

D2G

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Current Affairs



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AWARDS AND HONOURS

Name of the Award	Award Winner	Key Points to Note
UN Public Service Award	Nadia District in West Bengal	Award was given for eliminating Open Defecation.
GD Birla Award	Professor Sanjeev Galande	Given for his pioneering research in the field of epigenetics and molecular cell biology.
World Food Prize 2015	Sir Fazle Hasan Abed of Bangladesh	Given for his role in developing the largest non-governmental organization (BRAC) to tackle food insecurity and poverty around the world.
Presidential Award for Excellence	Darshan Jain	One among the 108 Mathematics and Science teachers of United States.
World Agriculture Prize	R Paul Singh	For his research in areas such as energy conservation, freezing preservation, post-harvest technology and mass transfer in food processing.
Great Immigrants : The Pride of America	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preet Bharara 2. Rakesh Khurana 3. Madhulika Sikka 4. Abraham Verghese 	They are among 38 personalities. Given by Carnegie Corporation of New York.
Guinness Record	Madhya Pradesh	Recognised Madhya Pradesh's record in hand washing on 'World Hand washing Day'. A total of 12,76,425 students created a new world record by washing their hands simultaneously.
The Royal Society	Kamal Bawa	Given for his huge contributions in the area of conservation science.
Best Original Screenplay Award	Buddha in Traffic Jam	Given at the Madrid Film Festival
Miss USA	Olivia Jordan	She is also Miss Oklahoma
Named in the World's top 100 "effective and talented" people.	Biocon CMD Kiran Mazumdar	Given by US-based 'Scientific American' magazine.
France's Commandeur de la Lgion dHonneur	Artist Sayed Haider Raza	Given for his peerless achievements in

		transcending all boundaries
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Award	Professor Mini Shaji Thomas	Given for her educational career.
Golden Peacock environment management award	Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh	Given for its achievements and initiatives in the field of environment.
Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2015	Kerala Tourism	Given for its Muziris Heritage Project in the 'Heritage & Culture' category.
International Tennis Hall of Fame	Amelie Mauresmo	She was a former Tennis player from France.
Champions of Change Award	Sunita Viswanath	Given for her work to encourage Hindus to take care of the environment
Grand Prix World Press Cartoon 2014 Award	Cartoonist Pamarthy Shankar	Given for sketching Nelson Mandela
American Book Award	Naomi Klein	Given for her environmental work <i>This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate</i> .
'Bharat Gaurav' Lifetime Achievement Award	Hockey Legend Dhyan Chand	Award will be given to Ashok Chand, son of Major Dhyan Chand
Guinness World Record	Baahubali Movie Poster	For making World's Largest Poster – 50,000 Sq Ft.
Royal Society's Copley Medal	Peter Higgs	It is world's oldest scientific prize
Mr India 2015	Rohit Khandewal	Organized by Provogue Personal Care
Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize	Helena Ndume and Jorge Sampaio	Given by the United Nations at the UN Headquarters in New York.
Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra	Future Leadership Award	NGO is based in Uttarakhand
Ramon Magsaysay award 2015	Sanjiv Chaturvedi and Anshu Gupta	The other awardees are, 1. Kommaly Chanthavong – Laos 2. Ligaya Fernando-Amilbangsa – Philippines 3. Kyaw Thu – Myanmar

Chaudhary Charan Singh Award for Excellence in Journalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journalist Gargi Parsai of The Hindu • Rajya Sabha TV Assistant Editor Arvind Kumar Singh • Economic Times Special Correspondent Madhvi Sally • ETV senior producer Jai Prakash Singh • Dainik Jagran Deputy Bureau Chief (national bureau) Surendra Prasad Singh • Hindustan Principal Correspondent Arvind Kumar Singh. 	Presented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Arjuna Award	Ravichandra Ashwin	Presented by India's Sports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
Ramanujan Prize 2015	Mathematician Amalendu Krishna	Given for his contributions in the area of algebraic cycles, algebraic K-theory and the theory of motives.
PATWA – Safari India South Asia Travel Award	Goa Tourism Minister Dilip Parulekar	Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) is an affiliate of United Nations WTO.
Cross of Order of the Merit	Raghavendra Gadagkar	Given for contribution in the field of behavioural ecology and sociobiology.
Solidarity Prize 2015	Zhanna Nemtsova	Zhanna is the daughter of Russian politician Boris Nemtsov who was assassinated.
International Space Settlement Design Competition	Twelve Amity International School Students	Given by NASA
Royal Society Fellow	IISc Professor Ajay Sood	He is a Physics Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
24th Saraswati Samman	Veerappa Moily	Given for his epic "Sri Ramayana Mahanveshanam" written in Kannada..

Prem Bhatia Award	Suhasini Haidar - Excellence in Political Reporting and Analysis. Priyanka Kakodkar - Excellence in environmental and development reporting	Suhasini is from The Hindu and Priyanka is from Times of India.
Grand Marshall of India Day parade	Parineeti Chopra	The parade was held in New York
Gujar Mal Modi Award	Prof. Mustansir Barma	Given for his commendable contribution in the field of Science and Technology
James Tait Black award	Bangladeshi Novelist Zia Haider Rahman	For her book In the Light of What We Know
World of Dance Competition	Desi Hoppers	First Indian Dance Crew to Win the prize.
2016 MusiCares Person of the Year	Lionel Richie	He is a four-time Grammy-winning singer-songwriter
Change the World' list	Jain Irrigation ranks 7th on the list of 50 companies. (The only Indian company)	UK-based Vodafone and Kenyan telecom Safaricom topped the list.
Peter Mackler Award for Courageous Journalism	AZaina Erhaim	She is a Syria-based journalist.
50 men Guard of Honour	Vice Admiral Ram Rutberg	He is a Commander-In-Chief of Israeli Navy.
American Society for Metals	1. Pradeep Goyal 2. Vivekanand Kain 3. Gankidi Madhusudhan Reddy	They are selected for their contributions in the field of materials science and engineering.
UEFA Best Player in Europe award	Lionel Messi	Messi last won the award in 2011
Modadugu Vijay Gupta	Sunhak Peace Prize	Sunhak Peace Prize was founded earlier in 2015 by South Korean religious leader Dr Hak Ja Han Moon.
Tejinder Paul	Australian of the Day	For feeding the homeless people for years.
Punjab Government	Renewable Energy and Power Generation Award	For its rooftop solar system
India	UNESCO prize 'Award of Excellence' 2015	For conservation efforts of Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple in Kerala
Jhumpa Lahiri	National Humanities Medal	She was a Pulitzer Prize winner

Seaweed collector Lakshmi	Seacology Prize 2015	Environment Award given by US
Haryana Government	Skoch Order-of-Merit	For implementing 6 e-Governance and IT initiatives.
ISRO	Gandhi Peace Prize 2014	
G Satheesh Reddy	2015 Silver Medal	Given by Royal Aeronautical Society
Sheikh Hasina	UN award for leadership on climate change	Given by UNEP
Ajinkya Rahane and Sania Mirza	CCI's honorary membership	CCI - Cricket Club of India
Shivnarine Chanderpaul	Icon Award	Chanderpaul – West Indies Cricketer
Aqeela Asifi	UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award	She is an Afghan refugee teacher
1. Malaysia's Zulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque, 2. Paraguay's Candido Figueredo Ruiz 3. Bloggers and journalists from Ethiopia and Syria.	Press Freedom Awards	Honoured in New York.
Anupam Kher	'Certificate of Recognition' by US	For his dedication to helping Kashmiri Hindu community.
Swetha Prabakaran	Champions of Change award in US	Given for empowering the community by imparting Internet coding through her non-profit organisation.
Indian author Sunjeev Sahota	Shortlisted for Man Booker fiction	For his book "The Year of the Runaways"
Urdu scholar Shamim Hanfi	Jnangarima Manad Alankaran	Given by Bharatiya Jnanpith
PepsiCo's Indra Nooyi Hindustan Times' Shobhana Bhartia	2015 Global Leadership Award	Given by US India Business Council
National Cadet Corps	Limca Book of Records	For the "Largest Yoga performance"
The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)	Skoch Awards for Smart Governance Initiatives	Given for its initiatives on UAN Programme and Transformation of Social Security Agenda in India.
Gaia Vince	2015 Royal Society Winton prize for Science Books	For her book "Adventures in the Anthropocene: a Journey to the Heart of the Planet We Made."

Dr Uma Rajan	Community Champion Award	Given by Indian community in Singapore for contributing her 38 years in the healthcare and community services.
Leonardo Dicaprio	"Actors Inspiration Award"	Given by Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Foundation
CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow	CSIR Award for S&T Innovations for Rural Development (CAIRD) - 2014	For "Enhancing incomes of farm communities through Vetiver based Technological Interventions".
Dr. Jacob Tsimmerman	2015 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize	He is from University of Toronto, Canada.
Russian Activist Lyudmila Alekseyeva	Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize	Given by The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
Shashi Kapoor	Lifetime achievement award	Will be given at the Jagran Film Festival
Dee Patel	Pride of Britain Award	In the outstanding bravery category
Leelaben Chhabildas Gurjar	National Awards for Senior Citizens - Iconic mother award	For successfully bringing-up her children despite great odds
Kartik Chandran	MacArthur Fellow award and grant of \$625,000	For Producing useful resources such as fertilizers, chemicals and energy sources in addition to clean water
Rangarajan Vellamore, CEO Infosys China	Magnolia Gold award	For the development of IT industry in Shanghai, China's financial hub.
RC Bhargava, Maruti Suzuki Chairman	Lifetime achievement award	For his contribution to the Indian business community
1. Canada's Sheila Watt-Cloutier 2. Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera from Uganda 3. Italian surgeon Gino Strada	Right Livelihood Awards so-called " Alternative Nobels"	1. For promoting Inuit livelihoods and culture. 2. For her struggle for gay rights and sexual minorities 3. For providing medical assistance to victims of war.
Ratan Tata	Honoured at the University of Warwick in Coventry.	For his contributions to the West Midlands region of central England.
Actress Eva Longoria	Visionary award	Honour in recognition of her contributions to Latinos through entertainment and philanthropy.

Uday Shankar, CEO of Star India	Best CEO of a Multi National Company	For transformational leadership.
Luis Leao Pinto of Portugal	'King of the Himalaya' crown	As the 11th Hero MTB Himalaya.
A R Rahman	Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award	On the birth anniversary of Pandit Hridaynath Mangeshkar.
Ramkumar Raman	Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) membership	An 18-year-old Indian boy in the UAE.
Proneeta Swargiary	Won the 5th season of reality show Dance India Dance (DID)	She is from Delhi
Dr Shanthi Ranganathan	'Avvaiyaar Award' by TamilNadu Govt.	For her contribution in rehabilitating persons addicted to alcohol
Filmmaker IV Sasi	JC Daniel award	For his contributions to the Malayalam film industry.
Actor Vikram Gokhale	Vishnudas Bhave Award	For his outstanding contribution to Marathi theatre
Bharti Airtel	Adam Smith Asia Awards	For first class relationship management category
Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley	Finance Minister of the Year, Asia	For India's relative economic success over the last 18 months
Atiur Rahman, the Governor of Bangladesh Bank	Central Bank Governor of the Year, Asia	for generating considerable strength and resilience in the economy of Bangladesh.
Marlon James	Man Booker Prize	For his book "A Brief History of Seven Killings"
Tata Steel	Golden Peacock Global Award for Sustainability (GPGAS)	In London
Kailash Satyarthi	Harvard Humanitarian of the Year Award	For his contributions towards child reforms and his work against child abuse
Nualgi, an Indian company	MIT Climate CoLab Award	In the field of nano biotechnology
Nihir Bose (NRI Journalist)	Life Time Achievement Award	Given by Asian Cricket Awards
Prasoon Joshi	Maharaja Sayajirao Bhasha Samman	Given by Bank of Baroda
Urvashi Rautela	Miss Diva 2015	She is a Model as well as an Actress
Indian Short Film - An Old Dog's Diary	Best Short Film Award	Directed by Shai Heredia and Shumona Goel

Criminologist K Chockalingam	Paul H Appleby Award	For his distinguished services to public administration
Robert Mugabe	China's Nobel Peace prize-Confucius Award	For his leadership in 'overcoming hardship
Anita Adalja	White House Champions of Change for sustainable and climate-smart agriculture	He is an Indian American Farmer
AR Rahman	Hridaynath Mangeshkar	Veteran filmmaker Subhash Ghai
Angry Indian Goddess	People's Choice Award	Rome Film Festival
Dr M N Nandakumara	Lifetime Achievement Award	Honoured in UK for his contribution to Indian arts and music.
Sivasakthi Sivanesan	Sangeet Acharya Ratna Award	Honoured in UK for his contribution to Indian arts and music.
Activist Bindeshwar Pathak	New York Global Leaders Dialogue Humanitarian Award	Given for his contribution to sanitation.
Kumar Gandharva Rashtriya Samman	Shekhar Sen	He is the chairperson of the Sangeet Natak Academy
International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)	Delhi Metro	For efficient energy management.
People's Choice Awards nomination	Priyanka Chopra	In her debut American TV thriller "Quantico"
Aditya Vikram Birla Kala Shikhar Award	Shiv Kumar Sharma	For lifetime achievement
Named "Point of Light" by British Prime Minister David Cameron	Muna Chauhan	Indian-origin community campaigner
Media Freedom Prize	Zaina Erhaim	A Syrian journalist
This year's sexiest man alive by People magazine	Soccer turned fashion icon David Beckham	The announcement was made on ABC's late-night TV show Jimmy Kimmel Live
US public service award	Indian-American Judge Ushir Pandit-Durant	In recognition of her contributions in the field of law
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Champion for the Asia Region	Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijju	By the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
2015 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	In recognition of its "immense contributions" in assisting millions of refugees
An honorary doctorate by the University of East London	Tennis champion-turned Hollywood filmmaker Ashok Amritraj	For promoting talented moviemakers from across the world

Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award	Prashant Damle	For outstanding contribution in the field of theatre, film and music
Lifetime Achievement Award	Kuldip Nayar	Veteran journalist, columnist and author
Kalinga Samman 2014	Trilochan Pradhan	For popularising science among the common man in Odisha
Sangeet Samman at the ITC Sangeet Sammelan 2015	Violinist Lakshminarayana Subramaniam	At the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata.
Indian National Bar Association's General Counsel of the year 2015 – Retail Award	Pulin Kumar	Senior legal and compliance director of Adidas India,
Excellence in Technology for Education Delivery during the FICCI Education Awards 2015	Nirma University	As a part of the Eleventh FICCI Higher Education Summit 2015.
Uttar Pradesh Ratna Award	Frank Islam	To recognise his achievements and outstanding contributions in a foreign country
The Best Innovation Trophy	INS Sindhudhwaj	A submarine of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC)
Forbes Top 100 Middle East – Global Meets Local 2015' Award	Tech Mahindra	A specialist in digital transformation, consulting and business re-engineering
Awarded honorary life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)	Former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene	In recognition of his "stellar career"
CEO of the year	Nishi Vasudeva	Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) Chairman and MD
Lifetime achievement award at the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF)	Naseeruddin Shah	Veteran Bollywood actor
Mailer Center's Annual Lifetime Achievement Prize	Salman Rushdie	India-born author
Padma Vibhushan	Dilip Kumar	Indian cinema's one of the greatest actors
Aegis Graham Bell award	Wipro	For developing a solution for the Internet of Things (IoT)
South East Asia Write Award	Jamaludeen Mohamed Sali	Indian-origin writer
World's Leading Airline award	Etihad Airways	For the seventh consecutive year
Genesis Prize	Israeli-American violinist Itzhak Perlman	For his accomplishments as a musician, teacher and advocate for the disabled

Garwood Award	President Pranab Mukherjee	For Outstanding Global Leader in Open Innovation from UC Berkeley-Haas School of Business
Yash Chopra Memorial Award	Rekha	Veteran Bollywood actress
BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year Award	Dan Carter	Rugby World Cup-winning fly-half
Shilp Guru award	Rafiquddin	A local craftsman for his exquisite marble inlay work
US' highest honours for achievement and leadership in advancing the fields of science and technology	Indian-American professor Rakesh K Jain	Dr Rakesh K Jain, an IIT-Kanpur alumnus
'Export Quality Excellence' award	CRI Pumps	Received from Governor of Karnataka, Vajubhai Vala
Stardust Awards 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Actress - Deepika Padukone • Best Actor - Amiabh Bachchan • Best Film – Salman Khan's Bajrangi Bhaijaan 	
2015 Jnanpith Award	Raghuveer Chaudhary	His popular novels include "Amrita", "Venu Vatsala", "Purvarang", "Laagni Samjyaa Vinaa Chuuta Padvanu".
eASIA Award	Department of Commerce's DAVA (Drug Authentication and Verification Application)	Category - Trade Facilitation

Globe Soccer Awards 2015 conferred

- Best Player of the Year – Lionel Messi
- Best President of the Year – Josep Maria Bartomeu
- Best Club of the Year – F.C. Barcelona
- Best Media Attraction in Football – F.C. Barcelona
- Best Coach of the Year – Marc Wilmots
- Best Agent of the Year – Jorge Mendes
- Best Referee of the Year – Ravshan Irmatov
- Best Academy of the Year – Benfica

Dronacharya Awards 2015

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
Naval Singh	Athletics-Para-Sports
Anoop Singh	Wrestling
Harbans Singh	Athletics – Lifetime
Swatnagar Raj Singh	Boxing – Lifetime
Nihar Ameen	Swimming – Lifetime

Dhyan Chand Awards 2015

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
Romeo James	Hockey
Shiv Prakash Mishra	Tennis
TPP Nair	Volleyball

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2015

Category	Entity recommended for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Purushkar, 2015
Identification and nurturing of budding /young talent	Directorate General of Military Training
Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Coal India Limited
Employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures	Haryana Police
Sports for Development	Sports Coaching Foundation, Hyderabad

Arjuna Awards 2015

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P R Sreejesh (Hockey) • Dipa Karmakar (Gymnastics) • Jitu Rai (Shooting) • Sandeep Kumar (Archery) • Mandeep Jangra (Boxing) • Babita (Wrestling) • Bajrang (Wrestling) • Rohit Sharma (Cricket) • K Srikanth (Badminton) • Swarn Singh Virk (Rowing) • Satish Sivalingam (Weightlifting) • Santhoi Devi (Wushu) • Sharath Gaekwad (Para-sailing) • M R Poovamma (Athletics) • Manjeet Chhillar (Kabaddi) • Abhilasha Mhatre (Kabaddi) • Anup Kumar Yama (Rollerskating).

Tenzing Norgay national adventure Award

- Arunima Sinha and Jot Singh (both land adventure).
- Wing Commander Paramvir Singh (water adventure)
- Lt. Colonel (retd.) Satyendra Verma (air adventure)
- Colonel (Retd.) Satish Chander Sharma (lifetime achievement).

Other Important Awards

- Punjabi University, Patiala, was conferred the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy.
- Tennis star Sania Mirza, conferred with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, the country's highest sporting honour.

Kirti Chakra

- Lt Col Nectar Sanjebam
- NB Sub Rajesh Kumar

Shauyra Chakra

- Colonel Munindra Nath Rai
- Major Tanuj Grover
- Captain varun Kumar Singh
- Hav Man Bahadur Chhetri
- Hav Tanka Kumar Limbu

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award

Name of the Awadree	Category
Balasubramanian Gopal Rajeev Kumar Varshney	Biological Science
Yogesh Joshi	Engineering Sciences
Jyotiranjan Srichandan Ray	Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences
Ritabrata Munshi	Mathematical Sciences
Vidita Vaidya	Medical Science
Bedangadas Mohanty Mandar Deshmukh	Physical Sciences
D Srinivasa Reddy	Cultivation of Science
Jadavpur	Chemical Sciences
Yogesh Joshi	Engineering Sciences

National Tourism Awards

Category	State
Comprehensive Development of Tourism	Gujarat
Best Maintained & Disabled-friendly Monument National	Madhya Pradesh
Best Heritage City	Gwalior
Best Civic Management of a Tourist Destination in B Category.	Municipal Council of Maheshwar (Madhya Pradesh)
Best Film Promotion Friendly State	Gujarat
Most Innovative use of IT	Kerala

Best Tourism Film	“The Great backwaters of Kerala’ by Kerala Tourism
Best Tourism Promotion Publicity material	Coffee Table Book “Gujarat’s 50 Golden Destinations’ by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd

NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

1. Takaaki Kajita 2. Arthur McDonald	Nobel prize in Physics	For the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass
1. Tomas Lindahl 2. Paul Modrich 3. Aziz Sancar	Nobel Prize in Chemistry	Uncovered mechanisms used by cells to repair damaged DNA - a fundamental process in living cells and important in cancer
Svetlana Alexievich, journalist and prose writer	Nobel Prize in Literature	For her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time
Tunisia's National Dialogue Quartet	Nobel Peace Prize	For its contribution to building democracy after the Jasmine Revolution in 2011
Angus Deaton	Nobel Prize in Economics	For his work on consumption, poverty and welfare, that helped governments to improve policy
1. William C Campbell 2. Satoshi Ōmura 3. Youyou Tu(1 st Chinese)	Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine	In Stockholm

BCCI Cricket Awards

Name of the Award	Award Winner
BCCI's International Cricketer of the Year (Men's)	Viral Kohli
BCCI's International Cricketer of the Year (Women's)	Mithali Raj
Colonel CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award	Syed Kirmani
State Association of the Year	Karnataka State Cricket Association
Madhavrao Scindia Award	Robin Uthappa
Top Wicket-Taker's Award	Karnataka's R Vinay Kumar and Mumbai's Shardul Thakur

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Persons	Posts/Departments
YC Modi	Additional Director in CBI
Commodore CD Balaji	Chief of Aeronautical Development Establishment
Satish Pillai	MD and CEO of CIBIL
Dr Anup K Pujari	Secretary of MSME
Ashok Lahiri	Chairman of Bandhan Bank
Mahesh Sharma	Point Person for Varanasi
Rakesh Sahni	Chairman of Narmada Valley Development Authority
Ajay Kumar Pandey	Head of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City
Jin Liqun	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) President
Prasanna Kumar Suryadevara	Secretary of Delhi Legislative Assembly
Lord Kamlesh Patel	First British-Asian appointee to ECB Director
Anurag Srivastava	CFO of Tata Tele Services
Sriram Kalyanaraman	MD and CEO of National Housing Bank
Panjaj Munjal	CMD of Hero Motors Group
Prashant Pathrabe	Director of Film and Television Institute of India
Bhanu Pratap Sharma	Chairperson of FSSAI (Temporary in charge)
Ajay Mathur	Chief of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
Anand Krishnamurthy	MD and CEO of Catholic Syrian Bank
Professor Richard Hay and George Baker	Two Nominated persons to Lok Sabha
TK Chand	NALCO Chairman
Roelant Oltmans	Coach of Hockey India
Ashish Bahugana	Chairperson of FSSAI
RS Sharma	Chairman of TRAI
K Vijayaraghavan	Secretary of DSIR
Jinesh Hedge	Airtel's CEO of Operations in Sri Lanka
David Taylor	CEO of Procter & Gamble (P&G)
Swati Maliwal	Chairperson of DCW
Ananth Narayanan	CEO of Myntra
Lt Gen Man Mohan Singh Rai	Vice Chief of Army
Rahul Bhatnagar	MD and CFO of Bharti Enterprises
C Ramakrishnan	CFO of Tata Motors Limited
Rahul Agarwal	MD of Lenova India
Arun Goel	Chairman of Delhi Development of authority
Lt Gen MMS Rai	Vice Chief of Army Staff
Ram Kovind	Governor of Bihar
Acharya Vrat	Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Amitabh Bachchan	Maharashtra's Tiger Ambassador
Sundar Pichai	Google's CEO
Sudhakar Shetty	President of Gymnastics Federation of India

Om Prakash Rawat	Election Commissioner
Ajit Kumar Seth	Chairman of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)
Sebastian Coe	World Athletics Chief
Lt General NPS Hira	Chief of Staff Northern Command
Karnal Singh	Chief of Enforcement Directorate (ED) for the period of three months.
Sriram Kalyanaraman	MD and CEO of National Housing Bank
Girish Sahni	Director General of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
Novak Djokovic	UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
Vassiliki Thanou	Greece's First Female Prime Minister
Justice ML Tahaliyani	Lokayukta of Maharashtra
Amol Palekar	Chairman of India's Oscar Jury
Ranil Wickremesinghe	Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
Ashwani Lohani	CMD of Air India Ltd
Rekha Menon	Chairperson of Accenture's India Operations
Atul Keshap	US Ambassador to Maldives and Sri Lanka
Amitava Gosh	Snapdeal's Vice President – Engineering
Al Rajwani	Gillette India's Managing Director
Dilip Vengsarkar	President of Association of Indian Statisticians
Sanjay Kumar Srivastava	Secretary, Coordination and Public Grievances
Shaktikanta Das	Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs
Anjuly Chib Duggal	Secretary in the Department of Financial Services
Hasmukh Adhia	Secretary in the Department of Revenue
Ajit M Sharan	Secretary of AYUSH
Amarendra Sinha	Secretary of the National Commission of Minorities
Raghav Chandra	Chairman of National Highways Authority of India
Rajiv Yadav	Secretary in the Department of Sport
AK Jha	Interim Chairman and Managing Director of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
Pakistan's former hockey World Cup winning captain Shahbaz Ahmed	Secretary-general of the Pakistan Hockey Federation
Dr. S.A.V. Satya Murty	Director of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and Director of General Services Organisation (GSO) of the nuclear complex located at Kalpakkam
Agriculture Expert Ramesh Chand	Full-time member of NITI Aayog
J Manjula	DRDO's first Woman Director General
Rakesh Sharma	Canara Bank's MD and CEO
Hormusji N Cama	Chairman of PTI
Riyad Mathew	Vice Chairman of PTI

CVRDE Director P Sivakumar	Elevated as distinguished scientist
Richie Richardson	Inducted in ICC Referees Panel
Zayn Khan	President of Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI)
Stuti Narain Kacker	Head of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
Yudhvir Singh Malik	Additional Secretary in Niti Aayog
West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi	Additional Charge as Governor of Tripura
Arvind Panagariya	New Sherpa for G-20 talks
Sourav Ganguly	Cricket Association of Bengal President
Avishek Dalmiya	Joint Secretary of Cricket Association of Bengal
Syed Akbaruddin	India's permanent representative at the UN
Gautam Bambawale	High commissioner to Pakistan (From Dec' 15)
Navtej Sarna	High commissioner to London
Sachin Tendulkar	Brand Ambassador of Oxygen
S K Sharma	Chairman of Bhakra Beas Management Board
Jennifer Lopez	UN Global Advocate for Girls and Women
Matthias Mueller	Volkswagen's CEO
Meghalaya Governor V Shanmuganathan	Additional charge of Manipur
Keerthi Kiran	VP of realty projects division of Housing.com
MVKV Prasad	Director of Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)
Oliver Blume	CEO of Volkswagen's Porsche business
Rajiv Lall	MD & CEO of IDFC Bank
IS Jha	Interim Chairman & Managing Director of Power Grid
Richa Singh	Allahabad University students union
Sarat Kumar Acharya	CMD of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC)
A K Pujari	CMD of SAIL
J Ramaswamy	Director (Finance) of Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL)
Shashank Manohar	BCCI president
Sumit Issar	MD Mahindra Intertrade Ltd (MIL)
Ashish Bahuguna	Chairman and CEO of the food regulator FSSAI
Sriram Venkataraman	CFO of Flipkart
Jack Dorsey	CEO of Twitter Inc.
Rear Admiral SV Bhokare	Eastern Fleet Commander
Hoesung Lee of South Korea	Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Corporate Affairs Secretary Tapan Ray	Board of capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Girish Shankar	Secretary of the Dept of Official Language under the Home Ministry
Sekhar Basu	Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission
Naishadh Parikh	Chairman of Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI)
MF Farooqui	Chairman of Broadband India Forum (BIF)
Ranganath Mavinakere	EVP and the CFO of Infosys
Ravneet Singh	Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF)
N Venugopala Rao	CEO of Reliance Power
PS Jayakumar	MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda
Sharad Mehrotra	CEO of Telenor India
Omid Kordestani	Executive chairman of Twitter
Jurgen Klopp	Liverpool Manager
Kundhavi Kadiresan	Assistant Director of FAO
MK Surana	HPCL Chairman
VVS Laxman	Campaigner of PETA
G Narayana Raju	Legislative Secretary
GR Chandhak	Director of CDFD
Leo Puri	AMFI Chairman
Mani Rangarajan	CFO of Housing.com
Vijay Kumar Malhotra	President All India Council of Sports (AICS)
Reva Khetrapal	Lokayukta of Delhi
Anup Vikal	Snapdeal CFO
Samardeep Subandh	Flipkart Chief Marketing Officer (CMO)
Nasser Khan Janjua	National Security Advisor (NSA) of Pakistan
Ashok Sridharan	Mayor of Bonn, Germany
Alok Rawat	Member of National Commission for Women
BJP's Balasubrahmanyam Kamarsu	Board of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)
Narendra Nayak	BlackBerry's Managing Director of India operations
Shaktikanta Das	Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Paul Ryan	54th Speaker of US House of Representatives
Sylvie Lucas	Chair of IGN of UNSC Reforms
Najib Shah	Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)
Simon Katich	KKR assistant coach
Alok Sekhar	India's representative to ICAO
Navtej Singh Sarna	Indian High Commissioner to UK
Air Marshal Virender Mohan Khanna	Air Officer-in-charge Maintenance (AOM)
Bhushan Kumar Bansal	Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)
Shaktikanta Das	Member of board in SEBI
Mr Anil Kumar Jha	Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)

Shalini Warriar	Federal Bank CEO
Ravikumar Sreedharan	Unisys Corporation MD
Manpreet Vohra	India's Ambassador to Afghanistan
Navtej Singh Sarna	High Commissioner to Britain
T S Thakur	Next Chief Justice of India
Surojit Chatterjee	Flipkart's Senior Vice President and Head of Consumer Experience and Growth
V Sivaramakrishnan	Managing Director of Oxford University Press India (OUP)
Marzieh Afkham	Foreign ministry spokeswoman to head its embassy in Malaysia
Ashok Mago	Member of Board of Regents of the University of North Texas in the US
Jayant Krishna	National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Raghuram Rajan	Vice-chairman of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
AP Shah	Ethics officer (ombudsman) at Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
Filippo Grandi	UN refugee chief
IS Jha	CMD of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd
Subir Gokarn	Executive director on the board of International Monetary Fund(IMF)
Sandeep Girotra	Head of Nokia India
Zarine Daruwala	Standard Chartered as its India CEO
Syed Akbaruddin	New permanent representative of India to the United Nations in New York
V Raja	Philips India as its new vice-chairman and managing director
Vijay Keshav Gokhale	India's Ambassador to Germany
India-born Swati Dandekar	United States director of the Asian Development Bank
Rear Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh	Assistant Chief of Naval Staff communication Space and Network Centric Operation)
Nitish Kumar	Bihar's 35th chief minister
Harshavardhan Neotia	President of industry body Ficci
MR Calla	President of Association of Retired Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts
Michael Keating	Special Representative for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)
Rishi Gour	Country President of Sodexo India On-site Services
Antonio Costa	Prime minister of Portugal
Sunil Kanoria	President of industry body Assocham
Anju Bobby George	Chairperson of Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

Baroness Patricia Scotland	Sixth Commonwealth Secretary General
AK Jain	Acting Chairman of the CBDT
Roch Marc Christian Kabore	President of Burkina Faso
Sir Venkatraman Ramakrishnan	Presidency of the Royal Society in London
Justice Tirath Singh Thakur	43 rd Chief Justice of India
Kaher Kazem	President and Managing Director General Motors (GM)
Mauricio Macri	Argentina's new president
Prakash Kumar Singh	Chairman of SAIL
Ahmad Javed	Ambassador to Saudia Arabia
OP Longia	National President of the Indian Institute of Materials Management (IIMM)
Pravin Gordhan	South Africa's new Finance Minister
Arun Kumar Jain	Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
Allahabad High Court judge Virendra Singh	UP Lokayukta
Former Delhi high court judge justice Reva Khetrpal	Lokayukta of Delhi
Sumi Ghosh	CEO of Tata Starbucks Pvt Ltd
RK Mathur	Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)
Jeff Williams	Chief Operating Officer of Apple Inc
Senior IAS officer Pawan Kumar Agarwal	Chief Executive Officer of food regulator food safety and standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
MD Madhavan Menon	Chairman and Managing Director of Thomas Cook India
Karan Adani	CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ)
Amitabh Kant	Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog
Dr Gyanendra D Bandgaiyan	DG of National Centre for Good Governance

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BANKING AND FINANCE

► The World Bank Board has approved \$650 million towards the third loan for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (a freight-only rail line). This project mainly aims at improving the speed of movement of raw materials and finished goods between the northern and eastern parts of India.

► According to the official statement from Finance Ministry, a person may make a declaration in respect of an undisclosed asset located outside India under the compliance provisions of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 (Black Money Act) before or on September 30, 2015.

► According to the World Bank Report, India's GDP crossed the \$2-Trillion mark in 2014 and at present stands at \$2.067 Trillion. India is among the world the fastest growing economies this year. After taking 60 years to reach the \$1-trillion mark, India added the next trillion in just seven years.

► Banking Giant State Bank of India has launched an initiative called Project Tatkal to provide doorstep services and expedite home loans application process. The Project Tatkal will help get the loan within 10 days after receipt of application form and relevant supporting documents.

► HDFC Bank has become the first Indian bank to launch Watch Banking for Apple Watch. The main objective is to provide banking services through all wearable devices across platforms like iOS and Android.

► India's largest lender, the State Bank of India has raised its information technology (IT) budget to improve its digital offerings. The bank will spend nearly Rs.4,000 crore before March 2016 and significantly upgrade its IT back-end.

► Government of India has notified rules for calculating overseas income and assets under the stringent foreign black money law that came into force on July 1. The value of the overseas assets includes

- immovable property
- jewellery and precious stones
- archaeological collections and paintings
- shares and securities and shares in unlisted firms

► RBI has announced that the FD) in manufacturing of tobacco products is prohibited, though activities such as retail and wholesale trading fall under the sectoral restrictions. FDI is prohibited in the manufacturing of cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes.

► Qatar is the fastest growing economy among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and it is expected to grow by more than 7 per cent this year.

► Union Bank of India has launched initiatives such as IMPS at branches and M-passbooks for its customers. The bank has become the first lender to launch immediate payment service (IMPS) through branches for its retail and corporate customers by integrating the platform to its core banking solution.

► Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian has announced that Indirect tax revenues grew 37.5% in the first quarter of current fiscal. He said that the indirect tax collections – which include excise, Customs and service taxes – grew 14.5 per cent in the first quarter from a year ago.

► The BRICS Nations have signed an agreement to create a USD 100 billion forex pool to help each other “in case of any problems with dollar liquidity”. The contributions are,

- India – USD 18 billion
- Brazil – USD 18 billion
- Russia – USD 18 billion
- China – USD 41 billion
- South Africa – USD 5 billion

► India’s largest private sector bank, ICICI, has created a dedicated payments gateway for the mobile banking transaction. This system will enable much faster transactions for its customers. This system will attract more customers for mobile banking than for internet banking.

► The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it has issued Rs 100 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi Series-2005 with a new numbering pattern. Now, the numerals in both the number panels of 100 rupees banknotes will be in ascending size from left to right while the first three alphanumeric numerical characters will remain constant in size.

► According to funds tracking company EPFR Global, India focused equity funds have witnessed an inflow of over \$ 9.5 billion from worldwide investors in the first six months of the year. In the mean time China has seen a hefty outflow of \$ 17 billion.

► China’s renminbi (RMB) may become the world’s fourth most-used international currency, replacing the Japanese yen. The International Monetary Forum had raised the RMB Internationalisation Index from 0.02 in 2009 to 2.47 in 2014. The top three currencies are the dollar, the euro and the British pound.

► National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has set a target of providing Rs 30,000 crore as credit to farmers for irrigation over the next three years. The Bank has already sanctioned Rs 1,000 crore so far in 2015.

► Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed an MoU with Snapdeal, an e-commerce major in India, to provide financial support to its MSME vendors.

► The RBI has set up a 14-member committee for working out a medium-term (five-year) measurable action plan for financial inclusion. The committee will be headed by Deepak Mohanty, Executive Director of RBI.

► The Reserve Bank has asked banks to levy any late payment penalty on credit card customers, or report them to credit information companies, only if the payment has been due for more than three days. For banks, RBI said they can treat a credit card as non performing asset if the ‘minimum amount due’ has not been paid within 90 days from the due date.

► The Income Tax Dept has launched an ambitious drive to bring one crore new taxpayers under its net after the central government initiative to broaden the tax base.

► IDFC Ltd has announced that its unit IDFC Bank Ltd has got a license from the Reserve Bank of India for undertaking banking business in India under Section 22(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. IDFC becomes the second lender to enter the banking sector after more than a decade.

► The GOI is planning to unveil an exclusive all-in-one insurance product for farmers as part of its ongoing social security scheme.

▶ A new \$100 billion BRICS bank dedicated to the emerging BRICS countries has formally started its operations in China's commercial hub Shanghai. The "New Development Bank (NDB)", backed by the so-called emerging BRICS nations Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, has been viewed as a challenge to Washington-based institutions. Kamath, 67, will be the bank's President for the first five years.

▶ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's (PFRDA) Chairman Hemant Contractor has announced that Non-resident Indians (NRIs) can invest in National Pension System (NPS) to get a social security cover.

▶ National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd (NCDEX) has launched a mobile app named NCDEX App to give anytime, anywhere access to prices and market information about commodities traded on it.

▶ IT companies CSC and HCL Technologies have signed an agreement to form a banking software and services company to provide technology services and solutions to the banking industry.

▶ Union Cabinet has approved setting up of an Online National Agriculture Market that will provide more options to farmers for selling their produce.

▶ Greece has become the first developed nation to default on International Monetary Fund (IMF) debt. It has defaulted on a 1.7 billion dollars payment to IMF.

▶ Mahindra Defence Systems Limited, a subsidiary of Mahindra Group and Airbus Helicopter have inked pact to form a joint venture (JV) company to produce helicopters in India.

▶ Manila-headquartered Asian Development Bank has a loan pact worth USD 300 million with the government of India to support the National Urban Health Mission.

▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched a mobile banking app 'Kotak Bharat' to provide mobile banking services to customers in the remotest of regions. The special thing about the App is it requires no internet connectivity.

▶ Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MCF) signed MoUs to address the Industry's need of Skilled Manpower. These MoUs will enhance strategic tie between both parties to scale up skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives in the country.

▶ Healthcare firm Practo has acquired Mumbai based Genii, a technology services start-up focused on product design and development.

▶ Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed a MoU with Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on skill development. The MoU seeks to establish a framework for joint action to address the need for skilled human resources in the health sector.

▶ India has imposed definitive anti-dumping duty of 342.76 dollars per tonne on all phenol imports on imports of Phenol from South Africa. This anti-dumping duty will be valid for a period of five years.

▶ Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given nod to Chinese Telecom manufacturer Huawei to set up a manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu for its components.

▶ India's seafood exports touched an all-time high at 33,441 crore rupees during the financial year 2014-15. The data was released by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

▶ India and Kazakhstan launched the first exploratory drilling at Satpayev oil block owned by India's ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and Kazakhstan company KazMunaiGaz.

▶ Adani Group has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tamil Nadu Government to set up 650 Mega Watt (MW) solar power plant in Ramanathapuram district.

▶ eMudhra Limited, a leading certifying firm in the country for digital signatures launched first of its kind eSign services in the country as part of the Digital India Vision.

▶ Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and US-based aircraft maker Boeing have signed a strategic framework agreement for aerospace and defence manufacturing.

▶ The GOI has brought 39 more Pharmaceutical drugs under price control as part of its efforts to make medicines affordable in the country. The drugs brought under this price control regime include the drugs which can be used to treat diseases such as diabetes and digestive disorders.

▶ Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the redevelopment of 400 major railway stations.

▶ Union Cabinet has given nod to introduce composite foreign investment cap in a bid to streamline the FDI structure.

▶ India and Russia have signed a customs and liberalize business visas agreement to boost trade between both countries to remove the hindrances and boost commerce.

▶ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the creation of an Intra-state Transmission System (ISTS) in 7 states across the country. The seven States are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

▶ Reserve Bank of India has signed a special currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBS). Under this agreement, Sri Lankan bank can draw up to 1.1 billion dollars for a maximum period of 6 months.

▶ Mashable, a New York-based news and blogging portal has joined hands with India.com, a Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) sponsored website for the launching of its Indian version in India.

▶ KFC and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have entered into partnership to launch a delivery system for commuters on trains. Under e-catering service initiatives commuters now can place order for KFC meal while booking tickets through IRTC website.

▶ Indian pharmaceutical major Lupin has acquired US based Gavis Pharmaceuticals in cash-free and debt-free transaction for 880 million dollars (around 5,606 crore rupees).

▶ India's Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael have partnered to produce Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) in India. In this regard both the entities have formed a manufacturing Joint Venture (JV) and this move is considered to deepen India-Israel strategic cooperation.

▶ World's second largest automaker General Motors (GM) has announced to invest USD 1 billion (6, 400 crore rupees) in India by 2020 and has decided to close its loss making plant at Halol, Gujarat.

▶ European Union (EU) has approved 54. India's largest commodities exchange platform, Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) has signed a MoU with the US based CME group to set its operations in GIFT City in Gujarat.

▶ European Union (EU) has banned the marketing of around 700 generic medicines among its member countries. This is the largest suspension imposed on the sales and distribution of generic drugs ordered by EU which will come into effect on August 21, 2015 and it will be applicable to all 28 member nations.

▶ A Bengaluru based gold Jewellery manufacturing company Rajesh Exports Ltd (REL) bought the world's largest gold refining company Valcambi from US-based mining company Newmont Mining Corporation. REL had to fetch over 2560 crore rupees all in cash to buy Valcambi refinery.

▶ Maharashtra government has placed a comprehensive plan to develop six solar cities in order to add solar capacity of 7,500 MW in the state.

▶ Israel's largest drug maker Teva Pharmaceutical agreed to buy generic drugs business of Allergan Plc for USD 40.5 billion. According to the agreement Teva will make cash payment of USD 33.75 billion and USD 6.75 billion of its stock for Allergan.

▶ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed fine of 420 crore rupees on the local unit of Hyundai Motor Co. The fined was imposed after CCI investigation had found that Hyundai was engaged in anti-competitive practices.

▶ GOI has decided to infuse about Rs 20,000 crore in public sector banks by September 2015. Of the total infusion, Rs 10,000 crore capital would be provided to weak PSU banks.

▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has given nod to Asian Development Bank's and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for their conceptual development plan (CDP) report on Vizag Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) and Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) respectively.

▶ The two leading financial news operations from Europe and Asia are now together, as Nikkei Japanese media group is going to buy the Financial Times from Britain's Pearson in a \$1.3 billion.

▶ Forbes Asia Fabulous 50 list released on the eve of its 10th Anniversary has listed 10 Indian companies which stands second after China in terms of number of companies listed. Indian companies that made to the list are: HDFC Bank, TCS, HCL Technologies, Aurobindo Pharma, Lupin, Sun Pharma Industries, Motherson Sumi Systems, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors and Titan.

▶ As per the official data, India has received an impressive USD 24 billion in Foreign Direct Investment from the 28-nation bloc European Union over the last three years.

▶ According to the latest data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India, investors put in a net Rs 2.05 lakh crore in various Mutual Fund schemes during April-July period of the ongoing fiscal.

▶ China's Xiaomi Inc has tied up with Taiwan's Foxconn to start assembling phones in India. Recently in a separate announcement, Foxconn is going to invest \$5 billion in an electronics manufacturing facility at Maharashtra.

▶ India's largest private sector bank, the ICICI Bank has launched scheme called ICICI Bank Saral-Rural Housing Loan scheme, with a special interest rate.

▶ India's second largest private sector lender, HDFC Bank and e-commerce company Snapdeal have jointly launched co-branded credit card. The card is aimed at getting Snapdeal's customers, 70 per cent of whom are from smaller cities and towns, to make online payments instead of availing the cash on delivery option.

▶ SBI Life Insurance has launched a new product named 'Smart Humsafar', which offers multiple benefits of savings and insurance cover for husband and wife under a single policy.

▶ India has extended its anti-dumping duty on import of all forms and grades of Vitamin C at USD 3.74 per kg from China for five years to safeguard the interest of domestic industry.

▶ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), India's state-run pension fund with a retirement corpus of Rs 8.5 lakh crore, has hit the stock market.

▶ Seeking to tap 'Raksha Bandhan' festival, GOI plans to launch a 'Suraksha Bandhan'. By this, the center is planning to push its flagship social security plans through innovative schemes like gift cheques and special deposits to their loved ones.

▶ According to the data released by the ministry of finance, indirect tax collections grew 39.1 per cent. Indirect collection stood at Rs 56,739 crore as against Rs 40,802 in the corresponding month last year. The excise duty was also increased marginally to 12.5 per cent from 12.36 per cent in the Budget.

▶ Uninor has awarded a sum of Rs 1,200 crore contract to Chinese firm Huawei for modernising and managing its network in India. The contract is for a tenure of three years. Under the contract, Huawei India will modernise its entire telecom network across all six telecom circles which as of now has 24,000 base stations.

▶ South Korean steelmaker POSCO has signed an agreement with Shree Uttam Steel and Power to set up a 3 million tonne-per-year integrated steel plant in Maharashtra. The proposed joint venture plans to set up the steel plant in two phases and take advantage of an expected surge in steel demand in India.

▶ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been accredited by the United Nations' Green Climate Fund (GCF) as an implementing entity for undertaking climate change related projects in India.

▶ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has allowed banks to tie up with a maximum of nine insurers from three segments —life, non-life and standalone health insurers — as part of the new bancassurance guidelines.

▶ The Reserve Bank of India has notified that farmers can now enjoy corp loans at just 4% next financial year as GOI has approved implementation of interest rate subvention schemes with an extension. They can obtain such rate if they repay existing loans promptly.

▶ The Reserve Bank of India has paid a dividend of nearly Rs 66,000 crore to the government, the highest ever from the central bank in its 80-year history, and 22% more than it paid last year. On a point to point basis, RBI's dividend payment to the government is up more than four times in as many years.

▶ The GOI has cleared 23 FDI proposals, including that of Catholic Syrian Bank and Bandhan Financial Services, amounting to Rs 10,378.92 crore. The investment proposals were approved following the recommendation for the same by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

▶ The Government of India and the World Bank have signed financing agreements worth USD 104 million and USD 308.40 million for National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project-I (NCRPM-I) and NCRPM-II respectively.

NCRMP-I covers States of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

The objective of NCRMP-II is to reduce vulnerability to cyclone and other hydro-meteorological hazards of coastal communities in the states of Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

▶ Axis bank has launched multi-currency contactless card or forex card in partnership with Visa -the payments gateway company. Axis Bank would be the first bank to issue multi-currency contactless cards or 'tap and pay' cards which can be loaded in 15 currencies such as Swiss Franc and Hong Kong dollar besides the three main currencies -US dollar, Euro and British Pound.

▶ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has suspended the licences of seven non-banking finance companies (NBFC). The seven companies are

- Religare Finance
- Eden Trade & Commerce
- Artisans Micro Finance
- Nott Investments
- RCS Parivar Finance
- Swetasree Finance
- Dewra Stocks & Securities

▶ The Finance Ministry has imposed definitive anti-dumping duty on 'flax' or 'linen' fabric imports from China and Hong Kong. This duty would be applicable only on those flax fabrics with flax content of over 50 per cent.

▶ According to the data released by Ministry of commerce and industry, trade deficit has widened to \$12.8 billion in July from \$10.8 billion in June. Imports fell 10.3 per cent to \$35.95 billion while exports came in at \$23.1 billion.

A trade deficit is an economic condition that occurs when a country is importing more goods than it is exporting.

▶ Banking giant, State Bank of India is all set to launch its mobile wallet – SBI Buddy, which will be accessible to SBI customers as well as other subscribers. The bank has tied up with several merchants, so that once the user opens the Buddy m-banking app, he/she will be able to access the merchant's app without previously downloading it.

▶ State-run lender Union Bank of India has launched one new debit card and two credit cards for its customers. The cards have been launched in association with Visa. The three cards are,

- **Business Debit** card will be issued to all current account holders with a cash withdrawal limit of Rs 50,000 and daily shopping limit through point of sale and online of Rs 2 lakh.
- **Usecur Credit Card** will be given to bank customers against lien on term deposits with a spending limit of Rs 5 lakh.
- **Signature Credit Card** will be issued to high networth customers with a spending limit linked to the income of the individual and a cap of 20 per cent of the annual income.

▶ Kishor Piraji Kharat has assumed charge as managing director & chief executive director of IDBI Bank with effect from August 14, 2015. He was earlier posted as executive director of Union Bank of India.

► Government of India has unveiled a seven-pronged revamp plan named Indradhanush to shake up its struggling state run banks.

The plan includes a capital infusion of Rs 20,000-crore and also hiring private sector executives for the first time to run public sector lenders.

Indradhanush

1. Appointments
2. Bank of Board Bureau
3. Capitalization
4. De-Stressing Public Sector Banks
5. Empowerment
6. Framework of accountability
7. Governance Reforms

The government has announced a comprehensive Rs 70,000-crore capitalisation plan for four years till 2019, which includes an infusion of Rs 25,000 crore in the current financial year.

The seven-member Bank Board Bureau will be operational by 1 April 2016. The bureau will comprise a chairman and six members, of which three will be from the government. The remaining three will be professionals from banking and other sectors.

NEW CEOs

1. PS Jayakumar - Bank of Baroda
2. Rakesh Sharma – Canara Bank
3. MO Rego – Bank of India
4. Kishore Kharat Piraji – IDBI Bank
5. Usha Ananthasunramanian – Punjab National Bank

Non-Executive Chairman

G Narayanan – Vijaya Bank

TC Venkat Subramanian – Indian Bank

► ICICI Bank has launched the a fully automated digital locker named Smart Vault, which is equipped with multi-layer security system.

► India's largest private lender ICICI Bank has launched the country's first mortgage guarantee-backed home loan product. This will expand the credit amount and increase the tenure for an additional fee as well.

► The Reserve Bank of India has selected 11 companies to set up payments banks aimed at granting thousands of citizens access to formal banking. The 11 companies are,

1. Aditya Birla Nuvo Limited
2. Airtel M Commerce Services Limited
3. Cholamandalam Distribution Services Limited
4. Department of Posts
5. Fino PayTech Limited
6. National Securities Depository Limited
7. Reliance Industries Limited
8. Dilip Shantilal Shanghvi – Sun Pharma
9. Vijay Shekhar Sharma – One97
10. Tech Mahindra Limited
11. Vodafone m-pesa Limited

► Justice AP Shah Committee has expressed his views to the finance ministry that the MAT shouldn't be imposed on Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) for the period preceding April 1, 2015. According to 2015 budget which was proposed in February, - the government had exempted foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from MAT starting April 1, 2015, but had not made the clarification whether it will have retrospective effect or not.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) the biggest financial inclusion initiative in the world, has completed its First Anniversary on August.

► Sri Lanka Central Bank has received 1.1 billion dollars from the Reserve Bank of India under the currency swap agreement between the two reserve banks. This will shore up Sri Lanka's foreign reserves and ease pressure on the local currency.

► Finance minister Arun Jaitley launched two funds by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), one for funding start-ups in India and another to aid small enterprises. The funds are Rs 2,000-crore India Aspiration Fund (IAF) and SIDBI Make In India Loan For Enterprises (SMILE) scheme with an investment size of Rs 10,000 crore.

► Banking giant State bank of India's Chariman Arundhati Bhattacharya has announced that SBI is developing a low-cost model to compete with payments banks. The low-cost structure will compete with the payments banks and also get access to people living in the remote areas.

► FM Arun Jaitley inaugurates Bandhan Bank as full-fledged scheduled commercial bank in Kolkata. Bandhan Bank becomes India's first private bank in 11 years. Bandhan is the first microfinance company to transform into a bank.

► Indian Bank has launched IndPay, a mobile application service that enables its customers to operate bank accounts from anywhere, anytime. IndPay can be operated through smartphones compatible with Android, Windows and iOS mobile operating systems.

► The United States has extended the anti-dumping duty on Indian preserved mushrooms for another five years. This will affect the domestic industries in India.

► Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has announced that the government has decided not to levy Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) on capital gains made by FIIs retrospectively. The government has accepted Justice AP Shah Panel's recommendations that there was no basis for levy of such tax for the prior period as well.

► The Banker of the Banks, the RBI has decided to issue 5 rupees coins to commemorate golden jubilee year of 1965 Indo-Pak War. The coins will be legal tender as provided in The Coinage Act 2011.

► The IMF has announced that India is among the few bright spots in the global economy. The announcement was made by IMF Chief Christine Lagarde at the meeting of G20 Finance Minister and Central Bank Governors. Among emerging economies if there is any growth, that is in India.

► A new study by the World Economic Forum (WEF) has ranked India very low globally on most of the parameters for inclusive growth and development.

India's Ranking

- Fiscal Transfers – 37th out of 38.
- Tax Code – 32nd Rank
- Social protection – 36th Rank
- Small business ownership – 38th Rank.
- Corruption and Rents – 8th Rank.
- Business and Political ethics – 12th Rank
- Financial intermediation of real economy investment pillar – 11th Rank.

► Telangana, has sought over Rs 25,000 crore of loans from the World Bank for development projects. This is the state's first request for such a large external debt. The projects includes reviving rural water bodies, enhancing electricity generation capacity and increasing potable water supply.

► ICICI Lombard General Insurance has tied up with Kerala based Catholic Syrian Bank for sale of its products through 431 branches of the bank.

▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley left for Turkey to participate in the two-day Conference of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors. The two-day Meet will be held in Ankara, Turkey on 4th and 5th September, 2015. The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of G-20 countries will be participating the International Meeting.

▶ E-commerce major Snapdeal will invest USD 100 million (about Rs 665 crore) in Shopo, which was launched in July. Shopo is a mobile-only platform, which aims to bring small and medium businesses (SMBs) that cannot register on bigger e-commerce portals.

▶ The G20, World's 20 largest economies, including India, has launched W20, an engagement grouping of women leaders, to push for gender inclusive global economic growth. The W20 group will have 20 women leaders from G20 nations.

▶ A new numbering system and seven new security features will be incorporated in all currency notes, especially in high denomination Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 notes, in order to check the menace of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN).

▶ The NPCI will roll out three cards within next one year. The company will launch a 'Mudra' card, a credit card and an international card.

▶ Doha Bank has signed MoU with Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group to generate business opportunities in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations and India. The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

▶ India will be having world class hi-tech ATMs in a couple of years. Since the life span of the ATMs is 5-7 years, most banks would replace old machines with high end machines that meet the international standards. There are close to 1.80 lakh ATM machines installed in India. ATM installation are growing at 25 per cent per annum.

Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme

The scheme will help in reducing the demand for physical gold by shifting a part of the estimated 300 tons of physical bars and coins purchased every year for Investment into gold bonds.

Gold Monetization Schemes (GMS)

The main objective of introducing the modifications in the schemes is to make the existing schemes more effective. GMS would benefit the Indian gems and jewellery sector which is a major contributor to India's exports. The existing Gold Deposit Scheme (GDS) and the Gold Metal Loan (GML) Scheme have been revamped.

▶ Chinese smartphone maker Gionee will invest USD 50 million (about Rs 330 crore) over next three years to make handsets in India. The company has partnered global manufacturers Foxconn and Dixon to begin India production.

▶ SEBI has finally ordered defreezing of bank and securities accounts of Gemini Communications after it recovered pending dues of over Rs 11 lakh. Accordingly, the regulator has directed banks and depositories to defreeze the accounts of the company.

▶ Bankers Chanda Kochhar and Arundhati Bhattacharya have been ranked as top two in a list of most powerful women in Asia Pacific prepared by the global magazine Fortune.

► In order to promote Financial Inclusion, the Union Cabinet has permitted 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route for white label ATM operations. Till date, foreign investment in while label ATM operations (WLAO) was allowed through the government approval route.

► To beef up its logistics operations ahead of the festive season, global online retailer Amazon said it has set up seven new fulfilment centres (FCs) across cities like Ahmedabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Nagpur, Gurgaon and Pune.

► The HCL group will be investing around \$1 billion in Tamil Nadu over the next five years and is also going into robotics and artificial intelligence. HCL will spread its operations in Madurai and Tirunelveli districts while expanding its operations in Coimbatore.

► Online marketplace Snapdeal has launched its instant refund facility to help its customers get refunds within one hour of receiving the returned products. The instant refund will be completed using Immediate Payments System (IMPS) transfers.

► Online auto portal CarDekho has acquired Zigwheels, an auto portal owned by Times Internet. This is the second big acquisition by Jaipur-based Girnar Soft, which runs the CarDekho, BikeDekho and PriceDekho sites, after it bought out Naspers-backed Gaadi.com a year ago.

► Paytm plans to launch India's first payments bank by the end of this financial year and is counting on its mobile wallet experience to give it a clear advantage over established business houses that will be its main rivals. Paytm expects to touch Rs 10,000 crore in deposits in the next three years.

► India is likely to sign the comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) with Australia and Chile soon following a renewed push to the pacts. FTA allows duty-free or low-duty trade in merchandise between the signatories. The department of commerce joint secretary Dammu Ravi said that India is very close to signing FTA with Chile.

► India continues to be a tough place for doing business even as the country has improved regulator processes for starting enterprises and trading across borders, according to World Bank. In terms of ease of doing business Index, India is ranked 142nd among 189 countries in the latest rankings issued by the World Bank. Singapore is at the top position, followed by New Zealand. Hong Kong SAR (China) is at the third spot.

► The Reserve Bank of India has selected 10 companies to set up small banks aimed at giving loans to those who struggle to get finance from traditional banks, including farmers and small businesses. The name of the applicants that have been granted the licence include,

- Au Financiers
- Capital Local Area Bank
- Disha Microfin
- Equitas Holdings
- ESAF Microfinance and Investments
- Janalakshmi Financial Services
- RGVN (North East) Microfinance
- Suryoday Micro Finance
- Ujjivan Financial Services
- Utkarsh Micro Finance.

► Mobile commerce company Paytm has tied up with educational institutions to introduce cashless payments. Users will now be able to pay school fees and dues, cafeteria bills as well as buy uniforms, books and merchandise through the Paytm Wallet.

► Gujarat has come out on top in the World Bank's first ever ranking of States on the ease of doing business in India. The states were assessed on the implementation, over a six-month period from January to June, of a 98-point reforms agenda.

► The Reserve Bank of India has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 'Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information' with the Nepal Rastra Bank(NRB). The MoU was signed by Nepal Rastra Bank's Executive Director Narayan Prasad Paudel and RBI's Executive Director Meena Hemchandra.

► SBI Card has announced a strategic partnership with 7 of India's biggest e-commerce players for its newest offering, the SimplyCLICK SBI Card.

► Grant Thornton Global Dynamism Index (GDI), India has been ranked 34th among 60 leading economies in terms of 'business growth environment'. India ranked 53rd out of 60 in the GDI when it comes to its business operating environment. India's rank in other categories are,

- Economic situation and growth - Overall ranking 2
- Availability of labour and human capital - Rank 15
- Financing environment - Rank 36
- Science and Technology - Rank 41

► GOI has signed a loan agreement with ADB for USD 123.51 mn for upgrading Tourism Infrastructure and Services in States of Punjab, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

► As many as 15 MoUs with investment potential of \$590 million have been signed between Chinese and Indian firms across various sectors. The inked deals, which are worth \$590 million, cover crucial sectors such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture, information technology, electronics and pharmaceuticals.

► India has slipped to 81st position in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2015 report, a decline by five positions as compared to last year. Switzerland topped the GI followed by the United Kingdom and Sweden securing number two and three positions respectively.

► IRDAI has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company for violating various insurance norms including modification of policy wordings in a case related with enrollment of khadi workers under Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana (RGSSBY) in Rajasthan.

► The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut its repo rate by 50 basis points to 6.75%, while keeping the cash reserve ratio (CRR) unchanged at 4%. This is the fourth rate cut since January. The central bank has also cut the FY16 gross domestic product (GDP) growth target to 7.4% from 7.6% earlier.

► The Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has merged with capital markets watchdog Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley ringing the customary stock market bell to formalise the amalgamation.

► Aluminium giant NALCO is all set to invest over Rs 65,000 crore to launch ambitious projects in the country and abroad. The company is exploring countries like Oman, Iran and Indonesia to set up the proposed smelter plant with an estimated investment of Rs 20,000 crore.

► The government has firmed up plans to bring down its holding in IDBI Bank to 49 per cent, marking a big bang start to its commitment to reform state-run banks. The department of financial services in the finance ministry is working on the details of the proposal.

▶ Integrated infrastructure finance company IDFC has been granted the regulatory approval by the RBI to utilise Rs 2,500 crore non-distributable statutory reserves. The amount will be used for creation of specific provisions against stressed assets.

▶ The Bank of Baroda has been conferred the first prize under the All India Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar Scheme of Government of India. The PSU has bagged the award for outstanding performance in official language implementation under the category of nationalized banks in the linguistic region - B - for the year 2014-15.

▶ New India Assurance (NIA), the largest non-life insurer in the country, has charted out its global expansion plans that include areas like Asia, North America and Africa. NIA is already present in countries like Mauritius and Nigeria.

▶ In a big relief to foreign firms, government has announced that the Income Tax Act will be amended with retrospective effect to exempt from MAT the overseas companies that are covered under double taxation avoidance agreements.

▶ The European Union has imposed a provisional anti dumping duty of up to 31.2 percent on imports of water and sewage pipes from India for six months to protect its industry. Indian exporters of these pipes to the EU market will be impacted by the move.

▶ Taxi-hailing app Ola will invest \$20 million by March, 2016 on various initiatives to ensure passenger safety. The Bengaluru-based company has also introduced a new number masking feature on its app that does not disclose the customer's mobile number to drivers.

▶ The Reserve Bank of India has allowed banks to process and settle import and export related payments facilitated by online payment gateway service providers. RBI has put a cap of \$2,000 on import and \$10,000 on export of goods and software as allowed under the foreign trade policy.

▶ In order to encourage overseas funding, RBI has proposed to allow domestic companies to borrow money from pension funds, sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) and insurance funds as part of the ECBs. The modifications in the External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) guidelines are aimed at replacing the ECB policy with a more rational and liberal framework.

▶ Australian dairy exporters have asked the Indian government for a free trade agreement (FTA) in a bid to improve the access to the country's huge market. The local dairy exporters were now seeking the FTA with India in the face of stiff tariff barriers of between 30 and 60 per cent on dairy products.

▶ India has emerged on top of the foreign direct investment league table, overtaking China and the United States, according to the FT data service. A ranking of the top destinations for greenfield investment in the first half of 2015 shows India at number one, having attracted roughly \$3 billion more than China and \$4 billion more than the US.

▶ According to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, India has moved up 16 positions to rank 55th on a global index of the world's most competitive economies. Globally, Switzerland has retained its top position as the world's most competitive economy for seventh year in a row and is followed by Singapore, the US, Germany and the Netherlands in the top-five.

▶ Capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 7,269 crore on property developer PACL and four of its directors for not complying with rules on selling investment products to public.

▶ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered growth projections for India for the current fiscal to 7.4 per cent, from the 7.8 per cent earlier. The reasons behind the lowered projections are weak monsoon, poor external demand and inability of the government to push economic reforms in Parliament.

▶ Reflecting an increase in economic activity, Indirect Tax Revenue (Provisional) collections have increased from 46,224 crore rupees in September 2014 to 61,284 crore rupees during September 2015. Thus an increase of 32.6% has been registered during September 2015 over the corresponding period in the previous year.

▶ Eight public sector banks, including SBI, Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda have said that they have allotted equity shares on preferential basis to the government against capital infusion of Rs 13,955 crore.

▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Mudra scheme in Dumka under which people can take loans up to Rs. 10 lakh to start businesses.

▶ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$120 million loan to upgrade the India-Bangladesh electricity network. Once completed, this will allow Bangladesh to meet its increasing power demand and support power exchanges across South Asia.

▶ ICICI Bank has become the first institution worldwide to launch mVisa – a card-less and device-less solution the payments company is betting on in the mobile space.

▶ The Reserve Bank has signed an agreement on information sharing with Bank of Botswana under the Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information.

▶ Deposit in accounts opened under the government's flagship financial inclusion programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), have exceeded Rs.25,000 crore. Besides, the PMJDY accounts having balances have now exceeded 60 per cent and the zero balance accounts reduced to less than 40 per cent.

▶ The RBI has announced merger of two funds to create a new Financial Inclusion Fund with a corpus of Rs 2,000 crore to support "developmental and promotional activities" for expanding reach of banking services.

▶ Aditya Birla Group entered the e-commerce space by launching fashionportal abof.com. Abof.com ('All about fashion') is a one-stop fashion portal for apparel, footwear and accessories for men and women who are discerning customers but not heavy-discount oriented ones.

▶ The Controller-General of Accounts (CGA) has announced that India's fiscal balance turned from deficit to surplus for the first time in 8 years. Fiscal deficit-difference between revenue and expenditure excluding borrowings- for August 2015 was pegged at - 15808 crore rupees that indicates surplus of revenues over expenditure.

▶ IT major Infosys has announced acquisition of US-based oil and gas consulting firm Noah Consulting for USD 70 million (approximately Rs 453.5 crore) in an all-cash deal. The company said this acquisition is part of its strategy to "bring next generation data analytics solutions to the oil and gas industry".

► Mortgage lender HDFC has raised about Rs 10,000 crore through mix of warrants and non-convertible debentures to qualified institutional investors. HDFC has allotted 3.65 crore warrants at an issue price of Rs 14 apiece, at an exercise price of Rs 1,475 per share.

► The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed the norms of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) of government debt and also announced higher investment limits in rupee terms in government securities with a view to bring in an additional 1.2 lakh crore rupees by March 2018.

► In a first from a telco in India, Telenor will begin offering life insurance to its new and existing customers, with covers starting from Rs 5,000 going up to Rs 50,000, while consumers don't need to pay any premium.

► The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has raided 50 more locations in connection with BOB Forex Scam in north Delhi branch's alleged foreign exchange act violation worth over Rs. 6,000 crores.

► Private sector bank Yes Bank has inked a partnership with Snapdeal, India's largest online marketplace in terms of sellers transacting on its platform, and leading logistics and transportation company Blue Dart, which will see the financial institution make 'strategic interventions in the financial supply chains' of the latter two companies.

► Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for the Gold Monetisation Scheme that allow banks to fix their own interest rates on gold deposits. The gold deposit scheme is aimed at mobilising a part of an estimated 20,000 tonnes of idle precious metal with households and institutions.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the IDFC Bank at New Delhi. He said the government has initiated a series of banking reforms including re-capitalisation of PSU banks, change in rules for hiring top management and paper-less transactions to curb the black money menace.

► Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched the Chillr Mobile app, in the process becoming the first public sector bank to partner with Chillr. The app, which is directly linked to customers' bank accounts, will allow them to transfer money instantly to any of the contacts in their phonebook. Chillr is an offshoot of Kochi-based technology firm MobME.

► Sin Tax has been included under the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) law that will be effective from 1 April 2016. Sin tax is an excise tax levied on products and services like alcohol, tobacco and gambling considered bad for health or society.

► The Reserve Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh Bank for exchange of supervisory information. With this, RBI has signed 30 such MoUs, one Letter for Supervisory Cooperation and one Statement of Cooperation.

► The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has turned down a proposal from the government to allow up to 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in banks, a move that may come as a damper for several private sector lenders such as ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank.

► The Reserve Bank has allowed foreign investors to raise their stake up to 74 percent in DEN Networks. FIIs, NRIs and PIOs (Persons of Indian Origins) can invest in primary and secondary capital markets in India through PIS.

► The Government has exempted services provided by a business facilitator or a business correspondent to a banking company with respect to basic savings bank deposit accounts covered by Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) from payment of service tax.

► The World Bank has said India's move to set up 11 new payments banks is expected to expand penetration of the banking sector in vast rural areas of the country.

► A draft National Policy on Capital Goods has been prepared and put in public domain for comments/suggestions of stakeholders and general public. The policy seeks to raise India's share of global exports in capital goods to 2.5% and increase the share of domestic production of capital goods from 56% to 80% by 2025.

► The slowdown in China provides India an opportunity to move deep into the African continent, strengthen business and economic ties. The India-Africa summit will be a perfect setting for business communities from India and African nations to explore areas of cooperation and provide a roadmap to their governments. The current trade is estimated around \$75 billion.

► RBI includes Bandhan Bank in second schedule list. Reserve Bank on November 5, included Bandhan Bank in the second schedule list. The newly launched bank now is eligible for loans from the central bank at bank rate.

► The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed Rs 1 crore penalty on Dhanlaxmi Bank for violation of Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti Money Laundering (AML) norms. It had issued a Show Cause Notice to the bank for not complying with KYC and AML guidelines in respect of a current account under investigation of the Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

► The Prem Watsa-founded Fairfax financial Holdings will increase its stake in ICICI Lombard General Insurance by nine per cent for Rs 1,550 crore. The deal, expected to be closed by March, will take Fairfax's stake in the company to 35 per cent, while the remaining stake will be held by promoter ICICI Bank. The deal values the general insurance company at Rs 17,225 crore.

► IDFC Ltd said the company registered a net loss of Rs 1,468.83 crore on a consolidated basis. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 421.4 crore in the same quarter last fiscal. But total income of IDFC increased to Rs 2,512.90 crore in the quarter under review, from Rs 2,487.46 crore in the same period a year ago, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

► The Singapore-based DBS India, plans to scale up its presence in India from being a large corporate bank, to being a more universal bank and it seeks license for a wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) in India.

► Paytm, which has been granted the in-principle licence for payments bank, hopes to cash-in on its existing mobile wallet customer base for its payments bank as well.

► The government has appointed MDs of four public lenders, including UCO Bank, Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank.

Name	Bank	HQ
Suresh N Patel	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Haryana
R K Takkar	UCO Bank	Kolkata
J K Garg	Corporation Bank	Mangalore
Mahesh Kumar Jain	Indian Bank	Chennai

► Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) have signed an MoU on bilateral cooperation and technical assistance.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The state-run Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojna (UDAY) is likely to provide a relief to struggling state-owned discoms to the extent of Rs 80,000 crore per year till FY19. It would translate into a reduction in losses by around Rs 0.95 per unit on an all India basis. ▶ Reserve Bank on 5 November allowed state co-operative banks (StCBs) and district central co-operative banks (DCCBs) to offer internet banking with “view only” facility. At present, urban cooperative banks (UCBs) that meet certain criteria are permitted to provide internet banking with transactional facility to their customers with prior approval of the RBI. ▶ According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) India, in the coming years, is positioned much more favorably than China in terms of growth. The World Economic Forum also noted that growth accelerated this year to around 7.5 percent, putting the country on course to overtake China by the end of 2016. ▶ RBI issued Uniform Guidelines on Internet Banking for Cooperative Banks Reserve Bank of India has revised and issued a uniform guidelines on Internet Banking. ▶ The GOI has approved Rs. 2,100 crore funds under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) for Karnataka and Gujarat, which recently faced drought and floods respectively. The Committee examined the proposals based on the report of the central team that visited the affected states hit by severe natural disasters. ▶ A leading UAE-based bank has announced a partnership deal with State Bank of India. This partnership has been handed to help NRI customers in the gulf carry out their remittances instantly and more conveniently. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Country’s largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) is finalising plans to set up a subsidiary for managing its large portfolio of real estate properties and those taken on lease or rent. SBI is planning to set up a subsidiary for management of properties owned by it and also for those taken on lease or rent. ▶ The Reserve Bank November 27 made an announcement by the government naming the entity, which will function as the Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCR). CKYCR would receive, store, safeguard and retrieve the KYC records in digital form of a client, for which necessary amendments to the related rules have been made. ▶ NDB BRICS has been launched as an alternative to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to meet funding needs of the BRICS grouping and other five BRICS countries has allocated formal responsibilities to four vice presidents. ▶ HSBC Holdings Plc will shut its private banking business in India, marking the exit of another foreign bank from the cut-throat business in Asia’s third-largest economy. After a strategic review of the global private banking operations in India, we have decided to close the business. ▶ Country’s second largest private sector lender HDFC Bank, which has launched ‘sonic branding’ or a musical logo, today said it will spend over Rs 30 crore to promote the new brand positioning which stresses on the digital banking. We have launched a distinct tune which represents the brand. |
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► The government is working on a detailed plan to tackle bad loans at public sector banks. NPAs (Non Performing Assets) curtail their ability to lend and restrain private investment. Thus posing a significant threat to the broader Indian economy.

► Global index provider FTSE Russell and State Bank of India (SBI) has signed an agreement to launch India's first bond index. The two companies have signed a letter of intent to develop the FTSE-SBI India Bond Index. SBI Mutual fund, the asset management unit of India's largest bank, intends to use the new index as the basis for a new investment product, the release added.

► PAN Card Gets Costlier Eating out, telephony and travel will become expensive from November 15th with the government imposing a 0.5 per cent Swachh Bharat cess on taxable services which is expected to yield about Rs. 3,800 crore to the exchequer in the remaining months of the fiscal year.

► The Centre, Andhra Pradesh and the World Bank have inked a \$75 million (₹500 crore) credit deal for the Andhra Pradesh Rural Inclusive Growth Project. The project seeks to enhance agricultural incomes of small and marginal farmers and ensure increased access to services related to health, nutrition, sanitation and social entitlements.

► Reserve Bank of India has allowed strong regional rural banks to launch online transaction through internet banking, an essential product in new-age banking. Profitable RRBs with minimum Rs 100 crore net worth and better asset quality will be allowed to offer this service.

► The Finance Ministry has imposed definitive anti-dumping duty on certain carbon black imports from China and Russia. The anti-dumping duty would be valid for five years.

► State-run Union Bank of India has tied up with Maharashtra for over-the-counter (OTC) collection of taxes and receipts. The bank has integrated its core banking with the Maharashtra virtual treasury, GRAS (Government Receipt Accounting System), to facilitate OTC tax collection, which will provide one more mode of payment for convenience of tax payers and the state.

► State Bank of Travancore (SBT) has launched a 'Housing for All (Urban): Mission 2022' to provide affordable housing to families belonging to the economically weaker sections/low-income groups in the urban centres. The loans will be available for beneficiaries in two segments, viz.

(i) those with a household annual income of up to Rs. 3 lakh under the economically weaker sections.

(ii) those with a household annual income between Rs. 3,00,001 and Rs. 6 lakh under the low-income group.

► IDBI Bank has become the first commercial state-owned bank to raise \$350 million via selling green bonds, where proceeds are used for clean energy projects. The company has a pipeline of more than \$1 billion clean energy projects requiring credit lines. In futures, IDBI may sell more such bonds depending on those project status. Bonds were priced at 4.26% (fixed rate) after adding a mark-up or spread of 255 basis points on five-year US Treasury, now at 1.71%.

► Extending its overseas footprint, Axis Bank has opened a representative office in Dhaka, capital city of Bangladesh. The bank aims to leverage the growing economic integration between the two countries by actively facilitating trade transactions, both inbound as well as out-bound.

► Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company (Kotak General Insurance) has received approval of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) to commence business as an insurance company. With this, the company has completed all registration formalities required by the regulator.

► In this regard, loan agreement was signed by ADB Country Director Kazuhiko Higuchi and Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Senior Secretary of Bangladesh Finance Ministry. The loan FUND would be used for Second Bangladesh-India Grid Inter connectivity project under the ambitious South Asia Sub-regional Economic Co-operation (SASEC) Programme.

► YES Bank, India's fifth largest private bank, has announced it would mobilize \$5 billion towards climate finance by 2020 to help India meet its target of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). The bank made the declaration on the sidelines of the Conference of Parties (COP) 21 climate summit underway in Paris.

► New Zealand has formally become a member of the Asian Infrastructure investment Bank (AIIB). Ratification by members with 50 percent of the capital of the AIIB is needed for it to establish operations. The AIIB will have around NZ\$150 billion (US\$100 billion) of initial capital to promote sustainable development in the region.

► The RBI has announced a reduction in the share of government securities that banks have to mandatorily hold in their books in four equal phases starting from next fiscal year. The RBI has said that the bank's in government securities also known as statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) would be lowered to 20.5% by January 2017.

► State Bank of India (SBI) has declared industrialist Vijay Mallya a 'wilful defaulter' for defaults on nearly Rs 7,000 crore loans to the long-grounded Kingfisher Airlines. After the Bombay High Court in August this year allowed Mallya to be represented by his legal counsels, SBI moved the Supreme Court challenging the HC order, saying that HC order violated the RBI rules on grievance redressal committee that allow only the borrower to be present his case in person.

► As per the Central Statistics Office (CSO), India's GDP accelerated to 7.4 per cent in the July-September quarter, overtaking China as the world's fastest growing major economy, on pick up in manufacturing, mining and services sectors.

► The Reserve Bank signed separate Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information with Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), United Kingdom.

► Tata Sons Ltd and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC) have formed a long-term partnership, under which ICBC will become a strategic banking partner to the Tata group. Tata Sons is the principal investment holding company of \$108 billion Tata Group and promoter of Tata companies.

► The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced revised Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). Among other things, the PSL target was increased to 75 percent of total outstanding from the existing 60 percent. The revised target will be effective from 1 January 2016.

► For better surveillance of commodities derivatives market, regulator SEBI has integrated trading data flow from various commodity exchanges to its own integrated surveillance and intelligence systems. Sebi has also formed two divisions in its Integrated Surveillance Department (ISD), which have been adequately manned for effective surveillance and monitoring of the commodity derivatives market.

► Dena Bank ties up with SBI Life for Group Life Insurance to its Housing Loan customers under “Dena Grihaswami Suraksha Yojana”. The insurance cover will be given to all housing loan borrowers at a very low premium.

► The government of India is all set to introduce the bankruptcy bill in Parliament, which when enacted will improve ease of doing business in India. With a view to promoting ease of doing business and spurring economic activities, a government-appointed panel had last month suggested a modern bankruptcy law to deal within 180 days the insolvency cases that may arise on account of business failures or economic downturns.

► Private sector lender Yes Bank has made three appointments to its senior management team.

- Padhmanabhan Kumar - Chief Operating Officer & Senior Group President.
- Neeraj Dhawan - Group President and Chief Risk Officer – Retail & Business Banking.
- Rajan Pental as Group Head – Retail Lending.

► IBM has signed a deal for an undisclosed amount with Federal Bank to provide a security layer on the Federal Bank’s mobile application. The App, FedMobile, will warn the users in case they attempt a transaction over an insecure network or through an infected device.

► The World Bank has approved a USD 1.5 billion loan for the ambitious clean India campaign. It aims to support the government in its efforts to ensure all citizens in rural areas have access to improved sanitation and end the practice of open defecation by 2019.

► Marking its debut in the Indian solar sector after its investment announcement of \$20 billion, Japan’s Soft Bank won its first solar power project in India. The Japanese firm won the 350 megawatt (Mw) project, under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (NSM), through its joint venture (JV) company SBG Cleantech. SBG Cleantech bid the lowest tariff of Rs 4.63 per unit to win the entire tendered capacity of 350 Mw.

► In a bid to curtail domestic black money flow, the finance ministry on Dec 15 announced mandatory furnishing of permanent account number (PAN) for all transactions above Rs 2 lakh through all payment modes with effect from January 1, 2016. This is a relaxation from an proposal to make PAN mandatory for sale and purchase of items above Rs 1 lakh.

► Nepal’s central bank has warned that the country faces the grim prospect of stagflation. The situation will become worse if the political crisis over its new Constitution is not resolved to end the protests by Indian-origin Madhesis.

► The World Bank has approved an additional financial assistance of \$35 million to support improved management, planning and development of water resources in the Indus river basin in Pakistan. This \$35 million is in addition to the \$38 million given earlier towards improvement of water resources management in the Indus river system.

► The Reserve Bank had, in June 2015, set the last date for public to exchange pre-2005 banknotes as December 31, 2015. RBI decided to extend the date for the public to exchange their pre-2005 banknotes till June 30, 2016.

► The China-initiated Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), has been officially launched in Beijing and is expected to start operation in early 2016. The launch of the bank has come just six months after an article of agreement (AOA) was signed by 57 prospective founding members in June, and 26 months after President Xi Jinping proposed it in October 2013.

► The Reserve Bank of India has placed the report of the Committee on Medium-term Path on Financial Inclusion (Chairman: Deepak Mohanty). The Committee was constituted with the objective of working out a medium-term (five year) measurable action plan for financial inclusion.

► The Reserve Bank of India has issued fresh norms on calculation of base rate on the basis of the marginal cost of funds. This move is aimed at improving the transparency, ensuring speedier monetary policy transmission, and also lowering borrowing costs. The new method — Marginal Cost of funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) — will replace the present base rate system.

► Pension fund regulatory body PFRDA has started using PAN instead of Aadhaar for validation of new customers who can now be registered online under the National Pension System (NPS) scheme.

► The Reserve Bank of India has announced that over 9,500 complaints of deficient services by nationalised and private sector banks are pending with banking ombudsmen. The revised Banking Ombudsman scheme 2006 allows a customer to seek redress of complaints against banks relating to credit cards and house loans, among others. The number of complaints pending for resolution as on December 13, 2015 was 9,508, the RBI said in reply to an RTI query.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

▶ India and the US have signed a memorandum of understanding to set up the Rs 50 crore PACE setter Fund. The main objective of this fund is to give boost to commercialization of innovation in off-grid clean energy solutions.

▶ The Union Cabinet has approved Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The ambitious scheme aims at providing irrigation facilities to every village in India by converging ongoing irrigation schemes implemented by various ministries.

▶ Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal has launched the state ePMS Portal or Electronic Projects Management System portal to fast track infrastructural development.

▶ Government of India has launched an online registration system for foreign employers who look for Indian workers. According to the Indian embassy in Abu Dhabi, all the foreign employers must register in the eMigrate system, which will be vetted by the Indian mission.

▶ The nationwide Mobile Number Portability (MNP) has become operational from July 3, 2015. This facility will allow customers to keep their existing mobile phone numbers while shifting between states and circles.

▶ BSNL has launched a pre-paid card linked mobile wallet service which would allow the customers to transfer money, pay for services as well as withdraw cash of up to Rs 1 lakh. The wallet service has been named as Speed Pay, which allows a customer to load money even if he does not have a bank account.

▶ Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said the government is thinking of launching an internet green channel and also provide one hour programme on environment on 'DD Kisan' channel. The Government is planning to go for online channel rather than a dedicated television channel on environment, as the later would require huge investment.

▶ Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the Digital India initiative. Digital initiatives aims to make all citizens digitally literate and bring internet and e-governance to the houses of all the Indians. The Prime Minister has promised that Digital India has an investments worth Rs 4.5 lakh crore and will provide Rs. 18 lakh jobs.

▶ The state government of Maharashtra has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with global technology major Cisco for making Nagpur a smart city and also a safe city with the help of modern technology and use of Internet to improve quality of life.

▶ Government of India has launched a mobile App "m-Asset" to know gram panchayats assets. The app was launched by Union Rural Development and Minister Birender Singh on the occasion of Digital India Week in New Delhi. The main objective of this app is to provide people with the information related to assets of the gram panchayats.

▶ Coal India Limited is going to set up five cancer detection centres in the mining belts of five states ie Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

▶ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay and Nehru Science Centre have launched a pilot project "Internet for All" in its Mobile Science Exhibition Bus in Mumbai.

► The government of India has decided to recognize the rag pickers and also to give national award for their contribution to keep India clean. The national award, with a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh, will be given to three best rag pickers and three associations involved in innovation of best practices.

► India and Mauritius have renewed the existing MoU on hydrographic cooperation for the next five years. This renewal would pave the way for continued ties between the two countries. The MoU was renewed during the IXth Hydrographic Committee meeting held at Mauritius from June 29 to July 1.

► According to the UNICEF's Rapid Survey on Children in India, the number of underweight children had fallen to a historic low — from 48 per cent in 2004-05 to 39 per cent in 2013-14 in the case of stunting and from 42.5 per cent to 30 per cent in the case of underweight children.

► According to a survey conducted by global property consultant Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) Bangalore has been ranked 12th in the list of top 20 technology-rich cities in the world.

Bangalore has helped India debut on the 'City Momentum Index' Top 20 list – an annual survey carried out by JLL globally.

► Food safety regulator FSSAI has finalised 12,000 standards for food additives and ingredients in line with global safety standards Codex, established by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Health Organisation. At present, there are 375 FSSAI safety standards for food items but none for food additives and ingredients.

► Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu has release the 50000th Coach manufactured by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai via video conferencing. The Minister also announced Rs 5 lakh reward for ICF staff for attaining the milestone of rolling out 50,000th coach.

► Amit Shah on 7th July 2015 launched the book 'Transcendence'. The book is written by former president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in Ahmedabad. The book takes the reader to the Mr. Kalam's spiritual experiences with Pramaukh Swami Maharaj.

► Indian Coast Guard on 6th July 2015 started 'ICGS Rani Durgavati', the 3rd Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV) of its kind, at the Coast Guard district headquarters.

The IPV, designed by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd is equipped with the most-sophisticated navigational communication sensors and equipment.

► According to the World Bank Report, India's rural employment guarantee programme MGNREGA has been ranked as the world's largest public works programme. The scheme provides social security net to almost 15% of India's population.

► Food safety regulator FSSAI has finalised 12,000 standards for food additives and ingredients in line with global safety standards Codex, established by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Health Organisation.

► According to the HSBC Report, India has pipped China to drive the smartphone volume growth in the world. The main reasons are falling prices of high-end devices and growing adoption of 3G services. The report says China was the volume growth engine since 2013. As China's smartphone penetration having reached 95% in 2014, further growth will be derived from other emerging countries.

<p>▶ According to a research paper by India Meteorological Department (IMD) scientist, 12 east coast districts in India are “very highly prone” and 41 are “highly prone” to cyclones in the country. Four states – West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu-and one UT Puducherry on the east coast, and Gujarat on the west coast are more vulnerable to the Tropical Cyclones.</p> <p>▶ India has test-fired its indigenously developed Nag anti tank missile from a helicopter at a firing range in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. Three-round trial of helicopter-launched Nag (HeliNa) missile were conducted at the Chandhan firing range.</p> <p>▶ Police verification for issue/renewal of passports is going online, and the existing time shall be cut from 20 days to less than a week. The home ministry will allow all SP-level police officers access to databases such as,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Population Register (NPR) 2. Aadhaar and Electoral Photo I-Card via the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) to enable online verification of identity, address and criminal record, if any, of the passport applicant. <p>▶ India ranks 14th among 22 high Tuberculosis burden countries globally and the country has 2.6 million cases of Tuberculosis as per the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2014.</p>	<p>▶ A tiny butterfly species has been discovered in the verdant forests of the Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh. The butterfly has been named as the Banded Tit (<i>Hypolycaena Narada</i>). The Banded Tit is a denizen of low-lying evergreen forests of Changlang and has an interesting life cycle.</p> <p>▶ Reliance Industries has decided to replace “.com” to “.JIO as a generic top-level domain (gTLD) and it will be used across the Reliance empire. It is being treated as the world’s largest fourth-generation mobile telephony launch with an investment of Rs 1-lakh crore.</p> <p>▶ For the first time in India, an earthquake early warning system has been installed in Uttarakhand, where researchers can predict an earthquake of magnitude 8 or greater. It will issue warnings 1-40 seconds before earthquakes of magnitude 5 occur.</p> <p>▶ Defence PSU Bharat Electronics made Akash missile has been inducted into Indian Air Force at a ceremony held at Air Force Station, Gwalior. The missile system can target aircraft upto 30 km away, at altitudes upto 18,000 metres. It has the capability to neutralise aerial targets like fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles.</p>
<p>▶ Train passengers can contact helpline by dialing number 138 through their mobile phones in case of medical emergency. All passengers trains will be provided with First Aid Boxes containing essential drugs, medicines and dressing materials.</p>	<p>▶ The Kanwar Teerth Yatra, the biggest yatra of north India, has begun on the first day of the sacred month of Sawan of the Hindu calendar. Lakhs of Shiva devotees, popularly called Kanwarias, mostly from west Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Rajasthan, have started going back to their destinations, carrying holy Ganga Jal (water) in decorated Kanwars (bamboo structures).</p>

► The Union Cabinet has approved Consumer Protection Bill, 2015 in order deal with the growing concern over the safety of consumer products and services. The new bill seeks to replace Consumer Protection Act, 1986 in order to deal with consumer protection and safety.

► The Government has considered setting up a structured central regulatory regime for AYUSH drugs. In this regard, the current proposal is to have a vertical structure for AYUSH in the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

► India has been successful in protecting its traditional knowledge by preventing an attempt made by Europe's Pangaea Laboratories, to take patent on a medicinal composition containing turmeric, pine bark and green tea for treating hair loss.

► Bharti Airtel, the world's third largest mobile service provider, appointed Nilanjan Roy as its Global Chief Financial Officer, taking over from Srikanth Balachandaran, who is now being appointed as the Global Chief Human Resources Officer.

► Balaji, the world's richest god at Tirupati, has now opened a demat account to enable devotees to donate shares and securities, after finding it a tedious task to get physical share certificates dropped in Hundi transferred on his name.

► HSBC India's chairman Naina Lal Kidwai announced to launch 'green bonds' in India for raising funds for investments in environmental projects. HSBC is the fourth largest issuer in the world.

► Alibaba to invest INR 4000 crore in paytm (m-commerce company). Alibaba has picked up 25 per cent stake in Paytm's parent company One97 communication through its subsidiary Ant Financial.

► Nagaland and Central Govt signed a historic peace accord with the rebel NSCN(IM) on 3rd August 2015. The pact promises a return to normalcy in the state, while making it easier for India to integrate eastwards towards Asia.

► The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) ended Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's five-year ban on entering the Wankhede Stadium, in a Managing Committee meeting.

► The office of the Census Commissioner and Registrar-General of India released new numbers on the level of education achieved by Indians as of 2011. They show that with 6.8 crore graduates and above, India still has more than six times as many illiterates.

► India's telecom giant Airtel has launched the high-speed 4G services across 296 towns across India on 6th August 2015. For the 4G devices, Airtel has aligned with mobile handset maker Samsung to develop and provide 4G-enabled handsets in reasonable price.

► The Defence Ministry has decided to raise one battalion of Ganga Task Force initially, comprising ex-servicemen who will be residing along the river for monitoring pollution. The Union Minister of State for Water Resources Sanwar Lal said that Germany, Australia, Canada, Singapore and the Netherlands have expressed interest to support Ganga rejuvenation.

► The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into an Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with 'Rollback' provision with the two US MNCs.

► The Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law (RGSOIPL) at IIT Kharagpur has signed an MoU with the Law School of George Washington University (GWU) of United States for students and faculty

► Haryana Government launched Thari Pension, Thare Pass project. The main aim of the project is to directly transfer pension into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. The project was launched by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar

► The Union Cabinet has approved direct benefit transfer of wages to the bank accounts of MGNREGA workers. This will prevent delay in payments to workers under the rural employment guarantee scheme. Direct benefit transfer ensures that scheme funds do not get indefinitely parked with the state finance departments.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first National Handloom Day on August 7, at the Centenary Hall of Madras University in Chennai. The function was organised by the Tamil Nadu government's textile ministry.

► The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India or TRAI has asked all telecom companies to keep subscribers informed of all important stages of data usage. The mobile subscribers can activate or deactivate internet service on their mobile phone by calling or sending an SMS to a new toll free number 1925 from next month onwards.

► Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a poly-herbal medicine for the treatment of leucoderma (white patches on skin). Named as Lukoskin, the medicine has been introduced in the market by a private firm.

► Larsen and Toubro (L&T) is the first company to receive license to make Lakshya, a pilotless target aircraft. It receives license from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

exchange.

► Department store chain Shoppers Stop has inked a deal to launch its own store on online marketplace Snapdeal, joining a growing list of brick-and-mortar retailers who have tied up with online players to widen their reach. Under the deal, Shoppers Stop will dictate discounting strategy and price tags.

► Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be launching nine nano/micro satellites for United States during 2015-16 time-frame. This will be the first time that ISRO will launch US satellites. Antrix Corporation Ltd, the commercial arm of ISRO, has signed the agreement.

► The Maharashtra government has declared the area along Thane Creek as Flamingo Sanctuary. The area spreads around 1,690 hectares, which includes 896 hectares of mangroves and 794 hectares of adjacent water body. The Sanctuary named as the "Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary" will be Maharashtra's second Marine sanctuary, after Malvan.

► Taiwan-based Foxconn, the world's largest contract manufacturer of electronics, has signed an MoU with the state government of Maharashtra, to set up its manufacturing facility in the state. The company will invest \$5 Billion in the next five years.

► Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched a mobile app named Disha in Bihar. The main objective is to aid digital literacy in the state. The free app, which is available on Google Play Store, is expected to help people learn about computers and Internet through self learning modules.

► According to the performance ranking released by the Ministry of Urban Development, Mysore tops the list of cities in India that have met Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat mission's targets in urban India. Among state capitals, Bengaluru comes first (number 7 in the list of all cities) and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala was on second position (number 8 among all cities) while Patna scored the least at rank 429.

► Union Minority Affairs Minister Dr. Najma Heptullah has launched Nai Manzil for minorities. The scheme seeks to bridge the academic and skill development gaps between madrasahs passouts and their mainstream counterparts.

► Kochi has become the first Indian city to become a member of Beijing-headquartered World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF) Council. The Kerala Tourism Department has accepted the Council's invitation to join its league of leading tourism cities across the world.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a high-level UN sustainable development summit hosted by the United Nations on September 25. More than 150-world leaders are expected to attend the Sustainable Development Summit. He will also travel to San Francisco during his US visit, becoming the fourth Indian premier to visit America's West Coast.

► According to the report by a research firm IDC, smartphone market in India grew 44% to 26.5 million units in the June quarter. Online sales is the the major reason for this rise. Samsung maintained its leadership in the Indian smartphone market with 23% share, followed by Micromax (17), and Intex (11%).

► India again maintains its top spot as the world's largest exporter of beef, as per data released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. India is followed by Brazil.

► The Government of India has launched a new scheme called School Nursery Yojana. The scheme involves school children in raising saplings in nurseries created inside their school campuses. The main objective of this scheme is to plant a tree for sustainable future and to make the nation clean and green.

► The ISRO has finally started the commercial production from its indigenous Titanium Sponge Plant at Chavara in Kerala. This plant will meet ISRO's requirements in strategic areas.

► The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has tied up with the Union Urban Development Ministry for mapping over 500 towns and cities, to make a base plan for better planning and management. The project is expected to start by September 2015.

► The Delhi government has ordered a ban on the sale of all blood-thinning medicines like aspirin and ibuprofen without prescription in the national capital. Doctors have welcomed the decision, as these drugs could cause harm to dengue patients.

► The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the PM Modi, has approved the proposal for strengthening the drug regulatory system at a total cost of Rs.1750 crore with in three years. Of this Rs 1750 crore, an amount of Rs.900 crore will be spent on strengthening central structures and Rs.850 crore will be made available to the State Governments.

► A new leaping frog species has been discovered on the edge of the Netravali wildlife sanctuary in Goa by a group of city scientists. The Netravali Leaping Frog (*Indirana salelkari*) is the 12th species in the *Indirana* genus. The interesting thing is that the genus is entirely endemic to the Western Ghats.

► The government of India has approved the setting up of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) for imparting MD and Ph.D level education in the traditional medicine at Sarita Vihar in New Delhi. The Institute will be an apex institute of ayurveda with 200 bedded referral hospital.

► Government of India is going to spend Rs 14,000 crore to promote eco-friendly vehicles like hybrid and electric vehicles under the National Electric Mobility Mission. Under the scheme, public transport system in metropolitan cities would be encouraged to use hybrid and electric models.

► Pratyaksha Hastaantarit Laabh (PAHAL) scheme is selected as the world's largest cash transfer program by the Guinness Book of World Records. As on date, 13.9 crore LPG consumers have joined the PAHAL scheme.

► The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed a pact two entities ie National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) for skill development training projects.

NTPC will provide skill training to 5000 youth and women across 22 locations with special focus on the eastern states with in two years and the cost of the project is Rs 6.5 Crore.

► Kerala is taking all necessary steps to become India's first digitally literate state by 2020. The state government will leverage various initiatives aimed at making Kerala a

► An International Climate Office on Variability and Predictability would be set up in Pune. The main objective to to implement intra-seasonal, seasonal and inter-annual variability and predictability of monsoon systems. An agreement has already been signed between Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and World Climate Research Programme, Geneva.

► GOI issued spectrum sharing guidelines to reduce call drops. Now the telecom operators in India can share airwaves in the same band. The decision will allow companies to share their unutilised spectrum. The move expected to improve cost efficiencies for telecom companies with increased capacity to carry voice and data traffic.

► The biggest AYUSH hospital which will be built on the lines of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in south Delhi's Sarita Vihar is expected to be completed in six months. On Completion this hospital will cater to a capacity of 500 patients.

► Software giant Microsoft has teamed up with Andhra Pradesh government to help the state deliver low cost internet connectivity in rural areas through unused TV spectrum. It is the first initiative of its kind in India. Microsoft will start the project from Srikakulam district.

► Taj Mahal, the symbol of true love and architectural brilliance, has it's own Twitter account. It is the first historical monument in the world which has a twitter account of its own. The Twitter Account was lauched by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akilish Yadav.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a new campaign Start-up India; Stand up India to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth of India. The campaign will also promote bank financing for start-ups and offer incentives to boost entrepreneurship

‘Digitally Empowered’ society.

► Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh has gained the unique distinction of becoming the first district in the country with the highest number of e-toilets (461) in its schools. Kerala-based Eram Scientific Solutions, the sole manufacturers of e-toilets (electronic toilets) in India.

► The ministry of home affairs has decided to setup a national fingerprint database of nearly 28 lakh convicts and those arrested for criminal offences, by collating records from all the states. The move is expected to aid in the speedy identification of criminals and investigation of crimes across the country.

► Amul, India’s top Dairy Products brand, plans to invest Rs 600 crore in a greenfield cheese plant in Palanpur, Gujarat. On completion this plant will help to triple the cheese output. Amul looks to increase its share in the Indian cheese market from 65% now. Its Palanpur plant would produce mozzarella and processed cheddar cheese to start with.

► Adani Ports and the Kerala government have signed an MoU for the proposed Rs 7,525-crore Vizhinjam deep sea international terminal. The proposal for the project was first initiated 25 years ago in 1991. It was proposed by late Congress Chief Minister K Karunakaran but wasn’t implemented. The agreement has been signed on August 17 2015.

► Cricket Legend Sachin Tendulkar will now bat for Maharashtra’s endangered tigers by becoming a ‘Tiger Ambassador’ of the state. Tendulkar wrote to Maharashtra Finance and Forests Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar expressing his willingness to join the cause of conserving and protecting tigers in the state. Earlier Amitabh Bachchan agreed to become a Tiger Ambassador.

and job creation.

► Gujarat government has declared a ban on usage of plastic in the state for the first time. After hoisting the National Flag at the 69th Independence Day ceremony at Lunavada in Mahisagar district, Chief Minister Ms Anandhiben Patel has tweeted about the ban.

► The Government of India will soon launch Accessible India to make the country disabled-friendly. The government is working to introduce set-top boxes that will make TV programmes more useful for the visually impaired.

► Kerala’s Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has become the first airport in India that would be running fully on solar power. The airport officially commissioned a 12 MW solar project. The plant comprising 46,150 solar panels in the cargo complex will enable Cochin airport to have 50,000 to 60,000 units of solar electricity every day for its operations.

► According to the records of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), most number of rape cases were reported in the national capital in 2014. It clearly shows that the Delhi is the most unsafe place for women in India among the cities in India. Madhya Pradesh tops the cognisable crime chart among the states.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a package of Rs. 1.25 lakh crore for Bihar. He guaranteed that this investment will change the fate and face of the Bihar. CM Nitesh Kumar has been demanding special status for a long time.

► The government of India has launched a website called vidyalakshmi.co.in for students seeking educational loans. A total of five banks ie SBI, IDBI Bank, Canara Bank,

► DRDO has signed an MoU with IIT-Kharagpur to achieve self-reliance in selected defence technologies through joint research. The collaboration proposes a collaborative research and academic programme to meet the futuristic defence technological requirements of the country in select areas of relevance to national defence.

► The National Integrated Agriculture Research Centre has been inaugurated by Union Minister of Agriculture Shri Radha Mohan Singh in East Champaran district of Bihar. The institute will be dedicated to the welfare of the farmers in the region.

► Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated a mobile app, R-Mitra, to ensure women's safety. R-mitra is introduced by Eastern Railway in Kolkata.

► Himachal Pradesh Government has become the first North Indian state to launch an efficient smart LED based street lighting project. The project has been named as RISHTA, which stands for Rajiv Gandhi Illuminating Scheme for Hill Town Advancement.

► Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that the GOI will organise the 'India International Seafood' show in Visakhapatnam. The main objective is to boost the trade and commerce in seafood sector.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency is ranked as low as 418 in the 476-city ranking. Modi's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan seemed to have little effect at Varanasi. Tentatively called 'Divya Varanasi' or 'Divya Kashi', the drive aims to involve local youth and residents to make Varanasi's roads and ghats clean. It will be launched on Teacher's Day.

Union Bank of India and Bank of India have integrated their system with the portal.

► The American College of Cardiology (ACC), a top medical body in the US, has collaborated with Apollo Hospitals to expand medical education in India. ACC will provide new opportunities to cardiovascular physicians to improve their skills.

► The health ministry has announced that India will host the global Call to Action Summit 2015 on Aug 27 – 28 in New Delhi. The main objective is to end the preventable child and maternal deaths.

► Uber cabs have partnered with Airtel to set up WiFi hotspots in each of its cabs. The facility has been launched in Mumbai and will be rolled out in other cities soon. Uber will pay Airtel for the bandwidth consumed. The cab hailing service company has also tied up with Airtel to give its riders the option of paying for their rides through the telecom operator's mobile wallet – Airtel Money.

► According to a study conducted across 10 states by NGO called Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA), the Muslim women have unequivocally voiced their dissent against the discriminatory practice of triple talaq with 92.1% seeking its ban. Nowadays Oral talaq delivered through new media platforms like Skype, text messages, email and Whatsapp have become an increasing cause of worry for the community.

► Chengalikodan- banana variety has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) status by the Chennai based Central GI registry. It was first cultivated in Chengazhikode, that is why it is known as Chengazhikodan banana and now known as Chengalikodan banana.

► The Gujarat High Court has stayed the state's implementation of compulsory voting in local polls after a lawyer moved a PIL challenging the constitutional validity of the same. The High Court observed that the 'right to vote' itself provided right to refrain from voting.

► Madhya Pradesh's Energy Minister has announced that the state will house world's largest 750 Mega Watts (MW) solar power station in Rewa district. The project – Rewa Ultra Mega Solar – is a joint venture of Solar Energy Corporation of India and MP Urja Vikas Nigam, where in both parties have 50 per cent stake.

► The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has approved a proposed master plan to develop 50 solar cities in the country. Out of the proposed 60 solar cities, sanctions have been issued for 50 cities that include New Delhi, Agra, Chandigarh, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Amritsar, New Town (Kolkata), Howrah, Madhyamgram, Kochi and Bhopal.

► The Red List of International Union For Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has moved the wild ass from the 'vulnerable' to 'endangered' category, indicating the need for heightened protection measures. The wild ass is locally known as ghudkhar.

► Arunachal Pradesh is all set to sign MoUs with Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Hindustan Paper Corporation to help potential bamboo growers in the state. The agreements include exporting three lakh tonnes of bamboo from the state.

► According to a new study, India accounts for nearly three- fourths of over a quarter million deaths worldwide caused by smokeless tobacco. Nearly 85% of the total burden attributable to smokeless tobacco (SLT) use was in South-East Asia. India alone accounting for 74% of the global burden, followed by Bangladesh.

► A Reserve Bank of India's R Gandhi committee has recommended conversion of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) with business size of 20,000 crore rupees or more into regular banks. The main aim is to allowing UCBs to grow and proliferate further for financial inclusion.

► Indian Army has inaugurated a war museum and a war memorial separately in Rajasthan. The main purpose of the museum is to display inspiring contribution of the Army, especially in the 1965 Indo-Pak war and 1971 Laungewala battle.

► Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has released a postal stamp on Emperor Ashoka. He also announced that stamps would also be released soon to honour former president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Bihar's mountain man Dashrath Manjhi. The postal stamp in honour of Ashoka would be available for sale for five rupees in the post offices.

► The Sports Authority of India has announced the launch of the School Sports Promotion Foundation to tap the sporting talent at the school level itself. The foundation will organize sports tournaments across India to identify talent, arrange to nurture it and take them through the city, district, state, zonal and national level of competitive sport.

► The Union Minister for Information Technology and Telecom, Ravi Shankar Prasad, has launched SEHAT – an unique initiative for healthcare in India. The main objective of SEHAT is to provide healthcare facilities in rural areas. As part of the initiative, people in rural areas can consult doctors online and also order generic drugs.

► US federal court in Brooklyn dismissed a lawsuit filed by Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), a Sikh rights organization, against Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi for shielding party leaders allegedly involved in violence against Sikhs in November 1984 after the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

► India will implement the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction. The 'Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030' was adopted during the third UN World Conference on disaster risk reduction held in Sendai, Japan on March 14-18, 2015 where India was represented by Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

► According to the data from Bloomberg, Reliance India Ltd chairman Mukesh Ambani has regained his position as the World's Richest Indian, as pharma tycoon Dilip Shanghvi slipped to the second place after remaining on top for the last few months. Pallonji Mistry holds the third place.

► GOI has launched an e-payment module to accept compensatory amount for diversion of forest land in the India. The module was launched by MoS (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar.

► Amar Chitra Katha, India's favorite storyteller, is presenting a book on inspirational stories of 21 Param Veer Chakra Awardees, as a tribute to the recipients of the highest gallantry award in India.

► The WHO has declared that mothers and newborns are free from tetanus at the time of birth in India. The announcement was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after inaugurating the Call to Action Summit 2015 on reducing child and maternal deaths across the world in New Delhi. In 2014, India was declared polio free.

► India's tallest commercial building is set to come up in Mumbai. The Nitin Gadkari-led Shipping Ministry is mulling over the construction of a towering 'business district' on the Mumbai port Trust land. It will be a 130-storey building and will house mostly offices along with other amenities.

► NTPC, India's largest power generator sets a record highest single-day electricity generation of 733.12 million units. NTPC has achieved a record highest single-day electricity generation of 733.12 million units. The record generation of 733.12 million units from NTPC's 18 coal-based power plants, 7 gas-based units and 8 solar and hydro power stations.

► The government of India has identified a total of 305 cities and towns across nine states for implementation of 'Housing for All' scheme. The Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) Ministry would provide assistance of over Rs 2 lakh crore over the next six years for enabling two crore urban poor own their own houses.

► The 21st edition of the Delhi Book Fair has began at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It has been organised jointly by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and The Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP). The fair was inaugurated by Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. Theme of the Book Fair – Skill Development.

► The GOI has launched a scheme SAHAJ for online release of new LPG connections for the consumers. The scheme was launched by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Under the scheme, people can apply online for new connection and they need not visit to the LPG distributors for it.

► The 10th World Hindi Conference (WHC) is being organized from 10-12 September 2015 in the city of Bhopal by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in partnership with the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

► The Law Commission of India recommended that the death penalty be abolished for all crimes other than terrorism-related offences and waging war against the country. In its report, submitted to the government by commission chairman and former Delhi High Court Chief Justice A P Shah, the 10-member panel concluded that while death penalty does not serve the penological goal of deterrence any more than life imprisonment, concern is often raised that abolition of capital punishment for terror-related offences and waging war will affect national security.

► Haryana has launched a scheme called "Sakhi". Sakhi has been proposed and made to help the women especially who are victims of sexual, mental harassment. Kavitha Jain, Haryana's Women and Child Development Minister inaugurated, One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC), at Karnal district in Haryana. Haryana is making constant efforts for the safety of women as it has also opened women police station in 21 districts.

► The government said it's joining the United Nations' Better Than Cash Alliance as part of its efforts to widen its financial inclusion drive. The new partnership with the Better Than Cash Alliance, made up of governments, companies, and international organizations, is an extension of Indian Government's commitment to reduce cash in its economy. Dr. Ruth Goodwin-Groen is the Managing Director of the Better Than Cash Alliance.

► In the 11th edition of Maan Ki Baat, PM Narendra Modi has announced that, government will not promulgate land ordinance but include 13 points to reform the land acquisition law to benefit farmers. The government had issued the Ordinance thrice so far as the Land bill could not be passed in Parliament due to stiff resistance by most of the opposition parties as well as some ruling NDA allies.

► The union government has released Rs 2,000 crore to the Employees' Pension Scheme as its contribution for the year 2015-16. The minimum pension for the EPS pensioners was increased to Rs 1,000 per month in September last year. The contribution of central government is calculated at the rate of 1.16 per cent of the monthly wages of the members contributing to the scheme.

► Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, the Railway Minister, has launched three IT initiatives developed by Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) (the IT arm of Ministry of Railways). They are

1. Paperless Unreserved Ticketing through Mobile Phone between New Delhi – Palwal Section (NR).
2. Currency Coin cum Card operated Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (CCoTVM) at New Delhi Railway Station.
3. Mobile Application for Freight Operations (PARICHAALAN).

► The Supreme Court (SC) of India has stayed Rajasthan High Court's order declaring Santhara, a Jain ritual of voluntary and systematic fasting to death illegal. The stay order was given by SC Bench comprising Chief Justice of India H.L. Dattu and Justice Amitava Roy.

▶ Government will auction 69 small and marginal oil and gas fields taken away from state-run ONGC and Oil India to private firms on a new revenue sharing model, offering operators full marketing and pricing freedom. The fields hold 89 million tonne of oil and gas resources which are worth Rs 70,000 crore at current prices. The 69 fields will be clubbed into clusters and offered for bidding within 3 months.

▶ The Cabinet has approved reimbursement of 113 crore rupees for incurring losses on pulses imported National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC), State Trading Corporation of India (STC) and PEC in 2006 to 2011 period.

▶ The Narcotics Control Bureau is organizing the Sub-Regional Drug Focal Point Meeting and Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) Expert Group Consultation, South Asia under the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme (CPDAP).

▶ The West Bengal government is observing National Nutrition Week (Sep 1 to Sep 7) to enhance community-based initiatives in educating mothers and caregivers on nutrition issues. The state government has mobilised their state-wide network of ICDS centres and frontline functionaries to reach out to the maximum number of people at the community level. Child rights body UNICEF has also been working closely with the state.

▶ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has cancelled the registration of Greenpeace India. It's been five months that the MHA suspended Greenpeace India's licence to receive foreign donations. The MHA states that Greenpeace India has "continued to violate FCRA norms".

▶ The SAARC countries' conference on disaster has begun in New Delhi. The main objective of the conference is to chalk out and undertake joint efforts on various disaster related issues. India has planned an exercise named "South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise" (SAADMEEx).

▶ The main exercise will be held from November 23-26 in the National Capital Region and will consist of three components. They are

1. Table Top Exercise (TTx)
2. The Field Training Exercise (FTx)
3. The After Action Review (AAR).

▶ Jayant Sinha, the Minister of State for Finance, has announced that the government if India will invest Rs 8.5 lakh crore in Indian Railways to change the face of the sector.

▶ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has reduced permitted trans-fat content in edible fats and oils in the country from 10 to 5 per cent. This is applicable to hydrogenated vegetable oils, margarine and fat spreads and interesterified vegetable fat.

▶ The West-Central Railway Zone has become the first zone in Indian Railways to eliminate all unmanned level crossings from its system. Unmanned level crossings have been one of the reasons for increase in train accidents.

▶ Indian Navy will acquire more land to create better infrastructure at INS Dega, a Naval air station, located near Visakhapatnam, in Andhra Pradesh on the east coast of India. INS Dega that presently has the only Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) squadron in the country will also have a MiG-29 K squadron.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the extension of the Badarpur line that will connect the satellite city of Faridabad to the national capital. The launch of the section would allow hassle-free travel for around two lakh daily commuters between the national capital and the industrial hub in Haryana.

► Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched a new BSNL Scheme. As per the scheme, BSNL will offer a minimum broadband speed of 2 mega bit per second (Mbps) from October 1 onwards to its customers, at no extra cost. The company currently offers a minimum speed of 512 Kbps and the move is part of its efforts for revival.

► India's first leopard report releases and it makes the environment happier. It did not surveyed the entire country. It was restricted to the tiger states, except West Bengal and the North-East states. Non-tiger states — such as Himachal, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana or Punjab — were not covered. Based on numbers, estimate of India's total leopard population was in the range of 12,000 to 14,000.

► IAF is organizing an Ultra Marathon from Air Force Station Pathankot to Air Force Station Hindon covering a distance of around 574 Km in 11 days on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of 1965 Indo-Pak war.

► Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has commissioned INS Vajrakosh, the latest establishment of the Indian Navy at Karwar in Karnataka. This will serve as a missile storage and replenishment facility for warships operating in the Western Coast. Constructed by DRDO at the most strategic location in the West Coast, the naval missile base will store the long-range BrahMos missiles and armaments.

► The GOI is considering extending maternity leave to 24 weeks from 12 weeks. The Central Government is considering about extending as it would encourage more women to breastfeed and help reduce high rates of child malnutrition in the country. The proposal, if approved, would give working women in all sectors i.e. public, private and even the informal sector such as domestic workers.

► Telecom regulator TRAI has proposed compensation to consumers for call drops. Department of Telecom (DoT) had earlier asked TRAI to seek information from telecom operators about their infrastructure and capacity for providing effective services. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently voiced serious concern over the menace of call drops.

► Describing Bodh Gaya as the "land of enlightenment", Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the central government would develop the site as the spiritual capital for it to serve as a civilizational bond between India and the Buddhist world.

► Andhra Pradesh government has signed an MoU with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to increase employability of students in the state. The MoU envisages implementation of programme activities of state government's flagship initiative of AP University Students Employability Skill Development Programme.

► The Delhi High Court has said that women naval officers should be offered permanent commission in the Navy. Thus, women can now have full term service in the Indian Navy and can enjoy retirement benefits as well.

► The Cabinet has cleared spectrum trading guidelines under which telecom operators will be able to sell radiowaves to other service providers, a move that will help address the problem of spectrum shortage. As of now only government is allowed to allocate spectrum to telecom firms through auctions.

► Japan has agreed to modernize railway stations across India while participating in the country's \$140 billion investment plan in the Railways over the next five years. A Japanese delegation will soon visit India to study the opportunities. The public transporter has identified 400 stations to be upgraded in private investment.

► State run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is planning to unveil cheaper tariff plans by the end of this year and launch full-fledged 4G services by March 2016.

► The Odisha State Cooperative Bank Limited (OSCB) on 9th September 2015 launched 'Banks of Wheels' scheme in 20 backward blocks covering 16 districts. The 'Banks on Wheels' by the OSCBL is the first of its kind facility in the country. The main aim of the scheme is to reach the farmers and other people in remote areas of the state.

► India stood at 71 among 96 countries and has been termed as the worst place for older people. Switzerland has clinched the best place in the world for older people to live. The readings were given by Global AgeWatch Index 2015 compiled by HelpAge. The top five Countries are:

1. Switzerland
2. Norway
3. Sweden
4. Germany
5. Canada

► Kerala's Chief Minister Oommen Chandy has announced that the state government has cleared the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as the implementing agency and given administrative sanction for the proposed Light Metro project in Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram. 'Metro Man' E Sreedharan, advisor to DMRC, would be overseeing the project.

► Haryana's Health Minister Anil Vij has announced that the state government has completely banned the manufacturing and sale of gutka and pan masala, and other similar products containing tobacco.

► The Union Cabinet approved National Offshore Wind Energy Policy which will provide a way to the development of this renewable source of energy, including setting up of projects and research in the area. The policy will provide a level playing field to all investors/beneficiaries, domestic and international. The policy will help the country move forward towards attaining energy security.

► Cabinet increased dearness allowance (DA) by 6% i.e from 113% to 119 per cent. The DA hike will take effect from July 1. As per the agreed formula, the DA rate increase is an average of 12-month consumer price index-industrial workers from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. DA is paid as proportion of the basic pay.

► Union home minister Rajnath Singh announced 33 per cent reservations would be provided for women in all paramilitary forces, including Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

► Ahmadabad air judged as the most dusty among 13 cities in the country. These cities air quality index (AQI) is measured daily by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

► Anirudh Kathirvel, a nine-year-old Indian-origin boy is Australia's new spelling champion after he won the 50,000 dollars 'The Great Australian Spelling Bee' competition.

► PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the three-day 10th Vishwa Hindi Sammelan (World Hindi Conference) in Bhopal. The conference is being organised by the ministry of external affairs in cooperation with the Madhya Pradesh government. The World Hindi Conference that is being held in India after a gap of 32 years.

► The road transport and highways ministry will add nearly 50,000 km of roads to the National Highways (NH) network in the country in the next six months. In the past 15 months, the new government has added about 7,000 km of roads to the NH length and at present it's little more than one lakh km.

► The government has approved the purchase of 10 missile-armed drones from Israel. The acquisition is worth \$400-million. These drones will be operated by the Indian Air Force. Israel's armed Heron drones are similar to the Predator unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that are capable of reconnaissance, combat and support roles.

► The road transport and highways ministry will soon add nearly 50,000 km of roads to the National Highways (NH) network in the next six months. The new government has added about 7,000 km of roads to the NH length and at present it's little more than one lakh km.

► Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has launched the Headend In The Sky (HITS) digital platform initiative, under the brand name NXT DIGITAL promoted by Hinduja Group. The launch would provide consumers

► Government of India launched Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVoA) enabled by Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), presently known as e-Tourist Visa scheme on 27th November 2014. At present e-Tourist Visa facility is available for citizens of 113 countries.

► During January- August, 2015 a total of 1,69,976 tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 17,120 during January-August, 2014 registering a growth of 892.9%

► Rajasthan became the first Indian state to submit its annual action plan under the newly launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). The Plan targets universal coverage in respect of water supply connections and sewerage connections to all urban households in the state.

► The Maharashtra government is all set to hold a three-day 'Tadoba festival' during November in Mumbai. The state government has planned to showcase the making the tiger sanctuary in Chandrapur district a world class entity.

► The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed two agreements for \$500 million loans with the government for the management of urban services in the state of Rajasthan.

► The government has quietly approved the purchase of 10 missile-armed drones from Israel — a crucial acquisition that will enhance India's cross-border military strike capability. The \$400-million proposal for buying armed Heron TP drones from Israel was cleared.

► The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a draft notification for regulating norms such as mis-labelling of 'health supplements'. The food safety regulator has come out with gazetted rules

with wider choice. Now the viewers can have access to over 500 television channels of their choice - international, national, regional and local.

► "Shauryanjali", an exhibition has been launched showcasing the major battle scenes and captured tanks of the Pakistani Army during the 1965 war, started at central Delhi's Rajpath on 15th September 2015 in order to celebrate the golden jubilee celebrations of the 1965 war.

► India has finally made its debut in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) list of top 200 universities globally. The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore occupied the 147 place and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) have been placed at 179 in the QS World University Rankings for 2015-16.

► The Modi government has banned Naga rebel group National Socialist Council (NSCN-K) of Nagaland (Khaplang) for five years. The government signed a peace accord with Naga insurgent group Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) - NSCN (IM) on 3rd August 2015. The NSCN-IM has been demanding declaring NSCN-K a banned group.

► According to a report, After 10 years, Delhi will record the world's largest number of premature deaths due to air pollution in the world. Kolkata will be the second such city. Third one will be Mumbai.

► Home Minister Rajnath Singh's Operation Smile has rescued 19,000 missing children from being pushed into prostitution and bonded labor to ill-treatment by parents. The Operation has seen different state police and women and child departments step up efforts to rescue missing children, with Haryana and Maharashtra taking the lead.

proposing to ban the sale of such products as 'medicines'. It has also framed rules for products based on Ayurveda, Sidhha, Unani and other traditional health systems.

► Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will release water of river Godavari into Krishna to mark the formal linking of the two rivers. State Water Resources Minister Devineni Umamaheswar Rao told reporters that the state has created history by completing the Krishna-Godavari linking project to divert about 80 TMC of water from river Godavari river to Krishna.

► More than 300 overseas buyers from 56 countries would participate in the international textile and apparel fair 'VASTRA' to be held from September 28-30 at Jaipur, Rajasthan. The USA, the UK, Japan, Australia, France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Bulgaria, Africa, the UAE, among others, would participate in the three-day exposition.

► The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has requested the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to restrict the pack of Diclofenac for human use in single dose only. Even after banning the use of Diclofenac for veterinary use, the multi-dose vials available in the market for human use were widely misused for veterinary purpose.

► The Central Government on 17th September 2015 announced the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY). PMKKKY is a revolutionary and unprecedented scheme of its kind, which will transform the lives of people living in areas which are affected directly or indirectly by mining.

► The Indian Railways has developed a prototype of hybrid vacuum toilets which uses only 500 ml of water for flushing. The design was developed by the development cell of the Railway Board that combines the advantages of vacuum toilets and those of bio-toilets to create a new design of hybrid vacuum toilet.

► Prime Minister Modi launched National Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to provide 24x7 power supply to every house. PM laid foundation stone of two power substations. The PM also laid the foundation stone of seven other developmental projects in Varanasi. He also formally inaugurated India's biggest Trauma centre in Banaras Hindu University.

► Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa has inaugurated a butterfly park from the Secretariat, Chennai. The park, constructed at an estimated Rs. four crore over 6.7 acres of land at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park at suburban Vandalur.

► An independent organisation named All India Banjara Sangh has been formed to take up long pending issues of the 'Banjara' (nomadic people) community. At a meeting of the Banjara community leaders from all over the country, a unanimous decision was taken to form an independent organisation to take up the long pending issues of the community.

► According to Hotels.com's Hotel Price Index, Singapore is the first preferred country by Indian travelers among the overseas destinations in first half of this year. Singapore has replaced Dubai, which was at the top spot last year. Hotels.com is a leading online accommodation booking website with properties ranging from international chains and all-inclusive resorts to local favourites.

► The West Bengal government on Friday declassified 64 files related to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The files were handed to the family members first and also kept on display in a police museum in Kolkata. However, the files will be allowed for public viewing only by Monday. The documents are believed to be in over 12,000 pages.

► The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which issues Aadhaar cards, has been shifted to the administrative control of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology from Niti Aayog. The decision has been taken keeping in mind the government's ambitious 'Digital India' programme as the Aadhaar numbers are being linked with several services. Aadhaar is a 12-digit individual identification number issued by UIDAI.

The Election Commission (EC) has introduced a symbol for "None of the Above (NOTA)" option to facilitate voters in exercising their NOTA option in elections. The symbol will now appear in the last panel on all EVMs and the other ballot papers against the NOTA option in all the upcoming elections. The symbol for NOTA option was designed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.

► Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has adopted Barauliya village in Amethi, the Parliamentary constituency of Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi, under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. Former Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar is a Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh.

► The SC has launched a portal of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for district courts to demystify the judicial process for the ordinary citizen. The public access portal will disseminate national, State, district and court-wise information about institution and disposal of cases on a monthly basis.

► The GOI is planning to set up a highly sophisticated centre to tackle child pornography and online abuse. The initiative comes after an expert committee constituted to prepare a roadmap for effectively tackling cyber crime. According to the recommendations of the committee, there is a need to drastically reduce crimes against children and women, especially online abuse.

► Two Indian Coast Guard Ships named Apoorva and C-421 were commissioned at Naval Dock, Mumbai. ICGS Apoorva, 14th in the series of 20, is a 50 meter long Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) that displaces 317 Tonnes and can achieve a maximum speed of 33 knots. C-421 is a water jet propelled vessel, 27th in the series of IBs constructed by L & T Limited and can achieve a maximum speed of 45 Knots.

► The Indian government has exempted social media applications from a new encryption policy after public uproar over the proposed measures. The new law would have forced Indians to store plain-text versions of their encrypted data for 90 days and make it available to security agencies.

► The three million strong Indian diaspora in the US has launched "Mission 2022" in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industries to make US-India partnership a defining partnership of the 21st century. The Mission 2022 will have a series of dialogues with the diaspora over the next seven years as India turns 75.

► The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the setting up of Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It shall be located initially at the Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

► State-run oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) is all set to start work on the petrochemicals complex in Kochi with all green clearances in place and securing a Rs.4,000-crore loan commitment from State Bank of India. The Rs.5,000-crore Kochi petrochemicals project was announced in December 2011 as part of a Rs.20,000-crore expansion of the Kochi Refinery.

► The 528th marriage anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikh religion, was celebrated in this industrial town of Punjab amidst tight security. Hundreds of devotees participated in the religious procession which started from Gurudwara Dehra Sahib, where the marriage of Guru Nanak Dev was solemnized. The holy book Guru Granth Sahib was placed in a palanquin as the devotees showered flowers.

► The Trust Fund for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, under the Department of Empowerment of People with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, signed an MoU with The New India Assurance Company Limited on providing a comprehensive and affordable Health Insurance Scheme - Swavlamban Health Insurance Scheme - for the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

► Marathi Movie "Court" will be India's official entry to Oscar. The film will compete in the Best Foreign Film category at the Academy awards to be held in the year 2016. 'Court' won the coveted status following a marathon screening of over 40 films, spanning a week, in Hyderabad.

► In the Forbes' India Rich List, Industrialist Mukesh Ambani has been named India's richest for ninth year in a row with a net worth of \$18.9 billion. Ambani was followed by Sun Pharma's Dilip Shanghvi as the second richest with a net worth of \$18 billion, while Wipro's Azim Premji retained his third place with \$15.9 billion.

► Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL), an unit under the Ministry of Defence, has signed a memorandum of understanding with Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL), under the Department of Atomic Energy, to work together.

► GOI has set up a committee, headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya, to oversee the revival of three urea plants as well as the progress of Jagdishpur-Haldia gas pipeline. The three closed state-run urea plants are in Gorakhpur (UP), Sindri (Jharkhand) and Barauni (Bihar).

► From being just a social media platform, Facebook is transforming itself as an enabler of Internet access through various initiatives aimed at reaching the next billion users. Facebook has announced that it has partnered with Internet Service Providers in India to launch wi-fi enabled broadband services in rural areas.

► Bajaj Auto has launched its much-awaited RE60 quadricycle, which has been named 'Qute', at a free-on-board (FoB) price tag of \$2,000 (around ₹1.35 lakh). The vehicle is meant only for export markets for now. Qute is powered by an all new water-cooled DTSi, four-valve 217cc engine that has a fuel economy of 36 kmpl and a maximum speed of 70km per hour.

► Antrix Corporation is the commercial arm of Indian space agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has announced that India has signed up contracts to launch 23 foreign satellites soon. Out of 23 foreign satellites, two will go in two separate rockets. The remaining 21 satellites will piggy-back on bigger Indian satellite.

► GOI gave nod to IACCS with approximate Investment of Rs. 8,000-crore. IACCS is a project of Indian Air force. Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) took the decision. PM Narendra Modi sanctioned the project which was proposed by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).

► The oldest operational aircraft carrier in the world, INS Viraat of Indian Navy may decommissioned next year in 2016 in Kochi. The ship started its Journey in 1958. One of the crew member said for the last 28 years, "the ship had been periodically upgraded with all its weapons and sensors with equipment on board and "that is how the Navy has been able to keep it running so effectively."

► Reliance Defence Ltd has signed a strategic pact with UAE's Emirates Defence Industries Company (EDIC) to collaborate in the sector, especially in maintenance, repair and overhaul category. The two companies have agreed to jointly explore the opportunity for manufacturing and building capabilities in defence vehicles, aviation and associated areas, defence equipment and armament manufacturing..etc

► Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu has launched the Indian Railway Knowledge Portal, www.kportal.indianrailways.gov.in, which has aggregated most of the available knowledge about Indian Railways in one place.

► Neyveli Lignite Corporation has set up its first 10 MW solar power plant at Neyveli. The 10 MW solar photo voltaic project at Neyveli, set up at a cost of Rs 74.60 crore, NLC sets up first renewable energy project. The plant spread across 54 acres, has 48,000 solar photo voltaic modules, each with power generating capacity of 240 watt.

► Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has commissioned INS Kochi, a Kolkata-class Guided Missile Destroyer, to the Indian Navy. It is a second ship of the three ships Kolkata-class Guided Missile Destroyer to be inducted. Earlier in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had commissioned INS Kolkata.

► Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari launched Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance) Policy, 2015.

► The 4th International Tourism Mart (ITM) has been inaugurated in Gangtok, Sikkim. The ITM has been organized by the Union Ministry of Tourism in association with the North Eastern States and the state of West Bengal. It has been inaugurated by the Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge), Culture (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, along with the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Pawan Chamling.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying tribute to late President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam on his 84th birth anniversary, hailing him as a 'rashtra ratna'. Narendra Modi highlighted not just Dr Kalam's personal rise from humble roots but also his contribution to the organisations that he led to great heights. PM Modi attended the birth anniversary celebrations of Kalam at the DRDO headquarters (New Delhi) where he unveiled his bust as well.

► According to Nasscom's latest report, India is third globally with the number of startups crossing 4,200. The report, titled 'Start-up India -- Momentous Rise of the Indian Start-up Ecosystem,' says the Indian technology startups landscape has seen a tremendous growth in the emergence of innovative start-ups and creative entrepreneurs.

► Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar has lent his voice to Swachh Bharat anthem, created under a government initiative to make the "Clean India" campaign a public movement. The anthem, composed by musical trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy and sung by Shankar Mahadevan and others, will be released on October 2, marking one year of the launch of Swachh Bharat campaign on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.

► Wipro has announced that it has been selected as a member of the global Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) – 2015 for the sixth year in succession. Wipro is included in both the DJSI World and Emerging Markets Indices. A total of 1,845 companies were assessed from around the world of which 317 have been chosen as the DJSI World constituents for the year 2015-16.

► Microsoft has launched its local datacentres in India, which will offer its Azure cloud services. Office 365 services will be available from October 2015. Dynamics CRM Online services will follow suite early next year.

► Union HRD Minister launched the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for educational institutions. Developed by a team of experts in education and heads of institutions, the portal and the framework is presently available for engineering and management institutions. Over the next month, methodologies, parameters and process for ranking universities along with architecture and planning institutions would also be available online.

► Navratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is setting up a Defence Systems Integration Complex at Palasamudram, Gorantala Mandal in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

► City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd (CIDCO) will set up an Aviation Academy for the training of manpower required for the proposed Navi Mumbai International airport. The work of the proposed airport is likely to begin next year and the first phase has been scheduled to be completed in 2019.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of two elevated Metro corridors in Mumbai– Dahisar-D N Nagar and Dahisar-Andheri (east) route. Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister said, "Port sector needs to be expanded, strengthened, developed, and advanced if India has to emerge as a global leader."

Prime Minister further said, coastal States need to work together to develop the port sector. Prime Minister also reiterated that for environmental friendly development, mass-transport mechanisms are imperative. Mr. Modi says Constitution Day will be celebrated on November 26 and all schools will celebrate the 'Samvidhan Divas'.

► A new report on global palliative care has named India as one of the worst places to die and Britain the best. The report also notified Kerala as a 'beacon of hope' for being the only Indian state to have a formal policy on palliative care services.

► Smart City project for sustainable development, with two billion Euro assistance from the French government, has begun in Puducherry with Nagpur and Chandigarh being next in the line.

► Government is considering a proposal to build a new expressway connecting the national capital and the Pink City at an estimated cost of Rs 32,800 crore.

► The government of India has flagged off the 'Science Express Climate Action Special' train from Delhi, as part of its initiative to sensitize the masses, especially children and the youth, about the issue of climate change, in the run-up to the global climate summit in Paris slated for December. The train will run till 7 May 2016 and during the course of these eight months, it would stop at 64 locations across India, covering over 19,500 kilometres.

► An indigenously built Torpedo Launch and Recovery Vessel 'INS Astradharini', has been commissioned by Vice Admiral Satish Soni, at the Naval Base, Visakhapatnam. The induction of INS Ashtradarini adds thrust to the Nation's ongoing endeavours at indigenisation and achieving the nation's goal of self-reliance in under water weapons development.

► The government of India launched second phase of Mission Indradhanush, an ambitious immunisation programme focusing on 352 districts and assured the states of full support for achieving the targets. It was launched by Union Health Minister JP Nadda. The Ministry aims to achieve full immunisation of more than 90 per cent children by 2020.

► Undergraduate students from all parts of the country will soon be able to take a peek through a microscope that they can carry with them, following an initiative by the Department of Biotechnology to reach the Prakash Lab's low cost paper folding-microscope, the Foldscope to students in our country.

► Bharti Airtel has launched its new Wi-Fi app, Airtel Hangout, which Airtel customers can download free from Android or iOS store and latch on to the network in these zones to experience faster internet speeds

► Dubai-based private equity firm Abraaj Group and India's Aditya Birla Group have agreed to invest jointly in building and operating new solar power plants in India. The firms are the latest companies to plan solar investments in India ahead of an expected boom in clean energy projects after New Delhi hiked its solar energy target to 100 gigawatts by 2022, a 33-fold rise from current levels.

► MoS for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan today launched KISAN Project [C(K)rop Insurance using Space technology And geoinformatics]. The project envisages use of Space Technology and geoinformatics (GIS, GPS and Smartphone) technology along with high resolution data from UAV/Drone based imaging.

► Commerce Secretary Ms. Rita A Teatia has inaugurated the 'Advantage Health Care India, 2015', an international summit on Medical Value Travel in New Delhi to promote healthcare services exports from India.

► India has pledged to cut its carbon emission intensity by 33-35 per cent and increase the share of renewable energy by a massive 40 per cent in its total energy mix by 2030 in the target submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) on Climate Change for a global climate pact.

► The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has said that the government has received 638 declarations with an amount of 3,770 crore rupees under the black money compliance window. The 90-day compliance window provided to declare undisclosed overseas assets under the Black money (Undisclosed foreign income and assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 ended on September 30, 2015.

► Paperless Unreserved Ticketing through Mobile Phones on suburban stations over Central Railway. Paperless Season tickets on suburban sections of Western Railway, Central Railway and New Delhi-Palwal Section of Northern Railway. Currency, Coin - cum - Card operated Automatic Ticket Vending Machines at various suburban stations on Central Railway and Western Railway.

► The GOI will soon offer a mobile phone-based intervention to tobacco users where they will be counselled to kick the habit. The Union Health Ministry will launch M Cessation or Mobile Cessation to develop tobacco use abstinence among people interested in quitting.

► Government of Andhra Pradesh on 9 October 2015 launched Andhra Pradesh State Enterprise Architecture (APSEA). It is alternatively called as e-Pragati project. It was launched by the state Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at a function held in Visakhapatnam. It aims for a transformational change in the way government services are conceived, designed, delivered and consumed.

► In continuation of the Indian Navy's overseas deployment to West Asia, Africa and Europe, Talwar class frigate INS Trikan entered Safaga port on the coast of the Red Sea for a three days visit. The ship will engage extensively with the Egyptian Navy during its stay in the country.

► The National Cancer Institute (NCI), a unit of US Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), has observed that India shares a large proportion of the global cancer burden. India has around 1.8 million people suffering from cancer, with patients of breast, cervical and oral cancers topping the list. Every 13th new cancer patient in the world is an Indian.

► India will be hosting the combined shotgun/rifle/pistol World Cup in 2017 and based on the event's success, the NRAI will contemplate bidding for the 2018 prestigious World Championship. The combined tournament is the year's one of the four World Cups in the International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF) calendar.

► The G20 member nations took a decision on the Chair for 2018. China is chairing the G20 in 2016, followed by Germany in 2017 and then the Chair will pass on to India for 2018. The G20 operates as a forum and not as an organisation. One of the G20 countries is selected to hold the Chair in rotation, also known as 'G20 presidency'.

► IMF chief Christine Lagarde has said that India remains a bright spot in the world economy amid sluggish global growth this year with only a modest acceleration expected in 2016. She noted that despite progress in recent years, financial sector weaknesses remain in many countries, and financial risks are now elevated in emerging markets.

► The Government of India has notified Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Rules, 2015 under the Food Security Act, 2013. The new rules have been finalised by Union Government after consultation with the States and other related Ministries of Union Government.

► School children of Bangalore have created a Guinness Record for "the largest gathering of people dressed as Mahatma Gandhi". A total of 4,605 children between the ages of six and 14 dressed in traditional white dhotis - long loin cloths - came dressed in spectacles, fake moustaches and skull caps and carried bamboo sticks.

► Real estate developer Tata Housing has partnered with social networking firm Facebook to sell its affordable homes online. The initiative is in line with the company's target to generate over 30% of its overall sales online in the next five years.

► Metropolis Healthcare - a multinational chain of diagnostic centres conducted an inclusive study on Vitamin D, Vitamin B12 and Vitamin B9 (Folic Acid) to observe the deficiency and sufficiency of Vitamins within the inhabitants across India. The increasing trend of Vitamin deficiency is seen in all the age groups. Among the samples tested across 4 zones viz, North, South, East, West 75% of population has shown alarming levels of deficiency.

► Scientists at the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new species of banana from a remote tropical rain forest on the Little Andaman islands. The species, *Musa indandamanensis*, was located about 16 km inside the Krishna Nalah forest in the island.

► Fast patrol vessel 'ICGS Anmol' has been commissioned by the Indian Coast Guard. 'ICGS Anmol' is the 13th in the series of 20 fast patrol vessels being designed and built by the Cochin Shipyard. The 50-metre-long ship is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 35 knots and has an endurance of 1,500 nautical miles with economical speed of 13 knots.

► The Indian Railways has announced the launch of a scheme called Vikalp on pilot basis from November 1. Through Vikalp Indian Railways going to provide confirmed tickets to passengers on the waitlist, who are forced to travel with waiting tickets, on an alternative trains on the same route to make their travel smoother and hassle-free.

► The Andhra Pradesh cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, decided to allot 2,720 acres of land near Orvakallu in Kurnool district for DRDO's missile testing project. The cabinet also decided to allot 1,965 acres of land to build a naval base at Rayavaram village in Visakhapatnam district.

► Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed a nearly Rs 8,000 crore deal with state-run Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the extension of its programmes integrating all civil and defence radars across the country. The IAF has already established five nodes of the IACCS (Integrated Air Command and Control System) in the western sector, bordering Pakistan.

► According to data released by International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), India became World's largest cotton producer on 30th September 2015. India produced 6.51 mn tonnes cotton.

► Medical service for workers through the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESCI) would now be introduced in five states. With the inclusion of Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the ESCI would now cover the whole country.

► Indian film 'Zubaan' opened the 20th edition of Busan Film Festival in South Korea. A total of 302 films from 75 countries including 94 world premiers and celebrations spanning 10-days with a rich line-up of films and celebrities from Asia.

► Minister of State for Agriculture, Mr Mohanbhai Kundariya, held bilateral talks in Vilnius with Lithuanian vice Minister for Agriculture Mr. Vilius Martusevičius. Both sides agreed that there was significant potential for intensifying bilateral cooperation in agriculture, particularly in sectors like food and dairy processing.

► The Maharashtra government is all set to launch 'Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' on the lines of the NDA government's flagship programme 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)'. The initiative will see the state government spend Rs 13,500 crore to widen 3,000 km of rural roads and another Rs 328 crore on laying 730 new roads.

► Rameswaram town in Tamil Nadu has been included in Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for providing basic urban infrastructure.

► Telecom regulator TRAI has said that mobile operators will have to credit one rupee to a user's account for a call drop from January 1, 2016. It said users would be compensated for no more than three dropped calls a day.

► A Bench of five judges of the SC held the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the NJAC Act 2014 "unconstitutional and void". The Supreme Court also held that the Collegium system as it existed before the NJAC 'operative'. The decision was given four to one by a five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice JS Khehar, who is in line to become the Chief Justice of India.

► Nestle India has announced that all samples of Maggi have cleared tests conducted by three laboratories, as mandated by Bombay High Court. Nestle will now commence manufacture and will start selling only after the newly manufactured products are also cleared by the designated three laboratories.

► Union Minister of Civil Aviation P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju has inaugurated the International Civil Helicopters Conclave 2015 in New Delhi. Raju also inaugurated an exhibition on Safety Management System, Multi Mission Utility and Regional Air

► Adani Ports (Adani) has entered into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with L&T Shipbuilding (L&T) for evaluating the operations of the port at Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu.

► India is the top country of birth among Asian countries for immigrant scientists and engineers in US, with 950,000 out of the continent's total 2.96 million. A new report from the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) has revealed that India's 2013 figure represents an 85 percent increase from 2003.

► India accounted for the largest number of poor people in any country in 2012, but according to World Bank, its poverty rate was lowest among countries having large number of poor population.

► Vodafone India won its battle against the income-tax department over transfer pricing in the Bombay High Court, which set aside the appellate tribunal's ruling that had gone against the telecom company.

► Government of India and KFW (Federal Republic of Germany) signed two loan agreements worth Euro 125 Millions for financing two projects under the Green Energy Projects (GEC) programme- Himachal Pradesh (Euro 57 million) and Andhra Pradesh (Euro 68 million).

► The union cabinet on 7th October 2015 approved construction of a 'National War Memorial and a 'National War Museum' in the memory of 22, 500 soldiers who sacrificed their lives while fighting wars for post-independent India. The cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took the decision in this regard.

Connectivity. He launched the Corporate logo of Pawan Hans Limited and released a coffee table book on the occasion.

► The test flight of India's nuclear-capable 'Nirbhay' long-range subsonic tactical cruise missile, launched from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha, was aborted nearly 12 minutes after lift-off. During 700 seconds of flight all the subsystems of Nirbhay cruise Missile functioned satisfactorily and met all the desired functions. The mission was aborted after 700 seconds of flight.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed happiness in the country hosting the India-Africa Forum Summit 2015, saying it is a reflection of a desire to engage more intensively for a better future."India is proud to host India-Africa Forum Summit 2015. The summit reflects India and Africa's desire to engage more intensively for a better future," Modi tweeted.

► India has been ranked among top 10 acquirers in the US market this year with 16 deals valued at \$1.7 billion, says Baker & McKenzie. Majority of these deals were in the pharma sector, with six transactions totalling \$1.5 billion, as Indian companies seek to increase their scale in the US generics market, said a report by Baker & McKenzie.

► Rajasthan government has issued a notification to provide 5% quota to Gujjars and other Special Backward Classes (SBC) for which the Assembly has passed a bill last month.

The Act will provide 5% reservation in jobs and educational institutes to Gujjars, Banjara, Raibari, and Gadiya Lohar communities in the state.

► The government has announced that it intends to spend Rs 70,000 crore under Sagarmala Project to make the major ports more efficient and reduce logistics cost in India. The new target for investment in the port sector was made by the Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, who chaired the first meeting of the National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC).

► A three-member Committee chaired by former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha PDT Achary favoured a 400 per cent hike in the basic salary of the Capital's MLAs — from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 50,000 per month — in addition to a slew of allowances for purposes ranging from travel to office furniture.

► Arunachal Pradesh Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) Dr Shashi Kumar launched a community and school-based education programme on conservation of the endangered Eastern Hoolock Gibbon.

► Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated a national conference on anti-human trafficking in the national capital. The day-long conference is being organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs along with key stake-holders like state nodal officers for anti-human trafficking, officers of anti-human trafficking units set up in various districts, other stakeholders like ministries or departments, NGOs and experts in the field of anti-human trafficking.

► In its bid to empower rural women, Utkal Alumina International Limited (UAIL), a unit of Aditya Birla Group, has launched a unique project for the welfare of communities living in the vicinity of its project area in Odisha. Named as 'Project Saksham', the new initiative involves an advanced training-cum-garment manufacturing unit.

► The Maharashtra government has declared a "drought-like condition" in 14,708 of the state's 43,000 villages. This is the second successive year of drought in Maharashtra. In fact, the state has experienced three such calamities in the last four years. The region of Marathwada has been worst-hit, with a drought-like condition declared in every single village.

► Chandigarh International Airport Ltd, subsidiary of Airports Authority of India, has commenced all domestic scheduled and non scheduled flights from newly constructed Integrated Terminal Building at Civil Airport here from October 19.

► India's retirement system ranks last in the global pension index, says a study by global consulting major Mercer. The country's index value fell from 43.5 in 2014 to 40.3 in 2015, primarily due to a recent review conducted by the economic intelligence unit that showed a material reduction in its household savings rate. Denmark has been rated as the country with the best retirement system in the world.

► Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched a pilot project of a station-based e-catering service allowing passengers to order meals as per their choice, which will be delivered at stations from popular private caterers.

► The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has identified two major initiatives towards better utilisation of blood and blood components.

► On the recommendation of the National Blood Transfusion Council, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has identified two major initiatives towards better utilisation of blood and blood components. The first step is permitting the transfer of blood from one blood bank to another. This was not allowed earlier and will help in transfer of blood to

► National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed all commercial vehicles to pay environmental tax in addition to the toll tax. The green panel has observed that vehicular pollution is one of the main sources of inferior quality of air in Delhi. In order to curb air pollution, NGT took the decision as Delhi is the Highest polluting city in the world.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Pranab Mukherjee have greeted the Indian Air Force (IAF) on its 83rd anniversary. "I salute our air force personnel on Air Force Day. They have always served India with great courage and determination. Contribution of our Air Force is monumental. They are always at the forefront, be it in protecting skies or in times of disasters", Prime Minister Modi said in a series of tweets.

► The Union Cabinet gave its nod for the introduction of a 'limitation of benefit' clause in the double taxation avoidance convention (DTAC) with Israel. The Cabinet also gave its nod for a protocol to amend the existing double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA) with Vietnam.

► According to a report released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2015. UNCTAD pointed out that lower oil prices have eased current account deficits in countries, such as Pakistan and India.

► As many as 14 Indian families have made it to the inaugural list of Forbes' 50 richest families in Asia, led by the Ambanis, who were ranked third on the list with a net worth of USD 21.5 billion. Indians hold 14 of the 50 spots, the most from any jurisdiction. The overall list was topped by Lees of Samsung Group, whose 2014 revenues were equivalent to 22 per cent of South Korea's

places of scarcity.

► The Modi government has made it compulsory for any budding entrepreneur to submit her or his Aadhaar number in order to register a new business. In fact, aspiring startups can't even 'fill' a new online form for registering new enterprises introduced last month unless the Aadhaar credentials of their promoters (sought in the first column of the form) are validated online.

► The Karnataka and Gujarat Governments on 19 October 2015 lifted the ban on manufacturing and sale of Nestle India's popular instant food brand Maggi noodles.

► With Maoist violence continuing unabated, the Centre has called a meeting of chief ministers of seven Naxal-affected states on November 3 to chalk out a strategy to fight the menace.

The meeting, to be chaired by Union Home Minister of India Rajnath Singh, will discuss overall Left-wing extremism (LWE) scenario in 35 worst-affected states in the seven states - Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana - besides issues like inter-state coordination

► To enable training for the technology hitherto unavailable in the country, a tunnel technology institute will be established by Konkan Railway at Goa's Margao town. The institute will be named as 'George Fernandes Institute of Tunnel Technology', after former Railway Minister George Fernandes. (The driving force behind the Konkan Railway)

► Himachal Pradesh government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Malana Ropeway Pvt Ltd for execution of 9-Km long Palchan-Rohtang ropeway to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 390 crore. The project would be commissioned within four years.

GDP.

- ▶ Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman has been named the Cultural Ambassador for Seychelles. The music maestro has sent out his love and regard to the people and government of the foreign nation. A two-time Oscar winning composer, Rahman shared an image of the certificate, on the micro-blogging site.
- ▶ The Centre will launch a unique identity card for differently-abled persons, which will help them in availing benefits of government schemes. The identity card will ensure accessibility of differently-abled people to various schemes provided by the state and central governments.
- ▶ The Protocol for the establishment of the India-Ecuador Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) was signed during the meeting between the Ambassador of Ecuador to India, H.E. Mr. Mentor Villagomez and Ms. Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary. The JETCO aims further improving, deepening and strengthening the existing trade relationship between India and Ecuador.
- ▶ The National Green Tribunal has asked the government to "tell us one place" where the Ganga is clean and said that despite spending huge sums, the situation has gone from bad to worse. Expressing open displeasure over the government's lackadaisical approach towards ensuring cleanliness and uninterrupted flow of the Ganga, it said "we take it that almost nothing has happened in reality."
- ▶ The Kerala government has launched a programme named Operation Valsalya to trace, rescue and reunite the missed children with their family. The state government's ambitious programme is envisaged to be implemented on the lines of the much acclaimed 'Operation Smile'

- ▶ As prices of pulses sky-rocketed to a record-high of Rs 200 per kg, Adani Group firm today inked a pact with India Pulses Grains Association (IPGA) to handle the commodity across its ports to ensure smooth and cost efficient availability of lentils across the nation. The pact is intended to help develop a dedicated and efficient supply chain for pulses, using strategically located Adani Ports facilities to all key consumption centres in the country, ensuring availability of lentils.
- ▶ India is among the countries with the largest surplus of men and a worrying under-five sex ratio with more girls dying before the age of five than boys, according to a UN report.
- “The World’s Women 2015” report launched said men outnumber women in eastern Asia, southern Asia, Oceania, and western Asia. India alone accounted for 21 per cent of all under-5 deaths in 2013 and this low sex ratio in under-5 mortality is pulling down the average for Southern Asia as a whole and the entire world.
- ▶ Thekkady, an iconic attraction in Kerala's Idukki district has been named the world's top emerging destination by an international travel trade body. Thekkady won the inaugural Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) CEO Challenge 2015 award along with Albay in the Philippines. The award, instituted by PATA, was announced in Bangkok. Thekkady and Albay beat a large number of destinations from around the world to win the award.
- ▶ With a view to enhance operational and administrative organizational structure, the erstwhile Maharashtra and Gujarat Naval Area has been divided to make two separate headquarters under Flag Officer Maharashtra Area and Flag Officer Gujarat Naval Area.

project in Ghaziabad.

► To protect the endangered Gangetic river dolphins, West Bengal will soon have the country's first community reserve for the mammal. A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the State Wildlife Board. It would be set up in the Hooghly river and the methodology to develop the community reserve is being chalked out by a separate committee.

► Retail major Future Group has entered into a partnership with Baba Ramdev-promoted Patanjali Ayurved to sell the latter's FMCG products through its stores with plans for joint manufacturing in future. Patanjali's range of FMCG products, including staples, nutrition, hair care, skin care, dental care and toiletries, will be sold through Future Group's Big Bazaar, KB's and EasyDay outlets across India.

► The SAARC sufi festival, a three-day carnival of sufi dance, music and poetry was opened by Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh at Jaipur. Artists from several countries will take part in the festival, in which sufi dance, music, poetry recitals, book readings, book launches and interactive sessions will be held. The event is being organised by the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL).

► Mumbai has emerged as the world's cheapest city to live and work in, among 12 top metropolitan cities of the world. London, Hong Kong and New York are the world's most expensive cities for companies to accommodate employees, with costs in London going through the roof, says Savills World Research.

► Sidharth Malhotra was recently announced as Tourism New Zealand's ambassador for India and the actor says he is looking forward to visit the beautiful country. The 30-year-old "Brothers" actor is

► The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Indian Police Foundation (IPF) and the Indian Police Institute (IPI) in New Delhi. The IPF and the IPI aim at embarking a culture of research and evidencebased policing in India and to avoid subjectivity, personal biases and errors in decision-making.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Amaravati, the new capital city of Andhra Pradesh, at a village not far from Guntur. The capital city is a dream project of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, whose TDP-BJP government was hoisted to power in state elections last year.

► After waiting for electricity for several years, lives of the residents of Baripatha, a tribal village in Odisha, changed for the better on Oct. 2, 2015. October 2 marked a life-changing transition for the 350-odd dwellers of Baripatha, a tribal village 25km southwest of Bhubaneswar.

► India will launch six Singapore-made satellites, including a dedicated 400 kg spacecraft for carrying out surveillance missions for maritime and border security, in mid-December onboard PSLV-C29. The six satellites will be launched on PSLV-C29 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh on December 16, 2015.

► According to UN Report, India is top trade facilitation performer in South Asian sub-region while Singapore and Korea lead East Asia in moving goods. The inaugural Global Report of the Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Survey provides data for 119 countries and serves as a useful basis for benchmarking and monitoring trade facilitation performance.

► According to a Grant Thornton's International Business Report, India has been ranked second on global business

the first Indian ambassador for Tourism New Zealand.

► The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has acquired ISO 9001:2008 certificate for monitoring, planning, development and maintenance of highway infrastructure and road transport throughout the country. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping received the certificate from the CMD of Indian Register Quality Systems (IRQS) Arun Sharma in New Delhi.

► According to a new study by World Wildlife Fund, only 25 per cent of the original habitats in the eastern Himalayas remain intact. Hundreds of species in the region face threat to their existence from unbridled developmental activities and climate change.

► In a welcome move for Indian shipping companies, international shipping regulators have revised the high risk area or HRA boundary in the Indian Ocean and have shifted it away from the India's western coastline.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of fourth terminal of country's largest container port – Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Mumbai. The ambitious project will augment JNPT's present capacity situated off the financial capital's eastern seafront by doubling it in next two years.

► The Green India Mission (GIM) falling under the Environment Ministry has approved annual plans for Kerala, Mizoram, Manipur and Jharkhand. The National Executive Council approved the Perspective Plans of all four states with a total financial outlay of Rs. 90,202.68 lakh for a plan period of five to ten years along with Annual Plan of Operations of Rs. 11,195.32 lakh for this financial year.

optimism Index in the July-September quarter. Notably, the same report had put India at fourth position between April-June this year.

► Mumbai has been ranked 11th among the best value destinations in the world for an overnight stay at a four-star hotel that includes breakfast. As per TripIndex Breakfast 2015, a TripAdvisor cost comparison study, Mumbai ranks 11th among the best value destinations for an overnight stay with breakfast costing Rs 9,343.92.

► Autobiography of Sam Pitroda named Dreaming Big: My Journey to Connect India has been launched by Mukesh Ambani. It is written with the help of an American author David Chanoff. The autobiography describes the journey of Satyanarayan Gangaram Pitroda (famously known as Sam Pitroda), known as father of Indian telecommunication revolution.

► The Ministry of Urban Development has approved the first batch of state level action plans under AMRUT aimed at enabling water supply as per the norm and providing water supply and sewerage connections to all urban households.

► An inter-ministerial apex committee of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) chaired by Madhusudhan Prasad, Secretary (Urban Development) has cleared plans over Rs 2000 crore in this regard for 89 cities in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

► Advanced Landing Ground at Walong has been inaugurated by Air Marshal C Hari Kumar, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Air Command, Indian Air Force. Walong ALG was operational during 1962 Chinese aggression. Thereafter, it remained abandoned for a long time till it was decided in 2013 to reconstruct the ALG to make it

► The 15th vessel in the series of 20 Fast Patrol Vessel, ICGS Arinjay, has been delivered by the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The Protocol of Delivery and Acceptance was signed between Sunny Thomas, Director (Technical), CSL and Commanding Officer (Designate) of the vessel Commandant Ajay Kumar Mudgal. The vessel will be operated from the Coast Guard Station at Okha, Gujarat.

► Kerala will host the All Lights India International Film Festival (ALIIFF) 2015 and Indywood Film Market (IFM) at Kochi from November 15 to 21. ALIIFF 2015 is a unique platform for the global film industry to portray excellence in film making, and interact with artistes and technicians of world cinema, according to the organisers.

► The Gujarat Government has proposed a 15375 crore rupees comprehensive action plan to ensure basic infrastructure in 31 cities under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) in the next five years.

► After a ban on multi-vial drugs of Diclofenac by the Centre, now the State government has withdrawn Ketoprofen, a non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) used extensively for veterinary purposes to save the vulture population in the three western districts.

► Maharashtra cabinet has approved a new procurement policy to ensure transparency in dealings in the backdrop of allegations of irregularities in purchases made by various departments. The procurement policy will bring in new methods like the 'Swiss Challenge' system of procurement to get the best deal from private players.

► The ministry of shipping, along with the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL), has drawn up an

fully Air Operational.

► The finance ministry has imposed anti-dumping duties on imported Chinese parts used in commercial vehicles for a period of five years with effect from October 21, 2015. The duties were slapped on Chinese items imported into India at prices less than even cost of production, such as front-axle beam and steering knuckles meant for heavy and medium commercial vehicles.

► Mountaineers Arjun Vaipai and Bhupesh Kumar have created history by scaling a 'virgin peak' as they call it, near Bara Shigri glacier, Himachal Pradesh. They have named it Mount Kalam in memory of late President of India APJ Abdul Kalam.

► Indian Railways has developed a vandal-proof warning system for unmanned level crossings which is working satisfactorily for the last three months on Coimbatore-Metupallayam section. Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), railways research wing, which has finalised the specifications of the system.

► In order to ensure safety of women in public transport, the AAP government has decided to hire 200 private security guards and deploy them as marshals in Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses. DTC will float tenders in the next few days to choose a security agency and within one month, 200 private security guards will be deployed as marshals in the first phase.

► The President of India has promulgated two ordinances – one for constitution of commercial courts and another to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996.

► Geeta, the young Indian woman living in Pakistan after she accidentally crossed the border 15 years ago when she was a child, is finally back home in India. Geeta's flight from Karachi landed at Indira Gandhi

ambitious programme to develop 78 lighthouses in the country as tourist centres under public-private-partnership mode.

► The Department of Trade and Taxes, Delhi Government, has announced a scheme titled "Bill Banvao, Inaam Pao," under which cash awards would be given to general public, who get proper bills made from retailers. The scheme would be covering those who get bill/ cash memo/ retail invoice prepared of their purchases made from a registered dealer in Delhi.

► The government of India has decided to rename the prestigious missile complex in Hyderabad 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex' in honour of the late President. Kalam had joined the missile complex in 1982 and was a part of it for nearly two decades.

► The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has commissioned a study on testing of new construction technologies for popularizing them. The main objective is promoting new housing technologies in India. The Ministry has approved a proposal made by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and agreed to support the study with financial assistance of Rs.31.34 lakhs.

► The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to provide 33 percent reservation to women in government jobs. The permission would be sought from the Election Commission as by-polls are slated to be held in two places in the state next month.

► Hockey India (HI) has signed a three-year partnership with Sports Authority of India (SAI), extending its commitment towards helping hockey regain its position as the country's top sport.

National Airport in New Delhi. She was just 7 or 8 years old when she was found sitting alone on the Samjhauta Express by the Pakistan Rangers 15 years ago at the Lahore railway station.

► The Maharashtra government has started selling Ayurvedic medicines and herbal products derived from its forest produce. A first-of-its-kind shop was recently started in Nagpur by the state government under the 'Van Dhan Jan Dhan' scheme.

► Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed a MoC for development of economic infrastructure and a MoU to develop Amaravati with the Government of Japan. They were signed during foundation stone laying ceremony of Amaravati, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.

► Public broadcaster Doordarshan today claimed that it has emerged as the most watched Hindi channel in terms of time spent per viewer ahead of top general entertainment channels (GECs). DD National, the flagship channel of the network, registered an Average Time Spent of 51 Min per viewer, highest among Hindi GECs, in the week 41 as per BARC ratings.

► India's Vartika Singh came second runner-up at the Miss Grand International 2015 pageant. The Pageant will be held in Bangkok on 25th October 2015. Aneka Garcia of the Dominican Republic won the title while Australia's Claire Elizabeth Parker was the first runner-up and Parul Shah of the Philippines was the third runner-up.

► Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has enhanced delegated financial powers of designated Central Government Hospitals and institutes under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme.

► Government has decided to set up National Tribal Advisory Council under chairmanship of the Prime Minister for real time monitoring of various tribal development programmes and schemes in the country.

► In a bid to give a thrust to the herbal drugs industry under its 'Make in Chhattisgarh' vision, the state government is contemplating to start manufacture of Ayurvedic medicines on a large scale. As per the plan, Ayurvedic drug manufacturers would be invited to set up herbal drug production units in the state, based on public private partnership (PPP) mode.

► The World Bank has maintained its growth forecast for India in 2015-16 at 7.5 per cent, while lowering marginally the projection for 2016-17 to 7.8 per cent, and for 2017-18 to 7.9 per cent. The World Bank says India, now the world's fastest growing economy, is relatively well-positioned to weather the global volatility and even set for a modest acceleration in growth in the years ahead.

► The Ministry of Civil Aviation has released Revised Draft National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP 2015). The policy aims at providing a favourable environment and a level playing field to various aviation sub-sectors, such as Airlines, Airports, Cargo, Maintenance Repairs and Overhaul (MRO) services and so on.

► Delhi, the world's most polluted city, suffers a toxic blend of geography, growth, poor energy sources and unfavourable weather that boosts its dangerously high levels of air pollution, scientists, including one of Indian-origin, have found.

► Reliance Industries becomes the first corporate to sign the revised listing agreement with the BSE as mandated under the newly introduced Listing Regulation notified by SEBI. Earlier, the listing agreement was a bilateral agreement between the stock exchange and the company and market regulatory SEBI didn't have regulations on this.

► Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched PAN camps and E-Sahyog in the national capital for settling Income Tax return claims digitally. These two initiatives of the I-T department is expected to expedite issuance of PAN cards and paperless tax assessment.

► The PAN camps around different centres in India will facilitate PAN application and further facilitate filing returns and tax collection. The PAN camps are aimed at expanding the coverage of number of people through Permanent Account Number (PAN). Currently there are 23 crore people with PAN card.

► E-Sahyog is an online mechanism to resolve mismatches in I-T assessment without requiring taxpayers attending I-T Offices. The notices to assesses would be sent to their emails. It is expected to reduce compliance cost especially for small taxpayers.

► Indian Railways will receive Rs 2,000 crore from Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) as part of long-term funding tied-up with the state-run insurer to restart the investment cycle. The first tranche is part of the total Rs 1.5 lakh crore long-term funding LIC will provide under the institutional financing mechanism.

► A one-man Commission headed by Upamanyu Hazarika submitted its report on illegal migrants from Bangladesh into Assam. The fact-finding commission was appointed by the Supreme Court in May 2015 while hearing the public interest litigation (PIL)- Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha Vs Union of

► Acquisition of land for highways is the responsibility of state governments and needs to be done within a stipulated timeframe, a top official of the National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDC) said.

► Ministry of Human Resource Development has undertaken an unprecedented collaborative, multi-stakeholder and multi-pronged consultation process for formulating the New Education Policy.

► The National Unity Day was observed across India on 31 October 2015 to commemorate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. On this occasion of 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, PM Narendra Modi flagged off Run for Unity at Rajpath in New Delhi.

► Railway is launching a new scheme under which waitlisted passengers can get confirmed accommodation in next alternative train if they opt for the option while booking their tickets online. Known as Viklap, the alternative train accommodation scheme will take off in trains running on Delhi-Lucknow and Delhi-Jammu sectors from November 1, on a pilot basis.

► The Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Ministry has mooted commercial helicopter service within Northeast in order to improve intra-regional connectivity. The first - ever rail link to Meghalaya was flagged off by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi within six months of the

► The Eighth edition of National Seed Congress (NSC) has begun in Hyderabad on October 27. This event is organized to deliberate on advanced seed development technologies and regulatory measures. The three day congress aims to provide common platform to all stakeholders to discuss a variety of issues including advances in seed

India & Gov. of Assam.

► Tata Trusts and Harvard University South Asia Institute (SAI) today announced collaboration on knowledge creation and capacity building for social and economic empowerment in India.

► World Bank has announced that India is the World's largest remittance recipient. It was revealed in the Migration and Development Brief that conveyed recent trends in remittance flows and migration across the world. As per the report, remittances to India are projected to increase by 2.5 percent in 2015, well above the 0.6 percent increase in 2014.

► The Government of India has constituted a Committee with a view to simplify the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The committee will be headed by Justice R.V. Easwar, (Retd.), former Judge, Delhi High Court and former President, ITAT.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aspiration to turn India into a top investment destination has got off to a positive start, with India now ranked by the World Bank at 130 of 189 countries on "Ease of Doing Business." That is up 12 places from its original ranking last year and four places from its rank on a revised list.

► India is the country with the highest burden of TB, with World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics that said 1.5 million people died in 2014 from the disease which ranks alongside HIV as a leading killer worldwide. According to the World Health Organisations Global Tuberculosis Report 2015, released on October 28, of the 9.6 million new TB cases in 2014, 58 per cent were in the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions.

development technologies and various seed policies with respect to the seed industry.

► GFMS team of Thomson Reuters has released Gold Survey Q3 2015 Review and Outlook. The survey says that India regained its top position replacing China as the biggest overall consumer of gold in the first nine months of year 2015.

► India is ranked 8th globally when it comes to protection of minority investors, ahead of many developed economies including the US, Germany and Japan. China is ranked much lower at 134th and India is ranked best among all BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

► The Indian Air Force is commencing its annual exercise, Exercise Livewire, on 31 October 2015. The exercise involves utilization of air assets of all types available with the IAF.

► The committee has been asked to, Determine the feasibility of enhancing the coverage of NET fellowships which are merit based Establish a transparent system of transfer of fellowship amounts every month to non-NET fellows Considering economic and non-economic criteria for eligibility for the fellowship.

► Railway launched a new scheme under which waitlisted passengers can get confirmed accommodation in next alternative train if they opt for the option while booking their tickets online. Known as Viklap, the alternative train accommodation scheme will take off in trains running on Delhi-Lucknow and Delhi-Jammu sectors from November 1, on a pilot basis.

► Online marketplace Flipkart will invest a “couple of billion dollars” in the next few years on beefing up its logistics network as part of efforts to strengthen its position in the booming e-commerce industry.

► GOI has inaugurated Games Secretariat of the 12th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games 2016 at Jawaharlal Nehru Sports Complex, Polo Ground in Shillong, Meghalaya. This is the first time that such a mega event of International level is taking place in North East India The 12th SAF Games will be held in Guwahati and Shillong from 6 February to 16 February 2016.

► Rail travelers having confirmed tickets will not get any refunds if they don't cancel four hours before the departure of the train. The railways has also doubled the cancellation charges in the new rules which will come into force from November 12.

► Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairperson of country's largest bank SBI, remains the most powerful woman in the Indian business sector, according to Fortune India. ICICI Bank's Chanda Kochhar and Shikha Sharma of Axis Bank follow Bhattacharya at the second and third place.

► Nestle India has relaunched its popular Maggi noodles in India, five months after they were banned due to alleged presence of excessive lead content. Besides, the Swiss food major has partnered with online marketplace Snapdeal for the rollout. The company is presently manufacturing.

► India has successfully tested the nuclear-capable Agni-IV ballistic missile, which has a strike range of 4,000-km, from the A P J Abdul Kalam Island (formerly Wheeler Island) off Odisha coast. The user trial by the tri-Service Strategic Forces Command (SFC), which saw the two-stage missile being fired from a mobile launcher at 9.45am, met all mission parameters.

► Bengaluru, the IT capital has surpassed both the commercial and political capitals of India as the top investment destination in the property market.

► GAIL is engaging with local communities early on and planning to build 'smart villages' along its proposed Jagdishpur-Haldia pipeline to ensure the project does not suffer the same fate as its Kochi-Bengaluru-Mangaluru pipeline, which has been stuck for years as the company has been unable to obtain right of way from most landowners.

► Boosting the government's ambitious 'Digital India' drive, social media giant Facebook has come forward to facilitate state-run BSNL in setting up 100 WiFi sites in rural areas of western and southern India. Facebook will spend Rs. 5 crore per annum for sponsoring these 100 WiFi hotspots in the country.

► The Indian navy Captains, who were associated with the INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier project have been elevated to Commodore rank.

► Internet giant Google is working with the government on a pilot project for providing Internet connectivity by using large balloons. Google, under its 'Project Loon', is using big balloons floating at a height of 20 kilometres above earth surface for transmission of Internet services. It has already tested this technology in New Zealand, California (the U.S.) and Brazil.

► Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Arinjay, 15th in the series of 20 Fast Patrol Vessels, in Kochi city, at the Southern Naval Command. ICGS (Indian Coast Guard Ship) Arinjay, which means 'victory over evil', is 50-meter long, displaces 317 tons of water and has a maximum designed speed of 33 knots.

► The Coast Guard's latest and largest offshore patrol vessel, Samarth, has been commissioned by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

► India has eased foreign direct investment norms in 15 major sectors in a bid to drum up investment and speed growth.

The government also increased the financial power of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to give single window clearance for investment projects of up to 50 billion rupees (\$753.35 million), from 30 billion.

► The Kerala government is set to host the country's first global conference on gender equality here from November 12-14. This is in order to reduce gender inequality in India and increase female work participation rates.

► From November 12, one can book a railway ticket online 30 minutes prior to the departure of a train.

In a passenger-friendly move, Railways has also made changes in its system of preparation of chart, which would now be prepared twice.

► Union Health Minister JP Nadda has ordered formation of a committee to evaluate in a time-bound manner the Indian Medical Association's five-point demands including amendments to the PCPNDT Act and the Consumer Protection Act.

► The Indian Navy's air power will be beefed up with the induction of P8i long-range maritime patrol aircraft. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar will formally dedicate the P8i aircraft to the nation at a special function to be held at INS Rajali, premier naval air station at Arakonam in Tamil Nadu.

► Kerala government is getting ready to set up a first-of-its-kind university in the country, exclusively for research-oriented studies related to gender.

The gender varsity will be located in Kozhikode district in the campus of Gender Park, an autonomous institution under the

With a displacement of 2450 tonnes, the ship is equipped with sophisticated technology, sensors, navigation, communication and weapon systems. Samarth is first in the series of six 105m offshore patrol vessels and has been built by Goa Shipyard.

► Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Jual Oram inaugurated National Tribal Crafts Mela Aadishilp in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion the Minister said this kind of exhibitions provide our tribal artisans an important platform to showcase their talents through their products to urban India. Shri Oram said Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED)

► 'CAA5', the fifth edition of the International Symposium on Cage Aquaculture in Asia will be hosted by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute here between November 25 and 28. The symposium is being organised by the Asian Fisheries Society and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research.

► Minister of Civil Aviation P Ashok Gajapathi Raju released the Revised Draft National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP 2015) in New Delhi. The minister has urged all stakeholders to participate in the process of firming up the policy by giving their valuable suggestions to the Ministry. He said that the Civil Aviation Policy should be a dynamic one which can keep pace with the ever changing demands of the sector.

► A total of nineteen cities in the state have achieved the status of being free of open defecation under the government's 'Swachh Maharashtra Mission' taken up in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Clean India' drive. The state government has set a target to achieve a complete open defecation-free

state's Social Justice Department.

► The annual Hundred Drums Wangala Festival has begun on a cultural fervor with the arrival of ten Wangala Dance Troupes from various parts of Garo Hills at Asanang in West Garo Hills of Meghalaya. Wangala is the most significant post harvest festival of the Garos generally held in the second week of November every year.

► Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has launched a new website called www.justclimateaction.org. The Minister said that the website has been created especially for the purpose of putting up India's stands and efforts till Paris Summit.

The website focuses on bringing transparency to the entire effort. As each stakeholder brings his activity to the fore to take a billion-strong people into confidence, the website and associated social media infrastructure ensures that each citizen in the country becomes a votary for a better future.

► Northeast India's first Elephant hospital has been established at the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. The hospital was set up at Mark Shand Memorial Learning Centre in Kaziranga National Park. It was inaugurated by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild who is founding patron of the UK-based charity Elephant Family.

► Shipwright School, a premier technical establishment, has been commissioned as Indian Naval Ship Vishwakarma by Admiral RK Dhowan at Visakhapatnam. Smt Payal Soni, wife of Vice Admiral Satish Soni, unveiled the Commissioning Plaque and named the training establishment as 'INS Vishwakarma'.

► Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar dedicated a Seakeeping and Manoeuvring Basin (SMB) to the nation and handed over

status by 2018.

► With domestic trade estimating cotton production at around 400 lakh bales, India is expected to emerge as the largest cotton producer in the world in 2015-16.

Cotton output in all major producing countries in the year, barring India, has been anticipated to be lower than the previous season.

As a result, China has had to vacate its place as the largest producer of cotton to India.

► In order to protect the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles that arrive during winters for nesting, the Odisha forest department on Sunday imposed a seven-month ban on fishing along the coast.

The ban will be in force from November 1 to May 31, 2016.

► Environment Ministry has launched a new website of National Clean Development Mechanism Authority (NCDMA) for streamlining the approval process of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.

► Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will open the World Economic Forum's India summit on November 4, an event that will see participation of more than 250 stakeholders and leaders, including Union Ministers. The theme of the meet is 'Delivering Growth in the New Context'.

► Homegrown car maker Tata Motors on November 2, has signed-up football player Lionel Messi as its brand ambassador. In a major marketing initiative the company has signed-up the four-time winner of the best football player of the world award and Argentine captain Messi to promote and endorse passenger vehicles, globally.

► All India Radios Programme on child labour has bagged the first prize under the Community Service Announcement category at the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)

the Advanced Torpedo Defence System 'Maareech' to the Indian Navy at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Vishakapatnam.

► President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 35th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2015 in New Delhi. This year Afghanistan has been the 'Partner Country' and Bangladesh as the 'Focus Country' in IITF 2015.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has also been roped-in to sell the entry tickets from Monday to Friday for business delegates and later on for the general public from 19 to 27 November.

► Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore inaugurated the 19th International Children's Film Festival of India (ICFFI) at Shilpa Kala Vedika in Hyderabad.

Rathore wished that the week-long festival would offer good and quality cinema to the audience, especially children. Over 1,200 entries have been received from about 80 countries.

► Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched 'Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme' by putting ten captive bred vultures in pre-release aviaries close to Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre at Pinjore.

► The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, JP Nadda inaugurated the Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) outlet at AIIMs. The aim is to reduce the expenditure incurred by patients on treatment of cancer and heart diseases.

► The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh has disclosed that Manipur will get an exclusive Sports

Prizes 2015.

► The Union government has announced Rs 10,000-crore road and bridges development projects for Nagaland besides committing a slew of road projects for the entire North-East in five year period.

Road and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari told reporters here that Nagaland road project will be taken up till March 2017.

► The Maharashtra state Government has approved a revised scheme, named APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Yojna, for pregnant and lactating women in the tribal areas of the state.

► The Meghalaya High Court has asked the Centre to consider enforcing Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in militancy-hit Garo Hills region in the state to help the administration restore the rule of law.

► In 2005, the Supreme Court had passed a landmark amendment to The Hindu Succession Act of 1956, granting daughters the right to inherit ancestral property along with their male relatives. But now, a 'small' clause has been added to it.

► First international film festival for the persons with disabilities (IFFPD) will be held in Delhi from 1st to 3rd December 2015. A total of 40 films (10 feature films, 16 short films and 14 documentaries) will be screened during the three days festival.

► A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Railways and Odisha Government to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for implementation of railway projects in the state.

► Mysuru Railway Station (Karnataka, India) became the first blind-friendly Railway Station in India. The visually impaired –

University soon.

► The Government has declared the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang), NSCN (K), all its formations and front organizations as a terrorist organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

A Gazette Notification issued on November 6, 2015 mentions that the NSCN (K), a militant outfit, came into existence in 1988 and is active along the Indo-Myanmar border.

► The 7th Pay Commission will submit its report to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on November 19 recommending increase in remuneration of central government employees as well as pensioners. The recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission are scheduled to take effect from January 1, 2016.

► The government has advanced the deadline for making 52.5 lakh people digitally literate, under National Digital Literacy Mission, by a year to 2016 than end of 2017 fixed earlier.

► Taking steps under AMRUT to tackle the problem of water logging, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha and Mizoram propose to invest Rs 242 crore in construction of storm water drains for discharging flood waters in 25 cities in these states. The works would be undertaken under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) action plans for 2015-16.

► India's food safety authority has appealed in the supreme court a regional court's order in favour of the Indian unit of Nestle SA in its battle to overturn a nationwide ban of its Maggi instant noodles. Nestle India resumed selling its popular Maggi noodles this month after getting the green light from

friendly facilities at Mysuru Railway Station has been inaugurated by Mysuru's Member of Parliament Pratap Simha.

► A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar directed the Delhi government and the four northern States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to check the bi-annual menace, which the farmers engage in to save time between sowing of wheat and rice.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched three gold schemes in New Delhi, ahead of the festive season. The Schemes are
Gold sovereign bonds
The gold monetisation scheme
The Indian gold coin

► In order to support the farmers, the Centre on 5th November 2015 hiked the price for masoor and gram dals sharply by Rs 250 a quintal each to boost production in the ongoing rabi season.

► Bernie Sanders introduced legislation on 4th November 2015 that would end the federal prohibition on marijuana, removing the drug from the federal government's list of the "most dangerous" substances. Under Sanders' plan, marijuana would not automatically become legal.

► K Prithika Yashini, will soon become India's first transgender Sub Inspector of Police. The Madras High Court has declared the 25-year-old as a fit candidate, paving the way for her appointment as Sub Inspector by the Tamil Nadu Government.

► The conference will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister for State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH and Dr HR Nagendra, President of 21st INCOFYRA, President, VYASA and Chancellor, S-VYASA University were also present on this

government laboratories, as mandated by the Bombay High Court in August.

► Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar has announced the formation of Indian Resource Panel (InRP) on Resource Efficiency on November 18.

► Intel India on November 18 announced the launch of 'Ek Kadam Unnati Ki Aur'. It is an initiative aimed at working with the government to create the blueprint for the digitisation of rural India.

► CCEA approves four projects in East Coast Railways

Union Cabinet approves setting up of NARF at Genome Valley in Hyderabad
Union Cabinet approved signing of Tripartite Agreement on IBSA Fund for Poverty Alleviation

Union Cabinet approved German as additional foreign language in Kendriya Vidyalayas

► The stage is all set for the two-day global investor meet 'Resurgent Rajasthan', which will see participation of top industrialists like Adani Group chief Gautam Adani, Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra.

► The government on November 18 extended its economic assistance programme IDEAS for five years. Under this the line of credit is provided to African as well as other developing nations and will have a financial implication of about Rs 3,771.77 crore.

► Minister of State for Commerce & Industry (I/C), Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, launched the Technology Acquisition and Development Fund (TADF) under National Manufacturing Policy being implemented by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion(DIPP) on November 18 to

occasion.

► In a move that could trigger protests from tribals, the Andhra Pradesh government has given an approval for bauxite mining in 1,212 hectares of forest land in Visakhapatnam district with certain conditions.

► The government of India has notified the implementation of the one rank-one pension (OROP) scheme that will guarantee equal pension to military personnel retiring at the same rank with the same length of service, regardless of the date of retirement. The scheme, a 40-year-old demand of military veterans, is expected to benefit three million pensioners.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a package of Rs. 80,000 crore for Jammu and Kashmir and said it should be used to transform the state, devastated by floods last year, into a modern, progressive and prosperous one.

► The country's largest telecom service provider Bharti Airtel plans to invest Rs 60,000 crore over the next three years on network transformation. The development comes ahead of impending launch of 4G services by Reliance Jio, owned by Mukesh Ambani, in the next year which is expected to increase the

► India has announced \$2.5 million in aid for the small states in the Commonwealth to help them combat climate change in the 24th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting or CHOGM.

► Parliament has announced that, a total of 36 special economic zones (SEZs) are operational in Tamil Nadu, followed by Telangana and Karnataka. In Telangana and Karnataka, 26 SEZs in each state are operational. As of now a total of 204 SEZs are exporting.

► Anil Khanna was on 28 November 2015

contribute to the national focus of Make in India.

► The Delhi government has cleared the much-awaited Jan Lokpal Bill and it is likely to be tabled in the Assembly next week. The Bill brings the Chief Minister's office under its purview and ensures that any investigation and trial by the Lokpal has to be completed within six months.

► Department of Electronics and IT (Deity) will establish a separate portal to provide support to innovators in various fields. In that portal people can put up their innovative products to get government help.

► A three-day comprehensive coastal security exercise 'Theera Veta' involving multiple security agencies conducted along the entire coast of Kerala, Lakshadweep, Minicoy islands and Mahe, concluded today. The exercise which began on November 17 concluded today. A similar exercise was earlier conducted this year from April 28 and 29.

► In a big bonanza to central employees and pensioners, the seventh Pay Commission today recommended a 23.55 per cent increase in salary, allowances and pension along with a virtual one-rank-one-pension for civilians, involving an additional outgo of Rs 1.02 lakh crore a year.

► An indigenously-developed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) of the Indian Army has crashed near Pokhran in Rajasthan. It is the second such incident in 15 days. The UAV, the last of the four inducted in 2011, crashed near Pokhran in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.

► The Haryana state government on November 20 announced the launch of a campaign to free Haryana of tuberculosis (TB). The government will collaborate with

re-elected as the president of Asian Tennis Federation (ATF). He was elected for four years in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

► To broaden its innovative e-catering facility 'Food on Track', IRCTC has tied up with online delivery firm Food Panda. To enable consumers to order from a variety of cuisine options.

► The Combined Commanders' Conference of the three services will be held next month onboard India's latest aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya in Kochi. This will be the first venue outside the national capital to host the crucial defence meet.

► Marathi film Katyar Kaljat Ghusali and Bengali film Cinemawala are among the twelve films shortlisted for prestigious 2015 UNESCO Fellini Medal.

► Suzuki Motorcycle India has tied up with online marketplace Snapdeal for the sales of its vehicles, the two wheeler manufacturer said.

► Air India airline is scheduled to commence a direct flight service to the Silicon Valley from the national capital from December 2.

► A 55-metre replica of the Eiffel Tower in being planned at the Eco Park in the smart city New Town.
The replica of the tower would come up in the Eco Park and is expected to be a major tourist attraction.

► The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has approved a pilot project for developing greenbelts along the national highways (NHs).
The pilot project submitted by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur for undertaking scientific studies on designing greenbelts

Medanta-The Medicity for the 'TB free Haryana' campaign, which will be supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan will be the brand ambassador of the campaign. The funding for the project will come from USAID.

► President Pranab Mukherjee has inaugurated the first ever three-day World Indology Conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

► The first meeting of the Indo-European Water Forum is being co-organized by National Water Mission, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission on November 23-24, 2015 at New Delhi to discuss key issues in water resources management in India as well as the experiences of implementation of European Water Policy.

► The Government of India is all set to organize the first "South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise" (SAADMEx-2015).

► Union Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the landmark Silchar-Lumding broad gauge rail line in Assam. Prabhu flagged off a passenger train from New Delhi via video-conference.

► The Telecom Ministry has issued notices to state-owned BSNL, MTNL and India Posts after Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad personally took note of citizen complaints over service quality on social media since July.

► France has accepted India's invitation to President Francois Hollande to be chief guest at the Republic Day parade in 2016. The decision comes in the wake of the attacks in Paris following which world

along national highways.

► President Pranab Mukherjee on November 28 presented President's Standard to two Indian Air Force (IAF) squadrons based here in West Bengal. Hasimara is an Indian Air Force (IAF) station, around 15 km away from India-Bhutan border.

► Centre has approved a working plan for Chhattisgarh where a total of nine cities would receive a major infrastructural facelift under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

► Lt Gen Ashok Ambre today took over as the new chief of Army's 9 Corps (Rising Star Corps). He took over the position from Lt Gen Rajeev Tewari, who has been posted as GOC (General Officer Commanding) in West Bengal.

► During his command of the formation, oversaw the effective handling of counter-terrorists operations, resulting in the elimination of all infiltrating terrorists and the successful conduct of rescue missions in the Corps zone.

► A 55-metre replica of the Eiffel Tower in being planned at the Eco Park in the smart city New Town. The replica of the tower would come up in the Eco Park and is expected to be a major tourist attraction. The project planned in the satellite city would take about three years to complete after its work order is issued and nearly 300 tonne of steel would be required to build it.

► India-born American author Stephen Alter combines the natural history of Jabarkhet Nature Reserve in Mussoorie with magical elements that appeal to younger readers in his new book "The Secret Sanctuary".

► Centre will invest Rs 1,700 crore in phases to transform NISH (National Institute of

nations including India have rallied behind France.

► The Uttar Pradesh government has earned a place in the Guinness World Records for planting the most number of plants in 24 hours.

► Watch maker Titan Co and global information technology major HP have joined hands to offer a range of smart watches to be launched soon. The new relationship between HP Inc. and Titan combine innovative materials, design and custom technology to deliver products that are responsive.

► To closer economic ties with China and to deliberate on macro economic issues, a team led by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya will engage in a dialogue with China's Development Research Centre (DRC) from November 23.

► Four-day World Congress on Disaster Management has concluded with the unanimous adoption of 'Vizag Declaration' calling for a comprehensive action plan for a disaster-resilient society.

► The declaration drafted after deliberations by over 1,000 delegates from 40 countries and 20 States in 25 sessions. It recommended effective funding mechanism by creating national disaster mitigation fund for resource implementation of local plans and building a platform of knowledge management/good practices/innovations at local level.

► FMCG firm Emami has roped in Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra to endorse its new skincare product BoroPlus Cocoa Soft Moisturising lotion.

► The state government was mulling to develop Dharamsala into a 'Smart City' as it is an international tourist destination of the

Speech and Hearing) in Tiruvananthapuram as the National University for Rehabilitation Sciences and Disability Studies to benefit differently-abled people.

► Patanjali Ayurved, the FMCG venture promoted by yoga guru Baba Ramdev, will invest Rs 1,000 crore next year on expansion and plans to sharpen focus on e-commerce and exports.

► The Ministry of Road Transport & highways has issued a draft notification for implementation of BS-5 and BS-6 norms for the automobile sector, covering the four wheeler category. The ministry has decided to advance the date of implementation of the higher level emission standards. As per the roadmap earlier laid down, by the Auto Fuel Policy, BS – 5 norms were to implemented from 1st April 2022 and BS-6 from 1st April 2024.

► Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma has announced that India receives less than one per cent international tourists annually and their average stay in the country has come down by two days. The minister said efforts have been made to attract more and more international tourists to the country.

► Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched an ambitious 'e-District project'. By this the people of Delhi will now be able to access a host of Delhi government services online and get documents verified for the issuance of nearly a dozen certificates.

► Nestle India has announced that the company has resumed production of Maggi noodles at all five facilities in India. Nestle, which relaunched Maggi noodles on November 9 after a five-months ban, has started production of Maggi noodles from its Tahlilal plant in Himachal Pradesh.

country. Himachal Urban Development, Town and Country Planning Minister Sudhir Sharma said that the district will not only be developed as a Smart City, but also as a progressive and inclusive city of the country.

► Hockey India, the apex organisation governing field hockey in India, has announced NTPC Limited, the largest power utility of the country as an Official Partner for the Hero Hockey World League Final 2015.

► Global marketing research firm Nielsen has launched India's first digital advertisement measurement system that will help marketers in the country find out the return on investment of their campaigns on the internet and mobile platforms. The Nielsen Digital Ad Ratings (DAR) system can measure all kinds of display and video ads across all digital platforms.

► This winter, Bali, a city in Indonesia, has topped the list of most popular international destination for Indian travellers while Goa is the most preferred domestic destination, according to a survey.

► India-Pakistan border in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan has been successfully lighted with solar power. The floodlights, along with fencing and border posts managed by Border Security Force (BSF) were supplied with the solar power generated from 5 MW solar power plant installed at Tata area, Jaisalmer.

► Delhi Assembly has passed a Bill proposing amendments in the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), setting up another flash point with the Centre, as it seeks to broaden the scope of magisterial probes into cases of kidnapping, rape and disappearances.

► The cabinet on November 25 officially made the Kerala Hotel (Food Price

► Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot has revealed that the Centre was planning to introduce special identity cards for all persons with disabilities.

► Government has extended by one year the tenure of a high level committee set up under former Chief Economic Advisor Ashok Lahiri to suggest steps to sort out taxation problem being faced by the trade and industry.

► Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on 12 November, appointed a three-member panel to probe into the financial irregularities of the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA). This is to follow up on the Delhi Police and CBI's registered cases against the wrongdoings of the DDCA.

► The Income Tax Department is developing a mobile app for taxpayers to help them file their returns. Online tax-filing company, ClearTax.in is targeting the professional CAs with the first-ever mobile tax-filing app for the Chartered Accountants (CAs).

► Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched 'Swachh Delhi' app enabling residents to apprise authorities with pics of garbage, and announced 'Swachh Delhi Abhiyan' from November 22 to 30.

► The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore broke India's poor ranking spell by making a debut in the world's top 100 universities for engineering and technology.

THE has singled out the year as one of Asian progress, with the US holding 31 positions – down from 34 last year – while Asia holds 25 positions in the Top 100, up from 18 last year.

► MasterCard's Ajay Banga and Microsoft's Satya Nadella have been named among the top 50 global business leaders by Fortune

Regulation) Bill 2015 which forecasted formation of regulatory authority for grading eateries and fixing food prices.

► The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned an interceptor boat (ICGS C-422) at the Karaikal port. This will enhance the port's shallow water operational capability along the South Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coast.

► Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on 31 October 2015 constituted a drafting committee to frame the New Education Policy (NEP).

It will be headed by former Cabinet Secretary TSR Subramanian and will have four members-
Shailaja Chandra, former Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi

Sewaram Sharma, former Home Secretary, NCT of Delhi

Sudhir Mankad, former Chief Secretary of Gujarat

JS Rajput, former Director, NCERT

► The United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) Disarmament Committee has adopted a draft resolution submitted by Japan calling for the abolition of nuclear arms.

The resolution was adopted by 156 member countries, while 17 abstaining and 3 voting against it including China and Russia.

But it failed to secure endorsement US, Britain, France and other key powers as they abstained from voting despite supporting it.

► Fifteen countries, the United Nations and an Indian think-tank have come together to create a Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace.

► CISF has launched a new mobile application, 'm-Power', for its soliders. It will enable them to check their pay-related queries and register grievances. An extended technology facility of the existing computer

magazine, a list that is topped by Nike's Mike Parker. Both Banga and Nadella are India-origin CEOs. While global payment solutions provider MasterCard's Banga is ranked at the fifth position, software giant Microsoft's Nadella is placed at the 47th spot.

► Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg is at the second place, followed by Electronic Arts' CEO Andrew Wilson (3), Apple's Tim Cook (4), Ulta Beauty's Mary Dillon (6), Xiaomi's Lei Jun (7), Uber's Travis Kalanick (8), Chipotle's Steve Eells and Montgomery Moran (9) and Biogen's George Scangos (10). All of them are Chief Executive Officers.

► GAIL emerges highest ranking PSU in Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index. Secures 98 out of maximum 100, an increase of 12 points in one year. GAIL (India) Limited has emerged the highest ranking company among the country's Public Sector Undertakings, and third overall, in the 'Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index (CDLI)' released by Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)-India.

► India ranks 106th, just behind Brazil, and last among eight countries included from South Asia in the survey. The proportion of 'givers' in India fell substantially in 2014 compared to 2013. However, India has more people who help strangers (334 million in 2014), donate money (183 million) and volunteer their time for a good cause (156 million) than any other country.

► India made the highest number of content restriction requests (screaming 15,155) from Facebook in the first six months of this year, according to the social network's Government Requests Report, which it releases biannually.

system facility for these men and women who guard some of the most vital installations in the country's civil aviation, aerospace and nuclear power domain.

► Japanese researchers have developed a new smartphone app that alerts rescuers with lifesaving automated external defibrillator (AEDs) when an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest occurs nearby.

► Country's largest lender State Bank Of India is all set to become the first bank to offer wallet services for feature phone users.

SBI is set to launch mobile wallet "Batua" next month and the service will be available to existing as well as non-SBI customers. The application will be available on Java-enabled mobile phones.

► Two Indian-origin businessmen have been ranked by Forbes magazine among the richest entrepreneurs in America under the age of 40. Vivek Ramaswamy, 30, a former hedge fund manager, has been ranked 33rd on the list with a net worth of USD 500 million and his source of wealth is investments.

► India is the fourth most vacation-deprived nation globally, with 65 per cent saying they feel very or somewhat vacation-deprived nations, according to a survey.

► India has moved up one position to become the world's seventh most valued 'nation brand', with an increase of 32 per cent in its brand value to \$2.1 billion.

► India has been ranked 99 out of 142 countries on Global Prosperity Index. The country has climbed three places from last year, but falling behind one spot in a sub-category that measures personal freedom.

► According to the latest report by credit rating agency Brickwork Ratings, Maharashtra is the biggest economy within India at Rs 16.87 lakh crore in terms of gross state domestic product (GSDP). The state is followed by Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

► Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has launched Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) Scheme to boost the quality of higher education in India. It was launched by Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani at the Indian Institute.

► India is engaged in “positive talks” with Mauritius on revision of bilateral tax treaty. The government is in the process of revising the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Mauritius.

► Air India’s maiden non-stop flight from New Delhi to San Francisco was given a rousing welcome as it became the first Indian carrier to directly connect the US’ West Coast, reducing the arduous travel time by nearly six hours.

► The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore has climbed nine places to 16th spot in a list of the top 200 universities from 35 emerging nations, including the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries.

► The Indian Air Force has pressed into service three aircraft to evacuate hundreds of passengers stranded at the Chennai airport where operations were suspended due to heavy rains and water logging on the runway.

► India has been re-elected unopposed to the Council of the International Maritime Organization [IMO] under Category “B” at the 29th session of the Assembly of the IMO held in London.

► JP Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched the injectable Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) in India as part of its commitment to the “Global Polio Endgame Strategy”. GOI is introducing IPV into its routine immunization program along with oral polio vaccine.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi is currently among the top 10 people in the *Time* Person of the Year readers’ choice poll, in the company of Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai and Pope Francis. Although Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders (10.5 percent) continues to lead the poll, Modi with a vote share of 2.7 percent was in the eighth place as of Monday evening, while Pakistani activist Malala (5.9 percent) was in second place and Pope Francis (3.9 percent) in third.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India Pavilion in Paris, says pavilion is a window to our heritage where nature has been treated as mother and humanity as part of nature. The India Pavilion inaugurated at the Paris Climate Summit is where visitors can get a lot of information on India’s position with regard to climate change.

► India has been ranked 131 out of 167 countries by the ICT Development Index of the International Telecommunication Union, which measures countries according to their level of ICT (information, communication and technology) access, use and skills.

<p>▶ a) Union Cabinet approved rehabilitation package for Bangladesh enclaves</p> <p>b) Union Cabinet gives nod to establish 6 new IITs</p> <p>c) Union Cabinet approves pacts with Germany for solar energy</p> <p>d) Government gives nod to introduction of Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2015</p> <p>e) Government gives nod to MoU between India and Israel in the field of water resources</p> <p>f) Union Cabinet approves DTAC agreement with Japan</p> <p>▶ National Textile Corporation Limited (NTC Ltd) became the 51st Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) and 49th Central PSU to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Transparency International India (TII) for adopting Integrity Pact (IP).</p> <p>▶ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the agreement between India and Iran on visa facilitation for Diplomatic, Official/Service and Ordinary passport holders.</p> <p>▶ GOI has released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the Centenary year of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The postage stamp was released by Union Communication and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad in the presence of Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi. They also released publications of ZSI- <i>The Centenary Souvenir</i>, <i>Centenary Directory</i> and <i>A Glorious 100</i>.</p>	<p>▶ Software major Wipro has announced acquisition of leading German IT consulting and software services firm Cellent AG for EUR 73.5 million (roughly Rs. 518 crores). The outsourcing major hopes to complete the acquisition process by March 31, 2016 after getting regulatory approvals.</p> <p>▶ Lok Sabha has passed a bill aimed at enhancing the compensation that airlines must pay to passengers in case of death, injury, lost baggage or even inordinate flight delays. The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015, was moved by Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju.</p> <p>▶ As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, Uttar Pradesh reported 2244 dowry deaths (Sec 304 B of IPC) in 2012, 2335 dowry deaths in 2013 & 2469 dowry deaths in 2014 which is the highest in the country for that year. Bihar is placed second in dowry death cases consecutively in the last three years with number of 1275 dowry deaths reported in 2012 & 1182 in 2013, 1373 in 2014.</p> <p>▶ GOI has rolled out "Accessible India Campaign" on the occasion of The International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The campaign is aimed at making 50 major cities more accessible to the specially abled.</p> <p>▶ To prevent leakages in the MGNREGA programme, GOI will introduce the system for electronic transfer of wages to the beneficiaries from January 1, 2016 in Kerala. If it is successful, it will be introduced (e-transfer of wages) in other states.</p>
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► The first India International Science Festival (IISF) has begun at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi campus. It has been organised by Union Ministry of Science and Technology. The IISF is expected to be the country's biggest ever Technology and Industrial Expo.

► The World Health Organisation has released its first ever report on foodborne diseases. The report was titled Estimates of the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases, which is the most comprehensive report to date on the impact of contaminated food on health and wellbeing.

► Himachal Pradesh has become the first state of India to launch Rotavirus vaccination project. The vaccine will help in controlling the child mortality rate (under five years of age) due to diarrhoea. Rotavirus vaccines are administered orally to infants in three dose course at ages of six, ten and fourteen weeks and are part of Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

► The Haryana Government has decided to celebrate 'Gita Jayanti Mahotsava' throughout the state from December 19 to 21. A district level celebration committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioners concerned.

► Muslims in the twin town of Ayodhya-Faizabad observed black Sunday on December 6. Incidentally, the mosque was demolished on a Sunday on December 6, 1992. Muslim groups observed 'day of sorrow' while Hindu outfits celebrated 'shaurya divas' on the 23rd anniversary of Babri mosque demolition day, which passed

► The Lok Sabha has passed a bill that provides for establishing Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India and enable the government to bring more products, systems and services under ambit of standardisation.

► The Executive Board of National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL) has decided to confer two Lifetime Achievement Awards which also carries a Sanman Rashi of Rs. 5.00 lakhs each under two categories, namely Sahitya Rachna Sanman and Sahityakar Sanman.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 5 announced soil health cards will be given to farmers under a nationwide drive. This is to underline the government's commitment to make the soil healthier. The government's soil health card is an endeavour to improve the health of the soil and provide guidance to farmers on soil-related issues.

► Railways have undertaken more than 20 projects worth Rs 14,000 crore during the 12th Five year Plan, including those for laying new lines, doubling the existing ones, enhancing port connectivity and electrifying its network under PPP model.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 6 released two commemorative coins of Rs 125 and Rs 10 denomination as part of the 125th birth anniversary year celebrations of B R Ambedkar. The coins were issued on his death anniversary, which is being observed as "Mahaparinirvan Divas of Babasaheb Ambedkar".

off peacefully amid tight security in Ayodhya, as well as in other parts of the country.

► The Supreme Court on December 7 claimed that state governments should pay higher compensation to acid-attack survivors, stressing the need for rehabilitation of the victims. A bench comprising justices M.Y. Eqbal and C. Nagappan also directed governments of states and union territories to take steps to treat acid attack survivors as physically disabled people and offer the benefits that the disabled receive.

► Seeking to fast-track nuclear power projects in the country, a Bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act to enable Nuclear Power Corporation of India to enter into joint ventures with other public sector undertakings was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 7.

► The Lok Sabha on December 7 passed a bill amending the law on salaries and service conditions of Supreme Court and high court judges to “bring in uniformity in pensions and other conditions of service of the judges.

► Schools in Beijing are closed and outdoor construction halted as the Chinese capital's first ever pollution “red alert” came into effect. The alert, the highest possible warning level, was issued on December 7 and will last until midday on December 10.

► The Maharashtra legislature has become the first in the country to launch an online mechanism for its members to send questions and move different motions in the House. In this regard state government has launched a website mls.org.in as part of Digital MLAs initiative in the winter session

► Finance Ministry has imposed an anti-dumping duty of up to \$1,732.11 per tonne on import of ‘melamine tableware and kitchenware products’ like dinner sets and mugs from China, Thailand and Vietnam with an aim to protect domestic industry from cheap shipments.

► Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in the country to join the Centre's scheme for revival of debt stressed power distribution companies after the state gave in-principle nod to the Power Ministry for joining UDAY.

► The GOI has announced that India's forest and tree cover has increased by 5, 081 sq km. While the total forest cover of the country has increased by 3, 775 sq km, the tree cover has gone up by 1, 306 sq km. According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2015, the total forest and tree cover is 79.42 million hectare, which is 24.16 percent of the total geographical area.

► A total of 2000 students from schools across the national capital have assembled at the sprawling lawns of Indian Institute of Technology to conduct ‘world's largest practical science lesson’.

► Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan presented the certificate received from Guinness Book of World Records to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The certificate is in recognition of PAHAL as the largest cash transfer programme in the world. Modi's Pahal cash transfer scheme is providing subsidy for LPG to 14.62 crore households.

of state legislature in Nagpur.

► An MoU for skill development in the manufacturing sector has been signed between Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI).

► Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of AYUSH has obtained 20 acres of land from Odisha Government in Binjhagiri Village in Khordha District to establish a Central Research Institute in Yoga and Naturopathy.

► An expert committee appointed for the new capital of Andhra Pradesh has suggested an estimated Rs 27,097 crore as the cost for building 'Amaravati'. The expert committee appointed for the purpose of new capital of Andhra Pradesh had indicated Rs 10,519 crore for capital zone buildings, Rs 1,536 crore for capital zone infrastructure, Rs 5,861 crore for city infrastructure and Rs 9,181 crore for city infrastructure growth extension.

► The fifth ship of Indian Navy's LCU MK IV project, was launched on Monday at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) in Kolkata. LCU L-55 is the fifth vessel in the series of eight Landing Craft Utility Ships being designed and built by GRSE for the Indian Navy.

► A tripartite MoU has been signed among Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Ministry of Textiles & National Textile Corporation (NTC) in order to set up a Technology Centre (Tool Room) at Kanpur. Under the MoU, Ministry of MSME.

► The eighth edition of INDRA NAVY, a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian and Russian Navies that began in 2003, has commenced in the Bay of Bengal on 7th December. The primary aim of this six-day exercise is to increase interoperability between the two navies and develop common understanding of procedures for maritime security operations.

► India and Japan are set to firm up an agreement on highspeed train services, widely referred to as 'Bullet Trains', during Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit next week. Abe's Special Adviser Hiroto Izumi will be in Delhi this week for high-level talks to finalise the terms of the agreement on high-speed trains, known as Shinkansen in Japan.

► More than six per cent of the total population is suffering from either a common or a severe mental disorder such as depression, anxiety and schizophrenia.

► The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2015. The Bill will now be taken up for consideration and passing by the Parliament.

► Union Cabinet chaired by the PM Modi has given its approval for a MoU between India and Indonesia in the field of new and renewable energy. The MoU was signed in Jakarta last month during Vice President, Shri M. Hamid Ansari's visit to Indonesia.

► To establish the basis for a cooperative institutional framework to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable energy issues on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and

▶ India ranks fourth in the world in black money outflows with a whopping \$51 billion siphoned out of the country per annum between 2004 and 2013. The illegal capital outflows stem from tax evasion, crime, corruption and other illicit activity record \$ 1.1 trillion flowed illicitly out of developing and emerging economies in 2013.

▶ Manohar Parrikar has visited the US Pacific Command headquarters in Hawaii, becoming the the first-ever Indian Defence Minister to visit the key facility in a sign of deepening of military ties between the two strategic partners.

▶ Glaciers on Mount Everest, source of major Asian rivers like Brahmaputra, have shrunk by 28 per cent over the past 40 years due to climate change. The glacial shrinkage area is compared to the measurements taken in the 1970s in the report released by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Hunan University of Science and Technology, and Mount Qomolangma Snow Leopard Conservation Centre.

▶ To give boost to nuclear power generation in the country, the government has proposed joint ventures between Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) and other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like the NTPC, Indian oil and NALCO.

▶ PFRDA Chairman Hemant G Contractor said government should consider giving tax incentives to pension sector and expand its coverage to include people in the informal sector as they do not have any universal social security net. He said People in the informal sector are not adequately covered under the pension scheme and something has to be done for this class of customers.

reciprocity.

▶ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on cooperation in the energy sector.

▶ The Union Cabinet chaired by the PM Narendra Modi has given its approval to carry out official amendments in "The National Waterways Bill, 2015". The amendments are based on the recommendations of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture and comments of State Governments.

▶ India and United Kingdom launched a joint initiative "2016: UK-INDIA Year of Education and Research" in New Delhi. Minister of HRD Smriti Irani highlighted the importance of mobility of students and faculty and expressed hope that, under the GIAN Program, more UK academicians would be able to come to India in 2016.

▶ The Indian Institute of Science has bagged a US military contract for research and development on solar powered micro-grid.

▶ As part of US-India collaboration in the areas of development and education, an American 94eighbo language skill course has been launched in Patna for students hailing from economically disadvantaged section of the society.

▶ Two Indians have won the Queen's Young Leaders award in the UK for their exceptional work in transforming the lives of others and making a lasting difference in their communities. Kartik Sawhney, 21, and Neha Swain, 28 from India are among 60 others who won the Queen's Young Leaders award 2016 which will be presented by the British monarch at a gala ceremony in Buckingham Palace in June 2016.

▶ Lok Sabha has passed a bill to amend the "archaic" Indian Trusts Act, 1882, that will provide greater autonomy to trustees and allow them to invest trust funds in securities notified by the government. The Indian Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2015, was passed by a voice vote amid continued protests by the Congress members.

▶ A mechanism known as SETU to support all aspects of start-up businesses and other self-employment activities has been set up by the government.

▶ Oil marketing companies have slashed petrol prices by Rs 50 paise a litre and simultaneously, have brought down diesel prices also by 46 paise. Similarly, a litre of diesel will cost Rs 46.09 as compared to Rs 46.55 now, said Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the nation's biggest fuel retailer said.

▶ Google CEO Sundar Pichai will meet President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his first visit to India since he took the top job in August. There will be no new launches this time, but Pichai will meet Google employees.

▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Pakistan to attend the SAARC Summit likely to be held in September 2016, in what will be the first prime ministerial visit here from India in 12 years.

▶ India's cabinet has cleared a \$14.7 billion Japanese proposal to build its first bullet train line, one of India's biggest foreign investments in its infrastructure sector. The decision ahead of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit gives Japan an early lead over China, which is also bidding to build high-speed rail lines across large parts of India's congested and largely British-era system.

▶ Lok Sabha has passed a bill that provides for transferring from the central government to the states the control over industries engaged in the production of potable alcohol. The Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, was passed by a voice vote in the absence of Congress and Trinamool Congress which were boycotting the House over some "objectionable" remarks by a BJP member against Rahul Gandhi and Nehru-Gandhi family.

▶ The National Green Tribunal has directed that there will be a complete ban on use of plastic of any kind from Gomukh to Haridwar along Ganga with effect from February 1. The NGT is also slapping a penalty of Rs 5,000 per day on erring hotels, dharamshalas and ashrams spewing waste into the river.

▶ Industrialist Ratan Tata has invested an undisclosed amount in India's services marketplace UrbanClap. Operational in six cities – Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Pune and Hyderabad – UrbanClap allows users to book over 80 services,

▶ India is all set to launch an “India Business Card” for the business community in SAARC countries. The stumbling block so far for issuance of this card had been Pakistan, but the decks have now been cleared with renewed ties with Pakistan.

▶ The Supreme Court has banned the registration of new diesel-guzzling luxury cars and SUVs with an engine capacity of over 2000 cc until March 31.

▶ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given a nod to approve the introduction of Constitution (SC) Order Amendment Bill, 2015 in the Parliament.

▶ Cabinet has approved a policy framework for development of underground coal gasification (UCG) in coal and lignite bearing areas in India. UCG is a method of extraction of energy from coal/lignite resources which are otherwise regarded as uneconomical to work through conventional mining methods.

▶ In his first visit to the country, Google’s newly-appointed chief Sundar Pichai managed to secure support for the company’s ambitious Loon project in the government. Union minister for telecom and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the government was in principle agreeable to pilots of Google’s Project Loon.

▶ The Lok Sabha has passed the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Bill, 2015, by a voice vote. The Bill seeks to create commercial divisions and commercial appellate divisions in high courts, and commercial courts at the district level.

including plumbing, electrical work, beauty, wellness, tutorials and wedding photography. The company has a network of more than 25,000 service professionals.

▶ Ahead of Japanese Premier Shinzo Abe’s visit, India and Japan have inked a pact for amending the double taxation avoidance agreement and for preventing fiscal evasion that was originally signed in 1989.

▶ India and South Korea have inked a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) on suspension of collection of taxes during pendency of mutual agreement procedure. This MoU will relieve the burden of double taxation for taxpayers in both the countries during the pendency of Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) proceedings.

▶ The Union Government has “declared” the Tamil Nadu floods as a “Calamity of Severe Nature”. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa said: “The Centre has made the declaration as requested by her.” Jayalalithaa has directed her party MPs to allot Rs. 1 crore each for such works in the flood affected districts.

▶ Seven years after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, India and Pakistan have agreed to resume structured dialogue between them. The dialogue that was earlier known as Composite Dialogue and later on known as Resumed Dialogue will now be known as the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue.

▶ The Government of India will set up Medical Intelligence Tourism Board to facilitate inbound tourism and to generate new ideas for attracting more tourists including medical tourists. Sharma, Minister

► The central government has approved the revised model text for the Indian bilateral investment treaty (BIT). The union cabinet approved revised model BIT will be used for re-negotiation of existing BITs and negotiation of future BITs.

► The Union Cabinet has gave its ex-post facto approval to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between India and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations for strengthening and further developing of energy saving and energy efficiency cooperation based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

► The government of India has approved the Rs 39,000-crore acquisition of five advanced Russian S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems, which have even rattled NATO countries because they can destroy incoming hostile aircraft, stealth fighters, missiles and drones at ranges of up to 400 km.

► The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has launched separate indices on three corporate houses of India – Tata, Aditya Birla and Mahindra Group. The indices – Nifty Tata Group Index, Nifty Aditya Birla Group Index and Nifty Mahindra Group Index – have been designed to reflect the performance of companies belonging to the respective corporate group, as per a statement issued by the NSE.

► The Lok Sabha has passed the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2015, aimed at making dispute resolution in the country quicker and easier. The objective of the bill is to make the arbitration process friendlier and cost effective for investors, ensuring speedy disposal of cases.

of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Culture, said that the first meeting of the Board would take place soon.

► Government is implementing Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA), in 205 districts of various states and Union Territories. The Centrally-sponsored scheme 'SABLA' aims at empowering adolescent girls (Ags) in the age group of 11-18 years through nutrition, healthcare and life skills education.

► The Centre has imposed an anti-dumping duty ranging from five to 57 per cent on import of cold-rolled flat products of stainless steel for five years. In a notification, the Central Board of Excise and Customs said the duty has been imposed on China, South Korea, the US, South Africa, Thailand and Taiwan, besides the European Union.

► GOI has signed an MoU and documentation for establishing three Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) at Ranchi, Nagpur and Pune. These IIITs are operated on a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode with participation of State Government and Industry, apart from the Central Government.

► Gujarat Government communicating its in-principle to Ministry of Power (MoP) of joining UDAY, Goyal congratulated Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat Smt Anandiben Patel on Gujarat becoming 10th State to join UDAY. Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Punjab and Rajasthan have already joined UDAY Scheme.

► The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has conferred Industrial Innovation Awards 2015 upon 35 companies. Among them 10 were start-ups and 25 were big and small companies.

► The GOI has lowered its economic growth forecast for 2015-16 to 7-7.5 per cent from 8.1-8.5 per cent. In its Mid-Year Economic Analysis presented in Parliament, the finance ministry said it will be able to stick to fiscal deficit target of 3.9 per cent for the current year, but the target of bringing it down to 3.5 per cent in the next will face pressure from higher outgo on central staff wages due to implementation of the 7th Pay Commission and Defence pensions.

► The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has enhanced the foreign equity cap for Non-scheduled Air Transport Service and Ground Handling Services from 74% to 100% and have placed these sectors under the automatic route.

► Mother Teresa, the Nobel Laureate of Kolkata, to be made a saint of a Roman Catholic Church. Pope Francis has recognized her second miracle and the mother will be given Sainthood.

► Rann utsav is a festival of Deserts with the full moon light is being celebrated this year in the Kutch lands of Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat hosts an annual 3 month long festival where people can see different sights of deserts and to know about the culture of Kutch and Gujarat.

► In a bid to reduce animal deaths in the hands of humans and restore their lost habitats, Odisha government has engaged Wildlife Trust of India to prepare a comprehensive wildlife management plan for the state.

► Power Minister Piyush Goyal will launch a mobile app, on the occasion of the National Energy Conservation Day, to help consumers compare and choose energy efficient appliances available in the market.

► The National Green Tribunal has told the government not to buy any more diesel vehicles amid worsening pollution in Delhi. The order will apply to the federal and local Delhi governments. India's Supreme Court will hear a plea against private ownership of diesel vehicles on 15 December.

► IOC, India's largest oil firm, will invest Rs 1.75 lakh crore over the next seven years on expanding refinery capacity, building petrochemical plants and laying pipelines.

► The ten-day long festival of Losar festival has begun in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir with illumination of religious and residential places on the eve of the festival.

► IT major Infosys has invested USD 3 million in US based wearable device startup firm WHOOP to pick up a minority shareholding in the company. Infosys said with through this transaction it will acquire "minority shareholding, not exceeding 20 per cent of the outstanding shareholding of the company."

▶ A leading German manufacturer of industrial 3D printing systems has opened a unit in India following a growing demand for its products in the country. The German company voxeljet has established the new voxeljet subsidiary in Pune as part of its plan to expand global presence.

▶ Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has dedicated India's biggest wildlife rescue centre, spread in 30 hectares in Gorewada, to wildlife lovers. This place will be a big asset for entire Vidarbha region where man-animal conflict is at its peak.

▶ Seeking to make Uttar Pradesh an environment-friendly place, the state government has decided to enforce the ban on the use of polythene across the state, a month after the Allahabad High Courts direction to prohibit its usage.

▶ In line with the Digital India initiative of Government of India, National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDC) has decided to implement Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for its commercial activities for the benefit of handloom weavers.

▶ India has started an anti-dumping probe into imports of aluminium foil, widely used by food and pharma firms, from China to protect domestic producers from cheap imports.

▶ India has eased the process of issuing visas to Iranians after Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised the same to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. Iran is now out of the restricted prior referral category (PRC) of countries for issuing visas. In the case of PRC countries, India grants visa

▶ The Defence ministry formed a one-person judicial panel to look into the implementation of One Rank, One Pension scheme (OROP). Former Chief Justice of Patna High Court L Narasimha Reddy, will head the committee and will give his recommendations within six months.

▶ India has been ranked 130 in the latest report of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Index. India has climbed five spots up to 130 in a list of 188 countries for the year 2014. The 2015 Global Human Development Report was named "Work for Human Development", was released in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

▶ Lok Sabha passed a bill that will allow state-run NPCIL to have collaboration with other PSUs in the nuclear field. The government has allayed the fears that it will facilitate FDI into the sector or allow participation of a private company in atomic power production.

▶ Rajasthan has become the first state to submit Smart City plan to the Urban Development Ministry. Manjit Singh, Principal Secretary (urban development) of Rajasthan submitted Smart City proposals of three cities – Udaipur, Kota and Ajmer to UD Additional Secretary Samir Sharma at Nirman Bhawan.

▶ The India based Multinational company, Mahindra group has acquired the Italian auto design firm Pininfarina SpA on December 2015. Tech Mahindra and Mahindra & Mahindra have jointly signed this agreement. The all cash deal of this acquisition is expected to be nearly 65 million US dollars.

only after its mission or consulate in that country runs a thorough background check on the individual applicant.

► The government of India has moved the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015 in the Lok Sabha, which will provide a framework for time bound resolution of corporate bankruptcy, ensuring that stakeholder interest are protected and the assets are put to use quickly.

► In Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh, the following monuments have been declared protected and are preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

► Fort attributed to Jay Chandra, Karra Tehsil- Sirathu, District Kaushambi
The ancient fortress, Kosam, Tehsil Manjhampur, District Kaushambi
Artificial cave in the fane of the hill of Pabhosa, Tehsil- Manjhampur, District Kaushambi

► Gurgaon boy Priyanshu Singh defeated Delhi's Kshitij Naved Kaul 3 and 2 to clinch the 115th Amateur Golf Championship of India title at the Classic Golf Resort. In the final played over 36-holes, Priyanshu, who also plays in US collegiate championship, was 1-up at the half-way stage without ever slipping behind Kshitij.

► Gujarat has become the first state in the country to take up Public-Private Partnership Projects for in-situ redevelopment of slums in urban areas under Prime Minister's Awas.

► Parliament has passed a crucial bill that provides for stringent action against those involved in crimes against scheduled castes and tribes, wrongfully occupying their land

► Union Government on 14 December 2015 requested the states and Union Territories (UT) to start Operation Smile-II from 1 January 2016. The operation will end on 31 January 2016.

► Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has begun the 59-hour countdown for the launch of 6 Singapore satellites onboard its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C29, from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. PSLV is scheduled to launch at 6.00 pm on December 16, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

► Bengaluru, the silicon valleys of the east and San Francisco the silicon valley of the west have inked pacts to foster cultural bonds by entering in the field of public art and promoting women entrepreneurship.

► Honda Cars India introduced Honda Connect – an App that provides convenient access to detailed information about Honda vehicles and other services.

► Government is about to add Rs 10,000 crore revenue in a full fiscal by levying Swachh Bharat Cess (SBC). Resources generated from the cess will be utilised for financing and promoting initiatives towards Swachh Bharat.

► Greenpace India reported that Air pollution levels exceeds the prescribed standards in 15 out of 17 Indian cities where National Air Quality Index (NAQI) stations are situated.

► A bill to develop 101 waterways has been passed by Lok Sabha today with government saying it was aiming to garner Rs 1 lakh crore to fund projects to provide

or dedicating such women as a 'devadasi'.

► The government has constituted an independent working group under the Chief Economic Advisor to examine the impact of free trade agreements (FTAs) signed by India.

► Rajya Sabha has approved an additional Rs.56,256.32 crore of supplementary demands for grants to the government, mainly for defence pension and Swachh Bharat Mission.

► Tata Motors has made it to the Top 50 league of the world's biggest companies in terms of R&D investments, topped by German automaker Volkswagen.

► Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) will introduce e-ticketing machines in some of its buses on a trial basis from January 2016.

► Home-grown FMCG firm Emami Ltd has announced tennis star Sania Mirza as the brand ambassador of hair oil and shampoo variants of its newly-acquired Kesh King brand.

► Mukesh Ambani introduced his much-touted 4G telecom services, restricting it only for Reliance employees for now. Reliance is preparing to shake the telecom industry with a full-bloodied launch around March next year.

► GOI has announced that the Rs 40,000 crore National Investment and Infrastructure fund (NIIF) has been set up and its chief executive will be finalised by January. Several sovereign funds and pension funds from Russia, Singapore, UK and UAE are willing to participate in the fund

low-cost river transportation as 'Make-in-India' dream will not be realised if logistics cost are not reduced.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off first prototype electric bus for Members of Parliament. Modi handed over the key of lithium-ion-powered battery bus to Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan at a function in Parliament House.

► India has joined select club nations to build Liquefied natural gas (LNG) ships after state owned Cochin Shipyard has received certification in this regard. Cochin Shipyard also became first shipyard in India to get the nod to build LNG-transporting ships for any client world-wide.

► Seeking to make defence acquisition process simpler and transparent, the GOI has launched a new 'Make in India' website that will provide an interface with industry and promised to finalise the new revised defence procurement procedure by January.

► According to Harvard researchers at Centre for International Development (CID), India with a projected annual growth rate of 7 per cent, has the potential to be the world's fastest growing economy over the coming decade, surging ahead of its South Asian economic rival China that will continue to see a slowdown.

► Troops from India and China will for the first time meet in a joint military exercise on the heavily manned, disputed border that has been the reason for several armed face-offs and a major war between the two neighbours.

and cooperate with it at various levels.

► Nine Indian reporters were among 110 journalists killed around the world in 2015. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has dubbed India as “Asia’s deadliest country” for media personnel, ahead of both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Of the nine, some of them were reporting on organised crime and its links with politicians and others for covering illegal mining.

► The 18th session of the India-Iran Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on December 28, 2015. The session was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister of India (EAM) and H.E. Mr. Ali Tayebnia, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

► The Report of the Committee on Revisiting & Revitalising the PPP model of Infrastructure Development chaired by Dr. V. Kelkar has been issued and also uploaded on the Ministry of Finance’s website.

► In the Union Budget 2015-16, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced that the PPP mode of infrastructure development has to be revisited and revitalised. In pursuance of this announcement, a Committee on Revisiting & Revitalising the PPP model of Infrastructure Development was set-up which was chaired by Dr. Vijay Kelkar.

► The Lok Sabha has passed a Bonus Bill allowing doubling of wage ceiling for calculating bonus to Rs 7,000 per month for factory workers with establishments with 20 or more workers, with the benefits being applicable retrospectively from April 2014.

► India’s first indigenously designed and built warship Indian Naval Ship Godavari is scheduled to be decommissioned on December 23, 2015. Godavari’s keel was laid on 03 November 1978 by Adm J Cursetji, CNS, and it was launched on 15 May 1980. It was commissioned in December 1983.

► Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar will dedicate the first cable stay bridge of North India to the nation on December 24, providing close connectivity between three northern states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.

► The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee dedicated the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences(NIMHANS), Bangalore to the nation as an Institute of national importance. He also inaugurated the Magneto Encephalography Research Center and NIMHANS Heritage Museum on the occasion.

► The President said that India’s first comprehensive mental health policy was notified in last October on the occasion of World Mental Health Day which covers several aspects of mental health – including the rights of the mentally ill, the need to provide support to care givers, decriminalization of suicide – and other progressive policy initiatives.

► Mauli Agarwal, an Indian-American researcher has been named as a fellow of US’s National Academy of Inventors (NAI), He has been awarded for his work in inventing path-breaking health care technologies.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leaving to Russia on December 23rd on a two-day visit to Russia to attend 16th Annual Summit meeting. The Summit would commence with a private dinner hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

► Madhesis have rejected the Nepal government's three-point roadmap to address their demands over some provisions of the new Constitution. They vowed to continue their stir, dimming hopes of an early end to the political crisis plaguing the country.

► Jaguar Land Rover India has announced the launch of its innovative new smartphone integration platform, InControl Apps, which has been developed in alliance with Bosch. Jaguar Land Rover and Bosch have worked closely with leading third party app developers, specifically in India, to enable access to an initial suite of Android and iOS compatible applications.

► Wipro has said that it will acquire the US-based Viteos Group for USD 130 million (nearly Rs 861 crore). It will help the country's third-largest IT services firm strengthen its position in the capital markets outsourcing space.

► The Coast Guard has launched 'Operation Oliva' to intercept unlawful trawling activities along Odisha coast while embarking on its annual mission to ensure safe mid-sea sojourn of Olive Ridley turtles.

► A new juvenile justice Bill that allows 16 to 18 years old, accused of heinous offences, to be tried as adults was passed by the Rajya Sabha. This paved the way for a new juvenile justice system in which the age of criminal culpability will now be 16 years, subject to some conditions.

► The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has notified the revised standards for coal-based Thermal Power Plants in the country, with the primary aim of minimising pollution.

► An umbrella scheme for integrated development and management of fisheries has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The outlay would be Rs 3,000 crore for five years.

► Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister, Radha Mohan Singh launched two mobile apps for farmers. Mobile app "**Crop Insurance**" will help the farmers to find out complete details about insurance cover available in their area and also to calculate the insurance premium for notified crops, coverage amount and loan amount in case of a loaned farmer.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in Kabul on December 25th morning for an unannounced but widely anticipated Christmas visit to the Afghan capital. Calling India and Afghanistan's friendship antiquated and "bound by a thousand ties", Ghani thanked India for its "valuable assistance" as Afghanistan weathers "hard times".

▶ India has delivered three Mi 25 attack helicopters to Afghanistan, in what is seen as a shift in its strategy towards the strife-torn country. The three such choppers have already been delivered to the Afghan government, which will boost its capability against Taliban terrorists.

▶ Reliance Defence has signed a manufacturing and maintenance deal worth \$6 billion with Russia's Almaz-Antey, the maker of an air defence system. The partnership between the Indian firm controlled by billionaire Anil Ambani and the Russian firm was announced as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a trip to Moscow aimed at strengthening defence ties.

▶ PM Modi, who is on a two-day Russia visit, conveyed to Putin that their summit talks will give a fresh impetus to the bilateral relations as it will provide "new energy" to further strengthen ties.

▶ The GOI is expected to impose anti-dumping duty of USD 1.85 (about Rs 122) per kg on imports of mulberry raw silk from China, a move aimed at protecting the domestic industry from cheap in-bound shipments.

▶ Direct-selling FMCG firm Amway India has announced Bollywood actor Farhan Akhtar as its brand ambassador to promote Nutrilite range of the products. The announcement was made by Amway India CEO Anshu Budhreja.

▶ Tata Power has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Development of Russian Far East to explore and develop investment opportunities in the

▶ Shah Rukh Khan will be the brand ambassador of Mukesh Ambani's telecom venture Reliance Jio, which will launch the 4G services on December 27 2015. This event will only for Reliance employees.

▶ Sri Lankan wicket keeper-batsman Kusal Perera faces a four-year ban after the country's sports minister said the 25-year-old's 'B' sample has also tested positive for a prohibited substance. The International Cricket Council (ICC) provisionally suspended Perera after he failed an out-of-competition anti-doping.

▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25th December 2015 announced 500 scholarships for children of the martyrs of Afghan security forces. The Prime Minister asserted that Afghanistan will succeed only when there is no terrorism across the border and when the nurseries and sanctuaries of terrorism are shut.

▶ Onion exports declined by 18 per cent to 4.86 lakh tonnes in the first half of the fiscal. It is happened due to the restriction imposed by the government. Exports dipped during the first six months of the fiscal as the government had hiked the minimum export price (MEP) to USD 700 per tonne in August this year.

▶ Public broadcaster Prasar Bharati and top Russian pay-tv programmer Digital Television Russia (DTR) have inked a pact for joint production and exchange of TV programs and related services. The two partners have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the just concluded visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Russia.

energy sector.

► IT major Tech Mahindra has launched a new service 'MoboMoney' to cash in on the burgeoning digital payments ecosystem in India. Tech Mahindra, which received a payment bank licence from RBI earlier this year, aims to get about 1 million merchants including kirana shop owners on board.

► GOI has added 106 drugs including that of HIV/AIDS, Cancer and Hepatitis C to the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). The revision includes addition of 106 essential medicines and deletion of 70 medicines.

► State-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has maintained its numero uno position followed by Reliance Industries in terms of revenue for the sixth consecutive year in the list of Fortune 500 Indian companies 2015. The list, which has been compiled by global business magazine *Fortune's* Indian edition since 2010, said the total revenue of firms has grown a mere 2.7 per cent and profits fell 5.9 per cent compared with 2014.

► IOC tops the chart with an annual revenue of Rs 4,51,911 crore. Mukesh Ambani-led RIL's full-year revenue is Rs 3,82,565 crore. Tata Motors' revenue is Rs 2,67,025. State Bank of India (SBI) moved to fourth position with an annual revenue of Rs 2,57,289 crore. Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) is ranked fifth with an annual revenue of Rs 2,40,367 crore.

► A plot of land for India to build its first naval base in the Indian Ocean region has been allocated by the Seychelles government in the Assumption Island. This is a joint project between India and Seychelles involving two Defence Forces in enhancing the mutual security along the western seaboard.

► Aircraft-carrier INS Viraat has won the coveted Cock Trophy during the Western Fleet Whaler Pulling Regatta, making it the last time the warship participated in the event before she is decommissioned. INS Viraat was declared overall winner team and awarded the trophy.

► Flipkart, the leading domestic online marketplace, is all set to sell cars and bikes online. It is tying up with two Bengaluru-based dealers and is offering to sell Maruti Suzuki cars and Bajaj motorcycles.

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► Congress president Sonia Gandhi has hoisted the party flag at the party headquarters in New Delhi, marking the 130st Congress Foundation Day on December 28, 2015. Senior party leaders including vice-president Rahul Gandhi, former prime minister Manmohan Singh, Sheila Dikshit and spokesperson Manish Tewari were present on the occasion.

► The 44th Nagi Day was celebrated at Sri Ganga Nagar Military Station and Nagi (a small village located in Sri Karanpur close to International Boundary) in memory of gallant soldiers of the Indian Army who laid down their lives for the Nation during the famous Battle of Nagi on 27-28 Dec 1971.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated National Conference of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes entrepreneurs in the national capital.

► State-run heavy equipment-maker Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) has commissioned a 660 MW unit of the Prayagraj Super Thermal Power Project at Bara in Uttar Pradesh.

► The National Biotechnology Development Strategy -2015-2020 has been unveiled by the Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi.

► In a boost to India's maritime prowess, the Indian Navy has successfully test-fired 70 km-range Surface-to-Air Missile Barak 8 from INS Kolkata, paving the way for installation of the system, developed jointly by India and Israel, on board country's frontline warships.

► According to a new study, India could become the world's third largest economy after 2030 and its ascension could see France and Italy kicked out of the exclusive G8 group or its membership increased to 10 to accommodate India and Brazil.

► President Pranab Mukherjee has inaugurated the 98th annual conference of the Indian Economic Association in Hyderabad. The three-day conference is being organized by Indian Economic Association and the Centre for Economic and Social Studies in Hyderabad.

► Gujarat government is planning to extend the e-voting facility to panchayat polls, despite the lukewarm response it got in the recent municipal polls. At present, the e-voting facility is available only for voters of all the eight municipal corporations in the state.

► Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has hosted a breakfast meeting at his residence for Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella.

► Tax payers with annual income of more than Rs 10 lakh will not get subsidised cooking gas (LPG) from next month as the government decided to limit the supply of under-priced fuel to cut subsidies. At present, all households are entitled to get 12 cylinders of 14.2-kg each at subsidised rate of Rs 419.26, while the market price is Rs 608.

► Pakistani singer Adnan Sami has been granted Indian citizenship with effect from January 1 following his request to the Centre to legalise his status in the country on humanitarian grounds.

<p>► Cabinet Approvals</p> <p>i. Union Cabinet gives nod for India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation deal</p> <p>ii. Union Cabinet approved construction of 69 bridges on trilateral highway in Myanmar</p> <p>iii. Union Cabinet approved MoU between India & Jordan for promoting cooperation in IT & Electronics</p> <p>iv. CCEA approves Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for textile sector</p>	<p>► The Union Cabinet has approved to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia. It is also called the 'Raptor MoU' with the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS). It was initiated on October 22, 2008 and came into effect on November 1 the same year.</p>
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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ▶ Bangladesh and China have signed an agreement with respect to the construction of a 3.5-km tunnel under the Karnaphuli River in Chittagong. The estimated cost of the project is \$ 1 billion. Bangladesh's Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges signed the deal with China Communications Construction Company in Beijing, ministry spokesperson Abu Naser.
- ▶ According to the report from World Health Organization, Cuba has become the first country in the world to stamp out transmission of HIV and syphilis from a mother to her child.
- ▶ The six world powers (the UK, China, France, Russia, the US and Germany) and Iran have come to an agreement to extend the nuclear deal on Tehran's nuclear program until July 7 to allow more time for talks to reach a final deal.
- ▶ Scientists have identified two drugs for the treatment of deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus. The name of the two promising drugs are- REGN3051 and REGN3048 which have shown ability to neutralise the MERS virus.
- ▶ China has developed and commissioned a fixed-wing, anti-submarine patrol aircraft similar to the United States' P-3C Orion. The Chinese navy has got a four-engine Gaoxin-6, anti-submarine aircraft developed and manufactured by Aviation Industry Corp of China.
- ▶ Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka in the first week of July 2015 achieved Guinness World Records for spending most number of days in the space.
- ▶ Paytm is the latest company to jump on the person-to-person (P2P) money transfer bandwagon.
- ▶ The UN Human Rights body has adopted a resolution on addressing the human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.
- ▶ India has abstained from voting on a resolution on Palestine adopted at the UN rights body that calls for accountability by parties involved in conflict in Gaza.
- ▶ US secretary of defence Ash Carter met with French defence minister Jean-Yves Le Drian at the Pentagon, to strengthen cooperation with the aim to fight against this Islamic State (IS).
- ▶ Warren Buffett, the third wealthiest man in the World, has donated about \$2.84 billion of Berkshire Hathaway Inc stock to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and four family charities, as part of the billionaire's plan to give away nearly all of his wealth.
- ▶ Super typhoon Chan-hom waded towards eastern China in Shanghai on 11th July 2015, leading to evacuation of more than 865,000 people.
- ▶ Tunisia's status as a "non-NATO ally" of the United States has been approved on 10th July 2015. This important decision was taken by US State Department. Now, Tunisia has become the 16th country to become a part of NATO ally of United States.
- ▶ President Pranab Mukherjee has announced that India strongly supports Iraq's territorial integrity and its government's efforts to "overcome the current ISIS crisis".
- ▶ A historic deal was done on 14th July 2015 which aims at ensuring that Iran does not obtain the nuclear bomb, opening up Tehran's stricken economy and potentially

▶ India and Pakistan have decided to revive the stalled dialogue process and find ways to expedite trial of the Mumbai attack case. The leaders of both countries agreed to cooperate to eliminate terrorism from South Asia.

▶ WhatsApp could soon be banned in the United Kingdom, owing to the strict laws on social media and online messaging services. UK PM David Cameron is now looking at new legislation that plans 'to stop people from sending any form of encrypted messages. The popular messaging services in the UK are WhatsApp, iMessage and Snapchat.

▶ Film-maker Benoy Behl in fourth week of July 2015 won the Best Documentary Producer award at Madrid International Film Festival. He was awarded for producing and directing a documentary film titled Indian Roots of Tibetan Buddhism.

▶ PayPal Holdings, Inc., the digital payments company, has separated from eBay, the e-commerce company that acquired PayPal in 2002 for \$1.5 billion. It is now an independent public company trading on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol 'PYPL'.

▶ The UN Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution that endorses the landmark nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. The historical deal paves the way for lifting the crippling sanctions imposed by the world body against Tehran. Representatives of all 15 countries on the Security Council voted by raising their hands.

▶ According to an analysis by the Global Finance Magazine, the top three richest countries in the World are Qatar, Luxembourg and Singapore. The magazine has determined the poorest and richest ones based on data from the IMF.

ending decades of bad blood with the West.

▶ The world's oldest Koran fragments have been found by the University of Birmingham. Radiocarbon dating found the manuscript to be at least 1,370 years old, making it among the earliest in existence.

▶ Defence Secretary Ashton Carter announced that the United States has decided to end its ban on transgender soldiers serving in the armed forces. According to the current regulations, transgender service members are outdated and cause uncertainty that distracts commanders from core missions.

▶ Japan, the world's sixth biggest greenhouse gas polluter, has pledged to cut emissions 26 per cent from 2013 levels by 2030, a target observers judged inadequate to avert calamitous global warming.

▶ According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), China is expected to become the world's third largest nuclear generating country by 2017 surpassing South Korea and Japan. China is expected to surpass South Korea and Russia in nuclear generating capacity by the end of 2015, overtake Japan around 2017 and to be behind only after the US and France.

▶ Agile Spirit 2015 – the NATO's military training has ended on July 22' 2015 in Vaziani, Georgia. American, Bulgarian, Romanian, Lithuanian and Latvian military personnel were participated along with Georgia' Battalion 42 in the military exercises.

▶ China has started assembling the World's largest radio telescope, whose dish has the size of 30 football grounds. The telescope is being assembled in the mountains of southwest Guizhou Province to enhance its ability to observe outer space. The five-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Radio

▶ China has started assembling the world's largest sea plane which it plans to deploy in the disputed South China Sea. China Aviation Industry General Aircraft Co is developing the aircraft, which has received 17 domestic orders for what will be the world's largest sea plane.

▶ The United States and Cuba have reopened embassies in each other's countries for the first time in 54 year. This historical move has restored their full diplomatic ties.

▶ China has begun its construction of the sixth unit of the Hongyanhe plant in Liaoning province. China has taken the number of nuclear power units under construction to 26 and making it the largest expansion of nuclear power in the world.

▶ The European Union has banned the marketing of around 700 generic medicines for alleged manipulation of clinical trials conducted by India's pharmaceutical research company GVK Biosciences.

▶ China has become the World's largest potato producer, accounting for nearly a quarter of the global production. The most populous country is also the largest consumer of Potato.

▶ India ranks second to Mexico on a list of kidnapping hotspots ahead of Pakistan, Iraq and Nigeria. For specialty underwriters sitting in global reinsurance markets like London, India has a dubious distinction. It ranks second only to Mexico on a list of kidnapping hotspots—ahead of Pakistan, Iraq and Nigeria. The ranking is published by Control risk.

▶ China has set up the world's largest mosquito factory in northwestern Guangzhou province to tackle dengue fever

Telescope (FAST) nestles in a bowl-shaped valley.

▶ Chinese scientists have successfully tested the power system of a Long March-5 carrier rocket scheduled for flight in 2016. The fifth-generation launch vehicle of the Long March family, has entered a "runoff" phase.

▶ China will press its Supercomputer Skyeye-1, capable of a quadrillion computing operations per second, to support space exploration by the world's largest radio telescope being built in its Guizhou Province.

▶ The Gadhimai festival, the world's largest animal sacrifice held in Nepal, will see no more bloodshed as animal sacrifice has now been banned. The Gadhimai Temple Trust has put an end to a religious practice that had been continuing for the last 300 years. The festival is held for every five years.

▶ Kazakhstan became 162th member of WTO or World Trade Organization. The agreement was signed between the WTO Director General Robert Azevedo and Kazakhstan president Nursultan Nazarbayev at Geneva.

▶ NASA has extended its contract with the Russian Federal Space Agency to transport U.S. astronauts to the International Space Station for the foreseeable future. The United States has been dependent on Russia for ISS access since it ended its space shuttle program in July 2012.

▶ The world's first ever ant map, showing the distribution of the tiny industrious creatures around the globe, has been launched by the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

▶ Indian-American Atul Keshap has been confirmed as the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives, becoming the second

by releasing one million sterilised mosquitoes every week.

► The European Organisation for Nuclear Research, known as CERN, has formally conferred its associate membership on Pakistan. Pakistan has thus become the first member of CERN among Asian countries. The cooperation between Pakistan and CERN rooted back to signing of a cooperation agreement in 1994.

► Lithuania will unveil the statue of Mahatma Gandhi a few hundred metres from the Russian border. The local municipality officials have chosen a spot right next to the river and by a historic Jewish synagogue to install the monument.

► Aprecia's Spritam- becomes first anti-epilepsy pill manufactured with 3D printer to get the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) approval. The pill will be launched in Market by 2016. Structure of the pill 'Spritam' was developed by using ZipDose 3D printing technology by Aprecia Pharmaceuticals.

► Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has announced cuts to the country's greenhouse gas emissions. Australia, the world's largest exporter of coal and iron ore will cut emissions by 26-28 percent of 2005 levels by 2030.

► According to Forbes' tech billionaires list, there are just two Indians in the top 100. They are Azim Premji of Wipro and Shiv Nadar of HCL Technologies. The list is completely dominated by the US, from where 51 names figure in the list. Bill Gates, Larry Ellison, and Jeff Bezos are at top three.

► Africa has marked one year since the last case of recorded polio. The last recorded case on the continent was in Somalia in August 11 2014. The Health officials must wait two more years before declaring the

Indian-origin diplomat to be posted to the region after Richard Rahul Verma.

► Egypt has unveiled a major extension of the Suez Canal billed by its President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi as a historic achievement needed to boost the country's ailing economy after years of unrest. The extension deepens the main waterway and provides ships with a 35km (22 mile) channel parallel to it.

► TurkmenGaz, will lead Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline. TurkmenGaz owns largest stake in TAPI.

► The Finance Ministry has imposed definitive anti-dumping duty on Potassium Carbonate imports from Taiwan and South Korea. This follows recommendation of the Designated Authority in the Commerce Ministry in its final findings in the sunset review investigations.

► Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed al Nahyan welcomes Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his arrival in Abu Dhabi. Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital where Modi is currently camping, has a sovereign wealth fund of about \$800 billion. This fund is parked with the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

► Tens of thousands of South Korean and US troops kicked off a large-scale military drill simulating an all-out attack by North Korea, which has condemned the joint drill as a "declaration of war." The annual Ulchi Freedom exercise is largely computer-simulated, but still involves 50,000 Korean and 3,000 US soldiers.

► Russia and China are going to conduct International naval drills in the Sea of Japan from August 20-28. Sailors, marines and naval air pilots of the two countries will be

continent free from the highly infectious virus.

► The United States' warplanes have carried out their first air strikes on ISIS in Syria after taking off from a Turkish base. US drones had previously executed a single lethal air strike against an ISIS targets in Syria. It is the first time that manned US fighter jets had carried out raids after taking off from Turkey's strategically located Incirlik base.

► China and Pakistan have signed agreements worth \$1.6 billion to implement the China Pakistan Economic Corridor or CPEC project. The agreements were signed at Karamay city in Xinjiang province. The 3,000-km CPEC connecting Xinjiang with Pakistan's Gwadar Port through Pakistan is stated to cost USD 46 billion.

► On August 15, Queen Elizabeth II led celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

► The United States has launched the biggest allied airborne drills in Europe since the Cold War ended. Nearly 5,000 soldiers from 11 NATO allies are taking part in four weeks of "simultaneous multinational airborne operations" across Germany, Italy, Bulgaria and Romania. Named as Swift Response 15, it is the largest Allied airborne training event on the continent since the end of the Cold War.

► The US Air Force has launched an unarmed Minuteman 3 missile from California in a test of the intercontinental ballistic missile system. The missile was blasted from Vandenberg Air Force Base on the coast northwest of Los Angeles.

► Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Sun Pharma Industries are the three Indian companies that have been named among the world's 100 most innovative companies by Forbes in a list that

training together in combined operations in an amphibious assault exercise.

► Incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe is all set to take oath as Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister. The Former president Mahinda Rajapaksa's attempt to stage a comeback in Sri Lanka's general election has ended in defeat.

► A senior ISIS operative and second in the terror group's chain of command, Fadhil Ahmad al-Hayali, has been killed in a U.S. military air strike. Fadhil Ahmad al-Hayali, also known as Hajji Mutazz, was in a moving car near the ISIS capital of Mosul, Iraq, when it was hit by a drone strike.

► Mr Tsipras, who was only elected in January resigned from the PM post. The another election date is yet to be set but it may be 20 September. Mr Tsipras will lead his leftist Syriza party into the polls. The election will effectively be a referendum on the 41-year-old Mr. Tsipras and his bailout agreement with the rest of the Eurozone.

► Iran has re-opened its embassy in London and the British embassy in Iran has reopened, nearly four years after the mob attack. The UK embassy was closed in 2011 after it was stormed by protesters during a demonstration against sanctions.

► China's stock market fell drastically by its biggest margin in eight years, defying the government's multibillion-dollar attempt to stop a slide that has wiped out all of the gains of this year's price boom.

► Islamic State militants have destroyed Palmyra's ancient temple of Baalshamin. IS took control of Palmyra in May, sparking fears for the site. It is considered one of the ancient world's most important cultural centres.

has been topped by Tesla Motors.

▶ Pakistan has cancelled the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which was scheduled for September 2015. The conference was to bring together speakers of Commonwealth nations in Islamabad.

▶ In a landmark defence agreement, Russia has agreed to sell four advanced Mi-35 'Hind E' combat helicopters to Pakistan. Both countries were negotiating the deal for the past one year.

▶ Abdul Aziz Haqqani, a top leader of Pakistan-based Haqqani network, has been named as a 'Specially Designated Global Terrorist' by the US for his involvement in planning and carrying out attacks against Afghanistan. Aziz Haqqani assumed the leadership role of the al Qaeda-linked Haqqani network after the death of his brother Badruddin Haqqani.

▶ A panel of NASA scientists has revealed that sea levels worldwide rose an average of nearly 3 inches (8 cm) since 1992 due to warming waters and melting ice. In 2013, a UN panel predicted sea levels would rise from 1 to 3 feet (0.3 to 0.9 meters) by the end of the century. Sea levels are rising faster than they did 50 years ago.

▶ For the first time ever, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has hosted an Indian Army delegation in the Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) area along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

▶ Indo-UK bilateral Air Exercise Indradhanush between Indian Air Force (IAF) and British Royal Air Forces (RAF) has been concluded. The Exercise Indradhanush started in Britain on 21 July 2015. During the 10-day exercise different elements of the IAF

▶ Russia has launched the military exercises in the Arctic. More than 1,000 soldiers, 14 aircraft and 34 special military units are taking part in drills in N Siberia.

▶ Vassiliki Thanou, president of Greece's supreme court, has sworn in as head of a caretaker government that will lead the heavily indebted nation until election, which is expected to take place on 20 September.

▶ The United Kingdom is among 36 new countries to be added to India's electronic visa or e-visa system from Independence Day. The e-visa route will allow British nationals flying to India for tourism and recreational purposes to apply and pay for their visa online and carry a printout as proof.

▶ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of MoU between the India and Nepal for the construction of a petroleum products pipeline from Raxaul (India) to Amlekhgunj (Nepal).

▶ Due to the rise in cyber threats, India and the US have decided to join hands in combating cyber crime and bolster their cyber security partnership in various strategic spheres. The United States is looking forward to a collaborative partnership with Indian colleagues.

▶ India and Nepal on 24th August 2015 decided to invest Rs 200 crore on a pipeline for supplying petro-products to the Himalayan country. This would be the first oil pipeline project between two countries in the SAARC region. India's flagship refiner IndianOil would fund and construct the pipeline. In return for the funding, Nepal has given commitment to buy products from IndianOil for at least 15 years.

contingent operated from separate RAF bases.

▶ India and Mozambique have signed an Memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen the cooperation in New and Renewable Energy Sector. The agreement was signed during the official visit of Filipe Nyusi, President of Mozambique to India.

▶ The security agencies of India and Bangladesh have signed an MoU in tackling the menace of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN). These notes are also being used for funding human and drug trafficking and other nefarious activities in that country. The fake currency notes issue is one of the major threats to national security.

▶ India and Canada are jointly working to finalise a bilateral foreign investment agreement to accelerate investments. Jason Kenney, Canada's minister of national defence and minister for multiculturalism, said the foreign investment protection and promotion agreement will benefit investors from both the countries by providing "greater certainty" for Canadian firms with existing investments in India.

▶ The GOI has approved the signing and ratification of the agreement between India and Seychelles for exchange of information with respect to taxes. The agreement will stimulate information exchange between India and Seychelles for tax purposes, which will help curb tax evasion and avoidance.

▶ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of a MoU between India and Australia on cooperation in the fields of education, training and research.

▶ Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster, and Digital Television Russia (DTR), Russia's first Pay-TV programmer, has signed an MoU on Cooperation which

▶ India and UAE have launched a forum to discuss strategies and solutions to investor challenges in India. The forum has been named as Arab-India Economic Forum (AIEF). The forum has been formed in partnership with the Consulate General of India in Dubai.

▶ India and Scotland have held a business summit in Scotland to strengthen bilateral trade ties. The summit focused on creating an awareness among Scottish companies for doing business in India under PM Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' initiative.

▶ India and Australia will hold their first ever joint naval drills in the Indian Ocean. The maritime exercises, to be held in the Bay of Bengal off India's eastern coast on September, will include anti-submarine warfare and coordinated anti-submarine drills.

▶ The Sixth Joint Military Training Exercise between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Forces (EXERCISE EKUVERIN – VI), will be conducted at Pangode Military Station, Trivandrum, Kerala from 31 Aug to 13 Sep 2015.

▶ The second Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation or FIPIC Summit has concluded in Jaipur. Heads of state and senior officials of fourteen island countries were participated in the summit.

▶ Rajavarothiam Sampanthan, a Tamil lawmaker became leader of the opposition in Sri Lanka's parliament for the first time in 32 years. The 82-year-old moderate heads the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), which emerged from last month's election as the third-largest force with 16 seats in the 225-member assembly.

▶ Saigas, a type of antelope known for their prominently shaped noses, have been dying at alarming rates this year. Though

will set the stage for a new media era in both the countries.

► According to the study from researchers of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and Imperial College London, majority of the world's seabirds have plastic in their gut. If this continues, by 2050, 99% of sea birds will have plastic in their stomachs.

► The Canadian economy shrank again in the second quarter, putting the country in recession for the first time since the financial crisis, with a plunge in oil prices spurring companies to chop business investment.

► Gazelles, the Middle East's most iconic mammals, whose habitat is in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, have dropped to about 2,000 identified individuals. The tan, white and black gazelles are a familiar sight in the Jerusalem forest.

► A Guatemalan judge has ordered former president, Otto Perez Molina, to be held in prison while hearings take place over his alleged role in a huge bribery scheme.

► Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel said that her country won't stop anyone from seeking asylum, as thousands of migrants desperate to leave Hungary made their way westward to Germany and Austria.

► Shaheen (Eagle)-4, a joint drill between the air forces of China and Pakistan has began in China. The Chinese contingent includes fighter jets, fighter bombers and early warning planes while its Pakistani counterpart dispatched fighter jets and early warning planes.

► South Korea and United States have launched a joint anti-biological exercise to step up their combined response to potential biological attacks. The three-day Able Response 15 exercise will involve the

other species occasionally experience massive die-offs, this one is particularly worrisome, because there are only a few saiga herds left in the world: several in Kazakhstan, one in Russia and one in Mongolia.

► Thousands of migrants poured into Austria and Germany, as escalating tensions in Hungary forced the two countries to open their borders to one of the largest waves of people since World War II. The Austrian police said more than 4,000 people had crossed over its border from neighboring Hungary, while German officials said they expect as many as 10,000 migrants to arrive in the country by the end of the day.

► Japan has invited residents to return to a town evacuated in 2011 after the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster. Naraha is the first town to allow people to return permanently, following several years of decontamination work.

► Food and Agriculture Organization's 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment, the world's forested area declined from 31.6 to 30.6 percent of the Earth's land surface. This represented a loss of 129 million hectares of forest — equivalent to nearly 500,000 square miles. According to the United Nations, that's "an area almost equivalent in size to South Africa." It's also nearly two Texases.

► Queen Elizabeth II has surpassed her great-great Grand Mother Queen Victoria's record as the UK's longest serving monarch. Queen Elizabeth II has now reigned over Britain and the Commonwealth for 63 years and 217 days. The queen has been on the throne since she was 25.

► Japan has evacuated about 100,000 people from their homes, after rare torrential rains unleashed floods. Some people are reported to be missing. A further

defence departments of both the countries as well as the local health ministry and dozens of other institutions.

► PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi is the only Indian-origin executive in Fortune's list of 50 most powerful women in business, which has been topped by General Motors CEO Mary Barra. India-born Nooyi is ranked 2nd on the list, moving up a notch from her third position last year.

► As per a new study, first dengue treatment has come closer to reality. Clinical trials for a dengue fever treatment could start within a year, following a discovery by University of Queensland scientists.

► The UN General Assembly has overwhelmingly approved to raise Palestine flag over the UN in New York. The move is seen as a symbolic step in the pursuit of statehood. The motion was passed by 119 votes, with eight nations, including Israel and the United States, voting against it.

► Europe has put up another two spacecraft in its Galileo sat-nav system. The satellites were launched on a Soyuz rocket from French Guiana. With the successful launch, Europe came a step closer to setting up its own satellite navigation system.

► US based Hindi Sangam Foundation will be organising the Third International Hindi Conference at Rutgers University, New Jersey from March 4-6, 2016 to promote Hindi in America.

► China has built a museum to commemorate those who made the country's first hydrogen bomb and satellites in the 1960s and early 1970s.

► Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell was crowned 2016 Miss America on Sunday in a pageant that was overshadowed by a scandal from

800,000 people across eastern Japan have been advised to evacuate after officials issued predawn warnings of unusually harsh rainfall.

► Scientists in South Africa have discovered a new human-like species in a burial chamber deep in a cave system in South Africa. The researchers claim that the discovery will change ideas about our human ancestors. The discovery of 15 partial skeletons is the largest single discovery of its type in Africa. The research was published in eLife.

► Canada, India, Singapore and Egypt are showing interest in buying France's two Mistral warships. Paris scrapped the deal to sell the vessels to Russia due to the Ukraine crisis.

► An Italian-Chinese medical team has planned to perform the world's first head transplant on a 30-year-old Russian computer scientist in China and the procedure may take place by December, 2017.

► Singapore's prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong return to power again in a massive victory for the 12th time since independence. It has won every elections since 1965. The PAP got 83 of the 89 seats in Parliament while the opposition Workers' Party captured six.

► Indian corporate Embee International is in the process of acquiring 33,000 acres of land for farming in Egypt where it will invest over Rs 5,000 crore to grow pulses and vegetables.

► The UN General Assembly chose the path of text-based negotiations for carrying out Security Council reforms. India's goal of becoming a permanent member of the UN security council took a significant step

three decades ago.

▶ Malcolm Turnbull becomes the 29th Prime Minister of Australia. He has won the election with 44 votes out of 54 consequently defeating the former Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

▶ Seema Malhotra, 43-year-old Indian-origin British MP, has been appointed as the shadow chief secretary for Treasury by the newly elected Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

▶ Scientists have just found the world's longest chain of volcanoes in Australia, hiding in plain sight. New research reveals a hidden hotspot once churned beneath regions with no signs of surface volcanism, connecting these separate strings of volcanoes into one megachain.

▶ In a historical move, US President Barack Obama has nominated Eric Fanning as Army secretary and make him the first openly gay person to serve in that role.

▶ France announced its first air strikes against the Islamic State group in Syria on 26th September 2015. France cited legitimate defence as its rationale for planning the strikes, while ruling out ground operations.

▶ Telenor Group has announced that it had changed its brand identity along with legal company name from Uninor, its subsidiary in India, as Telenor India Communications Pvt. Ltd.

▶ Greek leftist Alexis Tsipras stormed back into office with an unexpectedly decisive election victory, claiming a clear mandate to steer Greece's battered economy to recovery.

▶ The Indo-China Combined Military Training Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2015 will be conducted from 12 to 23 October 2015 at

forward.

▶ Hungary closes down a key border crossing from Serbia overnight leaving thousands of migrants stranded. Many spent the night in the open at the border crossing in Horgos.

▶ The rapid increase in activities of the ISIS in India's neighbourhood, particularly in Maldives and Bangladesh, has risen the fear of its impact in the country.

▶ North Korea has resumed normal operations at the Yongbyon complex, the country's main nuclear facility. North Korea appears to be intensifying nuclear and ballistic missile development efforts that could lead to further international sanctions against the Kim Jong Un regime.

▶ UNICEF says attacks by armed extremist group Boko Haram have forced 500,000 children to flee their homes in the last five months. The U.N.'s children agency says 1.4 million children overall are "on the run" in Nigeria and neighboring countries where the group has sown terror in recent months.

▶ Syrian government war planes have launched one of the heaviest bombardments yet on the city of Palmyra, which is held by Islamic State (IS) militants. About 25 air strikes left at least 26 people dead, including 12 militants.

▶ Indonesia has pledged to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 29 per cent by 2030 through stepping up protection of forests and boosting the renewable energy sector.

▶ The WHO took Nigeria off the list of polio-endemic countries, hailing a "historic achievement" more than a year after the last recorded case of the disease in Africa's most populous nation.

Kunming Military Academy, Yunnan, China.

► In one of the mega acquisitions in the global IT space, PC maker Dell Inc will acquire EMC Corporation for about USD 67 billion.

► Portugal became the first European country to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of Nalanda University.

► The Navies of India, United States and Japan have begun the five-day Malabar exercise 2015 on the Eastern Coast.

► Etihad Airways and IBM have announced an information technology deal worth 700 million US dollars for over 10 years.

► The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved MoU between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India and Mozambique.

► The Australian government has reissued an environmental permit for construction of one of the world's biggest coal mines to Adani Enterprises, after clearing concerns about two rare outback species.

► Government of India has approved an agreement for cooperation with Taipei in the field of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

► China has operationalised the \$1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet — built on the Brahmaputra River. The dam has ignited concerns in India over the likelihood of disruption of water supplies.

► The Cabinet Committee on Security cleared a massive infrastructure project for the Bangladesh border. Projects worth Rs. 4,400 crore were cleared by the CCS headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week, but no announcement was made by the

► Cow has been declared as the national animal of Nepal in the country's newly secular constitution. Some lawmakers have proposed the one-horned rhino as national animal.

► China has successfully launched 20th new generation satellite for its BeiDou Navigation system, moving a step closer to build its own Global Positioning System to compete with the US-operated GPS.

► Bangladesh will set up textile park in Gujarat. In the beginning, the park will have spinning units with cumulative capacity of 1 lakh spindles. Bangladesh has sought around 100 acres of land from the state government for the project.

► The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of 2904.04 crore rupees for the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar.

► India and Israel have signed two agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation. The Agreements are,

- A cultural exchange programme for 2015-2018
- The amendment to the protocol on Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

► Google Inc. on has completed the move to reorganize as Alphabet, and its stock will begin trading as Alphabet on the Nasdaq under the same tickers "GOOG" and "GOOGL".

► Amazon is to stop selling video-streaming TV devices from Google and Apple because they don't "interact well" with its own media service.

► Iran tested a new precision-guided

government.

▶ India has given a grant of five million US Dollars to Palestine as Budgetary assistance. It was given Indian President Pranab Mukherjee to his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah.

▶ India has signed a contract with a Slovenian firm for 194 microlight aircraft to be used by Indian Air Force, the Navy and the National Cadet Corps (NCC). The contract has been signed with Pipistrel for 'Virus FW80'. The Indian version of the aircraft will be known as 'Garur'.

▶ Indian community groups in the UK have launched a 'Modi Express' bus for a month-long tour around iconic landmarks here to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's maiden visit to the country next month.

▶ India and Israel have signed a pact to cooperate in criminal matters, including execution of summons and warrants by each other's courts.

▶ India, Japan and the United States will hold joint naval exercises each year, Indian government sources said, as the three countries kicked off the first such drills in the Bay of Bengal in eight years, a move likely to concern China.

▶ Veteran Communist leader K P Sharma Oli has sworn in as Nepal's 38th Prime Minister, a day after he was elected in Parliament with support from smaller parties.

▶ The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the drug Keytruda to treat the most common form of lung cancer.

The FDA cleared this immunotherapy drug to treat patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) whose tumours express a protein called PD-L1, and whose disease

ballistic missile in defiance of a United Nations ban, signaling an apparent advance in Iranian attempts to improve the accuracy of its missile arsenal.

▶ Swiss biotechnology major Roche has launched two new medicines in India for treating breast cancer that seek to increase longevity for patients and improve their quality of life.

The new drugs, 'Perjeta' and 'Kadcyla', have been shown to both extend survival and improve quality of life in their approved applications for metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer.

▶ The United Nations owes India an amount of USD 85 million for its contribution towards peacekeeping operations including troops, police and equipment. The largest amount owed was to Pakistan at USD 97 million; followed by Ethiopia at USD 87 million; India at USD 85 million; Bangladesh at USD 84 million; Rwanda at USD 55 million; and Nepal at USD 44 million.

▶ President Barack Obama has confirmed plans to extend the US military presence in Afghanistan beyond 2016. Obama said the US would keep 5,500 troops in the country when he leaves office in 2017. The US military says more troops will be needed to help Afghan forces counter a growing Taliban threat.

▶ The Myanmar government has signed a peace accord with eight of the 15 ethnic armed groups, a ceremony which was attended by India along with other five "international witnesses".

▶ Chinese and Indonesian state-owned companies have signed a USD 5.5 billion deal to build the first high-speed railway in Southeast Asia's top economy, after Beijing beat Tokyo to win the construction project.

has progressed after other treatments.

▶ India and Jordan have signed six Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) in various fields.

- MoU on executive programme for cultural exchange between the Jordanian and Indian governments.
- MoU on Communication and Information Technology to cooperate in the field of ICT and electronics fields.
- MoU between Jordan News Agency Petra and the Press Trust of India (PTI).
- MoU on Maritime Transport Sector.
- MoU between Jordan Institute of Diplomacy and Indian Foreign Service Institute (IFSI).
- MoU between Indian Metrological Department (IMD) and Jordan Standards and Metrology Organisation to cooperate in assessment techniques.

▶ The third India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise Mitra Shakti-2015 has ended after a grand closing ceremony held at Aundh Military Camp, Pune.

▶ India and Maldives also signed two MoUs on cooperation between Foreign Service Institutes and on Cooperation in Sports & Youth Affairs.

▶ President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated a street in the capital city of Jordan named after Mahatma Gandhi.

▶ Amid China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea, India, Japan and the United States at their first-ever trilateral ministerial dialogue held in New York.

▶ A delegation from the UAE Space Agency has undertaken a visit to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to discuss

▶ China has put into orbit a new communication satellite in a commercial mission by the Long March-3B carrier rocket from the southwestern Xichang Satellite Launch Centre.

▶ Pakistan and Russia have signed a major agreement to build a 1,100-kilometre gas pipeline from Lahore to Karachi at an estimated cost of \$2 billion.

▶ Nepalese lawmakers have elected the country's first woman speaker of Parliament following formation of a new government after promulgation of the Constitution. The Parliament unanimously elected UCPN-Maoist lawmaker Onsari Gharti Magar as the Speaker of the House.

▶ Thousands of people fled as powerful Typhoon Koppu hit the northern Philippines.

▶ A U.S. jury has ordered Apple Inc to pay the University of Wisconsin-Madison's patent licensing arm more than \$234 million in damages for incorporating its microchip technology into some of the company's iPhones and iPads without permission.

▶ NATO is launching its biggest military exercise (Trident Juncture) in 13 years, mobilizing 36,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen from more than 30 countries to test the alliance's ability to respond to new security threats.

▶ Top officials of several Indian Universities have converged at Beijing to attend the BRICS University President Forum 2015 that began a three-day meeting.

▶ China has successfully launched its first typhoon detecting rocket just as typhoon Mujigae hit its southern Guangdong province.

▶ China launched four satellites for commercial remote sensing services. The

possibilities of cooperation between the two space organizations.

- ▶ The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva has adopted a consensus resolution on accountability for the alleged human rights violations during the Sri Lankan civil war.
- ▶ The US Treasury Department has issued a list of 34 countries which includes India with whom it would share information under FATCA (foreign account tax compliance act) regulations.
- ▶ According to the latest report from the UN children's agency, more than 500 children have been killed in war-torn Yemen since March. The UN estimates that more than 2,300 civilians have died since fighting escalated in the poor Arab nation.
- ▶ The United States finds itself once again reeling from another mass shooting at an educational institution, after nine people were killed by a gunman at Oregon's Umpqua Community College.
- ▶ A menu for the last luncheon served to the first-class passengers aboard the ill-fated Titanic has sold for \$88,000 at an online auction.
- ▶ NATO launches its biggest military exercise (Trident Juncture) since 2002, putting 36,000 alliance soldiers through their paces in Italy, Spain and Portugal to boost preparedness against the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis.
- ▶ The expanded version of the coordinated patrol (CORPAT), with the first ever bilateral India-Indonesia Bilateral Maritime Exercise, is scheduled from 17-18 Oct 15 in the Andaman Sea.
- ▶ Ajay Sharma, an Indian-origin diplomat, will be the new British Ambassador to

"Jilin-1" satellites, launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in China's Gansu province, include one optical remote-sensing satellite, two satellites for video imaging and another for imaging technique testing.

- ▶ China has launched a satellite developed by a group of students which is used for global maritime automatic identification and demonstrating information exchanges between satellites in-orbit.
- ▶ Justin Trudeau, the young leader of Canada's Liberals and the son of a popular former prime minister, has surged to a stunning election victory, bringing a dramatic end to Stephen Harper's nine-year government.
- ▶ United States and Spain have reached an in principle agreement to clean up land at Palomares site (in Spain) contaminated by plutonium radiation from undetonated US nuclear bombs.
- ▶ Libya's internationally-recognized parliament on 19 October 2015 refused to sign the United Nations (UN)-backed peace deal that proposed a power-sharing arrangement with rival Islamist-led authorities.
- ▶ World football's governing body Fifa has confirmed it will hold the election for its next president at a special congress on 26 February 2016.
- ▶ India and Russia have discussed ways to boost their economic ties and triple their bilateral trade to US 30 billion in the next decade.
- ▶ The People's Bank of China launched a yuan-denominated bond in London for the first time as it seeks to internationalise its currency. The debt sale worth 5.0 billion

Qatar. Sharma, currently the charge d'affaires to Iran, will take up his new assignment in November 2015.

▶ ISIS militants have destroyed the iconic Arch of Triumph in Palmyra, the latest cultural treasure of the ancient site that they have reduced to rubble. The 1,800-year-old monumental arch, which framed the approach to the Roman city, was blown up by the militants.

▶ India and Germany have signed around 18 agreements and memorandum of understanding (MoUs) in various sectors.

▶ Israel is barring some Palestinians from the Old City of Jerusalem after two attacks, one fatal, on Israelis.

▶ California finally allowed terminally ill patients to end their lives legally under the supervision of doctors as they now have a right to die.

▶ Twelve Pacific Rim countries reached the most ambitious trade pact that cuts trade barriers, sets labour and environmental standards and protects multinational corporations' intellectual property.

▶ According to the report from Brazil's Health officials, nearly 700 people have died so far this year after contracting dengue fever, the deadly mosquito-borne disease running rampant across Central and South America.

▶ China has launched the first phase of its much anticipated China International Payment System (CIPS), a milestone in bolstering yuan's global usage and furthering cross-border clearing of its currency from the Chinese mainland instead of offshore centres abroad.

▶ China will build four of the eight submarines in the port city of Karachi under

yuan (690 million euros) for one-year bonds was heavily oversubscribed.

▶ The United States and Russia have signed a memorandum of understanding establishing air safety measures as they conduct separate bombing campaigns over Syria, the Pentagon says.

▶ Jubilant Life Sciences shares gained as much as 4 per cent after the company announced that it has received approval from the US health regulator for its generic version of Merck's acute migraine treatment medicine, Maxalt-MLT.

▶ Washington and Madrid have reached a new agreement in principle for the United States to clean up land contaminated by radiation from undetonated nuclear bombs that accidentally fell on a site in southern Spain in 1966.

▶ Recognizing the significant mutual benefit that can be derived from-cooperation in the area of shipping between the two countries, the Union cabinet has approved for signing of an agreement between India and Egypt on maritime transport.

▶ South African batsman AB de Villiers has been roped in as the brand ambassador of tyre manufacturing giants MRF Limited.

▶ India and Maldives will soon sign an agreement for cooperation on terrorism, transnational crime and criminal matters.

▶ The UN flag will be flown along with the national flag on all buildings on which the tricolor is regularly flown on October 24 to mark the United Nations Day. The UN flag can be displayed on either side of the national flag.

▶ Japan is going to join a hand with India

a defence deal signed with Pakistan.

► Finance ministers from 20 of the countries most vulnerable to climate change launched the V20 group to pool resources for their fight against the impact of global warming.

► The BRICS nations have issued a Joint Declaration to ensure orderly and legal migration amongst member nations and respect human rights.

► Fiji's parliament has elected Jioji Konrote as the Pacific island country's next president.

► In Canada's newly elected Liberal government, under prime minister designate Justin Trudeau, Indian Canadians have notched up a record number of 19 seats.

► External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has inaugurated the India Africa Friendship Rose garden ahead of the third India Africa Summit in New Delhi.

► China, Japan and South Korea will hold a summit in South Korea when Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visits, for the first such meeting since they were discontinued in 2012 due to tension dating back to World War Two.

► Indian School of Business and Australia's Deakin University have agreed to collaborate in research, teaching, student exchange programmes, internationalising curriculum, and developing innovative approaches to meet international accreditation standards.

► Jimmy Morales, a former TV comedian who has never held office, swept to power in Guatemala's presidential election after milking public anger over a corruption scandal.

► Poland's opposition Law and Justice

by providing USD 15 billion at an interest rate of less than 1% to build bullet trains.

► India and France have firmed up an understanding on the offsets segment under which the French have agreed to invest 50 per cent of the Rafale deal's worth in related sectors.

► The Ziyuan III, China's first high-resolution stereo mapping satellite for civilian use, has sent back visual data covering 69.45 million square kilometres of the globe since it was launched in January 2012.

► Scientists who conducted their research in Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands found that the chemical oxybenzone -- used in more than 3,500 sunscreen products worldwide, including those by popular brands such as Coppertone, L'Oreal and Banana Boat -- was extremely harmful to fragile coral reefs.

► Facebook has launched a new portal (TechPrep) geared towards women, students and their parents which have traditionally had less exposure to careers in coding as part of the company's push to increase minorities in technology.

► Britain has signed a landmark nuclear deal with China to build the United Kingdom's first nuclear power plant since the 1980s.

► China's top two nuclear power companies planned to combine their technologies in the country's flagship third-generation reactor Hualong 1 to avoid competing for business abroad.

► For the first time in almost 40 years, NASA has completed all steps needed to clear a critical design review (CDR) for the most powerful rocket ever built that will

party – conservative and Eurosceptic – has won parliamentary elections. The party is expected to have enough seats to govern alone – something unprecedented in 26 years.

▶ An Indian-origin structural engineer who helped build Europe's tallest building, the Shard in London, has been invited to Buckingham Palace by Queen Elizabeth II.

▶ The World Health Organization (WHO) has released a report titled Reducing global health risks through mitigation of short-lived climate pollutants.

▶ Seeking to boost ties with Africa, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India will offer concessional credit of \$10 billion over the next five years.

▶ China finally lifted one child policy after 36 long years. The policy was implemented 36 years back and was seen as a global landmark that reduced an estimated 400 million births and saved millions from starvation.

▶ On the concluding day of the third India-Africa Forum Summit 2015 here, India and Africa Forum on October 26 adopted a "Delhi Declaration 2015" and "India-Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation".

▶ John Magufuli of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) defeated his closest opponent Edward Lowassa in the Tanzania presidential elections, extending the party's rule for another five years.

▶ China's first lunar rover, Yutu, has been operating on the moon for almost two years, setting a record for the longest stay by a rover.

▶ BRICS countries- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa agreed for co-investment of resources for supporting

take humans to deeper space missions, including Mars.

▶ Vietnam's defense minister says his country wants good and friendly relations with both the United States and China, and will not favor one over the other.

▶ Mexican authorities have begun evacuating residents ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Patricia. The storm is comparable to Typhoon Haiyan, which killed 6,300 people in the Philippines in 2013, the World Meteorological Organization says.

▶ President Barack Obama has named Brett McGurk as the new official in charge of the US led coalition against the Islamic State group.

▶ India is the third-largest international student market in London after China and the US. International students studying at London universities last year provided a 3 billion pounds boost to the UK economy and helped support 37,000 jobs.

▶ From November 2015, students trying to copy in examinations in China will face a jail term of up to seven years as the government has brought about a new law making cheating a crime.

▶ China has successfully sent its third mapping satellite of the Tianhui-1 series into orbit which will enhance the country's ability to carry out scientific research, mapping and disaster relief.

▶ Lions, that symbol of Africa's wild beauty, power and freedom, no longer roam in Mali. Or in Ivory Coast or Ghana or war-shattered eastern Congo. Or most of the rest of West Africa.

▶ The United Nations said that the worsening conflict in Syria has left 13.5 million Syrians in need of aid and some form

multilateral R&D Projects in mutually agreed areas. T

► World Health Organization (WHO) on 28 October 2015 released Global Tuberculosis Report 2015 in Washington. This is the twentieth global report on tuberculosis (TB) that started in 1997.

► Global IT services company HCL Technologies on 29 October 2015 acquired PowerObjects, a leading North American provider of Microsoft Dynamics CRM, for approximately 299 crore rupees.

► In the wake of China agreeing to supply oil to Nepal, India on Friday offered to airlift Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to the Himalayan country to beat the ongoing blockade on the border

► India and the US held a key trade meeting here that focussed on translating "enhanced" engagement into tangible results amid a "high bar" of relationship set by their top leadership.

► Former guerilla commander from Nepal's UCPN (Maoist) Nanda Kishor Pun was elected as the country's new vice-president.

► India had launched National Super Computing Mission, jointly being implemented by the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

► A Russian passenger plane crashed early Saturday in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 people aboard. Russian state media reported that many of the 217 passengers on Kogalymavia Flight 9268 were Russians returning from vacation.

► Turkey's Islamist-rooted AK Party swept to an unexpected victory in elections on Sunday, returning the country to single-party

of protection, including more than six million children.

► Ignoring the privacy concerns, the US Senate overwhelmingly passed a controversial cybersecurity bill. The Senate passed the bill by 74-21 votes and now the bill heads for reconciliation with the earlier-passed House cybersecurity bill.

► Exim Bank has announced that it will set up a development firm, the Kukuza Project Development Company (KPDC), in Africa to facilitate Indian participation in infrastructure projects across the continent.

► Bidhya Devi, a Communist leader who has long campaigned for women's rights was elected as Nepal's first female President.

► Google's Internet-beaming balloons are ready to take off on the next phase of their mission to deliver online access in regions where most people live offline.

► Pakistan failed to win a re-election to the top UN human rights body, gathering just 105 votes in the 193-member General Assembly.

► According to the United Nations report, the Asia Pacific region is the most disaster-prone part of the world.

► The Union Ministry of Culture and National Library of France have entered into an MoU under which the two countries would cooperate in conservation, development and publicity of written heritage at the National Library of Kolkata.

► Nepal signed its first ever fuel agreement with China to supply petroleum to ease a crippling shortage after protests blocked imports from sole supplier India.

► The United Nations General Assembly has almost unanimously voted to condemn

rule in an outcome that will boost the power of President Tayyip Erdogan but may sharpen deep social divisions.

▶ Australia will no longer appoint knights and dames under its honours system, PM Malcolm Turnbull has said.

▶ China, on November 2, has approved plans for a 58.41 billion yuan (5.97 billion pounds) high-speed rail project which will be used during the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

▶ India and Indonesia have signed two agreements on new and renewable sources of energy and cultural exchange. The cooperation is important as both India and Indonesia have committed themselves to reduce carbon emissions by 35 percent and 29 percent respectively by 2030.

▶ Nepal has received 73.5 metric tonnes of petrol from China for the first time after signing a major deal with it to ease crippling shortage of petroleum products.

▶ Amazon.com Inc is set to open its first physical book store in Seattle. The brick-and-mortar store, Amazon Books, is a physical extension of Amazon.com with books being selected based on customer ratings and pre-orders on Amazon.com.

▶ Internet giant Alphabet Inc, the new holding company for Google, expects to begin delivering packages to consumers via drones sometime in 2017.

▶ A rare tropical cyclone has slammed into Yemen, triggering heavy flooding and causing damage in a region of the war-

the US embargo on Cuba, in the first such resolution since US-Cuban diplomatic ties were restored earlier this year.

▶ A Dubai-based business council has signed a MoU with the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) for its participation as an official supporting partner for a three-day event here to attract FDI.

▶ France will introduce biometric visas to Indian nationals from November 2, keeping in line with all the countries in the Schengen Area.

▶ India and Sri Lanka have begun their bilateral naval exercise off Lanka's Trincomalee focusing on anti-piracy exercises, gun firings, cross-deck helicopter operations and anti-surface operations.

▶ India and Bangladesh on November 17 agreed to share information on militants. Home secretaries of the two neighbours concluded their talks reviewing internal security and other cross-border issues.

▶ Australian High Commissioner, Patrick Suckling, on November 17 had entered the Australia-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement into force.

▶ India and China have decided to deepen bilateral defence ties and maintain peace and tranquillity at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) besides strengthening cooperation against terror, including at the international level. T

▶ The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Vietnam for cooperation in the field of Animal Health.

▶ The government on November 18 extended the currency swap facility for SAARC members. Under this the RBI offers

racked country. Packing winds of more than 100 km/h, Cyclone Chapala made landfall in the south eastern provinces of Hadramawt and Shabwa.

▶ India and Russia will hold joint military exercise 'Indra 2015' in Mahajan field firing range in Bikaner district of Rajasthan from November 8.

▶ The Maldives president has declared a 30-day state of emergency ahead of a planned anti-government rally. The declaration by President Abdulla Yameen gives security forces sweeping powers to arrest suspects.

▶ Britain and Kazakhstan have signed Trade deals worth 3 billion pounds as London rolled out the red carpet for the country's autocratic President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

▶ Vladimir Putin has been voted the most powerful person in the world for the third time in a row, in a new list published by Financial magazine Forbes. The Russian President has topped the Most Powerful People list, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and US President Barack Obama coming in second and third place respectively.

▶ Hindi has emerged as the largest Indian language spoken in the US, with nearly 6.5 lakh people speaking it, according to the latest Census data.

▶ Chinese president Xi Jinping has arrived in Singapore with Taiwan's president Ma Ying-jeou, to attend China and Taiwan summit – the first such meeting since the end of the Chinese civil war.

the facility of varying sizes not exceeding \$2 billion in total.

▶ The Cabinet has given approval for the proposal to provide a two year extension with amendments to the framework on 'Currency Swap Arrangement' for SAARC member countries up to November 14, 2017, and extension thereafter, if necessary, by Finance Minister.

▶ India expects to conclude a 'strategic partnership' with Singapore during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the South-East Asian nation.

▶ Modi will be in Singapore on November 23-24 on a bilateral visit, during which he is also expected to sign an enhanced defence cooperation pact, along with other MoUs on cyber security, culture and training on urban management and the like.

▶ Brazilian authorities has declared a state of emergency in more than 200 towns affected by a deadly mining waste spill.

▶ Google's social network was rebuilt for fast, consistent performance whether accessed through computer web browsers or mobile devices powered by Apple or Android software.

▶ A Chinese state-owned company will finance and build two nuclear power plants in Argentina, the enterprise said, in a deal estimated to be valued at nearly \$15 billion.

▶ Telecom major Bharti Airtel and social media giant Facebook announced the launch of free internet access service platform across 17 African countries in phases by March 2016.

▶ The Bangladesh Government has blocked popular social media platform Facebook and online messaging and calling services

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ On November 6, Russia and India discussed the possibility of building a pipeline system for hydrocarbons between the two countries, said the Russian energy ministry . ▶ Greenpeace India Society has just received notice from the Tamil Nadu Registrar of Societies, summarily announcing cancellation of its registration as a society. ▶ India and China on November 7 signed two agreements including one in the field of water resources on sharing hydrological data on the Satluj river. ▶ The UN's Green Climate fund (GCF) had approved its first financing of projects to help developing countries fight global warming, three weeks before a summit opens in Paris to ink a climate rescue pact. ▶ India and six other South Asian countries have finalised draft structure and terms of reference of a regional platform for information sharing on transnational organised crimes. ▶ Titanic is getting its own ride at a Dubai amusement park in 2018. Twentieth Century Fox is building the structure for a Dubai resort, and the studio is also developing attractions based on TV shows and films such as "Sons of Anarchy", "Planet of the Apes" and "Aliens". ▶ China and Singapore have begun negotiations to upgrade a bilateral Free Trade Agreement. The two nations marked 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relations with a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping. 	<p>WhatsApp and Viber on security grounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ An Afghanistan delegation led by their Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Hekmat Khalil Karzai, on November 18 met the Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Rajiv Pratap Rudy to explore possible collaborations between the countries to strengthen the skill ecosystem of Afghanistan. ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Malaysia and Singapore from November 21. During the he will attend the 13th ASEAN-India Summit and the 10th East Asia Summit (EAS). ▶ India and China have agreed to form a Ministerial-level mechanism headed by their Home Ministers to step up cooperation and coordination on a host of security-related issues, including cross-border terrorism, security and law enforcement, trans-border crimes, cyber crimes and drug trafficking. ▶ India and Brazil have decided to boost ties in sectors like infrastructure, trade and investment and mining besides exploring opportunities in nuclear energy sphere. ▶ South Australia has signed a historic 'sister-state agreement' with Rajasthan that would pave new ways to boost export and investment opportunities between the two states. ▶ Yusuf Hamied, an eminent Indian scientist has been named by UN chief Ban Ki-moon to a high-level panel on health technology innovation. ▶ World leaders have united against ISIS in a United Nations Security Council resolution calling on countries to take 'all necessary measures' to fight ISIS in Syria and Iraq. ▶ In a major boost to bilateral security cooperation, China and India have agreed to
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▶ Sierra Leone has been declared free of Ebola by the World Health Organisation, prompting nationwide celebrations tinged with sadness over the 4,000 lives the virus claimed.

▶ Australia and China inked a deal to share information about sea ice conditions around Antarctica. This deal is for better navigation and shipping in the Earth's southernmost continent.

▶ Russia's Kalashnikov Concern, makers of AK-47 assault rifles, is in advanced discussions with Indian companies to manufacture certain weapons in India and is open to sharing technology with local partners.

▶ India will host the South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise (SAADMEx), 2015 here from November 23-26. Member-countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will participate in the joint exercise, which will be inaugurated by Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

▶ A cultural week is being held in Shanghai, China. India has been designated as the guest country, with an 'Indian Culture Week' being incorporated as a part of the SIAF annual festival which runs from 16th October – 16th November, 2015. It has happened for the first time in 17 year history of China.

▶ Sierra Leone has been declared free of Ebola by the World Health Organisation. The disease in the nation took almost 4000 lives.

▶ GOI has signed a \$273 million loan agreement with the Asian Development

actively exchange intelligence on terror groups and their activities through a dedicated communication channel.

▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a four-day visit to Malaysia and Singapore. On the first day of his tour, the PM addressed business summit of ASEAN countries in Kuala Lumpur.

▶ The Chinese navy has conducted drills that simulate war in "certain waters" in the South China Sea. They also employed major destroyers and frigates, carrier-based helicopters and new submarines.

▶ Moscow and Cairo signed an agreement for Russia to build a nuclear power plant in Egypt, with Russia extending a loan to Egypt to cover the cost of construction. The plant, Egypt's first, would be built at Dabaa in the north of the country and was expected to be completed by 2022.

▶ The Russian military has launched cruise missiles against Islamic State positions in Syria from both the Mediterranean and Caspian seas, one of which killed over 600 terrorists in the Deir Ex-Zor Province.

▶ Tripura will start supplying power to Bangladesh from December 16, the day when that country observes Bijoy Dibosh or Victory Day when Bangladesh was created out of East Pakistan after the end of the India-Pakistan War of 1971.

▶ In a historic development, ASEAN leaders have declared the establishment of an European Union style regional economic bloc, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

▶ India and Malaysia will deepen

Bank (ADB) to improve rural roads in Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.

▶ India has been re-elected to the UN Commission on International Trade Law for another six years term, maintaining its unbeaten track record of winning elections at the world body.

▶ Japan's first passenger jet has made its maiden test flight, a landmark in a decade-long programme to launch the plane aimed at competing with Brazilian and Canadian rivals in the global market for smaller aircraft.

▶ Bangladesh has signed a USD 250 million deal with French-Italian firm Thales Alenia Space in Dhaka to build the country's first communications satellite.

▶ China and the Middle East, insisted by lower prices and enough supply, will drive global natural gas demand growth in the next 25 years as consumption in Europe fails to recover to peak levels seen in 2010, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

▶ Ahead of the Paris climate summit, India and Britain have agreed on a comprehensive package of collaboration on energy and climate change which includes commercial deals worth 3.2 billion pounds.

▶ Pakistan and China have kicked off their ambitious 46 billion US Dollar CPEC Project with Beijing acquiring over 2,000 acres of land in restive Balochistan to develop the strategic Gwadar port.

▶ Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's

cooperation in security and defence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on November 23.

▶ India and Singapore have elevated their ties to the 'strategic partnership' level and signed bilateral India and Singapore agreements for enhanced defence cooperation and in areas like cyber security, shipping and civil aviation.

▶ Thailand's military held an air show with China ahead of joint manoeuvres in a sign of warming ties. Chinese and Thai air forces will conduct their first joint exercises that China has said are aimed at increasing "mutual trust and friendship."

▶ According to UNICEF, nearly 690 million of the world's 2.3 billion children live in areas most exposed to climate change, facing higher rates of death, poverty and disease from global warming.

▶ The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has released the report titled The Human Cost of Weather Related Disasters.

▶ Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata has invested an undisclosed amount in Singapore-based big data company Crayon Data. The investment was made in his personal capacity.

▶ Tunisia's president has declared a state of emergency throughout the country and a curfew in the capital after an attack on a bus carrying his presidential guard killed at least 12 people.

▶ India's iconic India Gate and the Delhi Metro will join hundreds of monuments across the world that will be illuminated as part of a UN effort to galvanize support for global action to end violence against women

opposition party won a majority in parliament in the Southeast Asian nation's historic election.

► The Indian delegation representing Ministry of Civil Aviation participated in the ICAN (International Civil Aviation Negotiations), 2015 conference has signed an agreement with six countries.

► France has declared a national state of emergency and tightened borders after at least 120 people were killed in a night of gun and bomb attacks in Paris. Eighty people were reported killed after gunmen burst into the Bataclan concert hall and took dozens hostage.

► The European Union has launched a fund for Africa with an initial \$2 billion to combat the poverty and conflict driving migration to Europe. The trust fund, unveiled at a summit with African leaders in Malta, consists largely of 1.8 billion euros (\$1.93 billion) put up by the European Commission.

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a memorial in London dedicated to Dr BR Ambedkar. India acquired the bungalow two months back where the Dalit icon and architect of India's Constitution lived as a student in the 1920s.

► India and Bangladesh signed the SOP in New Delhi, to operationalize the "Agreement on Coastal Shipping" signed between the two countries in June, 2015.

► UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for a "direct dialogue" between India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions between the two nuclear-armed South Asians neighbours.

and girls.

► China is building the world's biggest animal cloning factory where it will recreate sniffer dogs, pets, racehorses and beef cattle.

► Ahead of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar's maiden US visit next month, the two countries have made progress on their ambitious COLLABORATION in the fields of jet engine and aircraft carrier technology.

► Chinese naval forces involved in anti-piracy drill in the Gulf of Aden have held their first joint drill with NATO ships

► The ground-breaking ceremony of the proposed multi-billion dollar 1,735-kilometre gas pipeline connecting Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India will start from December 13. Reported by Turkmenistan Ambassador to Pakistan.

► France and Russia have agreed to coordinate strikes against Islamic State (IS) jihadists after bilateral talks between French president Francois Hollande and Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

► India and Japan are set to firm up an agreement Indo-Japan joint venture to jointly produce amphibious military aircraft during the upcoming visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

► Albania and India have signed an agreement on the removal of visa requirements for diplomatic and service passport holders between the two countries, Albanian Foreign Affairs Ministry has said.

► India and Japan on November 27 exchanged notes for Japan's Official Development Loan Assistance (ODA) worth Rs 5,536 crore for Chennai and Ahmedabad

► The Myawaddy-Thinggan Nyenaung-Kawkareik section of the Asian highway linking India, Myanmar and Thailand has been put into service. With the 25.6-km-long section becoming operational, travel time between Thinggan Nyenaung and Kawkareik will be reduced from three hours to 45 minutes.

► India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) agreed to enhance their cooperation in all areas of bilateral relations and to increase their trade by 60 per cent over the next five years. The 11th session of their Joint Commission Meeting was held on 3rd September 2015.

► India and Australia have begun their first bilateral naval exercise that will focus on anti-submarine warfare as the two countries look at deepening defence cooperation especially in the Indian Ocean. AUSINDEX 15 is being conducted off the east coast of India from September 11-19.

► The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Toronto have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to engage in mutual co-operation in the fields of film, television, visual effects and gaming.

► Vice President Hamid Ansari held delegation level talks with the Laotian leadership. India and Laos signed Air service agreement and another agreement on India's grand assistance for quick impact projects were signed after the talks.

► The Brigade Commander level flag meeting between the Indian Army and Pakistani Army was held at Chakkan-Da-Bagh Cross LoC point in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

► GOI has approved a proposal to bolster

metro rail projects.

► Indian-origin author Priya Parmar's historical novel "Vanessa and Her Sister", has been included in the New York Times' 100 Notable Books of 2015.

► Joining a select group of countries, India said it will provide \$2.5 million for the vulnerable nations in the Commonwealth to help them introduce clean energy and reduce green-house gas emissions.

► Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree imposing a raft of punitive economic sanctions against Turkey. Putin has taken this decision after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane.

► The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to announce that China's currency, the yuan, will join the fund's group of international basket of reserve currencies. Just the US dollar, the euro, Japan's yen and the British pound are currently part of this select band.

► South Korea has ratified a free trade agreement (FTA) with China that would remove most tariffs between Asia's largest and fourth-largest economies. The pact, signed in June, was passed by parliament with a 196-33 majority, although it still needs China's ratification in order to take effect.

► The meeting goes by several names – the United Nations Climate Summit, the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, or COP21, which stands for the 21st meeting of the Conference of Parties that are part of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change.

► India and Australia have sealed Nuclear-deal procedures for supply of uranium from later to energy starved India.

ties between India and Germany in higher education sector especially in the field of research, skill development and faculty development.

- ▶ India has signed a contract with Boeing to purchase 15 Chinook heavy-lift helicopters and 22 Apache attack helicopters. The deals will ensure that the U.S. remains among the top military suppliers for the Indian armed forces for some years to come.
- ▶ MITRA SHAKTI 2015, the third edition of India-Sri Lanka joint military exercise has begun at Aundh Military Station in Pune.
- ▶ Online marketplace Amazon.com Inc has made its debut in the 2015 Thomson Reuters Top 100 global innovators list, leaving International Business Machines Corp, the world's largest technology services company, out of the list.
- ▶ In a Joint statement with the US Secretary of State John Kerry, the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs and External Affairs Sushma Swaraj has declared that the GOI will be organizing the 9th Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (RPBD) at Los Angeles on the 14th and 15th November 2015. The Theme for RPBD Los Angeles will be – “The Indian Diaspora: Defining a New Paradigm in India-US Relationship”.
- ▶ The Union Cabinet has approved an agreement signed between India and Cambodia for bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector that aims at enhancing investment and promoting exchange of experience in marketing, destination development and management in this field.
- ▶ The United Kingdom hosted the first Bhagvad Gita Conference at London. Indian and British experts came together with an aim to seek answers to the innumerable

▶ Philippines is going to host 2015 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit from 18–19 November 2015 in its capital city Manila for the first time in nearly two decades.

- ▶ KONKAN 2015, the 10th edition in KONKAN series, will be conducted from 05 - 11 Sep 15, between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Navy (RN) in two phases.
- ▶ India and Thailand have pledged to take bilateral defence ties to greater heights, calling for cooperation in several areas including disaster management, information exchange and “sea migration”.
- ▶ India and Indonesia have signed a pact for repatriation of each other's wanted prisoners and cooperate in all criminal matters, including gathering evidence.
- ▶ India and Cambodia have signed two MoUs to boost bilateral cooperation in tourism, healthcare, agriculture and women empowerment (through information and communication technology) under the Quick Impact Projects Initiative. Indian Vice President M.Hamid Ansari, who is on official tour, has signed these important pacts with his Cambodian counterpart Prime Minister Hun Sen in Phnom Penh.
- ▶ The National Highway Authority of India is all set to launch its international body - NHAI International, to build roads and highways in Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan. NHAI International will be a set-up outside the existing ambit of NHAI and will have its offices in several countries.
- ▶ The Pentagon has established a first-ever country special cell to speed up its defence ties with India and accelerate the process of co-development and co-production of hi-tech military equipment in the country.
- ▶ Singapore has been declared as the

questions.

► The Union Cabinet has approved an agreement signed between India and Cambodia for bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector that aims at enhancing investment and promoting exchange of experience in marketing, destination development and management in this field.

► Saudi female candidates running for municipal councils have begun campaigning in elections, marking the first time women are allowed to vote and contest polls in the kingdom.

► China has taken the initiative for creating an alternative media platform for the emerging economies by hosting the first media summit of countries belonging to the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping.

► Colombian film Embrace of Serpent (Al Abrazo de la Serpiente) won the Golden Peacock Award at the finale of the 46th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Besides citation, the Golden Peacock award carries a sum of Rs 40 lakh.

► Britain's RAF Tornado jets have carried out their first air strikes against so-called Islamic State in Syria. Four Tornados from RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus took part in the operation soon after MPs voted to approve bombing.

► Samsung fought until the bitter end to avoid paying Apple, but the company now says it will finally hand over the more than \$548 million it owes for infringing the patents and designs of its biggest smartphone rival.

world's healthiest country in a recent reports with India securing the 103rd position. The list ranked the countries with the help of the data from the United Nations, the World Bank and the World Health Organisation.

► The German cabinet has backed plans for military support in the fight against Islamic State (IS) militants in Syria. Tornado reconnaissance aircraft, a naval frigate and a 1,200-strong force will be sent to the region under the proposals.

► The International Monetary FUND admitted China's yuan into its benchmark currency basket. It is a victory for Beijing's campaign for recognition as a global economic power.

► India launched an International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the CoP21 Climate Conference. The new body, which has invited all countries located fully or partly between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn to join, is to function from the National Institute of Solar Energy in India, Gurgaon.

► US defense secretary Ashton Carter has said that the US will send special forces to Iraq and Syria to intensify fight against dreaded militant group Islamic State.

► Drug firm Aurobindo Pharma has received final approval of the US health regulator to manufacture and market its Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate injection. The drug is used to treat various conditions such as severe allergic reactions, arthritis and blood diseases.

► Children will be more likely to survive tuberculosis (TB), the world's most deadly infectious disease, once new strawberry-

► In a sudden breakthrough, National Security Advisors of India and Pakistan held talks in Bangkok on December 6. On a wide scope of bilateral ties including terrorism and Jammu and Kashmir, and agreed to take forward the “constructive” engagement.

► Singapore has replaced Mauritius as the top source of FDI or foreign direct investment into India during the first half of the current fiscal.

► Venezuela’s opposition party has claimed the majority of seats in the National Assembly in elections, the first major shift in power in the legislative branch since the late President Hugo Chavez took office in 1999.

► The United States has announced that it had united with the European Union and 79 developing countries to jointly push for an ambitious accord in Paris to curb global warming.

► Russia said Moscow, Washington and the United Nations will hold Syria talks in Geneva as diplomatic efforts to end the conflict are ratcheted up.

► The negotiators have unveiled a new shorter draft incorporating major progress as well as the differences, two days ahead of the deadline for the United Nations (UN) accord to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

► Two American Senators have introduced legislation in the Senate proposing to cut the number of popular H1B visas by 15,000 and that such a visa be given to highest wage earner first.

► An Indian-owned business house (Transworld Group) in Dubai has signed an

and raspberry-flavoured medicines are available early in 2016. From early 2016, soluble child-sized doses of the three major drugs used to treat TB will be available, helping to save lives.

► Time Magazine has named German Chancellor Angela Merkel its “Person of the Year”. Merkel is the first individual woman to receive the “Person of the Year” recognition since TIME changed its title from “Man of the Year” in 1999.

► Russia flexed its military muscles as it launched strikes in Syria for the first time from a submarine stationed in the Mediterranean, ratcheting up its bombing campaign in the war-torn country.

► A regional conference hosted by Pakistan with focus on Afghanistan has started where External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will represent India at the ministerial-level meeting. The Theme of the conference is ‘Heart of Asia –Istanbul Process: Enhanced cooperation for countering security threats and promoting connectivity in the Heart of Asia region.

► With India stepping up efforts to bring back illicit funds stashed abroad, Switzerland has said both sides have improved their cooperation on tax matters following several high-level meetings.

► Myanmar has inaugurated a new stock exchange named Yangon Stock Exchange with plans for six companies to start trading in March.

► India and Japan have inked a number of pacts in key areas of transportation, defence and nuclear energy. India’s first bullet train

MoU with a Japanese company (Yokohama-based Suzue Corporation) to form a joint venture for exploring business opportunities in the logistics sector within the Indian subcontinent apart from Middle East and Japan.

► The United States has updated its policy on gas-turbine engine technology transfer to India, a move that should lead to expanded cooperation in production and design of jet-engine components.

► UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, has announced the designation of 47 cities from 33 countries as new members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

► Vladimir Putin has vowed Russia's military will "immediately destroy" any target threatening them in Syria, representing a strong warning to Turkey following its shooting down of a Russian warplane at the Syrian border.

► Hollywood director Ron Howard has received his second star on the Walk of Fame his award-winning career as a film maker. Howard, who won an Oscar for best director for "A Beautiful Mind", got a star on the Walk of Fame in 1981 for a television career.

► The Board of Directors of DuPont and Dow Chemical Company have unanimously approved a definitive agreement to merge the two companies in an all-stock deal.

► The Paris Climate Deal to stop global warming has been adopted. The representatives of 195 nations reached a landmark accord that will commit nearly every country to lowering planet-warming

network will come up between Mumbai and Ahmedabad at a cost of Rs 98,000 crore.

► Myanmar has launched the country's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve – Inle Lake in Shan state, opening a new chapter in its commitment to bio-diversity and eco-system conservation.

► Kazakhstan has sentenced former prime minister Serik Akhmetov to 10 years in prison. A court in the industrial city of Karaganda found Akhmetov guilty on four corruption-related charges including embezzlement and abuse of power, in a huge case involving more than 20 defendants in the energy-rich state.

► The construction of much-anticipated TAPI gas pipeline will begin from December 13 in Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) project is commencing after 25 years of the inception of the project.

► India and Japan have signed an MoU on cooperation and assistance in the Mumbai – Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (referred by many as Bullet Train project).

► More than 700,000 people fled the central Philippines amid threats of giant waves, floods and landslides as powerful Typhoon Melor approached the archipelago nation.

► Saudi Arabia has announced the formation of a 34-state Islamic military alliance to combat terrorism.

► Apple Inc and China's state-owned credit card processor have announced plans to

greenhouse gas emissions to help stave off the most drastic effects of climate change.

▶ Gambia's President Yahya Jammeh has declared the tiny West African country an Islamic republic, saying he decided this because Islam is the religion of the majority of its citizens and to break from the nation's colonial past.

▶ Saudi Arabia has reopened its embassy in Iraq, a quarter of a century after Riyadh broke off diplomatic relations with Baghdad following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

▶ The global nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, has ended its 12-year investigation into concerns that Iran might be developing nuclear weapons.

▶ The United States and Cuba are close to a deal on restoring regularly scheduled commercial flights.

▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet has approved signing of an MoU between India and Spain on cooperation in port matters.

▶ The UNSC has unanimously adopted a resolution aimed at disrupting revenues that Islamic State receives from oil and antiquities sales, ransom payments and other criminal activities.

▶ The UN security council has unanimously agreed a resolution endorsing an international roadmap for a peace process in Syria, a rare show of unity among major powers on a conflict that has claimed more than 250,000 lives.

launch the smartphone-based Apple Pay electronic payment system in China. Apple and China UnionPay said they plan to roll out the system in early 2016, pending approval by regulators.

▶ Afghanistan has joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO) calling it "historic" membership to boost the war-torn nation's economy and build peace. The WTO has formally approved Afghanistan's membership at its 10th ministerial conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

▶ The United States lifted a 40-year-old ban on export of oil, thus paving the way for energy deficient countries like India to open up another frontier to import oil from a distant friendly nation.

▶ Miss Spain Mireia Lalaguna Royo has won the Miss World 2015 crown, beating 116 other contestants at a glittering ceremony held at the Beauty Crown Grand Theatre in Sanya, China.

▶ In a significant move in the ongoing dispute over the South China Sea, China and Vietnam which have overlapping claims over several islands and reefs along with four other countries today launched joint inspection of a section of the waters.

▶ The US Congress has approved long-stalled reforms of the International Monetary Fund that will give greater voice to emerging-market powers. Adopted in 2010 by the 188-nation IMF, the reforms also double the crisis lender's permanent financial resources, to some \$660 billion.

▶ The EU has extended economic sanctions against Russia amid sharp differences over relations with Moscow which struck back

▶ Caitlyn Jenner has been named the “most fascinating person” of 2015 by Barbara Walters on her annual ABC special.

▶ President Obama has signed a \$1.1 trillion funding bill that will keep the federal government running until September 30, 2016.

▶ Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach of the Philippines was crowned Miss Universe 2015.

▶ The UN has launched the International Year of Pulses 2016, aiming to raise awareness of the many benefits of pulses, boost their production and trade, and encourage new and smarter use throughout the food chain.

▶ The conservative People’s Party (PP) of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy topped Spain’s general election but fell well short of an absolute majority amid a surge in support for anti-establishment parties.

▶ Dubai is all set to host the city’s largest all-inclusive yoga initiative to help encourage people to meditate and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

▶ Indian-American Sonal Bhuchar has been appointed to OneStar National Service Commission in Texas that promotes volunteerism and oversees administration of the AmeriCorps programmes in the US state.

▶ China has officially ended its one child policy, signing into law of a bill allowing all married couples to have a second child as the country attempts to cope with an ageing population and shrinking workforce.

with a furious tirade and its own import ban against Ukraine.

▶ The International Organization for Migration said more than 1 million refugees and migrants came to the European Union this year, while almost 3,700 died or went missing in perilous journeys which reaped huge profit for smugglers.

▶ China has started construction of its third largest hydropower station on the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, a project estimated to cost more than 100 billion yuan (USD 15.4 billion).

▶ Nepal and China have agreed to sign a long-term petroleum deal to import fuel from Beijing. As a result of which, India will no longer hold monopoly over fuel imports.

▶ Superstar Johnny Depp has topped the Forbes’ Most Overpaid Actors list, courtesy the box office failure of his films like “Mortdecai”, “Transcendence” and “The Lone Ranger”.

▶ Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a landmark apology to South Korean “comfort women” coerced into Japanese military brothels before and during World War II, with his government agreeing to provide 1 billion yen to a fund for compensating victims.

▶ Drug major Lupin has received US health regulator’s approval to market Fyavolv tablets, used to treat postmenopausal osteoporosis, in the American market.

▶ Afghanistan will raise a 7,000-member security force to guard the Turkmenistan-

<p>▶ In a landmark decision, China's Parliament has adopted the country's first law against domestic violence, bringing traditionally silent abuse victims, including couples who are in live-in relationship, under legal protection.</p> <p>▶ The Chinese government has passed its first counter terrorism law that allows military operations abroad and requires technology firms to submit sensitive information to government bodies.</p>	<p>Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project.</p> <p>▶ Kim Yang Gon, 73, North Korea's top official in charge of relations with South Korea, died in an car accident on December 29. He is the latest in a series of top aides to young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un who are reported to have died in recent years.</p> <p>▶ Magazine Charlie Hebdo said it would release nearly a million copies of a special issue to mark a year since jihadists killed a dozen people in its Paris offices. The 32-page double issue – featuring a selection of drawings by the cartoonists who died in the attack.</p> <p>▶ The wall-climbing robot called VertiGo is invented by Disney which is equipped with four wheels and two propellers, which allow it flip upward and move from the ground to the wall. It can drive smoothly on a vertical surface, maintaining its hold even when perpendicular to the ground.</p>
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Seventeen New UN Development Goals for 2030

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

<p>▶ A Russian booster Soyuz-U rocket has been successfully launched an unmanned cargo ship to the International Space Station (ISS). The crew is anxiously awaiting it after the successive failures of two previous supply missions. A Soyuz-U rocket blasted off flawlessly from Russia-leased Baikonur launch pad in Kazakhstan.</p> <p>▶ A new study has found that, Sahara desert contained the world's largest freshwater lake until it evaporated in just a few hundred years. Researchers had analysed sediments to calculate the age of these shore lines, producing a lake level history spanning the last 15,000 years.</p> <p>▶ British Astronomers have uncovered five Supermassive black holes that were previously hidden by clouds of dust and gas. The discovery has suggested that millions more could be similarly undetected.</p> <p>▶ As part of 'Digital India Week', the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has launched four new products. They are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solar powered Wi-Fi hotspots 2. Long distance Wi-Fi 3. Next Generation Network solution 4. 100 Gbps optical fibre cable <p>▶ The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has launched a mobile application called 'Pashu Poshan'. The mobile app will recommend a balanced diet for cows and buffaloes to help boost dairy farmers' income by raising milk yield and cutting feed cost.</p>	<p>▶ Presidents of the United States of America and Brazil have issued a joint statement on climate change in Washington, the USA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA will reduce GHG emissions by 26 percent to 28 percent below 2005 levels in 2025. Brazil intends to restore and reforest 12 million hectares of forests by 2030. • The USA and Brazil each intend to increase the share of renewables – beyond hydropower – in their respective electricity generation mixes to the level of 20 percent by 2030. • Both the countries agreed to work multilaterally in the Montreal Protocol to consider promptly amendment proposals to phase down HFCs. <p>▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched its heaviest commercial mission at 9.45 pm (July 10 2015). PSLV-C28 carried five British satellites takes-off smoothly from Sriharikota. The Three identical DMC3 satellites, built by Surrey Satellite Technology (SSTL) in the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology demonstrator CBNT1 • Technology demonstrator De-OrbitSail <p>The total weight of the satellites and launch vehicle is 1,450kg.</p> <p>▶ A new supersonic luxury plane that fly people from New York to London in just three hours is on its way as it is being developed by a team of engineers, including those of Indian-origin.</p> <p>▶ A highly encrypted Cloud system of the Indian Army, similar to that of Google, has been inaugurated by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar in line with the force's plan to be a "digital army".</p>
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► Airbus flew its electric plane across the English Channel for the first time on 10th July 2015. Amid fanfare, European planemaker Airbus flew its E-fan plane from Lydd, England, to the French port of Calais.

► NASA has named the first four astronauts who will fly on the first U.S. commercial spaceflights in private crew transportation vehicles being built by Boeing and SpaceX. They are

1. Robert Behnken
2. Eric Boe
3. Douglas Hurley
4. Sunita Williams.

► Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju has launched the GPS-Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) system. This indigenously developed system will make airline operations more efficient and reduce costs. GAGAN will offer seamless navigation to the aviation industry.

► Government of Sri Lanka inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with search engine giant Google to launch the Google Loon project in the country. As per the MoU, Google will place 13 high-altitude balloons over the island nation to provide affordable high-speed 3G (3rd Generation) internet services to the entire country.

► ISRO has announced that, India's first indigenously designed and developed high-thrust cryogenic rocket engine generating a nominal thrust of 19 tonnes has been successfully endurance hot-tested for 800 seconds. The engine will be used for powering the Cryogenic stage (C25), the

► Conservative Mauricio Macri has been confirmed as the winner in Argentina's presidential elections after his ruling party opponent conceded. With almost all votes counted, Mr Macri led Daniel Scioli by 51.5% to 48.5%.

► Sri Lankan Government has announced that they would not allow any country to set up naval base on its territory. This announcement was made by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe while he was speaking at the International Maritime Dialogue at Galle, Sri Lanka.

► The Navy has successfully test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to surface ballistic missile 'Dhanush' in full operational configuration from a naval warship off the Odisha coast.

► A mobile application is now available for breast cancer awareness and detection. Released by Cochin Cancer Society as part of breast cancer awareness month in October, the App called Save Your Mother, 2015 can be downloaded from both android platform as well as the Apple I Store.

► India on November 26 successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile, as part of a user trial by the army. It has a strike range of 350 km.

► A Japanese rocket lifted off and successfully put the national space programme's first commercial satellite into orbit, as Tokyo tries to enter a business dominated by European and Russian companies.

► Kadmat, the second of the four indigenously built stealth Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) corvette, was formally handed over to the Navy here on November 26 by city based shipyards Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).

upper stage of the next generation GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle of ISRO, capable of launching four-tonne class satellites.

► Soyuz spacecraft with three astronauts was launched towards the International Space Station after a two-month delay caused by a Russian rocket failure. The spacecraft blasted off on schedule from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in the barren Kazakh steppe. The three are cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko, US astronaut Kjell Lindgren and Kimiya Yui of Japan.

► A British pensioner has become the first person in the world to be fitted with a bionic eye to fix the most common form of blindness in a landmark operation. He is the first person in the world to have both artificial and natural vision combined.

► ISRO and NASA are jointly working on the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission to codevelop and launch a dual frequency synthetic aperture radar satellite. The NISAR mission is a dual frequency (L & S Band) Radar Imaging Satellite.

► A vaccine against Ebola has been shown to be 100% successful in trials conducted during the outbreak in Guinea and is likely to bring the west African epidemic to an end. The results of the trials involving 4,000 people are remarkable.

► The Ohio State University Researchers have designed the first aqueous flow battery with solar capability that can achieve a 20 per cent energy savings over traditional batteries. In a new study, the researchers have reported that their aqueous flow battery which combines a solar cell and a battery into a single device now achieves a

► India has successfully test-fired indigenously built nuclear-capable Agni-I missile, capable of hitting a target at a distance of 700 kms, from a test range off the Odisha coast as part of Strategic Forces Command (SFC) training exercise.

► The next-generation Barak surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, jointly developed by Israeli Aerospace Industries, Rafael and DRDO, was successfully tested for the first time from an Israeli warship against a jet-powered drone on November 27.

► A Vega rocket bearing a European prototype satellite blasted into space on a mission to search for ripples in space and across time, a phenomenon predicted but never proven by physicist Albert Einstein 100 years ago.

► Canada has sent the first uranium consignment of 250 tonnes to India for its nuclear power reactors, over two years after the civil nuclear deal signed between the two countries came into force. According to the Canadian government, the contract to supply 7.1 million pounds of uranium concentrate (about 2,730 tonnes uranium) to India's Department of Atomic Energy was worth around Canadian Dollars 350 million (\$262 million).

► Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of French drug maker Sanofi, has launched ShanIPV, an injectable inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), in the Indian market.

► Scientists have genetically modified malaria-causing mosquitoes to become infertile and pass on the trait rapidly, an advance that may substantially reduce the transmission of the deadly disease.

► Drug maker Hetero has received approval from DCGI to market generic version of Gilead's Harvoni, a drug used in the treatment of Hepatitis C in India. Hetero is

20 per cent energy savings over traditional lithium-iodine batteries.

► New frog species in Netravali forest sanctuary of Goa has been discovered. The discovered species has been named as 'Indirana Salelkari' after Netravali Range Forest Officer Prakash Salelkar for his contribution to conservation of wildlife.

► Asia's biggest telescope is in India and was inaugurated recently in Rajasthan. The *Multi Application Solar Telescope (MAST)* will be used for detailed observation of the solar activity. The MAST will usher the country to a vast amount of astronomical information that is owned only by a few countries in the world.

The MAST is located in the Udaipur Solar Observatory which comes under the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), an autonomous unit of the Department of Space.

► India's second largest IT services company Infosys has announced the launch of 'Aikido', three enhanced service offerings in design thinking, platforms and knowledge-based IT (KBIT). These services are aimed at helping its clients address three key aspects of their business.

Ai refers to platform and platforms as a service to build intelligent solutions

Ki is a large-scale, modular service to help renew enterprise landscapes.

Do refers to the service offering on Design Thinking and design-led initiatives

► The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) have launched SERVIR-Mekong project to strengthen regional environmental monitoring in five countries in the lower Mekong region of Southeast Asia.

the first Indian company to receive the approval for the fixed-dose combination Ledipasvir-Sofosbuvir (90mg/400mg) from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

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► Kadmatt, the second of the four

The focus of this project is to host vital issues in the Mekong river basin region in the five countries which is often called as rice bowl of Asia.

▶ A Soyuz spacecraft with three astronauts on board blasted off towards the International Space Station. Veteran cosmonaut Sergei Volkov of the Russian space agency Roscosmos is leading a team that also includes first-time flyers Aidyn Aimbetov from Kazakhstan and Andreas Mogensen of European Space Agency.

▶ Internet major Google and state-run RailTel Corp of India have joined hands to equip 400 railways station in the country with high speed Wi-Fi networks, making it one of the largest public Wi-Fi projects in the world.

▶ ISRO has launched ASTROSTAT, India's first satellite for astronomical study, successfully from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota High Altitude Range (SHAR) in Nellore. Other than the ASTROSTAT, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C30 (PSLV C-30) carries four satellites from the U.S. and one each from Indonesia and Canada. The total payload weight of PSLV-C30 would be 1,631 kg.

▶ China launched a new, smaller type of rocket from its "Long March" family on 20th September 2015. The Long March-6 is a carrier rocket which uses liquid propellant. It took off from a launch base in the northern province of Shanxi. China believe that the new model will also significantly improve their ability to access space.

▶ An international team of scientists has created the world's largest catalogue of Human genomic variation among humans, providing researchers with powerful clues to help them establish why some people are

indigenously built stealth Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) corvette, was formally handed over to the Navy here on November 26 by city based shipyards Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).

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▶ Drug maker Hetero has received approval from DCGI to market generic version of Gilead's Harvoni, a drug used in the treatment of Hepatitis C in India.

susceptible to various diseases.

► Solar Dynamics Observatory has confirmed a coronal hole at the topmost layer of the sun. The hole, called the coronal or dark spot, has the size 50 times that of the Earth and its magnetic field is releasing an ultrafast solar wind.

► Scientists say they have identified a new species of giant tortoise on the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific. They used genetic data to determine that a group of 250 slow-moving reptiles was distinct from another tortoise species on Santa Cruz island.

► An advanced version of BrahMos land-attack cruise missile has been successfully test-fired by India. It was launched from Indian Navy's newest stealth destroyer INS Kochi on the west coast of India.

► China will launch a series of scientific satellites including a retrievable one to probe 'dark matter' later this year.

► China has rolled its first homegrown large passenger jet (C919) off the production line in Shanghai, vowing to challenge the dominance of Airbus and Boeing in the global commercial aviation market.

► China has successfully launched new communication satellite which will be used for radio, television and broadband services. The "ChinaSat 2C" satellite was launched from the southwestern Xichang Satellite Launch Centre. It was carried by the Long March-3B carrier rocket.

► Australian scientists have identified a critical molecular 'feedback loop' that helps

► According to WHO, an estimated 240 million people are chronically infected with hepatitis B and more than 7,80,000 people die every year due to complications of Hepatitis B which includes cirrhosis and liver cancer.

► Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has received the final nod from the US health regulator for a generic version of anti-bacterial drug Zyvox (Linezolid tablets, 600 mg). Zyvox is an anti-bacterial drug marked for adults and children for treatment of infections such as pneumonia, complicated skin and skin structure infections, including diabetic foot infections.

► US company SpaceX has successfully landed an unmanned rocket upright, after sending 11 satellites into orbit. The Falcon-9 craft touched down late on Monday night, about 10km from its launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

► Biotechnology major Biocon has launched advanced novel therapy for the treatment of Hepatitis C at low cost. CIMIVIR-L, a fixed dose combination of Ledipasvir 90 mg and Sofosbuvir 400 mg, will be made available to patients in India at a fraction of the global cost of the innovator brand.

► Colombia's president Juan Manuel Santos has signed a decree fully legalising medical marijuana in a shift away from preventing drug crop production. Until now marijuana production in Colombia had fallen into a legal grey area.

► China has put a new communication satellite into orbit from the southwestern Xichang Satellite Launch Center. The "ChinaSat 1C" satellite was carried by the

initiate and cure neuroblastoma. It is a cancer of the nervous system in children that is developed in embryonal nerve cells.

▶ China has successfully launched its “most sophisticated” observation satellite, Gaofen-4, as part of the country’s high-definition earth observation project.

▶ The anti-jamming capability of air-to-air Astra missile has been successfully validated in recent trials conducted by missile scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

▶ Israel has successfully tested its Arrow 3 ballistic missile shield, partly funded by the US and intended to deter long-range weapons held by the likes of Iran and Hezbollah.

Long March-3B carrier rocket. It will provide high-quality voice, data and radio and TV transmission services.

▶ Microsoft’s voice-based virtual assistant Cortana, which ships with every Windows 10 computer, is now available as a general release Android and iOS users in select region.

▶ Pakistan has conducted a successful test of the Shaheen-III surface-to-surface ballistic missile. The missile is capable of carrying nuclear and conventional warheads to a maximum range of 2,750 kilometres.

▶ The world’s first dengue vaccine, Dengvaxia, won regulatory approval in Mexico, raising hopes that it could prevent more than 100 deaths there a year and eventually perhaps millions around the world.

SPORTS

Winner	Title	Sport/Venue
Abhijeet Gupta	19 th Common Wealth Chess Championship	Mumbai
Chile defeated Argentina	Copa America Crown	Football
Unites States defeated Japan	FIFA Women's World Cup	Football/Canada
Lewis Hamilton	British Grand Prix	Formula One Race
India defeated Sri Lanka	South Asian Basketball Championship	Basketball
Inderjeet Singh won Gold	Athletics	World University Games/South Korea
Serena Williams defeated Spain's Garbine Muguruza	Wimbledon Championship (Women's Singles)	Tennis/London
Sania Mirza-Martina Hingis defeated Russina pair Makarova-Vesnina	Wimbledon Championship (Women's Doubles)	Tennis/London
Novak Djokovic defeated Roger Federer	Wimbledon Championship (Men's Singles)	Tennis/London
Leander Paes and Switzerland's Martina Hingis defeated Alexander Peya of Austria and Timea Babos of Hungary	Wimbledon Championship (Mixed Doubles)	Tennis/London
Shubham Jaglan	World Junior Golf Championship	Gold/San Diego, US
Sangram Singh	World Wrestling Professionals (WWP) Commonwealth Wrestling Heavyweight Championship	Wrestling/South Africa
Ansh Arora	National Junior Aquatic Championship	Swimming/Pune
Shubham Jaglan	IJGA World Stars of Junior Golf	Golf/Las Vegas
Chris Froome	Tour de France	Cycling/France
Sebastian Vettel	Hungarian Grand Prix	Formula One Race
Indian Oil Corporation Defeated Army XI	Murugappa Hockey Title	Hockey
Mexico defeated Jamaica	CONCACAF Gold Cup	Football
Amitoj Chhabra	Junior Title at the US Powerlifting Association National Championships 2015.	Power Lifting
Ranveer Singh Saini	Gold medal at Special Olympics World Games	/Los Angeles
Rajat Chauhan	Silver at World Archery Championship	/ Copenhagen, Denmark

Joshna Chinappa	WSA Squash Title	/Melbourne
Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom	100m butterfly swimming event	/2015 FINA World Championships in Kazan(Russia)
Indian Women's Team	World Archery Championship	Silver
Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar	Bronze at Senior ART Gymnastics Asian Championships	/Hiroshima, Japan
China's long-distance expert Sun Yang	800 m freestyle title at World Swimming Championships	/Kazan
England defeated Australia	In Ashes	Cricket
An Indian under-12 team	Finished second in the Asian Youth Football Festa 2015	Held at Anseong, South Korea
Japan's Kei Nishikori beats American John Isner	Tennis	/Citi Open in Washington
Gayathri Gopichand	Youngest player to win two U-17 girls doubles titles	/Andhra Pradesh
Pankaj Advani	Won Gold medal at the 13th World Snooker Championship	/Karachi
Ethiopia's Mare Dibaba	Won Gold at the World Athletics Championships	/Beijing, China
Indian Wrestler Anil	Won gold at Cadet Wrestling World Championship	/Bosnia
Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt	Won world 100 and 200 metre title	World Athletics Championships/Beijing
Roger Federer defeated Novak Djokovic	Cincinnati Masters Title	Ohio
Ace Indian golfer Aditi Ashok	Won the Ladies British amateur stroke-play Championship 2015	/ Leeds, United Kingdom.
Bangladesh defeated India	Under-16 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) championship title 2015.	Football
Andy Murray defeated Novak Djokovic	Rogers Cup Masters Tournament 2015 OR Canada Masters	Canada
Spain's Carolina Marin defeated Saina Nehwal	World Badminton Championship 2015	Badminton
Abhishek Verma	Won Gold in Archery World Cup	Archery
Anirban Lahiri	Finished fifth at the PGA Championship	Golf
Lewis Hamilton	Belgian Grand Prix	F1

Serena Williams defeated Simona Halep	Western & Southern Open title	Tennis
Air India defeated Army XI	Guru Tegh Bahadur Hockey title	Hockey
Sania Mirza, Martina Hingis	Wuhan Open women's doubles	China
David Ferrer	Malaysian Open	First Spaniard to win
Venus Williams	Wuhan Open Single's	It is her biggest win since 2010 and her 47th career title
China	International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Asia Championship	Direct qualification for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Sergey Karjakin	World Cup Chess Championship	He is from Russia
Russia	Women's European Volleyball Championship	Russia defeated Netherlands
Deborah Herold	Taiwan Cup	Indian cyclist won five medals
Dheeraj Rangi, Lightweight (60 kg) boxer	World Military Games	Held in Mungyeong, South Korea
N Sriram Balaji	National Tennis Champion	He defeated Vishnu Vardhan
Lewis Hamilton	Russian Grand Prix	2 nd place Sebastian Vettel 3 rd Nico Rosberg
Punjab National Bank (PNB)	Beighton Cup hockey tournament	Defeated Indian Oil Corporation
Shweta Rathore	Silver medal in the 49th Asian championship	First Indian Woman to win. Held in Uzbekistan
Punam Yadav	Commonwealth Youth, Junior & Senior weightlifting championships	Won two gold medals. It held in Pune
Manipur	Junior National Football Championship for U-18 Girls	Held at Rosay Complex ground, Navelim.
Anirban Lahiri	Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month award	Ranked 39th in the world
Abhijeet Gupta	Hoogeveen International Open Chess Tournament	He defeated Neelotpal Das
Lewis Hamilton	US Grand Prix	Nico Rosberg – Second Sebastian Vettel – Third
Abhishek Verma won silver	Archery World Cup Final	Gold Medal by Turkey's Demir Elmaagcli
Nico Rosberg	Mexican Grand Prix	It is back in Mexico for the first time since 1992.
1. Michael Kueffer 2. Yuki Sato	Paragliding World Cup	1. He is a Swiss pilot 2. From Japan
Dan Carter	World Rugby player of the	He is from New Zealand

	year	
Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis	WTA Finals women's doubles trophy.	Lifted their ninth title, beating the Spanish pair of Garbine Muguruza and Carla Suarez Navarro
New Zealand	Rugby World Cup	For a record 3 rd time
Mana Patel and Virdhawal Khade	Best swimmers' award	In 69 th senior National Aquatic Championship
Michelle Payne	Australia's 154-year-old Melbourne Cup	She is the first female to win the cup
Heena Sidhu	Won gold medal in 10 metre Air Pistol	In 13 th Asian Shooting Championships held in Kuwait
Army	25 th All India G V Mavalankar Shooting Championship	Won 10 Gold medals
32 nd Indian Oil Servo Surjit Hockey Tournament	Indian Railways	Defeated the defending champions Indian Oil Corporation of Mumbai
Novak Djokovic	World No. 1 in ATP World Tour Finals	He defeated Japan's Kei Nishikori
Swede Kristoffer Broberg	European Tour title	At the BMW Masters in Shanghai
Nico Rosberg	Brazilian Grand Prix	With this sealed his place as runner-up in this year's Formula One world championship
Saina Nehwal	Won silver medal at 2015 China Open Super series.	She lost to sixth placed Xuerui Li from China
Indian shuttler Siril Verma	Won silver medal at the BWF World Junior Championships	After a defeat against Chinese Taipei's Chia Hung Lu in Lima
Indian cyclists	Track Asia Cup at the IG Stadium Complex Velodrome	Won five medals — one gold, three silver and one bronze
Srishti Pandey	All India FIDE Rating Chess tournament	At Dr Hedgewar Smarak Samiti Hall, Reshimbagh, Nagpur
Aditi Chauhan	Woman in Football Award	At the third Asian Football Awards in London
Rory McIlroy	World Tour Championship	In Dubai
India's junior men's hockey team	Asia Cup Hockey 2015	Beat arch-rivals Pakistan to lift its 8th edition.
Novak Djokovic	Barclays ATP World Tour Finals title	Defeated Roger Federer
PV Sindhu	Macau Open Grand Prix Gold	Defeated <i>Japan's Minatsu Mitani</i>
Tyson Fury of Britain	World Heavyweight Champion	Defeated Wladimir Klitschko of Ukraine

Nico Rosberg	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	Rosberg is Mercedes Driver
Andy Murray	Davis Cup for Great Britain	
Thakur Anoop Singh	Bodybuilder	Title of 'Mr World' by winning a gold medal in a world bodybuilding meet in Bangkok, Thailand.
Lewis Hamilton	F1 world champion	For the second successive year at the FIA's end-of-season gala in Paris
Two-time Masters winner Bubba Watson	Hero World Challenge champion	At the Albany Golf Club
Australia	Hockey World League (HWL) Final	Defeated Belgium at the Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Stadium
Kerala's Elizabeth Susan Koshy	Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Gold at the 59 th National Shooting Championships	Held at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting range in New Delhi
Vijay Kumar	Men's 25-metre centre fire pistol gold medal	On day 12 of the 59 th National Shooting Championship, held in New Delhi
Anirban Lahiri	Order of Merit crown of Asian tour for the year 2015	With this he became the Fourth Indian Golfer to win the title
Apurvi Chandela	Women's gold in air rifle	In the 59 th National shooting championship
Gurgaon boy Priyanshu Singh	Amateur Golf Championship of India	Defeated Delhi's Kshitij Naved Kaul
FC Chennaiyin	Indian Super League (ISL) season 2 champions	Defeated FC Goa
FC Barcelona	FIFA Club World Cup 2015 Final	They will take over the honour from La Liga rivals Real Madrid
Abhay Singh	U-19 Singapore Squash Open	Beating second seed Alwin Chai of Malaysia
Bengaluru FC (BFC) midfielder Eugeneson Lyngdoh and striker Bala Devi	2015 AIFF Player-of-the-Year and woman Footballer-of-the-Year	AIFF Annual General Body Meeting held in Margao, Goa.
Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy	GP title at Mexico Open	Defeated Thailand's Bodin Issara and Nipitphon Puangpuapech
Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis	Women's Doubles World Champions by the International Tennis Federation (ITF)	Hingis is an ITF World Champion 15 years after last being named World Champion in singles in 2000.
Australia captain Steven	ICC awards for 2014-15,	Smith became the seventh

Smith	being named Cricketer of the Year as well as Test Cricketer of the Year	player to bag both awards in the same year
Syed Kirmani	Colonel CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2015	Former India wicket keeper
Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus	USD 25,000 NECC-ITF women's tennis tournament	At the Deccan Gymkhana, Pune.
Indian luger Shiva Keshavan	Won a silver medal at the Asian Championship	The first place was claimed by Japan's Hidenari Kanayama

MORE NEWS RELATED TO SPORTS

- India has won a record 156 medals, including 89 gold and 50 silvers, in the World Police and Fire games held at the United States.
- Germany defender, Marcell Jansen has quit professional football at the age of just 29 following his release by Hamburg.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced the venues that will host the men's and women's ICC World T20 2016. The Eden Gardens in Kolkata will host the event finale.
- Goa has now been handpicked by organizers of the ISL to host the final of the 2015 edition on December 20.
- Sri Lankan batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan has joined an elite club of cricketers by crossing the 10,000 ODI run-mark.
- Mitchell Johnson became the fifth Australia bowler to take 300 Test wickets as he hauled his side back into the third Ashes Test against England at Edgbaston.
- Two major Indian Premier League teams Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Rajasthan Royals were suspended from the cricket league for two years.
- Union Sports Ministry constituted a 9 member Working Group to prepare a revised draft of the National Sports Development Code (NSDC). The Working Group will be headed by Retired Delhi High Court Judge CK Mahajan.
- Union Government has constituted All India Council of Sports (AICS), as an advisory body to deliberate on matters relating to the development and promotion of sports.
- Patiala House Courts in New Delhi has acquitted all 36 accused persons in the Indian Premier League (IPL) season 6 spot fixing case including former cricketer S Sreesanth.
- International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Pakistan's all-rounder cricketer Mohammad Hafeez from bowling in international cricket for a period of one year.
- Champions League Twenty 20 (CLT20) of Cricket has been scrapped with immediate effect.
- Football Player Di Maria will join Paris Saint-Germain on a four-year deal to become the second most expensive player in the French league history.

- Indian women's hockey team's forward Rani Rampal was on 4th August 2015 offered the post of assistant coach by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- India's Ajinkya Rahane became the first fielder in Test history to take eight catches, achieving the feat in the ongoing first cricket match against Sri Lanka in Galle.
- Dale Steyn became the 13th bowler to join the 400-wicket club in Test cricket. Steyn dismissed Tamim Iqbal (6) – caught by Hashim Amla at first slip in the fifth over on day one on the opening day of what is his 80th Test match.
- Beijing is set to become the first city to have hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics after it was chosen to stage the 2022 Winter Olympics Games.
- The sport of flying disc, was officially recognized as an Olympic sport by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 2nd August 2015.
- Indian women's hockey team has qualified for 2016 Rio Olympics and now joining nine other teams.
- Former Olympic champion Sebastian Coe from United Kingdom has been elected as President of International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).
- Chess prodigy Aryan Chopra who resides in Delhi has become India's second youngest International Master.
- Michael Clarke and Chris Rogers made an emotional farewell to international cricket after helping Australia win the fifth and final Ashes Test against England at The Oval.
- South African Batsman AB de Villiers has created a record by scoring the fastest 8000 ODI runs during the third ODI against New Zealand in Durban. He has surpassed the likes of Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara.
- The XV IAAF World Championships in Athletics has been concluded at the Beijing's National Stadium in China.
- The Indian football team has climbed up a place to occupy 155th spot in the latest FIFA rankings.
- Mumbai has defeated Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) Districts XI team by six wickets and clinched the Buchi Babu Memorial Trophy in the All India invitation cricket tournament.
- Top Indian players such as Ramkumar Ramanathan, V M Ranjeet, Vijay Sundar Prashanth and Vishnu Vardhan will be seen in action at the LMW ITF Futures tennis tournament.
- India registered its first Test series win in Sri Lanka in over 22 years by defeating Angelo Matthews' side by 117 runs.
- The Sports Ministry has decided to recognize Yoga as a sports discipline and place it in the Priority category.
- India's Olympic medal-winning shooter Gagan Narang has achieved the number one spot in the Asian rankings of the men's 50m rifle prone category.
- The South African city Durban has been selected as the host city for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

- Young Indian shooter Apurvi Chandela once again proved herself as she clinched the silver medal in women's 10m air rifle event of the ISSF Rifle and Pistol World Cup Finals in Munich, Germany.
- National champion Joshana Chinappa clinched the women's title in the USD 15,000 NSCI Open JSW Indian Squash Circuit 2015 after upstaging Egyptian top seed Habiba Mohammad in straight games in the final.
- Ace golfer Anirban Lahiri has become the first Indian to qualify for the prestigious President's Cup.
- Australian all-rounder Shane Watson has announced his retirement from Test cricket, effective immediately.
- Deepak Lather won a gold in the 62 kg category. He has created a new CYG record and 138 kg in clean and jerk.
- Lewis Hamilton's celebrates his 40th career victory on 06th September 2015(Italian Grand Prix).
- Australia wicketkeeper Brad Haddin has announced his retirement from cricket, following Michael Clarke, Shane Watson and Chris Rogers in stepping down in the wake of the Ashes series defeat.
- India's Ruthvika Shivani Gadde and Lakshya Sen have won the Women's and Men's singles titles respectively at the Sushant Chipalkatti Memorial India Junior International Badminton Championship.
- Leander Paes created history by winning the US Open mixed doubles title with Swiss partner Martina Hingis and surpassed compatriot and former partner Mahesh Bhupathi's record.
- Ravi Shastri has been retained as the Team Director of the Indian cricket team till the 2016 T20 World Cup at home, based on the recommendations of the BCCI advisory committee.
- A new technical ranking system of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has placed India in 22nd spot among the continent's 46-member countries, the highest among South Asian nations.
- Former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly assured the Tripura Cricket Association (TCA) that he will return to the state in November to coach the Under-16 and Under-19 teams.
- Indian Tennis Player Yuki Bhambri clinched his first challenger level singles title of the season by defeating Di Wu in the Shanghai ATP challenger Finals.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has recognized the Indian Kalarippayattu Federation as Regional Sports Federation with immediate effect.
- Narsingh Pancham Yadav on 13th September 2015 secured an Olympic quota place for India after bagging a bronze medal in the Men's 74kg Freestyle category.
- The International Cricket Council has given its clearance to the three-match T20 series (Tendulkar-Warne Series) promoted by Sachin Tendulkar and Shane Warne in the United States.

- Veteran skeet shooter Mairaj Ahmad Khan celebrated the biggest day of his 12-year career when he clinched a Rio Olympics quota place for India at the ongoing ISSF Shotgun World Championship.
- India concluded their campaign with a solitary bronze medal in the men's compound team event of the Archery World Cup Stage 4.
- Indian sprinter Dutee Chand won gold (100 m) at the National Open Athletics Championships in Salt Lake. She finished in just 11.68 seconds.
- The Chinese city of Hangzhou has been confirmed as the host of the 2022 Asian Games, the Olympic Council of Asia announced at its General Assembly in Ashgabat.
- India bagged seven medals, including five silver and two bronze at the 16th Asian Rowing Championships that concluded in Beijing.
- Beijing Olympics champion Abhinav Bindra clinched the gold in the men's 10m Air Rifle event of the Asian Air Gun Championships, held in New Delhi.
- Manpreet Kaur, the Patiala-based shot putter, became the latest Indian athlete to qualify for next year's Olympics.
- A Japanese man has raced into the Guinness World Records after running 100 m in 42.22 seconds in Kyoto, western Japan.
- Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel won the Singapore Grand Prix and runaway championship leader Lewis Hamilton retired mid-race, injecting new life into the fight for the Formula One title.
- WADA inks a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Sports Ministry of China. This MoU has been entered to shorten the manufacture of performance-enhancing drugs (PEDS) in the country.
- The world number one team of Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis continued its dominating run by winning their sixth title of the year at the Guangzhou Open.
- Panjak Advani, India's most successful cueist, has added another feather to his cap by winning the IBSF World Billiards Championship held in Adelaide, Australia.
- Lewis Hamilton regained his total dominance of Formula One with his eighth victory of the season.
- The new rankings system will incorporate the results of T20, ODI and Test matches and then come out with a single rating. Australia, England, and New Zealand are at top three ranks respectively.
- Commemorating Mahatama Gandhi's 146th birth anniversary, the BCCI will launch a specially-minted toss coin with the images of the Father of the Nation and Nelson Mandela for the India-South Africa cricket series.
- India's five-time world boxing champion MC Mary Kom has announced that she has made up her mind to hang up her gloves after the 2016 Olympics in Rio.
- Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar is acquiring majority ownership in Indian Super League (ISL) franchise Kerala Blasters in a shareholding re-alignment.
- The third and final T20 international between India and South Africa was tonight abandoned without a ball being bowled because of a wet outfield, allowing the visitors to clinch the three-match series by 2-0 margin.

- The Presidents Cup will travel to the golf course of Melbourne in 2019 after it is held at the Liberty National, New Jersey in 2017.
- India seamer Zaheer Khan has announced his retirement from international and first-class cricket.
- Virender Sehwag has announced his retirement from international cricket, more than two-and-a-half years on from his last appearance for India.
- Yuki Bhambri has cracked the coveted top-100 bracket by achieving a career-best rank of 99, a reflection of his consistent progress in the last few months.
- Some 2,000 athletes from many indigenous ethnic groups and 30 countries are taking part in the first World Indigenous Games. The event in the northern Brazilian city of Palmas officially gets under way on Friday and will end on 31 October.
- The Cricket Board is all set to appoint an Ombudsman at its AGM which is scheduled to be held at its headquarters here on November 9.
- The Yachting Association of India (YAI) Senior National Championship – 2015, being organised by the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Mumbai has concluded.
- Nethra Kumanan from Tamil Nadu, who is vying for Olympic 2016 qualification, scheduled at Oman in mid November 15, walked away with a gold medal in Laser Radial Class of boat.
- Virat Kohli has made a remarkable achievement by scoring the century against South Africa.
- The South Asian Games will be held in Guwahati and Shillong from February 6 to 16, 2016 with eight countries, including hosts India, participating in the regional multi-sporting event.
- South Africa posted the joint-third highest total in one-day international history and lifted the Paytm Trophy as they beat India by 214 runs in Mumbai to win the series 3-2.
- The Indian team, led by Aman Raj, finished ninth on the final day of the Asia-Pacific Amateur Golf Team Championship, Nomura Cup at the Yas Links Golf Club of Abu Dhabi.
- Yuki Bhambri fashioned an impressive if not dominating win to clinch his second title of the season with a 6-2 7-6(4) defeat of second seed Evgeny Donskoy in the final of the USD 50,000 KPIT-MSLTA Challenger.
- Swiss pilot Michael Kuffer finished a close second in the final Task today but emerged as the overall champion of AAI Paragliding World Cup here.
- Hashim Amla finally had reasons to smile in this series when he became the fastest batsman to go past 6000 runs in ODIs.
- England batsman Joe Root has regained the No.1 ranking while Pakistani wrist spinner Yasir Shah has become the second highest-ranked bowler in the world in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) Test player rankings.
- Mexican driver Esteban Gutierrez has been named as the second driver for Haas F1 when the American-led team join the grid in 2016.

- Anirban Lahiri did not quite manage the kind of a finish he was looking for at the CIMB Classic as he closed the week with two-under 70 and ended tied 21st.
- Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu has added another feather to his cap by ensuring that he would be the first from his country to be part of a team scheduled to play in the Europa League next season.
- Inzamam ul Haq, the former Pakistan captain, has been roped in as the Afghanistan coach for a two-year period.
- Shiva Thapa became the highest-ranked Indian boxer, zooming to second in the latest international rankings after winning a bronze medal at last month's World championships in Doha.
- Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on 6 November 2015 became the fastest Indian to reach 150 wickets mark in the Indian test cricket history.
- Vidarbha opener Wasim Jaffer became the first cricketer in Ranji Trophy history to notch up 10000 runs on day two of their Group A match against Bengal at the Jadavpur University second campus ground in Saltlake.
- N Srinivasan has been dethroned as the ICC Chairman after the BCCI decided to recall him and nominate its recently-elected President Shashank Manohar as the chief of the world body.
- Australian paceman Mitchell Starc joined an exclusive club with a sizzling delivery on the third day of the second Test against New Zealand at the WACA Ground in Perth.
- Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson is to retire from all forms of international cricket.
- The International Association of Athletics Federations announced Usain Bolt, Ashton Eaton and Christian Taylor are the finalists for the 2015 World Athlete of the Year award.
- The International Association of Athletics Federations announced Usain Bolt, Ashton Eaton and Christian Taylor are the finalists for the 2015 World Athlete of the Year award.
- Jos Buttler hit England's fastest one-day international century to lead them to an 84-run win over Pakistan in Sharjah and a 3-1 series victory.
- India's most successful cueist Pankaj Advani added another feather in his cap by winning the IBSF World Snooker Championship after battling past his Chinese opponent Zhua Xintong in the final to take his world title count to 15.
- 'Flying Sikh' Milkha Singh today flagged off the 13 edition of the 'Hyderabad 10K Run' in which around 10,000 enthusiasts participated, displaying their willingness to run for a cause.
- Great Britain have won the Davis Cup for the first time since 1936 after Andy Murray beat Belgium's David Goffin to clinch the decisive point in Ghent.
- Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal has been nominated for the Woman Player of the Year Award of the Badminton World Federation.
- The November edition of the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Rankings has been released. In the final rankings of 2015, While Belgium topped the list, Indian team jumped six places to reach the 166th spot.

- Reigning World No.1 and 2015 All England and World champion Carolina Marin pipped Indian ace shuttler Saina Nehwal to win the Female Player of the Year award from BWF President Poul-Erik Høyer in Dubai.
- China's Chen Long retained the Male Player of the Year award that he won last year.
- Pune and Rajkot have emerged as the new franchises in the Indian Premier League for the next two years.
- Cricketer Rohit Sharma has been named a co-owner of the Pro Wrestling League team UP Warriors.
- Afghanistan cricket team has shifted its home base from Sharjah to the UPCA stadium in NOIDA where they will play their matches and practice after a MoU was signed.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced an exciting new global partnership with Oppo, a leading mobile telephone device companies, on a four-year deal which runs from 2016 until 2020.
- Bengaluru Yodhas, the JSW Group owned franchise in the Pro Wrestling League, has announced India's Test captain Virat Kohli as the co-owner of the team.
- Indian cyclist Deborah Herold became the first Indian female cyclist to be ranked fourth in the World Elite Women Ranking for the 500m time trial event.
- Anthony Joshua came through his first real test as a professional, knocking Dillian Whyte out in the seventh round to win the British heavyweight title.
- Japanese shuttlers Kento Momota and Nozomi Okuhara emerged champions in the men's and women's singles categories, respectively, in the BWF Superseries Finals, held in Dubai.
- Cricket Australia (CA) has appointed former India player Sridharan Sriram and ex-Australia batsman Mike Hussey as consultants to help the national team prepare for next year's World T20.
- MS Dhoni will remain India's skipper in the ICC World T20 2016.
- Liverpool youngster Yan Dhanda has become the first player of Indian heritage to sign a professional contract with the Reds.
- New Zealand cricket captain Brendon McCullum has announced that he will retire from international cricket in February.
- International referee from India, Ashok Kumar has been selected for officiating in the Rio Olympics 2016.
- Virag Mare runs a Vada Pav stall to earn his livelihood. He earns very less but his financial condition couldn't stop his dream. Virag Mare etched his name on the Guinness Book of World Records by having the longest batting net session.
- Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Chairman PR Mohan has announced that the National Games in 2019 would be held in Andhra Pradesh.

OBITUARIES

Name of the Person	Associated Field
Matti Makkonen	Father of SMS Technology
Diana Douglas	US Actress
Abdullah Hussai	Urdu Novelist
Bashar Navaaz	Urdu Poet
Omar Shariff	Egyptian Actor
Prince Saud al-Faisal	Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia
MS Viswanathan	Music Director
V Ramakrishna	Telugu Playback Singer
Alcides Ghiggia	Uruguay Soccer Legend
El Doctorow	US Novelist
RS Gavai	Former Governor of Bihar and Kerala
Bijoy Handique	Former Union Minister (Assam)
Parameshwaran Hariharan	Physicist
Santasilan Kadirgamar	Sri Lankan Historian
APJ Abdul Kalam	Former President of India
Dr Suniti Solomon	Pioneer of HIV/AIDS Research
Clive Rice	Former South African Cricket Player
Vasundhara Komkali	Vocalist
Tom Moore	Cartoonist
Alex Rocco	God Father Actor
Jules Bianchi	F1 Driver
Aubrey Morris	Clockwork Orange Actor
Satoru Iwata	Nintendo CEO
Adi Bharucha	Helsinki Olympics Swimmer
Name of the Person	Associated Field
Lynn Anderson	US Country Singer (Grammy Award Winner)
Peter O'Sullivan	Journalist. Known for 'Voice of Racing'.
Kayyara Kinhanna Rai	Poet and Freedom Fighter
Bhalchandra Pendharkar	Marathi Stage Actor
Om Prakash Munjal	Hero Group Founder
Julian Bond	US civil rights activist
Paravoor Bharathan	Malayalam Actor
Khaled al-As'ad	Syria's Antiquities Expert (ISIS beheaded him)
NR Varhadpande	Eminent Sanskrit Scholar and Indologist
Arthur Morris	Australian Test cricket legend
Justin Wilson	British driver
Darryl Dawkins	Legendary NBA Player
Dr. Malleshappa Madivalappa Kalburgi	Senior Kannada Writer. (He was shot dead)
Chitranjan Swarup	Uttar Pradesh Minister
Suva Mukherjee	India's First Lady (President's Pranab Mukherjee's Wife)
Colonel Harwant Singh (Rtd)	World War II Veteran
Jagannath Singh	BJP Senior Leader from Madhya Pradesh

Name of the Person	Related Field
Wes Craven	Cinema
Binny Yanga	Social Worker
Wilfred De Souza	Former Goa Chief Minister
Guru Kidangoor Rama Chakyar	Kutiyattam exponent
Aadesh Shrivastava	Bollywood music composer-director
Lance Naik Mohan Nath Goswami	Special Forces Commando
Aadesh Shrivastava	Music Composer
Ramaswamy R Iyer	Water Policy Expert
John P Connel	Hollywood Actor
Kalamandalam Sathyabhama	Mohiniyattam Dance
Bal Pandit	Marathi cricket commentator
Ram Kapse	Senior BJP leader
Viren Dangwal	Hindi Poet
Frank Tyson	Former England Fast Bowler
Syed Ahmed	Manipur Governor
Kallen Pokkudan	Noted environmentalist
Mohan Bhandari	TV Actor
Swami Dayananda Saraswati	Sanyasi
Yogi Berra	New York Yankees Player
Nizam	Odia lyricist
Sadhan Gupta	Communist Leader
Radhika Thilak	Malayalam Playback Singer
Jagmohan Dalmiya	Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president
Jackie Collins	Novelist
John Guillermin	British filmmaker
Lindsay Kline	Former Australian Test player
Edida Nageswara Rao	Renowned Telugu producer
Henning Mankell	Swedish crime writer
Gajanan Pendharkar	Chairman of Vicco Laboratories
Ravindra Jain	Veteran music director
N Ramani	Flautist
Manorama(Gopi Santha)	Legendary Tamil actress
Himani Savarkar	Noted pro-Hindutva leader and former president of Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha
Kikkeri Shamanna Lakshminarayana Swamy (KSL Swamy)	Renowned Kannada filmmaker
Syed Zahoor Qasim	Marine biologist
Ashwini Kumar	Member of the International Olympic Committee
Pijush Ganguly	Bengali film, television, and stage actor
Maureen O'Hara	Actress
Mada Venkateswara Rao	Veteran Telugu actor
Lord Gulam Noon	Britain's Curry King
Sam Sarpong	Tommy Hilfiger Model

Name of the Person	Related Field
Bob Minkler	Musician - Academy Award Winner
Brijmohan Lall Munjal	Founder of Hero MotoCorp
Fred Thompson	Former US senator and film actor
Guenter Schabowski	Berlin Wall blunderer
Hashim Abdul Halim	Former West Bengal Assembly Speaker
VN Misra	Archaeologist and pre-historian
Al Molinaro	American Actor
Gurcharan Chabbra	Former Janata Dal MLA
Colin Welland	Oscar-winning writer and actor
Rene Girard	French intellectual
Choudhry Harpal Singh	Former general secretary of Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU)
Om Prakash Mehra	Former chief of Air Staff
Allen Toussaint	American musician
Kamala Laxman	A noted writer of children's books
Saeed Jaffrey	Indian actor and Bollywood veteran
Ashok Singhal	Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader
Pithukuli Murugadas	Noted Tamil devotional singer
Jonah Lomu	Rugby great a pioneering global superstar
Dr. Satya Paul	Famous neurosurgeon and Secretary General of Indian Red Cross Society
K. Shankaran Nair	Former chief of India's external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)
P Vijay Kumar	Senior Tata Football Academy coach and former international footballer
RK Trivedi	Former Gujarat Governor
Madhav Chari	India's leading Jazz pianists
Dr. TS Papola	Labour economist
Surendra Upadhyay	Noted litterateur and former chairman of Rajasthan Brijbhasha Academy
David Canary	Veteran soap actor
Khekiho Zhimomi	Rajya Sabha MP
Noboru Karashima	Scholar and historian of South Asia
Joe Marston	Australian Football Icon
Eldar Ryazanov	Film director
Margi Sathi	Woman artist, choreographer and teacher of the classical Koodiyattam theatre
Sabri Khan	Sarangi maestro
MAM Ramaswamy	Veteran industrialist, former parliamentarian and the last King of Chettinad
SK Bhattacharya	Former FIFA referee
Sharad Joshi	Veteran farmer's leader and founder of Shetkari Sanghatana
Noorul Huda	Veteran CPI (M) leader of eastern India
Chatla Sriramulu	Renowned theatre artiste and writer
Jimmy Hill	Former Match of the Day presenter

Name of the Person	Related Field
Peter Dickinson	British mystery writer
Kurt Masur	Conductor(Music Director)
VS Malimath	Former Chief Justice of Karnataka and Kerala High Courts
Sadhana Shivdasani	Veteran Bollywood actress
George Clayton Johnson	American Science-fiction writer
Haskell Wexler	Cinematographer
Lemmy	Motorhead frontman
Pavel Srnicek	Former Newcastle Keeper
Mangesh Keshav Padgaonkar	Marathi Poet
General Om Prakash Malhotra	Ex Chief Army Staff

OBSERVED DAYS IN JULY

Date	Observed Day	Theme
July 1	International Joke Day National Doctor's Day	This day is celebrated in the memory of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy in order to pay honor to the entire medical profession.
July 2	World Sports Journalist Day	The occasion is celebrated to urge members of the sporting media to strive for excellence in their professional work.
July 4	Independence Day (USA)	Day is the second of three summer federal holidays. It comes in the middle of summer when the United States is sweltering.
July 6	International Kissing Day	The idea behind the International Kissing Day is that many people may have forgotten the simple pleasures associated with kissing for kissing's sake
July 7	Global Forgiveness Day	A day to forgive and be forgiven, Forgiveness Day is a chance to set things rig, Put aside old differences, move beyond grievances and hurts and start afresh.
July 11	World Population Day	A world of 7 billion is both a challenge and an opportunity with implications on sustainability, urbanization, access to health services and youth empowerment.
July 12	Malala Day	It is a chance for the global community to come together to highlight the role of young people in giving everyone, particularly girls, an education.
July 15	World Youth Skills Day	Young people worldwide are today celebrating the first World Youth Skills

		Day (WYSD).
July 17	International Justice Day	It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the founding treaty of the ICC, which seeks to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.
July 18	International Nelson Mandela Day	Annual international days adopted by the united nations.
July 26	Kargil Diwas Day	India successfully took command of the high outposts which had been lost to Pakistani intruders.
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	WHO and World Hepatitis Alliance have announced that the campaign theme for World Hepatitis Day 2015 will be the prevention of viral hepatitis.
July 29	World Tiger Day	Tigers lost 93% of their natural habitat due to the expansion of cities and agriculture by humans.
July 30	International Day of Friendship World Day against Trafficking in persons	We're encouraging people across the globe to take part in the campaign and share it with their friends, families and communities ahead.

OBSERVED DAYS IN AUGUST

Date	Observed Day	Theme
August 2	International Friendship Day International Forgiveness Day	The International Day of Friendship is a United Nations (UN) day that promotes the role that friendship plays in promoting peace in many cultures.
August 6	Hiroshima Day	The Japanese city of Hiroshima marks the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb by a US warplane.
August 9	Nagasaki Peace Day International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	The day is celebrated with special events around the world, including at United Nations Headquarters in New York.
August 12	International Youth Day	The "Youth Civic Engagement." engagement and participation of youth is essential to achieve sustainable human development.

August 14	Pakistan's Independence Day	It commemorates the day when Pakistan achieved independence and was declared a sovereign nation following the end of the British Raj in 1947.
August 15	India's Independence Day Victory over Japan Day, UK	The holiday is observed throughout India with flag-hoisting ceremonies, parades and cultural events.
August 19	World Humanitarian Day World Photography Day	The day to embrace your love of photography whether you see yourself as an Amateur hobbyist or professional. The ultimate goal of galvanizing a greater sense of global citizenship was supported this year through a groundbreaking.
August 20	World Mosquito Day	This special day is known for the famous doctor Sir Ronald Ross who in 1902 discovered that female mosquito of the Anopheles genus are responsible for the disease called Malaria.
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition	The Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.
August 26	Women's Equality Day in US	The proclaimed each year by the United States President to commemorate the granting of the vote to women throughout the country.
August 29	International Day Against Nuclear Tests National Sports Day	There has been little consideration of the devastating effects of testing on human life, let alone the understanding of nuclear fallout from atmospheric tests.
August 30	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	Enforced disappearance has frequently been used as a strategy to spread terror within the society.

OBSERVED DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Date	Observed Day	Theme
September 5	National Teachers Day	Birthday of Sarvelli Radhakrishnan
First Saturday in September Sep 5 in 2015	International Vulture Awareness Day	
September 08	International Literacy Day	"literacy and sustainable societies"
September 12	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation	
September 12	World First Aid Day	
September 14	Hindi Divas	
September 15	Engineers Day	"Engineering Challenges for Knowledge Era"
September 16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	"Ozone: All that is there between You and UV"
September 21	International day of Peace	"Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All".
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	"Remember Me"
September 26	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	
September 27	World Tourism Day	"one billion tourists, one billion opportunities."
September 28	World Rabies Day	"End Rabies Together"
September 29	World Heart Day	"creating heart-healthy environments"

OBSERVED DAYS IN OCTOBER 2015

Date	Day Observed	Theme of the Day
October 1	Wildlife Awareness Week	
October 1	International Day of Older Persons (IDOP)	Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment
October 5	World Teachers' Day	Objective: To mobilize support for teachers
First Monday of October	World Habitat Day	Public Spaces for All
October 9	World Post Day	The anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union
October 9	World Egg Day	
October 10	World Mental Health Day	Dignity in mental health
October 13	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	Knowledge for Life

October 21	Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day	
October 20	World Statistics Day	Better Data; Better Lives
October 22	International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD)	Spread the Word – Education, Cooperation, Communication
October 26 to October 31	Vigilance Awareness Week	Preventive Vigilance as a tool of Good Governance
October 24	World Polio Day	
October 24	United Nations Day	Turn the World UN Blue
October 27	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Archives at risk: protecting the world's identities.
October 31	World Cities Day	2015: Better City, Better Life; Designed to live together

OBSERVED DAYS IN NOVEMBER 2015

Date	Day Observed	Theme of the Day
November 1	World Vegan Day	
November 2	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists	
November 6	World Science Day for Peace and Development	Science for a Sustainable Future
November 13	World Kindness Day	
November 14	World Diabetes Day	Healthy Living and Diabetes
November 16	International Day of Tolerance	
November 19	World Toilet Day (WTD)	Nutrition and Sanitation
November 19 (Third Thursday in November)	World Philosophy Day	Plurality of Languages and Places of Philosophy
November 20	Africa Industrialization Day	Small and Medium Enterprises for Poverty Eradication and Job Creation for Women and Youth
November 20	Universal Children's Day	
November 21	World Television Day	
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	
November 26	National Milk Day	
November 26	Constitution Day	
November 29	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	

OBSERVED DAYS IN December 2015

Date	Day Observed	Theme of the Day
December 1	World AIDS Day	Getting to zero; end Aids by 2030.
December 2	International Day for Abolition of Slavery	
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Inclusion matters: access and empowerment for people of all abilities
December 4	Indian Navy Day	To commemorate Operation Trident's commencement, as part of the 1971 Indo-Pak war
December 7	Armed Forces Flag Day	
December 09	International Anti-Corruption Day	Break the corruption chain.
December 09	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide	
December 10	Human Rights Day	"Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always"
December 11	International Mountain Day	"Promoting mountain products for better livelihoods"
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day	
December 16	Vijay Diwas	
December 17	International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers	
December 18	International Day of Migrants	
December 24	National Consumers Right Day	
December 25	Good Governance Day	

THANK YOU 😊 😊 😊

Contact Us At

arunsathyan.day2daygk@gmail.com

&

prerikagupta.day2daygk@gmail.com