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WORLD ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX 2016



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CONTENTS

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Success Saga	5
IBPS	6-9
Spotlight	10
The People	12-28
News Bytes	29-87
Global Competitiveness Index 2016	88-90
15Th Paralympic Games 2016	91-93
World Economic Freedom Index 2016	94-98
Nobel Prize 2016	99-100
Que Tm - General Awareness	102-107
Graphic Factory	108-112
Who's Who	13



GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX 2016



15TH PARALYMPIC GAMES 2016



WORLD ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX 2016



THE NOBEL PRIZE 2016

EDITORIAL

**WE NEED INFINITE ENERGY TO
OVERCOME OBSTACLES**

"ENERGY "

Dear Aspirants,

Alfred Nobel is a prime example of how you can mend your faults and make the world a better place.

Similar to his nature and works is Juan Manuel Santos, the man behind signing the peace accord in Colombia.

Ironically, it may seem, music is the better half of literature and that was so visible when Bob Dylan was awarded the same for literature.

Moving Forward,

The funny thing about Indices is that they though for a brief period give the factual reality of events, that was rightly demonstrated by the Global Competitiveness Index and The Economic Freedom Index.

So, when India fairs well it is more a sign of the changing times and also a message the future belongs to Asia.

When the Rio Olympics got over, the whole nation was in a dilemma as to celebrate profusely or in the words of British Journalist Piers Morgan contemplate and mourn this debacle.

But, he forgot a crucial point, it was never excess that mattered, all that ever mattered was Happiness with what you have.

As India did put up a brave show in the Paralympics, it is a moment to prepare for the future but also commend, compliment and catapult our Olympic stars to SuperStardom.

Regards,

(Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.)

"SHUT UP, GET UP AND DO SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE"

With Best Wishes

Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name : Sunit Kumar Tripathi
Father's Name : Mr. B. K. Tripathi
Mother's Name : Mrs Malti Tripathi
Education : B. Tech.
Hobbies : Writing Personal Diary
Prior Selection : It was my 6th attempt.
Name of the Exam : SBI PO 2016



Roll No. of Qualified Exam : 3971329760
Roll No. of Mahendra Institute : MAH0010897187
MICA : Mahendras family expresses its heartiest congratulations on your success as PO in SBI-2016?
MICA : To whom do you want to give the credit of your selection?
SUNIT : I would like to owe my success to God, my parents, my teachers & friends.
MICA : After how many attempts did you succeed in examination?
SUNIT : It was my 6th attempt.
MICA : Did you take help of any institute and if yes, what is the role of that institute in your selection?
SUNIT : Mahendra Institute gave me proper idea about how to prepare and in case of scarcity of time how to optimize your efforts. I have also joined the rejoin batches, which helped me a lot.
MICA : How did you prepare for the written examination?
SUNIT : I had devoted myself to the guidance of Mahendra Faculty Members, Study Material, Mahendra Guru Website, Smart Class, Speed Test and Problem Solving Sessions. The best part is it was present both in offline and online mode.

Quantitative Aptitude:

Keep your basics clear. Have patience while solving questions. Practice will improve speed. Eg Mahendras Maths Book

Reasoning Ability:

Keep practicing reasoning questions of STs and Mahendras Reasoning Book will help a lot. Eg Mahendra Reasoning book & practice paper

English:

I was weak in grammar initially, so practice 1-2 set of English Paper daily. It helped in knowing the pattern of error. I also used to read newspaper daily. Eg Speed test were so helpful and read text book thoroughly for all subjects.

General Awareness:

Read newspaper & at least updated with weekly current affairs and its periodic revision. Eg. Internet for banking, Mahendras MICA & Monthly Boosters, GS Books

Computer & Marketing:

From Mahendras study material & class notes.

MICA : How do you take "Master in Current Affairs Magazine", and "Mahendra Guru" Website?
SUNIT : Specially Mahendra Guru website is full of content & helpful, Interview videos were also very helpful like I personally like guidance guru a lot.
MICA : What is the best thing about your coaching institute, according to you?
SUNIT : Inspiring faculties and so competitive ambience.
I) The facility of rejoining batches
II) The faculty member.
III) Facility of giving STs in class which gives me feeling of real exam at exam centre.
MICA : What is the role of "Time Management" in one's success?
SUNIT : Time Management plays a very pivotal role for competitive exam because bank exam is all about managing time effectively and to answer in a effective way and secure good marks.
MICA : How did you prepare for the Interview?
SUNIT : Joined Mahendra's Interview classes and regular Newspaper reading. Guidance of Mahendras Faculty Member.
MICA : Tell us about the Interview Board and the questions asked?
SUNIT : The interview panel had 5 members (4 Male & 1 Female) & the members were friendly and supportive.

The questions asked were:

- (I)** About banking sector and extra curricular activity ?
- (II)** Technical questions from engineering branch specialisation ?
- (III)** Questions on my hobby ?
- (IV)** Why government launched Gold Monetization Scheme and its details ?
- (V)** Important question on SBI & RBI ?

MICA : By whom did you get information of your selection and what was your reaction?
SUNIT : A close friend of mine told me about my success, at that moment I was in market, I passed through mixed feeling means very happy and at the same time very shocked because I got failed in my previous 5 attempts.
MICA : What message do you want to convey to other aspirants?
SUNIT : Remain truthful to yourself and follow the following diagram: Learn - Practice - Revise - Success, so success will be 3 steps away from yourself & One thing more "Never Give Up".
MICA : Congratulations once again on your success. Your success is our success.
SUNIT : Thank You Mahendra for guiding me to Success.

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- ✎ Certificate of Honour, which is awarded to Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Arabic and Persian Scholars is -
- ✎ The head of Boachasanvasi Akshar Purushottam Sanstha (BAPS) who died recently is -
- ✎ Rank of India in latest Bank index of World Bank 2016 is-
- ✎ The state in which Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) launched India's first facility to produce nickel is -
- ✎ The country which has launched the world's first quantum communication satellite is-
- ✎ Service which was launched by Indian Railways in Tripura is -
- ✎ The state with which famous writer B.P.Kesri belongs to -
- ✎ The first 'Arunachal Ratna Award' has been conferred to-
- ✎ The IIT which has adopted five villages in Uttar Pradesh under the Namami Gange programme is -
- ✎ Freestyle wrestler Sakshi Malik (23) won India's first medal at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games by clinching the bronze in the ____ category.
- ✎ The ministry which has launched a mobile app that integrates various social media handles of over 170 Indian missions on a common platform is -
- ✎ Gobind Tej related to-
- ✎ The player who became the first Indian player to reach the Rio Olympic badminton women's singles final is -
- ✎ Technology major IBM announced the opening of the first Open Power Research Facility (OPRF) in-
- ✎ How many members are there in NSG (Nuclear Supplier Group), 2016 -
- ✎ UDAY stands for -
- ✎ Number of Indian companies who have been named in Fortune magazine's "Change the World" list of top 50 companies is-
- ✎ Recently, the person who has been appointed as an advisor in Prasara Bharti is-
- ✎ The country from where Usain Bolt hails from -
- ✎ Noted politician Ram Charit died. The party with which he belongs to-
- ✎ The 1st Indian Governor of RBI was -
- ✎ The present chairman of TRAI is -
- ✎ The title of "Father of India's booming IT sector" by Times Magazine is given to-
- ✎ Fortune's 2016 "Change the World" list is topped by -
- ✎ First woman who hold the position in the Canadian parliament is -
- ✎ The country which defeated Germany to win their first gold medal in the men's football at Rio Olympics is-

Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman

Swami Maharaj
130th

Jharkhand

China

RORO

Jharkhand

Bomto Kamdak

IIT Kanpur

58kg

Ministry of External Affairs

Film industry

P.V.Sindhu

IIT Bombay

48

Uttkrishit Double Decker Air Conditioned Yatri Express

2

Sunil Arora

Jamaica

BJP

C D Deshmukh

R S Sharma

N R Narayana Murthy

GlaxoSmithKline

Bardish Chaggar

Brazil

- ✎ Dr. Najma Heptulla was sworn-in as the 18th Governor of-
- ✎ Recently Scientists discovered *Gymnothorax indicus* in the Bay of Bengal, which is a new species of-
- ✎ President Pranab Mukherjee launched _____ channel, an initiative which will provide a platform for blending content both from India and Bangladesh and preserving Bengali culture.
- ✎ The country from which the noted director Abbas Kiarostami hails from-
- ✎ The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) announced that the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup will be hosted in-
- ✎ Recently, a mobile app “Kisan Suvidha” for farmers is launched by -
- ✎ The state which became the first state in the country to launch DNA Index System (DIS) for DNA profiling of criminals is -
- ✎ The prestigious 25th Vyas Samman 2015 is conferred to -
- ✎ The Brand Ambassador of Haryana state for ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ initiative is -
- ✎ The company on which , the National Green Tribunal imposed a ₹100 crore fine over environmental damages in a 2011 oil spill case is-
- ✎ The Brand Ambassador of the Indian Psychiatric Society is -
- ✎ “Genome Savior Award” is given in the field of-
- ✎ The first state which have a child friendly court is -
- ✎ The newly appointed Group President & Country Head for Mid-Corporate Banking of Yes Bank is -
- ✎ The book “Patriots, Poets and Prisoners: Selections from Ramananda Chatterjee’s The Modern Review, 1907-1947” is released by -
- ✎ The bank which has been declared as D-SIB by RBI -
- ✎ Forbes list of “Highest paid actors of 2016” is topped by -
- ✎ Number of banks, for which the NPCI’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has started is -
- ✎ The person who was awarded with the first IEI-IEEE Award for Engineering Excellence-2015 is -
- ✎ With regards to T.V. Content, the full form of BCCC is -
- ✎ The prestigious “Young Scientist Medal” Award 2016 is won by -
- ✎ The ‘POCSO e-box’ in New Delhi for the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses is launched by -
- ✎ Founder of Amazon company is -
- ✎ The cash prize which is given in Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2016 is -
- ✎ The pair which was defeated by Sania Mirza with Monica Niculescu of Romania in women’s double to win the Connecticut Open doubles title is -

Manipur

EEL

Akashvani Maitree

Iran

Ahmedabad

Prakash Singh Badal

Andhra Pradesh

Sunita Jain

Sakshi Malik

Adani Enterprises

Deepika Padukone

Agriculture

Goa

Amit Sanan

Hamid Ansari

ICICI Bank

Dwayne Johnson

21

G. Satheesh Reddy

Broadcasting

Content

Complaints Council

Askandar Iqbal

Maneka Gandhi

Jeff Bezos

7.5 Lakh

Kateryna

Bondarenko

& Chuang Chiajung

- ✂ The 3rd position in Belgium Grand Prix Formula-1 Race 2016 was secured by-
- ✂ India has been ranked _____ according to the World Risk Report 2016 released by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security.
- ✂ Jammu-based poetess and novelist Padma Sachdev has been awarded with the prestigious Saraswati Samman for the year 2015 for her autobiography_____.
- ✂ The UN Women's Advocate for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in India is -
- ✂ The prestigious Biju Patnaik Sports Award has been conferred to
- ✂ The US and India signed an important agreement which will allow both the countries to use each other's bases as well as assets for replenishment of supplies and refueling The agreement called as
- ✂ SBI Mutual Fund has appointed_____ as its Managing Director and Chief Executive.
- ✂ The state which became the first state to distribute 2 crore LED bulbs under the Government of India's Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for all (UJALA) scheme is -
- ✂ The minimum entry age for plan 'Max Life Future Genius Education Plan' which is runned by Max Life Insurance is
- ✂ The international organisation with which "Connecting to complete" report is related to
- ✂ Kishore Kumar Mohanty and _____ will be honoured with the prestigious Nalco Guru Kelucharan Award for 2016.
- ✂ The ministry which has signed a MoU with Amar Chitra Katha to publish and distribute a special edition of the comic book, focusing on Swachh Bharat Mission is -
- ✂ The first regular commercial flight in more than ____ years from the US to Cuba has been started.
- ✂ Renowned artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won people's choice award for his _____ sand sculpture made during an international championship in Russia.
- ✂ The country with which NSDC has entered into a cooperation agreement for skill development in India's aviation sector is
- ✂ The unanimously elected National President of the Indian Medical Association for the year 2016-17 is
- ✂ According to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the lifetime achievement award in Oscar 2016, is awarded to
- ✂ BRICS group Film Festival of five countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) was held in-
- ✂ The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) for effectively monitoring of environment related issues signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with-
- ✂ The party with which West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee belongs to-
- ✂ The bank which has launched a card-less mobile-based payment solution 'mVisa', to make payments at retail outlets easier is -

Lewis Hamilton

77th

Chitt-Chete

**Aishwaryaa
Rajinikanth**

Purnima Hembram

**Logistics Exchange
Memorandum
of Agreement
(LEMOA)**

Anuradha Rao

Gujarat

21 years

World Bank

Jharana Das

**Ministry of Urban
Development**

50

Mahatma Gandhi

USA

K.K.Aggarwal

Jackie Chan

Delhi

CIL

TMC

DCB Bank

- ✗ The company which has built the world's largest OLED tunnel in Berlin to mark the 50th anniversary of the first TV it produced is -
- ✗ The first Asian who awarded with the prestigious Heritage Heroes Award by the IUCN is
- ✗ Urjit Patel has assumed charge as the ____ Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✗ According to the wealth research firm New World Wealth, the country which is the most 'unequal' country in the world is
- ✗ The country who won the Brazil Open badminton tournament of the year-2016 is
- ✗ The country which was declared as malaria-free by the World Health Organisation which called it a 'remarkable public health achievement' is
- ✗ The chairman of ISRO is
- ✗ "Bharatshree Alankaran" 2016 is awarded to
- ✗ According to the latest QS World University Rankings 2016-17, the global ranking of the Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore is-
- ✗ The first Indian woman cricketer who get the prestigious life membership of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) is -
- ✗ The film which has been awarded with the best film at the 1st BRICS film festival is -
- ✗ The campaign which was launched by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan which aimed at promoting the use of gas in the country is -
- ✗ The 14th ASEAN-India Summit was held at -
- ✗ The NGO which received the prestigious UNESCO Confucius Prize of this year was -
- ✗ "Bharat Bharti Samman" is the biggest literature prize of state -
- ✗ The company which is among the top 10 of the 250 global energy businesses, according to the 'Platts Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings' 2016 is -
- ✗ Recently appointed Chairman and Managing Director of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) is
- ✗ According to the 'Swachh Survekshan' for rural India, the district which bagged the cleanest districts in India is
- ✗ The only Indian origin woman in Fortunes 51 Most Powerful Women list 2016 is
- ✗ For online redressal of taxpayers' grievances, the facility which was launched by Central Board Direct Taxes is
- ✗ The Bank which became the first bank in India to deploy "software robots" is
- ✗ The country in which world's first daily driverless bus service has started is
- ✗ The Union Government has launched Urja Mitra Helpline through which customers can get information on power outages from distribution companies by dialing
- ✗ The state which has won 'Best Horticulture State' award of the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) is
- ✗ The launch of 'Paridhaan', an apparel brand that'll include jeans and office wear in the market is announced by
- ✗ Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston awarded _____ with the 'Young Professional of the Year' award.
- ✗ The Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey Tournament of this year is won by
- ✗ 'Friendship-2016' is a joint military exercise between

LG
Bibhuti Lahkar
24th
Russia
India
Sri Lanka
A S Kiran Kumar
Gyan Sudha Mishra
152
Anjum Chopra
Thithi
Gas4India
Laos
Jan Sikshan Sansthan
Uttar Pradesh
Reliance Industries
C.K.Asnani
Mandi
Indira Nooyi
e-nivaran
ICICI bank
France
14401
Haryana
Baba Ramdev
Malisha Patel
Indian Railways
Pakistan and Russia

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ABBREVIATIONS

UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime
APAQG	Asia Pacific Aerospace Quality Group
APEDA	Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
NSIC	National Small Industries Corporation
IBMS	Indian Bridge Management System
DFCCIL	Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited

IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

1st October	World Vegetarian Day
2nd October	Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti International Day of Non-Violence
3rd October	World Habitat Day World Architecture Day
5th October	World Teacher's Day
8th October	Indian Air force Day
10th October	World Mental Health Day Indian National Postal Day

16th October World Food Day

17th October Anti Poverty Day

24th October United Nations Day

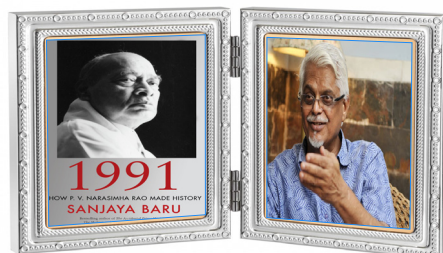
ECONOMIC GLOSSARY

BUSINESS BANKING

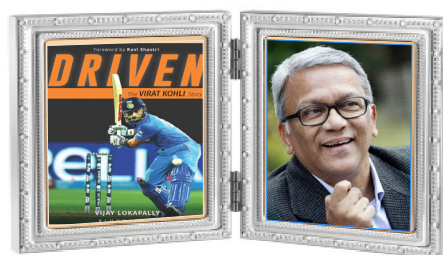
In modern context, 'Business Banking' means to provide, to entrepreneurs engaged in promoting new companies, package assistance/advice, to pave the way for new projects, to make their plans, to start them, to manage public issue of capital, to conduct study for expansion/diversification of industries and to find new financial services and to make available to them.

The credit to start business banking in India goes to Grindlays Bank, which started its business banking activities in the decades of 60's. State Bank of India paved the way for Indian banks in this direction by entering this field at limited level during 70's.

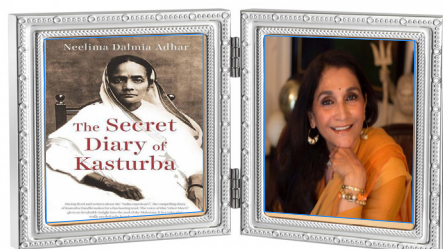
BOOKS AND AUTHORS



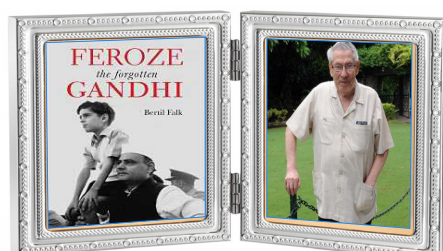
1991: How P V Narasimha Rao Made History
:- Sanjay Baru



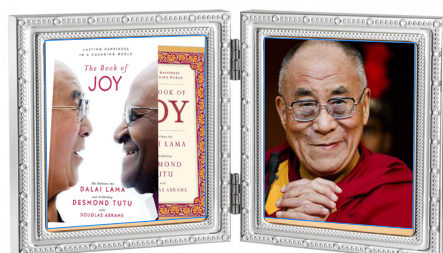
Driven: The Virat Kohli Story
:- Vijay Lokapally



The Secret Diary of Kasturba
:- Neelima Dalmia Adhar



Feroze the forgotten Gandhi
:- Bertil Falk

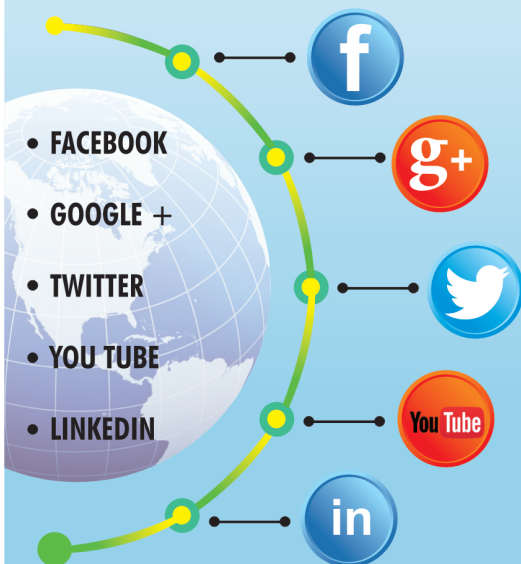


The Book of Joy
:- Dalai Lama, Douglas Abrams, Desmond Tutu



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SOURCES



EXAMS



LEADS



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APPOINTMENT

Nadia Murad Basee Taha

23-year-old Yazidi woman appointed Ambassador for Survivors of Human Trafficking.



- Nadia Murad Basee Taha, who survived captivity by ISIS in Iraq to become an activist for her Yazidi people, has been appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations.
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said that Murad's appointment as an Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking marks the first time that a survivor of atrocities has been awarded this distinction.

V K Sharma

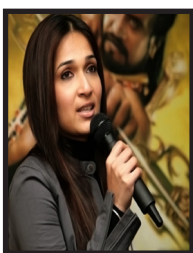
State-run life insurance behemoth LIC said its managing director V K Sharma has taken additional charge as chairman, replacing S K Roy who was relieved of his duties.



- Roy resigned in June, nearly two years ahead of his retirement. V K Sharma, managing director, LIC of India has taken additional charge as chairman, LIC of India in place of S K Roy, who has been relieved of his duties.
- Sharma has been serving as the managing director of the company since November 2013.

Soundarya Rajinikanth

Rajinikanth's daughter Soundarya Rajinikanth has been co-opted as a member of the Animal Welfare Board of India besides being appointed as its Ambassador to the film fraternity.



- Animal Welfare Board of India is delighted to announce Soundarya Rajinikanth has accepted our invitation to be a co-opted Member of Board and in addition, to serve as a Member of its Performing Animals Sub Committee (PASC).

Alka Sirohi

President Pranab Mukherjee appointed Alka Sirohi, a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) as its Chairman. Sirohi's appointment was effective from September 21. The post of UPSC Chairman had fell on September 20, consequent upon demitting of

office by Deepak Gupta on attaining 65 years of age.



- Sirohi was sworn in as Member of UPSC in January 2012, after a long and successful career in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).
- UPSC is headed by its chief, and the Commission can have a maximum of ten members.
- Other members of the Commission David R. Simlih academician, professor Hem Chandra Gupta and Kumar Joshi, former Delhi Police Commissioner BS Bassi, former head of the Railway Board Vinay Mittal, former.
- IAS officer and intelligence agency RAW Chattar Singh and aviation research center then include Arvind Saxena.

Ravi Reddy

An Indian-origin South African has become the first person from the African continent to head a global organisation of medicine professionals working for the safety of blood transfusion worldwide.

- Ravi Reddy, currently the Chief Operations Officer of the South African National Blood Service (SANBS), will head the International Society for Blood Transfusion (ISBT), headquartered in Amsterdam.
- Although Reddy has been credited with transforming the safety of blood donation and transfer in South Africa with its very high incidence of HIV/AIDS, he has insisted that this was a team effort by the staff of SANBS.
- He has served in various capacities for more than three decades after starting out as a volunteer at the age of 16 at SANBS.
- He subsequently qualified as a medical technologist with an MBA from the University of Natal in South Africa.

Anita Praveen

Anita Praveen, Joint Secretary in the Commerce Ministry, has been given the additional charge of Chairman of the agri-export promotion body Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).



- The additional charge has been given for a period of three months from July 22, 2016 or till such time the post is filled up on a regular basis, according to a government notification.
- Praveen is a 1989 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre.

- APEDA was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by Parliament in December 1985.
- It is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of food items such as fruits, vegetables and their products as well as meat, poultry and dairy products among others.

Junaid Ahmad

Junaid Ahmad has become the World Bank's Country Director for India, replacing Onno Ruhl who served a four-year term based out of the national capital.



- Hailing from Bangladesh, Ahmad was Chief of Staff to the World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim before being elevated to the current position.
- Junaid's strong experience in the critical areas of water, urbanisation, and social development will ensure that the Bank's future strategy for India is formulated and implemented in line with the country's own development goals.
- Ahmad holds a PhD in Applied Economics from Stanford University, a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University, and a BA in Economics from Brown University.
- India is the World Bank Group's largest client.

Monika Kapil Mohta

Monika Kapil Mohta was appointed as the India's Ambassador to Sweden.



- She is presently the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and looks after India's relations with a large part of the Asia-Pacific region.
- Mohta is a 1985 batch Indian Foreign Services officer. Previously, she has served as the ambassador of India to Poland and Lithuania.

India-Sweden Relations

The two countries have a cordial relationship and growing economic cooperation.

The development cooperation between Sweden and India began in 1953 and was initially mainly in the form of import support. In the 1990s.

India became the largest recipient of Swedish aid and the support included loan-financed projects in the energy sector

and grant support in the areas of natural resources, Health and education.

- The 60 years of Swedish support has contributed to create conditions that enable poor people to improve their lives and have build relationships between Swedish and Indian people.

Jack Ma

A UN trade body has named Chinese billionaire Jack Ma a special advisor on youth entrepreneurship and small business, in a bid to promote growth and development around the world.



- Ma, one of the richest man in China and the founder of commerce giant Alibaba, will be offering his experience and insight to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad).
- The appointment came after Ma represented small businesses in the G20 meetings that took place in China's eastern city of Hangzhou earlier this month.
- Ma also hosted politicians and business leaders at his Alibaba headquarters, which are also in Hangzhou.

Chetan Ghatge, Pami Dua, Ravindra Dholakia

Government has appointed three academics as members of a new monetary policy committee that will set interest rates, in a landmark change to how central bank decisions are made in the country.

- Allowed to select three members of the new six-member board, the government chose Chetan Ghatge, a professor at Indian Statistical Institute;
- Pami Dua, a director at the Delhi School of Economics; and Ravindra Dholakia, a professor at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat.
- They will each serve for a term of four years, "or until further orders, whichever is earlier," according to the statement. All are low-profile, India-based economists, unlike former Reserve Bank of India chief Raghuram Rajan.
- The other three members of the monetary policy committee will come from the RBI and will include new Governor Urjit Patel, who will be the tie-breaker in any split decision, along with two senior officials from the monetary policy department.

- ✎ The committee will be responsible for ensuring consumer inflation stays within a range of 2 to 6 percent, a target that was previously announced by the government.

Vijay Kelkar

Former petroleum secretary Vijay Kelkar has been elected president of the prestigious Indian Statistical Institute (ISI).



- ✎ Kelkar succeeded former RBI governor C Rangarajan.
- ✎ He was elected at the general body meeting of the institute, which functions under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, an ISI release said.

Navtej Sarna

India's High Commissioner to UK Navtej Sarna was appointed as Ambassador to the US, a high-profile posting where he will face the task of engaging with a new administration in Washington following the November 8 Presidential poll.



- ✎ Sarna, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1980 batch, was serving as Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs before he was posted in London in January.
- ✎ He succeeds Arun Singh, who is due for retirement.
- ✎ The 59-year-old diplomat was among the longest-serving spokespersons of the MEA. He had held the post between 2002 and 2008.
- ✎ Government has also appointed 1988-batch IFS officer Taranjit Singh Sandhu as the next High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka. He will replace Yash Sinha.
- ✎ Sarna wrote so many books last year he wrote book titled "second thought : on books, authors and the writerly life. From 2008 - 2012 he gave service as high commissioner in Israel.

Rakesh Ranjan Prasad

Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of Manipur High Court by Governor Najma Heptulla.



The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Raj Bhawan in Imphal attended by Chief Minister O Ibobi Singh among others.

Justice Rakesh Ranjan later during an interaction with the media said that his priority would be to complete the pending cases in the High Court.

Sudhir Pratap Singh & OP Singh

Senior IPS officers Sudhir Pratap Singh and O P Singh were appointed as Directors General of counter-terrorism force National Security Guard (NSG) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) respectively.

- ✎ O P Singh, a 1983-batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, is at present working as Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- ✎ Another senior IPS officer R K Pachnanda has been appointed in place of O P Singh.
- ✎ Pachnanda is currently working as Additional Director General (ADG) in CISF.
- ✎ Sudhir Pratap Singh, a 1983 batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre, is ADG, Central Reserve Police Force.
- ✎ The CISF is entrusted with responsibility of providing security to national installations including airports.

Arun Goyal

Senior IAS officer Arun Goyal has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council.



- ✎ The Council, headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, is mandated to decide on tax rate, exempted goods and the threshold limit.
- ✎ The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved Goyal's appointment against the newly created post, an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training said.
- ✎ Goyal, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Union Territory cadre, is at present working as Additional Secretary, Project Monitoring Group, Cabinet Secretariat.
- ✎ The Union Cabinet had recently approved appointment of the Secretary (Revenue) as the ex-officio Secretary to the GST council and inclusion of the chairperson, Central Board of Excise and Customs, as a permanent invitee.
- ✎ The Cabinet had also approved creation of one post of Additional Secretary and four posts of Commissioner in the secretariat.

Rahul Deep Singh

Rahul Deep Singh has been appointed managing director of Royal Dutch Shell-promoted Hazira LNG Pvt and Hazira Ports Pvt.



- ✎ He will replace Nitin Shukla, who will superannuate after 15 years of service in the Hazira Group companies on September 30.
- ✎ Since the commissioning of Hazira LNG in 2005, the terminal has rapidly expanded from an initial regasification capacity of 2 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to 3 mtpa in 2008 and then further to 5 mtpa in 2013.

Jeffrey De Laurentis

The United States has tapped Jeffrey De Laurentis, America's top diplomat in Havana, to become the first official ambassador to Cuba in five decades.



- ✎ Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced a thaw in relations in December 2014.
- ✎ Since then, Washington and Havana have taken once-unthinkable steps to mend ties after more than half a century of enmity.
- ✎ President Obama has visit Cuba and relaxed portions of the US embargo imposed since 1962. Flights have resumed and cruise ships can now sail from Miami to Havana.
- ✎ US companies like Airbnb and Netflix now operate in Cuba and American hotel group Starwood recently opened a Sheraton in Havana.
- ✎ De Laurentis is already in Havana and previously worked in Bogota and at the United Nations.

Jim Yong Kim

The board of the World Bank has unanimously agreed to name Jim Yong Kim to a second term as president.



- ✎ The Bank's board offered a strong endorsement of Kim's record, including setting the goal of eliminating extreme global poverty by 2030 and an internal reorganisation to promote better coordination which provoked staff dissent.

- ✎ The board also said an effort under Kim to cut bank spending had reduced administrative costs by USD 400 million, money then reinvested to support the bank's goals.

Cyrus Mistry

Tata group chief Cyrus Mistry is among the top global industry leaders, including Unilever CEO Paul Polman and McKinsey & Co Global.



Managing Partner Dominic Barton, to have been appointed as board members of FCLT Global -- a body dedicated to encouraging long-termism in business and investment decision-making.

- ✎ The organisation said it is making a transformation from an initiative to an independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to encouraging long-termism in business and investment decision-making.
- ✎ It had started as an initiative formed in 2013 by Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), and McKinsey & Company.

Somesh Sharma

Somesh Sharma of Rashtrdoot Saptahik was elected President of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) for the year 2016-17 its 77th Annual General Meeting.

- ✎ He succeeds P V Chandran of Grihalakshmi (Mathrubhumi Group).
- ✎ Akila Urankar (Business Standard) is the new Deputy President, K Balaji (The Hindu Weekly) Vice President and Sharad Saxena (Hindustan Times) Honorary Treasurer of INS for the year 2016-17.
- ✎ V Shankaran will continue to be the INS Secretary General.

The other members of the Executive Committee are:

- ✎ L Adimoolam (Health and The Antiseptic), S Balasubramaniam Adityan (Daily Thanthi), Girish Agarwal (Dainik Bhaskar, Bhopal), Samahit Bal (Pragativadi), V K Chopra (Dainik Asam), Vijay Kumar Chopra (Punjab Kesri, Jalandhar), Vijay Jawaharlal Darda (Lokmat), Jagjit Singh Dardi (Charhdikala Daily), Viveck Goenka (The Indian Express, Mumbai), Mohit Jain (Economic Times), Mahendra Mohan Gupta (Dainik Jagran), Pradeep Gupta (Dataquest).

N P Narvekar

Harvard has brought in a new manager from Columbia University to run its \$36-billion endowment, the largest of any university.



- N P Narvekar, 54, was appointed president and CEO of Harvard Management Company, the university stated. He succeeds Stephen Blyth, who resigned in July, citing health reasons, after 18 months on the job.
- Narvekar comes to Harvard after 14 years at Columbia, where he was chief executive of the university's Investment Management Company, a \$9-billion endowment portfolio that posted annualised returns of more than 10 per cent during the last decade.
- Robert A Ettl, who had been leading the endowment since Blyth's departure, will become chief operating officer.

Rajeev Sharma

Rajeev Sharma has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC).



- Sharma succeeds M K Goel who retired on September 30, 2016 on attaining the age of superannuation. Prior to joining PFC, Sharma was the CMD of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).
- Under his leadership, REC scaled greater heights in excellence by doubling the revenue and profits in the last five years. He is considered the architect of Government's flagship schemes like Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).
- Sharma holds B Tech (Electrical) and Masters Degree in engineering from IIT Roorkee and also an MBA degree from FMS, Delhi University.
- He has more than 30 years of experience and has served in various positions in Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Power Grid Corporation & PFC (as Director, Projects).

Kalyana Rama

VKalyana Rama has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR), a navratna PSU under Railways Ministry. Prior to this, he was serving as Director (Projects & Services), CONCOR since June 2015.

- Having worked in BHEL, BHPV before joining Indian Railways, Rama has held various challenging assignments in his career with Indian Railways and CONCOR.



- CONCOR is a network of 64 terminals, offering scheduled and on demand rapid rail and road services between the hinterland and ports, and between terminal across the country.
- Rama, a mechanical engineer, was also the CEO of Infinite Logistic Solutions, a JV of Reliance Logistics Private Ltd and CONCOR.

Ashish Vohra

Ashish Vohra has been appointed as the head of Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.



- The Board of Directors of Reliance Nippon Life Insurance (RNLI), a part of Reliance Capital, has announced the appointment of Ashish Vohra as the new CEO of the company. Before this, Vohra spent eight years with Max Life Insurance, serving as Senior Director and Chief Distribution Officer.
- Nippon Life Insurance, one of the largest life insurance companies in the world, is a strategic partner in Reliance Nippon Life Insurance with 49 per cent stake.
- Vohra is a mechanical engineer from IIT BHU and an MBA from IIM Bangalore.
- He has over 25 years of experience working with companies like Max Life Insurance, Fullerton India Credit, Citibank and Eicher Motors.

B.P. Pandey

Special secretary in the Power Ministry, B P Pandey, has been assigned the additional charge as the CMD of state-owned REC for 3 months.

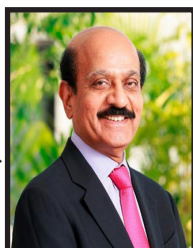


- The Ministry of Power has assigned the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director, REC to B P Pandey, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Power w.e.f. October 1, 2016 for the period of 3 months i.e. October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

BVR Mohan Reddy

Former Nasscom Chairman BVR Mohan Reddy has been appointed as honorary consul of Germany for Hyderabad.

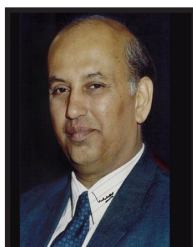
- Reddy is Executive Chairman of Cyient Limited (Formerly Infotech Enterprises Limited).
- KCR, after briefing the visiting dignitary about the state industrial and IT policies, handed over a copy of Industrial Policy and said this is the best single window policy in the world.
- The Ambassador expressed his country's preparedness to bring German companies to Telangana and invest here in future.



U R Rao

Former ISRO Chairman and Space Secretary, Professor U R Rao, has been inducted into the prestigious "The 2016 IAF Hall of Fame" by the International Astronautical Federation.

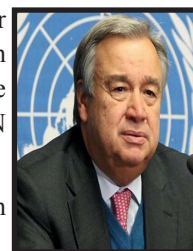
- Professor Rao's citation read states that "Prof U R Rao is hereby inducted into THE 2016 IAF HALL OF FAME for his outstanding contributions to development of space technology in India and for his relentless efforts towards sharing the greater benefits of space technology with developing countries and the world at large."
- In 2013, Rao was inducted into the Satellite Hall of Fame, Washington, by the Society of Satellite Professionals International. A press release said.
- The induction was done during the closing ceremony of the International Astronautical Congress 2016 held at Guadalajara, Mexico on September 30.
- Physical Research Laboratory (Ahmedabad) Governing Council Chairman, Rao is an internationally-renowned space scientist who has contributed to the development of space technology in India and its extensive application to communications and remote sensing of natural resources since start of his career in 1960.
- He is responsible for the creation of India's space and satellite capabilities and their application to the nation's development.
- He undertook the responsibility for the establishment of satellite technology in India in 1972.
- Under his guidance, beginning with the first Indian satellite Aryabhata in 1975, over 20 satellites were designed, fabricated and launched.



- He also accelerated the development of rocket technology in India, resulting in the successful launch of ASLV rocket in 1992 and the operational PSLV launch vehicle.
- He has promoted the use of space technology for broadcasting, education, meteorology, remote sensing and disaster warning.
- Rao, who has published over 360 scientific and technical papers in various journals, has received many honours and awards, including the Padma Bhushan.

Antonio Guterres

Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres has been unanimously selected by the UN Security Council as the next UN Secretary-General.



- Guterres will succeed Ban Ki-moon on 1 January 2017.
- The 15-nation Security Council's decision will be sent, following the formal approval, to the 193-member General Assembly for final formal approval.

About Antonio Guterres

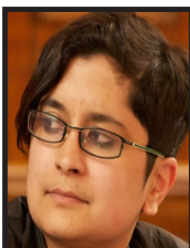
- Antonio Manuel de Oliveira Guterres is a Portuguese politician.
- He served as the Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002.
- He also served for a time as President of the Socialist International.
- He served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015.

About Secretary-General of the United Nations

- The Secretary-General of the United Nations is the head of the United Nations Secretariat.
- The Secretary-General also acts as the de facto spokesperson and leader of the United Nations. Their role is laid out by Chapter XV (Articles 97 to 101) of the United Nations Charter.
- The Secretary-General was envisioned by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a world moderator.
- Article 97 under Chapter XV of the United Nations Charter states that the Secretary-General shall be the chief administrative officer of the Organization, but does not dictate their specific obligations.

Shami Chakrabarti

A 47-year-old Indian-origin human rights lawyer has been appointed the Shadow Attorney General by UK's Opposition Labour party which will see her holding the government's chief legal advisor to account for their actions.



- ✎ Shami Chakrabarti, who recently became a Labour member of the House of Lords and also chaired the party's anti-Semitism inquiry, was confirmed in the new role in a reshuffle of his top team by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.
- ✎ The Attorney General is UK government's chief legal advisor and is drawn from the legislature; their shadow holds them to account and develops alternative policies.

Uttam Bagri

BSE Brokers Forum has elected Uttam Bagri as its chairman and Anurag Bansal as vice-chairman for the current financial year.



- ✎ Other office bearers elected unanimously at the meeting include Purav Fozdar as Secretary and Harin Mehta as Joint Secretary.
- ✎ BSE Brokers Forum was set up in 1993 with an objective to foster, encourage and spread the knowledge investments in capital markets.

Luo Zhaohui

Chinese President Xi Jinping has appointed Luo Zhaohui as China's new ambassador to India.

- ✎ Prior to the Indian assignment Luo, 54, was China's ambassador to Canada from 2014 to 2016.
- ✎ Before that, Luo served as director general of the

Department of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2011 to 2014, according to the website of the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi.



- ✎ Former Chinese ambassador to India Le Yucheng left New Delhi in April.

G Mahalingam

Government has appointed Reserve Bank's Executive Director G Mahalingam as a Whole-Time Member of markets regulator Sebi.



- ✎ Apart from the Chairman, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) can have three Whole-Time Members (WTMs). Mahalingam's appointment follows the retirement of Prashant Saran as WTM in June this year.
- ✎ In a recent notification, the Finance Ministry said Gurumoorthy Mahalingam has been appointed as WTM for a period of five years or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- ✎ He would be getting a consolidated monthly salary of Rs 3.75 lakh.

Anup Bagchi

In a major rejig of senior management positions, ICICI Bank appointed its brokerage business head Anup Bagchi as executive director of the bank and head of retail banking, replacing Rajiv Sabharwal. Shilpa Kumar will replace Bagchi as MD and CEO of ICICI Securities. Shilpa will be succeeded by B Prasanna as Group Executive and Head of Markets and Proprietary Trading at ICICI Bank, as per the decisions taken by its board.

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AWARDS/HONOURS

Arjuna awards

Sports Minister Vijay Goel gave away Arjuna Awards to cricketers Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane at a function held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.



- Rohit Sharma was given the Arjuna Award for the year 2015 and Ajinkya Rahane for 2016. Sharma and Rahane could not earlier receive the Arjuna Awards from the President as they were participating in international tournaments.
- Speaking on the occasion Goel said that while there is no doubt that cricket is among the most popular games in India, the current government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to promote indigenous and other sports as well.
- He added that the recent successes of athletes at the ongoing Rio Paralympics have made every Indian proud.
- The Arjuna Awards, instituted in 1961, are given to sportspersons for consistently outstanding performance for four years preceding the year of award and who have also shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.
- The awardees are given a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress and award money of Rs.5 lakh.

Priyadarshini Global Awards

Bengaluru-based Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Bollywood actors Katrina Kaif and Juhi Chawla are among recipients of the Priyadarshini Global Awards 2016 which was presented on September 19.



- Other recipients of the awards, instituted by a socio-cultural and educational organisation Priyadarshini Academy, in various fields are from Israel, Switzerland and UK. The awards are given to personalities and organisations for contribution in their respective fields.
- Noted scientist and Chairman of ISRO, A S Kiran Kumar, would receive the award for the agency's outstanding contribution to development of space science and technology.
- Kaif was presented "Smita Patil Memorial Award for Best Actor" (part of the overall awards), while Chawla was honoured for her outstanding role in promoting

social causes, said the NGO which has completed 32 years of existence.

- Chawla has filed a petition in the Bombay High Court against mobile tower radiation.
- The awards was presented at a function in a luxury hotel here in presence of Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Suresh Prabhu, Piyush Goyal, real estate tycoon & Chairman of Priyadarshini Academy Niranjana Hiranandani and Chairman-Emeritus of the Academy, Nanik Rupani.

68th Emmys Award 2016

"The People v OJ Simpson" triumphed at the 68th Primetime Emmys, winning five awards including best limited series, while fantasy drama "Game of Thrones" was honoured as the best drama for the second consecutive year.



- "Veep" was named best comedy series and its star, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, won a record-breaking fifth Emmy as best comedy actress. "The People v OJ Simpson", which is the dramatic retelling of the infamous O J Simpson's murder trial, was honoured for its writing and captured several acting awards.
- Courtney B Vance bagged best actor in limited series or movie, Sarah Paulson won best actress and the best supporting actor honour to Sterling K Brown.
- HBO series "Game of Thrones", the fantasy saga based on George RR Martin's novels, made Emmy history, pushing its lifetime total number of awards to 38 - one more than "Frasier", the previous all-time record holder. Besides best drama, "GOT" won David Benioff and DB Weiss the best writing in a drama series honour and best directing in a drama series for Miguel Sapochnik.
- The series already became the most-honoured drama series after picking up nine Emmys at the Creative Arts ceremony last weekend. Overall it won 12 Emmys this year, out of 23 total nominations.
- This year, however, the series lost in the drama acting categories, which were far from predictable. Rami Malek of "Mr Robot" and "Orphan Black" actress Tatiana Maslany overcame heavyweight competition to be named best actor and best actress, respectively.

Asian Achievers Awards

A 78-year-old Indian-origin British obstetrician and member of the UK Parliament has been honoured by a leading publishing group for his work in the medical profession and being incredible role model for social justice, equality and those less fortunate.

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Lord Narendra Babubhai Patel was given the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' during the Asian Achievers Awards for his work in the medical profession and public life in Britain over the years.



- Other winners included Mr Selva Pankaj, CEO of Regent Group - a London-based education skills and training development group;
- Ms Manjit Gill, CEO of Binti, a social enterprise that works for women's causes in India and Africa; and Paralympian Mr Ryan Raghoo, a long jumper who suffers from cerebral palsy.
- The Asian Achievers Awards are organised by Asian Business Publications Limited (ABPL) every year to honour British Asian achievements across different fields.
- The event raised 180,000 pounds (USD 2.34 lakh) through a live auction for its charity partner, Indian Ocean Disaster Relief, set up after the 2004 Tsunami to provide immediate relief and long-term projects in case of natural disasters.
- Over 650 people including business tycoons, entrepreneurs, MPs and the uniformed services, attended the awards now in its 16th year.
- Celebrity guests included cricket legend and former England captain Mike Gatting and West Indies cricketer Gordon Greenidge.

Bangabibhushan Award

To honour her contributions to Bengali songs, West Bengal government will confer this year's 'Bangabibhushan' to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar.



- The award will be conferred to Mangeshkar after the Durga Puja, Banerjee said adding a letter in this regard has already been sent to the singer.
- The Trinamool Congress government had started conferring Bangabibhushan to eminent personalities for their contribution to various fields since 2011. Danseuse Amala Shankar was the first person to receive of the award.

Bharathiar Awards

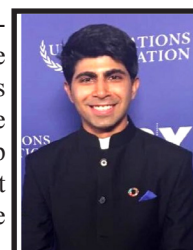
A veteran South African Tamil activist was honoured for devoting his life to the promotion of Indian languages in the country. Mickey Chetty, who played a key role in getting Tamil and Hindi languages included

in the syllabus of government schools in South Africa, was presented with a painting at the annual Bharathiar Awards. The painting shows him seated in the robes he wore when he received an honorary doctorate from the Bharath University in Chennai in March.

- The awards, named after Indian writer, poet, journalist, Indian independence activist and social reformer from Tamil Nadu Chinnaswami Subramania Bharathi, also honoured a number of educationalist for devoting their lives to the promotion of the Tamil language in South Africa.
- In his community involvement of more than three decades, Chetty served as President of the South African Tamil Federation for more than twelve years, pioneering a number of projects and raising the profile of the Tamil community at all levels in South Africa.
- He is currently the President for Africa of the International Movement for Tamil Culture. He also helped revive the annual Children's Tamil Eisteddfod in the country.

UN Young Leaders

Two Indians and an Indian-American are among 17 people selected for the inaugural class of UN Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals for their leadership and contribution to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.



- Trisha Shetty, 25, is the founder and CEO of SheSays, a platform she launched last year to educate, rehabilitate and empower women to take direct action against sexual assault in India.
- Ankit Kawatra, 24 founded Feeding India in 2014 to address the issues of hunger and food waste, particularly by distributing excess food from weddings and parties to the needy. Indian-American Karan Jerath, 19, invented a ground-breaking, subsea wellhead capping device that contains oil spills at the source as a solution in the aftermath of the BP deepwater horizon oil spill - the largest marine oilspill in US history, near his home in Texas.

Lalit Arpan Samman

Hindustani classical singer Shubha Mudgal will be honoured with the annual Lalit Arpan Samman this year.

Mudgal, a Padma Shri recipient, was born in Allahabad and is known for her singing in genres of Khayal, Thumri and Dadra. She has also given her voice to many popular Indie-pop numbers.

- ✎ The 15th edition of Lalit Arpan festival will also acknowledge artist couple Paramjit and Arpita Singh.
- ✎ The two-day festival, dedicated to the "Nayikas of Vidyapati"- a Maithili poet and a Sanskrit writer, will witness dance performances by esteemed dancers like Padma awardees Shovana Narayan, Madhavi Mudgal, Jaya Ram Rao and Vanashri Rao among others.
- ✎ The award is given to those artists who have consistently worked on promoting classic art in different forms. We have been honouring artists including the several upcoming ones since past five years.
- ✎ This year's festival is dedicated to dance. It will present six classical dance styles -- Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi and Bharatnatyam with performances by eight Padma awardees.
- ✎ Last year, the Lalit Arpan Samman was conferred upon literary figure Namwar Singh, painter Krishen Khanna, photographer Raghu Rai and Bharatanatyam dancer Yamini Krishnamurthy.



Outstanding PSU of year award

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) received the Outstanding PSU of the year award given by All India Management Association (AIMA).



- ✎ DMRC's Managing Director Mangu Singh received the award from Union Law and Justice and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad at the 43rd convention of the AIMA.
- ✎ DMRC has been given the award for its "outstanding contribution" for promoting world class service in urban transportation and adopting best practices of project management.

'Visaranai' to represent India at Oscars 2017

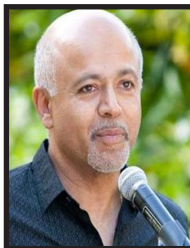
Filmmaker Vetrimaaran's crime thriller "Visaranai" beat competition from films like "Bajirao Mastani" and "Fan" to become India's official entry to the Oscars next year in the best foreign film category.

- ✎ The movie, which won three honours at this year's National Film Awards, has been produced by actor Dhanush.
- ✎ 'Visaranai' is selected on the basis of concept, treatment and technique. There were other good films like 'Sairat', 'Bajirao Mastani', 'Sultan', 'Fan', 'Airlift' and 'Uda Punjab'.

- ✎ There was a Bengali film also in the race. The decision was unanimous," filmmaker Ketan Mehta, chairman of the selection committee of Film Federation of India.
- ✎ There were total 29 films in the competition, FFI secretary general Supran Sen said. "Visaranai" is based on the novel "Lock Up" by M Chandrakumar.
- ✎ "Visaranai" is the ninth Tamil movie to represent India at Oscars. The last Tamil film to be submitted as India's oscar entry was Kamal Haasan's "Hey Ram" (2000).
- ✎ Other submissions were "Nayakan", "Anjali", "Deiva Magan" and "Jeans" among others.
- ✎ At the 63rd National Awards, "Visaranai" won awards in the categories-- best feature film in Tamil, best supporting actor for Samuthirakani and best editing for Kishore Te.
- ✎ The film premiered in the Orrizonti (Horizons) section of the 72nd Venice Film Festival, where it won the Amnesty International Italia Award.
- ✎ India has never won an Oscar in the best foreign film category.

National Humanities Medal

An Indian-American physician and author has been presented with the National Humanities Medal, America's highest humanities award by US President Barack Obama for his contribution in the field of medicine.



- ✎ Currently a professor of medicine at the Stanford School of Medicine, Abraham Varghese has authored several acclaimed books including 'My Own Country' and 'Cutting for Stone'.
- ✎ He was presented with the medal along with several other recipients at a ceremony held at the White House.
- ✎ The 2015 National Humanities Medal to Abraham Varghese for reminding us that the patient is the center of the medical enterprise.
- ✎ Started in 1997, the National Humanities Medal "honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the human experience, broadened citizens' engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other humanities subjects". As many as 12 medals are awarded each year.
- ✎ Varghese is a critically acclaimed, best-selling author and a physician with an international reputation for his emphasis on empathy for patients in an era in which technology often overwhelms the human side of medicine.

2016 Right Livelihood Award

The 2016 Right Livelihood Award widely referred as the Alternative Nobel Prize was announced in Stockholm, Sweden. The laureates of this year's Right Livelihood Award include



- ✎ Syria Civil Defence (The White Helmets)
- ✎ Egypt's Mozn Hassan and Nazra for Feminist Studies
- ✎ Russia's Svetlana Gannushkina
- ✎ Turkish daily Cumhuriyet
- ✎ The laureates will share the 3.0-million-kronor (350000 dollar) prize.
- ✎ The White Helmets of Syria was awarded for their outstanding bravery, compassion and humanitarian engagement in rescuing civilians from the destruction of the Syrian civil war'.
- ✎ It is the first time that a Right Livelihood Award goes to a Laureate from Syria.
- ✎ Mozn Hassan and Nazra for Feminist Studies from Egypt were awarded for asserting the equality and rights of women in circumstances where they are subject to ongoing violence, abuse and discrimination.
- ✎ Russia's Svetlana Gannushkina was awarded for her decades-long commitment to promoting human rights and justice for refugees and forced migrants, and tolerance among different ethnic groups.
- ✎ The Turkish newspaper, Cumhuriyet was awarded for their fearless investigative journalism and commitment to freedom of expression in the face of oppression, censorship, imprisonment and death threats'
- ✎ The jury said all of this year's winners upheld fundamental human rights and values in the face of war and repression.

About 2016 Right Livelihood Award:

The Right Livelihood Award is an international award to honour and support those offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges being faced by the world.

- ✎ The prize was established in 1980 by German-Swedish philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull, and is presented annually in early December. It was created after the Nobel Foundation refused to create awards honouring efforts in the fields of the environment and international development.

OCA Merit Award

Indian Olympic Association President N Ramachandran was conferred with the prestigious OCA Award of Merit by the Olympic Council of Asia for his outstanding contributions to sports in Asia.



- ✎ The award was presented to him by OCA President Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah at the OCA General Assembly being held here. Also, present on the occasion was the International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach.
- ✎ Incidentally, it was only a month ago that Ramachandran received the IOC's Olympic Order for his contributions to the Olympic movement from Bach himself at the Rio Olympics.
- ✎ The latest recognition makes Ramachandran the only IOA President to have received the two prestigious awards and that too in close succession.

Lata Mangeskar Award

Veteran music director and violinist Uttam Singh was named for the 2016 Lata Mangeskar Award for Lifetime Achievement of the Maharashtra Government.



The award carries a citation, a trophy and 500000 rupees in cash.

About Uttam Singh

Born on 25 May 1948, Uttam Singh has worked as a violinist, music arranger and music director for many Bollywood films.

- ✎ He worked as a music arranger for Ilaiyaraaja in numerous Tamil films before establishing himself as an independent composer.
- ✎ His big break came in 1963, when he worked as a violinist for a documentary being made by Mohammad Safi. After this, Uttam Singh played violin for major composers including Naushad, Roshan, Madan Mohan, C. Ramchandra, Sachin Dev Burman.
- ✎ Later, he became the main violinist for Rahul Dev Burman.
- ✎ His songs and score for the movie Pinjar won him much critical acclaim. It is considered to be his finest work as composer.

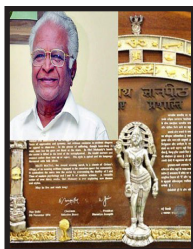
About Lata Mangeskar Award:-

The Lata Mangeskar Award is a national-level award instituted to honour works in the field of music.

- ✎ Various state governments of India present awards with this name.
- ✎ The state Government of Madhya Pradesh started this award in 1984.
- ✎ The Lata Mangeskar Award issued by the Maharashtra Government started from 1992. This is also officially known as Lata Mangeskar Award for Lifetime Achievement.
- ✎ Krishna Kalle was the winner of the 2014 Lata Mangeskar Award for Lifetime Achievement.

29th Moortidevi Award

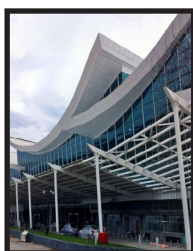
Telugu author and eminent scholar Prof Kolakaluri Enoch was honoured with the 29th Moortidevi Award 2015 for his novel Ananta Jeevanam. The award was given to the author by noted historian Dr Kapila Vatsyayan.



- ✎ Prof Enoch's work Ananta Jeevanam is a novel that portrays the struggle of a weak, downtrodden and common man from Rayalseema in the face of a cyclone.
- ✎ Enoch has earlier been awarded the Padma Shree for his contributions in the field of literature by the government in 2014.
- ✎ The Moortidevi award has been constituted by the Bharatiya Jnanpith whose founder Sahu Shantiprasad Jain named the award after his mother. The annual literary award was established in 1983 and honours those working in the field of Indian literature, culture and philosophy.

Best Tourist Friendly Airport

Airports Authority of India's Tirupati Airport has been awarded as "Best Tourist Friendly Airport" under the category for "State Annual Excellence Awards for the year 2015-16" by Andhra Pradesh Tourism. The award was presented on the eve of World Tourism Day by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Nara Chandra Babu Naidu at Bhawani Islands, Vijayawada.

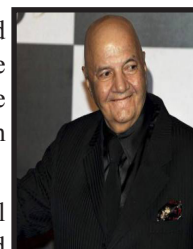


- ✎ The State Annual Tourism Excellence Awards under various segments of Travel and Tourism Industry are awarded by Department of Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh for maintaining excellent Customer

friendly relations with tourists and passengers, coinciding with World Tourism Day Celebrations.

7th Jagran Film Festival

The 81-year-old Bollywood veteran Prem Chopra will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement award at the ongoing 7th Jagran Film Festival.



- ✎ Prem Chopra has played several memorable characters and has managed to have a lasting impression on the minds of people, with his menacing and villainous performances.
- ✎ Some of his notable films include "Shaheed", "Bobby", "Souten", "Trishul", "Kati Patang", "Bairaag", "Dostana", "Ilzaam", "Ram Balraam", "Kaala Patthar", "Majboor", "Shahenshah", "Raja Babu", "Dhamaal", "Agent Vinod" among several others.

'Pride of India' Awards

Two visiting BJP leaders have been presented with the 'Pride of India' awards for bringing honour to the community and country through their outstanding contributions.

- ✎ Vijay Jolly, President of Delhi Study Group and former BJP MLA and Vijay Mehta, Vice President of the study Group, were presented the awards by Atul Pathak OBE, President of the Punjabi Society of the British Isles
- ✎ Jolly and Mehta are currently on a short visit to London to promote people to people friendship between India and the UK.

Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival Award

Young filmmaker Katyayan Shivpuri, from Maharashtra, won the first prize at the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival for his work "Murga".



- ✎ Minister of Information and Broadcasting, M Venkaiah Naidu awarded Katyayan with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakhs.
- ✎ The short film promoting the idea of clean India had "Murga" as the metaphor depicting the victims that citizens have made of themselves and of the children by not keeping the surroundings clean.
- ✎ The second prize was shared by filmmakers Sudanshu Sharma, KVK Kumar and Akshay Danavale for

their films “Nahna Doot,” “Chembuku Moodindi” (The Dying Vessel) and “Sarkarmi Rati Wadho!” respectively. The third prize was awarded to six entries.

Cleanest Tourist Destination Award

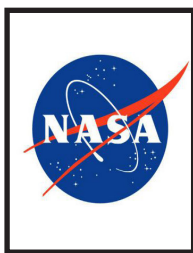
Gangtok, the capital city of Sikkim, has been named as the ‘Cleanest City Destination’ by the Union Ministry of Tourism.



- ✎ The award was received from the Prime Minister by the Commissioner, Gangtok Municipal Corporation in New Delhi on September 30.
- ✎ The Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, nodal Ministries responsible for implementing the flagship programme Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban and Gramin), jointly organised a day-long national workshop ‘INDOSAN’ at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

USD 750k NASA award

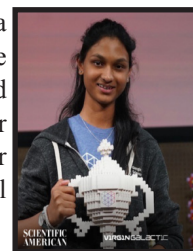
A team in the US has won a whopping USD 750,000 prize from NASA for designing a robot that can retrieve samples from challenging terrains, and could help the space agency explore surfaces of planets such as Mars in future missions.



- ✎ After an intense robotics competition, the West Virginia University Mountaineers of Morgantown bagged the largest prize awarded in the five-year run of NASA’s Sample Return Robot Challenge.
- ✎ The Sample Return Robot Challenge, part of NASA’s Centennial Challenges Programme, aims to encourage innovation in robotics technologies relevant to space exploration and broader applications that benefit life on Earth.
- ✎ The event brought together tech-savvy citizens, entrepreneurs, educators and students to demonstrate robots that can locate and collect geologic samples from a wide and varied landscape without human control and within a specified time.
- ✎ The competition, hosted by and held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in the US concluded with an awards ceremony officiated by NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and WPI President Laurie A Leshin, during which Dennis Andrucyk, deputy associate administrator of NASA’s Space Technology Mission Directorate, presented the team with the prize check.

Google Science Fair prize 2016

Indian-origin South African girl Kiara Nirghin won the Google Science Fair prize 2016. She won this grand prize of 50000 US dollars scholarship for using orange peel to develop a cheaper super-absorbent material that helps soil retain water.



- ✎ Kiara Nirghin is a Grade 11 student at St Martin’s private school. She did a project titled “No More Thirsty Crops” which was aimed at tackling the severe drought plaguing South Africa. Her solution to the problem of drought uses orange and avocado fruit peel, which are normally discarded.
- ✎ The Google Science Fair is a programme for budding scientists between the ages of 13 to 18, who are invited to solve the world’s biggest challenges using science and technology.

Highlights of the Nirghin’s Project

The fruit peel serves perfect alternative to super-absorbent polymers (SAPs), which absorb and carry about 300 times their weight in liquid relative to their own mass.

- ✎ These SAPs are not biodegradable, are costly and full of acrylic acid, sodium hydroxide and other chemicals.
- ✎ It was after 45 days of experimentation that Nirghin was successful in creating a low-cost super-absorbent polymer, made out of waste products from the juice manufacturing industry. This polymer can retain large amounts of water, keep soil moist and improve crop growth without regular water supplements.

Sangeet Natak Akademi award

Noted Bharatanatyam dancer C V Chandrasekhar, musician Hridaynath Mangeshkar and Ghazal singer Bhupinder Singh were among the artists who were presented coveted Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and awards by President Pranab Mukherjee.



- ✎ Artists from various disciplines of performing arts including TV and movie actor Himani Shivpuri, Sattriya danseuse Sharodi Saikia, Qawwal Mohammed Sayeed Sabri Jaipuri, were also given Sangeet Natak Akademi’s Fellowships and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2015 by Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- ✎ Chandrasekhar was the only artist to receive the Fellowship.
- ✎ 76-year old Ghazal singer Bhupinder Singh, Hindustani vocal musicians Krishna Bisht, Mashkoor Ali Khan, Sitar Player Kartick Kumar, Sarod player Brij Narayan, one of the first directors of Punjabi theatre Rani Balbir Kaur were also conferred the coveted award by the President.
- ✎ Noted movie and theatre actor Manoj Joshi, playwright Nand Kishore Acharya, Shafaat Khan, theatre directors Parvez Akhtar, Mushtaq Khan, designer Pradeep Mulye and Sarojini Nangiaramma, a noted actor in Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre popular in Kerala, were also among the recipient.
- ✎ The Sangeet Natak Akademi's Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) are recognised as the most coveted national honours bestowed on performing artists as well as teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts.
- ✎ Shanta Gokhale and Chaman Ahuja received the award for overall contribution in performing arts.

Knighthood by France

Film-maker and elephant researcher Prajna Chowta was recently appointed Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight in the National Order of Merit) by the French Government. The official ceremony is expected to be held later in 2016 in Bengaluru.



Prajna Chowta:

Chowta is the founder of Aane Mane Foundation. The Foundation has been researching and conserving wild Asian elephants.

- ✎ She has also authored the Elephant Code Book on captive elephant management as well as the French book *Enfant d'Elephant* (Elephant's Child) in 2014.
- ✎ The book is based on the sketches of tribals and their relationship with elephants.
- ✎ As a researcher, she was also instrumental in developing an online monitoring system and one of the first GPS collars for elephants in India.
- ✎ She is among the few Indian women to be appointed a Knight. Earlier in 2016, businesswoman Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and actor Kamal Hassan were recognised under the French government's Legion of Honour award.

About National Order of Merit

The National Order of Merit is a French order of merit with membership awarded by the President of the French Republic. It was founded on 3 December 1963 by President Charles de Gaulle. The reason for the order's establishment was twofold: to replace the large number of ministerial orders previously awarded by the ministries; and to create an award that can be awarded at a lower level than the Legion of Honour, which is generally reserved for French citizens.

Sustainable Dev Leadership Award

Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling was conferred with the 'Sustainable Development Leadership Award' by President Pranab Mukherjee in recognition of his leadership in making the northeastern state the first and only organic state in the country.

- ✎ The award was presented to Chamling for his vision and leadership in environment and sustainable development leading to the establishment of Sikkim as the first and only organic state in the country.
- ✎ The award was conferred during 'World Sustainable Development Summit' organised by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) here.
- ✎ Sikkim is the only state to have attained the official status of fully organic state in January, 2016 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the announcement during his visit to the state.

Ekalavya Award

Sprinter Srabani Nanda has bagged the 24th Ekalavya Award for the year 2016 in recognition of her sporting excellence. She will get a cash award of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation at the Ekalavya Award function.



- ✎ Srabani won gold in 200m, silver in 100m and 4x100m relay in 12th South Asian Games held in Guwahati in February. She had also won bronze in 100m and 4x100m relay in Asian Grand Prix Athletics in Thailand in June 2015.
- ✎ Besides Srabani, hockey players Deep Grace Ekka and Dipsan Tirkey will also receive a cash prize of Rs 50,000, the release said adding that the date for Ekalavya Award function will be announced later.
- ✎ Ekalavya Award, instituted by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT), is given every year to young sportspersons of Odisha in recognition of their outstanding performance in the preceding two years.
- ✎ Athlete Dutee Chand won the award last year.



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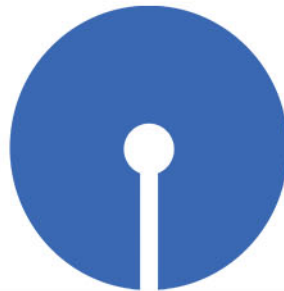
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OBITUARY

Ayub Khan

Former Union Minister Captain Ayub Khan died. He was 83. Khan, a hero of 1965 Indo-Pakistan War, was MoS Agriculture in the P V Narasimha Rao government.

- ✎ He was awarded Vir Chakra for his efforts during the 1965 war.



Carlo Azeglio Ciampi

Italy's Former President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi died. He was 95. Ciampi, who served briefly as prime minister in a 1993-94 caretaker government of technocrats, held the largely ceremonial post of president from 1999 to 2006. He was so popular that he was widely urged to serve a second term – a proposal he declined on the grounds of his advanced age.

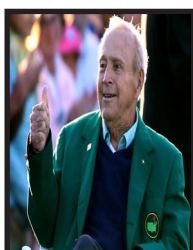
- ✎ A career economist, Ciampi spent 14 years as governor of the Bank of Italy and later served as a treasury minister, a role in which he was the principal architect of Italy's adoption of the euro as one of the founder members of the single currency.



Arnold Palmer

American golf legend Arnold Palmer has died in Pittsburgh at the age of 87. Palmer, who won 95 tournaments worldwide, was nicknamed "The King" and was still a huge figure in the sport.

- ✎ Residing at Bay Hill in Orlando – where he staged his annual PGA Tour tournament, the Arnold Palmer Invitational – his health had been failing for months. However, his death will be so keenly felt for a game still in his thrall.



K Madhavan

Freedom fighter and communist leader K Madhavan passed away at a private hospital in Kanhangad in the district due to old age ailments. He was 101.

- ✎ Madhavan, who took part in the country's freedom movement as well as the Guruvayur temple-entry agitation.



- ✎ Born on August 26, 1915 in Kasaragod district, Madhavan was one of the youngest participants in the Salt Satyagraha at the age of 15.

Shimon Peres

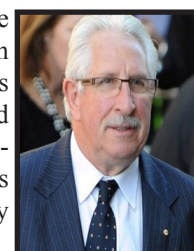
Nobel Prize winner and former Israeli president and Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, died. He was 93. His defining achievement was as one of the key architects of the Oslo peace accords for which he was jointly awarded the Nobel peace prize with the then Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, and Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.



- ✎ He was the architect of Israel's secret nuclear programme. As a defence official in the late 1950s and early 1960s, Peres was involved in establishing the nuclear reactor in Dimona.

Max Walker

Former Australia medium-pace bowler and colourful television commentator Max Walker has died aged 68. Cricket Australia said Walker played 34 Tests between 1972-73 and 1977. He took 138 wickets at 27.47 and played 17 one-day internationals.



- ✎ Sporting a handlebar moustache, the Tasmanian was a fan favourite nicknamed "Tangles" for his unusual bowling action. A key figure into the launch of World Series Cricket in the late 1970s, Walker backed up quick legends Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson.

Yuvraj Singh

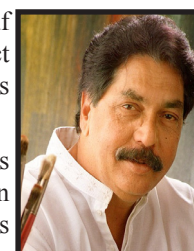
Veteran socialist leader and former lawmaker Yuvraj Singh died at his residence in Katihar after prolonged illness. He was 103.

- ✎ Mr Singh represented Katihar in Lok Sabha twice in 1977 from Biju Lok Dal and in 1989 on Janata Dal ticket.

Yusuf Arakkal

Renowned figurative artist Yusuf Arakkal, who left a distinct impression of his own with his works, died. He was 70.

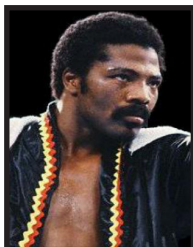
- ✎ Arakkal had done many works in different media including in canvases, sculptures with emphasis on tiger conservation. Recently, he received the prestigious Lorenzo De Medici Gold Medal in Italy.



The award is instituted in memory of the great Florentine statesman Lorenzo de Medici. Arakkal was also recipient of several other awards including Karnataka Lalithkala Academy award in 1979 and 1981 and a national award in 1983.

Aaron Pryor

Boxing Hall of Famer Aaron Pryor died. He was 60. His biggest moments in the ring were his two junior welterweight victories over Arguello. Pryor's first bout against Arguello is still considered one of the greatest fights in boxing history.



Syed Ahmed

Former district Congress president Syed Ahmed passed away at his native village of Saidpura due to ill health.

The 90-year-old leader was suffering from fever since the past few days. He died yesterday. Several party activists and others paid homage to the leader.

Dayanand Anant

Renowned writer and litterateur from Uttarakhand, Dayanand Anant, passed away. He was 88. He was one of the most prominent writers of Uttarakhand.

He penned two short story books, three novels, five TV dramas and many comics and satires. He also translated many stories from other languages to Hindi.

Anant worked as Public Relations Officer with the Russian Embassy.

He started a tabloid by the name of Parvatiya Times in 1980 and remained its editor for a decade. He was honoured with many prestigious awards.

Mohammad Shafi Bhat

Senior National Conference leader and former MP Mohammad Shafi Bhat died. Bhat was 71. A law graduate, Bhat joined National Conference decades ago and got elected to the Lok Sabha on the party ticket from Srinagar parliamentary constituency in 1989.

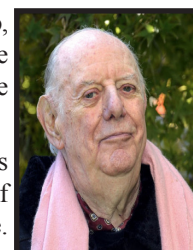
Bhat represented Amirakadal Assembly constituency of Srinagar on National Conference ticket in 1996.

However, he parted ways with the party and joined Congress ahead of 2002 Assembly polls.

He contested the election from Amirakadal constituency on Congress ticket and retained the seat.

Dario Fo

Italian playwright and actor Dario Fo, who won the Nobel prize for literature in 1997, has died at the age of 90, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi announced.



With Dario Fo's death, Italy has lost one of the great characters of its theatre, culture and civilian life. His satirical work, research, stage work and multi-faceted artistic activity are the legacy of a great Italian to the world. Left-winger Fo, one of the leading figures in 20th century farce and political theatre, was best known for his works "Accidental Death of an Anarchist" and "Can't Pay, Won't Pay".

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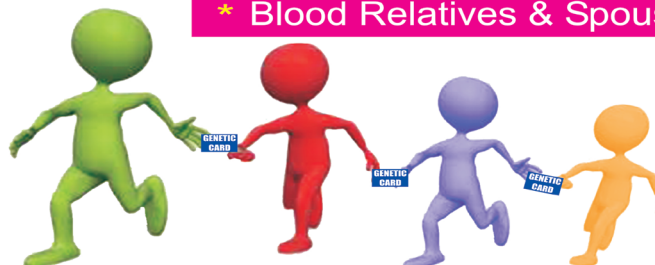
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NATIONAL

Burning Topics of the Month

1. **Sports Ministry to launch talent identification portal.**
2. **Railway launches 'Yatri Mitra' Seva for elderly, differently abled.**
3. **Cabinet approves setting-up of country's first medical park.**

HAL gets membership of APAQG with voting rights, 16 SEP., 2016



Hindustan Aeronautics Limited said that it has been conferred the prestigious membership of the Asia-Pacific Aerospace Quality Group (APAQG) under the category 'Full Member with voting rights'.

This makes India the seventh nation to join the APAQG under TRHE International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG).

The other nations of APAQG are China, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore and Japan.

HAL is now a part of Global Quality team dedicated to bring improvements in the Aerospace Quality. The company can participate in international forums and contribute to the development and revision of current and new quality Standards.

Sports Ministry to launch Talent identification portal, 16 SEP., 2016

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports, Vijay Goel has decided to start a Talent Search Portal under the Department of Sports. The portal is intended to give a fair opportunity to talented children from every nook and corner of the country to pursue their dreams of achieving excellence in sports.

Details of the performance and potential of a child including video and photographs could be uploaded on the portal by children, their parents, relatives, teachers and others on the portal. A format will be available on the portal to capture the key details of the child. After due scrutiny, children with

potential will be given an opportunity to appear for a battery of tests which could be conducted at the nearest SAI Centre among others. Those who pass the battery of tests will be admitted to the training centres of SAI. Sports Ministry will also persuade the State Governments and others to admit some of such children in their centres. Such talented children who are not able to leave their current places of residence for any reason may be offered a scholarship to help them pursue excellence in sports.

The portal will allow talented children to stake their claim for support including admission to sports training centres from the comforts of their homes and will simplify procedures. It will be particularly beneficial to the disadvantaged sections of the society.

The plan is to target talented children of 8 years and above. Efforts will be made to involve National Sports Federations, corporate houses and other stake-holders in the programme.

The portal is likely to be launched within a month.

Nitin Gadkari lays foundation stones for twelve National Highways projects at Ropar, Samrala and Jalandhar in Punjab, 16 SEP., 2016



Punjab witnessed a major step towards world class road connectivity in all major cities as Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways & Shipping Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stones of 12 major National Highways projects worth Rs. 10596.19 crore at Ropar, Samrala and Jalandhar in the state. These road projects mainly include 4 Laning of Jalandhar-Barnala, Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur, Ropar-Phagwara, Kharar-Kurali, Chandigarh-Kharar, Kharar-Ludhiana roads besides elevated road in Ludhiana city.

The projects would provide world class road connectivity to commuters between Doaba and Malwa along with adjoining Haryana and Himachal Pradesh in next 2 years. Chandigarh would also be connected with 4 lane roads with all major cities like Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana.

Addressing the gathering at the foundation stone laying ceremony at Ropar, Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari announced the sanction of (1) 313 KMs long new National

Highways in Punjab, (2) Jalandhar to Ajmer for Mumbai 4/6 lane 580 KMs long National Highway worth Rs 8000 crore and (3) Delhi -Amritsar- Katra Expressway worth Rs 60,000 crore reducing 117 KMs distance which at present is 732 Km. He said that nowadays 22 km roads are being constructed per day as compared to 2 km per day during the time of previous government. Gadkari assured that funds will be no problem to ensure all round development and progress of Punjab.

The work on these projects would start in full swing as the deadline has been fixed to complete the projects in the coming two years. Punjab has the highest road densities amongst Indian states at 133 km per 100 sq. km with total 64,500 KMs road network in the state. Punjab is also amongst the well served states and has road availability above the national average of 240.10 km per 1 lakh population.

Defence Minister Launches Upgraded Website of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, 16 SEP., 2016



As part of the Prime Minister's 'Digital India' programme, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar launched the re-designed website of Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence. The website is now fully compliant to the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW).

The website has been re-designed using the Content Management Framework (CMF) developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC). It is now more user centric, user friendly, universally accessible and less vulnerable to cyber-attacks. Web pages have been made responsive and easy to access through different devices i.e. desktop, tablet PCs and mobile phones with varying screen sizes. The website has also been optimized for viewing by different browsers and operating systems. The website of DDP provides news updates, policies, procedures, publications, directory

of officials and media contents such as e-book, photo-gallery etc. A link for online service of the Department – 'Application for NoC for Export of Military Stores' has been provided.

Thus the website provides complete information at one place to all stakeholders i.e. public, vendors, exporters, users (Armed Forces), producers (public and private), quality assurance agencies, industry associations, other Central Ministries and State Governments, about the various initiatives which DDP has taken and is taking to promote manufacturing and export in the defence sector under the 'Make in India' initiative.

Railways launches Yatri Mitra Sewa for elderly, differently-abled, 20 SEP., 2016



In a move to make rail travel comfortable for elderly, differently-abled and ailing travelers, Railways has launched 'Yatri Mitra Sewa' to facilitate access to wheelchairs, battery operated cars and porter services.

'Yatri Mitra' or 'Passenger Friend' can be a "Sahayak (assistant)" or any other person nominated for the purpose.

The service will be available at major railway stations across the country.

The service can be availed at the time of online booking of tickets, calling or messaging '139', accessing an app to be developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), or by simply dialling a dedicated mobile phone number to be activated for the purpose.

The IRCTC has been mandated to implement the service which may provide it 'free of cost' by involving some NGO, charitable trust, PSUs, etc under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) category.

But, if the service cannot be provided 'free of cost' due to lack of response, IRCTC may arrange this service on "reasonable and affordable" charges through a service provider or on its own.

Once the service is booked, the IRCTC will ensure the 'Yatri Mitra' receive the passenger at the entrance of the station and help in boarding the train safely.

The assistant will also be available at the coach when the passenger arrives at the designated railway station.

Union HRD Minister, Praksh Javadekar launched PARAM-ISHAN supercomputer at IIT, Guwahati, 22 SEP., 2016

Union Human Resource Development Minister Praksh Javadekar launched PARAM-ISHAN supercomputing facility at IIT, Guwahati.

Prof. Gautam Biswas, Director, IIT Guwahati said that PARAM-ISHAN have power of 250 Teraflops and three hundred tera bites capacity and this will not only augment the research initiatives in the Institute, but also help in creating an ecosystem for attracting right talents to the field of research.

PARAM-ISHAN can be used in the application areas like Computational Chemistry, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Computational Electromagnetic, Civil Engineering Structures, Nano-block Self Assemble, Optimization etc. North East India receives heavy rainfall during monsoon, which leads to flooding and landslides. PARAM-ISHAN can be used for Weather, climate modeling and seismic data processing.

No separate rail budget from next fiscal; Union Budget early, 22 SEP., 2016



Ending 92-year-old tradition, the Cabinet decided to merge rail budget with the general budget and agreed in-principle to advance the date of its presentation in Parliament from the usual February end.

The actual date for presentation of the general budget for 2017-18 will be decided by the government after taking into account the ensuing assembly elections.

The Cabinet has also decided to do away with the Plan/Non-Plan expenditure classification in Budget 2017-18 and replace with 'capital and receipt'.

The government, Jaitley said, was in favour of advancing the budgetary exercise to that it could be completed before March 31 and expenditure on public-funded schemes could begin from April 1.

IAF successfully fired long range air-to-air MICA missile from Mirage-2000 combat aircraft, 24 SEP., 2016



Indian Air Force successfully fired the recently acquired long range air-to-air MICA missile on a manoeuvring target from Mirage-2000 Upgrade combat aircraft.

A Defence Ministry release said in New Delhi that the missile achieved a direct hit on a target which was much smaller than an actual aircraft and flying at a low altitude.

The release said, with the success of this mission by 'Tigers', the first squadron of the force, IAF has become one of the few air forces in the world with the capability of such beyond visual range air-to-air missile.

Mirage-2000

The Mirage 2000 is a single-engine fourth-generation jet fighter manufactured by France's Dassault Aviation. It was designed in the late 1970s as a lightweight fighter based on the Mirage III for the French Air Force (Armée de l'Air).

The upgraded Mirage 2000 fighter jets are fitted with the Thales RDY 2 radar, a helmet-mounted display, new avionics, and the ability to fire new weapons including the MICA missile.

Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Lays Foundation Stone of Gokul Gram Project, 27 SEP., 2016

Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh laid the foundation stone of the first Gokul Gram in Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay's birth place, Mathura as part of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission under which 14 such Grams (villages) would be established across the country.

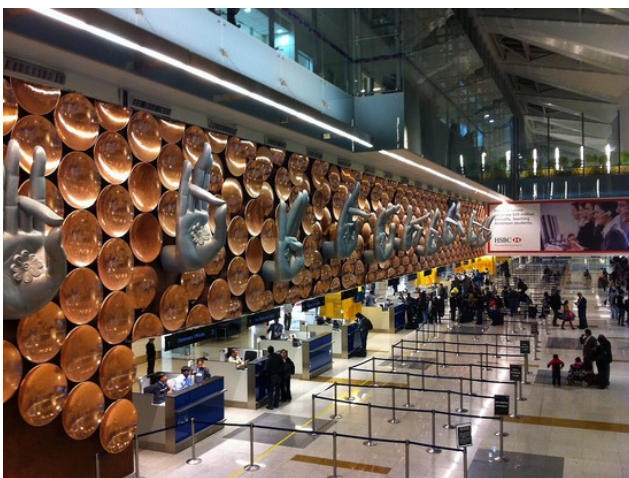


The proposed Gram will work as a centre for conservation and development of native cattle breeds. He said in a statement.

Singh said the country is set to harvest record 270 million tonnes (mt) of foodgrains in 2016-17 crop year (July-June) on account of good monsoon after two years of drought, while pulses output is expected rise to 21 mt.

Before this, the Agriculture Minister inaugurated a waste sewage-water treatment plant as well as a four-day agri-fair.

Indira Gandhi International Airport becomes first in Asia-Pacific region to achieve carbon neutral status, 28 SEP., 2016



The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced that the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has become the first airport in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve carbon neutral status.

DIAL is a GMR Group-led consortium which manages and operates IGI airport.

The announcement on the carbon neutral status was made by Airports Council International (ACI) during the Airport Carbon Accreditation certificate presentation ceremony held in Montreal, Canada.

The Airport Carbon Accreditation has upgraded Delhi Airport to 'Level 3+, Neutrality', which is the highest level of achievement available to airports across the world.

What is carbon neutrality?

- Carbon neutrality, or a net zero carbon footprint, occurs when the net carbon emissions over an entire year is zero. This means the airport absorbs or offsets the same amount of emission that was generated.
- It is used in the context of carbon dioxide releasing processes associated with transportation, energy production, and industrial processes such as production of carbon neutral fuel.

IWAI inks 3 MoUs with DCI and MPT for inland water transport, 29 SEP., 2016

The Inland Waterways Authority of India has signed three separate MoUs with Dredging Corporation of India and Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) to accelerate the development of inland water transport sector as an alternative mode of transport here.

The MoUs were signed in presence of Union Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi.

Development of Inland Water Transport is a priority of the Ministry of Shipping. After the declaration of 106 new National Waterways, in addition to the existing five National Waterways, under the National Waterways Act, 2016, the responsibilities of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) have increased manifold.

These MoUs are meant to make use of the synergies, strengths and expertise of the Ports and Dredging sectors to enable IWAI to accelerate the development of Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector as an alternative, viable and environment friendly mode of transport.

While the MoU with DCI will enable IWAI to maintain navigable depth in National Waterways, the MoUs will help IWAI to develop National Waterway in Odisha and various National Waterways in Goa.

He said the MoU between IWAI and DCI is to ensure development of the fairways, the dredging responsibilities of the IWAI are expected to increase rapidly in the next few years.

Modi govt launched Progress Panchayat for minorities, 29 SEP., 2016

The Narendra Modi government launched Progress Panchayat, a campaign to reach out to the minorities, particularly Muslims, to create awareness in these communities about the government's policies and programmes and remove "fears and misconceptions" about the government.



Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched first of the Progress Panchayats in Mewat region of Haryana. Mewat has a significant Muslim population. Last month, a couple was murdered and two girls raped, allegedly by a gau rakshak, or cow protection, group in this region.

Naqvi said the Progress Panchayat would educate people of the area about the government's efforts in social, educational, health and infrastructure sectors and in creating job opportunities. Naqvi said his ministry would also seek feedback from the people on its schemes and try to counter the misinformation campaign launched by its political rivals against the Modi government.

A similar Progress Panchayat is scheduled to be held in Tijara village in Alwar district of Rajasthan on October 3. Naqvi plans to attend 100 such Panchayats in areas that have significant presence of minorities across the country.

M. Venkaiah Naidu felicitated winners of Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival on October 2nd, 2016, 30 SEP., 2016



Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Information and Broadcasting felicitated the winners of the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival in a special felicitation

programme which was held in New Delhi on October 2, 2016. Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, was also presented on the occasion.

The Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival organized by the NFDC on behalf of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, has received over 4000 entries from across the country in various Indian languages on the theme of the Swachh Bharat Mission. The key objective of the Festival was to generate awareness, inspire people and include them as stakeholders in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The short films festival was a competition inviting films of duration not more than 3 minutes. The distinguished jury, comprising of eminent theatre and film actor – producer Ms. Vani Tripathi, award-winning filmmaker Ms. Gitanjali Rao, and celebrated advertising personality Mr. Prahlad Kakar, has selected 20 short films out of the 4346 entries.

The Directors of the top ten films would be given cash awards of INR 10 lakhs (first film), 5 lakhs (next three films) and 2 lakhs respectively (last 6 films), while the next ten would be awarded certificates. All participants would be given certificates of participation.

PM, CMs & Ministers signed Declaration of Commitment to make Swachh Bharat by 2019, 01 OCT., 2016



Top leadership of the country including the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers from States and Union Territories signed a Declaration of Commitment to make India Open Defecation Free and Clean by 2019.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Maharashtra and Goa besides Ministers from States and UTs signed the Declaration during the INDOSAN (India Sanitation Conference) here today. Other elected representatives from rural and urban local bodies, District Collectors, Municipal Commissioners also signed

a similar Declaration. 11 institutions and organisations have been felicitated by Prime Minister for significant work to ensure cleanliness. These were: Chandigarh and Mysurr (Clean Cities in million plus population category), Gangtok (Cleanest Tourism Destination), Pune Municipal Corporation and SWaCH Cooperative Society (Best in Solid Waste Management), Rani Ki Vav, Patan, Gujarat (Cleanest Cultural Heritage Site), Surat Railway Station (Cleanest Station), Post Graduate Institute of Medical Research & Education, Chandigarh (Cleanest Hospital), Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh (ODF and Cleanest district in hilly areas), Sindhugurg district, Maharashtra (ODF and Cleanest district in plain areas) and National Cadet Corps, NCC (Exemplary nation-wide cleanliness activities).

Arab leader will be the chief guest at India's Republic Day next year 2016, 03 OCT., 2016



Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, will be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi next year.

The invitation to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) leader can be seen as India's bid to strengthen ties with the Gulf region that is home to a large population of expatriates.

Nitin Gadkari Launches Indian Bridge Management System, 05 OCT., 2016

A major step was taken towards ensuring safety of bridges in the country, when the Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari formally launched the Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS) in New Delhi. IBMS is being developed to create an inventory of all bridges in the country and rate their structural condition so that timely repair and rehabilitation work can be carried out based on the criticality of the structure.

IBMS is the largest platform in the world owned by a single owner, with database that could exceed 1,50,000 bridge structures. So far 1,15,000 bridges have been inventorized, of which 85,000 are culverts and the rest are bridges. During inventory creation each bridge is assigned a unique identification number or National Identity Number based on the state, RTO zone and whether it is situated on a National Highway, State Highway or is a district road. Then the precise location of the bridge in terms of latitude-longitude is collected through GPS and based on this, the bridge is assigned a Bridge Location Number. Thereafter, engineering characteristics like the design, materials, type of bridge, its age, loading, traffic lane, length, width of carriage way etc are collected and are used to assign a Bridge Classification Number to the structure. These are then used to do a structural rating of the structure on a scale of 0 to 9, and each bridge is assigned a Structural Rating Number. The rating is done for each component of the structure like integral and non-integral deck, superstructure, substructure, bank and channel, structural evaluation, deck geometry, vertical clearance, waterway efficiency etc. In addition to the structural rating, the bridges are also being assigned Socio-Economic Bridge Rating Number which will decide the importance of the structure in relation to its contribution to daily socio-economic activity of the area in its vicinity.

Based on this inventory IBMS will analyse data and identify bridges that need attention. Further inspection will be carried out wherever required to improve the operational availability of the structure, enhance its life and prioritize repair and rehabilitation work. The data will help to decide which bridge needs critical attention, or which needs to be rebuilt.

Govt approves MoU with EU on water management, 05 OCT., 2016



Seeking to enhance the country's capabilities in water management, the government approved signing of a pact with the European Union on water resources.

The MoU envisages strengthening the technological, scientific and management capabilities of India and the European Union in the field of water management on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

It provides technical exchange on water issues, including on integrated water resource management plans within river basins and through study visits.

The agreement, cleared by the Union Cabinet, seeks to identify key environmental issues and approaches for sustainable development where exchange of experiences and cooperation could be mutually beneficial to strengthen and further develop cooperation between India and the EU in the field of water management.

Cabinet approves setting up of country's first medical park, 05 OCT., 2016



Giving a push to local production of hi-end medical equipment, the government on Wednesday gave its nod to PSU HLL Lifecare to sub-lease over 300 acres of land in Chennai to set up the country's first medical devices manufacturing park.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its nod to the PSU under the Health Ministry to sub-lease 330.10 acres of land at Chengalpattu near Chennai to set up the Medi Park through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with shareholding of HLL at 50 per cent.

Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inspects and Flags Off Newly Manufactured Solar Powered Guard Van of Goods (Freight) Train, 06 OCT., 2016

Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inspected and flagged off the newly manufactured Guard Van of Goods (Freight) Train on 05th



October 2016 at Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station. The newly manufactured Guard Van of Goods Train (8 wheeled) has been equipped for the first time with Solar powered Light, Fan, Mobile Charging Point along with the facility of Zero discharge Bio Toilet. On this occasion, Member Rolling Stock, Railway Board Hemant Kumar, Member Traffic, Railway Board Mohammed Jamshed, Financial Commissioner Railways, KV Nanda, were also present.

Speaking on the occasion Suresh Prabhu has said that these facilities will improve the working conditions and functioning of the guards. He also said that powering Fans & Lights through Solar Panels will help in reducing the carbon footprint of Railways. He also said that Indian Railways will pursue to initiate more such initiatives. He further said that, Indian Railways has always kept in mind providing good working conditions to its workers and customers. He said that use of Solar energy is also an environment friendly measure and will help in energy saving. Shri Suresh Prabhu said that Indian Railways is also working to run fully solar powered trains.

Guards of freight trains have been working under difficult condition of absence of basic facilities of light & fan that too during heat of summers and darkness of night work. Indian Railways has now attempted to address this shortcoming by providing light and fan arrangement in brake-vans which so far have been a distant dream of the Guards.

The Guard vans (also called 8 wheeled Brake Vans Z-frame Improved BVZI) modified by IROAF with the assistance of Amritsar Workshop of Northern Railway are provided with a fan, a light and mobile charging facility which are supported by Solar Power generation at the rooftop. Thus the power now being available for Guard comfort is environment friendly, as it does not generate any emission / pollution. The Solar generation is supported with a battery bank to power the brake van facilities for more than 24 hours continuously even on a rainy day. Thus it is expected to provide uninterrupted comfort of basic facilities to the Guard.

Commerce and Industry Minister says steps have been taken to sort out the implementation issues related to CEPA and improve bilateral trade as well as, 06 OCT., 2016



Commerce and Industry Minister . Nirmala Sitharaman has said that steps have been taken to sort out the implementation issues related to CEPA and improve bilateral trade as well as trade balance with Japan. Speaking at the seminar on promoting India's exports to Japan under India-Japan CEPA and release of RIS report on India-Japan CEPA in New Delhi she said Japan is one of the closest and most reliable trade partners of India and we recognise that Japan will play an increasingly important role in India's economic transformation and development. Sitharaman said Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. Narendra Modi visited Japan in 2014 and it was occasioned by the elevation of our bilateral partnership to the status of special strategic and global partnership. She said India - Japan partnership has expanded over the past few years and now the identified complementarities are being harnessed through trade and investments to our mutual advantage.

The Minister said the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement i.e. CEPA between India and Japan came into force on 1st August, 2011 and is one of the most comprehensive agreements concluded by India. She said Bilateral trade between India and Japan pre-CEPA in 2010 was 10.4 USD billion and currently in 2016 stands at 14.5 USD billion. However, trade deficit of India with respect to Japan has also increased from 3.1 USD billion pre CEPA to 5.2 USD billion post CEPA

We Need to Promote Indian Entrepreneurship in Global Electrical Industry- Piyush Goyal, 06 OCT., 2016

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, said that Indian entrepreneurship needs to be promoted in global electrical industry. While speaking at Light India



Appreciating new and innovative concepts like solar street lights at the exhibition, Goyal stated that he can actually imagine putting up not less than 10 or 15 million solar street lights, particularly in rural areas. He emphasized on the fact that modalities like cost, battery life, newer technology, process monitoring etc are yet to be work out. Referring to the disruptive economy, the Minister asked Industry to reorient their price structure. He urged the industry to participate in LED street programme aggressively.

Talking about Bureau of Indian Standards, Shri Goyal said that the standards need to be better monitored in the imported electrical products.

Beneficiary of Venture Capital Fund scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) Entrepreneurs launches his product, 12 OCT., 2016



Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State (I/C) for AYUSH launched "Elixir for Life", an Ayurvedic Proprietary Medicine at a function. Giriraj Singh,

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Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises was the Special Guest. This product has been produced by a beneficiary of the Venture Capital Fund Scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) Entrepreneurs launched by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in 2014-2015. The beneficiary M/s Mallur Flora & Hospitality Ltd. No. 11, RBI Colony, Bengaluru has been financed by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India (IFCI) and Department of Welfare Govt. of Karnataka (KFSC).

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched the Venture Capital Fund Scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) Entrepreneurs in 2014-2015. 50 SC entrepreneurs have till now benefitted from the scheme. The Scheme has helped the entrepreneurs in achieving economic empowerment.

The objective of the Venture Capital Fund Scheme for Scheduled Caste are as follow:-

It is a Social Sector initiative to be implemented nationally in order to promote entrepreneurship among the scheduled caste population in India.

Promote entrepreneurship amongst the Scheduled Caste who are oriented towards innovation and growth technologies.

To provide concessional finance to the scheduled caste entrepreneurs, who will create wealth and value for society and at the same time will promote profitable businesses. The assets so created will also create forward/ backward linkage. It will create chain effect in the locality.

To increase financial inclusion for SC entrepreneurs and to motivate them for further growth of SC communities.

To develop SC entrepreneurs economically.

To enhance direct and indirect employment generation for SC population in India.

Actor turned politician Roopa Ganguly, BJP leader Ganeshan take oath as Rajya Sabha MPs, 14 OCT., 2016



Actor-turned politician Roopa Ganguly, who had played the role of the mythological character Draupadi in the hit television series Mahabharat, today took oath as Rajya Sabha MP. Besides Ganguly, BJP leader L Ganeshan was also administered oath as Rajya Sabha MP by Chairman Hamid Ansari.

While Ganguly, who had unsuccessfully contested Bengal assembly elections on BJP ticket, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha, Ganeshan became MP from Madhya Pradesh.

Ganguly was nominated by President Pranab Mukherjee to the seat vacated by cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu, who resigned recently following differences with the BJP leadership.

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STATE

Burning Topics of the Month

1. **Telangana Govt inks agreement with ISRO.**
2. **Jharkhand becomes 1st state to implement direct benefit transfer in kerosene.**
3. **Maharashtra becomes 17th state to join UDAY: An Overall Net Benefit of Rs. 9725 Cr to accrue to the state.**

Jayalalithaa inaugurated 8.6 km Airport-Chinnamalai service, 21 SEP., 2016



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, J Jayalalithaa inaugurated the 8.6 km-long Airport-Chinnamalai metro rail service. Jayalalithaa inaugurated the service and also six metro rail stations on the route through video conferencing.

Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu and Minister of State for Shipping and Roadways, Pon Radhakrishnan participated in the ceremony.

The first ever metro rail service in the city, the 10 km Alandur-Koyambedu stretch, was flagged off in June 2015 by Jayalalithaa.

Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates Stage 1A of Chennai Metro Phase-1, 23 SEP., 2016

The Union Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Stage 1A of Chennai Metro Phase-1, from Little Mount to Airport in Chennai. The Stage 1A of Phase I project from Little Mount to Airport runs a total length of 8.613 kms and comprises of 6 stations namely Little Mount, Guindy, Alandur, Nanganallur Road Station, Meenambakkam and Airport Metro Station.

During the inauguration. M. Venkaiah Naidu said that it is a very proud occasion for the people of Chennai and the Chennai Metro Rail Limited to witness the achievement of



yet another milestone. He said that with the opening of the metro line from Little Mount to Airport, Chennai will now have around 19 kilometres of metro operational, out of the total 45 kilometres of Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase 1.

The Minister said that the elevated section from Koyambedu to Alandur (10.15 KM) of Phase-1 was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Ms. J Jayalalithaa in June 2015. In June 2016, the Government of India had approved the extension of the Chennai Metro Phase-1 from Washermanpet to Wimco Nagar for about 9 kilometres for a total cost of Rs 3,770 crores. He added.

M. Venkaiah Naidu said that the Government of India have so far released about Rs. 10,000 Cr. for the Chennai Metro Phase-1 project. He said that with today's inauguration, about 324 kilometres of metro rail will be operational in the country, in the cities of Delhi and NCR, Gurgaon, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Jaipur and Mumbai. Around 520 kilometres is presently under construction in various cities including Delhi and NCR, Kolkata, Chennai, Chennai, Jaipur, Mumbai, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Nagpur and Lucknow and another around 553 kilometres is under consideration, he added.

M. Venkaiah Naidu said that public will benefit immensely with the Chennai Metro Project connecting the areas, where there is constant traffic congestion on road. He said that the cities, which have taken a holistic approach to urban mobility planning and have adopted a comprehensive set of well integrated measures, have succeeded in addressing the issues such as pollution, congestion, lack of connectivity.

National SC/ST Hub launched in Ludhiana, 23 SEP., 2016

National SC/ST Hub under the Ministry of MSME was launched in Ludhiana This will promote the SC/ST entrepreneurs. In this regard, a National High Power Committee meeting headed by Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister for MSME was held, to review the progress of the National SC/ST Hub. Speaking on the occasion Mishra said that the National SC/ST Hub will be launched soon within a record time of 7 months from the announcement

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in the budget speech of 2016-17. On the occasion he stated that the Narendra Modi Government was keen to inculcate the spirit of self-employment among the SC / ST population and he urged upon all the participants, especially industries associations to take it in the mission mode.

He further said that his Ministry has made an initial allotment of allocation of Rs. 490 crore for the period 2016-2020 for the National SC/ST Hub. The Hub would primarily aid in strengthening market access/linkage, monitoring, capacity building, leveraging financial support schemes and sharing industry best practices etc. The hub would operate from National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Headquarters in Delhi, supported by a special cell created for this purpose.

Hon'ble Minister of State, MSME, Shri Giriraj Singh emphasised the need to work at the grassroot level and start work on a pilot basis with identified CPSEs in the districts having large presence of SC/ST entrepreneurs. Hon'ble Minister of State, MSME, Sh. Haribhai P. Choudhary mentioned about working for the demand side from CPSEs and large corporate houses.

Prabhu inaugurates new railway tracks, train in Jharkhand, 29 SEP., 2016



Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated a newly laid 28-km-long rail tracks from Hansdiha to Barapalasi in Jharkhand and flagged off Hansdiha-Dumka Passenger train.

The newly laid tracks will shorten the travelling distance between Rampurhat and Bhagalpur.

With the opening of this section between Hansdiha and Barapalasi, the entire project between Mandar Hill and Rampurhat stands completed.

Trains can ply from Bhagalpur to Dumka, Bhagalpur to Rampurhat via Dumka and Bhagalpur to Jasidih through Dumka. This will open an alternate route from Bhagalpur to Deoghar and Rampurhat.

Telangana govt inks agreement with ISRO, 29 SEP., 2016

The Telangana government entered into an agreement with ISRO to boost the content of Mana TV for the benefit of viewers in the state.

Mana TV was an initiative started in undivided Andhra Pradesh to provide programmes on distance education, telemedicine and agriculture extension under different channels.

The then Andhra Pradesh government had entered into an agreement with ISRO in 2006. It was due for renewal in 2009. Telangana state was carved out of Andhra Pradesh in 2014.

The Telangana government has now entered into a fresh agreement with ISRO in view of the rapid changes in technology.

Following the agreement, Mana TV would offer better content on distance education, telemedicine and skill development by using satellite technology.

The fresh agreement would also provide coaching to students appearing for State Public Service Commission examinations and entrance tests for admission into engineering, medicine and agriculture courses.

Arunachal inks MoU with AP, 01 OCT., 2016

Arunachal Pradesh has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Andhra Pradesh-based Company for development of Oil Palm in the state.

The MoU was signed between state agriculture department and Ruchi Soya Industries, to cover an area of 5,000 hectare initially in the foothill areas of West Siang, Lower Subansiri, Papumpare and East Kameng districts.

The states Oil Palm potential areas have been divided into four zones and implementation of the production programme under central sector scheme on National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP, Mini Mission-II) was started from 2013-14 in other zones.

The MoU signed was in respect of Zone-IV comprising four districts.

Most encouraging aspect of the programme is assured buy back system by the developers for processing.

Planting material is grown and managed mechanically in the locality of plantation by the developers.

The initiative is a step towards gainful utilization of the vast land resource of the state for economic development through farming operation.

Agriculture Secretary Talem Tapok along with Director (Agri-Marketing), Corporate Head of Ruchi Soya Industries (Oil Palm division) P Malleshham accompanied by the DGM (Plantation) and Manager (Plantation) were present in the MoU signing function.

TSRTC inks pact with French government for ITS project, 04 OCT., 2016



The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of France for funding, study and implementation of Integrated Intelligent Transport System (ITS) project on a pilot basis.

Under ITS project - fleet tracking, real time monitoring, passenger information system, solar electronic display for the passengers and statistical platform for optimising the operations are taken up.

During a tour to France and Germany TSRTC Managing Director G V Ramana Rao and Chairman Somarapu Satyanarayana along with senior TSRTC officials studied the transport systems and procedures prevailing in those countries so as to adopt some of them in TSRTC for improving the efficiency.

The Government of France through Lumiplan ITS India Pvt Ltd and Public Transport Organisation in Paris (RATP) has come to an understanding (MoU) with TSRTC on ITS project which would be taken up on a pilot.

Jharkhand becomes first state to implement Direct Benefit Transfer in Kerosene, 04 OCT., 2016



Jharkhand became India's first state to implement Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Kerosene. The scheme is being implemented in four identified districts of the State namely Chatra, Hazaribagh, Khunti and Jamtara.

In a statement, Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry said that under the DBT Scheme, PDS kerosene is being sold at non-subsidised price and the subsidy is being transferred to consumers directly into their bank accounts. This initiative is aimed at rationalising subsidy and plugging the leakages.

Aim: The scheme aims at eliminating subsidised Kerosene from the supply chain for targeting the beneficiaries and end pilferage and black-marketing. It also aims at cutting down adulteration of cheap cooking and lighting fuel with diesel.

DBT Scheme for Kerosene

The government had plans to implement the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Kerosene in 33 districts identified by 9 State Governments by 1 April 2016. The identified states were namely, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

But the date of its implementation was pushed back due to problems like lack of bank accounts and it's seeding with Aadhaar number, which didn't allowed government in creating biometric database of beneficiaries.

As a part of this scheme, implementing States will be given fiscal incentives equivalent to 75 % of subsidy saved in the first two years, 50 % of subsidy saved in third year and 25 % of subsidy saved in 4th year.

Andhra signs pacts with Chinese firms for \$1.5 billion investment, 08 OCT., 2016



The Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) signed an agreement with three China-based entities for development of minerals and industrial park in the state entailing investment of about \$ 1.5 billion.

Power China Guizhou Engineering Corporation, Aluminium Corporation of China Limited, and Guizhou Maritime Silk Road International Investment Corporation would jointly develop the mines and industrial park in Andhra Pradesh.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the fourth annual India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue here. The project would provide direct and indirect employment to 40,000 persons. The release further said that the proposed year of commencement of the part is end-2018.

Maharashtra becomes 17th State to join UDAY: an overall net benefit of Rs. 9725 crores to accrue to the State, 08 OCT., 2016



Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government of Maharashtra and Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. (MSEDCL) under the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) at the two-day State Power Ministers Conference in Vadodara.

Under UDAY, sixteen states/UT have already signed the MoU till date, Maharashtra being the seventeenth. The combined DISCOM debt, including Central PSU dues that would be restructured in respect of these states is around Rs.2.57 lakh crores, which is around 68% of the total outstanding DISCOM debt as on 30th September, 2015.

An overall net benefit of approximately Rs.9725 crores would accrue to Maharashtra by opting to participate in UDAY, by way of cheaper funds, reduction in AT&C losses, interventions in energy efficiency, coal reforms etc. during the period of turnaround.

Under UDAY, Maharashtra Government has committed to take over 75% of DISCOM's non-capex debt of around Rs.6600 crores during the current year. Balance 25% of such debt remaining with the DISCOM would be converted into Bonds or repriced at cheaper rates. This would reduce the interest burden of the State/DISCOM by Rs.595 crores.

Goa launches 'Duck Boats' to boost tourist footfall, 12 OCT., 2016

Goa Tourism department added another attraction for tourists in the coastal state with the launch of a vessel that can run on both land and water.

Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar launched the vessels popularly known as 'Duck Boats' which is a first of its kind facility being used for civilian purpose (joy rides) in India.

Parsekar flagged off the amphibian service and himself experienced the premiere ride in river Mandovi. Full-fledged operations of the joy rides will begin in November.

Andhra inks pact with Russia's JSC United Shipping Corp, 13 OCT., 2016

The Economic Development Board of Andhra Pradesh signed a pact with Russia's JSC United Shipping Corporation for setting up a ship-building unit in the state. United is expected to invest about Rs 100 crore in the proposed project. The EDB signed another memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Russia's TechnoNICOL Corporation for establishing a world-class manufacturing complex in Visakhapatnam district to produce membranes, shingles and other waterproofing and roofing products.

The MoUs were signed in the presence of visiting Russian Minister for Trade and Industry Denis Menturov and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

INTERNATIONAL Burning Topics of the Month

1. India hosted 6th BRICS Agriculture meeting on sept 22.
2. Estonia parliament elects country's 1st female president.
3. Pranab Mukherjee inaugurates 1st world Sustainable Development Summit.

India inks MoU with Sri Lanka to support fishermen, farmers, 16 SEP., 2016



India signed a MoU with Sri Lanka to support livelihood of the fishing and farming communities by providing them equipment worth USD two million in the country's southern Hambantota district.

The agreement was signed at the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development by Y K Sinha, High Commissioner of India and W M M R Adikari, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development in the presence of Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development.

The project envisages gift of equipment and tools such as grub hoes, bicycles, life jackets and sewing machines worth 300 million rupees (USD two million) to the fishing and farming communities in Hambantota district.

World's largest shiplift begins trial run in China, 19 SEP., 2016

The trial operation of a world's largest permanent shiplift designed by Chinese and German engineers on China's Three Gorges Dam began.

The shiplift, is the largest and most sophisticated in the world, according to Three Gorges Corp, a state-owned company responsible for the construction of the project.

Three Gorges Dam in central Chinas Hubei province is the world's biggest water project.



The beginning of its trial operation marks the completion of the Three Gorges project, 22 years after construction on the mammoth project began, Zhang Shuguang, assistant general manager of the corporation said.

The vertical-hoisting elevator is designed to help small and medium-sized ships, with a maximum displacement of about 3,000 tonnes, to traverse the dam.

The water-level behind the dam is up to 113 meters higher than the downstream river.

The shiplift is equipped with a ship-chamber, which has a pool of water 120-meters long, 18-meters wide and 3.5-meters deep. The chamber, its mechanical systems and the water weigh 15,500 tonnes altogether.

British Indian MP takes charge of Conservative party group, 20 SEP., 2016



Indian-origin British MP Shailish Vara has been appointed co-chairman of the Conservative Friends of India group that aims to build better links between the diaspora and the party.

The 56-year-old Gujarati-origin MP joins co-chair Indian-origin businessman Ranjit Singh Baxi in the group, which is affiliated to the UK's ruling Conservative Party.

Vara's appointment is followed by the ministerial reshuffle under British Prime Minister Theresa May, when Indian-origin MP Alok Sharma, who had been the Conservative Friends of India (CF-India) co-chairman, was made Minister

for Asia at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Sharma is now working with UK foreign secretary Boris Johnson to build links with India following Brexit, CF-India said in a statement.

India, hosted 6th BRICS agriculture meeting on Sep 22, 21 SEP., 2016



India hosted the sixth Brics meeting on Agriculture and Agrarian Development on September 22, and will deliberate on priority areas of cooperation between the five countries of the bloc.

The two-day conference was started with an official-level meeting followed by ministerial meeting.

The discussion was centred around five priority areas of cooperation in the Brics (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Action Plan for 2012-2016.

The areas of cooperation included creating basic agricultural information exchange system, strategy for ensuring access to food for the most vulnerable population, reducing negative impact of climate change on food security and adaptation of agriculture to climatic changes, enhancing agricultural technology cooperation and innovation, trade and investment promotion.

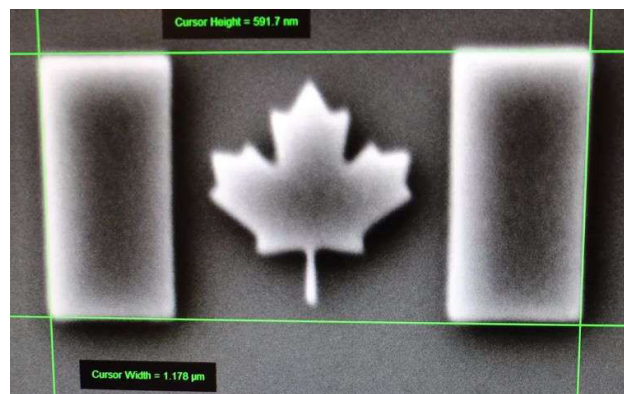
Detailed discussions were held on the Brics Agricultural Research Centre, which is likely to be set up in India.

The proposed Centre is expected to work on Agricultural Science, Policy Research and Development Extension, Technology Transfer, Training and Capacity Building and Scientific Information Sharing.

The agenda of the Brics meetings has considerably widened over the years encompassing global issues such as climate change, food and energy security, Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) and International Economic and Financial Situation among others.

India assumed the Presidency of Brics countries this year and has been hosting a number of mega level meetings in different sectors at the ministerial and official level. The Brics summit is scheduled to be held in Goa on October 15-16.

Nano-scale Canadian flag sets Guinness world record, 21 SEP., 2016



Canadian scientists have set a world record for creating a tiny national flag measuring about one-hundredth the width of a human hair, ahead of the country's 150th anniversary next year.

Guinness World Records granted the inaugural award for smallest national flag to the Institute for Quantum Computing (IQC) at the University of Waterloo in Canada for the flag measuring 1.178 micro metres in length. It is invisible without the aid of an electron microscope.

Nathan Nelson-Fitzpatrick, nanofabrication process engineer at IQC and Natalie Prisliger Pinchin, a student from the Faculty of Engineering created the flag on a silicon wafer bearing the official logo of the Canada 150 celebrations using an electron beam lithography system.

The future of Canadian technology is firmly set in the quantum world and at the nano-scale, so what better way to celebrate the lead up to 2017 than with a record-setting, nano-scale national flag.

Iran launches home-grown ballistic missile, 26 SEP., 2016



Iran's Defence Ministry launched the production line of home-grown ballistic missile of "Zolfaghar". The tactical missile, which is capable of evading jamming sig-

nals in electronic warfare, will come into service by March 2017. “Zolfagar” runs on solid fuel and can hit the targets with a pin-point accuracy in a range of 750 km.

Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps demonstrated “Zolfagar” during a military parade in the country’s southern port of Bandar Abbas.

Iranian officials have vowed to develop missile programs as a means to enhance deterrent power of the country.

India hosted 1st BRICS Young Scientists Conclave, 26 SEP., 2016



The Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, under the BRICS framework, hosted a five day event where a group of about 50 young scientists/ researchers from BRICS countries met in Bengaluru from 26-30th September, 2016. It was organized and coordinated by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru.

The meet provided a platform for engaging, connecting and networking among young scientists to hold discussions and find solutions to some of the common challenges and problems being faced in BRICS countries. The participants were drawn from science, engineering and allied disciplines. The focus of the Conclave was on three thematic topics – Computational Intelligence, Energy Solutions and Affordable Healthcare.

This BRICS Young Scientists Conclave assumed importance as it took place during India’s chairmanship of BRICS in 2016 under a focal theme of ‘Building, Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions’. The event was inaugurated by Prof K. Kasturirangan, former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The BRICS Young Scientist Forum (BRICS-YSF), under which the BRICS Young Scientists Conclave was organised, was initiated at the 2nd BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting at Brasilia in March, 2015. The respective Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

Ministries of BRICS countries are the lead coordinating organisations for this Forum on co-investment and co-ownership principles.

The Conclave aimed at building a BRICS Innovation Corps – who individually or collectively have specialized capability to work on their novel scientific ideas and technological solutions which transform and accelerate change through better quality of life and higher incomes for citizen of this region. It will pave way for creation of strong generation of S&T leadership that can accelerate change collectively.

Some of the lead speakers in the Conclave, among others from India and abroad, include Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST, Dr. K. VijayRaghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Ayog, and Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, NIAS. Besides this, the Conclave hosted more than 20 distinguished persons from BRICS nations with extraordinary achievements through scientific research, innovation and techno-entrepreneurship.

Some of the topics covered by the Conclave included Interdisciplinary Science for Society and Humanity, A Scientific Identity for BRICS, Traditional Science and Indigenous Knowledge and Science, Technology and Social Equity. A session on ‘Talent Hunt’ was also being organised under which about 15 ideas shall be presented on 3 identified themes of the Conclave.

Two reports were released during the Conclave. The first report titled “BRICS Science and Technology Enterprise Partnership” is prepared by a group of eminent scholars. It envisions sustained critical efforts for achieving Science & Technology Research leadership and product driven enterprise mode partnership. It offers new ways for BRICS cohesion and connecting to the world.

The second report titled “Hampi: Splendours of a World Heritage Site” projects the historical significance of the heritage site as well as depicts the Intellectual movements to technological Innovations to the Conclave participants. The Conclave also offers a unique opportunity of witnessing India’s scientific, engineering, architectural, philosophical and cultural tradition, as provided through a field visit to Hampi, an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Colombian President, FARC chief sign peace pact, 27 SEP., 2016

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and the leader of the FARC rebels, Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri, alias “Timochenko,” signed an accord to end 52 years of civil war in the Andean nation.

The pact is the result of nearly four years of talks in Havana and was signed at a solemn ceremony in Cartagena before more than 2,500 invited guests, including 15 Presidents and



Spain's King Juan Carlos. Timochenko was the first to put his signature to the document, using a bullet converted into a pen, meant to symbolise Colombia's passage from conflict to peace.

The President also used a "bullet-pen" to sign the pact and then presented Timochenko with a dove pin for his lapel.

India Signs Agreement for Exploring Minerals in Indian Ocean, 27 SEP., 2016



India signed a fifteen year MoU with the International Seabed Authority (ISA), a move that will give New Delhi the exclusive rights to exploration of Polymetallic Sulphides (PMS) in Indian Ocean.

Further, it will enhance India's presence in the Indian Ocean where other players like China, Korea and Germany are active.

The contract was signed by M Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Nii Allotey Odunton, Secretary General, ISA, an institution set up under the Convention on Law of the Sea to which India is a party.

The programme will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences with the participation of various national institutes and research laboratories/organisations.

The ISA earlier approved an application submitted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for allotment of 10,000 sq km area along with 15-year plan of work for exploration of PMS along Central Indian Ridge (CIR) and Southwest Indian Ridge (SWIR) region of the Indian Ocean.

The Union Cabinet approved signing of this contract in its meeting held on June 15.

Polymetallic Sulphides, containing iron, copper, zinc, silver, gold, platinum in variable constitutions, are precipitates of hot fluids from upwelling hot magma from deep interior of the oceanic crust.

PMS in the ocean ridges have attracted worldwide attention for their long term commercial as well as strategic value.

Estonia's parliament elects country's first female president, 04 OCT., 2016



The Estonian parliament elected the country's first female head of state.

Kersti Kaljulaid, 46, a former EU budget auditor, received 81 votes in the election for the five-year presidential term, well above the two-thirds majority of 68 required.

The office is largely symbolic in the Baltic country although it gained weight after outgoing President Toomas Hendrik Ilves carved a role as an outspoken critic of Russia and a campaigner for government digitalization and cybersecurity.

Kersti was sworn in as the country's fifth President on October 10, 2016. She is the first female head of state.

She is the first person to become the president at the age of 46.

Kersti Kaljulaid:

- Kersti will take this position as a fifth president on 10th of October.
- She becomes the youngest president at the age of 46 year
- She become graduate from Tallin secondary school in 1987.
- She did her MBA in 2001 from University of Taratu.
- 1997 - 1998 : worked as project manager in a firm.
- 1998 - 1999 : she worked in banking investment department of Hanspanc markets.
- 1999 - 2000 : economic advisor of Estonia's Prime Minister.

India, Singapore sign three agreements, 04 OCT., 2016



India and Singapore signed three agreements, including two in the area of skill development, following delegation-level talks headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Singapore Premier Lee Hsien Loong, now on visit to Delhi.

One memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Singapore's Institute of Technical Education (ITE) Education Services (ITEES) and India's National Skill Development Corporation on collaboration in technical and vocational education and training.

Another MoU was signed between the Assam government and ITEES Singapore also on collaboration in technical and vocational education and training.

A third MoU was signed in the field of industrial property cooperation.

The Singapore Prime Minister, accompanied by a high-level delegation, arrived on a five-day bilateral visit to India.

Oil India Limited signs Memorandum of Understanding with University of Houston, 06 OCT., 2016



ऑयल इंडिया लिमिटेड

Oil India Limited

Oil India Limited (OIL), an Upstream Oil & Gas PSU, with intent of augmenting its reserves base and maximising recovery from its aging oilfields, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Houston(USA), one of the leading universities on oil and gas of the world. The MoU was signed in presence of Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (I/C), Petroleum & Natural Gas in New Delhi.

The MoU, amongst others, is focused to collaborate in the fields of Improved Oil Recovery & Enhanced Oil Recovery for production enhancement from matured fields, seismic interpretation & reservoir characterisation studies, improvement of drilling and well intervention practices and unconventional hydrocarbon studies. It is envisaged that the collaboration will help OIL to further consolidate and upgrade the various initiatives the Company has undertaken to improve production and contribute significantly to the energy security of the country. This will also contribute towards national obligation as set by Hon'ble Prime Minister to reduce import dependency of oil and gas by 10% by 2022.

Located in the energy capital of the United States of America, home to the leading Oil & Gas operating companies and service providers, the University of Houston is a premier institute, involved in the quest of academic and translational excellence in the field of Oil & Gas through its outstanding faculty and research staff and has established well documented partnership with leading edge academia and industry subject matter experts.

Describing the signing of MoU as historic, the Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said this small event will lay huge impact in exploration sector. He said innovation, scientific temperament and institutional hand-holding is the way forward for the growth of oil and gas sector. He said that India is third largest energy consuming

country in the world but is import dependent for crude oil. The Minister said that India is an aspirational society, bound to grow and move very fast. The import centric mechanism can't help meet our challenges. He said an ecosystem has to be created so that innovations, improvements and reforms are ushered in. Sh. Pradhan said if there is willpower, good strategy and innovative technology, a good ecosystem can be created which will help in better oil recovery from the fields. He said there is no dearth of intellectual talent or good institutions in the country but these need to be harnessed and supported for the country's growth.

India to host Asian ministerial conference for disaster risk reduction, 08 OCT., 2016



India will host the Asian ministerial conference for disaster risk reduction next month which will focus on partnership with governments and stakeholders to imbibe the practices in the region's development narrative.

This is the first AMCDRR after the advent of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), adopted at the third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan in March, 2015. It will set the direction of Sendai Framework implementation in the region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the conference that will be held in New Delhi on November 3-5 in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

The conference aims at transforming the commitments of governments and stakeholders during the Sendai Conference into national and local action.

Pranab Mukherjee inaugurates first World Sustainable Development Summit, 08 OCT., 2016



President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) in New Delhi.

The theme for the summit is "Beyond 2015: People, Planet and Progress". The summit is being organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

About the World Sustainable Development Summit

- ✎ The World Sustainable Development Summit has evolved from the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, the annual event of TERI.
- ✎ The WSDS brings together Nobel laureates, political leaders, decision-makers from bilateral and multilateral institutions, among others, to deliberate on issues related to sustainable development.
- ✎ It aims to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of the global community by assembling the various stakeholders on a single platform.

Components of the WSDS

- ✎ **World CEO Sustainability Summit:** It is a platform for business leaders to define a path and evolve a strategy to facilitate development whilst protecting the environment.
- ✎ **Thematic Tracks:** It is a parallel breakaway sessions led by area experts that aim at providing feasible solutions to challenges faced by local and global communities in maintaining the balance between securing environmental sustainability and development.
- ✎ **Media Colloquium:** It is a forum to sensitise mid-career journalists from around the world on issues of sustainability and climate change.
- ✎ **Youth Leaders:** The platform aims at engaging youth from around the globe in the sustainable development discourse, record their experiences, and encourage positive action on their part.

✎ **Greenovation Exhibition:** It provides an opportunity for global players to showcase technologies in the areas of renewable energy, waste management, sustainable buildings, sustainable transport, water management and financing for sustainable development and energy efficiency.

Morocco: Abdelilah Bekirane appointed for another term as PM, 12 OCT., 2016



Abdelilah Bekirane, leader of Morocco's Islamic Justice and Development Party, was appointed as country's Prime Minister. This will be his second term as Prime Minister of Morocco.

Mohammed VI, the king of Morocco, made the announcement after Benkirane's PJD party emerged with the most number of seats in the 395-seat lower house of parliament.

In the election held on 7 October 2016, the PJD party, which has been running a coalition government since 2011, won 125 seats. The opposition Authenticity and Modernity Party came second with 102 seats. The country's oldest party Istiqlal (Independence) Party stood third with 46 seats.

Benkirane has been serving as Prime Minister in a coalition government since November 2011.

Benkirane and the PJD will now reach out to other parties to form a coalition government, because the multi-party system in the kingdom makes it impossible for any political party to win an absolute majority.

Of the 395 members of the lower house, 305 are elected in multi-seat constituencies from electoral lists put together by the parties, while 60 seats of the remaining 90 are reserved for a national list of women and the rest 30 seats are set aside for candidates under the age of 35.

India-Indonesia hold bilateral maritime exercise, 12 OCT., 2016

India and Indonesia commenced their second coordinated patrol and bilateral maritime exercise in the Andaman Sea.

The 17-day-long bilateral exercise -- to continue till October 27 -- demonstrates India's commitment to its ties with Indonesia and to maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

The two navies have been carrying out Coordinated Patrols (CORPAT) on respective sides of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2002, with the aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and legitimate marine activities.

Both navies are contributing one aircraft and a ship each in the exercise. The Indian Navy's missile corvette Karmuk and a Dornier maritime patrol aircraft are participating from the Indian side in the exercise.

Commodore Girish Kumar Garg, Naval Component Commander of the Tri-Service Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) based at Port Blair, attended the opening ceremony of CORPAT at Belawan, in Indonesia.

The Indian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel Sumitra has also arrived at Surabaya, Indonesia, on a two-day visit from October 10 to 12 as part of its deployment to the South Western Pacific Ocean.

On departure, INS Sumitra will also undertake a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Indonesian naval ships.

PASSEX, a regular maritime interaction through training exchanges and port calls, helps strengthen the maritime relationship between the two countries.

India, Hungary to sign MoU on water management, 13 OCT., 2016



The Union Cabinet gave its nod for signing of an agreement with Hungary for cooperation in the field of water resources, including innovations in irrigation technology.

The MoU will be signed between Ministry of Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Interior, Hungary. It will enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of water management, on the basis of equality and mutual benefits.

This will encourage the development of bilateral relations between public and private organisations concerning water resources of both the countries, a statement said.

The cooperation, particularly on river basin management, integrated water resources management, efficiency in water supply and irrigation technology innovation and flood and drought management will help improve the socio-economic conditions of the people of both the countries.

The Union Cabinet was also apprised of the MoU signed on April 7, 1999 and the First Executive Programme for MOU signed with Qatar on bilateral cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports on June 6.

India, Russia ink pact to set up 25 irradiation centers, 13 OCT., 2016



India and Russia signed a pact to set up 25 integrated infrastructure centers for irradiation treatment of perishable food items to improve shelf life and cut post-harvest losses.

At least 7 centers will be set up in Maharashtra, with the first centre near Shirdi to be ready next year. Perishable items ranging from flowers to fish will be treated there on a commercial scale.

The agreement was signed between Russias United Innovation Corporation (UIC) -- a subsidiary of Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation -- and Hindustan Agro Co-op Ltd on the sidelines of the BRICS Business Forum.

The 7 centers are likely to be established in Sindhurg, Satara, Solapur, JNPT, Jalana, Napur and Pune in the first phase. The locations in other states are yet to be finalised.

Russia plans \$1 billion India joint fund, to pump \$500 million in NIIF, 15 OCT., 2016

In a first, Moscow has agreed to pump in \$500 million into the Indian infrastructure space, along with an equal investment by the newly formed National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF), to form a \$1 billion 'Russian Indian Investment Fund'.



The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) will invest \$500 million into the joint fund, which will support "attractive investment opportunities and growth of Russian business activity in India," RDIF chief executive Kirill Dmitriev said.

An agreement to start the fund, the first of its kind partnership for the newly-formed NIIF, will be signed before Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the eighth two-day BRICS Summit, he said.

Historic deal reached to limit powerful greenhouse gases, 15 OCT., 2016



In a landmark step to combat climate change, about 200 nations, including India, today struck a legally-binding deal after intense negotiations to phase down climate-damaging HFCs that have global warming potential thousand times more than carbon dioxide.

Negotiators and policymakers held meetings, having intense deliberations to iron out differences concerning the amendment to the Montreal Protocol to reach the Kigali Amendment to phase down the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

ECONOMY

Burning Topics of the Month

1. **Adani unveils world's largest solar power plant in Tamil Nadu.**
2. **Cabinet clears IOC-OIL-BPCL's Russian stake buy for \$3.14 billion.**
3. **SBI offers 'Hope Loans' at reduced interest rates.**

RBI to issue Rs 20 notes with Urjit Patel signature, 16 SEP., 2016



The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue Rs 20 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi Series-2005, with the inset letter 'R' in both the number panels, bearing signature of Urjit R. Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India, and the year of printing '2016' printed on the reverse of the banknote.

The design and security features are similar to the Rs 20 banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi Series-2005 issued earlier, except that on the obverse, the numerals on both number panels will be in ascending size from left to right, while the first three prefix alpha-numeric characters will remain constant in size.

BCCI partners Janalakshmi Financial Services for three years, 20 SEP., 2016



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) tied up with financial services firm Janalakshmi Financial Services (Jana) as an associate sponsor.

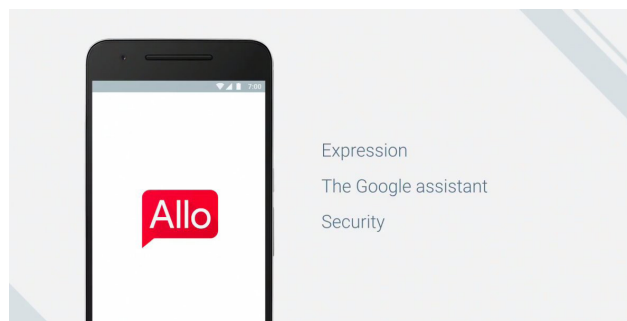
Janalakshmi will be the official financial services partner of the BCCI where the brand would enjoy visibility on the field.

The agreement also gives Janalakshmi benefits of prominence in stadium branding and on-ground advertising for 68 matches in three years across the three formats.

About Janalakshmi Financial Services

- ✎ Janalakshmi Financial Services is the largest and the fastest growing Micro Finance Institution (MFI) in India.
- ✎ It recently has been granted in-principle approval to convert itself into a Small Finance Bank.
- ✎ It has deep domain expertise in banking and financial services, with over 500 years of banking sector expertise just among the senior management.
- ✎ In March 2016, it received the VC Circle award for the Best Financial Services Firm in India that has received venture capital funding.
- ✎ JFS is also a part of the financial inclusion working group with the World Economic Forum.

Google launches Allo, 21 SEP., 2016



There's another new messaging app out, but this one's worth a download.

While Facebook has been working to integrate bots with Messenger, Google went ahead and built a messaging app around the most useful bot there is: Google (GOOGL, Tech30) search.

Allo, which was announced in May, is now available for download, joined with Google search with many of the fun features people have grown accustomed to using in other apps.

There's group chatting, stickers and the option to let messages expire. The big thing that's missing is the ability to make video and audio calls, which was intentional.

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For those functions, Google wants users to get on Duo, its dedicated video calling app was also launched.

Both are free, available for Android and iOS, and designed to simplify mobile messaging. Google says they're "companion apps."

Adani unveils world's largest solar power plant in Tamil Nadu, 21 SEP., 2016



Adani Green Energy, part of the Adani Group has dedicated to the nation the world's largest 648-mw solar power plant in Tamil Nadu entailing an investment of Rs 4,550 crore. The solar power plant, producing 648 mw at a single location, was formally dedicated to the nation. The plant is set up at Kamuthi, Ramanathapuram, in Tamil Nadu with an investment of Rs 4,550 crore. It is part of the state government's ambitious target of generating 3,000 mw as per the solar energy policy unveiled by the government in 2012. The entire 648-mw plant is now connected with Kamuthi 400 kv sub-station of Tantransco, making it the world's largest solar unit at a single location.

The plant consists of 3.80 lakh foundations, 25 lakh solar modules, 27,000 mt of structure, 576 inverters, 154 transformers along with 6,000-km cables. For setting up the factory, the company had sourced equipment and machinery from various parts of the world in a timeframe of eight months. About 8,500 personnel worked for an average about 11 mw of installation in a day to set up the plant in the stipulated time.

Rafale deal cleared, 22 SEP., 2016



The government has cleared the much anticipated deal with France for 36 Rafale fighter jets which will cost 7.878 billion Euros and will be signed in the presence of French Defence Minister Jean Yves Le Drian.

Defence sources said that deal for the aircraft, the first fighter jet deal in 20 years, comes with a saving of nearly 750 million Euros than the UPA era one, which was scrapped by the Narendra Modi government, besides a 50 per cent offset clause.

This means business worth at least three billion Euros for Indian companies, both big and small, and generating hundreds of jobs in India through offsets.

The Rafale fighter jets, deliveries of which will start in 36 months and finished in 66 months from the date contract is inked, comes equipped with state-of-the-art missiles like Meteor and Scalp that will give the IAF a capability that had been sorely missing in its arsenal.

Sources said the government formally cleared the Inter-Governmental Agreement to be signed on Friday in the presence of Drian who arrives tomorrow evening along with CEOs of Dassault Aviation, Thales and MBDA and top government officials.

The contract for the deal was already cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security earlier. The price of the contract was fixed in May.

Kotak Mahindra Bank launches app to open accounts, 22 SEP., 2016



Pivate lender Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) has launched an application 'Kotak Now' that would allow new customers to open an account in a more simpler and cost-effective manner.

This is for the first time that a domestic lender has come up with such facility where a customer can open a bank account using its application.

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This is an end-to-end application wherein a customer will be able to open a bank account within 10 minutes, without worrying about visiting a branch or any other merchant.

After downloading the application, the customer will have to enter their mobile number and then key -in a one-time password (OTP) to establish identity. After this they need to upload an image of either their passport or the Aadhaar card.

The customer will then have to get connect through a video chat with one of the KMB executives and the account gets opened.

The bank tied-up with a German start-up 'WebID' which has a patented technology to establish identities through specially built algorithms and has already implemented it in 30 banks worldwide.

Marriott buys Starwood, becoming world's largest hotel chain, 23 SEP., 2016



Several of the best-known names in travel are now united in one Hotel Company.

Marriott International closed on its USD 13 billion acquisition of Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, bringing together its Marriott, Courtyard and Ritz Carlton brands with Starwood's Sheraton, Westin, W and St Regis properties.

In total, 30 hotel brands now fall under the Marriott umbrella to create the largest hotel chain in the world with more than 5,700 properties and 1.1 million rooms in more than 110 countries. That's more than 1 out of every 15 hotel rooms around the globe. Marriott now eclipses Hilton Worldwide's 773,000 rooms and the 766,000 that are part of the Intercontinental Hotels Group family, according to STR, a firm that tracks hotel data.

Starwood's guest loyalty program Starwood Preferred Guest was also a "central, strategic rationale for the transaction." The program's members are deeply loyal to it, have generally higher incomes and tend to spend many nights on the road.

Members of Starwood and Marriott's two loyalty programs will be able to link their accounts together. Gold elite members in one program will get gold status in the other. Platinum elite members will get platinum in the other. Marriott silver members will see Starwood's lowest category, Preferred Plus. Each Starwood point will be worth three Marriott Rewards points. Starwood put itself up for sale in April 2015. The Stamford, Connecticut, company had struggled to grow as fast as its rivals, particularly in "limited service hotels," which are smaller properties which don't have restaurants or banquet halls. They are often located on the side of the highway, near airports or in suburban office parks. To get Starwood, Marriott had to outbid China's Anbang Insurance Group. US and European anti-trust regulators were quick to approve the sale but the Chinese government hesitated, delaying the sale by months.

Andhra Bank ties up with Cigna TTK, Reliance General Insurance, 23 SEP., 2016



Andhra Bank has entered into corporate agency agreements with Cigna TTK Company Ltd, and Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd for providing health and general insurance respectively, to its customers.

The tie-up with both the insurance companies will immensely benefit the customers by providing alternatives in choosing products. These partnerships will provide mutual benefit to the bank and insurance companies in tapping the potential in the market and also help in increasing the insurance coverage.

The two separate agreements were signed in presence of Andhra Bank Executive Director S K Kalra, MD and CEO of Cigna TTK Health Insurance Sandeep Patel and CEO of Reliance General Insurance Rakesh Jain, among others.

Boeing to supply Harpoon missiles to India from US, 24 SEP., 2016

The United States Department of Defence has given a USD 81 million contract to Boeing for the supply of all-weather, over-the-horizon, Harpoon anti-ship missiles to India.

According to the contract details, Boeing has been awarded USD 81,271,024 for firm-fixed-price modification to a previously awarded firm-fixed-price contract to exercise an option for the procurement of 22 Lot 89 Harpoon missiles, associated containers and components for the Government of India under the Foreign Military Sales program.

The missiles will be manufactured at several places in the United States, with the majority of them being in St Charles, Missouri. Some manufacturing process would also be done in the United Kingdom.

The missiles are expected to be ready in June 2018.

Apple acquires Hyderabad-based Tuplejump, 24 SEP., 2016



US tech giant Apple has acquired Hyderabad-based Tuplejump, a machine learning startup that helps companies store, process and visualise big data with its software.

Post the deal, two of Tuplejumps co-founders -- Rohit Rai and Satyaprakash Buddhavarapu -- have joined Apple.

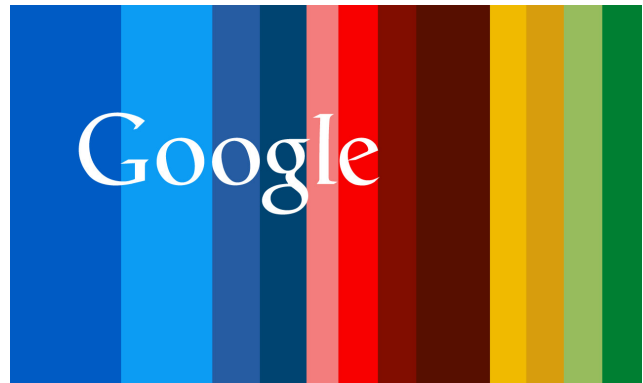
Artificial intelligence has become a key area of focus and investment for tech giants like Apple, Google and Facebook that are competing head-on as they develop products like virtual assistants and bots.

The Cupertino-based company is betting big on the Indian market. In July, Apple CEO Tim Cook had said that India is one of its fastest growing markets.

Earlier this year, Apple had announced setting up of a new office in Hyderabad to accelerate maps development, apart from a design and development accelerator centre in Bengaluru to support Indian developers creating innovative applications for iOS.

Besides, sales of its iconic smartphone iPhone also grew 51 per cent year-on-year in the first three quarters of this fiscal year.

Google for India: Google Station, YouTube Go and other announcements, 27 SEP., 2016



Google for India event 2016 took place and the search giant has made some top announcements for the country, which includes products designed just for India. Google is holding the event on its 18th birthday, and it shows the kind of importance the Indian market has for the company. Last year's Google for India event had announced the Google WiFi project at Railway stations across India.

For this year, Google has announced products like YouTube Go, Google Station for public WiFi and more. Here's a look at the top announcements.

Google Station

Google Station is inspired by Google's free WiFi project at India's railway stations. Google says that over 52 stations in India now have high-quality WiFi and cater to 3.5 million people each month with over 15,000 new customers coming online via these stations. Google had partnered with RailTel for the WiFi project at these railway stations.

Google Station will take this high-speed Internet project beyond railway stations into malls, bus stops, cafes, university campuses, etc. Google Station will help partners roll-out WiFi hotspots in public places and the search giant will provide them with the right tools to monetise these public WiFi hotspots.

According to Google, they will provide "software and guidance on hardware to turn fiber connections into fast, reliable and safe WiFi zones." From a simple unified login, to managing networks, Google Stations could mean a big turnaround for public WiFi hotspots in India.

Google says this project is just starting and they are looking for partners to work with in order to bring high quality WiFi.

You Tube Go

YouTube Go is the new mobile app from Google which will help users save on data while browsing YouTube for videos. YouTube GO will let users preview videos before they

decide to watch them or even save them. A user will also have the option of controlling their data spent by choosing a particular resolution/MB size before saving the video on the app.

The app is optimised to work over slower networks as well, and it has a new feature where a user can instantly share videos with friends or family members who are nearby, without spending on data. The app relies on Bluetooth to discover friends and uses WiFi Direct to transfer the video.

WTO dramatically cuts 2016 global trade growth forecast, 27 SEP., 2016



The World Trade Organisation revised down its 2016 global trade forecast by more than a percentage point, warning growth had hit its slowest pace since the global financial crisis.

WTO now estimates that global trade will expand by just 1.7 per cent in 2016, compared to its April projection of 2.8 per cent, and compared to a projection a year ago that trade would swell by 3.9 per cent this year.

The UN agency also revised down its 2017 forecast, with trade now expected to grow between 1.8-3.1 per cent, down from the previously anticipated 3.6 per cent.

With expected global GDP (gross domestic product) growth of 2.2 per cent in 2016, this year would mark the slowest pace of trade and output growth since the financial crisis of 2009.

Cabinet clears IOC-OIL-BPCL's Russian stake buy for \$3.14 billion, 28 SEP., 2016

The Cabinet gave its nod to a consortium of IOC, Oil India and BPCL buying stakes in two Russian oilfields for a total of \$3.14 billion.

Indian Oil Corp, Oil India and a unit of Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) will buy 29.9 per cent stake in Taas-Yuryakh oilfield in East Siberia for \$1.12 billion and another 23.9 per cent in Vankor oilfield for \$2.02 billion.



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the consortium buying 29.9 per cent stake in Taas-Yuryakh Neftegazodobycha LLC, which holds and operates two licences for the Srednebotuobinskoye oil and gas condensate field, one of the largest in the East Siberia.

The stake is being acquired from LLC RN-Razvedka I Dobycha (RN Upstream), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rosneft, Russian state firm.

The licence for the central block is valid till 2041 and the northern block till 2032.

The consortium will buy another 23.9 per cent in JSC Vankorneft, a subsidiary of Rosneft, which holds two licences for the Vankor oil fields in East Siberia valid till 2112.

Officials said the Vankor asset has been valued at USD 8.45 billion as on May 31, 2015 on zero debt and working capital basis for arriving at the acquisition price.

This is the same value at which ONGC Videsh, the overseas arm of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), bought 15 per cent stake in Vankor in December 2015. That deal closed on May 31 this year and the company has signed up for buying another 11 per cent in the same field.

LIC MF inks mutual fund distribution pact with Karnataka Bank, 29 SEP., 2016



LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Company said it has tied up with Karnataka Bank for distribution of its mutual fund products through over 730 branches of the bank.

This partnership with one of the leading and forward looking banks, Karnataka Bank, for their support in distributing our products across their branches pan-India.

This combination to comprehensive range of products catering to the varying investment needs of investors and the distribution reach of the bank that will create a great convenience to the investors.

It would be a forward looking step for the bank to provide a complete financial solution to the bank's esteemed customers and this engagement increases the option for our customers to choose from a bouquet of financial solutions.

Wrestler Sakshi named brand ambassador of Nissan's new car, 30 SEP., 2016



Olympics 2016 bronze medallist Sakshi Malik was named the brand ambassador of Nissan's newly launched car Datsun redi-Go Sport.

The wrestler was honoured for her achievement at the Rio Olympic Games with a brand new Datsun redi-GO Sport car, which was presented to her by Arun Malhotra, managing director, Nissan Motor India.

Infosys launches e-commerce platform Skava Commerce, 30 SEP., 2016



Infosys launched Skava Commerce, a modern, mobile-first and modular e-commerce platform that delivers engaging omni-channel experiences.

Skava is a Silicon Valley based e-commerce startup which was acquired by Infosys.

Highlights of the Skava Commerce Platform

- ✎ The platform can help brick-and-mortar retailers to quickly launch new offerings, improve conversion rates of traffic coming from digital channels without making large investments upfront.
- ✎ It can integrate with existing technologies while providing a future-ready architecture that will enable next generation shopping experiences leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning.
- ✎ It also includes a responsive web store and native mobile shopping applications that can be managed by non-technical business users through Skava STUDIO- a web-based experience management tool.
- ✎ For retailers who are building their own platform, Skava is offering a source code license of its platform with an aim to accelerate retailers' journey and yet have full ownership through the source code license.

Inflation likely to remain below RBI's 2017 target of 5%: HSBC, 30 SEP., 2016



Inflation is likely to remain below the Reserve Bank's early 2017 target of 5 per cent for the next 12 months, opening up space for monetary easing, says an HSBC report.

According to the global financial services major, the declining trend in inflation is expected to continue as new crop streams into the market and CPI inflation could fall to below 4.5 per cent in January-March 2017.

Moreover, vegetable prices are expected to completely reverse their summer ascent and higher pulses production may reduce inflation by another 40 bps.

HSBC expects a 25 bps rate cut at both December and February policy meetings.

The next policy review meet is scheduled to be held on October 4.

It will also be the first review under new RBI Governor Urjit Patel, who has assumed charge effective September 4, after the end of his predecessor Raghuram Rajan's three-year tenure.

Though there are some good reasons for a rate cut in the upcoming October 4 meeting

Exim Bank to provide USD 87 mln credit line to Zimbabwe, 30 SEP., 2016



Government will provide a line of credit of USD 87 million to Zimbabwe through Exim Bank.

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) had entered into an agreement on October 27, 2015 with the Government of Zimbabwe for USD 87 million soft loan for financing renovation and up-gradation of Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant.

Out of the total credit by Exim Bank under this Agreement, the goods and services including consultancy services of the value of at least 75 per cent of the contract price will be supplied by the seller from India and the remaining 25 per cent may be procured from outside India.

The credit agreement under the LOC is effective from August 19, 2016, RBI said.

Under the LOC, last date for opening letters of credit disbursement is 60 months after the scheduled completion date of the project.

Kotak Mahindra Bank to acquire BSS Microfinance for Rs 139 cr, 01 OCT., 2016



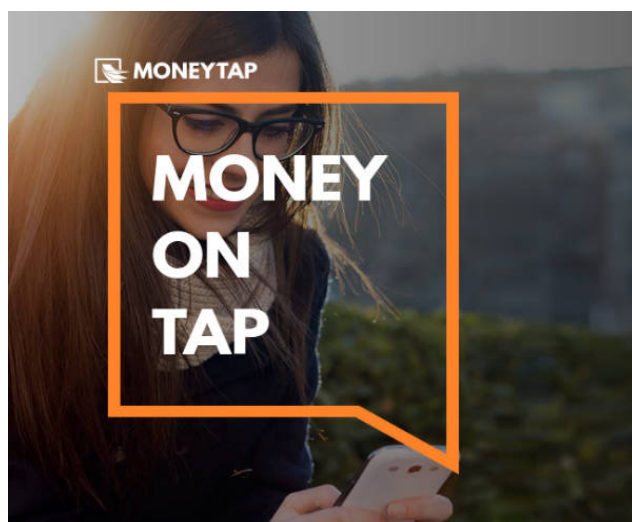
Pivate sector Kotak Mahindra Bank said it will acquire BSS Microfinance for Rs 139.2 crore to reach a wider customer base.

The bank has executed a share purchase agreement for acquisition of 99.49 per cent (equivalent to 2,65,91,856 equity shares of Rs 10 each) of the equity shareholding of BSS Microfinance Private Limited from its existing shareholders.

BSS Microfinance is a non-banking financial company, classified as an NBFC-MFI.

The transaction is subject to obtaining all necessary regulatory and other approvals, including from the Reserve Bank.

Money Tap launches credit line app, 01 OCT., 2016



Bengaluru-based start-up MoneyTap launched an app-based credit line as a facility for consumers to borrow money up to Rs.5 lakh or even as little as Rs.3,000 at low interest rates for flexible tenure.



BASEL – III IN INDIA

Basel III implementation began on April 1, 2013.

It will be fully implemented by 31st March, 2019. Basel II shall continue till 31st March, 2017.

The Phase Wise Implementation is as under –

MIN CAPITAL RATIOS	1.4.2013	2016	2017	2018	2019
MINIMUM COMMON EQUITY(CET) TIER I RATIO	4.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
MINIMUM TIER I CAPITAL	6	7	7	7	7
MINIMUM TOTAL CAPITAL RATIO	9	9	9	9	9
CAPITAL CONSERVATION BUFFER	-	0.625	1.25	1.875	2.5
MIN CET1 RATIO + CCB	4.5	6.125	6.75	7.375	8
MIN TOTAL CAPITAL RATIO + CCB	9	9.625	10.25	10.875	11.5

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***CITY - AREA**

Uttar Pradesh

AGRA- KHANDARI CROSSING BYPASS
ALIGARH- SAMAD ROAD
ALLAHABAD- CIVIL LINES
AZAMGARH- PANDEY BAZAR
BUDAUN- CIVIL LINES
BAHRAICH- DIGIHA TIRAHA
BALLIA- CIVIL LINES
BANDA- CIVIL LINES
BAREILLY- J.J. MALL, CIVIL LINES
BASTI- FUWARA CHOWK
BIJNOR- SHAKTI CHOK, JAJI ROAD
BULANDSHAHR- OPP. D.A.V. COLLEGE, SHIVPURI
DEORIA- RAGHAW NAGAR
ETAH- RAILWAY ROAD
FAIZABAD- NEAR AGRASEN CHOWK, NAKA
FARRUKHABAD- LALBAGH
FATEHPUR- CIVIL LINES
FIROZABAD- SUHAG NAGAR CHAURAHA
GHAZIABAD- GHAZIABAD RAILWAY STATION
GHAZIPUR- MAHUABAGH
GONDA- LBS CHAURAHA
GORAKHPUR- GANDHI GALI GOLE GHAR
HARDOI- NAGHETA ROAD
JAUNPUR- HUSAINABAD, NEAR TD COLLEGE
JHANSI- B.K.D ROAD, NEAR KUNJ BIHARI MANDIR
KANPUR 1- KIDWAI NAGAR
KANPUR 2- MALL ROAD
KANPUR 3- KAKADEV
LAKHIMPUR- HOTEL K CONTINENTAL
LUCKNOW 1- KAPOORTHALA
LUCKNOW 2- PATRAKARPURAM, GOMTINAGAR
LUCKNOW 3- PURANIA, ALIGANJ
LUCKNOW 4- BHOOTNATH MARKET, INDIRA NAGAR
LUCKNOW 5- RAM NAGAR, ALAMBAGH - SSC
LUCKNOW 6- OPP. PHOENIX MALL, KANPUR RD
LUCKNOW 7- RAJAJIPURAM
MAINPURI- STATION ROAD
MATHURA- CHOWKI BAGH BAHADUR
MEERUT- BACHCHA PARK
MIRZAPUR- MUSSAFARGANJ
MORADABAD- CIVIL LINES
MUZAFFARNAGAR- CIVIL LINES
NOIDA- SECTOR 18, OCEAN HEIGHTS
ORAI- KERMER ROAD
PILIBHIT- GANDHI STADIUM ROAD
PRATAPGARH- BHAGWA CHUNGI
RAEBARELI- CANAL ROAD
RAMPUR- CIVIL LINES
SAHARANPUR- GHANTA GHAR
SHAHJAHANPUR- CIVIL LINES
SITAPUR- CIVIL LINES
SULTANPUR- CIVIL LINES
UNNAO- AWAS VIKAS COLONY
VARANASI- BARHAR KOTHI DURGA KUND

Jammu and Kashmir

JAMMU- CANAL ROAD

Haryana

AMBALA- RAI MARKET
FARIDABAD- NEELAM PETROL PUMP
GURGAON- BHIM NAGAR CHAWK
HISAR- RED SQUARE MARKET SCF-2
KARNAL- DAV COLLEGE ROAD
KURUKSHETRA- SCF 38 MAIN MARKET
ROHTAK- ASHOKA PLAZA

Rajasthan

AJMER- NEAR BOB, VAISHALI NAGAR
ALWAR- LAJPAT NAGAR
JAIPUR- LAL KOTHI OPP. APEX MALL
JODHPUR- MANJIKA HATHA PAOTA

Gujarat

AHMEDABAD- NAVRANGPURA
RAJKOT- WOCARD HOSPITAL
SURAT- OPP CIVIL HOSPITAL, RING ROAD
VADODARA- FATEHGANJ, MAIN ROAD

Maharashtra

MUMBAI- STATION ROAD, THANE (WEST)
NAGPUR 1- JHANSI RANI SQUARE, BULDI
NAGPUR 2- GANDHINAGAR
NASIK- OFF COLLEGE ROAD 422005
PUNE- LAW COLLEGE RD., ERANDAWANA

Karnataka

BENGALURU- JAYNAGAR

Kerala

ERNAKULAM- M.G. ROAD, RAVIPURAM
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- VANCHIYOOR

OUT
IN

Himachal Pradesh

SHIMLA- NEAR SECRETARIAT

Punjab

AMRITSAR- GT ROAD (J.K. ORCHID)
CHANDIGARH- SECTOR 34-A
JALANDHAR- GREEN PARK
LUDHIANA- LINK ROAD
PATIALA- CHOTTI BARADARI

New Delhi

DELHI- JANAKPURI
DELHI- LAXMI NAGAR
DELHI- KINGSWAY
DELHI- MUNIRKA
DELHI- ROHINI

Madhya Pradesh

BHOPAL 1- LALGHATI
BHOPAL 2- MP NAGAR
GWALIOR- OPP. G.D.A OFFICE KHEDAPA
HOSHANGABAD- ANANDNAGAR
INDORE 1- BHAWARKUAN ROAD
INDORE 2- SAPNA SANGEETA RD., SNEH
JABALPUR- NAPIER TOWN
REWA- SUBHASH CHOWK
SAGAR- GOPALGANJ

Telangana

HYDERABAD 1- DILSUK
HYDERABAD 2- AMEER
WARANGAL- HANAMKOT

Andhra Pradesh

TIRUPATI- AIR B
VIJAYWADA- NE
VISHAKAPATNA

Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI- G.N. CHETTY
COIMBATORE- R.S. PUR

R PRESENCE N INDIA



Uttarakhand

RAIDUN- NEAR SARVE CHOWK
DEWANI- NAINITAL ROAD
DWAR- RANIPUR MODH
SRKEE- NAGAR CHOWK

Bihar

BHAGALPUR- TILKAMANJHI
DARBHANGA- NEAR MALECHH MARDANI TEMPLE
GAYA- SWARAJ PURI ROAD
MUZAFFARPUR- CLUB ROAD MITHANPURA
PATNA 1- BOARING ROAD
PATNA 2- FRAZER ROAD

Assam

GUWAHATI- G.S. ROAD

Jharkhand

DHANBAD- INFRONT BOI, (BANK MORE) CHAURAHA
JAMSHEDPUR- TATANAGAR
RANCHI- H.B ROAD LALPUR CHOWK

West Bengal

ASANSOL- G.T ROAD (EAST) MURGASOL
DURGAPUR- BESIDE THE CITI RESIDENCI HOTEL
KOLKATA- NEAR MOULALI CROSSING
SILIGURI- SEVOKE ROAD

Chhattisgarh

AMBIKAPUR- GOVERNMENT P.G COLLEGE
BHILAI-DURG- ABOVE ICICI BANK, NEHRU NAGAR (E)
BILASPUR- NARAYAN PLAZA, LINK ROAD
RAIPUR- INFRONT OF LIC PANDRI

Odisha

BALASORE- POLICE LINE SQUARE, O.T ROAD
BERHAMPUR- PANI TANK ROAD
BHUBANESWAR- FIRE STATION, BARMUNDA
CUTTACK- ABOVE KARNATAKA BANK, LINK ROAD
SAMBALPUR- CHRISTIAN PARA

Uttar Pradesh

ALIGARH- BYPASS ROAD, M.R. PALLI CIRCLE
FAZLKAH- NEAR KANDHARI BUS STAND
MEERUT- DWARIKA NAGAR

ALIGARH
FAZLKAH

Note: For any updated information please refer E-brochure at www.mahendras.org

RENMINBI AND YUAN



- ✗ We often are confused in regards to the currency of China. To many it is Yuan and for a few others it is Renminbi.
- ✗ Let's just discuss and clarify the situation in detail –
- ✗ The First Question that arises – ‘
- ✗ WHAT IS THE CURRENCY OF CHINA? – Renminbi is the Official currency of China
- ✗ Yuan is the base Unit of Renminbi much like Dollar is in USD for U.S.A.
- ✗ Therefore, RMB and Yuan are not the same things. As Yuan is One of the currency Units of RMB.
- ✗ But in practical terms, 100 YUAN = 100 RMB, which leads them to being used in similar manner around the world.
- ✗ Much like the relationship between Pound and Sterling, similar is the relationship of Yuan and Renminbi
- ✗ For an Outsider the Currency to use of China shall be the Renminbi. But for a Chinese in China it shall be Yuan.
- ✗ So, official Chinese currency is known as Renminbi.
- ✗ This is issued by People's Bank of China and is the ONLY legal tender in China.
- ✗ Unit of Renminbi is yuan and the smaller, Jiao and fen.
: 1 yuan = 10 Jiao = 100 fen.
- ✗ Chinese people often refer to Yuan as Kuai, Jiao as Mao. RMB is issued both in notes and coins. The Renminbi (RMB, sign: ¥; code CNY; also CN¥)

The "Credit Line" means that bank will issue a limit of upto Rs5 lakh, without any collateral or charging any interest.

The fin-tech start-up said that these loans can be repaid in equated monthly instalments (EMIs) over a period of two months to three years.

The company has partnered with banks such as RBL Bank to facilitate credit line services and claims it to be the first such service in India. The app is available for all salaried employees across metro cities and plans to expand in other cities in the next few months. The company plans to partner with other banks as well.

The rate of interests for loans vary from 1.25 -1.5% per month and the app has a set-up fees of Rs.499-plus taxes to be paid to the bank.

SBI offers 'Hope Loans' at reduced interest rates, 03 OCT., 2016



SBI announced the launch of a special financing scheme 'Hope Loans', under which customers can avail credit facility at lower rates.

Hope Loans comes with the added benefit of reduced interest rates that SBI has just announced due to the reduction in the marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR). On an Rs 50 lakh home loan, for example, one would get to save approximately 3.5 lakh for a 30 year tenor compared to the same period last year.

With the reduction in MCLR, the effective interest rate for home loans will be 9.25 per cent for women and 9.30 per cent for men and for auto loans, it would be 9.65 per cent respectively.

RBI hikes foreign investment caps in government securities, 03 OCT., 2016



Reserve Bank increased the investment limits for foreign portfolio investors in government securities by Rs100 billion to Rs2,100 billion and also upped the limits in state government securities.

As announced in the medium term framework, the limits for investment by FPIs in central government securities for the next half year are proposed to be increased in two tranches, each of Rs100 billion from 3 October, 2016 and 2 January, 2017 respectively.

Accordingly, the total limit for FPIs will go up to Rs2,100 billion (including Rs1,480 billion for all FPIs and an additional of Rs620 billion for those investing for long term) from 3 October. The same will move up to Rs2,200 billion from 2 January, 2017 and shall include Rs1,520 billion for all FPIs and an additional of Rs680 billion for those investing for long term.

The limits on State Development Loans (SDLs) are proposed to be increased in two tranches, each of Rs35 billion, from 3 October, 2016 and 2 January, 2017 respectively. The limits of SDLs will go up to Rs175 billion from the present Rs140 billion starting October 3, and will be hiked to Rs210 billion from 2 January, 2017.

India has highest number of people living below poverty line: World Bank, 03 OCT., 2016



India accounted for the largest number of people living below international poverty line in 2013, with 30 per cent of its population under the \$1.90-a-day poverty measure.

India accounts for one in three of the poor population worldwide, the world body said in its inaugural edition of the report 'Poverty and Shared Prosperity', according to which extreme poverty worldwide continued to fall despite the global economy's "under-performance".

India is by far the country with the largest number of people living under the international USD 1.90-a-day poverty line, more than 2.5 times as many as the 86 million in Nigeria, which has the second-largest population of the poor worldwide.

India had 30 per cent of its population living below poverty line at 224 million.

Nearly 800 million people lived on less than USD 1.90 a day in 2013, around 100 million fewer poor people than in 2012.

Tata fosters another startup, invests in fitness co GOQii, 03 OCT., 2016



Adding one more to his startup funding list, leading industrialist and serial investor Ratan Tata has invested in virtual fitness coaching platform, GOQii.

The size of the funding was however not disclosed.

The company, which is a leading player in the Indian wearables market, is backed by angel investors like Shriram Nene and his wife and Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit Nene and Neeraj Arora (WhatsApp).

It offers a fitness tracker band coupled with a personal coach.

The US-based company had earlier raised USD 13.4 million in a series A funding in November 2015.

These include firms like Snapdeal, Kaaryah, Urban Ladder, Bluestone, CarDekho, Sabse Technologies, Xiaomi, Ola, DogSpot.In, Tracxn, CashKaro, FirstCry and Teabox.

8% economic growth not before 2018-19: Fitch, 04 OCT., 2016

Fitch Ratings projected Indian economy to grow at a slower pace of 7.4 per cent in the current fiscal and touch 8 per cent growth only in 2018-19, as it expects the benefits of reforms and impact of monetary easing to kick in with a lag. The US-based rating agency projected Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lowering interest rates by 0.25 per cent before end of 2016, followed by another rate cut in 2017.

Fitch Ratings latest bi-monthly Global Economic Outlook (GEO) report said "We forecast GDP growth to accelerate

gradually from 7.4 per cent in FY17 (year ending March 2017) to 8.0 per cent in FY19". It projected the growth to be at 7.9 per cent in 2017-18.

The Indian economy grew 7.6 per cent last year.

It said its forecasts imply that India will remain by a wide margin the fastest growing country among Fitch20 economies.

Reliance-Dassault JV to execute Rafale deal, 04 OCT., 2016



The Anil Ambani-led Reliance group said it had tied up with Dassault Aviation to help the French company spend up to \$4.51 billion that it must invest in India as part of a recent fighter jet deal it clinched.

Dassault agreed to invest 50 per cent in so-called offsets of the \$8.7 billion deal it signed with India on September 23 to supply 36 of its Rafale fighter jets. Reliance said the offset contract is India's biggest ever.

Reliance, which has virtually no experience of defence manufacturing, hopes to turn into a major defence firm over the coming years. The agreement with Dassault is a bet that Reliance can build manufacturing facilities at Nagpur to feed into Dassault's supply chain, or for future government orders of the Rafale jet.

A person familiar with the agreement said part of the Rs 30,000 crore in offsets would be spent directly on Reliance manufactured products, and the rest would be spent through other Indian manufacturers, depending on which company could best carry out the work.

According to senior executives, Reliance had bid for Rs 84,000 crore in government contracts, but was yet to win any. Other Indian companies with an interest in defence and aerospace include Tata Group, Mahindra Group and Larsen & Toubro.

Dassault Aviation

This is a French Air Craft Company which gives a service of manufacturing in army, Business Class and Regional travel. It was established in 1929 with the name of MB By Marcell Bloc. After Second World War till 20th of January 1947 its name changed into Avian Marcell Dassault Aviation.

In 1971 Dassault acquires Braiguette, thus Avians Dassault-Braiguette Aviation Undertaking were established. In 1990 the company changed its name into Dassault Aviation. Eric Trapier is the chief of Dassault Aviation from 9th January 2013.

India's GDP growth to remain strong: World Bank, 04 OCT., 2016



Describing South Asia as a global growth hotspot, the World Bank has said India's GDP growth will remain strong at 7.6 percent in 2016 and 7.7 percent in 2017.

In India, GDP growth will remain strong at 7.6 percent in 2016 and 7.7 percent in 2017, supported by expectations of a rebound in agriculture, civil service pay reforms supporting consumption, increasingly positive contributions from exports and a recovery of private investment in the medium term.

According to the report, South Asia remains a global growth hotspot and has proven resilient to external headwinds such as China's slowdown, uncertainty around stimulus policy in advanced economies, and slowing remittances.

The main challenges remain domestic, and include policy uncertainty as well as fiscal and financial vulnerabilities.

In Pakistan, economic activity is projected to gradually accelerate over the medium term reaching 5.0 percent in 2017 and 5.4 percent in 2018, building upon 4.7 percent GDP growth at factor cost in 2016 (5.7 percent at market prices).

RBI cuts repo rate by 25 bps in fourth bi-monthly policy, 04 OCT., 2016



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut repo rate by 25 bps to 6.25 per cent. Reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.75 per cent. All six members of the monetary policy committee voted in favour of cutting repo rate.

This was the central bank's fourth bi-monthly policy statement for the year 2016-17.

Earlier, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan had the final say on interest rate cut decisions. Patel now has to go by the advice of a newly set up six-member monetary policy committee (MPC). This is for the first time that decision-making on interest rates has shifted to the six-member panel which has equal representation from RBI and the government.

Since January last year, the RBI has cut the repo-rate – the rate at which RBI lends to banks – five times. India's retail inflation has touched a five-month low of 5.05 percent in August, triggering hopes of a rate cut.

ADB to provide \$500 mn loan for putting up solar rooftops, 04 OCT., 2016

Multi-lateral lender Asian Development Bank (ADB) will extend a USD 500 million loan for installing solar rooftop systems to help India expand its renewable energy footprint.



ADB is set to provide USD 500 million in financing for rooftop solar systems that will help the Indian government expand energy access using renewable energy. The financing comprises USD 330 million from ADB and USD 170 million from the multi-donor Clean Technology Fund, administered by the funding agency.

This funding should mean that 11 million fewer tonnes of greenhouse gases are emitted over the typical 25-year lifetime of solar rooftop systems. The financing will be channelled through state-owned Punjab National Bank, which will use the ADB funds to tender loans to various developers and end-users across the country to set up solar rooftop systems.

Sourcing more solar energy will also help India meet the carbon emissions reduction target that it has committed to, as part of the recent global climate change agreement, Huang said. Combined with an additional USD 300 million in subproject equity investment and USD 200 million in loans from commercial banks and other financiers, the entire cost of the Solar Rooftop Investment Programme is USD 1 billion.

Automation threatens 69% of jobs in India, 77% in China: World Bank, 05 OCT., 2016



Automation threatens 69% of jobs in India, 77% in China, according to a World Bank research which says that technology could fundamentally disrupt the pattern of traditional economic paths in developing countries.

In large parts of Africa, it is likely that technology could fundamentally disrupt this pattern. Research based on World Bank data has predicted that the proportion of jobs threatened in India by automation is 69%, in China it is 77% and in Ethiopia, the percentage of jobs threatened by automation is 85% .

IMF predicts strong 7.6% growth for India in 2016, 05 OCT., 2016



The IMF projected a robust 7.6 per cent growth rate for India in 2016 and 2017, but asked the government to continue reforming its tax system and eliminate subsidies to provide more resources for investments in infrastructure, education and healthcare.

“India’s GDP will continue to expand at the fastest pace among major economies, with growth forecast at 7.6 per cent in 2016/17,” the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said, a slight upward revision of 0.2 from its July projections. India’s economy continued to recover strongly, benefiting from a large improvement in the terms of trade, effective policy actions, and stronger external buffers, which have helped boost sentiment.

At the same time, the IMF asked New Delhi to continue reform of its tax system and eliminate subsidies to provide more resources for investments in infrastructure, education and health care.

In 2015, India's GDP grew at 7.6 per cent, as compared to China's 6.9 per cent.

India remains the fastest growing major economies of the world, as IMF has projected 6.6 per cent and 6.2 per cent GDP growth rate for China for the year 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Global growth is projected to slow to 3.1 per cent in 2016 before recovering to 3.4 per cent in 2017.

The forecast, revised down by 0.1 percentage point for 2016 and 2017 relative to April, reflects a more subdued outlook for advanced economies following the June UK referendum in favour of leaving the European Union (Brexit) and weaker-than-expected growth in the United States, the IMF said.

On the other hand, in China, the economy is expected to grow by 6.6 per cent in 2016 on the back of policy support, slowing to 6.2 per cent in 2017 absent further stimulus.

The IMF said, India's economy has benefited from the large terms of trade gain triggered by lower commodity prices, and inflation has declined more than expected.

Nevertheless, underlying inflationary pressures arising from bottlenecks in the food storage and distribution sector point to the need for further structural reforms to ensure that consumer price inflation remains within the target band over the medium term, it said.

Vodafone arm ties up with Microsoft as cloud service partner, 05 OCT., 2016



Vodafone Business Services (VBS), the enterprise arm of Vodafone India, has tied up with Microsoft as a cloud service partner, a company statement said.

As part of this tie-up, VBS will offer Office 365 to Indian businesses to give them enterprise-grade productivity and collaboration services.

Pay-per-use Software as a Service (SaaS) model will make our customers' business future-ready by giving them predictable IT costs and taking care of the technology upgrades and scalability worries.

Tata Motors strikes South Africa hire company supply deal, 07 OCT., 2016

TATA MOTORS

Tata Motors has struck a major deal with a South African car hire company to supply its Bolt 1.2 Turbo hatchbacks for Tempest Car Hire's rental fleet.

The recently introduced Bolt will be offered at a competitive hire charge which will be one of the lowest in the country, including 100 km free per day and standard insurance cover.

Tata Motors is working hard to develop export sales in emerging markets around the world. It recently announced entry to the Bolivian commercial vehicle market, through a distribution agreement with local partners, Bolivian Auto Motors.

Intex partners with Tata's mRUPEE for mobile wallet service, 07 OCT., 2016



Domestic handset maker Intex has partnered with mRUPEE, a Tata Teleservices subsidiary, to launch mobile wallet Intex MyWallet.

The wallet will offer easy and quick integrated payment functionalities and conveniences within the device related to recharge, money transfer, shopping, booking train, movie, bus tickets and more in just one click, Intex said in a statement. This is in line with our focus to offer the

customers additional value which is being created right from video, gaming, healthcare, utility, entertainment, e-commerce/mobile advertisement, all packed in their handsets at customers fingertips.

Intex's larger rival, Micromax, also has a mobile wallet service Udio in partnership with Tran Serv and Visa.

As part of its tie-up, Intex will also launch a white labelled retailer portal, wherein Intex retailers will be able to offer retail-assisted services of recharges, bill payments, utilities and money transfer.

Intex wallet customers will be rewarded for accessing content and other utilities by offering loyalty bonus that can be redeemed for talk time and recharges.

P V Sindhu new brand ambassador of Vizag Steel, 10 OCT., 2016



Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, the corporate entity of Vizag Steel has roped in badminton champion and Rio silver medallist P V Sindhu as its brand ambassador.

R Ramakrishnan, Director and Co-founder Baseline Ventures, said the deal will see Vizag Steel become the major partner of the athlete.

The company will have its brand logo on Sindhu's playing jersey in international and domestic tournaments under the aegis of Badminton World Federation (BWF) and Badminton Association of India.

Tata Communication, Skylab join hands to take IoT far and wide, 12 OCT., 2016



TATA COMMUNICATIONS

Tata Communications and Skylab, a Singapore-based technology solutions provider, have announced a partnership to help more enterprises adopt the Internet of Things (IoT).

Skylab provides advanced data harvesting, processing and delivery solutions to its customers over a scalable platform called Data Logistics Cloud (DLC).

Tata Communications' IZO Cloud Enablement Platform allows enterprises to connect and build their cloud their way - be it private, public or hybrid. It is supported by Tata Communications' infrastructure.

Ssangyong to form JV for manufacturing base in China, 12 OCT., 2016



SSANGYONG

Mahindra Group's South Korean arm Ssangyong Motor Co is forming a joint venture with China's Shaanxi Automobile Group to set up a manufacturing plant in the world's largest automobile market.

Ssangyong Motor Co, which was acquired by Mahindra & Mahindra in 2011, has signed a letter of intent (LOI) with the China's Shaanxi Automobile Group for a joint venture that will establish local production plant for CBU vehicles as parts of its efforts to grow in China.

The proposed plant with an installed capacity of 3 lakh units annually in China will also be the first manufacturing unit of the company outside South Korea.

Toyota, Suzuki tying up in technology, ecology partnership, 12 OCT., 2016



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Toyota, the world's top automaker, and Suzuki, a Japanese rival that specializes in tiny vehicles, are tying up in a partnership. Both sides announced in a joint statement they will study areas they can work together in developing technology for the environment, safety and information networking.

They said such areas are likely to benefit from a partnership since the industry is changing rapidly in those areas.

Toyota Motor Corp. and Suzuki Motor Corp. said they will continue to compete in other ways. They expressed hopes other automakers will join the partnership to help work toward an industry standard in such areas.

Cabinet approves pact between EXIM Bank, 13 OCT., 2016

Union Cabinet approved a pact between Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) and BRICS-promoted New Development Bank (NDB), along with other development financial institutions of member nations, with an aim to strengthen trade and economic ties.

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on general cooperation with NDB through the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism by Government at the level of Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs/ Export Import Bank of India, an official release said. There is no financial implication involved with signing of the MoU.

The proposal will enhance trade and economic relations among the BRICS countries. The participating institutions from the BRICS nations will be benefitted by this MoU.

The MoU is a non-binding umbrella agreement aimed at establishing a cooperation framework in accordance with the national laws and regulations, besides skills transfer and knowledge sharing amongst the signatories.

Bank of Baroda appoints P V Sindhu and K Srikanth as brand ambassadors, 13 OCT., 2016



Public sector bank Bank of Baroda, has signed a principal sponsorship contract with badminton Olympians P V Sindhu and K Srikanth. The three year deal with the two players was agreed in principle before they represented and made India proud on the International stage at the Rio 2016 Olympics.

In 2005, the bank had appointed right hand batsman Rahul Dravid as its brand ambassador, though that contract has long since expired. Both PV Sindhu and K Srikanth today are household names because of their glorious achievements. The bank is very excited to have both of them on board & looks forward to a strong bonding and fruitful association in the years to come.

WPI inflation slows to 3.57% as vegetable prices soften, 14 OCT., 2016

Wholesale inflation eased to 3.57 percent in September as food articles, led by vegetables, witnessed softening of prices. The wholesale price-based inflation, reflecting the annual rate of price rise, in August stood at 3.74 percent. In September 2015, WPI inflation was (-) 4.59 percent.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in vegetables witnessed deflationary pressures and was recorded at (-) 10.91 percent in September. Inflation in this category had scaled a high of 28.45 percent in July. This was aided by inflation data for onion, which was at (-) 70.52 percent. Pulses inflation continued to rule high at 23.99 percent in September, according to the Commerce Ministry data. Potato, a daily consumable vegetable, witnessed maximum inflationary pressure at 73.31 percent. Inflation in fruits rose 14.10 percent during the month. Overall, the food inflation basket showed good moderation with inflation at 5.75 percent in September, as against 8.23 percent in August.

The WPI, which was in the negative zone from November 2014 to March 2016, had been rising for six months till August. In September, the inflation has slowed. The inflation print for manufactured articles read at 2.48 percent in September, as against 2.42 percent in August. The rate of inflation in sugar was at 32.92 percent and that for petrol was 1.25 percent. The WPI inflation for July has been revised upwards at 3.72 percent, against provisional estimate of 3.55 percent. The wholesale inflation in September is in sync with the retail inflation which eased to a 13-month low of 4.31 percent in the month.

The all-powerful Monetary Policy Committee headed by RBI Governor Urjit Patel last week cut benchmark interest rates by 0.25 percent to 6.25 percent. While he had signalled more tolerance towards inflation, the easing in CPI data was in line with the RBI's forecast for average 5 percent inflation in fourth quarter of 2016. This, many expect, would create more room for interest rate cuts.

SPORTS

Burning Topics of the Month

1. Indian Shooters win 3 gold medals in ISSF Junior World Cup.
2. Official Emblem for 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup to be held in India Unveiled.
3. Aditi wins gold in senior National Aquatic Championship.

Indian shooters win 3 gold medals in ISSF Junior World Cup, 19 SEP., 2016



Indian shooters called the shots and won seven medals, including three gold, on the opening day of International Shooting Sport Federations (ISSF) Junior World Cup for pistol, rifle and shotgun. Subhankar Pramanik, the boy from Bengal gave India its first gold in the years. In the finals, Subhankar shot 205.5 over 20 shots to edge out Filip Nepejchal of the Czech Republic, who managed 205.2 to settle for the silver. The Bronze went to Dragomir Iordache of Roumania.

Subhankar, along with teammates Fateh Singh Dhillon and Ajaey Nithish, also helped the Indian team to a Silver in the event. Sambhaji Patil bagged Indias second gold when he won the junior mens 25-metre standard pistol event by shooting 562 to easily beat Australians Sergei Evglevski and James Ashmore.

Sambhaji also added the team gold in the event along with compatriots Gurmeet and Rituraj Singh to take India atop the medal tally, adding to the silver won in the junior mens team rifle prone and two bronze medals. In the years first Junior World Cup in May in Suhl Germany, the Indians had finished fourth with an overall tally of three gold, four silver and three bronze medals.

Rushiraj wins rapid fire pistol gold at ISSF Junior World Cup, 21 SEP., 2016



Indian shooters continued their impressive show at the ISSF Junior World Cup with Rushiraj Barot striking gold in the junior men's 25m rapid fire pistol event on day three of the competition.

The 19-year old Indian, who qualified for the six-man final in fifth position with a score of 556 in the qualifying, edged out Lukas Skoumal of the Czech Republic 25-23 to record his first triumph at the Junior World Cup stage.

Rushiraj had finished ninth in the same event in the first Junior World Cup of the year held in Suhl, Germany, in May. Sergei Evglevski of Australia won the bronze.

India picked up four more medals, including one more gold, to sit firmly in second place on the medal table, winning six gold, four silver and eight bronze for a total haul of 18 medals so far.

Russia are on top of the medal table with 10 gold for a total of 21 medals.

Earlier in the day, Pratik Borse, Arjun Babuta and Prashant won the team gold in the 10m air rifle event with a combined score of 1849.9.

The team from Singapore won the silver logging a total of 1847 while Japan won the bronze with a total score of 1846.8.

Both Arjun and Pratik also qualified for the individual finals where Arjun Babuta won the bronze medal.

Ritu Rani retires from international hockey, 22 SEP., 2016



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Former Indian women's hockey captain Ritu Rani has retired from international hockey.

It was under Ritu's captaincy that the Indian eves qualified for the Rio Olympics after a gap of 36 years. It was also under her captaincy that the national team had won a bronze medal at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games and a silver medal at the 2013 Asian Champions Trophy.

Indian shooters finish impressive second at Junior World Cup, 23 SEP., 2016



Lakshaya and Kismat Chopra and Manavaditya Singh Rathore bagged the team bronze in the Men's Trap event as India ended their campaign at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup with a total of 24 medals to grab the second place in the overall standings.

India finished with a total of nine gold, five silver and 10 bronze medals as the year's second and final Junior World Cup concluded.

Manavaditya, qualified for the individual Bronze medal match-up in the event, being part of two shoot-offs in the lead up, but had to be contended with fourth place eventually, coming second-best to Italy's Matteo Marongiu.

Lakshaya and Kismat and Manavaditya bagged the team Bronze in the Men's Trap when together they shot a total of 347 out of the possible 375 hits. Italy shot 360 to win Gold while Australia finished a point ahead of India to claim Silver.

Earlier both Manavaditya and Lakshaya were tied in fifth place, with two other shooters on a score of 118 at the end of the qualifying round of 125 shots each. Only six shooters qualify for the final rounds. In the ensuing shoot-off Manavaditya and a Chinese shooter, Chengjiang Liu, were on target with their first two shots and qualified.

Lakshaya missed his second and the other Kazakh shooter, Nikolay Belskiy, missed his first, to be placed seventh and eighth respectively.

India third in ICC ODI rankings, Virat Kohli second in batting charts, 23 SEP., 2016



Away from the 50-over format for a while, India were placed third while mainstay Virat Kohli held the second position in the batting chart in the latest ICC ODI rankings released. India were positioned third with 110 points behind Australia (124) and New Zealand (113).

With 813 points in his kitty, Kohli was only behind South African talisman AB de Villiers and a place ahead of another experienced Protea Hashim Amla in the batting list. Besides Kohli, Rohit Sharma (7th) and Shikhar Dhawan (8th) were the other Indians in the batting list dominated by the South Africans and the Asian giants. No Indian bowler featured in the ODI chart, and there was no one from the country in the allrounder list as well.

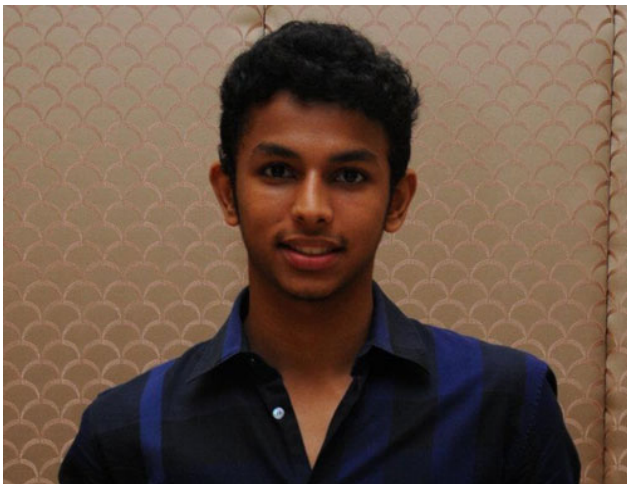
As far as future team movement is concerned, fourth-ranked South Africa have a chance to climb up to second position in the ICC ODI rankings when they host number-one ranked world champions Australia in a five-match series from September 30 to October 12.

While Australia and South Africa will aim to consolidate their current positions, Bangladesh, the West Indies and Pakistan will target to improve their rankings.

World champion Australia is currently on 124 points and without an immediate threat to its top ranking with New Zealand second on 113 points. But a series win for South Africa, who are a fraction of a point behind India, against Australia could help them move ahead of the reigning ICC Champions Trophy winner. A 3-2 series win will put South Africa in third position on 112 points, while a 4-1 series win will lift it to second position on 114 points.

For Australia, a 3-2 series win will maintain their current 124 points with a maximum drop to 118 points in the case of a 5-0 series whitewash. Even if they also loses their preceding one-off match to Ireland and get blanked by South Africa, Australia will retain number-one position at 116 points with South Africa behind it on decimal points.

Velavan Senthilkumar wins U-19 Asian title, 23 SEP., 2016



India's emerging player Velavan Senthilkumar came from two games down to beat Jordan's Mohammad Al-Sarraj 12-14 9-11 11-6 11-8 11-7 and bag the U-19 Asian Junior Individual squash championship title.

The Chennai lad, who trains at the Indian Squash Academy (ISA), is the second Indian to win the title after Ravi Dixit in 2010.

Incidentally Dixit also used to train at the ISA.

In terms of seedings, Velavan being second and Sarraj, fourth, this was an expected outcome but the Jordanian had looked in a fine nick during his semi-final match when he accounted for the top seed and reigning world junior champion Ng Eain Yow of Malaysia.

According to coach Bala Murugan, Velavan took time to settle down but once he got into the rhythm there was no looking back.

Sania Mirza-Barbora Strycova crowned women's doubles champions at Pan Pacific Open, 26 SEP., 2016

India's Sania Mirza and her partner Barbora Strycova from Czech Republic produced a straight sets win over China's Chen Liang and Zhaoxuan Yang 6-1, 6-1 in the final to win the women's doubles titles at Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo.

Playing their third tournament together, Sania and Strycova have earlier won the Cincinnati Open last month by beating Martina Hingis and Coco Vandeweghe 7-5, 6-4 in the final.

The current tournament in Tokyo is Sania's 40th doubles title win and third in Tokyo. She had earlier won the same title with Cara Black twice. Sania and Strycova had defeated unseeded pair of Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski and Spain's

Maria Jose Martina Sanchez 4-6, 6-3, 10-5 in semi-finals in Tokyo.

The pair has played one Grand Slam together, the US Open last month but suffered a defeat in the quarter-finals. Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic defeated them in straight sets in New York.

Olympian Sajan wins gold in 200m Butterfly, 26 SEP., 2016



Olympian Sajan Prakash of Railways set a national record in mens 200m butterfly en route to winning the gold in the event at the 70th Senior National Aquatic Championships.

Prakash, who was the first Indian to break the 2 minute barrier in the 200m butterfly, clocked 01:59.35 to win the gold. Team mate Supriyo Mondal won the silver in 02:03.42 while Manoj Mitesh, representing Services, won bronze with a time of 02:07.04.

Prakash had clocked 1:59.27 at the Hong Kong Open in this event this year.

But the result sheet of the Championships said that it was a national record. According to records at the Swimming Federation of India also, Prakash's effort was a national record. The womens 50m butterfly saw favourite Annie Jain of Madhya Pradesh pipped to the post by Chahal Arora (00:35.11) of Chandigarh. Annie finished second in 00:35.39 while A V Jayveena of Tamil Nadu claimed bronze with a time of 00:35.40. Monique Gandhi got Maharashtra the perfect start on Day 2 winning the gruelling 1500m freestyle with a time of 18:21.13 beating Shruti Mahalingam from Tamil Nadu who clocked 18:21.53. The bronze went to her state mate P M Abhishikta who finished with a time of 18:43.59. The 4x100m relay in the womens category witnessed the best race of the day. Maharashtra, represented by Yuga Barnale, Monique Gandhi, Trisha Karkhanis and Rayna Saldanha, won the race beating early leaders Gujarat and leaders after the third leg Karnataka. Maharashtra got the gold with a timing of 04:36.31. Karnataka won silver with 04:38.33 while Gujarat won bronze with 04:41.41.

Kenenisa Bekele wins Berlin Marathon, misses world mark, 26 SEP., 2016

Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia pulled away from Wilson Kipsang of Kenya late in the race to win the Berlin Marathon just outside the world record time.

Bekele's winning time of two hours, 3 minutes and 3 seconds was six seconds outside Dennis Kimetto's world record, also set in Berlin in 2014 and is the second best time.

Bekele and Kipsang opened a considerable lead over the rest of the field and ran shoulder-to-shoulder until Bekele pulled away with about two kilometers to go.

Kipsang finished 10 seconds behind Bekele in 2:03:13, faster than the 2:03:23 he clocked in winning the race in 2013, in what was then a world record.

Evans Chebet of Kenya was third in 2:05:31.

Bekele is considered one of the greatest distance runners of all time. He won three Olympic titles and five world championship golds and is the world record holder over 5,000 and 10,000 meters.

But he had been slow getting into the marathon, with his previous best of 2:05.04 set in his debut in winning the Paris race in 2014. He was third in London in April, after battling an Achilles' tendon injury.

Bekele broke the Ethiopian record for the marathon, previously held by the great Haile Gebrselassie, who won the Berlin Marathon and set a world record of 2:03.59 in 2008. Aberu Kebede led an Ethiopian sweep in the women's race in 2:20:45. Birhane Dibaba was second in 2:23:58 and Ruti Aga third in 2:24:41.

R Ashwin becomes fastest Indian & second overall to take 200 Test wickets, 26 SEP., 2016



Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest Indian and second overall to take 200 wickets, reaching the milestone in his 37th Test.

Ashwin trapped New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson in front to get to the 200-mark on day four of the first Test at the Green Park in Kanpur.

With this feat, Ashwin left behind the likes of Dennis Lillee and Waqar Younis, who took 38 Tests to get to 200 wickets. South African pacer Dale Steyn took 39 Tests to reach the landmark.

Only leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett got to the double century of wickets faster than Ashwin as the Australian reached there in 36 Tests.

Besides, Ashwin is also the ninth Indian bowler to record 200 in Tests and also the ninth highest wicket-taker for the country in a list lead by current coach Anil Kumble who holds the record of 619 wickets.

India win historic 500th Test comprehensively against New Zealand, 26 SEP., 2016

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin finished with 10 wickets in India's historic 500 Test match as the hosts took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series against New Zealand. At the Green Park Stadium, India beat the visitors by 197 runs in the first Test 15 overs into the afternoon session on the final day.

Ashwin, who became the second fastest bowler to reach 200 wickets in Tests, claimed the last three wickets in the NZ second innings, including that of Mitchell Santner (71) with an unplayable delivery that turned and kicked up at the left-hander from way outside the leg stump.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja picked up six wickets in the match and also chipped in with unbeaten knocks of 42 and 50 lower down the order to take the man of the match prize.

Luke Ronchi, who shared a fifth-wicket partnership of 102 runs with Santner, emerged the highest scorer for the Kiwis with a well-made 80.

After the visitors resumed from their overnight 93 for 4, Ravindra Jadeja removed Ronchi to give the hosts the breakthrough after the spinners failed to get the same amount of purchase from the wicket as in the previous two mornings.

Later, Mohammad Shami picked up a couple of wickets with reverse swing just before lunch to set India on its way. India had declared their second innings at 377 for 5 on Sunday, setting NZ a target of 434. The hosts had also gained a first innings lead of 56, after bowling out the visitors for 252 in reply to their 318.

Teenager Alexander Zverev stuns U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka for first title, 26 SEP., 2016



Promising German 19-year-old Alexander Zverev won his first tour title, beating U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka in a tight battle in the St. Petersburg Open final.

Zverev took the first set before Wawrinka responded to draw level. The German was a break down in the decider, but fought back to win 6-2, 3-6, and 7-5.

Zverev becomes the first man to beat Wawrinka in a tour final since 2013, snapping an 11-match win streak in finals for the Swiss star, who had been trying to win back-to-back titles in his first tournament since the U.S. Open. The loss also ends a 10-match unbeaten run for Wawrinka.

Earlier, Britain's Dominic Inglot and Finland's Henri Kontinen won the doubles title.

Indian shuttler Rituparna Das wins Polish Open, 27 SEP., 2016



Young Indian shuttler Rituparna Das clinched the Polish Open after defeating fellow Indian Rasika Raje in the women's singles final of the International challenge badminton event.

Rituparna beat Rasika 11-21 21-7 21-17 in a 40-minute clash.

Women's doubles pair of Sanjana Santosh and Arathi Sara Sunil also clinched the title after defeating top seeds Natalya Voytsekh and Yelyzaveta Zharka 19-21 21-19 21-14 in the final that lasted more than an hour.

Sourabh Verna, however, lost his second final after Belgium Open following some tough contest in the finals against Denmark's Victor Svendsen.

The Indian, who is making a comeback after a series of injuries, fought a gruelling battle before going down 27-29 13-21 in the final.

PV Sindhu's Rio silver leads to 3-year, Rs 50cr golden deal, 27 SEP., 2016



Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu continues to ride the wave of her success at the Rio Games. TOI has learnt that the Hyderabad-based shuttler has signed a three-year deal with sports management company Baseline that could be worth up to Rs 50 crore, the highest ever for any non-cricket player.

Tuhin Mishra, managing director and co-founder of Baseline, told TOI this is the best deal signed by an Indian shuttler. Her soaring popularity has attracted the attention of so many companies. In the next three years, we will work to maximise her value. Even after achieving stupendous success, her humility and the value she brings to women power is remarkable.

Baseline will now manage Sindhu's brand profiling, licensing, endorsements etc.

Suriya, Lakshmanan win golds at National Athletics C'ship, 28 SEP., 2016

Suriya Loganathan of Railways and G Lakshmanan from Services won gold medals in their respective divisions over 5000m on the opening day of 56th Open National Athletics championship.

Suriya won the opening event of the four-day meet clocking 16:05.90. Earlier she had clinched back-to-back titles at the 2012 (Chennai) and 2013 (Ranchi) editions.

Lakshmanan too successfully retained his title from the Kolkata edition last year with a time of 14:16.07. His first Open victory at this distance came in Ranchi three years ago.

Meanwhile, High jumper Jinu Maria Manuel become only second athlete from Kerala to win women's high jump in Open National Athletics championships' history.

The women's high jump, introduced in the open nationals programme in the seventh edition in 1969 at Bangalore, had witnessed Elizabeth K Mathai win the first gold medal for Kerala during 1983 at Jamshedpur.

She completed a hat-trick of victories in the nationals by winning the next two editions while representing the Combined Indian Universities team.

Official emblem for 2017 Fifa U-17 World Cup to held in India unveiled, 28 SEP., 2016



U-20 WORLD CUP KOREA REP. 2017

The Local Organising Committee of the Fifa U-17 World Cup India 2017 (LOC) unveiled the official emblem for what will be the country's first international football event.

The ceremony at a posh city hotel in Goa was attended by Fifa President Gianni Infantino, and Chairman of the LOC and All India Football Federation (AIFF) Praful Patel.

Shaped like the World Cup trophy, the Fifa U-17 World Cup 2017 emblem combines the global look of the beautiful

game with a quintessentially Indian feel. It represents what the tournament stands for.

The Fifa U-17 World Cup India 2017 will happen in six venues across the country during the month of October 2017.

Saloni clinches gold in 200m Breaststroke, 28 SEP., 2016



Karnataka's Saloni Dalal smashed the national record by more than two seconds to clinch the gold in 200m Breaststroke on the fourth day of the 70th Glenmark Senior National Aquatic Championships.

Saloni clocked 02:44.37 beating the existing record of 02:46.49. She also broke a 19-year old record, the best time in this event set by Sajani Shetty (02:46.39) of Karnataka in the National Games.

Sayani Ghosh from Bengal also bettered the National record to win her second medal of the day in as many races winning silver with a time of 02:45.09. Harshita Jayaram of Karnataka also recorded a better meet record claiming bronze with a time of 02:45.48.

The Railways men's team comprising Sajan Prakash, Aaron Dsouza, Sanu Debnath and Saurabh Sangvekar created a new national record in the 4x200m relay with a time of 07:45.24 beating Services (07:54.52) and Karnataka (08:04.68) who settled for silver and bronze respectively.

In the first event of the day, Saurabh clocked 08:26.99 to win the gold, while K Mitesh Manoj of Services won silver with a time of 8:35.32 and Avinash Mani of Karnataka took the bronze with a time of 8:35.73.

In the second event of the day, Sayani claimed gold with a time of 05:10.57 while Shraddha Sudhir of Karnataka claimed silver with a time of 05:24.71 and Shrishti Nag of Chattisgarh won bronze with 05:26.62.

Aditi wins gold in Senior National Aquatic Championship, 28 SEP., 2016



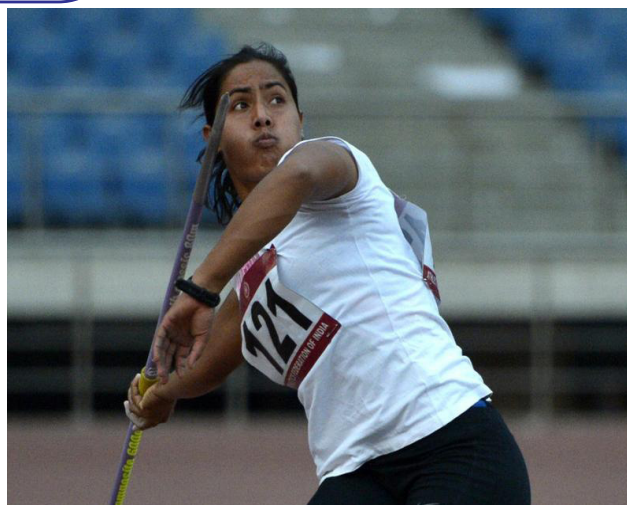
Aditi Dhumatkar wins gold medal in the 100m Freestyle Senior Womens category at the 70th Glenmark Senior National Aquatic Championship.

Aditi clocked 00:29.14 sec to beat Olympian Shivani Kataria of Haryana, who settled for a silver with a time of 00:59.50 sec and Maharashtra swimmer Rayna Saldhan won the bronze medal after clocking 00:59.91 sec. Maharashtra featuring Nimish Muley, Aditi, Avantika Chawan and Viraj Prabhu claimed gold with a time of 1:42.91 sec, while Karnataka (01:44.20 sec) and Gujarat (01:44.33 sec) won silver and bronze respectively. Maana Patel of Gujarat bagged the gold medal with a time of 00:31.75 sec, while Jyotsna Pahsare won the silver in the 50m Backstroke Senior Women category in 00:30.91 sec and Avantika bagged the bronze medal with a time of 00:31.63 sec.

The Gold medal in 800m Freestyle Senior Women category was won by Shruti Mahalingam of Tamil Nadu with a time 09:40.63 sec and Preksha H M of Karnataka won the silver clocking 09:42.12 sec. Monique Gandhi won the bronze medal with a time of 09:44.14 sec. Maharashtra won the women's championship with 148 points, while the Swimming team championship was won by Railways in the Men's with a total of 175 points and Karnataka won the overall swimming championships with 246 points. Maharashtra retains its second position on Medals tally with 08 Gold, 9 Silver and 6 Bronze medals.

Javelin thrower Ravinder Singh sets first meet record, 28 SEP., 2016

Javelin thrower Ravinder Singh broke the first meet record in the 56th Open National Athletics Championships with an effort of 79.04m on the second day of competitions.



World junior record-holder Neeraj Chopra held the previous meet record of 77.67m from last year.

The silver medal went to Shivpal Singh (77.72m) who also bettered the old mark.

Olympian Manpreet Kaur registered her fourth straight title in women's shot put (seventh overall) by tossing the iron ball to 16.22m.

Hurdlers Purnima Hembram and Akhil Johnson bagged their first ever Open National titles in their respective events.

Race walker B Sowmya clocked third fastest winning time for 20 km walk (1:44:32) in the Open Nationals and became the second Police athlete after Sapna (2014) to win the event.

Kerala long jumper Muhammed Anees got his first national title with a modest leap of 7.65m. Earlier, he had won the Indian Grand Prix title at Bangalore with a distance of 7.80m.

Metric miler Ajay Kumar Saroj completed a 'hat-trick' of victories in men's 1500m.

Ashwini Akkunji won her second-ever open national victory by winning the women's 400m. She got her first title six years ago at Kochi while taking the 400m hurdles gold.

Veteran sprinter H M Jyothi Srinivas (33) tasted success in women's 100m after a gap of eight years. Jyothi clocked 11.57 secs to secure a gold for her home state Karnataka. She represented her husband's state Andhra Pradesh while winning the previous title at Kochi in 2008.

Madhu, Maana emerge the best swimmers, 29 SEP., 2016

Madhu P.S. and Maana Patel smashed National records in style to emerge as the best swimmers in the men's and women's sections respectively on the concluding day of the Glenmark National aquatics championship at the V.B.B. Stadium.

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In the 50m backstroke heats in the morning session, Maana registered 29.89 to improve upon her old record of 30.25 set last year in Rajkot. This was also the best Indian timing as Maana bettered her own time of 30.03 recorded in the junior National championship in Pune in 2015.

The 17-year-old Gujarat swimmer did a 30.03 in the final in the evening session to take the 50m backstroke crown.

Maana's showing on the final day helped her retain her 'best swimmer' title for the fourth consecutive year.

Services swimmer Madhu, who had broken the 100m backstroke record on the opening day of the meet, created another new record in 50m backstroke. He clocked 26.73 to surpass his own record and the best Indian timing of 27.02 made in 2014.

U-18 Asia Cup hockey final: India beat Bangladesh 5-4 to claim title, 02 OCT., 2016



India defeated hosts Bangladesh by 5-4 in the final match at the under-18 Asia Cup hockey tournament to win the title.

India got off to a quick start and kept the ball in their possession as they searched for an opening to penetrate the rival circle.

Their approach paid off as they won their first penalty corner in the 6th minute itself. After an initial error, India recovered and improvised to take a shot on goal, but the attempt went in vain.

While India held the possession, Bangladesh waited for the counter. From a counter, the home team won a penalty corner, and after the initial save by Pankaj Kumar Rajak, M Roman Sarkar netted the ball to give the hosts the lead.

India were quick to score the equaliser through Shivam Anand, who picked up a pass on the edge of the circle and cut back in, running past two Bangladesh defenders to execute a perfect reverse flick into the net.

India earned one more penalty corner but yet another error denied them a goal.

From a counter Bangladesh ran through the midfield, before a cross from the left found Mohammad Mohsin, who deflected the ball to give the hosts a lead again to go into the break 2-1 up.

After the break, India levelled the scores via Hardik Singh's PC before Dilpreet Singh netted the ball to hand the visiting team a 3-1 lead.

Gaganjeet Bhullar wins sixth Asian Tour title, 03 OCT., 2016



India's Gaganjeet Bhullar ended a long trophy drought with a one-stroke victory at the Shinhan Donghae Open in South Korea for his sixth title on the Asian Tour.

The 28-year-old, who last won in 2013, carded a final round four-under-par 67 for a tournament total of 15-under 269 at the Bear's Best Cheongna Golf Club in Incheon.

Tour rookie Scott Vincent (69) of Zimbabwe and local favourite Kim Tae-woo (71) finished a stroke behind.

Australia's Scott Hend finished tied for fourth with Sweden's Malcolm Kokocinski to increase his lead at the top of the Asian Tour's Order of Merit.

India reclaim top Test ranking, 04 OCT., 2016



This is the fourth time since 2003 that India have been on the top spot. Their longest stint at the top lasted almost two years when they were No.1 from November 2009 to August 2011.

India defeated South Africa at home, and Sri Lanka and West Indies away before the two wins over New Zealand. They have not lost a Test since the Galle Test against Sri Lanka in August 2015. They were No.1 for a short period in January 2016, after England won in South Africa, before Australia displaced them with a 2-0 series win in New Zealand.

India replaced Pakistan, who became No.1 after a 2-2 series result in England. Australia were knocked off the top perch after a 0-3 debacle in Sri Lanka.

First BRICS U – 17 Football Tournament kicked off in Goa (Sports), 06 OCT., 2016



First 'BRICS' U-17 football tournament inaugurated by Union Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel in Goa. Chief Minister of Goa Laxmikant Parsekar, Sports Minister of Haryana Anil Vij, Sports Minister of Gujarat, Rajendra Trivedi, Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia, Sports Minister of Sikkim Ram Bahadur Subba, Sports Minister of Mizoram Zodintluanga were also present on the occasion.

Inaugurating the tournament Vijay Goel said, it is an honour for India to host the inaugural BRICS U-17 Football Tournament. This tournament have transcended the traditional areas of interaction and opened a new vista in the field of sports. India is looking towards a growth of a sporting culture in the country. The initiative by Ministry of Sports such as 'Khelo India', 'Mission 11 Million' and the forthcoming FIFA U-17 World Cup are all aimed at giving an impetus to this endeavour.

'BRICS' U-17 football tournament will definitely promote bonhomie amongst the participants and will create a rapport with the audience.

The captains of the football teams lit the torch, followed by an entertainment programme performed by local artists.

The Government of India initiative the BRICS U – 17 Football Tournament will be played among the 'BRICS' countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Final of the tournament will played on 15th October, 2016 at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Fatorda. The tournament is free to all.

Azhar Ali becomes first centurion in Day-Night Test cricket, 14 OCT., 2016



Pakistan Vice Captain Azhar Ali has scored the first ever century in a Day-Night Test match. Azhar scored his century off just 184 balls with the help of ten boundaries.

In a historic partnership between the two Pakistan openers Azhar Ali and Sami Aslam, the team has until now scored 191 runs without losing a wicket. In this first match with the Pink ball, Pakistan openers have set up a legendary partnership which also broke the record for the highest opening partnership on DSC ground.

The openers are still going on and Sami Aslam is also batting at 84 now off 199 balls with the help of 8 boundaries. It's been a tough day for the West Indies bowlers while the Pakistan batsmen are having some fantastic time with no wickets falling in the first two session and the hosts still dominating the third as well.

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SCIENCE

Burning Topics of the Month

1. **China Successfully launches second space lab.**
2. **PSLV C - 35 lifts off with 8 satellites.**
3. **NASA telescope finds record breaking binary is near by galaxy.**

China successfully launches 2nd space lab, 16 SEP., 2016



China successfully launched its second experimental space lab as part of an ambitious programme to build a manned space station by 2022, the time when US-led International Space Station expected to go out of service.

The Tiangong-2 space lab was successfully launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwestern China's Gobi desert.

China's ambitious space programme aims for a manned space station by 2022. China's space station is expected to be sent into orbit just as the US-led International Space Station goes out of service -- making China potentially the only country with a permanent space presence.

The 8.6-tonne space lab will manoeuvre itself into an orbit about 380 kms above the Earth for initial on-orbit tests.

The two astronauts will work in Tiangong-2 for 30 days including manual and automatic docking before re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

China, which conducted its first manned space mission in 2003 also plans to launch its Mars mission in 2020 to catch up with India, the US, Russia and the EU to reach the red planet.

As it launched the second space station, China announced that its first space lab Tiangong-1 is expected to fall into the Earth's atmosphere in the latter half of 2017.

PSLV C-35 with 8 satellites lifts off, 16 SEP., 2016



PSLV C-35, carrying India's SCATSAT-1 meant for ocean and weather studies and seven other satellites including from the US, Canada & Algeria lifted off from the spaceport.

Besides SCATSAT-1, the 44.4 metre tall ISRO's workhorse PSLV rocket is carrying two Indian university satellites, three from Algeria and one each from the US and Canada.

For the first time in its mission, the PSLV will launch its payloads in two different orbits. There will be two Fourth Stage Engine restarts for this purpose

PSLV C-35 took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here, about 110 km from Chennai at 9.12 AM.

SCATSAT-1, the primary satellite, is meant for weather forecasting, cyclone detection and tracking.

It is a "continuity" mission for the Ku-band scatterometer payload carried by SCATSAT-1, which has enhanced features compared to a similar one carried by Oceansat-2 satellite in 2009.

The two academic satellites are PRATHAM, from IIT, Bombay, and PISAT, from BES University, Bengaluru and its consortium.

While PRATHAM's objective is to estimate Total Electron Count, PISAT's mission is to design and develop a nanosatellite for remote sensing applications.

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The foreign satellites onboard the PSLV are ALSAT-1B, ALSAT-2B and ALSAT-1N (all from Algeria) and Pathfinder-1 and NLS-19, from USA and Canada, respectively.

The total weight of all the eight satellites onboard PSLV C35 is about 675 kg, ISRO said. SCATSAT-1 weighs 371 kg.

While SCATSAT-1 will be released first into a 730 km Polar Sun-synchronous Orbit (SSO) after about 17 minutes, the rest will be injected into a lower orbit of 689 km after around two hours.

China commissions world's largest radio telescope, 16 SEP., 2016



China commissioned the world's largest radio telescope, a 4,450-panel reflector as large as 30 football pitches, which can help in better understanding the origin of the universe and boost global hunt for extra-terrestrial life.

Hundreds of astronomers and astronomy enthusiasts witnessed the official launch of the 500 meter Aperture Spherical Telescope's (FAST) mission in a karst valley in Pingtang County in Guizhou Province.

Work on the nearly 1.2 billion-yuan (USD 180 million) project started in 2011, 17 years after it was proposed by Chinese astronomers.

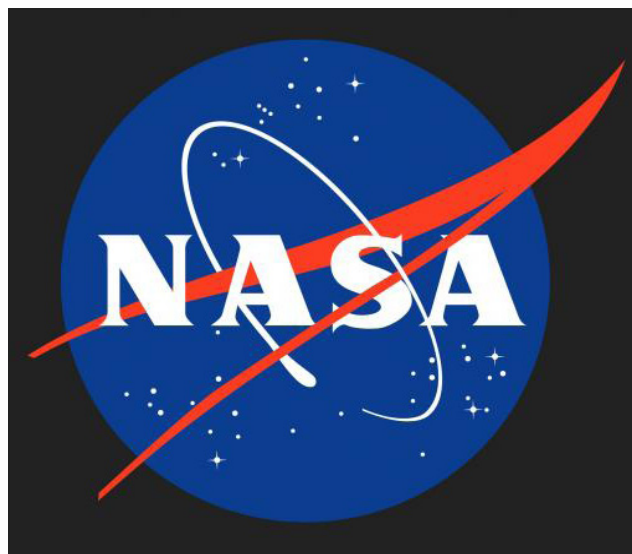
The installation of the telescope's main structure — a 4,450-panel reflector as large as 30 football pitches was built at unique valley in southwest China where over 8,000 people have been evacuated as it requires quiet atmosphere.

FAST will require radio silence within a 5-kms radius.

Over 600 apartments have been built in two new settlements, about 10 kilometers to accommodate the displaced people.

The telescope, which is aimed at observing deep space was stated to be most visible project of China's plans to transform into high-tech nation focussing on research in advanced science and technology moving away from cheap manufacturing.

NASA telescope finds record-breaking binary in nearby galaxy, 30 SEP., 2016



An international team of scientists has found the first gamma-ray binary in a nearby galaxy and the most luminous one ever seen, using data from NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope.

The dual-star system, dubbed LMC P3, contains a massive star and a crushed stellar core that interact to produce a cyclic flood of gamma rays, the highest-energy form of light.

Fermi has detected only five of these systems in our own galaxy, so finding one so luminous and distant is quite exciting. Gamma-ray binaries are prized because the gamma-ray output changes significantly during each orbit and sometimes over longer time scales.

These rare systems contain either a neutron star or a black hole and radiate most of their energy in the form of gamma rays.

LMC P3 is the most luminous such system known in gamma rays, X-rays, radio waves and visible light, and it is only the second one discovered with Fermi.

The system lies within the expanding debris of a supernova explosion located in the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC), a small nearby galaxy about 163,000 light-years away.

MISCELLANEOUS Burning Topics of the Month

1. **Delhi, the worst place to work for women, sikkim is the best.**
2. **Forbes names Mukesh Ambani as India's richest for 9th year.**
3. **India home to 4th largest population of HNWI's in APAC : Report**

Five museums from India among top 25 in Asia: Report, 16 SEP., 2016



Five Indian museums feature among the best 25 in Asia while Lehrs "Hall of Fame" has topped the India list as a "must-visit" place by travellers in a survey.

The other top four most rated museums of India are -- Bagore Ki Haveli (Udaipur), Victoria Memorial Hall (Kolkata), Salar Jung Museum (Hyderabad) and Jaisalmer War Museum (Jaisalmer).

Darshan Museum (Pune), Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures (Shillong), Heritage Transport Museum (Taoru), Siddhagiri Museum (Kolhapur), and Gandhi Smriti (New Delhi) also figure in the top-10 list for India.

Trip Advisor will honour the ranked museums with its Travellers Choice awards.

The list was determined using an algorithm that took into account the quantity and quality of reviews and ratings for museums worldwide, gathered over a 12-month period.

No museums from India feature in the top 25 world list, which is topped by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the New York City and followed by Art Institute of Chicago, State Hermitage Museum and Winter Palace, Musee Dorsay, Paris and National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico.

The Museum of Qin Terra-cotta Warriors and Horse in China topped the Asia list.

US to be partner country in Vibrant Gujarat summit, 17 SEP., 2016



The US has agreed to be a partner country in the 8th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit to be held from January 10 to 13, 2017 in Gandhinagar.

The United States' intent to participate as a partner country in the 2017 Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, the government of Gujarat's biennial investors' summit that brings together global business leaders, investors, corporations, thought leaders, and policy makers.

The central focus of next year's summit is "Sustainable Economic and Social Development"

UAE to host first global cultural leadership summit, 17 SEP., 2016



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Abu Dhabi will be the site of a high-level international summit that will bring together leaders from the worlds of government, the arts and media to address the role culture can play in addressing some of the great challenges of our time.

The event, which will take place from April 9-13 at Manarat Al Saadiyat on Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi, will explore how new technologies are changing the very nature of culture and cultural interactions worldwide with major consequences for education, our economies, politics and virtually every other dimension of our lives.

The event will be hosted by TCA Abu Dhabi and presented in conjunction with The FP Group, publishers of Foreign Policy Magazine, and TCP Ventures, LLC, a producer of artistic ventures and an advisory firm focused on issues associated with the arts and culture.

‘A Billion Colour Story’ selected for Busan, London film fest, 17 SEP., 2016



Producer-director N Padmakumar's debut film "A Billion Colour Story" has been selected at the upcoming 60th edition of BFI London Film Festival and the Busan International Film Festival.

The 115-minute film, a contemporary narrative of a father-son relationship, has been co-produced by veteran actor-director Satish Kaushik. It will make its premiere at the Busan.

Actors Gaurav Sharma, Vasuki Sunkavalli and Dhruva Padmakumar play the lead characters in the film, which is most shot in English and Hindi.

Delhi the worst place to work for woman, Sikkim the best, says report, 21 SEP., 2016

Tiny northeastern state of Sikkim has the best working conditions for women whereas national capital Delhi has the worst.



The report brought together jointly by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a top American think-tank, and Nathan Associates, gave Sikkim the highest possible 40 points while Delhi received just 8.5, reflecting the state of affairs in the capital.

The states were ranked according to four main factors: legal restrictions on women working hours in factories, retail, and the IT industry; the responsiveness of the state's criminal justice system to crimes affecting working women, such as sexual harassment; the number of women workers in the state as a percentage of total workers; and the number of incentives the states startup and industrial policies offer women entrepreneurs.

Sikkim is followed by Telangana (28.5 points), Puducherry (25.6), Karnataka (24.7), Himachal Pradesh (24.2), Andhra Pradesh (24.0), Kerala (22.2), Maharashtra (21.4), Tamil Nadu (21.1) and Chhattisgarh (21.1).

Four states (Sikkim, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu) have removed all restrictions on women working at night in factories, retail establishments and the IT sector, the report said.

Amritsar tops the list of 27 new smart cities, 21 SEP., 2016

The Golden Temple city of Amritsar topped the list of 27 new smart cities announced by the Minister of Urban Development Venkaiah Naidu. Eight other cities of pilgrim and tourism importance that made to the third list of smart cities are; Ujjain, Tirupati, Agra, Nashik, Madurai, Thanjavur, Ajmer and Varanasi. With this the number of cities selected under Smart City Mission for financing implementation of smart city plans has gone up to 60.

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The Minister informed that the new 27 smart cities have proposed an investment of Rs.66,883 cr under smart city plans including Rs.42,524 cr under Area Based Development and another Rs.11,379 cr for technology based Pan-city solutions that benefits all the citizens of respective cities. With this, the total investment proposed by the 60 cities selected so far has gone up to Rs.1,44,742 cr .

The 27 smart cities announced, are from 12 States including 5 from Maharashtra, 4 each from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, 3 from Uttar Pradesh and 2 each from Punjab and Rajasthan. Nagaland and Sikkim have made it to the smart city list for the first time.

31 Indian institutes feature in list of top 980 universities in World, 22 SEP., 2016



Thirty-one Indian institutions feature in a list of 980 best universities in the world with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru edging closer to the top 200. Leading among the Indian universities, IISc has claimed a spot in the 201-250 band, its highest ever position.

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2016, has ranked 980 institutions from 70 countries. The list was subject to an independent audit by professional services firm Price water house Coopers (PwC).

Second among the top Indian institutions is IIT-Bombay, which has found a place in the top 400. While there are 14 new entrants like Tezpur University from Assam and Amity University, five of the 2015 ranked universities -- IIT Kharagpur, IIT Guwahati, Punjab University, Amrita University and Andhra University -- saw a drop in their rankings this year. The country also has four new entries in the top 800, which are National Institute of Technology (Rourkela), Sri Venkateswara University, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and Tezpur University.

University of Oxford, UK topped the overall list, pushing California Institute of Technology, US from first position last year to second. Among the top 10, seven are from the US, while three are from the UK. At number nine, ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich) is the lone non-US and -UK institution in the top 10. Two institutes have been placed at the tenth position.

Forbes names Mukesh Ambani as India's richest for ninth year, 22 SEP., 2016



Industrialist Mukesh Ambani was named India's richest person for a ninth year in a row with a sharp increase in networth to USD 22.7 billion, while Sun Pharma's Dilip Shanghvi was ranked a distant second with a wealth of USD 16.9 billion in the Forbes list of India's 100 Richest People.

The Hinduja Family moved up to the third position (USD 15.2 billion) on the annual Forbes list of India's 100 Richest People. Wipro's Azim Premji slipped one place to fourth with a networth of USD 15 billion.

Patanjali Ayurved's Acharya Balkrishna, known as a close associate of yoga guru Ramdev, has made a surprise entry at the 48th position with a networth of USD 2.5 billion on the list compiled by the American business magazine known for its rich lists.

Forbes said the combined networth of India's 100 wealthiest is USD 381 billion (nearly Rs 25.5 lakh crore), a rise of 10 per cent from USD 345 billion in 2015.

Mukesh Ambani's wealth rose in the past one year from USD 18.9 billion to USD 22.7 billion (over Rs 1.5 lakh crore) on 21 per cent surge in share price of Reliance Industries, the flagship company of his group, which recently launched 4G mobile services with much fanfare. He was ranked 36th in the global rich list.

Younger brother Anil Ambani was ranked 32nd with a networth of USD 3.4 billion, down from 29th spot last year.

Shanghvi also retained his second position, though his wealth fell by USD 1.1 billion due to plunge in share price of his group firm Sun Pharma, the world's fifth largest generic drug maker.

Hinduja brothers rose to the third spot by displacing Premji and saw their worth rising to USD 15.2 billion, from USD 14.8 a year ago.

India, Russia launch joint anti-terror exercise in Vladivostok, 24 SEP., 2016



India and Russia kicked off a joint military exercise in Vladivostok that will see troops training for counter-terrorism operations in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain.

This is the eighth edition of Exercise Indra, which has been held by the two sides since 2003. Each side has fielded 250 soldiers for the 11-day wargame, which is aimed at achieving interoperability in joint operations.

Russia's Eastern Military District and India's armed forces will create a joint group for an operation to identify, block and eliminate hypothetical groups of terrorists and illegal armed groups. Aviation and artillery units will be involved.

Besides soldiers from Russia's 59th Motorised Infantry Brigade, a unit of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Defence Troops will participate in the drill.

The Indian Army described the Indra exercise as "one of the major bilateral defence cooperation initiatives between India and Russia". During the opening ceremony, Brig Sukrit Chadah, the head of the Indian contingent, highlighted the "need for jointness between the two nations to defeat terrorism".

The exercise in Vladivostok began as a contingent of Russian troops arrived in Pakistan for the first joint drill by the two countries.

India Ranked 143 among 188 Countries in Health Study, 24 SEP., 2016



A global study on a range of health indicators released has ranked India 143rd among 188 countries, citing various challenges, including mortality rates, malaria hygiene and air pollution.

"Despite rapid economic growth, India was ranked 143rd, below Comoros and Ghana," the first annual assessment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) health performance published in the Lancet and launched at a special event at the UN General Assembly in New York said.

India was placed just ahead of Pakistan and Bangladesh which were ranked 149th and 151st respectively.

India's poor performance on hygiene, air pollution mortality are among factors that place it lower than countries like Bhutan, Botswana, Syria and Sri Lanka.

For malaria, which was one of the health indicators assessed, India merely scored 10 points and remained in the red. Similarly for hygiene, the study gave India just eight points while for PM2.5, it scored just 18 points.

For under-five mortality India scored 39 points while for Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) it scored 28 points.

India, however, scored above 80 points for performing well in areas like Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) which are a diverse group of communicable diseases, overweight and harmful alcohol consumption.

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In 2015, the health-related SDG index was highest in Iceland, Singapore, and Sweden, with the UK ranking fifth just ahead of Finland.

The Central African Republic, Somalia, and South Sudan had the lowest values of the health-related SDG index.

The study said cross the world good progress has been made towards some of the health-related SDGs since 2000, particularly in reducing under-five and neonatal mortality, family planning, and in the rollout of universal health care.

The SDGs are 17 universal goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators set by the United Nations in 2015 to guide a range of pressing problems including food and water security, poverty, and climate change up to 2030. The SDGs follow and expand on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which expired at the end of 2015.

India-US joint military training exercise concludes in Uttarakhand, 28 SEP., 2016



The fortnight-long India-American joint military exercise has concluded in Uttarakhand, with soldiers of both countries successfully conducting several anti-terrorism drills.

The 12th edition of the “Yudh Abhyas” or Joint Military Training Exercise - 2016 was held at the Chaubattia Military Station in Ranikhet district.

Started in 2004 under the US Army Pacific Partnership Programme, it is an annual battalion-level exercise conducted with 225 personnel from each side, and taking place in India and the United States alternatively.

Officials said it was one of the longest running joint military training exercises.

The military training exercises provide an ideal platform for security personnel of the two countries to share their experiences on counter-insurgency operations, especially in the mountainous region.

The joint exercises include cordon and search in counter-militant operations, jungle lane shooting, reflex shooting, long-range firing and cliff assault techniques.

The main aim of the joint military exercise is to strengthen defence cooperation and mutual understanding between the two countries.

India 39th most competitive economy in the world: WEF, 28 SEP., 2016



India has climbed 16 places to the 39th rank on the Global Competitiveness Index prepared by the World Economic Forum as improved business sophistication and goods market efficiency pushed its ranking higher.

For the eighth straight time, the list is topped by Switzerland as the most competitive economy. Singapore and the US are at the second and third positions, respectively.

The jump of 16 places for India from last year's 55th place is the highest for any economy this year. India is also the second-most competitive among BRICS nations behind neighbouring China, which is ranked at the 28th position.

On the index, India has a score of 4.52 while that of Switzerland is 5.81.

At the fourth spot is Netherlands, followed by Germany (5), Sweden (6) and the UK (7), Japan (8), Hong Kong SAR (9) and Finland (10).

This year, 138 economies have been assessed for their competitiveness while there were 140 economies in the 2015-16 rankings.

Mumbai wealthiest city in India with total wealth of \$820 bn, 29 SEP., 2016

India's financial capital Mumbai, home to 45,000 millionaires and 28 billionaires, is the wealthiest city in the country with total wealth of USD 820 billion.

According to New World Wealth, Mumbai is followed by Delhi and Bengaluru at the second and third place respectively.



While Delhi, home to 22,000 millionaires and 18 billionaires has total wealth of USD 450 billion, Bengaluru boasts of a total wealth of USD 320 billion. The city is home to 7,500 millionaires and 8 billionaires.

Total wealth refers to the private wealth held by all individuals.

The report defines wealth as the net assets of a person. It includes all their assets (property, cash, equity, business interests) less any liabilities. The report excludes government funds from its figures.

As per the report, the total wealth held in the country amounts to USD 5.6 trillion (as of June 2016). The country is home to 264,000 millionaires and 95 billionaires in total.

Other emerging cities in the country include, Surat, Ahmadabad, Visakhapatnam, Goa, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Vadodara.

UN issues stamp to honour M S Subbulakshmi, 03 OCT., 2016



The UN released a postage stamp to honour India's most celebrated carnatic music artist M S Subbulakshmi, who had performed at the world body 50 years ago.

The USD 1.20 value commemorative stamp, issued by the UN Postal Administration in Subbulakshmi's honour, has the iconic blue emblem of the UN alongside her picture. This year also marks her birth centenary.

The stamp was released at a special ceremony at the UN headquarters to mark India's ratification of the historic Paris climate deal. It was attended by several dignitaries who hailed the country's move to combat global warming.

The ceremony concluded with a soulful rendition by carnatic music singer Sudha Raghunathan of Subbulakshmi's music as well as of Gandhi's beloved Ram Dhun. Raghunathan performed songs in seven languages, including Bengali, and received a standing ovation from the audience.

The first stamp was presented to Raghunathan to honour her performance at the UN. Subbulakshmi, the first ever musician to be awarded India's highest civilian honour the Bharat Ratna, was invited by the then UN Secretary General Late U Thant to perform at the General Assembly in October 1966, becoming the first Indian to perform there.

The Indian mission here had also organised a photo exhibition in August at the world body's headquarters to commemorate Subbulakshmi's birth centenary which fell on September 16.

Yesudas to be brand ambassador of 'Haritha Keralam' project, 04 OCT., 2016

CPI (M)-led LDF government has roped in eminent Carnatic vocalist and playback singer K J Yesudas as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'Haritha Keralam' (Green Kerala) project, a massive initiative envisaged for a garbage-free and clean state. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan informed the state Assembly that the veteran singer had given his consent to be associated with the project.

Arjun Vajpai breaks more records for India, 05 OCT., 2016



Professional Indian mountaineer Arjun Vajpai scaled the world's sixth highest mountain Cho Oyu.

The 23-year-old reached the summit before dawn along with his sherpa's and another expedition member after leaving from Camp 3.

With the Cho Oyu summit, Arjun has climbed five of the 14 highest mountains in the world that tower over 8000 mts and holds world records as the youngest summiteer on Mount Lhotse, Mount Manaslu and Mount Makalu.

Arjun, a Noida-resident, unfurled the Indian tri-colour on the little bump that marks the Cho Oyu summit after a 7 hour, all-night climb through rocky steps, mixed snow and a long traverse to the top. After taking a 360 view from the summit, Arjun and the two Sherpa's have begun their descent to Camp 1.

5 Indian-Americans among America's richest people: Forbes, 10 OCT., 2016

Forbes

Five Indian-Americans are among the richest in the US, according to a Forbes list of 400 people which has been topped by Microsoft's co-founder Bill Gates for the 23rd year in a row.

Symphony Technology founder Romesh Wadhvani, co-founder of outsourcing firm Syntel Bharat Neerja Desai, Airline veteran Rakesh Gangwal, entrepreneur John Kapoor and Silicon Valley angel investor Kavitar Ram Shriram have featured in Forbes The Richest People In America 2016 list.

The list has been topped by 60-year-old Gates who has a net worth of 81 billion dollars.

Gates keeps pushing to save lives in the developing world through efforts to eliminate polio, attack malaria and expand childhood vaccinations as head of the world's largest private charitable foundation the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Wadhvani, 69, has been ranked 222nd on the list with a net worth of three billion dollars.

Desai ranks 274th on the list with a net worth of 2.5 billion dollars.

Gangwal is ranked 321 on the list with a net worth of 2.2 billion dollars.

Telangana's Bathukamma Festival Enters Guinness Book of World Records, 10 OCT., 2016



Telangana state festival 'Bathukamma' entered the Guinness Book of World Records as 9,292 women participated in the ceremony at LB Stadium that was also attended by Tennis star Sania Mirza.

They achieved this feat despite bad weather and as they danced around bathukamma (flower stack, arranged with different unique seasonal flowers most of them with medicinal values).

India shows 2nd highest growth in science research: Report, 12 OCT., 2016



India is at the second position among countries with the highest increase in their contribution to high-quality scientific research, according to a new report which shows that the growth of research in the country is only behind China.

The institutions from India among the top 100 highest performers across the globe include Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Indian Institute of Science (IIS) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

While India made its mark, Chinese institutions are leading the world in rapidly increasing high-quality research outputs, according to the Nature Index 2016 Rising Stars report.

As many as 40 of the top 100 performers are from China, with 24 of those showing growth above 50 per cent since 2012.

The US - which remains the largest contributor to high-quality scientific papers overall - has 11 entrants into the top 100, despite many starting from a high base.

Nine institutions feature from the UK, eight from Germany and five from India.

The Rising Stars report used the Nature Index which tracks the author affiliations of published research articles by more than 8,000 global institutions in a group of 68 journals.

Michael Jackson Tops Forbes' 2016 Top-Earning Dead Celebrities List, 13 OCT., 2016



Although it's been nine years since his passing, the King of Pop's lucrative empire only continues to grow, as Michael Jackson earns another No. 1 spot, this time on Forbes' 2016 Top-Earning Dead Celebrities list.

Sony paid the singer \$115 million for a 50/50 partnership for Sony/ATV Publishing after Jackson initially bought the Sony/ATV publishing company for \$47 million back in 1985 (the equivalent to \$160 million today). Earlier this year, Sony bought Jackson's half for \$750 million, giving the pop legend his highest payout to date.

Cartoonist Charles Schulz -- known best for his iconic Peanuts franchise -- bows in at No. 2 with \$48 million. The 2015 Peanuts' reboot The Peanuts Movie pulled in \$45 million during its weekend debut. Golf veteran Arnold Palmer, who passed away just last month, claims the No. 3 spot with \$40 million.

Music legends Elvis Presley and Prince close out the top 5, racking in \$27 million and \$25 million. Prince's Paisley Park recently opened its doors to the public, and patrons paid anywhere from \$38.50 to \$100 to tour the recording studio, according to International Business Times.

Rajasthan International Folk Festival opens, 14 OCT., 2016

The ninth edition of the Rajasthan International Folk Festival, popularly known as Jodhpur RIFF. For the first time, the global music connoisseurs



will experience lesser known folk music from Brazil and Slavic gypsy music amid the rampart of the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort.

Over 350 artists from across the globe from different genre will perform in solo and collaborative forms in this festival, which has been endorsed by the UNESCO as "peoples' platform for creativity and sustainable development".

Referring to collaboration of different folk music genres, Bhatia said that in one of the most exotic collaborative performances of this edition, a lead percussionist of Australia Ben Walsh would be sharing the stage with 16 master percussionists of Rajasthan.

The festival opened with the city concert, wherein the Rajasthani folk performers presented their art forms under the open sky of the Ghantaghar (clock tower) for the people of Jodhpur to savour.

India home to 4th largest population of HNWIs in APAC: Report, 14 OCT., 2016



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India is home to the fourth largest population of high net worth individuals (HNWI) in the Asia Pacific region, with total wealth of USD 797 billion.

The number of HNWI in India jumped to 2 lakh last year from 1.8 lakh in 2014, while their overall wealth rose by 1.6 per cent during the same period, according to the Asia-Pacific Wealth Report 2016, a report by Capgemini. Japan has the maximum number of HNWI population in Asia-Pacific at over 27 lakh followed by China at more than 10 lakh in 2015 and Australia 2.3 lakh.

Asia-Pacific HNWI wealth grew 9.9 per cent in 2015 to USD 17.4 trillion, growing 5.8 times the 1.7 per cent Rest of the World (RoW) growth rate.

HNWI population grew by 9.4 per cent to surpass 5 million, growing 3.5 times the RoW growth rate of 2.7 per cent.

The Women of India Festival-2016 inaugurated in Delhi, 14 OCT., 2016



Minister of Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi inaugurated the 'Women of India Festival 2016'. This event will offer biggest selection of organic products prepared by women.

The festival will be held from October 14-23 at Dilli Haat at INA area.

Organised and sponsored by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, the festival celebrates and promotes women entrepreneurs from across India.

Organic products ranging from food, fabrics and furniture to wellness, personal care and solar products will be on sale.

This year's festival will have 230 stalls and about 372 participants. The list includes producers from Delhi, NCR and 23 states and Union Territories.

Over 500 women entrepreneurs had participated in last year's edition of the festival.

Pakistan the 4th most unsafe country in the world – Global Survey Report, 14 OCT., 2016



According to the 'Global Travel and Tourism Report', by the World Economic Forum, Pakistan is the 4th most unsafe country in the world.

The report ranked countries on the basis of 'Safety and Security,' where Pakistan attained a score of 3.04, while Finland, the safest country in the world, had a score of 6.7.

The report concluded that the safest countries were found in Europe. Whereas, the bottom of the list was reigned by countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Following are the top ten lists issued as the 'Least safe countries' and the 'Most safe countries' in the world;

Least safe countries in the world

1. Nigeria
2. Columbia
3. Yemen
4. Pakistan
5. Venezuela
6. Egypt
7. Guatemala
8. El Salvador
9. Honduras
10. Thailand
11. Kenya
12. Lebanon
13. India
14. Philippines
15. Jamaica

India has secured the 39th rank, climbing 16 places from last year, on the annual Global Competitiveness Index prepared by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Every year, WEF releases its Global Competitiveness Report based on their analysis of the world's 138 economies. India has a score of 4.52 on the Index, while that of Switzerland, ranked 1st, with 5.81.

Top 10

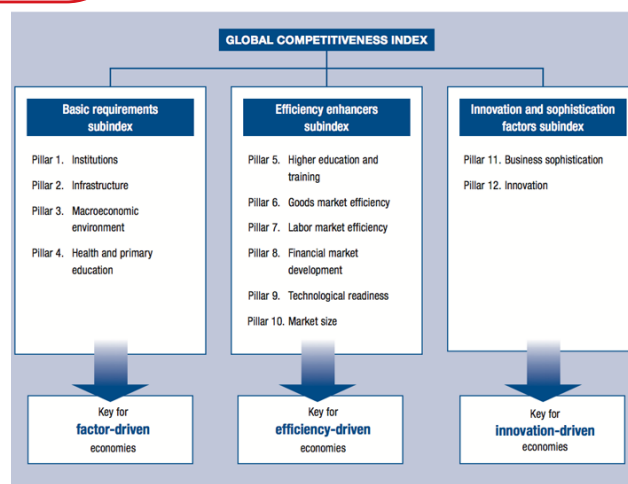
1. Switzerland 1st Rank
2. Singapore 2nd Rank
3. United states 3rd Rank
4. Netherlands 4th Rank
5. Germany 5th Rank
6. Sweden 6th Rank
7. United kingdom 7th Rank
8. Japan 8th Rank
9. Hong kong SAR 9th Rank
10. Finland 10th Rank

Rankings of Important Nations:

1. UAE-16th Rank
2. France-21st Rank
3. Australia-22nd Rank
4. Malaysia 25th Rank
5. China 28th Rank
6. Mauritius 45th Rank
7. Sri lanka 71st Rank
8. Bhutan 97th Rank
9. Nepal 98 Rank
10. Bangladesh 106th Rank
11. Pakistan 122nd Rank

Last 10

1. Congo Democratic Rep. 129th Rank
2. Venezuela 130th Rank
3. Liberia 131st Rank
4. Sierra leone 132nd Rank
5. Mozambique 133rd Rank
6. Malawi 134th Rank
7. Burundi 135th Rank
8. Chad 136th Rank
9. Mauritania 137th Rank
10. Yemen 138th Rank



The WEF Report is based on the assessment of the world's economies in different areas – like the soundness of banks, the sophistication of businesses, and so on.

The ranking is done according to the “12 pillars of competitiveness”, including macro-economic environment, infrastructure, health and primary education, and labour market efficiency, among others. The Index is one of the leading indices that provide insight into the drivers of a country's productivity and prosperity.

INDIA'S SITUATION:

India has shown the greatest climb by jumping up 16 places from last year's rankings. India is also the second most competitive economy among the BRICS nations, following China, which is ranked at the 28th position.

WEF Report 2016 has ranked India as the 39th most competitive economy in the world, jumping 16 places from the previous years 55th position.

India was followed by Albania, Jamaica and Bhutan which climbed up 13, 11 and 8 positions respectively.

India's public institutions and increasing transparency in the financial system have been noted as the “stellar areas of improvement” in the report. According to the analysts of the Forum, India is the best-performing economy in South Asia, with reforms like opening the economy to international trade and foreign investors and efforts towards increasing transparency in the financial system.

According to the WEF's Global Competitiveness Report 2016-17 due to the improved monetary and fiscal policies as well as lower oil prices, the Indian economy has stabilised and now boasts of the highest growth among G20 countries .

The lack of technological readiness and the issue of NPAs (Non-performing Assets) with the banks, which hasn't seen any solution, have been recognised as areas that need improvement.

OTHERS FACTS:

Switzerland has topped the list as the most competitive economy for the eighth time consecutively. Singapore and USA are at the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

Among India's other neighbouring countries, Sri Lanka is ranked at the 71st position, Bhutan at the 97th, Nepal at the 98th, Bangladesh at the 106th, and Pakistan at the 122nd position.

The 12 pillars of competitiveness

We define competitiveness as the set of institutions, policies, and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country. The level of productivity, in turn, sets the level of prosperity that can be reached by an economy. The productivity level also determines the rates of return obtained by investments in an economy, which in turn are the fundamental drivers of its growth rates. In other words, a more competitive economy is one that is likely to grow faster over time.

The concept of competitiveness thus involves static and dynamic components. Although the productivity of a country determines its ability to sustain a high level of income, it is also one of the central determinants of its return on investment, which is one of the key factors explaining an economy's growth potential.

First pillar: Institutions

The institutional environment is determined by the legal and administrative framework within which individuals, firms, and governments interact to generate wealth. The importance of a sound and fair institutional environment has become all the more apparent during the recent economic and financial crisis and is especially crucial for further solidifying the fragile recovery, given the increasing role played by the state at the international level and for the economies of many countries.

Second pillar: Infrastructure

Extensive and efficient infrastructure is critical for ensuring the effective functioning of the economy, as it is an important factor in determining the location of economic activity and the kinds of activities or sectors that can develop within a country. Well-developed infrastructure reduces the effect of distance between regions, integrating the national market and connecting it at low cost to markets in other countries and regions. In addition, the quality and extensiveness of infrastructure networks significantly impact economic growth and reduce income inequalities and poverty in a variety of ways.

Third pillar: Macroeconomic environment

The stability of the macroeconomic environment is important for business and, therefore, is significant for the overall competitiveness of a country.

It is important to note that this pillar evaluates the stability of the macroeconomic environment, so it does not directly take into account the way in which public accounts are managed by the government.

Fourth pillar: Health and primary education

A healthy workforce is vital to a country's competitiveness and productivity. Workers who are ill cannot function to their potential and will be less productive. Poor health leads to significant costs to business, as sick workers are often absent or operate at lower levels of efficiency. Investment in the provision of health services is thus critical for clear economic, as well as moral, considerations. In addition to health, this pillar takes into account the quantity and quality of the basic education received by the population, which is increasingly important in today's economy. Basic education increases the efficiency of each individual worker.

Fifth pillar: Higher education and training

Quality higher education and training is crucial for economies that want to move up the value chain beyond simple production processes and products. In particular, today's globalizing economy requires countries to nurture pools of well-educated workers who are able to perform complex tasks and adapt rapidly to their changing environment and the evolving needs of the production system. The extent of staff training is also taken into consideration because of the importance of vocational and continuous on-the-job training—which is neglected in many economies—for ensuring a constant upgrading of workers' skills.

Sixth pillar: Goods market efficiency

Countries with efficient goods markets are well positioned to produce the right mix of products and services given their particular supply-and-demand conditions, as well as to ensure that these goods can be most effectively traded in the economy. Healthy market competition, both domestic and foreign, is important in driving market efficiency, and thus business productivity, by ensuring that the most efficient firms, producing goods demanded by the market, are those that thrive.

Market efficiency also depends on demand conditions such as customer orientation and buyer sophistication.

Seventh pillar: Labor market efficiency

The efficiency and flexibility of the labor market are critical for ensuring that workers are allocated to their most effective use in the economy and provided with incentives to give their best effort in their jobs. Labor markets must therefore have the flexibility to shift workers from one economic activity to another rapidly and at low cost, and to allow for wage fluctuations without much social disruption.

Efficient labor markets must also ensure clear strong incentives for employees and efforts to promote meritocracy at the workplace, and they must provide equity in the business environment between women and men.

Eighth pillar: Financial market development

The financial and economic crisis has highlighted the central role of a sound and well-functioning financial sector for economic activities. Business investment is also critical to productivity.

Ninth pillar: Technological readiness

In today's globalized world, technology is increasingly essential for firms to compete and prosper. The technological readiness pillar measures the agility with which an economy adopts existing technologies to enhance the productivity of its industries, with specific emphasis on its capacity to fully leverage information and communication technologies (ICTs) in daily activities and production processes for increased efficiency and enabling innovation for competitiveness.

Among the main sources of foreign technology, FDI often plays a key role, especially for countries at a less advanced stage of technological development.

Tenth pillar: Market size

The size of the market affects productivity since large markets allow firms to exploit economies of scale. Traditionally, the markets available to firms have been constrained by national borders. In the era of globalization, international markets have become a substitute for domestic markets, especially for small countries.

Thus exports can be thought of as a substitute for domestic demand in determining the size of the market for the firms of a country. By including both domestic and foreign markets in our measure of market size, we give credit to export-driven economies and geographic areas (such as the European Union) that are divided into many countries but have a single common market.

Eleventh pillar: Business sophistication

There is no doubt that sophisticated business practices are conducive to higher efficiency in the production of goods and services. Business sophistication concerns two elements that are intricately linked: the quality of a country's overall business networks and the quality of individual firms' operations and strategies. Individual firms' advanced operations and strategies (branding, marketing, distribution, advanced production processes, and the production of unique and sophisticated products) spill over into the economy and lead to sophisticated and modern business processes across the country's business sectors.

Twelfth pillar: Innovation

Innovation can emerge from new technological and non-technological knowledge. Non-technological innovations are closely related to the know-how, skills, and working conditions that are embedded in organizations and are therefore largely covered by the eleventh pillar of the GCI. The final pillar of competitiveness focuses on technological innovation. Although substantial gains can be obtained by improving institutions, building infrastructure, reducing macroeconomic instability, or improving human capital, all these factors eventually run into diminishing returns. The same is true for the efficiency of the labor, financial, and goods markets. In the long run, standards of living can be largely enhanced by technological innovation.

The interrelation of the 12 pillars

Although we report the results of the 12 pillars of competitiveness separately, it is important to keep in mind that they are not independent: they tend to reinforce each other, and a weakness in one area often has a negative impact in others. For example, a strong innovation capacity (pillar 12) will be very difficult to achieve without a healthy, well-educated and trained workforce (pillars 4 and 5) that is adept at absorbing new technologies (pillar 9), and without sufficient financing (pillar 8) for R&D or an efficient goods market that makes it possible to take new innovations to market (pillar 6). Although the pillars are aggregated into a single index, measures are reported for the 12 pillars separately because such details provide a sense of the specific areas in which a particular country needs to improve.

CONCLUSIONS

The Global Competitiveness Report seeks to help policymakers and the private sector identify areas for fruitful long-term public-private collaboration for growth.

15th Paralympic Games

Duration : 07 September to 18 September
Motto : A NEW WORLD

(Portuguese: Um mundo novo)

Host city : Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Nations participating : 159
Athletes participating : 4,342
Events : 528 in 22 sports
Opening ceremony : 7 September
Closing ceremony : 18 September
Officially opened by : President Michel Temer
Athlete's Oath : Phelipe Rodrigues
Judge's Oath : Raquel Daffre

Paralympic torch Clodoaldo Silva

Paralympic stadium : Maracanã Stadium

Paralympics Summer:

Previous : London 2012
Next : Tokyo 2020

Paralympics Winter:

Previous : Sochi 2014
Next : Pyeongchang 2018

2016 Summer Paralympics

The 2016 Summer Paralympics (Brazilian Portuguese: Jogos Paralímpicos de Verão de 2016), the fifteenth Summer Paralympic Games, were a major international multi-sport event for athletes with disabilities governed by the International Paralympic Committee, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 7 September to 18 September 2016.

The Games marked the first time a Latin American and South American city hosted the event, the second Southern Hemisphere city and nation, the first one being the 2000 Summer Paralympics in Sydney, and also the first time a Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) country hosted the event.

These Games saw the introduction of two new sports to the Paralympic program: canoeing and the paratriathlon.

The lead-up to these Paralympics were met with financial shortcomings attributed to tepid sponsor interest and ticket sales, which resulted in cuts to volunteer staffing and transport, the re-location of events and the partial deconstruction of the Deodoro venue cluster. However, ticket sales began to see increases as the Games drew nearer; on 14 September 2016, the IPC announced that over 2 million tickets had been sold—overtaking Beijing 2008 as the second-most-attended Paralympic Games ever.

Development and preparation

Rio's organization of the two events helped provide the city with experience in hosting multi-sport events, and Paralympic sporting events. Andrew Parsons, president of the Brazilian Paralympic Committee, remarked that the organizing teams responsible for the Olympics and Paralympics were maintaining a good relationship and "speaking the same language" in relation to their organizational duties. Parsons praised how well-organized the 2012 Summer Paralympics were, and felt that his team had learned lessons from London that could be applied in Rio.

Medals

The medal design for the 2016 Olympics and Paralympics were unveiled on 14 June 2016; they are produced by the Casa da Moeda do Brasil. The bronze and silver medals contain 30% recycled materials, while the gold medals were produced using gold that had been mined and extracted using means that met a series of sustainability criteria, such as being extracted without the use of mercury.

The obverse of the Paralympic medals feature the Paralympic emblem and an inscription in braille, while each medal contains differing numbers of metal balls to allow the visually impaired to audibly distinguish their color by shaking them.

They are accompanied by a wooden carrying box, and a plush toy of Paralympic mascot Tom with hair leaves that match the medal's color.

Torch relay

The Paralympic torch relay began with five individual flames being relayed to a city in each of the five regions of Brazil. These flames, as well as a sixth flame lit in Stoke Mandeville, Great Britain, were united to form a single Paralympic flame, which was relayed through Rio on 6 and 7 September 2016 en route to its lighting at the Maracanã during the opening ceremony.

Emblem

The official emblem for the 2016 Summer Paralympics was designed by the Brazilian agency Tatil Design, and unveiled on 26 November 2011 during the Christmas tree lighting at the Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas.

The emblem incorporates a heart and the infinity symbol, representing a beating heart and an "infinite energy to overcome obstacles". IPC president Phillip Craven explained that in his opinion, the emblem symbolized the "heart" of athletes, who were also the "heart" of the Paralympic movement.

**Mascot****Vinicius and Tom**

Tom (right), the mascot of the 2016 Summer Paralympics, and Vinicius (left), the mascot of the 2016 Summer Olympics. The official mascots of the 2016 Summer Paralympics and Olympics were unveiled on 24 November 2014, with their respective names, Tom and Vinicius, chosen via a public vote whose results were announced on 14 December 2015. Named after Brazilian musician Tom Jobim, the Paralympic mascot represents Brazilian flora and “is always growing and overcoming obstacles.”

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of the 2016 Summer Paralympics took place on the evening of 7 September 2016 at the Maracanã Stadium. With the theme “Todo Mundo tem um Coração” (“Everybody Has a Heart”), the artistic portions of the ceremony featured sequences themed around the culture of Brazil and inclusivity. In an opening speech, IPC president Phillip Craven invited viewers to “see the true meaning of sport and the true definition of ability”, explaining that “in a country which has faced major challenges of late, Paralympians will switch your focus from perceived limitations, to a world full of possibility and endless opportunity. They will surprise you, inspire and excite you, but most of all they will change you.” The Paralympic cauldron was lit by Brazilian para-swimmer Clodoaldo Silva.

Participating Nations

In total, 159 National Paralympic Committees are participating at the 2016 Games, with a total of 4,342 athletes taking part.

The IPC unanimously voted to ban Russian athletes from the 2016 Summer Paralympics in response to the discovery of a state-sponsored doping program.

Sports

Events in 22 sports are scheduled to be contested at the 2016 Summer Paralympics. Two new sports will also be added to the Paralympics in Rio; canoeing and the triathlon.

Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony of the 2016 Summer Paralympics took place on the evening of 18 September 2016 at the Maracanã Stadium. It featured concert performances by an array of prominent Brazilian musicians, as well as the formal handover to Tokyo, host of the 2020 Summer Paralympics, and closing remarks. IPC president Phillip Craven led a moment of silence for Iranian cyclist Bahman Golbarnezhad (who was killed the day before in a road cycling accident), stating that his death had “affected us all and left the whole Paralympic Movement united in grief.”

EVENTS

1. Archery
2. Athletics
3. Boccia
4. Paracanoe
5. Cycling Road
6. Equestrian
7. Football
8. Goalball
9. Judo
10. Powerlifting
11. Rowing
12. Sailing
13. Shooting
14. Sitting volleyball
15. Swimming
16. Table tennis
17. Paratriathlon
18. Wheelchair basketball
19. Wheelchair fencing
20. Wheelchair rugby
21. Wheelchair tennis

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* Host nation (Brazil)

2016 Summer Paralympics medal table

Rank	NPC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China (CHN)	107	81	51	239
2	Great Britain (GBR)	64	39	44	147
3	Ukraine (UKR)	41	37	39	117
4	United States (USA)	40	44	31	115
5	Australia (AUS)	22	30	29	81
6	Germany (GER)	18	25	14	57
7	Netherlands (NED)	17	19	26	62
8	Brazil (BRA)*	14	29	29	72
9	Italy (ITA)	10	14	15	39
10	Poland (POL)	9	18	12	39
43	India	2	1	1	4
80	Pakistan	0	0	1	1
83	Sri Lanka	0	0	1	1

India's Performance:

Four Indian Rio Paralympics medal winners —

Devendra Jhajharia, Mariyappan Thangavelu, Deepa Malik and Varun Singh Bhati —

Devendra Jhajharia had won the gold medal in men's javelin throw F46 and is the only Indian to have clinched two gold medals in Paralympics.

Mariyappan Thangavelu also clinched a gold medal in men's high jump T42 .

Varun Singh Bhati won a bronze in men's high jump T42 .

Deepa Malik became the first Indian woman to bag a medal in Paralympics by clinching a silver in women's F53 shot put.

Broadcasting

It has been suggested that this section be split out into another article titled List of 2016 Summer Paralympics broadcasters. On 24 August 2016, the IPC announced that Daily motion would serve as the official online streaming partner for the 2016 Summer Paralympics, offering 15 English-language streaming channels with full broadcasts of athletics .

Death of road cyclist

Bahman Golbarnezhad, hours before death

On 17 September 2016, during the men's C4-5 road cycling event, Iranian cyclist Bahman Golbarnezhad crashed on a "mountainous stretch" of the circuit in Grumari; after being treated on site for head injuries, he suffered a cardiac arrest during ambulance transport.



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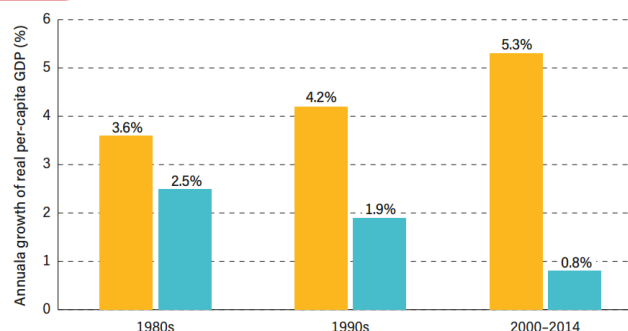
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Growth of Real per-Capita GDP-Developing Economies Compared to High-income Countries, 1980–2014 Note:

Growth rates of real per-capita GDP were calculated in local currency units. Growth rates derived using the purchasing-power-parity method to convert the figures to real per-capita GDP measured in 2011 international dollars were virtually identical to the rates presented above. Because data were not available, the growth figures in 1980 exclude all former Soviet-bloc countries except for Bulgaria.

Source: World Bank, 2016, World Development Indicators


INDIA

	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2013	2014
	Rating (Rank)	Rating (Rank)	Rating (Rank)	Rating (Rank)	Rating (Rank)	Rating (Rank)	Rating (Rank)
Summary Ratings (Rank)							
	5.15 (57)	4.89 (81)	6.32 (75)	6.71 (78)	6.41 (111)	6.63 (102)	6.50 (112)
	Rating (Data)	Rating (Data)	Rating (Data)	Rating (Data)	Rating (Data)	Rating (Data)	Rating (Data)
Area 1. Size of Government							
	5.00	4.88	6.83	7.42	7.18	8.52	8.51
A. Government consumption							
	8.34 (11.65)	7.15 (15.68)	6.74 (17.10)	6.95 (16.38)	6.76 (17.00)	7.09 (15.90)	7.07 (15.97)
B. Transfers and subsidies							
	8.66 (5.40)	8.37 (6.50)	8.59 (5.66)	8.74 (5.14)	8.97 (4.28)	8.98 (4.25)	8.98 (4.25)
C. Government enterprises and investment							
	2.00 (46.70)	2.00 (42.30)	4.00 (31.40)	7.00 (24.22)	6.00 (25.30)	10.00 (13.82)	10.00 (13.82)
D. Top marginal tax rate							
	1.00	2.00	8.00	7.00	7.00	8.00	8.00
(i) Top marginal income tax rate							
	1.00 (60)	2.00 (53)	8.00 (30)	7.00 (34)	7.00 (31)	8.00 (34)	8.00 (34)
(ii) Top marginal income and payroll tax rate							
	2.00 (53)	8.00 (30)	7.00 (34)	7.00 (31)	8.00 (34)	8.00 (34)	8.00 (34)
Area 2. Legal System and Property Rights							
	5.78	4.39	5.99	6.51	5.55	5.26	5.24
A. Judicial independence							
				7.01	8.16	5.35	5.03
B. Impartial courts			8.02	6.87	4.69	4.68	5.21
C. Protection of property rights			3.27	7.88	5.49	5.11	4.61
D. Military interference in rule of law and politics			5.00	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67
E. Integrity of the legal system			6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67
F. Legal enforcement of contracts				2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
G. Regulatory costs of the sale of real property				6.28	6.77	6.81	6.65

H.	Reliability of police	5.83	5.15	4.72	4.72
I.	Business costs of crime	7.60	6.36	4.74	5.04

Area 3. Sound Money

	6.29	6.63	6.88	6.84	6.42	6.72	6.90
A. Money growth							
	9.36 (3.22)	8.58 (7.08)	9.03 (4.86)	8.41 (7.97)	8.93 (5.35)	9.71 (1.47)	9.96 (0.21)
B. Standard deviation of inflation							
	8.10 (4.76)	9.42 (1.45)	9.29 (1.77)	9.79 (0.53)	9.13 (2.17)	9.36 (1.60)	8.90 (2.75)
C. Inflation: most recent year							
	7.69 (11.54)	8.50 (7.52)	9.20 (4.01)	9.15 (4.25)	7.60 (11.99)	7.82 (10.91)	8.73 (6.35)
D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts							
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Area 4. Freedom to Trade Internationally

	3.00	2.67	5.51	6.07	6.25	6.08	5.56
A. Tariffs							
	0.00	0.00	4.34	5.59	6.38	6.16	6.16
(i) Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)							
	0.00 (15.50)	0.00 (21.10)	4.49 (8.26)	7.15 (4.27)	7.67 (3.50)	7.93 (3.10)	7.93 (3.10)
(ii) Mean tariff rate							
	0.00 (74.30)	0.00 (79.20)	4.49 (8.26)	6.60 (17.00)	7.48 (12.60)	7.30 (13.50)	7.30 (13.50)
(iii) Standard deviation of tariff rates							
		0.00 (45.20)	5.04 (12.40)	3.01 (17.47)	4.00 (14.99)	3.25 (16.88)	3.25 (16.88)
B. Regulatory trade barriers							
			5.67	6.13	6.45	6.30	3.70
(i) Non-tariff trade barriers			5.35	6.91	5.33	5.19	5.68
(ii) Compliance cost of importing and exporting			5.99	5.34	7.57	7.41	1.72
C. Black-market exchange rates							
	9.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
D. Controls of the movement of capital and people							
	0.00	0.00	2.02	2.57	2.15	1.87	2.38
(i) Foreign ownership/investment restrictions			4.05	7.40	6.13	5.36	6.90
(ii) Capital controls							
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(iii) Freedom of foreigners to visit							
			0.30	0.33	0.25	0.25	

Area 5. Regulation

	5.68	5.89	6.40	6.74	6.67	6.55	6.31
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A. Credit Market regulations

	5.22	5.52	6.83	7.02	6.67	6.59	6.54
(i)	Ownership of banks						
	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
(ii)	Private sector credit						
	7.67	8.56	8.50	9.06	9.00	7.78	7.62
(iii)	Interest rate controls (negative real interest rates)						
	8.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	10.00

B. Labor Market regulations

	6.26	6.05	7.27	8.05	6.84	5.98
(i)	Hiring regulations and minimum wage					
		4.35	10.00	10.00	7.77	6.67
(ii)	Hiring and firing regulations					
	2.56	1.70	3.31	4.98	5.23	3.71
(iii)	Centralized collective bargaining					
	6.21	6.21	7.72	7.47	7.02	5.72
(iv)	Hours regulations					
		6.50	8.00	10.00	6.00	2.00
(v)	Mandated cost of worker dismissal					
			4.81	6.30	6.30	6.30
(vi)	Conscription					
	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

C. Business regulations

		6.32	5.94	5.30	6.21	6.41
(i)	Administrative requirements	7.37	3.23	3.29	4.30	4.94
(ii)	Bureaucracy costs	7.40	5.17	5.10	5.10	5.10
(iii)	Starting a business	5.93	7.03	8.09	8.60	8.93
(iv)	Extra payments/bribes/favoritism	4.57	6.62	3.92	4.15	4.48
(v)	Licensing restrictions		6.58	4.26	7.84	7.75
(vi)	Cost of tax compliance		7.04	7.15	7.28	7.28

India has slipped by 10 positions to 112th, out of 159 countries and territories, as it “fared badly” across categories including legal system and regulation, according to the Economic Freedom of the World: 2016 Annual Report.

Although China-113th, Bangladesh-121st, and Pakistan-133th lagged behind India in ranks while Bhutan (78), Nepal (108) and Sri Lanka (111) were better placed on the World Economic Freedom Index.

According to the report, Hong Kong has the highest level of economic freedom worldwide, followed by Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, Canada, Georgia, Ireland, Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, and the UK.

India’s leading public policy think tank, Centre for Civil Society, has published the report in collaboration with Canada’s Fraser Institute. The report is based on data from 2014 and measures the economic freedom by analysing the policies and institutions of all 159 countries and territories.

Top-rated countries**top 10 are**

1. Singapore
2. Hong Kong
3. New Zealand
4. Switzerland
5. Canada
6. Georgia
7. Ireland
8. Mauritius
9. United Arab Emirates
10. Australia

Rankings of Other major countries

1. United States (16th)
2. Germany (30th)
3. Japan (40th)
4. South Korea (42nd)
5. France (57th)
6. Italy (69th)
7. Mexico (88th)
8. Russia (102nd)
9. India (112th)
10. China (113th)
11. Brazil (124th)

The 10 lowest-ranked countries are:

1. Iran
2. Algeria
3. Chad
4. Guinea
5. Angola
6. Central African Republic
7. Argentina
8. Republic of Congo
9. Libya
10. Venezuela

OBSERVATIONS:

- Nations in the top quartile of economic freedom had an average per-capita GDP of \$41,228 in 2014, compared to \$5,471 for bottom quartile nations (PPP constant 2011 US\$).

- In the top quartile, the average income of the poorest 10% was \$11,283, compared to \$1,080 in the bottom quartile in 2014 (PPP constant 2011 US\$).
- Interestingly, the average income of the poorest 10% in the most economically free nations is twice the average per-capita income in the least free nations.
- Life expectancy is 80.4 years in the top quartile compared to 64.0 years in the bottom quartile.
- Political and civil liberties are considerably higher in economically free nations than in unfree nations.

Gender Disparity in Legal Rights and Its Effect on Economic Freedom

The EFW index uses many objective measures that implicitly assume that all members of society have equal access to economic institutions. This is not a reality for many women across the world.

In addition, social norms can place very real barriers in front of women wishing to own property, operate a business, and engage in voluntary exchange. This chapter considers several alternative methods of adjusting the EFW index to account for gender bias present in the data used in its construction.

Economic Freedom of the World in 2014

Conceptually, economic freedom is present when economic activity is coordinated by personal choice, voluntary exchange, open markets, and clearly defined and enforced property rights.

People are economically free when they are permitted to choose for themselves and engage in voluntary transactions as long as they do not harm the person or property of others.

To a large degree, a country's EFW summary rating is a measure of how closely its institutions and policies compare with the idealized structure implied by standard textbook analysis of microeconomics.

This year's index provides a measure of economic freedom for 159 countries.

The EFW measure will also help scholars examine the contribution of economic institutions more thoroughly and better disentangle it from political, climatic, locational, cultural, and historical factors as determinants of growth and development.

Construction of the index published in Economic Freedom of the World is based on three important methodological principles :-

First, objective components are always preferred to those that involve surveys or value judgments. Given the multidimensional nature of economic freedom and the

importance of legal and regulatory elements, it is sometimes necessary to use data based on surveys, expert panels, and generic case studies.

Second, the data used to construct the index ratings are from external sources such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Economic Forum that provide data for a large number of countries.

Data provided directly from a source within a country are rarely used.

Third, transparency is present throughout. The report provides information about the data sources, the methodology used to transform raw data into component ratings, and how the component ratings are used to construct both the area and summary ratings.

The index measures the degree of economic freedom present in five major areas:

- [1] Size of Government
- [2] Legal System and Security of Property Rights
- [3] Sound Money
- [4] Freedom to Trade Internationally
- [5] Regulation

Within the five major areas, there are 24 components in the index. Many of those components are themselves made up of several sub-components. In total, the index incorporates 42 distinct variables.

Each component and sub-component is placed on a scale from 0 to 10 that reflects the distribution of the underlying data.

Areas, Components, and Sub-components of the EFW Index

- 1. Size of Government
 - A. Government consumption
 - B. Transfers and subsidies
 - C. Government enterprises and investment
 - D. Top marginal tax rate
 - (i) Top marginal income tax rate
 - (ii) Top marginal income and payroll tax rate
- 2. Legal System and Property Rights
 - A. Judicial independence
 - B. Impartial courts
 - C. Protection of property rights
 - D. Military interference in rule of law and politics
 - E. Integrity of the legal system
 - F. Legal enforcement of contracts

- G. Regulatory costs of the sale of real property
- H. Reliability of police
- I. Business costs of crime
- 3. Sound Money
 - A. Money growth
 - B. Standard deviation of inflation
 - C. Inflation: most recent year
 - D. Freedom to own foreign currency bank accounts
- 4. Freedom to Trade Internationally
 - A. Tariffs
 - (i) Revenue from trade taxes (% of trade sector)
 - (ii) Mean tariff rate
 - (iii) Standard deviation of tariff rates
 - B. Regulatory trade barriers
 - (i) Non-tariff trade barriers
 - (ii) Compliance costs of importing and exporting
 - C. Black-market exchange rates
 - D. Controls of the movement of capital and people
 - (i) Foreign ownership / investment restrictions
 - (ii) Capital controls
 - (iii) Freedom of foreigners to visit
- 5. Regulation
 - A. Credit market regulations
 - (i) Ownership of banks
 - (ii) Private sector credit
 - (iii) Interest rate controls / negative real interest rates
 - B. Labor market regulations
 - (i) Hiring regulations and minimum wage
 - (ii) Hiring and firing regulations
 - (iii) Centralized collective bargaining
 - (iv) Hours regulations
 - (v) Mandated cost of worker dismissal
 - (vi) Conscription
 - C. Business regulations
 - (i) Administrative requirements
 - (ii) Bureaucracy costs
 - (iii) Starting a business
 - (iv) Extra payments / bribes / favoritism
 - (v) Licensing restrictions
 - (vi) Cost of tax compliance

Awarded for : Outstanding contributions for humanity in chemistry, economics, literature, peace, physics, or physiology or medicine.

Country : Sweden
Norway (Peace Prize only)

Presented by : Swedish Academy
: Nobel committee of Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
: Nobel committee of Karolinska Institutet
: Norwegian Nobel Committee

First awarded : 1901; 115 years ago

No. of laureates : 573 Prizes to 900 Laureates as of 2015

Official website : nobelprize.org

The Nobel Prize

The Nobel Prize is a set of annual international awards bestowed in a number of categories by Swedish and Norwegian institutions in recognition of academic, cultural, and/or scientific advances.

The will of the Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel established the prizes in 1895. The prizes in Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics, and Physiology or Medicine were first awarded in 1901. The related Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences was established by Sweden's central bank in 1968. The prize ceremonies take place annually in Stockholm, Sweden (with the exception of the peace prize, which is held in Oslo, Norway). Each recipient, or laureate, receives a gold medal, a diploma, and a sum of money that has been decided by the Nobel Foundation. (As of 2012, each prize was worth SEK8 million or about US\$1.2 million).

The Nobel Prize is widely regarded as the most prestigious award available in the fields of literature, medicine, physics, chemistry, peace, and economics. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awards the Nobel Prize in Physics, the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences; the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute awards the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine; the Swedish Academy grants the Nobel Prize in Literature; and the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded not by a Swedish organisation but by the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

The prize is not awarded posthumously; however, if a person is awarded a prize and dies before receiving it, the prize may still be presented.



History

Alfred Nobel was born on 21 October 1833 in Stockholm, Sweden, into a family of engineers. He was a chemist, engineer, and inventor.

On 10 December 1896, Alfred Nobel died in his villa in San Remo, Italy, from a cerebral haemorrhage. He was 63 years old.

He composed the last wills over a year before he died, signing it at the Swedish–Norwegian Club in Paris on 27 November 1895, to create a series of prizes for those who confer the “greatest benefit on mankind” in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace.

NOBLE FOUNDATION

The Nobel Foundation was founded as a private organisation on 29 June 1900. Its function is to manage the finances and administration of the Nobel Prizes. The Foundation is not involved in the process of selecting the Nobel laureates.

According to the statutes, the Foundation consists of a board of five Swedish or Norwegian citizens, with its seat in Stockholm.

FIRST PRIZES

1. Wilhelm Röntgen received the first Physics Prize for his discovery of X-rays.
2. The Nobel Committee's Physics Prize shortlist cited Wilhelm Röntgen's discovery of X-rays and Philipp Lenard's work on cathode rays.

3. Van't Hoff was awarded the prize for his contributions in chemical thermodynamics.
4. The Swedish Academy chose the poet Sully Prudhomme for the first Nobel Prize in Literature.
5. The first Physiology or Medicine Prize went to the German physiologist and microbiologist Emil von Behring.
6. The first Nobel Peace Prize went to the Swiss Jean Henri Dunant and jointly given to French pacifist Frédéric Passy.

AWARD PRIZES

The award process is similar for all of the Nobel Prizes; the main difference is in who can make nominations for each of them.

AWARD CEREMONIES

Except for the Peace Prize, the Nobel Prizes are presented in Stockholm, Sweden, at the annual Prize Award Ceremony on 10 December, the anniversary of Nobel's death.

PRIZES

Medals

The Nobel Prize medals were minted by Myntverket (the Swedish Mint) from 1902 to 2010. Myntverket, Sweden's oldest company, ceased operations in 2011 after 1,017 years. In 2011, the Mint of Norway, located in Kongsberg, made the medals.

All medals made before 1980 were struck in 23 carat gold. Since then, they have been struck in 18 carat green gold plated with 24 carat gold. The weight of each medal varies with the value of gold, but averages about 175 grams (0.386 lb) for each medal.

Diplomas

Nobel laureates receive a diploma directly from the hands of the King of Sweden, or in the case of the peace prize, the Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. Each diploma is uniquely designed by the prize-awarding institutions for the laureates that receive them.

The diploma contains a picture and text in Swedish which states the name of the laureate and normally a citation of why they received the prize. None of the Nobel Peace Prize laureates has ever had a citation on their diplomas.

Award Money

The laureates are given a sum of money when they receive

their prizes, in the form of a document confirming the amount awarded. The amount of prize money depends upon how much money the Nobel Foundation can award each year. If there are two laureates in a particular category, the award grant is divided equally between the recipients. If there are three, the awarding committee has the option of dividing the grant equally, or awarding one-half to one recipient and one-quarter to each of the others.

2016 NOBLE PRIZE WINNERS

1. MEDICINE

For : his pioneering work on autophagy -- a process whereby cells "eat themselves" -- which when disrupted can cause Parkinson's and diabetes.

Yoshinori Ohsumi (Japan)

2. PHYSICS

For : Studies of exotic matter that could result in improved materials for electronics or quantum computers.

David Thouless (British)

Duncan Haldane (British)

Michael Kosterlitz (British)

3. CHEMISTRY

For : developing minuscule machines at the molecular level.

Jean-Pierre Sauvage (Frenchman)

Fraser Stoddart (British)

Bernard "Ben" Feringa (Dutch)

4. PEACE

For : pursuing a deal to end 52 years of conflict with a leftist rebel group, the longest-running war in the Americas.

Juan Manuel Santos (Colombia President)

5. ECONOMICS

For : their work on contract theory and its role in shaping everything from executive pay to public sector privatizations.

Oliver Hart (British)

Bengt Holmstroem (Finland)

6. LITERATURE

For : having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition .

Bob Dylan (USA)

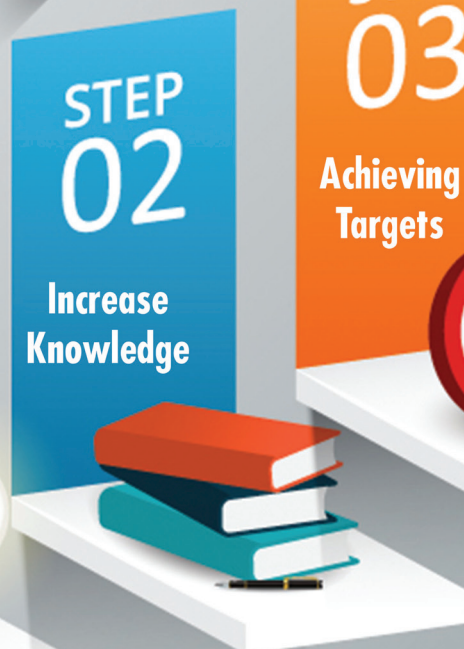


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- Q.1.** Who has been selected for the prestigious 2015 National Humanities Medal?
- 1) Abraham Verghese
 - 2) Barak Obama
 - 3) Jhumpa Lahiri
 - 4) Vicki Ruiz
 - 5) Arundhati Roy
- Q.2.** Which private entity has tied up with Banaras Hindu University (BHU) to offer specialised banking courses?
- 1) ICICI Bank
 - 2) HDFC Bank
 - 3) Axis Bank
 - 4) RBL Bank
 - 5) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- Q.3.** Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of 'Samajwadi Kisan Evam Sarvhit Bima Yojana' which was recently launched by UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav?
- 1) Paresh Rawal
 - 2) Amitabh Bachchan
 - 3) Akshay Kumar
 - 4) Nawazuddin Siddiqui
 - 5) John Abraham
- Q.4.** Who has become the first Indian star to enter the Forbes list of highest paid television actresses in the world?
- 1) Katrina Kaif
 - 2) Sonakshi Sinha
 - 3) Sushmita Sen
 - 4) Aishwarya Rai
 - 5) Priyanka Chopra
- Q.5.** ONGC Videsh Ltd signed an agreement to raise stake in Russia's Vanok oil field by 11 per cent to 26 per cent. Vanok oil field belongs to which country?
- 1) France
 - 2) Russia
 - 3) Canada
 - 4) Iran
 - 5) Taiwan
- Q.6.** What is the name of the space lab which was recently launched by China to establish a manned space station around 2022?
- 1) Sichuan 2
 - 2) Shenzhou 5
 - 3) Tainzhou-1
 - 4) Shenzhou-11
 - 5) Tiangong-2
- Q.7.** Which city has been named the most sustainable city in the world by global design and consultancy firm Arcadis?
- 1) Tokyo
 - 2) Florida
 - 3) New York
 - 4) Zurich
 - 5) Chandigarh
- Q.8.** Banknotes of which denominations will soon be issued by RBI bearing signature of Governor Urjit Patel?
- 1) 10
 - 2) 20
 - 3) 50
 - 4) 100
 - 5) 500
- Q.9.** Recently Captain Ayub Khan died. He belongs to which field?
- 1) Politics
 - 2) Literature
 - 3) Music
 - 4) Sports
 - 5) Entertainment
- Q.10.** Which of the following club has won a record seventh consecutive Calcutta Football League (CFL) title?
- 1) Mohammedan Sporting
 - 2) Mohun Bagan India
 - 3) Pune FC India
 - 4) Salgaocar India
 - 5) East Bengal Club
- Q.11.** In context with education, what does NAAC stands for?
- 1) National Aggregate and Accreditation Council
 - 2) National Assessment and Aggregate Council
 - 3) National Academic and Accreditation Council
 - 4) National Assessment and Accreditation Council
 - 5) National Assessment and Academic Council
- Q.12.** What is India's rank at the Rio Paralympics 2016?
- 1) 23
 - 2) 43
 - 3) 33
 - 4) 53
 - 5) 63
- Q.13.** Davis cup related with which sport?
- 1) Tennis
 - 2) Football
 - 3) Cricket
 - 4) Badminton
 - 5) Hockey
- Q.14.** Who among the following has won the F-1 Singapore Grand Prix?
- 1) Sebastian Vettel
 - 2) Lewis Hamilton
 - 3) Fernando Alonso
 - 4) Daniel Riccardo
 - 5) Nico Rosberg
- Q.15.** "Selfie with My Shauchalaya" campaign has been started in which city?
- 1) Ludhiana
 - 2) Amritsar
 - 3) Chandigarh
 - 4) New Delhi
 - 5) Jalandhar
- Q.16.** Recently Dadri has announced as the 22nd district of which state?
- 1) Bihar
 - 2) Haryana
 - 3) New Delhi
 - 4) Punjab
 - 5) Uttar Pradesh
- Q.17.** Young Indian shooter Subhankar Pramanick clinched the gold medal in _____ rifle prone event at the ISSF Junior World Cup for pistol, rifle and shotgun.
- 1) 150 Metre
 - 2) 100 Metre
 - 3) 75 Metre
 - 4) 50 Metre
 - 5) 25 Metre
- Q.18.** Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission?
- 1) Alka Sirohi
 - 2) Naveen Rana
 - 3) Sushma Bajaj
 - 4) Surendra Bhardwaj
 - 5) Pooja Malik

Q.19. Which film has been selected at the upcoming 60th edition of BFI London Film Festival and the Busan International Film Festival?

- 1) A Billion Sport Story
- 2) A Million Dollar Baby
- 3) A Billion Colour Story
- 4) Spotlight
- 5) Pink

Q.20. Which of the following singer will be conferred with the 'Bangabibhushan' award 2016 by West Bengal government this year?

- 1) Usha Uthup
- 2) Bappi Lehri
- 3) Shubha Mudgal
- 4) Lata Mangeshkar
- 5) Asha Bhosale

Q.21. What is the name of the super computing facility which was launched by Union Human Resource Development Minister Praksh Javadekar in IIT Guwahati?

- 1) PARAM-YUG
- 2) PARAM-ISHAN
- 3) PARAM-HANS
- 4) PARAM-JEEVAN
- 5) PARAM-JYOTI

Q.22. How many Indians were selected for the inaugural class of 'UN Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals' of United Nations?

- 1) 2
- 2) 4
- 3) 6
- 4) 8
- 5) 10

Q.23. Which facility was launched by Railway ministry to improve the railway travel experience of elderly, differently-abled and ailing passengers?

- 1) Yatri Sahayak
- 2) Yatri Seva
- 3) Yatri Sahyog
- 4) Yatri Suvidha
- 5) Yatri Mitra Seva

Q.24. Which of the following will be honoured with the 'Lalit Arpan Samman' 2016?

- 1) Asha Bhosale
- 2) Lata Mangeshkar
- 3) Bappi Lehri
- 4) Subha Mudgal
- 5) Kavita Krishnamuthi

Q.25. Who has been given the additional charge of Chairman of the agri-export promotion body Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)?

- 1) Monica Chaturvedi
- 2) Zara Malik
- 3) Anita Praveen
- 4) Sulekha Pradhan
- 5) Swati Bhatnagar

Q.26. According to the joint report of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), which of the following state has the best working conditions for women?

- 1) Sikkim
- 2) Odisha
- 3) Tamil Nadu
- 4) Telangana
- 5) Maharashtra

Q.27. Which country will host the sixth BRICS meeting on Agriculture and Agrarian Development from September 22-23?

- 1) Brazil
- 2) Russia
- 3) China
- 4) India
- 5) South Africa

Q.28. Which city topped the list of 27 new smart cities announced by the Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu?

- 1) Ujjain
- 2) Madurai
- 3) Ajmer
- 4) Varanasi
- 5) Amritsar

Q.29. Alexis Arquette was a famous-

- 1) Politician
- 2) Actress
- 3) Singer
- 4) Athlete
- 5) Author

Q.30. Sudan, _____ and Ethiopia signed a pact for technical study of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

- 1) Morocco
- 2) Jordan
- 3) Greece
- 4) Egypt
- 5) Italy

Q.31. Union Cabinet has decided to merge the Rail Budget and the General Budget on the recommendations of the NITI Aayog committee, which is headed by?

- 1) Arvind Panagaria
- 2) Bibek Debroy
- 3) V.K. Saraswat
- 4) Ramesh Chandra
- 5) Amitabh Kant

Q.32. Which of the following received the Outstanding PSU of the year award given by All India Management Association (AIMA)?

- 1) DMRC
- 2) NTPC
- 3) GAIL
- 4) SAIL
- 5) ONGC

Q.33. "Indra 2016" is a joint military exercise between-

- 1) India and France
- 2) India and Sri Lanka
- 3) India and China
- 4) India and America
- 5) India and Russia

Q.34. Who was conferred with the 10th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Award for leadership in business and philanthropy?

- 1) Narayan Murthi
- 2) Satya Nadella
- 3) Azim Premji
- 4) Ratan Tata
- 5) Adi Godrej

Q.35. According to the "Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016-17", which of the following university has topped the list?

- 1) Oxford University
- 2) Cambridge University
- 3) Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 4) Howard University
- 5) IIT Bombay

Q.36. According to the Forbes, who has been named as the India's richest person of the year 2016?

- 1) Pallonji Mistry
- 2) Azim Premji
- 3) Hinduja Brothers
- 4) Dilip Sanghvi
- 5) Mukesh Ambani

Q.37. Who has been elected as the president of the prestigious Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)?

- 1) Vimal Shukla
- 2) Ashok Gajapati
- 3) Vijay Kelkar
- 4) Auroop Raha
- 5) Mahesh Chillani

Q.38. "White Helmets", an aid group belongs to which country, which recently won the prestigious Right Livelihood Award?

- 1) Syria
- 2) Sudan
- 3) Mozambique
- 4) Iraq
- 5) Nigeria

Q.39. Revathi Sharan Sharma, who died recently related to which field?

- 1) Sports
- 2) Literature
- 3) Politics
- 4) Music
- 5) Journalism

Q.40. Who has been selected for the prestigious 2015 National Humanities Medal?

- 1) Abraham Verghese
- 2) Barak Obama
- 3) Jhumpa Lahiri
- 4) Vicki Ruiz
- 5) Arundhati Roy

Q.41. What is the full form of "FAST", possibly the world's largest radio telescope?

- 1) Four-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Telescope
- 2) Five-metre Aperture Spherical Telescope
- 3) Fifty-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Telescope

4) Five-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Telescope

5) Four-metre Aperture Spherical Telescope

Q.42. Indian table tennis player _____ won India's first international men's singles table tennis title in half a decade

- 1) Ankita Das
- 2) Sathiyam Gnanasekaran
- 3) Sourav Chakraborty
- 4) Soumyadeep Roy
- 5) None of these

Q.43. India and Afghanistan have reached an agreement to establish an _____ to facilitate trade between the two nations through air.

- 1) Sea corridor
- 2) Air corridor
- 3) Road corridor
- 4) Inland corridor
- 5) None of these

Q.44. How many Indian-American scientists have received the MacArthur grant 2016 for 'exceptional creativity' in their fields of interest?

- 1) 3
- 2) 4
- 3) 2
- 4) 5
- 5) 6

Q.45. Who is the Cabinet Minister of Science and Technology?

- 1) Y.S. Chowdhary
- 2) Harsh Vardhan
- 3) S Gowda
- 4) Piyush Goyal
- 5) Nirmala Sitharaman

Q.46. SCATSAT-1 is related to -

- 1) Ocean and Weather related studies
- 2) Navigation
- 3) Climate
- 4) Defence
- 5) Medicine

Q.47. Zolfagar missile is related to -

- 1) Iraq
- 2) Iran
- 3) Pakistan
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) India

Q.48. Who is the Head of the Indian Olympic Association?

- 1) Suresh Kalmadi
- 2) N Srinivasan
- 3) Ajay Singh
- 4) N Sivakesvan
- 5) N Ramachandran

Q.49. 2026 Asian Games shall be held in -

1. New Delhi
2. Tokyo
3. Beijing
4. Kathmandu
5. Bombay

Q.50. _____ museum has been featured in the '25 best museums of Asia' in a Trip Advisor survey.

1. Hall of Shame
2. Hall of Fame
3. Hall of Angels
4. Landsdown
5. A-One

Q.51. Where would the 1st Gokul gram shall be setup in India?

1. Lucknow
2. Mathura
3. Patna
4. Ranchi
5. Chennai

Q.52. According to the World Health Organization, _____ out of 10 people globally are breathing poor quality air.

1. 8
2. 9
3. 10
4. 11
5. 12

Q.53. Who won the Men's Singles St. Petersburg Open?

- 1) Stan Wawrinka
- 2) Roger Federer
- 3) Alexander Zverev
- 4) Novak Djokovic
- 5) Mathew Wade

Q.54. A google video app _____ has been launched for the Indian market which will work on slow internet.

- 1) YouTube Go..
- 2) You Tube Win
- 3) You Tube 2G
- 4) You Tube Hi
- 5) You Tube 4G

Q.55. World Trade Organization (WTO) has reduced global trade growth forecast for this year to _____ %.

- 1) 1.6 2) 1.7
- 3) 1.8 4) 1.9
- 5) 2

Q.56. What is the rank of India in Global Competitiveness Index 2016?

- 1) 37 2) 38
- 3) 39 4) 40
- 5) 41

Q.57. Who has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to U.S.A.?

- 1) Vivek Swaroop
- 2) S Saabu
- 3) Navtej Sarna
- 4) Yashwardhan kumar Sinha
- 5) K.C. Tyagi

Q.58. The 12th edition of the 'Yudh Abhyas' has concluded between which two countries?

- 1) India and U.S.A
- 2) Pakistan and U.S.A
- 3) India and China
- 4) Pakistan and Russia
- 5) India and Russia

Q.59. _____ has been elected as the president of World Bank for his second term.

- 1) Jim Yong Kim
- 2) Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri
- 3) Mo Zuma
- 4) Kevin Firth
- 5) D Yousef

Q.60. Who has been named for this year's 'Lata Mangeshkar lifetime achievement award' by the Maharashtra Government?

- 1) Nadeem-Shravan
- 2) Uttam Singh
- 3) Bappi Lahiri
- 4) Lakshmikant
- 5) Shashi Singh

Q.61. According to the New World Wealth, which of the following is India's Wealthiest City?

- 1) New Delhi 2) Bangalore
- 3) Chennai 4) Mumbai
- 5) Ahmedabad

Q.62. Who among the following has been named as the 'Best Businessman' at the annual 'GQ Men of the Year Awards 2016'?

- 1) Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- 2) Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri
- 3) Mo Zuma
- 4) Kevin Firth
- 5) D Yousef

Q.63. Who among the following has become the first woman to feature in Forbes Highest-Paid Comedians list 2016?

- 1) Elle Degeneres
- 2) Oprah Winfrey
- 3) Sophia Vagera
- 4) Amy Schumer
- 5) Kevin Hart

Q.64. India bagged their first gold medal at the fifth Asian Beach Games in which sporting event?

- 1) Swimming 2) Kabaddi
- 3) Badminton 4) Skating
- 5) Cricket

Q.65. According to the latest annual survey on employment conducted by Labour Bureau, which state has the highest unemployment rate?

- 1) Tripura
- 2) Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Uttarakhand
- 4) Goa
- 5) Madhya Pradesh

Q.66. Who among the following has been honoured with the 29th Moortidevi Award 2015?

- 1) Nanak Singh
- 2) Uttam Sahni
- 3) Girish Karnad
- 4) O.P. Tyagi
- 5) Prof Kolakaluri Enoch

Q.67. Which of the following city's airport has been named the 'Best Tourist Friendly Airport' under the category for 'State

Annual Excellence Awards for the year 2015-16' by Andhra Pradesh Tourism?

- 1) Tirupati 2) Hyderabad
- 3) Vijaywada 4) Aurangabad
- 5) Gokarna

Q.68. Annu Rani is related to -

- 1) Athletics 2) Kabaddi
- 3) Badminton 4) Skating
- 5) Cricket

Q.69. 'She Can Fly' campaign has been launched by which of the following?

- 1) Elle Degeneres
- 2) Ajay Devgan
- 3) Sophia Vagera
- 4) Amitabh Bacchan
- 5) Kevin Hart

Q.70. Sakshi Malik has been made the Brand Ambassador of which of the following car making companies?

- 1) Mahindra 2) Nissan
- 3) Hyundai 4) Suzuki
- 5) Maruti

Q.71. Gaganjeet Bhullar won his sixth Asian Tour title, winning the Korea Open in Incheon. He belongs to which sport?

- 1) Tennis
- 2) Golf
- 3) Badminton
- 4) Table Tennis
- 5) Volleyball

Q.72. Daniel Ricciardo who has won his first Formula One victory of the season by winning the Malaysian Grand Prix 2016. He belongs to-

- 1) Mc Laren
- 2) Torro Rosso
- 3) Ferrari
- 4) Mercedes
- 5) Red Bull

Q.73. Which of the following Indian Act has been ranked 4th best in the world, according to the latest rankings of 111 nations with such laws?

- 1) Equal Remuneration Act
- 2) Child Labour Act
- 3) PML Act
- 4) FRBM Act
- 5) RTI Act

Q.74. Which station has been named the 'Cleanest Station' in India, under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan?

- 1) Howda
- 2) Lucknow
- 3) Gorakhpur
- 4) Surat
- 5) Chandigarh

Q.75. Who has become the first Indian to complete the Spartathlon, widely described as the "world's toughest race"?

- 1) Manish Kochhar
- 2) Abhinav Decosta
- 3) Kieren Dsouza
- 4) Aman Rodreguez
- 5) Vishal Sikka

Q.76. Who will be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi next year, 2017?

- 1) Prince of Abu Dhabi
- 2) President of America
- 3) President of Russia
- 4) Prime Minister of Australia
- 5) President of China

Q.77. Which team won their maiden Asian Football Confederation U-16 Championships title at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium?

- 1) Iran
- 2) India
- 3) Iraq
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) Sri Lanka

Q.78. Yoshinori Ohsumi of Japan has won the Nobel Prize in the field of-

- 1) Literature
- 2) Medicine
- 3) Economics
- 4) Peace
- 5) Physics

Q.79. Who took over as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR), a Navratna PSU under Railways Ministry?

- 1) M Murugan
- 2) Ashok Chawla
- 3) V Kalyana Rama
- 4) Bipin Rao
- 5) Niyamak Khan

Q.80. What is the name of the mobile app that was recently launched by Delhi police for senior citizens to provide immediate assistance to them in distress?

- 1) Senior Citizen Suraksha
- 2) Senior Citizen Security
- 3) Delhi Police for Senior Citizen
- 4) Delhi Police Senior Citizen
- 5) Delhi Police against Crime

Q.81. Who has roped in as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'Haritha Keralam' project by LDF government?

- 1) D. K. Pattammal
- 2) M. S. Subbulakshmi
- 3) M. L. Vasanthakumari
- 4) K. B. Sundarambal
- 5) K J Yesudas

Q.82. Kersti Kaljulaid has been elected as the first female President of which country?

- 1) Iran
- 2) Australia
- 3) Estonia
- 4) Mozambique
- 5) Tanzania

Q.83. For the year 2017, what is the estimated GDP growth of India according to World Bank?

- 1) 8.0%
- 2) 7.8%
- 3) 7.6%
- 4) 7.4%
- 5) 7.2%

Q.84. 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' novel, which is set to be published in 2017 by the Penguin Random House, was authored by-

- 1) Arundhati Roy
- 2) Vikram Seth
- 3) Kiran Desai
- 4) Amitav Ghosh
- 5) Salman Rushdie

Q.85. This year Nobel Prize has been given to David Thouless,

Duncan Haldane and Michael Kosterlitz for their outstanding work in the field of-

- 1) Physics
- 2) Chemistry
- 3) Economics
- 4) Medicine
- 5) Literature

Q.86. In which city, Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari formally launched the Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS)?

- 1) Bangaluru
- 2) New Delhi
- 3) Mumbai
- 4) Kolkata
- 5) Chennai

Q.87. Yusuf Arakkal was a famous-

- 1) Author
- 2) Actor
- 3) Sitarist
- 4) Director
- 5) Artist

Q.88. Consider the following statements-

- A. C V Chandrasekhar - Bharatanatyam dancer
- B. Hridaynath Mangeshkar - Musician
- C. Bhupinder Singh - Ghazal singer

- 1) Only A is true
- 2) Only B is true
- 3) Only C is true
- 4) All are true
- 5) All are False

Q.89. Recently who was honored with the 'Knight in the National Order of Merit' by the French Government?

- 1) Shyam Benegal
- 2) Prajna Chowta
- 3) Mani Ratnam
- 4) Mira Nair
- 5) Anurag Kashyap

Q.90. Nobel prize winners Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L. Fering, related to which field?

- 1) Physics
- 2) Economics
- 3) Chemistry
- 4) Literature
- 5) Medical

Q.91. Which country won the girls' U-16 title at the World Youth Chess Championships in Russia?

- 1) Russia
- 2) Spain
- 3) USA
- 4) India
- 5) Switzerland

Q.92. What is India's rank among 28 nations in the Bio-pharmaceutical Competitiveness Survey, commissioned by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America?

- 1) 11th
- 2) 13th
- 3) 15th
- 4) 17th
- 5) 19th

Q.93. The First 'BRICS' U-17 football tournament started in which country?

- 1) Brazil
- 2) Russia
- 3) India
- 4) China
- 5) South Africa

Q.94. Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

- 1) Sushil Chandra
- 2) Rani Singh Nair
- 3) Ashok Lahiri
- 4) Vijay Goel
- 5) Kiran Kumar

Q.95. Who was honoured with the prestigious 'Sustainable Development Leadership Award' by President Pranab Mukherjee?

- 1) Pawan Chamling
- 2) Chandrashekhar Rao
- 3) Devendra Fadanvis
- 4) Prakash Singh Badal
- 5) Vijay Rupani

Q.96. Which country will host the first Asian ministerial conference for disaster risk reduction?

- 1) China
- 2) India
- 3) Japan
- 4) Thailand
- 5) Singapore

Q.97. Which of the following Indian shooter clinched a silver medal in the 50m pistol event of the ISSF World Cup Final?

- 1) Abhinav Bindra

- 2) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
- 3) Jitu Rai
- 4) Gagan Narang
- 5) Vijay Kumar

Q.98. In which field, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has been awarded the Nobel Prize 2016 ?

- 1) Medical
- 2) Physics
- 3) Chemistry
- 4) Economy
- 5) Peace

Q.99. Who will be the brand ambassador of the IDBI Federal Life Insurance marathon to be held in New Delhi on February 26 next year?

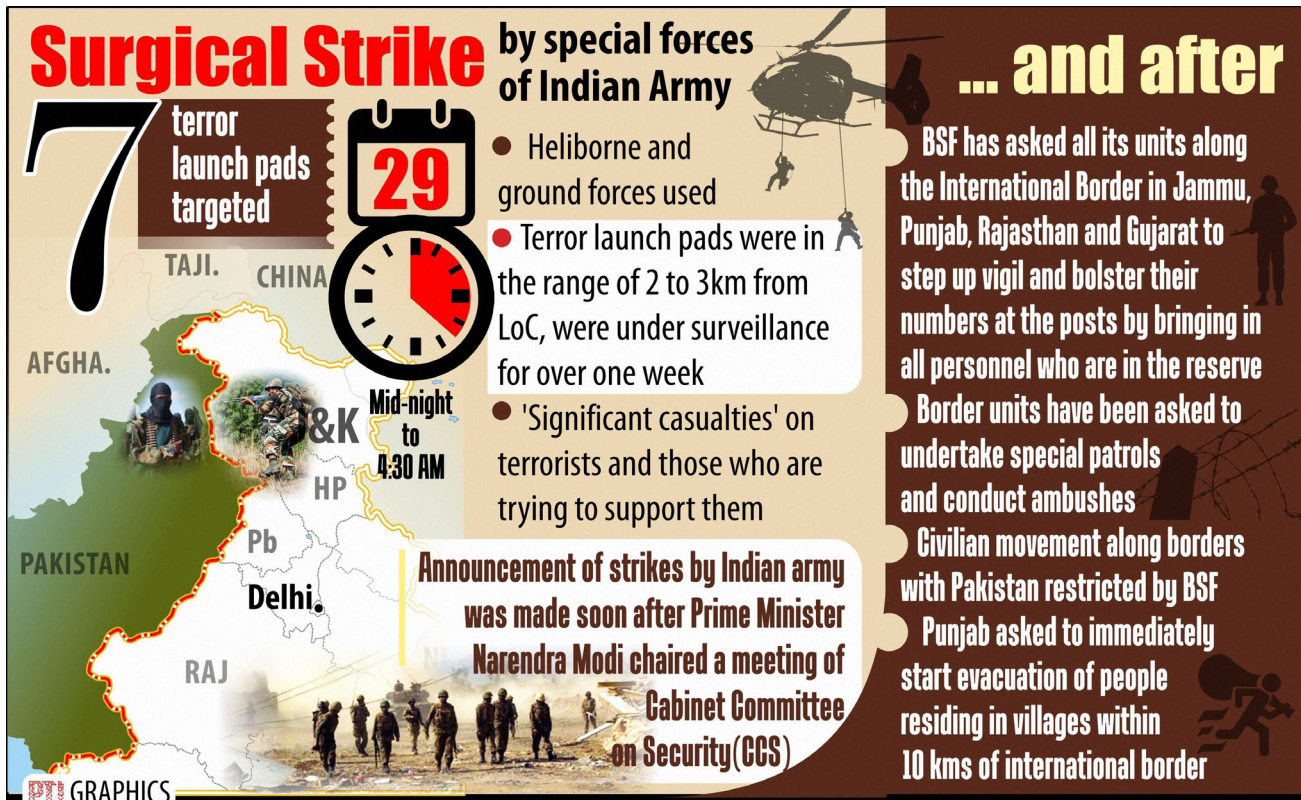
- 1) Virat Kohli
- 2) Akshay Kumar
- 3) Amitabh Bachchan
- 4) Sachin Tendulkar
- 5) M.S.Dhoni

Q.100. World Mental Health Day was observed on-

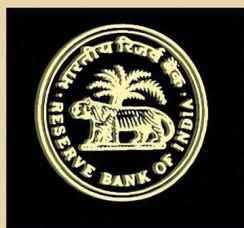
- 1) 8 October
- 2) 9 October
- 3) 10 October
- 4) 11 October
- 5) 12 October

ANSWER - GENERAL AWARENESS

Q.1.(1)	Q.2.(3)	Q.3.(4)	Q.4.(5)	Q.5.(2)	Q.6.(5)	Q.7.(4)	Q.8.(2)	Q.9.(1)	Q.10.(5)
Q.11.(4)	Q.12.(2)	Q.13.(1)	Q.14.(5)	Q.15.(1)	Q.16.(2)	Q.17.(4)	Q.18.(1)	Q.19.(3)	Q.20.(4)
Q.21.(2)	Q.22.(1)	Q.23.(5)	Q.24.(4)	Q.25.(3)	Q.26.(1)	Q.27.(4)	Q.28.(2)	Q.29.(4)	Q.30.(2)
Q.31.(1)	Q.32.(5)	Q.33.(5)	Q.34.(1)	Q.35.(5)	Q.36.(3)	Q.37.(1)	Q.38.(2)	Q.39.(1)	Q.40.(4)
Q.41.(2)	Q.42.(2)	Q.43.(3)	Q.44.(2)	Q.45.(1)	Q.46.(2)	Q.47.(5)	Q.48.(2)	Q.49.(2)	Q.50.(2)
Q.51.(2)	Q.52.(2)	Q.53.(3)	Q.54.(1)	Q.55.(2)	Q.56.(3)	Q.57.(4)	Q.58.(1)	Q.59.(1)	Q.60.(2)
Q.61.(4)	Q.62.(1)	Q.63.(4)	Q.64.(2)	Q.65.(1)	Q.66.(5)	Q.67.(1)	Q.68.(1)	Q.69.(2)	Q.70.(2)
Q.71.(2)	Q.72.(5)	Q.73.(5)	Q.74.(4)	Q.75.(3)	Q.76.(1)	Q.77.(3)	Q.78.(2)	Q.79.(3)	Q.80.(4)
Q.81.(5)	Q.82.(3)	Q.83.(3)	Q.84.(1)	Q.85.(1)	Q.86.(2)	Q.87.(5)	Q.88.(4)	Q.89.(2)	Q.90.(3)
Q.91.(4)	Q.92.(5)	Q.93.(3)	Q.94.(1)	Q.95.(1)	Q.96.(2)	Q.97.(3)	Q.98.(5)	Q.99.(4)	Q.100.(3)



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**RESERVE BANK
OF INDIA**

Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Review



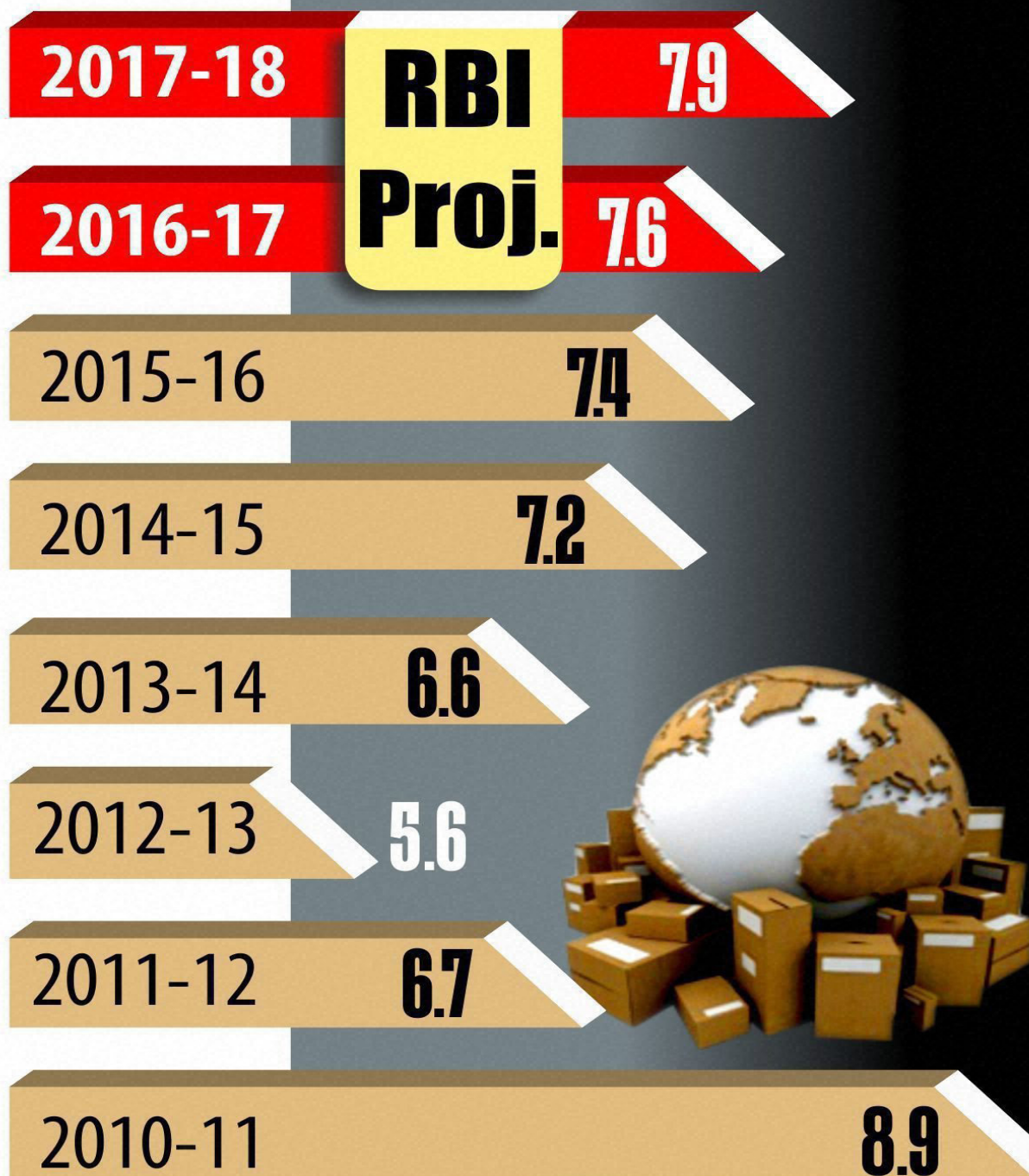
Highlights

- Repo rate cut by 0.25% at 6.25% , Reverse Repo at 5.75%
- Cash reserve ratio or CRR unchanged at 4%
- Growth forecast at 7.6% for the current fiscal
- Normal monsoon to quicken growth momentum
- Inflation target for Mar 17 remains 5%, with upside risk
- 6-member Monetary Policy Committee makes India's first collective interest rate decision
- RBI's research deptt sees inflation at 5.3% in Jan-Mar 2017, from 5% in the previous quarter
- Uncertainty around US elections, crude prices, global demand
- All MPC members voted in favour of rate cut
- Foreign exchange reserve rose to all time high of \$372 bn by Sept
- Govt has announced measures to cool food inflation, which opened up space for rate cut
- Banks should cut lending rates after small saving rate cut
- RBI Governor expects further downgrading of global growth
- To allow start-ups to raise up to \$3 million ECB annually
- Sees growth to pick up to 7.9% in next year
- Pay Commission recommendations to spur price pressures

PTI GRAPHICS

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GDP Growth %



Source: RBI

PTI GRAPHICS


BRICS 2016
 New Delhi, India


Brazil



Russia



India



China



S Africa

BRICS Summits

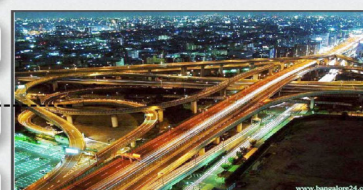
Participants		Date	Host country	Host leader	Location
Summit					
1st	BRIC	Jun, 2009	Russia	Dmitry Medvedev	Yekaterinburg
2nd	BRIC	Apr, 2010	Brazil	L.I. Lula da Silva	Brasília
3rd	BRICS	Apr, 2011	China	Hu Jintao	Sanya
4th	BRICS	Mar, 2012	India	Manmohan Singh	New Delhi
5th	BRICS	Mar, 2013	S Africa	Jacob Zuma	Durban
6th	BRICS	Jul, 2014	Brazil	Dilma Rouseff	Fortaleza
7th	BRICS	Jul, 2015	Russia	Vladimir Putin	Ufa
8th	BRICS	Oct, 2016	India	Narendra Modi	New Delhi

GRAPHICS

India's Wealthiest Cities



	Total Wealth*	Millionaires*	Billionaires*
Mumbai	820	45000	28
Delhi	450	22000	18
Bangalore	320	7500	8
Hyderabad	310	8200	7
Kolkata	290	8600	10
Pune	180	3900	5
Chennai	150	6200	4
Gurgaon	110	3600	2



*(in US \$ billion)

*Millionaires refer to individuals with net assets of USD 1 million or more

*Billionaires refer to individuals with net assets of USD 1 billion or more

Source: New World Wealth

GRAPHICS

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India's latest communication satellite inducted into the INSAT/GSAT system

GSAT-18

Rocket: Ariane 5 ECA, VA231

Launch site: Guiana Space Centre ELA-3

Contractor: Arianespace

Reference system: Geocentric

Regime: Geostationary

Longitude: 74° E

Transponders

Band

24 × C band, 12 × extended C band

12 × Ku band, 2 × Ku beacon

Manufacturer:

ISRO Satellite Centre

Space Applications Centre

Launch Mass:

3404 kg

Mission Life:

About 15 years

Power:

6474 W from Solar arrays, Two 144 Ah Li-Ion batteries



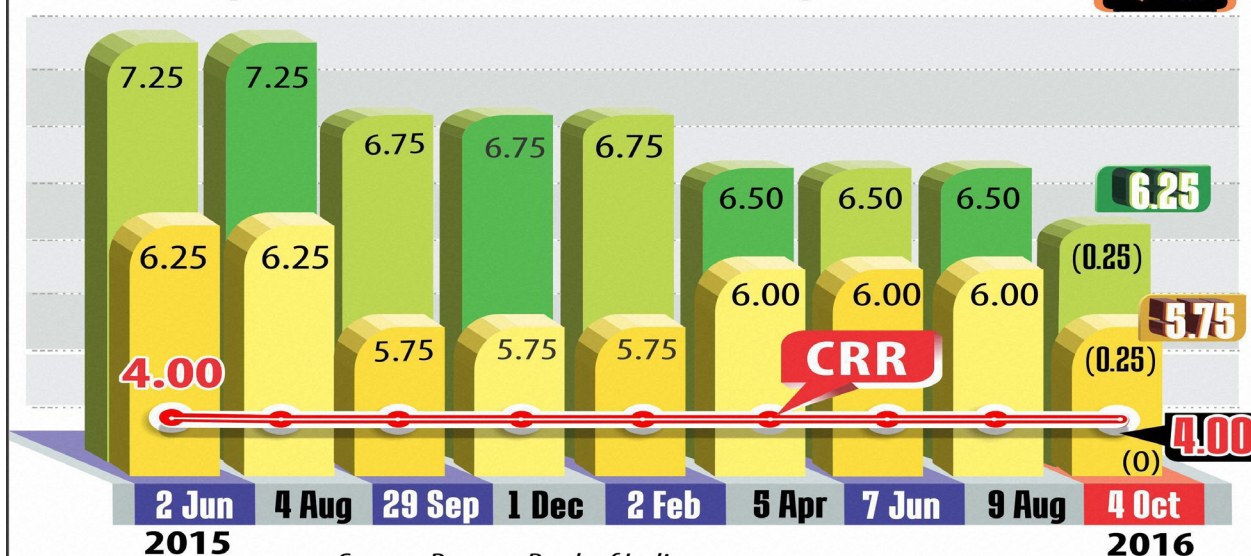
PTI GRAPHICS

Reserve Bank of India

Bimonthly Monetary Policy Review



Repo Rate Reverse Repo Rate



PTI GRAPHICS

Source: Reserve Bank of India

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WHO'S WHO		
S.No.	DESIGNATION	NAME
1.	Chairman, Rajya Sabha	Mohd.Hamid Ansari
2.	Chairperson of Lok Sabha	Sumitra Mahajan
3.	Chairman of NITI Ayog	Narendra D Modi
4.	Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha	Gulam Nabi Azad
5.	Leader of House in Lok Sabha	Narendra D Modi
6.	Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha	Mallikarjun Kharge
7.	Chief Election Commissioner	Syed Nasim Ahmed Zaidi
8.	Election Commissioner	Om Prakash Rawat, Achal Kr. Jyoti
9.	Election Commissioner	Achal kumar jyoti
10.	Chief Vigilance Commissioner	K V chaudhary
11.	Foreign Secretary	Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
12.	Comptroller & Auditor General of India	Shashi Kant Sharma
13.	Chairman, National Commission for Backward Classes	Jus. Vangala Eswaraiah
14.	Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India	R. S Sharma
15.	CBI Director	Anil Kumar Sinha
16.	Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes	Rameshwar Oraon
17.	Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities	Naseem Ahmed
18.	Chairman, UPSC	Deepak Gupta
19.	Director General, National Investigation Agency	Sharad Kumar
20.	Chairman, UGC	Ved Prakash
21.	Chairman, Space Commission and ISRO	A S Kiran kumar
22.	Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Sec. Deptt. of Atomic Energy	Sekhar Basu
23.	Chairman, SSC	Ashim Khurana
24.	Chairman, National Human Rights Commission	Justice H.L. Dattu
25.	Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner	Sailesh
26.	Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes	Rani Singh Nair
27.	Chairman, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority	T.S. Vijayan
28.	Chairman, Securities & Exchange Board of India	Upendra Kr. Sinha
29.	Chairperson, State Bank of India	Arundhati Bhattacharya
30.	Chairman, LIC	V.K. Sharma
31.	India's permanent representative in UNO	Syed Akbaruddin
32.	Home Secretary	Rajiv Mehrishi
33.	Chairperson of National Commission for Women	Lalitha Kumaramanglam
34.	Chairman, 14th Finance Commission	Y.Venugopal Reddy
35.	Chairman, Competition Commission of India	D.K. Sikri
36.	Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification	Pahlaj Nihalani
37.	President, ASSOCHAM	Sunil kanoria
38.	Chairman, NASSCOM	C.P. Gurnani
39.	President, NASSCOM	R. Chandrasekhar
40.	Director General, RAW	Rajinder Khanna
41.	Chairperson, Children Film Society of India	Mukesh Khanna
42.	Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas
43.	President, CII	Sumit Majumdar
44.	President, FICCI	Harshvardhan Neotia
45.	Chairman, National Knowledge Commission	Sam Pitroda
46.	National Security Advisor	Ajit Doval
47.	Chairperson, Prasar Bharati	Dr. A. Surya Prakash
48.	Chairman, Investment Commission	Ratan Tata
49.	Finance Secretary	Ashok Lavasa
50.	Chairman, Indian Banks Association	T.M.Basin

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SPEED TEST STAR PERFORMER AWARD

OCTOBER 2016



1st Prize

ESHA
MAH0011045406

2nd Prize

LAPTOP

PRATISTHA JAISWAL
CAL0611344596

3rd Prize

MOBILE

PARAMJOT
JUC2480639868



4th

SANGRAM KESHARI RATH
BBN0421305634

5th

RUTVIK
RJT2101141189

6th

VIKAS KUMAR
LUD0631255899

7th

PRIYANKA
PBR1190909933

8th

KIRAN KUMAR
RAYASAMANTA
BRM2581160394

9th

HARSHITA RAJPUT
DLH0260866620

10th

DEVASHISH VERMA
KAK0041016883

11th

ARTY CHAUDHARY
MTH1710663313

12th

BABLOO SAH
PDH0270508019

13th

KOMAL BIULANI
AJM0350463799

14th

KARTIK VERMA
RRK2230909129

15th

RAJENDRA MAURYA
SRT2090843831

16th

SUDHANSHU GUPTA
AWR2511342334

17th

KHUSHBOO TIWARI
AMD0341014744

18th

UJJWAL ARORA
GGN2180915875

19th

SAMEER SUAN SHUKLA
BST0400894331

20th

RIZWANA
WGL2591275185

TOP NOTCH CAPTIVATORS OF THE MONTH

1



Cabinet approves setting-up of country's first medical park.

6

Italy's Former President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi is passed away.



2



Railway launches 'Yatri Mitra' Seva for elderly, differently abled.

7

Indian Shooters win 3 gold medals in ISSF Junior World Cup 2016.



3



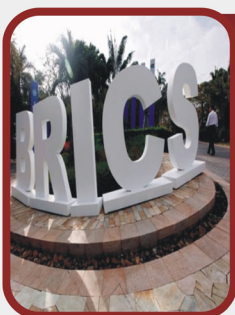
Jim Yong Kim selected for second term as president of World Bank.

8

Official Emblem for 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup to be held in India Unveiled.



4



India hosted 6th BRICS Agriculture meeting on sept 22.

9

China Successfully launches second space lab.



5



29th Moorthidevi Award won by Prof Kolakaluri Enoch.

10

Delhi, the worst place to work for women, Sikkim is the best : Survey.



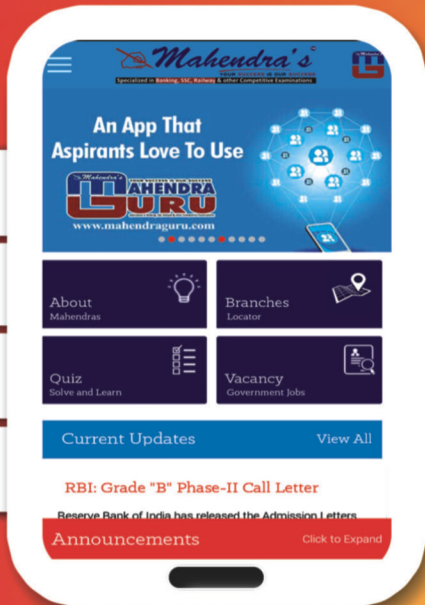
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