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APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Persons	Post/Department
B S Bassi	Union Public Service Commission (UpSC)
Rahul Johri	First Ever Ceo Of Bcci
Navin Agarwal	Chief Of National Anti-Doping Agency (Nada),
Umang Bedi	Md Of Facebook India
N.K.Chari	Managing Director Of State Bank Of Mysore.
Major General Per Lodin	Head Of Unmogip(United Nations Military Observer Group)
Satya Pal Jain	Part-Time Member Of The Law Commission Of India
Supriya Sahu	Doordarshan's Director General
Anne Hathaway	United Nations As Global Goodwill Ambassador
Peter Thomson,	Permanent Representative Of Fiji
Sunil Mittal	Chairman Of International Chamber Of Commerce
Sanjay Malik	Head Of Nokia India
Soram Sunil	First Mayor Of Imphal

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Name Of The Award	Award Winner	Key Point To Remember
Honorary Professorship By The Nanjing Audit University	Shashi Kant Sharma	The Award Presented By The First Meeting Of Supreme Audit Institution (Sais) Of Brics Countries.
Queen Elizabeth's Young Leaders Award 2016	Kartik Sawhney and Neha Swain	—
2016 Bet Awards	Beyonce Knowles	The Singer took Home A Total Of Four Awards, Including Best Female R&B/Pop Artist.
International Indian Film Academy (Iifa) Award	Freida Pinto	Slumdog Millionaire Star
Gd Birla Award For Scientific Research For 2016.	Sanjay Mittal	Iit-Kanpur Professor In The Department Of Aerospace Engineering At Indian Institute Of Technology

Voices Of Our Future Award	Urmila Chanam	
Margaret Atwood	Pen Pinter Prize 2016	He Is Canadian Poet, Novelist, Literary Critic, Essayist, And Environmental Activist
The Republic Of Ivory Coast	President Pranab Mukherjee	The Highest Civilian Award Of The West African Country.
Data Journalism Awards 2016	Panama Papers Probe	For Investigation Of The Year
Shanghai International Film Festival Award	Raam Reddy	Thithi Won The Best Film And Best Script Writers In The Asia New Talent Awards At The Festival In Shanghai.
World Best Tourism Destination For 2016	Cambodia	Title "Cambodia: The Land Of Magic- The Place Where Gods And Kings Build The World!"
The Highest Honour Of Cote D'ivoirie	President Pranab Mukherjee	D'ivoirieby Its President Alassane Ouattara On His Maiden Visit To Abidjan.
People's Choice Prize	Sudarsan Pattnaik	At World Championship Festival Of Sand Sculpting Russe, 2016 In Bulgaria.
The Prestigious Olympic Order	N Ramachandran.	The Award Honoured By International Olympic Committee
American Cinematheque Award	Ridley Scott	
Russia's Order Of Friendship	General Ban Ki-Moon	Russian President Vladimir Putin Was Published On The Russian Official Legal Information Website.
Awarded The Regius Professorship (Royal Patronage)	Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya	Queen Elizabeth II Has Awarded This Honour .
National Award For Best Performing Central Psu	Airports Authority Of India (Aai)	For Roof Top Solar Power Initiatives
International Dublin Literary Award	Akhil Sharma	For A Single Novel, For His Second Novel 'Family Life'.
Amir Amanullah Khan Award	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	The Highest Civilian Honour Of Afghanistan.
Green Economy Visionary Award	Dr. R Seetharaman,	Ceo Of Doha Bank
Japan's Fukuoka Prize For The Year 2016.	A R Rahman	He Is A Legendary Oscar Winning Indian Music Composer
the Forbes' 100 Most Powerful Women	Sheryl Sandberg	She is Facebook COO
One of the 100 most powerful women in the world.	Arundhati Bhattacharya	Chairman of the county's largest lender, the State Bank of India (SBI)
world's smartest companies of 2016	Amazon	online retail giant
Best Actor (Female) and Best Actor	Deepika Padukon	At the 17th IIFA extravaganza for their

(Male) trophy	Ranveer Singh	performance in Piku and Bajirao Mastani respectively
Top Attractors	Flipkart	Online retailer

BANKING AND FINANCE

India, World Bank sign agreement for efficient bus service

The **Government of India** and the **World Bank** has signed a US\$ 9.2 million grant agreement under the **World Bank-Global Environment Facility (GEF) Program** for the **Efficient and Sustainable City Bus Service Project** to improve the efficiency and attractiveness of bus services in select Indian cities.

Union Cabinet approves setting up of India Post Payments Bank

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime **Minister Narendra Modi** has given its approval for setting up the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** as a **Public Limited Company** under the Department of Posts, with 100% Government of India (GOI) equity.

RBI directs banks to make cyber security policies

RBI has asked banks to immediately put in place a **cyber security policy** to tackle internet-based threats to the banking system. The RBI said that it is essential to enhance the resilience of the banking system by improving the current defences in addressing cyber risks.

World Bank classifies India lower-middle-income nation

The **World Bank** has dropped the use of developing nation tag for **India** in its specialised reports and instead classifies it as a “**lower-middle-income**” economy in South Asia.

HDFC ERGO acquires L&T General Insurance

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co. Ltd, the non-life insurance joint venture between **HDFC Ltd** and **ERGO International of Germany**, said that it will acquire **L&T General Insurance Co. Ltd** in an all-cash deal worth Rs.551 crore.

ATM-based validation of tax returns activated

The **Income Tax department** has launched an **ATM-based validation system** for filing-ITRs by taxpayers. The Electronic Verification Code (EVC) can be generated by pre-validating the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) provided by the bank where a taxpayer has an account. The new facility is available on the official e-filing portal of the department- <http://incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in/>

Govt, ADB sign \$120 mn loan agreement for Odisha

India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed a **USD 120 million loan** pact to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in Odisha. The soft loan is the second tranche of a USD 157.5 million financing facility under the **Orissa Integrated Irrigated Agriculture and Water Management Investment Program**.

Amazon announces \$3 billion investment in India

Online retail giant **Amazon** is investing **\$3 billion** into its India operations this year, according to founder **Jeff Bezos**, who was speaking at the U.S.-India Business Council Annual Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., as a part of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's U.S visit. The additional money brings the total investment in Amazon India to **\$5 billion**.

Ratan Tata invests in kids gaming startup MadRat

MadRat Games is an innovative startup with an aim to provide the world a more wholesome, happy and healthy way of living. Founded by IIT Mumbai and Carnegie Mellon alumnus Rajat Dhariwal along with his team Madhumita Halder and Manuj Dhariwal in 2010, the offline product gaming startup will use the proceeds for product development and pre-order campaign.

China disapproves anti-dumping probe on steel

China has expressed serious concern over India initiating an anti-dumping probe against Chinese steel products as it sought a 'fair' and 'transparent' investigation in line with WTO rules. China is highly concerned by Indian trade remedy measures against Chinese steel products.

World Bank cuts global growth forecast to 2.4%

The **World Bank** has lowered its global growth forecast, warning that risks to growth have increased since its earlier projection in January. The world economy will grow at **2.4% in 2016** and at **2.8% in 2017**, the World Bank said in its June report on global economic prospects, lower than the earlier forecast of 2.9% and 3.1%, respectively, mainly on account of a slower than expected recovery in advanced economies.

Axis Bank launches India's first certified green bond at London Stock Exchange

Axis Bank has raised \$500 million at the **London Stock Exchange** after it launched India's first internationally-listed certified green bond to finance climate change solutions around the world. This is the first green bond for Axis Bank within its \$5 billion **Medium Term Note (MTN) programme**, which has also listed entirely on LSE.

ADB approves \$100 million loan for irrigation system in Tamil Nadu

Multilateral lending agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$100 million (around Rs 660 crore) loan** to strengthen a key irrigation system and improve water management in the **Vennar sub-basin of Cauvery Delta in Tamil Nadu**.

RBI approves common rural bill payment centres

People residing in rural areas would soon be able to make bill payments at **common service centres (CSCs)** as the Reserve Bank of India has granted in-principle approval to the centers as **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit** will allow CSCs to operate the bill payment system with a single brand image providing convenience of 'anytime anywhere' bill payment.

BRICS bank to issue maiden local currency bond

The **New Development Bank (NDB)**, established by the **BRICS** group of emerging nations, plans to issue its first bond as a **yuan** denominated issue in China. The bank will also issue **bonds** in other member currencies in order to mitigate the foreign currency risk of funded infrastructure projects and help develop local currency fund-raising markets.

World Bank arm to invest \$75 mn in Glenmark

International Finance Corp. (IFC), the private sector lending arm of the **World Bank**, said it was looking to invest up to \$75 million, or about Rs.500 crore, in **Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd**, which is raising \$200 million to reduce debt and fund expansion plans.

Raghuram Rajan not to continue as RBI Governor

Governor of the Reserve Bank of India Raghuram Rajan announced that he would not continue to head the central bank after his term expires on September 4. Mr. Rajan announced his decision to RBI employees via an email which was published on the central bank's website for 'wider dissemination'.

SBI launches Rs 200-crore fund for fintech start-ups

To support start-ups in the **financial technology** (fintech) space, **State Bank of India** has set up a Rs 200-crore fund. It will consider assistance of up to **Rs 3 crore** to a company registered in India for promoting their business innovations using information technology for banking and related activities, **Arundhati Bhattacharya**, chairman, said. It is named '**IT Innovation Start-up Fund**'.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Prime Minister releases National Disaster Management Plan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the **National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)**. This is the first ever national plan prepared in the country. The plan is based on the four priority themes of the "**Sendai Framework**," namely: understanding disaster risk, improving disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction (through structural and non-structural measures) and disaster preparedness, early warning and building back better in the aftermath of a disaster.

India joins the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation

India has joined a global **ballistic missile proliferation regime**, but made it clear that it will not have any impact on the national security as well as country's missile programmes. MEA spokesperson Vikas Swarup said, "India has joined the **Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC)** against Ballistic Missile Proliferation by notifying the HCoC Central Contact in Vienna through diplomatic channels."

Goyal, Prabhu and Chidambaram elected to Rajya Sabha

Railway Minister **Suresh Prabhu**, Power Minister **Piyush Goyal** and senior Congress leader **P Chidambaram** were today elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha. Bharatiya Janata Party's Goyal and Chidambaram of the Congress were elected from Maharashtra, along with four others.

India will not have power deficit for the first time in history

India will not have a **power deficit** this year, a first time in history. The situation officials say is an outcome of the current government's initiatives to resolve burning issues like **fuel scarcity**.

The country will have a surplus of 3.1% during peak hours and 1.1% during non-peak hours during 2016-17, latest data from the Central Electricity Authority shows.

ADB, govt sign deal for \$200M loan to Jharkhand

The government of India has signed an agreement with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** for the latter to loan \$200 million to upgrade 176 km of state roads in **Jharkhand**. The total cost of the project, due to be completed by December 2019, is \$306.25 million.

India Post releases Amazon India stamp

India Post has released a Rs.5 stamp to mark the third anniversary of **Amazon India's** services in the country. Called **My Stamp**, it shows a delivery boy with a carton labelled Amazon. Amazon India, which launched its services in India in June 2013, serves customers in over 19,000 pin codes through a network of 155,000 post offices.

Guwahati first Indian city to have a city animal

Guwahati, the Assam state capital has become the first city in the country to have its own City Animal with the Kamrup Metropolitan district administration declaring the **Gangetic River Dolphin** as the mascot.

All train coaches to have bio-toilets by 2019

Indian Railways will fit **bio-toilets** on all its coaches by 2019, two years ahead of schedule. By 2019, all 55,000 coaches of Indian Railways would be fitted with 1,40,000 bio-toilets. Under its **Swachh Rail-Swachh Bharat** (Clean Rail-Clean India) **programme**, railways had planned to phase out such toilets by 2020-21.

Andhra to get two high-speed railway lines

Railway minister **Suresh Prabhu** announced a number of major railway projects for **Andhra Pradesh**, including a high-speed rail line between new capital **Amaravati** and **Bengaluru**. He, however, remained non-committal on the establishment of a new railway zone with headquarters at **Visakhapatnam**, alleging that the erstwhile UPA government did not "specify" it in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

Kerala coastline to be plastic and garbage-free

The sprawling and picturesque coastline of **Kerala** will soon become a “*plastic and garbage-free*” zone with the state government drawing up a comprehensive action plan to make the coastal areas clean and beautiful. Fisheries Minister **J Mercykutty Amma** said steps would be taken to remove plastic and other garbage piled across the 590 km-long state coastline by the end of this month.

Kerala targets to be open defecation-free by November

Kerala is all set to become **open defecation-free** with the state-run **Suchitwa Mission** aiming to achieve the goal by November 1 this year. State Chief Secretary SM Vijayanand convened a meeting of all stakeholders and higher officials recently to evaluate the progress of the mission. Suchitwa Mission is the state nodal agency for sanitation. It is constituted under the state local self government department with the vision of creating a waste free Kerala with a pollution-free environment, public hygiene and cleanliness.

India ranked 141 on Global Peace Index

India has been ranked 141 on a **Global Peace Index** — making it less peaceful than countries like Burundi, Serbia and Burkina Faso — with violence taking a USD 680-billion toll on its economy in 2015. In a ranking of 163 countries, compiled by global think tank **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**, **Syria** has been named the least peaceful, followed by South Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

On the other hand, **Iceland** was ranked as the world’s most peaceful country, followed by Denmark and Austria.

IRB battalion to be named after Maharana Pratap

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has announced that a new **Indian Reserve Battalion** in **Rajasthan** will be named after **Maharana Pratap**, the great warrior of **Mewar** region. The Home Minister, who is on a two-day visit to the state, made the announcement at a programme. Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje had made a request to Singh in this regard.

The Indian Reserve Battalion will be named after Maharana Pratap, a Rajput ruler who had fought against the Mughals and never bowed before them, Singh said. The government will make sure that his contribution is highlighted. The Union minister also announced setting up of a global centre for counter terrorism at Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice at Jodhpur and said the process of police modernisation will be expedited.

Indian in TIME 'millennials changing world' list

A 30-year old Indian entrepreneur has been named by **Time magazine** to its 2016 list of “**10 millennials who are changing the world**” for building a phone which can help people to interact and access critical services by communicating in their native languages. **Umesh Sachdev** has been named by Time to its 2016 list of “10 millennials who are changing the world” for his work on “building a phone that can understand almost any language”.

Maharashtra to celebrate 21st of each month as Yoga Day

The **Maharashtra government** has decided to celebrate the 21st day of every month as **Yoga Day** across all schools, colleges and universities in the State. State School and Higher Education minister **Vinod Tawde** had recently held a meeting with yoga institutions like Sri Sri Ravishankar's Art of Living, Ramdev Baba's Patanjali Yog Samiti, Samarth Vyayam Mandir Bharat Swabhimani Nyas and others to moot various ways to celebrate **International Yoga Day on June 21** on a grand scale at district levels.

Child rights body orders testing of J&J products

Laboratory testing of two popular baby care products of **US firm Johnson & Johnson** has been ordered by a child rights body of the government after taking suo motu cognizance of a number of US court orders against it over alleged lack of warning about health risks of its talc-based products.

The **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has asked five states — Gujarat, Jharkhand, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh — to collect the samples of Johnson & Johnson baby powder and shampoo for testing.

In the letters to states last month, the **NCPCR** said there were news reports highlighting the concerns about the use of products manufactured by Johnson and Johnson as they may contain carcinogenic substances like asbestos and formaldehyde.

NGT allows diesel vehicles for Delhi civic body

The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has directed the **Delhi government** to register two new diesel vehicles which are conforming to **BS-IV norms** and would be used for garbage disposal and handling of municipal waste generated in **New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) area**.

A bench, headed by Justice Jawad Rahim, granted the relief on similar terms and conditions which were imposed by the NGT in its May 31 order in which it had directed the government to register 45 new diesel vehicles for garbage management.

The tribunal had passed the May 31 order on applications moved by East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) and South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which had sought permission to buy 45 vehicles for garbage management as registration of new diesel vehicles above 2000cc is banned in Delhi.

Single window clearance for investors in Assam

The Assam government has set up a **single window clearance system** at all district headquarters to help potential **investors** and to eradicate corruption. This single window clearance system will enable potential investors to apply online for all the clearance certificates and no objection certificates. The new government has introduced the **Assam Ease of Doing Business Bill 2016** in the House on June 3 this year, which was passed subsequently. The Bill envisages constituting an Assam Bureau of Investment Promotion (ABIP) and creation of a single window clearance system to boost investment in the state.

Sikkim launches open government data portal

Sikkim claimed to become the first state in India to have an **open government data portal**. Lok Sabha MP, **P D Rai** launched the open government data portal 'Sikkim.data.gov.in' and Open Government Data Platform (Sikkim). Sikkim thus became the first state in India to have this portal.

Speaking on the occasion Rai congratulated the **Information Technology Department**, Government of Sikkim and NIC team from Delhi for their effort. Rai also expressed hope to see more organic and agriculture data in the portal. On the open government data portal, the data produced or commissioned by the government or government controlled entities can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone.

Gujarat Island Shiyal Bet gets electricity for first time

Residents of **Shiyal Bet**, a nondescript island in **Gujarat's Amreli district** woke up to cherish a moment they had been waiting for nearly **seven decades** after the country's Independence — electricity supply in their homes. With power supply reaching to this small island with a

population of around 6,000, surrounded by **Arabian Sea** from all corners, **Gujarat** now has its every nook and corner connected to electricity.

Located around 1.5 kms away from Pipavav port in Amreli, state-run **Pashchim Gujarat Vij Company Limited (PGVCL)** is supplying power to the island through a 6-km undersea cable through Chanch Island in neighbouring Bhavnagar district.

99% Telangana is non-vegetarian: Govt survey

Telangana has the highest proportion of meat-eaters in the country with almost 99% of its residents being non-vegetarians, a **Registrar General of India** survey of people aged 15 years and above has revealed. An almost equal percentage of men (98.8) and women (98.6) are non-vegetarians in the state.

West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Kerala follow Telangana among the states with the highest nonvegetarian population. Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana top the list of states with the highest vegetarian population. Overall, the percentage of non-vegetarians across the country has dropped from 75% in 2004 to 71% in 2014.

Maharashtra reports India's 1st case of Harlequin Ichthyosis

With the birth of a baby girl in Nagpur, India has reportedly recorded its first ever case of a baby born with a rare genetic disorder called '**Harlequin Ichthyosis**'. The infant was born pre-term to a 23-year-old woman belonging to a farmer family at Lata Mangeshkar Hospital in **Nagpur**. She has been kept under observation at the hospital. The infant girl has two reddish swabs in place of eyes on the face. She has no ears while there are two holes as nose from where she is breathing. Her fingers, toes and palms haven't developed yet.

President rejects Delhi govt's office of profit bill

President Pranab Mukherjee has rejected a Bill passed by the **Delhi government** that sought to exempt the post of **parliamentary secretary** from the dual office of profit law. As a result, 21 MLAs of the Aam Aadmi Party may now face disqualification as they were appointed as parliamentary secretaries in 2015.

The Indian Constitution prohibits legislators from holding an office that would allow them to benefit financially. The **Arvind Kejriwal** government had passed a Bill seeking the exclusion of parliamentary secretaries from the ambit of law. It was forwarded to **Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung** and the Centre for approval, but the final decision rested with the president. Mukherjee's decision was made based on the recommendations of the **Election Commission**.

Google, Tata Trusts launch 'Internet Sathi' in West Bengal

The Indian unit of search giant **Google Inc** and **Tata Trusts** launched '**Internet Saathi**' program in **West Bengal**. The initiative will roll out from West Bengal's Purulia district and will focus on training women and larger communities in the state to learn and explore various uses and benefits of the Internet.

Launched in July 2015, the program has trained and benefitted over 2 lakh women across villages in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The 'Internet Saathi' initiative is part of Google's 'Helping Women Get Online' campaign, which is designed to create awareness about the benefits of Internet among women in rural India.

Andhra launches IT irrigation project management

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** has launched an **IT-enabled management system** for irrigation projects in the state. The system will enable regular assessment of the progress of the ongoing projects in the state and help in monitoring water storage levels and flow of various rivers and reservoirs.

The Chief Minister launched '**Immersive Telepresence with Integrated Water Management Command Centre**' by reviewing the progress of Polavaram irrigation project's spillway works on Godavari river. The water resources department has introduced the 'Immersive Telepresence with Integrated Water Management Command Centre' for the regular assessment of progress of the ongoing projects in the state and to monitor water storage levels and flow of various rivers and reservoirs.

Govt releases draft wind-solar hybrid policy

The government has sought for public comments for draft **National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy** which aims at providing a framework to promote large grid connected wind-solar PV system for optimal and efficient utilisation of transmission infrastructure among others. The goal of the policy is to reach wind-solar hybrid capacity of 10 GW by 2022, it said, adding that the "policy aims to encourage new technologies, methods and way-outs involving combined operation of wind and solar PV plants.

Polio virus found in Hyderabad; Alert issued

The **Telangana** government has sounded a "**global emergency**" after an active strain of wild polio virus (P2 strain) was detected in a water sample collected from a drain, prompting it to

airlift two lakh vaccines from Geneva to inoculate more than three lakh children in **Hyderabad** and **Ranga Reddy** district as a “preventive measure”.

Cabinet Approvals – June 15, 2016

- i) Govt to sell 10% stake in HUDCO via IPO route
- ii) Union Cabinet cleared the Civil Aviation Policy
- iii) Cabinet okays merger of associates with SBI

More Indian kids stunted than the world average

According to a report on global nutrition, the percentage of **Indian children (38.7%)** suffering from **stunted growth** due to **malnutrition** is higher than that of the world average (23.8%). The report further revealed that India has doubled the rate of stunting reduction in the past decade, which is significant as India is home to **one-third** of the world’s stunted children.

Union Government announces new Print Media Advertisement policy

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has framed a **New Print Media Advertisement Policy** for **Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP)**. The key objective of the policy is to **promote transparency and accountability** in issuing of **advertisements in print media**. It also focuses on streamlining release of Government advertisements and to also promote equity and fairness among various categories of newspapers/periodicals.

Maharashtra government to use plastic wastes to build roads

Maharashtra government has decided to use **plastic** waste along with **tar** in a bid to improve the durability and longevity of asphalt roads and reduce **soil pollution**. In the beginning, municipal corporations with a population of over 5 lakh and municipal councils that have a population of over 2 lakh will be asked to include plastic waste for building roads in 50-km radius.

PM Modi inaugurates 1st conference of CBDT, CBEC

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the two-day ‘**Rajasva Gyan Sangam**’, the first joint annual conference of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** and the **Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)**. The conference will also be attended by the top brass of Income Tax department. While CBDT is responsible for collecting direct taxes, CBEC recovers the indirect taxes.

BSNL extends free roaming service by one year

BSNL has extended its **free roaming service** by one more year enabling its mobile customers to receive calls at no extra cost while roaming. The decision to extend the facility has been taken in view of overwhelming response of its customers in **mobile number portability (MNP)** and achieving highest growth of the customer in February and March months as per Trai report.

Five Indian women die per hour in childbirth: WHO

According to **WHO**, nearly **five women die every hour in India** from complications developed during **childbirth**, with heavy blood loss caused by **haemorrhage** being a major factor. Nearly 45,000 mothers die due to causes related to childbirth every year in India which accounts for 17 per cent of such deaths globally, according to the global health body.

Centre cancels licence of Teesta Setalvad's NGO

The **FCRA licence** of an NGO run by activist **Teesta Setalvad** was cancelled by the government for alleged violation of various provisions of law. In an order, the Home Ministry said during inspections, various irregularities were found in Sabrang Trust, where Ms. Teesta and her spouse Javed Anand work as chief functionary or trustee, and after careful examination of the NGO's response, its registration was cancelled.

'Vidyanjali' school volunteer programme launched

To boost community participation in government schools, HRD ministry has launched **Vidyanjali** scheme inviting volunteers to hold public speaking, story telling, play acting sessions and participate in other co-scholastic activities. **Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani** said 21 states and 2,200 schools will be participating in the pilot launch of the programme and hoped that by December it will be expanded to include every school in the country.

NITI Aayog to set up 500 'Atal Tinkering Labs'

To cultivate scientific temperament and a spirit of innovation in young minds, the **NITI Aayog** has decided to set up **500 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)** in schools across the country. These laboratories will provide a work space to the young students for shaping their ideas by hands on doing themselves models and learning innovation skills. The vision of the scheme is to 'Cultivate 1 Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators'.

Facebook, Deepika launch suicide prevention tool

Social networking giant **Facebook** has introduced tools and educational resources to help people in India who may be struggling with self-injury or experiencing **suicidal thoughts**. These tools are already available in countries like the US, Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

First launched in the US with the help of Forefront, Lifeline and Save.org, the tools were developed in collaboration with mental health organisations and with inputs from people who have personal experience with self-injury and suicide.

IISc, IITs in top 50 QS Asia university rankings

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and four Indian Institutes of Technology – Mumbai, Delhi, Madras and Kanpur – have made it to the top 50 in the **Quacquarelli Symonds University Rankings Asia 2016**. The global higher education analysts had evaluated 920 universities from all over Asia for this year's rankings. No Indian university made it to the top 10, though.

Railways signs pact with Odisha for rail infrastructure

Indian Railways has signed a pact with the **Odisha** government for setting up a joint venture company for development of rail infrastructure in the eastern state. Under the agreement, Railways will have 49 per cent stake while the state government will own 51 per cent in the JV company which will identify projects for development and mobilisation of financial resources for their execution.

Rajnath approves setting up central marine force

Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** has approved Maharashtra Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis's** proposal to set up a **Central Marine Police Force** to protect sea, coasts, ports and vital institutions along 7,516-km national coastline.

Fadnavis had mooted the proposal at the coastal security meeting. The detailed structure, operations and modalities of the force will be worked out in the coming weeks. Fadnavis, in the meeting, also suggested that all landing points and non-major ports should be brought under tech-based e-surveillance. The decision to have a central command for Marine Police elicited support from all ministers and officials from across states and Union territories participating in the marathon meeting.

Haryana bans sale of paint thinner in bottles

A **ban** has been imposed on the sale of **correction fluid and thinner in bottles in Haryana**. The government also imposed rules to take a strict action against those found violating the orders. According to State Health Minister, Deputy Commissioner, Executive Magistrate, Medical Officer, Senior Drugs Control Officer, Drugs Control Officer and police officers of the rank of Assistant Sub Inspector or above have been tasked to enforce the ban. The officers have been asked to send progress report on every fifth of the month through the Additional Deputy Commissioner concerned to Commissioner of Food and Drug Administration, he said.

Karnataka govt bans electronic cigarettes

Karnataka government has **banned electronic cigarettes** in the state. The decision has been taken on the recommendation of the committee on cancer prevention. Before the ban a study was conducted by the committee with an **NGO on e-cigarettes**, which said large number of youngsters was getting addicted to it.

2mg and 4 mg nicotine is allowed in chewables like nicotine gum for de-addiction purpose, but these e-cigarettes usage is leading to addiction towards it. E-cigarettes mimic the size and shape of cigarettes and contain a cartridge containing liquid, which includes nicotine (up to 36 mg/ML) among other chemicals (usually propylene glycol or glycerol).

Govt to give unique ID cards to disabled persons

The **social justice ministry** is all set to launch **colour-coded unique identity card** for registration of disabled persons as a legal document and for easy linkage to the government's schemes and services on a centralised e-platform to issue **Unique Disabled Identity (UDID) cards**. The card will be marked by three different colours —**red, blue and yellow** to indicate the degree of disability. First UDID cards are likely to be delivered in August in **Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh**, which is the chosen district for the pilot project. As of now, no national database on the disabled is available. Census 2011 puts the figure at **2.68 crore**. This makes up for 2.23% of the population.

Haryana to have India's first AYUSH university

Haryana to have India's first of its kind **AYUSH university** as the state cabinet approved a proposal to upgrade **Shri Krishna Government Ayurvedic College**, Kurukshetra as a university. The Shri Krishna AYUSH University would have courses of all the systems of AYUSH. Health Minister Anil Vij, said an ordinance would soon be introduced for the university following which it would become functional.

Punjab first to provide free Hepatitis C treatment

Punjab Chief Minister **Parkash Singh Badal** has launched a special fund called '**Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund**' to provide free treatment for patients affected by **Hepatitis C**. With this initiative, Punjab has become the **first state in the country** to provide free treatment to confirmed cases of Hepatitis C. Punjab government has created a special fund with an initial contribution of Rs 20 crore called the '**Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund**' for this purpose.

Maharaja Express to be introduced in south India

The world's most expensive luxury train '**Maharaja Express**' will be introduced in southern India en-route Goa, Maharashtra and Kerala from the monsoon season next year. Railway Minister said the plans are to make sure that by next year, '**Maharaja Express**' which has won several awards for four consecutive years as the world's best luxury train should make trips in Goa during the monsoon season. The travel by this train is very expensive and hence will attract high-end tourist and generate revenue for railway as well as (the) state.

Microsoft to design app for HRD Ministry's SWAYAM platform

Microsoft has been selected as the technical partner to build a mobile application for **Union Human Resources Development Ministry's SWAYAM** (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) platform. Together they will launch 2000 Massive Open Online Courses for over three crore students in 2016. Microsoft signed a deal of **38 crore rupees** with AICTE (All India Council of Technical Education) to build and run the app for three years, which afterwards will be taken over by AICTE.

FSSAI bans cancer-causing potassium bromate

The government of India has banned use of **potassium bromate** as a food additive following a CSE study that found its presence in bread as causing cancer. The **Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, however, has referred **potassium iodate**— also claimed to be carcinogenic used as a food additive — to a scientific panel. Last month, the regulator had recommended to the health ministry removal of **potassium bromate** from the list of permissible food additives after a study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

Railways' new rules to be effective from July 1

Indian Railways is all set to change many rules and facilities from July 1. People, who are planning to book tickets should know these rules and regulations.

SC refuses to stay culling of nilgai, monk

The Supreme Court refused to stay Centre's notification allowing **culling of nilgai , wild boar in Bihar, monkey in Himachal Pradesh**. It also declined to stay **killing of wild boar in Uttarakhand**. A bench headed by **Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel** refused to pass any interim order but agreed to hear animal rights activist plea after vacation and posted it for July 15. The bench allowed the activists to make a representation to the Central government and asked UOI to consider their grievances within two weeks.

Govt relaxes FDI norms in defence sector

The NDA government relaxed foreign direct investment (FDI) norms in single brand retail, civil aviation, airports, pharmaceuticals, animal husbandry and food products. It has allowed up to 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence through the approval route, 100% FDI in food product e-commerce, 100% FDI in greenfield pharma via the automatic route, 100% in brownfield pharma – of which 74% will be through automatic route – 100% FDI in scheduled airlines, and up to 49% FDI in airlines through automatic route.

Govt releases draft National Forest Policy

The government has made its draft National Forest Policy, to replace the one crafted in 1988. The draft incorporated the consequences of climate change but entirely ignoring one of the three forest related laws, the Forest Rights Act, the policy brings new focus to plantations, growing trees outside forest lands and wood industry. The policy continues with the national goal of a minimum of one-third of the geographical area under forest or tree cover. But it does away with the goal for hill and mountainous regions to maintain two-thirds of the geographical area under forest cover.

Aadhaar to be linked with caste certificates

All State governments are asked to link **Aadhaar** with **caste and domicile certificates** to be issued to **school students**. It is linked as part of a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Centre. The States have been told to ensure that such certificates are issued **within 60 days** to the students when they are studying in **Class V or VIII**. The development assumes significance as there have

been complaints of delay in grant of scholarship to students belonging to the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**. Besides, people have often complained of harassment allegedly by government officials in getting caste and domicile certificates issued.

Nagaland launches women helpline '181'

Nagaland Governor **PB Acharya** has launched women helpline – **181** in the premises of District Hospital Dimapur in Nagaland and also inaugurated **Sakhi**, a one stop Centre, intended to support women affected by violence both in private and public spaces under one roof. He highlighted the multiple roles played by women as home makers, guardians of children and the hard work put in by them in every field.

Air Force to set up training base at Kodiakarai

Indian Air Force is planning to set up a training base at **Kodiakarai**, a coastal town Tamil Nadu, and an aerial survey has been conducted to identify the site for the project. IAF has already established a RADAR station at Kodiakarai for surveillance along the **Palk Bay** and **Palk Strait**. The Union Defence Ministry has requested the state government to allot land for the training base at Kodiakarai.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Gotthard Base: World's longest and deepest tunnel opens in Switzerland

The world's longest tunnel officially opened with the trailblazing rail passage under the Swiss Alps aiming to ease transit through the heart of Europe. The 57km (35-mile) twin-bore Gotthard base tunnel will provide a high-speed rail link under the Swiss Alps between northern and southern Europe. The tunnel has overtaken Japan's 53.9km Seikan rail tunnel as the longest in the world and pushed the 50.5km Channel Tunnel linking the UK and France into third place.

Goa-born Sayonara Luxton takes charge as UK royal borough mayor

Goa-born Sayonara Luxton has taken charge as the mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in southeast England. Councillor Luxton, in her 60s, had been serving as the deputy mayor of the area for the past year and was proposed to take over by former mayor Councillor Dee Quick.

Sweden Best In The World, India Ranks 70th In Good Country Index

Sweden has been voted as the best country in the world when it comes to serving the interests of its people and contributing to the common good of humanity while India figured low at 70th position on a list of 163 nations. According to the 'Good Country' 2015 index which seeks to measure how countries contribute to the global good, Sweden, relative to the size of its economy, does more "good" and less harm than any other country.

China to ignore UN ruling on South China Sea

China said that it will ignore the decision of an international arbitration panel in the Philippines' lawsuit against Beijing's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea. The Philippines has filed a case in the United Nations under the UN Convention on Law of the Sea, questioning China's territorial claim in the South China Sea.

India's PM Modi gets Swiss pledge on tackling tax dodgers

Switzerland has promised to work with Indian authorities to tackle tax dodgers who stash money in Swiss bank accounts to avoid Indian taxes. After talks in Geneva with Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann and round-table discussions with Swiss businessmen, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the two countries had agreed to make combating tax evasion and "black money" a shared priority.

Walmart retains top position in Fortune 500 list

In 2016 rankings, Walmart is the top dog on the Fortune 500 list for the fourth consecutive year. Rounding out the top 10 in the 62nd annual rankings, based on total revenues for their fiscal years: ExxonMobil, Apple, Berkshire Hathaway, McKesson, UnitedHealth Group, CVS Health, General Motors, Ford Motor and AT&T.

World Environment Day 2016 : June 5

World Environment Day (WED) is one of the greatest annual events celebrated across the globe on 5th June. It was initiated in 1973 by the United Nations General Assembly and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to address colossal issues like global warming, deforestation and food shortages among many others.

Hillary Clinton claims Democratic nomination

Hillary Clinton has cemented her position as the presumptive Democratic nominee, seizing her place in history as the first woman to contest a US presidential election at the head of a major political party. The former Secretary of State cruised to victory in four of the week's six state primaries including, crucially, California – where her rival, Bernie Sanders, had hoped to fuel his flagging campaign.

Mom-to-kid HIV transfer stopped 1st time in Asia

The World Health Organization has announced that Thailand became the first Asian country to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, a milestone in the fight against the disease. The nation from one of Asia's most HIV-ravaged societies to pin-up for how to effectively tackle the crisis.

Suzuki Chairman Osamu Suzuki to step down as CEO

Suzuki Motor Corp patriarch Osamu Suzuki is stepping down as chief executive and the Japanese automaker promised to cut executive pay and slash 2015 bonuses, hoping to draw a line under the bruising admission of major flaws in its fuel tests.

Three to Four lakh enslaved in Eritrea over 25 years: UN

The head of a U.N. human rights inquiry into Eritrea said an estimated 300,000-400,000 people had been enslaved over the past 25 years in Eritrea's system of indefinite "national service". He also said he believed Eritrea was still operating a shoot-to-kill policy on its borders to stop people fleeing from the country, many of them heading to Europe as refugees.

Pakistan tops in 2016 Malware Infection Index

At least four out of ten computers in Asia-Pacific countries are likely to be infected with malware, a study by Microsoft has found. While Pakistan tops the list of countries figuring in the Malware Infection Index 2016, India ranks 8th on the list. The index identifies the key malware threats in the region and ranks markets in Asia-Pacific according to how much they are affected.

NATO launches biggest ever Joint Military Exercise Anaconda-16 in Poland

A large-scale military training exercise involving more than 20 NATO and partner countries has kicked off in Poland, part of efforts to reassure east European nations rattled by Russia's actions in nearby Ukraine.

WHO declares Liberia Ebola-free for fourth time

The WHO has declared that Liberia has reached the end of active Ebola virus transmission. This is fourth such declaration from one of the West African countries at the epicenter of the world's worst outbreak of the disease.

Kuczynski wins Peru election with 50.1% votes

National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE) director Mariano Cucho announced that his organization had tallied all of the more than 18 million votes cast on June 5. Kuczynski garnered 50.1% of eligible votes to defeat Fujimori. Known as "PPK" in Peru, Kuczynski won by just over

41,000 votes for a victory margin of less than quarter point, which makes the 2016 election the closest in Peru's history.

Norway becomes the first country to ban deforestation

Norway has become the first country to stop clear-cutting of trees, a huge step toward curbing global deforestation. At the rate we are going, the world's rain forests could completely vanish in 100 years. In their pledge, Norwegian lawmakers also committed to find a way to source essential products such as palm oil, soy, beef and timber so that they leave little to no impact on their ecosystems. It's a pledge Norway made at the U.N. Climate Summit in 2014, alongside Germany and the United Kingdom.

NATO to send 4,000 more troops to Poland, others

NATO announced that the alliance will deploy four multinational battalions to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, as tensions with Russia remain high in the wake of Moscow's intervention in Ukraine. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg discussed the deployment at a news conference in Warsaw, Poland, prior to this week's gathering of alliance defense ministers.

North Korea Ryugyong Hotel is world's tallest unoccupied building

North Korea's Ryugyong Hotel is the world's tallest unoccupied building, according to Guinness World Records. The 105-storey pyramid-shaped skyscraper is 330 metre high. Construction of the building began in 1987 and took 25 years to be completed, after being halted on several occasions.

Arktika, the most powerful nuclear icebreaker launched by Russia

Russia's new Project 22220 nuclear-powered icebreaker dubbed "Arktika" was launched from the Baltic Shipyard in Russia's second-largest city of St. Petersburg. Built at the Baltic Shipyard, which belongs to Russia's United Shipbuilding Corporation, project 22220 is the world's largest and most powerful vessel of its kind.

US Senate approves enhanced military cooperation with India

The US Senate has unanimously approved a move to enhance military co-operation with India for developing threat analysis, military doctrine, force planning, logistical support and intelligence collection and analysis. An amendment titled "to authorise military-to-military exchanges with India" was agreed in the Senate by a voice vote as part of the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA)-2017, which Senate passed early this week by an overwhelming bipartisan support of 85-13 votes.

California becomes world's sixth-largest economy

California has overtaken France as the world's sixth-largest economy, fueled by strong growth and the U.S. dollar's gains against foreign currencies. The most-populous U.S. state, with a gross domestic product of \$2.5 trillion, has also eclipsed recession-plagued Brazil.

Rio declares financial emergency before Olympics

The Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro has declared a financial emergency less than 50 days before the Olympics. Interim Governor Francisco Dornelles says the "serious economic crisis" threatens to stop the state from honouring commitments for the Games. Most public funding for the Olympics has come from Rio's city government, but the state is responsible for areas such as transport and policing.

International Yoga Day

India and other countries are celebrating **International Yoga Day 2016 on June 21**. The main event held in Chandigarh in the presence of PM Narendra Modi. Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. Recognizing its universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as International Yoga Day by resolution 69/131. International Yoga Day aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

Britain votes to leave the European Union

Britain has voted to leave the European Union, a historic decision sure to reshape the nation's place in the world, rattle the Continent and rock political establishments throughout the West. The margin of victory startled even proponents of a British exit. The "Leave" campaign won by 52 % to 48%.

Colombia government, FARC rebels sign historic ceasefire

The Colombian government and FARC rebels signed a ceasefire and disarmament agreement, one of the last steps toward ending a half-century conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people. The deal puts a definitive end to fighting in Latin America's longest civil war, which has torn the country apart with shootings and bombardments in its coca-rich jungles and hills.

Mahashangarh declared as the SAARC cultural capital for 2016-17

Mahasthangarh, the 3rd century BC archaeological site in Bogra, Bangladesh, has been declared as the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) cultural capital for the year 2016-17. As a SAARC cultural capital, the historic place will host festivals on literature, films, foods and dances from October 2016 to September 2017.

Nepal bans citizens from working in Afghanistan

Nepal has banned its citizens from working in Afghanistan after 13 of its citizens were killed and six more injured in a suicide attack in Kabul recently. The dead men, who were employed as security guards in the Canadian embassy in Kabul, were killed in an early morning attack by the Taliban on June 20 when they were on their way to work. The government also decided to continue an earlier ban on Nepalis working in three other conflict-hit countries – Iraq, Libya and Syria.

US to lift ban on transgenders in military

The Pentagon plans to announce the repeal of its ban on openly serving transgender service members next month. The repeal would come five years after a 2011 decision to end the US military's ban on gays and lesbians serving openly, despite fears – which proved unfounded – that such a move would be too great a burden in wartime and would undermine readiness.

Volkswagen to pay \$10 bn in US emissions scam

Volkswagen has agreed to pay USD 10 billion to settle a huge US civil case over its diesel emissions-cheating scandal. As part of the settlement, Volkswagen would compensate owners of around 480,000 2.0-liter diesel cars up to USD 7,000 in cash each, and would also fund a programme to fight air pollution.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Cabinet approves MoU between USA and India

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between United States of America and India to enhance cooperation in the field of wildlife conservation and combating wildlife trafficking. With the approval, India will benefit from the expertise of the US Institutions in the field of wildlife conservation and management of wildlife areas and in combating illegal trade of wildlife and their derivatives.

India, Morocco launch Chamber of Commerce and Industry to boost trade

India and Morocco have jointly launched a trade body to boost bilateral commercial engagements. The India-Morocco Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IMCCI) was launched by visiting Vice President Hamid Ansari and Moroccan Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane. The bilateral trade between the two countries stood at USD 1.26 billion in 2015 with Indian exports forming roughly 25 per cent of the trade volume.

Union Cabinet approves MoU between DGCA and French Civil Aviation Authority

The Union Cabinet has approved an agreement between India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the French civil aviation authority to implement technical cooperation programme for standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DGCA and Direction Generale de l'Aviation Civile or DGAC, would be effective for a term of four years.

India-US ink MoU to boost energy security, clean energy cooperation

India has inked a pact with the US to enhance cooperation in energy security and climate change with an aim to promote sustainable growth. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of India and the United States was signed to enhance cooperation in energy security, clean energy and climate change. Power Secretary PK Pujari and US Ambassador to India Richard R Verma signed the MoU.

India-Singapore agree to up defence interaction

India and Singapore held the first dialogue between their defence ministers as they agreed to enhance the scale and complexity of existing bilateral military interaction, at a time when freedom of navigation in international waterways has emerged as a major concern. The first Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD) between Manohar Parrikar and his Singaporean counterpart Ng Eng Hen marked rising of bilateral defence cooperation to the highest level. The agreement will also see Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) working with a Singapore research agency on research-oriented projects.

PM Modi awarded Afghan's highest civilian honour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with Afghanistan's highest civilian honour, the Amir Amanullah Khan Award. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani conferred the award on Narendra Modi after the two leaders jointly inaugurated the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, earlier known as Salma Dam, on river Chist-e-Sharif in western Herat neighbouring Iran, will irrigate 75,000 hectares of land and generate 42 MW of power.

Govt in talks with Bangladesh over strategic port

After bagging the strategically important Chabahar Port in Iran, the government is looking eastwards and is in discussions with Bangladesh to develop a similar facility in Payra. India Ports Global, the joint venture between state-run JNPT and Kandla Port for overseas ports, is interested in the expressions of interest which have been invited for construction of Payra port in Bangladesh.

India, Qatar ink 7 agreements to boost cooperation

India and Qatar have signed seven agreements, including one on finance intelligence to check money laundering and terrorism financing and another to woo foreign investment in the infrastructure sector from the gas-rich Gulf state. Cooperation and investment in areas of skill development and education, health, tourism and sports between the two countries were the other agreements signed by Indian and Qatar officials in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani.

US names India as a Major Defence Partner

The U.S. has recognised India as ‘major defence partner,’ a classification that will allow India to buy more advanced and sensitive technologies from the U.S. This U.S. move will be complemented by India’s entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), an exclusive club that restricts trade in sensitive defence technologies. The U.S. has also declared that it will be its “strong objective to have India voted as a member “of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), another export control regime, later this month.

Indo-US-Japan naval exercise starts in Western Pacific

A fleet of U.S., Japanese and Indian warships will hold a large-scale joint naval exercise over eight days in the Western Pacific, close to a Japanese island chain, part of which China claims. As China pushes its territorial claims in the neighboring South China Sea, Tokyo and Washington worry it will look to extend its influence into the Western Pacific, with a growing fleet of submarines and surface vessels to ply distant oceans.

India signs up to Europe-led clampdown on tax evasion and corruption

India has joined a group of nearly 40 nations that have signed a Europe-led clampdown on tax evasion and corruption. This is a commitment to automatically exchange information on beneficial ownership. According to UK’s Treasury Department in London that these 40 countries have committed to the initiative to automatically exchange information on beneficial ownership. The next stage will be for the development of a global standard for this exchange.

NIIF and Qatar Investment Authority inks MoU to boost infrastructure investments

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) . The MoU is to facilitate investment in India’s infrastructure. This is with a view to attract investments from Qatar. The MoU was signed during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Doha.

Govt gives nod to six international agreements

- The Union Cabinet approved signing of the Memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with various countries and international agencies in the fields of science and technology, air travel and labour welfare.
- India and Bangladesh have launched transshipment operations at the Ashuganj port to boost trade and facilitate seamless movement of goods in the landlocked region, with a cargo vessel unloading the maiden consignment to be transported to Tripura through Bangladeshi territory.
- Bangladesh's Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan launched the operation at Ashuganj port in central Bangladesh, where 1,000 tonnes of iron and steel sheets were unloaded to be trans-shipped to Tripura through Bangladesh territory in trucks.
- India, Thailand sign key pacts to boost economic and defence ties
- India and Thailand have decided to ramp up cooperation in the fields of economy, counter terrorism, cyber security and human trafficking besides forging closer ties in defence and maritime security. The announcement was made here after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held extensive talks with his visiting Thai counterpart General Prayut Chan-o-cha. The leaders said early conclusion of a balanced Comprehensive Economic and Partnership Agreement is a shared priority.

India-UAE to form joint parliamentary panel

Seeking to boost the growing bilateral strategic ties, India and the UAE will set up a joint parliamentary panel to enhance relations and facilitate their visits to promote cooperation to tackle security issues and challenges facing the region. A decision was taken in this regard during a meeting between first woman speaker of UAE's Federal National Council (FNC) Amal Abdullah Al-Qubaisi and the Indian ambassador TP Seetharam.

India, South Korea launch platform to up investment

India and South Korea have launched a platform to promote and facilitate investments from the east Asian country. The platform 'Korea Plus' was launched by Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her South Korean counterpart Joo Hyunghwan. Korea Plus comprises a representative each from the South Korean Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy and Korea Trade Investment and Promotion Agency (KOTRA).

IWAI and IPGPL ink MoU on Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project

The Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTP) in Myanmar was conceptualized and is being administered by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). This is with a view to facilitate connectivity between the mainland and the North Eastern States of the country through maritime shipping, inland waterways and roads of Myanmar. The link between North

Eastern States of India and Myanmar will pave the way for enhanced trade & commerce across the border and enable cultural and social integration at the regional level.

PM Modi arrives in Tashkent for SCO Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Tashkent to a warm welcome as he kicked off a two-day visit to attend the annual summit of the SCO with an aim to expand India's engagement with the China-dominated grouping in areas of security, defence and energy. In a special gesture, Modi was received at the Tashkent international airport by his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoev.

India, Switzerland ink MoU to enhance cooperation in skill development

India and Switzerland have signed an agreement to establish formal cooperation in the fields of skills development and vocational and professional education and training. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Winterthur between State Secretary Mauro Dell' Ambrogio and Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

ENVIRONMENT

NASA satellite finds 39 unreported sources of air pollution

Scientists at NASA's Environment and Climate Change Canada and researchers at University of Maryland, College Park and Dalhousie University discovered 39 unreported "major" sources of toxic air pollution. Using the space agency's satellite imaging, the group located the man-made sources where toxic sulfur dioxide is being emitted. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is a contributor to acid rain and is regulated on the ground by the EPA. However, to properly police the emissions, the government agency has to know the location of the pollutants.

Asia's first Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme launched

Haryana Government has launched Asia's first 'Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme' at the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre at Pinjore. It was launched by state Chief Minister Manohar Lal by releasing 2 captive bred Himalayan Griffons vultures in the pre-release aviaries close to the breeding centre at Pinjore.

Goa mulls tourism ban at beach to save turtles

The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has called for a complete ban on **tourism activity at Galjibag beach in South Goa** to protect the turtle nesting spots there. The GCZMA in its recommendations said that tourism activity including erection of shacks should be banned at Galjibag beach, which is one of the prime shorelines of the state. The authority has also proposed that fishing should be banned on this beach to protect Olive Ridley Turtles who

arrive here to lay eggs. The directives are part of management plan for the protection of turtle nesting sites which was drawn following a **National Green Tribunal (NGT) order**.

Air pollution may cause 6 million deaths by 2060: OECD

According to a report by the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**, air pollution could cause 6-9 million premature deaths by 2060, with the biggest mortality rate spike forecasted in India. It is also likely to cost 1% of the global GDP, around \$2.6 trillion annually, in terms of sick days, medical bills and reduced agricultural output, the report added.

May 2016 was hottest May on record: NASA

May's temperatures broke global records yet again, as the northern hemisphere finishes its hottest spring on record, statistics released by NASA showed. The Arctic in particular experienced abnormal heat, causing Arctic sea ice and the Greenland ice sheet to start melting unusually early.

Australian Great Barrier Reef rodent: first mammal species wiped out by human-induced climate change

Australian researchers say rising sea levels have **wiped out a rodent that lived on a tiny outcrop in the Great Barrier Reef**, in what they say is the first documented extinction of a mammal species due to human-caused climate change. The rodent was known to have lived only on Bramble Cay, a minuscule atoll in the northeast Torres Strait, between the **Cape York Peninsula in the Australian state of Queensland and the southern shores of Papua New Guinea**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TRAI launches app to avoid unwanted calls, texts

TRAI, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is now taking more steps to bring the pesky call menace under control. They have come out with an app named 'DND Services' that will help mobile users to manage unsolicited commercial communications (UCC).

Jubilant gets USFDA nod for epilepsy injection

Drug firm Jubilant Life Sciences has received final approval from the US health regulator for generic Levetiracetam injection, used for treatment of epilepsy, in the American market. The company has received abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) final approval for Levetiracetam injection USP, 500 mg/5 mL (100 mg/mL) from the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).

Telemedicine market may rise to \$32 mn by 2020

India's telemedicine market which has been growing at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 20 per cent holds the potential to cross \$32 million (mn) mark by 2020 from the current level of over \$15 mn. Improved access to specialists, increased patient satisfaction with care, improved clinical outcomes, reduction in emergency room utilisation, cost savings are certain key benefits of telemedicine.

Airbus unveils world's 1st 3D-printed aircraft

Dwarfed by huge jets all around, the mini-plane Thor was nonetheless an eye-catcher at the Berlin Air Show – the small Airbus marvel is the world's first 3D-printed aircraft. Windowless, weighing in at just 21 kilos (46 pounds) and less than four meters (13 feet) long, the drone Thor, short for "Test of High-tech Objectives in Reality" resembles a large, white model airplane

World's 1st passenger drone cleared for testing

The world's first passenger drone capable of autonomously carrying a person in the air for 23 minutes has been given clearance for testing in Nevada. Chinese firm Ehang, which unveiled the electric Ehang 184 passenger drone at CES in Las Vegas in January, has partnered with the Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems (NIAS) and the Governor's Office of Economic Development (Goed) to put the drone through testing and regulatory approval.

France launches smartphone app for terror alerts

The French government has launched a smartphone app that would alert users to possible terror attacks and provide them with information on how to stay safe. The French Interior Ministry announced the app ahead of the UEFA Euro 2016 soccer tournament, which kicks off outside Paris.

Scientists discovered a gigantic exoplanet, HATS-18b

International team of astronomers found an alien world named HATS-18b. It is a giant hot Jupiter exoplanet tidally spinning up its parent star. The team led by Kaloyan Penev of Princeton University carried out the observation campaign between April 2011 and July 2013. The new findings were published online on 2 June 2016 on arXiv.org.

Union Government launched Surya Mitra Mobile App

Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy launched "Surya Mitra" mobile App at National Workshop on Rooftop Solar Power here today. The GPS based mobile app is developed by National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) which is an autonomous institution of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).

India gets support for admission into MTCR

The members of the 34-nation Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), an international anti-proliferation group, have agreed to admit India. The deadline for MTCR members to object to India's admission had expired without any objections. This would allow India to buy high-end missile technology and surveillance drones.

US successfully launches world's largest rocket

The world's largest rocket has successfully blasted into space from Florida's Cape Canaveral for all to see, but the exact detail of its intelligence agency cargo is something that the US government is keeping a closely guarded secret. The United Launch Alliance (ULA), a joint space delivery service by aerospace giants Lockheed Martin and The Boeing Company, carried out the launch of a Delta IV Heavy rocket. It saw the triple engine craft roar from its launch pad at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, traveling at the speed of sound before soaring beyond the atmosphere.

Iceland scientists turn CO2 into Stone under CarbFix Project

Carbon dioxide has been pumped underground and turned rapidly into stone, demonstrating a radical new way to tackle climate change. The unique project promises a cheaper and more secure way of burying CO2 from fossil fuel burning underground, where it cannot warm the planet. Such carbon capture and storage (CCS) is thought to be essential to halting global warming, but existing projects store the CO2 as a gas and concerns about costs and potential leakage have halted some plans.

Four new elements in Periodic table get names

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, the gatekeeper to the periodic table, announced the proposed names for elements 113, 115, 117 and 118: nihonium, moscovium, tennessine and oganesson. The new names for the four superheavy, radioactive elements will replace the seventh row's uninspired placeholders of ununtrium, ununpentium, ununseptium and ununoctium.

China successfully launches 23rd BeiDou Navigation Satellite

China has successfully launched 23rd satellite to support its global navigation and positioning network which is being developed to rival the US Global Positioning System. The 23rd satellite in the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province. The satellite was put into orbit by a Long March-3C carrier rocket. It was the 229th launch of the Long March carrier rocket. The BDS satellite system is being developed as an alternative to America's Global Positioning System (GPS).

Apple launches new macOS version 'macOS Sierra'

Apple has now unveiled the latest version of its OS X desktop operating system, but it's had somewhat of a name change and make over. Indeed, it's now called macOS, with the latest version dubbed macOS Sierra. The change was announced at Apple's WWDC developer conference.

Methane leak spotted from space for first time

Methane emissions from a specific leaking facility on Earth's surface have been measured by an instrument onboard an orbiting spacecraft for the first time. The observation has been done by the Hyperion spectrometer on NASA's Earth Observing-1 (EO-1). This is an important breakthrough in our ability to eventually measure and monitor emissions of this potent greenhouse gas from space.

New tools for energy-efficient mobile browsing

Researchers in the Cockrell School of Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin have developed a new, open-source computer programming framework that could make the web significantly more energy efficient, allowing people to save more battery power while browsing on mobile devices.

Jupiter-like planet Kepler1647b orbiting two suns discovered

Scientists, using NASA's Kepler Space Telescope, have discovered a Jupiter-like planet orbiting a system of two stars, making it the largest such cosmic body ever found. The planet Kepler1647b, located in the constellation Cygnus, was discovered by astronomers from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre and San Diego State University (SDSU) in the US.

Living bone grown in lab for first time

In a first, scientists have grown a living bone in the lab to repair large defects in the head and face of patient, taking a step forward in improving treatments for people with craniofacial defects. A new technique developed by Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic, professor at Columbia University, uses autologous stem cells derived from a small sample of the recipient's fat and precisely replicates the original anatomical structure of the bone.

Scientists find 470 million-year-old alien rock

An alien rock has been dug up in a limestone quarry in Sweden, where it had lain deeply buried for about 470m years. The biscuit-sized remains are unlike any other meteorite found on Earth to date, and may shed light on the history and formation of our solar system. Named Oest 65, it is thought to be a splinter of a potato-shaped rock 20-30km (12-19 miles) wide, which had smashed into another much larger body, sprinkling our adolescent planet with debris.

ISS astronauts return to Earth after six months

A soyluz capsule bringing back three astronauts from the International Space Station, including the first to represent the British government, made a safe parachute landing on the steppe near the Kazakh city of Zhezkazgan. The crew, which included a Russian and an American as well as Britain's Tim Peake, left the space station about three hours earlier after spending half a year in Earth's orbit.

Scientists develop sperm sorting device

Scientists are developing new low cost sperm sorting devices that can select the best sperm cells for assisted reproductive technologies such as in-vitro fertilisation, increasing the chances of a successful pregnancy. The competition is fierce and only the strongest survive the obstacle course within the female reproductive tract. Of the millions of sperm that enter the vagina, only about 10 or so make it to the oocyte or egg, demonstrating how rigorous the natural sperm selection process really is.

IRCTC launches mobile app to book air tickets

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a subsidiary of the Railways, has developed a mobile app that will make booking of flight tickets simpler, speedier and with lowest fare too. To avail this service, flyers will have to download the IRCTC mobile app — IRCTC Air — from Google Playstore, and they have to just Swipe and Shuffle, Select and Book.

New asteroid found to be orbiting Earth

Scientists have identified a second, mini-moon orbiting earth that has probably only been around for about 100 years. The small asteroid has a slightly tilted orbit, bouncing up and down through Earth's orbital plane once a year. Over decades, as it scuttles along its path around the solar system, it twists back and forth. The asteroid has been declared a "quasi-satellite", too distant to qualify as an actual satellite but cinched by gravity into a relatively close orbit around the sun.

World's first magnetic refrigerator launched

French firm Cooltech Applications has launched what it claims as the world's first commercially available magnetic refrigeration system. It can serve as a "Superfridge" slashing down both the environmental as well as economic challenges which the current electricity appliances face. The Magnetic Refrigeration System (MRS) achieves refrigeration by passing a water coolant through magnetocaloric materials undergoing repeated magnetization-demagnetization cycles.

HAL unveils indigenous basic trainer aircraft HTT-40

Public-sector aerospace and defence major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has inaugurated indigenous Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA) HTT-40 in the presence of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar. He highlighted that the role of private players and medium and small enterprises (MSMEs) has been significant in producing the parts for HTT-40 and said the Indian Air Force (IAF) is feeling positive with all these developments.

NASA unveils X-57 Hybrid Electric Research Plane

The X-57 is NASA's first X-plane in a decade, and the plan is to develop technologies that improve fuel use and emissions and reduce noise, while also potentially paving the way to faster and more efficient small aircraft. With 14 electric motors turning propellers and all of them integrated into a uniquely-designed wing, NASA will test new propulsion technology using an experimental airplane now designated the X-57 and nicknamed "Maxwell."

Experimental Zika vaccine to be tested on humans

An experimental Zika vaccine is ready to be tested on humans. The US Food and Drug Administration gave the green light for the clinical trial, which is expected to begin within a few weeks. The vaccine, named GLS-5700, is being developed by Inovio Pharmaceuticals and GeneOne Life Science.

BrahMos integrated with IAF's fighter jet

Brahmos, the world's "most formidable" supersonic cruise missile system has been successfully integrated and test-flown with IAF's Su-30MKI frontline strike fighter. BrahMos is a leading cruise missile capable of hitting targets beyond radar horizons. This fire-and-forget world class missile has the capability to take on targets by flying a combined high-low trajectory, thus evading enemy air defence systems.

US Navy developing electromagnetic canon

The US Navy is quietly pushing ahead with a radical new cannon that one day could transform how wars are fought, even though some Pentagon officials have voiced concerns over its cost and viability. Named the railgun, the weapon in question represents a paradigm shift in ballistic technology. Instead of using gunpowder and explosive charges to shoot a shell from its barrel, it employs vast amounts of electromagnetic energy to zoom a projectile along a set of copper-alloy rails.

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS**Microsoft buys LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion**

Microsoft announced a \$26.2 billion deal to acquire professional social platform LinkedIn for \$196 per share. Shares of LinkedIn surged 47 percent after the announcement to near \$193, while Microsoft's stock was down 3.2 percent. Trading in Microsoft had been halted briefly for news pending before the announcement of the all-cash deal.

Symantec to buy Blue Coat Systems for \$4.65 bn

Symantec Corp. agreed to buy Blue Coat Systems Inc. in a \$4.65 billion deal that will give the computer-security company a new portfolio of cyberdefense technologies along with a new chief executive. Blue Coat Chief Executive Greg Clark is set to take that role at Symantec after the deal closes, which is expected to occur before October.

OBITUARY

Name of the person	Field
Razak Khan	Comedian
Muhammad Ali	Boxing legend
Sulabha Deshpande	Veteran theatre and film actor
KK Katyal	Veteran Journalist
Manohar Aich	India's first Mr Universe
Inder Malhotra	Veteran journalist
Gordie Howe	Legendary Canadian ice hockey player
Achyut Lahkar	Veteran theatre personality
Donald Carr	former England Cricket captain
Mudrarakshasa	Hindi writer
Gregory Rabassa	American Literary translator
Ann Morgan Guilbert	Famous TV actress dies
Anjan Dutta	Assam Congress chief
Neil O'Brien	Quiz master

SPORTS NEWS

Winner	Title	Sport/ venue
Argentina	Number one spot in FIFA's rankings	Colombia
Cristiano Ronaldo	The world's most famous athlete	Athlete
Nita Ambani	Nominate for International Olympic Committee (IOC)	Switzerland
Shubham Jaglan	Maiden European Junior Golf Title	Longniddry, Scotland.
Garbine Muguruza	French Open final	Spanish
Seema Punia	qualified for the Rio Olympics	Indian
Novak Djokovic	first French Open title	Serbian
Saina Nehwal	Australian Open Super Series title	Final Held in Sydney
Lewis Hamilton	Canadian Grand Prix	Formulae one
Nico Rosberg	European Grand Prix	Azerbaijan hosted its maiden Formula One race.
Australia	Champions Trophy title 2016	Hockey
Kazuyoshi Miura	New goal record in J-League history	Footballer
Cleveland Cavaliers	NBA Championship	Basket ball
Dutee Chand	qualified for Rio Olympics	Indian Sprinter

- Maria Sharapova has been banned for two years by the International Tennis Federation for using a prohibited drug.
- Three years after becoming the world's oldest skydiver, Aida Gemanque became the oldest Olympic torch bearer when she carried the flame in the Amazonian city of Macapa, aged 106.
- The venerable Eden Gardens ground will host the first ever day-night Test in the country when India take on New Zealand later this year.
- Ronaldo becomes only the second team athlete after basketball legend Michael Jordan to rank as the highest-paid since Forbes began calculating sports stars' earnings in 1990.
- Anil Kumble, the former India Test captain and the country's most successful bowler, has been named as the coach of the men's cricket team.
- Larsen & Toubro Ltd has secured a contract to build a \$135 million stadium for Qatar's 2022 World Cup, a boost for the Indian firm facing a slowdown in its key Middle East market due to low oil prices.
- India's Leander Paes will become the only tennis player in the world and the first Indian to make a seventh appearance at the Olympics.

IMPORTANT DAYS OBSERVED IN JUNE MONTH

June 1	Global Day of Parents
June 4	World Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
June 5	World Environment Day
June 8	World Brain Tumor Day, World Oceans Day
June 12	World Day Against Child Labor
June 14	World Blood Donor Day
June 15	World elder abuse awareness day
3rd Sunday of June	World Father's Day
June 16	International Integration Day
June 18	International Picnic Day
June 20	World Refugee Day
June 21	World Music Day
June 23	International Olympic Day, United Nations Public Service Day, International Widows Day
June 26	International Day against Drug abuse and Illicit Trafficking, International Day in support of Victims of torture

THANK YOU 😊 😊 😊