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# UIIC DIGEST

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Raman  
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## International

### India, Australia Ink Pact To Avoid Double Social Security Contribution

India and Australia ink pact to avoid double social security contribution under this agreement, employees of India deputed to Australia and vice versa will not have to make double social security contribution.

### International Jazz Day 2016

International Jazz Day was observed on 30 April. It was celebrated by UNESCO in Washington D.C. as host city.

- The day was declared during the UNESCO General Conference in 2011. The first annual International Jazz Day was kicked off in Paris.

### International Workers' Day

The International Workers day celebrated on 1st May every year to highlight this significance. This is also known as International Labour Day and May Day.

- The theme of International Labour Day 2016 is Celebrating the international labour movement.

### Iraq declares state of emergency as protestors storm into Parliament

Iraq government has declared a state of emergency after supporters of Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr stormed parliament. Protesters in the capital has reached the cabinet headquarters inside the Green Zone of the cabinet building.

- It's the most major political crisis in Iraq after the demise of Saddam in 2003 following an attack by US army.

### Wipro inaugurates Saudi's 1st all-women IT park

IT services company Wipro has inaugurated Saudi Arabia's first all women business and technology park (WBP) at the Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University in Riyadh.

- The WBP is a joint venture between Wipro and the university, with oil firm Saudi Aramco acting as the strategic adviser.
- The initiative is expected to create nearly 21,000 jobs by 2025.

### 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting to be held in New Delhi

The eight nations composing the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children, (SAIEVAC) are assembling in New Delhi from 9<sup>th</sup> May for their 4th Ministerial Meeting.

- The meeting will set strategies and agree on commitments to ensure the protection and security of the children of the region and will be hosted by the Ministry of Child and Women Development.
- The Ministerial meeting on 11th of this month will be preceded by a two day technical consultation focusing on critical issues of child protection and violence in the region.
- Delegates from the governments and civil society organizations of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will assess progress and developments of the past decade of regional effort and identify priorities for SAIEVAC for the next five years.

### **Nepal recalls envoy in India for alleged 'non-cooperation'**

Nepal has recalled its Ambassador to India over charges of non-cooperation and indulging in anti-government activities.

- Ambassador Deep Kumar Upadhyaya had confronted with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli regarding the cancellation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari's scheduled visit to India.
- The conversation between Oli and Upadhyaya reportedly took place after the cancellation of the President's trip.
- Nepal's first woman President Bhandari was scheduled to visit India from May 9 as the state guest at the invitation of President Pranab Mukherjee.
- She was also scheduled to participate in a 'Shahi Snan' in Ujjain's Simhastha Kumbh on May 14.

### **Investments through Mauritius to be taxed from April 2017**

India will start imposing capital gains tax on investments routed through Mauritius from April next under a revised tax treaty to curb tax evasion and round-tripping of funds.

- Mauritius and Singapore are among the top-most sources of foreign direct investments into India.
- From beginning April 1, 2017, capital gains tax will be imposed at 50 per cent of the prevailing domestic rate. Full rate will apply from April 1, 2019.

### **India, Bangladesh power ties with 21st-century nuclear deal**

India inked a 21st century nuclear agreement with Bangladesh to engage the bilateral neighbourhood relationship between two nations.

- Signed between Minister of External Affairs and Bangladesh Department of Science and Technology
- Four Indian based companies — BHEL, Reliance, Shapoorji-Pallonji and Adani — have bid to set up power plants in Bangladesh.

### **World Press Freedom Day**

World Press Freedom Day is celebrated every year on May 3 to mark the international community that freedom of the press and freedom of expression are fundamental human rights.

- This year Theme is Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms – This Is Your Right.
- The Day was established by the General Assembly of the UN Nations in 1993 as an outgrowth of the Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press.

### **India to hold festival in Egypt to mark Tagore's birth anniversary**

To mark the 155th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, India will organize a cultural festival in Egypt next week.

- The festival will be host from 8 May to 12th May by the Embassy of India in Cairo and Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture.

### **2016 Red Flag Aerial combat exercises conclude in Alaska**

The Air Forces of India and the U.S. concluded the 2016 Red Flag aerial combat exercises at Alaska in the U.S.

- A successor to the Cope Thunder exercise series, the main phase of the Red Flag exercises had commenced on 28 April 2016 with a mix of combat and support elements from the Indian Air Force (IAF), US Air Force (USAF) and US Navy (USN).
- The four-week long aerial combat exercises were held at the Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska, United States of America. This was the second time India had participated in such an exercise after 2008.
- Exercise Red Flag is an advanced aerial combat training exercise hosted at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.
- Red Flag – Alaska is held at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. It is a successor to the previous COPE THUNDER exercise series in the Western Pacific and Alaska.

### **India, US hold first Maritime Security Dialogue**

In order to promote the partnership in the Maritime Field, India and US made the successful first round of discussion under the Maritime Security Dialogue in New Delhi.

- First round of Discussion Discovered the scope of maritime cooperation under the framework of this maritime dialogue at the bilateral and multilateral level to be brought up.
- Issues Discussed are Asia-Pacific Maritime Challenges, Naval Cooperation and Multilateral Engagement.

### **India and Slovenia have signed Protocol amending the India-Slovenia Double Taxation Avoidance Convention.**

India and Central European country Slovenia have signed a protocol to amend an existing double taxation avoidance treaty.

- This agreement will widen the scope of the existing framework of exchange of tax related information.
- The protocol was signed by Indian ambassador to Slovenia Sarvajit Chakravarti, and Slovenian Finance Minister Dusan Mramor on behalf of Slovenia.
- The framework is likely to help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance between the two countries and also enable mutual assistance in collection of taxes.

### **Taj Mahal in top 5 tourist attractions in the world and Second position in Asia: Survey**

Most Iconic wonders of the world, The Taj Mahal has been surveyed as top five tourist spots in the world and Second in Asia. Survey was conducted by Travel Planning and Booking site TRIP advisor

- Machu Picchu in Peru is the first in list while Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi remain second.
- Trip Advisor India Country Manager Nikhil Ganju expressed that India has a rich Cultural History and Architectural landmarks that built and recognized on the world stage.

### **International Buddhist conference begins in Nepal to remember the Buddha Birthday Anniversary**

A two-day International Buddhist conference to remember the 2,560th birth anniversary of Lord Buddha began.

- Inauguration by Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli
- Theme: Lumbini, Nepal: the birth place of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace
- One of the Monks from India who delegated the conference expressed that India's Emperor Ashoka and Indian Scholar BR Ambedkar have played major role in spreading the message of Lord Buddha

#### **Beijing-New Delhi Yoga Conference opens in China**

Chinese yoga practitioners gathered in large numbers over 1,000 for a group performance in Kunming in China to open the China-India Yoga Conference.

- The five day conference to be held between May 18 and 22 will feature activities including courses from Indian yoga masters and yoga introductions for communities.
- The Yoga gathering was organised by the Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese affairs offices and the China-India Yoga College in Kunming.

#### **Tsai Ing-wen sworn in as new president of Taiwan**

Democratic Progressive Party leader Tsai Ing-wen has been sworn in as the new president of Taiwan.

- Tsai also becoming its first female leader of the country also fills the shoes of President Ma Ying-jeou, who served two four-year terms since May 2008.

#### **Lakhakpa becomes first woman to climb Everest seventh time**

Lakhakpa Sherpa, US-based Nepali climbed Mount Everest for the seventh time, breaking her own record for the most summits of the world's highest mountain by any woman.

- She works in a 7-Eleven shop in Connecticut in the US
- Two Sherpa climbers share between them the record of 21 ascents of Everest, the most number of climbs by men.

#### **G7 finance summit held in Japan**

The G7 finance summit held in Sendai in Japan to give fillip for balancing the growth of the global economy amid the slowing down of the Chinese economy and those of other emerging countries.

- The world's seven most developed countries was represented by finance ministers and governors of the central banks.
- G7 representatives and their European Union counterparts met informally in the forum titled Future of the Global Economy.

#### **Russia gets its own Rating Firm – ACRA**

Vladimir Putin's homegrown credit-ratings firm is up and running and foreign competitors are already feeling the heat.

- Moody's last week announced it would shutter its joint venture in Moscow of 12 years and Fitch said it will probably stop issuing local ratings on Russian companies, the same day ACRA, which stands for Analytical Credit Rating Agency, applied for a license to operate in Russia.

#### **Ali Mohamed Shein is a new President of Zanzibar**

The electoral authority of Tanzania's semi-autonomous archipelago of Zanzibar, the ZEC, announced incumbent President Ali Mohamed Shein had won his re-election bid, after polls boycotted by the main opposition party.

### **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade**

Every year on March 25 the United Nations International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed.

- It honours the lives of those who died as a result of slavery; it is also an occasion to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice.
- The theme for the year 2016 is Remember Slavery: Celebrating the Heritage and Culture of the African Diaspora and its Roots.

### **US Congress passes bill to allow India to join APEC**

In a move to strengthen the ties between India and US, the US congress has passed the bill in senate which will allow India to be a member of APEC.

- Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific Matt Salmon, introduced the legislation in the US Congress

### **World Tuberculosis Day observed on 24 March**

World Tuberculosis Day (WTD) 2016 was globally observed with the theme Unite to End TB.

- The Goal 3 of the Agenda aspires to ensure health and well-being for all, including a bold commitment to end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases by 2030.

### **22nd March: World Water Day**

United Nations World Water Day is an international observance held every March 22 that provides an opportunity to learn more about water related issues and take action on a current or future challenge to make a difference.

- This year's theme of World Water Day is 'Water and Jobs'.
- The day first marked in 1992 at United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. It aims to raise awareness about water related issues.

### **EU strikes deal with Turkey to return migrants**

The European Union (EU) on Friday finalised a deal with Turkey, wherein all migrants arriving in Greece will be sent back to Turkey starting Sunday.

- In return, Turkey's EU membership talks will be reopened and the €3-billion migrant fund to Turkey will be disbursed quickly. The EU will also resettle up to 72,000 Syrian migrants in Turkey to the EU

### **India to set up Rabindranath Tagore Memorial in Sri Lanka**

As part of its development partnership with Sri Lanka in the field of higher education, India will set up a Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium in

the University of Ruhuna at Matara in South Sri Lanka.

- The award to build the auditorium was handed over to a local company in Colombo today in presence of High Commissioner of India Mr. Y.K. Sinha, State Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka Mr. D.G. Hapuarachchi and Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna Prof. Gamini Senanayake.

#### **Mauritania ratified 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention**

Mauritania on 14 March 2016 became the second African country to ratify the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention 1930.

- Prior to Mauritania, Niger (Africa), Norway (Europe) and the United Kingdom (Europe) ratified the protocol.
- The protocol requires States to take effective measures for prevention of forced labour, protection of victims and ensuring their access to justice and compensation.
- The ILO estimates that about 21 million men, women, and children are in forced labour – trafficked, held in debt bondage, or working under slave-like conditions.

#### **UN suspended Maria Sharapova as goodwill ambassador after doping allegations**

The United Nations formally suspended relationship with Russian Tennis great Maria Sharapova as a goodwill ambassador after she failed a drug test at the Australian Open.

- Sharapova tested positive for meldonium at the Australian Open and has been

provisionally suspended from tennis pending an independent panel ruling on the case.

- She had started the role with the UN Development Programme in 2007, with a special focus on helping with the recovery efforts after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

#### **World Consumer Rights Day observed**

Every year World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is being observed on 15 March for celebration and solidarity within the international consumer movement.

- WCRD is observed on 15 March to commemorate the historic address given by the then US President John F Kennedy to the US congress in 1962.
- "Antibiotics off the menu" is the theme of 2016, World Consumer Rights Day

#### **Bangladesh's bank governor resigns on \$81 million cyber theft**

In Bangladesh, the Reserve Bank Governor Atiur Rahman has resigned following a \$ 80 million cyber theft from the Bank's Reserve Fund Account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

- Unknown hackers breached the computer systems of Bangladesh Bank on Feb 4 and wire-transferred around \$ 80 million from the Bank's Reserve Fund with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to accounts of several casinos in Philippines and Sri Lanka. Experts say this is the biggest known bank theft in modern times.

### **Mother Teresa to be made a saint on Sept 4**

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, a nun who dedicated her life to helping the poor, will be made a saint of the Roman Catholic Church at a ceremony on Sept. 4, Pope Francis announced today.

- Last December, he cleared the way for sainthood for the Nobel peace laureate, who died in 1997 at the age of 87 and was known as “saint of the gutters”.

### **ExoMars 2016 spacecraft successfully launched by Europe & Russia**

An unmanned spacecraft named ExoMars 2016 was successfully launched jointly Europe and Russia to search for biosignatures on Mars (or Martian life) in past or present.

- The spacecraft was launched on a Proton-M rocket operated by Russia’s Roscosmos from Baikonur, Kazakhstan.

### **Htin Kyaw elected as first civilian President of Myanmar**

Myanmar’s Parliament elected Htin Kyaw (69) as the first civilian (non-military) President of the country after 53 years of military rule.

- He will replace Thein Sein as President who will step down at the end of March 2016 i.e. after end of five years of army-backed rule.

### **China plans to land probe on Mars in 2021**

China plans to land a probe on Mars in 2021 that coincide with the 100th anniversary of founding of

the ruling communist Party of china and a decade after its first failed mission in 2011.

- China is likely to initiate a Mars probe in 2020, after many months flying the probe to land in the Mars

### **South Korea, US began largest ever military exercises**

The US and South Korean troops on 7 March 2016 began their largest ever military exercises off the coast of the Korean peninsula.

- The 8-week long drill will involve about 300000 South Korean troops and 15000 US personnel.
- Meanwhile, North Korea has warned South Korea and US of indiscriminate and pre-emptive nuclear strikes if the two allies go further with the drills. The threat from Pyongyang follows its leader Kim Jong-Un's order last week asking country's nuclear arsenal to be placed on standby for use at any moment against the South.

### **International Women's Day observed with campaign theme "Pledge For Parity"**

8 March: International Women's Day (IWD), International Women's Day was observed across the world on 8 March 2016.

- This year's theme for the Day is “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality”. The campaign theme for the day is ‘Pledge For Parity’.

### **Women’s wages remain unchanged in 20 years: ILO Report**

Women have actively involved themselves in various works across the world yet the gender inequality in terms of income and work quality still remains unchanged in the past 20 years. This was revealed in the International Labour Organization's Report.

#### **Climate change could kill 500,000 adults by 2050**

With the rise in global emissions the Global Warming could be aggravated. In turn the climate changes can affect the people worldwide. A recent study shows that it is likely to cause 500,000 deaths by 2050.

- The latest computer modeling study reveals that climate change would badly affect China and India
- The study released by The Lancet predicts 1.36 lakh death in India and 2.48 lakh death in China owing to the Climate change and its effects.

#### **57 Countries to participate in first Maritime Summit**

The first Maritime summit to be held at India is going to witness the participation of 57 countries from the world.

- The maiden Maritime summit is going to be organized in Mumbai, Maharashtra

#### **UNICEF & UNFPA launch Acceleration Programme to end Child Marriage**

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) jointly launched the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage.

#### **France operation 'Sangaris' comes to an end in CAR**

France will end its three year long military operation 'Sangaris' in Central African Republic which came into force in 2013 following a communal violence.

- The France government proposed to withdraw its troops citing the formation of the new government under Faustin-Archange Touadera and restoration of peace
- The communal violence broke out in CAR when Muslim rebels ousted the Christian president Francois from power and following this French troops started the operation 'Sangaris' in 2013

#### **India 3rd in worldwide dope violation in new WADA report**

India has become No. 3rd in Anti-Doping Rule Violation in 2014 – WADA reported

- Russia ranked first followed by Italy
- 96 Anti-Doping Rule violation cases registered by India.

#### **India becomes fourth largest spender on defence**

India has become the world's fourth largest spender on defence, following a 13.1% increase in its 2016-17 defence budget, according to US research firm IHS Inc.

- India's rise in the rankings from sixth position last year is a result of an increase in expenditure to \$50.7 billion, combined with cuts to military spending by Russia and

Saudi Arabia, where low oil prices have put considerable strain on their finances.

### **World Intellectual Property Day 2016 observed globally**

The World Intellectual Property Day 2016 was on 26 April 2016 observed across the world with the theme Digital Creativity - Culture Re imagined.

- On this day, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) works together with various government agencies, non-government organizations, community groups and individuals to hold different events and activities to promote World Intellectual Property Day.
- The day is celebrated to spread awareness about the role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity.

### **4th Nuclear Security Summit begins in Washington**

The fourth edition of Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) began in Washington, United States to discuss a gamut of issues pertaining to nuclear security.

- In this edition of summit, heads of about 53 countries and representatives of five international organisations including the UNO, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), European Union (EU), Interpol are taking part.
- India is being represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the two-day summit.

### **World Book and Copyright Day – April 23**

World Book and Copyright Day (also known as International Day of the Book or World Book Day) is observed on April 23 of every year by UNESCO in order to pay a world-wide tribute to books and authors on this date, encouraging everyone, and in particular young people.

- World Book Capital 2016: Wroclaw, Poland
- World Book Capital 2017: Conakry, Republic of Guinea.

### **World Autism Awareness Day – April 2 2016**

World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day on the 2nd of April every year. World Autism Day is also one of only four official health-specific UN Days.

- This is the 8th annual World Autism Awareness day encouraging by the Member of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about children with autism throughout the world.

### **El Salvador declares drought emergency for first time ever**

The Central American country of El Salvador has declared a water shortage emergency

- It was the first drought emergency in its history.
- Residents near by the capital city of San Salvador have protested because of water shortages in recent weeks
- River and water reserve levels have reached a critical state.

### **New York Mayor declares April 14 as Bindeshwar Pathak Day**

New York City declared this year's April 14 as 'Bindeshwar Pathak Day' in recognition of the contributions made by the Indian social activist and 'Sulabh International' founder for improving the lives of people engaged in the "most dehumanising situation".

- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio honoured Pathak for his outstanding work to improve health and hygiene and "moving the world forward".

#### **World Hemophilia Day – April 17**

World Hemophilia Day is an international observance held annually on April 17 by the World Federation of Hemophilia. It is an awareness day for Hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.

- The day was first established in 1989.
- Theme 2016: "Treatment for All The Vision of All"

#### **World Heritage Day: 18th April, 2016**

World Heritage Day was observed all over the world on 18 April.

- The day is observed with an aim to create awareness among the people towards conserve and protect the valuable assets and cultural heritage across the world.
- The 2016 theme for the ICOMOS International Day on Monuments and Sites celebrated on 18 April is: The Heritage of Sport.

#### **Bronze bust of Aryabhata unveiled at UNESCO Headquarters**

A bronze bust of ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer Aryabhata has been unveiled at the

UNESCO by the HRD Minister Smriti Irani in an international conference on the zero in Paris, France.

- The bust has been sculpted by renowned Indian sculptor Ram Sutar who was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian awards for his contribution to the world of art.

#### **Dubai to build tower taller than Burj Khalifa**

Dubai plans to build a tower that will stand higher than its Burj Khalifa, currently the world's tallest skyscraper, will be built by property developer Emaar. The total cost will be USD 1 billion.

- The Tower in Dubai Creek Harbour, a 6-square-kilometer master development, will be a notch higher than 828-metre Burj Khalifa.

#### **Saudi Arabia and Egypt To Build Bridge Across Red Sea**

Saudi Arabia's King Salman has announced an agreement with Egyptian President Abdul-Fattah al-Sisi to build a bridge over the Red Sea connecting the two countries.

- The announcement made on the second day of visit of Saudi Arabia's King to Cairo. The planned bridge would help in boosting commerce and trade between the two allied countries.

#### **Hashim Thaci Sworn In As New President Of Kosovo**

Hashim Thaci, Foreign Minister of Kosovo has been sworn in as the President of Kosovo by the

members of Parliament of the country in the 3rd round.

- Mr. Thaci succeeded Atifete Jahjaga in the voting held in Pristina.
- With this, he becomes fourth President of Kosovo after the European country had unilaterally declared independence from Serbia in 2008.

#### **Maharaja Ranjit Singh Statue to be ensconced in France.**

The statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh will be installed in France's Saint-Tropez town, the birth place of Army General Jean-Francois Allard.

- Henri Prevosat-Allard, Deputy Mayor and in-charge of tourism of Saint-Tropez met Punjab Tourism Minister Sohan Singh Thandal to invite him for the ceremony which will be held in the month of September.

#### **World Malaria Day: 25 April**

World Malaria Day is an international observance commemorated every year on 25 April and recognizes global efforts to control malaria.

- It was firstly observed in 2008 by UNICEF to give public attention about the disease which causes millions of deaths every year.

#### **India Signed Paris climate pact**

India, along with 170 other countries has signed historic Paris climate pact in United Nation.

- Union Environment and Forestry minister Prakash Javarekar signed the pact in a high level conference at United Nation.
- UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon chaired the Conference which include Ministers, diplomats, industrialists and artists.

#### **World's largest indoor amusement park to open on 15 August**

World's largest indoor amusement park 'IMG world of adventure' will be opened on 15 August in Dubai. 30,000 people are expected to visit daily.

- CEO, Mr Lennard Otto said that 96 percent of the park is ready and it has an area of 15 lac sq. feet, which is equal to 28 Football grounds.

#### **Sangay re-elected PM of Tibetan 'govt-in-exile'**

National Democratic Party candidate Lobsang Sangay has been re-elected prime minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile in voting.

- Sangay crushed his only rival Penpa Tsering, receiving about 58 percent of the 58,740 votes casted in the prime minister's runoff.
- The result in the northern Indian town of Dharmasala, the headquarters of the government-in-exile.

#### **Ukraine Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk resigns**

The Ukrainian Prime Minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk announced his resignation two months after he survived a no-confidence vote in parliament.

- Arseniy Yatsenyuk, 15<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Ukraine is a lawyer and economist.
- Yatsenyuk served in the government of Ukraine as Minister of Economy from 2005 to 2006.
- He was also served as Foreign Minister of Ukraine in 2007 and Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) from 2007 to 2008

- According to Mr. Parrikar, the growing interaction between armed forces of the two countries is a “significant aspect of bilateral relationship”. India has more joint exercises with the US than any other country in the world.
- The details of the logistic support will be decided by the two governments.

#### **Pakistan, China launch joint air force training exercise Shaheen 5**

China’s air force to launch joint training exercises with Pakistan, the fifth such edition between the two countries. Shaheen-5 will take place from April 9 to 30 this year.

- This joint exercise was started in 2011 between both the countries.

#### **Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Temir Sariyev resigns**

Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Temir Sariyev resigned after a parliamentary commission accused his cabinet of corruption.

- A commission set up by the ex-Soviet republic’s parliament revealed that the government had broken the law, accusing it of having rigged a \$100 million road construction tender to a Chinese firm that lacked the required license.

#### **India, US ‘agree in principle’ on sharing military logistics**

India and the United States have agreed in principle to share military logistics. Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar announced this agreement at a joint press conference with US Defense secretary Ashton Carter.

#### **Indo German Agreement on Namami Gange Signed**

An agreement has been signed for Ganga Rejuvenation under the Namami Gange Programme in New Delhi, between the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and German International Cooperation.

- The agreement was signed in the presence of the German Ambassador to India, Martin Ney and Secretary, and Shashi Shekhar, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

#### **Cabinet nod for MoU with UAE to combat Human Trafficking**

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a MoU between India and UAE on preventing all forms of human trafficking, especially women and children.

- The MoU is expected to be signed very soon after approval. Anti-trafficking Cells and Task Forces will work on both sides to prevent human trafficking.
- It will strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries and increase the bilateral cooperation on the issues of prevention, rescue, recovery and repatriation related to human trafficking

### **Dharmendra Pradhan Visit of to Bangladesh**

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited Bangladesh. During his visit he discussed all bilateral issues relating to hydrocarbon sector between the two countries.

- New Delhi based Indian Oil Corporation has inked an MoU with Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation to scrutinize the possibility of jointly working on setting up a LPG (Liquefied petroleum gas) import terminal at Chittagong port and other downstream infrastructure in that country.
- The minister's discussions with his counterpart authorities focused on laying a Chittagong-Tripura pipeline.
- Bangladesh is likewise signing up Indian engineering consultancy firm Engineers India Ltd as consultants for extension of the Eastern Refinery.

### **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley visit to US**

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on a 10-day itinerary to the US to attend the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, a UN session on the drugs problem, and an interaction with American investors.

- He was accompanied by Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan and Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian and some Indian Delegations.
- FM Arun Jaitley will address World Bank in Washington
- Sixth Annual Ministerial Meeting of India-US Economic and Financial Partnership (EFP)

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

### **India ranked 133 in World Press Freedom Index**

India ranks abysmally low at 133 among 180 countries, in the latest annual World Press Freedom Index which says Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems "indifferent" to the threats posed to journalists.

- The 2016 'World Press Freedom Index' released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), is led by Finland, which retained its top spot for the sixth consecutive year, followed by the Netherlands and Norway.

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

Europe has become the world's first region to eliminate malaria the zone recorded with zero cases reported last year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

- The number of cases reported dropped to zero in 2015 from 90,712 in 1995.

### **North Korea to block Facebook, Twitter, other websites**

North Korea has officially announced it is blocking Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and South Korean websites in a move underscoring its concern with the spread of online information.

- The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications announcement was posted this week at the country's main mobile service provider, Koryolink, and other places serving Internet users.
- Very few North Koreans have internet access. Typically they can only see a sealed-off, government-sanctioned intranet. But

foreigners in the country had previously been able to surf the web freely.

### **Vietnam Police Chief Tran Dai Quang sworn in as President**

Vietnam's Public Security Minister and Police Chief Tran Dai Quang has been sworn in as the communist country's president. Quang from Communist Party of Vietnam.

- The Police Chief received 436 votes from 465 assembly members who cast their votes accounted 5% of a rubber-stamp vote for Mr Quang that made him victory in parliament.
- Quang is the first police general to fill the post, He succeeds Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung withdrew his candidacy.

### **Iceland PM steps aside after protests over Panama Papers revelations**

Iceland's embattled Prime Minister, Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson, has become the first major casualty of the Panama Papers, stepping aside from his office amid mounting public outrage that his family had sheltered money offshore

- The leaked documents from the Mossack Fonseca law firm in Panama reveal Gunnlaugsson and his wife, Anna Sigurlaug Pálsdóttir, bought a British Virgin Islands-based offshore company, WintrisInc, in December 2007 to invest her share of the very substantial proceeds from the sale of her father's business, Iceland's only Toyota importer.

### **34 countries don't have enough food for their people due to conflicts: UN**

UN report says 34 countries, nearly 80 percent of them in Africa, don't have enough food for their people because of conflicts, drought and flooding.

### **Pak launches probe into MQM's alleged ties with RAW**

Pakistan Government has initiated probe into Karachi-based Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) party's Alleged ties with New Delhi based Research Analysis Wing (RAW) to destabilise the country.

### **India –Indonesia joint Military exercise- Garuda Shakti IV**

India and Indonesia are set to begin their Joint Military Exercise Garuda Shakti IV from March 10-23 in Indonesia.

- The Joint Military Exercise between India and Indonesia Garuda Shakti was started in 2012 in India
- It is conducted on a reciprocal basis with first edition in India ,second edition in Indonesia and so on.

### **Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and Bahrain on Cooperation for Prevention of Human Trafficking**

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bahrain on cooperation for prevention of human trafficking especially trafficking in women and children,,rescue, recovery, repatriation and re-integration of victims of trafficking has been approved by the Union Government.

### **India, US launch Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship**

The United States-India Educational Foundation formally launched U.S.-India Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship on behalf of both the governments.

- The initiative will advance bilateral cooperation on climate change, which will enable Indian research scholars to work with American institutions in the field.

#### **EIU Ranked Mumbai and Bangalore among Cheapest cities to live**

Mumbai and Bangalore are among the cheapest cities in the world, according to a top London forecast group (EIU). Lusaka is the cheapest city to live in the world.

- London was sixth and New York is seventh. Though Singapore was the most expensive, the cost of living there was 10 per cent cheaper when compared to New York than was the case in the EIU survey a year ago.

#### **Foreign Minister of Mexico on two day visit to India**

The Foreign Minister of the Government of Mexico, H.E. Ms Claudia Ruiz Massieu Salinas, visited India on two day visit to India (11-12 March) and held bilateral meeting with, External Affairs Minister of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

- During her visit the Mexican Foreign Minister also interacted with the private sector in a business event organized with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and delivered a lecture in the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) on the subject

‘Mexico in the international context and its relations with India’.

- In the course of the official visit the yembark on a complete review of the entire range of bilateral relations comprising political, commercial & trade, financial, technical and other areas to further increase and strengthen cooperation.

#### **Modi on TIME’s most influential people on Internet for second year**

Time Magazine has named Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi among the 2016 edition list of 30 most influential people on the internet. He was placed at 15th position.

- The list includes US presidential hopeful Donald Trump, reality TV star Kim Kardashian and her husband Kayne West, author J K Rowling, former Olympic athlete Caitlyn Jenner and soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo.

#### **India became second biggest investor in London**

According to the London & Partners, the official promotional company for London, India has emerged as the second biggest investor in London after the US.

- The company revealed that there has been a 117 per cent increase in Indian companies across all business sectors investing in London since 2005.

#### **Arab League declares Lebanese movement Hezbollah a terrorist group**

The Arab League has declared Lebanese movement Hezbollah a terrorist group the decision came during an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting at the organisation's headquarters in Egypt's capital Cairo.

- Nearly all 22 Arab League members supported the decision, apart from Lebanon and Iraq which expressed reservations in the foreign ministers meeting.
- The Revolutionary Guards created Hezbollah in the 1980s. Funded by Iran, it is the only side not to have put down weapons after Lebanon's civil war from 1975 to 1990.

#### **4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves inaugurated at Lima**

4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Biosphere Reserves was inaugurated on 14 March 2016 at Lima in Peru. The event will be held from 14 March to 17 March 2016 to address different issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

- It is a world meeting of the Committees of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB) and experts directly involved in the practical implementation of biosphere reserves including representatives of governments, biosphere reserves, local communities, UN agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and organizations and institutions from all over the world working with the MAB Programme.

#### **Hashim Thaci elected as President of Kosovo**

Foreign Minister Hashim Thaci has been elected as president of Kosovo by the Members of Parliament amid the protests. He succeeded Atifete Jahjaga as head of state after winning the required simple majority in voting held in Pristina.

#### **Peru declared emergency after oil spill Hits Rivers**

Peru government has declared state emergency after a major oil pipeline burst affecting two rivers in the country's northeast region.

#### **EU releases 252 million euros in aid for Palestinians**

To support the Palestinian Authority's health and education programmes and to offer services to their refugees in the middle east, EU has released 252 mn Euros (\$274 millions).

#### **London-the most expensive city to live**

A recent UK study reveals that London is the most expensive city to live in overtaking Hong Kong .

- The study conducted by real estate firm Savills survey revealed that the most expensive city to live and work in is London. Only Indian city in top 20 is Mumbai (17).

#### **World Wildlife Day – March 3**

World Wildlife Day celebrated every year on 3<sup>rd</sup> March is celebrated with the aim of preserve the rich flora and fauna of our World and to protect the endangered species from extinction.

- 2016 theme is "The future of wildlife is in our hands"

#### **World's Costliest Train Station Opened In New York At 9/11 Site**

The World's most expensive train station in the world opens at the World Trade Center site in New York, United States Of America. The site World Trade Center destroyed 14 years ago in the 9/11 attacks.

- While two of its MLAs joined the ruling party last year, the third one Venkateswarlu and Khammam MP P. Srinivas Reddy quit the party and joined the ruling TRS a few days ago.

### **India's single emergency number '112' to be active from Jan 1**

The single emergency number '112' will be functioning throughout India from January 1, 2017

- Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has approved the provision of a single number for various emergency services.
- It is similar to '911' all-in one emergency service being used in the US.
- The service will also be accessible even through those SIMs and landlines whose outgoing call facility has been temporarily suspended.

### **National**

### **Rajasthan to be 1st state to issue ads to appoint V-Cs**

Rajasthan becomes India's first state to issue newspaper advertisements to select vice-chancellors for state universities to at ensure better-qualified candidates apply for the job and greater transparency in the process.

- The move will replace the existing convention riddled with delays and allegations of political favouritism of direct appointment of V-Cs.
- Applicants must mention general personal information, educational qualification, subject of expertise, details of work at administrative posts and academic publications.

### **YSR Congress Party in Telangana assembly merges with TRS**

Telangana Legislature Speaker Madhusudhan Chary has officially announced the merger of all three Legislators of YSR Congress party with the ruling Telangana Rastra Samithi (TRS).

### **Gujarat Government accords minority status to Jain community**

Gujarat government announced a government resolution (GR) granting minority status to the Jain community.

- The grant will benefit the poor among the Jain community as they can avail of various scholarships, government welfare schemes as per Article 30 of Indian Constitution.

### **Environment Minister launches Web-Based Application on Integrated Waste Management System**

Union Government has launched a web-based application on Integrated Waste Management System (IWMS) for better management of waste

also to provide an opportunity to all the industries dealing in hazardous waste to apply online.

- It can track the movement of hazardous waste and will also help in ensuring its proper management.
- There are 43000 industries dealing in hazardous waste, of which about 30000 industries have been mapped through this application.
- The web-based application intends to enhance transparency in the working of the Ministry and other Centre/State level regulatory bodies.
- The move also to reduce the time taken for processing applications, seeking various types of permissions under the recently notified waste management regulations.

#### **Uma Bharti Launches Rural Sanitation Initiatives for Ganga Rejuvenation in Jharkhand**

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti launched nine projects for rural sanitation initiatives under Namami Gange Programme for conservation of river Ganga in Sahibganj, Jharkhand.

- Speaking on the occasion the Minister said the entire 83 Km. stretch of Ganga in Jharkhand will be covered under this programme. She said the project will focus on three significant interventions;
- Promotion of safe, individual hygiene practices to ensure open defecation free status of all 78 villages along the river Ganga, Promotion of cost-effective, appropriate local, low cost, easy to manage technologies using local resources to ensure improved access,

- Sustained use and maintenance of infrastructure created for effective management of solid and liquid waste and strengthening of local institutions including panchayats.
- Village level sanitation committees and self-help groups to effectively manage, enhance and maintain facilities established for improved sanitation in the villages and an integrated and a holistic livelihood approach.

#### **Mahesh Sharma Releases Commemorative Coin on Maharana Pratap**

Culture and Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma has released a Commemorative coin of Rs. 100/- and a Circulation coin of Rs. 10/- in New Delhi as a part of 475th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Maharana Pratap.

- The Ministry has been celebrating the birth anniversary during 2015-16 in association with the Rajasthan. A Conference and Special Lecture on Maharana Pratap was organized by Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) in the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur earlier this year. iv. Union government and the Rajasthan Government have decided to create a multi-purpose indoor stadium at Khel Gaon, Udaipur in his memory and also agreed to give a sum of Rs. 9.50 crore for this.

#### **Parliament approved anti-hijacking bill providing for death penalty**

The parliament approved the Anti-Hijacking Bill that award death penalty to the criminals in case of death of hostages or security personnel

- Initially Life imprisonment or confiscation of Movable and immovable property as punishment to the Accused.
- Central government award powers of investigation, arrest and prosecution on any officer of the central government or the National Investigation Agency
- ii. Offenders cannot be released on bail or bond unless among other things
- iii. In case the investigation is carried out by the National Investigation Agency, the designated court shall be a court set up under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008

#### Tollywood superstar Mahesh Babu adopts AP village

Telugu film actor Mahesh Babu has adopted a village in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district village Burripalem under the Smart Village-Smart Ward programme. The actor also launched several development works worth about Rs 2.14 crore.

- The financial grant of Rs 2.14 crore used for the construction of an Anganwadi building, a community hall, additional classrooms in the local school, laying of water pipelines, development of roads and drains in the village.

#### Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance JioInfocomm launches digital wallet

Mumbai based Reliance Jio has launched digital wallet service called Jio Money for common people. With this users can do mobile and DTH recharges, send/receive money, make bill payments, pay insurance and other premiums.

#### Indian Navy launches underwater vigilance system in Visakhapatnam & decommissions fighter planes Sea Harriers

The Indian Navy has launched the state-of-the-art harbor defence systems viz., integrated underwater harbor defence and surveillance system and marine warfare data centre, which would enhance the Navy's surveillance capability and response to security threats at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

- Indian navy has decommissioned its fleet of Sea Harriers. These planes will be replaced by new generation MIG-29 K fighters.

#### National Technology Day

National Technology Day is being observed across India on May 11 to glorify the importance of science in day-to-day life and motivate students to adopt science as a career option.

- Theme: 'Technology enablers of Startup India'

#### NDA framed NITI Aayog to replace 5-year plans with 15 year vision document

NDA Government led by Prime Minister decided to liberate of the Nehruvian five year plans and replace the plans with 15 year vision credentials. Focus is Country's social goal & Sustainable development agenda

- The current **12th Five-Year Plan** will be concluded in the current financial year, 2016-17
- The first **15-year vision** document will start from 2017-18, along with a seven-year National Development Agenda.

### India's first solar train set for trial run in Jodhpur

Indian Railways is all set to conduct trials of its **first solar panel-powered train** which will have its lights & fans run on solar energy in **Jodhpur**.

- A train using solar power can reduce diesel consumption by up to 90,000 litres per year and also bring **down carbon dioxide emissions by over 200 tonnes**.

### Four out of top 5 world's most polluted cities in

#### India, Delhi ranks 11th

WHO reported that India is home to four of the five cities in the world with worst air pollution. 4 most polluted cities out of top 5 – Gwalior, Allahabad, Patna, Raipur

- Report stated that more than 7 million premature deaths occur every year due to air pollution, 3 million of them due to outdoor air quality.
- The dirtiest air was recorded at Zabol in Iran.
- Delhi ranks 11th in the world.

### World's largest cargo plane AN-225 Mriya lands in

#### Hyderabad

The world's largest cargo carrier aircraft **Antonov An-225 Mriya** landed at the **Rajiv Gandhi International airport** in Hyderabad in en route to Australia from Europe.

- The landing is first in India as it is making a technical halt at Hyderabad it is arrived from Turkmanbashi in Central Asia and will proceed to Jakarta and is destined for Perth.

### Cabinet approves country's first Intellectual

#### Property Rights (IPR) policy

Union Cabinet has approved the **National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy** with a

view to promoting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

- It aims to create awareness about economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among iprall sections of society.

### India Post goes high-tech, geo-tags post offices on mobile app called BHUVAN

With the support of the Department of Space, India Post has geo-tagged over 1.5 lakh post offices on the indigenous Geo-Portal called **BHUVAN**

- It's an Initiative to make use of Department of Space in different sectors

### India third in attractiveness index of renewable energy: EY Report

India ranks at **third position** after the United States and China in the category of Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index reported by EY.

- India achieved the position due to strong focus of the Government stress on Renewable Energy with the implementation of Renewable energy projects.
- Ranked on the basis of Size and Scale of renewable activity

### J P Nadda Lays Foundation Stone For 3 Medical

#### Colleges In Jammu And Kashmir

Health and Family Welfare Minister **JP Nadda** laid the foundation stones of **three** medical colleges, to be set up at a cost of around Rs 189 crore each, in Jammu and Kashmir.

- These colleges will be built at **Rajouri** in Jammu, **Anantnag** in south Kashmir and **Baramulla** in the north.
- These Medical Colleges will be attached to district hospitals of these three districts.

Each medical college is to have **intake capacity of 100 for MBBS course.**

### **15 days Swachh Office drive launched across the country**

Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu launched a 15-day special 'Swachh Office Drive' for ensuring cleanliness at all Government offices across the country as an intensive thematic campaign under Swachh Bharat Mission.

- The Minister also planted a Neem sapling at Nirman Bhawan and inspected the building for about an hour for an on the spot assessment of sanitation.
- The Ministry's suggestion include ensuring water supply at 45 litres per head per day, one toilet for every 25 persons, urinals to be provided based on employee strength, removal of stains every week, checking electrical fittings twice a week, acid cleaning and scrubbing of toilets daily, schedule of inspections etc.

### **Section 144 imposed in Chandigarh**

Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1973 had been deployed in Chandigarh as a result protesters will not be allowed to enter into the city.

- The vicinity around the residences of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal in Sector 2 was sealed with barricades.
- This protest by the AAP party is against the alleged Rs 12,000-crore missing food grain scam in Punjab, rampant corruption and failure of the Punjab government to curb the drugs racket.

### **Military tourism initiative 'Veer Yatra' launched in Pune**

Maharashtra Ex-servicemen's Corporation has

launched the Veer Yatra, an initiative by the Military body that aims to spice up a vacation with on-locale narratives of real-life dare-devilry and heroism.

- This Yatra is for civilians provides a peek into the lives of the country's defence forces, also focusing on areas of historic importance.
- It also targets to provide employment to 1,000 ex-servicemen and war widows over the next year.

### **National Conference on 'Gaushalas' Inaugurated**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries organized a day-long national conference on Gaushalas-cowsheds in New Delhi.

- Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar underlined that villages were traditionally planned in such a manner that there were facilities for human beings and fodder for animals.
- The Ministry is mulling for draft of a policy is being prepared, which will include a provision to provide protein-rich fodder free of cost to the people living in villages adjoining the jungles.
- According to Agriculture Ministry there are 19 crore livestock in the country, which is about 14% of the world's livestock and out of this, 15 crore are indigenous livestock.

### **India successfully test fires its indigenously developed Prithvi-II missile**

India has successfully blasted off its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile as part of a user trial by the army from a launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha.

- The Missile have a strike range of 350 km also capable of carrying 500 kg to 1,000 kg of warheads and is thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines also nine-metre-tall. It uses advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring trajectory to hit its target.
- DRDO developed Prithvi is India's first indigenously-built ballistic missile.

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

World's largest single rooftop stretch of 42 acre solar power plant of 11.5 Mw capacity was installed in India

- It was inaugurated by New & Renewable Energy Resources Minister of Punjab Bikram Singh Majithia at Beas in Punjab.
- Mandalay Bay Resort Convention Centre, Las Vegas in the United States is next biggest solar photovoltaic power station

#### **Trial run of Delhi Metro's new 'driver-less' train begins**

The country's first driverless-metro train was tested on track in the capital, equipped to run on Unattended Train Operations mode.

- The train was flagged off by Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at new Mukundpur depot.
- The trial run started at the Mukundpur depot and ended at Majalis Park station on the Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar corridor.

#### **President of India inaugurated IOC in Rashtrapati Bhavan**

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated an Intelligent Operations Centre and launched a Mobile App 'Monitor' for transformation of President's Estate into a smart township at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

- This facilities will help the residents of the Estate become more socially responsible, aware and collaborative.
- The solution designed by IBM which helps collect and make sense of the rich data streaming in from several sources within the Estate to provide intelligent insights.
- This application is a collaboration tool of the Intelligent Operation Center. This will help residents and Energy, Water, Horticulture, Waste and Security supervisors to collaborate in a smarter way for their observations

#### **Himachal CM launches PEHAL programme**

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh has introduced PEHAL programme in Shimla district.

- Shimla has become the 1st district in the state to launch such different programme to work as a team with the people.
- The PEHAL will focus on five areas namely- Primary Education, Forest Rights, Health and Sanitation, Campaign against drugs and skill development and Women Empowerment.

#### **Hindustan Motors CEO resigns**

The beleaguered Hindustan Motors chief executive officer Ajay Kumar Bansal has resigned.

- The C.K. Birla group company did not cite any reason for Bansal's resignation.
- The crisis-ridden auto maker, which produced iconic Ambassador cars, had appointed Bansal as the chief executive with effect from November 2, 2015, for a period of two years.

**J P Nadda launches 'Kayakalp Fortnight' to be observed across the country in Central Government hospitals**

Union Health Minister, J P Nadda launches 'Kayakalp Fortnight' at AIIMS, New Delhi in order to set protocols for hygiene and sanitation at government health facilities.

- 'Kayakalp Fortnight' will be observed throughout the country in various central government hospitals from 20th May to 3rd June, 2016.
- Standards and protocols have been put in place for upkeep of services within and outside the buildings.

**After liquor, Bihar government bans gutka and pan masala**

Bihar government has decided to prohibit the distribution, manufacture, storage, distribution, consumption, transportation, display or the sale of any type of 'gutka' and pan masala for a period of one year with effect from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016.

- The state is empowered under Section 30 (2) (a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

**2016 Women Economic Forum (WEF) hosted by India and organized by All Ladies League**

The ALL Ladies League (ALL) organised the Women Economic Forum (WEF) from May 16-21, 2016 in New Delhi, India

- Theme: "Women: Uplifting and Uniting the World"
- Participants: 1500 women from 75 countries
- Goal: Energize women's entrepreneurship and leadership

**LED Bulb Ujala Yojana inaugurated in Bhopal**

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal jointly inaugurated Urja Daksh LED Bulb UjalaYojana in Bhopal.

- Under this scheme over 3 crore LED bulbs would be distributed all over the State at Rs 85 per bulb.

**Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 comes into force after 8 yearlong efforts**

Real Estate Act comes into force with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May after 8 yearlong efforts to make operational Rules, Setting up regulatory authorities and Appellate tribunals.

- The Act was initiated during National Conference of Housing Ministers of States and Union Territories in January 2009.

**ADMM plus Exercise on Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism at Brunei and Singapore**

In a bid to India's Act East Policy The Naval Ship (INS) Airavat of India arrived at Brunei and will take part in the ADMM Plus (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus) Exercise on Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism from 01 to 09 May 16.

- ADMM plus Ex MS & CT is a multinational exercise of ADMM Plus countries group.

This edition will commence at Brunei and conclude at Singapore.

- During the course of the exercise the Indian Navy would engage with participating navies from various ASEAN and other countries through professional interactions in harbour and complex operations at sea.

#### **PM Modi launches country's 1st solar-powered e-boats in Varanasi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the country's first solar powered e-boats at the Assi Ghat in the river Ganga, Varanasi.

- The initiative is aimed at reducing pollution and keeping the Ganga river clean.
- With the help of this e-boats, the boatmen will be able to save rs. 500 a day without spending on diesel.

#### **Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam & Odia now classical languages of India**

All four Southern languages - Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia are now the classical languages of India.

- Earlier, Sanskrit alone had this status. Demands have come to grant the classical status to Marathi as well.
- Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma gave this information in the Lok Sabha.
- He elaborated that any language to have a classical status must have high antiquity going back to 1500 to 2000 years.

#### **SC appointed RM Lodha-panel to reform Medical Council of India**

Supreme Court appointed a three-member panel headed by RM Lodha to oversee how the regulator

of medical profession and education in India function

- The five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice AR Dave ordered to reform the Medical Council of India.
- MCI's policy decisions will require approval of the oversight committee.
- The committee has the panel has former CAG Vinod Rai and Dr SK Sareen. Initially the panel will function for a year.

#### **Bengal's Enclave-dwellers to Vote for the First Time**

West Bengal's Cooch Behar district, came up for discussion in May 2016. The district, located in the lower area of the eastern Himalayas, is in the news when 51 enclave were given the right to vote for the first time since independence in 1947.

- On May 5, 2016, 9000 people who live in these enclaves will cast their votes.
- 51 districts of Cooch Behar, till July 31 2015, was known as No Man's Land. Earlier neither India nor Bangladesh had the right. As a result, the citizens of the area were not receiving the full rights of a single country.
- On July 31, 2015, Land Boundary Agreement 1974 formally applied on the region to become part of the country. That day, 162 enclaves between India and Bangladesh were transferred.

#### **Vijay Mallya Spared Being Expelled As MP, Resignation Accepted**

Vijay Mallya, who has refused to return from the UK to face banks over unpaid loans, has been allowed to resign from Parliament.

- Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Hamid Ansari, has accepted Mr. Mallya's resignation sent, Parliament was informed.
- Earlier, the Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha had recommended that the fugitive tycoon should be expelled with immediate effect, rather than being allowed to quit.

#### **Piyush Goyal to unveil portal on payment to contract workers**

Coal and Power Minister Piyush Goyal will introduce a new portal for Contract Labour Payment Management System.

- He will also felicitate employees for their path-breaking work towards lighting up India in the last two years.
- The Web portal is created for monitoring compliance of labour payment and other benefits to contract workers under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970.

#### **Memorandum of Cooperation to be signed between Ministry of Women & Child Development and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) between Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

- In accordance with the cooperation in Information and Communication Technology enabled Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). It also deals with other technical matter.

#### **DRDO and Ayush join hands to impart yoga training to Defence Wing Staff**

Delhi based DRDO's laboratory Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS) DRDO in collaboration with Department of AYUSH organised a training program on Yoga for the Defence Wing Staff.

- Earlier the DRDO's lab has imparted training to about 8000 Army and Paramilitary personnel deployed at various locations.

#### **Lok Sabha passes Bankruptcy Bill**

The Parliament has passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill, 2016 Bill. Now it will be presented to Rajya Sabha.

- The "Transformational" legislation that will help improve India's ranking in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' index. Currently India is at 130<sup>th</sup> place in such Index.

#### **Army Exercise Chakravayuh-II In Rajasthan**

In a follow up to 'Exercise Shatrujeet' by the Strike Corps (Strike One) in Apr 2016, the pivot formations are holding major military training exercise codenamed "Exercise CHAKRAVYUH-II" in the general area of Pallu – Sardarsahar (Suratgarh) in Rajasthan.

- The exercise conceptualized by the Pivot Corps involves rapid mobilization and execution of plans in sync with Air Force.
- The exercise aims to validate the battle readiness and operational effectiveness of the pivot formation and RAPID division along with all its affiliated components.

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Krishi Unnati Mela in New Delhi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate three-day 'Krishi Unnati Mela' providing information on new farm schemes and technologies that will help farmers double their incomes within the next few years.

- National fair, from March 19-21, will have separate workshops on key schemes like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana, e-agriculture marketing, integrated farming system, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojan, soil health and livestock issues.

**Narendra Modi to launch Asia's Biggest telescope Aries in Nainital**

A Major achievement and progress in the field of Astronomy, the Aryabhata Research Institute for Observational Sciences abbreviated as ARIES the first optical telescope is set to be inaugurated by PM Modi in Nainital.

- It was a contract undertaken by the Aries and Belgian company- Advanced Mechanical and Optical Systems in March , 2007

**Kachhabali Becomes 1st Liquor-free village in Rajasthan**

Kachhabali village in Rajsam and district of Rajasthan, has become the first in state to vote in support of closing down the only liquor shop in the village.

- The polling was carried out by the excise department of the state and 94% of the voters demanded that they want a

complete ban on the sale of alcohol in the village.

**Seventh navigational satellite IRNSS 1G launched**

ISRO developed PSLV-C33 is carrying India's seventh navigation satellite IRNSS-1G which is blasted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sri Harikota.

- The satellite was successfully placed in sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. The satellite with a design life time of 12 years has 2 payloads for navigation and ranging.

**Mumbai to get its first Arbitration Centre**

The financial capital of India is likely to get the International Arbitration Centre. This will be the India's first arbitration centre for dealing the financial disputes.

- The financial disputes of India were dealt in the Singapore Arbitration centre, now with the establishment of the International arbitration centre in Mumbai it will be a boon to the Indian companies.

**Telangana government launches M Wallet mobile App**

State Road Transport Authority's brand-new mobile app, M-Wallet, was launched by IT minister KT Rama Rao and transport minister P. Mahender Reddy. Telangana State Transport Authority's launched brand-new mobile app named M-Wallet, which is first of its kind in India.

- It will help motorists to avoid physically carrying documents like driving licence, registration certification and other vehicle

related documents, since digital certificates can be uploaded through the App.

### **Haryana fixes edu qualification for Urban Bodies' polls**

Haryana Assembly passed two Bills mandating minimum educational qualification for contesting urban local bodies polls in the state.

- The minimum educational qualification for a general male candidate will be Class X, while that for women and those belonging to SC category would be Class VIII.

### **"Vidyut PRAVAH" App will Empower Common People to Demand 24x7 Power from The States"**

Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy Minister Piyush Goyal launched a mobile application Vidyut PRAVAH Mobile application, the app will empower common people to demand 24X7 power from the states.

- Vidyut App will provide information belong to to the current demand met, shortages if any, surplus power available and the prices in the Power Exchange.

### **Union Government releases Indian Intellectual Property Panorama**

Union Government has released Indian Intellectual Property (IP) Panorama to increase awareness and build sensitivity towards IP in the SME sector, academia and researchers.

- The IP Panorma is a single window interface for information on IP and guidance on leveraging it for competitive advantage. It can be accessed at <http://ict-ipr.in/index.php/ip-panorama>.

- The Indian IP Panorama is a customized version of IP Panorama Multimedia toolkit developed by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA).

### **Piyush Goyal Launched Schemes for Distribution of Energy Efficient Smart Agriculture Pumps & Fans in Andhra Pradesh**

Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal with Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister Andhra Pradesh to launch two schemes in Vijayawada , Andhra Pradesh, In order to make country more energy efficient.

- National Energy Efficient Agriculture Pumps Programme,
- National Energy Efficient Fan Programme.
- These Schemes will be implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited under Power ministry.

### **Low cost and environment-friendly solar lighting device Solar Jyoti launched by Dr. Harsh Vardhan**

Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the Low Cost and Environment-friendly solar lighting device, Surya Jothi the device has been developed under the aegis of the Science& Technology Department.

- This technology would lead to the saving of fossil fuels to a great extent as 1 unit of energy saved is equivalent to 3 units of energy generated.

### **Cabinet approves new oil import policy**

1Union Cabinet has given its approval to replace the existing policy on crude oil import by Oil PSUs.

These companies are authorised to go forward to their own policies for import of crude oil, consistent with the Central Vigilance Commission guidelines and get them approved by the respective boards.

- This decision will provide a more efficient, flexible and dynamic policy for crude procurement, eventually benefiting the consumers.
- Oil marketing PSUs have been allowed to buy crude on a day-to-day basis against the prevailing cumbersome practice of calling tenders two-months before purchase.

#### **'Green UP – Clean UP' Programme: Five crore trees to be planted in UP**

Akilesh Yadav led Uttar Pradesh government has directed all the district magistrates for plantation of 5 crore trees at 6,500 sites in 24 hours on a date fixed in month of July under the 'Green UP – Clean UP initiative .

- Earlier in November, stategovt created a record by planting 10 lakh plants in a day.

#### **Uma Bharti inaugurates Water Films Festival**

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti inaugurated Water Film Festival at Water Expo-2016 in New Delhi .

- Speaking on the occasion the Minister said that Water Resources are the prime input to the growth and prosperity of a nation and Films can prove to be an effective tool of communication to spread the message of water conservation. Sushri Bharti said such films should be shown in every nook and

corner of the country for the benefit of the masses.

- The Films festival was organized by Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) Limited, a PSU under Ministry of Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation as part of the ongoing India Water Week 2016 celebrations.

#### **Rajasthan Becomes the first state in India to clear land title Bill**

Rajasthan has become the first state to pass land title bill.

- State Assembly passed the Rajasthan Urban Land (Certification of Titles) Bills 2016.
- State government will set up an authority which will be headed by an Indian Administrative Service Officer.
- Now land owners can get their land certificates by giving a negligible fee to state government.

#### **Union HRD Minister Smriti Zubin Irani Launches ISBN Portal**

The Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani has launched a portal for registration and allotment of International Standard Book Number (ISBN) at a function held in New Delhi.

- The portal has been created to facilitate publishers as well as the authors to register for ISBN online.
- ISBN gives an identity to a book and will enhance information about authors and publishers. This interactive automated system would provide fast and efficient services in a stipulated time frame to the Publishers and Authors as well.

### India, Maldives sign six agreements in different sectors

In the delegation-level bilateral talks led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom both sides signed 6 agreements in the fields of defence, tourism, taxation, space research, and conservation of mosques.

- One agreement was about dual taxation on the revenue generated by international air transport.

### Jharkhand Government announced to reserve 2 percent employment for meritorious sports persons

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced that the government would reserve two per cent employment in various departments for meritorious sports persons of the state.

- Currently two per cent job quota for medal-winning sports persons is there only in state police department. Now it will be applicable in all departments.

### Prime Minister to Inaugurate 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the three-day 3rd Edition of Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in New Delhi.

- More than 700 tiger experts, scientists, managers, donors and other stakeholders are gathering to discuss issues related to tiger conservation.

### Shan-E-Punjab Express Becomes the First Train Fitted with CCTV Surveillance Cameras.

Union Railway Minister, Suresh Prabhu inaugurates fitment of CCTV in Shan-E-Punjab Express (Amritstar-New Delhi) through Video-Conferencing. CCTV Surveillance Cameras installation is a one more step towards improving security in Indian Trains.

- The installation of surveillance systems was done through Ms/ A-Paul Instrument Company at an approximate cost of 36.71 lakh.
- CCTV system includes 4 to 6 Cameras per coach with Digital Video Recorder (DVR)

### India's Maharajas' Express among top rated trains globally

India's Maharajas' Express has been ranked among the top rated trains in the world, while The Plaza New York was rated among the best hotels for the super-rich, says a survey.

- The Maharajas' Express' train has redefined the luxury travel experience by offering guests the opportunity to explore fabled destinations providing a glimpse of rich cultural heritage of Incredible India

### Delhi government launched PoochhO Carpool app to help people during odd-even scheme

"PoochO Carpool" app was launched by Delhi Transport Minister Gopal Rai to give people more options for carpooling during the second phase of the odd-even traffic scheme (April 15 to 30)

- It would help users find carpool options within a radius of 1-5km
- It would have a chat feature that will help users communicate with the car driver without even mentioning their numbers

- The scheme is not applicable to CNG vehicles, two-wheelers, women motorists, cars carrying school children in uniform and several kinds of VIPs

#### **Haryana Government renames Gurgaon as Gurugram**

Manohar Lal Khattar led Haryana government decided to rename Gurgaon district as Gurugram. The state government also decided to change the name of Mewat district to Nuh.

- The decision comes from government in the aftermath of the demands by people of the area.

#### **India ranks 44 in 2016 Global Connectivity Index, Digital India seen as driver of growth**

India placed at the 44th position among 50 different countries in a Global Connectivity Index (GCI) report has been compiled by Electronics major Huawei. The list was topped by USA.

- The 50 countries assessed by GCI 2016 account for 90 percent of global GDP and 78 percent of the world's population.
- Huawei claims that the GCI also includes survey results from 3,000 firms across 10 verticals in 10 nations.

#### **"India Rankings 2016" by NIRF**

Ministry of Human Resource Development released the first ever domestic ranking "India Rankings 2016" which has been made by National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

- The report by NIRF covered 3,500 educational institutes in 4 categories

University, Engineering, Management and Pharmacy.

- In the Tech category, IIT- Madras topped the list while in the management category, IIM-Bangalore leads the chart.

#### **India's first semi-high speed train 'Gatimaan Express' flagged off**

Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the Gatimaan Express from Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin station, Gatimaan Express, India's first high speed train, crossed its maiden trip of 188 Kms in 101 minutes.

- The train runs at a speed of 160 km per hour, covering the 184 kilometre distance between Delhi and Agra in 105-110 minutes. Gatimaan Express which is India's first semi-high speed train.

#### **Maharashtra Gov become first to bring law against Social boycott & launched Mission Drinking Water**

The Maharashtra Assembly led by Devendra Fadnavis passed the Prohibition of Social Boycott Bill 2016 to becoming the first State to enact such a law.

- He also launched the 'Mission Drinking Water' to conquer water crisis.

#### **India, US to collaborate on tackling offshore tax evasion**

India and the US have agreed to enhance collaboration on tackling offshore tax evasion and increase cooperation in sharing of cross-border tax information.

- Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley and US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew told in a Joint Statement that we are committed to continued collaboration and sharing of experience in tackling offshore tax evasion and avoidance, including joint tax audits and tax examination abroad.
- The statement was issued after Mr Jaitley and Mr. Jacob Lew co-chaired the 6th US-India Economic and Financial Partnership (EFP) in Washington on the sidelines of the annual Spring Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank.

- This Decision comes in the aftermath of trust meeting that arrived on the decision following an agitation by Pune-based Swarajya Sanghatana.

#### **Delhi ranked 44th among world's 50 'future-ready cities'**

Delhi is ranked 44th on the list which is topped by San Jose, followed by San Francisco, Singapore and London as the world's most future-ready cities.

- The efforts put in by the Delhi and Union government to make a digitally enabled nation, one that allows for last mile connectivity and helps improve the quality of life.

#### **Dhoni quits as Amrapali Brand Ambassador**

India's Limited edition Cricket Captain MS Dhoni has resigned as brand ambassador of realty firm Amrapali, days after the residents turned unhappy of a housing project in Noida launched a social media campaign asking the cricketer to disassociate himself from the builder.

- The Indian captain was the brand ambassador of the company for the last 7 years.

#### **Jharkhand Government launched Bhimrao Ambedkar Awas Yojana for widows**

A target of 11,000 units (houses) has been set in the current financial year for the programme, adding Rs 80 crore has been earmarked in the budget for it.

- Rs 75,000 would be granted to build a house in districts in hilly terrains and Rs 70,000 in plains in three installments
- The widows would also get pension

#### **Trimbakeshwar allows entry of women with rider, activists**

The Trimbakeshwar Devasthan Trust in Maharashtra to allow women into the sanctum sanctorum of Shiva temple for an hour every day.

- The Temple Trust allowed with a rider that they must wear wet cotton or silk clothes while offering prayers in the core area. Women activists have, however, refused to abide by the rule and lodged a police complaint against the Temple Trust.

#### **Government to allow Pakistani Hindus to buy property, open bank accounts**

People belonging to minority communities of Pakistan, staying in India on Long Term Visa, will soon be allowed to buy property, open bank accounts and get PAN Card as well as Aadhaar.

- The government also offer reduction in fees for registration as citizens of India from Rs.15,000 to as low as Rs.100.
- The exact number of minority refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan living in India is not known.
- Approximately, 400 Pakistani Hindu refugee settlements are there in cities like Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Jaipur, Raipur, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Kutch, Bhopal, Indore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Delhi and Lucknow.

#### **Nagaland's Kohima declared 'smoke-free city'**

Nagaland's capital Kohima has been declared as a 'smoke-free city'.

- The official declaration was made by the Deputy Commissioner of Kohima, Rovilatuo Mor.
- A tobacco product contains 4000 chemicals which destroy any part of the body and causes death to one million people in India every year.

#### **Gujarat govt. decides to provide 10 % reservation to economically backward of higher castes**

Gujarat Government will issue an ordinance on 1st May to provide 10% reservation to economically backwards of higher caste.

- Any persons, whose monthly family income is less than Rs. 50 thousand will entitle for this new quota.

- There will be no change in reservations presently available to SC, ST and OBCs in the state.
- The ordinance will be drafted in a way that constitution provisions regarding reservations would not be violated.

#### **BSF to put tallest 'Tiranga' at Wagah border by January 2017**

The Border Security Force (BSF) is planning to install the tallest national flag near the Attari-Wagah Joint Check Post, famously known as the Wagah border.

- The flag at 350 feet is part of BSF's expansion plans for the visitors' gallery at the site of the iconic Retreat ceremony.

#### **NITI Aayog launched urban management programme for capacity building of states and urban local bodies**

NITI Aayog chaired by Vice Chairman Dr Arvind Panagariya has launched the Urban Management Programme in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The Programme is designed by NITI Aayog, Temasek Foundation and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) under the platform of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between NITI Aayog and the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE).
- It was to tap the expertise of Singapore in urban sector to build capacities in State Governments and ULBs to design efficient solutions to urban problems.

### Indian Naval Ships Veer and Nipat Decommissioned

Two Indian Naval Ships 'Veer' and 'Nipat' were decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

- The decommissioning ceremony was held in the presence of Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command.

### Rahuri in Ahmednagar Becomes First to have Digital Locker

Rahuri Municipal Council of Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra has become the first Municipal Council to attain the status of integrated with digital locker for the issuance of all essential Documents.

- Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad formally launched this service as part of Digital India Programme.
- With this facility, the citizen of the area can now apply for the certificates like Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates online without going to Municipal Council and these documents will be available in the Digilocker signed to the citizens.

### EC launches mobile app e-voter for Kerala assembly polls

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched an innovative mobile application titled e-voter with comprehensive details about the forthcoming 2016 Assembly polls in Kerala.

- The app is envisaged for voters' facilitation for search in electoral roll, information regarding candidates, location of polling station, affidavit filed by them, filing of complaint and so on.
- The e-voter app was developed by the state IT Mission. It aims at ensuring great transparency and conduct of free and fair elections.

### Netaji's driver becomes oldest human alive at 116 years

Netaji's Driver Colonel Nizamuddin becomes oldest human alive at 116 years by opening a bank account at the ripe old age of 116-years.

- Colonel Nizamuddin alias Saifuddin's voter identity card and passport, which he produced as proof of identity before the State bank of India for opening the account, he was born in 1900.
- This year February a Japanese man, who was thought to be the oldest man alive passed away at the age of 114

### World's largest 'charkha' to be on display at IGI airport

Wooden Charkha -spinning wheel which is largest in the world is planned to be installed at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport here is ready for dispatch from a unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Ahmedabad.

- It was the initiative of KVIC Chairman V K Saxena who decided to install the world's largest charkha at the international airport in Delhi.

### **Army conducts battle exercise 'Shatrujeet' in Rajasthan**

Indian Army's elite STRIKE 1 corps is to conducting a major exercise Shatrujeet in the deserts of Rajasthan to evaluate the capability of the Army to strike deep into enemy territory in an integrated air-land battle environment.

- Nearly 30,000 soldiers are taking part in exercise Shatrujeet to ensure the forces are provided real war-like situations and are kept in a high state of battle readiness.
- The exercise would culminate on April 23.

### **SC/ST victims to get minimum compensation of Rs 8.5 lakh from state government**

Union government to compensate of Rs 8.5 lakh for SC/ST victim of gang rape, murder or an acid attack including 47 offences to get the compensation from a state government, The new rules have come into force immediately.

- The amended the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, in which states will pay compensation ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 8.25 lakh to SC/ST victims.
- The amounts now must be paid by the state within 7 days of the incident being reported, either in full or at various stages of the investigation and trial, as per a schedule.
- The new rule says state Police have to file a charge sheet in cases of SC/ST victims within 60 days and any delay has to be explained in writing by the officers.

### **Konkani museum to be set up in Mangaluru**

Mandd Sobhan, a Konkani cultural organisation, will set up a Konkani museum in Mangaluru.

- The Karnataka Budget for 2016-17 has allocated ₹2.5 crore for the project.
- The state government has assured to allocate another ₹2.5 crore in the next financial year.

### **New Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies**

National Mission for Clean Ganga under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) announced the formal launch of Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (CGRBMS) in New Delhi.

- The Ministry signed a 10 year Memorandum of Agreement with IITK for provision of continual scientific support in the implementation and dynamic evolution of the Ganga River Basin Management Plan.
- Ministry was focused on cleaning the Ganga by setting up Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs).

### **PM Modi inaugurates Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana super-specialty hospital in Katra**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 230 bedded Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super specialty Hospital in Katra in Jammu and Kashmir.

- For the hospital operation the board has entered into an agreement with Narayana Hrudayalaya Ltd, Bangalore that operates 32 hospitals across the country.

#### **Cabinet approves signing the Paris Agreement**

The Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved for signing the Paris Agreement adopted at the 21st Conference of Parties held in Paris in last December.

- Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar will sign the agreement from India side on 22 April 2016 at the high level signature ceremony convened by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

#### **Government merges Rajiv Gandhi KhelAbhiyan with Khelo India**

The Union Government has merged Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan with Khelo India. They merged another two sport projects which were launched during UPA Government

- Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS)

#### **Missed call service launched for local train updates**

The Western Railway has launched a unique service through which commuters would be able to know the running status of local trains from simply giving a missed call.

- The commuter needs to dial the Toll Free No.- 1800 212 4502 and the call will get disconnected automatically after two rings subsequent to which an SMS will be sent informing the running status of the suburban trains.

- Western Railway has hired a private agency to facilitate this service.
- The best part of this service is that the system can be used by any kind of mobile phones be it smartphone or high end mobile or basic mobile phone.
- Commuters would not need to have internet connection and the service is totally free of cost and commuters can also alternately register themselves with www. Mobitip.Info for daily periodic updates at scheduled times.

#### **Heart of Asia conference begins in New Delhi**

The heart of Asia conference has begun in New Delhi. The conference aims to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan and speeding up its reconstruction with a focus on enhancing investment and connectivity to the country.

- In this conference 14 countries are participating and apart from those there are some countries who are supporting the conference which include France, Germany, Canada etc.

#### **Indo-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise, Nomadic Elephant – 2016, commenced**

The 11th Indo-Mongolia joint training Exercise, titled 'Nomadic Elephant - 2016' commenced on 25 April 2016 in Mongolia.

- The exercise aims at promoting military associations between India and Mongolia will culminate on 8 May 2016.

### Ceasefire in Nagaland extended by one year

Union Government and National Socialist Council of Nagaland, under the leadership of N. Kitovi Zhimomi and M.B Neokpao Konyak have mutually agreed to extend the Cease Fire Agreement by another year with effect from April 28.

- The agreement targets to bring lasting peace in the state of Nagaland with the involvement of Naga people.

### Chandigarh to host this year's International Yoga Day

Chandigarh will host this year's International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21, with the Centre deciding to shift the venue from the Rajpath.

- The Ministry has decided to shift the venue of the event from Delhi this year, as a steep increase in the number of participants to the mass Yoga event is being expected this year.

### 7 Women officers of SSC granted permanent commission by Navy

To provide equal opportunities to women officers Indian Navy decided to grant permanent commission to seven women officers belonging to the Short Service Commission (SSC) batch of 2008-09.

- Earlier the Navy had limited women officers only to the Short Service Commission of 14 years.
- From 2017 women officers can choose to join as pilots of Maritime Reconnaissance planes viz. Boeing P8I, Dornieras also in the Naval Armament Inspectorate cadre.

### Shyam Benegal panel submits report on censor board

Film maker Shyam Benegal headed committee constituted by the Information and Broadcasting ministry to suggest measures to help Board members understand the distinctions of film certification of the censor board submitted its report to I&B minister Arun Jaitley.

- The committee suggested that the Central Board of Film Certification can decline certification if a film having anything that contravenes the provisions of Section 5B (1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
- CBFC head will only plays the role of a guiding mechanism for the body, and not be involved in the day-to-day activities regarding the certification of films.

### Union Railway Ministry to set up Rs 1 lakh crore Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh

Ministry of Railways has pledged to set up a 1 lakh crore rupees safety fund called Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh which aimed to strengthen safety measures on the rail network to prevent accidents.

- The announced fund will help to accomplish railway's zero-accident mission by strengthening the safety measures on the rail network in a comprehensive way.

### Panel suggests fine or jail for celebs in misleading ads

Parliamentary Standing Committee has been formed to tackle misleading advertising as well as to fix liability on endorsers/celebrities.

- The panel suggests that for first time offence the violator may be penalised with either a fine of Rs 10 lakh or imprisonment up to two years or both. For second time offence a fine of Rs 50 lakh and imprisonment of five years.

#### **Mumbai Noisiest city: Central Pollution Control Board**

While Delhi may be the dirtiest city in terms of high air pollution but the Mumbai is reported the maximum violation of safe noise levels for consistently longer periods during 2011-14 and becomes Noisiest City in India.

- Rank 1: Mumbai 2: Lucknow 3: Hyderabad 4: Delhi

#### **Department of Disinvestment is now 'DIPAM'**

The Department of Disinvestment which runs under Finance Ministry has been renamed as Department of Investment and Public Asset Management or 'Dipam',

- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced renaming of the body in his budget speech for 2016-17.
- The new department has been mandated to advise the government in the matters of financial restructuring of central public

sector enterprises and for attracting investment through capital markets.

- The body will deal with all matters concerning to management of union government investments in equity including disinvestment of equity in central public sector undertakings.

#### **Uttara khand HC quashes President's Rule**

The Uttarakhand High Court quashed the order of the Union government that had put the State under President's Rule on March 27.

- The Court also ordered that a floor test must be held in the Uttarakhand Assembly on April 29 where former CM Harish Rawat's claim of having majority support shall be put to test.

#### **PM ushered in "Stand Up India" scheme**

In order to promote entrepreneurship, Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the "Stand up India scheme" and a Web portal for the scheme in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- The initiative is taken to elevate entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and Women by providing loans between Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 100 Lakhs.
- 5100 E-Rickshaws also distributed at the launch event by Bhartiya Micro Credit (BMC) under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna scheme. Kaushal Vikas Kendra also inaugurated in Noida.

#### **UIDAI produced 100 crore Aadhaars**

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) touched the historic point in a range of five and a half years by producing the 100<sup>th</sup> crore Aadhaar.

- The first Aadhaar was issued in 2010.
- This major landmark had achieved just after the government notification of Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, benefits and services) Act, 2016 which will give statutory support to exchange of subsidies and advantages to qualified individuals having Aadhaar (UID) number.

#### **National Maritime Day – April 5**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> National Maritime Day is observed on 5<sup>th</sup> April with the theme of “Ease of doing business in the maritime sector”.

- The National Maritime Day is celebrated every year on 5th April in commemoration of the maiden voyage of the first Indian Vessel ‘S. S. Loyalty’.

#### **Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya (OAV) project instigated by Odisha**

In 14 districts of the state 100 Adarsha Vidyalayas has been launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during an event held in the Ambagaon village of Ganjam district, Odisha.

- These schools will be administered by the Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya Sangathan of the state.

#### **Anandiben Patel launches ‘Maa Annapurna Yojna’**

Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel launched the state-wide implementation of Centre’s National

Food Security Act, which has been renamed as Maa Annapurna Yojna by the state government.

- Under the scheme, a beneficiary holding the Annapurna card will receive wheat at Rs 2 per kilo and rice at Rs 3 per kilo. Currently, Above Poverty Line (APL) card holding families are entitled to a monthly stock of 2.5 kg wheat per member of the family at Rs 7.70 per kg.

#### **Permanent memorial to Kalam at Dilli Haat in INA**

AAP government has decided to build a permanent memorial to APJ Abdul Kalam at a famous market here where belongings of the former President including his books and musical instruments would be on display.

- They will be kept inside the Delhi Assembly till July 27 and thereafter, they will be permanently placed at Dilli Haat.
- The Delhi government will also have a permanent exhibition on Kalam at Delhi Haat.

#### **Mumbai gets its first-ever AC local train**

The first ever air-conditioned local train for Mumbai flagged off into the city, the blue-grey train rake with a stainless steel body has 12 coaches with a capacity to seat 5,964 passengers.

- The new train will consume 25% lesser energy as opposed to normal rakes.
- The train has been in the making since July 2014 in the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai, under an Rs 54-crore project.

#### **Bihar Government imposes complete ban on alcohol**

With the ban on country liquor Bihar would become the fourth state in India to impose a total prohibition of alcohol.

- After the ban on country liquor, the state government said it would continue selling IMFL at 655 liquor shops in towns and cities.

#### **47 countries to participate in Defence Expo**

Goa is witnessing the participation of 47 countries in the Defence expo. The ninth defence expo of Naval and Internal Homeland Security Systems Exhibition, is being held at Naqueri Quitol in Quepem taluka of South Goa from March 28-31, 2016

- 977 companies and 46 countries have registered for participating in the Expo
- Participating Countries – USA, Russia, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and Portugal

#### **Government Constitutes the Board of Trade**

The government has reconstituted the Board of trade headed by the commerce minister.

- The board is reconstituted as per the provisions of Foreign Trade Policy Statement 2015-2020
- The first meeting will be held on April, 6

#### **Haryana Becomes 1st To Launch Injectable Contraceptive**

A unique Project named by Salamati has been launched by the Haryana Govt for the first time ever in order to maintain a healthy balance

between the births of children by using injectable contraceptive.

- The objective is to check high mother and infant mortality rate
- It is being implemented by the State Government with the assistance of Pathfinder International.

#### **ISRO to create history by launching 22 satellites in single Mission**

India's Space pioneer ISRO has been creating records and making achievements in all its missions. It is set to launch 22 satellites in Single mission and create new history.

- ISRO is planning to launch 22 satellites in its upcoming mission that includes micro and nano satellites from other nations
- NASA holds the record for launching 29 satellites in a single mission in 2013

#### **Gujarat to Set up Nation's First Organic Farming University**

Gujarat is going to be the first state to set up a University exclusively focused Organic Farming to help farmers in switching to unconventional methods of farming.

- A fund of Rs 10 crore has been earmarked towards the university in the annual 2016-17 budget.

### **Govt notifies Aadhaar Act**

Union government has notified the new Aadhaar Act, 2016 which gives the numbers assigned by it a statutory backing for transfer of subsidies and benefits to people eligible for them.

- Both central and state government can use Aadhaar for disbursement for benefits and subsidies. However the Aadhaar number cannot be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.

### **SC allows pictures of CM, Governor in govt ads**

The Supreme Court allowed the use of pictures of Chief Ministers, Governors and Cabinet ministers in the government's media advertisements.

- The SC had earlier ruled that the advertisements could only have pictures of the President, Prime Minister and the Chief Justice of India. The earlier order was aimed at removing the association between government policy and politicians.

### **Internet cut in Rohtak over Jat unrest concerns**

The Haryana government has blocked internet services in Rohtak as a precautionary measure over concerns of a fresh Jat agitation in the state.

- Jat leaders had on Monday given a 72-hour ultimatum to the government, threatening to resume protests if reservation is not granted to them. The state government has also sent 3,000 paramilitary personnel to various sensitive locations.

### **Surat, Beas India's cleanest railway stations**

The Surat railway station has been named the cleanest in India in the A1 category while Beas was named the cleanest in A category by a survey conducted by the Indian Railways.

- The survey, conducted across 407 stations and based on the feedback of around 1.34 lakh passengers, classified the stations into 'A' and 'A1' categories based on their traffic.

### **India to host 8th BRICS Summit, 2016**

The external affairs ministry has notified that India will host the 8th BRICS Summit from 15 October to 16 October 2016 in Goa.

- Chairmanship – India assumed chairmanship of BRICS from Russia on 15 February 2016 and it will last till 31 December 2016.

### **Cabinet approves Udaan scheme till 2019-20**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for extension of time period of the "Special Industry Initiative for J&K" (SII J&K) Udaan scheme till 2019-20.

- Initially, the time period of Udaan was up to 2015-16.
- Udaan provides exposure to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to the best of corporate India and corporate India to the rich talent pool available in the State. So far, 67 leading corporates have partnered with

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under Udaan with a commitment to train youth from the state covering Organized Retail, Banking, Financial Services, IT, ITES, Infrastructure, Hospitality etc.

- More than 19,000 candidates have been selected, more than 15,000 have joined training, out of them, 8700 candidates have completed training and 6,838 have been offered jobs.
- It is expected that the target of the scheme, to train and enhance employability of 40,000 graduates, post graduates and three year engineering diploma holders, will be achieved by 2019-20.

The Indian Army gets its first Thermal based RADAR technology that will enable to look through the walls.

- Developed by: LRDE(Electronics & Radar Development Establishment) of DRDO
- Features- It looks through walls of 20-30cm thickness and it works based on Thermal RADAR technique

#### **Nadda launches CBNAAT machines for quick diagnosis of TB**

Union Health Minister JP Nadda launched Cartridge Based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT) machines for the quick diagnosis of Tuberculosis within two hours.

The CBNAAT is a revolutionary rapid molecular test which detects Mycobacterium tuberculosis and rifampicin drug resistance, simultaneously. This test is fully automated and provides results within two hours.

Nadda also launched a new anti-TB drug Bedaquiline, which is a new anti-TB drug for treatment of Multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis. This drug is indicated for use in the treatment of drug-resistant TB. The drug will be made available in six public hospitals in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Guwahati and Ahmedabad.

#### **Union Government notified E-Waste Management Rules, 2016**

Union environment ministry has notified new plastic waste management rules, The Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules 2016, issued will replace the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 2011. The ministry also increased the minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 microns to 50 microns.

#### **Central Government amends Atal Pension Yojana(APY)**

Central Government has amended Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to give an option to the spouse to continue to contribute for balance period on premature death of the subscriber.

- According to the amendment, the spouse of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the same pension amount as that of the subscriber until the death of the spouse.
- After the death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the nominee of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the pension wealth, as accumulated till age of 60 years of the subscriber.

#### **DRDO develops RADAR to look through walls**

- The new rules also focus on phasing out of non-recyclable multi layered plastic and increasing reuse of plastic waste especially in applications like road construction and waste to energy.

#### **Arogya Fair began in Goa**

In a move to popularize the Indian medicines with special attention to Ayurveda, Arogya fair is a four day programme is beginning in Goa. The fair is launched as a cooperative effort by AYUSH ministry and Confederation of Indian Industry

- The main objective is to popularize the Indian Medicinal system and update the industry with recent developments in the sector

#### **ISRO establishes GIRI radar system in Tirupathi**

The Space pioneer of India ISRO has established the Gadanki Ionospheric Radar Interferometer (GIRI) near Tirupathi in Andhra Pradesh.

- Located at: National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) which is an autonomous research institute of the Department of Space
- Construction: It consists of a rectangular antenna array of 160 two-element Yagi-antenna, arranged in a 20×8 matrix, 20 transmitter units, 6 digital receivers including data processing systems, a radar controller, and a host computer

#### **President's rule in Uttarakhand**

Capping a nine-day high-voltage political drama, the Centre on Sunday brought Uttarakhand under President's rule citing a constitutional breakdown in the wake of a rebellion in the ruling Congress.

- President Pranab Mukherjee signed the proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution dismissing the Congress government headed by Harish Rawat and placing the Assembly under suspended animation this morning on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet.

#### **Mizoram, JICA sign pact for promoting sustainable agriculture**

North-eastern state Mizoram and Japanese International Cooperative Agency signed pact on Capacity Enhancement for Sustainable Agriculture and Irrigation Development.

- Training programmes would be conducted in Japan both for officials and farmers from Mizoram for three times during the period and the expenses would be borne by the Japanese government.

#### **Arvind Kejriwal placed in Fortune 50 leaders**

The man who brought change in the Indian politics heading the Capital of the nation, Arvind Kejriwal has been placed in the Fortune 50 leaders listed by Fortune magazine.

- The list is headed by Amazon chief Jeff Bezos

#### **J P Nadda launches Rota virus vaccine**

The Union Ministry of health and welfare has been taking consistent efforts to develop new medicines and keep the contagious diseases under control. Recently, the minister of Health and Welfare launched the Rota virus vaccine.

- Rotavirus vaccine is an initiative to provide immunity against Diarrhoea and bring infant mortality rate under control

#### **The Sex ratio has come down in Gujarat placing it at 22nd rank in the Nation**

The Sex ratio in Gujarat has fallen significantly from 920 in 2001 to 919 in 2011. It is a fall against the overall 10 points increase in the average of sex ratio of the Nation.

- The socio-economic review presented in the state assembly revealed that the sex ratio of Gujarat was 919 against the National sex ratio which is 943
- With 919 females for every 1000 males, Gujarat ranked 22nd among 28 states as per the 2011 Census

#### **Mumbai to host BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave in April**

The financial capital of India to host BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave in April involving top Urban Policy makers and Planners from BRICS Nations.

- The BRICS Friendship Conclave is a joint initiative of Ministry of External Affairs and Maharashtra Government to be held between April 14 and 16 this year.

#### **Germany to develop Bhubaneswar, Kochi, Coimbatore as Smart Cities**

Germany will partner with India's flagship program Smart City Mission to develop Bhubaneswar, Kochi, and Coimbatore as smart Cities.

- The three Cities are among the twenty cities which have been announced by the Urban Development Ministry.

#### **Telangana, Maharashtra ink MoU for five irrigation projects**

The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Telangana and Maharashtra government on river Godavari Water Projects in Mumbai.

- The MoU will pave the way for construction of five Barrages on Godavari River and its tributaries Penganga and Pranahita projects which has kept aside due inter-state disputes.

#### **PM selects another village in Varanasi for development under SAGY**

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is a rural development programme broadly focusing upon the development in the villages which includes social development, cultural development and spread motivation among the people on social mobilization of the village community.

- Nagepur, a village dominated by backward castes has been selected under the second phase of the Yojana.
- Earlier, Prime Minister had adopted Jayapur village in the same Varanasi constituency in the first phase in 2014.

**108-feet Jain Teerthankar idol enters "Guinness book of records"**

108—feet tall idol of Lord Rishabhdeva, the first Teerthankar of Jains, carved out of a single rock, has entered the “Guinness World Records” as the world’s tallest Jain statue.

- Till now, the 57 feet idol of Lord Bahubali in Shravanabelagola in Karnataka was considered the world’s tallest Jain statue.

**Food and Hospitality fair, AAHAR 2016 inaugurates in New Delhi.**

Food processing industries minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal today inaugurated international food and hospitality fair, AAHAR 2016 In New Delhi.

- Over 90 countries are participating in 31st edition of AAHAR fair, organised by India trade promotion organization at Pragati Maidan.
- The minister said food processing sector can play a catalytic role in growth story of Indian economy. She expressed her faith that policy decision of 100 percent FDI permission in food processing sector will help in doubling of farmers income by 2022.

**Karnataka launches Mukhyamantri Santwana Harish Yojana for free treatment to accident victims**

Karnataka Government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched Mukhyamantri Santwana Harish Yojana for free treatment to accident victims for the first 48 hours in the nearest hospital be it Government or Private Hospital.

- The accident victims treatment scheme Mukhyamantri Scheme Harish Yojana has been named after Nanjappa who donated his eyes minutes before he passes away seeking help after severely injured in a mishap in the city.

**ISRO geared up for launch of its Sixth Satellite**

The Indian Space Research Organization is geared up towards launching its Sixth Navigation Satellite.

- The sixth navigation satellite IRNSS-1F was launched by the PSLV C-32.
- The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C32, on its 34th mission, would launch the IRNSS-1F from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota

**India signs MoU to conserve Birds of Prey**

The Union Government signed an important Raptor MoU for the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia.

- This Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Convention of Migratory bird species Secretariat at Abu Dhabi
- The Raptor MoU covers 76 species of birds of prey, of which over 50 occur in India, including the critically endangered vulture

**Parliament passes Bureau of Indian Standards bill**

The Bureau of Indian Standards bills was passed in the parliament, following its approval from Rajya Sabha. The bill was earlier passed in Lok Sabha during the winter session last year.

- The bill proposes to make BIS, a national standards body, introduce mandatory hallmarks of precious metal,

prevent misuse of Standard marks and provide for recall of ISI marked products not conforming to relevant standards.

### **Rajya Sabha passes National Waterways Bill**

The Upper House of the Parliament passed The National Waterways Bill, 2015, which was tabled in Lok Sabha on May 5, 2015 by the Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, Mr. Nitin Gadkari.

- It would be kept before The President for his assent in the bill. The bill comes under Entry 24 of the Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

### **National Anthem compulsory in all schools in WB**

West Bengal Board of Secondary Education has notified that in order to pursue Government direction it directed to sing the National Anthem during Assembly before the commencement of the School Hour.

- This Decision comes from West Bengal government days after Madras High Court mandated all the Private Schools to Sing National Anthem during morning Assembly.

### **7th Governing Board meeting of Indo-German Science and Technology Centre held in New Delhi**

7th meeting of the Governing Board of the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) was held on 15 March 2016 in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by the Union Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

- During the meeting, Dr. Vardhan highlighted the achievements and progress

of IGSTC in accelerating the bilateral Science & Technology collaboration.

- India is also an equity share holder with investment of 36 million euro in the construction of the international Facility for Antiproton-Ion Research (FAIR) at Darmstadt.

### **Earthquake warning system installed at Haryana govt's building**

An earthquake warning system was installed at the mini Secretariat building of Haryana government here.

- The device has been installed in joint venture with German company Secty Electronics GmbH, on pilot basis at the Mini Secretariat building for the first time across India. It had been formally launched in New Delhi earlier this year.

### **Centre releases Rs 609 crore for upgrading prisons in eight States**

The Centre has released 609 crore rupees for upgrading prisons in eight States as recommended by the Thirteenth Finance Commission.

- In the eight States Kerala has got 154 crore, Chhattisgarh 150 crore rupees and Odisha 100 crore rupees. Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned 90 crore rupees and Maharashtra 60 crore rupees.
- The other States to receive Central funds for modernization of jails are Mizoram, 30 crore rupees, Tripura 15 crore rupees and Arunachal Pradesh 10 crore rupees.

### **Union Government and Jammu & Kashmir Government signed MoU on UDAY Scheme**

Jammu and Kashmir Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Ministry of Power, An overall net benefit of approximately Rs.9800 crore would accrue to the State by opting to participate in UDAY.

- Under UDAY, nine states have signed MoU so far with the combined DISCOM debt around Rs.1.94 lac crore, to be restructured which is nearly 45% of the total outstanding DISCOM debt of Rs.4.3 lac crore as on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

#### **Cabinet Approves Rs 8,000 Crore For Rural LPG Under PMUY Scheme**

The Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana with an outlay of Rs 8,000 crore for three years, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan told.

- The scheme aims to provide on a war footing LPG connections to women members of BPL families. Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan said that the move is aimed at empowering women and protecting their health.

#### **Rajya Sabha Passed the Real Estate Bill**

The Real Estate Regulation and Development Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha.

- This bill is in the favour of protection of Home buyers and to bring in more transparency into the real estate business and avoid the flow of Black money.

#### **Union Cabinet Nods to the new Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy**

The Union Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP).

- It will enhance domestic oil and gas production, bring substantial investment in the sector and generate sizable employment. The policy also targets the enhancement of transparency and reduction of administrative discretion

#### **Union Cabinet approved Sikh Gurudwara's Act**

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs to amend the Sikh Gurudwaras Act, 1925 through the Parliament with effect from 8 October 2013

- The proposal gave green signal to remove the exception given to Sehajdhari Sikhs in 1944 to vote in the elections for selecting members of the board and the committees constituted under the Act

#### **Union Cabinet Nods for BIMSTEC Convention in Criminal Matters**

The Union Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi gave its approval for the BIMSTEC Convention on mutual legal assistance in Criminal Matters.

- It is the Bay of Bengal Initiative on Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

#### **Cabinet approves amendment to mining law, move to spur M&As**

Cabinet Approved Amendment to mining law The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2015 to transfer of mining lease for captive mines.

- The proposed amendment will permit transfer of captive mines granted on discretion to spur merger and acquisitions in the mining sector
- The amended bill to help in checking the stressed and non-performing assets of Indian Banking industry also push the stuck M&A deals could be moved in the right direction.

#### **Union Cabinet approves new price formula for Undeveloped Gas Discoveries**

The Union Cabinet approved a new price formula for their undeveloped gas discoveries in difficult areas, which will lead to a near-doubling of rates.

- Domestically produced gas costs at average of rates in US, Russia and Canada but deep sea discoveries which are unexplored will be given the cost of alternative fuels.
- The price will be the lowest of weighted average of fuel oil and imported LNG or weighted average of fuel oil, naphtha and imported coal.

#### **Railway minister Suresh Prabhu launches "clean my coach" service**

Minister for Railways Suresh Prabhu launched the 'clean my coach' service where a passenger can request for a dirty coach to be swept and cleaned by sending an SMS on mobile number 58888. Prabhu had announced the scheme in the Rail Budget last month.

- It will be started in 24 divisions in 2016 including 18 trains of Lucknow.

#### **NITI Aayog launches Women Transforming India Campaign**

The NITI Aayog as a part of International Women's Day launched the Women Transforming India initiative in partnership with the UN in India and MyGov.

- NITI Aayog seeks for entries in the form of written essays/stories. These stories should reflect new ground broken by women in empowering themselves/others, or of challenging stereotypes.

#### **Lok Sabha passes Aadhaar bill 2016**

The bill enabling Aadhaar card to be mandatory to avail the subsidies and schemes of the Government has been passed in the Lok Sabha.

- The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016 aims to ensure targeted services to intended beneficiaries through Aadhaar card.

#### **PM inaugurated three Railway projects at Bihar**

Bihar gained special importance with the political rivals-PM Narendra Modi and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar being present on the same stage for inauguration of three important Railway projects at Bihar .

- Estimated cost of 3 projects- 7200 crores

#### **LED based lighting programme named UJALA**

In an effort to promote measures that can save energy the Union government launches various programmes. One such important initiative is to provide LED lamps to households and promote its

usage to save energy. The new scheme of LED based lighting has been named UJALA.

- 'UJALA' is the name given for the LED based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP)
- DELP is successfully implemented across 120 cities in India

#### **Govt to computerise all ration shops by 2019**

Government aims to computerise the PDS sector to help remove corruption in PDS, by installing electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at all the 5.35 lakh fair price shops across the country by March 2017.

- The government has installed 91,000 electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices till March 2016 a total of 3.75 lakh bogus ration cards have been detected.

#### **Interactive Web portal Kendriya Sainik Board launched**

In an effort of modernizing various government sectors, the announcement came today from the Defence ministry in introducing an interactive web portal Kendriya Sainik Board. This web portal will be under the Department of Ex-Serviceman Welfare.

- The interactive portal Kendriya Sainik Board enables the ex-serviceman to avail various schemes by submitting online applications thereby reducing the paperwork and saves time.

#### **India successfully test-fired Agni-I ballistic missile**

India on 14 March 2016 successfully test-fired indigenously built nuclear-capable intermediate range Agni-I ballistic missile. It was launched from launch pad-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island) on the Odisha coast.

- The missile is 15-metre-long and weighed 12 tonnes and equipped with sophisticated navigation system which ensures it reaches the target with a high degree of accuracy and precision. It is designed to carry a payload of more than one tonne. Its strike range can be extended by reducing the payload.

#### **Allahabad High Court celebrates 150th foundation year**

Allahabad High Court established in 1866 celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

- President Pranab Mukherjee was the Chief Guest of the celebrations. Chief Justice of India (CJI) TS Thakur and Union Law Minister DV Sadananda Gowda attended the function as well.

#### **Punjab Government ban the sale of Army uniform in the state**

Punjab government imposed a ban on the sale of Army uniform in the state without proper identification. This announcement came following the Pathankot and Gurdaspur attacks in the state.

#### **Military Exercise FORCE 18 kicked off in Pune**

Indian Army kicked off a week long Multinational Field Training Exercise (FTX) "Force 18" in Pune at headquarters of the Indian Army's Southern Command.

- Participants – It involves army units from 18 countries.

### **Mumbai Home To Most Number Of Billionaires In India**

India's Financial Capital, Mumbai, with 1094 billionaires (Ultra High Net Worth Individuals) has become home to the wealthiest people in the country, followed by Delhi at 545, according to the Knight Frank Wealth Report 2016.

- Rankings of Mumbai and Delhi: 21 & 33 respectively.

### **WEF: India stood at 90th rank in terms of Energy Security**

In accordance with the Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report compiled by WEF, India has been ranked at the 90<sup>th</sup> place in a list of 126 countries.

### **1st Raisina Dialogue Inaugurated By Sushma Swaraj In New Delhi**

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has inaugurated the 1st Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi.

### **Micromax CEO Vineet Taneja resigns**

Micromax CEO Vineet Taneja resigns has formally resigned from high profiled post, and however company did not reveal whether the company was looking for a new face.

### **Chennai Gets India's First Self Cleaning Smart Toilets**

A total of 183 self-cleaning public e-Toilets have been installed in the Chennai City. Chennai is the 1st city in India to get smart Toilets.

### **PM Narendra Modi Launches 'Setu Bharatam' Project, To Boost Infrastructure**

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Rs 50,000-crore "Setu Bharatam" programme to build bridges for safe and seamless travel on National Highways.

- With this the government aims to make all national highways free from railway crossings by 2019.

### **Kerala Government has taken first of its kind initiative by launching the Air Ambulance**

Government of Kerala has taken first of its kind initiative by launching the Air Ambulance in Kerala launched by the Chief Minister Oommen Chandy.

### **Punjab Becomes Seventh State to Sign Up For UDAY**

Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) is the financial package and the turnaround and revival package for electricity distribution companies of India (DISCOMs) initiated by the Government of India to support them overcome the financial turmoil they are in.

- Punjab has become the seventh state to join the scheme.

**Trade and Business**

### Japan commits loan worth 14251 crores

Japan has been providing support to India both financially and technically when it comes to the development of Infrastructure. It has now committed a loan worth 242.2 billion yen for the various infrastructure projects in India.

- Transmission System Strengthening Project in Madhya Pradesh -JPY 15.45 billion
- Odisha Integrated Sanitation Improvement Project -JPY 25.7 billion
- Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 1) -JPY 103.6 billion or Rs 6,170 crore
- North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project- JPY 67.1 billion
- Jharkhand Horticulture Intensification by Micro Drip Irrigation Project -JPY 4.65 billion

### UNICEF-Kerala IMA partnership announced

UNICEF and Indian Medical Association's Kerala wing joined hands to promote safe and healthy practices across the state for improving maternal and child health.

- The partnership will orient all the 35,000 doctors of the association in the state, on the importance of prescribing good practices to their patients besides medicines.
- All the branch of the total 103 spread in all the 14 districts in Kerala will adopt ten schools for promoting behavioural practices among students who will carry the message to homes.

### 55,669 villages to have mobile connectivity by 2019

Union Government mulling to provide mobile connectivity in 55,669 villages by 2019 in a phased manner.

- Centre also would commission a project to connect 8,621 villages in the north-eastern region by installing 321 mobile tower sites at an estimated cost of Rs 5,336.18 crore has already been approved by 2017.
- To connect rural India through high-speed broadband it has completed laying of optic fiber in 48,199 gram Panchayats as on 2016.

### Manamadurai-Rameswaram rail track to become first green corridor

Nearly 114 km route between Rameswaram and Manamadurai in Tamil Nadu will become first green corridor by the end of this month.

- There are about 14 stations between Rameswaram and Manamadurai.

### India ranks ninth in crony-capitalism index

India is ranked at ninth position in crony-capitalism with crony sector wealth accounting for 3.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

- Germany is the cleanest with least number of crony capitalists.
- Russia tops the list followed by Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

### Saraswat Bank donates Rs 1 cr relief for drought in Maharashtra

India's largest urban co-operative bank Saraswat has donated of Rs one crore towards relief work drought conditions in various parts of Maharashtra.

- The bank's Vice Chairman Gautam E Thakur handed over a cheque of Rs 50 lakh to Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis Of the 1 crore handed over another cheque of Rs 50 lakh to NAAM Foundation.

- The NAAM Foundation, an NGO started by actors Nana Patekar and Makarand Anaspure, specifically aimed at alleviating the impact of drought.

#### **Odisha Government launches DBT scheme for farmers**

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme for farmers and pledged digging of at least one lakh bore wells to improve irrigation facilities.

- On behalf of this move farmers will get themselves registered online to purchase seeds and get the subsidy amount in their bank accounts directly of the state.
- The first beneficiary of the DBT scheme was Ramesh Rout of Laxminarayanpur area. The seeds subsidy amount was deposited in Rout's bank account.

#### **Ayush to ink pact with WHO to spread significance of Ayurveda**

The Ayush ministry will sign a pact with the World Health Organization (WHO) to spread the importance of Ayurveda and Ayush across the world. This agreement will take place in the US in the presence of Prime Minister Modi.

- The preparations for the second World Yoga Day is on the track. Ayurveda needed to promote and spread the ancient practise of medicine the ministry says.
- On behalf of this India and the US will sign an agreement in the next two months to carry out a research on cancer.

#### **RBI releases draft norms for universal bank licences on tap**

Allowing individuals with 10 years of experience in banking and finance to apply for a licence successful track record for at least 10 years are eligible to apply for a licence.

- The initial minimum paid-up voting equity capital required is Rs.500 crore, and thereafter the bank should maintain a minimum net worth of Rs.500 crore at all times.

#### **RBI to issue Rs 1000 banknotes with inset letter R**

Mumbai based Reserve Bank of India is mulling to issue banknotes of 1000 rupees denominations with inset letter 'R' in both the number panels.

- The banknotes will also have on the obverse side that all the other security features, including ascending size of numerals, bleed lines and enlarged identification mark, These banknotes will bear signature of RBI Governor.
- It will also have the year of printing 2016 printed on the reverse side.
- The current series of banknotes was began in 1996 and known as the Mahatma Gandhi series.

#### **Nalco signs MoU with BARC for research and development**

National Aluminium Company (Nalco) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, for Research and Development (R&D) in fields of mutual interest.

- "Extraction of Gallium from Bayer Liquor will be NALCO's first R&D project with BARC with an objective to develop

indigenous technology for this strategic metal, in national interest,"

- The pact was signed by BK Satpathy, Executive Director of NALCO and Jagtap, Director of BARC.
- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is a Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India. It was established on 7th January, 1981, with its registered office at Bhubaneswar.

- It would also back towards strengthening the information sharing framework between the two regulators.

**SC**

**slaps Rs 10 lakh on Spicejet for offloading disabled flyer**

Country's Apex Court directed budget airline **Spicejet** to pay **Rs 10 Lakh** as damages to a disabled flyer, who was forcibly offloaded disabled Jeeja Ghosh in 2012.

- The apex court the manner in which the female passenger, a cerebral palsy patient, was de-boarded depicts total lack of sensitivity.

**India's GDP likely to expand by 7.7% in FY17: NCAER**

New Delhi based non-profit Economics think tank projected India's economic growth rate to grow marginally to 7.7 percent in 2016-17.

- Sub-par monsoon have resulted on the output in the last two years of the agriculture sector that has witnessed meager growth on account of drought in the past.
- The average rate of growth in the agricultural and allied sectors' GDP for 2014-15 and 2015-16 has been a low 0.5 percent.

**NABARD partners Germany for Food Security initiative**

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) joint venture with German government for a special programme on 'Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security'

**SC strikes down TRAI's penalty on call drops**

The Supreme Court **struck down the TRAI regulation** making it mandatory for telecom companies to compensate subscribers for call drops levied by the Telecom Regulator. The court direction comes in the aftermath of clutch of petitions by Cellular Operators Association of India, Unified Telecom Service Providers of India and 21 telecom operators. The petition is challenging sector regulator TRAI's notification asking them to pay compensation to consumers **Rs 1 for each call drop**, subject to a maximum of three disrupted calls per day.

**Cabinet approves pact between SEBI and FSRA Abu Dhabi**

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved signing of a pact between markets regulator **SEBI and Financial Services Regulatory Authority, Abu Dhabi** for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.

- The Market regulator's move will promote further development of economic links and cooperation between the two signatories and will help create conditions **for development of securities markets** in the two countries.

- Soil conservation and rehabilitation of degraded land for food security in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and innovation of watershed development for rehabilitation of degraded soils
- Climate change adaptation in five states (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan).

#### **DBS Bank to set up new technology hub in Hyderabad**

Singapore-based DBS Bank has decided to set up its biggest technology hub outside its headquarters in Hyderabad. The company also plans to hire about 1,500 people over the next two years.

- This decision from the Singapore major is to focus on technology and in order to grow it, the lender has launched a mobile-only bank recently.
- This tech hub comes at a time when the lender is awaiting clearance from the RBI India to convert into a wholly-owned subsidiary in the country.

#### **IT dept launches e-portal to fast track taxpayer's grievances**

The Income Tax department has launched electronic grievance redressal portal called 'e-nivaran' to clear taxpayers grievances and ensure early resolution of their complaints in fast track route.

- The system is called 'e-nivaran' means electronic solution which integrates all online and physical complaints gathered by the department at this platform which will be monitored by the Assessing Officer.
- Recently an exclusive also separate window for grievance redressal has been launched in the Income Tax Business Application

electronic platform for the regular operations.

- The new system is called unified grievance management system which is not only records the origin of the grievance on the electronic platform it works on, but it also keeps tracking it till it reaches its logical conclusion for final resolution

#### **Govt opens Tatkal window for faster patents to startups**

Union government has opened a Tatkal window to fast-track patent proposals. Start-ups by new applicants that fills the criteria allowed to use this route for obtaining faster clearances.

- By March 2018 the government also plans to significantly cut down the time period for granting of patents to one-and-a-half years from the existing five to seven years.
- This makes entities can choose the fast track for obtaining patent by paying additional fees if they select India as International Search Authority or International Preliminary Examining Authorities and file their applications in India first.

v. The application fees for individuals and start-ups have been kept at Rs 8,000 while for companies, it could be as much as Rs 60,000.

#### **Associate banks to merge with SBI**

Country's largest lender State Bank of India has planned to merge its five associate banks and also to merge Bharatiya Mahila Bank. All six are state-owned.

- The five associate banks have a collective advances base of Rs.3.78 trillion and a deposit base of Rs.5.03 trillion.
- While the BMB was created in 2013 by the UPA government, particularly to cater to women's lending needs based in Delhi.
- The Banks to be merged with the SBI are,
  1. State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur,
  2. State Bank of Hyderabad,
  3. State Bank of Mysore,
  4. State Bank of Patiala,
  5. State Bank of Travancore,
  6. Bharatiya Mahila Bank Limited.

#### **Ola signs MoU with govt. to benefit 'Safai Karamcharis'**

Cab aggregator Ola has signed a MoU with National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) to focus on building a sustainable framework by supporting entrepreneurship, skill development training and self-defence courses for Safai Karamcharis and Scavengers.

- This partnership has the potential to generate synergies that will result in a better future for driver entrepreneurs by creating sustainable careers and livelihoods for them.
- This initiative is in line with Ola's mission to up-skill drivers and create an ecosystem that is conducive for them to grow as entrepreneurs belonging to the families of Safai Karamcharis.

#### **Google launches group-sharing app Spaces on iOS, Android**

Google launches Group-Sharing App Spaces to let out users easily share content and commentary, group-messaging style, on any topics they wish.

- With this it is simple to find and share articles, videos and images without leaving the app, since Google Search, YouTube, and Chrome come built on.
- With new Spaces App someone shares something new to a space, the conversational view lets you see what the group is talking about without missing a beat on Android, iOS, desktop, and mobile web for all Gmail accounts.

#### **Nepal SBI Bank launches payment gateway**

SBI's subsidiary Nepal SBI Bank has launched payment gateway to facilitate online trade and non-trade transactions between the Himalayan nation and India.

- Under this payment gateway customer of Nepal SBI Bank can utilise various features of mobile banking and other value added services.
- The Payment Gateway was inaugurated by SBI Managing Director B Sriram, and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae

#### **PNB reports Q4 loss of Rs 5,370 crore, biggest in Indian banking history**

New Delhi based Punjab National Bank has reported a net loss of Rs 5,370 crore in the March quarter, the biggest ever quarterly loss in India's bank history. As the bank has had reported a net profit of Rs. 307 crore in the last year quarter.

- PNB's gross nonperforming assets (NPAs) poured to 12.9% in the fourth quarter, as against 8.47% in the December quarter.

- In terms of absolute figures the gross NPAs for the quarter stood at Rs 55,818 crore, as against Rs. 34,338 crore in the same quarter.

#### **Nomura exits mutual fund JV with LIC**

Tokyo based Nomura financial Services Company has wholly withdrawn its mutual fund joint venture with LIC of India. In the aftermath LIC Nomura Mutual Fund has now been renamed LIC Mutual Fund.

- Upon this LIC holds a 45 per cent stake and LIC Housing Finance a 20 per cent stake in the venture, however Japanese firm, Nomura owns 35 per cent shares.

#### **Apple announces opening of its map development centre in Hyderabad**

Tech giant Apple has opened a new development center in Hyderabad which will focus on development of Maps for iPhone, iPad, Mac and Apple Watch.

- This move from the company will create up to 4,000 jobs.

#### **Three Indians feature in the list of highest paid CEOs, with two in top 10**

Three persons of Indian origin have been included in the list of 100 highest-paid CEOs globally.

- PepsiCo's Indra Nooyi
- Lyondell Basell's Bhavesh Patel
- Microsoft's Satya Nadella

#### **India ranks on 5th Place in forge goods trade, China on Top in the list**

India ranks fifth position in the exports of Fake goods globally, while china is No.1 in the list with a huge 63 % share in the estimated half-a-trillion dollar worldwide imports of forged and pirated goods.

- Released by OECD (Organisation Economic Cooperation and Development) and the European Union's Intellectual Property Office

#### **MoU signed between Railways and Haryana & Punjab for plantation of trees alongside Railway Track**

In order to save the environment, Haryana & Punjab Forest Department inked MoU with Ministry of Railways to plant the trees alongside Railway Track on Railway Land Boundary.

- Signed between Pankaj Saxena, Chief Engineer /P&D, Northern Railway on behalf of Minister of Railways and Dr. (Mrs.) Amrinder Kaur, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) on behalf of Minister of State (IC) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Railway can contribute significantly towards the Green India Mission

#### **Bitcoin creator confirms identity**

Australian entrepreneur Craig Wright has publicly identified himself as Bitcoin creator. He has decided to make his identity known to stop the spread of misinformation about the virtual currency.

- Craig Wright is the man previously known by the Satoshi Nakamoto. The computer scientist, inventor and academic launched

the currency date back in 2009 with the help of others.

- Jon Matonis is also one of the founding directors of the Bitcoin Foundation. He is convinced that Wright is who he claims to be and is responsible for a brilliant achievement.

#### **BHEL commissions 600 MW thermal power plant in MP**

Power major Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) announced the commissioning of a 600 MW coal-based thermal power plant in Madhya Pradesh.

- The Avantha group's Jhabua Power Ltd developed unit has been commissioned at the 1x600 MW Thermal Power Project (TPP) located in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh.
- This is the second project of APIL earlier the power major BHEL commissioned the 1x600 MW in Chhattisgarh.

#### **Cabinet approves currency swap deal with UAE**

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of United Arab Emirates (UAE) on co-operation concerning currency swap agreement. The MoU inked in February, this year.

- The MoU will further strengthen the close economic relationship and cooperation between the sides.
- Under this approval India and the UAE will be a step closer to bilateral currency swap on mutually agreed terms and conditions.
- The agreement is to be expected to facilitate invoicing of bilateral business in local currencies.

#### **Reliance Power to setup plant in Bangladesh**

Reliance power is all set to setup a 3,000 MW LNG-based power plant in Bangladesh as its Government of has granted in-principle approval for the first phase of Reliance Power's project in the country.

- The first Phase of 750MW gas-based power plant established at Meghnaghat near Dhaka, along with a floating storage of 2 million tonnes and regasification unit (FSRU) at Moheshkhali Island in Bangladesh.
- The first phase will be commissioned in 24 months will help in meeting Bangladesh's rising demand for electricity.
- This is set be the largest foreign direct investment in Bangladesh with a potential investment of over USD 1.3 billion in the power sector.

#### **Indo-Japan sign MOU for Cooperation in Sports**

India and Japan agreed to exchange sports persons, coaches, experts and administrators to improve the standard of the game in both nations.

- The decisions were taken during a meeting between Sports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and a 12-member delegation from Japan led by Hase Hiroshi, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- In 2020 Tokyo will host the Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games, while India will host the Under-17 World Cup in next year.

#### **ICICI Bank signs MoU with BRICS Grouping-promoted New Development Bank**

Private sector lender ICICI Bank has tied up with New Development Bank chaired by K.V. Kamath.

- It has become the first financial institution in the country to tie up with the BRICS Grouping-promoted New Development Bank (NDB) for a partnership in bond issuances, co-financing, treasury management and human resources.

#### **Union Government launches Startup India portal and mobile app**

The Union Government has launched the Startup India portal (<http://startupindia.gov.in>) and mobile application.

- They will also provide information regarding incubators and funding agencies recognized for the purpose of recommending Startup sup to Rs 25 crore.
- Startup India Hub was established within Invest India will be a single point of contact for the entire Startup ecosystem. It would enable exchange of knowledge and will work in a hub and spoke model with Governments, Angel Funds, VCs, Incubators, Mentors, etc.

#### **Flipkart acquires mobile payments firm PhonePe**

India's largest e-commerce company Flipkart has acquired PhonePe, a Bengaluru-based mobile payments company

- It was co-founded by ex-Flipkart employees Sameer Nigam and Rahul Chari.
- PhonePe is building India's a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) based product, which is, planned to go live in April. The interface will allow users to transact using their unique identification and mobile

phone number or virtual payments address without sharing any other bank details.

#### **Ficci, AIBC sign MoU to strengthen business ties**

In a bid further strengthen and promote business ties with Australia, FICCI on Friday announced inking an MoU with Australia India Business Council (AIBC).

- The agreement was signed in the presence of the visiting Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during the 'Invest in India Round Table Conference' here.
- According to National Chairman of AIBC Dipen Rughani: "The signing of the MoU is a great milestone in the bilateral relations between the two organisations and will certainly have a positive impact and add tremendous value to the business relations between the two countries."
- The agreement reinvigorates the ongoing relationship between the two organisations to further promote, facilitate and grow the trade and investment relationship between Australia and India.

#### **India signed World Trade Organization's Trade facilitation agreement**

India officially signed the World trade organization's trade facilitation agreement

- This move would supplement India's ongoing reforms to bring in simplification and transparency in cross-border trade in goods. India is 76<sup>th</sup> country to sign TFA.

#### **RBI issues master direction on merger of private sector banks**

Reserve Bank of India(RBI) issued the master direction for merger of private sector banks and also between NBFCs and banks.

- The decision of amalgamation should be approved by respective boards by two-thirds majority
- NBFC merging with a private sector bank, all accounts should be KYC compliant as they would eventually become accounts of the banks after amalgamation.

#### **Union Government imposes safeguard duty on import of steel products**

Union finance ministry imposed the Safeguard duty of up to 20 percent on steel imports until March 2018 to protect domestic manufacturers from cheap Chinese imports.

- The finance ministry notification directs 20 percent ad valorem safeguard duty in the first year from September 14, 2015 to September 13, 2016 on hot-rolled flat products of non-alloy and other alloy steel in coils of 600 mm width or more.

#### **Banks have to report foreign contribution to NGO's within 48 hours**

All the Banks mandated to report to the central government within two days any information on NGOs getting foreign funds.

- The amended Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules 2015 directed these rules in Gazette of India on December 2015.
- As per the rules banks have to report to the central government within 48 hours any transaction in respect of receipt and

utilization of any foreign contribution by any person.

- This is applicable irrespective of whether or not such person is registered or granted permission under the FCRA.

#### **DBS Bank launches mobile-only bank**

Singapore based DBS Development Bank launched a mobile-only bank in India. The dedicated digibank uses technologies like biometrics and artificial intelligence for paperless, signature-less and branchless bank.

- The virtual bank will influence biometrics-integrated ID and Aadhaar card to ensure that that there is no paperwork. It will provide customer service via a 24x7 artificial intelligence-driven assistant networks.
- It will have an intuitive budget optimiser that will help customers do their budgeting, track expenses and analyse purchasing trends.
- The digibank is smart such that it can understand customer behavior and preferences, synthesise data, and provide recommendations.
- It also has embedded soft token security, avoiding the need to wait for SMS to arrive.
- Account should not need to maintain any minimum balance requirements earn 7 per cent interest for accounts opened on digibank and can avail themselves of free cash withdrawals.
- Account holders will be provided with a physical debit card which can be used in all Visa-enabled online and POS transactions

#### **India has elevated to 6th position among World's Top 10 Manufacturers**

In accordance with the “The Yearbook” published by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), India has been positioned at 6th place among the world’s 10 largest manufacturing countries.

- The list has been surmounted by China, which was followed by the **US, Japan, Germany** and **Korea**. **Indonesia** was stood at the bottom of the list.
- The India’s growth has been upgraded to 3 positions as compared to the previous 9th. As per report, the Manufacturing Value Added (MVA) in India enhanced by 7.6% in 2015 in comparison with the previous year.
- While India shows the tremendous growth, on the global front, the growth rate of manufacturing production has slowed to 2.8% in 2015.

#### **DCB Bank starts India’s first Aadhaar-based ATM**

Maharashtra based Small-sized lender **DCB Bank** has started an Aadhaar-based ATM usage facility in which a customer can transact using his biometric details instead of the PIN.

- This is the first ATM in the country which operates using the Aadhaar data. One can do a transaction without the card as well.
- ATM card holders can key-in the 12-digit Aadhaar number or swipe the card at an automated teller machine (ATM) to start a transaction

#### **Germany’s Development Bank KfW to provide loan assistance to metro system for Nagpur**

Germany’s Development Bank KfW will provide loan assistance of 3750 crore rupees for the modern and sustainable metro system for Nagpur city.

- In this regard, a loan agreement was signed by Joint Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs S Selvaraj and Director General of KfW Roland Siller in New Delhi.
- The loan period is 20 years with a moratorium of 5 years and disbursal will be based on the progress of the project over three years.
- With this Nagpur metro project becomes first metro to be financed under the Indo-German partnership for clean, socially inclusive and climate friendly mobility for people in cities. The project is being executed by Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Limited and its total costing is of 8,680 crore rupees.

#### **2015 report on “World Military Expenditure” released by SIPRI**

In accordance with the report released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India has been ranked at 6<sup>th</sup> Position in the 2015 report on Trends in world military expenditure.

- The chart has been topped by the USA as the world’s biggest spender in 2015.
- Top 5 countries – USA, China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and UK.

#### **Asia’s 50 most powerful businesswoman list topped by Nita Ambani**

American magazine Forbes has released 2016 “Asia’s 50 Power Businesswomen” list featuring business women from 14 countries, including China, Indonesia, Australia, Vietnam, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Philippines and New Zealand.

- In accordance with the list, 8 Indian women have made their mark in the list of 50 women leaders which is topped by Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani (52).

#### **Union Minister Piyush Goyal Lays Foundation Stone for IPDS Work**

Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal laid the foundation stone for underground cabling work under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in Varanasi.

- The Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 432 crores for the project.
- The IPDS Scheme covers conversion of overhead lines to Underground cables, establishment of 2 new 33 Kv Sub-stations and augmentation of 11 nos. existing Sub-stations.

#### **Centre Releases Rs.12, 230 crore To States For MGNREGA**

The Ministry of Rural Development has released a central share of Rs. 12,230 crore to the states for implementation of its flagship programmes under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

- The Minister also underlined that this fund release will take care of the pending wage liability of the States for the previous Financial Year (2015-16) and help the States to run the programme during the new Financial Year (2016-17).

#### **Airtel Buys Aircel's 4G Spectrum in 8 Circles For Rs 3,500 crore**

Bharti Airtel announced the acquisition of 20 MHz spectrum in eight circles from Aircel for Rs 3,500 crore.

- Bharti will acquire spectrum or radio waves in 2,300 MHz band in Tamil Nadu, Bihar, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, North East, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- Aircel had won the spectrum in a government auction and is entitled to hold it till September 20, 2030. After this acquisition, Bharti Airtel will become a pan-India 4G operator.

#### **India retains 19th rank among top 30 global exporters**

India's rank remained unchanged at 19th in 2015 in the list of top 30 merchandise exporters of the world, according to a WTO report. China continues to hold the top position in the list.

- However, India's ranking among top importers slipped by one notch to 13th in 2015, from 12th in previous year. In imports, the US topped the list.
- India's exports dipped by 17.2 per cent to USD 267 billion last year while imports aggregated at USD 392 billion. In 2014, the country's outbound and inbound shipments aggregated at USD 317 billion and USD 460 billion respectively.
- Further, India's rank remained unchanged at 8th last year among the top 30 leading exporters of commercial services respectively. In imports, India positioned 10th.
- In 2015, India's commercial services exports aggregated at USD 158 billion while imports were USD 126 billion.

- The report said that China registered the highest merchandise trade by value in 2015 with USD 2,275 billion worth of exports.
- Total world merchandise exports were USD 16,482 billion whereas imports were USD 16,766 billion.

#### **RBI gives nod to BhartiAirtel's payments Bank Unit**

Gopal Vittal led Bharti Airtel's payments bank venture Airtel M Commerce Services Ltd has become the first entity to receive final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a payments bank.

- Delhi based Bharti Airtel will set up the payments bank in partnership with Kotak Mahindra Bank, which holds 9% stake in Airtel M Commerce, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel.

#### **Nauru becomes 189th member of IMF, World Bank**

South Pacific island nation Nauru has become the 189th member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

- Nauru applied for membership in the Washington-based IMF and World Bank in April 2014, after joining the United Nations in 1996 as the world's smallest independent republic.

#### **India To Notch Up To 7.5 % Growth In 2016-17 : IMF**

In its Economic Outlook IMF retained its 7.5 per cent GDP expansion forecast for India in 2016 and 2017.

- IMF suggested the government to size down the subsidies, initiate labour reforms and dismantle infrastructure bottlenecks to sustain strong growth.
- In India, growth is projected to notch up to 7.5 per cent in 2016-17, as forecast in October.
- IMF 2016 global growth forecast for the fourth time in the past year to 3.2 per cent, quoting China's slowdown, persistently low oil prices and chronic weakness in advanced economies. This was down from 3.4 per cent projected in January.

#### **Reliance AMC named as India's "Best Employer Brand"**

In accordance with the study by Aon Hewitt, the global talent, retirement and health solutions business, the Reliance Asset Management Company has been listed among the best employer brands.

- Reliance AMC is the only mutual fund company to get this recognition in India in the top 25 AON list for 2016.

#### **World's largest oil firm Aramco plans to invest in India**

The world's largest crude exporter with crude reserves of about 265 billion barrels Company Aramco is planning to make a major investment in India's petroleum sector.

- The head of Aramco, Khalid A. Al Falih, recently stated that the company regarded India as the most preferred investment destination.

- Saudi Arabia is currently India's largest crude supplier, supplying one-fifth of the country's oil.

- The agreement was signed by Khaled Al-Aboodi, CEO of the IDB, and Tarun Sharma, regional head on behalf the EXIM Bank.

**Private equity firm, Blackstone to buy Mphasis for \$1.1billion**

Private equity firm Blackstone India has entered into an agreement with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) to buy a majority stake in Mphasis Limited in a deal valued between \$825 million and \$1.1 billion.

- It is the largest deal by Blackstone in India and is the largest private equity transaction in the country.
- Mphasis, IT Services provider which offers Applications, Business Process Outsourcing and Infrastructure Services.

**RBI cuts repo rate by 25 basis points**

RBI has announced the first Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2016-17. It cuts the Repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.5% and kept the Cash Reserve Rate (CRR) unchanged.

- Repo Rate : 6.50%
- Reverse Repo Rate : 6.00%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate : 7.00%
- Bank Rate : 7.00%
- CRR : 4%
- SLR : 21.25%

**Panama Papers: Investigation of 500 Indians as per new anti-black money law**

Union Government declared that action will be taken against unlawful accounts held abroad by Indians and constituted a multi-agency group to continuously monitor information after the Report from Panama Papers which says 500 Indians being named off illegal fund holdings in abroad.

- Panamanian law firm have revealed offshore accounts linked to the world's most prominent people hundreds of Indians have been named.

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

According to the World Bank India named as the world's largest remittance recipient in 2015 despite experiencing a \$ 1 billion drop from the previous year, the first decline in its remittances since 2009.

- India reserved its top spot in 2015, attracting about \$69 billion in remittances, down from \$70 billion in 2014, the World Bank in its annual report 'Migration and Development Brief'.

**India signs USD 100m draft export pact with IDB**

India has signed a memorandum of understanding with the 56-member Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for a possible \$100 million line of credit to simplify exports to IDB's member countries.

**BSNL to launch data sharing service facility for users across India**

BSNL to launch data sharing facility for pre-paid customers across the country. It will allow four users to share data among themselves. No charges will be levied for availing this facility.

- Currently, the company has introduced a special tariff voucher (STV) for this service in south zone. The STV allows sharing of data among a group of people.

#### **NDB sanctions \$ 250 million for India's renewable energy scheme**

India gets a loan from the BRICS's China based New Development Bank (NDB) which gave a \$250 million funding to Canara Bank for a renewable energy project.

- The Development Bank has approved four green renewable energy projects from India, China, Brazil and South Africa entailing Bank financing of \$811 million.

#### **RBI cuts maturity of masala bonds to three years**

RBI has reduced the minimum tenure of Masala bonds to make it more attractive. The term "Masala Bond" is used to refer to rupee-denominated borrowings by Indian entities in overseas markets.

- The minimum maturity period for the rupee-denominated bonds issued overseas reduced to three years from the previously stated five years.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank issued a 1,000 crore bond to fund infrastructure projects in India that were listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE).

#### **US jury slaps \$940 million fine on two companies of India's Tata group**

A US grand jury has slapped \$ 940 million fine on two companies of India's Tata group namely Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Tata America International Corp

- TCS and Tata America International must pay USD 240 million to Epic Systems for stealing its software
- Tata firms have also been asked to pay another USD 700 million as penalty.

#### **Banks to Share All Transaction Details In Standard Format**

From now onward all the Banks have to share the transaction details in a standard format.

- The banks were providing data in various file formats making it difficult for the agencies to process and analyse the information.
- The processing of multi-format data also results in wastage of manpower and time.
- To recover with this issue a meeting was called by the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau and a commonly acceptable format was designed.

#### **FSS to provide UPI solution for 6 banks**

Financial Software & Systems Pvt. Ltd. (FSS), a Chennai-based payments technology and transaction processing company, has inked agreements with six banks to provide UPI (Unified Payment Interface) solution across the country on a hosted platform.

- UPI facilitates easy and seamless person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions for end-customers.

- A bank customer can download this app in his/her mobile device, register the account number and take a virtual address.

**India and Mauritius sign MoU to promote cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicine and Homoeopathy**

Union Government inks Memorandum of Understanding with Mauritius for the following advantages

- Traditional system of Medicine and Homeopathy
- Exchange of Experts, Supply of traditional medicinal substances
- Joint research and Development
- Recognition of the traditional systems of health and Medicine

**RBL becomes first private sector bank to open dedicated branch for Startups**

RBL Bank launches Bengaluru branch exclusively for startups. The dedicated branch will assist entrepreneurs in setting up new companies and offer banking services like foreign exchange, remittances and cash management.

- It will also provide a range of value added services including registration, legal and tax formalities through its affiliates and partners.

**Morgan Stanley downgrades Bank of Baroda and ICICI Bank**

Morgan Stanley downgraded India's biggest private sector bank ICICI as well as state-run Bank of Baroda, citing rising concerns about Non-Performing Assets(NPA).

- These banks will have to provide more money to cover for NPAs in the current and next fiscal year.

**India to Purchase 145 M777 Howitzers for US\$ 750 Million**

India is expected to buy 145 M777 Howitzers for \$750 million to prepare its Mountain Strike Corps. The decision to buy ultra-light Howitzers produced by UK based BAE Systems under the Make In India

- The Decision was taken at a meeting between Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar and his US counterpart Ashton Carter. The price notified by the US in 2012 was \$694 million. But the Gun maker seeking price revision of 10% hike from the earlier price.

**Union government allots Rs. 800 crore to clean up polluted lakes in garden city**

Union government has pledged to provide Rs. 800 crore under AMRUT scheme to rejuvenate lakes especially the Bellandur Lake the largest and most polluted water body.

- Out of the total sum 500 crore is for laying down a 74 kms trunk sewage pipeline. Of the total money about Rs 162 crore have been provided to construct 4 Sewage Treatment Plant (STPs) in Bellandur Lake.

**India bans import of mobile phones, milk, steel products from China**

India has banned import of milk and milk products, mobile phones and some other items from China after finding them of poor quality.

- Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in Lok Sabha that Some mobile phones,

which don't have International Mobile Station Equipment Id number and some steel products have also been banned from importing from China.

- Completely banning imports from any country is not possible due to World Trade Organisation rules even if we have problems diplomatically, territorially or militarily," she said.

- Chile has offered concessions to India on 1,798 tariff lines and India has offered concessions to Chile on 1,031 tariff lines

#### **Xiaomi invests \$25 million funding in Hungama**

Xiaomi has made \$25 million investment in digital media firm, Hungama. It is the first investment made by Xiaomi in the country.

- Hungama has 65 million monthly active consumers. It has partnerships with over 700 content creators, and offers over 8,000 movies in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bengali, Punjabi and six other Indian regional languages on its platform.

#### **International Solar Alliance Cell and UNDP Declared Cooperation for Promoting Solar Energy**

The Interim Administrative Cell of International Solar Alliance (ISA Cell) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) declared their intention to promote solar energy globally.

- It was declared at UN headquarter New York by Solar Alliance Cell. Joint declaration is a new beginning and will help in leveraging and expediting solar energy development and deployment in ISA countries.

#### **ISRO, NASA to jointly launch satellite to study earthquakes and their patterns**

In ISRO and NASA are jointly operated mission NISAR a satellite that helps studying earthquake and its patterns will be launched.

- The satellite is called NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, or NISAR and is designed to make observations and measurements of ecosystem disturbance, ice-sheet collapse, and natural hazards such as tsunami, volcanoes and landslides.

#### **Cabinet clears expansion of India-Chile trade agreement**

Introduction: Union Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has successfully accorded its approval for expansion of the India – Chile Preferential Trade Agreement

#### **Ola introduce e-rickshaws on its platform**

India's smartest app based cab company Ola has introduced electric rickshaws on its platform. It was launched in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 'Start-up India' event held in Noida

- A total of 5,100 Ola e-rickshaws will be launched in partnership with Bhartiya Micro Credit (BMC) and will be deployed across

#### **Advantages of Agreement:**

- Import and Export of Products
- Double taxation treaty particularly for Mining Sector
- Help to increase our trade concentration
- Several Opportunities to explore various sectors

Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Faridabad and Ghaziabad.

**Government widens export funding to Iran to Rs 3,000 crore**

The agreement between Exim Bank of India and a consortium of Iranian banks led by Central Bank of Iran for financing the purchase of goods and services from India to Rs 3,000 crore, from Rs 900

- This will facilitate an opportunity to Indian companies to penetrate and enhance their footprint in Iran.

**Mother Dairy Partners Delhi Daredevils As Principal Sponsor**

Mother Dairy, an Indian FMCG company has partnered with Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket team Delhi Daredevils as its principal sponsor.

- With this association, the brand Mother Dairy will be seen on Delhi Daredevils team jersey, along with the visibility at key spots in the stadium on match days.

**Indian Overseas Bank Has Become The 1st Bank To Sell Indian Gold Coins**

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has become the first bank to commence the sale of Indian Gold Coin (IGC) in the domestic market.

- It has tied up with Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) for the sale of IGC of 24 carat purity.
- The Indian Gold Coin has the national emblem "the Ashok Chakra" engraved on one side and the face of Mahatma Gandhi on the other side.

**China, India leading investors in Renewable energy: UN report**

The need of the hour, Renewable energy is the focus of all nations of the world owing to the rising emissions. A recent report released by UN reveals that India & China have overtaken the developed economies in terms of investment in Renewable energy.

- The report 'Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment' for 2015 has been released by the UN. It showed an increase in investment by the developing countries compared to the developed nations

**ITC Has Acquired Technico Agri Sciences Ltd For Rs 121 Cr.**

FMCG Major ITC has acquired Technico Agri Sciences Ltd (TASL), a company owned by its direct subsidiary, Technico Pty Limited (TPL), Australia for Rs 121 crore.

- Prior to such acquisition, Technico Agri Sciences Limited was a wholly owned subsidiary of Technico Pty Limited, which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of ITC Limited.

**Govt plans to infuse Rs. 5,050 crore in PSU banks**

Government is planning to infuse additional capital of about Rs. 5,050 crore in some public sector banks this week, according to reports.

- Parliament has approved Rs 5,050 crore for meeting additional expenditure on recapitalisation of public sector banks, as per a report.

**FreeCharge Partners With Payment Gateway  
CCAvenue**

FreeCharge a wholly -owned subsidiary of snapdeal has partnered with a payment gateway CCAvenue to strengthen its offline offerings, as it gains access to over one lakh online merchants across sectors like hospitality, retail and education.

- It also plans to allow merchants to upgrade their payment limits of Rs 1,00,000 with necessary KYC verification.

**Economy to grow at 7.2% in 2016-17: BMI  
Research**

The Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.2 per cent in 2016-17, a tad lower than Central Statistics Office's advance estimates of 7.6 per cent in the current fiscal due to weak investments and external headwinds, says BMI Research.

- "We forecast India's real GDP growth to come in at 7.2 per cent for FY17 from our estimate of 7.3 per cent in FY16 and 7.2 per cent in FY15," the research firm said in a statement.
- Indian economy continues to face multiple challenges, and this is being reflected in high frequency data such as industrial production and trade, it added.

**Current Account Deficit Narrows to 1.3 % of GDP  
In 3rd Quarter**

India's current account deficit narrowed to 1.3% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the fiscal third quarter.

- In the earlier year 1.5% traded as deficit contracted. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed in date that trade deficit during the October-December quarter narrowed to \$34 billion from \$38.6 billion during the same period in 2014-15.

**Centre releases Rs 609 cr for upgrading prisons in  
eight States**

The Centre has released 609 crore rupees for upgrading prisons in eight States as recommended by the Thirteenth Finance Commission.

- Kerala has got 154 crore rupees followed by Chhattisgarh, 150 crore rupees and Odisha 100 crore rupees. Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned 90 crore rupees and Maharashtra 60 crore rupees.
- The other States to receive Central funds for modernisation of jails are Mizoram, 30 crore rupees, Tripura 15 crore rupees and Arunachal Pradesh 10 crore rupees.

**ICICI Bank launches contactless mobile pay  
solution 'iTap'**

ICICI Bank has launched country's first contactless mobile payment solution 'iTap' through which its customers will be able to make payments by waving their cell phones near a contactless merchant terminal.

- Using the virtual cards, an ICICI Bank customer can initiate electronic payments from Near Field Communication ( NFC) enabled smartphones by just waving his/her

phone near a contact-less merchant terminal, it said.

### **RBI likely to pay Rs 57,000 crore in dividends to government in 2016-17**

The Reserve Bank of India is likely to pay the government Rs 57,000 crore in dividends in 2016-17, slightly less than the amount it paid in the current fiscal but much higher than that in earlier years.

- The government has budgeted Rs 69,897 crore through dividends from state-owned banks, financial entities and RBI, lower than the Rs 73,905 crore it is expected to receive this fiscal. The budget documents do not provide a break-up of the amount expected from banks and RBI.

### **Post Office account holders can operate their accounts from any branch**

Communication and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has said that customers with Post Office savings can now operate their accounts from more than 20 thousand branches as they have been connected with core banking facility.

- Implementation of Core Banking Solution is part of the IT Modernization Project of the Department of Posts that aims to bring in various IT solutions with the required IT infrastructure to the post offices.

### **Interest rate on PPF slashed from 8.7% to 8.1%**

The government today cut the interest rates payable on small savings including Public Provident Fund, PPF and Kisan Vikas Patra KVP to align them closer to market rates.

- The interest rate on PPF scheme will be cut from 8.7 per cent to 8.1 per cent from 1st of April.
- However, the interest rate on Post Office savings has been retained at 4 per cent.

### **Third phase of Gyan Sangam to focus on consolidation of banks**

The government told that it has started the second edition of Gyan Sangam and in the third phase of Gyan sangam it has planned to focus on Consolidation of banks.

- Gyan Sangam is a retreat for banks and financial Institutions. It was held for the first time last year.

### **Oil Ministry laid out the foundation stone of Octomax unit at Mathura**

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan laid out the foundation stone for Octomax unit in the oil refinery at Mathura.

- Octomax unit is the country's first high octane gasoline production unit
- It is a part of the oil refinery at Mathura

### **Axis bank better placed than ICICI and other PSU Banks**

Nomura reports reveal that Axis bank is better placed than ICICI and other public sector bank in terms of corporate book profitability.

- Global financial services firm Nomura said that the third largest private sector bank in

India-Axis bank is better placed than ICICI and other PSU's in terms of corporate book profitability

#### **Freecharge Partners With Mexico-Based Movie Theatre Chain Cinepolis**

To provide secure and easy digital payments, Freecharge has partnered with Mexico based movie theatre chain Cinepolis.

- Cinepolis claims to be world's fourth largest chain of movie theatre.
- Free Charge is the first digital wallet partner for Cinepolis

#### **Thomas Cook India inks pact with Western Union, DCB Bank**

Travel Solutions giant Thomas cook India has signed pact with Western Union Business Solutions and DCB bank to enable international trade payments by small and medium sized enterprises.

- This Pact by the Thomas cook to penetrate the high growth Indian SME sector for its international trade payment needs.

#### **27 Government Banks May Be Merged Into Just 6**

Finance Minister of India Mr. Arun Jaitley has indicated that the Government may merge 27 public sector banks into just six.

- Because PSB is working under pressure to tackle their dismal bad loan scenario and consolidation is the way forward to handle this situation. This has been said in the recently held Gyan Sangam in Gurgaon.

#### **Tata Housing ties up with SBI for Women's Day offer**

Real estate developer Tata Housing has partnered with the country's largest lender, State Bank of India, on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

- Tata Housing will allow its women customers to pay only 20 per cent of the agreement value while the balance can be paid on taking possession of the property, a company statement said here today.
- On its part, SBI will be offering home loans to its women customers at a special interest rate of 9.5 per cent per annum under the SBI Her Ghar scheme as part of the International Women's Day, which will be celebrated between March 8 and March 13, it said.
- Moreover, the SBI has waived processing fees on the home loan under the scheme, it added.

#### **Investors' summit Begins in Gurgaon**

The first two-day 'Happening Haryana Global Investors Summit 2016' has kicked off in Gurgaon, which has see participation from 12 countries.

- Besides several Union Ministers, a number of leading entrepreneurs and MNCs have taken part.
- The summit comes close on the heels of the Jat quota agitation in Haryana, in which 30 people were killed and property worth crores of rupees was destroyed.
- The participating countries are Czech-Republic, Japan, Mauritius, New Zealand, China, Korea, Malawi, Peru, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom and Tunisia.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is the chief guest at the inaugural session while Khattar has delivered the keynote address.

**E- Haat : A Online Marketing Platform Launched  
By Union Government**

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched Mahila e-Haat portal in New Delhi to facilitate women entrepreneurs to sell their products to buyers.

- It will provide access to markets to thousands of women who make products and are spread all over the country.
- It is an initiative for women across the country as a part of 'Digital India' and 'Stand Up India' initiatives of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

**Govt to import 8,500 tonnes of pulses**

Government has contracted import of Eight thousand Five Hundred tonnes of pulses and the shipments are on the way.

- The pulses procurement for buffer stock has also surpassed the target of 50 thousand tonnes set for this kharif season.
- During the meeting, the representative of the agriculture ministry said the area under oilseed production in 2015-16 rose by 2.1 per cent and mustard output is expected to be higher by 6 lakh tonnes. The meeting also reviewed production of tomato in the country and its price trends. Tomato output is also expected to increase by 11.6 per cent in 2015-16.

**Union Government announced to withdraw tax proposal on Employee Provident Fund**

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on 8 March 2016 announced to withdraw proposal to tax Employee Provident Fund (EPF) withdrawals.

- He announced to withdraw the proposal while clarifying NDA government's stand on the issue in the Lok Sabha.
- However, government retained the tax proposal for National Pension Scheme (NPS) withdrawals.
- The proposal was made by the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley while presenting the Union Budget 2016-17 in the Lok Sabha on 29 February 2016. As per the proposal 60 percent of the amount deposited in the EPF account of the employee would be taxable at the time of withdrawal, and 40 percent would be tax free.

**Yes Bank launches all-women branch in Bengaluru**

Yes Bank launched an all-women operated bank branch 'Yes Grace' on Cunningham Road in Bengaluru aimed at offering customised banking solutions to women.

- The new branch served by eight employees currently and with plans to raise the count to 12 will also drive financial literacy, family banking, safety and wellness amongst women
- Simultaneously, two more all-women bank branches were opened in at Kalkaji, New Delhi and Vile Parle (E), Mumbai with plans to open more branches in major cities.
- Founded in 2004 after receiving a green field bank license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor, the lender's branch network currently stands at 850 across India.

**Global rating agency Fitch has maintained the Forecast of India's growth at 7.5**

Global rating agency Fitch has maintained its growth forecast for India at 7.5 per cent this fiscal and sees higher growth over the next two financial years.

- Fitch also claims for a 8% growth in short term is not possible

#### **Banks disburse over Rs 1.15 lakh cr under PM Mudra Yojana**

Banks have so far disbursed over Rs 1.15 lakh crore under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), Financial Services Secretary Anjuly Chib Duggal said.

- Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd (MUDRA) focuses on 5.75 crore self-employed who use funds totalling Rs 11 lakh crore and provide jobs to 12 crore people. Under PMMY, loans between Rs 50,000 and Rs 10 lakh are provided to small entrepreneurs.
- Three products available under the PMMY are Shishu, Kishor and Tarun, to signify the stage of growth and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit or entrepreneur.

#### **Indian Railways forms SPV to execute Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project**

Railways shifting the gears to introduce trains that run at speeds around 320 kmph, the railways have formed a new Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to implement the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Bullet Train project named the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited.

- 81 per cent of the funding for the project would come from the loan from Japan. It is a soft loan for 50 years at 0.1 per cent

annual interest with 15 years' moratorium period.

#### **SBI disburses Rs 1,465 crore OROP arrears**

India's largest lender State Bank of India has released arrears worth Rs.1, 465 crore to about 7.75 lakh defence beneficiaries under OROP scheme, the scheme is expected to cost the government Rs 7,500 crore per

- Under One Rank One Pension the pensioners will get their first instalment (1/4th of the total arrear amount up to February, 2016) to service pensioner. Family pensioners' and 'gallantry award' pensioners will be eligible to get full amount of arrears paid on 14th March.

#### **Pay interest on savings accounts every quarter: RBI to banks**

Reserve bank of India asked banks to credit interest on savings accounts every quarter or shorter than that of the fiscal.

- Interest rate on savings bank account is calculated on daily basis since April 1, 2010 and it is credited in savings bank account on half-yearly basis.
- The revised interest rate credit payment may put a burden of 500 crore on banks but the move by the central bank which will benefit crores of savings account holders.

- Public sector lenders offer 4 per cent interest on savings deposit, private banks offer as much as 6 per cent.

organized by the Global Compact Network in Mumbai.

#### **Yes Bank ink pact with Indo-Brazil chamber for strategic co-operation**

In the run-up to the next BRICS Summit to be held here this year, Yes Bank today inked a pact with the India Brazil Chamber of Commerce for cooperation in knowledge sharing, consultancy, skill and technology.

- Yes Bank said the MoU signing comes in the run up to the 8th Annual BRICS Summit, to be held in New Delhi this year.
- The core sectors covered in the MoU will be sports, media and entertainment with special focus on IT, infrastructure, broadcast driven business opportunities.
- Further, Yes Bank and IBCC will jointly endeavour to explore exchange of best practices in sports goods manufacturing, CSR in sports, SM&E talent management.

#### **India Inc first to formally adopt UN's Sustainable Development Goals**

India Inc. became first in the world to formally adopt the United Nations' (UN) agenda for the world's sustainable development and 17 goals identified for its implementation.

- It was formally adopted by the India Inc. at the 11th National Convention on Sustainable Development Goal (NCS DG)

#### **RBI to share FDI details with IB & RAW**

The Reserve Bank of India will now share its FDI details with the Intelligence Bureau and Research and Analysis Wing to prevent the entry of Black money into the country.

- The committee headed by Revenue Secretary decided to provide the details of FDI resting with RBI to IB & RAW
- This is done as a measure to prevent the economic crimes in the country

#### **RBI inks information exchange pact with Bank of Israel**

Mumbai based Reserve Bank of India has signed a pact with Bank of Israel for Information Exchange and Banking supervision.

- With this, the RBI has signed 32 such MoUs, one Letter for Supervisory Co-operation and one Statement of Co-operation.

#### **Tata Motors partners US Firm for Rs 50 K Crore project**

Tata Motors has signed Tri Partite Partnership with Bharat Forge and US based General Dynamics Land Systems for Rs. 50 K crore future infantry combat Vehicle project.

- The country's largest commercial Vehicle maker has inked with Pune based auto parts maker Bharat Forge will be partnered by the US firm.

- The FICV is a high-mobility reinforced battle vehicle for ferrying infantry men.

#### **IMF to set up data sharing centre in India**

In a first for Asia, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will set up a knowledge sharing centre in India, to provide technical support and assistance here and to five other South Asian nations.

- An agreement is likely to be signed by IMF managing director Christine Lagarde with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### **ICICI Bank rolls out iWork@home for women employees**

India's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank has rolled out iWork@Home programme for its women employees for up to a year.

- It is based on face recognition technology that will facilitate women employee to work from home and provide access to the bank's core banking servers under.
- This platform creates seamless virtual office-like environment that allows women employees to access to their required operating systems in a safe and secure manner.

#### **India, Bangladesh sign \$2 billion deal to implement socio-economic projects**

India and Bangladesh today signed a new 2 billion dollar credit agreement to implement socio-economic projects and to deepen the existing

strong bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries.

- It is the biggest and softest line of credit India has extended to any country. It carries a low 1 percent interest rate with a 20-year repayment period.

#### **Make in India model- Baleno introduced in Japan**

Maruti Suzuki's hatchback model Baleno which is a Make in India model is now launched in Japan.

- The MSI manufactures Baleno solely at the automaker's Manesar facility in Haryana
- Baleno has sold over 38,000 units in India since its launch on October 26, 2015. The company also plans to export the premium hatchback to more than 100 countries

#### **Government to Divest 5% Stake In Concor**

The government will divest 5 per cent stake in Container Corporation of India (Concor) through the offer for sale (OFS) rout.

- The center has set the base price for the stake sale at Rs 1,195, which will help the government mop up around Rs 1,165 crore.
- Retail investors are being offered a 5 percent additional discount.

#### **Gujarat Top State Regarding Investment Potential**

Gujarat has topped the list among the 21 cities in a race to be the best state in India having an investment potential, according to the report submit by economic think tank NCAER.

- Gujarat is followed by Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra. The

lowest in the rankings are the UP, Bihar, and Jharkhand.

#### **Hyundai Is Now the Official Partner of BCCI**

South Korean Auto major Hyundai Motors has entered into a four-year partnership with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as an associate sponsor for all international matches played in India.

- Under this agreement Hyundai cars would be used for transporting various stakeholders of the game throughout the event.

#### **Crisil sees GDP growing at 7.9 % in 2016-17**

The country's GDP can grow by 7.9 per cent next fiscal if the monsoon is normal and government implements the reform measures announced so far, domestic rating agency Crisil said.

- The growth forecast, highest by any house and even above the government's own estimate of 7-7.75 per cent, has been arrived assuming a faster growth in agriculture.
- The country has faced weather shocks for three consecutive years, including two years of deficient rains in 2014 and 2015, and a normal monsoon season this year can lead to a 4 per cent growth in agriculture on lower base effect.
- Implementation of reforms should help the economy achieve higher growth and termed 2016-17 as the "year of reckoning" which has the potential to illustrate the path which the economy can take.

#### **Mahindra Aerospace to set up operations in UAE**

Mahindra Aerospace mulling to set up operations in Abu Dhabi in the near future, Mumbai based company that produces aircraft and sell them in 30 countries, including in the US and in parts of Africa and Asia.

- The company currently the world's largest importer of defence equipment, will become the third largest aerospace market by 2020 once the operations commenced formally.

#### **IMF and India to establish SAARTAC**

In a move to further strengthen the economic operations of the Nation, the Union government led by PM Modi has joined hands with IMF to establish a Regional cooperation centre in the Country's capital.

- Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley agreed to establish a capacity development center in New Delhi

#### **India to supply Locomotives to Myanmar**

RITES (Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways) signed a contract to supply 18 Meter Gauge 1350 HP Diesel Electric Locomotives to Myanmar Railways.

- India will supply 18 meter Gauge 1350 HP Diesel Electric Locomotives to Myanmar Railways according to the new MoU signed between India and Myanmar

#### **BSNL Jumps into Video-On-Demand Service**

State Owned BSNL mulling to offer video-on-demand services to their 2 crore customers across

India. We will implement this MoU to cover the entire nation within next six months.

- Under this MoU Tata Sky will offer its VoD service free for the first month to download content worth up to Rs 500.

#### **Telecom Operators Asked To Not Exceed 2% Limit On Call Drops By Supreme Court**

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice Kurian Joseph asked the Telecoms to not to exceed the call drops limit over 2% and no penalty will be levied on them until they don't cross this threshold.

- It has been mandated the Telecoms to pay subscribers Re 1 for every call drop they experience on their network, subject to a cap of three call drops a day, starting from January 1, 2016.

#### **ICICI Bank ties up with Ferrari for co-branded credit card**

Country's largest private sector lender ICICI said it has tied up with marquee sports car maker Ferrari to launch co-branded credit card.

- "The 'Ferrari Credit Card' comes in two variants on the Visa platform and offers customers a host of offers including an all-expenses-paid trip for top spenders to Italy and also includes a Scuderia Ferrari watch as a joining gift," the bank said in a statement here.

#### **Free Wi-Fi Service launched At Srinagar International Airport**

State-run telecommunication company, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched free Wifi services at the Srinagar international airport.

- Tourists visiting the Kashmir valley can now access hi-speed Internet services at the international airport here free of charge for the first 15 minutes as BSNL today launched its state-of-art WiFi Hot Spot services.
- The 4G-based WiFi Hot Spot services of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at the Srinagar International Airport was inaugurated by Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Asgar H Samoon.

#### **Moody maintains SBI & IDBI ratings unchanged**

Moody's Investors Service have told that the local and foreign currency deposit ratings of State Bank of India and IDBI Bank at 'Baa3/P-3'

#### **French major Michelin ties up with Snapdeal to sell tyres online**

French based tyre maker Michelin had joined hands with E-Commerce major Snapdeal to sell its products through Snapdeal.

- The Joint initiative will enable consumers to place an order online using Snapdeal to purchase Michelin tyres from an authorised dealer and request for fitment at a time and place of their choice.
- Customers can now choose the perfect Michelin tyre for their vehicle from the comfort of their home/office with the option of same day free fitment, as well as access to exclusive offers on services like alignment and balancing.

#### **BRICS Bank to provide its first loan to India on Solar project**

The NDB which is likely to begin its operations in 2 months has decided to fund for green projects initially, with India and China in the priority list. India is likely to receive loan for its solar project in April from the NDB.

- The National Development Bank (NDB) set up by the BRICS nations was formed in July 2015 with V.Kamath as its president

#### **Jaypee Sells Cement Biz to UltraTech for Rs 16,500 crore**

Debt- laden Jayaprakash Associates Cementgroup signed a binding agreement to sell its Cement Business to India's Largest Cement maker Ultra Tech Cement.

- The cement factories in six states for an enterprise value of Rs. 16, 500 crore

#### **RBI unlocks 40000 crores to capitalize banks**

RBI announced relaxation of certain norms in the balance sheet which will unlock 40,000 croresto support the capital requirement of Indian banks.

- The revised RBI norms will give public sector banks (PSB) access to additional capital of INR 35,000 crore

#### **India's GDP growth to hike by 7.8% in 2016-17: Nomura**

Nomura has told in a recent report that India's GDP growth will rise from 7.6% to 7.8% in the year 2016-17.GDP growth would be based on high discretionary demand driven by 7<sup>th</sup> pay commission.

#### **TCS Recognized As Top Global Employer**

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading IT services company has been recognized as a Global Top Employer by the Top Employers Institute.

#### **India Signs Financing Agreement with World Bank For US\$ 300 Million**

A financing agreement for International Development Association (IDA) credit of US\$ 300 (equivalent) for the Madhya Pradesh Higher Education Quality Improvement Project was signed with the World Bank.

#### **International Finance Corporation Launches Masala Bonds**

International Finance Corporation (IFC), an part of the World Bank group launched its first Uridashi Masala bonds ( Japanese Bonds ) to mobilize R30 crore (or \$4.3 million) directly from Japanese household investors to promote private sector development in India.

- The 3 year bond builds on IFC's Masala bond program which has raised the approx \$1.7 billion from international investors for investment in India.

#### **CCEA Approved Winding Up Of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC)**

The National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) will be wound up with immediate effect as it has fulfilled the mandate for which it was constituted.

#### **MoU between Indian Army and IndusInd Bank**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Indian Army and Hinduja Grouped IndusInd Bank on the Defence Salary package.

### **Union Government to Provide Loan to FACT**

Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore (FACT), a Central Public Sector Undertaking in Kochi signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Union Government to get a loan of Rs. `1000 crores.

### **Amazon is India's most trusted online shopping brand: Survey**

World largest E-commerce player Amazon has emerged as a most trusted online Brand in Indian market followed by India based Sanpdeal and Flipkart.

### **SBI granted operating licence by Myanmar**

India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has been granted preliminary approval to operate Myanmar.

- SBI was granted operating licence by Myanmar Government along with three other Asian banks. They are Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam, Sun Commercial Bank of Taiwan and Shinhan Bank of South Korea.

### **GOI to digitise all rural post offices by 2017**

Government of India will digitalise all the 1.29 lakh rural post offices by 2017. Department of Post IT Modernisation project will get Rs. 4909 crore outlay for digitalisation and Networking of 155, 000 post offices including 129, 323 Gramin Dak Sewak Post Offices in the country.

### **UNHCR, UNICEF launched Blue Dot hubs to protect children & families on move across Europe**

UN Refugee Agency and UNICEF are setting up special support centres to ensure protection for

the growing numbers of children and others with specific needs arriving in Europe.

### **Capital Area Bank first to get small finance bank licence**

Jalandhar based Capital Local Area Bank Limited has given small financial bank licence by the Reserve Bank of India, The Operation of the Bank will kick start from April 13, 2016.

## **Appointments**

### **Paytm appoints ex-head of Alibaba as its President**

Mobile Payment and e-commerce site Paytm has appointed Bhusan Patil as its new President. He was the head of Alibaba wholesale groups earlier.

- Paytm has appointed its new President to help Paytm grow across the borders. It has planned to increase its sellers.

### **Ajay Mittal takes charge as I&B Secretary**

1982 batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh Cadre Ajay Mittal took charge as the Information and Broadcasting Secretary.

- Mr Mittal succeeded Sunil Arora who retired on April 30.
- Prior to his appointment, Mr Mittal was serving as Additional Chief Secretary for Transport, Social Justice and Empowerment Department in Himachal Pradesh.

### **Enda Kenny re-elected as Prime Minister of Ireland**

Taoiseach Enda Kenny (65-years) has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Ireland .

- Kenny (leader of Fine Gael party) was elected for the post 70 days after a general election which had produced no outright winner.
- He has been re-appointed with 59 votes in favour and 49 votes against.
- He has made history in the Irish Parliament by becoming the first Fine Gael Irish Prime Minister to be re-elected to the office.

### **UK: Sadiq Khan elected as new Mayor of London**

In UK(United Kingdom), Sadiq Khan has been elected the new Mayor of London. Mr Khan, son of a Pakistani bus driver, is the city's first Muslim mayor after beating Tory Zac Goldsmith.

- He is a former human rights lawyer and an MP from Tooting, east London, since 2005.

### **Mickey Arthur appointed as Pakistan cricket team's head coach**

Mickey Arthur (47-years) has been appointed as head coach of Pakistan ahead of this summer's tour of England.

- He is currently working as head coach of Karachi Kings in Inaugural edition of Pakistan Super League(PSL).
- He takes over from Waqar Younis, who stepped down from the post following Pakistan's lacklustre show at the recently concluded ICC World Twenty20.
- Arthur led South Africa from 2005-10 during which team secured no. 1 ranking in all

formats of the game and Australia from 2011-13.

### **Apple elevates Sanjay Kaul as new India head**

California-based technology giant Apple has reportedly promoted Sanjay Kaul as the country manager for Apple India operations.

- Kaul's appointment comes at a time when Apple is attempting to open its own-brand stores in India also comes months after Apple's long-time India head Maneesh Dhir quit from the company.

### **Senior advocate Atma Ram Nadkarni appointed Additional Solicitor General**

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Bombay High Court's senior advocate Atma Ram Nadkarni as Additional Solicitor General for a period of three years.

- Earlier he had served as Advocate General of the Goa.

### **Claire Furlong is new ICC General Manager: Strategic Communications**

Cricket governing body ICC appointed **Claire Furlong** as new General Manager to steer its strategic communications, she will assume his duty on July 17.

- Furlong is presently working at **Hannover Sport Company** as a head of sport with clients including England and Wales Cricket Board, NFL and Asian Football Confederation.
- Earlier she ran her own consultancy for a number of years with a range of clients that included team England for whom she led

the media operation at **Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.**

**Gianni Infantino names Fatma Samoura as FIFA's first female secretary general**

Senegal Based Fatma Samoura has been elected as FIFA's first Female Secretary General as she has no experience in Soccer administration.

About Fatma Samoura:

- Brought up from Senegal aged 52 who has replaced Frenchman Jerome Valcke
- Started her United Nations career with the World Food Programme in Rome in 1995 and has served as a representative or director in six African countries

**Shashank Manohar elected unopposed as ICC's chairman**

Former Board of Control for Cricket in India president Shashank Manohar has been elected unanimously as the first Independent chairman of the International Cricket Council.

- He quits the BCCI President and made him eligible to contest for the ICC chairman Post.
- Mr Manohar contests as sole nominee for the position and the Board unanimously selected as ICC chairman. Independent Audit Committee Chairman, Mr. Adnan Zaidi declared the election.

**Rahman joins Olympic Goodwill Ambassadors' list**

Oscar winning music Director A R Rahman will also to be the Goodwill Ambassador of the Indian Olympic contingent joining the earlier appointed ambassadors list.

- The Tamilnadu hailed Composer received two Academy Awards, two Grammy

Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe, four National Film Awards, fifteen Filmfare Awards and thirteen Filmfare Awards.

**SEBI approves appointment of Ashok Chawla as NSE chairman**

Mumbai based India's biggest exchange, NSE, had nominated Ashok Chawla as its new chairman after obtaining a clearance from the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India.

- He is set fill the shoes of previous holder S.B. Mathur.

**Hindupur Pradeep Rao appointed as Deputy CAG**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of senior audit service officer Hindupur Pradeep Rao as Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) with effect from July 1, 2016.

- Pradeep is a 1981 batch officer of Indian Audit and Account Service, is presently working as Additional CAG. Comptroller and Auditor General is country's top auditing body.
- In another appointment the cabinet committee has also appointed A K Mittal as Member (Engineering) in Railway Board who is presently General Manager of East Central Railway.

**Anil Kumble re-elected as ICC Cricket Committee Chairman for three years**

Former Indian Bowler Anil Kumble re-elected as ICC Cricket Committee Chairman for a second term.

- There are also two Newly Elected Members are Rahul Dravid and Mahela Jaya wardene.

- Former Australia off-spinner Tim May elected as current player representative, replacing Laxman Sivarama krishnan.
- Richard Kettle borough, three-time ICC Umpire of the Year, has been appointed as umpires' representative and replaces Steve Davis.

#### **Axis Bank appoints Sanjiv Misra as Non-Executive Chairman**

Mumbai based Private sector lender **Axis Bank** has appointed retired bureaucrat Sanjiv Misra as independent director and non-executive chairman for a period of five years.

- In a string of appointments the bank elevated Rajesh Dahiya and Rajiv Anand as executive directors.
- Prior to his new stint Misra was earlier the SUUTI nominee on the board as Non-Executive Chairman for **three years** till 11th May 2016.

#### **Michel Temer takes over as interim Brazil president**

Brazil's interim president Michel Temer set to remain in office till 2019. He took over the presidency from Brazil's first female President Dilma Rousseff, who was suspended from office for 180 days over an impeachment.

- He will run Brazil amidst some of its most turbulent and eventful times as country is facing its worst recession and in August it will host the Olympic Games for the first time in its history.

#### **Justice Mukul Mudgal appointed as deputy chairman of FIFA governance committee**

Ex-Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana Mukul Mudgal has been appointed as the deputy chairman of world governing body FIFA's Governance Committee.

- The FIFA's governance committee which will be headed by Portuguese Luis Miguel Maduro, who is a former European Court of Justice Advocate General.
- The Judge earlier in 2013 headed the IPL 2013 spot-fixing probe and recently he was also included in by the Asian Football Federation in a similar roles.
- Mudgal who is also roped in overseeing the conduct of international cricket matches and IPL games at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi.

#### **A V S Ramesh Chandra appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania**

IFS officer A V S Ramesh Chandra Presently High Commissioner of India to Uganda, has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to Romania.

- He Joined Indian Foreign Service in August 1989. He did Master's Degree in Veterinary Science majoring in Dairy Technology from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (APAU) in Hyderabad.

#### **Rakesh Kumar Mishra is CCMB Director**

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research appointed Genetics Expert Rakesh Kumar Mishra as the new Director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).

- He had joined in the Hyderabad based institute in 2001 as a senior scientist.

**Indian Origin Philip Abraham elected Deputy Mayor of Loughton in U.K.**

Philip Abraham a journalist from Kerala has been unanimously elected the Deputy Mayor of Loughton town in the UK for following year.

- Councillor Carol Davis presented the Deputy Mayor's Badge to Philip Abraham. The Deputy Mayor normally goes on to become the Mayor for the following year.
- He is from Kerala, earlier in 2012 won the election to the Loughton Town Council. Loughton is a vibrant town.

**Ex-finance Secretary, Ratan P Watal, appointed as Niti Aayogs Principal Adviser**

Former Finance Secretary, Ratan P Watal has been appointed as Principle Adviser for social sector in Niti Aayog .

- He has been appointed to the post for three years by the Department of Personnel and Training.
- Ratan P Watal, a retired IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, had been Finance Secretary from August 2015 to April 2016.

**Government sets up panel to relook defence expenditure**

Union government has appointed the 11-member committee led by Lt Gen D B Shekatkar (retd) to relook defence expenditure

- Aim is to ensure India's combat capabilities and potential are enhanced, with a better teeth-to-tail combat ratio, within budgetary constraints.

**Cairn India MD and CEO Mayank Ashar resigns**

The petroleum exploration arm of London-listed Vedanta Resources Cairn India's managing director

(MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) Mayank Ashar has resigned from his post.

- He will be replaced by the company's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Sudhir Mathur as the interim CEO.

**Anurag Thakur becomes BCCI president gets elected unopposed after Shashank Manohar**

Anurag Thakur was unanimously elected as the second youngest BCCI President and taking charge as the Most profile position in Indian Cricket Administration

- Previous President: Shashank Manohar
- Current President: Anurag Thakur

**Former IPS officer Kiran Bedi appointed as Lt Governor of Puducherry**

The BJP government has named former IPS officer and BJP leader Kiran Bedi as the lieutenant-governor of Puducherry for nearly two years.

- The post was lying vacant after the centre sacked UPA nominee Virendra Kataria.
- Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Island Lt Gen Ajay Singh had been given additional charge of Puducherry.

**Rohit Sharma signs as Brand Ambassador for Hublot watches**

Star Indian opener Rohit Sharma became the 'Brand Ambassador' of world famous watch brand Hublot becoming second renowned cricketer after former Australian captain Michael Clarke to be associated with the brand.

- Hublot is a Swiss luxury watchmaker founded in 1980 by Italian Carlo Crocco. The

headquarter is located in Nyon, Switzerland.

### **Indian American Sikh woman elected to key Republican Position**

An Indian based American Sikh woman Harmeet Kaur Dhillon from California has been selected to a major position in the Republican Party at the National Level.

- Elected as the newest national Committee of the Republican National Committee
- Earlier she was served as the Vice Chairman of the California Republican
- She was the first woman elected to this position of vice chairman of the California Republican Party.

### **Sachin Tendulkar to be India's goodwill ambassador at Rio Olympics**

The Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar has accepted India's Olympic Association's invitation to become the Goodwill Ambassador for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

- Ever since IOA named Salman Khan as ambassador comments up roared in social media, the Olympic body were forced into naming other ambassadors after a furor over naming a non-sporting ambassador.
- The goodwill ambassadors would play as iconic sports persons and celebrities will spread the idea of Olympic movement in every nook and corner of the country.
- Earlier the IOA named Beijing Games gold medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra as another Goodwill Ambassador.

### **Kishore Biyani appointed as MD of Bharti Retail**

Future Group appointed Kishore Biyani as the managing director of Bharti Retail group as part of the reconstitution of the board following their merger pact that was announced last year.

- Future Retail Ltd will be renamed as Future Enterprises and will be listed in share market.

### **Head of All World Gayatri Pariwar Pranav Pandya nominated to Rajya Sabha**

Head of All World Gayatri Parivar, Pranav Pandya has been nominated to Rajya Sabha by the Narendra Modi government.

- On April 22, the President had nominated six members to the Rajya Sabha -- former Indian cricketer and two-time Lok Sabha member Navjyot Singh Sidhu, well-known Malayalam film actor Suresh Gopi, journalist Swapan Das Gupta, former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, former Planning Commission member Narendra Jadhav and boxer M. C. Mary Kom.

### **DR. Radha Binod Burman nominated as president of the National Statistical Commission**

Eminent statistician. Dr. Radha Binod Berman has took over as part-time Chairman of the National Statistical Commission.

- Pro. S Mahendra Dev, Pro Rahul Mukherjee, Dr. Rajeev Mehta and Dr. Manoj Panda are other part-time members of the Commission.
- NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer is ex-officio member of the Commission.

- The Commission is an advisory body on issues related statistics, formed to increase public confidence in official statistics.

#### **Patricia Espinosa selected new UNFCCC Executive Secretary**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has selected Mexican diplomat Patricia Espinosa as the executive secretary of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). She will replace Christiana Figueres.

- Earlier, she had served as Mexico's representative at the UN in New York for drug traffic, human rights, women promotion, social development and children's rights.
- The UNFCCC is an international environmental treaty negotiated at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and entered into force in 1994.

#### **Fleming become next MCC President**

Former England all-rounder Matthew Fleming has been appointed as the next Marylebone Cricket Club president. He was nominated by the current president Roger Knight at the AGM at Lord's.

- Prior to his new appointment he is the current Chairman of Cricket and will take charge on October 1, 2016.

#### **Sunil Lanba to take over as next Indian Navy chief**

Defence Ministry appointed Sunil Lanba as the new Chief of Naval Staff and will assume charge on May 31 as 21<sup>st</sup> Chief.

- He is will succeed Robin K. Dhowan as the Chief of Naval Staff when the latter retires in May this year.

- He is an alumnus of National Defence Academy and was commissioned in the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy in 1978.

#### **Manohar Kumar takes over as Director (Engg) in NPCC**

Shri Manohar Kumar has taken over as Director (Engineering) on the Board of National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC).

- A graduate from the then Delhi College of Engineering Shri Kumar later did MBA from MDU, Rohtak. He has put in more than three decades of service in Civil Engineering field.
- NPCC is a PSU under Ministry Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- NPCC was established in 1957 as a premier construction company to create necessary infrastructure for economic development of the country in the core sectors of irrigation and water resources, power and heavy industries.

#### **Kumar Rajesh Chandra appointed Chief of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Senior IPS Officer Kumar Rajesh Chandra as chief of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

- He has been appointed in the place of IPS officer G S Malhi, who had completed his tenure as BCAS chief in November 2012. The crucial post was lying vacant since then.

### **Faustin-Archange Touadera sworn in as President of Central Africa**

Faustin-Archange Touadera was sworn in as the president of the Central African Republic in the main stadium at Bangui.

- Central African Republic has been at political unrest since the communal violence between Christians and Muslims that took place in 2013

### **Wipro appoints Patrick Dupuis as its Board member**

The IT Major Wipro has announced the appointment of Patrick Dupuis as its new independent board member.

- Patrick Dupuis was the Senior Vice President of Paypal Holdings. He has also been a part of BJC healthcare and functioned as the CFO of Sitel, one of the largest customer care company

### **Wipro**

- Established: 1945
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Chairman: Azim Premji

### **First female speaker for Vietnam Parliament**

Vietnam has chosen Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan as its first female speaker.

- Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan got 472 votes out of the total 481 votes and got a clean sweep of majority in becoming the speaker of the assembly
- She became the first female speaker of the nation and also elected as the chairperson

of National Election council with 467 votes out of 477

- Earlier she served as the Vice Chairperson of the National Assembly from July, 2011

### **Rajiv Gauba takes over as Secretary of Urban Development Ministry**

Rajiv Gauba took over as Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Urban Development.

- Jharkhand government is now looking for another Chief Secretary.

### **Bhupendra Kainthola is new FTII director**

Bhupendra Kainthola, an Indian Information Service (IIS) officer of 1989 batch, has been appointed as the new Director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).

- FTII, country's premier institute that provides training for acting, film making, video editing, direction and production.
- It is an autonomous body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

### **Bishwadip Dey to serve in Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

Shri Bishwadip Dey was appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

- He is currently working as the Deputy Chief of Mission in Embassy of India, Thimphu

**Nagaland Chief Secy Pankaj Kumar becomes first Ambassador for Girl Child**

Nagaland Chief Secretary Pankaj Kumar has become the first Ambassador for Girl Child (AFGC) under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Project

- Every AFGC will provide one under privileged girl child the chance to live a better life besides contributing towards quality education of such girls.

**Government reconstitutes IGNCA board; Ram Bahadur Rai appointed as Chairman**

Government has reconstituted Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) board. Ram Bahadur Rai, Senior Journalist has been appointed as Chairman of the Board.

- Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma appoints a new 20-member team including classical dancer Sonal Mansingh, lyricist Prasoon Joshi, artist Vasudeo Kamath and Union Culture Ministry Secretary.

**Ajay Devgn, Kajol to be brand ambassadors of Andhra Pradesh tourism**

Bollywood actors Ajay Devgn and Kajol are all set to become the brand ambassadors of Andhra Pradesh Tourism.

- About 8 million tourists visited Andhra Pradesh in 2015, a 30% increase over the previous year, according to the state government. Of these, 237,000 were foreign tourists mainly from Southeast Asian countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and West Asia.
- The celebrity couple were prepared to take up the role of brand ambassadors for the

tourism of Amravati and the rest of the state.

**Vijay Shekhar Sharma appointed chairman of IMAI payments banks group**

Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma has appointed as the chairman and Vodafone India business head Suresh Sethi as Vice chairman of the newly formed payments banks group Industry body Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

- IMAI Payments Banks is an innovative model of bringing unbanked population into the formal banking fold.

**Ukraine appoints Groyzman new Prime Minister**

Ukraine's parliament has appointed Volodymyr Groyzman as the country's new prime minister. He was voted in by MPs 257 to 50 as the 16th Prime Minister of Ukraine.

- MPs voted to approve Mr. Groyzman's appointment and accept the resignation of his predecessor, Arseniy Yatsenyuk.
- Groyzman will succeed Yatsenyuk, after serving as his deputy during the latter's first government, in the aftermath of the toppling of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich in 2014.

**C.P. Gurnani appointed as Chairman of NASSCOM**

C.P. Gurnani appointed as Chairman of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for 2016-2017. He will replace B V R Mohan Reddy, who served as Chairman for 2015-16.

- Mr. Raman Roy, Chairman and Managing Director of Quattro Global Services, appointed as the Vice Chairman of NASSCOM for 2016-17.

#### **Govt ropes in Sachin Tendulkar for 'Skill India' campaign**

Prime Minister's Skill India Mission is all set to get a major boost with cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar endorsing the 'I Support Skill India' campaign of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

- The ministry's target is to skill 40.2 crore youth by 2022. It has also introduced its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), the world's largest monetary reward scheme promoting skill development to those who need financial support.
- It is an attempt to reach out to the youth and build awareness on the importance of skill development.

#### **GoJavas Appointed Amitabh Coomar As Its New CEO**

GoJavas, the logistics and supply chain solutions company has announced the appointment of Mr. Amitabh Coomar as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

- The appointment of Coomar came after the departure of Vijay Ghadge, who was the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the company.

#### **LAVA International Announces MS Dhoni as Its Brand Ambassador**

Indian cricket legend MS Dhoni was elected as a brand ambassador of local handset maker Lava International.

- MS Dhoni will be the new face of Lava's multi-channel marketing campaign to make it the most reliable brand of Indian market.

#### **Centre appoints Finance Secretary as liaison officer with Jammu and Kashmir**

Finance Secretary Ratan Wattal was appointed as the liaison officer to working between Jammu and Kashmir government and central government

- He will be responsible to ensure the flow of funds to the J & K government and implementation of Prime Minister's Development Package in the state.

#### **Government appoints Susmita Pande as National Monument Authority (NMA) Chairperson**

Susmita Pande, a professor at Ujjain's Vikram University, has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Monument Authority (NMA) for a three-year term.

- She would succeed Himanshu Prabha Ray, the professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- NMA, under the Union Culture & Tourism Ministry, is responsible for the protection and preservation of centrally protected monuments and sites.

#### **Rudra Gaurav Shresth appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mozambique**

IFS Officer from 1999 cadre Rudra Gaurav Shresth presently Director in the Ministry, has been

appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mozambique.

- He will assume his new duty soon.

#### **Geetha Johri becomes Gujarat's first woman DGP**

Geetha Johri is all set to become first woman top cop of Gujarat. With this she will be the Gujarat's first woman IPS officer who promoted to DGP rank.

- Geetha has been promoted from the rank of ADGP to Director General of Police and she will continue at her present post as Managing Director of the Gujarat State Police Housing Corporation.
- She is a 1982-batch IPS officer, who is originally from Tamil Nadu.

#### **Thomas Cook elevates Mahesh Iyer to COO post**

Thomas Cook has elevated Mahesh Iyer, head of its foreign exchange division, to the position of chief operating officer(COO).

- He will be responsible for day to day business management.
- He will also be responsible for managing the visa and foreign exchange business in India, Mauritius and Sri Lanka.

#### **PCB appoints Inzamam-ul-Haq as new chief selector**

Former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq appointed as the head of the new selection committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

- Inzamam, who replaces former batsman Haroon Rasheed.
- He was the Afghanistan cricket team coach for the past six months

#### **India's Durga Thakur Promoted as International Hockey Umpire**

International Hockey Federation has promoted Durga Thakur of India as the international outdoor umpire. FIH's list currently has 14 Indians in the elite league of international umpires (10 men, 4 women).

- Thakur started her career as an umpire from the third Hockey India Sub-Junior Men & Women National Championship.
- She is a graduate of NSNIS in 2011 her first international assignment came in 2015 at the double six-Nation Cup in Breda, Netherlands.

#### **Laos appoints new president, prime minister**

Communist Party chief Bounnhang Vorachit was appointed as the country's new president and foreign minister Thongloun Sisoulith as the prime minister of Laos by Laos's National Assembly

- The National Assembly has elected president, with more than two-thirds of the votes.

#### **Centre appoints A. Ajith Kumar as Rubber Board Chief**

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of A. Ajith Kumar, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre, to the post of chairman, Rubber Board, Kottayam. The post has been lying vacant since August 2014.

- He has been appointed for a period up to May 31, 2018.

#### **BCCI appoints media veteran Rahul Johri as CEO**

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Rahul Johri as its new CEO, in line with the recommendations of the Supreme Court-appointed Lodha Committee.

- Before this assignment, Johri was executive vice-president and general manager for South Asia at Discovery Network.
- Johri will join the Board on June 1st. He will be responsible for the stakeholder management and building robust strategies for further promoting the sport.

#### **Suresh Babu appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mongolia**

Current Ambassador of India to Armenia T. Suresh Babu has elected as the country's next Ambassador to Mongolia.

- He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

#### **Goa appoints Justice PK Mishra as Lokayukta**

Goa Government appointed former Chief Justice of Patna High Court Justice, P. K. Mishra as Lokayukta of the state.

- He had recently retired as chairman of Goa State Human Rights commission.
- He will succeed Justice (Retd) Sudarshan Reddy, Goa's first Lokayukta.

#### **Shubhdarshini Tripathi appointed as Ambassador to Jordan**

Shubhdarshini Tripathi presently Deputy Chief of Mission in Berlin, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

- Nandini Singla , presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Portugal
- Masakui has been appointed as the ambassador to Zimbabwe.
- Shri Satender Kumar, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname, has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to Barbados

#### **Madhukar Gupta committee to suggest ways to tighten security along Indo-Pak border**

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted high-level committee to suggest ways to tighten security along India-Pakistan border.

- The committee will be headed by former Union Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta.
- It will Study all types of gaps in the fencing and all other vulnerabilities along the India-Pakistan border. Suggest a comprehensive approach to fix them on interim and permanent basis. It will submit its report in three months i.e. till June 2016.

#### **HL Dattu appointed to International Human Rights body**

Justice HL Dattu, chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, India emerged as the unanimous choice to be appointed as a member of the International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs (ICC) Bureau in Geneva.

- His presence on the ICC Bureau will help in not only strengthening the ICC but also enhance the role of NHRIs in the United Nations mechanisms. He will also be working towards the creation of new NHRIs in the countries, which have not set up such bodies.

**Ashley Judd appointed as Goodwill Ambassador by UNDP**

Ashley Judd has been appointed as its Goodwill Ambassador by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

- She is an acclaimed humanitarian, actor, writer and political activist.
- As a UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, the American actress will support the agency's efforts to stop women dying giving life and to empower women to choose when and how often to become pregnant.

**Nepal to Have Its First Woman Chief Justice**

Nepal is on a gender equality drive as it chooses its first woman Chief Justice, in a row of selecting women to top posts. Recently, the country got its first woman President and Speaker.

- Sushila Karki, the senior most of the judges in the Nepal's Supreme Court has been nominated for the top post by the judicial council chaired by the Prime Minister, K P Oli.
- She will take charge as Nepal's first woman President Bindya Bhandari, endorses her nomination and the current chief justice, Kalyan Shreshtha retires.

**M S Dhoni signed as Revital H brand ambassador**

Mumbai based Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited has appointed Indian Cricketer and Captain MS Dhoni as the Brand ambassador for its top selling health supplement Revital H.

The Company is also planning to establish a new ad campaign featuring MS Dhoni done by Lowe Lintas which will go live throughout the ICC T20 World Cup.

**S Rao will take over as the new public interest director and chairman of BSE**

Ramadorai has retired from the BSE Chairman and Karnataka's former Chief Secretary Sudhakar Rao will replace the former.

- Ramadorai has served since 2010 and retire on 7<sup>th</sup> March after serving six years.

**Tapan Chand elected AAI chief**

In the aftermath of National Governing Council meeting of Aluminium Association of India Tapan Kumar Chand has been unanimously elected as the President of the metal governing body.

- Prior to his appointment he was serving chairman and Managing Director of National Aluminium Company.

**Arab League names Egypt's Ahmed Aboul Gheit as new chief**

The Arab League chose former Egyptian foreign minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit as its new secretary-general, after diplomats said the vote was delayed for hours due to Qatari reservations.

- Aboul Gheit served as Egypt's foreign minister during the final seven years of Hosni Mubarak's rule, leaving his post in 2011, following the mass protests that

toppled the ageing ruler. The 22-member organisation voted unanimously in favour of Aboul Gheit after much debate.

**Kangana Ranaut named Reebok brand ambassador**

The “Queen” of Bollywood Kangana Ranaut was announced as the brand ambassador of Reebok India. The actress also launched the new campaign of the brand titled “Be More Human”.

- It aims to inspire women to become better versions of themselves, not just physically but also mentally and socially. It is a tribute to the modern day Indian woman, telling her that she is fit to rise above stereotypes and carve out her own destiny.

**B.S. Chauhan appointed Law Commission chairperson**

After a delay of more than six months, the government appointed ex-judge of Supreme Court B.S. Chauhan as the chairperson of the 21st Law Commission.

- The post has been lying vacant since last September when the commission was constituted.

**Lt Gen N P S Hira appointed as Deputy chief of Army Staff**

Chief of the Army’s Northern Command, Lt Gen N P S Hira has been appointed as Deputy Chief of Army Staff and would assume office on March 14.

- General N P S Hira has been the commander of Sikh Light Infantry and has wide experience in counter insurgency operations in J&K

- He commanded 10 Infantry Division in Jammu and Kashmir on the Line of Control with distinction for which he was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

**Indian scholar appointed VC of Canberra University**

Shri H Deep Saini, a noted Indian Scholar and a plant Physiologist has been appointed the next Vice Chancellor of the prestigious University of Canberra.

- He will will succeed Vice Chancellor Stephen Parker in September who steps down from the post in July after over nine years in the service.

**Altico Named Naina Lal Kidwai as Its New Non executive Director**

Altico capital, a non banking finance company has named veteran banker Naina Lal Kidwai as its new independent non executive director on its board.

- Altico, focused on real estate, is looking to invest about Rs 2,500 crore every year for five years in the Indian real estate market.

**Naveen Patnaik elected as BJD president for the 7th consecutive term**

Odisha CM, Naveen patnaik has been elected as the president of Biju Janata Dhal for the seventh consecutive time.

- The BJD party was formed in 1997 by Naveen Patnaik following the death of Biju Patnaik.

**Rozle Prezelj elected Chairman of IAAF Athletes' Commission**

Slovenian high-jumper Rozle Prezelj on 27 February 2016 was elected the Chairman of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Athletes' Commission in Monaco.

- Prezelj took over as Chairman of the commission from Frank Fredericks with immediate effect.

**Mrugank Paranjape Appointed As MCX MD**

Multi Commodity Exchange announced the appointment of Mrugank Paranjape as MD & CEO of the exchange.

- He will succeed ManojVaish.

**FIH promotes Napoleon Singh as International Umpire**

National level Hockey Umpire Napoleon Singh has been promoted to the International Outdoor Umpire by International Hockey Federation.

- His performance in the recently concluded 12th South Asian Games held at Guwahati has been the key for his appointment.

**Awards**

**Ranveer Singh honoured as "Maharashtrian of The Year"**

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh, who started his career with romantic comedy "Band Baaja Baaraat"

in 2010 has been conferred with "Maharashtrian Of The Year" award.

- On the other hand, the "lifetime achievement award" was bestowed upon 82 year old legendary singer Asha Bhosle.
- The award was presented by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at a ceremony held at Mumbai.

**Imprisoned Novelist Ahmed Naji bagged PEN Freedom to Write Award**

The prestigious PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award, presented by PEN America has been conferred upon, jailed Egyptian author and journalist, Ahmed Naji.

- Naji will be accorded with the award at Pen America's annual Literary Gala on 16 May 2016 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

**New Zealand's \$5 bill named best banknote of the year**

New Zealand's five-dollar note has been named the banknote of the year for 2015 by the International Bank Note Society.

- The \$5 note has won form the 40 eligible designs from a record 20 countries. The \$5 note has featured mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary and on the other side, a rare yellow-eyed penguin and local flora.

**Swat activist Tabassum Adnan wins 2016 Nelson Mandela Award**

A women's rights activist from Swat valley of Pakistan, Tabassum Adnan, has won the Nelson

Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Award 2016 in Bogota, Colombia.

- She won the award for the individual activist category on the concluding day of the International Civil Society Week held from April 25-28.
- A victim of child marriage, Tabassum Adnan was married at the age of 13. The marriage which was marked by frequent domestic abuse, ended after 20 years when she gathered the courage to divorce her abusive husband.

**Sudarsan Pattnaik bags gold medal at Sculpture Championship in Moscow**

Renowned artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won the gold medal at ninth Moscow Sand Sculpture Championship in Russia.

- Mr. Pattnaik won the competition for his 15 feet high art work Mahatma Gandhi's sculpture for non-violence and peace.
- The 20 top sculptors from different countries competed at the championship.

**PM Narendra Modi conferred Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour- the King Abdulaziz Sash.

- The prestigious award was bestowed upon Indian Prime Minister by incumbent Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz at the Royal Court.

**Vedanta sets Guinness World Record for mass plantation**

Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL), a subsidiary of Vedanta Limited has formally set the Guinness World Record for at the same time planting 208,751 saplings at a solitary area in under 60 minutes.

- ISO 900, ISO 14001, ISO 50001 and OHSAS certified company TSPL is the largest Greenfield Power Project in Punjab.

**Bollywood Actress Radhika Apte Wins Best Actress award at Tribeca Film Fest**

The 30 year old actress has won the best actress award in an International narrative feature honour at Tribeca Film Festival for her contribution in the Film Madly.

- The Actress starred in 'Clean Shaven; which is a part of the film Madly.

**Indian documentary 'Undercover Asia: Girls for Sale' wins bronze medal in New York Festivals 2016**

Indian Documentary film, "Undercover Asia: Girls for Sale" has won a bronze world medal at the New York Festivals 2016 in the Social Issues category.

- This documentary film explores anti-trafficking activist Rishi Kant's search for two minor girls, who have been abducted.

**Jennifer Aniston named as World's Most Beautiful Woman by People magazine**

Jennifer Aniston(47) was named as the World's Most Beautiful Woman for 2016 by People magazine, for the second time.

- She has received this honour in 2004.
- Last year winner was Sandra Bullock.
- Aniston won an Emmy Award in 2002 and a Golden Globe Award in 2003.

#### **Bernie Sanders wins Time reader poll of 100 most influential people**

American Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders won the TIME 100 reader poll with 3 percent of the vote, ahead of Hilary Clinton who was 25th with 1 per cent of the vote.

- Bernie had finished with 3.3% of the total votes on the poll, edging out the South Korean boy band Big Bang's 2.9%, Burmese leader Aung San SuuKyi's 2.2%, and President Obama's 2%.

#### **Government renames Panagarh airbase after former IAF Chief Arjan Singh**

Union government has renamed the Panagarh airbase Base as Air Force Station Arjan Singh in honour of the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh. This Honour came from the government on the 97th birthday of Arjan Singh, Marshal of the Indian Air Force.

- The Air base station is located in Burdwan district which is around 150 kms from Kolkata. Panagarh was constructed in 1944 during the Second World War.
- Air Force Station played a significant role in the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan.

#### **Delhi girl Priyadarshini Chatterjee crowned Miss India World 2016**

Delhi girl, Priyadarshini Chatterjee was announced as the winner of FBB Femina Miss India World by Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan during a star-studded ceremony.

- She saw off competition from Bangalore girl Sushruthi Krishna, who was the 1st runner up and Lucknow's Pankhuri Gidwan.
- Priyadarshini will represent India at the Miss World 2016

#### **Mother Teresa Conferred With Founders Award Posthumously In UK**

The Nobel Peace Prize awardee Mother Teresa now has been conferred with the UK's prestigious Founders Award this year.

- The award is given to recognize and reward exemplary achievements of people within the global Asian community.
- The Founders award is to recognize and reward exemplary achievement within the global Asian community across 14 categories that include business, philanthropy, entertainment, culture and sport.
- Teresa, who died in 1997 at Kolkata, have spent more than 45 year of her life as serving the poor, the sick and the orphaned.

#### **Khadija Ismayilova to receive UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2016**

Azerbaijani journalist Khadija Ismayilova awarded with UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2016. The Prize will be awarded during the celebration of World Press Freedom Day on 3rd May 2016 hosted by Finland.

- She has been recommended Ismayilova in recognition of her outstanding contribution

to press freedom in difficult circumstances. The prize is awarded on the recommendation of an independent jury of 12 news

#### **Priyanka Chopra to be conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award 2016**

Actress Priyanka Chopra will be bestowed with Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation's Best Actress of the Year Award.

- The ceremony will be held on the 147th Dadasaheb Phalke Jayanti in Mumbai on April 24.
- This will be the second award from the Foundation after she received her first one for Most Memorable Performance in 2011 for her role in Vishal Bhardwaj's '7 Khoon Maaf'.

#### **Japanese honour for N.K. Singh**

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

- Mr. Singh, who is a former Member of the Planning Commission, will receive the 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver'

#### **SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring Service of Nagaland bags National award**

The SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring System of Nagaland police has bagged the National Award for Smart Policing instituted by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

- The SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring System was launched last year and has led to in

substantial reduction in theft of four-wheelers. While more than 100 vehicles have been recovered so far using the application.

- The system an easy platform for policemen and citizens to report vehicle theft and alert the various field formations of police by sending a SMS.

#### **MP Tourism wins 'Best Indian Destination for Wildlife' award**

Madhya Pradesh Tourism has received the Best Indian Destination for Wildlife award by the Lonely Planet Group.

- It is to be noted that Madhya Pradesh has 25 wild life sanctuaries including nine National Parks.
- The award was handed over to MPT Special Duty Officer Vinod Kumar Amar by actress Amy Jackson.
- The state government launched number of programmes for the conservation of flora and fauna because of which Kanha and Pench were regarded as the most beautiful national parks in Asia.

#### **Gorakhpur scientist bags SGD 3mn grant from Singapore's NRF**

An Indian scientist from Gorakhpur has been awarded a grant of SGD 3 million by National Research Foundation to research in congenital and adult cardiovascular diseases.

- Manvendra K Singh, among the seven young scientists from across the world to be endowed with the Singapore NRF fellowship to carry out cutting-edge research this year in the field of congenital and adult cardiovascular diseases.

- Singh is working as an assistant professor in the cardiovascular and metabolic disorders programme at Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore.

**ISRO ex-chairman UR Rao becomes first Indian in International Astronautical Federation's 'Hall of Fame'**

Former ISRO scientist and Professor Udupi Ramachandra Rao will be honoured with the 2016 IAF Hall of Fame Award by the International Astronautical Federations for his immense contribution to the progress of astronautics.

- This honour consists of a permanent gallery of these personalities, including a citation, biographical information and a picture, in a special part of the IAF web presence.
- Also this year's 67th International Astronautical Congress will be held in Mexico later this year.

**Indian American Revathi Balakrishnan named as 2016 Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year**

Indian Born American woman Elementary teacher Revathi Balakrishnan honoured by US President Barack Obama for her contribution work in the Education.

- She has taught Family consumer science at Brady High School in Brady ISD for seven years

**International prestigious Award for Novelist named Man Booker International Prize announced the Winner**

South Korean Novelist Han Kang has been awarded the Man Booker International Prize for his Novel "The Vegetarian" deals with a woman's rejection of Human Brutality and giving up of eating meat.

- Han Kang succeeds over Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk and Best Seller Elena Ferrante and shared the award with her Translator Deborah Smith

**JK Rowling receives highest French civilian honour**

Eminent Harry Potter Series Author JK Rowling has been honored with the highest French civilian honour French Legion of Honour.

- J K Rowling or Robert Galbraith is a British novelist, screenwriter and film producer. She was given honorary title by the President of France Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy at a ceremony in Paris.

**England cricketer Joe Root bags top three England cricket awards and awarded ODI Cricketer of the Year**

Eminent England Cricket Batsman Joe Root has been honored with England's Test and One Day International Cricketer of the year during England Cricket Board Annual Awards

- Root clinched the award beating Stuart Broad and Ben Stokes in test while Jos Butler and David Willey in Limited overs.

**Mumbai based Mukesh Ambani honored with Othmer Gold Medal for Entrepreneurial Leadership**

United Based Chemical Heritage Foundation honored the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani with prestigious Othmer Gold Medal for his entrepreneurial leadership

- Awarded during the occasion of the Heritage Day of the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) at Philadelphia, United States of America.

**Indian-American Journalist and her colleagues receives Edgar A Poe Award**

An Indian-American journalist Neela Banerjee was awarded by US President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle and her colleagues were awarded with a prestigious award during the annual White House Correspondents carnival.

- Awardees are Neela Banerjee and Three of her colleagues – John Cushman Jr, David Hasemyer and Lisa Song from Inside Climate New.

**Indian professor wins Commonwealth short story regional prize**

India Author Prashar Kulkarni has won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize – 2016, for the Asia region for his politically grounded fiction Cow and Company.

- The author is set to compete for the 5000 pounds grand prize to be announced at the Calabash International Literary Festival in Jamaica later this year.

**Corporation Bank gets “Excellence Award on Empowering MSMEs 2016”**

Mangalore based Corporation Bank has been awarded with Excellence Award on Empowering MSMEs 2016.

- Bank MD and CEO Jai Kumar Garg received the award from Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister for MSMEs, in New Delhi.
- The award is instituted by the Federation of Industry, Trade and Services .

**Swiss government honours Yash Chopra with statue**

Bollywood director Yash Chopra has been honoured with a special statue by the Swiss government. The 250 kilos bronze statue of the late filmmaker was inaugurated by his wife Pamela and daughter-in-law Rani Mukerjee.

- The director’s statue is installed at the heart of Interlaken, inside the Kursaal area, near the Congress Centre which is a prime, popular spot with tourists.

**Varanasi Kathak dancer breaks world record**

Soni Chaurasiya a Kathak dancer from Varanasi has broken the world record of longest dance performance by continuously dancing for 123 hours and 30 minutes.

- She broke the record on 9th April at 9.21 pm at Mount Litera Zee School, Varanasi. With her performance, she broke the previous record of Hemlata Kundalu of Trichur, Kerala, who performed Mohiniattam continuously for 123 hours and 20 mins.

**Aishwarya Rai Bachchan won Global Indian of the Year 2016 award**

Bollywood star Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has won the ‘Global Indian of the Year’ award, she was honoured at NRI of the Year award function held in Mumbai.

- She dedicated the award to her daughter Aaradhya.t continues
- Eminent tennis player Sania Mirza honoured at the NRI of the Year Award 2016 where she was conferred with the Global Indian Icon of the year award.

**Ex-army chief JJ Singh gets highest French civilian honour**

Former army chief Gen. (ret'd) JJ Singh was conferred with the highest French civilian distinction, Officer of the Legion of Honour by French Ambassador to India, Francois Richier.

- Singh was chosen for the honour in recognition of his “stellar role” in modernizing the Indian Army and initiating robust exchanges between the Indian and French armies.

**Jammu-born poet Padma Sachdev gets Saraswati Samman**

Jammu & Kashmir born poet and novelist Padma Sachdev has been chosen for the prestigious Saraswati Samman for the year 2015 for her autobiography named ‘Chitt-Chete’ written in Dogri language and published in 2007.

- Sachdev’s work was selected among five works that were shortlisted from 22 works in as many languages published between the years 2005-2014.
- The award carries an award money of Rs 15 lakh, a citation and a plaque.

**Forbes Releases First Ever ‘Global Game Changers’ List, Three Indians Make The Cut**

Forbes in its inaugural edition of Global Game Changers List launched this year has ranked some of the biggest names in business.

- Topped by Mark Benioff of Salesforce.com and Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook ranked 30.
- Three Indians have been featured in the list, they are Rahul Bhatia of Inter Globe

Enterprises, Cyrus Poonawalla of Serum Institute of India, and Sunny Varkey of GEMS Education at 3, 23 and 26 positions respectively.

**T N Ninan gets Mumbai Press Club’s lifetime achievement award**

The Mumbai Press Club selected T N Ninan, Chairman and Editorial Director of Business Standard, for this year's 'RedInk Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism'.

- The award will be presented to Ninan by the Governor of Maharashtra C Vidyasagar Rao on April 26 in New Delhi.

**Djokovic, Serena bag top honours at Laureus World Sports awards**

Serbia, Novak Djokovic won “Sportsman of the year” Trophy for the third continuous victory

- Serena Williams also bagged the Women’s top honour “Sportswoman of the year” for the third time.

**The 2016 Pulitzer Prize Winners**

Awarded for achievements in newspaper and online journalism, literature and musical composition in United States

- The winner in the public service category of the journalism is awarded a gold medal.

**Winners of 2016**

- Public Service – Associated Press
- Breaking News Reporting – Los Angeles Times Staff

- Investigative Reporting – Leonora LaPeter Anton and Anthony Cormier of the Tampa Bay Times and Michael Braga of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune
- Explanatory Reporting – T. Christian Miller of Pro Publica and Ken Armstrong of The Marshall Project
- Local Reporting – Michael LaForgia, Cara Fitzpatrick and Lisa Gartner of the Tampa Bay Times
- National Reporting – The Washington Post Staff
- International Reporting – Alissa J. Rubin of The New York Times
- Feature Writing – Kathryn Schulz of The New Yorker
- Commentary – Farah Stockman of The Boston Globe
- Criticism – Emily Nussbaum of The New Yorker

#### **Mahatma's granddaughter Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee gets French honour**

Mahatma Gandhi's granddaughter Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee has been awarded with one of France's highest honour. The Order of Arts and Letters for her contribution in promoting peace, solidarity, culture, education, and development.

Bhattacharjee was conferred the Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) honour by French Ambassador Francois Richier.

#### **Google India awarded 'most attractive employer' in India**

In the 6th edition of Randstad Award 2016, Google India emerged as the most attractive employer for

a second consecutive year followed by Mercedes-Benz in the second place.

- The sectoral specific special recognition award: Dell
- Consumer Electronics: Samsung India
- E Commerce: Amazon India

#### **Pranab Mukherjee presents National Geoscience Awards 2014**

President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the National Geoscience Awards 2014 at a function to be held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

- 33 geoscientists received the National Geoscience Awards (NGA 2014) which includes one Award for Excellence, one Young Scientist Award and 19 individual and / or team awards in 16 fields of geosciences.

#### **Viswanathan Anand to be feted with Hridaynath Award**

Chess maestro Viswanathan Anand will be honoured with the Hridaynath Award, which felicitates and recognises successful individuals across the country from various walks of life.

- The Five time World champion will receive the prize from the Maharashtra governor C. Vidyasagar Rao.

#### **PM Modi confers Himachal Pradesh with 'Krishi Karman Award'**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred 'Krishi Karman Award' to the government of Himachal Pradesh for its landmark achievement in showing highest production of food grains in year 2014-15, despite adverse weather conditions and rain-fed farming in the state.

- The award was received by Agriculture Minister Sujan Singh Pathania – who led a team of senior officers including Additional Chief Secretary (Agri) Upma Chawdhry at a ceremony held at New Delhi.
- During last three years, total food grains production had increased to from 15.41 lakh in 2011-12 to 16.73 lakh tonnes in 2014-15. The department had also done commendable work in promoting poly-house cultivation, micro-irrigation, organic farming and soil health management.

#### **Tikka Shatruijit Singh knighted with top French award**

Tikka Shatruijit Singh, chief representative in Asia for French multinational LVMH (Moët Hennessy-Louis Vuitton) and advisor to the chairman of Louis Vuitton, has spearheaded the development of Louis Vuitton's business in India.

- Tikka Shatruijit Singh, the royal scion of Kapurthala's Ahluwalia dynasty, has been conferred with the prestigious Knight of the Legion of Honour for his "extraordinary work in the exchanging the French lifestyle and Indian culture with each other."

#### **Tenth Asian Film Awards: Complete List of Winners**

The 10th edition of Asian Film Awards (AFA), which was held at the Venetian Theatre in Macau, China, honoured diverse talents across Asian cinema.

- Awards won by Assassin- Assassin wins more than half of the 15 awards presented in the Asian film awards :- Best Film: The Assassin, Best Director: Hou Hsiao-Hsien for The Assassin, Best Actress: Shu Qi for The Assassin, Best Supporting Actress: Zhou Yun for The Assassin, Best Cinematography: Mark Lee Ping-bing for The Assassin, Best Production Design: Hwang Wern-ying for The Assassin, Best Original Music: Lim Giong

for The Assassin, Best Sound: Chu Shih-yi, Tu Duu-chih and Wu Shu-yao for The Assassin. Best Actor: Lee Byung-hun for The Inside Men

#### **Hockey India Annual Awards: Sreejesh, Deepika walk away with honours**

In the Hockey India second annual awards for the year 2015 Event various awards have been given away in the function held at Bengaluru.

- India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and Deepika has been honoured with the Dhruv Batra Player of the Year award for men and women, respectively, at the Hockey India second annual awards at Bengaluru

#### **Rohit Sharma completes hatrick at ESPN Cricinfo Awards**

Flamboyant opener Rohit Sharma won the prestigious Maruti Suzuki ESPN Cricinfo award for the third year in a row.

- The awards were given for stand out performances across three formats for the year 2015. Rohit, who has won the award for his ODI double hundreds in 2013 and 2014, has won it this time for playing the 'T20 Innings of the Year'. Rohit's innings of 106 against South Africa at Dharamsala, has been rated as the best batting effort.
- McCullum, who retired this year after breaking Viv Richards' 30-year old record for fastest Test hundred, deservedly got 'Captain of The Year' award for leading New Zealand to ICC World Cup final.
- England fast bowler Stuart Broad won the 'Best Test bowling' award by biggest margin of votes for his demolition act of 8/15 in the fourth Ashes Test in Nottingham where

Australia were shot out for 60 in first innings.

- The award for 'Best Test Innings' went to current New Zealand captain Kane Williamson for his 242 against Sri Lanka at Wellington.
- The ODI's innings of the year award went to AB De Villiers for his world record hundred off 31 balls against West Indies at Johannesburg. De Villiers scored 149 in that innings.

Tim Southee's 7/33 against England in a World Cup game in Wellington was the best ODI bowling effort.

- David Wiese's 5/23 against West Indies got him award for best bowling in T20 Internationals.
- Mustafizur Rahaman was adjudged Best Debutant of the year for his stellar show against India in ODIs last year.
- The Judges in the panel were John Wright, Curteny Walce, Mahela Jayawardene, Ian Chappel, Ajit Agarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar, Russell Arnold and Mark Nicholas.

#### **British mathematician Sir Andrew J. Wiles has won the Abel Prize in math**

Sir Andrew has been awarded the 2016 Abel Prize, regarded as mathematics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

- He won the award 'for his stunning proof of Fermat's Last Theorem by way of the modularity conjecture for semistable elliptic curves, opening a new era in number theory'.

#### **Priyanka Kakodkar and Raksha Kumar won Chameli Devi Jain Award**

Priyanka Kakodkar and Raksha Kumar on 15 March 2016 were named as joint winners of the 2015-16 Chameli Devi Jain Award.

- They were awarded for their work that clubs social concern and compassion with pioneering reportage and analytical skills.
- Kakodkar's reports, which targeted on the acute farming crisis in Maharashtra, were published on the front page of The Times of India in the year 2015. More than 50 of her reports were published in a year by the paper.
- The award will be presented by former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh on 17 March 2016 at the India International Centre, Delhi.

#### **Dogri Poetess Padma Sachdev Awarded Krutitava Smagra Samman**

Renowned Dogri poetess and writer Padma Sachdev has been awarded Krutitava Smagra Samman for 2015. The award was given by the Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad in Kolkata, West Bengal.

- Sachdev received this award for her outstanding contribution in literature and great service to Dogri Language.

#### **President Pranab Mukherjee presented 2015 Nari Shakti awards**

The President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented Stree Shakti Puraskars for the year 2015 at a function organized on the International Women's Day in Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The International Women's Day is observed this year with the theme "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality".

#### **Anand Mahindra conferred with France's highest civilian award**

French Ambassador to India Francois Richier conferred the Knight of the Legion of Honour on Anand Mahindra, at his France residence to Mahindra & Mahindra Group, in recognition of his outstanding national and international achievements and initiatives.

#### **Tezpur and JNU won Visitors Award for 2016**

Tezpur University won the annual Visitor's Award for the Best University. Rakesh Bhatnagar and the Molecular Parasitology Group of Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU) have also won the Visitor's Awards for Research and Innovation respectively.

#### **63rd National Film Awards**

The 63rd National Film Awards were started as an annual incentive by the Government of India to encourage meaningful films.

- Best actress: Kangana Ranaut for 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns'
- Best actor: Amitabh Bachchan for 'Piku'
- Best Film: 'Baahubali: The Beginning'
- Best Director: Sanjay LeelaBhansali for 'Bajirao Mastani'
- Best popular film providing wholesome entertainment: 'Bajranghi Baijaan'
- Best Film Friendly State Award: Gujarat

#### **Kerala Tourism campaign wins Golden City Gate Award**

God's own Country official logoed Kerala Tourism's campaign on tourism has bagged the 'Golden City Gate Award' at the travel trade show ITB in Berlin.

- The award bagged campaign Titled 'New Worlds', the multimedia campaign containing three short films directed by reputed Malayalam filmmaker Anwar Rasheed won the silver prize of this year's Golden City Gate (Das Golden Stadttor), at the International Tourismus-Borse Berlin.

#### **Palestinian Hanan Al Hroub Won 2016 Global Teacher Prize**

The 2016 Global Teacher Prize worth \$1 million has been announced by Pope Francis and the reverent awardee is a Palestinian Teacher, Hanan Al Hroub, who teaches Refugee Children and was a refugee herself

- Teachers are one of the most important pillars among the building blocks of the society. And they truly deserve to be recognized and rewarded for their remarkable contribution to the world.

#### **Leonardo DiCaprio wins his first-ever Best Actor award: Oscar 2016**

Leonardo DiCaprio has finally won his first Oscar for survival epic The Revenant. It took Leonardo a good 22 years to finally earn the Academy Award.

- Best Picture – 'Spotlight'
- Best Actor in a Leading Role – Leonardo DiCaprio for 'The Revenant'

- Best Actress in a Leading Role – Brie Larson for 'Room'

### **Bhagwati Lal Vyas selected for Bihari Puraskar 2015**

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

### **Manoj Kumar To Be Conferred Dada Saheb Phalke Award For The Year 2015**

Veteran Film Actor and Director Shri Manoj Kumar is to be conferred the 47th Dada Saheb Phalke Award for the year 2015.

- Award is conferred by the Government of India for outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian Cinema.

### **Ratan Thiyam Selected For 11th META Lifetime Achievement Award**

Veteran playwright and director Ratan Thiyam has been selected for prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for 2016 at the 11th edition of Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META).

- Currently he is the chairman of the National School of Drama.

### **Stevie Wonder Honoured With Global Green Hero Award**

Veteran singer Stevie Wonder was honoured with Global Green Hero award.

- The award has been given at the 13th Annual Global Green USA Pre Oscar party.

## **Sports**

### **First ever Paralympics Games begins in Arunachal Pradesh**

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

- The three day event was declared open by Dani Sulu, Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs, Arunachal Pradesh.

### **Shane Watson to retires from international cricket**

Australian all-rounder Shane Watson declared that he will call time on his 14-year-old international cricket career at the end of his team's campaign in the ongoing ICC World Twenty20.

- The 34-year-old has already retired from Test cricket.

### **Charles Borromeo resigned from Tata Steel Sports Department**

Tamilnadu hailed 1982 Asian Games gold medalist Charles Borromeo head of the Tata Steel sports department has resigned citing personal reasons.

- This resignation comes after the vigilance department officials of the company questioned him in connection with alleged irregularities in tender process of synthetic track laying at the JRD Tata Sports complex.

- He bagged a gold medal of 800 m at the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi and also a part of Indian Olympic commission that took place at Los Angeles in 1984.

#### **Sania Mirza, Martina Hingis Win Italian Open**

India's Sania Mirza and Switzerland's Martina Hingis clinched the Rome Masters title, defeating their Russian opponents 6-1, 6(5)-7, 10-3 in the women's doubles final.

- This win is their fifth title for the year after Sydney, Brisbane, Saint Petersburg and Australian Open.
- It is their 14<sup>th</sup> title together all over.

#### **Pakistan beat India at Asian Kabaddi championships**

Pakistan has won the third edition of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2016 (Circle Style) by defeating India.

- In the final match held at Pakistan Ordnance Factory Sports Complex in Wah Cantonment, Pakistan defeated India by 50-31 points.
- The championship was organised by the Pakistan Kabaddi Federation (PKF).

#### **Novak Djokovic beats Andy Murray in Madrid Open final**

World number one Novak Djokovic beat defending champion Andy Murray 6-2 3-6 6-3 in the Madrid Open final.

- The defeat means the 28-year-old Briton will lose his world number two ranking to Roger Federer.

- Djokovic now moves ahead of Spain's Rafael Nadal with a record 29 ATP Masters 1000 titles.

#### **Shashank Manohar Resigns as BCCI President**

Shashank Manohar has resigned as president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

- Manohar has left the office as he believes recommendations made by RM Lodh panel are impossible to implement.
- He won't be BCCI representative at Asian Cricket Council.

#### **Vijender Singh beats Andrzej Soldra to win sixth pro fight**

Pro turned Haryana hailed Boxing star Vijender Singh's charging winning strip remained intact as he carved out a sixth consecutive knockout victory by battering Poland's Andrzej Soldra.

- The result makes him unbeaten in Pro Boxing and has won all his bouts by a knockout.

#### **Stephen Curry named NBA's Most Valuable Player for second straight year**

Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry was named the NBA's Most Valuable Player for the second straight year he is set to be the 11th person to win consecutive MVP awards.

- With this feat he is becoming the first unanimous Winner in the award's 61-year history after a record-breaking contribution to his side.

**Andy Murray beats Novak Djokovic to win first Italian Open title**

Britain's Andy Murray won his first Italian Open title with a 6-3 6-3 victory over Novak Djokovic.

- It's his first Italian Open and will boost him before the French Open, which begins on 22 May.
- Earlier, Serena Williams ended a nine-month title drought with a 7-6 (5), 6-3 win over Madison Keys in an all-American women's final.

**India women settle for silver after losing to Malaysia in Asian Squash Team Championship**

Indian women's squash team ended with a silver medal its Asian Team Championship campaign as they lost to Malaysia by 0-2 margin in the summit clash in Taipei.

- Earlier the team has won bronze-medal finish in the earlier edition of the championship. Sachika lost in straight games 7-11 6-11 10-12 to Sivasangari Subramaniam in the first match.
- India's top seed Joshna Chinappa provided a tough fight to Delia Arnold, who finally prevailed with 9-11, 13-11, 11-8, 11-9 victory.
- She had lost to Delia Arnold in the earlier meeting of the two teams.

**Max Verstappen becomes youngest Formula 1 winner**

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen became Formula One's youngest race winner aged 18 by winning the Spanish Grand Prix.

- Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen was second and teammate Sebastian Vettel third. Verstappen's teammate, Daniel Ricciardo, finished fourth.
- He became the winner after Mercedes teammates Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg crashed into each other on the first lap.

**Women's 4x100m relay team breaks national record at IAAF Meet**

The Indian women's relay team in 4x100m category broke the 18-year-old National record to finish in 4th position at the IAAF World Challenge in Beijing China.

- The 4x100m women relay team comprising Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda, HM Jyoti and Merlin Joseph clocked 44.03s to finish the race in the fourth spot.
- This new record was set up by breaking the 18-year-old record of 44.43s created by the quartet of Saraswati Dey, Rachita Mistry, EB Shyla and PT Ushain 1998 in Japan.

**India lose to China in semi-final of Uber Cup**

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

- After top shuttlers Saina Nehwal and P V Sindhu went down narrowly against their respective opponents in the two singles match, Jwala Gutta and N Sikki Reddy also bit the dust in the first doubles, ending India's campaign.
- Indian eves had scripted history in the last edition when they won a historic bronze in

New Delhi and they repeated the feat this time at Kunshan Sports Center Stadium.

### **China beats South Korea to win Uber Cup 2016 badminton final**

China beat South Korea 3-1 to win the Uber Cup badminton final 14<sup>th</sup> time.

- Tang Yuanting and Chen Qingchen beat Chang Ye-na and Lee So-hee 21-14, 21-16 in doubles to give the hosts an insurmountable 3-1 lead.
- Indian women's team settled for a bronze medal after suffering a 0-3 defeat at the hands of defending champions China in the semifinals of the Uber Cup badminton championship, at Kunshan in China.

### **Denmark win first Thomas Cup title**

Denmark finally got their acts right by beating fancied Indonesia 3-2 in the final to become the first European country to win the Thomas cup world team title.

- 13<sup>th</sup> seeded Vittinghus stayed calm throughout the match to beat an inexperienced 21-year-old Ihsan Maulana Mustofa 21-15, 21-7 in the decider.

### **Mohun Bagan beats Aizawl FC 5-0 to lift 14th Federation Cup title**

Mohun Bagan clinched Hero Federation Cup by defeating Aizawl Football Club by a record 5-0 margin and regain the title after eight years, at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Kolkata.

- The record margin victory comes as two goals was Mizoram striker Jeje Lalpekhlua while Haitian Sony Norde, Dhanachandra Singh and Bikramjit Singh scored one each.

- Mizoram striker Jeje Lalpekhlua became the most prolific Indian striker, as he completed a tally of 20 goals in the season. He scored eight goals, including a hat-trick in the contest.

### **Sudha Singh qualifies for Rio Olympics in 3000 m steeple chase event**

Sprinter Sudha Singh has booked berth for Rio Olympics by finishing second in the 3000m steeplechase event at the Federation Cup in New Delhi.

- Another national record was set in the Men's 400m event with Rajiv Arokiya clocked 45.47 seconds, 0.7 seconds behind the Rio standard of 45.40.

### **Indian team win one silver, two bronze in Archery World Cup**

Indian women's Archery team sealed silver after losing to Chinese Taipei seed in the title clash in the Archery World Cup at the Yuanshen Stadium in Shanghai, China.

- Women's team comprising Deepika Kumari, Bombayla Devi Laishram and Laxmirani Majhi lost to the lower-ranked Chinese Taipei in the recurve team final.
- Third seeded Indian men's recurve team of Atanu Das, Jayanta Talukdar and Mangal Singh Champa hammered ninth seed British team to bag the bronze
- The mixed pair of Deepika and Atanu from India getting fancied Koreans in shoot-off to end with another bronze.

### **Vijender Singh records 5th consecutive victory in Professional Boxing**

Pro turned Indian Boxer Vijender Singh notched up his fifth consecutive knockout win by battering Matiouze Royer of French in London.

- Vijender was declared winner little over a minute into the fifth round of the six-round super middleweight contest which was incidentally his longest bout so far.

#### **Nico Rosberg has won Russian Grand Prix**

The Formula One championship leader Nico Rosberg has won the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi.

- It's his fourth-straight win of this season.
- His Mercedes teammate, Lewis Hamilton and Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen has finished at 2nd and 3rd respectively in the race.

#### **Leicester wins its first Premier League title**

English football club Leicester city FC secured its first Premier League title short of playing after second-place Tottenham drew 2-2 at Chelsea.

- The English club was playing in the second tier only two years ago came close to be demoted again last year.

#### **Seven Indian shuttlers qualify for Rio Olympics**

Seven Indian shuttlers have booked their berth for the upcoming Rio Olympics, scheduled in August.

- Of the seven, the list includes two female singles players in Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu, a male singles' player in Kidambi Srikanth, women's doubles pairing of Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa while Manu Attri and Sumeeth Reddy make up the male doubles team.

#### **Mark Selby wins 2016 World Championship title of Snooker**

England's world number one snooker player Mark Selby (32-years) beat China's Ding Junhui 18-14 to win his World Championship title of Snooker.

- With this win, Selby also ended Ding's chance of being the first Asian player to win the world title.
- This was Selby's second World Snooker title, the first was won against Ronnie O'Sullivan in 2014.

#### **Maria Sharapova provisionally suspended after failing drugs test at Australian Open**

Former world number one Maria Sharapova has revealed she failed a drugs test at the Australian Open.

- The 28 year old Russian star tested positive for meldonium, a substance, she has been taking since 2006 for health issues.
- The International Tennis Federation said, Sharapova, a five time Grand Slam champion, is provisionally suspended from March 12th pending further action.

#### **Rest of India complete record run chase to win Irani trophy**

Rest of India (ROI) pull off an incredible chase to beat 41 times Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai by four wickets.

- Needing 480 to win the match with a day and a half to go, ROI went about their job without much fuss as they reached the target with just a few overs left in the match.

**Vijender Singh clinches fourth successive professional win**

Vijender Singh retained his unbeaten run in Professional Boxing alive with yet another knockout win over Hungary's Alexander Horvath at the Echo Arena in Liverpool.

**All England Championships: Lin Dan wins sixth title; Nozomi Okuhara first**

Lin Dan earned his sixth All England badminton title when he routed Chinese teammate Tian Houwei 21-9, 21-10 in the final.

- Meanwhile, Nozomi Okuhara of Japan marked her 21st birthday with her first All England title after beating two-time champion Wang Shixian of China 21-11, 16-21, 21-19 in their thrilling final.

**Services wins 70th Santosh Trophy football title 2016**

In the 70th Santosh Trophy Football Championship Tournament Services beat Maharashtra 2-1 to clinch title for fifth time. Riding on Arjun Tudu's double strike helped the side to lift the trophy.

- Services retained the Santosh Trophy National Football Championships title after beating hosts Maharashtra 2-1 in the title clash in the Final at the SEC Railway Stadium Nagpur.

**Australia pacer Clint McKay announces retirement from international cricket**

Australian medium-pacer Clint McKay has announced his retirement from international and Australia's first-class cricket.

- The 33-year-old Victoria Pacer will carry on playing in the English country circuit for Leicestershire and also play in the Big Bash League for the Sydney Thunder.

**West Indies lift their second ICC World T20 title**

West Indies beat England by four wickets to lift their second ICC World T20 title in Kolkata. With this win, West Indies become the first side to win T20 World Cup for the second time. All previous teams had won, but only once.

**Nandu Natekar becomes first non-cricketer to be inducted into Legends Club**

Badminton ace Nandu Natekar has been inducted into the Legends Club, founded by the late Cricket Club of India president Raj Singh Dungarpur, as the first non-cricketer, along with 1983 World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev.

- The Legends Club will celebrate the birthdays of Nandu Natekar -- on May 12 -- and Kapil Dev -- on January 6, 2017.

**Riyad Mahrez becomes first African footballer to win PFA Player of the Year**

Riyad Mahrez of Algeria was adjudged as the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Player of the Year. He is the first African to receive the award.

- On the other hand, Dele ally of Totten ham club has been chosen as young player of the year.

### **Mairaj shoots silver at Rio World Cup**

Indian shooter Mairaj Ahmed Khan made a successful start to his campaign at the ISSF World Cup by winning a silver medal in men's skeet event in Rio de Janeiro. Mairaj's feat gave India its first skeet medal at a World Cup.

- Mairaj lost to Sweden's Marcus Svensson 2-1 in the shoot-off tiebreaker in the gold medal match on Sunday night after both were tied on 14 targets at the end of the regulation 16 shots. Italy's Tamarro Casandro got the bronze. Earlier, Mairaj shot 122 out of 125 in the qualifying round to be second among the top six shooters.
- In the semifinal stage, both Mairaj and Marcus shot 15 out of 16 targets each to earn the right to contest for the gold medal.

### **Women's World T20: Maiden title for West Indies women**

The Caribbean women lifted the T20 world cup after their convincing eight-wicket win over Australia in the women's World T20 final.

- A world record 120-run opening partnership between Matthews and Taylor set up the chase, which became pretty facile in the end. It was West Indies' maiden title, dethroning three-time defending champions.

### **Kane Williamson, Ben Stokes make through Wisden's top five cricketers of 2015**

In the 153rd and latest edition of Wisden has included New Zealand captain Kane Williamson and predecessor Brendon McCullum are among Wisden's five cricketers of the year.

- Australia captain Steve Smith, and England's Ben Stokes and Jonny Bairstow were the others announced.

### **Australia thrash India 4-0 to win Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**

Australia achieved up a huge 4-0 victory over India in the summit clash to win the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament in Malaysia.

- Australia won the tournament for a record ninth time.
- The New Zealand took the third place while the Hosts Malaysian team grabbed fourth spot.
- The tournament is named after the ninth King of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah and keen fan of field hockey.

### **Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath retires from ODIs, T20Is**

Sri Lanka spinner Rangana Herath has retired from 50-over and Twenty20 internationals in order to carry on playing test matches.

- The 38-year-old took 74 wickets in 71 one-day internationals and another 18 in 17 T20 matches for the island nation, shouldered the burden of the slow bowling attack following the retirement of spin great Muttiah Muralitharan in 2011.

### **Dipa Karmakar becomes first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for Olympics**

Dipa Karmakar created history by becoming the first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for Olympics. Karmakar, the 22-year-old gymnast from Tripura, exhibited a strong show as she completed her performance at the final qualifier and Olympic Test Event in Rio de Janeiro.

- She had created history by becoming the first woman gymnast to win a bronze medal in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.
- This win had made her the first Indian woman to win a commonwealth gymnastics medal and the second Indian, after Ashish Kumar.

#### **Rafael Nadal wins Monte Carlo Masters title**

Rafael Nadal defeated Frenchman Gael Monfils to grab the 2016 Monte Carlo Masters title.

- He defeated Gael Monfils by 7-5 5-7 6-0 in 2 hours 46 minutes to claim his ninth title, but his first since 2012.
- Nadal has, now, claimed clay-court titles in each of last 13 years. Before losing the 2013 final to world number one Novak Djokovic, Nadal had won eight consecutive titles.

#### **India wins 2016 Asian Nations Cup Chess tournament**

India won the Asian Nations Cup chess team championship defeating Vietnam with a convincing 3-1 margin in the final round in Abu Dhabi. This was the third time that Indian men won the event.

- India earned 17 points, two more than World and Olympiad champions China, to clinch the title.

#### **Lee Chong Wei Wins 11th Malaysian Open Title**

Malaysia's badminton star Lee Chong Wei won his 11th Malaysian Open title, a much-needed boost for his pursuit of a still-elusive Olympic gold medal.

- Lee cruised to victory with a flurry of devastating smashes against world number one Chen Long from China, beating him 21-13, 21-8 in a match that lasted 42 minutes.

#### **Danny Willett, first British to win US Masters golf 2016**

Danny Willett has won the Masters at Augusta National to become the first Briton to claim US Master's title under his belt which is to become the first British victory in 20 years.

#### **Chawrasia wins Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of Month**

S.P. Chawrasia of India was honoured with the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month for March, to his performance at the Hero Indian Open. He is the second Indian to win the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month award.

#### **England Cricketer James Taylor retired from International Cricket**

England middle order batsman James Taylor has been forced to retire from cricket at the young age of 26 due to a serious heart condition, by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

- He played 7 test matches and 27 ODI internationals for England and captained the side against Ireland in May 2015.

#### **Vishnu Vardhan is first ATT champion**

Former national champion Vishnu Vardhan put his name into the record books by becoming the first champion of the Asian Tennis Tour (ATT) after he

beat Sidharth Rawat by 7-6(7), 6-3 in the final of the \$5,000 event at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi.

- Vishnu Vardhan is a professional tennis player from Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Nico Roseberg wins 2016 Bahrain Grand Prix**

Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg claimed the 2016 Bahrain Grand Prix to win his fifth straight race and Kimi Raikkonen finished second for Ferrari.

- Five in a row Nico Rosberg wins Bahrain Grand Prix While his Champion teammate Lewis Hamilton's hopes of a third successive Bahrain Grand Prix victory.

#### **Mumbai U-23 Team Clinched CK Nayudu Trophy 2015-16**

The Mumbai under-23 team clinched the Col CK Nayudu Trophy by defeating Madhya Pradesh at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

- This was Mumbai's second big title of the season, After clinching their 41st Ranji Trophy title in Pune around a week back.

#### **Patna Pirates beat U Mumba to win 3rd season of Pro Kabaddi League**

Patna Pirates beat the dominant U Mumba to emerge as Champions of Pro Kabaddi Season 3. The score closed at 31-28 in favour of Patna Pirates.

#### **India win Asia Cup title for sixth time**

India demonstrates its dominance in Twenty 20 cricket and regains continental supremacy, downing host Bangladesh by eight wickets in the

final of the Asia Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium. With this victory, India lifted their sixth Asia Cup title.

- Man of the Match: Shikhar Dhawan.
- Man of the series: Sabbir Rahman (Bangladesh).

#### **Deaths**

#### **Former Mossad Director Meir Dagan passes away**

Former Director of Israel's intelligence agency Mossad Meir Dagan passed away due to liver cancer. He was 71.

- He had served as Director General of the Mossad from 2002 until his retirement in 2011. He was widely credited for covertly disrupting Iran's nuclear program.

#### **Cameroon Footballer Patrick Ekeng dies after collapsing on pitch**

Cameroon international footballer Patrick Ekeng (26-years) has died after collapsing on the pitch playing a first division match yesterday with his Romanian side Dinamo Bucharest.

- He fell to the ground without any contact with another player in the 70th minute of the game against Viitorul, just seven minutes after coming on as a substitute.
- Earlier, Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe also died after collapsing on the pitch, during a Confederations Cup match in 2003 against Colombia in France.

**Pakistan's Human right activist Khurram Zaki shot dead in Karachi**

Human Rights Activist Khurram Zaki, has been shot dead in Karachi, Pakistan. He is known for his strong stance against hatred and violence targeted at Shia Muslims. He was 40.

- The Hakimullah Mehsud faction of the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

**Former MLA Rajeshwara Rao passes away**

Former Sircilla MLA Chennamaneni Rajeswara Rao has passed away. The 93-year-old Rao is the brother of Maharashtra Governor Vidyasagar Rao.

- Rao worked for the Communist Party of India for four decades since his student days and was elected as its MLA four times from Vemulawada.
- He was the president of the Telangana Freedom Fighters Association and the president of the farmers' wing of CPI. However he quit the CPI as the chairman of its legislature party in 1999 and joined the Telugu Desam. He detached himself from politics after 2009.

**US actor William Schallert passes away**

Former SAG president William Schallert, best known as TV dad Martin Lane on The Patty Duke Show has died at the age of 93 at his home in Los Angeles.

- Schallert was born in Los Angeles in 1922 and began acting while a student at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and, in 1946.

- His role as patriarch Martin Lane on the popular 1960s show was among his most memorable.

**Nirankari mission Baba Hardev Singh passes away**

Nirankari spiritual leader Baba Hardev Singh was killed in a road accident in Montreal, Canada. When he was travelling from New York to Montreal. He was 62.

- Baba Hardev Singh, took over as the chief of the mission in 1980 after his father Gurbachan Singh was assassinated.
- The organization had over 100 branches spread across 27 countries by 2009.

**Renowned West Indies cricket commentator Tony Cozier passes away**

Legendary West Indian Cricket Commentator and journalist Tony Cozier died at the age of 75 following a long illness.

- He voiced many series of West Indies in his five decade career from 1962 of the most respected cricket writer, broadcaster and historian to have come out of the region.

**Congress Rajya Sabha MP Praveen Rashtrapal passes away**

Gujarat Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Praveen Rashtrapal died after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 76.

- He was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 2G scam in the previous Lok Sabha. However he was an Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax before he took politics career.

**Veteran RSS leader Balraj Madhok passes away**

Veteran RSS leader and founder of Bharatiya Jan Sangh, Balraj Madhok passed away. He was 96.

- Prime Minister Naredra Modi paid his last respects to the departed leader this afternoon. He said, Madhok was selflessly devoted to the nation and society with a strong ideological commitment.

#### **Former Test cricketer Deepak Shodhan passes away**

Gujarat-born Former Test cricketer Deepak Shodhan has passed away at the age of 87. He was India's oldest living Test cricketer in Ahmedabad.

- The left-handed batsman made his international debut against Pakistan in 1952 in which he scored 110 in the first innings.
- He scored 1802 runs, with 4 hundreds and 7 fifties in 43 first class games, besides taking 73 wickets at an average of 34.05.

#### **Veteran Gujarati folk singer Diwaliben Bhil passes away**

Legendary Gujarati folk singer Diwaliben Bhil, has passed away due to age-related ailments in Junagadh. She was 80.

- Besides folk songs and garba songs, Diwaliben had also lent her voice to several film songs.
- The Government had honoured her with the Padma Shri in 1991

#### **World's Oldest Olympic champion Sandor Tarics, Berlin veteran, dies at 102**

The world's oldest Olympic champion, Sandor Tarics, has died at the age of 102 in San Francisco.

- He was the team member of the Hungarian water polo team that gave triumph to its side in the Berlin Olympics in 1936, pushing Germany into second place.

#### **Former J&K Congress minister passes away**

Senior Congress leader Romesh Sharma passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 65. He was also Former Jammu and Kashmir Minister.

- He was Minister from Nowshera Constituency. Sharma who was also an Ayurvedic doctor, joined politics before 2000 and won the Assembly elections in 2002.

#### **Babu Bharadwaj Passes Away**

Renowned writer and journalist Babu Bharadwaj, 68, passed away. He breathed his last at a private hospital in the city where he was undergoing treatment after suffering a cardiac arrest.

- He was working as the chief editor of the online news portal Dool News.

#### **Ronnie Corbett dies aged 85**

Entertainer Ronnie Corbett, best known for BBC comedy sketch show The Two Ronnies, has died aged 85.

- Corbett was one of the UK's best-loved comedians and along with Ronnie Barker; their double act was one of the most successful of the 1970s and '80s. His most memorable solo projects include the sitcom Sorry! and the game show Small Talk.

**Renowned Iraqi-British Architect Zaha Hadid passes away**

Renowned Iraqi-born British architect Zaha Hadid passed away due to heart attack. She was 65.

- She was the first female winner of the top Pritzker Architecture Prize (2004), also known as the Nobel for architecture.

**Sherlock Holmes actor Douglas Wilmer dies aged 96**

Sherlock Holmes actor Douglas Wilmer has died at the age of 96.

- He donned the famous deerstalker in the mid-1960s to play Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's character in a BBC series.

**Former Italy coach, AC Milan player Cesare Maldini passes away**

Italian football manager and player, Cesare Maldini has died on April 3. He was 84.

- Cesare Maldini won four Serie A titles during his time with Milan and was skipper of the side in 1963.

**British playwright Arnold Wesker died**

British playwright Arnold Wesker, has died at the age of 83. He had Parkinson's disease.

- London born prolific political writer who produced more than 40 plays, as well as books of essays, poetry and short stories. His work also included children's fiction and a first novel, Honey, which was published in 2005.

**Punjab lokpal Justice J.S. Sekhon passes away**

Punjab lokpal and former Punjab and Haryana High Court Judge, Justice Jai Singh Sekhon passed away.

- Sekhon, elder brother of Punjab cabinet minister Janmeja Singh Sekhon, had been fighting cancer for more than a year.
- He started his career as a lawyer at the Ferozepur district and sessions court and before being elevated as high court judge, he worked as district and sessions judge in several courts of the state.

**Hero group co-founder SatyanandMunjal dies at 99**

Co-founder of Hero Cycles group SatyanandMunjal, died at the age of 99 in Model Town, Ludhiana.

- Munjal was popularly known as 'mahatma' SatyanandMunjal for being devoted to several social causes related to the AryaSamaj.
- Hero Honda started in 1984 as a joint venture between Hero Cycles of India and Honda of Japan by Dr. Brijmohan Lall Munjal

**Iconic African photographer Malick Sidibe passes away at 80**

Eminent Malian photographer Malick Sidibe has died at 80 years old, He had been ill for some time.

- Malick is known for his street scenes and studio shots that render a portrait of photos of Mali's post-colonial period helped people see the Mali's in a new light.

**Telangana Finance Minister's PRO & Former Journalist D. Ravinder passes away**

Telangana Finance Minister Eatala Rajender's Public Relations Officer and former journalist D. Ravinder passed away.

- Ravinder from Raikal of Karimnagar district, Telanagana

#### **Chyna, Former WWE women's champ, passes away**

Former WWE Women's Champion, as well as former WWE Intercontinental Champion, Chyna (Real name: Joan Laurer) passed away.

- Chyna became the first woman in WWE history to participate in the Royal Rumble match, when she entered as the 30th entrant during the 1999 Royal Rumble match.

#### **Former Bombay Ranji player Ranjan Baidoor passes away**

Former Mumbai Ranji Trophy player Ranjan Baidoor died on April 4 due to a fatal heart attack at his residence in Mumbai.

- Hetook 20 wickets in 16 games at 37.20 with a best of 4 for 32. He was also a useful lower-order batsman with a career best of 96 and aggregated 316 runs at an average of 19.75.

#### **Father of Madras Atomic Power Station "M.H.P.Rao" passes away**

The architect of Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), "Myneni Hari Prasad Rao" aka MHP Rao passed away due to old age ailments. He was 88.

- He was specially appointed by the then Nuclear Power Board to administer the

construction and commissioning of the MAP.

- He had also served as a member of Southern, Western and Northern Indian Regional electricity boards.

#### **Cartoonist Toms Passes Away in Kerala**

Eminent cartoonist Vadakkal Thoppil Thomas known as Toms has died at a private hospital in Kottayam due to agerelated illnesses. He was 86.

- His impression created everlasting cartoon characters like Bobanum Moliyum (Boban and Molly).
- The Bobanum Moliyum strip was first published in Malayala Manorama in 1957. Toms retired from the newspaper in 1987.

#### **Veteran Journalist Yogendra Bali Is No More**

The veteran journalist and author Yogendra Bali has passed away due to a heart attack. He was 85 year old.

- Mr. Bali was a member of the general council of the Lalit Kala Akademi and a member of its committees on Art Education, Publications, the Triennele and International Exhibitions.

#### **Former Union MoS Dr C Silvera passes away**

Former Union Minister of Mizoram C Silvera died at 81.He was the only leader from Mizoram to be in the union council of ministers.

- Silvera was born on May 6, 1935 .He worked as medical officer under the Baptist Church of Mizoram before joining politics.

#### **Screenwriter Barbara Turner passed away**

Barbara Turner, the Emmy-nominated screenwriter and producer has died in Los Angeles.

- The 79 year old screenwriter earned two Emmy norms for “The War Between the Tates” and “Hemingway & Gellhorn” and worked on numerous films such as “Petulia”, “Georgia” and “Pollock”.

#### **Nobel laureate Lloyd S. Shapley passed away**

Lloyd S. Shapley, a researcher of strategic decision-making called “game theory” who had won the 2012 Nobel Prize in economics, passed away. He was 92.

- The American mathematician had come up with formulas to match supply and demand in markets.

#### **Football legend Johan Cruyff passed away**

The Holland football legend Johan Cruyff has died peacefully in Barcelona, in the presence of his family of lung cancer at the age of 68.

- The Dutchman, was named as the world player of the year on three occasions.

#### **Comedian Garry Shandling Dies at 66**

American actor and comedian Garry Shandling has died. He was 66. His office did not yet have any details about Shandling’s death.

- He was best known for his work in its Garry Shandling’s Show and The Larry Sanders Show.

- He attended as host of the Grammy Awards four times and as host of the Emmy Awards three times.

#### **Former BJP MP Lal Muni Chaubey passed away**

Veteran BJP leader and Politician Lal Muni Chaubey passed away at the age of 73 owing to prolonged illness.

- He has been selected as the MP from Buxar district during 1996-2009 four times
- He had also been the MLA from Kaimur constituency thrice

#### **Booker prize-winner Anita Brookner passed away**

The Booker prize-winning British author and renowned art historian Anita Brookner has died at the age of 87.

- He won the Booker in 1984 for her novel Hotel du Lac, was a bestselling author who wrote 25 books.

#### **American Actress Nancy Reagan died at 94**

Nancy Davis Reagan, the veteran American actress and the former First lady of US died at the age of 94 following a cardiac arrest.

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- She was an American actress and the wife of the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

#### **Brazilian musician Nana Vasconcelos Dies**

Acclaimed Brazilian musician Nana Vasconcelos has died at age 71. He worked over the decades with well-known musicians such as Milton Nascimento.

- The American jazz magazine Down Beat named Vasconcelos percussionist of the year every year from 1983 to 1991.

#### **Former Intel CEO Andrew Grove passes away**

Intel's former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chairman Andrew Grove passed due to away Parkinson's disease. He was 79.

- He was a science pioneer in the semiconductor industry and under his leadership Intel became a household name in computers.

#### **Former Danish Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen Passed Away**

Anker Henrik Jorgensen, who was a Danish politician and served at various times as Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Denmark has passed away on Sunday.

- He led five cabinets as Prime Minister between 1972 and 1981. He was 93.

#### **Rock legend Keith Emerson died**

British Keyboardist and progressive rock legend Keith Emerson died. He was 71.

- Emerson, the co-founder of British prog-rock band Emerson, Lake & Palmer, was

widely considered one of the top keyboard players of the progressive rock era.

#### **Former minister of Maharashtra-Nihal Ahmed Maulavi Mohammed Usman Died**

Socialist leader Nihal Ahmed Maulavi Mohammed Usman died at the age of 90 in Nashik.

- Popularly known as Nihalbhai, he has been selected to the legislative assembly for 3 decades contesting for ten times and winning all the ten elections between 1960-1955.

#### **Famous Tamil Comedy Actor Kumarimuthu Passed Away**

Legendary Actor – comedian Kumarimuthu died at private hospital in Chennai. He was 77. He is known for his comic laugh.

- He was also part of the Political Party Drivida Munnetra Kazhagam.

#### **New Zealand Cricket Legend Martin Crowe Dead Dies Aged 53 After Losing Cancer Battle**

New Zealand Cricketer Martin Crowe passed away after a prolonged battle with cancer that eventually proved one attack the gifted cricketer couldn't see off. He was 53.

- Auckland-born Crowe is widely regarded as one of New Zealand's best ever batsman

#### **Veteran Left Chief Ashok Ghosh passed away**

Veteran All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) leader and senior-most leader of the Left Front in West

Bengal, Ashok Ghosh passed away recently. He was 94.

**Former Lok Sabha Speaker PA Sangma Passes Away**

Purno Agitok Sangma, who was the Lok Sabha Speaker from 1996 to 1998 and one of the co-founders of Nationalist Congress Party passed away today following a heart attack. He was 68.

**Pat Conroy, Prince of Tides and Great Santini Author, Dies At 70**

Legendary Novelist Pat Conroy served as an unending source of inspiration for his fiction notably the novels The Great Santini, The Lords of Discipline and the Princes of Tides died.

**Jim Harrison Passed Away**

Veteran lyricist, Poet, Essayist and Novel writer Jim Harrison passed away at the age of 78 following cardiac arrest.

- His famous novel "Legends of the fall" in 1979 describes about a Montana family that was ravaged in worldwar-I was a huge hit

**Ustad Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan passed away**

Eminent Shehnai exponent Ustad Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan died on 16 March 2016 in Kolkata. He was 77.

- He was known as one of the best-known players of the instrument after the legendary Bismillah Khan (1916-2006).

**E-mail inventor Ray Tomlinson passes away**

Internet pioneer and e-mail inventor Raymond Tomlinson passed away in Washington, United States. He was 74 years old.

- To send electronic messages on different machines on a certain network successfully he had used @ sign to separate the user name from the name of their machine.

**Popular Malayalam actor Kalabhavan Mani passes away**

Renowned Malayalam actor Kalabhavan Mani passed away at Kochi, Kerala due to liver and kidney failure. He was 45.

- He had acted in over 200 films in Malayalam and other South Indian languages including Tamil, and Telugu films.

**Books**

**Dr. Mahesh Sharma releases the book "The Culture Heritage of Trans Himalayas-Kinnaur"**

The Minister for State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Dr. Mahesh Sharma released a book entitled "The Culture Heritage of Trans Himalayas-Kinnaur" authored by Shri P.S. Nagi Loktus, IAS (retd.)

**The Making of India: The Untold Story of British Enterprises authored by Kartar Lalvani**

The making of India: The untold story of British Enterprises authored by Kartar Lalvani was in news in the third week of April 2016. The book discusses

the British rule and its role in creating a unified India.

- The book supposedly brings out the many positive aspects of the colonial rule.

**Book Launched By Arvind Kejriwal Co-Authored By Imran Hashmi**

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched the book "The Kiss of Life: How a superhero and my son defeated cancer" in New Delhi.

- The book is written by Bilal Siddiqi and co authored by Emraan Hashmi.
- The book has been published by Penguin Books India in three languages.

**NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly will write a book about his year in space**

NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly will write a book titled "Endurance: My Year in Space and Our Journey to Mars". Mr. Scott Kelly returned to the Earth in March 2016 after spending almost a year aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

- The book will be published by Alfred A. Knopf.

**A State in Denial authored by BG Verghese**

A State in Denial – Pakistan's Misguided and Dangerous Crusade authored by veteran journalist BG Verghese was re-released during a discussion organised by the India International Centre, New Delhi.

**Journalist Shantanu Guha Ray's new book released**

Journalist Shantanu Guha Ray's new book called "Fixed: Cash and Corruption in Cricket" released recently.

- The book examines the corruption charges against players, cricket administrators and bookies.

**Gandhi: An Illustrated Biography authored by Pramod Kapoor**

An Illustrated Biography: Gandhi was authored by Pramod Kapoor is a one platform for all those who want to know about the life of the Father of the Nation.

- In the 68 years since his assassination, Gandhi has been studied and re-analysed infinitely, with respect and critically.

**Book on Param Vir Chakra winners launched**

Indian High Commissioner to Britain Navtej Sarna launched a book celebrating the lives of 21 Param Vir Chakra winners written by a well-known Indian social activist.

- Param Vir Diary by Manju Lodha covers a total of 21 instances of bravery recounted by the friends and families of Param Vir Chakra awardees.
- Lodha chairs the Lodha Foundation, it wants proceeds from the book to go to the foundation that will be passed on to the Indian Army.

**No Time to Pause – book by Pavithra Ramesh**

Pavithra Ramesh released her debut novel named No Time to Pause, which is the story about a girl who, for want of privacy and independence goes to college in a different city.

- The book chronicles the life of a typical college student who chooses to reside miles away from her family to get value education.

**President of India receives first copies of books  
"Tagore's Vision of the Contemporary World" and  
"Tagore and Russia"**

India's President Pranab Mukherjee will receive the first copies of books "Tagore's Vision of the Contemporary World" and "Tagore and Russia" at a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

- Both books are being published by Delhi based Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) also contains papers presented at international conferences organized by ICCR in New Delhi and Moscow in 2011 as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore.

**Two new books released by Ruskin Bond**

Sahitya Academy Award Winning author Ruskin Bond has released two new books both themed on nature.

- The books namely
  1. My Favourite Nature Stories
  2. The World outside My Window

**Biography of Shashi Kapoor released**

The biography titled Shashi Kapoor – the Householder, the Star, has been authored by film

journalist Aseem Chhabra of veteran actor Shashi Kapoor.

- Kapoor, who was felicitated with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2015. Also in 2011, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan.