



Current Affairs July - 2016

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1. What is Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

The Center has notified the formation of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) under the RBI which will take decision on interest rate or repo rate setting in future. MPC will bring significant changes in the power the RBI governor while deciding on repo rate. The MPC replaces the previous arrangement where the RBI Governor along with a Technical Advisory Committee take decisions on monetary policy including repo rate. TAC had only advisory functions as the central bank governor enjoyed veto power over the committee. Structure of the MPC The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is formed under the RBI with six members. Three of the members are from the RBI while the other three members are appointed by the government. Members from the RBI are the Governor who is the chairman of the MPC, a Deputy Governor and one officer of the RBI. The government members will be appointed by the Centre on the recommendations of a search-cum-selection committee which is to be headed by the Cabinet Secretary. Under MPC, the governor has a casting vote and does not enjoy veto power. Decisions will be taken on the basis of majority vote. Responsibility of the MPC is to administer the inflation targeting monetary policy regime through determining the policy rate or repo rate to contain inflation. The Committee is to meet at least four times a year and make public its decisions following each meeting. There will be no reappointment of the committee. Function of the MPC The main responsibility of the MPC will be to keep the inflation targets set by the RBI. The MPC decides the changes to be made to the policy rate (repo rate) to contain inflation within the target level set under India's inflation targeting regime. Members of the MPC can suggest reasons for their support or opposition for a policy rate change. This will be published in the minutes of the MPC. In 2015, the Government and the RBI got an MoU regarding the implementation of the inflation monetary policy framework with an inflation target of 4 with a 2% band.

2. World bank to provide \$1 billion for India's solar energy projects

The World Bank has offered \$1 bn to India's solar energy projects. This is the largest amount to be given by the international development agency to a member country for financing solar energy projects. An agreement was signed between the visiting World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kims and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Power Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi about the World Bank supported solar energy initiatives. India aims to add 100 GW energy from solar projects by 2022. An international initiative to utilize the potentials of solar energy was made by the country and it hosts the Head Quarters of International Solar Alliance at Gurgaon. The World Bank aid will be used for setting various infrastructure facilities for solar projects. The World Bank supported projects under preparation include solar rooftop technology, infrastructure for solar parks, bringing innovative solar and hybrid technologies to market and transmission lines for solar rich states. The World Bank statement said about the project. An important component of the project is to construct \$625 million grid connected rooftop solar programme. India has achieved tremendous progress in solar energy capacity addition over the last few years because of good performance of states like Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

3. Chandranna Bima Yojana in Andhra Pradesh for Labourers

A new insurance scheme for labourers in the unorganised sector is all set to be launched by the state government of Andhra Pradesh. The scheme will be launched from August 1 to benefit 1.5 crore such labourers. Named as Chandranna Bima Yojana, will be launched on August 1 to benefit labourers in unorganized sectors such as agricultural labourers, artisans, small self-employed people, petty traders, vendors, hamals and shop employees and similar people. Chandranna Bima Yojana Benefits The scheme benefits can be availed by the workers by paying just Rs. 15 in the labour department. Below are the main benefits of the Chandranna Bima Yojana for Unorganised workers in the age group of 18 to 59 years (as per AABY norms). The scheme will provide an insurance cover of Rs. 5 Lakh in case of accidental death or total disability in the accident. The kin of the insurer would get Rs. 5 Lakh compensation. The insurer would be paid Rs. 3,62,500 in case of partial disability. If the natural death occurs to the insured, the kin would get Rs. 30,000. Above are not the only benefits, in addition, two children of the insurer will be provided scholarships at Rs. 1,200 a year from Class IX to XII. Benefits for Unorganised workers in the age group of 60 to 70 years are
Accident Death and Total Disability relief: Rs. 4.25 lakh.
Partial Disability relief: up to Rs.3,25,000/-

Natural death relief and scholarship: None as per AABY norms. The insurance premium of Rs. 132 Crore will be paid by the state government to the identified insurance company on behalf of the beneficiaries of Chandranna Bima Yojana. Eligibility for Chandranna Bima Yojana Workers in the age group of 18 to 70 years covered by the definition of unorganised worker are eligible for registration. The unorganised worker shall make an application in the format annexed, pay Rs.15/- or such other amount as specified by the Commissioner of Labour and furnish an undertaking

stating that he or she is an unorganised worker.

4. July 1 - International Joke Day

International Joke Day celebrated every year of July 1. While a lot of strife is going on in the world, everything is different on this day. The aim of the International Joke Day is to bring people to laugh by telling them jokes. International Joke Day seems to have officially begun in the United States but whatever in of International Joke Day, it is clear that jokes themselves pre-date by hundreds of years. The first joke is often attributed to the Greeks, specifically Palamedes, International Joke Day seems to have officially begun in the United States but whatever the origins of International Joke Day, it is clear that jokes themselves pre-date by hundreds and hundreds of years. The first joke is often attributed to the Greeks, specifically Palamedes, who is also credited with the invention of many other things.

5. July 1 - National Doctors' Day

On 1 July, Friday, India celebrates National Doctors' Day honouring the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was also awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1961. Millions of twitter users on Friday, in India expressed their gratitude to their doctors using the now trending hashtag #IThankMyDoctor. Here are some of the tweets celebrating National Doctors' day: She the people, tv paid tribute to Dr. Saroj Sanan in her fight against drug addiction.

6. Majuli to become India's first river island district

A river island in Assam has been rewarded for electing the head of the states first BJP-led government. The Sarbananda Sonowal ministry, in its first cabinet meeting since taking charge on May 24, decided on Monday to grant district status to Majuli, a 400sqkm island in the river Brahmaputra. Sonowal had won the assembly election this year from Majuli, a constituency reserved for scheduled tribes. The erosion-troubled Majuli, now a sub-division of Jorhat district, will become the 34th district of Assam. We have decided to elevate Majuli to a district so that people do not have to take a boat every time they need to approach the district administration, state excise minister Parimal Suklabaidya said after the meeting. The cabinet, he said, also decided to regularise some 10,000 teachers who were facing uncertainty despite having passed the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET). The decision coincided with 7,234 TET teachers joining duty in schools across 10 districts. They had been posted a week ago through computerised random lottery. Majuli, inhabited mostly by Mishing tribal people, has been the hub of Assamese neo-Vaishnavite culture that 15th century saint-reformer Srimanta Sankardeva had initiated. The island had some 65 satras or monasteries adhering to Vaishnavism, but a large number relocated to the mainland after being washed away. The main surviving satras include Dakhinpat, Garamurh, Auniati, Kamalabari and Bengenaati.

7. CAG Shashi Kant Sharma gets honorary professorship in China

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Shashi Kant Sharma has been conferred honorary professorship by the Nanjing Audit University in China on Saturday. "Shashi Kant Sharma was conferred the honorary professorship by the Nanjing Audit University in China on Saturday. It is the only university which is recognised by the Institute of Internal Auditors," the CAG office said in a release. In his acceptance address, CAG put an emphasis on capacity building for auditors of international fraternity in view of ever-changing governance structures. He stressed on the need for co-operation among the five Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), especially in data analytics, audit of infrastructure projects and environmental issues. Sharma is in Beijing to take part in the first meeting of Supreme Audit Institution (SAIs) of BRICS countries. BRICS SAI leaders have agreed to actively enhance quality of auditors to enable SAIs to play a bigger role in advancing economic and social development, Sharma was quoted as saying. He also led a delegation of Auditor Generals of BRICS to a meeting with Chinese Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli and discussed progress of the summit.

8. Virat Kohli launches new startup Stepathlon Kids to promote fitness among kids

Fitness is the next rising industry in the startup space, given the amount of investor interest they are seeing both from celebrity cricketers and well-known entrepreneurs. Cricketer Virat Kohli on Tuesday kicked off a new fitness venture Stepathlon kids in a joint venture with Stepathlon Lifestyle to promote fitness among children. The company will begin with the launch of a nationwide, 30-day, pedometer-based, mass participation virtual race, built to promote fitness among children. Initially, targeting the eight to 12 years age bracket through this campaign, Stepathlon Kids target for the first year is to reach 50,000 children, aiming to use technology positively in reaching out via a gamified

environment. It will, they say, encourage teamwork and healthy competition, while being educational and fun.

9. LCA "Tejas" inducted into Indian Air Force

The indigenization efforts received a shot in the arm when the Made in India Light Combat Aircraft Tejas was inducted into Indian Air Force in a colourful ceremony in Bengaluru on Friday.

It was a proud moment as Indian Air Force inducted its first indigenously designed and manufactured fly by wire fighter aircraft, 'Tejas'.

The first squadron named as Flying Daggers was formed when Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Air Command, Air Marshal Jasbir Walia, handed over two aircrafts to Group Captain Madhav Rangacharya, the commanding officer of 'Tejas'.

The Made in India Tejas has been designed and developed by the state-run Aeronautical Development Agency and built by HAL at its Bengaluru complex. Tejas is a single-engine multi-role fighter jet, pegged to be world's smallest and lightest supersonic fighter.

The squadron is expected to reach full strength of 20 fourth generation plus fly by wire Tejas aircrafts by 2020. The squadron will be based in Bengaluru for the first two years before being moved to Sullur airbase in Tamil Nadu.

AIR correspondent reports that flying Daggers Group Captain Madhav Rangacharya flew one of the multi-role aircraft for about 10 minutes from the aircraft system testing establishment of the air force under a cloudy sky and windy conditions.

It was a sight to watch as the majestic fighter aircraft gave a flawless flight demo. Speaking to the media persons, Group Captain Rangacharya said that it was an honour and a privilege to pilot the inaugural flight of the LCA soon after its induction.

LCA programme is now racing towards achieving the Final Operational Clearance after attaining Initial Operational Clearance in December 2013.

10. Prez presents B.C. Roy national awards for 2008, 2009 & 2010

President Pranab Mukherjee on Friday presented the Dr B.C. Roy national awards for 2008, 2009 and 2010 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the occasion of Doctors' Day. The awardees for 2010 are Nikhil C. Munshi, Tejinder Singh, O.P. Kalra, Amrinder Jit Kanwar, Subash Gupta, Rajendra Prasad and Glory Alexander.

The awardees for 2009 are K.H. Sancheti, Atul Kumar, Renu Saxena, Kanan A. Yelikar, A.K. Kriplani, G.V. Rao, H.S. Bhanushali, Moti Lal Singh, C.N. Purandare and C.V. Hari Narayan.

Mammen Chandy, Rajeshwar Dayal, Rohit V. Bhatt, Neelam Mohan, Mohan Kameswaran, Harsha Jauhari, Gopal H. Badlani and Yash Gulati are the awardees for 2008.

The B.C. Roy Awards were instituted by the Medical Council of India in 1976 in memory of renowned physician and former West Bengal Chief Minister Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.

11. Rapid Rural Police Response System launched at Jalandhar

Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Sukhbir Singh Badal on Friday launched nations first Rapid Rural Police Response System at Jalandhar.

The aim is to ensure prompt and effective police response in villages to counter any crime or law and order situation in 20 minutes. Under the new response system any resident from rural area would only have to make a call on police helpline 100 for any kind of assistance from the police force. The system would be available 24*7 across the state to respond to all kinds of emergencies.

After flagging off the response System the Deputy Chief Minister, emphasized that the initiative shall go a long way in bringing the delivery of police services to the doorsteps of the common citizens of the State.

Announcing the separation of policing and investigation wings, Mr. Badal said that it would be implemented from next month and new recruitment of legal officers, forensic lab experts and investigation experts would also be made for the same.

12. UNICEF has again acknowledged 'Kanyashree'™ scheme: Mamata

West Bengal Chief Minister Ms. Mamata Banerjee on Friday day said UNICEF has again acknowledged her governments pioneering scheme Kanyashree in reducing school dropouts and early marriage trends among girls. In secondary level, the dropout among girls has decreased from 23.06 per cent in 2012-13 to 19.79 per cent in 2015-16, - she said.

Ms. Banerjee added that the UNICEF has also applauded the state for our interventions in education sector to ensure, almost 100 per cent enrollment in primary education.

13. Goa to fully subsidise three LED bulbs for every household

Goa government on Friday decided to fully subsidise three LED bulbs for every household in the state for implementing Ujala scheme of the central Government.

All four lakh 84 thousand households in Goa will benefit under the scheme. The state Cabinet meeting decided to implement the scheme under the banner Jyotirmay Goa.

Under the Central scheme states are expected to give a subsidy of 50 rupees per LED bulb but taking the advantage of energy saving feature of LED bulbs and high subsidies in the Goa, the state cabinet today decided to subsidise the entire cost of first three LED bulbs to the residents. This will also help the state in making more power available for industries and investment in electricity generation.

The universal use of at least three LED bulbs, besides being energy saver will also save of about five crore rupees for the state exchequer.

14. Brexit: IMF warns of repercussions for global economy

The International Monetary Fund has warned that Britain's decision to leave the European Union has created significant uncertainty.

This uncertainty is likely to dampen growth in the near term, particularly in the UK, but with repercussions also for Europe and the global economy.

The IMF said policy makers needed to stand ready to act if the impact of financial market turbulence and higher uncertainty threaten to materially weaken the global outlook.

It added that it strongly supports the commitments made, and steps taken by major central banks, including the Bank of England, the European Central Bank, the US Fed and the Bank of Japan, among others, to provide liquidity and curtail excess financial volatility.

15. Sports Ministry grants recognition to Paralympic Committee of India

The Sports Ministry on Friday granted recognition to Paralympic Committee of India, giving a huge confidence boost to the several para-athletes who have qualified for Rio Paralympics.

The ministry's move comes less than a month after the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) announced temporary lifting of suspension imposed on the national body last year so that Indians can take part under the tri-colour in the showpiece event in September.

PCI was suspended in April last year due to internal conflicts between different groups and persons, which were undermining the development of Paralympic Movement in India.

16. Ravi Shastri resigns from ICC post

Former India captain and Team Director Ravi Shastri has resigned from his post as media representative in ICC's prestigious Cricket Committee. Incidentally, the chairman of ICC Cricket Committee is current Team India coach Anil Kumble, who pipped Shastri to the job after getting nod from high profile Cricket Advisory Committee. The official reason is his busy media commitments as commentator, TV expert and columnist.

17. India improves its ranking by 19 places on World Bank Logistics Performance Index

India has improved its ranking in the World Bank Group's bi-annual "Logistics Performance Index 2016", jumping from 54th in 2014 to 35th in 2016. This was announced by the World Bank Group in its recent launch of the report. In the latest ranking India has gone past countries like New Zealand, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Iceland, Latvia and Indonesia who were ahead of it in the index. India's jump of 19 positions in the ranking demonstrates the commitment of various Ministries and agencies of Government of India to make it easy to do business in India. Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President of World Bank met the Prime Minister of India recently and congratulated him on this achievement.

18. Kendriya Vidyalaya, CRPF, Guwahati wins Youth Parliament Contest

Kendriya Vidyalaya, CRPF, Amerigog, Guwahati has won the National Youth Parliament Competition for 2015-16 organised by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Winners of the 28th Competition for Kendriya Vidyalayas were felicitated here today by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

The students and teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas from Ambala, Bhopal, Delhi, Jaipur, Jhansi, Lucknow, Kurnool, Madurai, Ranchi, Vasco and Visakhapatnam were also facilitated.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has been organizing National Youth Parliament Competition from 1966 for schools, colleges and Universities for familiarizing the students with the practices and procedures of Parliament, techniques of discussion and debate and development of leadership qualities, spirit of self-discipline and tolerance of diverse opinions.

19. International Day of Cooperatives - 2 July 2016

2016 Theme: Co-operatives: The power to act for a sustainable future In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed, in its [resolution 47/90](#) of 16 December 1992, the International Day of Cooperatives to be celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July. The aim of this International Day is to: Increase awareness on cooperatives; Highlight the complementarity of the goals and objectives of the United Nations and the international cooperative movement; Underscore the contribution of the movement to the resolution of the major problems addressed by the United Nations; Strengthen and extend partnerships between the international cooperative movement and other actors, including governments, at local, national and international levels. This year, International Co-operative Day, to be celebrated on 2 July, will have the theme Co-operatives: The power to act for a sustainable future. Co-operatives have a unique role to play in implementing and achieving the [SDGs](#), because their business model has sustainable development at its core, being based on ethical values and principles.

20. International Sports Journalists Day - July 2

The International Sports Press Association (AIPS) was founded 87 years ago because some enlightened colleagues saw the need to unite to defend the principles of the sports media that at the time, still did not have a true identity. It is our duty to continue the work that they started, especially now that our profession is undergoing a real revolution. The advent of the Internet does not mean more freedom unless we find the way to use this new communication tool correctly. We need to invest in culture to better exploit the opportunities the new technologies allow us. We must fight against manipulation and defend our right of expression, because our freedom of thought and criticism can help sport to grow and, with it, the young people of the world to develop. Ours is a social commitment. At the moment, our colleagues in Nepal have been targeted by the authorities and it is our duty to defend their independence. In other countries, working conditions are worsening and we must intervene to stem dangerous interference in the freedom of

expression. In autumn, well try to bring the colleagues of Israel and Palestine closer, because channels of dialogue have to be re-opened. We talk the same language in sport and so we can forge an opening in communication. Our commitment must be total and unified. I extend to you all my best wishes for July 2 and wish you well in your professional endeavours.

21. What is National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)?

One of the biggest hurdle for Indias infrastructure expansion plans is lack of funds. The country need around \$1000 bn in five years to finance the infrastructure programmes extending from roads to communication. To overcome the financing hurdle, the government made several steps including the formation of infrastructure financing companies like the IIFCL (Indian Infrastructure Finance Company Limited). But still, the quantum of money flow has not occurred and the PPP model has failed to contribute much. It is in this context that the government has come out with a fresh idea of floating a fund mobilizing entity called National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). The NIIF is a trust that mobilizes funds so that it can give finance to the major infrastructure financing companies in the country. In this sense, the NIIF will act something like a bankers bank in infrastructure financing. The NIIF registered as a Category II AIF with SEBI As per the initial plan about the structure of the NIIF, the circular from the government says that it will be established as one or more Alternative Investment Funds under the SEBI regulations. In December 2015, the NIIF was registered as a Category II AIF (Alternative Investment Fund) with SEBI. Initial authorized capital of the Fund is set at Rs 20000 crore, which will be revised from time to time in accordance with the Ministry of Finances decision. An initial allocation of Rs 4000 crore was made under the budget 2016-17. Alternate investment funds (AIFs) are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, and classified under three categories - Categories I, II and III, from the angle of tax treatment under provisions of Income Tax Act. If set up as Category I and II AIFs, then NIIF will be eligible for a pass-through status under the Income Tax Act. A 'pass-through' status means that the income generated by the fund would be taxed in the hands of the ultimate investor, and the fund will be exempted. Nature of Government ownership The structure and ownership of the NIIF is that governments ownership in each entity set up under it will be 49%. It will not be either increased or decreased and is contributed directly by the Government. The Ministry of Finance Press Release says that the contribution of government in NIIF will enable it to be seen virtually as a sovereign fund. Purpose of such a structuring and ownership involvement in NIIF by the government is to acquire the trust of big and creditworthy foreign investors like sovereign/quasi sovereign/multilateral/bilateral investors to co-invest in it. The NIIF will seek the participation of strategic anchor partners. Already many foreign biggies like Abu Dhabi Investment Authority have shown their willingness to participate in the NIIF. The 49% government holding will make it like a sovereign fund with guarantee of the government and will attract foreign investors besides generating trust among the foreign investors because of sizable government ownership and management. But the NIIF cannot be described as a Sovereign Wealth Fund. Atypical sovereign wealth fund(SWF) will be a state-owned investment company like the China Investment Corporation or the GIC of Singapore which are owned by governments and invests their own money (foreign exchange reserves) in foreign countries. These funds are known as SWFs and invests in assets such as stocks, bonds, real estate, commodities etc. The NIIF is not such an entity and hence cant be called as an SWF. First governing council meeting of the NIIF was held in December 2015 and Sujoy Bose was appointed as the first CEO. India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) was appointed as Investment Advisor to NIIF Ltd and IDBI Capital Market Services Ltd as Advisor to NIIF Trustee Ltd. Functions of NIIF are as follows: 1. Fund raising through suitable instruments including off-shore instruments and attracting anchor investors to participate as partners in NIIF; 2. Servicing of the investors of NIIF. 3. Considering and approving candidate companies/institutions/ projects for investments and periodic monitoring of investments. 4. Investing in the corpus created by Asset Management Companies (AMCs). 5. Preparing a shelf of infrastructure projects and providing advisory services.

22. India to bring capital gains under source based taxation with Cyprus

In its effort to check black moneys mobility across borders and to reap more revenues, the government has modified DTAA (Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with Cyprus on the Mauritius line. Capital gains from share sale will be subjected to source based taxation as per the modification made to the India- Cyprus DTAA. Cyprus is a major tax haven. The change implies that if a foreign investor from Cyprus makes profit through investment in Indian shares, he should pay the capital gains tax in India. Modalities of the modifications were finalized between the officials of the two countries. According to official sources, the agreement will go for Cabinet approval soon. Reworking of the DTAA with Cyprus is a continuation of the governments policy to ply the loopholes of DTAA with Indias investment source

countries. most of these countries are tax havens or near tax havens. In May 2016, government modified the DTAA with Mauritius by establishing the right to impose capital gains tax for India on share sale. This change will help India to reduce the DTAA misuses of round tripping and treaty shopping. Mauritius is the leading Foreign investment source for India followed by Singapore. Majority of the FDI coming from Mauritius are investment made by Indian origin entities or persons.

23. Govt warns NGOs for not furnishing annual returns

The Home Ministry has warned Non Government Organizations or NGOs of hefty penalty which have not furnished annual income and expenditure statement for two consecutive years.

In a gazette notification, it said, such NGOs will have to face a penalty totalling ten per cent of foreign contributions received by them or 10 lakh rupees.

According to an official estimate, less than 10 per cent of nearly 30 lakh registered NGOs across the country file their annual income and expenditure statements or annual returns.

Registration under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) of around 15,000 NGOs were cancelled by the government in last two years for not furnishing annual returns.

24. CJI rejects panel for evaluating applications for appt of judges

The Chief Justice of India has rejected the government's move to put in place a committee of retired judges to evaluate the applications of candidates before forwarding them to the collegium.

According to a news agency, Justice T S Thakur expressed his reservations over the clause in the revised draft memorandum of procedure, MoP in a recent meeting with senior Union Ministers including Sushma Swaraj and D V Sadananda Gowda who drafted the MoP. The meeting was aimed at narrowing down the differences between the executive and the judiciary on the MoP.

Parliament had enacted the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act to do away with the over two-decade old collegium system where judges appoint judges.

The law was struck down by the apex court on October 16 last year.

A Supreme Court bench, while deciding on ways to make the collegium system more transparent, had asked the Centre to redraft the MoP in consultation with the states.

The MoP is a document which guides the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and the 24 high courts. At present, there are two MoPs --one for the apex court and another for the high courts.

25. President of India inaugurated a smart model village pilot project at Rashtrapati Bhavan

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated a smart model village pilot project today (July 2, 2016) at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The five villages which will be developed into the smart villages under this pilot project are Dhaula, Alipur, Harichandpur and Taj Nagar from Gurgaon district and Rojka Meo from Mewat district of Haryana. The President had announced this pilot project on the occasion of inauguration of the Intelligent Operations Centre (IOC) in Rashtrapati Bhavan and launching of a Mobile App Monitor for transformation of Presidents Estate into a smart township on May 19, 2016.

Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister for Rural Development, Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh, Minister of Development and Panchayat, Government of Haryana, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Chief Secretary of Haryana, other senior officers of Government of Haryana and Union Government, MLAs of Haryana, community and panchayat leaders and other peoples representatives/stakeholders.

26. Chhattisgarh to become ODF in 2018 â€“ CM

While the Swachh Bharat target for the country is October 2019, the State of Chhattisgarh will become Open Defecation Free (ODF) by the end of 2018 itself. This was announced by the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Dr Raman Singh in Raipur. He was speaking at a 2-day Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) National Conclave organized by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in Raipur for District Collectors and officers from the Phase 1 focus districts for SBM. One of the highlighted activities undertaken during the workshop was a #MySBMidea contest. Districts shared best practices and innovative ideas deployed by them in sanitation, and the best idea was selected by means of a Twitter contest using the hashtag #MySBMidea. The idea that won the contest was Tippy Tap, a hands free way to wash hands that is especially appropriate for rural areas where there is no running water.

27. PM to attend 300th Martyrdom Anniversary Commemoration Event of Baba Banda Singh Bahadurji

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will attend a commemorative event to mark the 300th Martyrdom Anniversary of Baba Banda Singh Bahadurji, in New Delhi on Sunday.

The Prime Minister will release a book and souvenir on Baba Banda Singh Bahadurji on the occasion.

The event will be attended by the Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Parkash Singh Badal. A recently released commemorative coin on Baba Banda Singh Bahadurji will be presented to the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Punjab.

The Prime Minister will address the gathering. The event will also feature poetic tributes to Baba Banda Singh Bahadurji.

28. BRICS Working Group meeting on "Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency" tomorrow

Andhra Pradesh will host a two-day international conference of the BRICS Working Group on Energy Savings and Energy Efficiency in the port city Visakhapatnam from tomorrow. The central as well as the state government will showcase their efforts in energy saving and energy efficiency at the event in which delegates from Brazil, India, Russia, China and South Africa will take part, according to AP Principal Secretary (Energy and Infrastructure), Ajay Jain. The successful LED street lighting programme of Visakhapatnam city would be specially showcased to the visiting delegates, he said after briefing Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on the conference agenda and arrangements here. By switching to the energy-efficient LED street lighting, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation could save electricity to the tune of 70 lakh units, translating to a saving of Rs 4.20 crore per annum. Consequent to the Conference of Parties 21 (COP-21) summit held in Paris, where the LED energy-efficient street lighting programme of Visakhapatnam was highlighted by the Union Ministry of Power, countries like China and Brazil evinced interest in exchanging global LED technologies by studying this successful model as part of international initiatives on Climate Change, CEO of State Energy Conservation Mission A Chandrasekhara Reddy said. The BRICS group comprises developing countries where the energy growth is expected to be large as compared to the developed nations. In view of this growth scenario, the countries had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on energy saving and energy efficiency.

29. Sudarsan Pattnaik creating 100 sand raths for new record

Noted artist [Sudarsan Pattnaik](#) is attempting another world record by carving 100 sand chariots at the [Puri](#) beach in [Odisha](#) on upcoming [Ratha Yatra](#) of [Lord Jagannath](#). Apart from having darshan of the idols of Lord Balabhadra, [Lord Jagannath](#) and Devi Subhadra on the giant wooden chariots, pilgrims will get a glimpse of the sand art during the nine-day festival. Twenty-five students of my institute and I started working on the 100 chariots from Friday. The work will be completed by tomorrow afternoon, two days before the Rath Yatra, slated for July 6, Pattnaik said. Stating that his team had already completed more than 50 chariots, Pattnaik said he was trying to set a place in the Limca Book of Records.

30. India demands special and differential treatment for small fishermen at WTO

India has demanded special and differential treatment for the countrys small fishermen at World Trade Organization. According to a report in the Business line (July 4, 2016), New Delhi has insisted the concession at a recent Geneva meeting. The meeting was organized to design rules for a global agreement to check overfishing. India has also demanded capacity-building assistance to developing countries for its implementation. Special and differential treatment

under WTO gives special concessions to developing countries for giving subsidies and retaining permissible level of restrictions. Backwardness and subsistence agricultural practices are the main ground for providing special and differential treatment. Aquatic statistics reveal that global main marine fish stocks are in steep decline, continuously pressured by overfishing and environmental degradation. Global efforts to stop overfishing were made at different forums but couldnt succeed much. We were not averse to an international agreement to check over-fishing. But the small subsidies that we provide to our fishermen, many of whom operate on a subsistence level, need to be exempted. the Businessline quoted an official from Ministry of Commerce.

31. Sweden inaugurates world's first electric road

Sweden on Wednesday inaugurated a test stretch of an electric road, making it one of the first countries in the world to conduct tests with electric power for heavy transports on public roads. The test will be conducted on parts of road E16, and involves a current collector on the roof of the truck cab feeding the current down to a hybrid electric motor in the truck, according to a press release from the country's transport administration Trafikverket, Xinhua reported. "Electric roads will bring us one step closer to fossil fuel-free transports, and has the potential to achieve zero carbon dioxide emissions. This is one way of developing environmentally smart transports in the existing road network. It could be a good supplement to today's road and rail network," said Lena Ericson, director general of Trafikverket. "Electric roads are one more piece of the puzzle in the transport system of the future, especially for making the heavy transport section fossil fuel-free over the long term. This project also shows the importance of all the actors in the field cooperating," said Erik Brandsma, director general of the Swedish Energy Agency. The tests will continue up through 2018. They will provide knowledge of how electric roads work in practice, and whether the technology can be used in the future. The experiment is based on the government's goal of energy efficiency and a fossil fuel-free vehicle fleet by 2030, and will contribute to strengthening Sweden's competitiveness. Three government agencies, Swedish Transport Administration, Swedish Energy Agency, and the country's innovation agency Vinnova, are partially funding the project, while the participants are paying for the rest.

32. Anti-submarine torpedo Varunastra inducted in Navy

Indigenously-built heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo Varunastra has been successfully inducted in the navy, making India one of the eight countries to have the capability to design and build such a system. Developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), a premier laboratory of DRDO, the electric torpedo was today formally handed over to Indian Navy and the induction is set to be a game-changer boost for it. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said the programme is not only a boost to country's indigenous capability but also an opportunity for export to other countries. Defence sources said sale of Varunastra, weighing around 1.25 tonnes that carries about 250 kg of explosives at a speed of around 40 nautical miles an hour, was also one of the issues that came up for discussion during Parrikar's recent visit to Vietnam. Having almost 95 per cent indigenous content, Varunastra, costing about Rs 10-12 crore per unit, is capable of targeting quiet and stealthy submarines, both in deep and littoral waters in intense counter-measure environment.

33. Amul signs up as official sponsor of Indian team to the Olympics

India's leading food products company Amul has signed up as the official sponsor for the Indian contingent to the Rio Olympics 2016. The company will launch a series of advertising campaigns for milk and other dairy products to promote this association. In addition, the company's products will also sport special branding to promote this association. Amul will launch a series of advertising campaigns for milk and various dairy products to promote this association in the coming months. Amul has embarked upon an Eat Milk with Every Meal campaign. R S Sodhi, MD, GCMMF said, Amul is committed to strengthening the Olympic movement in India and encourage the young generation from all over the country to take up Olympic sports. He said that milk is nature's original energy drink and plays a pivotal role in building the physical and mental strength of the athletes. This association will help in engaging the kids and youth so that they can enjoy a healthy life, he added.

34. Indian team wins team spirit award at NASA competition

A group of 13 Indian engineering students, including four girls, has won the team spirit award in NASA's prestigious global competition to build and design remotely operated vehicles from scratch. The team named Screwdrivers from Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management, Mumbai, won Aloha Team Spirit award at the Mate International ROV Competition at the NASA Johnson Space Center, Neutral Buoyancy Lab.

The award is given to the team that shows enthusiasm, exemplary communication within the team, helps and interacts with other teams best and has the best team jersey.

There are about 5-7 awards that are based on different judging criteria, like safety, innovation, product demonstration, marketing and display team spirit.

The entire team wore Indian outfits saris and kurtas to bring their culture to the competition.

It was a huge success with people from different nations that had never seen our national dress, excited members of the team screwdrivers told.

Two judges came up to us and said that all the judges were so unanimous and clear in their decision, that no other team was even nominated for this spirit award, they said.

The team competed against 40 other teams from countries like China, Scotland, Russia, USA, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Denmark, Egypt, Turkey, and Poland in NASA's 15th annual international Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) competition in Houston.

35. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Becomes First Port in Country to Implement Logistics Data Tagging of Containers

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become the first port in the country to implement logistics data tagging of containers, which is first of its kind facility. This had been one of the important Ease of Doing Business initiatives, implemented at Jawaharlal Nehru Port focused towards document, time and cost reduction for the benefit of trade.

The port had implemented the logistics data bank tagging of containers, which would help importers and exporters to track their goods in transit through logistics data bank.

36. What is Currency Hedging?

Hedging is a measure usually taken by a firm or individual as a cover against future potential adverse events. It is like an insurance against economic or financial risk that may occur in future. The term hedging is thus usually used from an investor's point of view. There are several types of hedging. An important one is the currency hedging where an entity or person dealing with foreign currencies takes safe measures against exchange rate fluctuations. Currency hedging is covering the foreign exchange risk. In the case of currencies, hedging is taken by exporters/importers, foreign investors etc. These groups need foreign currency or sell foreign currency in future to meet their trade and investment needs. For example, any depreciation of rupee becomes a loss incurring for importers (as it raises the price of the imported commodity in terms of the domestic currency). Similarly, any appreciation of rupee will be a loss making for exporters (as it reduces the export price of a commodity in domestic currency). Hence, to ensure that rupee into dollar and dollar into rupee are made at the fixed exchange rate; whatever happens to the market exchange rate in future, these people can resort to some measures where they can get their preferred currencies at an assured exchange rate. Hedge funds are institutions who buy and sell foreign currency from the customers (traders and foreign investors) at a fixed rate on an agreed future date. Similarly, there are other facilities like currency futures (a type of currency derivative) which gives opportunity for investors to hedge their currency. Here is an illustration of currency hedging. Imagine that an Indian exporter has made an export worth \$1000. If the prevailing exchange rate is 1\$ = Rs 60, he can get Rs 60000 at the said date suppose after three months. Now, if the rupee appreciates to 1\$=50, he can get only Rs 50000. Here, he may have incurred some losses because of the exchange rate fluctuations. To overcome the situation, the exporter can hedge his position by signing a contract with financial institutions providing hedging services. After payment of the hedge premium, like in the case of a life insurance premium, the exporter can convert his export earnings at the current exchange rate (1\$ = Rs 60) even if the rupee appreciates at the time of reimbursement of his export earnings. Similarly, in the currency future market (derivative), the exporter can take an option to sell \$1000 at \$1 = Rs 60 for the particular future date. All these are examples for currency hedging.

37. Centre designs model agreement for state participation in BIPA implementation

Finance Ministry has finalized a model agreement between the Centre and states for the effective implementation of bilateral investment protection agreements (BIPAs or BITs) between India and other countries. The model agreement ensures states' commitments to protect the interest of foreign investors. BIPA is signed between the central government and other countries for providing protection to foreign investment. Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPAs) are agreements between governments of two countries for the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments in each other's territories by individuals and companies situated in either State. They provide treaty-based protection to foreign investment. The BIPAs are thus bilateral agreements by countries to protect the investment by each country's investors in the other country. BIPAs are now instrumental in giving safety and mutual trust for cross-national

investors. Though the BIPAs are signed by governments, the beneficiaries are business entities. Investment protection is given for investment by companies in other countries. India has signed nearly 82 BIPAs with other countries. These agreements are commitments from the central government to protect the safety as well as non-discriminatory treatment to foreign investors. Why states participation is needed? State governments policies are decisive in facilitating foreign investment as well as their protection. Any adverse decision may hurt the investors interest and they may resort to the BIPAs. Invoking BIPAs means Government of India has to make compensation to foreign investors. Hence, cooperation as well as commitment from states is needed for the effective implementation of BIPAs. In the budget 2016, FM has announced the design of a model agreement between the Centre and states on BIPAs. The new framework implies that companies will go to only those states who signs the model agreements with Centre. Similarly, the states will have more bindings to protect the interest of foreign investors.

38. FSDC to enlarge the list of 'too big to fail' institutions

Financial sector super regulator -Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in its just concluded meeting has discussed forming of a platform to enlarge the number of too big to fail institutions. After the meeting of the FSDC, the Finance Ministry statement noted that efforts are undergoing to map out the big financial sector institutions that shows the symptoms of too big to fail, including insurance companies. FSDC is the coordination body of the financial sector regulators; Finance Minister is the Chairman of the Council. Too big to fail entities are generally big financial institutions especially banks that resist regulators instructions and takes too much risk. The global financial crisis of 2007 was mainly attributed to excessive risk taking by big banks. After the financial crisis, financial sector regulators, particularly central banks have launched several measures to tame big banks. The RBI identified domestic systemically important financial institutions and imposed more capital infusion on them. At present, SBI and ICICI are categorized as systemically important institutions. The government plans to include other financial sector majors like insurance companies under systemically important financial institution category. The council discussed issues relating to developing a comprehensive framework for identification of SIFIs (systemically important financial institutions) across all sub-sectors of the financial sector, said the finance ministry statement about the FSDC meeting. On the general economic environment, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley observed that the challenge in front of the government is to improve the performance of PSBs, activating stalled projects and increase private sector investment. The meeting also assessed Brexit challenges for Indian economy. Finance Minister clarified that India will continue in the state of preparedness to mitigate any adverse effects from Brexit.

39. PM Ujjwala Yojana Toll Free Helpline Number Released

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has released the toll free helpline number for the [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana](#) beneficiaries. The candidates from BPL households can call toll free at 1800 266 6696 to discuss any of their queries about the PM Ujjwala Yojana. However, there is already a 247 toll free number available for the LPG customers which is 1906 but this new number has been released exclusively for the resolution of queries regarding the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana connections. The help regarding the PMUY will be available in different languages at this new toll free number. The ministry has also appeals the PMUY beneficiaries not to be influenced by the unscrupulous agencies in getting LPG connections under the Ujjwala Yojana. As per the press release, the government has not appointed any NGO or any other agency for releasing LPG connections under PMUY. The registered/authorized LPG distributors of Government Oil Marketing Companies are only the ones to be contacted for the connection under Ujjwala Yojana. These Government OMCs are Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. Any such NGO/Agency, if operating in any area, is totally illegal and information on same should be provided to Police and other local authorities. The beneficiaries of the PM Ujjwala Yojana are being selected based on the [SECC-2011 data](#) which is available to download from the NIC website.

40. Download MyGov MOVE Android App to Register Under Vidyanjali Scheme

The government has launched MyGov MOVE android app for the people willing to apply and register under [Vidyanjali school volunteer program](#) by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. MOVE stands for My Own Voluntary Effort. Using the MyGov MOVE android application, the candidates willing to provide voluntary services in Government elementary schools across the nation can register themselves. The app displays the list of nearby school requiring voluntary services. The interested candidates including retired Professionals, retired government official including retired defence personnel, working professional and homemakers and persons from the Indian Diaspora can register themselves using the app for [Vidyanjali Program](#). At present the MyGov MOVE app is available only to register

under the Vidyanjali program but in future updates, more such volunteer programs of Government will be added to the app.

41. UP Ki Nayi Chalang – a New Outreach Programme of Samajwadi Party

Uttar Pradesh Government is readying for the 2017 Elections by showcasing the major developments and welfare schemes in the state. For the same purpose, the state government has launched a new initiative UP Ki Nayi Chalang or UPs New Leap. UP Ki Nayi Chalang is a new social outreach programme of the state government to showcase the development on the state. Under the new initiative, any resident of the state who have benefited from any of the welfare schemes launched by the Samajwadi Party can register and become the brand ambassadors of the state Government. The interested beneficiaries of the schemes can register themselves by contacting at the phone numbers and email IDs released by the government.

42. PM Ujjwala Yojana Launched in Madhya Pradesh

[Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana \(PMUY\)](#) has been launched in Madhya Pradesh by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh at Shahdol in the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. At the event in Shahdol, the launch of PMUY was marked by distributing the LPG connections to women from BPL families. As said by the Chief Minister of MP, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is an excellent scheme and it fulfills the vision of Honble Prime Minister to provide clean fuel to the BPL families and is a boon to women to experience cooking without smoke. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, the state government aims to provide 35 Lakh connections to BPL households in next three years. 15 Lakh connections will be distributed to non BPL families as a part of providing clean fuel in the state. The total number of LPG consumers in the state is targeted to reach 120 Lakh from current 70 Lakh in next three years. PMUY, the centrally sponsored scheme is aimed at providing LPG connections to the 5 Crore BPL households across the country in next three years. The central government will provide a financial assistance of Rs. 1600/- per connection per household. A total budget of Rs. 8000 crores has been set by the central government to run the scheme. The BPL families for distribution of LPG connection will be selected based on the [SECC-2011 data](#). The [application forms of Ujjwala Yojana](#) can be downloaded online or obtained from the LPG distributors in your city.

43. Swayam Prabha – 32 DTH Channels for Live Telecast of Lectures

Swayam Prabha, a scheme to allow 32 Direct-to-home (DTH) channels to broadcast programs for school and university students has been given clearance by the Union HRD ministry. The scheme is all set to be launched from August likely by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Introduction Swayam Prabha The scheme, once launched will allow students from across the country to access classroom lectures on their TV sets. The telecast of classroom lectures from different institutions on different subjects will be provided on 32 channels. How Swayam Prabha will Help Students The interactive study content including pictures, videos and diagrams will be delivered by the subject experts appointed by the ministry. After watching the content, students can call on toll free helpline number to clear their doubts. The subject experts appointed by the government will be paid on an hourly basis to produce the good quality content. There is a plan of live broadcasting of classroom lectures from IIT Mumbai, Delhi, Kharagpur, and Kanpur to the DTH channels. The scheme is likely to help students across the country and learn understand key concepts while sitting at home. As per the Ministry official, there are more than 3 crore youth pursuing higher education in India but the standard is not uniform. There are issues being raised about the quality access of education. Content Delivery The study content or the educational programmes of high quality will be broadcasted throughout the day on a total of 32 DTH channels. Every day, there will be new content of at least four hours that would be repeated six times a day, allowing students to choose the time of their convenience, the official said.

44. Biju Atma Nijukti Yojana Self Employment Scheme to be Launched Soon

The state government of Odisha is all set to launch a new self employment scheme ahead of the panchayat polls scheduled early next year. Named as Biju Atma Nijukti Yojana is aimed at providing self employment to unemployed semi-literate youths in the state. Biju Atma Nijukti Yojana Under the Biju Atma Nijukti Yojana, the state government will provide soft bank loans of up to Rs. 5 Lakh to such un-employed youth to setup their own small businesses. The loan will be provided without any collateral security, mortgage or pledge of assets. A subsidy of up to 30 per cent would be provided to the beneficiaries. According to the stats, 1.75 crore youths in the 18 to 35 age group constitutes the 42% of the states population. Under the scheme, apart from the bank loan, the government also plans impart

skill-development training to youths who haven't completed their matriculation. The youth will be provided financial support to setup micro, small and medium enterprise in manufacturing or service sector and generate self employment. The state government, in the next five years plans to provide self employment to 30K youth in 10K enterprises. Rs 53 crore is estimated to be spend on promoting such a large number of enterprises in next 5 years. Under the Biju Atma Nijukti Yojana, the annual family income of the unemployed youth should not exceed Rs. 1.5 Lakh for Urban and Rs. 1 Lakh for Rural areas to be eligible for the bank loan. The age of the beneficiary should be between 18-40 Years. However, there is a relaxation of 5 years in the upper age limit for SC, ST, physically handicapped, minority community, ex-servicemen and women. The maximum project cost for manufacturing sector should not exceed Rs. 5 lakh while for service sector the maximum project cost could be Rs. 2 Lakh. The general category beneficiary will be required to contribute at least 20% of the cost of the project while the minimum contribution amount is 10% for reserved category.

45. Kerala Govt to ban 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. E-cigarettes are handy devices that emit doses of vaporised nicotine. State health minister [K K Shylaja](#) on Thursday directed the additional chief secretary (health) to issue an order banning the production, sale and advertisement of 'electronic cigarette' alias 'e-cigarette'.

An official release here today said that there were media reports that the e-cigarette market was flourishing in Kerala targeting youth and children.

The state drugs enforcement authorities had also found that the device is widely used for smoking ganja, hashish and other narcotic substance. It was also found that use of [E-cigarettes](#) among children would result in indiscriminate use of original cigarettes and other substances in the long run, it said. A series of studies conducted in the US and Japan has proved that the usage of e-cigarette would cause cancer and heart ailments.

The e-cigarettes are being marketed in Kerala through unauthorised courier services and online sites, it said.

An expert committee appointed by the Centre to study the ill effects of e-cigarette had recommended banning the device in the country in 2014 itself, the release said, adding that the Indian Medical Association was also in favour of banning it.

46. RIMPAC 2016 – World's largest international maritime exercise kicks off

World's largest international maritime exercise named RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) 2016 began in Pacific Ocean at Hawaii, United States. RIMPAC 2016 will see participation of navies from 26 countries. This year it is the 25th edition of biennial exercise in the series that began in 1971. RIMPAC 2016 Theme: Capable, Adaptive, Partners. About Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise The RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise. It is held biennially during June and July of even-numbered years from Honolulu, Hawaii. It is hosted and administered by the United States Navys Pacific Fleet (headquartered at Pearl Harbor) in conjunction with the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and Hawaii National Guard forces under the control of the Governor of Hawaii. Host country United States invites military forces of countries from the Pacific Rim and beyond to participate. The biennial exercise seeks to provide a unique training opportunity to participants in order foster cooperative relationships to ensure the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans.

47. SBI secures \$625 mn from World Bank for solar programme

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, the country's largest lender said in a statement on Saturday. 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 photo-voltaic panels. The eligible beneficiaries under the facility would be developers, aggregators and end-users, who wish to set up solar PV projects, mainly on commercial, industrial and institutional rooftops.

48. RIL, SBI sign shareholder agreement for payments bank JV

Reliance Industries (RIL) has signed a shareholder agreement with SBI to set up a payments bank joint venture. The Subscription and Shareholders Agreement was signed by RIL as promoter with a 70 per cent equity contribution and

SBI as joint venture with a 30 per cent equity contribution on June 30, 2016, according to RIL filing with stock exchanges. The company now will seek all regulatory and statutory approvals for operationalising the payments bank. RIL and SBI put in a joint application with the RBI to set up the bank.

49. **State Bank of India launches "SBI Mingle"™ " social media banking platform**

[State Bank of India](#) on its 61st anniversary (State Bank Day) has forayed even stronger into the digital services space with its new initiative SBI Mingle a social media banking platform. The bank has launched a chain of new digital offerings to its clientele, while signing a partnership with Indian e-commerce giant Flipkart for pre-approved installment payments for online purchases. Any purchases worth more than INR 5,000 on Flipkart will now see SBI offering an overdraft facility to its chosen customers. A *Forbes* report noted that out of its 300 million customers, SBI's internet banking and mobile banking customers constitute 26 million and 60 million, respectively. The bank along with enhancing customer experience also aims to recognise credit worthy individuals by offering them such financial benefits, and not limit it to only credit card holders.

50. **Researcher develops non-invasive method to kill cancer cells in two hours**

Researchers have developed a new, non-invasive method which can kill cancer cells in two hours, an advance that may significantly help people with inoperable or hard-to-reach tumours, as well as young children stricken with the deadly disease.

The method involves injecting a chemical compound, nitrobenzaldehyde, into the tumour and allowing it to diffuse into the tissue.

A beam of light is then aimed at the tissue, causing the cells to become very acidic inside and, essentially, commit suicide, researchers said.

Within two hours, up to 95 per cent of the targeted cancer cells are dead are estimated to be dead, they said.

"Even though there are many different types of cancers, the one thing they have in common is their susceptibility to this induced cell suicide," said Matthew Gdovin from University of Texas in the US.

51. **Amla, Bravo in world record fifth-wicket T20 stand**

South Africa's Hashim Amla and Dwayne Bravo of the West Indies set a new world record for a fifth-wicket stand in Twenty 20 cricket of 150 in the Caribbean Premier League on Friday. The pair put on their match-winning partnership in 92 balls for the Trinbago Knight Riders against the Barbados Tridents at Queen's Park Oval. Amla went on to score 81 from 54 balls having brought up his half century from 42 balls. Bravo made an undefeated 66 with both men hitting four sixes. They took their side from what looked like certain defeat to victory in 15.2 overs. Trinidad made 170-5 off their 20 overs before restricting Barbados to 159-8 for an 11-run win. The previous record for a fifth-wicket partnership in T20 cricket was 149 set by Yogesh Takawale and Sairaj Bahutule in the Indian Premier League in 2007.

52. **Justin Trudeau first Canadian PM to march in Toronto Pride**

Justin Trudeau has made history by marching with tens of thousands of people in Toronto's Gay Pride parade, becoming the country's first sitting prime minister to participate. Thunderous applause greeted Trudeau as he paraded down a main Toronto artery yesterday, waving a Canadian maple-leaf flag bordered with a rainbow. The youthful politician, whose popularity is soaring, donned a salmon-coloured, button-down shirt and white jeans, taking selfies and shaking hands with those lining the parade route. The colourful procession observed a minute of silence to pay respect to the victims of the June 12 nightclub massacre in Orlando, Florida that left 49 dead. The city tightened security, but kept the enhanced measures discreet to maintain a festive spirit. Toronto police have not released an official attendance count, but organisers had expected one million attendees. Trudeau also walked in the annual parade last year as head of the Liberal Party, then the opposition leader facing former president Stephen Harper's conservative government. Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne -- Canada's first openly gay head of a province -- and Toronto Mayor John Tory marched alongside Trudeau. The three politicians attended an outdoor worship service yesterday morning in the city's gay district.

53. World biggest and sensitive radio telescope "FAST" completed in China!

If great power comes at a great cost, the ability to peer deep into the depths of the universe is no exception. For the world's largest radio telescope of its kind, completed in China on Sunday, the price tag was astronomical: the equivalent of about \$180 million.

The radio telescope also took a toll on local communities. Nine thousand people - each compensated roughly \$1,800 - had to be uprooted to make room for the construction. The telescope is almost a mile in circumference and covers an area equivalent to 30 soccer pitches, embedded in a depression that acts as a natural noise shield. But, to hear Chinese experts tell it, the radio telescope will be worth every yuan.

"As the world's largest single aperture telescope located at an extremely radio-quiet site, its scientific impact on astronomy will be extraordinary, and it will certainly revolutionize other areas of the natural sciences," the scientist spearheading the project, Nan Rendong, told the Chinese state news agency Xinhua.

Known as the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope, or FAST, the telescope claims the title of world's largest from the Arecibo Observatory, a 300-meter device in Puerto Rico. FAST is so large that, were the dish filled to the brim with merlot, it would hold five bottles of wine per person on the planet, a scientist boasted to the Guardian in February. Construction on the Chinese telescope began in 2011, though the delicate arrangement of 4,450 reflector panels meant slow progress - just 20 installations per day. Workers placed the last of the triangle-shaped panels on Sunday.

54. LEWIS STRIKES AGAIN! "AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX TITLE

Lewis Hamilton failed his Silverstone audition after being beaten off the start line in the Austrian Grand Prix, writes Byron Young at Spielberg. If this had been The X-Factor, he would already be on his way home. The 30-year-old Spielberg jinx struck again and he contributed to his own downfall as the pressure racked up in the world title fight. A win here would have made [world champion Hamilton](#)'s life so easy heading into the whirlwind that is British Grand Prix fortnight. Instead, the man that is usually so metronomically perfect, who produces moments of pure genius almost at will, fluffed his lines - TWICE. And it happened just as he appeared to have set himself the easiest task after a spectacular performance in qualifying to grab pole here for the first time. He was, in essence, one press of a launch button away from glory: hit the lead and Nico Rosberg would struggle to reclaim the initiative. Instead, his car faltered on the line, Rosberg darted forward and much as the Englishman tried to close him down and shut off the Germans line to the first corner, it was too late.

55. Sports Ministry Announces Rs 10 Lakh Grant for Mohammed Shahid

The Union Sports minister Dr Jitendra Singh today announced a grant of Rs 10 lakh for ailing Olympic gold medallist Mohammed Shahid, who is undergoing treatment for serious liver and kidney ailment at Medanta Medicity in Gurgaon. All medical expenses for Md Shahid reimbursed + Rs 10L from @YASMinistry at immediate disposal for overhead expenses, sports minister Jitendra Singh tweeted after paying a visit to the ailing hockey legend. Dr Singh, who himself is a diabetologist also tweeted about the diagnosis done by the visiting doctors.

56. India slips to 75th place in terms of money in Swiss banks; UK on top

India has slipped to 75th place in terms of money held by its citizens with banks in Switzerland, while the UK remains on top. India was placed at 61st place last year, while it used to among top-50 countries in terms of holdings in Swiss banks till 2007. The country was ranked highest at 37th place in the year 2004. As per the latest annual update on Swiss banks, released by Switzerland's central bank SNB (Swiss National Bank), the total money held there by foreign clients from across the world fell by nearly 4 per cent to Swiss franc (CHF) 1.42 trillion (about Rs 98 lakh crore) at the end of 2015. In terms of individual countries, the UK accounted for the largest chunk at about CHF 350 billion or almost 25 per cent of the total foreign money with Swiss banks. The US came second with nearly CHF 196 billion or about 14 per cent. No other country accounted for a double-digit percentage share, while others in the top-ten included West Indies, Germany, Bahamas, France, Guernsey, Luxembourg, Hong Kong and Panama. India was ranked 75th with CHF 1.2 billion (about Rs 8,392 crore), which is not even 0.1 per cent of the total foreign money in Swiss banks and is the lowest for the country in at least two decades or since 1996 -- the first year for which full comparable data is available. Pakistan was placed higher at 69th place with CHF 1.5 billion -- a shade better than 0.1 per cent of total foreign money

parked with Swiss banks. India was also lowest ranked among the BRICS nations -- Russia was ranked 17th (CHF 17.6 billion), China 28th (CHF 7.4 billion), Brazil 37th (CHF 4.8 billion) and South Africa 60th (CHF 2.2 billion). Others ranked higher than India included Mauritius, Kazakhstan, Iran, Chile, Angola, Philippines, Indonesia and Mexico, while a number of so-called tax havens were also placed above, including Jersey, Cayman Islands, Cyprus, Marshall Islands, Bermuda, Belize, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Seychelles and St Vincent and the Grenadines. All offshore financial centres together held CHF 378 billion in Swiss banks. The total for developing countries stood at CHF 207 billion, while the same for the developed countries was much higher at CHF 833 million. India was ranked in top-50 continuously between 1996 and 2007, but started declining after that -- 55th in 2008, 59th in 2009 and 2010 each, 55th again in 2011, 71st in 2012 and then 58th in 2013.

57. France offers EUR 1 billion to revive India's combat jet engine project

France has offered to invest EUR 1 billion to revive India's combat jet engine project, proposing a joint development plan that could see the stalled ['Kaveri' gas turbine](#) powering indigenous Tejas fighters by 2020. The proposal is to use offset credits that would come from the planned Rafale fighter jet deal to revive the indigenous jet engine project, people involved in talks between the Indian defence ministry, the Defence Research Development Organisation and French companies told ET. Foreign arms companies that sell equipment to India are mandated to invest a portion of the contract cost in the country's defence and aerospace industry. In the case of the Rafale deal, which India and France are negotiating, the offset obligation is 50% of the cost, which would translate to over EUR 3 billion.

58. Linda Burney becomes first Indigenous woman elected to Australia's lower house

Linda Burney, a former teacher, on 2 July 2016 became the first Indigenous woman elected to the House of Representatives (lower house) of the Parliament of Australia. She achieved the feat after claiming victory in the marginal seat of Barton. She won the seat as a candidate of the centre-left Labour Party in the national polls. With this, she joins first Aboriginal MP Ken Wyatt of the conservative Liberal Party who was elected in 2010. Olympian Nova Peris was the first indigenous woman in the upper house of the Parliament. Linda Burney In 2003, Burney (59) became the first woman Aboriginal to enter the New South Wales state parliament. She also was the first Aborigine to gain a Diploma of Teaching at Charles Sturt University. She had served on the National Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and with international United Nations working groups. She is of Wiradjuri descent and grew up in Whitton, a small town in south west NSW near Leeton. She served in the state parliament for 13 years where she was deputy leader for five years. In 2005, she was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Training. After 2007 election, she became Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, and Minister for Volunteering. In September 2008 she was promoted to Minister for Community Services. In December 2009 she was appointed Minister for the State Plan. She lost her portfolios following the change of government at the 2011 state election. In December 2014, she became the interim leader of the opposition after the resignation of John Roberson. She is an ambassador of the Australian woman Education Foundation.

59. Canada Open Badminton: Indian shuttlers bag twin crowns

It was double bonanza for India at the Canada Open Grand Prix Badminton as B Sai Praneeth and mens doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy clinched twin crowns. Praneeth thrashed South Korea's Lee Hyun II, 21-12 21-10 to win the championship in Calgary last night. It was Praneeth's first final of the year. Top seed doubles pair Manu and Reddy, who became the first Indian mens doubles pair to qualify for the Rio Olympics, defeated local combo of Adrian Liu and Toby Ng 21-8 21-14 in a lop-sided final.

60. India's first Commercial Court and Commercial Disputes Resolution Centre inaugurated in Chattisgarh

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh on Saturday inaugurated country's first commercial dispute resolution centre and commercial court in the state capital. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Singh said, "I am hopeful that this place will serve as a milestone for resolving law related problems and improving the law functionary in the state." "I remember the day in New Delhi when the Supreme Court judge had expressed desire of having a commercial court in Chhattisgarh. It was then that I said that it is possible through joint efforts," he added. The commercial court is located in Naya Raipur area of the city. The court also consists of arbitration centre and a mediation centre.

61. 19 New Ministers inducted in the expansion of the council of Ministers -- A Consummate List

For the second time the Narendra Modi lead NDA government expanded its council of ministers by inducting 19

new Minister of State (MOS) in order to exercise the various schemes and services promised through the Union Budget 2016

According to the Article 75, the number of Council of Ministers should not exceed 82. But after this ministerial expansion the number of union ministers surpassed to 83 breaking the constitutional ceiling limits.

Highlights:

Prakash Javadekar Promoted to HRD Minister, Replaces Smriti Irani

Smriti Irani Textiles

Arun Jaitley loses Information Broadcasting retains Finance Ministry, Corporate Affairs

Sadananda Gowda Statistics and Programme implementation

SS Ahluwalia Appointed MoS Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs

Vijay Goel MoS Youth Affairs, Sports

Ramdas Athawale Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry

M J Akbar Congress MP to MoS External Affairs

Ananth Kumar Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Venkaiah Naidu IB Minister

Ravi Shankar Prasad Law Minister

Anil Madhav Dave Environment Minister

Babul Supriyo Urban Development Minister

Krishna Raj an MP from Shahjahanpur. With her, the number of women in PM Modi's cabinet is seven

5 Ministers, Nihal Chand, Ram Shankar Katheria, Sanwar Lal Jat, Manuskhbhai D Vasva and M K Kundariya dropped from PM Narendra Modi's council of Ministers.

62. Niranjana wins eight medals in IWAS World Games

Bengaluru para swimmer Niranjana Mukundan has won eight medals, including three golds, at the recently-concluded IWAS (International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports) U-23 World Games in Prague, Czech Republic. Niranjana's efforts saw him win gold medals in 200m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 50m breaststroke, silver in 100m fly and 50m freestyle, as also bronze in 100m freestyle, 100m breaststroke and 100m backstroke events, said a release from GoSports Foundation, which is supporting Niranjana through the Para Champions Programme. Niranjana, who is born with a medical condition called Spina Bifida and clubbed feet and competes in the S-8 category, also had the honour of delivering the athletes' oath on behalf of 35 competing countries. In last year's edition of the Games, he had created a record for highest number of individual medals, raking in 10 medals in all the events that he participated in. Speaking about his achievement Niranjana said, "It is humbling to not only represent India but also win at the highest level. I am delighted with my performances and feel privileged to have had the opportunity to deliver the oath on behalf of my fellow competing athletes." "I would like to thank my coaches John Christopher and Miguel Lopez Alvarado for their continuous efforts and helping me train for this event. I hope this is only the start to many more achievements in the future,"

63. Saudi Arabia becomes Associate Member of ICC

Saudi Arabia was on Sunday unanimously elected as the International Cricket Councils (ICC) 39th Associate Member during its full council meeting in Edinburgh. Saudi Cricket Centre (SCC) has been an Affiliate Member of the ICC since 2003 and, as per a 2014 census, boasts of 4,350 cricketers and 80 dedicated cricket facilities. The SCC's application for Associate Membership had been pre-approved by the ICC development committee during its October 2015 meeting, which was followed by a full application and an ICC inspection in March 2016. Congratulating the SCC, ICC chairman Shashank Manohar said, I congratulate Saudi Cricket Centre on becoming an Associate Member of the ICC and hope it will continue to play its positive and active role in promoting and developing the game in its territory. Mr. Manohar also thanked outgoing ICC President Zaheer Abbas for his contribution.

64. Former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard dies

Michel Rocard, a French Socialist politician who served as prime minister from 1988 to 1991 and repeatedly attacked Britain's EU policy, died in Paris on Saturday at the age of 85. Rocard, a member of the European Parliament until 2009, was committed to greater European integration and [criticised Britain's opposition to moves to align EU member-states more closely](#). In a 2014 speech on the anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, he urged Britain to quit the EU. As prime minister under [President Francois Mitterrand](#), he introduced a welfare programme that

guaranteed financial aid for people of working age not eligible for unemployment benefit.

65. Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, dead at 87

[Elie Wiesel](#), a Holocaust survivor and author who fought for peace, human rights and simple human decency, has died at the age of 87, a spokesman for Israel's Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem, said Saturday. His family said he died peacefully Saturday after a long illness. "My husband was a fighter. He fought for the memory of the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, and he fought for Israel. He waged countless battles for innocent victims regardless of ethnicity or creed," his widow, Marion, said in a statement released by the writer's foundation. Wiesel, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, recounted his family being sent to the Nazi concentration camps in his first book, "Night," which was published in France in 1958.

66. Cabinet approved the setting up of a new major port in Tamil Nadu

The Centre gave its in-principle approval to set up the countrys 13th major port at Enayam, near Colachel in Tamil Nadu. A special purpose vehicle (SPV) will be formed for the development of port that will act as a major gateway container port for cargo and become a trans-shipment hub for East-West trade route, according to a statement from the Shipping Ministry. The initial investment for the SPV will come from three major ports in Tamil Nadu V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Chennai Port Trust and Kamarajar Port Limited. Currently, all of India's trans-shipment traffic gets handled in Colombo, Singapore and other international ports due to which the Indian port industry loses out around Rs.1,500 crore revenues each year, the government said. The new port at Enayam will also reduce the logistics cost for exporters and importers in south India who currently depend on trans-shipment in Colombo or other ports leading to additional port handling charges, it said. The SPV will develop the port infrastructure including dredging and reclamation, construction of breakwater, ensuring connectivity links etc, according to the statement. India has 12 major ports at present Kandla, Mumbai, JNPT, Marmugao, New Managlore, Cochin, Chennai, Ennore, V.O. Chidambarnar, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia).

67. RAJASTHAN – A forerunner in introducing minimum wages for part time workers

Rajasthan State Government Labour Department has introduced a new system of introducing minimum wages to the part time workers. Part time workers fall under the jurisdiction of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. As per this notification, it is compulsory to pay 50 percent of a day minimum wage to a person who works less than four hours a day.

68. World's largest charkha unveiled at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.

BJP president Amit Shah on Tuesday unveiled the worlds largest wooden charkha, made by 42 carpenters in 55 days, at Terminal 3 of Delhis Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). The four-tonne charkha is made of high-quality Burma teak wood and is estimated to last for over 50 years. It is 9 feet wide, 17 feet tall and 30 feet long. The order to make the spinning wheel was given to Paryog Samiti, a Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) unit, near Sabarmati Ashram. KVIC chairman VK Saxena said, Charkha, like the memorial to unknown soldiers, is memorial to the unknown rural masses, who heard the call of the father of the nation and took to the demonstrated ways of self-reliance and dignity of labour. The charkha is placed at the departure forecourt between gate number 4 and 5. GMR Group chairman GM Rao announced that DIAL would adopt Khadi for the summer and winter uniforms of the DIAL staff at Delhi airport. Delhi, being the national Capital, was initially selected for the charkha because all foreign embassies are here. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a message complimented KVIC : The charkha is a symbol of our glorious heritage, and an inspiring reminder of our freedom struggle, led by the father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi. Modi said, I am sure the charkha will serve to remind travellers at the IGI airport of Indias timeless heritage and the values of sustainability and harmony that it stands for. Installation of the charkha will carry on the legacy of promoting Indias rich cultural heritage through different artworks at the terminal. The charkha is an addition to the existing artwork at the terminal Mudras, Regal Procession, Elephants statues, Surya sculpture, Suryanamaskar and Worli Art among others which depict and showcase Indian heritage. Terminal 3 has art from renowned artists such as MF Husain, Anjolie Ela Menon, Paresh Maity, Satish Gupta, Thota Tharani among others depicting art in mediums and installations.

69. Union Cabinet approves The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved a change in the names of the Madras, Bombay and Calcutta High Courts to reflect the alterations in the official nomenclature of these cities to Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata, respectively. The

names of these cities have been changed for a few years now. [So] it is appropriate to change the names of their High Courts as well and the Cabinet has approved the introduction of the The High Courts [Alteration of Names] Bill, 2016 in Parliament, Telecom and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters after a Cabinet meeting. The Bill will facilitate the changing of the names of the Bombay High Court as the Mumbai High Court; the Madras High Court as the Chennai High Court, said an official statement from the government, which had been silent on changing the name of the Calcutta High Court. At present, there is no Central law under which the proposal for change of names of these High Courts can be addressed and the new legislation will enable that, an official communique said.

70. India's ranking falls down to 91 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 digitised economy and society, while Singapore remains on top. Among the major emerging markets, India is ranked the lowest with Russia retaining the top place at 41st rank, followed by China at 59th (up three places), South Africa up 10 places at 65th and Brazil moving up to 72nd position. The annual Networked Readiness Index released today by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) is once again topped by Singapore while Finland has also retained its second place. Others in the top-ten are Sweden, Norway, the US, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK, Luxembourg and Japan. The index, forming part of the WEF's Global Information Technology Report, measures countries' success in creating the conditions necessary for a transition to a digitised economy and society. India's position on the list has come down for the fourth year in a row, from 89th in 2015, 83rd in 2014 and 68th in 2013. While the country has scored better in terms of political and regulatory environment (78th position), it fares worse in terms of business and innovation environment (110th). In terms of infrastructure it is even worse at 114th place, while it is ranked very high at 8th place in terms of affordability. India also fares poorly on sub-indices for skills and individual usage. "Lack of infrastructure (114th) and low levels of skills among the population (101st) remain the key bottlenecks to widespread ICT adoption, especially in terms of individual usage (120th)," WEF said. The report further noted that a third of the Indian population is still illiterate and a similar share of youth is not enrolled in secondary education. "Only 15 out of 100 households have access to the Internet and mobile broadband remains a privilege of the few, with only 5.5 subscriptions for every 100 people," it said but added that a divide persists between well-connected metropolitan hubs and remote rural areas. In 2015, India launched the Digital India programme, which aims to close this gap by fostering investment in digital infrastructure, improving digital literacy, and increasingly providing online services to citizens. India's performance in terms of providing online services and allowing e-participation has so far been in line with that of peer countries, but far from the global best (57th and 40th, respectively).

71. India's first SME Bank opened by HDFC Bank

HDFC Bank, the country's second largest private sector lender, has launched a digital bank for its small and medium enterprises (SME) customers. It aims to grow its market share in the hinterlands with this.

It takes away the hassle of physical availability of a relationship manager and makes [banking](#) process faster. We expect this service to take off in a much better way in smaller towns and the hinterlands, as it will save time and manpower. It will help people live in the areas where there is no bank branch close to their home, said Aseem Dhru, head, business banking. This comes at a time when the bank, traditionally known for its retail (individual) offerings, has started focusing on growing its corporate book. With this, the bank has managed to cross the Rs 1-lakh-crore mark in its corporate book for the first time in FY16, more than double the Rs 47,000 crore three years ago. However, on the business banking side, the bank had seen some pressure on asset quality and had checked the growth in the last few quarters. Dhru said despite this, the bank has been growing its business banking book at a faster pace than its peers.

72. South African writer Lidudumalingani Mqomboti wins 2016 Caine Prize

South African writer Lidudumalingani Mqomboti has been awarded the Caine Prize for African Writing for his short story *Memories We Lost*, published in *Incredible Journey: Stories That Move You* (Burnet Media, South Africa, 2015). The story about two sisters - one of whom is schizophrenic - interrogates some of the traditional beliefs and methods used to tackle the mental illness. The Eastern Cape-born author, who is also a filmmaker and producer, received the prestigious award at a dinner at the Bodleian Library in Oxford on Monday. As part of the prize, Mqomboti will be given the opportunity to take up a months residence at the United States' Georgetown University as a Writer-in-Residence at the Lannan Center for Poetics and Social Practice, along with a 10,000 prize. He will also be invited to speak at the Library of Congress and receive invitations to take part in Cape Town's Open Book Festival,

Nairobi Storymoja and Nigerias Ake Festival. South Africans have taken to Twitter to share their congratulations.

73. Centre appoints Thiruppathi Venkatasamy as new Tamil Nadu AG

The Centre today announced the appointment of R Thiruppathi Venkatasamy as Accountant General, economic and revenue sector audit, of Tamil Nadu with immediate effect. Prior to this, he was serving as the Senior Deputy Accountant General in Agartala, Tripura, an official statement said.

A 2000 batch officer of Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Venkatasamy is an alumni of University of Minnesota (US) and hails from Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu, it added.

74. NASA's JUNO SPACE PROBE "embraced yet another milestone in space exploration!"

Juno spacecraft followed by The Galileo is a key mission endeavoured to explore and study the biggest planet of the solar system The Jupiter. It was launched on 2011 from Cape Canaveral station, Florida. This craft is designed in a special way to study the composition, gravity field, magnetic field, and polar magnetosphere of Jupiter. The planet Jupiter was formed from by an enormous gas cloud 4.5bn years ago under the feeble light of the newborn Sun. The material leftover became the rest of the planets, the asteroids and the comets. All would fit easily within the bulk of Jupiter, a planet 11 times wider than Earth and 300 times more massive. This Juno spacecraft is designed with Solar Arrays instead of radioisotope thermoelectric generators, which were being used in ordinary outer orbit missions. As per the design and plan on July 5th 2016, the spacecraft casted out the planets vast gravity and placed it onto the outward leg of its orbit. The spacecraft surpassing through intense barrages of radiation and reaching 130,000 miles per hour as it passed 2,900 miles above Jupiters cloud tops. The critical and tedious manoeuvring of this spacecraft has been carried out in the NASAs Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Juno Welcome to Jupiter, acclaimed all the scientists and researchers in the station in immense joy and pleasure

75. Javeline thrower Annu Rani sets national mark at National Inter-state Athletics Championships

Javeline thrower Annu Rani on 2 July 2016 bettered her national record with a 59.87m throw at the 56th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships in Hyderabad. Rani improved her previous meet mark with her first round 59.06m at G.M.C. Balayogi Stadium. However, her 59.87m throw came in the fourth round. Suman Devi could log only 55.88m to bag the second place. Haryanas Sharmila Kumari finished third with 53.80m throw. Annu Rani is the current national record holder in javeline throw. She is supported by Olympic Gold Quest, a not-for-profit foundation that identifies and supports Indian athletes.

76. Namami Gange projects for cleaning river Ganga launched simultaneoulsy at nearly 250 places

Namami Gange programme for cleaning of river Ganga was launched today from Haridwar. Simultaneous programmes were launched at many other places also for cleaning of Ganga and its tributaries from Gangotri to Howrah.

Inaugurating the main programme organized at Haridwar, Minister of Water Resources Uma Bharati said, the cleaning up of Ganga from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar will be completed by 2018.

She said, projects under Namami Gange involve modernization and redevelopment of Ghats and crematoriums, development of sewage infrastructure and treatment, afforestation, tree plantation, pilot drain project, interceptor drain project, trash skimmers and conservation of biodiversity.

Referring to Ganga Gram Yojana, Ms Bharti said, 400 villages along the river will be developed as Ganga Gram in phase-I. Thirteen IITs have adopted five villages each for development as Ganga Grams.

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Tourism and Culture Mahesh Sharma and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Harish Rawat were also present on the occasion.

77. What is Public Good? What are its features?

In every economy, some goods are provided by the government to the entire people. Such goods are called public good. Specifically, public good is the one that is provided to the society as a whole and consumption by one individual doesn't reduce its availability or doesn't exclude others from consuming it. So there are two important features for public goods- non rivalry (doesn't reduce availability for A if B consume it) and non-excludability (no one is excluded from

consumption). Example for public goods are national defense, public parks, street lights, and other basic societal goods. The expense for providing public goods are met by the government out of taxes. This means that an individual (with the ability to pay taxes) who avoids or evades taxes enjoy public goods and he became a free rider. Free rider problem says that a rational person will not contribute to the provision of public good because he does not need to contribute to the benefit from it.

78. **E-VIDHAN Academy to be set up in Dharamshala**

Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker BBL Butail today said that a National E-Vidhan Academy will be set up in Tapovan in Dharamshala, where Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha is situated. Talking to PTI, he said the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in Delhi have already permitted in principle for setting up of the National academy. He said Himachal is the first state to introduce paperless e-working in Dharamshala and Shimla assemblies. He said, "after examining its successful working, the permission to establish national academy was given by the centre." The academy in Dharamshala will train MPs, MLAs and the staff of such institutions from different states in the country, he said. Butail said a high level meeting of the state officials will be held in Tapovan at Dharamshala on July 16 to prepare the draft of National E-Vidhan academy in Dharamshala.

79. **Cabinet approves increase in FDI limit in Axis Bank to 74%**

The Cabinet approved an increase in the foreign investment limit in Axis Bank from the current 62 per cent to 74 per cent of the total paid up share capital on a fully fungible basis. Foreign investments will include those by foreign institutional investors, foreign portfolio investors and non-resident Indians. With the approval, foreign direct investment to the tune of Rs.12,973.14 crore, will come in and about 6,000 to 7,000 jobs will be created over the next three years, the government said in a statement.

80. **YELDI SOFTCOM received its semi closed wallet license from RBI**

Yeldi Softcom, a payment services company, has received licence from the Reserve Bank of India to operate a semi-closed digital wallet to carry out cashless transactions. The acquisition of the licence will enable Yeldi to target a larger customer base to promote the use of digital wallets, a company statement said. A semi-closed wallet is a digital payment instrument accepted by a pre-defined set of merchants contracted specifically by the issuer (Yeldi). A semi-closed wallet does not allow users to withdraw or redeem cash, the statement said. Ra. Arjunamurthy, Yeldi Softcom Chairman and MD said: Most semi-closed wallets require a debit card, credit card or a net banking account. But when it comes to adding money to Yeldi's products, cash could be remitted over a designated counter to add money to the wallet. Yeldi's products can even be used by the unbanked population of the country.

81. **NPCIL gets India's first nuclear liability policy**

India's first insurance policy covering public liability to an atomic power plant operator has been issued to Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) but the reinstatement of insurance value post a claim will be decided later, industry officials said. "We recently got the insurance policy covering all our atomic power plants. The total premium came around Rs 100 crore for a risk cover of Rs 1,500 crore," S. K. Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director, Npcil, told IANS. The policy complies with all the provisions of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLND), said a known insurance industry official. The central government had announced in June 2015 the setting up of the Rs 1,500 crore India Nuclear Insurance Pool to be managed by national re-insurer GIC Re. The insurance policy on behalf of clutch to non-life insurers was issued by the country's largest non-life insurer New India Assurance Company Ltd.

82. **Dipa Karmakar becomes first Indian gymnast to clinch World Class Gymnast award**

India's Rio-bound gymnast Dipa Karmakar created history as she clinched 'World Class Gymnast' award by the Federation Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG). She is the first Indian gymnast to secure this award as Gymnaste de Classe Mondaile given by FIG. Earlier, she also sparked her name as the first Indian woman gymnast to make it to the Olympics. Karmakar received the official letter confirming the distinction from FIG on Tuesday night. The letter of distinction also carries a special badge, which she will be carrying during the Olympics. FIG decided to honour her following her fine performance in the World artistic gymnastics championships, held in Glasgow between October 24 and November 1, 2015. She ranked fifth in that event in Glasgow. This is a great honour for me. It proves the efforts and hard work I have been putting in over the years are in the right direction. This distinction will also raise expectations of my countrymen and I am looking to justify that in the big event, said Dipa Karmakar on her achievement. Dipa is in the

final stages of her preparation for the Olympics under the supervision of her coach Bisweshwar Nandi at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi. Speaking about her achievement, Nandi said, This recognition comes at the right time and I am sure it will make her mentally strong and better her confidence before the Olympics. He also confirmed that the distinction and the prestigious badge will be handed over to Dipa in coming few days in a function celebrating her success.

83. ARTIFICIAL PANCREAS – A boon to Diabetic patients

A portable artificial pancreas built with a modified iPhone successfully regulated blood sugar levels in a trial with people who have Type 1 diabetes, researchers have reported.

Type 1 diabetes, which usually starts in childhood or young adulthood, is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin, the hormone that lowers blood sugar levels. Insulin works in conjunction with glucagon, a hormone that raises blood sugar. Together, they keep blood sugar in a healthy range.

The artificial pancreas is the latest version of a device that researchers have been refining for several years. The system consists of an iPhone 4S with an attached glucose monitoring device, two pumps, and reservoirs for insulin and glucagon.

A sensor implanted under the skin on one side of the patients abdomen measures the glucose in the fluid between the cells, which corresponds closely to blood glucose levels. The sensor delivers the reading to the smartphone, and the phones software calculates a dose of insulin and glucagon every five minutes.

Currently about one-third of people with Type 1 diabetes rely on insulin pumps to regulate blood sugar. They eliminate the need for injections and can be programmed to mimic the natural release of insulin by dispensing small doses regularly.

But these pumps do not automatically adjust to the patients variable insulin needs, and they do not dispense glucagon. The new device, described in a report in The New England Journal Of Medicine, dispenses both hormones, and it does so with little intervention from the patient.

84. New tarantula species named in the honor of Nobel laureate Garcia Marquez

A new species of tarantula has been identified near the home town of Gabriel Garcia Marquez and in an unusual posthumous honor, the spider has been named for the late Nobel literature laureate, officials said Tuesday. The newly researched "Kankuamos marquezii" is named for both Garcia Marquez and the indigenous Kankuamo group who live in the area of Caribbean Colombia where the writer was born. The newly high-profile arachnid has a defense mechanism that includes releasing stinging hairs that dig into predators' eyes and people's skin. The possibly scary looking but non-aggressive spider's body is three centimeters long with legs the same length giving an overall size of nine centimeters (3.5 inches). A group of Uruguayan and Colombian scientists, led by Carlos Perefan from the University of the Republic of Uruguay and the study's lead author, found the species in the upper area of a mountain, 2,200 meters high, in a rainy, cold environment. Garcia Marquez was born in Aracataca near Colombia's northern coast and started out as a journalist in Cartagena. He was widely seen as the master of magical realism. The author of "One Hundred Years of Solitude," died at the age of 87 on April 17, 2014 in Mexico, where he lived with his wife Mercedes Barcha. Hailed for helping put Latin America on the literary map, he won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982.

85. China inducts its largest homegrown military transport plane, Y20.

China on Wednesday inducted its largest indigenously-built transport aircraft Y-20, a breakthrough in military aviation technology for the PLA that allows the worlds largest force to transport cargo and troops over long distances in diverse weather conditions. The Y-20 entering into service marks a crucial step for the Air Force improving its strategic power projection capability, Air Force spokesperson Shen Jinke said. With a maximum take-off weight of 200 tonnes, the Y-20, which officially joined the PLA Air Force in Chengdu, is ideal for transporting cargo and personnel over long distances in diverse weather conditions, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The Air Force needs more and better transport to better fulfil its military responsibilities, including safeguarding national security as well as domestic and

international rescue and relief work, Shen said. The Air Force has provided aid and delivered relief supplies to Pakistan, Mongolia, Thailand, Nepal and other countries as they were hit by disasters in recent years. The indigenously designed and developed Y-20 took its maiden flight in January 2013 and made its debut at the 10th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in November 2014, Chinese officials said. The plane is comparable to the Russian-made IL-76 and the US C-17. PLA officials earlier said Y-20 is more advanced than the IL-476. The plane which made its maiden flight in January 2013 and underwent trials runs, including in the rugged Tibetan terrain, will make troop deployment easier, enabling the military to act more promptly and respond to emergencies in a better manner, officials said. It is also regarded as a major breakthrough in military aviation technology for the PLA which is more reliant on Russian-made planes so far. Besides manufacturing J-15, Chinas first-generation multipurpose aircraft for the newly-built aircraft carrier, Chinese military has tested J-31, a fifth generation aircraft, and stealth fighter J-20, which PLA officials claim to be comparable with US versions. Also China together with Pakistan manufactures J-17 lightweight, single-engine, multi-role combat aircraft. As China made new breakthroughs in aviation technology, its ally Pakistan has evinced interest in acquiring the new planes especially the J-31 and J-20. While China made advances in developing new planes, it is still reliant on Russian engines for almost all planes, including the latest versions for mass production.

86. Sajan and Shivani to represent India at Rio Olympics in Swimming

Sajan Prakash and Shivani Katariya will represent India in the swimming events at the 2016 Olympic Games, the Swimming Federation of India announced here on Tuesday. Kerala-born Sajan, 22, will swim in the mens 200m butterfly while 18-year-old Shivani will compete in the womens 200m freestyle. Following the absence of a swimmer with an OQT (A time), India was awarded Universality places (one man and one woman) by FINA, after the qualification window shut on July 3. The SFI selection committee chose Sajan ahead of Sandeep Sejwal, Viradhawal Khade, Aaron DSouza and Saurabh Sangvekar, all of whom had participated in the 2015 World Championships in Kazan a prerequisite for a swimmer taking a Universality place. Sajan's case was helped by his impressive performance at the Age Group Long Course swimming meet, Division 1 (Part 3) in Hong Kong on July 2, when he clocked 1:59.69 in the 200m butterfly, becoming the first Indian ever to dip under the two-minute-mark. Haryanas Shivani, meanwhile, was the only Indian woman to compete at the Worlds and thus was the only one eligible. The two will be accompanied by National coach Pradeep Kumar. Sajan has been a consistent performer this season. That's why he was selected when Pradeep, Wilson Cherian, the president (Digambar Kamat) and I met this morning. Sandeep's performance in Hong Kong was not up to the mark while Viradhawal has not been able to fully devote himself to training owing to his job, said SFI secretary Kamlesh Nanavati, on the sidelines of the junior National meet here.

87. Lionel Messi handed 21-month prison term in Spain for tax fraud

Barcelona's Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi was sentenced on Wednesday to 21 months in prison and fined 2 million euros (\$2.2 million) after being found guilty of three counts of tax fraud, although it is unlikely he will serve time. The Barcelona court handed the same sentence to the player's father, Jorge, with a 1.5 million euro fine. Both defendants have around five days to appeal to the supreme court, the Barcelona court said in its statement. Spanish law is such that any sentence under two years for a non-violent crime rarely requires a defendant without previous convictions to serve jail time. A spokeswoman for the court confirmed Messi was unlikely to be imprisoned. Messi, 29, and his father defrauded the Spanish tax office of almost 4.2 million euros between 2007 and 2009 by using a web of shell companies to evade taxes on income from the player's image rights, the court said in a written ruling. The companies - with names such as Sport Consultants and Sport Enterprises - were based in tax havens such as Belize, Uruguay and Switzerland where legislation kept the identities of their owners secret, according to the ruling. Messi, five-times World Player of the Year, admitted during the trial to signing contracts protecting his image rights but said he had no knowledge he was partaking in any wrongdoing or defrauding the Spanish state. He said his father had control over his financial affairs, but the court said on Wednesday that this was not enough to avoid charges. "(His) avoidable ignorance, which was derived from indifference, is not an error, and it does not remove responsibility," the presiding judge, Mercedes Armas Galve, wrote in the statement.

88. India, S Africa sign MoUs in four areas of co-operation

India and South Africa today signed MoUs in four areas of co-operation. Both countries have signed MoUs in the area of Information and Communication technology, Tourism, Grass root innovation and art, culture sport. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in joint press briefing, after one to one talk with Jacob Zuma and delegation level talk, thanked

South Africa's support to India's NSG membership bid.

Mr Modi called for strengthen partnership in the field of defence production, he said the defence scoter in India has undergone a complete transformation which opens up new possibilities of co-operation in manufacturing defence equipment. This could meet not only domestic demand in both the countries but globally also. Talking about climate change Prime Minister thanked South Africa for its support in promoting global solar alliance which is an important forum foe sharing technology resources and experience in the renewable energy sector.

Talking about combat terrorism, Prime Minister said that Terrorism is a shared threat and both countries must be vigilant and cooperate to combat terrorism, regionally and globally. Talking about economic relation outlines how the relation of both countries has advanced with concrete outcomes and the potential to expand eco ties further.

Prime Minister in joint press briefing said in last two decades relationship of India and South Africa has been a story of strong advances and concrete achievement as two-way trade grown over 300 percent. Mr Modi mentioned that how the Indian companies hold strong business in South Africa and investments in South Africa is about one fourth of total investment in the Africa.

He said that both countries have potential to expand their business in the field of minerals and mining, chemicals and pharmaceutical and in information and communication technology. Prime Minister mentioned the common shared values and common struggles of the both countries. He said the relation of both countries, is a story of resolve, determination, justice excellence of human endeavour. In the briefing Mr Modi also remembered Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela.

On Both countries co-operation on International relation India and South Africa has decided to fasten their efforts for UN security council reforms and for democratization of othe international institution.

After the Joint press conference Prime Minister met Deputy President of South Africa H E Cyrill Ramphosa. In the evening He will visit constitution Hill and Nelson Mandela foundation in Johannesburg. At around 10 pm Indian time in Johannesburg he will address Indian Diaspora community and after that he will depart for Durban.

89. Centre constitutes cyber cell to check online abuse

Centre has constituted a cyber cell to check the online abuse and harassment of women and children on social media platforms.

Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi told media in New Delhi that her Ministry has taken the decision as it has got several complaints from women. She also clarified that the Ministry will not be policing the internet and it will only examine the complaints.

The move came in the wake of reported increase in abuse or harassment of women on social media. Earlier in the day, Ms. Gandhi met Twitter India team and discussed the empowerment of women and children to deal with abuse, harassment and hateful conduct on social media especially on Twitter.

During the meeting, it was decided that the complaints received by the Ministry, which are of a grave nature, will be reported to Twitter India for necessary action. The Ministry will also be working with the Cyber-crime Cells of the police, wherever required.

Recently, the Women and Child Development Ministry had advised women and children to send their complaints and since then it has been receiving a large number of complaints.

90. Govt plans to clean 10 iconic places under Swachh Bharat mission

Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Narendra Singh Tomar has said that government will carry out a drive to clean ten iconic places in the country, including Taj Mahal, Vaishno Devi temple and Ajmer Sharif, as part of a pilot project under the Swachh Bharat mission.

Inaugurating a two-day National Workshop in New Delhi on Special Cleanliness drive today, Mr Tomar said, his ministry is in the process of selecting 100 iconic places for cleaning under the mission and most will be either tourist or religious spots.

The other places which have been selected are Tirupati temple in Andhra Pradesh, Golden Temple in Punjab, Jagannath temple in Odisha, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Maharashtra, Manikarnika Ghat in Uttar Pradesh, Meenakshi Temple in Tamil Nadu and Kamakhya Temple in Assam.

Mr Tomar said, once the pilot project is completed, the government will carry out a similar cleanliness drive at the remaining 90 places.

Sharing the details of the project, Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Parameswaran Iyer said the ministry is taking help of experts from World Bank to make this project successful.

He said, the Ministry is evaluating various models and practices which have been followed in various countries for cleaning and sanitising and trying to find out which are relevant can be adapted here. The Secretary also said the ministry has approached various corporate groups for financing the drive at these iconic places.

91. Govt launches KVK portal for monitoring of farm centres

The Centre has launched a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) portal for online monitoring and review of the 645 centres focussing on farm knowledge and research spread across the country and also provide a platform for providing information and advisories to farmers. Each of the 645 KVKs has direct interface with at least 1,000 farmers. But the information related to KVKs was not available at one place at the national level and farmers and other stakeholders had difficulty in accessing the information. Also there was no national online monitoring system, Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said, adding that the new portal would solve all these problems. The portal (<http://kvk.icar.gov.in>) was launched by Singh on Monday. Apart from online monitoring of KVKs which will include reporting of major events on a regular basis and submission of monthly reports online, the portal will also provide information on different services being provided by them. Weather and market related information can also be accessed on the portal, a release said, adding that information on programmes such as training programmes organised by the KVKs would be available too. Farmers and other stakeholders can also pose agriculture related questions on the website which will be answered by experts.

92. AP: Lohit district administration launches mobile app 'Aapna Lohit'

In Arunachal Pradesh, Lohit district Administration has launched a mobile app Aapna Lohit at Itanagar today. It is an effort of the Lohit District administration to make information and awareness available at the finger of the people.

The app includes useful information about the district like history, geography, culture, disaster management, first aid guide, Lohit tourism, one touch helpline, etc.

Lohit Deputy Commissioner Danish Ashraf says that the app is first of its kind in Arunachal Pradesh and is going to be the cornerstone of various e-Gov initiatives in the district. It will also be used as a monitoring tool for various government schemes.

93. India sets up apparel training centre in Nigeria

India has set up an apparel training centre in Nigeria to support textiles industry of the west African country. This is a first of its kind centre in Nigeria, set up in partnership with their government. The Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement that the centre has been established in Kaduna, Nigeria under the Cotton Technical Assistance Programme for Africa. Nigeria is an important trading partner of India. The bilateral trade between the two countries stood at 12.17 billion dollars last year as against 16.36 billion dollars in the previous fiscal. Nigeria is Africa's biggest oil producer, and its major export to India is crude. There are over 100 Indian companies present in Nigeria mainly in telecom, hydrocarbons, textiles, chemicals, electrical equipment, pharmaceuticals, plastics, IT and auto sectors.

94. 10 Iconic Places To Be Cleaned Under Swachh Bharat Mission

Government will carry out a drive to clean ten iconic places in the country, including Taj Mahal, Vaishno Devi temple and Ajmer Sharif, as part of a pilot project under the Swachh Bharat mission, Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar today said.

Mr Tomar said his ministry is in the process of selecting 100 iconic places for cleaning under the mission and most will be either tourist or religious spots.

"As part of Swachh Bharat Mission to clean and sanitise the entire country, the Ministry has identified 10 such iconic places to start cleanliness drive as part of the pilot project under this mission," the Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister said.

The places which have been selected are Vaishno Devi temple in Jammu and Kashmir, Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh, Tirupati temple in Andhra Pradesh, Golden Temple in Punjab, Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan, Jagannath temple in Orissa, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Maharashtra, Manikarnika Ghat in Uttar Pradesh, Meenakshi Temple in Tamil Nadu and Kamakhya Temple in Assam.

Once this pilot project is completed, the government will carry out a similar cleanliness drive at the remaining 90 places, Mr Tomar said.

Sharing the details of the project, Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Parameswaran Iyer said the ministry is taking help of experts from World Bank to make this project successful.

"We are evaluating various models and practices which have been followed in various countries for cleaning and sanitising and trying to find out which are relevant can be adapted here," Mr Iyer said.

The Secretary also said the ministry has approached various corporate groups for financing the drive at these iconic places.

95. **Rajnath Singh to inaugurate BRICS second anti-drug Meeting**

Home Minister [Rajnath Singh](#) will inaugurate the second anti-drug Working Group meeting of Heads of Drug Control Agencies of BRICS countries on Friday. The meeting is being organized by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). Besides the delegates from the member countries, the Ambassadors of the respective countries shall also be attending the inaugural session. The Directors General of Border Guarding Forces and the Paramilitary are also likely to attend the inaugural session along with the heads of the Intelligence and Investigative Agencies like the Intelligence Bureau and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The BRICS, an association of five major emerging economies comprising of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, had started as a forum for future economic cooperation and for reforming Financial Institutions. The seventh BRICS summit was held in July, 2015 in Russia and India shall be hosting the eighth BRICS summit in October, 2016 in Goa. In accordance with the eThekwani Declaration adopted during the BRICS summit in March 2013 at Durban, South Africa, it was decided to explore, besides economic issues, various new areas of cooperation among the member States, including drug related issues. It was decided that the heads of anti-drug agencies of the five member countries may meet regularly under the aegis of the BRICS anti-drug working group meeting. In keeping with the spirit of the eThekwani Declaration, the first anti-drug working group meeting of BRICS countries was organized at Moscow, Russia in November, 2015. The Indian delegation shall be headed by Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Director General of the NCB and shall comprise of officers from the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Health and Family welfare and Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs. The delegates from the participating countries shall be deliberating over important drug related issues over the entire day.

96. **Chandrababu Naidu launches Smart Pulse survey at his residence**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the State governments prestigious 'Smart Pulse' socio-economic survey at his residence in Undavalli, Guntur district on Friday. The enumerators collected particulars from the Chief Minister and his family members. They also captured the iris of Mr. Naidu, and his son and TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh. "This survey is based on latest IT tools and would be the most comprehensive survey

ever. Just by a touch of button, we can get all details of the socio economic status of families and we will ensure that all cash benefits to genuine beneficiaries would be directly credited to their bank accounts," Mr. Naidu said. Guntur Collector Kantilal Dande, Krishna Collector A. Babu, CM's Joint Secretary P.S. Pradyumna, Government IT Advisor J. Satyanarayana, and Information Commissioner Venkateswarlu were present. Mr. Dande personally tagged the residence of the CM and later used an Iris scanner to store the retinal images of Mr. Naidu. As many as 30,000 enumerators will conduct the survey across the State. Unlike conventional method of filling up data sheets, the enumerators will use tablets provided by the government. Data collected from each household would be uploaded online in real-time. The government intends to collect details including caste, religion, region, socio-economic status of 1.48 crore households in the State. The government would issue a zipper code to each house enumerated. The information will be updated from time to time even after the actual survey is completed. The database thereof will be created through geo-tagging and updated from time to time. The citizens can provide their details through online as well. Through this survey, the government plans to integrate the data available with all government departments and agencies. It would help the government in effective implementation of welfare schemes and reach out the real beneficiaries. Senior IAS officers, who previously served as Collectors, have been appointed as nodal officers for the 13 districts to oversee the survey.

97. Joint issue of postage stamp between Department of Posts and Portugal Post

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of a joint issue of postage stamps between Department of Posts and Portugal Post.

India and Portugal enjoy excellent bilateral relationship with each other with frequent and active interaction through different platforms that allow both countries to exchange views on many of common issues of concern. This collaboration has been fruitful and beneficial for both countries and the ties of both countries will continue to grow from strength to strength over the years. This joint issue will also help the Postal Departments of both countries in production of philately.

98. Petronet LNG plans Rs 5,000 crore terminal in Bangladesh

India's biggest gas importer Petronet LNG Ltd has plans to set up a Rs 5,000 crore LNG import terminal at Kutubdia islands in Bangladesh as it looks to build terminals to feed demand in neighbouring countries.

"We have proposed to construct a 5 million tons per annum capacity liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal at Kutubdia islands off Cox's Bazar," Petronet Managing Director CEO Prabhat Singh told PTI here.

The terminal will be besides 3.5 MT terminal at Bangladesh is looking to set up, for which Petronet is one of the firms that has been shortlisted.

"Bangladesh has huge unmet gas demand particularly to power generation. So during the recent visit of Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to Dhaka, we proposed to set up a 5 million tons capacity terminal on government-to-government basis," he said.

Initial response from Bangladesh, he said, has been encouraging and the company would be visiting Dhaka again this month to make a presentation on its plans.

"While we will source gas (from international market) and supply (to utilities in Bangladesh), we are seeking some kind of payment assurances to cover for our investments in an event where we have to pull out of the country," he said.

Besides Bangladesh, Petronet has also proposed to set up 1 MT LNG terminal in Sri Lanka to meet local demand.

Singh said Kutubdia islands has a natural harbor with good draft and a natural breakwater, idle for setting up LNG terminal.

The proposed terminal is besides the one Bangladesh is looking to set up at Matar Bari in Moheshkhali Island of Cox's Bazar district or Anwara, Chittagong. The terminal, to be set up on the build-own-operate basis, will supply gas to power plants.

Petronet is one of the five global energy firms shortlisted for setting up this LNG import terminal. The others shortlisted include Anglo-Dutch super-major Shell, China's Huanqiu Contracting Engineering, Tractebel Engineering of Belgium and Japan's Mitsui.

Bangladesh is looking at importing gas to ease its energy crisis in southeastern Chittagong region, which was once almost self-reliant in natural gas but started facing a supply crisis in 2006 as output diminished from the Sangu gas field.

The country's sole offshore gas well, Sangu-11, was permanently closed in October 2013. As a result, some plants are running below the capacity and a few have been shut due to non-availability of gas.

Sources said the LNG terminal will supply gas to a proposed 1,000 MW combined cycle power plant as well as the existing power plants in Raozan and Sikalbaha through a planned pipeline.

Bangladesh is also looking at setting up a floating LNG import facility in Bay of Bengal. The Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) of 500 million cubic feet a day capacity can however meet only a part of the growing demand for gas in power, fertiliser, factory and industry.

99. Nasscom unveils first IoT-focused centre

National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) unveiled India's first centre of excellence focused on Internet of Things (CoE- IoT). The centre of excellence is set up at the Nasscom Start-ups Warehouse in the city. The CoE is a joint initiative between the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY), education and research network (ERNET) and the IT industry body. Speaking at the inauguration of the centre Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Electronics, IT, Law, Justice, said: The new centre should aspire to develop products which are truly of global standards and are used by people elsewhere.

100. Unesco's Kalinga Prize money increased to \$40,000

The Odisha government has decided to double the prize money of Unesco Kalinga Prize-2017 to \$40,000, an official said on Wednesday.

The government also decided to double the administrative expenses regarding the prize to \$20,000.

Following a proposal of the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, the increase in the prize money was approved at a meeting chaired by Odisha Science and Technology Minister Pradeep Kumar Panigrahi.

"The government has given in principle consent to bear its share of \$17,000 towards the increase in Unesco Kalinga Prize money from present \$20,000 to \$40,000 and administrative charges from \$10,000 to \$20,000," a letter from the Science and Technology Ministry said.

The Kalinga Prize was established in 1951 by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) with a generous grant from Biju Patnaik, the founder-president of the Kalinga Foundation Trust.

First awarded in 1952, the Kalinga Prize is given to a person(s) who make outstanding contribution to the interpretation of science and technology to the general public.

The biennial award is jointly financed by the Government of India through the Ministry of Science and Technology, Odisha government and Kalinga Foundation Trust.

Argentinian scientist Diego Andres Golombek received the Unesco Kalinga Prize 2015.

101. Hyundai Honors SAINA NEHWAL for her Australian Open Win

Rio-bound Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal was honoured by Hyundai Motor India Ltd by gifting her the 1st anniversary edition of Indian Car of The year Creta in an event here today. The vehicle was gifted to the Olympic bronze medallist in celebration of her winning the Australian Open Championship in Sydney last month. It is an honor

and wonderful experience for me and I would like to thank Hyundai for honoring me with the 1st Anniversary Edition of Creta. Its motivation for every athlete to receive the recognition for his/her hard-work and achievements, Saina said. I am quite confident and will give my best efforts in upcoming tournaments to bring pride to my nation and fellow countrymen. The 26-year-old is amongst the most decorated athletes in the country having won Arjuna Award, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Padam Shri and Padam Bhushan

102. **Rajkot hockey ground gets FIH recognition**

The Major Dhyanchand Hockey Ground in the city, owned by the local civic body, has received recognition from the International Hockey Federation (FIH), Municipal Commissioner Vijay Nehra said today.

The Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC)-owned turf in Race Course area has become the first ground in Gujarat to get approval from the apex global body governing the sport, he said.

"After developing the hockey ground, we started the process of getting international certification a few months ago. A team of FIH officials visited the ground recently and issued the approval. It has become the first hockey ground in Gujarat to have the FIH approval," he said.

"Besides Rajkot, there are only 30 grounds in the country that have FIH recognition. RMC spent around Rs 5 crore to develop the ground, which was built within a year," Nehra added.

103. **Veteran music director Om Prakash Sonik passed away**

Veteran music director Om Prakash Sonik, or Omi, of the well-known duo Sonik-Omi passed away in a private hospital following a brief illness, a family member said here on Thursday. A widower, he was 77 and is survived by his son Som and daughter Sudha. Omi was the nephew of the blind music director Master Sonik and together they formed the noted Sonik-Omi team which provided music to nearly 125 Bollywood movies in the 1950-1980s. Som said his father had a fall around a month ago which led to other multiple complications and late on Wednesday he suffered a cardiac arrest. He never recovered and breathed his last around 6.25 am today at the Bharatiya Arogya Nidhi Hospital, Juhu. Born and raised in Sialkot (now in Pakistan), they moved to India after Partition in 1947 and lived mostly in Delhi. In 1950, the visually challenged but great singer Master Sonik arrived in Mumbai with his young nephew in tow, hoping to make a career in the film industry which was on the threshold of what was later known as 'golden era' of its music.

104. **Kerala govt. imposes a "fat tax" on junk food**

Kerala has become the first state in the country to impose a "fat tax" on junk food in a bid to counter rising obesity. The state's finance minister Thomas Isaac announced a 14.5 percent tax on food including burgers, pizzas and sandwiches sold at restaurants and fast-food chains, as part of the local government's annual budget. The government said it hopes that the move will not only generate additional revenue for the state but also deter people from consuming junk food. "There has been an alarming trend in growth of unhealthy eating habits among Keralites and we hope the fat tax will be a deterrent," Rajan N Khobragade, the state's commissioner of commercial taxes, told said.

105. **Putin signs controversial "Big Brother" law**

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed into law a package of controversial anti-terror amendments dubbed "Big Brother" measures by critics that may cost internet companies billions. The measures, posted online Thursday by the government, boost the surveillance powers for the security services by requiring communication providers to store users' calls, messages, photographs and videos for six months, as well as metadata for up to three years. They also have to provide security services with access to this data and any necessary encryption mechanisms necessary to use it. They also criminalise several offences, lower the age of criminal responsibility to 14 for some crimes and extend prison sentences for online crimes like abetting terrorism. The passage of the bills through Russia's lower and upper houses of parliament sent shockwaves through the internet and telecoms industries. In an interview with Kommersant daily published Thursday, CEO of Megafon mobile provider Sergei Soldatenkov said that the law as it stands would require the company to spend 200 billion rubles (\$3.1 billion) to ensure the data storage requirement -- four times its annual profit. "This bill financially kills the telecommunication industry," he said, instead proposing that the government tax the industry by an additional one percent and use the money to build the necessary infrastructure. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists Thursday that Putin also tasked the government to monitor "how this law is realised" and

take measures if there are "undesirable" consequences. The law inspired the former US intelligence contractor turned privacy activist Edward Snowden to issue a rare comment on a domestic policy in Russia, where he is currently living in exile. Snowden said Thursday on Twitter it was a "dark day for Russia".

106. China completes Asia's longest single cave, double track tunnel

China has completed Asia's longest 16-km single tunnel with double tracks for high-speed trains in the country's northwest Shaanxi province, state media reported on Saturday. The tunnel, the longest of its kind in Asia, cuts through the Qinling Mountains, according to its builders. It is part of a high-speed rail line that links Xian, the provincial capital and Chengdu in China's southwest Sichuan province. The 643-km line, with a designed speed of 250 km per hour, will slash the travel time between the two cities from 16 hours to just three hours, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

107. SIDBI partners with Yes Bank for loan guarantee under World Bank scheme

Sidbi on Friday entered into a partnership with private sector lender Yes Bank to guarantee 75% of loans of up to Rs 15 crore extended to energy efficiency projects under a World Bank initiative. The state-run Sidbi expects to provide credit guarantee to more than 500 projects and mobilise financing of up to \$127 million through the tie-up. A memorandum of understanding 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, Sidbi said in a statement. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) is the project execution agency whereas Yes Bank claims to be the first Indian lender to be empanelled for the programme. Sidbi will extend the guarantee for securing up to 75% of the loan amount of up to Rs 15 crore extended by the bank to MSMEs under this programme. "Financing of energy efficiency projects is still at a nascent stage in India. We are confident that this project will be instrumental in transforming the energy efficiency landscape in India," Yes Bank's Group President for Retail Assets, Sumit Gupta said. The aim of the project is to transform the energy efficiency (EE) market in India by promoting increased level of EE investments, particularly through energy service performance contracting (ESPC) delivered through Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), the statement added.

108. Indian 1st woman to get bravery at sea award

Five years ago, Radhika Menon became the first woman to become captain of Indian Merchant Navy and this year, she has become the first woman in the world to receive the Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea from the International Maritime Organisation for saving the lives of seven fishermen, whose hopes of survival were all but over. Caught in a storm and with its engine having failed, fishing boat 'Durgamma' had drifted from Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh all the way to Gopalpur in Odisha when it was spotted by Menon's team in June last year. The fishermen's families had believed them to be lost at sea and were preparing for their last rites when they received calls about their miraculous rescue. A native of Kodungallur in Kerala, Menon was at the helm of oil tanker 'Sampurna Swarajya' of Shipping Corporation of India. "I am humbled, honoured and grateful," Menon said in an email. "It is a maritime obligation to save souls in distress at sea and, as a seafarer and master in command of my ship, I just did my duty."

109. HD 131399Ab – A Strange Planet Found by the Astronomers

HD 131399Ab is the first planet found to have three suns. But it is the first such planet to be found in a wide-orbit system by far the widest known within a multi-star system. This is weird because multi-star systems are usually so unstable that they eject planets, which are subject to competing gravitation force from all those suns. This particular planet's unexpected survival is therefore peculiar, and perhaps revealing. It could mean that such systems are more commonly hosts to planets that scientists tend to think, according to a paper published in the journal *Science* on Thursday. HD 131399Ab is still just a baby, really, one of the youngest known exoplanets at just 16 million years old. That makes it sound sort of sweet and non-threatening, but you really don't want to go there. It's good we're standing on this moon, in other words. (A moon that's really only theoretical, quite likely to exist, given what scientists know about moons and planets, but not confirmed.) From here, the planet is clearly the brightest object in the sky. Not only can we get a good look at HD 131399Ab from this vantage point, but we're spared its intense 1,000-degree heat, and from the fact that it doesn't actually have a surface to stand on. Where the ground should be there are just clouds made of cigarette-sized particles of silicate rock, says the astronomer Kevin Wagner, who discovered HD 131399Ab. Wagner's here with us, by the way, because he knows the most about this whole triple-sun situation we're facing. HD 131399Ab eventually gets to a point in its orbit when it's along a path between the three suns in which it experiences near-constant

daylight. That's because the monster-sun is rising from one horizon as the smaller two suns are setting at the other. Much of the time, though, HD 131399A's orientation to its three suns is such that it gives the planet a sunny side and a dark side. This arrangement—daytime on one side, nighttime on the other—is the way things are on HD 131399Ab for most of the year. A year for the planet, however, lasts the equivalent of 550 Earth years.

110. Bornean orangutan listed as critically endangered: IUCN

Borneo's orangutans are now a critically endangered species due to hunting and destruction of forest habitat, a global conservation group said. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimates the number of Borneo orangutans has dropped by nearly two-thirds since the early 1970s and could further decline to 47,000 animals by 2025. The group said the projected population figure would represent a population loss of 86 percent. The assessment for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species was carried out earlier this year and published this week. Previously the species was considered to be endangered. It said deforestation has dramatically shrunk the primates' habitat, with about 40 percent of Borneo's forests lost since the early 1970s and another huge swathe of forest expected to be converted to plantation agriculture in the next decade. The IUCN estimates between 2,000 and 3,000 of Borneo's orangutans have been killed every year for the past four decades, mainly for their meat. If hunting does not stop, all populations that are hunted will decline, irrespective of what happens to their habitat, the IUCN said. These findings confirm that habitat protection alone will not ensure the survival of orangutans. Orangutans only live in the wild on the Indonesian island of Sumatra and on Borneo in the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah and Kalimantan, which is the Indonesian part of Borneo. The Sumatran orangutan has been critically endangered since 2008.

111. Joshna Chinappa breaks into top 10 in PSA World Squash Rankings

Top Indian player and current national champion [Joshna Chinappa](#) touched a new high in her ranking by rising to number 10 in the world, the highest she has ever reached in her [squash](#) career. She is the second Indian in history to come into the top 10 in the world after [Dipika Pallikal](#) who had risen to this level in the December of 2012. The latest happening, a jump by one rung, must certainly have been for the good show she had put up in the HKFC International tournament in Hong Kong towards May end. After the good show in the Asian championship in Chinese-Taipei, the same month, the Indian star had finished runner-up in Hong Kong, losing to top-seeded Joelle King of New Zealand but not before ousting the second-seeded Annie Au of Hong Kong in the semi-final. Joelle is now a rung above Joshna while Annie is placed one step below the Indian. Joshna is now getting ready for the Indian national championship to be held later this month. She is on the look out for her 15th national championship title. Dipika drops to 19. Meanwhile, Dipika, who stood on place 18 last month, dropped a rung to 19 now. Dipika was a quarterfinalist at the Hong Kong tournament. The only other Indian in the top 20, Saurav Ghosal, remained on 17. Ghosal had been off action for a while nursing an ankle injury and is due to return to active squash at the National championship in Mumbai. The other Indians: Mahesh Mangaonkar 60, Vikram Malhotra 72, Harinder Pal Sandhu 83, Kush Kumar 89, Ramit Tandon 152, Ravi Dixit 178 all in the men's section and in the women's Sachika Ingale 81, Janet Vidhi 121, Akanksha Salunkhe and Ashita Pranaya Bhengra 186 and Harishit Jawanda 199.

112. Pakistani philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi dies

Prominent Pakistani philanthropist and humanitarian Abdul Sattar Edhi was laid to rest on the outskirts of Karachi on Saturday at a state funeral attended by thousands of people. Edhi, 88, died late on Friday at a medical centre after a long battle with kidney disease. His death triggered a massive outpouring of grief across the nation of 190 million for a man who transcended social, ethnic and religious divisions. Tens of thousands attended Saturday's ceremony, the first state funeral since the 1980s, at Karachi's National Stadium. At one moment, crowds broke through the military lines to help carry Edhi's coffin, which was draped with Pakistan's green and white flag and covered with rose petals.

113. What is External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)? What are their advantages?

India has always promoted capital inflows as a part of the development policy. Lack of domestic capital and deficit in the current account compelled the government historically to go after foreign capital. In simple terms, foreign capital is money obtained from foreign countries to make investment domestically. Foreign capital is not homogenous as there are different types of foreign capital. The major category is foreign investment including FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investment). Similarly, there are other types of foreign capital like trade credit, NRI Deposits and the most important one for India—the External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs). What is External Commercial Borrowings? ECB is basically a loan availed by an Indian entity from a nonresident lender. Most of these

loans are provided by foreign commercial banks and other institutions. It is a loan availed of from non-resident lenders with a minimum average maturity of 3 years. The significance of ECBs their size in Indias balance of payment account. In the post reform period, ECBs have emerged a major form of foreign capital like FDI and FII. During several years, contribution of ECBs was between 20 to 35 percent of the total capital flows into the country. Large number of Indian corporate and PSUs have used the ECBs as sources of investment. Bulk of the overseas loans or ECBs into the country are obtained by private sector corporates. For the corporate, ECB is a dependable and easy to obtain fund and helps them to make business/investment expansion. External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) includes commercial bank loans, buyers' credit, suppliers' credit, securitized instruments such as Floating Rate Notes and Fixed Rate Bonds etc., credit from official export credit agencies and commercial borrowings from Multilateral Financial Institutions. ECBs are being permitted by the Government as a source of finance for Indian Corporate for expansion of existing capacity as well as for fresh investment. Following are the advantages of ECBs. Advantages of ECBs ECBs provide opportunity to borrow large volume of funds The funds are available for relatively long term Interest rate are also lower compared to domestic funds ECBs are in the form of foreign currencies. Hence, they enable the corporate to have foreign currency to meet the import of machineries etc. Corporate can raise ECBs from internationally recognised sources such as banks, export credit agencies, international capital markets etc. Unlike many other emerging market economies, India has a vibrant corporate sector at home. Many of them have overseas operations as well. The domestic financial market is not often able to provide big sized loans at competitive rate of interests to the corporate. Here, External Commercial Borrowings have emerged as a valuable source of investable resource of funds for domestic companies. The government follows a well-designed ECB policy-putting restrictions on amount of loan that can be obtained by a company, end user restrictions, interest rate ceiling for ECBs, maturity period etc. In the same manner, government puts ceiling for the total amount of ECBs that can be obtained by all Indian firms through the ECB route during an year. At present, this aggregate limit is \$40 billion.

114. US demands compensation from India for Poultry import restrictions

Trade battle between the US -worlds largest economy and India worlds fastest growing economy is on an uptrend and WTO battles have increased in recent years. the latest incident is the USs follow up compensation demand out of its poultry trade dispute victory at WTOs DSB(Dispute Settlement Body). In the latest development, the US has requested WTO to initiate compensation from India for the poultry trade restrictions against US imports. Earlier, the US had won a case against Indias import restrictions against US imports including poultry, egg and live pigs at WTOs DSB. The DSB in June 2015, ruled that Indian ban on import of poultry meat, eggs and live pigs from the US was "inconsistent" with the international norms. India imposed such restrictions on the ground of avian flu threat and the US established India has more incidence of the virus than the US. Trade policy in the US are framed by Trade Representatives Office and it estimated that the US compensation is around \$300 mn which is equivalent to one-year export to India of such goods. Removal of restrictions means US products can establish among the high end consumers in India through various MNC outlets. Expanding income and huge middle class is makes India a valuable market for US agricultural exports.

115. India to resist RCEP's zero tax regime

Discussions for the proposed Free Trade Platform comprising the major Asian countries - the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), is entering into a tough round with India resisting zero tax regime advocated by major partners. Commerce Ministry officials have indicated that eliminating import duty on majority of tradable goods will be disastrous for India. Existing data indicate that Indias FTAs with ASEAN and bilateral ones with several other countries have bought only trade deficits. Most of the arrangements caused flooding of goods into the Indian market. East Asias developed industrial sector and early established advantage in FTA formations creates India as a perpetual market with little potential for creation of value addition. In the case of RCEP, the major concern is China. Giving duty free access to Chinese goods will be disastrous for domestic industries. China, Japan and South Korea are firm on eliminating tariff within the RCEP. ASEAN is also demanding complete free trade so that their excess capacities can be utilized. According to Commerce Ministry officials, India is proposing alternatives to zero duties in the next inter-sessional meeting at Jakarta. The Business Line quoted a commerce Ministry officials planning to raise objections to the zero tax move in the meeting. If India is resisting zero tax framework, free trade discussions for RCEP at Jakarta may come to a halt as it is against the stand of other major countries.

116. India, Tanzania sign five agreements including water resources management

India and Tanzania signed five agreements including water resources management and establishment of vocational

training centre at Zanzibar during meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tanzanian President, John Pombe Joseph Magufuli in Dar Es Salaam today. The meeting was followed by a delegation level talk. After the signing and exchange of agreements, both the leaders made a press statement.

In his press statement, Mr Modi said, India is already a substantial economic partner of Tanzania. He said, the whole range of our economic ties are healthy and on upswing. He said, the Eastern coast of Africa and Tanzania in particular have enjoyed strong links with India. The Prime Minister said, India and Tanzania have strong two way trade which is over 3 billion dollars. He said, Indian investment in Tanzania stands at around 3 billion dollars.

He said, both countries have agreed to expand the ties further. Mr Modi said, he had detailed discussion with Tanzanian President and they agreed to focus on an action oriented agenda of cooperation. Both countries agreed to expand ties in the field of agriculture and food security through enhanced export and production of pulses. India and Tanzania also agreed to work together in developing and use of natural gas, building industrial capacity and enhance industry-to-industry ties.

The Prime Minister informed that India has extended a 100 million dollar line of credit for water supply project in Dar-Es-Salam and another line of credit of 92 million dollars for Zanzibar. For similar water supply project in 17 other cities in Tanzania, India has agreed to extend line of credit of 500 million dollars.

Later, Mr Modi saw an exhibition on solar energy and met Solar Mamas. Solar Mamas is a group of rural women solar engineers from Africa who have been trained under Government of India -supported programmes to fabricate, install, use, repair and maintain solar lanterns and household solar lighting systems in their villages. And before leaving for Kenya on his final leg of 4- nations tour, he will interact with the Indian community in Dar Es Salaam.

117. Climate Change likely to cause 2,50,000 additional deaths per year: WHO

World Health Organisation, WHO says, Climate change is likely to cause over 2 lakhs 50 thousand additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050.

It said, these deaths will be caused due to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.

The WHO said, by the late 21st century, climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of drought at regional and global scale.

It said, rising temperatures and variable precipitation are likely to decrease the production of staple foods in many of the poorest regions of the world.

This will increase the prevalence of malnutrition and under-nutrition, which currently cause 3.1 million deaths every year.

However it said, climate change may cause fewer winter deaths in temperate climates and increase food production in certain areas.

118. US introduces bill to prevent Indian firms from hiring on H-1B, L1 visas

A bipartisan group of US lawmakers have introduced a bill in the House of Representatives which if passed by the Congress would prevent Indian companies from hiring IT professionals on H-1B and L1 visas.

The 'H-1B and L-1 Visa Reform Act of 2016' would prohibit firms from hiring H-1B employees if they employ more than 50 people and over 50 per cent of their staff are H-1B and L-1 visa holders.

Since the revenue model of a majority of big Indian IT companies is heavily dependent on H-1B and L1 visas, such a bill is likely to have a major impact on their businesses.

But before the bill is signed into law by President Barack Obama, it must pass the Senate where it is yet to be tabled.

119. **Government asks states to block illegal TV channels**

The government today asked the states to ensure that TV channels which are not permitted to downlink in India are not broadcast by cable operators, a move which comes against the backdrop of controversy over Islamic preacher Zakir Naik's speeches on 'Peace TV'.

An advisory, by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to the states said there have been reports of security threats due to TV content aimed at inciting communal and terrorist violence.

The two-page advisory said that in case of violations, necessary prompt action must be taken by the authorised officers in the district against the defaulters to stop transmission of such channels.

Besides other penal provisions, the equipment of such cable operators can be seized by the district authorities, the advisory said.

Official sources said 'Peace TV' does not have the required permission to be broadcast in India despite which it is distributed by some cable operators.

120. **Australia PM Turnbull's conservatives win tight election**

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull today declared victory for his conservative coalition in the closely fought general election after opposition Labor leader Bill Shorten conceded defeat.

According to media reports, Mr. Shorten called Mr Turnbull to congratulate him and concede electoral defeat even as the vote counting was underway.

In the ongoing vote counting, the Liberal-National coalition has won 74 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives and Labor was at 66 seats with five seats still too close to call.

The coalition needs 76 seats to claim a majority in the lower house, the House of Representatives.

121. **Bangladesh bans broadcasting of Zakir Naik's Peace TV channel**

In Bangladesh, government today banned the broadcasting of India-based controversial preacher Zakir Naik's Peace TV channel. The move came after reports that his "provocative" speeches inspired some of the militants who carried out the country's worst terror attack at a cafe in Dhaka on July 1.

In a special meeting of Cabinet Committee on Law and Order chaired by Industry minister Amir Hossain Amu, it was also decided to monitor the sermons given during the Friday prayers to check whether any provocative lectures are delivered.

The government also appealed to the Imams in the country to deliver lectures in line with real Islamic ideology of denouncing terrorism and extremism, the minister said.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan had yesterday said that Bangladesh's intelligence agencies were investigating the Islamic preacher Naik. He said the investigators were also probing Naik's financial transactions in Bangladesh.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu told reporters that his Ministry will take the necessary administrative steps by tomorrow to take Peace TV off air. Following the decision to ban Peace TV during a special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order this morning, the Information Minister is having a meeting with owners CEOs of private TV stations in his office.

122. **DCW to set up cyber cell to address online harassment**

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) will set up a cyber cell as part of a pilot project to conduct in-depth research pertaining to online harassment of women and girls. In a letter to Union Women and Child Development

Minister Maneka Gandhi, DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal said the Commission will seek the cooperation of police and social networking sites for redressal of online complaints received by it.

Ms Maliwal congratulated Gandhi for her decision to address harassment of women and girls in cyberspace, especially on social media networking websites. She said it is the duty of the government to ensure that women and girls are able to use the cyberspace and social network without any fear of harassment.

123. Tathagata Roy sworn-in as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh

The Governor of Tripura, Mr Tathagata Roy was sworn-in as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in the Darbar Hall of Raj Bhavan in Itanagar, today. The oath was administered by the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Ajit Singh.

Mr Roy will discharge the function of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh during the absence on leave of Mr JP Rajkhowa. Later, Dr. Joram Begi was also sworn-in as the Chief Information Officer of Arunachal Pradesh in the same event. The oath to the Chief Information Officer was administered by Mr Tathagata Roy.

124. Nirmala Sitharaman to lead business delegation to Russia

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will lead a delegation of over 110 Indian companies that will showcase their engineering prowess at a trade fair in Russia. India is the partner country for 'INNOPROM 2016', which is the largest annual international industrial trade fair of Russia.

The 4-day fair starts from the coming Sunday in Ekaterinburg. Apart from the large, medium and small Indian companies participating in the event, states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh are also going to showcase their industrial strengths.

Central government departments including Heavy Industries, Electronics and IT, Ministries of Power, Tourism and Renewable Energy, will also form part of the official delegation. Russia is the first country to have agreed to invest under the 'Make in India' umbrella in two key strategic sectors - nuclear and defence.

India and Russia have set a goal of boosting bilateral trade to 30 billion dollars and mutual investment to 15 billion dollars by 2025. The two-way trade stood at 6.18 billion dollars last year.

125. World Population Day - 11 July

2016 Theme: Investing in teenage girls. In 1989, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme recommended that 11 July be observed by the international community as World Population Day, a day to focus attention on the urgency and importance of [population issues](#). This year's theme is 'Investing in teenage girls.' Teenage girls around the world face enormous challenges. Many are considered by their communities or parents to be [ready for marriage](#) and [motherhood](#). Many are forced from school, damaging their future prospects. Even among girls who stay in school, access to basic [information about their health, human rights and reproductive rights](#) can be hard to come by, leaving them vulnerable to illness, injury and exploitation. These challenges are exacerbated among marginalized girls, such as members of ethnic minorities or those living in poverty or remote areas. Yet when teenage girls are empowered, when they know about their rights and are given the tools to succeed, they become agents of positive change in their communities. UNFPA's programmes aim to end child marriage, curb adolescent pregnancy, and to empower girls to make informed choices about their health and lives. In 2015 alone, UNFPA programmes helped 11.2 million girls between ages 10 and 19 gain access to sexual and reproductive health services and information. "Leaders and communities must focus on and stand up for the human rights of the most marginalized teenage girls, particularly those who are poor, out of school, exploited, or subjected to harmful traditional practices, including child marriage," UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin said. "Marginalized girls are vulnerable to poor reproductive health and more likely to become mothers while still children themselves. They have a right to understand and control their own bodies and shape their own lives."

126. What is IMF's Fourteenth Quota Reform?

Quota with IMF is the central point of a member's financial and organizational relationship with the IMF. Quota determines the amount of fund that a country has to give to the IMF, the voting share it can enjoy and the amount of

loans it can take from the IMF. A country's quota with IMF is largely determined by the relative economic weight (mainly GDP) of that country. Quotas are denominated in Special Drawing Rights which is the reserve currency of the IMF. The largest member of the IMF is the United States, with a current quota (as of January 25, 2016, after 14th quota revision) of SDR 42.1 billion (about \$58 billion), and the smallest member is Tuvalu, with a current quota of SDR 1.8 million (about \$2.5 million). Understandably, members economic weight changes after few years. To accommodate this changing situation, the IMF has also a provision to review quota of member countries. The IMF's Board of Governors conducts general quota reviews at regular intervals (usually every five years). Any changes in quotas must be approved by an 85 percent majority of the total voting power, and a member's quota cannot be changed without its consent.

The Fourteenth Quota Review The latest quota reform was proposed in 2010 under the fourteenth quota revision, with drastic changes in quota allocation among members as well as a doubling of IMF's quota. Since quota is subscriptions of members or fund to IMF, doubling of quota means doubling of financial resources for the IMF. Similarly, an increased quota for a member indicates increased voting power and its role increases in the governance of the Fund. The emerging market countries like India were demanding a reallocation of quota so that the IMF reflects the increased economic weight of emerging market economies. In this sense, the Fourteenth quota reform of the IMF was a historical one because it has restructured governance of the Fund by giving more weights to the developing countries.

Under the fourteenth quota reform IMF has made two sets of reforms. First was the quota reform and the second reform of the Executive Board. **Reform of the executive board:** all elected executive board The Executive Board (the Board) is responsible for conducting the day-to-day business of the IMF. It is composed of 24 Directors, who are elected by member countries or by groups of countries, and the Managing Director, who serves as its Chairman. The Board usually meets several times each week. It carries out its work largely on the basis of papers prepared by IMF management and staff. An all elected board of executive is the main feature of the fourteenth quota reform with all 24 members are elected and no appointed members. Previously five members of the executive board were appointed by developed countries. The Board Reform Amendment was part of a broader package of quota and governance reforms of the Fund.

Quota reform and the gain for emerging market economies As a result of the 14th quota reform, a doubling of IMF quotas and a major shift in quota shares toward dynamic emerging market and developing countries has occurred. The share of emerging market economies increased at the expense of mostly European countries and Saudi Arabia. The emerging market and developing economies have got 6% increase in quota. Lead gainer was China- a long term dissident of the IMF governance reforms. China has got 2.4% additional voting share which is almost equivalent of India's present voting share. China is the third largest quota holder in the fund with 6.39% of the quotas just behind Japan (6.46%). For the first time four emerging market countries (Brazil, China, India, and Russia) will be among the 10 largest members of the IMF. Other top 10 members include the United States, Japan, and the four largest European countries (France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom). India is seventh largest gainer of the quota revision with 0.31% increase in quota share and the total quota for India is 2.77% (eighth position) and 2.69% vote. Four emerging market economies including Russia and Brazil come into the top ten quota holding countries. There are four European powers as well in the top ten besides the US and Japan. Total quota with the Fund that is used to give loans to the member countries will rise to SDR 476.8 billion from SDR 238.4 billion. The reforms altogether increased the financial strength of the IMF, by doubling its permanent capital resources to SDR 477 billion.

Executive board reform and acceptance In order for the proposed amendment on reform of the Executive Board to enter into force, acceptance by three-fifths of the Fund's 188 members (or 113 members) having 85 percent of the Fund's total voting power is required.

Quota reform and its acceptance For the quota increases under the 14th General Review of Quotas to become effective, the entry into force of the proposed amendment to reform the Executive Board is required. Effectively, this means that 85% vote holding members should ratify the quota reforms. The main hurdle for the implementation of the quota reform was objection from the US. With the US Congress ratifying the quota reforms, sufficient votes were obtained and the quota reforms were effective from January 26, 2016.

127. Special Employment Generation Programme in Odisha to Be Launched Soon

Special Employment Generation Programme, a self employment scheme will be launched by the state government of Odisha before the upcoming Panchayat elections. Under the Special Employment Generation Programme, the state government will provide a bank loan up to Rs 5 lakh to traditional artisans. Spinners, weavers, carpenters, blacksmiths, potters, cobblers, barbers and washermen will be eligible to avail loans under the new scheme. Margin money subsidy of up to 25 per cent will be provided under the scheme. The state government proposes to set up 7,850 units within five years (five units in each block of the state per annum) under the scheme. Special Employment Generation Programme will be implemented by the Odisha Khadi and Village Industries Board. The main objective of the scheme is to generate

self-employment in rural areas and especially to promote tiny units for which bank finance was not available earlier. The scheme is a tribute to Biju Patnaik, who had dreamed of panchayat industries as early as in the 1960s.

128. Mukhyamantri Baans Baadi Yojana in Chhattisgarh â€“ Meeting the Demand of Bamboo

Mukhya Mantri Baans Baadi Yojana is a new upcoming scheme which will fulfill the demand of bamboo in the state. This is a new initiative being taken by Forest department of the state to fulfill the demand of baans-bamboos in the upcoming year. In the current fiscal year 2016-2017, a budget of Rs. 2.50 crore has been provisioned for the Mukhyamantri Baans Baadi Yojana. Under the scheme, the beneficiaries will get high-quality saplings of bamboo from the government free of cost. Villagers can plant these bamboo saplings in their farms and nearby areas. Besides this, information and guidelines for implanting and production will also be provide to the villagers at free of cost so that the demand of bamboo could be fulfilled in the upcoming years. Bamboo is known as Poor Mans Timber which is used to construct many daily purpose things like basket and chairs etc. Bamboo is a strong timber used for many purposes. Besides this, it is an eco-friendly option because its plants releases 30 percent more oxygen compared to the other plants species. Under the Mukhyamantri Baans Baadi Yojana, every year 5 to 50 high quality bamboos sapling will be transferred to the backyards of houses in villages and other area. This will help to achieve the demand of bamboo with the ample supply from villages and thereby, dependence on forest department for the same would minimize. The initiative will help villagers earn extra income. Besides the assurance of sufficient supply of bamboo in next couple of years, the scheme will also financially strengthen the bamboo craftsmen families. Bamboo will play an important role in catalyzing Prime Ministers initiative to double the income of farmers. Fast growing variety of bamboo saplings such as Bambusa balcooa, Bambusa tulda, Bambusa nutans, Dendrocalamus asper and saplings of other bamboo species of tissue culture will also be provided to the villagers for plantation. The scheme will cover all the districts including places with low bamboo production and special tribal area. The preference will be given to the area on the basis of population of bamboo craftsman families. Mukhyamantri Baans-Baadi Yojana is not yet launched hence information on this page is tentative.

129. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Food Entitlement Scheme (MMSFES)

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Food Entitlement Scheme (MMSFES) is a food and supplement security scheme launched by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti. The scheme has been launched to ensure the safety of food under targeted public distribution system. The scheme is named after the former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. The decision to launch the scheme was taken by the State Cabinet headed by Ms. Mehbooba on 11 April 2016. Through MMSFES, a proper public distribution system will be used to provide guaranteed food to the people belonging to the underprivileged sections of the society. Who will get the Benefits of MMSFES The families who have 1 to 6 member falling under Priority Households (PHH) and Non-Priority Households (NPHH) will get the additional food-grain of 5 kilograms per member per ration card apart from NFSA entitlement. The scheme is not meant for the AAY beneficiaries who are otherwise entitled to receive 35 kilograms ration irrespective of the family size. Under the scheme around 2172585 families will be covered with assured food-grain under MMSFES. As per the provision of Act, the scale of 5 kilogram is entitled per member per month at the nominal rate of Rs. 2 per kilogram for wheat and Rs. 3 per kilogram for rice. Deputy Commissioner will monitor the scheme at district level, who will check the quality of food and distribution process.

130. Doodh Sanjeevani Yojana (DSY) to be Extended in Surendaranagar

Doodh Sanjeevani Yojana, an initiative of state Government of Gujarat to tackle malnourishment will now be extended to three talukas of Surendaranagar district. As per the announcement made by the CM of Gujarat, Doodh Sanjeevani Yojana will now be extended to Dhrangadhra, Patdi and Lakhtar. Under the Yojana, the primary school children in these three districts will get milk with their midday meal. Under the scheme, each primary school student in these three districts will get flavoured milk with the mid day meal. The students will be provided a pouch containing 200ml of flavoured milk along with the mid day meal for the five days a week. Doodh Sanjeevani Yojana was launched and implemented to improve the nutrition level in children in tribal areas of central and eastern Gujarat. But the scheme has been extended to other developing talukas in order to improve health of children there. After the inclusion of three new districts, the number of talukas covered under the Doodh Sanjeevani Yojana in Surendranagar has been increased to 6. Children in Chotala, Thangadh and Sayla talukas of the district have been receiving milk since March this year. DSY has been successful in improving the nutrition level in children in the districts already getting benefits of the scheme. The number of beneficiaries will go up to 1.08 lakh with an increase of 53,000 in the newly added three districts.

131. Pradhan Mantri Gram Parivahan Yojana for 80,000 Commercial PVs in Rural Areas

The central government is planning to launch a new scheme to provide commercial passenger vehicles in rural areas at subsidized rates. To be named as Pradhan Mantri Gram Parivahan Yojana, the scheme has been proposed to create a better transport systems in the rural areas across the country. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Parivahan Yojana (PMGPY), the central government will provide commercial PVs to defence personnel and women self-help groups. The scheme will supplement the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana which was launched to improve road conditions in the villages. The development of roads in villages has been done at a decent pace under the PM Gramin Sadak Yojana but the public transport is missing from these roads. Within the last fiscal year, 36,000 KM of new roads have been constructed by the rural development ministry. The target for the current 2016-17 financial years is 48,000 KM. The current rate of construction of roads is 80 KM per day which is planned to be increased to 133 KM/day. Pradhan Mantri Gram Parivahan Yojana aims to improve the public transport system in rural area. Under the scheme, the government is considering to provide 10-12 seater passenger vehicles at subsidised rates to retired defence personnel and women self-help groups for running on these roads. A survey has already been conducted by the government in rural areas of Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh and what has come out is that providing 10 or 12-seater commercial passenger vehicles at subsidised rates in rural areas will be highly beneficial.

132. China has no historic rights over South China Sea: Hague Tribunal

A five-member tribunal appointed by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Hague, the Netherlands, today rejected China's claims to economic rights across large swathes of South China Sea, a case brought by the Philippines.

In the ruling, judges said that there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights to resources within the sea areas falling within the 'nine-dash line, referring to a demarcation line on a 1947 map of the sea, which is rich in energy, mineral and fishing resources.

The tribunal in 497-page ruling said China had violated the Philippines' sovereign rights. It also said China had caused severe harm to the coral reef environment by building artificial islands.

Hours ahead of the international tribunal's verdict, Beijing said it will not recognise the decision. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said Beijing will not accept the arbitration nor will it receive copies of the judgement.

China has boycotted the tribunal ever since Philippines filed the petition in The Hague international court. The ruling came from an arbitration tribunal under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which both China and Philippines have signed. The ruling is binding but the tribunal has no powers of enforcement.

133. Six more Indians qualify for Rio Olympics

Triple jumper Renjith Maheswary and golfer Anirban Lahiri are among the six Indians who yesterday qualified for the upcoming Rio Olympics.

At the Indian Grand Prix in Bengaluru, Maheswary leaped with a national record of 17.30 metres bettering the Rio qualification mark of 16.85 metres.

In 200 metres race, Dharambir Singh shattered national records by clocking 20.45 seconds to make the cut for Rio and become the first Indian to run in an Olympics 200m race after 36 years. Jinson Johnson ran the second fastest ever 800 metres race to qualify.

In Golf, which will make a return to the Olympics for the first time after the 1904 St. Louis Games, three Indians - Anirban Lahiri, Shiv Shankar Prasad Chawrasia and Aditi Ashok - sealed Rio berths. The cut off for Golf for the Games is 60 in the world ranking, and it officially closed yesterday.

While Lahiri and Chowrasia almost sealed a berth before, Aditi, the 18-year-old golfer from Bangalore, moved to 57 to make the cut following the recently concluded US Women's Open. The Rio Games begin on the 5th of next month.

134. Portugal win Euro 2016 football championship; beat France 1-0

Portugal lifted the Euro 2016 football championship at Saint-Denis in Paris beating France 1-0.

Substitute Eder scored in extra-time to give Portugal a win at their first major international title despite losing captain and talisman Cristiano Ronaldo to injury.

Eder scored the goal with 11 minutes of extra time left to stun France after the host team had dominated the match.

Ronaldo, Portugal's all-time leading scorer, went down after a heavy tackle from Dimitri Payet in the eighth minute but played on before being replaced in the 25th minute.

135. **Andy Murray clinches 2nd Wimbledon title**

Britain's Andy Murray clinched a second Wimbledon title and third Grand Slam crown last night.

He downed Milos Raonic of Canada 6-4, 7-6 and 7-6. The 29-year-old world number two added the 2016 trophy to his 2013 triumph at the All England Club and his 2012 US Open title.

Appearing in his 11th final at the majors, but his first against an opponent other than Novak Djokovic and Roger

Federer, the Scot shattered Raonic's hopes of becoming the first Canadian to win a Grand Slam crown.

136. **Heather Watson & Henri Kontinen win Wimbledon mixed doubles**

Britain's Heather Watson teamed up with Henri Kontinen of Finland to win the Wimbledon mixed doubles crown and give her country its second title at the grand slam. The unseeded Watson and Kontinen, playing in their first event together, yesterday beat 15th seeds Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany and Colombian Roberto Farah 7-6, 6-4 on Centre Court.

137. **India, Ashwin placed second in ICC Test rankings**

In the latest ICC Test rankings released in Dubai today, India has held the second position while Australia remains on top. Ravichandran Ashwin topped the all-rounders list besides being placed second in bowling.

In batting, Australia's Steve Smith leads the field and he is followed by Kane Williamson of New Zealand and South Africa's Hashim Amla. Trailing by a mere point, Pakistan could leapfrog India into second place if it wins the series against England. In case England is able to capitalise on the home advantage, it can rise to second position.

England, who recently defeated Sri Lanka 2-0 in a three-Test home series, is only three points behind Pakistan. India is due to take on the West Indies in a four-Test series that ends a week after the England-Pakistan series. In case England is able to capitalise on the home advantage, if it wins all the matches.

138. **India hockey squad announced for Rio Olympics**

Indian Hockey teams for Men and Women for the Rio Olympics have been announced. In a surprise move, skipper Sardar Singh has been removed from captaincy mainly on the basis of his recent dip in performance. Goalkeeper P R Sreejesh will captain the Men's team.

In Women's, Sushila Chanu will lead the team instead of former captain Ritu Rani. In fact, Ritu Rani has been already dropped from the Rio bound squad. Sreejesh, one of the finest custodians in world hockey at the moment, was rewarded after the team, under his leadership, ended up with a silver medal at the six-nation invitational Champions Trophy hockey tournament in London.

Playmaker SV Sunil, who is also a key component in the team, has been named vice-captain. Sardar has been the captain of the national team for a number of years having led the team in London 2012.

Rio Olympic in Brazil will witness maximum participation of Punjabi players in the Mens hockey squad as 5 players from the state have been selected for the Indian team. The players includes Manpreet Singh (Midfielder), Rupinderpal

Singh (Defender), Harmanpreet Singh (Defender), Akashdeep Singh (forward) and Ramandeep Singh (forward).

Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal has congratulated the Indian team, especially the players from Punjab. He said that the Indian team would bring laurels to the nation by striking the gold medal in hockey to end the drought of 36 years after 1980 Moscow Olympic.

139. Singapore is safest country to do business : New Pinkerton Index

Singapore is the safest nation to do business, according to global risk management company Pinkertons new tool to help corporate clients assess threats on a country-by-country basis. The Pinkerton Risk Index Report, which the Ann Arbor, Michigan-based unit of Securitas AB announced on Tuesday, lists Switzerland as the second-safest country. The United States ranked seventh. At the other end of the scale, Chad has the highest overall risk, followed by Zimbabwe and Guinea, according to the index, which uses data based on factors including natural disasters, disease, terrorism, social unrest and economic problems. Pinkerton said its report would take into account 83 different variables to help companies make decisions on relocations, expansions, investment and business travel. The report could also help insurers determine risk for providing coverage around the world. Pinkerton President Jack Zahran said terrorist attacks and natural disasters were becoming more frequent, potentially causing widespread disruption to supply chains.

140. World Youth Skills Day 15 July

Young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and continuously exposed to lower quality of jobs, greater labor market inequalities, and longer and more insecure school-to-work transitions. In addition, women are more likely to be underemployed and under-paid and to undertake part-time jobs or work under temporary contracts. That is why education and training are key determinants of success in the labor market. But unfortunately, existing systems are failing to address the learning needs of many young people, and surveys of learning outcomes and skills show that a large number of youth have low levels of achievement in basic literacy and numeracy. Skills and jobs for youth feature prominently in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and SDG target 4.4 calls for a substantial increase in the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills. July 15 is World Youth Skills Day, and the United Nations is observing the day with a special event on the theme of Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment. Understanding what works to support young people in today's and tomorrow's labor market through training and skills development will be key to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and will be at the center of this high-level event. The event will be facilitated by the UN Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, and will feature opening remarks from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The event is co-organized with the Permanent Missions of Portugal and Sri Lanka to the United Nations, UNESCO, and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

141. Kerala's junk food tax is an innovation

Kerala always makes some innovation and this time it is new Finance Minister Thomas Isaac who extended an idea for thought to his peers in other states through a new tax called fat tax. Isaac, an ex JNU Professor in Economics imposed 14.5% tax on major junk food items pizzas, burgers, sandwiches and tacos in the maiden budget of the new LDF government. The tax will be imposed on branded outlets and will be in sync with the World Health Organization's proposal to use tax measures to promote healthy food. In Kerala, there is a long argument against the junk food items sold in big volume though they are the favorite eatable item of the youth. Observers say that the fiscal impact of the tax will be minimal as it is imposed on branded outlets only. The junk items are massively sold through bakeries, unbranded fast food centres etc. than on branded outlets. But the social psyche may turn more against the junks as parents and children are taking the tax measure as a warning. More than anything else, there is a probability that the tax may be extended to bakery outlets in future. Hospitals in Kerala are reporting large number of diseases and disorders because of the changing food habits. Medical Practitioners attribute the high incidence of ill health to the fast food and junk food habit. In European countries also, there are tax and other measures against junk foods. Many countries ban junk food in school premises.

142. BRICS's NDB to issue yuan denominated green bonds

New comer in international institutional finance- the New Development Bank supported by BRICS bank targets to issue green bonds worth \$3 bn to finance infrastructure projects. The bank is equally sponsored by five BRICS countries and is headquartered in Shanghai. Green bonds are issued to mobilize funds for financing environment friendly projects. The bonds will be issued from July and is for five years. Projects including clean energy, and infrastructure are expected

to be supported from funds mobilized through the bonds. Interestingly, the bonds will be yuan denominated which implies domestic fund raising or implicit internationalization of the Chinese currency. Large sized Chinese financial institutions will be participating in the issue of green bonds. China Development Bank, China Construction Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank are underwriters of the issue. The NDB which has less limelight compared to the more Chinese controlled AIIB, has sanctioned funds for several green projects since its inception in 2015.

143. Gangajal Delivery Scheme –“ Gangajal Home Delivery through Indian Post

Gangajal delivery scheme has been launched by the Government from Patna in Bihar. It is a new initiative of the central government to deliver Gangajal to doorstep through Indian Postal Services. Under the Gangajal Delivery Scheme, any person can get the pious Gangajal delivered to the doorstep at nominal prices. The Gangajal will be brought from Gangotri and Rishikesh. The initiative was launched at a function in Patna by the Minister of State for Communications Manoj Sinha and Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. The scheme has been launched within a short span of its conceptualization. The plan was however mooted on May 30, 2016. Sinha on his part said the credibility of postal department is associated with the delivery scheme of Gangajal and it would fulfill the expectations of the people. The holy water can also be ordered through some e-commerce website at a price of Rs. 299 for a litre of bottle sources from Gomukh.

144. Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana (MSBY) Phase 2 Launch from August

The state government of Uttarakhand is planning to launch the second phase of the health insurance scheme Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana on August 1st, 2016. The second phase of the scheme will extend the insurance cover from existing Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1.75 lakh. The residents of the state who do not fall into the income tax paying slab are applicable to take benefits of the scheme. Government employees and pensioners are not eligible to apply for the scheme. [Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana](#) was originally launched last year in April providing a cashless treatment of up to Rs. 50,000 in all Government and empaneled private hospitals. However, the state government is planning to increase the cover to 1.75 Lakh from October 2015. The second phase of the scheme was to be made effective from April 2016 but delayed due to President's rule. At present, about 10,80,000 families are covered under the Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana and the government plans to add at least 1 Lakh more families after the launch of second phase. Under the health insurance scheme, Rs. 50,000 for general medical treatment and a tertiary care cover amounting to Rs 1.25 lakh per family every year will be provided. The scheme will cover a total of about 600 diseases. The tertiary care cover will take care of complex medical investigations and treatments of critical ailments related to heart and kidney.

145. Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana (MSBY) –“ Apply, Card Status & Benefits

Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana (MSBY) is an health insurance scheme by the state government of Uttarakhand. The scheme was launched in April 2015 and is now benefiting at least 48 Lakh families in the state. The government is providing a health insurance coverage upto Rs.30,000 to all the left out families not covered under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. Objective of Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana The main objective of the scheme is to improve the Affordability, Availability and Accessibility of quality health care services to every citizen of the state. The scheme has been started to cover all the families against the health spending leading to poverty. The scheme aims to broaden the access and availability of health care services and the presence of a large private health sector in the state for all the families. Features of Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana Effective and affordable family care to the entire population. Over 790 medical procedures and diagnostic services covered under the scheme. Extension of tertiary care to poor people of rural areas. About 770 Government and Private hospitals empaneled to provide cashless treatment under MSBY. Ensure access and quality of service to those with no influence or voice. Protecting the poor from becoming poorer resulting from medical expenditure. Freedom to choose from multiple Govt and private health service providers. Involvement of community in rural health care for increasing accountability. How to get Enrolled Any citizen of the state can get enrolled under the scheme to take insurance benefits. The interested candidates can visit any nearest Enrollment Center. Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana Card Under the Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana, a Bio-Metric smart card is issued to each family. The smart card can be used at any of the empaneled hospitals for treatment. Health insurance benefits of Rs. 30,000 per family per annum on a family floater basis (upto 5 members) are being provided under the scheme. The status of the balance in the card can also be checked online at [this link](#) by entering the URN number. The scheme covers hospitalization expenses for both surgical

and non-surgical procedures. Around 1159 surgical procedures are covered under the scheme which needs hospitalization or which can be handled on a day care basis. List of Procedures and Empaneled Hospitals The scheme covers a total of more than 790 medical procedures and diagnostic services which are also covered under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. The complete list of covered medical procedures can be obtained from the below link: [Medical Procedures List for 2016-17](#) There are more than 770 Government and private hospitals in the state providing cashless treatment under the Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana. The district wise list of the empaneled hospitals can be seen on official website of the scheme using the link below [List of Empaneled Hospitals](#) You can also sort the list by district, specialty or type of hospital. Quick Facts and Figures 48,05,008 smart cards have been issued in the state so far (By 14 July 2016) under the scheme and 2,050,257 claims have been fulfilled by the government. There are total 772 empaneled hospitals in the list out of which 318 are public and 454 are private hospitals.

146. National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) – 50 Lakh Apprentices by 2019-20

The union government has approved a new scheme named as National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) for promoting industrial training. The scheme is aimed at providing training to students in their field which will further help them in the placement and obtaining a suitable job. National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme has been approved by Union Cabinet with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore. The scheme has a target to train 50 lakh apprentices by the year 2019-20. The scheme will be implemented by the Director General of Training (DGT) under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). Under the scheme, the government will incentivize employers to engage apprentices. 25% of the total stipend payable to an apprentice would be shared with employers directly by Government of India. This is the first of its kind of schemes that Government is offering financial assistance to the employers to engage apprentices. The scheme also provide basic training, which is essential component of apprenticeship training. 50% of the total expenditure incurred on providing basic training will be provided by the union government. The scheme will be one of the most powerful skill-delivery schemes across the nation.

147. Crop Loan Scheme 2016-17 for Farmers Approved by Cabinet

A farmer centered Interest Subvention Scheme has been approved by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for farmers for the year 2016-17. An amount of Rs. 18,276 crore has been earmarked for the scheme. Under the scheme, the farmers will be able to get a short term crop loan of upto Rs. 3 lakh for one year at interest rate of just 4% per annum. Salient Features of Crop Loan Interest Subvention Scheme for Farmers 1. Under the new scheme, Central government will provide interest subvention of 5 percent per annum to all farmers for short term crop loan of upto Rs. 3 lakh for year borrowed by them during the year 2016-17. Farmers will thus have to pay only the loan with 4% interest. In case the farmer do not repay the short term crop loan then they have to pay the 7% interest against 4%. In this case, the farmers will only be eligible for interest subvention of 2% as against 5% available above. Interest subvention scheme is applicable for both public and private sector banks, in addition to cooperative banks, regional rural banks and NABARD for providing short term crop loan to farmers. 2. In 2016-17, the central government will provide around Rs. 18,276 crore as interest subvention for farmers. 3. The scheme will also provide a relief to small and marginal farmers who would have to borrow at 9% for the post-harvest shortage of their produce, the union government has approved an interest subvention of 2%. This type of farmer will able to get a loan at the interest rate of 7% upto 6 months under the scheme. 4. A relief to the farmers affected by Natural Calamities will also be provided under the scheme, the interest subvention of 2% will be provided to banks for the first year on the restructured amount.

148. President to inaugurate India Skills Competition today

President Pranab Mukherjee will inaugurate the first edition of India Skills Competition today, on the occasion of the World Youth Skills Day in New Delhi. Skill India will be celebrating its first anniversary on the occasion.

In order to select the best talent to represent India at IndiaSkills, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and National Skill Development Corporation India have completed more than 80 regional competitions in 24 skills and trades.

In these competitions more than four thousand and 800 candidates registered to compete this year. The winners will qualify for the final selection round for participating in WorldSkills International Competition at Abu Dhabi 2017.

Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajiv Pratap Rudy has said the government complete one

year of the Skill India and it's a proud moment for us to celebrate the achievements and milestones over the last one year. He said the year has been remarkable with more than 1.04 crore youth trained under various initiative of Skill India in 2015-16, marking 36.8 per cent growth compared to the year before.

149. India to push efforts to boost inter-continental connectivity at ASEM summit in Mongolia

India will push the efforts to boost inter-continental connectivity at the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit, ASEM in Mongolia. The two-day Summit begins at Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia today.

The theme of the Summit is 'Partnership for the Future through Connectivity' and India will focus on it. Leading the Indian delegation at the Summit, the Vice President Mohmmad Hamid Ansari has reached Ulaanbaatar last evening.

The summit is being held in the new world environment following Britain's exit from the European Union and a global economic slowdown.

World leaders including the leaders of 51 member countries and the representatives of European Union and Asian are attending the summit.

The ASEM summit is also the first major multilateral diplomatic gathering since the recent ruling by a UN-backed international tribunal which had struck down China's claims of "historical rights" in the strategic South China Sea.

Our correspondent covering the Summit reports that the issue of terrorism is also likely to come up during deliberations after recent terror strike in Bangladesh and some European countries.

ASEM comprises of 53 entities - including 51 countries from Asia and Europe and two regional bodies - the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat.

It represents around 62.3 per cent of the world's population, 57.2 per cent of the global GDP and almost 60 per cent of the world's trade.

150. HRD Ministry comes out with scheme for interest-free loans to IIT students

Human Resource Development Ministry has come out with a subvention scheme to ensure that students of IITs, whose fees were hiked recently, can secure interest-free loans.

According to an order issued by Mr Prakash Javadekar-led Ministry, the facility will be made available to all the students whose household income does not exceed 9 lakh rupees per annum.

Officials said that the scheme will only cover the tuition fee and the subvention of interest will be applicable maximum for a period of five years.

They said the government wants that students and their parents do not face any hardship after recent increase in the fee from Rs 90,000 to Rs two lakh per annum.

However SC, ST, the differently abled and economically backward sections were provided waivers. The fee hike comes into effect from this academic year, when the new batch joins.

151. Tamil Nadu pays tribute to former CM K Kamaraj on his birth anniversary

The 114th birth anniversary of former chief minister of Tamil Nadu and ex-All India Congress Committee President K.Kamaraj is being celebrated across the state.

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu government, state ministers D.Jayakumar, SP Shanmuganathan and Kadampur Raju and Chennai Mayor, Saidai Duraisamy garlanded his statue on the Marina Beach in Chennai.

At the Kamaraj memorial in his native Virudhunagar, district collector Muthukumaran lit the traditional lamp and

garlanded his statue.

Various party leaders including the Congress and the Tamil Maanila Congress and non-government organizations also organized special events in honour of Kamaraj throughout the state.

Contributions of Kamaraj-led government in the fields of education, industrialization and irrigation networks in the state were remembered in many events.

152. Tamil Nadu to implement PM's Fasal Bima Yojana from current crop season

Tamil Nadu has decided to implement the Prime Ministers Fasal Bima Yojana from the current crop season. In a statement issued in Chennai, chief minister J.Jayalalithaa has said requests for interest would be sought from the insurance agencies shortlisted by the Centre for the scheme immediately and be implemented throughout the state.

For the Rabi season, the premium to be paid by the farmers would be 1.5 percent and for the Kharif season, 2 percent and the rest of the amount will be shared by the Centre and the State equally. Ms Jayalalithaa has said the scheme would enable more participation of farmers and enhanced compensation for crop loss as the whole period from planting to post harvest stages are covered under the new scheme. The state government contribution as premium for the insurance scheme is assessed to be Rs 500 crore this fiscal, which was Rs 50 crore for the previous scheme.

153. 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. RBI yesterday said this while reviewing for exchange of soiled notes by banks.

154. India jumps 11 places to 152nd in football rankings

Riding on their back-to-back wins over Laos last month, India made a big leap of 11 places to occupy 152nd spot in the latest world football rankings issued by FIFA. India beat Laos 6-1 and 1-0 in the home and away play-off matches to make it to the 2019 Asian Cup qualifying tournament.

In fact, India is the fourth best positive mover among the Asian countries this month after Tajikistan (up 19 places to 145th), Yemen (up 16 places to 160th) and Turkmenistan (up 14 places to 120th).

Iran (39th) remain Asia's number one ranked team, followed by Korea Republic (48th), Uzbekistan (56th), Japan (57th) and Australia (59th). Overall, Argentina remain on top, despite losing to Chile in the Copa America Centenario summit clash. Belgium, Colombia, Germany and Chile retained their places at second, third, fourth and fifth while UEFA Euro 2016 champions Portugal moved up two places to be at sixth.

Euro losing finalists France are at seven, followed by former world champions Spain, Brazil and Italy in the top 10.

New Zealand emerged as the month's biggest climbers, moving up a whopping 54 places to 93rd on the back of an OFC Nations Cup victory that saw the the All Whites qualify for the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup and furthered their FIFA World Cup qualifying ambitions.

155. GM Harika Dronavalli wins Fide Women's Grand Prix trophy in China

India's Grand Master Harika Dronavalli held on to her nerves to capture the Fide Womens Grand Prix trophy in Chendu in China.

Harika, playing with white against Russia's Olga Girya, had to dig deep into her reservoir to pull off the much-needed draw to win the title, her maiden career GP title.

Harika finished on 7 points in the round robin tournament featuring the worlds top 12 players to be crowned the

champion.

Other India Grand Master Koneru Humpy too rounded off her campaign with a victory to also finish on 7 points. Harika, however, was declared winner for finishing with a better tie-break record in the tournament.

156. 18 July - Nelson Mandela International Day

Every year on 18 July the day Nelson Mandela was born the UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote [67 minutes of time](#) to helping others, as a way to mark Nelson Mandela International Day. For 67 years Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa. How the Day came about In November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day" in recognition of the former South African Presidents contribution to the culture of peace and freedom. General Assembly resolution [A/RES/64/13](#) recognizes Nelson Mandelas values and his dedication to the service of humanity, in the fields of conflict resolution, race relations, the promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, as well as the upliftment of poor and underdeveloped communities. It acknowledges his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world. Nelson Mandela Rules In December 2015, the General Assembly decided to extend the scope of Nelson Mandela International Day to also be utilized in order to promote humane conditions of imprisonment, to raise awareness about prisoners being a continuous part of society and to value the work of prison staff as a social service of particular importance. General Assembly resolution [A/RES/70/175](#) not only adopted the revised United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, but also approved that they should be known as the "Nelson Mandela Rules" in order to honour the legacy of the late President of South Africa, who spent 27 years in prison in the course of his struggle referred to above.

157. What is Green Bond?

Green bond is now emerging as an attractive instrument for availing financial resources for funding greener projects. Specifically, green bonds are bonds issued to mobilize funds for Green energy projects. According to SEBI A green bond is like any other bond where a debt instrument is issued by an entity for raising funds from investors. However what differentiates a Green bond from other bonds is that the proceeds of a Green Bond offering are 'ear-marked' for use towards financing green projects. Proceeds from green projects, are used to finance assets or business activities with an environmental benefit, such as renewable energy, low carbon transport, sustainable water management, climate change adaptation, energy efficiency, sustainable waste management, biodiversity conservation etc. Why Green bonds are important for India? Green bonds are important revenue fund raising option in India to organize funds for financing the countrys ambitious renewable energy target of 175 GW by 2022. Nearly \$200 billion is required to finance the renewable energy sector. Higher cost of borrowing and rising interest rate in the domestic market are tempting financial institutions to issue dollar denominated green bonds in overseas markets. In March 2015, the EXIM Bank issued \$500 million worth of green bonds in overseas at a coupon rate of 2.75%. It was subscribed by 3.2 times showing tremendous interest among investors. Proceeds from green bonds are given by EXIM Bank to companies to finance renewable energy projects. Several international institutions like the World Bank are issuing green bonds to finance environment friendly projects. International financial institutions, governments and other agencies mobilized around \$39 billion in 2014 through the issue of green bonds. An important feature of green bonds is that the responsibility of repayment is with the issuer and not with the firm that is utilizing the funds in green projects. Higher credibility of the issuer like the EXIM Bank helps to mobilize big amounts through bonds at lower interest rate.

158. Biju Gadi Chalak Bima Yojana – Insurance Scheme for Drivers

Biju Gadi Chalak Bima Yojana is a new health insurance scheme for vehicle drivers to be launched soon by the State government of Odisha. The scheme is proposed to cover all the vehicle drivers as they have a higher possibility of facing road mishaps. Biju Gadi Chalak Bima Yojana Coverage The scheme will provide insurance cover to all the vehicle drivers in case of death in accidents or medical treatment in case of injury sustained in road accidents. The insurance scheme is still not finalized, the government is working on deciding the premium amount and several other aspects. Biju Gadi Chalak Bima Yojana will cover all the chalak (driver) including from truck driver to auto-rickshaw drivers. Once the scheme is launched, all the driver will be able to get the benefits of the BGCBY. To offer this insurance scheme, the department tie up with the companies offering health insurance. The implementation process of Biju Gadi Chalak Bima

Yojana will be done by Labor Employees State Insurance (ESI) Department with the collaboration of transport department because the transport department has the database of drivers working across the state. As per the records, of total accidents occurring across the nation, around 1.97 percent occurred in Orissa and only 2.81 percent people killed in road mishaps of total killed in the country. At national level the accident average rate per 10,000 vehicles is around 26.8 percent while in the state, it is around 18.91 percent which is lower than the national average. According to the last years record, 9,648 road accidents were recorded in the state in which 3,931 people were killed and 11,087 were injured. And due to road accidents, the state faced a loss of property of around Rs. 70 crore in 2014.

159. Vidyalakshmi Scheme – Interest Free Loan Scheme for IIT Students

Ministry of HRD has decided to launch a new scheme named as Vidyalakshmi to assist IIT students in getting loans to pay the fee. Under the Vidyalakshmi scheme, the Ministry will help students in getting interest free loans from the banks to pay their fee. The ministry has taken into consideration the launch of the scheme after listening to the concerns and feedback of the IIT students. The recent fee hike for IIT has proved to be difficult for the students in paying the fee. But the announcement has brought back the smile on the face of IIT aspirants. The fee was recently increased from Rs 90,000 to Rs 2 lakh per annum under Smriti Irini. However SC, ST, the differently abled and economically backward sections were provided waivers. The fee hike comes into effect from this academic year, when the new batch joins. However, only the candidates whose family income is less than Rs. 9 Lakh per annum will be eligible for getting loans under Vidyalakshmi scheme.

160. SC accepts Lodha panel recommendations on structural reforms in BCCI

The Supreme Court today accepted major recommendations of the Lodha Committee on reforms in BCCI including a bar on ministers and civil servants and those above 70 years of age from becoming its members. However the apex court left it to the Parliament to decide whether it should come under RTI and if betting on the game should be legalised. The apex court also accepted the recommendations of the Committee headed by retired Chief Justice of India Justice R M Lodha to have a CAG nominee in BCCI.

A bench of Chief Justice T S Thakur and Justice F M I Kalifulla rejected BCCI's objection against recommendations for one-state-one-vote. The court said that states like Maharashtra and Gujarat having more than one cricket associations will have voting rights on rotational basis. It accepted the panel's recommendation that there should be a player's association in the BCCI. The bench also accepted the recommendation that one person should hold one post in cricket administration to avoid any conflict of interest and scrapping of all other administrative committees in the BCCI after CAG nominee comes in.

The court also left it to the Board to decide whether there is need for any changes in the existing agreement relating to broadcasting rights and whether a franchise member should be in the Board to avoid any conflict of interest.

The bench also requested the three-member panel, also comprising former apex court judges Ashok Bhan and R V Raveendran to oversee the transition of administrative structure in BCCI which has to take place within six months.

The apex court-appointed Lodha Committee had on January 4 recommended sweeping reforms and an administrative shake-up at the troubled BCCI. Some of the state cricket associations, former players Kirti Azad, Bishen Singh Bedi and cricket administrators also approached the apex court with regard to the implementation of Lodha panel recommendations in BCCI.

BCCI functionary and IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla said that the Board respects Supreme Court's verdict on sweeping reforms in the cricket board and it will work towards implementing the recommendations made by the Lodha panel. Former India cricketers Bishan Singh Bedi and Kirti Azad too hailed the verdict of the apex court.

161. Navjot Singh Sidhu resigns from Rajya Sabha

BJP MP Navjot Singh Siddhu today resigned from the Rajya Sabha. He was nominated to the Upper House in April this year.

Deputy Chairman P J Kurien announced in the House that his resignation has been accepted.

Mr. Siddhus resignation came amid speculation that the Cricketer turned politician may join Aam Aadmi Party in view of upcoming assembly elections in Punjab.

He has been critical of Akali Dal - BJP government in the state and he was reportedly upset with his own party.

162. NGT asks Delhi Transport Authority to de-register 10 year old diesel vehicles

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) today ordered immediate banning of diesel vehicles more than 10 years old in Delhi to deal with pollution in the national capital. The green panel has directed the Regional Transport Office, Delhi to cancel the registration of all diesel vehicles that are older than 10 years.

Last year, the tribunal had asked Delhi to ban such vehicles saying that pollution levels are at alarming levels. It had also said that such vehicles coming from other states should also not be allowed to enter Delhi. Vehicles over 15 years old are already banned in the national capital.

163. UNESCO lists Franco-Swiss architect Le Corbusier's works among World Heritage Sites

United Nations cultural organisation has listed 17 works by pioneering Franco-Swiss architect Le Corbusier as the World Heritage Sites. Le Corbusier spearheaded the modern movement after World War One, using iron, concrete and glass in a new focus on bold lines and functionality that did not appeal to everyone.

The sites are in seven countries. They include La Cite Radieuse in Marseille, Maison Guiette in Antwerp and the Indian city of Chandigarh. UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) said the works reflected a new architectural language that made a break with the past.

164. Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Saurav Ghosal clinch National Squash titles

Dipika Pallikal Karthik dethroned defending champion Joshna Chinappa to regain the women's title in the 73rd Senior National Squash Championship in Mumbai. The men's crown was captured by title holder and top seed Saurav Ghosal, who created history by winning it for the 11th time, defeating fourth seed Harinderpal Singh Sandhu in five hard-fought games.

Ghosal beat Sandhu 11-7 7-11 3-11 11-8 14-12 after an 88-minute battle to go past RK Narpat Singh's feat of 10 titles, won from 1946 to 1955. World no. 19 Dipika, who was playing in the nationals after a five-year gap when she won in 2011, made it to the tops once again by beating arch-rival Joshna 4-11 11-6 11-2 11-8 in 43 minutes.

165. Lord's hero Shah scales number one spot in ICC Test rankings

Wrist spinner Yasir Shah has scaled the number spot in the ICC Test rankings, becoming the first Pakistani bowler to do so since Mushtaq Ahmed achieved the feat in December 1996.

He reached the number-one spot after bowling Pakistan to a 75-run victory over England in the first Test at Lord's on Sunday.

Yasir, who returned with figures of six for 72 and four for 69, has leapfrogged India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and England's fast bowling pair of James Anderson and Stuart Broad into the top spot after his achievement earned him 32 points.

In the Test Batsmen rankings, Australia's Steve Smith maintained his top spot ahead of New Zealand's Kane Williamson. In Test team rankings, Australia and India currently take the top two places, followed by Pakistan and England at third and fourth spots.

166. Himachal wins champion trophy in All India Electricity Board Kabaddi tournament

Himachal Pradesh won the champion trophy in the 41st All India Electricity Board Kabaddi tournament held at Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu. In the final held last evening Himachal Pradesh defeated Punjab 36-22. Tamil Nadu Minister for Tourism Vellamandi Natarajan, Minister for Backward classes and minority welfare S Valarmati gave away the Champions trophy and prizes. More than 15 teams from Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana Electricity Boards competed in the four-day tournament according to Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation senior sports

officer K R Sivakumar.

167. What is inverted duty structure?

An important drawback of commercial policy or the import tariff policy is the problem of inverted duty structure prevailing in different industries. Inverted duty structure is a situation where finished goods are taxed at lower rates compared to the raw materials used in the production of such finished goods. For example, suppose the tariff (import tax) on the import of tyres is 10% and the tariff on the imports of natural rubber which is used in the production of tyres is 20%; this is a case of inverted duty structure. What inverted duty structure brings to the home country is that its industries are less protected as the tariff on the imported finished commodities are low. At the same time, the tariff on the import of raw materials used in the production of the finished goods domestically is high. The local industries may be using imported components or raw materials. This will make it more difficult to produce the concerned good domestically at a competitive price. High tax on the raw materials compels them to raise price. On the other hand, foreign finished goods will be coming at a reduced price because of low tax advantage. In conclusion, manufactured goods by the domestic industry becomes uncompetitive against imported finished goods. The disadvantage of the inverted duty structure increases with the increased use of imported raw materials. An inverted duty structure discourages domestic value addition. For India, there are several examples of inverted duty structure especially after the signing of the India-ASEAN FTA.

168. SoftBank makes fresh investment in internet of the things™ as it buys ARM Holdings

World's futuristic investor Japan's SoftBank announced \$32 bn deal to purchase the UK chip designer ARM Holdings. SoftBank which searches for next big company in the digital world is known for its seed capital in the Chinese behemoth Alibaba. ARM is at present most sophisticated chip maker for mobile phones and is supplying processors to major mobile phone manufacturers Apple, Samsung, Huawei etc. SoftBank's investment in the Cambridge based chipmaker comes when the CEO, Masayoshi Son looking for the emergence of new titans in the digital technology world or in the area of the famed internet of the things. This is the first investment by the Japanese investment firm in the semiconductor industry. Masayoshi's move comes just at the impact time of Britain's Brexit miseries. Currency and Stock prices scooped down under the exit verdict impact, but ARM's share prices rose up and Masa has paid 17% premium for his buy.

169. Govt allocates Rs 22,915 cr capital to 13 PSU banks for FY17

Government has allocated 22,915 crore rupees capital to 13 public sector banks for the current fiscal. An official release said government has undertaken an exercise to assess the capitalization needs of Public Sector Banks in line with the announcements made under the Union Budget.

The capital infusion exercise is based on an assessment of need as assessed from the Compound Annual Growth Rate of credit growth for the last five years, and banks own projections of credit growth. Consequently upon the exercise, 75 percent of the amount collected for each bank is being released now to provide liquidity support for lending operations as also to enable banks to raise funds from the market. The remaining amount will be released later based on performance.

170. Parliament passes Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016

Parliament has passed the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016 with the Rajya Sabha approving it yesterday. The bill seeks to establish a Regional Centre for Biotechnology, an institution of education, training and research, under the auspices of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the National Capital Region. It also confers upon it the status of an institution of national importance.

The Regional Centre is to disseminate knowledge by providing teaching and research facilities in biotechnology and related fields. Besides, it will help create a hub of biotechnology expertise and promote co-operation at the international level.

Speaking on the bill, Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said, biotechnology is a new and growing field with immense potential for societal benefit and economic transformation. The Minister said, it is a powerful tool that can revolutionise health care, agriculture, industrial processing and environmental sustainability.

171. Centre to build memorial for A P J Abdul Kalam in Tamil Nadu: Parrikar

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar told the Rajya Sabha today that the Centre will build a memorial for the former President and Defence Scientist Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam in Tamil Nadu. Intervening in a Zero Hour mention, Mr Parrikar said the Tamil Nadu Government has allotted 1.8 acres of land for the memorial whereas the Centre wanted five acres.

He said the foundation of the memorial will be laid on 27th of this month. Dr Kalam breathed his last on 27th of July last year. Raising the issue, Derek O'Brien of Trinamool Congress urged the government to expedite the construction of the memorial.

172. China begins military exercises in South China Sea

China begins military exercises in South China Sea today. In a statement on its website, China's maritime administration said entrance to parts of South China Sea would be prohibited for the military drills. The exercises will continue till Thursday.

In a related development Foreign Minister of the Philippines has said his government has rejected China's offer to discuss their territorial dispute in the South China Sea. He said reason for refusal is that Beijing will not permit last week's ruling by an international court to serve as the basis of the talks.

A top Chinese Admiral said yesterday that China will not stop construction on the Nansha Islands in strategic South China Sea which was awarded to the Philippines by an international tribunal. Wu Shengli, commander of the People's Liberation Army Navy told his US counterpart Admiral John Richardson during their meeting in Beijing that the Nansha Islands are China's inherent territory, and Chinese construction on the islands is reasonable, justified and lawful.

173. India, US agree to deepen cooperation in maritime sector

India and the United States have agreed to deepen the scope of cooperation in the maritime sector. The American ports have evinced keen interest in comprehensive port-led development, especially the ambitious Sagarmala programme. The Ministry of shipping said in a press release that 150 projects under this programme have the potential of mobilizing 50-60 Billion US Dollars of infrastructure investment and another 100 Billion US Dollars of investment for promoting industrial growth.

The Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari during his recent visit to the USA; held wide-ranging discussions with the representatives of Harbor Department of the City of Long Beach. Mr Gadkari offered investment opportunities in various areas such as development of new ports and berths/terminals in existing ports, coastal economic zones, dredging, ship building, ship repairing, ship recycling, development of inland waterways and coastal and cruise shipping.

Mr. Gadkari went round the Port of Long Beach and explored explored joint venture opportunities between the Port and India's container handling Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) to promote transfer of technology and enhance bilateral commerce. Mr. Gadkari also outlined the regulatory assistance the Indian government has offered to the maritime sector; including grant of infrastructure status to shipyards, service tax exemption on ship repair service, setting up of ship repairing business immediately without any approval from Director Generals, etc.

174. NASA announces discovery of 104 new planets outside solar system

NASA has announced the discovery of 104 new planets outside our solar system including four that could have Earth-like, rocky surfaces. Scientists discovered the exoplanets in Hawaii using Kepler space telescope.

The unmanned Kepler mission has been scanning 150,000 stars in the Cygnus constellation for signs of orbiting bodies, particularly those that might be able to support life. Evan Sinukoff, an astronomer at the University of Hawaii who contributed to the research, said the diversity of planets is astounding.

175. Quarter of million children suffering from severe malnutrition in Nigeria

In Nigeria, almost a quarter of a million children in parts of Borno state formerly controlled by Boko Haram are suffering from severe malnutrition. UNICEF has warned tens of thousands will die if treatment does not reach them

soon. In areas where Boko Haram militants had been in control, it found people without water, food or sanitation.

UNICEF said, of the 244,000 children found to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Borno, almost one in five would die if they were not reached with treatment. Last month, a charity said people fleeing Boko Haram had starved to death. The group's seven-year rebellion has left 20,000 people dead and more than two million displaced. Nigeria's military is involved in a large-scale offensive against the group.

176. UNESCO names Iraqi marshlands as world heritage site

United Nations cultural agency, UNESCO has named Iraq's southern marshes - once decimated by Saddam Hussein - a World Heritage Site.

UNESCO said, home to the Marsh Arabs, three archaeological sites and an array of species of birds and fish, the marshes are unique.

The area was ordered drained in the 1990s by Saddam Hussein to stop it being used for cover by rebels. The marshlands have partially revived since his overthrow in 2003.

A major restoration programme has seen people and wildlife return to the area, regarded by some as the site of the Biblical Garden of Eden.

177. SpaceX to launch space station docking port

US space firm SpaceX has launched supplies to the International Space Station, including a crucial docking port for future American commercial crew vehicles, and will also try a rocket landing on solid ground.

The SpaceX Dragon cargo spacecraft lifted off on the company's Falcon 9 rocket on time from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The cargo is the first of two international docking adapters, which will allow US commercial spacecraft to dock to the station while transporting American astronauts in the near future.

178. Una incident: Gujarat CM orders CID probe, sets up special court

Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel has ordered CID probe into the alleged assault on Dalits for allegedly killing a cow at Una last week. Chief Minister also announced to set up a special court for speedy trial of the case. Terming the incident as "unfortunate", Patel also ordered appointment of a special public prosecutor who will be required to submit the charge-sheet within sixty days.

In addition, Patel announced that the state government will bear all the medical expenses of the seven Dalit youths, who were injured in this incident and are undergoing treatment at various government hospitals in Una, Junagadh and Rajkot. Rs. one lakh each has been given to the victims as compensation. According to the official release, so far nine persons have been arrested in the case and three policemen have been suspended for dereliction of duty.

Congress party leaders under the leadership of State Assembly opposition leader Shankarsinh Waghela will today approach governor of the state to look into the matter. Congress has demanded the inquiry of the incident by existing judge of the high court. Protest rallies are being held by Dalit Community leaders in various parts of the state.

179. AP: Aadhaar card made mandatory as identity proof at Tirumala

In Andhra Pradesh, the famous hill shrine of Tirumala Tirupati Devasathanam has made it official that it is compulsorily to produce Aadhaar card as identity proof by the devotees who wish to perform anga pradakshinam (rolling on the floor around the temple precincts) in fulfillment of their prayers. This will come into force from Thursday.

180. What is Sovereign Gold Bond scheme?

The Government has launched Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme that offers people and entities to invest in government

bonds denominated in gold values. Prime Minister has launched three gold related investment programmes simultaneously the gold monetization scheme, gold coin scheme and the gold bond scheme in November 2015. All these programmes were aimed to meet investment appetite/physical demand for gold in different ways and thus aimed to reduce gold imports. What is Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme (SGB)? Sovereign Gold Bonds are government securities or bonds denominated in fixed grams of gold. Investors have to pay the price for bonds in cash equivalent to the present value of gold (prevailing gold price). The price of bonds is expressed in terms of 1-gram gold, 2-gram gold etc. Understandably, the price of bond depends upon the quantity of gold denominated. Who is eligible to invest in the SGBs? Persons resident in India as defined under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 are eligible to invest in SGB. Eligible investors include individuals, HUFs, trusts, universities, charitable institutions, etc. What is the price of the bond at issue and at maturity? Bonds will be redeemed in cash (converted into money) at the maturity period which is a maximum of 8 years. Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity. Both issue price and price at maturity are tied with the prevailing price of gold. Who issues SGB? SGBs are issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India. Since this is a bond, it can be held in demat or paper form. Investors can apply for the bonds through scheduled commercial banks and designated post offices, NBFCs and National Saving Certificate (NSC) agents. BSE and NSE are included as receiving offices, apart from the commercial banks, SHCIL, designated post offices. Interest rate of the bond An interest rate of 2.75% will be paid to the investor or bond holder based upon the value of his investment at the beginning. Tradability Bonds would be allowed to be traded on exchanges to allow early exits for investors who may so desire. Tax treatment The interest on the Gold Bond shall be taxable as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act. Capital gain tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted. TDS is not applicable on the bond. However, it is the responsibility of the bond holder to comply with the tax laws. How the gold bond works? As an investment asset, the significance of Sovereign Gold Bond is that they are substitutes for holding physical gold. This means that if you need not buy real gold to get higher price in future after keeping for a long time. Rather if you buy one-gram Sovereign Gold Bond, at the prevailing gold price today, you can get the price of one-gram gold prevailing on the future date at maturity. The money from the gold bond maturity depends upon the price of gold at the maturity date. This makes sovereign gold bond exactly like physical gold. So far three tranches of the gold bond scheme were completed and the government has launched a fourth tranche with several changes. These changes are expected to attract more investors into sovereign gold bonds. Changes made during the fourth tranche Several changes were made to the fourth tranche that will be done during 2016-17 following are the main changes. The minimum subscription has been reduced from 2 grams to 1 gram with the view to enlarge the subscriber base. Price for gold has been fixed at Rs 3,119 per gram. Maximum subscription ceiling has been retained at 500 gm per person.

181. India, Bangladesh jointly inaugurate Petrapole checkpoint

Prime Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the second Integrated Checkpost of Petrapole-Benapole on the India Bangladesh western border through video conferencing today. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee was also linked to the videoconferencing from Kolkata.

Dedicating the key land border checkpoint, which covers over 50 per cent of India-Bangladesh bilateral trade, to the people of India and Bangladesh, Mr Modi said it is a milestone in the journey of both countries towards increased economic development and prosperity.

Reiterating the close link between economic development and connectivity, Mr Modi said, the checkpoint, which offers immigration, customs and border security clearances in a single window, will facilitate more economic integration and connectivity between the two countries and in the region.

He said, 7 land customs stations along India's international border are being upgraded to Integrated Checkposts with the aim of boosting connectivity in the sub-region and enhancing people-to-people contacts. Mr Modi praised Sheikh Hasina's leadership in the fight against militancy and reiterated that India stands solidly behind Bangladesh at this critical time with all assistance in the fight against terrorism.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her address termed the opening of the ICP as another special and memorable day for Bangladesh and India and said it will open up a new horizon in bilateral co-operation in the region.

The opening of the second Integrated checkpoint on the India-Bangladesh border is a clear indication of the importance that both countries give to connectivity, increased trade and enhanced people to people contacts. It is a symbol of the message of shared prosperity between the two countries that Prime Minister Modi gave during his visit to Bangladesh in June last year.

Integrating immigration, customs and border security clearances in a single window, and containing a whole lot of infrastructure necessary for quicker passenger and cargo processing, the key land border checkpoint is bound to give a boost to trade and people-to people contacts between the two countries.

182. Cabinet approves amendments in Benami Transactions Bill, 2015

The Union Cabinet approved amendments to the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2015, to be introduced in Parliament. The amendments aim to strengthen the Bill in terms of legal and administrative procedure so as to overcome the practical difficulties which may arise in the implementation of the provisions of the Bill when it becomes an Act, according to a government statement. The legislation empowers the government to confiscate benami property by following due procedure. However, those who declare their benami properties under income declaration scheme will get immunity under the Benami Act, it added. New plants The Cabinet also gave its approval for the installation of the 1980 MW Ghatampur Thermal Power Project (GTPC) through a joint venture between Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL). The JV is to be named Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited (NUPPL). The project will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.17,237.8 crore including Interest During Construction component of Rs.3,202.42 crore, the official statement said about the decision that assumes significance ahead of the assembly polls in the state next year. The commissioning of Unit I, II and III will be 52 months, 58 months and 64 months respectively from starting date, and the benefits of the project are to accrue in the 13th Five Year Plan, according to the government. The energy generated by the GTPC (about 14000 MU/annum) will mainly be supplied to Uttar Pradesh, the statement added. The Ministry of Coal had allotted the Pachwara South coal block in Jharkhand to meet the coal requirement of the project. Ambuja Cements The Cabinet also approved the proposal by Ambuja Cements for the acquisition of 24 per cent shares in its holding company Holcim (India) Private Limited from Holderind Investment Limited and a subsequent reverse merger through a share swap. This deal would entail an outflow of Rs 3,500 crore.

183. Pune woman runs Golden Quadrilateral by foot in fastest time, enters Guinness

Punes Michelle Kakade has made her way into the Guinness Book of World Records as the first person to complete the Indian Golden Quadrilateral on foot. Michelle, a 47-year-old mother of two children and wife of businessman Anil Kakade, received the acknowledgement and her certificate from Guinness after strict verification of her run, a media release said on Thursday. The certificate notes the fastest time to travel the Indian Golden Quadrilateral on foot by a female in 193 days, one hour and nine minutes and was achieved by Michelle Kakade (India) between 21 October 2015 and 1 May 2016. She would feature in the Guinness World Records for covering 5968.4 km of the Golden Quadrilateral that connects the four major metros of the country. Breakdown of distances The breakdown of distances is: Mumbai to Delhi 1514.2 km; Delhi to Kolkata 1542.18 km, Kolkata to Chennai 1554.49 km and Chennai to Mumbai 1357.53 km. Im thrilled that my attempt has been recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records. This is my first world record and Im truly inspired, Michelle, a triple record holder of the Limca Book of Indian Records, said. My run was dedicated to the millions of women in our country who are battling every day for survival purely on the basis of their gender, added Michelle who has taken part in full and half marathon races in the past.

184. Solar plants to be set up in all universities in Rajasthan

In Rajasthan, Solar plants will be set up in all universities. This decision was taken in vice-chancellors committee co-ordination meeting which was chaired by governor Kalyan Singh today in Jaipur. The decision to install a statue of Swami Vivekanda in every university campus was also taken in the meeting.

185. Seven Indian firms on Fortune 500

Seven Indian companies have made it to the latest Fortune 500 list of the world's biggest corporations in terms of revenue with the retail giant Walmart topping the global rankings.

Indian Oil Corp is ranked highest at 161st among Indian firms, .

Among the seven Indian companies, four are from the public sector .

Among state-run majors, Indian Oil is followed by banking behemoth SBI, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum.

186. FICCI calls for FTAs with EU and UK

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has called for restarting negotiations for India's Free Trade Agreements with UK and European Union (EU). Addressing the South Asian Diaspora Convention in Singapore last night, FICCI Secretary General A Didar Singh said, India-EU FTA has been on the anvil for 10 years. He said, India is a very strong and important economy that other countries want to associate with.

Mr Singh said, the call came from a FICCI survey of the 800 Indian companies based in UK, which reported a sudden 15 per cent decline in return on investments as the pound sterling fell 15 per cent following Brexit vote last month. Responding to the survey, the companies said they see a decline in profitability over the next three to five years, especially following the split decision which will impact their European business done through UK-based offices.

187. Sports Minister Vijay Goel congratulates Rohit Khendelwal on winning Mr. World title

Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel has congratulated Rohit Khendelwal on winning Mr. World title. In a message, Mr Goel said, the success of Mr Khendelwal at the competition reflects that Indian Youth is committed to do positive things in life and bring laurels to the country at the world arena.

Rohit Khandelwal became the first Indian to win the coveted Mr-World title at the grand finale of the 2016 competition in the United Kingdom. The model-actor from Hyderabad defeated 46 contestants from across the globe.

188. Curvy Brazilian women inspire Olympic medal design

If Rio residents think the curvy ancient Greek goddess stamped on the Olympic medals looks familiar, they wouldn't be wrong: she's modeled on Brazilian women. Sculptor Nelson Carneiro, 60, has created the 5,130 bronze, silver and gold medals at the national mint, called Casa da Moeda, near Rio de Janeiro.

Carneiro says the sensuous side of the city inspired his depiction on the medals of the Greek goddess Nike ahead of the Summer Games starting August 5. Nike, the goddess of victory in Greek mythology, has been the face of Olympic medals since the 2004 Athens Games, with the Parthenon temple in the background.

The medals may celebrate ancient tradition, but the technology mixes artisanal and 21st century techniques. First, Carneiro sculpts the design in clay and this is copied by a 3D printer. A steel mold is used to stamp the medals in a hydraulic press and medals are then polished to remove imperfections.

Work on the medals started a month ago and will go right up to July 31, less than a week before the opening ceremony. The Olympics will have 2,488 medals and the Paralympics, which run from September 7-18, will have 2,642. Each medal weighs 17.6 ounces (500 grams), 20 percent more than the ones handed out in London and heavier than in any previous Olympics.

The coveted gold medals are not really gold -- they have 17.4 ounces (494 grams) of silver and just 0.2 ounces (six grams) of gold plating. Silver medals are fully silver. The bronze medals, though, are arguably brass, an alloy of copper and zinc, rather than bronze which typically mixes copper and tin. Paralympic medals contain small steel balls to help identify them by sound for those with poor vision.

189. Tax Department to sent notices to 7 lakh Non -PAN high value transactions

The chase against black money will be getting a big push as the government is tracking high value transactions that has not quoted PAN. As part of this effort, the Income Tax Department has decided to send tax notices to reported non-PAN transactions that have high values. The move comes amidst the muted response to the tax departments mega effort to track black money- the domestic black money disclosure scheme. According to the IT sources, tax notices will be issued to parties of nearly 7 lakh non -PAN transactions. The tax department officials revealed that they have got the information about such transactions from other sources. There are 7 lakh identified clusters of such transactions and they

will be asked submit PAN against the said value. As per the current norms, individuals and entities have to quote their PAN while high value transactions including cash transfer, real estate deal and gold. The present move is to track cash deposits above Rs 10 lakh, sale/purchase of immovable property valued at Rs 30 lakh or more etc. An e-filing portal has been developed to collect replies to the letters to be send by the parties. Administrative burden can be lightened with e-filing of the responses according to the Tax Department. According to the Department, details about 90 lakh high value transactions were collected during the last seven years.

190. Samajwadi Hathkargha Bunkar Pension Yojana – Pension Scheme for Weavers

State Government of Uttar Pradesh has announced a new pension scheme for weavers during a state cabinet meeting held on 18 July. Under the new pension scheme named as Samajwadi Hathkargha Bunkar Pension Yojana, state government will provide Rs. 500 per month as pension to every weaver in the state. The pension will be given to the weaver who is above the age of 60 years. The state government announced the scheme during the recent cabinet meeting where some other important decisions were also taken regarding the 7th Pay Commission. Since the scheme has been announced just yesterday, not much details are available. We will update the complete details about the Samajwadi Hathkargha Bunkar Pension Yojana as soon as possible.

191. 7th Pay Commission in Uttar Pradesh Approved

In a big cheer to the state government employees, the Akhilesh Government has approved the implementation of the 7th pay commission in the state. The decision was taken during a state cabinet meeting on 18 July. During the meeting, government decided to implement the 7th Pay commission by forming a four member committee. The head of the committee will be selected by the Chief Minister Mr. Akhilesh Yadav. Highlights

1. The 4 member committee will have to submit report within 6 months. The state government however may implement the 7th Pay Commission in October in view of the next assembly elections are just round the corner. 2. About 16 Lakh state government employees and 6 Lakh pensioners will be benefited from the commission once implemented. 3. An extra burden of Rs. 24,000 crores per annum will be added to the state government after the implementation of 7th pay commission. 4. The HRA hike decision has already been postponed due to some technical reasons. The state government employees were waiting for an increase of 20% in HRA.

192. Insurance Scheme for Migrant Labourers in Kerala to be Introduced Soon

State Government of Kerala is planning to introduce a new scheme for migrant labourers in the state. The scheme will cover over 2.5 million migrant labourers mostly from West Bengal, Bihar and the northeast. According to the latest survey undertaken in 2013, there were about 2.5 million migrant labourers in the state who have come from other states to work here. The government is planning to capture the details of the migrant labourers through the insurance scheme. However, there are rules in the state that every migrant labourer should register himself/herself in the police station nearest to their residence. At present, the number of migrant labourers is even high and increasing, so are the cases registered against them. About 10% of all the migrant labourers have criminal records in their home states and that is repeated here. The proposed insurance scheme is aimed to get the proper registration of all these labourers since the state does not have any proper registration programme. The government also plans to give the migrant labourers a decent standard of basic amenities by considering them an integral part of the Kerala Society. Special medical camps and basic sanitation facilities at the labour camps will be the part of the basic amenities to be provided to migrant labourers.

193. Free Bus Pass Scheme for Students Launched in Tamilnadu

Free bus pass scheme for school and college students for the year 2016-17 has been launched by the state government. During the launch of the scheme, Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa gave away smart cards to five beneficiaries. Free bus pass scheme of the state government is aimed at benefiting the students from poor background. The scheme has benefited 28.05 lakh students in 2015-16 according to the official release. In the year 2016-17 the scheme will benefit 31.11 lakh students in schools and colleges across the state. Each student will be issued a smart card bus pass under the scheme. The total cost for the scheme implementation in 2016-17 is estimated at about Rs. 504.31 crore. The launch of the scheme was marked by Jayalalithaa giving away smart card bus passes to 5 students. CM also launched a pension scheme for beneficiaries of her RK Nagar constituency.

194. Indian Railway – Passenger Insurance Scheme Pilot from September

Indian Railway is likely to start the pilot of Passenger Insurance Scheme from September to provide an insurance

cover of Rs. 10 Lakh to the passengers with a minimal premium of just Rs. 10 per ticket. An insurance cover of Rs. 10 Lakh will be provided in case of permanent disability or death caused in a train accident. To implement the scheme, IRCTC has shortlisted 17 insurance companies out of which 3 will be finalized soon to provide insurance cover to the passengers. Plans of introducing an insurance scheme for passengers was announced in this years budget. The scheme first will be launched on pilot basis and will be applicable in case of online booking of the ticket. The scheme may be extended to the passengers buying tickets from counter and monthly season ticket travelers in coming days. The following insurance cover will be provided under the passenger insurance scheme

Rs. 10 lakh in case of permanent disability or death

Rs. 7.5 lakh for partial disability or injuries

Rs. 5 lakh for hospitalization

Rs. 10,000 for transportation of mortal remains The passengers booking tickets online can opt for the insurance. The premium amount will depend upon the duration or the distance of the journey.

195. Loan Scheme in Haryana for Fruit & Vegetable Growers Soon

Haryana Government has approved the proposal of a loan scheme for fruit and vegetable growers. The scheme will be aimed to help the groups formed by the vegetable and fruit growers to increase production. Improvement in storage, processing and marketing of the produce to generate better returns is also the aim of the scheme. The scheme will provide financial assistance to the farmers to create better infrastructure for production, marketing, processing and storage of fruits and vegetables. All the registered societies engaged in the cultivation, post-harvest management, processing and marketing of vegetables and fruits would be eligible for the loan under the scheme. Under the scheme, no collateral is required from the societies as security. However, for loans of more than Rs. 5 Lakh, a security collateral equivalent to one and half times the loan amount would be required. According to some official spokesperson, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has approved the proposal for the scheme.

196. Right to Light Scheme to be Launched in UP & 4 Other States

Right to Light, an initiative engineered by IIT Bombay will be launched by central government in poll bound state of Uttar Pradesh and 4 others. Under the Right to Light scheme, government will provide solar lamps for reading purpose to the school going students across the state. The scheme will be launched with the help of Piyush Goyals ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE). The scheme will cater to the 1.03 crore students in 296 development blocks in Uttar Pradesh where electrification is less than 50%. The scheme will target the homes which are still dependent upon kerosene. Under the scheme, the beneficiary student will have to pay some of the cost of the lamp while rest will be borne by the MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy). The Right to Light scheme is likely to be launched by September.

197. Energy Efficient 50 Watt Ceiling Fans Scheme to be Launched in 5 More States

EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Ltd) is all set to extend distribution of energy efficient 50 watt ceiling fans scheme to 5 more states including Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajsathan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. The scheme would be launched in these 5 states within next 2-3 months. According to EESL Managing Director Saurabh Kumar, the scheme has been planned for launch in 5 more states. A tender has also been floated for procuring 10 Lakh 50 watt ceiling fans. EESL is expecting the delivery of these fans to start from August. Under the scheme, energy efficient 50 watt bulb will be provided at an upfront payment of Rs. 1150. The consumers can also opt for the EMI scheme to pay the cost of the fan. The EMI will be adjusted towards the electricity bill of the consumer. Ceiling fans which are rated 5 stars by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency are available in market at no less than Rs. 1500. Under the pilot project, EESL has already distributed 42,000 such fans in four districts namely West Godavari and Vijayawada of Andhra Pradesh and Varanasi and Kanpur of Uttar Pradesh. After the success of Ujala Scheme for LED distribution, government is now planning to launch scheme for distribution of energy efficient tubelights.

198. All primary & upper primary schools in Odisha electrified

In Odisha, all the primary and upper primary schools in the state are now connected with electricity.

However, the percentage is as low as 40 in high schools and 16 in higher secondary schools. Official sources said, in the electricity connection, which is mostly required in high schools for imparting computer and internet education to the students, the state is lagging behind other states.

While there is a system for providing computer and internet education to all the students in over 90 per cent high schools in Chandigarh, Goa and Kerala, the percentage is less than 11 per cent in Odisha.

199. TN CM Jayalithaa launches works on extension of Chennai Metro Rail

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalithaa launched works on the extension of Chennai Metro Rail from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar on Saturday in presence of the Union Urban Development and IB Minister Venkiah Naidu.

Ms Jayalithaa appreciated the support of the Centre in executing the approved works faster and in approving the extension of the line.

She said, project reports are being prepared for mooted three more corridors of metro rail service in its second phase.

Mr Venkiah Naidu said, coordinated approach between the Centre and the states would lead to overall development of the country.

He lauded the functioning of the Tamil Nadu government and sought the chief minister's cooperation in executing development works.

The nine-kilometer long extension is being executed at a cost of Rs. 3,770 crore to connect the thickly populated outskirts with the city.

The works on the line consisting of two kilometre long tunnel covering two stations and elevated corridor with six other stations are scheduled to be completed by March 2018.

The Union Cabinet approved the extension in June 2016, which shares Rs. 713 crore expenditure.

The states contribution is Rs. 916 crore, and the balance of Rs. 2,141 crore is to be mobilized through loans.

Meanwhile, the Chennai Metro officials are busy giving finishing touches for the inauguration of the second stretch of Metro line from Little Mount to Airport and the third stretch of Alandur to St Thomass Mount.

The first stretch covering 10 km from Koyambedu to Alandur is already operational.

200. Modern Indian artist S H Raza passes away

Modern Indian artist S H Raza died in New Delhi on Saturday following a prolonged illness. He was 94. Raza was suffering from old-age related ailments and was in the ICU of a private hospital for the last two months.

The last rites will be conducted in Mandala in Madhya Pradesh, according to his wishes.

An internationally acclaimed painter, Raza was honoured with the Padma Shri. He was elected as fellow of the Lalit Kala Akademi in 1983.

201. Odisha govt to organise 'Invest Odisha' meet in Bengaluru on Tuesday

The Odisha government will organise an Invest Odisha meet in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

A meeting in this regard was held on Friday in Bhubaneswar under the chairmanship of Minister of Industries Debi Prasad Mishra.

Mr Mishra told reporters that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will attend the meet and hold one-to-one meetings with top-level industry captains.

He said, the companies expected to attend the meet include from the sectors of engineering, IT, hardware, aviation, textiles, aerospace, telecom, defense and transport.

The Minister also said, Biju Patnaik centenary will also be organised on the same day as another event in Bengaluru with a number of attractive cultural programmes.

202. Odisha govt to acquire one lakh acre land under its land bank scheme

In a bid to ease the land acquisition for industries, the Odisha government has set a target to acquire one lakh acre land under its land bank scheme within one year.

The Odisha Industrial Development Corporation (Idco) has been assigned the task for acquiring the land under the scheme.

Official sources said, the land that will be acquired under the scheme has been placed under category A and B.

Land acquired under A category will be utilised for industrial projects while B category land will be kept reserved for future use.

The scheme was implemented to attract investors for establishing industries in the State.

The land bank scheme is functioning well in Gujarat and has been successful in roping in companies to invest in the State.

203. India's first green rail corridor launched 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 inaugurated yesterday 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. Inaugurating the corridor, Mr Prabhu said his ministry was committed to converting all toilets in railways to bio-toilets.

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. Mr Prabhu said the Railways has set a target to provide 30,000 new bio-toilets during 2016-17. He said before end of March next year, the Jammu-Katra section will also be human waste free.

He also inaugurated high speed upgraded Wi-Fi facility, set up in association with Google, at Chennai Central Railway Station and a similar facility at Tiruchirappalli through video conferencing. The Wi-Fi amenities were part of the digital India plan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said.

204. Bar Council of India suspends 126 TN lawyers

Bar Council of India (BCI) has suspended 126 lawyers of Tamil Nadu and prohibited them from practising in any court or tribunal in the country pursuant to its warning that it will suspend those who indulge in boycott and other activities. The BCI's action comes in the wake of an announcement by Joint Action Committee (JAC) of various bar associations to stage a sit-in at Madras High Court, its Madurai bench and subordinate courts today, to protest against the recently amended rules to Advocates Act. The JAC had said that they will not allow anyone, even judges, to enter the court premises.

205. RBI imposes penalty of Rs 5 cr on BoB

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of five crore rupees on Bank of Baroda after it found irregularities in the 6,100-crore rupees scam that was unearthed last year. Various irregularities by bank such as non-submission and inordinate delays in filing of Suspicious Transaction Reports, besides opening of accounts by several entities without fulfilling KYC norms, were noticed by RBI.

Both CBI and the enforcement Directorate are probing huge remittances to Hong Kong from the bank. The amount was allegedly transferred in the garb of payments for imports that never took place, investigators said. Bank of Baroda said it has implemented a comprehensive corrective action plan, to strengthen internal controls and to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

206. Foundation stone laid for MSME technology center in Visakhapatnam

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, along with Union Ministers Kalraj Mishra and Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises technology centre at Pudi in Visakhapatnam district on Saturday. The Centre has decided to locate a world-class technology centre with an investment of up to Rs. 120 crore.

Addressing the gathering after laying the foundation stone for the Centre-sponsored programme for setting up Technology Centre Systems Programme, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu said industries would usher in economic growth and improve livelihood of people in the neighbourhood, besides providing jobs to the locals.

He said industrial workers should not resort to strike and vitiate the atmosphere as it would send wrong signals to investors.

He said he has been visiting various countries to get investments so that Andhra Pradesh is able to compete with other states in the field of industrial development.

Mr. Naidu said setting up of an industrial corridor in the region around Visakhapatnam district will help Andhra Pradesh become a hub of industrial activity in the country.

He also announced a development package for villages surrounding industrial centres in the district.

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY