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## APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Persons	Post/Department
SK Kohli	Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)
Vishal Kapo	CEO of IDFC Mutual Fund
Sanjay Gupta	CMD of Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL).
Kevin Turner	Microsoft's Chief Operating Officer (CEO)
Costa Rica	United Nations climate chief Christiana Figueres
D Rajkumar	MD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd
Utpal Bora	Head of Oil India Ltd
Tathagata Roy	Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
SushilaKarki	First woman Chief Justice of Nepal
Ashok Patnaik	CEO of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)
Dr.Kinshuk	US university Dean
K.V.R. Murthy	CMD of the Jute Corporation of India Ltd
Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi	Chairman of Central Board Secondary Educational (CBSE)
Dr. Mohamed Asim	New Foreign Minister of Maldives
Paul Romer	Chief Economist of World Bank
Malcolm Turnbull	Prime minister of Australia
GuruprasadMohapatra	Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI).
PemaKhandu	New chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. SanjivMisra	AD and NE (part time) Chairman at Axis Bank
Shambhu Singh Yadav	Lokayukta ( deputy Lokayukta) of U.P
SanjivPuri	Chief Operating Officer of ITC Ltd
Mohandas Pai	chairman of Manipal Global Education Services
BudhaRashmi	Director General of National Museum
Ganesh Singh	Head of Joint Parliamentary Committee for Land Acquisition Bill
Vishal Kapoor	chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank
SudarshanSen	Executive Director of RBI
MV Dhekane	Director, ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU)

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

<b>Name Of The Award</b>	<b>Award Winner</b>	<b>Key Point To Remember</b>
Great Immigrants: The Pride of America	Sunder Pichai	The award for their inspiring professional accomplishments
Caine Prize 2016	LidudumalinganiMqomboti	This award for his short story "Memories We Lost"
AAAI Lifetime Achievement Award	Srinivasan K Swamy	The award for outstanding contribution in the advertising industry.
Gourmand World Cookbook Award for 2015-16	NimiSunilkumar	Her book 4 o'clock Temptations of Kerala has been chosen for the award
51st Jnanpith Award	Dr. Raghuv eerChaudhari	This award conferred by President of India
World's 100 Highest-Paid Celebrities	Shah Rukh Khan Akshay Kumar	This list released by Forbes
Skytrax World Airline Awards 2016.	Emirates	Awarded by best Airlines in the middle east countries for the 12 <sup>th</sup> consecutive time
UNESCO's World Heritage List	NalandaMahavihara or Nalanda University	It is situated in Bihar
International Champions Cup 2016	Sony Pictures Networks India	For exclusive television and digital right
Number one spot in ICC Test rankings	Wrist spinner Yasir Shah	He is the first Pakistani bowler to achieve this rank
RadhikaMenon	Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea	The first woman to become the captain of Indian Merchant Navy
GoutamGhose BappiLahiri	Mahanayak Award	The Award conferred by West Bengal C.M Mamata Banerjee

## National Round-Up

### **BCCI conducts 'English language and communication skills'**

**The Cricket Board (BCCI)** has commenced a course for umpires on English language and communication skills as part of its educational and development programme for the match officials.

The first batch underwent training from July 12 to 16 and the second commenced in Mumbai and would continue **till July 23**, the BCCI has announced on its website.

### **7th Pay Commission to be implemented from August**

The government notified implementation of **the Seventh Pay Commission** recommendations and directed government departments to commence fixing salaries to be paid to individual employees **in August**. In a move that will cheer millions of central government employees and likely spur demand for consumer durables, the government has decided to pay them seven months' arrears at one go **with their August salary**.

### **4th Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival 2016 begins in Guwahati**

**The much anticipated 4th edition of the Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival (BVFF)** was inaugurated in a grand manner at **ITA Machkhowa, Guwahati**, **K V Eapen, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development**, was the Guest of Honour for the programme this year. Renowned filmmaker **Prakash Jha** and sound designer **Amrit Pritam** were also present as Special Guests.

### **CSIR-CMERI develops Solar Power Tree for generation of electricity from solar energy**

**The Ministry of Science and Technology** has come up with a 'Solar Power Tree', an innovative way to generate electricity using solar power in a limited space. Developed by the **Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI)**, Durgapur, a laboratory of the **Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

**Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences**, launched the Solar Power Tree **in New Delhi**.

### **Covering Railway Stations Under CCTV Surveillance**

Close Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) were provided at **344 railway stations** over Indian Railways. Railways have further planned to install **Video Surveillance System (VSS) at 1000 stations under Nirbhaya Fund.**

Total estimated cost of VSS chargeable to Nirbhaya Fund stands at **Rs – 500 crore.** Installation of CCTV cameras also forms part of **Integrated Security System (ISS)** and total estimated cost at **202 stations stands at Rs 252.76 crore.**

### **Sachin Tendulkar to launch new game SachinSaGa**

**Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar** has now made his presence felt in the digital gaming arena through his official game, ‘**Sachin Saga**’, **Rajan Navani, vice-chairman and managing director of JetSynthesys Private Limited,** announced

The company’s gaming arm **PlayIzzOnTechnologies**, has developed this exciting game for the legendary cricketer. The partnership has been initiated in association with **Fluence**, a leading celebrity digital network.

### **Cabinet approves incorporation of Sagarmala Development company under Companies Act**

The Cabinet approved the incorporation of **Sagarmala Development Company (SDC)** under the **companies Act 2013**, with an initial authorized share capital of **1 thousand crore rupees** and a subscribed share **capital of Rs. 90 Crore.** and that it will be under the administrative control of the **Shipping ministry.**

### **PM Modi salutes Chandra Shekhar Azad and BalGangadharTilak on their birth anniversary**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on 23 July paid tribute to freedom fighters **Chandra Shekhar Azad and BalGangadharTilak** on their birth anniversaries. “I salute the courageous Chandra Shekhar Azad, who won the admiration of countless Indians due to his valour, on his birth anniversary,” Modi tweeted. In another tweet, he said: “LokmanyaTilak’s efforts instilled a much needed sense of pride and self-confidence, which contributed in shaping India’s history.”

### **Navy puts its might in massive search on for missing IAF plane**

**Eastern Naval Command (ENC)** has deployed **two P8i Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft** with advanced electro-optics and radars, two Dornier aircraft and twelve ships with

integral helicopters to join the search operations initiated to locate the Indian Air Force AN-32 transport aircraft reported missing approx 300 km due East of Chennai .

### **Thomas Cook India inks pact with Matrimony Bazaar**

Travel services provider **Thomas Cook (India)** has entered into a partnership with **Matrimony Bazaar** to tap the ‘romantic leisure travel’ segment which is seeing an “exponential” growth. The company however did not disclose any financial details about the partnership.

### **IRCTC offers Rs 10 lakh insurance cover for passengers**

Railway passengers from next month, booking tickets through the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, (IRCTC)** website can avail a travel accident cover of **Rs. 10 lakh at a premium of one rupee**. IRCTC Chairman-cum-**Managing Director A.K. Manocha** said that the insurance cover is besides the compensation given by the railways in case of accidents to valid ticket holders.

### **India launches first integrated Defence Communication Network**

India’s first **integrated defence communication network** was launched in **New Delhi** enabling the army, air force, navy and the Special Forces Command to share situational awareness for a faster decision-making process. The **Defence Communication Network (DCN)** from **Ladakh** to the **North East** to island territories.

### **World Bank commits \$1bn for India solar projects**

The **World Bank Group** signed an agreement with the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, consisting of 121 countries, led by India. It has committed to provide **\$1 billion** support to **solar rooftop technology**, infrastructure for solar parks, bringing innovative solar and hybrid technologies to market and transmission lines for solar-rich states.

### **India abstains from voting on LGBT rights at UN**

The **Ministry of External Affairs** said India abstained from the **LGBT** vote in the **United Nations** as the case and the **Supreme Court** is yet to pronounce its verdict. India’s response on the LGBT vote in the UN comes hours after LGBT community members expressed disappointment over its move to help protect the rights of homosexuals and transgender worldwide. LGBT activists in India criticised the government for its silence, saying it reflected their intolerance and homophobia.

### **Indigenously built Tejas inducted into IAF**

The **Indian Air Force** has inducted the first squadron of the indigenously made **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** into its fleet. An induction ceremony to induct two Tejas aircrafts was held at the Aircraft Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) in Bengaluru. The aircraft designed and developed by the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** in collaboration with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.

### **FSSAI inks MoU with ASCI to check misleading advertisements**

Regulator **FSSAI** has joined hands with **ASCI** in its bid to check misleading advertisements in the food and beverages sector. Advertising Standard Council of India (ASCI) will comprehensively monitor the advertisements across various media. The council has been given a suo motu monitoring mandate by FSSAI to process complaints against misleading advertisements of food and beverages.

### **High-speed OPV INS Tarasa launched by Indian Navy**

The last ship in the series of four **Water Jet Fast Attack Crafts (WJFAC)** being built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) for the Indian Navy was launched. Christened **INS Tarasa**, after an island in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, the ship was launched by **ArunaKorde**, wife of Vice Admiral JaywantKorde, the navy's Controller of Logistics.

### **Indian monuments to be made disabled-friendly**

A new initiative by the culture and the social justice and empowerment ministries will soon make it easy for **differently-abled visitors** of **prominent tourist places** to access monument and artifacts without any discomfort. Disabled-friendly facilities include **wheelchairs, disabled-friendly toilets, Braille signage, tactile floors or pathways, railings and ramps**.

### **Modi Cabinet expansion: 19 sworn in as MoS, 5 dropped**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expanded his **Union Council of ministers** at a ceremony in the Darbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. **President Pranab Mukherjee** administered oath to the 19 new ministers of state as well as a cabinet rank oath to minister **Prakash Javadekar**. This was the second expansion of the NDA government led by PM Narendra Modi. Of the 19 new ministers, 17 are from the BJP, one each from Apna Dal and RPI.

### **India slips to 91st place on readiness for digitized economy**

India has slipped two places to **91st position** on a global list of countries in terms of their readiness for transition to a digitized economy and society, while **Singapore** remains on top.

- The annual Networked Readiness Index (NRI) released by **Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- **The 2016 Networked Readiness Index (NRI)** is topped by **Singapore** while Finland has also retained its **2<sup>nd</sup>** Others in the top-ten are Sweden (3rd), Norway (4th), United States (5th), Netherlands (6th), Switzerland (7th), UK (8th), Luxembourg(9th) and Japan (10th).

### **Amazon India invests in six new fulfilment centres**

E-commerce major **Amazon India** has opened six new fulfillment centres across five cities, as it prepares for a spike in demand in the upcoming festival season. Amazon's fulfillment centres are essentially large warehouses, where sellers can send their products, which are packed, despatched and delivered to the customer by the company under its Fulfilled By Amazon service. The new centres are in **Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Jaipur and Mumbai**.

### **India ranked world's fourth largest app economy**

**India** is rapidly moving into the **mobile app age** and is already the **fourth-largest mobile app** economy. The amount of time Indians spend on apps has also increased dramatically, says mobile-app analytics company **App Annie**. In total app downloads per year, only **China, US, and Brazil** are ahead of **India**.

### **Government launches 231 'Clean Ganga' projects**

Two years after the launch of the **NamamiGange Mission**—India's plan to clean up the **Ganga River** the central government will launch over 200 projects worth **Rs.2000 crore** under the programme. The 231 projects to be launched involve modernization and redevelopment was allocated Rs.196-crore online pollution monitoring system will also be launched.

### **DRDO inks pact with IITs for Centre for Propulsion Technology**

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with **IIT-Bombay** and **Madras** to establish a bi-nodal 'Centre of Propulsion Technology' (CoPT) at the two institutions. The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed among DG DRDO S Christopher, IIT Bombay Director Prof DevangKhakhar and IIT Madras Director Prof B Ramamurthi.



### **Government plans to clean 10 iconic places under Swachh Bharat Mission**

The Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation **Narendra Singh Tomar** has stated that government will carry out a drive to clean 10 iconic places in the country as part of a pilot project under the **Swachh Bharat mission**. Mr. Tomar said his ministry was in the process of selecting **10 iconic places** for cleaning under the mission and most would be either tourist or religious spots.

### **Govt imposes anti-dumping duty on a chemical from 5 countries**

**Revenue Department** has slapped anti-dumping duty of up to **USD 168.76 per ton** on import of a chemical used in textile industry from five countries, including **China, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia and Taiwan**, to protect domestic manufacturers. The import restrictive tax has been imposed for five years by the Revenue Department on recommendations of the **Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD)**.

### **Nirma to buy Lafarge India assets from LafargeHolcim for \$1.4 billion**

**Swiss cement giant LafargeHolcim** today announced agreement for sale of its assets in Lafarge India to **soaps and chemicals maker Nirma ltd** for \$1.4 billion (about Rs 9,400 crore). The deal is subjected to approval from the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** also the proceeds from the divestment will be used to reduce debt.

### **Union Government launches Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF)**

On the directions of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri J P Nadda, Ministry of Health launched nationwide Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF). It will be observed from 11th to 23rd July across the country under which various activities has been planned including visits by ASHA workers to all such households which have children under the age of five.

### **Operation ‘SankatMochan’ launched to evacuate Indian citizens from South Sudan**

**Ministry of External Affairs** launches operation “**sankatmochan**” to evacuate Indian nationals from war torn South Sudan. **General VK Singh** heading operation as **two C-17** military transport aircrafts to South Sudan’s capital city Juba to evacuate over 300 Indians stranded there. He is accompanied by Secretary Amar Sinha, JS Satbir Singh and Director Anjani Kumar. The Indian Ambassador in South Sudan **SrikumarMenon** and his team is organising the operation on the ground.

### **INS Karna commissioned by Navy chief**

The Navy's dedicated base for its Special Operation Forces – **MARCOS (Marine Commandos)** – **INS Karna** was commissioned here by **Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba**. The commissioning ceremony was held at **Naval Establishment INS Kalinga near Bheemunipatnam port in Vizag**.

### **NajmaHeptulla, G M Siddeshwara resign from Modi Cabinet**

Minority Affairs Minister **NajmaHeptulla** and **GM Siddeswara**, Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, who had crossed 75 years, have been dropped from the Union council of ministers. With these two resignations, the strength of the council of ministers is now **76**. The number of ministers cannot exceed **82**. Heptulla is the 1<sup>st</sup> Cabinet minister to have been dropped in the two-year term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led council of ministers.

### **Cabinet approves the Revised Cost Estimate of Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan**

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 total cost escalation for the project, at this stage, is **Rs 3,512.82 crore**. The Hydroelectric project seeks to provide surplus power to India and thus augment power availability in the country.

### **“Ringside with Vijender “authored by RudraneilSengupta released**

The book titled “**Ringside with Vijender**” published by **Juggernaut Books** and authored by **RudraneilSengupta** has released. The book is all about the Beijing Olympics bronze medallist boxer Vijender Singh's life posts his transition to the world of pro boxing.

### **Cabinet allocates Rs 12,000 crore for skilling 1 crore youth**

Union Cabinet has approved the **PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana (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. **PMKVY** will impart fresh training to **60 lakh youth** and certify **40 lakh people** who have acquired skills non-formally under the **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**.

### **Union Government notifies AADHAR Act giving UIDAI legal basis**

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). These rules have been framed as per provisions of Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 for appointment of its chairperson and members.

### **Union Cabinet approves revival of defunct Fertilizer Units**

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. To enhance the production of urea indigenously, Govt. had earlier also approved the revival of **Talcher (Odisha) & Ramagundam (Telangana)** units of FCIL by PSUs through 'nomination route'.

### **Government allows SEZ units to import solid plastic waste to recycle**

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 had notified '**Hazardous and Other Wastes Rules, 2016**' in April for better management, handling and trans-boundary movement of hazardous and other wastes.

### **Government sets up panel to consider minimum support price (MSP)**

To address the issue of escalating prices of pulses, the Union 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 committee will submit its report in two weeks.

### **14.13 lakh BPL LPG connections released under PM Ujjwala Yojana**

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**.

### **My book is a story of my life: Margaret Alva**

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**.

### **MaharshiDayanand University signs MoU for collaborative studies with Global Village Foundation (GVF)**

**MaharshiDayanand University (MDU)** has inked an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with non-profit public organization namely **Global Village Foundation (GVF)** for collaborative studies and research on social and economic public policies.

### **SIT on black money recommends ban on cash transactions above 3 lakh rupees**

**The Special Investigation Team (SIT)** 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 SIT** headed by **Justice M B Shah (retd)**, submitted **its fifth report** to the Supreme Court on methods to curb black money in the economy.

### **Congress announces Sheila Dikshit name as CM candidate for UP Assembly elections**

**Former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit** was today 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**. She will be up against **Akhilesh Yadav** of the SP and **Mayawati** of the BSP.

### **Centre has released Rs 28,022 cr. under MGNREGA**

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 ManagementSystem (NeFMS)** in **11 states**,

### **Commerce ministry starts e-marketplace for goods procurement**

**The Commerce Ministry** has launched an **e-marketplace** for online purchase of goods and services by various central government ministries and departments.

The move is aimed at bringing in more transparency and streamlining the government procurement of goods and services. **The Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D)** has developed the portal for the purpose.

### **Hospital train Lifeline Express completes 25 years of service**

**Lifeline Express**, touted to be the **world's first hospital-train**, started in **1991** to provide medical aid and relief to far-flung and inaccessible areas, completed **25 years (on 18th july)** of its operation. The train, a flagship project of Impact India Foundation and the Indian Railways, has travelled the length and breadth of the country.

### **Government launches Transforming India portal**

With the aim of sharing the impact of various governance initiatives with citizens in real-time, the government has launched a website — **'Transforming India'** –The website was launched by **Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology and Law and Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad**. The website, [www.transformingindia.mygov.in](http://www.transformingindia.mygov.in), will provide information in a user-friendly format enabling citizens to view the content in the form of info graphics, e-books, performance dashboard, videos, daily news corner, and engage with the content by comments and sharing the content through social media.

### **More Than 47000 Mizoram Students Receive Central Scholarships**

**Mizoram's Scholarship Board Secretary JH Zoremthanga** has said that **90 %** of tribal scholarship has been issued to the meritorious students and the Central government has directly deposited the amount to the respective account of the students. **As many as 47,685 students** who are in **standard 1st to 10th** have so far received scholarship.

### **Dabur and DRDO unit tie up for high altitude medicinal plants**

Leading Ayurvedic FMCG firm **Dabur** has tied up with **DRDO** to promote sustainable cultivation of high-altitude medicinal plants in Ladakh. **Dabur India** has signed a pact with **DRDOs unit Defense Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR)**, Leh, under which both organisations will educate farmers and help enhance livelihood opportunities in the cold desert area.

### **Government forms committee to prepare 'Draft Ganga Act'**

The Ministry of Water Resource, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has constituted a committee to prepare the draft Ganga Act which will be headed by Justice (Retd) Girdhar Malviya. According to an official statement, the tenure of the panel would be for a period of three months which may be extended by another three months, if required. The panel has been asked to prepare a Draft Act on Ganga ensuring wholesomeness of the river.

### **India ranks 110th on Sustainable Development index**

India is ranked at a low 110 of 149 nations with regard to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, according to a new index topped by Sweden that shows all countries face major challenges in achieving these ambitious goals.

### **CCEA approves 1,980 MW Ghatampur thermal power project**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) granted its approval to set up a 1,980 MW thermal power project at Ghatampur in Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs 17,237.80 crore including interest during construction component of Rs 3,202.42 crore. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for installation of Ghatampur Thermal Power Project (GTPS) of 1,980 MW (3 X 660 MW) capacity through a joint venture company named Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Ltd formed jointly by Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam.

### **Cabinet approves incorporation of Sagarmala Development Company**

The Cabinet approved the incorporation of Sagarmala Development Company (SDC) under the companies Act 2013, with an initial authorized share capital of 1 thousand crore rupees and a subscribed share capital of Rs. 90 Crore and that it will be under the administrative control of the Shipping ministry.

The cabinet said that the implementation of the identified projects will be taken up by the relevant ports, State Governments, Maritime Boards, Central Ministries, mainly through private or the Public Private Partnership mode.

### **Mydala partners Viacom 18 for 'Star Trek Beyond'**

Mydala.com, India's leading local services marketing platform, has joined forces with Viacom 18 as the media partner for 'Star Trek Beyond', the third installment of the iconic Star Trek Reboot Series, which released in India. Mydala is giving its users a sci-fi thrill with a

StarTrekBeyond contest where **its 400 million** consumers across **209 cities in India** can win movie tickets as well as official merchandise.

### **Startup India States Conference to be held in New Delhi**

The **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** is organizing a day-long conference on Startup India in New Delhi today with an aim to improve ease of doing business, **Commerce and Industry Minister NirmalaSitharaman** said a start-up would now need only a certificate of recognition from the government to avail **IPR-related benefits**. Earlier, a budding entrepreneur had to go through an elaborate process of approaching an inter-ministerial board to procure the **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) benefits**.

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

### **SBI to offer banking services on Facebook, Twitter**

The country's largest lender, **State Bank of India (SBI)**, launched three digital initiatives and indicated that it may have to prune its branch network once its associates are merged. SBI made its debut on social media banking by launching its platform called "**Mingle**" through which its customers can transact using **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

### **SBI gets \$625 mn from World Bank for solar power**

**State Bank of India (SBI)** and the **World Bank** have inked agreements for a **\$625 million** (around Rs 4,200 crore) facility to support grid-connected **rooftop solar programme (GRPV)** in the country. This will help SBI in financing GRPV projects at competitive rates. This will catalyse the market and support the government to faster achieve its target to generate **40 gigawatt (Gw)** of electricity from the widespread installation of rooftop solar photovoltaic panels.

### **SIDBI partners Yes Bank for loan guarantee under WB scheme**

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between **SIDBI** and **YES BANK** under the partial risk sharing facility (PRSF) for financing energy efficiency projects programme sponsored by the World Bank. As per the terms of the agreement, Sidbi will guarantee 75% of loans of up to Rs 15 crore extended to the energy efficiency projects.

### **RBI permits foreign investors to buy PNB shares**

The **RBI** removed the 7 year old restriction on fresh purchase of state-owned Punjab National Bank's shares by foreign investors. **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** shares gained **over 8 per**

cent .after the Reserve Bank of India removed the public sector bank from the caution list and allowed foreign investors to buy its shares. The scrip later closed 8.21 per cent up at Rs 127.25.

### **IDFC Bank acquires GramaVidyal Microfinance**

**IDFC Bank** has signed a share purchase agreement with **Tamil Nadu-headquartered microfinance institution GramaVidyal Micro Finance (GVMFL)** for acquisition of 100 % equity share capital of **GVMFL** in an all-cash deal.a deal is estimated at nearly **Rs 300 crore**.

GramaVidyal will become wholly-owned subsidiary of the IDFC bank after acquisition.This is a first-of-its-kind transaction where a bank has taken over a microfinance institution (MFI) and made it a subsidiary.

### **SBI signs MoU with IIT Bombay to promote startups**

India's top public sector bank, **State Bank of India**, has signed a memorandum of understanding (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. As per the MoU, the bank will provide a platform for testing/piloting financial products/applications of FinTech startups that will be identified by both parties.

### **RBI asks banks to exchange upto 20 soiled notes free of charge**

In an effort to improve customer service, **the RBI** has asked banks to exchange **up to 20 pieces of soiled currency notes** with a maximum value of **Rs 5,000 over the counter**, free of charge.However, if the number of notes to be exchanged is more than 20, banks can levy service charge.

### **“Who Moved My Interest Rate” authored by “DuvvuriSubbarao”**

At a time when the country is waiting to know who will **succeed Raghuram Rajan** as the Reserve Bank of India Governor, his predecessor **DuvvuriSubbarao's** memoirs, revealing a turbulent relationship with **two Finance Ministers of the time — P. Chidambaram and Pranab Mukherjee** .

### **RBI sets up an Inter-regulatory Working Group on Fin Tech and Digital Banking**

**The Reserve Bank of India** 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



Working Group has been set up in view of the growing significance of Fin Tech innovations and their interactions with the financial sector as well as the financial sector entities.

### **Fourth tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond scheme opened for subscription**

Narendra Modi government's fourth tranche of sovereign gold bond scheme (SGB) opened for subscription applications for which will be accepted till **July 22, 2016**. The bonds will be available through **banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL)**, designated **post offices** and **stock exchanges**.

### **Federal Bank ties up with Reliance Jio Money**

**Federal Bank** is launching a **one-click payment service** jointly with **Reliance Jio Money**. The two entities have signed an agreement under which Reliance Jio Money's mobile wallet application, which is to be launched shortly, will have a direct payment option for Federal Bank customers.

### **IRCTC, SBI sign MoU on promotion of rail ticketing activities**

The country's largest public sector bank, **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to hammer out a detailed plan for promotion of rail ticketing activities, including internet ticketing and unreserved ticketing system. Under the MoU, the signatories "will jointly explore areas of cooperation and draw up a detailed plan for promotion of rail ticketing activities.

### **RBI imposes penalty of Rs 5 cr on Bank of Baroda**

**The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a penalty of **Rs 5 crore on Bank of Baroda (BoB)** after it found irregularities in the **Rs 6,100-crore scam** that was unearthed last year. "The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of **INR 50 million on Bank of Baroda**.

## **SNIPPETS FROM THE STATES**

### **Kerala government bans e-cigarettes**

**Kerala** government has decided to ban 'electronic cigarette' in view of studies claiming that its use can cause various health issues, including **cancer** and heart ailments. State Health Minister **KK Shylaja** has directed the additional chief secretary (health) to issue an order banning the production, sale and advertisement of 'electronic cigarette' alias 'e-cigarette'. **E-cigarettes** are handy devices that emit doses of **vaporised nicotine**.

### **Minister launches PashudhanBimaYojana in Haryana**

Haryana Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister, Mr O P Dhankar launched PashudhanBimaYojana to set a target to cover one lakh cattle at a function organized at Government Polytechnic Institute in Jhajjar.

### **HP govt signs MoU with NTPC, NHPC for hydro engineering college in Bilaspur**

The establishment of the first hydro engineering college in Himachal Pradesh will boost regional development and provide more job opportunities, Union Health Minister J P Nadda. AnMoU was signed between the Himachal Pradesh government and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and National Hydel Power Corporation (NHPC) for setting up of the hydro engineering college in Bilaspur.

### **Kerala Government imposes 14.5 % fat tax on Junk Food**

As a measure to tackle the increasing rate of **obesity**, **Kerala** is all set to introduce the first ever ‘**fat tax**’ to be levied on junk and fast food items. In his budget speech, Kerala’s Minister of Finance Dr. T.M. Thomas Issac proposed a tax of **14.5% on junk food** including items like burgers, pizzas, sandwiches, doughnuts, tacos, etcetera.

### **Kerala launches online incubator for student start-ups**

Till now **Bangalore** was the silicon valley of India, where people who set up their startups and work towards achieving their goal. But lately, another city **from Kerala** has been catching up in this respect., **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.

This has been the vision of the Kerala Chief Minister **PinarayiVijayan** and **Kris Gopalakrishnan** (co-founder of Infosys).

### **“Ramayana month” begins in Kerala**

The annual ‘**Ramayana Month**’ began in **Kerala** with temples and Hindu houses across the state resonating with the chanting of the epic Ramayana. **Karkkidakam**’, the last month **in the Malayalam** almanac, is observed as the auspicious **Ramayana month in the Kerala**.

It has been a decades-old tradition that devotees, especially elders, recite “**Adhyatma Ramayana**” authored by medieval devotional poet **ThunchathRamanujanEzhuthachan**, in the next one month to mark the period.

### **Rapid rural police response system launched in Punjab**

A **Rapid Rural Police Response System** has been launched across **Punjab** to ensure prompt and effective police response in the state's over 12,000 villages. Punjab Deputy Chief Minister **Sukhbir Singh Badal**, who launched the scheme, also flagged off 400 new motorcycles and 220 new Bolero jeeps under the new system. Under the system, police will respond to any crime or law and order situation within 20 minutes of it being reported.

### **Delhi CM launches live interactive programme TalkToAK**

**Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** has launched a live interactive programme, titled 'TalkToAK', aimed at directly engaging with the Delhi people, where people from across the country can ask him questions over the phone, by sending text messages and through social media.

### **Chhattisgarh CM inaugurates India's first commercial court in Raipur**

**Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh** has inaugurated country's first commercial dispute resolution centre and commercial court in the state capital. The commercial court is located in **Naya Raipur** area of the city. The court also consists of arbitration centre and a mediation centre.

### **Rajasthan becomes first state to introduce minimum wages for part time workers**

**Rajasthan** has become the **first state** in the country to introduce minimum wages for part time workers. The **Labour Department** has issued a notification.

- As per the notification, it becomes mandatory to **pay 50 %** of the prescribed a day minimum wage to a person who works for less than 4 hours in a day.
- With this notification, part time workers now come under the **Minimum Wages Act 1948**.

### **West Bengal to set up three biotechnology hubs**

The **West Bengal Government** has taken up a project to set up **three biotechnology hubs** across the state to bring in more biotechnology innovations to the State. The three proposed biotechnology hubs will come in **Bardhaman, Kalimpong and Medinipur districts**; they will help in the co-ordination of various departments with the Biotechnology Department in a better way.

### **Telangana Government To Launch II Phase of Haritha Haram programme**

The second phase of two-week long **Haritha Haram** programme of **Telangana government** has launched today. Haritha Haram programme of Telangana government aimed to plant 46 crore plants to improve **green belt**. The State Government planned to plant a record 46 crore saplings, including 25 lakh in Hyderabad, during the season. Another record that was targeted was plantation over 163 kms of highway by over a lakh of people on the first day.

### **Maharashtra CM Fadnavis inducts 11 ministers in the Ministry**

Maharashtra Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** expanded his council of ministers, inducting 11 ministers, including 10 new faces. With this Cabinet expansion, the council of minister now has 39 members, with 42 being the maximum allowed. The BJP's newly inducted cabinet rank ministers are Pandurang Phundkar, Subhash Deshmukh, Jaikumar Raval and Sambhaji Patil-Nilangekar. The ministers of state from the BJP are Ravindra Chavan and Madan Yerawar. Mahadev Jankar of BJP's ally Rashtriya Samaj Paksha was inducted as cabinet minister. Fadnavis also promoted BJP's minister of state for home Ram Shinde to cabinet rank.

### **Uma Bharti hopeful of Ganga becoming clean by 2018**

The government launching the '**Namami Gange**' project from **Haridwar in Uttarakhand**. To clean the Ganga throughout its route from **Gangotri in Uttarakhand to Ganga Sagar** in West Bengal, the government launched 231 projects at an estimated cost of Rs 1,500 crore. Strict monitoring would be maintained to ensure that untreated water is not discharged into the Ganga.

### **Ansari to inaugurate new building of state UPSIC in Lucknow**

**Vice- President Hamid Ansari** would inaugurate the new building of **Uttar Pradesh State Information Commission (UPSIC)** in Gomtinagar area of the state capital. The programme was scheduled on July 8 but was postponed to July 11 following the festival of Eid.

- **State Governor Ram Naik, Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav** along with several state ministers and other dignitaries would also be present at the function.
- The new building was constructed **at a cost of Rs 25 crore**. The Commission had already been shifted on April 11.

### **UP to plant 5 cr saplings tom to create Guinness world record**

**Samajwadi Party** president Mulayam Singh Yadav, Chief Minister **Akhilesh Yadav** and his parliamentary wife **Dimple Yadav** will take active part in the mega plantation drive, under

which the state government plans to plant 5 crore saplings across the state to set a Guinness World Record. The initiative gives boost to the UP government's '**Clean UP, Green UP**' Mission.

### **Maharashtra Police Launches 4 Apps for Emergency Situations**

In order to strengthen public security system, **Maharashtra police** has launched 4 mobile apps for timely intervention into emergency situations. The four applications **PratisaadAsk, Police Mitra, Vahanchoritakrar and Railway helpline app** were launched by **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** a fortnight ago in Nagpur, a statement from Maharashtra Police said.

### **Hemis festival to begin in India on July 14**

The **Hemis festival** will be held between July 14 and July 15 at the **Hemis Monastery in Ladakh**. This is an extremely well-known festival. Hemis festival 2016 or Hemis Monastery is a Tibetan Buddhist monastery of the Drukpa Lineage, located in Hemis, Ladakh Situated 45 km from Leh, the monastery was re-established in 1672 by the Ladakhi king Sengge Namgyal.

### **National Banana Research Centre to be set up in Bihar**

The **National Research Centre for Banana** would be set up at **Goraul in Bihar's Vaishali district**. Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh announced this, who was accompanied by Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, while inaugurating a two-day '**Horti-Sangam**' 2016 organised by National Horticulture Board at Hajipur, the district headquarters of Vaishali. Farmers from more than a dozen states put fruits, vegetables, flowers and processed items on display and for sale at the event.

### **BHEL commissions 40-MW hydro power unit in West Bengal**

**Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has successfully commissioned the third unit of the **4x40 MW Teesta Low Dam Hydro Electric Project (HEP) Stage-IV** in **West Bengal**. A run-of-the-river greenfield project located in Darjeeling district of West Bengal, Teesta HEP is being set up by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), on the River Teesta.

### **Karnataka Bank's solar initiative for rural students**

**Karnataka Bank Ltd** has initiated a programme to provide solar lights in the non-electrified houses of students in rural areas. **MS Mahabaleshwara, Chief General Manager of the bank**, told Business Line that the bank, in association with the Manipal-based non-governmental

organisation **BharatiyaVikas Trust (BVT)**, has taken up this initiative under its **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** programme.

### **India's first e-court opened at Hyderabad High Court**

**India's first e-court** was opened at High Court of Judicature at **Hyderabad**, which is the common high court for the states of **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**. Inaugurating the e-court, Supreme Court Judge **Justice Madan B. Lokur** said Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were first two states in the country to be chosen for **Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** project.

### **BHEL commissions 250 MW power plant in Gujarat**

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.

The 250 MW lignite based thermal unit has been commissioned at Bhavnagar Energy Company Limited (BECL)'s 2×250 MW thermal power project, located at **Padva village in Bhavnagar District of Gujarat**.

### **World Bank to extend \$290 mn credit for Bihar's JEEViKA II**

The Centre and the Bihar government have signed a **\$290 million credit agreement** with the **World Bank** under the state's rural development project '**JEEViKA-II**'. The new project would cover 300 new blocks in 32 districts. Bihar Transformative Development Project, also known as **Jeevika II**, will mobilise rural population into self-help groups (SHG) and higher level federations and help them gain access to markets, public services and a range of financial services from formal financial institutions, the World Bank said.

### **MP Cabinet approves setting up of Happiness Department in state**

The **Madhya Pradesh government** announced the country's first ever "**department of happiness**". "It is a historic decision by any Indian state. There will be a department of happiness and not a ministry. Though the happiness department will initially work with other departments like women and child development, health, and sports, a comprehensive plan will be floated later.

### **Country's first 'Women's Entrepreneurs Park' to come up in Uttarakhand**

The country's first of its kind industrial park, exclusively for women entrepreneurs, was launched today by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat at the Federation House. to attract

women to business and encourage them to initiate start-ups in the state. The event was organized by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)

### **West Bengal govt. sets target to construct toilets across all villages of the state by March 2019**

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. By March 2019, we plan to have toilets across all rural homes in the state," **Dibyendu Sarkar**, commissioner in the state's panchayat and rural development department told.

### **Centre approves projects involving investment of over 19 crores of Haryana**

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)**.

### **Government of India and ADB Sign US \$ 100 Million Loan for Tamil Nadu**

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 financing will be used to strengthen embankments of six major irrigation water channels in the Vennar system and rehabilitate **13 irrigation pumping schemes**.

### **Judicial panel to set Puri temple in order**

WITH recurrence of unruly affairs at **Sri Jagannath Temple in Puri** creating serious public outrage, the **Odisha Government** on Thursday constituted a one-man judicial commission to suggest reforms in its management. The commission will be headed by retired judge of Orissa High Court **Justice Bimal Prasad Das**. He would be assisted by former temple administrator **Mahimohan Tripathy**.

### **Rs 2,048 crore sanctioned under 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme**

**Ministry of Tourism** has sanctioned **25 projects** under the **Swadesh Darshan scheme** worth **Rs. 2048 Crore** so far to 21 States and Union Territories since its launch of in January 2015. These States and UTs include **Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh,**

**Chattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura.**

### **First green rail corridor opens in Tamil Nadu**

The nation's first Green Rail Corridor, a 114-km long Rameswaram - Manamadurai stretch in Tamil Nadu which ensures zero toilet discharge on rail tracks, was today inaugurated by Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu. Trains in the section have been equipped with bio-toilets ensuring zero discharge of human waste on the rail tracks. He said till March 2016, a total of 35,104 bio-toilets had been provided and since then till last week 7,000 more new bio-toilets have been made operational.

### **KSSIDC to hold udyogmela in Bengaluru on July 31**

The Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation (KSSIDC) in partnership with Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) is organising an udyogmela in Bengaluru on July 31. The mela will be held from 9 am to 5 pm at the Regional Institute of Co-operative Management, Padmanabhanagar. "About 150 medium and large MNCs and Indian companies are participating.

### **Centre approves Rs 1601 crore for Himayat programme in J&K**

Centre has approved Rs 1601 crore for Jammu and Kashmir under skill development initiative Himayat to train 1.24 lakh local youths in vocational courses, Rural Development Minister Abdul Haq Khan said. Himayat is a training-cum-placement programme for unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir. Youth will be provided short-term training for at least 3 months, in a range of skills for which there is good market demand.

### **Sharad Pawar to step down voluntarily as Mumbai chief**

Sharad Pawar said that he would step down after six months as the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) president following the Supreme Court's ruling on age cap of 70 years for cricket administrators. The Lodha Committee recommended that in such cases, the associations vote by rotation; so each of Maharashtra, Mumbai and Vidarbha will get a vote once in three years. "We have no objections on that [one-state, one-vote] but the important issue is the jurisdiction of that member who is going to vote,



## International Round-Up

### Iceland named world's safest vacation spot

**Iceland** has been named as the world's safest vacation spot. Based on **Global Peace Index (GPI)** ranking released recently, the **Institute for Economics and Peace** charted the world's safest destinations. Iceland also called the Republic of Iceland is a **Nordic island** country situated between the North Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean. The country has a population of 332,529 and covers an area of 103,000 km<sup>2</sup>, making it the most sparsely populated country in Europe. Its capital and the largest city is **Reykjavik**.

### WHO declares Brazil free of measles

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has declared **Brazil free of measles**, after no case of the disease was registered in the last year. In the coming months, **the WHO** will issue a certification for the eradication of **measles to Brazil**.

### RIMPAC 2016: World's largest international maritime exercise kicks off

The multinational exercise **Rim of the Pacific Southern California 2016** has kicked off, occurring in and around Southern California through Aug. 4. **RIMPAC SOCAL**, helmed for the first time by Naval Surface Mine Warfare Development Center (SMWDC), allows U.S. and partner nation participants to train together with sea and shore based commands. Participants will receive relevant and realistic training in amphibious operations, explosive ordnance disposal, mine warfare countermeasures and dive operations.

### China builds world's largest radio telescope

**China** has hoisted the final piece into position on what will be the **world's largest radio telescope**, which it will use to explore space and help in the hunt for extraterrestrial life. The **Five Hundred Metre Aperture Spherical Telescope**, or **Fast**, is the size of 30 football fields and has been cut out of a mountain in the south-western province of Guizhou.

The telescope, which has taken about five years to build, is expected to begin operations in September. Advancing China's space programme is a priority for Beijing, with **President Xi Jinping** calling for the country to establish itself as a space power.

### **US sanctions North Korean leader Kim for first time**

The **Obama administration** has slapped sanctions on **North Korean** leader **Kim Jong Un** and 10 other regime officials for their alleged complicity in **human rights abuse** against the North Korean people. The move marked the first time Washington sanctioned Kim Jong Un personally.

### **PM Narendra Modi In Tanzania**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** arrived in **Tanzania** from **South Africa** on the third leg of his four-nation tour of Africa where he held bilateral discussions with Tanzanian President -John Magufuli in Dar-es-Salaam. The Prime Minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome, the East African way when he arrived at the State House in dar-es-Salaam.

### **China Navy conducts combat drill in the South China sea**

**China's navy** has conducted a routine combat drill **in waters off the Hainan and Xisha Islands**. The Nanhai Fleet, as well as forces from the Beihai and Donghai fleets, has taken part in the annual exercise in the South China Sea. The drills come on the heels of the announcement by the United States and South Korea to deploy a THAAD missile defense system in South Korea.

### **Malala Day – 12th July**

Pakistani teen activist **Malala Yousafzai**, who became a target of Taliban in October 2012 and defied death after a serious gunshot injury, turned 19-year-old, In recognition of her bravery and in honour of her heroic stand to ensure education for all, the United Nations in 2013 declared that **July 12 will be annually observed as “Malala Day” worldwide.**

### **World Youth Skills Day- 15th July**

**The World Youth Skills Day** is observed globally **on 15 July every year**, This day is being celebrated in order to highlight the fundamental rights of the youth and to raise awareness about the importance of investing in youth skills development. President Pranab Mukherjee has inaugurated the first edition of **“India Skills Competition”** on the occasion of World Youth Skill Day, held at the Pragati Maidan.

### **Chinese bullet trains cross in world first**

This achievement in the high-speed rail has added another feat in China's long list. **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.**

The China-standard bullet trains, officially known as **electric multiple unit (EMU) trains**, China has built over 16,000 km of high-speed train tracks connecting most of the major cities.

### **Peru declares Zika emergency in 11 states**

**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 emergency was announced in the official **gazette El Peruano**, which said the health ministry and local authorities were working to prevent the spread of the disease, which is principally transmitted by mosquitos.

### **Nelson Mandela International Day: 18th July**

**Nelson Mandela International Day** is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on **18 July**, Mandela's birthday. The day was officially declared by the United Nations in November 2009, with the first UN Mandela Day held on **18 July 2010**. However, other groups began celebrating Mandela Day on 18 July 2009.

### **Indian Warships visit Port Kelang, Malaysia**

In a demonstration of India's '**Act East**' policy and Indian Navy's increasing footprint and operational reach, Indian Naval Ships **Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch** under the Command of the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, **Rear Admiral S V Bhokare, 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**.

### **Tata STRIVE skill development centre launched in Hyderabad**

**Tata STRIVE**, an initiative of Tata Community Initiatives Trust launched its **first skill development centre in Hyderabad**. Spread over 17,000 square feet, this state-of-the-art centre will skill youth in Telangana in the BPO, banking, financial services, insurance and retail industries. **Tata STRIVE is present in 13 Indian states across 70 centres** through partner

centres as well as Tata STRIVE Skill Development Centres in **Mumbai, Hyderabad, Mohali, Pune and Aligarh.**

### **Nepal Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli resigns**

Nepal's Prime Minister, **Khadga Prasad Oli**, has resigned from his post just minutes before facing a no confidence vote he was expected to lose. A change in government is nothing new in Nepal, with Oli the **eighth prime minister** in the past 10 years.

### **Annual electronic music festival Tomorrowland begins in Belgium**

**Tomorrowland** is the largest annual electronic music festival held in the world, taking place in Belgium. It used to be organized as a joint venture by the original founders together with ID&T. The festival takes place in the town of Boom, **16 kilometers south of Antwerp, 32 kilometers north of Brussels, and has been organized since 2005.**

## **India and the World**

### **BRICS Youth Summit begins in Guwahati**

A **Youth Summit** for the BRICS countries has begun in Guwahati with the theme '**Youth as bridge for Intra-BRICS Exchanges**'. The subjects to be covered are skill development and entrepreneurship, social inclusion, youth volunteerism and youth participation in governance. The programme for the summit also includes thematic debates, cultural events, site-visits and interactive sessions with local youth.

### **Ericsson CEO Vestberg steps down**

**Swedish mobile telecoms gear maker Ericsson's** Chief Executive **Hans Vestberg** has stepped down with immediate effect. Vestberg, who has been **CEO since 2010**, has come under fire in recent months, with Swedish media questioning his leadership and pay, particularly after weak quarterly results in April sent its share price down 15 percent in a single day.

### **US postal service creates history; earns Guinness tag for sending postage stamp to Pluto**

**With the help of NASA**, US postal service made history after a stamp was **send to Pluto which they placed on New Horizons spacecraft** of the American space agency. **The stamp travelled a mind-blowing 5,250,843,896 km** becoming the stamp to travel longest distance ever in history.

### **Cyprus set to sign new tax treaty with India**

**India** and **Cyprus** have agreed to revise their tax treaty under which capital gains tax will be levied on sale of shares on investments made after April 1, 2017, thus bringing the island nation at par with Mauritius in terms of tax treatment on investments. The new **Cyprus Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)**, which has been agreed upon by both the countries, would provide for source-based taxation of capital gains on transfer of shares.

### **Aurangabad to host first SAARC Tourism Summit**

To promote **India** among travellers, the **ministry of external affairs** is holding the country's first **SAARC Tourism Summit** in **Aurangabad**, which is also considered the tourism capital of **Maharashtra**, in the second week of October. The government hopes that the summit will also bolster "**Make in India**" and "**Make in Maharashtra**" and may bring more **FDI**.

### **India and Mozambique signed three agreements**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** signed a second MoU with South African country **Mozambique**. India and Mozambique have signed three agreements in the area of **drug trafficking (1st), pulse trading (2nd) and youth affairs & sports (3rd)**. Indian prime minister said: "Our agreement on prevention of drug trafficking is a testimony to our shared determination to combat this menace and these networks."

### **Home Minister Rajnath Singh to inaugurate BRICS drug control meeting**

**Home Minister Rajnath Singh** will inaugurate the second **Anti-drug Working Group meeting** of Heads of Drug Control Agencies of BRICS countries in **New Delhi**. Besides the delegates from the member countries, the Ambassadors of the respective countries shall also be attending the inaugural session. The meeting is being organized by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**. The Indian delegation will be headed by **Rajiv RaiBhatnagar**, Director General, and Narcotics Control Bureau.

### **Bilateral Meeting between India and UK on business**

Commerce and Industry Minister, **Smt. NirmalaSitharaman**, held a bilateral meeting with Mr. **SajidJavid**, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, **UK**, in **New Delhi**.

- **UK is India's 12th largest trading partner** and bilateral trade between the two sides contracted by 2.2% to \$14 billion in 2015-16.

- **UK is the third largest investor** in India with \$23 billion in investment between April 2000 and March 2016.

### **ISIS Terrorists in India: Bangladesh releases images of 10 suspected Terrorists**

**Bangladesh** has released photos of ten suspected terrorists and has shared the photos with the Indian government. It is believed that ten terror suspects might have sneaked into the Indian territory from Bangladesh. Since the Bangladesh attack on July 1, 2016, the Indian agencies are on high alert, especially in border areas. Security agencies have asked the citizen to be alert and report if any of these militants are located in Bengal or Assam.

### **India and South Africa sign MoUs in four areas of co-operation**

**India** and **South Africa** announced Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and Programme in four areas of bilateral cooperation. The MoUs are in the area of **Information and Communication technology, Tourism, Grass root innovation and 'art and culture'**. The MoUs have been signed after a delegation-level talks headed by **Prime Minister NarendaraModi** and **South African President Jacob Zuma in Pretoria, South Africa.**

### **India gives SUVs to Mozambique, completes delivery of \$4.5 mn grant**

Occurring with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** visit to **Mozambique**, India has handed over **30 Mahindra SUVs** to Mozambique, completing the delivery of Dollars 4.5 million grant assistance. The vehicles were handed over by Amar Sinha, Secretary (Economic Relations) in the External Affairs Ministry, to an official of Mozambique's Interior Ministry.

### **NirmalaSitharaman to lead business delegation to Russia**

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry, **NirmalaSitharaman** to lead the delegation of over 110 Indian companies which showcase India's engineering prowess at the Russian engineering and technology event under the Brand India Engineering campaign.

### **Bihar signs MoU with Bangkok firm for disaster risk reduction**

As part of programmes to implement the Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bihar (2015-30), the state government signed an MoU with Bangkok-based Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC). Chief minister Nitish Kumar said The move will help reduce disaster risk management in the state. The MoU was signed by **the ADPC executive director**

**JingjaiHanchanlash** and state **Disaster Management Department** principal secretary **Vyasji**.

### **Direct Bus Service Between Pokhara-New Delhi Launched**

**New Delhi** and **Nepal's** famous tourist spot **Pokhara** are now connected by road after a direct bus service was launched between the two cities, following the signing of an agreement during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit here in 2014.

### **Bangladesh, India sign Rampal power plant construction agreement**

**Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt) Limited (BIFPCL)** signed the agreement for Main Plant EPC (Turnkey) Package with **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)**. Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Ltd (BIFPCL)'s **Managing Director UjjalKanti** Bhattacharya and representative of BHEL **Prem Paul Jadhav** signed the agreement for the construction of a **1,320 megawatt** coal fired power plant.

### **HAL and Safran to set up support centre for armed forces' helicopters**

**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. The centre will provide **maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO)** services for **Safran TM333** and **HAL Shakti** engines that power HAL-built helicopters.

### **MoU between India and Tunisia for strengthening bilateral cooperation**

The **Union Cabinet** under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has been apprised of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** signed between **India and Tunisia** for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** and **Digital Economy**.

### **India, Bangladesh have inaugurated Petrapole checkpost**

The **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi** and the **Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina** jointly inaugurated the **Petrapole Integrated Check Post (ICP)** through video-conferencing. **Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee** also participated from Kolkata in the video-conference.

**The Petrapole ICP** will enable greater economic integration and significantly improve the connectivity between India and Bangladesh.”

### **India, US agree to enhance cooperation on hydrocarbons, energy**

Petroleum Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** and US Secretary for Energy **Ernest Moniz** have agreed to increase technical and institutional cooperation on hydrocarbons and energy.

The agreed to enhance cooperation in “assessment of both onshore and offshore conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon reserves in India, new technologies in development of biofuel and development of petroleum storage”, a petroleum ministry statement said of their meeting in Washington .

### **Delhi hosts ‘Made in Afghanistan’ conference to boost bilateral trade**

A conference titled ‘**Made in Afghanistan**’ was recently held in Delhi to promote Afghan products and boost trade relations between both nations.

THEME: **Made in Afghanistan: Harnessing the Economic Potential**

### **3-day meeting between BSF & Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) begins in Agartala**

A three-day meeting between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Border Security Force (BSF) of India started in **Agartala of Tripura** to sort out problems at border meeting, being held at the **BSF Frontier Headquarters**, will discuss terror, cross-border crimes, smuggling and fencing. BSF’s Tripura Frontier Inspector **General JB Sangwan** is leading the **21-member** delegation of the force at the meeting.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Juno probe enters into orbit around Jupiter**

The US **space agency** has successfully put a new probe in orbit around **Jupiter**. The **Juno satellite**, which left **Earth** five years ago, had to fire a rocket engine to slow its approach to the planet and get caught by its gravity. A sequence of tones transmitted from the spacecraft confirmed the braking manoeuvre had gone as planned. Receipt of the radio messages prompted wild cheering at Nasa’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

### **TRAI launches app to track mobile data speed**

The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai)** will soon start a consultation process to fix ‘quality of service’ rules for mobile data, including the average data speed for operators. The regulator also launched a mobile app for measuring real-time internet speeds that consumers get. The data will be made available on the **Trai Analytics Portal**.



### **Three Astronauts Blast Off for ISS in Upgraded Soyuz Craft**

Three astronauts blasted off into the early morning sky in an upgraded **Soyuz spacecraft** from **Russia's Baikonurcosmodrome**, heading towards the **International Space Station**. First-time astronauts **Kathleen Rubins** of Nasa and **Takuya Onishi** of the Japanese space agency set off for a four-month mission at the ISS with Russian cosmonaut **Anatoly Ivanishin**.

### **NASSCOM unveils India's first Centre of Excellence on Internet of Things**

The **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** unveiled India's first **Centre of Excellence** focused on **Internet of Things (CoE-IoT)** at its Startup Warehouse in **Bengaluru**. The center was launched in a bid to encourage start-ups to come up with tech solutions center on **Internet of Things (IoT)**. **Tech giant Google** launched the '**Android Skilling**' program in India that will aim to **train 2 million Android app developers** over the next 3 years to cash in on the high-quality talent pool in the country.

### **DoT clears Rs 3,500 cr. Airtel-Aircel 4G deal**

Airtel has entered into an agreement with Aircel to acquire rights to use 4G spectrum of Aircel in 8 telecom circles these circles are Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Assam, the North-East, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. The spectrum trading deal between **BhartiAirtel** and Aircel was cleared by the telecom minister.

### **INS India – base depot ship of Indian Navy at New Delhi celebrates Platinum Jubilee**

**INS India**, the base depot ship at New Delhi, celebrated its **75th anniversary** on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Established as **HMIS India** in 1941 it was rechristened as **INS India** on 26 Jan 1950. **The Base Depot ship (stone ship in naval parlance)** has the privilege of being the Flagship of the Chief of the Naval Staff.

### **India's DRDO tests armament system for advanced towed artillery gun**

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 at its Proof & Experimental Establishment in Balasore (Odisha) on the country's east coast. The ATAGS project forms part of the Indian Army's artillery modernisation programme.

### **Tata Advanced Systems signs deal with Bell Helicopter**

**Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL)** and **US-based Bell Helicopter** agreed to jointly develop the helicopter market in India, including potential production and assembly, training, **maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO)**, **research and development (R&D)** and technology sharing.

### **Maharastra CM launches virtual, digital classrooms across 32 ITIs in state**

**The Indian education sector** is now in a state of transition, in this phase of transition, on the occasion of **World Youth Skills Day (15<sup>th</sup> july)**, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched the new facilities of virtual and digital classrooms across 32 ITIs in the state.

### **NASA's Next Mars Rover Progresses Toward 2020 Launch**

After an extensive review process and passing a major development milestone, **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is ready to proceed with final design and construction of its next Mars rover, currently targeted to launch **in the summer of 2020** and arrive on the Red Planet in **February 2021**.

### **CABINET APPROVALS**

- ✓ Farmers to get short-term loan at 7 pc interest rate in FY17
- ✓ Cabinet approves MoU between India and Mauritius in the field of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation
- ✓ Cabinet approves redevelopment of seven GPRA colonies in Delhi
- ✓ Joint issue of postage stamp between Department of Posts and Portugal Post
- ✓ Cabinet approves Revision of pension of BSNL Pensioners Removing Anomalies
- ✓ Cabinet approves MoU between India and Mozambique in the field of Drug demand reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs
- ✓ Cabinet approves the High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 for enabling changing the names of High Courts of Bombay and Madras
- ✓ Cabinet approves import of pulses through long-term contract with Mozambique
- ✓ Cabinet approves creation of one post of Chief Works Manager in the Mechanical Department on Eastern Railway
- ✓ Cabinet approves the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

- ✓ Cabinet approves MoU between India and Tanzania in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy
- ✓ Cabinet approves setting up a Major port at Enayam near Colachel in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Cabinet approves increase of foreign investment in M/s. Axis Bank Limited

## MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

### Online pharmacy 1mg acquires lab aggregator Medd

Online healthcare start-up **1mg Technologies Pvt. Ltd** has acquired diagnostic labs aggregator **Medd (HolaMed Healthcare Technologies Pvt. Ltd)** in a move aimed at boosting its diagnostic footprint. The company did not disclose the value of the transaction. It has also roped in AnkurGigras, a former marketing head for gastroenterology at healthcare firm Abbott India Ltd, to oversee the diagnostics business.

### Verizon set to announce USD 5 bn deal to buy Yahoo

**Verizon Communications Inc** would buy **Yahoo Inc's core internet** properties for **\$4.83 billion** in cash to expand its digital advertising and media business, ending a lengthy sale process for the fading Web pioneer. The purchase **will boost Verizon's AOL internet business**, which it bought **last year for \$4.4 billion**, as it gains access to Yahoo's ad technology tools, BrightRoll and Flurry, and search, mail and messenger assets.

### Terrapin acquires Yatra Online for \$218 mn

**Indian travel agency Yatra Online, Inc** has entered into a merger agreement with **Terrapin 3 Acquisition Corp (TRTL)**, a Nasdaq-listed special purpose acquisition firm, The transaction values Yatra at an enterprise **value of \$218 million (Rs 1,458 crore)**. As per the terms of the merger, the combined entity aims to be **listed as YTRA on Nasdaq**. The current shareholders of Yatra will hold **at least 35%** of the issued and outstanding shares in the new merged entity and **\$100 million cash** will be allocated to its books.

**SPORTS POINT**

<b>Winner</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Sport/ venue</b>
Lewis Hamilton	Hungarian Grand Prix title 2016	It is his overall <b>fourth Hungarian Grand Prix</b> title
Feliciano Lopez	Swiss Open Gstaad	He is Spanish tennis player
Keni Harrison	100m hurdles	He creates a new record <b>at the London Anniversary Games.</b>
Misbah-ul-Haq	Oldest captain to score hundred in test match	Pakistan cricketer
Dipika Pallikal Karthik	Women's National Squash Championship	
Saurav Ghosal	Men's National Squash Championship	
Portugal	UEFA European football championship	1 <sup>st</sup> UEFA European Championship title.
Lewis Hamilton	British Grand Prix	4th title of the 2016 season
Gordon Reid	Wimbledon wheelchair singles title	
Andy Murray	Men's Wimbledon 2016	He secure his second Wimbledon title.
Serena Williams	Women's Wimbledon 2016	
Niranjana Mukundan	3 gold medals at the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports (IWAS)	Held in U-23 World Games in Prague, Czech Republic.
Dipa Karmakar	'World Class Gymnast'	the first Indian to be named this award
Sai Praneeth	Canada Open 2016	
Lewis Hamilton	Austrian Grand Prix	
Argentina women's team	Champions Trophy title of Hockey 2016	Host at the Netherlands,

**OBITUARY**

Name	Dept/Field
RC Dhere	Eminent Marathi literary scholar
Kapil Seth	Ex-MP Ranji player
Elie Wiesel	Holocaust survivor
Noel Neill	Actress
Om Prakash Sonik	Veteran music director
Abdul Sattar Edhi	Pakistani philanthropist, social activist, ascetic and humanitarian Edhi Foundation Chairman
William H McNeill	An award-winning world historian and author
Joseph Antic	A silver medallist in men's hockey for India
Mubarak Begum Shaikh	Legendary Bollywood playback singer
Syed Haider Raza	The Indian artist
Arundhati Ghose	India's ambassador to the UN

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

July 1	International Joke Day, world Doctor's Day
July 2	World Sports Journalists Day, World UFO day
1st Saturday of July	International Day of Cooperatives
July 04	America Independence Day
July 06	World Zoonoses Day
July 07	World Chocolate Day
July 11	World Population Day
July 12	International Malala Day
July 15	World Youth Skill Day
July 18	International Nelson Mandela Day
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas or Kargil Memorial Day or Kargil Victory Day
July 28	World Nature Conservation Day, World Hepatitis Day
July 29	International Tiger Day

**ALL THE BEST FOR YOUR EXAMS!!!**