed by 49 other members. Indian Ambassador Ashok Kantha signed the agreement on behalf of country.

The 60-article agreement provides the legal framework for

- Institution of AIIB.
- Each member's capital share and voting share.
- Governance structure of AIIB.
- Policy-making mechanism of AIIB.



### Facts about Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- Designed to finance infrastructure projects including energy, transport and infrastructure projects in Asia.
- AIIB is seen as a rival to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) which managed by most prominent countries like US, Japan and European etc.
- **Headquarters:** Beijing. It will be operational by end of 2015.
- **Authorized capital:** It will be of 100 billion US dollars. The initial subscribed capital will be around 50 billion US Dollar and the paid-in ratio will be 20 per cent.
- **Regional character of the Bank:** Its regional members (Asian) will be the holding around 75 percent of shares i.e. they will be majority shareholders.
- They have been allocated their capital share on quota basis i.e. based on their economic size.
- **Voting share:** for each member country it is based on the size of their economy and not on authorised capital share to the Bank.
- **Largest shareholders:** China is highest contributor to AIIB with 29.78 billion US dollars i.e. with a 30.34 percent stake in authorized capital.
- China will have 26.06 per cent of the voting rights along with veto powers for certain key decisions.
- **India:** second largest shareholder with 8.52 per cent stake and voting share of 7.5 per cent.
- **Russia:** third largest shareholder with 6.66 stake and voting share of 5.92 per cent.

It should be noted that there are 57 founder-member countries AIIB. Seven countries were not able to sign this agreement as it was not ratified by their respective domestic authorities. The seven countries are Denmark, Malaysia, Kuwait, Holland, Philippines and South Africa and Thailand.



### **First 3D anatomic heart model printed using multiple imaging techniques**

Team of heart experts including an Indian-origin surgeon Dr. Joseph Vettukattil for first time have printed three dimensional (3D) anatomic heart model using multiple imaging techniques.

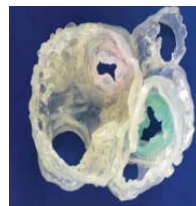
This hybrid 3D model of heart was successfully printed using integration of 3D transesophageal echocardiography (3DTEE) and computed tomography (CT).

The team had used specialised software to register images in order to selectively integrate datasets and produce an accurate anatomic model of the heart.

This study is considered as a huge leap for individualised medicine in the medical field of cardiology and congenital heart disease. This technological breakthrough will help to promote better diagnostic capability and improve interventional and surgical planning and also provide alternative to surgery in cases of Heart diseases.

This technology also opens the new way in medical technology for producing anatomical parts by using the combination with a third tool of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Dr. Joseph Vettukattil is known internationally for his work and research in the field of three and four-dimensional echocardiography.



### **India, Thailand ink MoU on Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty**

India and Thailand signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on double taxation avoidance treaty (DTAT).

The MoU was signed during 7th meeting of the India-Thailand Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

Apart from DTAT, both nations signed and exchanged instruments of ratification on the extradition treaty inked in 2013. This treaty provides for the legal framework for extradition of fugitive offenders.

Both nations also signed a MoU on the establishment of Nalanda University in Bihar, India. By signing this agreement, Thailand joins other East Asian Summit countries in the establishment of and revival of an ancient center of learning at Nalanda.

It should be noted that India-Thailand Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation meeting took place after a gap of three years due to the changes in government in Thailand.

