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AWARDS AND HONOURS

- 1) **Kanavu Variyam**, a Tamil movie directed by a Chennai-based techie Arun Chidambaram, has gone on to win the prestigious **Remi Award** in the US.
- 2) US President Barack Obama to honour **six Indian Americans**, who have made to the list of 106 scientists and engineers, with the **highest US government prize** for young independent researchers.
- 3) **Ismail Mahomed**, an Indian-origin art lover and playwright in South Africa has been conferred **knighthood** by the **French government** for his lifelong devotion to the promotion of arts.
- 4) Long-distance runner **Lalita Babar** was named as the **Sports Person of the Year** in the India Sports Awards 2015.
- 5) Chemical scientist and well-known researcher **Goverdhan Mehta** has been conferred with Germany's prestigious **Cross of the Order of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) Award**.
- 6) Tennis star **Sania Mirza**, Indian batting mainstay **Virat Kohli** and top-seeded badminton player **Saina Nehwal** lead the pack of over 50 Indians in Forbes' inaugural list of top "**promising young leaders and game changers**" under the age of 30 in Asia.
- 7) A bag of rice weighing 550 kilograms has entered the **Guinness Book of World Records** for being the heaviest bag of rice. The rice bag of **India Gate Classic Basmati Rice brand** has achieved the feat at the annual 4-day food and hospitality trade show being held from February 21-25.
- 8) **GVK Biosciences** has bagged the **Global CSR Excellence & Leadership Awards** in the category of Best Environment Friendly Project for its '**Go Green, Grow Green**' plantation drive.
- 9) **Dr Avinash Chander**, Former Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister and ex-DRDO chief, has received the prestigious Astronautical Society of India's **Aryabhata Award**.
- 10) **Father Agnel School** in Greater Noida's Sector Beta 2 pipped 500 schools from across the country to emerge as the '**greenest school**'.
- 11) '**The Revenant**' scooped the best film, best actor and best director awards at the 69th edition of the biggest film awards outside the U.S.
- 12) '**Nagaland is changing, But...**', a film on conservation efforts by villagers has won the Golden Beaver Best Film Award in the institutional category at this year's 6th National Science Film Festival in Mumbai.

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- 13) A total of **15 cities** from across the country were felicitated by the central government for their good work in different areas of sanitation.
- 14) President Pranab Mukherjee conferred **Infosys Prize 2015** on six winners in New Delhi.
- 15) **Taylor Swift** has taken home the 2016 award for Album of The Year at the 2016 Grammy Awards for her 2014 album 1989.
- 16) **Fashion designer Manish Arora** has been conferred with the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour), France's highest civilian honour.
- 17) **Renowned Indian lyricist Sameer Anjaan** has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for writing lyrics to the most number of Bollywood songs.
- 18) **Robin Chaurasiya**, an Indian teacher who runs a non-profit school in Mumbai for girls from the city's red light areas has been named in the top 10 short-list for a global prize for teachers.
- 19) **The World Press Photo of the Year** honors the photographer whose visual creativity and skills made a picture that captures or represents an event or issue of great journalistic importance in the last year.
- 20) **Renowned Indologist Professor David Shulman** has been awarded the prestigious Israel Prize for his breakthrough studies in fields like religion and philosophy.
- 21) **Bethesda's Fallout 4** has won Game of the Year at the DICE Awards, the equivalent of the Oscars of gaming.
- 22) National Award-winning Malayalam film "**Ottal**" has been named as the Best Film by children's jury at the 66th Berlin International Film Festival.
- 23) Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus **Bajirao Mastani**, starring Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone swept the Zee Cine Awards 2016, winning awards in as many as 10 categories including the Jury Award for Best Film, Best Actor and Best Director and Best Actress (Viewers' Choice).
- 24) KJ Joseph from Kerala has set a new world record for the maximum number of knuckle push-ups in a minute.
- 25) The new version of Next Generation e-Ticketing System (NGET) introduced by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been bestowed gold in national award for e-governance 2015-16 in "Innovative Use of ICT by Central Government PSUs" category.
- 26) Lionel Messi has been named La Liga's Player of the Month for January
- 27) Bollywood actress Vidya Balan received the Pride of Kerala Award from the World Malayalee Council and Kairali TV

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- 28) Two new Hindi writers **Amlendu Tiwari** and **Om Nagar** have been chosen for the 11th Navlekhan award of the Bharatiya Jnanpith, Tiwari for his novel 'Parityakt' and on Nagar for his non-fictional prose Nib Ke Cheere Se.
- 29) **Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra** has been conferred with the Diploma of Honour and President's Button by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) as an acknowledgment to his "contribution as an athlete" to the sport.
- 30) At the inaugural ceremony of MIFF 2016, Fadnavis and Col. Rathore honoured the veteran wildlife film maker **Naresh Bedi** with the V Shantaram Life Time Achievement Award.
- 31) **Waheeda Rehman** was honoured with a special award for her contribution to the film industry as curtains came down on Yashwant International Film Festival.
- 32) **Nisid Hajari** has won the 2016 William E. Colby Award for his book, "Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition."
- 33) **Nitish Kumar** has been chosen for the K Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2015 for his contribution towards social justice as Chief Minister.
- 34) The Prince Mahidol Award Foundation has named **American professor Morton M. Mower** as the winner of the Prince Mahidol Award 2015 in the field of medicine.
- 35) The Prince Mahidol Award Foundation has named British researcher **Sir Michael Gideon Marmot** as the winner of the Prince Mahidol Award 2015 in the field of public health.
- 36) **Corporation Bank** has won three awards in 'Best Social Bank Excellence Award 2015', instituted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).
- 37) Indian filmmaker Kanu Behl's **Titli** film has bagged the Best First Foreign Film Award conferred by the French Syndicate of Cinema Critics 2016 (FSCC).
- 38) **Megastar Amitabh Bachchan** has been presented with the lifetime achievement award at NDTV Indian of the Year Awards.
- 39) The Manipuri movie **Phum Shang** has won the Golden Conch award for the best documentary film (up to 60 minutes) at the 14th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) for Documentary, Animation and Short Films.
- 40) **Kerala's** all-women taxi cab service '**She-Taxi**', touted as the country's first 24×7 taxi network by women for women, has bagged the prestigious Chief Minister's Award for Innovation in Public Policy 2014.

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- 41) **Geetu Mohandas** won Sundance Institute Global Filmmaking Award 2016 on 30 January 2016 for her script of yet-to-be shot film Insha Allah.
- 42) **Sarangi maestro Pandit Ram Narayan** has been chosen for the prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi classical music award for 2015-2016.
- 43) Well-known actor **Nana Patekar** will get the ‘Godavari Gaurav’ award, instituted by city-based ‘Kusumagraj Prathishthan’. The other awardees include dancer Kanak Rele, Chetana Sinha, Dr Shashi Kumar Chitre, Dr Balkrishna Joshi and endurance cyclists Hitendra and Mahendra Mahajan for their contribution in various fields.
- 44) **Sanjay Leela Bhansali** and **Ranveer Singh** chosen for 2016 Dinanath Mangeshkar Award
- 45) **Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda** was felicitated by Melbourne based South Asian community members in Australia.

The 2016 Oscars Winners – Complete List

- Best picture – “Spotlight”
- Best actor – Leonardo DiCaprio, “The Revenant”
- Best actress – Brie Larson, “Room”
- Best supporting actor – Mark Rylance, “Bridge of Spies”
- Best supporting actress – Alicia Vikander, “The Danish Girl”
- Best director – “The Revenant,” Alejandro G. Iñárritu
- Best original screenplay – “Spotlight,” by Josh Singer and Tom McCarthy
- Best adapted screenplay – “The Big Short,” Charles Randolph and Adam McKay
- Best costume design – “Mad Max: Fury Road,” Jenny Beavan
- Best production design – “Mad Max: Fury Road,” production design by Colin Gibson; set decoration by Lisa Thompson
- Best makeup and hairstyling – “Mad Max: Fury Road,” Lesley Vanderwalt, Elka Wardega and Damian Martin
- Best cinematography – “The Revenant,” Emmanuel Lubezki
- Best film editing – “Mad Max: Fury Road,” Margaret Sixel
- Best sound editing – “Mad Max: Fury Road,” Mark Mangini and David White
- Best sound mixing – “Mad Max: Fury Road,” Chris Jenkins, Gregg Rudloff and Ben Osmo

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- Best visual effects – “Ex Machina,” Andrew Whitehurst, Paul Norris, Mark Ardington and Sara Bennett
- Best animated short film – “Bear Story,” Gabriel Osorio and Pato Escala
- Best animated feature film – “Inside Out,” Pete Docter and Jonas Rivera
- Best documentary, short subject – “A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness,” Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy
- Best documentary feature – “Amy,” Asif Kapadia and James Gay-Rees
- Best live-action short film – “Stutterer,” Benjamin Cleary and Serena Armitage
- Best foreign-language film – “Son of Saul,” Hungary
- Best original song – “Writing’s on the Wall” from “Spectre” Music and lyric by Jimmy Napes and Sam Smith
- Best original score – “The Hateful Eight,” Ennio Morricone

APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Railway officer **Vinay Kumar Singh** has been chosen for appointment as **Managing Director of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)**.
- 2) **Amar Singh** has been appointed the **police commissioner** of Malaysia’s capital **Kuala Lumpur**, the highest police rank achieved by a Sikh in the Muslim-majority country.
- 3) **Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India** (formerly MCX Stock Exchange) has appointed its interim Managing Director & CEO **Udai Kumar** as **MD & CEO** after receiving necessary approvals from securities regulator SEBI.
- 4) **KN Vyas**, Distinguished Scientist and Associate Director, Reactor Projects Group of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) took over as **Director, BARC** from Dr. Sekhar Basu.
- 5) Bangladesh limited-overs captain **Mashrafe Bin Mortaza** is set to be named as the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) “**national goodwill ambassador for youth**”.
- 6) Japanese car manufacturer **Nissan** named Indian cricketer **Rohit Sharma** as their new **global ambassador**.
- 7) The **Diageo-controlled United Spirits USL**) has announced the appointment of **MK Sharma** as its new **chairman**, a day after the embattled liquor baron Vijay Mallya resigned from the post.

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- 8) **Rajendra Singh** will be the new **director general** of the **Coast Guard**.
- 9) Online fashion store **Jabong** on 26 Feb 2016 announced the appointment of **Muralikrishnan B**, former eBay India country manager, and senior e-commerce and consumer internet executive, as the company's **chief operating officer**.
- 10) **Justice Subhro Kamal Mukherjee** took oath as the **28th Chief Justice** of the High Court of **Karnataka** on 25 Feb 2016.
- 11) India's leading private lender **Yes Bank** has been awarded inaugural **Green Bond Pioneer Award** at a ceremony held in London, United Kingdom.
- 12) Union Government has selected former **Chief Justice of India (CJI) H L Dattu** as new **Chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.
- 13) World football's governing body elected the Swiss-Italian lawyer **Gianni Infantino** after he defeated nearest rival **Bahrain's Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa** in the second round of voting.
- 14) **Dr. Vilas A Tonapi** has been appointed Director of Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Rajendranagar.
- 15) **Senior IRS officer Jayant Misra** has been appointed as Director General of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
- 16) The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley inaugurated the Non Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP), developed by the Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- 17) **West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra** has been named the new chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers on Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- 18) Bollywood actress **Kajol and Shashi Shekhar Vempati**, who heads an online media company, were appointed as part-time members of the Prasar Bharati board which runs public broadcasters Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR).
- 19) Former chief of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) **RK Pachauri** has been appointed executive vice-chairman of the organization.
- 20) The Governing Council of TERI appointed **Ashok Chawla**, former Union Finance Secretary and former Chairman of the Competition Commission, as its new chairman.
- 21) Australia has announced the appointment of **Harinder Sidhu**, India-origin as the new High Commissioner-designate.
- 22) **Davinder Singh**, Indian-origin lawyer in Singapore has been named as vice-chairman of the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce Commission.
- 23) United Nations Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** has appointed **Tamar Hahn** as Israel Director of the United

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- 24) United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Buenos Aires, which serves Argentina and Uruguay. Rasna chairman Piruz Khambatta has been named ambassador of the government's 'Make in India' initiative by the Government of India.
- 25) **Leslie Berland** has been named as Twitter's new chief marketing executive
- 26) Government of India has appointed **Gurdeep Singh** as the chairman and managing director of NTPC Ltd, India's biggest power producer.
- 27) **Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey** has been appointed as the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) for a period of three years.
- 28) **Ten** part-time Non-Official Directors (NODs) have been appointed by the government on the board of various public sector banks
- 29) **Vice Admiral Girish Luthra**, AVSM, VSM took over charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command from Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM.
- 30) Telecom secretary **Rakesh Garg** has been appointed secretary of the minority affairs ministry as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle.
- 31) **JS Deepak** has been appointed as the new secretary, department of telecommunications.
- 32) Senior Indian Revenue Service officer **Atulesh Jindal** is all set to take charge as the new chairman of the CBDT, the controlling body of the income tax department.
- 33) Senior IFS officer **Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi** has been appointed India's next Ambassador to Mexico.
- 34) Senior IPS officer **Archana Ramasundram** has been appointed as Director-General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), the first woman to head a paramilitary force.
- 35) Former India cricketer **Virender Sehwaag** has been appointed mentor of the Kings XI Punjab for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL).
- 36) **Saroj Kumar Jha** has been appointed Senior Director for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group at the World Bank
- 37) Union Government has appointed senior IPS officer **K Durga Prasad** as Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- 38) Online furniture store Urban Ladder has named **Sanjay Gupta** as its chief marketing officer.
- 39) Analytics services provider Mu Sigma Inc. has appointed **Ambiga Dhiraj** as its chief executive officer (CEO).
- 40) The Principal Adviser (Cost), **Mrs. Aruna Sethi (ICoAS 1985)** took over the charge of Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS) as head.

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- 41) Former chief secretary of Gujarat **DJ Pandian** has been appointed vice-president and chief investment officer of the newly-created Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- 42) **Major General Jai Shanker Menon** has been appointed to head the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), which monitors the Syria-Israel ceasefire in the Golan Heights.
- 43) The government has appointed **Parameshwaran Iyer** as the new Secretary of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department.
- 44) **Senior IPS officer Alok Kumar Verma** took charge as the new Commissioner of Delhi Police
- 45) **Dinesh Sharma** becomes the Chairperson of the Governing Council of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

BANKING AND ECONOMY

- 1) In order to enhance economic cooperation and strengthen financial stability, **RBI** has **extended** the **USD 2 billion currency swap** arrangement to **SAARC nations** till mid-**November 2017**.
- 2) **Mastercard** is launching new mobile technologies that will allow customers to **authenticate** their online purchases using **selfies or fingerprints**.
- 3) Banking giant **SBI** has taken another leap in this space with the launch of **SBI e-Smart SME**, a working capital loan offering for **sellers on ecommerce platforms**.
- 4) State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has declared 904 borrowers who owed it a combined Rs.10,869.71 crore as of **December-end** as wilful defaulters.
- 5) The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced an **open market operation (OMO)** purchase of government securities worth Rs 12,000 crore on **March 3**.
- 6) Ahead of the Union Budget (scheduled on 29 Feb 2016), the Economic Survey on 26 Feb 2016 termed external environment as challenging but projected a **7-7.5 per cent GDP growth rate** in the next fiscal (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017) which could accelerate to **eight per cent** in a couple of years.
- 7) **Retirement fund body EPFO** has tightened norms on **withdrawal of provident fund** as well investment of such amount in **Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana** for its over five crore subscribers.

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- 8) Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** said that the government will soon announce a series of major banking reforms, including lowering its stake in state-owned banks to 51 per cent.
- 9) UB Group holding company United Breweries (Holdings) Ltd said that Punjab National Bank has declared the company as a “**willful defaulter**”.
- 10) Banking Giant State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a new initiative called ‘**Japan Desk**’, a first-of-its-kind initiative to facilitate Japanese corporates looking to invest in India with banking and advisory services.
- 11) The World Bank has decided to lend support to the **Rajasthan government** on energy reforms.
- 12) **Aditya Birla Nuvo**, one of the eleven entities that have received in-principle approvals from the RBI to set up payments banks, said it has incorporated a new subsidiary for the same purpose.
- 13) The government is looking at providing banking services in every village of the country by leveraging technology and the network of Common Services Centres (CSCs).
- 14) According to Crisil Research, Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.9 per cent in the fiscal starting April, lower than earlier forecast of 8.1 per cent.
- 15) The Reserve Bank of India said it will actively inject additional cash into the banking system in March 2016.
- 16) Government of India has marginally revised downward the economic growth for 2014-15 to 7.2 per cent from the earlier estimate of **7.3 per cent**.
- 17) The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into two bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with **United Kingdom**.
- 18) The Reserve Bank of India has kept key interest rates unchanged at **6.75%**.
- 19) **The Reserve Bank of India** has proposed steps to improve ease of doing business for start-ups through easier access to foreign capital and by enabling smoother transfer of ownership.
- 20) Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country more than doubled to about **\$4.5 billion (Rs 30,514.5 crore)** in December 2015. In December 2014, India had received \$2.16 billion.
- 21) **Mahindra Asset Management Company** has received markets regulator SEBI’s approval for setting up of their mutual fund business.

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- 22) The **Small Industries Development Bank of India** (Sidbi) will be raising the proposed Rs 10,000-crore corpus for 'Stand Up India Fund' from RBI, which will be disbursed to Dalit and women entrepreneurs.

NATIONAL ROUND-UP

- 1) The **Ministry of Tourism** in co-ordination with **Ministry of Culture** has launched the **Swachh Paryatan mobile app to increase citizens'** participation in the **protection and upkeep** of heritage monuments in India.
- 2) **Katni in Madhya Pradesh** will have India's **longest railway bridge, 14 km** on the up line, almost three and half times longer than Vembanad rail bridge in Kerala that connects Edappally and Vallarpadam in Kochi and is 4.62 km long.
- 3) According to latest report of the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** on global arms purchases, India continues to remain the **world's largest arms importer**.
- 4) **INS Arihant**, India's first nuclear armed submarine is now ready for **full fledged operations**. The submarine has passed several deep sea diving drills as well as weapons launch tests over the past five months.
- 5) The Government has decided to induct **women in all military combat roles** in the future.
- 6) The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for **introduction of steps for promotion of payments through cards and digital means**.
- 7) In a bid to provide standardised accommodation options to train travellers through a convenient booking platform, **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** has **tied up** with **OYO Rooms**.
- 8) The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for establishment of **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) in NITI Aayog** with appropriate manpower.
- 9) In the Rail Budget 2016, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu announces a capital plan of Rs. 1,21,000 crore for 2016-17; claims action initiated on 139 budget announcements made last year.
- 10) The **Indian Express Power List**, which ranks the **100 most powerful Indians**, for the year 2016, has been released.

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- 11) **Industrialist Mukesh Ambani** remains India's **richest person** with a sharp surge of 30 per cent in his net worth to \$26 billion, pushing his global rank to 21st on a worldwide rich list **topped by Bill Gates**.
- 12) The Lok Sabha has passed Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016 to grant voting rights to people who became citizens of the country following the exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh.
- 13) Union Women and Child Development minister **Maneka Gandhi** said India has the third highest child mortality **rate among SAARC countries** with **48 deaths reported per 1000 live births**.
- 14) The Union Government has extended **e-Tourist Visa Scheme to 37 more countries**. With this, the total count of countries under the scheme will become **150**.
- 15) The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the country's first solar mission called **Aditya-L1**.
- 16) The fifth edition of IBSAMAR 2016 trilateral naval exercise between Brazil, India and South Africa kicked off in **Goa**. **IBSAMAR** is abbreviated as **of India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime**.
- 17) **Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL)** has inaugurated India's **first Digital Automotive Experience Outlet** called **Unity Hyundai** in the national capital.
- 18) The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to make a plan to block websites showing child pornography and sought its response to a plea to ban viewing of porn at public places.
- 19) **President Pranab Mukherjee** has declared **Kerala** as the **first digital state** of the country.
- 20) The **Maharashtra government** has taken **action against** e-commerce giants **Snapdeal, Amazon and Flipkart** which were selling **medicines online without valid licences**.
- 21) **Vedanta Limited** has won India's first-ever **gold mining lease** auctioned by the **Chhattisgarh** government.
- 22) Minister of Railways, **Suresh Prabhu** has announced plans to set up a dedicated, cross functional team called Special Unit for **Transportation Research and Analytics (Sutra)**.
- 23) Apple is setting up its first technology development center outside the US, in **Hyderabad, India**.

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- 24) **SnapBizz Cloudtech Pvt. Ltd**, which devises technology for grocery stores, said it raised an undisclosed amount of funding from Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus of Tata Sons Ltd.
- 25) According to Monster Salary Index (MSI), **Information Technology sector** is the highest paying sector in India with a median gross hourly salary of Rs 346.42, while those in the manufacturing sector get paid the least at Rs 254.04.
- 26) The policy envisages increasing exports from the current 27% to 40% of production while increasing share of domestic production in India's demand from 60% to 80%, thus making India a net exporter of capital goods.
- 27) India said it may seize **Vodafone Group Plc's** assets in the country if the company doesn't pay a disputed Rs.14,200 crore tax bill that's still undergoing international arbitration proceedings.
- 28) The government of India has increased the PF interest rate to **8.8 per cent** for the ongoing financial year ended March 2016 from **8.75 per cent** earlier.
- 29) Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari launched a dedicated website to the union government's Maritime India Summit 2016 to be held in April at the Ports and Shipping seminar at Make in India (MII) Summit.
- 30) Hyderabad based packaging material maker **Bollant Industries** has raised an undisclosed funding from Ratan Tata.
- 31) The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval to the Agreement for collaborative activities to be signed in the area of **Traditional Medicine** between Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India and the **World Health Organization, Geneva**.
- 32) **BAE Systems** has announced selection of **Mahindra** as its India partner for the nearly \$700 million deal for the supply of **145 M777 Howitzers**.
- 33) Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Arun Jaitley released '**Bharat 2016**' and '**India 2016**' year books.
- 34) The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval to amend section 11 of the **Delimitation Act, 2002** and section 9 of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**.
- 35) Cricket Legend and Rajya Sabha MP Sachin Tendulkar's autobiography, **Playing It My Way**, has entered the Limca Book of Records in the category of best-selling books across both fiction and non-fiction categories with 1,50,289 copies sold on order subscriptions.

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- 36) Government of India has approved eight highway projects worth Rs 6,000 crore for six states – Punjab, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha.
- 37) Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Sushri Uma Bharti will inaugurate "**Jal Manthan -2**" on February 22, 2016 New Delhi.
- 38) Dissident Congress leader **Kalikhho Pul**, 46, has sworn in as the ninth Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh with the support of 18 rebel Congress MLAs, and two Independents and 11 BJP MLAs who gave outside support.
- 39) The **Public investment Board** has approved the Rs 800-crore proposal from **India Post** for setting up a payments bank and it will be placed before the Cabinet within a month for final approval.
- 40) Indian Railways may introduce train hostesses on soon to be launched **Delhi-Agra Gatiman Express**, the first train in India to run at a speed of 160 kmph.
- 41) Public sector oil major **ONGC** has approved Rs.3,104 crore additional investment for drilling of wells and creating surface facilities to produce 5.1 MMSCMD (million metric standard cubic metres per day) gas from gas fields in **Tripura**.
- 42) Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ambitious 'Rurban Mission' for developing 300 villages across the country as urban growth centres amid his assertion that his government is for the poor, dalits and other oppressed.
- 43) The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has dedicated the state of the art Paradip Refinery in Odisha to the nation.
- 44) On February 11, GOI is going to launch an ambitious programme that seeks to eliminate malaria by 2027
- 45) E-commerce company Moglix has announced an undisclosed financial investment in the company by industrialist Ratan Tata.
- 46) Maharashtra's ambitious plans to set up India's first international arbitration centre in Mumbai has begun ahead of the Make In India Week to be held in the city from February 13 to 18
- 47) India will host the first ever Global Maritime Summit this year and called for maritime cooperation stating that the seas must be used to build peace, friendship, trust and curb conflict in April 2016.
- 48) The Union textile ministry has bestowed the tag on Chettinad cotton saris, which would enable them to promote the material in the international market as 'Indian Handloom Brand'.

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- 49) Ratan Tata has invested an undisclosed amount in Delhi-based biopharmaceutical firm Invictus Oncology Pvt Ltd, next generation cancer therapeutic startup. The investment in Invictus Oncology is Tata's fifth in 2016
- 50) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) entering into a tie up with leading tea cafe chain Chaayos.
- 51) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will enter into a partnership with Delhi Police, in which it will help develop a mechanism to facilitate "predictive policing" and "live crime mapping".
- 52) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has barred telecom service providers from charging differential rates for data services, effectively prohibiting Facebook's Free Basics and Airtel Zero platform by Airtel in their current form.
- 53) India will focus on the north-eastern region to expand its hydrocarbon and petrochemical industries with an eye on markets such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Thailand.
- 54) Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) has partnered with Nokia Networks to create technology solutions that will enhance broadband connectivity in rural India.
- 55) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) advised private entities, including cooperative and philanthropic organisations, to reserve 27% of all hiring for people from the so-called other backward classes (OBCs).
- 56) JP Nadda, the Health Minister has launched the National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030, which outlines India's strategy for elimination of the disease by 2030.
- 57) The US Chamber of Commerce has released its 4th annual International IP Index -Infinite Possibilities- which measured the IP environment in India has placed India at number 37 out of 38 countries.
- 58) The unreserved ticketing mobile application which was launched in South Central Railway - 'UTSONMOBILE'.
- 59) NRI billionaire Anil Agarwal has announced that his firm Twinstar Display Technologies will set up India's first LCD manufacturing facility in Maharashtra,
- 60) Kicking off the 'Make In India Week', Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Make In India Centre at the MMRDA Grounds in Mumbai.
- 61) According to a study released by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), India has been ranked 3rd among the top five.

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- 62) To improve ease of doing business, the government will soon introduce Business Identification Number (BIN) for the companies.
- 63) Two years after India launched Nirbheek, a handgun pitched as the country's "first gun for women", a state-run arms factory has launched a similar gun which it says is India's lightest gun. The new .22-calibre revolver is named Nidar.
- 64) Indian Railway is firming up a proposal to develop an online fuel management system, a first of its kind for the national transporter, to check pilferage and bring transparency in fuel consumption
- 65) Banaras Hindu University (BHU) founded by Freedom fighter Pt Madan Mohan Malviya has turned 100 years on 13th February 2016
- 66) To support India's efforts to end tuberculosis, US development agency **USAID** has announced grants aimed at scaling up innovative solutions for combating the disease in the country.
- 67) India has test fired its indigenously-built **Akash missile** from complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha and it is a surface-to-air missile.
- 68) The limit has been imposed by authorities on IRCTC online ticket booking and this has been cut to a maximum of **6 tickets in a month** from the existing provision of maximum of 10 tickets by an individual user.
- 69) India ranks **76** in Corruption Perception Index.
- 70) The Government of India has decided to nominate **Ahmedabad** for the UNESCO world heritage city tag this year.
- 71) Alibaba.com, the wholesale trading platform of China's Alibaba group today unveiled its first physical trade facility centre in the country at **Jaipur**.
- 72) Jet Airways, India's premier airline, has introduced a new booking feature, which allows the passengers the flexibility to retain a selected fare for a limited period of time before confirming the purchase at a later date called '**Fare lock**'.
- 73) The government of India is all set to clean **1,600** village panchayat headquarters along the river banks within the next six months and complete the first phase of Ganga cleaning by October this year.
- 74) Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government wants to create a network across villages in the country to provide more job opportunities through the sector **Khadi Gramudyog**.
- 75) India has got its first underwater restaurant in **Ahmedabad**, giving a new experience to food lovers.

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- 76) The tiny hill state **Meghalaya** has been emerged as the fastest-growing state in the whole country with a growth rate of 9.7% in 2013-14.
- 77) Mumbai-based ethnic retailer, **Craftsvilla**, has acquired Mumbai-based on-demand shipping service provider startup **Sendd** for about \$4.5 Mn.
- 78) **Infosys**, the leading Indian software company, is all set to beat the 96-metre tall Big Ben, the iconic free-standing clock tower in London, with a 135m structure.
- 79) **India** has surpassed the US to become the world's second largest smartphone market, crossing 220 million in active unique smartphone users in 2015.
- 80) The Supreme Court of India has asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India, BCCI to implement the recommendations of **Justice R M Lodha Committee**.
- 81) Vice-President Hamid Ansari left Thailand after concluding a five-day tour of **Thailand and Brunei**.
- 82) Consumers who are charged more than the MRP can now file their complaints on WhatsApp or dial up the Weights and Measures department for appropriate action on **9869691666 or dial 022-22886666**.
- 83) A National Organic Farming Research Institute will be established in Sikkim by upgrading the Regional Centre of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in **Gangtok**.
- 84) **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the 12th South Asian Games (SAG) in Guwahati, Assam on February 5, 2016.
- 85) Union government will spend Rs 1 lakh crore for development of road infrastructure in **Karnataka**.
- 86) **India** officially became the Associate Member State of European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO).
- 87) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5 February 2016 dedicated the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL) at **Lepetkata, Assam**.
- 88) The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) has directed the Assistant Registrar of Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai, to proceed with registration of Geographical Indication (GI) tag for **Basmati rice**.
- 89) Ministry of Urban Development has approved projects worth over Rs.12 cr for improving tourist infrastructure in heritage places of **Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh and Warangal in Telangana**.
- 90) Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda has launched **Project Sunrise** for prevention of AIDS in the eight North-Eastern states.

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- 91) The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has decided to set up the National Organic Farming Research Institute in **Sikkim**.
- 92) Government of India is considering a package of tax incentives for the labour-intensive **leather and gems and jewellery sectors**.
- 93) **Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education**, Puducherry has become India's first fully solar powered institute (Educational).
- 94) The Indian Air Force (IAF) has agreed to vacate the airbase at **Leh district** which will be used for expansion of the civilian airport by the Jammu and Kashmir government.
- 95) Concerned over the sharp rise in infectious disease like tuberculosis, **Maharashtra government** will introduce a bill banning spitting in public places.

INTERNATIONAL ROUND-UP

- 1) **Cuban President Raul Castro** announced that he is dispatching **9,000 soldiers** to help keep the **Zika virus out of Cuba**, calling on the entire country to help kill the mosquito that carries the disease.
- 2) **Oil fell below \$33 per barrel** after Saudi Arabia ruled out production cuts.
- 3) President Barack Obama on Tuesday called for the closure of the **Guantanamo Bay detention** facility after delivering his plan to Congress to achieve a goal that has long eluded his presidency.
- 4) **Vienna, Austria's** grand capital on the **Danube river**, offers the highest quality of life of all cities in the world, while the Iraqi capital Baghdad, once more took its place at the bottom of a live ability list compiled by consulting firm Mercer.
- 5) **Pakistan parliament** became the **first** in the world to completely **run on solar power**, a venture supported by China **with \$55 million funding**.
- 6) **Royal Enfield** has opened its first exclusive store in **Thailand**. It has been set up in the Thonglor area of Thailand by the General Auto Supply Co. Ltd.
- 7) **Afghanistan's National Women's Cycling Team** has been nominated for the **Nobel Peace Prize** by members of the Italian parliament.
- 8) The **European Parliament** called on the **European Union** to impose an arms embargo against **Saudi Arabia**, saying Britain, France and other EU governments should no longer sell weapons to a country accused of targeting civilians in **Yemen**.
- 9) **Google** is **shuttering Google Compare**, its US comparison-shopping site for auto insurance, credit cards and mortgages after one year.

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- 10) The UN has urged **Pakistan** to resolve the status of more than **2.5 million Afghan refugees** living in Pakistan whose registration cards have expired or who remain unregistered.
- 11) A US appeals court has handed **Samsung a win** over **Apple** in a long-running patent fight, overriding a jury verdict ordering it to pay \$119.6 million to the iPhone maker.
- 12) The **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency** (DARPA) will launch a sleek, 132-foot unmanned ocean drone from Portland, OR, testing its abilities over a succeeding period of 18 months.
- 13) An Australian company unearthed a massive 404-carat diamond in **Angola** valued at as much as \$14 million.
- 14) The Sindh Assembly of Pakistan has passed the **Hindu Marriage Bill 2015**, thus becoming the first province in the country to allow the minority community to register their marriages.
- 15) The Union Cabinet was apprised of the **BRICS memorandum of understanding** on cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation signed last year.
- 16) China has deployed surface-to-air missile launchers on an island in the **South China Sea**.
- 17) The first freight train to resurrect the ancient **Silk Road route** arrived in Iran from China.
- 18) Google's balloon-powered high-speed internet service known as 'Project Loon' began its first tests in **Sri Lanka**.
- 19) A team led by an Indian-origin scientist in US has discovered a new kind of **2D semiconducting material** for electronics that opens the door for much speedier computers and smartphones that consume a lot less power.
- 20) US President Barack Obama has signed legislation imposing new **sanctions against North Korea** in response to Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests.
- 21) China is to ban foreign firms from "**online publishing**" under new rules issued this week, as the country increasingly seeks to minimize Western influence.
- 22) The International Monetary Fund its board re-elected Managing Director **Christine Lagarde** to a second five-year term, starting on July 5.
- 23) **David Cameron** said that he had reached a deal to give the UK "special status" in the EU.
- 24) **Faustin Archange Touadera**, a former prime minister and maths teacher standing as an independent, has been elected president of the **Central African Republic**.
- 25) North Korean state media has confirmed that the country has a new military chief following earlier reports in Seoul that the former holder of the post had been executed.

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- 26) UK wind energy industry received a boost with the announcement of the world's biggest offshore wind farm, to be built off the north-east coast.
- 27) A UN Panel panel has proposed long-sought greenhouse gas emissions standards for airliners and cargo planes.
- 28) World powers pressed Russia to stop bombing around Aleppo in support of a Syrian government offensive to recapture the city.
- 29) The Obama administration has proposed \$860 million aid for Pakistan, including \$265 million for military hardware, which it said would help the country fight terrorists, secure nuclear weapons and improve ties with India.
- 30) YouTube has launched its first original movies and series' exclusively for which subscribers - YouTube Red.
- 31) NATO and the European Union have signed an agreement to improve cooperation in Cyber defence.
- 32) United States and Cuba will sign a bilateral agreement to restore regular flights between the two countries after more than half a century.
- 33) Canada, the US and Mexico signed a deal in Winnipeg, Canada, to tap into energy cooperation among them
- 34) The US government has approved the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan.
- 35) Dubai said it would build the world's largest shopping mall despite an economic slowdown looming in the region.
- 36) The United States has temporarily deployed an additional Patriot missile battery in South Korea
- 37) Titanic II, a replica of the Titanic, which infamously was declared "unsinkable" and promptly sank on its maiden voyage after hitting an iceberg in 1912, killing 1,503 people, is being built for a whole new journey across the Atlantic to set sail in 2018.
- 38) BandPage has been acquired by Google owned YouTube for a reported \$8 million.
- 39) **Tom Hanks** is officially America's favourite Hollywood star.
- 40) A total of **Thirty One** countries have signed the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement (MCAA) for the automatic exchange of Country-by-Country reports.
- 41) Axiata Group Berhad (Axiata) and Bharti Airtel will merge their telecom operations in **Bangladesh**.
- 42) **Apple Inc** has acquired education-technology startup LearnSprout, which creates software for schools and teachers to track students' performance.

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- 43) WHO declared the **Zika virus** and its suspected link to birth defects an international public health emergency.
- 44) The world's longest three-rope cable car system was inaugurated in **Vietnam's Lao Cai province**, with a total length of 6,292.5 metres.
- 45) The Trans Pacific Partnership, one of the biggest multinational trade deals ever, has been signed by ministers from its 12 member nations in **New Zealand**.
- 46) A US Senate Armed Services Committee has confirmed the nomination of **General John Nicholson** as the commander of the NATO forces in Afghanistan.
- 47) **France** has become the first country in the world to ban supermarkets from throwing away or destroying unsold food, forcing them instead to donate it to charities and food banks.
- 48) Zimbabwe's president, **Robert Mugabe**, has declared a state of disaster in rural areas hit by a severe drought, as more than a quarter of the population face food shortages.
- 49) **North Korea** has launched a long-range rocket carrying what it called a satellite, but its neighbours and the United States denounced the launch as a missile test.
- 50) The United Nations Postal Administration has released six new postage stamps promoting equality for **lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender** or **LGBT people**.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

- 1) **Cyclone-hit Fiji** will receive one million dollars as immediate assistance from the **Indian Government**.
- 2) The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of an Agreement between **India and Maldives** for the avoidance of **double taxation** of income from international air transport.
- 3) **India** has approved a **\$150 million credit line** for the development of **Iran's Chabahar port**.
- 4) **Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology** and a consortium of top **UK research institutions** signed an MoU for establishment of a joint **India-UK collaboration programme in crop science**.
- 5) The Seventh Joint Military Training Exercise between the Indian Army and the Seychelles People's Defence Forces (SPDF) – **LAMITYE 2016**, will be conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Victoria, Seychelles from 15 February to 28 February 2016.

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- 6) **Indian Railways** has joined hands with **Sweden** for technical cooperation in rail sector to run goods trains in cold conditions.
- 7) As part of the ongoing India-Myanmar defence relations, Navies of the two countries have conducted **IMCOR** along the Maritime boundary since 2013.
- 8) A 12-member team of the Indian Army is participating in the “**Cobra Gold**” multilateral exercises being hosted by Thailand, along with its counterparts from China and Pakistan.
- 9) **India** and **Armenia** have signed an agreement for cooperation in the agriculture sector.
- 10) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli have jointly inaugurated a power transmission line from **Muzaffarpur (India) to Dhalkebar (Nepal)**.
- 11) Indian and Chinese armies are breaking new grounds of friendship on the sensitive Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the cold desert of Ladakh.
- 12) The 14 day Indo-Nepal Combined Military Exercise at general area, Pithoragarh which commenced on 08 February 2016 and will culminate on 21 February 2016 - Surya Kiran IX
- 13) United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) will store crude oil in India's 1.5 million tonnes-Mangalore strategic petroleum reserve using it as a wholesale storage capacity.
- 14) Kalyani Group has tied up with Swedish defence major Saab to form a joint venture firm for the multi-billion dollar contract for short range surface to air missile and man-portable very short-range air defense (VSHORAD) programme.
- 15) Visiting Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan India held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on various issues of mutual concern inked many agreements.
- 16) India and Sweden have resolved to scale up bilateral relations and expressed their commitment to a transparent, fair and predictable global traderegime under the World trade Organisation (WTO).
- 17) **Vietnam** has formally lifted the ban on import of Indian groundnut, thereby providing market access after nine months.
- 18) Delhi and **Kabul** ink pact for visa-free travel of envoys and An agreement for visa-free travel for diplomatic passport holders of the two countries.
- 19) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has signed an MoU with **RUSNANO OJSC** of Russia to cooperate in diverse sectors and facilitate high-technology investments in India.

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- 20) India and **Brunei** have decided to boost defence ties by conducting joint military exercises as the two countries signed three agreements after Vice President Hamid Ansari held talks with the top leadership.
- 21) The Cabinet was apprised about signing of a Joint Declaration between the India and Germany on the extension of the tenure of the **Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC)**.
- 22) **India and Sri Lanka** have reviewed the progress made in their bilateral ties discussing various issues, including that of fishermen, a major irritant in the relations, as the two countries signed MoUs in education and health sectors.
- 23) As announced by the Prime Minister, the Visa on Arrival for Japanese nationals is being launched from tomorrow i.e. 1st March, 2016. This facility will be available at six airports viz. **Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad**.
- 24) **Lamitye 2016**, the seventh Indo-Seychelles joint training exercises, aiming to improve interoperability between both armies in counter-insurgency operations, has concluded at **Victoria, Mahe Island in Seychelles**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- 1) **Facebook** has announced the **Telecom Infra Project**, which will look at developing new and alternative technologies to build and deploy telecom infrastructure, with partners including **Aricent, HCL Technologies, Intel, Nokia and T-Mobile**.
- 2) The first **fast-acting anti-rabies drug** of the world, which instantly deactivates the **rabies virus and provides immediate protection in severe dog bite cases**, is set for a launch in India this year.
- 3) **Astronaut Scott Kelly** is preparing to return to Earth after spending an unprecedented year on the **International Space Station**.
- 4) World's first fast-acting anti-rabies drug **Rabies Human Monoclonal Antibody (RMAb)** will be launched in India.
- 5) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is working towards the establishment of a **Satellite Tracking & Data Reception Station and Data Processing Facility in Vietnam for ASEAN Member countries**.
- 6) India has successfully test fired its indigenously developed **Prithvi-II missile** from Chandipur off the Odisha coast.

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- 7) Scientists claim to have developed the world's first **wireless flexible smartphone** that allows users to feel the buzz by bending their apps.
- 8) **Japan** has successfully launched a jointly developed space observation satellite tasked with studying mysterious **black holes**.
- 9) France's Parliament has overwhelmingly approved a three-month extension of its **state of emergency** imposed after deadly attacks around Paris in November, even as rights groups said it undermines fundamental freedoms.
- 10) **TAL Manufacturing Solutions**, a Tata Group company, is expected to launch first ever India-made robot before May 2016.
- 11) The Space Applications Centre (SAC) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and space flight laboratory (SFL) of University of Toronto's Institute for Aerospace Studies are collaborating on developing the **Next Generation Earth Monitoring and Observation and Aerosol Monitoring (NEMO-AM) satellite**.
- 12) A team led by an Indian-origin scientist in US has discovered a new kind of 2D semiconducting material for electronics that opens the door for much speedier computers and smartphones that consume a lot less power.
- 13) **Microsoft** has officially rolled out its group video calling feature in Skype after a very long wait.
- 14) The Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Vice President, CSIR Dr. Harsh Vardhan dedicated Systems for **Detection of Adulteration and analysis of Milk**.
- 15) Google has introduced a new flood alerts feature in India as a part of its efforts to make critical information around natural disasters more accessible to everyone.
- 16) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV III) developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be launched by December 2016.
- 17) Microsoft has released an app which utilises facial recognition and artificial intelligence to recognise your dog's breed - Fetch
- 18) University of California, Berkeley scientists have developed an Android app that can detect earthquakes using smartphones. The app is called - MyShake.
- 19) **A mobile-based application** has been launched by the customs to inform people about all Indian customs rules including those related to Import of pets and goods.
- 20) **Dr Reddy's Laboratories** has received the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) nod for ZembraceSymTouch (sumatriptan succinate) injection, a drug-device combination product intended for the treatment of acute migraine in adults.

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- 21) NASA's first-ever “**integrated-photonics**” modem will be tested aboard the International Space Station beginning in 2020 as part of Nasa's multi-year Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD).
- 22) France will partner India in its next Mars mission, which the Indian Space Research Organisation plans to launch in **2018**.
- 23) A Japanese firm plans to open the world's first fully automated, human-free farm – which means robots will do almost every job from watering seedlings to harvesting crops to start operating the farm by **2017**.
- 24) Scientists, led by an Indian-origin researcher, have created an artificial material with a structure similar to the ‘**wonder material**’ **graphene**.
- 25) The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched India's first anti-diabetic ayurvedic drug for type two Diabetes mellitus. The drug named **BGR-34**.
- 26) **Iran** has asked Indian refiners such as Essar Oil and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) to clear its past oil dues amounting to over **\$6 billion** in euros within six months.
- 27) **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** chairman A S Kiran Kumar signaled country's readiness for **Chandrayaan II mission**, which will be India's second mission to the moon.

SPORTS POINT

- 1) **Jaypee Punjab Warriors** was crowned **Hockey India League (HIL)** champions as they clinched their maiden title after thrashing **Kalinga Lancers** 6-1 in a lop-sided summit clash.
- 2) **Former French Open champion Francesca Schiavone** won her first title since 2013 when she defeated Shelby Rogers of the United States 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the **Rio de Janeiro final**.
- 3) **Santina**, the world number one doubles **pair have lost** for the first time in **41 matches**, at the Qatar Open.
- 4) Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her Swiss partner Martina Hingis extended their winning streak to 40 after clinching the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy.
- 5) The Indian under-19 cricket team's quest for an unprecedented fourth World Cup title ended in disaster as the West Indies outwitted the Rahul Dravid-coached side.
- 6) Indian Railways has won The National Chess team Championship for the first time.

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- 7) Rio Haryanto will become Indonesia's first Formula One driver after signing a deal with Manor Racing.
- 8) Brendon McCullum has blasted the fastest century in Test history, a 54-ball effort that broke the record jointly held by Viv Richards and Misbah-ul-Haq.
- 9) India continued to dominate on the second day of the 12th South Asian Games (SAG) with Sapna Devi, winning gold in the women's Wushu Taolu (Changquan) competition
- 10) India's Anirban Lahiri has been voted as the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of Year by fans in an online poll.
- 11) Indian long-distance runner Kavita Raut has qualified for the Rio Olympics in women's marathon after winning the event in the 12th South Asian Games.
- 12) India, the overall champion over all the 11 previous editions of the South Asian Games, has crossed a historic milestone of winning its 1,000th gold.
- 13) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has banned Asad Rauf, Pakistani umpire for five years after its disciplinary committee found him guilty of corrupt practices
- 14) **Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis** have won their 3rd Grand Slam title and 36th match on the trot.
- 15) **Germany's Angelique Kerber** stunned world number one Serena Williams in three sets to win her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open.
- 16) **World number one Novak Djokovic** hammered a misfiring Andy Murray in straight sets to win a record-equalling sixth Australian Open title.
- 17) **Brazilian Pietro Fittipaldi** clinched the title at the MMRT track in Sriperumbudur.
- 18) **Kidambi Srikanth** made a rollicking start to the new season as he clinched the Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold with a convincing win over China's Huang Yuxiang in the men's singles final.
- 19) **Virat Kohli** was rewarded for his stupendous performance in India's clean sweep against Australia in the T20 internationals as he replaced Aaron Finch as the top-ranked batsman in the ICC list for the shortest format.
- 20) South Korean **Song Young-han** held his nerve to edge his role model, world number one Jordan Spieth, by a shot to win the **Singapore Open**.
- 21) **India** became the number one side in the ICC T20 rankings after whitewashing Australia in the three-match series.
- 22) **Aditya Mehta** has won the National Snooker Championship 2016.

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- 23) **Kerala** has emerged champions in the 61st National School Athletics Meet, which began on January 29 and concluded on February 2.
- 24) **Swapnil Dhopade**, Grandmaster of Maharashtra, with an overall tally of eight points, emerged victorious in the Rs 7.5 lakh prize money, who won the IIFL Wealth Mumbai International Open Chess tournament.
- 25) London Olympian **Basant Bahadur Singh Rana** clinched the gold medal in men's 50km race walk event on the second and final day of the National Championships in Jaipur.

OBITUARY

- 1) **Ramon Castro**, a life-long rancher and farmer who bore a strong physical resemblance to younger brother Fidel Castro, has died.
- 2) **BK Garudachar**, India's oldest first class cricketer from the pre-independence era passed away.
- 3) South Indian filmmaker **Rajesh Pillai** died due to liver problem at the age of 42.
- 4) Popular southern composer **Rajamani** has passed away at the age of 60 due to sudden cardiac arrest.
- 5) Renowned short story writer and novelist **Akbar Kakkattil** (62) passed away in Kozhikode, Kerala.
- 6) Former **UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali**, a veteran Egyptian diplomat who helped negotiate his country's landmark peace deal with Israel, has died at the age of 93.
- 7) Veteran Hindustani classical vocalist **Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan** passed away in Kolkata due to old age problems at the age of 107.
- 8) The novelist and intellectual **Umberto Eco** has died aged 84.
- 9) **Harper Lee**, the author of the classic novel To Kill a Mockingbird, has died in her hometown of Monroeville, Ala.
- 10) Renowned singer **Bhubaneswari Mishra** passed away in New Delhi following a cardiac arrest at the age of 67.
- 11) Renowned Urdu and Hindi poet who has died in Mumbai at the age of 78 - Nida Fazli
- 12) Former Prime Minister of Nepal and Nepali Congress President who passed away due to Pneumonia at the age of 79 - Sushil Koirala
- 13) The brave army man who was battling for his life at the Army's Research & Referral hospital in New Delhi, has passed away - Lance Naik Hanamanthappa
- 14) Veteran film director who passed away at the age of 97 - Aurobindo Mukherjee

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- 15) A Pulitzer Prize-winning composer known for his lush sonorities and ecumenical instrumentation, who has died at the age of 93 - Leslie Bassett
- 16) US Supreme Court Justice, the leading conservative voice on the high court, who has died at the age of 79 - Antonin Scalia
- 17) Renowned Malayalam poet and lyricist who passed away at a private hospital at the age of 84 - ONV Kurup
- 18) Soviet football legend who died at the age of 84 was capped 31 times by the then Soviet Russia (the USSR) between 1952-59 and scored 16 goals - Anatoly Ilyin
- 19) **Paul Kantner**, a founding member of the Jefferson Airplane and one of the giants of the San Francisco music scene has died.
- 20) **Former Army Chief General, KV Krishna Rao**, who played a key role in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, who has died due to cardiac arrest at the age of 92.
- 21) Veteran cinema-television actor, **Krishna Pillai**, passed away.
- 22) **Benoit Violier** – whose renowned three-star restaurant in a small Swiss town was in December ranked best in the world – who was found dead in his in an apparent suicide.
- 23) **Frank Finlay**, the British actor known for his Oscar-nominated work as Iago in Othello and 1975's The Three Musketeers, has died, at the age of 89.
- 24) **SS Tarapore**, the former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and a noted economist, has passed away in Mumbai, at the age of 80.
- 25) **Intizar Husain**, veteran Urdu short story writer, poet and journalist has passed away at the age of 93.
- 26) **Balram Jakhar**, veteran Congress leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker has passed away at the age of 92.
- 27) US astronaut **Edgar Mitchell** – the sixth man to walk on the moon and only one of 12 who ever achieved the feat – has died aged 85.
- 28) Singer-songwriter **Dan Hicks**, known for his rootsy blend of folk, jazz and country music, has died due to throat and liver cancer at the age of 74.
- 29) Eminent cartoonist **Sudhir Tailang**, who chronicled contemporary Indian politics with wit and humour, has died due to brain cancer.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

- 1) **4th February – World Cancer day.** Each year on 4 February, WHO and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) supports Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to promote ways to ease the global burden of cancer.
- 2) **6th February - International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation.** Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.
- 3) **11th February - International Day of Women and Girls in Science .** “Transforming the World: Parity in Science” Science and gender equality are both vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals,
- 4) **13th February – World Radio day.** Through World Radio Day celebrations around the world, UNESCO will promote radio in times of emergency and disaster
- 5) **20th February – World day of Justice.** A Just Transition - environmentally sustainable economies and societies
- 6) **21st February – International Mother Language day.** Quality education, language(s) of instruction and learning outcomes

SNIPPETS FROM STATES

- 1) The **West Bengal** government is planning to get Geographical Identification (GI) tag for four traditional sweetmeat delicacies of the state for exporting them in future. The four sweetmeats are ‘Moa’ of Jainagar, ‘Sarpuria’ of Krishnagar, and ‘Sitabhog’ and ‘Mihidana’ of Burdwan.
- 2) Telecom major **Bharti Airtel** has started delivering 4G mobile broadband speed of up to 135 megabits per second in **Kerala**.
- 3) **Haryana** to soon become the first state in the country to have aquifer mapping done for its **groundwater resources** by May.
- 4) **Hyderabad** ranks highest among Indian cities on a quality of life survey by consulting firm Mercer, but is only at number **138 on a global list of 230 cities**.

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- 5) **Karnataka** government has announced housing **scheme for transgenders**, who are facing social boycott, in Bengaluru.
- 6) **Bihar** became the **sixth state** to join Union **Government's UDAY (Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana)** Scheme for financial restructuring of debt of power distribution companies.
- 7) The Food Processing Sector in **Jharkhand**, the first Mega Food Park in the State promoted by M/s. Jharkhand Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd. has been inaugurated Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries at Village Getalsud, District Ranchi.
- 8) Global computer giant **Oracle** is planning to set up a campus in **Bengaluru** and start an initiative to help more than half a million students in India develop computer science skills.
- 9) **Punjab** government would soon ink an MoU with British Pig Association (BPA) to develop and promote **piggery** on the latest and scientific lines in the state.
- 10) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Jayalalithaa** announced that senior citizens over the age of sixty could travel for free on government buses starting February 24.
- 11) West Bengal government has launched the **Utkarsh Bangla Scheme** with an aim of providing vocational training to school dropouts.
- 12) Gujarat government is planning to set up India's first civil aviation park in the state
- 13) Maharashtra has emerged as the top ranking state in terms of overall Internet readiness index, a new report published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Indicus Analytics.
- 14) Haryana government has inked an agreement with Indo-UK Healthcare Private Limited to establish medical institutions in the state with proposed investment of Rs 1,000 crore
- 15) The Tithal beach in Valsad district of Gujarat is all set to become the first disabled-friendly beach in India.
- 16) Peacock, the national bird of India, may soon be termed a vermin and culled ruthlessly in Goa.
- 17) **Tamil Nadu** is all set to establish the state's first 800 mw supercritical coal-based power plant, with Chief Minister Jayalalithaa laying the foundation stone for the Rs 6,000 crore project.
- 18) The opening ceremony of International Fleet Review 2016 was held on February 5, 2016 in **Visakhapatnam** at Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet Command Stadium INS Satavahana.

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- 19) **Odisha** government has lifted the restrictions on visit of foreign tourists to certain tribal areas in the State after three years
- 20) In Kerala, the maiden Kerala Literature Festival began on February 4, 2016 at **Kozhikode**

TIT-BITS

- 1) **Salesforce** has **acquired PredictionIO**, a startup with general-purpose open source machine learning software.
- 2) **Canalysis of NASA's** data revealed that **India has overtaken China's air pollution levels in 2015** and the average particulate matter exposure was higher for the first time in the 21st century.
- 3) A recent study has revealed that there is a high sediment mercury levels in **Arctic** which is more **prone for pollution** in the region.
- 4) **The first animal** to appear **on Earth** was very likely the simple **sea sponges**.
- 5) **Flamboyant ((of a person or their behaviour)** tending to attract attention because of their exuberance, confidence, and stylishness.) **businessman Vijay Mallya** has quit as Chairman of United Spirits after its new majority owner Diageo agreed to pay Rs 515 crore and absolve him of all liabilities over alleged financial lapses at the company founded by his family.
- 6) **Pakistan** on 24 Feb 2016 resumed **Lahore-Delhi 'Dosti'** bus service, days after it was suspended indefinitely at India's request following violence and arson in Jat quota stir in **Haryana**.
- 7) Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **JP Nadda** on 23 Feb 2016 inaugurated 3-day **International Conference on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance in New Delhi**.
- 8) Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** on 22 February 2016 inaugurated an exhibition on **the Coin and Currency of India at the Great Hall of North Block in New Delhi**.
- 9) **Air pollution** kills more than 5.5 million people around the world each year, with over half of those deaths occurring in fast-growing China and India.
- 10) For the first time, India has participated in the **Cobra GOLD 2016** multilateral exercise hosted by Indonesia after 12 member Indian Army delegation joined it.
- 11) **E-commerce giant AMAZON** on 17 Feb 2016 announced the launch of '**Amazon Tatkal**', an initiative that enables small and medium businesses (SMBs) to go online and sell products on Amazon.

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- 12) Saying 'hello' online in Sindhi just got easier as Google Translate will now speak **Sindhi**. Along with Sindhi, Google has introduced 12 other new languages— Amharic, Corsican, Frisian, Kyrgyz, Hawaiian, Kurdish (Kurmanji), Luxembourgish, Samoan, Scots Gaelic, Shona, Pashto and Xhosa.
- 13) The Hindu minority community in Pakistan will soon have a marriage law as a parliamentary panel has unanimously approved the **Hindu Marriage Bill**.
- 14) **Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd**, the largest bottler of Coca-Cola India, has stopped production at its bottling plant at Kaladera near Jaipur (Rajasthan), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Brynihat (Meghalaya).
- 15) After TRAI's decision on discriminatory pricing, Facebook has announced that it has scrapped its controversial Free Basics initiative from India.
- 16) **Kirthiga Reddy**, Facebook Inc's India managing director who said she is stepping down and returning to the United States to "explore new opportunities" at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, California.

D2G's SPECIAL

