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Awards and Honours

- **Nalanda Mahavihara or University** in Bihar has been included in the **UNESCO's World Heritage List**, which also featured three new sites from **China, Iran and Micronesia**.
- **The United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)** announced the elimination of **YAWS**, maternal and neonatal tetanus to India and hailed its public health achievements as examples to other countries.
- **India's Harika Dronavalli** held on to her nerves to capture **the Fide Women's Grand Prix trophy in Chendu in China**.
- **Mahindra Aerostructures**, a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra is the 1st Indian company to receive a contract from **European aviation major Airbus Helicopters Airbus Helicopters** as Tier I supplier.
- **The Emirates** was named the world's best airline at the prestigious **Skytrax World Airline Awards 2016**.
- A Nigerian journalist **Didi Akinyelure** has won the second **BBC World News Komla Dumor Award** for 2016.

Appointments

- **Pema Khandu** was sworn in as the **ninth chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh** became the youngest chief minister in the country.
- **World Bank President Jim Yong Kim** announced that **American economist Paul Romer** will succeed **Kaushik Basu** as **Chief Economist and Senior Vice President** of the World Bank .
- **Malcolm Turnbull** was sworn in as the prime minister of Australia **for 2nd term**.
- **An Odisha-born bureaucrat Guruprasad Mohapatra** has been appointed the chairman of **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**.
- The government has appointed **Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi** as chairman of the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**.
- **Malasian President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom** has appointed **Dr. Mohamed Asim** as the **Minister of Foreign Affairs**.

Banking and Economy

- **The RBI** has set up an inter regulatory **Working Group (WG)** to study the entire gamut of regulatory issues relating to **Fin Tech and Digital Banking** in India
- The Book **"Who Moved My Interest Rate"** authored by **"Duvvuri Subbarao"**

- India's top public sector bank, SBI has signed MoU with the **Indian Institute of Technology Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE)**, (IIT) Bombay's technology business incubator, **to promote innovation by startups in the financial sector.**

National Round-Up

- Noted writer Amitav Ghosh's latest book "The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable" is an extended essay of sorts on climate change.
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked applicants to provide Aadhaar number while applying for any UGC fellowship or scholarship.
- BJP leader and **Rajya Sabha** member **Navjot Singh Sidhu** has resigned from Rajyasabha.
- **Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU)** has inked MoU with non-profit public organization namely Global Village Foundation (GVF) for collaborative studies and research on social and economic public policies.
- **The Special Investigation Team (SIT)** headed by **Justice M B Shah** on blackmoney has recommended ban on cash transactions of **above Rs 3 lakh** and restricting cash holding with individuals to not more than **Rs 15 lakh** to curb illegal wealth in the economy.
- The Centre has **released 28,000 crore** so far this year to States under **MGNREGA** to clear the last year's liabilities and for running the programme in the ongoing year, For ensuring timely payment of wages, the central government has started **National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in 11 states.**
- **Former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit** was named by Congress as its chief ministerial candidate for next year's Assembly polls in politically crucial **Uttar Pradesh**, citing her "experience and good work" in heading Delhi Government **for 15 years.**
- To ensure smokeless kitchens across rural India, **14.13 lakh LPG connections** have been released to women of BPL families under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**. The scheme is currently under operation in **487 districts of 17 states.**
- Senior Congress leader **Margaret Alva** said her book '**Courage and Commitment**' is based on her life and is not about her conflict with Congress president **Sonia Gandhi.**
- **The Union Government has notified the UIDAI** (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) **Rules, 2016** to give legal shape to **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).**
- **State-owned power equipment maker Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has successfully commissioned **250 MW unit** based on **eco-friendly Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion (CFBC) technology**, using low quality coal (lignite) as the primary fuel thermal power project, located at **Padva village in Bhavnagar District of Gujarat.**
- The Cabinet approved the revival of these three closed fertiliser units, with a capacity of **1.27 million tonnes per annum each** at an estimated cost of **Rs 18,000 crore** to make India self-sufficient in urea output.

- The Union Government has allowed companies located in **special economic zones (SEZs)** to import solid plastic waste. **The Environment Ministry** has permitted the import by **amending the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016**.
- The government set up a high-level committee **headed by Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian** to consider a “**reasonable increase**” in **minimum support price (MSP)** for pulses and bonus for farmers.
- **The Union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi** gave its approval for revised cost estimates of **Rs 7,290.62 crore for the 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (HEP) in Bhutan**.
- The world’s first hospital on a train **The Lifeline Express (Magic Train)** of India, celebrates **25 years** of service to **the poor** and underprivileged masses of rural India on July 16.
- The book titled “**Ringside with Vijender**” published by **Juggernaut Books and authored by Rudraneil Sengupta** has released.
- Union Cabinet has approved the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** to impart skill training to one crore people over the next 4 years (2016-2020), **Rs 12,000 crore** has been allocated for this yojana.

Snippets from the States

- The cabinet approved the establishment of an **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** at **Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh** under the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**.
- **Karkkidakam**, the last month **in the Malayalam** almanac, is observed as the auspicious **Ramayana month in the Kerala**.
- **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** has launched a **live interactive programme, titled ‘TalkToAK’**, aimed at directly engaging with the Delhi people from across the country can ask him questions over the phone, by sending text messages and through social media.
- **The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **USD 100 million loan** for ‘**Climate Adaptation in Vennar Subbasin of Cauvery Delta project**’ in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **The West Bengal** government has set a target to construct toilets across all villages of the state **by March 2019** to enable open defecation free (ODF) rural Bengal.
- The Central Government has approved projects involving an investment of **Rs 19.50 crore** for **Mewat and Sirsa districts** of Haryana, under **MutiSectoral Development Programme (MSDP)**.
- **The Startup Village in Kochi** has launched a digital incubator for students startups – **Start In College**, making it the first of its kind in the entire world.
- **The Madhya Pradesh government** announced the **country’s first ever “department of happiness”**.
- The **country’s first industrial park, exclusively for women entrepreneurs**, was launched today by **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat** at the Federation House.

India and the World

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and French firm Safran Helicopter Engines** have agreed to establish a support centre in India for national and international rotorcraft customers.
- **Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari** reached **Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia**. Vice-President Ansari is leading the **India delegation for two-day 11th Asia Europe Meeting-ASEM-Summit**.
- The theme for the summit is **“20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity”**.

International Round-Up

- Indian Naval Ships **Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch** under the Command of the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, **Rear Admiral S V Bhokare, and YSM, NM** have arrived at **Port Kelang** on a four day visit, as part of deployment of **the Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea and Western Pacific**.
- **Peruvian officials** declared a **Zika health emergency** in 11 states across the **northern half of their country** after confirming that 102 people have been infected with the virus.
- **The two trains “Golden Phoenix” and “Dolphin Blue”** pass each other on the railway line between **Zhengzhou in central China’s Henan Province and Xuzhou in east China’s Jiangsu Province** at a striking speed of **420 km per hour in opposite direction setting a world record**.

Science and Technology

- **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and US-based Bell Helicopter** agreed to jointly develop the helicopter market in India, including **training, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), research and development (R&D)** and technology sharing.
- A Canadian university will conduct the world’s first Zika vaccine test on. Development of the Zika vaccine has been authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada.
- **The Indian education sector** is now in a state of transition, in this phase of transition, on the occasion of **World Youth Skills Day (15th July)**, Maharashtra C.M Devendra Fadnavis launched the new facilities of virtual and digital classrooms across 32 ITIs in the state.
- India’s **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully test-fired its indigenously designed **155 mm/52 calibre Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)** to a range of 40 km.
- **INS India**, the base depot ship at New Delhi, celebrated its **75th anniversary** on 13th July.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Council has decided to provide opportunity to eligible foreign students to study in the IITs.
- NASA has announced the discovery of 104 new planets outside our solar system including four that could have Earth-like, rocky surfaces.

Sports Point

- **Pakistan cricket is Misbah-ul-Haq** proved to batting line-up by **compiling a masterful century in his first Test innings in England**. He received good company **from AsadShafiq who scored 73** while putting up **148 for the fifth** wicket before falling in the far end of the day.
- **DipikaPallikalKarthik** dethroned defending champion **JoshnaChinappa** to regain the women's title in the **73rd Senior National Squash Championship**.
- The men's crown was captured by title holder and top seed **SauravGhosal**, who created history by winning it for the 11th time, defeating fourth seed **Harinderp**

Obituary

- **Joseph Antic, a silver medallist** in men's hockey for India at the Rome Olympics, passed away.
- **William H McNeill**, an award-winning world historian and author, has died in Torrington, Connecticut, at age 98.
- The oldest litigant of Babri Mosque Ram Janmbhumi dispute of Ayodhya, Mohammad Hashim Ansari (96-year) has passed away.

Important Days

Date	Day
July 17	International Justice Day
July 18	International Nelson Mandela Day
July 20	International Chess Day