

**CURRENT AFFAIRS SNIPPETS : JUNE 2017****NATIONAL****Power minister Piyush Goyal launches new Energy Conservation Building code**

In a bid to increase energy savings by commercial buildings, minister of power, coal, mines and new & renewable energy Piyush Goyal in June launched the new Energy Conservation Building code (ECBC) 2017. The adoption of ECBC 2017 for new commercial building construction is estimated to achieve 50 per cent reduction in energy use by 2030, according to the power ministry. The savings estimated by ECBC 2017 will be equivalent to the annual avoided expenditure of Rs 35,000 crore and 250 million tons of CO2 reduction. ECBC 2017 sets new parameters for builders, designers and architects to integrate renewable energy sources in the building designs. ECBC 2017 will lead to savings of up to 300 billion units per year and peak demand reduction of over 15 GW in a year, according to a statement issued by the power ministry.

**India ratifies UN TIR Convention in a bid to Counter China's OBOR**

India became the 71st country on June 19, 2017 to join the United Nations TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers) Convention, the international customs transit system, to position itself as a regional trading and transit hub. TIR procedure enables goods to move under customs control across international borders without the payment of the duties and taxes. Secretary General of IRU which manages the TIR Convention said India's accession would have a big impact on regional connectivity. The TIR is managed and developed by International Road Transport Union (IRU) which is the world road transport organisation. The TIR procedure facilitates movement of goods under customs control across international borders without the payment of the duties and taxes. It provides a robust guarantee mechanism facilitating the higher growth of Intra-regional trade.

**Yoga Day: Government launches app to help people share their experience**

The government launched a mobile application on June 19, 2017, through which people can share their

experience about participating in yoga activities. Union Science and Technology minister Harsh Vardhan launched the app "Celebrating Yoga (DST)" which will help in capturing; both mass events organized in public places, schools and office complexes across the country on the occasion of International Yoga Day on June 21, and after that. The app has been connected to Google Map, where shared information can be seen by the user.

The information will subsequently be visible on the website of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The DST also runs a program called 'Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM)' under which research is being carried out by top institutes to scientifically validate the benefits of doing yoga. The app will also give information to the users about the studies conducted on yoga under the SATYAM program.

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Kochi Metro**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Kochi Metro, which will be Kerala's first metro line. The Construction of the Kochi Metro which was entrusted to the DMRC has been completed in a record four-year period. Prime Minister has inaugurated the first phase of the metro with 13.2 km out of the total 25 km stretch. The Kochi Metro will be the country's eighth inter-city metro rail project.

Kochi Metro is India's first integrated multi-mode transport system. The system will also provide boat rides with water transport as a feeder service to the rail corridor. Kochi Metro is the first public transport system that has reserved jobs for the transgenders. With this, it has become the first metro in the country to use solar power to meet a quarter of its electricity requirement. The project cost of Kochi Metro is Rs 5,180 crore. By purchasing a single ticket, commuters will be able to travel in feeder services along road and water. In a first, Kochi Metro will offer free wi-fi in its coaches and its stations.

**Country's first Automatic Coastal Warning for Disasters to come up in Odisha**

From July, Odisha will commission the ambitious Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) to warn the

vast population residing along its 480 km-long coast in the event of the occurrence of natural disasters like a tsunami or a cyclone. Andhra Pradesh is also reportedly developing such system to alert the people in case of natural calamities.

The warning can be disseminated just by pressing a single button from a control room in the State capital in the event of the occurrence of natural disasters. It would trigger loud sirens simultaneously from towers at 122 locations including tourist destinations, fish landing centres and coastal habitations situated across the state. The sound emanating from the towers can be heard in localities up to a radius of 1.5 km.

#### **Government makes Aadhaar Mandatory for Opening Bank Accounts**

The government has made Aadhaar mandatory for opening bank accounts as well as for carrying out financial transactions above of ` 50,000. In addition, the government has asked all the existing account holders to link Aadhaar numbers to their bank accounts by December 31, 2017.

Failure to comply with this guideline will make the account invalid. Further, the notification issued amending the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005, will require quoting of Aadhaar card mandatory along with PAN by individuals, companies and partnership firms for all financial transactions of 50,000 or above. Before the notification, the PMLA Rules made it mandatory to submit PAN number or Form 60 to banks while opening accounts for high-value transactions.

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **India wins re-election to UN organ on economic, social issues**

India has been re-elected to the UN's principal organ on economic, social and environmental issues for another three-year term. India was among 18 nations to win election to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

India obtained 183 votes, the second highest after Japan in the Asia Pacific category. Election to fill the 18 vacancies in ECOSOC.

#### **Vivid Sydney breaks global record of light installations**

VIVID Sydney, the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas, has made a Guinness World Records for the largest interactive lighting display for its Dreamscape installation.

Made of 124,128 lights, Dreamscape, created by Vivid Sydney veteran 32 Hundred Lighting, links the entire Circular Quay precinct from the iconic Sydney Opera House to the Sydney Harbor Bridge into one cohesive canvas of colorful lights.

It allows the visitors to decide the color, texture and pattern of the lighting across the cityscape via 3D interactive modeling in a control room in Circular Quay. With just a simple touch of a button, Vivid Sydney guests of any age can create their own masterpiece, using the harbor city as their muse.

#### **BUSINESS**

#### **India's antitrust watchdog imposes \$13.6 million fine on Hyundai Motor's local unit**

India's antitrust watchdog imposed a fine of 870 million rupees (\$13.6 million) on South Korean automaker Hyundai Motor Co's local unit, accusing the company of anti-competitive behaviour.

The Competition Commission of India in its order alleged that Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) contravened competitive practices by imposing certain arrangements upon its dealers including monitoring the maximum permissible discount level and mandating the use of recommended lubricants and oils. The penalty has been levied at 0.3 percent of Hyundai Motor India's average relevant turnover of the preceding three years.

#### **Verizon completes Yahoo acquisition**

Telecom giant Verizon has acquired Yahoo's core business for \$4.48bn (£3.51m), thus ending Yahoo's two-decade long run as an independent company. Verizon is the No.1 wireless operator in the US.

Verizon will combine Yahoo with AOL which was bought by it two years ago to establish a venture called Oath. Oath owns more than 50 brands such as HuffPost, TechCrunch and Tumblr. With the acquisition, Yahoo's chief executive Marissa Mayer has resigned. The remainder of Yahoo which is not acquired by Verizon will change its name to Altaba

Inc. It will become a holding company with 15.5% stakes in Chinese Internet giant Alibaba and a 35.5% holding in Yahoo Japan Corp. It will begin trading under the ticker symbol "AABA." Thomas McNerney, a Yahoo board member will be made as Altaba's chief executive officer.

#### **IRDAI takes over management of Sahara India Life Insurance Company**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has taken over the administration of Sahara India Life Insurance, a first of its kind move in the insurance sector.

It has named RK Sharma, General Manager, IRDAI, as administrator to manage the affairs of the insurer. The IRDAI has reasons to believe that Sahara India Life Insurance Co is acting in a manner likely to be prejudicial to the interests of holders of life insurance policies. The administrator will act as per the powers and duties and applicable provisions under the Insurance Act, 1938 and manage the business with the greatest economy, compatible with efficiency and regular reporting to the regulator, the order states. The administrator will also file a report to the authority as regards the insurer, stating the most advantageous course of action in the general interest of the holders of life insurance policies as per Section 52B of the Insurance Act, 1938 as soon as possible. The current board of Sahara India Life is headed by Chairman OP Srivastava. Sanjay Agarwal is whole-time director and CEO.

#### **Siemens, TCS tie-up for industrial IoT services**

TCS & Siemens announced collaboration around Internet of Things (IoT) innovation. This will enable customers to benefit from data insights & services based on "MindSphere," a cloud-based, open IoT operating system from Siemens.

Initially, the programme will be focused in the manufacturing sector where IoT has already gained significant traction due to the immense data volumes generated in the production process. TCS will also support developments around "MindConnect Nano", a cloud gateway that can be used to connect production to a cloud-based analysis of machine and production data.

#### **RCom-Aircel merged wireless company to be called Aircom**

Reliance Communications' executive Punit Garg said that the merged wireless company with Aircel will be called Aircom. RCom can monetize 49 % tower co stake in future though sale or a listing process, while further debt reduction options will include sale of direct-to-home business.

The executive said that the company can also look at strategic transaction in global or Indian enterprise business. Reliance Communications said that it has received time till December 2017 to close its transactions with Aircel and Brookfield and reduce debt from Rs. 45000 crore to Rs. 20000 crore, aiming at a reduction of 60% or Rs. 25000 crore. RCom has been engaged in discussions with its lenders in order to finalise a debt resolution plan.

#### **Thales and Reliance Defence Limited Joint Venture**

French defence electronics manufacturer Thales has announced that it is floating a joint venture company with Reliance Defence with shareholding of 49% and 51% respectively. The motive of this venture is to set up an Indian supply chain for radars and electronic warfare sensors at a facility in Nagpur.

The team will start with 40 people and scale up as work shifts from France to India as part of the deal. Thales and Reliance Defence Limited announced in June 2017 their decision to form a joint venture (JV) to execute part of the offset obligations for the 36 Rafale fighter jets India has contracted from France.

### **SPORTS**

#### **Kidambi Srikanth wins Indonesian Open & Australian Open Super series Title**

Kidambi Srikanth won his third Super Series title which came after his wins in India and China in the past. He got the better of World No.1 Son Wan Ho in the semi final by saving a match point & then converting on the third. He went on to win the title against Japan's Kazumasa Sakai 21-11, 21-19 to win his third Super Series title.

Srikanth had previously won Super Series titles in India and China. The win is likely to move Srikanth in the top-five and even as good as world no. 2 after his remarkable win over Wan Ho. Kidambi Srikanth

has sealed his second successive Super Series win by defeating reigning Olympic champion Chen Long in the Australian Open summit clash in Sydney. Chen Long is World No.6 and also the current All England champion. Srikanth had lost all of his previous five encounters with Chen Long. Srikanth has also become the fifth player in the world to take part in three successive Super Series finals by reaching the summit clash in Singapore, Indonesia and Australia.

### **Pakistan defeated India to clinch Champion Trophy 2017**

The final of the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy was played on June 18, 2017 between Pakistan and India at The Oval in London, to determine the winner of the eighth edition of the ICC Champions Trophy. Pakistan defeated India comfortably to win their maiden ICC Champions Trophy, winning by 180 runs, which was the largest margin of victory in the final of an ICC ODI tournament.

Fakhar Zaman of Pakistan received the Man of the Match award for scoring a sublime 114 runs. Shikhar Dhawan of India received the Golden Bat award for scoring 338 runs in the tournament while Hasan Ali of Pakistan received the Golden Ball award for taking 13 wickets; he was also adjudged the Man of the Series for his outstanding contribution towards Pakistan's first ICC tournament title since 2009.

### **Mithali Raj shatters world record**

Mithali became the first woman cricketer to clinch seven consecutive 50-plus scores in the format; a feat no Indian player, male or female, has ever achieved in the history of the game.

Rahul Dravid's five consecutive ODI fifties is the best among Indian cricketers; he stands at 16 in the all-time list of cricketers to have scored most consecutive fifties. Pakistani legend Javed Miandad tops the list with most number of back-to-back ODI fifties at nine. Mithali is just two fifties away from equalling Miandad's all-time-record.

### **Virat Kohli creates record by becoming fastest batsman to score 8000 runs in ODIs**

India's Skipper Virat Kohli has created a record by becoming the quickest batsman to score 8000 runs in one-day international cricket beating South Africa's AB de Villier's record by seven fewer innings. Virat

Kohli has managed to cross the 8000 run mark in his 175th innings during India's match against Bangladesh in ICC Champion's Trophy semi-final in Birmingham. Earlier record holder was South African captain AB de Villiers who crossed the 8000 run mark in 182 innings. Earlier this year, South Africa's Hashim Amla had broken Virat Kohli's previous record of being the fastest batsman to score 7000 runs in ODIs. While Virat Kohli scored 7000 runs in 166 innings, Hashim Amla took only 150 innings to get there. Hashim Amla is also the fastest batsman to score 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000 and 6000 runs.

Top 5 fastest 8000 run scorers in ODIs are Virat Kohli (175 innings), AB de Villiers (182 innings), Sourav Ganguly (200 innings), Sachin Tendulkar (210 innings), Brian Lara (211 innings).

### **Anil Kumble steps down as Head Coach**

He took over the mantle of head coach in July 2016. Virat Kohli had cited reservations about his style of functioning to BCCI officials. Kumble's decision confirmed rumours that had been circulating for weeks about him falling out between with captain Virat Kohli. CAC(Cricket Advisory Committee) had strongly backed Kumble's extension till the 2019 World Cup.

### **PV Sindhu, Indian junior hockey team wins SJFI annual awards**

The Sports Journalists Federation of India, at its annual general meeting on 25th June 2017 decided to confer the best Sportsperson of the Year Award on the ace shuttler and Rio Olympics silver medallist P V Sindhu.

The Best Team of the Year award was bagged by the Indian junior hockey squad which won the World Cup in Lucknow last December.

### **Rafael Nadal wins his 10th French Open title French Open**

The 2017 French Open was a tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts. It was the 116th edition of the French Open and the second Grand Slam event of the year. It took place at the Stade Roland Garros from May 28 to June 11 and consisted of events for players in singles, doubles and mixed doubles play.

Rafael Nadal won his 10th French Open title & 15th Grand Slam singles title, defeating Stan Wawrinka in the final (Men's Singles). Je?ena Ostapenko won the title, defeating Simona Halep in the finals (Women's



Singles). Rohan Bopanna clinched his maiden Grand Slam title when he won French Open mixed doubles final with Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski (Mixed Doubles).

### **AWARDS & HONORS**

#### **David Grossman & Jessica Cohen wins 'The Man Booker International 2017' award**

Israeli author David Grossman has won the Man Booker International Prize for his novel 'A Horse Walks Into a Bar'. The award has a prize of 50,000 pounds (\$64,000) that is split evenly between Mr. Grossman and translator Jessica Cohen. The prize was previously a career honor, but changed last year to recognize a single book in a bid to increase the profile of international fiction in English-speaking countries.

#### **Margaret Atwood chosen for a lifetime achievement award**

Margaret Atwood chosen for a lifetime achievement award from PEN Center USA.

Ms. Atwood has written more than 40 books of fiction, poetry and essays. The television adaptation of her novel "The Handmaid's Tale" premiered this year. Award to be given at the annual Literary Awards Festival in October 27, 2017 ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Actor and writer Nick Offerman is scheduled to host the evening.

#### **Nisha Dutt awarded 'Social Entrepreneur of the Year'**

Nisha Dutt, Chief Executive Officer of Hyderabad-based Intellectap has been honoured with the "Social Entrepreneur of the Year" award at The 7th Asian Awards held in London.

She is the first Indian woman leader to have been conferred with this recognition. This award has been presented to her for leading Intellectap to become a globally known enterprise that focuses on social capital and impacts the underserved communities.

#### **Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Institute bags PM's Yoga Award**

Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune has become the first recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution to promotion and development of Yoga.

PM's Yoga Award was instituted at the 2nd Inter-

national Day of Yoga celebrations at Chandigarh by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Prime Minister had instituted the award for promoting the ancient Indian spiritual discipline. The Ministry of AYUSH framed guidelines for the awards and constituted two committees, namely, screening committee (for preliminary evaluation) and evaluation committee (Jury).

#### **Bhupen Hazarika Award conferred to Yeshe Dorjee Thongshi**

The Bhupen Hazarika National Award, 2017 has been conferred upon the noted writer Yeshe Dorjee Thongshi. This is the fifth edition of the award which was first conferred in 2012. The award has been instituted by Sarhad, a Maharashtra-based organisation. The award honours an outstanding literary work at national and international level. The award consists of ₹51,000, a memento and a certificate.

Yeshe Dorjee Thongshi belongs to the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. His famous novel includes Mauna Onth Mukhar Hriday (Silent lips, murmuring hearts) which won the Sahitya Akademi award in 2005.

#### **West Bengal's Kanyashree initiative wins United Nations Public Service Award**

The West Bengal government is among the winners to receive the prestigious UN Public Service Award for its initiative to combat child marriage and ensure education to the girl child in the state. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee received the 2017 UN Public Service Award at a ceremony held in The Hague, Netherlands on behalf of her government for the 'Kanyashree Prakalpa' initiative that sought to reduce the high child marriage rates and low female education rates in the state.

Through the initiative, cash was deposited into the bank account of girls for every year they remained in school and were unmarried. The UN Public Service Awards are given by the world body to institutions from across the world for their innovation and excellence in providing public services.

#### **Mumbai's Taj Mahal Palace Is First Indian Building to Get Trademark**

The iconic Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai has just got itself trademarked. This makes the 114-year-old

building the first in the country to get such a registration.

The hotel, which has been a defining structure of Mumbai's skyline, has joined the elite and small club of trademarked properties in the world which includes the Empire State Building in New York, the Eiffel Tower in Paris and Sydney Opera House. With IHCL trade marking the building, nobody can now use Taj Mahal Palace's images for commercial purposes.

#### **Bihar's 'Project Jal Sanchay' chosen for National Award**

A model of water conservation adopted successfully by the authorities in Nalanda district of south central Bihar, has been selected for the national award for excellence in the Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee programme (MGNREGP), by the ministry of rural development.

The award for excellence will be conferred on 'Project Jal Sanchay', the water conservation model developed in Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's native district, at a function to be organised at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. Nalanda deputy development commissioner (DDC) Kundan Kumar said he water conservation programme began just as an administrative initiative, but soon turned into a people's movement.

#### **PERSON-IN-NEWS**

#### **Kaushik Basu takes over as President of IEA**

Kaushik Basu has taken over as president of the International Economic Association (IEA). Basu will serve a three-year term as the President. Kaushik Basu has served as India's chief economic adviser from 2009 to 2012. He has also served as senior vice-president and chief economist at the World Bank from 2012 to 2016. At present, Basu is the C. Marks Professor of International Studies at Cornell University.

The International Economic Association (IEA) is one of the key organisations of professional economists and has been significant in determining global economic policy and research. Amongst the past presidents of IEA were the Nobel Laureates Robert Solow, Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz.

#### **Shashi Shekar Vempati appointed as CEO of Prasar Bharati**

Shashi Shekar Vempati has been appointed as the CEO of Prasar Bharati based on the recommendation of the three-member committee headed by Vice President. The other two members of the committee was Chairman, Press Council of India and the Secretary, Information and Broadcasting, who was also the President's nominee. Shashi Shekar Vempati will hold the post for a period of five years.

Since February 2016, Vempati is currently serving as a Member (part time) of the Prasar Bharati Board. Vempati is an alumnus of IIT Bombay. He has two patents under his name: "Real Time Business Event Monitoring, Tracking and Execution Architecture" and "System and method for monitoring and management of inventory of products and assets in real time". He has also authored many books namely "Broadcasting Technologies in India", "National Digital Security Architecture in India", "Creating a Global Media Platform out of India" among others.

#### **Pioneer of judicial activism Justice P N Bhagwati passes away**

Former Chief Justice of India P N Bhagwati, passed on June 16, 2017 after brief illness. P N Bhagwati was considered a pioneer of judicial activism in the country for introducing the concept of PILs He was a former Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court and was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in July 1973.

As a Supreme Court judge, Bhagwati introduced the concepts of public interest litigation (PIL) and absolute liability to the Indian judicial system. As a champion of PILs, he had ruled there was no need for a person to have any locus standi (the right or capacity to bring an action or to appear in a court) to knock the doors of a court on the issue of fundamental rights.

#### **Helmut Kohl, father of German reunification, dies at 87**

Helmut Kohl was a German statesman who served as Chancellor of Germany from 1982 to 1998 (of West Germany 1982-1990 and of the reunited Germany 1990-1998) and as the chairman of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) from 1973 to 1998. From 1969 to 1976, Kohl was minister president of the state Rhineland-Palatinate. Kohl chaired the Group of Seven in 1985 and 1992.

### **The founder and chairman of Lupin Limited Deshbandhu Das Gupta passes away**

Desh Bandhu Gupta was an Indian billionaire businessman, the founder and chairman of Lupin Limited, a multinational pharmaceutical company. Gupta received a Lifetime Achievement Award during the Pharma Leadership Summit 2009.

He was also the recipient of the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 - Visionary Leader award. In 2015, Forbes estimated Gupta's net worth at \$7.2 billion, making him the 254th richest person in the world.

### **AEROSPACE, DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

#### **ISRO to flight-test kerosene-based semi-cryogenic engine by 2021**

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will flight-test the semi-cryogenic engine, which uses refined kerosene as propellant, by 2021, if things go as planned. With the success of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III (GSLV Mk-III), ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) here at Valiyamala is now focusing on the next level - the development of the much-delayed semi-cryogenic technology.

Unlike the cryogenic engine which uses a combination of liquid hydrogen (LH2) and liquid oxygen (LOX) as propellant, the semi-cryogenic engine replaces liquid hydrogen with refined kerosene (Isrosene as ISRO calls it). LOX will be retained as oxidizer.

#### **GSAT 17 Launched**

India's latest communication satellite GSAT-17 was on June 28, 2017 successfully launched by a heavy duty rocket of Arianespace from the spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana. It was launched into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), GSAT-17 will strengthen Isro's current fleet of 17 telecommunication satellites. This is ISRO's third satellite launched in a span of three months. The 3,477-kg spacecraft was released into a temporary orbit in space as dusk at the South American near-equatorial space port. GSAT-17 was sent up as the second passenger on the European booster, Ariane-5 ECA VA-238, according to ISRO and the European launch company Arianespace. GSAT-17, built mainly for broadcasting, telecommunication and VSAT services, carries over 40 transponders.

#### **IRSO's PSLV-C38 places Cartosat-2s and 30 nano satellites in orbit**

PSLV-C38 blasted off from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. It was PSLV's the 40th flight.

Around 16 minutes after lift-off, the rocket placed its main payload - Cartosat-2 Series Satellite - in orbit. The satellite is the sixth in the Cartosat-2 series.

As the rocket propelled further up the space, it ejected 30 other nano satellites. Twenty nine satellites belonged to 14 foreign countries -- Austria, Belgium, Chile, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, the UK and the US.

#### **India Russia signs Roadmap for defense cooperation.**

India and Russia have finalized a roadmap to further boost bilateral defence cooperation during the 17th India-Russia intergovernmental commission on military-technical cooperation, which was held at Moscow.

The meeting was co-chaired by defense minister Arun Jaitley and his Russian counterpart General Shoygu. The agenda for the discussion ranged from joint development of futuristic weapon systems to a major upgrade of military-to-military ties.

India and Russia had signed a protocol that aims to enhance cooperation between both the countries in the field of political and military dialogue, exercises, exchange of visits, military cooperation and training.

#### **India's Mars mission completes 1,000 earth days in orbit**

MOM (Mars Orbiter Mission) completes 1,000 earth days in its orbit, on Monday June 19, 2017 well beyond its designed mission life of six months. 1,000 earth days corresponds to 973.24 Mars Sols (Martian Solar day) and MOM completed 388 orbits.

The satellite is in good health and continues to work as expected, it said, adding that scientific analysis of the data received from the Mars Orbiter spacecraft is in progress. India on September 24, 2014 successfully placed the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) spacecraft in orbit around Mars in its very first attempt, breaking into an elite club. ISRO had launched the spacecraft on its nine-month-long odyssey on a homegrown PSLV rocket from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on November 5, 2013 and it had escaped the earth's gravitational field on December 1, 2013.

**Lockheed signs pact with Tata to make F-16 planes in India**

Weeks ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump, U.S. aircraft major Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) signed an agreement to make the F-16 Block 70 fighter aircraft in India to meet the IAF's single-engine jet requirement.

The IAF is about to initiate the process for selection of a single-engine fighter aircraft to replace the Russian MiGs under the Strategic Partnership model of the Defense Procurement Procedure. The announcement from Paris Air Show, where among those present was Ratan Tata, came ahead of Mr. Modi's meeting with Trump later this month

