

STATE**Gujarat to host 2016 Kabaddi World Cup**

The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) on 22nd Aug has announced that 2016 Kabaddi World Cup will be hosted in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The tournament will take place from 7th October to 22nd October 2016. The event will see participation of 12 Kabaddi teams from around the world representing all the five geographies of the Olympic Games. These 12 teams are India, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Iran, Australia, Poland, Pakistan, Bangladesh, South Korea, Japan and Kenya. The Kabaddi World Cup matches will be held in The Arena by TransStadia, upcoming state-of-the-art stadium in Ahmedabad.

Kabaddi is a contact sport that had originated in ancient India. It is the national game of Bangladesh and is known as hadudu. Kabaddi is an umbrella term which encompasses various forms of the game including International rules Kabaddi. In India, it is the state game of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab.

Maharashtra State launches India's first comprehensive 'Crime Criminal Tracking Network System'

The Maharashtra Government became first state in the country to launch India's first comprehensive 'Crime Criminal Tracking Network System' (CCTNS) in Mumbai. The Network system was launched by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on the occasion of the 70th Independence Day. It was launched through the operationalisation of 34 cyber laboratories across the state in order to combat growing cybercrimes. The CCTNS has been developed by Pune based Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC). Advanced technology will be deployed for the safety and security of all the citizens and their properties through the cyber police force.

Under it, all police stations in the state will be linked with one another for sharing information about crimes in their respective jurisdictions and pave the way for a "digital police force" in Maharashtra. The services of the cyber labs, linked by secure high-speed fibre optic cable network, will be available to address security concerns of private organisations and banks among others. Under it, the state government will raise a special cyber police force of around 1,000 policemen well trained to handle the growing incidents of

cybercrimes. The law and order situations are created on social media networking sites which would henceforth be tackled effectively through the cyber labs.

Rajasthan becomes first state to approve sewage & waste water policy

Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to approve sewage and waste water policy. The first of its kind policy was approved by the State Cabinet meeting presided by Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje in Jaipur. Under this policy, all district headquarters, heritage cities, and cities in the state which have more than one lakh population will be included. Waste water treated under it will be used in irrigation and agricultural work. The requirement of next 30 years will be covered in this policy. It will be compulsory for every house in the state to connect with sewage system in those cities which have 100% sewage system in next five years.

Modern Rajasthan includes most of Rajputana, which comprises the erstwhile nineteen princely states, two chiefships, and the British district of Ajmer-Merwana. Marwar (Jodhpur), Bikaner, Mewar (Chittorgarh), Alwar, Dhundhar (Jaipur) were some of the main Rajput princely states.

India's first facility to produce nickel launched by HCL in Jharkhand

Limited (HCL) at its Indian Copper Complex (ICC) at Ghatshila in Jharkhand. The new facility "Nickel, Copper and Acid Recovery Plant" will be first facility in India to produce nickel metal of London Metal Exchange (LME) grade from primary resource. Initially, the capacity of the plant is poised to be 50 MT per annum, given the current production rate from the Surda mines. However, the nickel output will be increased nearly eight times after the completion of mine expansion projects located at Ghatsila. This project will utilize an eco-friendly technology and will check pollution by eliminating the use of lead. It will have reduced liquid effluent, generate 75 percent less solid waste, utilize less energy, provide safe working environment and utilize and conserve natural resources. The annual demand for pure nickel in India is around 45,000 MT and country's domestic market is totally dependent on import. Thus it will help to curb import dependence.

Odisha government launches Baristha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana

The Odisha Government on 7 August 2016 launched Baristha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana, a special assistance scheme for elderly weavers. The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the occasion of the second National Handlooms Day. Under the scheme, senior weavers above the age of 60 years would get a monthly pension of 500 rupees and those above 80 years would get 700 rupees. The scheme aims at improving the financial condition of over 8,000 weavers in the state. The beneficiary must have been worked in this field at least preceding 20 years. The pension amounts would be directly sent to the beneficiaries bank accounts. On the occasion, chief minister Naveen Patnaik also gave away awards to weavers' cooperative societies who have been relentlessly promoting and producing the traditional weaves of Odisha.

PM Narendra Modi launches Mission Bhagiratha in Telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 7th Aug launched the phase-1 of Mission Bhagiratha, a flagship project of the Telangana government with an objective to provide safe drinking water to every household in the state. The scheme is the brain child of Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. It was launched by state Government at Komatibanda Village, Gajwel in Medak District of Telangana.

Mission Bhagiratha is a water grid project that aims to provide safe drinking water to all even to remotest places in Telangana. Its objective is to provide 100 litres of clean drinking water per person in rural households and 150 litres per person in urban households. Under it safe drinking water will be provided to about 25000 rural habitations and 67 urban habitations. Apart from providing a sustainable and permanent solution to the drinking water woes, it also aims to rejuvenate more than 45000 water tanks.

Maharashtra Government launches Quit India Movement 2 against social evils

During commemoration of Platinum Jubilee anniversary of the Quit India Movement, maharashtra Government has launched Quit India 2 Swaraaj to Suraaj Movement against various social ills. It was launched by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in the presence of Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu at the historic August Kranti Maidan in Mumbai, Maharashtra from where Mahatma Gandhi had given the clarion call of Quid India in 1942. Quit The awareness movement is an apparent attempt to link contemporary politics to pre-Independence history to rid itself of various social evils and convert 'swaraj' into 'su-raj'. It would

emphasize on freedom from social evils corruption, farmer suicide, malnutrition, illiteracy, wastage of water, addiction among youth and terror in order to achieve faster all-inclusive progress on all fronts.

Besides, state government will commemorate the leaders who fought for freedom and pledge for holistic development of the nation. During his speech Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu asserted that providing education to all, creating employment, combining development with welfare measures are all part of the larger 'Quit Poverty' campaign.

NATIONAL

Rajya Sabha passes Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Rajya Sabha on 11th Aug has passed the Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2016. It seeks to raise maternity leave for working women from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for two surviving children. The Bill seeks to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. The law protects the employment of women during the time of her maternity and entitles her of a 'maternity benefit'. The Bill aims at increasing women's participation in the workforce which is "decreasing day-by-day." The provisions of bill apply to every establishment employing ten or more persons and include mines and factories. No employer can remove any woman employee on the ground of pregnancy. It is a mandatory for every establishment having 50 or more employees to have a creche. There is also a provision in the bill to provide 12 weeks maternity benefit to a commissioning mother and adopting mother (adopting a newborn aged below three). In this case commissioning mother is defined as a biological mother who uses her egg to create an embryo implanted in another woman. However, a woman who has two or more children will continue to get only 12 weeks maternity leave.

The Bill introduces a provision that states that an employer may permit a woman to work from home. This would apply if the nature of work assigned to the woman permits her to work from home. This option can be availed of, after the period of maternity leave, for a duration that is mutually decided by the employer and the woman.

With this India will be in third position in the world in terms of the number of weeks allowed for maternity leave behind Norway (44) and Canada (50).

ISRO conducts successful test launch of scramjet engine

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on 28th Aug for the first time has successfully conducted

the Supersonic Combusting ramjet, called Scramjet engine test. The test was conducted from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh and has successfully met all the intended parameters. The scramjet uses hydrogen as fuel and oxygen from the atmospheric air as the oxidiser. During the test, Air Breathing Propulsion System (ABPS) using hydrogen as fuel and oxygen from the atmosphere air as the oxidiser was successfully tested. With this, India became only the fourth nation in the world to successfully flight-test a scramjet engine after United States, Russia and China.

The scramjet engine was test launched on board of RH 560 sounding rocket. RH 560 sounding rocket is two stage Advanced Technology Vehicle (ATV). The ATV along with the scramjet engines weighed 3,277 kg at lift-off. During the test, ATV was able to fly at Mach 6 (six times the speed of sound) speeds. The scramjet engine works on the Air-breathing Propulsion System. The system uses natural oxygen present in the atmosphere to burn the fuel stored in the rocket. It reduces the amount of oxidiser to be carried along with the fuel, bringing down launch costs. This system would help in reducing the lift-off mass of the vehicle as there will be no need of carrying liquefied oxygen on board the vehicle. In turn help in increasing the energy efficiency of the rocket and also make it cost-effective. Scramjet does not have rotating parts so the chances of failure are also measurably reduced.

Union Cabinet approves introduction of Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016

The Union Cabinet on 24th Aug has given its approval for introduction of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016. The Bill will ensure effective regulation of surrogacy, prohibit commercial surrogacy and allow ethical surrogacy to the needy infertile couples. It will regulate practices in ethical surrogacy in the country and prohibits commercial surrogacy including sale and purchase of human embryo and gametes. It will also establish State Surrogacy Boards and Appropriate Authorities in the State and Union Territories. All infertile Indian married couple who want to avail ethical surrogacy will be benefited. Protects rights of surrogate mother and children born out of surrogacy. The law will apply to whole of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

It will regulate the surrogacy services in the country and allows ethical surrogacy (i.e. altruistic surrogacy) to needy infertile couples on fulfilment of certain conditions. It bars foreigners, homosexual couples, people in live in relationships and single individuals to have babies through surrogacy.

India has emerged as a surrogacy hub for couples from different countries. However there have been reported incidents concerning unethical practices of surrogacy across country. Incidents such as exploitation of surrogate mothers, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy and rackets of intermediaries importing human gametes and embryos were also reported. The 228th report of the Law Commission of India (LCI) also had recommended for prohibiting commercial surrogacy by enacting a suitable legislation. However, it had allowed ethical altruistic surrogacy to the needy Indian citizens.

Parliament passes The Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill, 2014

The Parliament passed The Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill, 2014 after it was unanimously passed by the Lok Sabha by approving all the amendments made by Rajya Sabha earlier. The bill now will go states (15 out of total 29 states) for approval as per Article 368 of Constitution as it constitutional amendment bill dealing with changes in the features of fiscal federalism.

GST is considered as great step towards transformation and transparency in tax regime. It is single indirect tax for the whole country, which will make India one unified common market. It is a single tax on the supply of goods and services, right from the manufacturer to the consumer. GST is essentially a tax only on value addition at each stage i.e. credits of input taxes paid at each stage will be available in the subsequent stage of value addition. So, the final consumer will bear only the GST in the supply chain charged by the last dealer with set-off benefits at all the previous stages.

The purpose of GST is to bring uniform indirect tax regime throughout the country by subsuming central and state indirect taxes into single indirect tax.

Following are the indirect taxes include into GST: In Central level taxes like Central Excise Duty, Additional Excise Duty, Service Tax, Additional Customs Duty or Countervailing Duty, Special Additional Duty of Customs. In State level taxes like State Value Added Tax (VAT) or Sales Tax, Octroi and Entry tax, Purchase Tax, Luxury tax, and Taxes on lottery, betting and gambling Entertainment Tax (other than the tax levied by the local bodies), Central Sales Tax (levied by the Centre and collected by the States).

GST will also benefit states which are considered backward states and also address the problem of imbalanced development. It will help to curtail black money as traders will be compelled to give proper bills. GST Eliminate multiple taxes on firms, thus help in ease of doing business. Lead to uniform, seamless

market across the country. Reduce logistic costs for firms due to elimination of centre-states taxes. Reduce the prices of capital goods and also boost economic (GDP) growth. The need for financial documentation will increase and thus reduce black money. It will also work as a catalyst to strengthen federal structure of the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches theme song ‘70 Saal Azaadi, Yaad Karo Kurbanī’

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **70 Saal Azaadi, Yaad Karo Kurbanī** celebrations on 9 August 2016 in Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh. Alirajpur is the birthplace of freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad. The Yaad Karo Kurbanī is a 15-day programme. It is aimed at celebrating 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement and 70 years of Independence and developing a feeling in every person that nation is first and individual is secondary. It seeks to provide an opportunity for the people to recall the supreme sacrifices made by freedom fighters during freedom struggle. This campaign is to reach out to youngsters and inform them of the unsung heroes and the history of the freedom struggle.

Unit I of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project dedicated to nation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin dedicated the first unit of the ambitious Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) in Tamil Nadu to the nation on 10th Aug 2016. KKNPP was dedicated via video conferencing with Modi in New Delhi, Putin in Moscow and Jayalithaa in Chennai. It has India’s single largest nuclear generation unit with capacity of 1000 megawatt (MW).

Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (or Koodankulam NPP or KKNPP) is a nuclear power station in Koodankulam in the Tirunelveli district of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, around 650 km from Chennai. It is built under India-Russian Nuclear agreement of 1988. KKNPP is India’s nuclear power plant to use imported PWR technology. It has VVER (Water-Water Energetic Reactor) type light water reactors. The reactors are built by the NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India) and Russia’s Atomstroyexport Company, a subsidiary of Rosatom. The Unit I of the KKNPP is already in service since December 2014 and was connected to the southern grid in October 2013. The first unit till now more than 10,800 million units of power and the plant had attained criticality in July 2013. The Unit II (1000 MW capacity) of the KKNPP had achieved criticality in July 2016 will begin power production by end of August 2016. KKNPP has enhanced safety features which were

incorporated in the water cooled, water moderated reactor complex after the Fukushima nuclear incident in Japan.

INTERNATIONAL

China opens world’s longest and highest glass bridge

The world’s highest and longest glass-bottomed bridge was opened to visitors in central China. The bridge connects two mountain cliffs known as the Avatar Mountains in Zhangjiajie, Hunan province. Spanning two cliffs in the Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon area, it will stretch 430 meters (1,410 feet) long and 6 meters (20 feet) wide. It stands 300 metre above a canyon in the Tianmenshan National Forest Park. It has been paved with 99 panes of three-layered transparent glass. It has been designed by Israeli architect Haim Dotan. Maximum 8,000 visitors will be allowed to cross the bridge every day. So far it has set 10 world records for design and construction.

Airlander 10: World’s largest aircraft embarks on its maiden flight

The world’s largest (longest) aircraft the Airlander 10 has embarked on its maiden flight at an airfield in Cardington in central England. Airlander 10 is hybrid ship i.e. it is a partly plane and partly airship filled with helium gas. It is 92-metre-long and 43.5m wide. It can fly at up to 4,880 metres and reach speeds of 148 kilometres per hour. It can also carry a 10-tonne payload, comparable with military transport helicopters. It can stay airborne for more than two weeks unmanned and up to five days if manned. Its successful flight comes 85 years after another airship the ill-fated R101 took off from the same airfield in October 1930 before crashing in France, killing 48 people and effectively ending the development of airships in Britain. It was first developed for the US Government as a surveillance aircraft, but the project was shelved amid defence cutbacks. It can also be used for commercial purpose.

China launches World’s first Quantum Communication Satellite

China on 16 August has successfully launched the world’s first quantum satellite named Quantum Experiments at Space Scaler (QUESS) satellite. The satellite was launched on board of Long March-2D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the remote northwestern province of Gansu. The QUESS satellite has been nicknamed **Micius**, after a 5th century BC Chinese philosopher and scientist who has been credited as the first one in human history conducting optical experiments. It will be located in sun-synchro-

nous orbit at an altitude of 500 km and will circle the Earth once every 90 minutes.

It is designed to establish hack-proof quantum communications by transmitting uncrackable keys from space to the ground. Ranges from highly secured military and government communications to online shopping. It will enable secure communications between Beijing and Urumqi, the capital of China's violence-prone far western region of Xinjiang.

Earlier, researchers around the world had successfully sent quantum messages on land. But this first of its kind satellite-based quantum network would make it possible to send quickly encrypted (hack proof) messages around the world. It also opens door to other possible uses of the technology. The launch is also a major triumph for China in the field of quantum technology.

China launches Gaofen-3 high-resolution radar imaging satellite to get accurate images of earth

China on 10 August 2016 successfully launched a new high-resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) dubbed as Gaofen-3. The satellite was launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in northern Shanxi province on the back of a Long March 4C rocket. It was 233rd flight mission by a Long March carrier rocket. The Gaofen-3 is China's first low orbit remote sensing satellite that has a lifespan of eight years. It will provide high-definition remote sensing data for its users over long periods of time. It has 12 imaging modes that will provide high-definition observation. Satellite is capable of taking wide pictures of earth and photographing detailed scenarios of specific areas. The Gaofen-3 satellite is China's first SAR imaging satellite. It is accurate to one meter in distance and covers the globe with an all-weather 24-hour observation service. It will be used for disaster warning, weather forecasting, water resource assessments, and the protection of maritime rights.

The Gaofen-3 satellite was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) and Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology (SAST), under guidance of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CATC).

Pushpa Kamal Dahal elected as 39th Prime Minister of Nepal

Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal (61) was elected as the 39th Prime Minister of Nepal on 4 August 2016. He was the sole claimant to the post of prime minister after then Prime Minister K P Oli had resigned in July 2016. Dahal was elected Prime Minister with 363 votes in favour and 210 against

him. This will be his second stint as the Prime Minister of Nepal after he had served earlier from 2008 to 2009. He resigned as Prime Minister on 4 May 2009 after his attempt to sack the army chief, General Rookmangud Katawal, was opposed by President Ram Baran Yadav. Pushpa Kamal Dahal was born on 11 December 1954 in Dhikur Pokhari, Nepal. He is also known as Prachanda. He is chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre) [CPN (M-C)]. He led a guerrilla war against the government and had launched a communist insurgency in 1996. He is also known by his nom de guerre "Prachanda", a name he went by during his guerrilla days.

BUSINESS

Unilever Plc acquires Swedish firm Blueair

Unilever, the parent company of Hindustan Unilever (HUL), on 16 August 2016 has acquired Swedish firm Blueair for an undisclosed sum. Blueair is a leading player in mobile air purification technology.

With this deal, Unilever will make its foray in air purification, a move that will complement its existing water purification business. However, Blueair will continue to operate under its existing brand name in all its markets in Sweden, China, the U.S., Japan, South Korea and India. This acquisition will help widen the reach of Blueair purifiers. Started in 1996, the Stockholm-based company had sales of \$106 million last year and is one of the largest makers of premium air purifiers in China, the U.S., Japan, South Korea and India.

Blueair was unveiled 20 years ago with the mission to start a clean air revolution by bringing people the world's best air purifiers. Blueair's air purifying products remove up to 99.97% of all contaminants from the air, including hazardous sooty particles, allergens and viruses.

Cashing in on the demand for air purifiers in India, Blueair launched its operations in India in May 2015 and aims to make India one of its top three markets globally in five years.

AWARDS

National Sports Awards 2016

The Union Government bestows National Sports Awards every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports in India. These awards include Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Dronacharya Award, Arjuna Award, Dhyana Chand Award, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy and Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar .

2016 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

It is India's highest sporting award given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

Four sports person from different discipline of sports were chosen for the award and they are P.V. Sindhu for Badminton, Dipa Karmakar for Gymnastics, Jitu Rai for Shooting and Sakshi Malik for Wrestling.

2016 Dronacharya Award

It bestowed upon coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.

Six sports coaches will be honoured with Dronacharya Awards and they are Nagapuri Ramesh for Athletics, Sagar Mal Dhayal for Boxing, Raj Kumar Sharma for Cricket, Bishweshwar Nandi for Gymnastics, S Pradeep Kumar for Swimming (Lifetime) and Mahabir Singh for Wrestling (Lifetime).

2016 Arjuna Award

It is India's second highest sporting award bestowed upon sportsperson for consistently outstanding performance for four years.

15 sports person from different discipline of sports were selected for the award and they are Rajat Chauhan for Archery, Lalita Babar for Athletics, Sourav Kothari for Billiards & Snooker, Shiva Thapa for Boxing, Ajinkya Rahane for Cricket, Subrata Paul for Football, Rani for Hockey, Raghunath VR for Hockey, Gurpreet Singh for Shooting, Apurvi Chandela for Shooting, Soumyajit Ghosh for Table Tennis, Vinesh for Wrestling, Amit Kumar for Wrestling, Sandeep Singh Mann for Para-Athletics and Virender Singh for Wrestling (Deaf).

2016 Dhyan Chand Award

It is bestowed upon sportspersons for life time contribution to sports development.

Three sports person were selected for the awards and they are Athlete Satti Geetha, hockey player Sylvanus Dung Dung and Rower Rajendra Pralhad Shelke. are: Satti Geetha (Athletics), Sylvanus Dung Dung (Hockey) and Rajendra Pralhad Shelke (Rowing).

2015-16 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy
It is bestowed upon overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments. It is given to Punjabi University, Patiala.

G Satheesh Reddy conferred first IEI-IEEE award

Senior DRDO scientist Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy on 25th Aug was conferred the first IEI-IEEE Award for

Engineering Excellence-2015. IEI-IEEE Award has been constituted by the Institution of Engineers (India) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Asia Pacific region to mark IEI's 50th anniversary. He was bestowed with this award in recognition of his significant national contributions towards missiles and aerospace technologies. He is a renowned aerospace and navigation scientist. Presently, he is serving as the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and DRDO's DG (Missiles & Strategic Systems), He had served as Director of the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), a key laboratory of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). He has pioneered many technological developments for Indian Missiles. He had led indigenous development of denied sensor and avionics technologies related to Indian missile navigation. He also has made significant contributions towards successful flight testing of the country's maiden intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) Agni-V mission. He is also credited with development of the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Weapon System (MRSAM) and the country's first guided bomb, among others. In 2015, he became first Indian to get the fellowship from Royal Institute of Navigation.

Cristiano Ronaldo wins UEFA Best Player in Europe award

Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo (31) 25 August has won the UEFA Best Player in Europe award for the year 2015-16. He won the award for the second time in three years. he was crowned for first time in 2013-14. Ronaldo defeated Antoine Griezmann and Gareth Bale to bag this award. In 2015, he had scored 35 goals for Real Madrid and 16 goals in Champions League competition. He scored 3 goals for Portugal national team at Euro 2016.

The award is an association football award given to the footballer playing for a football club in Europe that is considered the best in the previous season. UEFA created the award in 2011 after the original European Footballer of the Year award, known as the Ballon d'Or, merged with FIFA's world player award.

IOA President N Ramachandran bestowed with Olympic Order award

President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) N. Ramachandran on 21st Aug was awarded the Olympic Order for his outstanding services to the Olympic movement. The President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Thomas Bach, formally presented the award to Ramachandran.

He is an Indian squash administrator. Currently he serves as current President of WSF (World Squash

Federation) since 2008. Since February 2014 he is serving the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). He is the brother of the former Chairman of BCCI and ICC, N Srinivasan. The Olympic Order is the highest award of the Olympic Movement which is awarded in recognition of efforts worthy of merit in the cause of sport. It was established in May 1975 as a successor to the Olympic Certificate by the International Olympic Committee. It originally had three grades gold, silver and bronze, although the bronze grade fell dormant in 1984. The award is bestowed upon the recipient at the closing ceremony of each respective Olympic Games as per the tradition.

Hindi author Sunita Jain conferred with Vyas Samman award 2015

Hindi scholar and writer Sunita Jain was on 17th August awarded with the prestigious 25th Vyas Samman 2015. She was presented with the award by West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi. The award carries monetary award of 2.5 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque. The award was instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991. It is awarded annually to outstanding literary work in Hindi authored and published in past 10 years by an Indian citizen

She was bestowed with this prestigious literary award for her poetry collection Kshama (published in 2008). Through her poetry, she portrays the fine emotions between poet Tulsidas and his wife Ratnavalli. She has managed to aptly convey the sentiment of forgiveness between Tulsidas and his wife using very fine language.

Sunita Jain is scholar, novelist, short-story writer and poet of English and Hindi literature. She began to write at the age of 22 and has published short-stories, novels and poems in Hindi and English. So far she has over 100 books to her credit apart from short-stories, novels and poems in Hindi and English. She also has translated many Jain writings into English. She had also worked as the professor and the Head of the department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. She was awarded with the Padma Shri in 2004.

AR Rahman honoured with Tamil Ratna Award

Noted winning music composer AR Rahman on 15 August 2016 was honoured with the Tamil Ratna Award. The award was presented by New York based Tamil Sangam. He was honoured with this award after his concert at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) chamber to honour M.S. Subbulakshi, the doyen of Carnatic music. The concert was sponsored by India's UN Mission and Sankara Nethralaya, a Chennai-based charity organisation.

The previous recipients of Tamil Ratna Award include Bharatha Natyam exponent Kamala Lakshman, Tamil movie director Bharathi Raja and mathematician Srinivasa Varadhan.

AR Rahman (full name Allah-Rakha Rahman) is one of the most globally popular Indian music icons. He is famously known as the Mozart of Madras. His work is well known and renowned for inter mixing Eastern classical music with electronic music and traditional orchestral arrangements. In 2009, Time included him on its list of the world's most influential people. The UK-based world-music magazine Songlines named him one of **Tomorrow's World Music Icons** in August 2011. He has won multiple international awards including 2 Academy Awards (famously known as Oscars), 2 Grammy Awards, BAFTA Award and Golden Globe Award.

Shubha Mudgal selected for Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award

Singer Shubha Mudgal has been selected for the prestigious the 23rd Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award 2016. Mudgal will be honoured for her outstanding contribution towards the promotion of communal harmony, peace and goodwill.

Shubha Mudgal is a well-known Indian singer of Hindustani classical music, Thumri, Khayal, Dadra and popular Indian pop music. In 1996, she was awarded the 1996 **National Film Award for Best Non-Feature Film Music Direction** for **Amrit Beej**. At the 34th Chicago International Film Festival, she was awarded the 1998 Gold Plaque Award for Special Achievement in Music for her music in the film **Dance of the Wind**. She was honoured with Padma Shri in 2000. The Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award is given on 20 August i.e. the occasion of the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

The award was instituted by All India Congress Committee (AICC) of the Indian National Congress Party in 1992. It is an Indian award given for outstanding contribution towards promotion of communal harmony, national integration and peace. The award carries a citation and cash award of Rs 10 lakh. It was instituted to commemorate the lasting contribution made by Rajiv Gandhi to promote peace, communal harmony and fight against violence. Former recipients are Mother Teresa, Mohd Yunus, Lata Mangeshkar, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Sunil Dutt and Ustad Amjad Ali Khan etc.

SPORTS

Rio Olympics 2016 opens with a glittering ceremony in Rio De Janeiro

The 31st edition of Summer Olympic Games opened in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro. It was declared open by Acting Brazilian President Michel Temer at the Maracana Stadium. It is officially known as the Games of the XXXI Olympiad. The theme of the 31st edition of Summer Olympic Games was "World peace and Environment". The 2016 Rio Olympics games are scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 5 to 21 August 2016. It is for first time the summer Olympics will be held in South American Continent and Brazil is hosting it for the first time. More than 11,000 athletes from 207 National Olympic Committees, including first time entrants Kosovo, South Sudan, and the Refugee Olympic Team, took part. With 306 sets of medals, the games featured 28 Olympic sports, including rugby sevens and golf, which were added to the Olympic program in 2009. These sporting events took place at 33 venues in the host city, and at five in São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Salvador, Brasília, and Manaus.

The opening ceremony was held at the Maracana Stadium and it witnessed different performances and events depicting rich blend of Brazilian styles, histories and artists. The events retraced the history of Brazil from the arrival of the Portugese, the African influence on its culture, the immigration of Arab and Japanese communities and the rise of great cities. India, which has fielded its biggest ever contingent of 120 sportspersons was led by flag-bearer and Olympic Gold medallist Abhinav Bindra.

Former FIFA President Joao Havelange passes away

Joao Havelange, former president of Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the global governing body of football passed away on 16 August in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was 100. He had served as president of FIFA for two decades and had played pivotal role in transforming football's governing body into a multibillion-dollar business. Havelange was born on 8 May 1916, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to an affluent family. He was a Brazilian lawyer, businessman and former athlete who served as the 7th President of the FIFA from 1974 to 1998. His tenure as President in FIFA is the second longest behind only that of Jules Rimet. He had received the title of Honorary President when leaf office, but resigned in April 2013. He succeeded Stanley Rous and was succeeded by Sepp Blatter. He had expanded the FIFA World Cup from 16 to 32 teams and made it one of sport's most important events. He had organized six

World Cups as FIFA president from 1974 to 1998. He is credited for creating the women's World Cup. He was re-elected president of FIFA for six times, capitalising on his contact-building across world football. Under his president ship, FIFA's membership had expanded by nearly one-third to more than 200 nations and territories. He had served as member of International Olympic Committee (IOC) from 1963 until 2011. He was the longest-serving active member of IOC upon his resignation.

Wrestler Sakshi Malik wins India's first medal at Rio Olympics

Freestyle wrestler Sakshi Malik on 17th Aug won India's first medal at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games by clinching the bronze in the 58kg category. With this victory she created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win an Olympic medal. It was India's overall 25th medal in Olympic Games.

Malik won the bronze medal after an 8-5 victory over the reigning Asian champion Aisuluu Tynybekova of Kyrgyzstan, despite trailing 0-5 at one stage, in the repechage medal playoff. With this she becomes only the fourth woman athlete from India to win an Olympic medal. Sakshi Malik's bronze medal was India's fifth wrestling medal in the Olympic Games. She was born on September 3, 1992 in Rohtak, Haryana. She had started her training in wrestling at a tender age of 12-years under the guidance of Ishwar Dahiya at an akhara in the Chotu Ram stadium. Her first success as a professional wrestler in the international arena came in 2010 at the Junior World Championships where she won the bronze medal in the 58 kg freestyle event. At the 2014 Dave Schultz International Tournament, she won gold in the 60 kg category. She also has won silver medal in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, bronze medal in 2015 Senior Asian Wrestling Championships in Doha and bronze medal at the 2016 Spanish Grand Prix in 60-kg category.

India's P V Sindhu wins silver medal at 2016 Rio Olympics

Badminton player Pusarla Venkata Sindhu on 18 August won historic silver medal in women's singles badminton event at 2016 Rio Olympics. With this, Sindhu became the first Indian woman to clinch a silver medal in Olympics. Besides, she also became the fifth woman player from India to win a medal in Olympics. Moreover, she also became the fourth Indian to win a silver at the Olympics after wrestler Sushil Kumar (2012 London Olympics) and shooters Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (2004 Athens Olympics) and Vijay Kumar (2012 London Olympics). She also became the second Indian female shuttler to win an Olympic medal after Saina

Nehwal who had won Bronze medal at 2012 London Olympics.

In the final match of women's singles badminton event, Sindhu lost to Spain's Carolina Marin (World No.1) by 21-19, 12-21, 15-21 score. Earlier in her quarterfinal match, she had defeated Japan's Wang Yihan (World No.2) by 22-20, 21-19 score.

He was born on 5 July 1995 in Hyderabad, Telangana. She had received international attention after getting listed into the Top 20 list of Badminton World Federation rankings in 2012. In 2013, she created history by becoming first Indian women's singles badminton player to win a medal at the 2013 World Championships. She had won bronze medal. In 2015, she received India's fourth highest civilian honour, Padma Shri.

Dipika Pallikal wins PSA Australian Open

India's top squash player Dipika Pallikal on 13 August has won the prestigious PSA Australian Open held in Melbourne. In the 40-minute final match, she defeated Mayar Hany (World no 8) of Egypt by 10-12, 11-5, 11-6, 11-4 score. Earlier in 2015, Pallikal had won the prestigious Winnipeg Winter Open held in Canada. Besides, she also has won Macau Squash Open (2013), Meadowood Pharmacy Open (2013), Crocodile Challenge Cup (2011), Dread Sports Series (2011) and Orange County Open (2011).

She is the first Indian to break into the top 10 in the PSA Women's rankings. She became the first squash player to receive prestigious Arjuna Award in 2012. In 2014, she won Padma Shri honour.

Nita Ambani becomes first Indian woman member of IOC

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 4th Aug declared that Nita Ambani, noted sports promoter and founder chairperson of Reliance Foundation, has been elected as an individual member of the IOC. She was elected by IOC members at the 129th Session of the world body in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil after being nominated in June 2016 by the IOC Executive Board.

She becomes India's first woman to join the prestigious body, which governs Olympic sports in the world. 52 years old Nita Ambani is the only current active individual member of the IOC from India and shall serve at the high-profile world body until she attains the age of 70. Sir Dorabji Tata was the first Indian representative in the IOC while Raja Randhir Singh was a member from 2000-2014 and is currently honorary member of the IOC. Nita Ambani spearheads all sports initiatives of Reliance Industries', notably cricket, football, kabaddi, basketball, tennis and golf either through company, foundation or its joint ventures.

The IOC is the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement headquartered at Lausanne, Switzerland. It shepherds success through a wide range of programmes and projects. It acts as a catalyst for collaboration between all parties of the Olympic family. It ensures the regular celebration of the Olympic Games, supports all affiliated member organisations of the Olympic Movement and strongly encourages, by appropriate means, the promotion of the Olympic values.

Gymnast Dipa Karmakar becomes first Indian to qualify for Vault Finals

Gymnast Dipa Karmakar (22), the Indian Gymnast, on 7 August 2016 created history by becoming the first Indian gymnast to qualify for the apparatus finals of artistic Gymnastics at the Rio 2016 Olympics. She qualified for the final round in the Individual vault final of artistic gymnastics after finishing eighth on the standings.

In this qualifying event Dipa was competing in the third sub-division. She had an average score of 51.665 after scoring 14.850 by performing her much-vaunted 'Prodnova' vault cleanly on the vault, 12.866 in balance beam, 11.666 on the uneven bars and 12.033 in floor exercises. The three-time world all-round champion Simone Biles from US topped the charts with a score of 16.050. Besides, Jong Un Hong from North Korea stood at the second position after securing 15.683 and was followed by Giulia Steingruber of Switzerland.

She born on 9 August 1993 in Agartala, Tripura. At 2014 Commonwealth Games held at Glasgow she had created history becoming the first Indian female gymnast to win medal (bronze) in history of the games. She also had won a bronze medal at the Asian Gymnastics Championships and had finished fifth at the 2015 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships. She is one of the five women who have successfully landed on very difficult Prodnova vault in competition.

Legendary Pakistani cricketer Hanif Mohammad passes away

Pakistan's legendary former captain and batsman, Hanif Mohammad, the original '**Little Master**,' passed away on 11 August 2016 in Karachi, Pakistan. He was 81. Hanif was diagnosed with the lung cancer in 2013, for which he received treatment in London. Born on 21 December 1934, Hanif Mohammad was a Pakistani cricketer. He played for the Pakistani cricket team in 55 Test matches between 1952-1953 and 1969-1970 and averaged 43.98, with twelve hundreds. At his peak,

he was considered one of the best batsmen in the world. He played at a time when there was very little Test cricket being played by Pakistan, with just 55 Test matches in a career spanning 17 years. In his obituary by ESPNcricinfo, he was honoured as the original Little Master, a title later assumed by Sunny Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar. He was trained by Abdul Aziz, an Afghan cricket player, who had earlier played in Ranji Trophy for Jamnagar.

The highest of Hanif's Test centuries was a famous 337 made against West Indies in a six-day test at Bridgetown in 1957/58. It remains the longest innings in Test history. He is known to have played the slowest test innings when he scored 20 off 223 balls at a strike rate of 8.968. He was named as a **Wisden Cricketer of the Year** in 1968. In January 2009, he was named along with two other Pakistani players, Imran Khan and Javed Miandad, among the inaugural batch of 55 inductees into the **ICC's Hall of Fame**.

Michael Phelps becomes first swimmer to win four consecutive golds in same event

Michael Phelps on 11 August won his fourth consecutive 200m individual medley Olympic title. With this, he became the first swimmer ever to win four consecutive golds in the same event.

Phelps clocked one minute, 54.66 seconds, just off Ryan Lochte's world record of 1:54.00 to grab the 200m individual medley Olympic title. Japan's Kosuke Hagino won the silver medal and China's Wang Shun took the bronze. Phelps earned his 15th individual Olympic gold. His gold also marks the first time a swimmer earned at least three gold medals in four different Olympic Games. He became the first swimmer to win the same individual event four times, surpassing the previous record of three held by Dawn Fraser and Krisztina Egerszegi. He also became the third Olympian to win the same event four times. With that 13th individual gold medal, he broke a 2168 year old Olympic Record, set by Leonidas of Rhodes, who had held the most Olympic Individual titles of all time, with twelve.

PERSONS IN NEWS

Urjit Patel appointed as 24th Governor of RBI

Union Government on 24th Aug has appointed Dr. Urjit Patel (52) as new Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He will be 24th Governor of RBI. He will have tenure of three years with effect from 4 September 2016 and shall succeed Raghuram Rajan. Prior to this appointment (elevation) he was Deputy Governor of RBI. He will be the eighth Deputy Governor to be elevated as Governor at RBI.

The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Urjit Patel based on the recommendation of the Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC), headed by the Cabinet Secretary. The Committee undertook an extensive exercise to suggest a panel of names to the ACC. He was born on October 28, 1963. Patel obtained his Bachelor's in Economics from the London School of Economics, M. Phil. degree from Oxford University in 1986. He received his doctorate in Economics from Yale University in 1990. He was at IMF India desk during the 1991-94 transition period. He was posted to IMF country mission in India 1992-95. He has also been a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution since 2009.

By profession he is an eminent economist, consultant and banker. He has two decades of rich experience across sectors including financial, energy and infrastructure sectors. He has worked with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) covering the US, India, Bahamas and Myanmar desks between 1990 and 1995. For first time, he was appointed as the Deputy Governor of RBI in January 2013 for three year term and was later reappointed on January 2016.

He had headed committee to review the monetary policy framework and had proposed monetary policy committee to set interest rates (currently solely decided by the RBI governor). It also had recommended targeting consumer inflation to control volatile prices by shifting the current focus away from wholesale prices. Besides, he also had worked closely with several union and state government committees especially those on market studies, direct taxes, anti-trust laws, Prime Minister's Task Force on Infrastructure and sectors like telecom, aviation, power and pensions. As India's top banker, Patel's primary duty is to keep prices stable and ensure credit flow to companies and individuals. He will lead a team of about 17,000 and draw a salary of about Rs 200,000 per month besides allowances and perks.

Rani Singh Nair appointed as Chairman of CBDT

Senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Rani Singh Nair has been appointed as Chairperson (Chairman) of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). Her appointment was confirmed by Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She will be in office till October 31, 2016 and shall succeed then acting chairman Atulesh Jindal who retired on 30 July 2016.

Rani Singh Nair is 1979-batch IRS officer of the Income Tax cadre. Prior to this appointment she was working as member (Legislation and Computerisation) at CBDT. She has been instrumental in framing the procedures

and protocols that led to the roll-out of the ambitious Income Declaration Scheme (IDS) which aims at bringing undisclosed income and assets into tax net. CBDT is nodal policy-making body of the Income Tax (IT) department under the Union Finance Ministry. It is also the supreme body in India for framing policies related to direct taxes. It is a statutory authority established under The Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963. CBDT has six members, apart from the chairperson and is responsible for framing policy and administrative issues related to direct taxes and the I-T department.

Famous prominent Punjabi writer Gurdial Singh passes away

Famous prominent Punjabi writer, novelist and short story writer and Jnanpith awardee Gurdial Singh passed away on 16 August 2016 at Bathinda, Punjab. He was 83. Singh was known as a Spartan who has taken it all in his stride in the literary world. He was one of the greatest writers of Punjabi Literature and had focused on the economically and socially marginalised people in rural Punjab in his short stories and novels. He was born on 10 January 1933 in Bhaini Fateh (near Jaitu) in the British Punjab. He started his literary career in 1957 with a short-story titled Bhaganwale, which was published in Panj Darya magazine. He became known as a novelist when he published the novel Marhi Da Deeva in 1964. Two of his novels have been made into films including Marhi Da Deeva (1989) and Anhe Ghore Da Daan (2011). His novels were translated in several Indian languages and also in English. He has written ten novels, including Anhoe (1966), Addh Chanani Raat (1972), Anhe Ghore Da Daan (1976) and Parsa (1991). He has written 12 collections of short stories, including Saggi Phull (1962), Kutta Te Aadmi (1971), Begana Pind (1985) and Kareer Di Dhingri (1991). Apart from novels and short stories he has also written two prose works, three plays and nine books for children. He received various awards including the Jnanpith Award (in 1999), the Padma Shri (1998), the Shiromani Sahitkar Award, the Punjab Sahitya Akademi Award (1979), the Soviet Land Nehru Award (1986), the Bhai Veer Singh Fiction Award (1992). In 2016, Sahitya Akademi had announced fellowship for him which is the highest honour of the Akademi.

Manjula Chellur appointed as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court

Justice Manjula Chellur on 12 August has been selected as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court with effect from 24 August 2016. Currently, she is the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court. She will

succeed CJ Dhirendra Hiralal Waghela who retires as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on August 24, 2016. She will be second woman Chief Justice of the Bombay HC, after Sujata Manohar in 1994.

Justice Manjula Chellur was born on December 5, 1955 in Karnataka. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Allum Sunmangalamma Women's College, Bellary, and went on to earn her law degree from Renukacharya Law College, Bangalore. In 1977 the Supreme Court of India sponsored her on a Gender & Law fellowship to England's University of Warwick. In 2013 Chellur received an honorary doctorate from Karnataka State Women's University. She was the first woman advocate to practice in Bellary district and later in 1988 became a district judge. In 2000, she was appointed as the first woman judge of Karnataka High Court. She was appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court in November 2011. In 2012, she was appointed as Chief Justice of Kerala High Court and was transferred to Calcutta High Court in 2014.

Vijay Rupani takes oath as new Chief Minister of Gujarat

Mr Vijay Rupani (60) has sworn in as the 16th Chief Minister of Gujarat after Anandiben Patel had resigned from the post on August 3, 2016. He was administered the oath of post and secrecy by the Gujarat governor O.P. Kohli at the ceremony held at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhi Nagar. Besides, senior most cabinet minister in Anandiben Government Nitin Patel took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister. Along with them, new council of ministers consisting of 25 ministers also took oath. Out of them 9 Ministers are cabinet Ministers, while 16 ministers are Minister of state (MoS).

He was born on 2 August 1956 in Rangoon (now Yangon, in Myanmar) to Ramniklal Rupani in 1956. His family moved to Rajkot (Gujarat) in 1960 due to political instability in Burma. He grew up in Rajkot where he joined RSS as a school boy. He pursued BA and then LLB. As the chairman of the state tourism corporation, he headed 'Khushbu Gujarat Ki' campaign to popularise the state as a tourist destination. Between 2006-12, he was a member of Rajya Sabha. During this period he was a part of various Parliamentary committees on water resources, food, public distribution, public undertaking, etc. He was made the chairman of the Gujarat Municipal Finance Board in 2013. In October 2014, he won Assembly bye-election from Rajkot West with a handsome margin after the sitting MLA Vajubhai Vala resigned upon appointment as Karnataka Governor. On February 19, Rupani became the state BJP president, replacing RC

Faldu. In Anandiben Patel's Cabinet, he served as the Transport Minister. He was among the first to jump into students' agitation on the call given by Jayprakash Narayan. He was elected as a corporator of Rajkot Municipal Corporation for the first time in 1987, and went on to become president of the Rajkot district unit of BJP. In 1996-97, he became the mayor of Rajkot when his efforts to develop the city and the district as a tourism hub stood out. Rupani was the state BJP's general secretary four times in a row and also served as party spokesperson at the state level.

Manipur's Iron lady Irom Sharmila ends her 16-year-long fast

The Iron Lady of Manipur Irom Chanu Sharmila (44) ended her 16-year-long hunger strike. The strike was for repealing the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) of 1958 from Manipur. After ending her 16-year-long hunger strike, she announced that she wants bring some positive changes in the state by actively participating in politics and contesting elections.

She was born on 14 March 1972 in Imphal, Manipur. She is a civil rights activist, political activist, and poet. She is famously known as the Iron Lady of Manipur and also as Mengoubi (the fair one). Sharmila started the hunger strike in November 2000 after the Malom massacre in a small village on the outskirts of Imphal, in which 10 people were reportedly killed by a government-controlled paramilitary force, the Assam Rifles. Her main demand was for repealing Armed AFSPA, 1958 from her state which provided immunity to armed forces with regard to their actions. Since November 2000, Sharmila was forcefully fed through nasal tube, spending much of the time since in judicial custody in the hospital in Imphal, the state capital of Manipur. She is the world's longest hunger striker, as she had refused food and water for more than 500 weeks.

She has been honoured with the following awards: Gwangju Prize for Human Rights (2007), Mayillama Award (2009), lifetime achievement award (2010) from the Asian Human Rights Commission, Rabindranath Tagore Peace Prize (2010) etc.

Dinesh Kumar Khara appointed as Managing Director of SBI

Dinesh Kumar Khara was appointed Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI), which is India's largest lender. His appointment was confirmed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has been appointed for the period of *total three years*. Before

this appointment he was also working as MD and chief executive of SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Khara joined SBI as Probationary Officer in 1984 and has over 28 years of experience in all the facets of Commercial banking. Besides, ACC also appointed Ashok Kumar Garg and Raj Kamal Verma as executive directors of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Union Bank of India (UBI), respectively. Gopal Murli Bhagat and Himanshu Joshi were also appointed as executive directors of Corporation Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), respectively.

Anant Maheshwari appointed as President of Microsoft India

Anant Maheshwari has appointed as the President of Microsoft India, a subsidiary of US based software giant Microsoft Inc. He will join Microsoft India in September 2016 and will take over the operations of the company from Bhaskar Pramanik, Chairman, Microsoft India, with effect from January 1, 2017. Pramanik will retire from the company in March 2017. Maheshwari, who will be joining from Honeywell, will be responsible for all of Microsoft's product, service, and support offerings across India and continuing the company's transformation into the leading productivity and platform company for the mobile-first, cloud-first era.

He is an electrical & electronics engineering degree and a master's degree in economics from Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS), Pilani. Prior to this appointment he was working as the President of Honeywell India. He was responsible for Honeywell India's operations in three strategic business groups viz. automation and control solutions and aerospace. In last 12 years, he had held various business leadership roles in Honeywell including that of managing director. Prior to joining Honeywell India, Maheshwari was working with McKinsey & Co. where he worked with clients across multiple industries including telecom, IT and ecommerce, engineering equipment, private equity, automotive, steel, and pharmaceuticals.