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APPOINTMENTS

Name of The Persons	Post/Department
C. VidyasagarRao	Governor of Tamil Nadu
Om PrakashKohli	Governor of Madhya Pradesh
Michel Temer	Brazil's president
K KAggarwal	National President of the Indian Medical Association for the year 2016-17.
B.H.V.S. Narayana Murthy	Director, Research Centre Imarat (RCI) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
JSS Malappuram	MOIL CMD
Wasim Bari	Manager of the national team of Pakistan
AleksanderCeferin	UEFA's seventh president
Anoop Kumar Sharma	Chairman & Managing Director of Shipping Corporation of India
Nadia MuradBaseeTaha	UNODC Goodwill Ambassador
ViratKohli	Punjab National Bank Brand Ambassador
Junaid Ahmad	World Bank's Country Director for India
MSK Prasad	BCCI chief selector
NavtejsinghSarna	India's High Commissioner to the UK
MadhusudanSahoo	Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

CURRENT AFFAIRS MONTHLY PDF SEPTEMBER 2016

Sanjivsingh	Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
S SMallikarjunaRao	ED of Syndicate Bank
ArunGoyal	Additional Secretary in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council
Vijay Kelkar	President of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI).
Jim Yong Kim	re-appointed World Bank President
Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	India's High Commissioner to the UK

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Name Of The Award	Award Winner	Key Point To Remember
The people's choice prize	SudarsanPattnaik	For his sand sculpture titled "Mahatma Gandhi- World Peace"
Honorary life member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)	Zaheer Khan Anjum Chopra	He is the 24th Indian cricketer to be bestowed the honour
Jackie Chan	An honorary Oscar	He is a Veteran action star
RajbhashaKirtiPuraskar 2015-16.	Vijaya Bank	The prize was accepted by Kishore Sansi, Managing Director & CEO Vijaya Bank.
National Humanities Medal	Abraham Verghese	He is Indian-American physician-author
prestigious US awards	Ramesh Raskar	They are Indo-American scientists from

CURRENT AFFAIRS MONTHLY PDF SEPTEMBER 2016

	Dinesh Bharadia	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
world's most destitute "A saint"	Mother Teresa	Pope Francis declared in St. Peter's Square
UNESCO literacy award	Jan SikshanSansthan (JSS), Malappuram	JSS in recognition of its literacy-linked skill development activities among the underprivileged in rural areas.
Indian-origin woman in Fortune's 51 Most Powerful Women list	IndraNooyi	She is PepsiCo CEO and chairman
Cleanest State	Sikkim	The sanitation survey conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)
The best place for Working Women	Sikkim	
Global Agriculture Leadership Award 2016	Odisha	In recognition of its efforts towards development of agriculture and bringing rural prosperity
Cleanest Districts In India	Mandi in Himachal Pradesh and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra	
RashtriyaKhelProtsahanPuruskar	One Thousand Hockey Legs, an NGO	The NGO trains students and provides free hockey kits, for the kids to excel in the sport.
Tamil Ratna' award	Subramanian Swamy	The America Tamil Sangam awarded the Tamil Ratna
Britannia Humanitarian Award	Ewan McGregor	For create positive social change and actively shine a light on important humanitarian issues.

MohanamSuvama Mudra award	Dr M Leelavathi	She is Eminent Malayalam critic and academician
Humanitarian award 2016	Aung San SuuKyi	She is Nobel Peace Prize laureate
Jesse Owens Olympic Spirit Award	Muhammad Ali.	He won four-gold-medal performance at the 1936 Olympics
University of Oxford	Best university in the world	UK-based University
Second runner-up at Miss United Continents 2016	LopamudraRaut	Miss United Continents, which was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador
GQ Awards 2016, Men Of The Year	Vijay Shekhar Sharma	He is Paytm Founder
second in ICC Test bowlers rankings	RavichandranAshwin	
FIFA Diversity Award	Slum Soccer	

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Goa becomes 15th state to ratify GST bill

Goa became the 15th state to ratify the goods and services tax (GST) constitutional amendment bill passed by Parliament. This means the bill is one short of the 16 states that need to ratify it before it can be sent for presidential assent. The 40-member legislative assembly passed the 122nd constitutional amendment bill.

ShriMadhukar Gupta Committee submits report to the Union Home Minister

The Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of ShriMadhukar Gupta, Retd. Home Secretary in April, 2016, for strengthening border protection

and addressing the issue of gaps and vulnerability in border fencing along Indo-Pakistan Border. The Committee has made a detailed study through discussions on threat perception, field visits and detailed discussion with stakeholders.

Govt and Amar Chitra Katha signs MoU to publish and distribute comic book on Swachh Bharat Mission

The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Amar Chitra Katha to publish and distribute a special edition of the comic book, focusing on Swachh Bharat Mission. The 32-page comic book will carry messages pertaining to sanitation and solid waste components of Swachh Bharat Mission.

HC directs govt to include 3rd gender in UPSC exam

Transgender or third gender may soon be introduced as a new category in UPSC application forms. The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to take necessary steps to “expeditiously” modify the rules regarding the prestigious civil services examinations to incorporate transgender or third gender in the exam application forms.

Trinamool Congress becomes India’s 7th national party

The Election Commission of India (EC) accorded national party status to the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC), making it the seventh party that can contest Lok Sabha and assembly polls across the country on its own symbol.

The recognition comes at a time when TMC chief and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee is looking to expand beyond her home state and secure for herself and her party a larger play in federal politics.

PM announces Rs 200cr package to engage J&K youths in sports

In a step to encourage Jammu & Kashmir’s youth towards sports, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a special package of Rs. 200 crore. The package provides for construction of indoor sporting halls in all districts of the State with a view to provide playing facilities to youth during long winter in the state.

Two stadiums in the State capitals of Srinagar and Jammu will be upgraded to the international standards under the package while existing stadia at Poonch and Rajouri and Udhampur will be upgraded.

Solung festival begins in Arunachal Pradesh

The Northeast region is home to a number of tribes, each with a distinct culture and rich heritage. The Adi tribe of **Arunachal Pradesh recently celebrated the Solung Festival**, which is associated with farming. In Delhi, people from the Adi tribe organized a special event to celebrate the festival.

GST Bill ratified in minimum required assemblies

The goods and services tax (GST) constitutional amendment Bill crossed an important landmark with Odisha becoming the 16th state to ratify the Bill the requirement of **50 percent of states and UTs ratifying it has been completed**. Dubbed as the biggest tax reform in India, GST will subsume most indirect taxes, like excise duty, service tax and VAT.

The Constitutional Amendment Bill for GST was passed by Parliament on August 8 2016. **The government is planning to roll out the indirect tax regime from April 1 2017.**

Rajasthan high court becomes the fourth state to launch e-stamp facility

Rajasthan High Court becomes the fourth state to provide E-stamp facility. As a new initiative of information and technology, e-Stamp Facility was inaugurated in Rajasthan High Court Jodhpur and Jaipur bench simultaneously. In Jaipur, eCourt Fees Centre was inaugurated by Chief Justice NavinSinha while in Jodhpur, the facility was launched by Justice GovindMathur.

Odisha government launches BijuKanyaRatnaYojana

The Odisha government launched the BijuKanyaRatnaYojana (BKRY) for the development of girls in three districts of the state. The objective of the scheme is to improve Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) and Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in the three districts. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the scheme at the state secretariat.

KiranBedi launches ‘Shramdaan movement’ in Puducherry village

Puducherry Lt Governor KiranBedi launched ‘Shramdaan movement’ as part of SwachhBharatandSwachhPuducherry initiative at a remote village here. “Shramdaan is a habit and a movement, and every one irrespective of status should be involved in the drive against garbage. Launching the movement at Seliamedu village in Bahoor commune Panchayat limits, she urged people to ensure that the goal of clean Puducherry’s achieved.

BHEL commissions Unit-4 of Teesta Low Dam hydro power project

State-run BHEL said it has commissioned the fourth and last unit of the 4×40 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 has been set up by NHPC Ltd, on the River Teesta, BHE. BHEL was entrusted with the Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) works for four units of 40 MW each by NHPC Limited.

India’s first International conference on cooking gas begins Odisha

State-owned petroleum companies will hold the nation’s first international conference on cooking gas at Bhubaneswar in Odisha. The two-day meeting will deliberate on the need for an LPG-enabled household and use of traditional cooking fuels. The event will focus on the need for an LPG enabled household, problems arising due to absence of cooking gas, the usage of traditional bio mass cooking fuels and their impact on both health and environment.

Andhra 2nd state to achieve 100% electrification

Andhra Pradesh has become the second state in the country after Gujarat to achieve 100 per cent electrification of households. JM Financials published the report based on a national-level survey on electrification in various states. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said, “We achieved 100 per cent electrification by June-end. Now, you have to set a target of ensuring uninterrupted world-class quality power supply”.

Andhra Pradesh Tops in Industrial Investments

Andhra Pradesh has emerged on the top among all other states in attracting industrial investments in 2015-16, pushing the previous year's topper Maharashtra to the third spot. Andhra Pradesh attracted an investment of Rs 21,914 crore out of the Rs 1,38,700 crore gross investments across India. Gujarat retained the second place attracting 14.5 percent of

MukeshAmbani continues to be India's richest: Forbes

Reliance Industries Limited Chairman MukeshAmbani has topped Forbes' annual list of **India's 100 richest tycoons for 2016** a net worth of \$22.7 billion. Ambani has retained the number one spot for the ninth consecutive year. MD of Sun Pharmaceuticals DilipShanghvi (\$16.9 bn) and Hinduja brothers (\$15.2 billion) ranked second and third respectively, according to the list.

GumthalaGarhu becomes first Wifi hotspot village in Haryana

GumthalaGarhu Village near Pehowa in Kurukshetra district in Haryana became the first Wifi hotspot village in Haryana circle. The service was inaugurated by Chief Minister ManoharLalKhattar from Chandigarh under the bulk plan of BSNL for the state. BSNL Haryana circle has a plan to have 238 Wifi hotspot locations with 1072 access points in the state and the project would be implemented to its full capacity during the current financial year.

Mother Teresa International Film Fest kicks off in Shillong

Meghalaya celebrated Mother Teresa's sainthood with a four day Mother Teresa International Film Festival (MTIFF) 2016 . The MTIFF 2016 celebrates the canonisation of Mother Teresa and the festival concludes on September 9 here before moving to Jowai from September 14 to 17.

Health Ministry launches campaign to eradicate leprosy

The Health Ministry launched a two-week-long **massive campaign to eradicate leprosy by focusing on 149 endemic districts across the country**. In a first, the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) aims to cover more than 1,600 blocks in the 149 districts across 20 states where nearly 3 lakh health teams will undertake door-to-door visits to detect leprosy cases.

MobiKwik launches 'Bubble Pin', one-step offline payments now possible

Leading **fin-tech player in India MobiKwik**, is trusted by over 32 million users has launched one-step offline payments with '**Bubble Pin**'. This pin can be generated on the MobiKwik app by clicking on 'Pay at store' and is valid for 60 seconds. To make a payment, all a user needs to do is share this pin with the merchant. The pin is a combination of numbers and alphabets. Bubble pin also makes the transaction more secure as no phone number is required to be shared.

Haryana govt to develop 340 villages as Horticulture Villages

Haryana Government has decided to develop 340 villages as '**Horticulture Villages**' at a cost of Rs 93 crore during the Golden Jubilee year of the State. It has also decided to establish 140 clusters in these villages. This was stated by **Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister O.P.Dhankar** in whose presence Haryana Horticulture Department signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Apio Inc. for processing and packaging of horticultural products.

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Helpline no. 14401 for info on power cuts launched

Consumers in India can now dial 14401 and get an update from their respective power distribution companies about outages in their area through the ‘UrjaMitra Helpline’. DoT has created the helpline to facilitate power distribution companies to provide information about outages to customers.

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Govt. approves Rs.450 cr Swadesh Darshan projects

The government has approved projects worth about Rs 450 crore under ‘Swadesh Darshan’ scheme for five states. The scheme was launched with an objective to develop 13 theme-based tourist circuits in the country and the approval for five was given in a meeting of the central sanctioning and monitoring committee (CSMC).

Majuli becomes India’s first river island district

India got its first river island district when Assam’s Majuli was upgraded from a sub-division to the state’s 35th district. Majuli is also the world’s largest sweet water island. The decision to elevate Majuli to a full-fledged district was taken in June. The island, perched on the confluence of Brahmaputra and Subansiri rivers, was declared the world’s largest river island by the Guinness Book of World Records.

President signs GST Bill into law

President Pranab Mukherjee has signed the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill, paving way for it to become law. GST's signing into law comes after 16 of the 29 states ratified the bill. In August, the bill was unanimously passed both in the RajyaSahbaandLokSabha. The bill had to be ratified by a majority of states before it could become law. The implementation of GST will convert the country into "one seamless market" and facilitate

WHO certifies India Yaws, Maternal & Neonatal Tetanus free

India officially received certificates from World Health Organisation (WHO), declaring the country YAWS and maternal and neonatal tetanus free. The certificates were presented to Union health minister JP Nadda at the 69th Session of the WHO regional committee for south-east Asia region held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Rajasthan government signs MoU to develop education infrastructure in the state

Rajasthan government has signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with an education under which the firm will adopt 50 Adarsh and UtkarshVidyalayas in the state and try to fill the infrastructure gap. The organisation, Gems education, will contribute towards curriculum enhancement and capacity building. It will also adopt five District Institution of Education and Training (DIET) and State Institute of Education Research and Training (SIERT) Udaipur.

44th New Delhi World Book Fair in January

The 44th edition of the annual New DelhiWorld Book Fair(NDWBF) will be held from January 7-15 2017 at PragatiMaidan National Book Trust (NBT) has announced. The nine-day fair, touted as the largest international fair in the Afro-Asian region, will host 1500 participants from across India, including over 50 foreign exhibitors. The fair which is being organised by NBT since 1972, will be spread across a sprawling area of 38,000 square metres.

India lost 1.4mn lives due to air pollution in '13: World Bank

Air pollution costs the world trillions of dollars a year and severely impedes development in many countries, according to the World Bank. In a major study of the economic costs of indoor and outdoor pollution, the bank found that in 2013 – the year from which the latest available estimates date – China lost nearly 10% of its GDP, and Sri Lanka and Cambodia roughly 8%. India lost over 1.4 million lives due to air pollution, the second largest number of deaths, in 2013, a World Bank report stated. The country lost 7.69% of its GDP in welfare and manpower costs due to air pollution. Notably, China was the worst hit with a death toll of over 1.6 million.

Mehbooba launches 'CM scooty scheme' for girls in J&K

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti launched the “Scooty for College Girls” Scheme. As part of the launch function, Mufti took a ride on a Scooty in a bid to popularise its use. Under this scheme, 312 applications were received from Women’s College Gandhi Nagar but only 150 were selected. Eligibility for a Scooty was based on minimum percentage and the annual family income of 65 per cent and Rs.4 lakh respectively.

Uttar Pradesh becomes first state to roll out 'Twitter Seva'

Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to roll out the ambitious “TwitterSeva” project, and in one go 122 Twitter handles were unveiled in the state capital. Director General of UP police Javeed Ahmad said that in the coming days, this service would be integrated with the “Dial-100” project which is slated to be launched in October.

Patanjali launches mega food park at Nagpur industrial hub

Yoga guru Ramdev-promoted Patanjali Ayurveda launched its mega food park on a 230-acre land at an industrial hub in Nagpur, promising to employ 10,000 people and engage 50,000 farmers of the region in trade. The company plans to develop Rs.1,000-crore food park at **Multi-model International Cargo Hub and Airport, Nagpur (MIHAN)**, where juices would be made from famous Nagpuri oranges and for the first time packaged as a brand.

Railways introduces 'surge pricing' in Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi trains

The Railways introduced the **surge pricing system on the Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi trains**. Under the new 'flexi fare system', usually followed by airlines, the base fare of tickets will increase with the rising demand. The new fare structure will, however, not be applicable to 1AC and executive class coaches.

Rajnath Singh commissions offshore patrolling vessel Sarathi in Goa

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the offshore patrolling (OPV) vessel, Sarathi, at Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), the defence shipyard in south Goa. This vessel is the third in the series of six OPVs built by the shipyard for Indian Coast Guard. The ceremony was attended by Defence Minister ManoharParrikar, Director General of Indian Coast Guard Vice Admiral Rajendra Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of GSL Shekhar Mittal, commanding officer of OPV Sarathi Atul Joshi and others.

Centre issues fresh guidelines for flexi-fund for CSS

Government has issued fresh flexi-fund guidelines that will give more freedom to states in spending money under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to meet local developmental requirements. Under the new norms, flexi-funds in each CSS has been increased from the current 10 per cent to 25 per cent for states and 30 per cent for Union Territories.

CBDT launches 'e-nivaran' facility to resolve income tax grievances

CBDT has launched the ambitious e-nivaran facility for online redressal of taxpayers grievances related to refunds, ITRs and PAN among others as part of its initiative to reduce instances of harassment of the public when it comes to complaints related to the I-T department. An exclusive e-nivaran (electronic resolution) link has recently been activated on the e-filing portal of the department <https://incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in>.

Arunachal Pradesh Governor JP Rajkhowa sacked

Arunachal Pradesh governor Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa was removed from his post. A communique from Meghalaya governor V Shanmuganathan will take over the additional duties as Arunachal governor. The President has directed that Shri J.P. Rajkhowa shall cease to hold the office of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and has appointed Shri V. Shanmuganathan, Governor of Meghalaya, to discharge the functions of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, in addition to his own duties, until regular arrangements for the office of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh are made.

Cabinet Approvals

Cabinet approves signing of the Extradition Treaty between India and Afghanistan

- Cabinet approves Cadre Review of Group 'A' Executive Officers of Border Security Force
- Cabinet approves extension of contract between India and the International Seabed Authority for exploration of Polymetallic Nodules
- Cabinet approves Bilateral Technical Arrangement between India and Switzerland on the identification and return of Swiss and Indian Nationals
- Cabinet approves Exchange of Tariff concessions under the Fourth Round of Negotiations APTA
- Cabinet approves establishment of Higher Education Financing Agency for creating capital assets in higher educational institutions.
- Cabinet approves MoU between India and Kenya on cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management
- Cabinet approves creation of GST Council and its Secretariat
- Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Mozambique on cooperation in the field of Youth Affairs
- Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and South Africa in the field of Information and Communication Technologies
- Cabinet approves initiation of the Third Phase of Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP)
- Cabinet approves enhancing the buffer stock of pulses up to 20 lakh tonnes .

Cabinet approves setting up of Higher Education Financing Agency

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the creation of the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to give a major push for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions. The HEFA would be jointly promoted by the identified Promoter and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) with an authorised capital of Rs.2,000crore. The Government equity would be Rs.1,000crore.

CCEA approves III phase of Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs met and approved the proposal for initiation of the Third Phase of Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP). The project will be implemented as a 'Central Sector Scheme' with total project outlay of Rs. 3600 crore.

3rd BRICS Urbanisation Forum Meet begins in Vishakhapatnam

The third edition of BRICS Urbanisation Forum Meet with the Theme 'Urban Transition in BRICS' has begun in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh . The three days conference was inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in the presence of Union Minister of Urban Development, M. Venkaiah Naidu. The summit will deliberate on the transition and challenges being faced in urbanization in the BRICS nations –Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

India declares itself free of bird flu

India has declared itself free from avian influenza (H5N1), commonly known as bird flu. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has declared India free from avian influenza from September 5, 2016. Avian influenza is a disease occurring among birds that particularly affects domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys and ducks. The virus can also infect humans causing death in some cases.

Dharamshala International Film Fest to open in November

The fifth edition of Dharamshala International Film Festival (DIFF) will begin on November 3 in the mountain town of McLeod Ganj, Dharamshala. The four-day festival has announced its first six films– South Korean drama “A Korean in Paris”, cinematographer- director Rajiv Ravi’s “Kammatipaadam”, Marathi film “Lathe Joshi”, “Sonita”, which is about Afghan rapper SonitaAlizadeh, British documentary “Syrian Love Story” and Thai film “The Island Funeral”.

Bhattacharya, Kochhar among most powerful women outside US

India’s top women bankers, State Bank of India’s (SBI) chief Arundhati Bhattacharya, ICICI head ChandaKochhar and Axis Bank chief executive Shikha Sharma, are among the ‘50 most powerful women’ based outside the US, according to a list by Fortune, which is topped by Banco Santander’s boss Ana Botín.

the Department of Official Language of Home Ministry to recognize the excellent contribution

Hindi Diwas – 14th September

Hindi Diwas is being celebrated throughout the country today. President Pranab Mukherjee will present the Rajbhasha awards at RashtrapatiBhawan. The Rajbhasha awards were instituted by the Department of Official Language of Home Ministry to recognize the excellent contribution of Ministries, Departments and Nationalized Banks in the field of Hindi.

Image for the news result Uber partners NSDC, Maruti to skill 1 million by 2018

Global taxi aggregator Uber is teaming up with Maruti Suzuki to push up the number of drivers on its platform to over one million. According to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the companies, carmaker Maruti Suzuki will assess and train 30,000 commercial drivers for Uber, over the next three years. Driver training and on-boarding programmes will be organised, which are required to join the Uber platform. Maruti has 370 driving schools and six institutes of driving and traffic research.

Naropa Festival begins in Ladakh

The Naropa festival, which is held every 12 years, began today at the 17th century Hemis Monastery in Ladakh. The main events at the week-long Naropa festival, a celebration of the 1,000th birth anniversary of Saint Naropa, are the display of six bone ornaments and the unfurling of the ancient silk Thangka (Tibetan Buddhist painting) of Buddha Amitabha

Bihar CM Nitish launches website on 350th PrakashUtsav

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launches a three-day international Sikh convention would be held here ahead of the PrakashUtsav of Guru Gobind Singh. He launched a website to provide information on the celebration of 350th PrakashUtsav of the Sikh guru early next year. The website has been developed by tourism department and provides information to visitors about how to reach Patna and where to stay during the function, he said at the function held on the occasion.

Paytm to power IRCTC's payment gateway

India's largest mobile payment and commerce platform, Paytm has emerged as the most credible and convenient payment option on the IRCTC platform. The Paytm Wallet is already accepted on the IRCTC platform and this native integration of Paytm's payment gateway to IRCTC's app is a showcase of its trust in Paytm's technology. The tie-up with India's largest rail ticketing platform is a major step towards Paytm aim to bring the convenience of digital payments to travelers.

KiranBedi launches coastal cleanup drive

Lt Governor KiranBedi joined Coast Guard and volunteers in cleaning garbage from the beach as part of the '31st International Coastal Cleanup Day'. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the programme, she urged people to respect nature and not to dirty the beach. She picked up the garbage strewn along the beach with volunteers and the minister and other officials also took part in the drive.

‘Sunrise’, ‘Parched’ scripts archived at Oscar library

The scripts of Adil Hussain-starrers “Sunrise” and “Parched” have been archived at the library of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He shared a copy of the letter from Margaret Herrick Library of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Established in 1928 and now located in Beverly Hills, the library is open to the public and is used year-round by students, scholars, historians and industry professionals.

World Economic Freedom Index: India’s rank: 112

India has slipped by 10 positions to 112th, out of 159 countries and territories according to the Economic Freedom of the World: 2016 Annual Report. China, Bangladesh and Pakistan lagged behind India at 113th, 121st and 133th ranks respectively; Bhutan (78), Nepal (108) and Sri Lanka (111) were better placed on the World Economic Freedom Index. Hong Kong has the highest level of economic freedom worldwide, followed by Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, Canada, Georgia, Ireland, Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, and the UK.

Supercomputer unveiled at IIT Guwahati

Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the PARAM-ISHAN supercomputing facility at IIT, Guwahati. While some institutions already have supercomputers, the number of such institutes will rise and go up to 60 as the government is focussing on providing advanced infrastructure.

Bhubaneswar to host 2-day national conference on labour

The state government in association with International Labour Organisation (ILO) will organize a two-day long national conference on labour in the city from September 20. This was informed by state labour minister Prafulla Mallick at a press meet. Union minister of state for labour and employment Bandaru Dattatreya, labour ministers and chairpersons of labour welfare boards of 29 states will attend the conference. Odisha is organizing such an event for the first time.

Govt to set INR 4000 cr overhaul of 80 check posts for GST

Road Transport and Highways Ministry is considering aRs 4,000 crore-overhaul of around 80 border check posts across the country to ensure seamless flow of goods ahead of the implementation of GST. An app to link check posts under state governments as well as the Centre is also in the works. The Ministry would be one of the biggest contributors towards the GST regime.

Haryana to be developed as capital of Ayurveda

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij said the state would be developed as the capital of Ayurveda and Yoga. With a view to achieve this target, the state government has already passed the proposal for setting up AYUSH University in Kurukshetra. Mr.Vij said a five-storey civil hospital was being constructed in AmbalaCantt at a cost of Rs 40 crore which would have Cath Lab, AYUSH services and other necessary facilities.

Federal Bank launches FederalSkill Academy in Tamil Nadu

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, Federal Bank has launched its second Federal Skill Academy at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu with the first being inaugurated last year at Ernakulam, Kerala. The Academy at Coimbatore will be initially providing an in-demand CNC Machine Operator Certificate Course in Milling & Turning which will be certified by COINDIA.

World Bank to invest Rs. 1,000 cr. in Assam

World Bank has announced investment of nearly 1000 crore rupees in Assam for the betterment of the inland waterways. It was conveyed to State Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways NitinGadkari. The Union Minister also assured to re-construct jetty for which 100 percent assistance will be given by the Centre.

Delhi's Race Course Road renamed as LokKalyanMarg

Delhi's iconic Race Course Road, where the Prime Minister's residence is located, will now be known as LokKalyan Marg. A decision to this effect was taken at a high-level meeting of the

New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), presided by Chief Minister ArvindKejriwal. A notification will be issued soon to complete the process of renaming the road.

Charkhi Dari is 22nd district of Haryana

Haryana chief minister ManoharLalKhattar announced a district status for Dadri,the biggest sub-division in the state, increasing the district count of Haryana to 22 from 21. The government will soon start up the process in this direction and it would speed up the ongoing development process in the area. The chief minister said **development projects worth Rs 112 crore** had been completed in Dadri constituency during the two years of the BJP government.

Railways to launch YatriMitra for differntly abled

In a move to make rail travel comfortable for elderly, **differently-abled and ailing travelers,** Railways has launched ‘YatriMitraSewa’ to facilitate access to wheelchairs, battery operated cars and porter services. **‘YatriMitra’ or ‘Passenger Friend’ can be a “Sahayak(assistant)”** or any other person nominated for the purpose. The service will be available at major railway stations across the country.

National Board for Wildlife clears first phase of Ken-Betwa interlinking project

India’s first inter State river interlinking project was given a go-ahead by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) at a meeting chaired by Environment Minister Anil Madhav on August 23, according to a report that was made public . This would be the first time that a river project will be located within a tiger reserve. The Rs. 10,000-crore Ken-Betwa project will irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region but in the process will also submerge about 10 per cent of the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, feted as a model tiger-conservation reserve.

Childhood Cancer Awareness Exhibition AtTajMahal

The National Society for Change for Childhood Cancer will be a organising a first-of-its-kind exhibition **‘CanKids-Kidscan’** on childhood cancer awareness at the iconic **TajMahal in Agra from September 25 to 27.** As per a press release issued by the organizers, the exhibition will include‘ChaloChaleinTaj programme‘ under which around 1,500 cancer-affected children and

their families will visit the TajMahal. Street play by childhood cancer survivors will also be shown at the function.

TN Government allots Rs 204 crore for 'ThaalikuThangam' scheme under marriage assistance programme

Tamil Nadu government has allotted Rs 204 crore towards the implementation of enhanced gold scheme under a marriage assistance programme. Rs 204 crore has been allotted for '**ThaalikuThangam**' (**Gold for Mangalsutra**) scheme for the year 2016-17 to benefit 12,500 women. Assistance of Rs 25,000 for beneficiaries who have passed Class X and Rs 50,000 to those with an undergraduate degree or diploma is also given as part of the scheme.

Andhra Bank ties up with Cigna TTK, Reliance General Insurance

Public sector lender Andhra Bank said that it has entered into agreements with private insurers **Cigna TTK and Reliance General Insurance to provide health and general insurance services to its customers.** The agreement was signed by Andhra Bank Executive Director S K Kalra, MD and CEO of Cigna TTK Health Insurance Sandeep Patel and CEO of Reliance General Insurance Rakesh Jain. Andhra Bank shares closed at Rs. 60.95 apiece, down 0.08 percent from their previous close.

Delhi worst workplace for women in India: Study

The northeastern state of **Sikkim has the best working conditions for women, whereas the national capital has the worst**, according to a report by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a top American think tank, and Nathan Associates. Sikkim tops the list with a score of 29.5, while Delhi received just 8.5. According to the report, India has the world's lowest rate (24 per cent) of female workforce participation.

Cabinet approves Rs.1102 cr cable link to Andaman

The NDA Govt Cabinet on Sep 21, 2016 approved aRs 1,102.38 crore project for a direct communication link through a dedicated submarine **Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) between the mainland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.** The project to be completed by December

2018, will link Chennai with Port Blair and five other islands of Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Havelock, Kamorta and Great Nicobar.

World's largest solar plant unveiled in Tamil nadu

Adani Green Energy (Tamil Nadu) Ltd, part of the Adani Group, has dedicated to the nation the **world's largest solar power plant of 648 megawatts (MW)**, set up at Kamuthi in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu. The plant has been set up with an investment of around Rs 4,550 crore, a company. It is part of the state government's target to generate 3,000 MW in line with its **new solar energy policy unveiled in 2012**. The company sourced equipment and machinery from various parts of the world to set up the 648 MW capacity within a record time of 8 months.

Persident,PM launch Vice president's Book Titled Citizen and Society

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, attended the function for the release of the book "**Citizen and Society**," written by the Vice-President Shri Hamid Ansari. The book was released by the President of India, ShriPranab Mukherjee, at RashtrapatiBhawan. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister congratulated the Vice President for presenting his thoughts to the future generations through the book.

India ranked 143 among 188 nations in health: study

A global study on a range of health indicators released has ranked India 143rd among 188 countries, citing various challenges, including mortality rates, malaria, and hygiene and air pollution. India's poor performance on hygiene, air pollution and mortality were among the factors that placed it lower than countries like Bhutan, Botswana, Syria and Sri Lanka. India, however, scored above 80 points for performing well in areas like Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD), which are a diverse group of communicable diseases, overweight and alcohol consumption.

Rajasthan replaces 5 lakh streetlights with LED bulbs

Rajasthan becomes the first state to adopt Centre's Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) in all its urban local bodies (ULB). Almost 5 lakh conventional streetlights have been replaced with LED streetlights across the state. The project has been funded by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a public energy services company under the administration of Union ministry of power at no cost to the state.

Centre approves Gurgaon's new name 'Gurugram'

Gurgaon will now be known as Gurugram, with the Centre approving the name change. Presiding over the first meeting of the state-level 'SwarnaJayanti Celebrations Committee' at Panchkula near in Chandigarh, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said now both the city as well as the district of Gurgaon would be known as Gurugram.

RBI approves Rs 26,000 crore CCL for paddy procurement in Punjab

The Punjab government has asked the SBI-led consortium of banks, which advances it a cash credit limit (CCL) every harvest for foodgrain procurement, to restructure an accumulated outstanding of Rs 21,000 crore. Separately, the Reserve Bank of India Monday approved the release of Rs 26,000 crore CCL for paddy procurement in Punjab, which commences in less than a week on October 1.

Ludhiana Mega Food Park promoted by Punjab Agro

Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal laid the foundation stone of a mega food park project in Ludhiana to be developed at a cost of Rs 117.61 crore. This mega food park is expected to provide direct and indirect employment to about 6,000 people and benefit about 25,000-30,000 farmers in its catchment area.

Committee on Greenfield airports approved four projects

The steering committee on Greenfield airports headed by Secretary, Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India, met and considered four new airport projects. The committee

recommended 'in principle' approval to 3 projects in Andhra Pradesh viz., Bhogapuram, Dagadarthi (Nellore) and Orvakallu (Kurnool). The Committee also recommended for 'site clearance' to the project of Kothagudem in Telengana.

India ranked 39th on Global Competitiveness Index

India has climbed 16 places to the 39th rank on the Global Competitiveness Index prepared by the World Economic Forum as improved business sophistication and goods market efficiency pushed its ranking higher. For the eighth straight time, the list is topped by Switzerland as the most competitive economy. Singapore and the US are at the second and third positions, respectively.

IGI becomes Asia-Pacific's first carbon neutral airport

The GMR consortium-AAI run Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport has become the first carbon neutral airport in Asia-Pacific following a series of measures taken by it to reduce carbon footprint, including setting up of a 7.84 MW solar power plant. The announcement was made by the international body of aerodrome operators across the world, ACI during the Airport Carbon Accreditation certificate presentation ceremony in Montreal, Canada.

BANKING AND FINANCE

Urjit Patel assumes charge as new RBI Governor

Urjit Patel has assumed charge as the 24th governor of the Reserve Bank of India, announced the central bank. Patel was serving as RBI's deputy governor since January 2013 and was in charge of monetary policy. Among his assignments as deputy governor, Patel chaired the Expert Committee to Revise and Strengthen the Monetary Policy Framework.

ICICI Pru gets Sebi nod for India's 1st insurance IPO

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company has received markets regulator SEBI's approval to raise an estimated Rs.5,000crore through an initial public offering. It is the first by an insurer in India and the biggest in nearly six years.

The insurer is a venture between banking major ICICI Bank and UK's Prudential Corporation Holdings. Singapore's Temasek and PremjiInvest also are shareholders. ICICI Bank has around 68 per cent stake in the insurer, while that of Prudential is 26 per cent.

RBI reshuffles ED portfolios

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has re-allocated the portfolios of its executive directors (EDs) following the induction of two new ones. RBI has increased the number of executive directors to nine from seven earlier. B Mahapatra has been given the charge of four departments, including the department of banking operations and development and department of government and bank accounts. PVijayaBhasker has taken charge of the department of banking supervision and the department of non-banking supervision, apart from the central security cell.

ICICI Bank announces deployment of Software Robotics for business processes

India's largest private bank ICICI announced the deployment of 'software robotics' in over 200 business processes across various functions of the bank. At ICICI Bank, software robots have reduced the response time to customers by up to 60% and increased accuracy to 100% thereby sharply improving the bank's productivity and efficiency. It has also enabled the bank's employees to focus more on value-added and customer-related functions.

SBI, PNB, Paytm to issue e-toll tags for vehicles

Aiming to increase the number of automatic pass-throughs at toll plazas to 50 per cent in two years, the government has expanded the number of lenders and wallets, who can issue the electronic tags for vehicles. State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, IDFC Bank and the digital wallet PayTM will also start issuing the tags, which are required for electronic toll collection, National Highways Authority (NHAI) chairman Raghav Chandra.

Deutsche Bank fined \$14 billion over 2008 crisis

Deutsche Bank has been asked to pay a fine of \$14 billion by the US Department of Justice to settle an investigation into mis-selling of mortgage-backed securities. The malpractices by

several leading banks are cited as the primary reason for the 2008 financial crisis. The verdict comes on the eighth anniversary of the fall of Lehman Brothers.

SBI cuts deposit rates by up to 25 basis points

State Bank of India (SBI) has cut deposit rates by up to 25 basis points (bps) in some maturities, even as credit growth remains sluggish. India's largest lender has cut deposit rates by 25 bps for deposits less than Rs1 crore with maturity of more than 455 days but less than 3 years from the beginning of this month, according to data on the SBI website.

ICICI Prudential Life IPO subscribed 16 per cent on Day 1

The initial public offering (IPO) of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance was subscribed 0.16 times (or 16 per cent), with investors bidding for 2.08 crore of the total 13.23 crore shares on offer. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has priced its IPO, aimed at raising Rs 6,057 crore at the upper end of the price band, between Rs 300 and Rs 334 per share. The IPO is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 18.1 crore equity shares of a face value of Rs 10 each by ICICI Bank.

Chinese bank raises \$7.4 bn in largest IPO since 2014

State-owned Postal Savings Bank of China (PSBC) raised \$7.4 billion in the **world's biggest initial public offering** in two years, but the deal priced at the lower end of expectations and was heavily reliant on cornerstone investors.

Seeking to bolster its balance sheet and fund lending, the bank initially sought as much as **\$8.1 billion in the Hong Kong listing**, counting on its network of more than 40,000 branches and low level of non-performing loans to attract investors.

ADB clears \$631 mn for India's 1st coastal corridor

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$631-million loan to the proposed Vishakhapatnam-Chennai industrial corridor (VCIC), the first coastal one in the country. The Manila-Based regional development financing bank approved the loan which will help develop

infrastructural amenities and industrial capabilities in and around major cities in Andhra Pradesh such as Vishakhapatnam, Kakinada and the proposed state Capital of Amravati.

3 independent economists appointed to RBI policy panel

India's government has picked three economists from the academic world for a new monetary policy committee (MPC) to set interest rates, as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gets ready for a landmark switch in the way it decides policy. The non-RBI members named are ChetanGhate, a professor at Indian Statistical Institute; PamiDua, a director at the Delhi School of Economics; and RavindraDholakia, a professor at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat.

Ftcash, ICICI Bank tie-up to launch UPI at 5,000+ merchant locations

Mobile payments and loans start-up ftcash, backed by IvyCap Ventures is the first fintechstartup to launch Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for merchants in association with ICICI Bank. Due to the same, the customers can now pay a vegetable vendor who sells on the sidewalk or your newspaper vendor using UPI. ftcash is a virtual POS for micro-merchants to accept payments through credit cards, debit cards, wallets such as Freecharge, Mobikwik, PayPal etc. UPI is the latest addition to this open architecture platform.

Iran introduces credit cards for the 1st time

The Central Bank of Iran is allowing local financial institutions to issue credit cards for the first time in the Islamic Republic's history. The full introduction of the cards could take some time as local banks will need to get used to the credit card system, according to the head of Iran's central bank ValiollahSeif.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Dell completes \$67 billion merger deal with EMC

Dell Inc has completed its \$67-billion deal to acquire EMC Corp, creating the world's largest privately-controlled technology company. The new company — Dell Technologies — will

comprise Dell, Dell EMC, Pivotal, RSA, SecureWorks, Virtustream and VMware. It employs about 1.4 lakh people globally and will be headquartered at Round Rock, Texas.

World Health Organisation certifies Sri Lanka as Malaria-free

The World Health Organization has certified **Sri Lanka as a malaria-free nation**, in what it called a “truly remarkable” achievement. **WHO regional director PoonamKhetrapal Singh** said in a statement that Sri Lanka was among the most malaria-affected countries in the mid-20th century. Sri Lanka is the **second country in the WHO South-East Asia Region to eliminate malaria after Maldives.**

London tops ‘Cities of Opportunity’ list

London has maintained top spot as a centre for business, finance and culture, widening its lead over its competitors. PwC’s Cities of Opportunity 7 report measures 30 cities across 10 indicators including transportation and infrastructure, the ease of doing business, demographics and livability, technology readiness and cost.

2016 G-20 Summit held in Hangzhou, China

The 11th G20 Summit 2016 began at the Chinese city of Hangzhou. Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with various world leaders, including US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping, are participating in the meeting in the capital city of South Eastern Zhejiang province.

Buddhists in Nepal celebrated PanchaDaan

Buddhists in Nepal celebrated PanchaDaan, or the festival of five summer gifts, on August 30. Pancha Daan is known as the festival of five summer gifts, which include rice grains, unhusked rice grains, salt, money and pulses – all of which are needed for one’s daily life. These gifts are all donated to the gods and in the name of charity. This can be the five traditional gifts to gifting people some very unusual things.

La Tomatina festival celebrated in Spain

The Spanish town of Bunol celebrated one of the world's most popular food fights, La Tomatina festival in the town of Bunol on August 31. Thousands of people have pelted each other with tons of ripe tomatoes, creating a red, mushy mess in the annual "Tomatina" street battle in eastern Spain. At the fiesta in Bunol August 31, 160 tons of tomatoes were offloaded from six trucks into the crowd packing the town's streets for the hour-long battle that attracts many foreigners.

BRICS Convention on Tourism to begins

The two-day "BRICS Convention on Tourism" will begin at world heritage site Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh. Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma will inaugurate the convention. Delegations from the BRICS countries India, Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa will participate in it. The convention is being organised as a precursor to 'The BRICS Summit' to be held in Goa in October this year.

Pak PM inaugurates trade projects in Balochistan

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on inaugurated a **string of developmental projects for Balochistan in the country's port city of Gwadar**. The development projects include a free trade zone, business complex of Gwadar Port Authority, Pakistan-China Government Primary School Faqir Colony, Sawar and Shadikor dams and Gwadar University, according to Radio Pakistan.

Sharif was given briefing about the projects, related to the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). the projects will be completed in the next two to three years.

World's Largest indoor theme park opens in dubai

The **world's largest indoor theme park**, featuring popular Marvel and Cartoon Network-branded rides, opened its doors to the public in the **Middle East's tourist hub of Dubai**— the latest in a myriad of new attractions. The park is as big as 28 football fields, measuring some 1.5 million square feet in size. Dubai is already home to the world's tallest buildings, biggest shopping malls and largest man-made islands.

North Korea conducts its fifth nuclear test

North Korea confirmed it has conducted its fifth test of a nuclear weapon, the second this year. The design of a nuclear warhead intended for placement on a ballistic missile. There was no leakage of radioactivity. China's Ministry of Environmental Protection said radiation levels in its border region with North Korea were normal. The North claimed it was a hydrogen bomb, which led to wide condemnation and tougher international sanctions. Pyongyang previously tested at Punggye-ri in 2006, 2009 and 2013.

September 08: International Literacy Day

The world gears up to celebrate International Literacy Day on 8 September. The theme for 2016 is Reading the Past, Writing the Future. After UNESCO officially proclaimed the day as International Literacy Day on 17 November 1965, communities all around the world have been commemorating the day by holding various programmes and events. This would be the 50th celebration of the historic event. The primary objective is to promote literacy, which in turn would help to eradicate social malice.

UK's 1st robotic kidney transplant performed>

Robots have been used to perform kidney transplants for the first time in the UK. One of the patients, who had previously undergone a kidney transplant by traditional open surgery, reported significantly less pain with the robotic method. Another patient reported a faster post-operative recovery time. Both the patients were reportedly able to recover using only paracetamol rather than morphine.

China celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival

Chinese communities are celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival, a harvest festival which takes place on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Lunar calendar. People celebrate the festival by gazing at the moon, as well as eating 'moon cakes' made of wheat flour and stuffing. The festival is also celebrated in Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

First Indian music & dance festival starts in Sydney

A first-of-its-kind Indian music and dance festival aimed to showcase the country's rich and diverse culture was kicked off in iconic Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia. The 10-week festival "Confluence: Festival of India" was inaugurated by Union Tourism and Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma with spectacular joint performances by Indian and Australian artists.

New York to host 'Dessert Goals' festival in Oct

New York will host its first ever dessert festival 'Dessert Goals', a festival dedicated to all things dessert, on October 23. There will be a photo garden featuring candy-inspired props and a candy wall, as well as **sweet-themed demonstrations**. Tickets to the dessert festival, which will also feature workshops and tastings, start at \$10. Dessert Goals fest will be taking over Williamsburg's Dobbin Street with treats from 20 vendors.

21 September: International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution 36/37, the General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to "commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples."

World's first zero-emission hydrogen passenger train

French Company Alstom unveiled a Zero-emission train powered by hydrogen at Innotrains Trade fair. The new train is CO₂-emission-free and is powered by a hydrogen fuel cell, stored in a hydrogen fuel tank on the roof of the train. The train produces just steam and water as opposed to greenhouse gases and is less noisy than traditional trains.

World's largest flower blooms in Indonesia

The world's largest flower, *Rafflesia arnoldii*, has bloomed in two different locations in the rainforests of Indonesian island Sumatra. The giant red flower, which smells of rotting flesh, has no stems, leaves or roots and blooms only for a couple of days. The flower has recently made an

appearance in the TabaPenanjung Forest and the TebatMonok Forest. The plant is named after the founder of modern Singapore, Sir Stamford Raffles and the British botanist Joseph Arnold.

Obama opens new African American Museum

President Barack Obama heralded the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, an institution dedicated to the many threads of black suffering and triumph. The first black president of the United States cut the ribbon to inaugurate the striking 37,000-square-meter bronze-clad edifice before thousands of spectators gathered in the nation's capital to witness the historic opening.

Switzerland ratifies convention for automatic tax information exchange regime

Paving the way for the automatic exchange of tax information with India and other nations, Switzerland has ratified the multilateral convention on administrative assistance in taxation matters. In this move marks a significant step in the continuing global efforts to crackdown on illicit fund flows in the system and do away with banking secrecy practices. In efforts to clamp down on the black money menace, India has been seeking tax information from various countries, including Switzerland.

Microsoft partners Renault-Nissan for cloud-connected cars

Technology Company Microsoft has partnered with the alliance between automotive manufacturers Renault-Nissan to work on connected car technologies. The services will provide advanced navigation, remote monitoring of car features, and over-the-air updates for cars connected to Microsoft's cloud computing platform Azure. Renault-Nissan aims to develop over 10 autonomous vehicles by 2020.

27 September: World Tourism Day

World Tourism Day (WTD) is held annually on 27 September. Its purpose is to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value. The event seeks to address global challenges outlined in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to highlight the contribution the tourism sector can

make in reaching these goals. The official World Tourism Day 2016 celebrations held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Cuba, Russia sign Agreement to peaceful nuclear co-operation

Russia and Cuba have signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of peaceful atomic energy use. The agreement was signed between Russian state nuclear agency Rosatom and Cuba's Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment in Vienna. The agreement was signed on the sidelines of International 60th Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference held in Vienna, capital city of Austria.

28 September: world Rabies Day

World Rabies Day is an international campaign which is observed on September 28. World Rabies Day is celebrated annually throughout the world to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease. 28 September also marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

India has 2nd highest deaths due to air pollution: WHO

India is the second deadliest country for outdoor air pollution in the world, with 6,21,138 deaths happening due to air pollution in the country in 2012, according to the World Health Organisation. Also, India averages at 49 deaths per 1,00,000 capita due to air pollution. Notably, China tops the WHO list with 10,32,833 deaths recorded due to air pollution.

US names first ambassador to Cuba in 50 years

The United States has named diplomat Jeffrey De Laurentis as its first official ambassador to Cuba in over 50 years. However, the nomination needs to be confirmed by the Senate, where it is likely to be opposed just like President Barack Obama's outreach to the Communist regime in Cuba. De Laurentis is currently the Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Havana and previously worked in Bogota and at the United Nations.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

India, Vietnam Sign 12 Agreements to Boost Bilateral Ties

India and Vietnam signed 12 agreements in a wide range of areas covering defence, IT, space, double taxation and sharing white shipping information, signalling a strong upward push in their strategic ties. The agreements were signed by officials of the two sides in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen XuanPhuc.

Modi arrives in Vietnam; to discuss ways to boost defence

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew into the Vietnamese capital on his maiden visit to hold wide-ranging talks with the country's top leadership on ways to bolster strategic bilateral ties in key areas like defence, security, counter terrorism and trade. Modi will hold extensive talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen XuanPhuc and call on President Tran Dai Quang on 05 sep 2016. He is also scheduled to meet Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen PhuTrong and National Assembly Chairwoman Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan.

Rajasthan partners with Cisco for connected learning solution

Rajasthan's education department has partnered with US-based technology firm Cisco to promote digital learning across **the state using virtual digital room solutions**. Cisco and SIEMAT have committed to 50,000 man hours of training annually through the virtual digital classrooms.

India, Chile expand their Preferential Trade Agreement

India and Chile agreed to expand their bilateral preferential trade agreement (PTA) with both sides offering to lower or eliminate tariffs on a number of items traded with each other. The agreement was signed in a meeting between Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia and the South American country's Ambassador to India Andres Barbe Gonzalez.

East Asia Summit nations back nuclear disarmament

India and other leaders of the 18-member East Asia Summit reaffirmed their support to promote nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation as they underlined the importance of nuclear security to combat nuclear terrorism at national, regional and global levels. The countries emphasised the importance of advancing nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy as ‘mutually reinforcing pillars’.

India kazakhstan joint exercise PRABAL DOSTYK-16 begins

As a part of India’s continued efforts to strengthen Indo-Kazakhstan relations, troops of Indian and Kazakhstan armies are presently engaging in a joint exercise ‘PRABAL DOSTYK-16. The Indian Army is being represented in the exercise by platoon strength. The Kazakhstan Army contingent comprises a platoon from Special Operating Force’s unit. Combat battle drills and physical fitness will be the focal point of the exercise.

India Inks open skies pact with Greece

India signed an open skies agreement with Greece. At present, there are no direct flights between India and Greece and passengers travel one stop via Gulf States or Turkey to Greece. In fact, there was no air services agreement between India and Greece till now thus preventing the start of air services between two countries. The open skies agreement will allow airlines from India to operate unlimited number of flights to Greece. While Greek carriers have been granted unlimited traffic rights to six Indian metro cities.

India-US Economic Summit to discuss bilateral trade

Leaders from business, government and academia will deliberate on ways to enhance bilateral trade and investments between **India and the US during a two-day summit**. The chamber’s North India council is hosting the function. Starting from September 13, the Indo-US Economic Summit “will deliberate on augmenting the existing two-way trade to \$500 billion and will focus on sectors that foster growth,” Indo-American Chamber of Commerce said in a statement. The chamber’s North India council is hosting the function.

HP, Singapore sign MoU for smart integrated township

Himachal Pradesh government signed a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore government for developing a smart integrated township in Jathiadevi near Shimla airport. The MoU was signed between Himachal Pradesh Housing and Urban Development Authority (HIMUDA) and Asian Pacific Singapore Enterprise in the presence of Urban Development and Town and Country Planning and Housing minister Sudhir Sharma.

17th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Vice-President Hamid Ansari will be representing India at the upcoming 17th Summit of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) to be held at Margarita Island in Venezuela from September 17-18. This will be the second time that the Prime Minister of India will not be representing the country at the Summit. India is one of the founding members of the Non Aligned Movement and it hosted the 7th NAM Summit in 1983 in New Delhi.

Australia returns artefacts worth RS.13.5 crore to India

The National Gallery of Australia returned artefacts from its troubled Asian art collection to India at a handback ceremony in Canberra. Two pieces, a 900-year-old stone statue of the Goddess Pratyangira and a **third-century rock carving of Worshippers of the Buddha**, were purchased from disgraced art dealer SubhashKapoor in 2005 for \$328,000 and \$790,000 respectively.

India has pledged financial assistance to Nepal

India has pledged financial assistance worth 30.29 million Nepali Rupees for construction of a new college building in Udayapur district in the country. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed among Indian Embassy, Local Development Officer, Udayapur district, and ShriNaradAdarsha Education Campus of Udayapur district for the construction of the campus building, according to a press release issued by the Indian mission.

India, US armies hold joint training in Uttarakhand

The Indian army and US troops participated in a joint training operation in the Uttarakhand hills, as a part of the ongoing ‘YudhAbhyas 2016’ exercise, a defence official said. The troops practiced small tactical operations as well as specialised mountain warfare techniques. It is the 12th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by the two countries. The two week (from September 14 to 27) exercise will witness participation of about 225 personnel of Congo Brigade of the Indian Army and similar strength of the US Army.

Govt clears deal to buy 36 rafale jets for Rs.58 cr

India has signed a contract to from French defence major Dassault Aviation for around Rs.58,000crore in an effort to modernise Indian Air Force’s ageing fleet. The deal was finalised with the signing of the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) by the Minister for Defence, ManoharParrikar, and his French counterpart, Jean-Yves le Drian, at the Ministry of Defence.

MoU signed between Chandigarh Administration and French Development Agency

Chandigarh Administration and French Development Agency (AFD) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoUs) on Chandigarh Smart City Project and ‘Technical Cooperation’ in the field of Sustainable Urban Mobility. The MoUs were signed by K K Jindal, Secretary Transport, Chandigarh Administration and Minister Counsellor, Embassy of France in India, Jean Marc FENET and Director French Development Agency, Nicolas Fornage.

India to ratify Paris climate change deal on Oct 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India would ratify the Paris climate deal on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Addressing delegates at the BJP’s national council meeting in Kozhikode, Mr. Modi said that on Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary, India will ratify the decisions reached at the Conference of Parties (CoP) in Paris.

After India 3 nations pull out of SAARC meet in Pakistan

India's efforts to isolate Pakistan on the issue of terrorism got a boost on Wednesday with Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan also deciding to skip the SAARC Summit in Islamabad in November, setting the stage for the postponement of the meet. In a synchronised effort, India and the three other countries informed the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation's (SAARC) secretariat their leaders would be unable to attend the summit for almost similar reasons.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Xiaomi launches its own mobile payment service

Chinese smartphone manufacturer Xiaomi has finally launched its own mobile payment service. Just like Samsung, Google and Apple, Xiaomi can also boast of its own payment service, 'Mi Pay'. This ensures it can now compete actively with the likes of Android Pay, Apple Pay and Samsung Pay. The Mi Pay is as per now only available in China and not as widespread as the other mobile payment services.

TCS joins hands with SASTRA Varsity to train school teachers

IT major Tata Consultancy Services announced that it has partnered with **Thanjavur-based SASTRA Deemed University** to train over 2,000 teachers from Tamil Nadu on digital teaching methods, and also set up a teachers training centre at the varsity campus. More than 2,000 school teachers from various educational institutions across Tier-II and -III cities from Tamil Nadu would be trained at the training centre.

Indian scientists develop genetically modified cotton

A team of Indian Scientists has developed a genetically modified (GM) mustard variety of cotton. This is the country's first GM food crop. The new variety will be launched commercially in the near future and can rival Monsanto's Seeds. Deepak Pental and his colleagues at the Delhi University worked on GM mustard for around a decade, and a government committee said that it found the seeds to be safe for "food/feed and environment".

Evidence of Zika virus found in tears

Eyes may be a reservoir for Zika virus, say scientists, including one of Indian origin, who found evidence of the virus in eyes and tears of infected mice, a discovery that raises the possibility that the infection may spread through tears.

Toxic air pollution particles found in brains

Toxic nanoparticles from air pollution have been discovered in human brains in “abundant” quantities, a newly published study reveals. The detection of the particles, in brain tissue from 37 people, raises concerns because recent research has suggested links between these magnetite particles and Alzheimer’s disease, while air pollution has been shown to significantly increase the risk of the disease.

Isro successfully launches weather satellite INSAT-3DR

The Indian Space Research Organisation’s GSLV-F05 rocket successfully placed INSAT-3DR advanced weather satellite in the intended orbit. The satellite is expected to provide a variety of meteorological services to the country. The 2211-kg INSAT 3DR will be placed in an orbit 36,000 km above Earth. The GSLV rocket plan in the late 1980s and early 1990s so as to be able to put its 2,000-kg communication satellites to geosynchronous orbits at 36,000 km in space from its own soil.

Newly found asteroid came within 40k km of Earth>

A newly found asteroid, named ‘2016 RB1’, came within 40,000 km of Earth .which is less than one-tenth of the moon’s distance from Earth. The 7-16 metres wide asteroid was first spotted on September 5, 2016. Scientists have predicted that it was the closest the asteroid would come near the Earth for at least the next 50 years.

India test fires long-range surface-to-air missile

India has successfully test-fired a long range surface-to-air missile, as part of its efforts to bolster its defence capability. The missile, developed jointly with Israel, was fired off from a mobile

launcher from a defence base off the Odisha coast in the east. Three medium range surface-to-air missiles were test-fired successfully between 30 June and 1 July from the DRDO base at Chandipur.

NASA building largest, most powerful rocket in world

US space agency NASA is building the world's largest and most powerful rocket at its Michoud Assembly Facility, US. The rocket's 212-foot-long core will carry around 2.3 million pounds of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen to fuel the engines. It is being prepared for moon missions in 2018, and other Mars and deep space explorations in the 2030s.

China's first space station 'out of control'

Chinese space authorities have confirmed they have lost control of the country's first space station 'Tiangong-1', which is expected to crash into Earth's atmosphere in 2017. Most of the 8.5-tonne-station's parts are predicted to burn during the fall. The station, launched in 2011, was used as a testbed for technologies that will be used in China's large modular space station.

ISRO launched satellites into two orbits for first time

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched eight small satellites into two different orbits in space on board its workhorse launch vehicle, the PSLV. This was the first time ISRO launched satellites into two different orbits on the same flight. "With today's launch, the PSLV's capability to launch satellites into two different orbits has been successfully demonstrated.

National Mission on Bio economy was launched in Shillong

In order to boost rural economy by utilising bio-resources, a National Mission on Bioeconomy was launched by the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) under the Ministry of Science and Technology. The mission is unique to south-east Asia and India has become one of the few countries to have tapped bio-resources, which when optimally utilized can create a large number of jobs at village level. Bioeconomy is a new concept few countries like USA, Canada, European Union and Australia have started initiatives in this field.

SpaceX's rocket to Mars will be reused 1,000 times

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has unveiled the design for the giant rocket booster he wants to build in order to colonize Mars. It is part of what SpaceX is referring to as the “Mars Vehicle” — the rocket booster and the Mars spaceship combined — and Musk announced it on stage in Guadalajara, Mexico at the 67th International Astronautical Conference.

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Reliance Communications merges with Aircel

Communications Berhad (MCB) for the merger of wireless businesses of Aircel Limited with itself, making it the largest-ever consolidation in the Indian telecom sector. RCom and MCB will each hold a 50% stake in the merged entity, with equal representation on the Board of Directors and all Committees. The Company will be managed by an independent professional team under the supervision of the Board.

HP Agrees to Acquire Samsung Printer Business for \$1.05 Billion

HP Inc. an American technology company, has agreed to buy Samsung's printer business for \$1.05 billion (£788 million) in an attempt to “disrupt” the \$55bn photocopying industry. As part of the deal, HP will swallow up 6,500 patents related to printing and Samsung's team of 1,500 researchers and engineers. Samsung has also agreed to buy between \$100m (£75m) and \$300m (£225m) in HP shares through open-market purchases after the sale is completed.

ONGC inks deal to buy extra 11% stake in Russian Vankor fields

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC) has signed definitive agreements with Russia's national oil company Rosneft PJSC to acquire an additional 11% stake in its unit, JSC Vankorneft, which has a licence to produce hydrocarbons from the Vankor field in Siberia. The definitive agreement was signed in Moscow by Narendra K. Verma, chief executive officer and managing director of ONGC's overseas arm ONGV Videsh Ltd, and Igor Sechin, chairman of Rosneft's board of directors.

SPORTS

WINNER	TITLE	SPORT/ VENUE/KEY POINT TO NOTE
Serena Williams	U.S. Open title	Her 23rd Grand Slam singles title.
MariyappanThangavelu	Gold medal Rio Paralympics 2016	He is hailing from Tamil Nadu, India
Jamie Murray(Britain) Bruno Soares (Brazil)	The U.S. Open doubles championship	
Angelique Kerber	U.S. Open title	Germany
NicoRosberg	2016 Singapore Grand Prix	Defeat Lewis Hamilton
SaniaMirza-BarboraStrycova	women's doubles champions at Pan Pacific Open	
VelavanSenthilkumar	U-19 Asian title	Indian squash champion
Rituparna Das	Polish Open	Indian Shuttler
ChavviKohli,	Thailand Open	
Indian women's kabaddi team	Asian Beach Games	

OBITUARY

NAME OF THE PERSON	FIELD
NaliniDhar Bhattacharyya	Noted Assamese poet
Lindsay Tuckett	World's oldest cricketer
Edward Albee	Pulitzer-winning US playwright
NarottamMohanty	Odisha's first ever football referee
Curtis Hanson	Oscar-winning filmmaker
JagdishGagneja	Senior RSS leader, Politician
Reoti Saran Sharma	Eminent playwright
Arnold Palmer	American golf legend
Shimon Peres	Founder of modern Israel

THANK YOU 😊 😊 😊