



Current Affairs June - 2016

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SHANMUGAM

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1. Today in History - June 1

- 1533 - Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's new queen, was crowned.
- 1774 - The British government ordered the Port of Boston closed.
- 1789 - The first [U.S.](#) congressional act on administering oaths became law.
- 1792 - [Kentucky](#) became the 15th state of the U.S.
- 1796 - [Tennessee](#) became the 16th state of the U.S.
- 1861 - The first skirmish of the [U.S.](#) Civil War took place at the Fairfax Court House, [Virginia](#).
- 1869 - Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric voting machine.
- 1877 - [U.S.](#) troops were authorized to pursue bandits into Mexico.
- 1892 - The General Electric Company (GE) began operations after the merging of the Edison General Electric and the Thomson-Houston Electric companies.
- 1896 - In Paris, France, the first recorded automobile theft occurred. The Peugeot of Baron de Zuylen de Nyevelt was stolen by his mechanic.
- 1915 - Germany conducted the first zeppelin air raid over England.
- 1916 - The National Defense Act increased the strength of the [U.S.](#) National Guard by 450,000 men.
- 1921 - A race riot erupted in Tulsa, [Oklahoma](#). 85 people were killed.
- 1935 - The Ingersoll-Waterbury Company reported that it had produced 2.5 million Mickey Mouse watches during its 2-year association with Disney.
- 1938 - Baseball helmets were worn for the first time.
- 1939 - The Douglas DC-4 made its first passenger flight from Chicago to New York.
- 1941 - The German Army completed the capture of Crete as the Allied evacuation ended.
- 1942 - The [U.S.](#) began sending Lend-Lease materials to the Soviet Union.
- 1943 - During World War II, Germans shot down a civilian flight from Lisbon to London.
- 1944 - The French resistance was warned by a coded message from the British that the D-Day invasion was imminent.
- 1944 - Siesta was abolished by the government of Mexico.
- 1953 - Raymond Burr made his network-TV acting debut. It was in "The Mask of Medusa" on ABC-TV's "Twilight Theater."
- 1954 - In the Peanuts comic strip, Linus' security blanket made its debut.
- 1958 - Charles de Gaulle became the premier of France.

1958 - IBM ended its design of machines that contained electronic tubes.

1961 - Radio listeners in [New York](#), [California](#), and [Illinois](#) were introduced to FM multiplex stereo broadcasting. A year later the FCC made this a standard.

1963 - Governor George Wallace vowed to defy an injunction that ordered the integration of the University of [Alabama](#).

1970 - Zimbabwe came into existence. It was formerly known as Rhodesia.

1972 - In Iraq, The Ba'athist government nationalized the western-owned Iraq Petroleum Company and turned operations over to the Iraq National Oil Company.

1977 - The Soviet Union formally charged Jewish human rights activist Anatoly Shcharansky with treason. He was imprisoned until 1986.

1978 - The [U.S.](#) reported the finding of wiretaps in the American embassy in Moscow.

1979 - In the U.S., the government-controlled ceiling on oil prices ends. The control was phased out over 28 months.

1980 - Cable News Network (CNN) made its debut as the first all-news station.

1989 - Disney World's "Typhoon Lagoon" opened.

1995 - At Disneyland Paris, the attraction "Space Mountain: From The Earth to the Moon" opened.

1998 - In the [U.S.](#), the FDA approved a urine only test for the AIDS virus.

1998 - A \$124 million suit was brought against Goodyear Tire Rubber that alleged discrimination towards black workers.

1999 - Merrill Lynch chairman David Komansky announced that the firm would soon allow its customers to buy and sell stocks over the Internet.

2008 - The Phoenix Mars Lander became the first NASA spacecraft to scoop Martian soil.

2009 - The first event, a George Strait concert, was held at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, [TX](#).
[Today in Texas History](#)

2009 - General Motors filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. The filing made GM the largest U.S. industrial company to enter bankruptcy protection.

2. Global Day of Parents - 1 June

The Global Day of Parents is observed on the 1st of June every year. The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012 with resolution [A/RES/66/292](#) and honours parents throughout the world. The Global Day provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship. In its resolution, the General Assembly also noted that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. The resolution recognizes the role of parents in the rearing of children and invites Member States to celebrate the Day in full partnership with civil society, particularly involving young people and children.

3. International Children's Day - 1 June

The World Conference for the Well-being of Children in Geneva, Switzerland, proclaimed June 1 to be International

Children's Day in 1925. It is usually marked with speeches on children's rights and wellbeing, and other events involving or dedicated to children. A similar event, [Universal Children's Day](#), falls on 20 November. It was established by the United Nations in 1954 and aims to promote the welfare of children around the world.

4. What is National Agricultural Market (NAM)?

National Agricultural Market (NAM) is a pan India electronic common market platform for agricultural goods launched by the central government. NAM integrates the existing 585 Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMC) that are at present conducting agricultural trade across the country. The APMCs are regulated by concerned state governments as agricultural marketing is a state subject. Why NAM? The move towards a national agricultural trading platform is a progressive step by the center and two factors have propelled the center to come out with the launch of NAM. First is the weaknesses of the existing agricultural marketing laws created by states and their lack of interest to follow centers surges on these. The existing agricultural marketing situation creates lot of regulation and hurdles for farmers to directly sell in the market. Fragmented markets and large number of intermediaries in regulated markets (APMCs) gives only a fraction of the market price to the farmer. In this context, the best way is enabling the farmer to sell his product directly into the market. For that, the center has suggested modifications in the existing APMC law by producing a model APMC Act. But many states are not following the suggestions of the center. It is in this context that the new NAM become very important. Secondly, NAM utilizes the opportunities of technology for agricultural marketing as it is a techno-infrastructure platform. Farmers can sell their produce directly using electronic auction system. Selling of the produce through online auction beyond the traditional borders of the regional market may give them more price. Thus the national online auction system is the main attraction of the NAM. An electronic portal of NAM (e-NAM) has been officially launched recently. The center has allocated Rs 200 crores for the establishment of NAM in the budget 2016. Each APMC will be get Rs 30 lakh as a subsidy to establish the necessary infrastructure facilities such as VSAT terminals, power and broad band connectivity.

5. GDP growth rate moves up to a cheerful 7.9% in the fourth quarter

India has produced cheers in the fast slowing global economy with a 7.9% growth in GDP in the fourth quarter of 2015-16. As per the revised estimate, yearly growth also improved to 7.6% over the 7.2% recorded in the previous year. The new growth rate trend reassures the tag of the fastest growing economy to India. New figures also indicate the widening performance gap between India and China. Chinese economic growth was 6.7% during the first quarter of this year. Resurgence in growth performance may bring additional pressure on the government to maintain it. Current situation -both domestic and external is not favorable to support the high growth according to most observers. Declining exports amidst slowdown in the global economy has caused continuous decline in export turnover. Similarly, poor performance of the agricultural sector over the last few quarters may adversely affect overall GDP growth in the current quarter.

6. India climbs to 41st slot on competitiveness ranking Back to Index

India has moved up three spots from last year to 41 on the IMD World Competitiveness Scoreboard, 2016. The country's ranking had fallen to 44 in 2015, from 35 in 2012. Hong Kong replaced the US as the world's most competitive economy. Switzerland, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Canada have got slots in the top 10. India's improvement is in sharp contrast to the sagging fortunes of other Asian countries. According to the report, Asia's competitiveness declined since last year's ranking with Taiwan, Malaysia, Korea Republic, Indonesia and China falling from their 2015 positions. "The decline has been caused by a fall in commodity prices, a strong dollar and the deterioration of balance sheets in both the private and public sectors," says professor Arturo Bris, director, IMD World Competitiveness Center. The rankings are based on about 340 criteria grouped under four broad heads - economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure. The report also gave weight to responses of 5,400 business executives who were asked to assess the situation in their own countries. The increase in India's ranking comes on the back of an improvement in business efficiency, in which India's ranking improved from 33 to 31 over the past year. The indicator measures the extent to which enterprises are performing in an innovative, profitable and responsible manner. The sub-indices show India has improved in its ranking on labour market from 22 in 2015 to 12 in 2016. Management practices improved from 47 in 2015 to 36 in 2016 and attitudes and values improved from 23 in 2015 to 18 in 2016. But, a part of these gains have been offset by a deterioration in finance from 27 in 2015 to 33 in 2016. On economic performance, India ranks 16, well above many western European nations. The country has improved its ranking on international investment, up from 31 in 2015 to nine in 2016, and on employment from nine in 2015 to

five in 2016. But, these gains have been offset by poor performance on prices, where its ranking has gone down to 55 in 2016 from 37 in 2015. On government efficiency, which measures the extent to which government policies are conducive to competitiveness, India ranks 47. Within this segment, it has seen an improvement in public finance, institutional framework and business legislation. Though it has seen its position slip on fiscal policy. The country has seen a steady decline in its score on infrastructure from 53 in 2012 to 58 in 2016.

7. Govt to rename 'Mission Indradhanush', adds four new vaccines to immunisation drive

The government's ambitious Mission Indradhanush programme, which provides immunisation against seven life threatening diseases, is all set to be re-christened as four new vaccines have been added into it. "We have added four new vaccinations - rotavirus, measles rubella, inactivated polio vaccine bivalent and Japanese Encephalitis for adults. In that, very important is rotavirus. 10 lakh children get hospitalised every year suffering from diarrhoea and 80,000 lose their lives every year," Health Minister JP Nadda told reporters on Monday after the launch of an e-book on Ministry's achievements and initiatives in last 2 years. As the name suggests, 'Mission Indradhanush' depicting seven colours of the rainbow, provides vaccination to seven vaccine-preventable diseases which include diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and Hepatitis B. Nadda further said that the addition of four new vaccinations to the immunisation programme necessitates a change in name for the programme. "Mission Indradhanush has brought change in the lives of people. We have to keep some other name in place of Indradhanush as the vaccinations has gone up from seven to eleven," he said. Mission Indradhanush, launched on December 25 in 2014, aims to cover all children by 2020 who are either unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated against these vaccine preventable diseases. "In one year time, 1.62 crore children have been additionally brought under the ambit of immunisation. Approximately 45 lakh have been totally immunised additionally. There are 90 lakh children whose immunisation does not take place, for 20 lakh out of them no immunisation takes place at all while for 70 lakh children it is done partially. This is apart from routine immunisation," the Minister said. Health Ministry officials had earlier said that between 2009-2013 immunisation coverage has increased from 61 per cent to 65 per cent, indicating only 1 per cent increase in coverage every year. To accelerate the process of immunisation by covering 5 per cent and more children every year, a "Mission Mode" has been adopted to achieve target of full coverage by 2020.

8. Delhi govt launches 'DVAT M SEWA' mobile app

[Delhi](#) Chief Minister [Arvind](#) Kejriwal today launched a mobile app through which city traders can register themselves with the VAT department of Delhi government, a move that is aimed at encouraging them to boost its tax collection.

At a programme here, Kejriwal said through the 'DVAT M SEWA' app, traders won't be required to submit application for registration at the department's office and all they have to do now is to fill the form online. There is also no need for VAT inspector's visit at their business premises.

"This mobile application will ensure VAT registration within 24 hours of filing request. We have finished inspector raj by introducing several initiatives to benefit traders," he told reporters here.

He claimed that [BJP](#) is not the party of traders but [Aam Aadmi Party](#) which takes care of them even after coming to power.

"In the past one year, we have taken several decision for the welfare of traders which includes ending of inspector raj, reduction of VAT rates on several things. Traders, who were under the impression that BJP was supporting them, have now realised that BJP was just for seeking their votes.

"Aam Aadmi Party is the only political party which takes care of traders even after coming to power," Kejriwal added.

VAT Commissioner S S Yadav said that the 'DVAT M SEWA' mobile app will ensure ease of doing business in the national capital.

"Due to this app, VAT inspector's visit at traders' business premises will not be required, instead they will have to upload a picture of their business premises in the app only," he added.

9. Indian Railways, PEC sign MoU to set up Kalpana Chawla Chair on geospatial technology

In the august presence of Honble Minister of State for Railways Shri Manoj Sinha a function was organised on 30.05.2016 to mark the signing of a MOU between Shri V.K.Gupta , Member Engineering Railway Board and Shri Som Mittal , Chairman , Board of Governors, PEC University of Technology , Chandigarh to set up Kalpana Chawla Chair at PEC University of Technology , Chandigarh . Function was attended by distinguished officials from Railway Board including Chairman Railway Board Shri A.K.Mital, Finance Commissioner Shri Sanjay Mookerjee, Shri Hemant Kumar Member Mechanical .

In order to promote research in Geo-spatial Technology , the Chair was announced in Budget speech of Honble MR for the current financial year .

This academic chair is being instituted in fond memory of Late Kalpana Chawla , an Indo American Astronaut and Alumnus of PEC during the year 1978-82 .She was incidentally the first woman of Indian origin in space. To honour her contributions in Aerospace Engineering Indian Railways decided to institute the academic chair in the area of Geo-spatial Technology in her alma mater.

Indian Railways would provide a corpus of Rs 10 Crore to PEC University of Technology, Chandigarh towards setting up and to meet the running expenses of this chair. The Chair will be headed by Shri V.K.Gupta , Member Engineering , Railway Board as Chairman and Shri Manoj Arora , Director , PEC University of Technology, Chandigarh as Co - chairman . The Chair will function through a Chair Core Committee (CCC) having members from Railways and PEC.

The objective of this chair is to encourage research activities in Geo-spatial Technology and to strengthen Indian Railways especially Railway projects where use of remote sensing data , global positioning system (GPS) and Geographical information System (GIS) is predominant. This will immensely help Indian Railways to develop in house solutions to the problems which are often outsourced to western countries.

10. AR Rahman conferred with Japan's Fukuoka prize 2016

Legendary Oscar winning Indian music composer A.R. Rahman was on Monday awarded Japan's [Fukuoka prize](#) for 2016. It is reported that Rahman has been conferred with the award for his outstanding contribution towards creating, preserving and showcasing South Asian traditional fusion music. The Fukuoka Prize is an award established by the city of Fukuoka and the Yokatopia Foundation to honour the outstanding work of individuals or organizations in preserving or creating Asian culture. There are three prize categories: Grand Prize, Academic Prize, and Arts and Culture Prize. Last year, noted Indian Historian Ramchandra Guha was conferred with Fukuoka Prize in academic category. Rahman was the 1995 recipient of the Mauritius National Award and the Malaysian Award for his contributions to music. A four-time National Film Award winner and recipient of six Tamil Nadu State Film Awards, he has fifteen Filmfare Awards in his kitty. In 2009, for his Slumdog Millionaire score, Rahman won the Broadcast Film Critics Association Award, the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score, the BAFTA Award for Best Film Music and two Academy Awards (Best Original Score and Best Original Song, the latter shared with Gulzar) at the 81st Academy Awards.

11. Pope Awards Medals To George Clooney, Richard Gere And Salma Hayek

Pope Francis on Sunday awarded medals to American actors George Clooney and Richard Gere and actress Salma Hayek for their work to fight climate change, war and terrorism. The Hollywood A-listers were awarded the Medal of the Olive by Scholas Occurrentes Pontifical, an international education foundation run by the Vatican that seeks to integrate art, technology and culture. When peoples, families, friends separate, only animosity and even hatred can come out of that division, the pope said. But when they come together in a social friendship, we find a defense against every kind of throwaway culture. Francis kept the movie stars waiting for more than 90 minutes, arriving late to the award ceremony after meeting with a dozen internationally famous YouTubers, including Dulce Candy and Matthew Patrick. The pontiff took questions from the Internet celebrities about what they can do to create a more diverse and understanding virtual community, cautioning against pride, arrogance and bullying online. Bullying is an aggression that hides a lot of cruelty, he said. The world is cruel. And wars are a monument to that cruelty. The celebrity meet-and-greets marked the end of the VI Scholas World Encounter, which drew more than 400 people from 190 countries at the Vatican from May 27 to 29.

12. Virat Kohli named T20 Player of the year, Ashwin best bowler at Ceat Award event

Star India batsman Virat Kohli was on Monday named Ceat T20 Player of the Year while former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at a glittering function attended by several past and present players here. List of records broken by Virat Kohli during IPL 2016 England batsman Joe Root was named as the Ceat International Cricketer of the Year as well as International Batsman of the Year.

India off-spinner R Ashwin won the Ceat International Bowler of the Year award while Rohit Sharma was named as the Indian Cricketer of the Year. Kohli has been in the form of his life in the shortest format recently as he was named as Player-of-the-Tournament in the World T20 held in India earlier this year and won the orange cap for amassing the most runs of 973 in 16 matches in the just-concluded IPL-9.

60-year-old Vengsarkar had amassed 6868 runs in 116 Tests with 17 hundreds to boot that included a hat-trick of tons in successive Test appearances at Lord's cricket ground in England. Vengsarkar was also a part of the 1983-World Cup winning Indian team. The award winners: Lifetime Achievement Award: Dilip Vengsarkar. International Cricketer of the Year: Joe Root International Batsman of the Year: Joe Root International Bowler of the Year: R Ashwin Test Cricketer of the Year: Kane Williamson ODI Cricketer of the Year: Martin Guptill T20 Player of the Year: Virat Kohli Indian Cricketer of the Year: Rohit Sharma Domestic Cricketer of the Year: Shreyas Iyer Young Player of the Year: Rishabh Pant Special Award: Ajinkya Rahane

13. Snapdeal opens data sciences centre in California

Online marketplace Snapdeal run by Jasper Infotech Pvt. Ltd has set up a data sciences center in Palo Alto, California. The centre will be headed by Nitin Sharma, senior vice-president, data sciences and has five members from leading companies such as Groupon, Google Inc. and Yahoo. Inc. The centre will focus on big-data and advanced-analytics to define consumer-centric growth strategy. We have set up a data science engine in California, which is home to domain talent, to further augment our efforts in creating a superior customer experience and strengthen our supply chain. Snapdeal is extensively working on data mining through an existing analytics team, said Rohit Bansal, co-founder. The centre will focus on big-data and advanced analytics. The company aims to reach 20 million daily transacting users by year 2020.

14. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu Becomes First Indian To Play European Top Flight Football

Indian national team goalkeeper [Gurpreet Singh Sandhu](#) achieved a historic feat on Sunday by becoming the first Indian to feature in a top-tier league match in Europe, by turning out for Norwegian side Stabaek FC. The 24-year-old Sandhu kept a clean sheet in his first Tippeligaen (Norwegian Premier League) start for Stabaek FC, helping them claim a dominant 5-0 triumph over IK Start in an away league match on Sunday. Sandhu, who signed for Stabaek FC in 2014, did not play in the Tippeligaen till Sunday though he featured in five matches in the Norwegian Cup. He has thus far played second fiddle to Ivorian goalkeeper Sayouba Mande, who is the first choice Stabaek FC goalkeeper. The Punjab lad took to Twitter to share his excitement after the match. "Proud to become the First Indian ever to start in a Top Division League game in Europe!!!!," Sandhu tweeted. "Facing @ikstart tonight before the International break kicks in, need to finish on a good note @Stabaek #Tippeligaen," he wrote. In many parts of Europe, league matches are over by this time of the year but the Norwegian top-tier league is held from March to November due to climatic reasons. Sandhu has been the number one goalkeeper in the Indian team since Stephen Constantine took over last year, with the English coach preferring him to veteran Subrata Paul. Sandhu will directly join the national football team in Laos where India are playing their play-off match of the 2019 Asian Cup Qualifiers on June 2. Bengal footballer Mohammed Salim played for Scottish top-tier side [Celtic](#) FC in 1936, but most probably he did not feature in the premier division. Records about Salim's two-month sojourn in [Scotland](#) are sketchy. After India's Independence, former captain Bhaichung Bhutia played for English third division side [Bury](#) FC in 1999-2000 and current national skipper [Sunil Chhetri](#) played for the 'B' team of Sporting Lisbon in 2012.

15. Javare Gowda passes away

Noted Kannada writer D. Javare Gowda, who is popularly known as De Ja Gow, passed away at hospital in Mysuru on Monday evening. De Ja Gow, 101, was admitted to Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research here on Saturday night, after he suffered a heart failure. He was treated in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital.

However, his condition worsened on Monday and he passed away around 7 p.m.

16. **BJP leader and former MP Rudra Madhab Ray passes away**

Senior BJP leader and former MP Rudra Madhab Ray passed away at a hospital here today following prolonged illness. He was 79. A three-time MLA in Odisha assembly from Daspalla constituency, Ray had been elected to the Lok Sabha in 2009 from Kandhamal seat as a BJD candidate. However, Ray who had long association with the Janata Dal and Biju Janata Dal joined BJP after being suspended from BJD in 2014. Ray, regarded as an influential leader and good organiser, was associated with a number of activities in social, educational and cultural sectors. A host of leaders and dignitaries including Odisha Chief Minister [Naveen Patnaik](#) condoled the demise of Ray. In a message, the chief minister described Ray as an effective leader and organiser. Union Petroleum Minister [Dharmendra Pradhan](#), Odisha BJP unit president Basanta Panda, senior BJP leader Bijay Mohapatra, Rourkela MLA Dillip Ray and State Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keshari Arukh expressed grief over his demise.

17. **Cabinet hikes paddy MSP by Rs 60 to Rs 1470/qtl for 2016-17**

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs - CCEA has approved hike in the minimum support price, MSP of paddy by Rs 60 to Rs 1,470 per quintal for kharif season 2016-17.

MSP is the rate at which the government buys the grain from farmers. Sowing of kharif crops will shortly begin with the onset of southwest monsoon. Paddy is the main crop grown in the season.

Barring pulses and oilseeds, the CCEA has approved the MSP of other crops as per the recommendation of government's advisory body on farm pricing, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, CACP.

In case of pulses, government has hiked MSP substantially for 2016-17 kharif season to boost domestic production and reduce the country's dependence on imports.

Briefing media in New Delhi, Union Minister Radha Mohan Singh said the higher prices announced would increase investment and production through assured remunerative prices to farmers.

In view of gap in demand and domestic supply of pulses and oilseeds, CCEA has given a bonus, over and above CACP recommendations. Bonus of Rs 425 per quintal for Arhar, Urad and Moong have been approved. Bonus of Rs 200 for sesamum, and Rs 100 for oilseeds have been approved.

Government has given its approval for additional monthly allocation of 41,800 tonnes of foodgrains for the BPL families and 20,507 tonnes of foodgrains for APL families at 2/3rd of MSP rates to three non-National Food Security Act states. These states are Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Nagaland.

CCEA has also given its nod to a new broad gauge line between Mau Station of North Eastern Railway and Tarighat Terminal station of East Central Railway.

The total length of this new broad gauge line will be 51 kilometers. The estimated cost of the project is nearly 17656 crore rupees.

The project will provide alternative, shorter, and better transport infrastructure to the area.

18. **Non-subsidised LPG cylinder price hiked by Rs 21; ATF by 9.2%**

The price of Aviation turbine fuel, ATF, was today hiked by 9.2 per cent. Announcing this, oil companies said that the increase in rates is on global cues. In the fourth straight monthly increase, ATF price in Delhi has been increased by 3,945 rupees and 47 paise per kilolitre to 46,729 rupees 48 paise per kilolitre. The hike comes on the back of 1.5 per cent increase effected on May 1st and a steep 8.7 per cent hike on April 1.

Similarly, price of non-subsidised cooking gas was raised by 21 rupees per cylinder which consumers buy after exhausting their quota of subsidised twelve. Non-subsidised cooking gas now costs 548 rupees 50 paise in Delhi as

against 527 rupees 50 paise previously.

Subsidised LPG costs 419 rupees 18 paise per 14.2 kg cylinder in Delhi.

The three fuel retailers -- Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum -- revise jet fuel and non-subsidised LPG prices on the first day of every month, based on the average international price in the preceding month.

19. Govt approves India Post's payments bank proposal

Cabinet approved setting up of India Post Payments Bank as Public Limited Company under Department of Posts, with 100 per cent government equity.

Briefing media in New Delhi, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said all 650 branches of postal payment banks will become operational by September, 2017. He said Postal Payment Banks will be a game changer, especially in the rural areas. 5000 ATMs will be started for mobile and internet banking.

Government has also approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU between United States and India to enhance cooperation in the field of wildlife conservation and combating wildlife trafficking. With the approval, India will benefit from the expertise of the US Institutions in the field of wildlife conservation and management of wildlife areas and in combating illegal trade of wildlife and their derivatives.

Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the signing of MoU between the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India and the French Civil Aviation Authority for promotion and implementation of Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization. The Technical Cooperation programme will be beneficial for enhancement of skills and expertise of DGCA's officers.

Government has also given ex-post facto approval to the proposal for Amendment to the Resolutions dated 3rd March 1987 of the Public Enterprises Selection Board. The proposed amendments include selection of candidates from State Public Enterprises and Private Sector as non-internal candidates for a period of five years for appointment in Central Public Sector Enterprises.

Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the proposal for Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I Project from Washermanpet to Wimconagar. It covers a length of 9.051 km. at a total cost of 3770 crore rupees. This extension will provide improved access to public transport for dense population comprising predominantly industrial workers to move towards the central business district of the city for work.

Cabinet was also apprised of the signing of MoU between India and Brunei Darussalam in the field of Youth and Sports Affairs.

20. PM releases National Disaster Management Plan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today released the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). This is the first ever national Disaster Management plan prepared in the country. It will focus on making India disaster resilient and significantly reduce the loss of lives and assets. The plan is based on the four priority themes of the Sendai Framework. These include understanding disaster risk, improving the risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness, early warning and building back better in the aftermath of a disaster.

The plan covers all phases of disaster management, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. It provides for horizontal and vertical integration among all the agencies and departments of the Government. Salient Features of the Plan

The plan covers all phases of disaster management: prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. It provides for horizontal and vertical integration among all the agencies and departments of the Government. The plan also spells out the roles and responsibilities of all levels of Government right up to Panchayat and Urban Local Body level in a matrix format. The plan has a regional approach, which will be beneficial not only for disaster management but also for

development planning.

It is designed in such a way that it can be implemented in a scalable manner in all phases of disaster management. It also identifies major activities such as early warning, information dissemination, medical care, fuel, transportation, search and rescue, evacuation, etc. to serve as a checklist for agencies responding to a disaster. It also provides a generalized framework for recovery and offers flexibility to assess a situation and build back better.

To prepare communities to cope with disasters, it emphasizes on a greater need for Information, Education and Communication activities.

Minister of Home Affairs Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju, and senior officers of the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Home Affairs and National Disaster Management Authority were present during the function.

21. Govt approves MoU between India, Qatar to cooperate in skill development, recognition of qualifications

The Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Qatar for cooperation in skill development and recognition of qualifications.

It will facilitate workforce mobility, skill development and placement of youth in overseas jobs in Qatar.

The Cabinet also gave its nod to signing of MoU between the two countries for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism. It will create favourable conditions for long-term co-operation in the field of tourism for the mutual benefits.

It also approved signing and ratification of agreement between India and Qatar on co-operation and mutual assistance in customs matters.

22. Pulgaon ammunition depot fire: Death toll rises to 18

The death toll has risen to 18 at the major fire at the Central Ammunition depot in Pulgaon, Maharashtra which took place yesterday. The injured are being treated at Acharya Vinoba Bhave Rural Hospital in Sawangi Meghe village. DGMO Lt Gen Ranbir Singh said that the fire has been completely doused and situation brought under control.

He said, action to assess damage is in progress and inquiry has been ordered. General Singh said, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and Army Chief General Dalbir Singh and senior defence officials have visited the site to take stock of the situation. He also informed that the medical condition of the injured personnel is reported to be stable and army medical teams have been moved from Pune to provide specialist medical attention.

Earlier Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar ruled out any sabotage in the fire at ammunition depot. He told reporters that they are not ruling out any possibility but there is no sabotage as such.

23. World's longest rail tunnel to be inaugurated in Switzerland

In Switzerland, the world's longest and deepest rail tunnel, running under the Swiss Alps, will be inaugurated. The 57-kilometer long Gotthard Base Tunnel will connect northern and southern Europe and shorten travel time for many rail routes. It overtakes Japan's Seikan tunnel, which measures 53.9 kilometers, as the longest rail tunnel in the world. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi will join Swiss authorities for a ceremonial first run through the tunnel today. Full service will begin in December. The tunnel was built in 17 years by 2,400 workers, at a cost of over 12 billion dollars.

24. Asia's largest tech trade show COMPUTEX kicks off in Taipei

Asia's largest technology trade show COMPUTEX kicked off in Taipei on Tuesday (May 31), attracting more than 1,600 companies from 30 countries to showcase their latest products. This is the highest turnout - in terms of the number of nations - in five years. The highlight of this year's show is virtual reality (VR). Taiwan's HTC is drawing the most media attention, after winning great reviews for its VR headset Vive since its debut in February. The electronics

company is taking advantage of the hype to show off its first in-house VR game called Front Defense, which allows players to fight enemies using a variety of weapons, from pistols and rifles to rocket launchers. Also featured is the world's first VR fitness experience called Holodia, by HTC as well. It could actually give users a good workout in the VR world. MSI has also jumped on the VR bandwagon by debuting its first backpack-sized PC for VR gaming. It allows players to carry the computer around without tripping over wires while playing with VR headsets.

25. Most of the water in the moon came from ancient asteroids

For several years now, we've known that [the Moon is not as dry](#) as was assumed for decades, in fact our satellite is [harboring a good amount of water](#). Now a team based at the Open University in the UK is painting a more detailed picture of exactly how that water was transported to the Moon and trapped on what seems like an outwardly arid rock. Initial hypotheses assumed that comets were the most likely delivery source for the water found in the interior of the Moon and even near the surface of its soils, but scientists using data from recent unmanned lunar missions like the [Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter](#) and [Deep Impact](#) more recently established that water-rich asteroids may have been responsible for most of the water in the Moon. The mystery that has remained is when all the water in the Moon arrived there and how much came from asteroids versus comets. A team led by Jessica Barnes at the Open University used numerical models and data from lunar samples used in previous studies to find that water was delivered to the Moon's interior soon after its formation over a period of 10 to 200 million years. The Moon is thought to have formed about 4.5 billion years ago after another planet-sized object collided with the Earth. In its early days, an ocean of magma was active on the Moon. Barnes and colleagues believe it is during this period that a class of asteroids known as carbonaceous chondrites rich in water delivered as much 80 percent of the Moon's water, with comets making up most of the smaller portion of that total water budget.

26. UP govt approves Detailed Project Report of Metro Rail in Varanasi

Uttar Pradesh government has approved the Detailed Project Report of the Metro Rail in Varanasi. The approval was accorded during a state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav yesterday.

In the Report, prepared by RITES, two corridors of 29.23 km length have been proposed, of which one will be of 19.35 km between BHEL to BHU and another of 9.8 km between Beniyabagh to Sarnath.

17 stations between BHEL and BHU have been proposed, while there will be nine stations between Beniyabagh and Sarnath. The estimated cost of the project will be 13,133 crore rupees.

The State Cabinet also approved a proposal to hike financial assistance to rape victims from two lakh to three lakh rupees and to acid attack victims from three lakh to five lakh rupees.

27. Odisha govt to create 500 more gram panchayats

The Odisha government has decided to create 500 more gram panchayats in addition to the existing 6,234 ahead of the panchayat elections due in February next year. Panchayati Raj Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo said gram panchayats will be delimited and, in the process, 500 more panchayats will be created. Earlier on May 6, the State Cabinet had approved amendment of Odisha Gram Panchayat Act, 1964, to create more panchayats.

28. BRICS New Development Bank to issue first yuan-denominated bonds

The New Development Bank of the BRICS countries is set to issue its first yuan-denominated bonds with plans to release more bonds in local currencies including in Indian Rupee. The Shanghai-based bank founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and headed by eminent Indian banker M V Kamath plans to finance sustainable development projects in the emerging markets and developing countries.

A top official of the bank said, the bank's first five-year yuan-denominated bonds, also referred as green bonds, will be issued after receiving a rating from international ratings agencies as well as getting authorities' approval. More bonds denominated in local currencies of the BRICS countries, including the rupees in India, will be issued if the bank's board and local authorities endorse the project plans, he said.

The New Development Bank (NDB) is established with initial subscribed capital of 50 billion US dollars with total

paid-in capital of 10 billion US dollars. The founding members of the NDB have already brought in capital of one billion US dollars as initial contribution.

29. RBI should conduct asset quality review of banks regularly: Jayant Sinha

Union Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha has said that the Reserve Bank of India should conduct asset quality review of banks regularly. Speaking on the sidelines of a function in Mumbai, Mr Sinha said RBI has carried out a detailed investigation into system-wide stressed assets starting June last year and the government has been working very closely with the central bank in this regard. After the review of top 150 stressed companies last December, the RBI reportedly asked banks to classify these accounts as bad loans irrespective of whether they are being serviced or not. This list was later trimmed to 130 companies.

30. Govt achieves fiscal deficit target of 3.9 % in 2015-16

Government says it has achieved the fiscal deficit target of 3.9 per cent of the GDP in 2015-16 and India continues to remain a bright spot in the world economy with solid macroeconomic parameters. The Finance Ministry said the deficit figure released by the Controller General of Accounts indicates that the fiscal parameters are "very robust" and in line with Budget projections.

Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das tweeted that the fiscal deficit of 3.9 per cent is bang on target. He termed it as effective budget and fiscal management by the Centre. The government aims to further bring down the fiscal deficit - the gap between expenditure and revenue - to 3.5 per cent.

The gross tax collection at 14.56 lakh crore rupees has shown 17 per cent growth compared with 2014-15.

31. Four month window to disclose black money opens

The Income Declaration Scheme will open today and will remain in force till 30th of September. The Scheme is part of Finance Act, 2016 and seeks to provide an opportunity to all persons who have not declared their income correctly in previous years to come forward and declare undisclosed incomes. AIR correspondent reports that the four month disclosure window will provide an opportunity to domestic black money holders to come clean by paying tax and penalty of 45 per cent on undisclosed assets.

People who have made money through corrupt means will not be allowed to take advantage of this scheme. Under the scheme, persons making disclosure of unaccounted assets will be given time up to 30th of November to pay taxes, penalty and surcharge totalling 45 per cent at the fair market value. The declarations can be filed online or with the jurisdictional Principal Commissioners of Income-tax across the country. Non declaration of undisclosed income will render such income liable to tax in the previous year in which it is detected by the Income tax Department alongwith other penal consequences.

32. Iran says markets have absorbed its rising oil exports

Iran has claimed that rising of its oil exports has no negative impact on the markets. Iranian oil minister Bijan Zanganeh, before leaving for an OPEC meeting in Vienna today said, markets have absorbed its doubling of oil exports following the lifting of international sanctions.

Iranian oil production has reached nearly four million barrels per day, around the same level as before sanctions were imposed.

OPEC, which pumps around a third of the world's oil, has historically responded to a fall in prices by cutting production, but this time it has maintained output as it seeks to fend off competition from US shale producers.

33. BCCI focused on developing cricket in North East: Anurag Thakur

Aimed at promoting cricket in North Eastern states, BCCI President Anurag Thakur today announced development of cricketing infrastructure in the region.

The board also see the possibility of the doubling its annual grants to affiliate and associate member states. Thakur

visited Nagaland capital Dimapur as well as Meghalaya capital of Shillong.

The BCCI President, who took charge 10 days back, was on a whirlwind tour of the New Area Development Project states and began with a trip to Dimapur yesterday igniting hopes of transforming the standard of cricket in the region.

Acknowledging that cricket is an expensive game, Thakur urged affiliate and associate member states likes Meghalaya to keep promoting the game by holding camps and games in an organised way.

34. Cabinet approves MoU between USA and India to enhance cooperation in wildlife conservation

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

Background:

India and the United States of America are endowed with rich biodiversity and natural heritage and have established a network of Protected Areas in their respective territories. As there is scope for both the countries to share professional expertise to address priority wildlife conservation concerns, the MoU would provide a convenient platform for collaboration. The MoU seeks cooperation between the two countries in the following areas:

- a. Wildlife Forensics and Conservation Genetics: Useful in species conservation efforts and better scientific evidence collection in wild life crimes leading to better enforcement.
- b. Natural World Heritage Conservation: Facilitating the institutional capacity of the existing UNESCO Category -2 - centre at Wildlife Institute of India.

Nature Interpretation and Conservation Awareness: Use of information technology in strengthening interface of forest managers with the people for sensitising people, especially the youth and children in understanding complex issues of conservation of biological diversity.

35. Cabinet apprised of the signing of MOU between India and Brunei Darussalam in the field of Youth and Sports Affairs

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between India and Brunei Darussalam in the field of Youth and Sports Affairs. The MoU between the two countries was signed on 2-02-2016 at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.

Areas of cooperation between the two countries include exchange programmes in the fields of youth and sports, exchange programmes for the training of officers and trainers, promotion of sports between the participants with respect to sports facilities, sports equipment, sports training and physical preparation, sports fitness and physical education. In addition, it includes areas like coaching, sports talent identification, sports management and administration, information system relating to youth and sports, science and technology development in sports, development and enhancement of information in sports etc.

36. Cabinet approves MOU between the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India (DGCA) and the French Civil Aviation Authority

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India (DGCA) and the French Civil Aviation Authority Direction Generale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC) of France to implement Technical Cooperation Programme for promotion and implementation of Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The MoU has been signed on behalf of the two countries after its approval by the two Governments and would be for a term of four years.

The Technical Cooperation programme will be beneficial for enhancement of skills and expertise of DGCA's officers. This MoU is also beneficial for implementation of the cooperation between the two parties for imparting training of engineers, technicians, managers etc.

It will also include any other subject that is relevant to the common DGAC and DGCA areas of interest.

For this purpose, the Parties undertake to cooperate through the following actions:

- a) By exchanging information concerning the various techniques used to reach the objectives;
- b) By sending French experts or instructors to India for training missions; and
- c) By receiving experts, or instructors of India, in France for training missions.

The specific activities to be performed by DGCA of India and the DGCA of France under this MOU will be carried out by mutual consent.

37. Cabinet approves the Proposal for Amendment to the Resolutions dated 03rd March 1987 of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the proposal for Amendment to the Resolutions dated 3rd March 1987 of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). The proposed amendments are as under:

- (a) selection of candidates from State Public Enterprises and Private Sector as non-internal candidates for a period of five years for appointment in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs);
- (b) holding of office by the Chairperson and Members of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) for a period of 3 years from assumption of charge or until attaining the age of 65 years or until further orders whichever is earlier;

Background

To broaden the catchment for senior positions in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), the policy of allowing candidates from State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs) and Private Sector has been in place. This is proposed to be further extended for another five years with other requisite changes for effective discharge of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) functions.

The amendment will continue to provide a wider pool of professionals for selection by impact allowing the candidates from State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs) and private Sector to be considered for senior positions in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) would also benefit by the skill-sets and domain expertise of those coming from the State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs) as well the private sector. It would also ensure that the Central PSE senior management gets the benefit of the perspective gained both within and outside.

38. Cabinet approves Mau-Tarighat New Railway line project

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for a new broad gauge line between Mau Station of North Eastern Railway and Tarighat Terminal station of East Central Railway. The total length of this new broad gauge line will be 51 kilometers.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs.1765.92 crore and expected completion cost is Rs.2109.07 crore with 5 percent

escalation per annum. The project is likely to be completed in the next six years during 12th and 13th Plan period.

This project will provide alternative, shorter convenient and better transport infrastructure to the area separated by river Ganga so as to remove the transport difficulties in the area and to boost the socio economic development. The catchment area of project line will serve passenger requirement and will facilitate the people of the area for travelling to different parts of the country. In addition, this new line will provide an alternative route connecting Northern and East Central railway via NE Railway. This project line has huge potential in enhancing railway traffic and also gives opportunity to develop this area by providing more efficient transportation system.

The new line crosses the river Ganges at the downstream of existing road bridge for NH 97 and is located almost parallel to it and joins the existing BG line from Tarighat to Dildar Nagar. This line will be alternative route for train passing from Howrah to New Delhi and back. Construction of this line will provide a link to Allahabad-Patna double line electrified section. It will also decongest the Allahabad-Mugalsarai-Patna route particularly around Mugalsarai yard.

39. Cabinet approves Additional allocations for the BPL and APL families in non NFSA State

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for additional monthly allocation of 41,800 tonnes of foodgrains for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families at BPL rates and 20,507 tonnes of foodgrains for Above Poverty Line (APL) families at 2/3rd of Minimum Support Price (MSP) rates to three non-National Food Security Act (NFSA) States, namely, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Nagaland, from April to June, 2016 or till implementation of NFSA by the respective State, whichever is earlier.

Background:

NFSA has come into force from 05.07.2013 and it provides for coverage of two-third population of the country, based on the population estimates of 2011 for receiving wheat at Rs.2 per kg and rice at Rs.3 per kg. It was expected that the Act would be implemented in all the States/UTs by March, 2016 and beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution Systems (TPDS) would get highly subsidized foodgrains. Accordingly, during 2015-16 non-NFSA States/UTs were allocated additional foodgrains for BPL and APL families upto March, 2016. 33 States/UTs have implemented NFSA so far and three States, namely, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Nagaland are still getting allocation of foodgrains under the erstwhile TPDS. These States are in the process of implementation of NFSA in the coming months.

40. Shri Prabhas Jha takes over as Parliamentary Affairs Secretary

Shri Prabhas Kumar Jha today assumed the office of Secretary in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Member of Indian Administrative Service (1982 Batch) from Uttar Pradesh cadre served in different senior positions in the Central Government. His last assignment was as Special Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. He also served as Joint Secretary (Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances).

The 1958 borne Shri Jha is a Physics Graduate and joined the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as Secretary on the superannuation of Shri Afzal Amanullah yesterday.

41. Actor Razak Khan passes away, B-Town pays tribute

Veteran comedy actor Razak Khan, who tickled the audience's funny bone in films like "Hello Brother", "Baadshah" and "Hungama", died today following a cardiac arrest.

"Lost my elder brother Razak bhai due to cardiac arrest. Please pray for his soul," the actor's close friend Shehzad Khan posted on Facebook, while confirming the death.

Khan, 65, was rushed to Holy Family hospital in suburban Bandra at around 12.30 AM where on arrival doctors declared him dead.

His funeral is likely to be held tomorrow at the Nariawadi Kabaristan at Byculla in the city.

42. Bengaluru is India's most preferred city for professionals to work: LinkedIn

Bengaluru, India's technology hub is witnessing a larger inflow of qualified [professionals](#) than [it](#) is losing talent to other cities in the country, according to social network firm [LinkedIn](#) that compiled data based on changes users made on their profiles on its platform.

Nearly a third of its 2.3 million users in the [IT capital](#) of the country were working in the technology sector, while financial services, manufacturing and engineering, and hospitals and health care were also big employers of LinkedIn users in the city.

"Just in Bangalore we see about 1,00,000 recruiters active and across all cities [Bengaluru](#) actually has the highest number of searches - 16 million in the last one year. This has led to around 1,11,000 hires that LinkedIn influenced in Bangalore," said Akshay Kothari, head of LinkedIn in India.

The biggest inflow of professionals into Bengaluru came from Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Pune, cities which have a presence in technology, financial services and engineering.

While the largest recruiters on the platform continued to be large IT services companies, e-commerce giant Flipkart made it to the list for top ten recruiters in the country. With Bengaluru becoming a preferred destination for professionals, the city's infrastructure has come under tremendous strain. Bengaluru, with a population of 10 million has over six million vehicles on roads, according to March 2016 data by the Karnataka transport department.

43. International Institute of Digital Technology to come up in Andhra Pradesh

The Information Technology Department of Andhra Pradesh government will establish International Institute of Digital Technology, with five schools of excellence, at temple town Tirupati. The institute would have schools of excellence in Internet of Things and Cloud, Cyber Security, Big Data Analytics, Model Computing and Digital User Experience, Minister of IT and Information and Public Relations Palle Raghunatha Reddy said. Experts in these fields from top IT companies in the world will provide training at the institute, he said, adding the state Cabinet which met here today approved the setting up of the institute. The Cabinet has also approved the launch of an insurance policy for 1.5 crore workers in the unorganised sector in the state, the minister said. Under the scheme, named Chandranna Bima after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Rs 5 lakh would be paid as compensation in the case of an accidental death and Rs 3.2 lakh in case of disability. We will also include journalists of both print and electronic media in the scheme, Reddy added. Each worker would have to pay only a service charge of Rs 15 while the state government would pay Rs 134.50 as its share of the yearly premium for the insurance policy.

44. Virat Kohli launches India's first cafe inspired cook book 'Comfort Food'

Om Books International and Cafe [Delhi](#) Heights launched India's first cafe inspired cook book 'Comfort Food' by Micheal Swamy and Mughdha Savkar. The book was unveiled by star Cricketer Virat Kohli with much enthusiasm, known for his chutzpah and firehouse passion; he vividly described his immense love for Delhi food and his favorite Jucy Lucy Burger. The recipes in the book are inspired by a chain of extremely popular restaurants dotted across Delhi, the Cafe Delhi Heights. Beautifully published by Om Books International, this book is a tribute by Vikrant and Sharad Batra to their mother Mrs. [Usha](#) Batra for all the sacrifice and hard work they've grown up watching their mother put in, to give them a future. Comfort Food is slated to be the first ever cafe inspired book in [India](#) being brought out by a restaurant chain, based on the food trends, their own offerings and with an added mix of all foods that spell 'comfort'!

45. Haryana govt implements 'Know Your Case' scheme

In a bid to bring transparency in the functioning of police department, [Haryana](#) government has implemented 'Know Your Case' scheme under which people can find status of their pending complaints and FIRs.

Under this scheme, special days have been fixed during which people are invited to visit police stations and offices of gazetted police officers and obtain information about their pending FIRs and complaints, a spokesman of the Police Department said.

He said that till May 15, about 1,700 people visited police stations and offices of gazetted police officers in the Karnal

district.

Of these, about 1,300 obtained information about pending complaints and about 400 obtained information about criminal cases.

The spokesperson said that in Yamunanagar district, about 500 and 250 people obtained information about pending complaints and criminal cases, respectively.

Similarly, in Rohtak district, about 470 and 350 people obtained information about pending complaints and criminal cases respectively.

46. Today in History - June 2

1537 - Pope Paul III banned the enslavement of Indians.

1774 - The Quartering Act, which required [American](#) colonists to allow British soldiers into their houses, was reenacted.

1793 - Maximillian Robespierre initiated the "Reign of Terror". It was an effort to purge those suspected of treason against the French Republic.

1818 - The British army defeated the Maratha alliance in Bombay, India.

1835 - P.T. Barnum launched his first traveling show. The main attraction was Joice Heth. Heth was reputed to be the 161-year-old nurse of George Washington.

1851 - [Maine](#) became the first [U.S.](#) state to enact a law prohibiting alcohol.

1883 - The first baseball game under electric lights was played in Fort Wayne, [Indiana](#).

1886 - Grover Cleveland became the second [U.S.](#) president to get married while in office. He was the first to have a wedding in the White House.

1896 - Guglieimo Marconi's radio telegraphy device was patented in Great Britain.

1897 - Mark Twain, at age 61, was quoted by the New York Journal as saying "the report of my death was an exaggeration." He was responding to the rumors that he had died.

1910 - Charles Stewart Roll became the first person to fly non-stop and double cross the English Channel.

1924 - All American Indians were granted [U.S.](#) citizenship by the [U.S.](#) Congress.

1928 - Nationalist Chiang Kai-shek captured Peking, China.

1930 - Mrs. M. Niezes of Panama gave birth to the first baby to be born on a ship while passing through the Panama Canal.

1933 - [U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) accepted the first swimming pool to be built inside the White House.

1935 - George Herman "Babe" Ruth announced that he was retiring from baseball.

1937 - "The Fabulous Dr. Tweedy" was broadcast on NBC radio for the first time.

1946 - Italians voted by referendum to form a republic instead of a monarchy.

1953 - Elizabeth was crowned queen of England at Westminster Abbey.

1954 - [U.S.](#) Senator Joseph McCarthy charged that there were communists working in the CIA and atomic weapons plants.

1957 - Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev was interviewed by CBS-TV.

1966 - Surveyor 1, the [U.S.](#) space probe, landed on the moon and started sending photographs back to Earth of the Moon's surface. It was the first soft landing on the Moon.

1969 - The National Arts Center in Canada opened its doors to the public.

1969 - Australian aircraft carrier Melbourne sliced the destroyer USS Frank E. Evans in half off the shore of South Vietnam.

1979 - Pope John Paul II arrived in his native Poland on the first visit by a pope to a Communist country.

1985 - The R.J. Reynolds Company proposed a major merger with Nabisco that would create a \$4.9 billion conglomerate.

1985 - Tommy Sandt was ejected from a major-league baseball game before the national anthem was played. He had complained to the umpire about a call against his team the night before.

1995 - Captain Scott F. O'Grady's [U.S.](#) Air Force F-16C was shot down by Bosnian Serbs. He was rescued six days later.

1998 - Royal Caribbean Cruises agreed to pay \$9 million to settle charges of dumping waste at sea.

1998 - Voters in [California](#) passed Proposition 227. The act abolished the state's 30-year-old bilingual education program by requiring that all children be taught in English.

1999 - In South Africa, the African National Congress (ANC) won a major victory. ANC leader Thabo Mbeki was to succeed Nelson Mandela as the nation's president.

2003 - In the [U.S.](#), federal regulators voted to allow companies to buy more television stations and newspaper-broadcasting combinations in the same city. The previous ownership restrictions had not been altered since 1975.

2003 - In Seville, Spain, a chest containing the supposed remains of Christopher Columbus were exhumed for DNA tests to determine whether the bones were really those of the explorer. The tests were aimed at determining if Columbus was currently buried in Spain's Seville Cathedral or in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.

2003 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that companies could not be sued under a trademark law for using information in the public domain without giving credit to the originator. The case had originated with 20th Century Fox against suing Dastar Corp. over their use of World War II footage.

2003 - William Baily was reunited with two paintings he had left on a subway platform. One of the works was an original Picasso rendering of two male figures and a recreation of Picasso's "Guernica" by Sophie Matisse. Sophie Matisse was the great-granddaughter of Henri Matisse.

47. Why India is important in the current global economy?

Economic history shows that the global economy has progressed in the past depending upon the higher growth rate produced by some of the largest economies. In the first half of the last century, it was the higher growth rate of the US

economy that contributed to the advancement of the global economy. Higher GDP growth and increased income in the US encouraged US imports from other countries. Exports to the US implies enhanced economic growth and increased income in other (exporting) countries. In the last couple of decade, global economic growth was well supported by Chinas gigantic growth rate of around 9%. But for China, there was a difference. Its growth was created by high level of domestic investment rather than high domestic consumption. This means when China invested, China produced and China exported. Here, the world economy while receiving Chinese goods has transferred income to China. Now, Chinese economic growth is low at around 6.7%; which is the new normal for it. On the other hand, India has emerged as the new fastest growing economy among big economies (at a growth rate of around 7.6%). Indias share in world GDP and its contribution to global GDP growth rate The change in this growth profile implies that Indias contribution to global economic growth has increased. In terms of Purchasing Power Parity GDP, China is the largest economy, US the second largest and India is the third largest. Share of India in global GDP has increased from 4.8% in 2001-07 to 7.0% in 2014-15 according to the Economic Survey 2016. Here if Chinas growth rate is 6.7%, its contribution will be the largest as it is the biggest economy. On the other hand, US GDP growth is around 1% and at this low rate, its contribution to increased World GDP will be low (even though it is the second largest economy). Here, India with 7.6% growth contributes larger than the US to world economic growth. The Economic Survey 2016 observe that Indias contribution to global GDP growth in PPP terms increased from an average of 8.3 per cent during the period 2001 to 2007 to 14.4 per cent in 2014. The increased contribution by India to world GDP growth is due to the new rebalancing of China. Another very important element of Indias growth is that it is achieving progress out of its own consumption rather than by depending upon world consumption. A low export share in the world indicate that India is self-dependent on deriving its growth from the consumption of its own people. If world economy comes under recession, it will severely affect China, but its impact will be not that much severe on India as Indian economic growth is domestic consumption driven.

48. Download Swachh App and Participate in Swachh Bharat Mission

Swachh App, an Android and Windows Phone application has been launched to track real time sanitation coverage. The application has been launched by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The application is available for download from Google Play Store and Windows Phone Store

Android App Download: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=nic.rws>

Windows Phone App Download: <https://www.microsoft.com/enin/store/apps/swachhapp/9nblggh58wc1> Following are the main benefits of the Swachh App Rate your village on Swachhta View the number of Household Toilets constructed for beneficiaries of Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin View real time sanitation coverage in percentage View improvement in coverage since 2nd October 2014 View number of toilets constructed since 2nd October 2014 by selecting the State, District, Block and Gram Panchayats name View number of Open Defecation Free villages

49. China to launch World's first hack proof Quantum Communications Satellite in July

The project involved building the Quantum Satellite as well as four base stations that will enable communication between Earth and the satellite. These ground stations will be set-up thousands of kilometers away from each other, and two of them will be connected to the satellite via quantum optical links that will facilitate the flow of information. The CAS has also built one Quantum-teleportation experiment station. The project has taken a total of five years to build, and the satellite will be transported to the launch station some time later this month. With security being a growing concern among governments around the World, the introduction of Quantum Satellite Communications will ensure that China enjoys privacy in its communications network, staying free from hacks, taps, and spying altogether. The Quantum Communications Satellite encrypts information using Quantum Entanglement. Such encryption makes use of a Quantum key to decrypt the information transferred, without which a listener or spy will not be able to decipher it. Breaking, separating, or decoding such information is near to impossible, which will give China an edge over other World nations for possessing a fool-proof communications system that cannot be hacked. Once the satellite has been launched, the country will be able to protect itself from cyber-threats and hackers; thereby protecting their communication systems constantly. Nations around the world have been attempting to reach a similar end-motive for a while now. China will also build its own Quantum Sharing Network, which will enable their National Defense groups to freely exchange information without being intercepted by an unwanted third-party. The country expects to make use of its Quantum Satellite around the planet by the end of 2030.

50. China launches three satellites

China successfully launched a new civilian high-resolution mapping [satellite](#) along with two other foreign [satellites](#) on Monday.

The Ziyuan III 02 satellite took off on the back of a Long March 4B rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in northern Shanxi Province.

It was the 228th flight mission by a Long March carrier rocket.

Also on board the rocket were two NewSat satellites developed by URUGUS S A, the Uruguayan subsidiary of Argentine company Satellogic, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

All three satellites have entered the preset orbits, the Taiyuan centre said in a statement.

The Ziyuan III 02 satellite will be used for land resource surveys, natural disaster prevention, agricultural development, water resource management and urban planning, among others applications.

It is the second satellite in the remote-sensing mapping system that the country plans to build by 2030.

It will join its predecessor Ziyuan III 01, launched in January 2012 to form a network and capture high-definition 3-D images and multispectral data.

There were earlier reports of another stereo mapping satellite, Gaofen-7, which is expected to be launched in 2018.

51. Rahul Johri takes charge as first ever BCCI CEO

The Indian Cricket Boards first ever CEO Rahul Johri, who was appointed on the recommendation of the Justice Lodha Committee, today took charge of the position in the BCCI headquarters here. Welcoming Johri on board, BCCI extended its warm wishes to the new Chief Executive Officer. BCCI extends a warm welcome to CEO Mr. Rahul Johri who takes charge from today, BCCI wrote on its twitter handle. Johri will be based at the Mumbai office, a statement from the Board had earlier stated. Before joining BCCI, Johri last served as Discovery Networks Asia Pacifics Executive Vice-President and General Manager for South Asia. With over 20 plus years of experience in the media industry, Johri was associated with Discovery Networks for the last 15 years and for the past eight years was leading South Asia operations.

52. Scientists discover rare symmetrical 'Einstein ring'

Scientists have discovered one of the most symmetrical Einstein rings a rare astronomical phenomenon created by a galaxy located 10,000 million light years away that is hidden behind a more massive galaxy. Einstein rings, predicted by Einstein's theory of General Relativity, are quite rare but scientifically interesting. The one discovered by Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC) and the University of La Laguna (ULL) in Canary Islands is named the "The Canarias Einstein ring". An Einstein ring is a distorted image of a very distant galaxy, which is termed "the source". The distortion is produced by the bending of the light rays from the source due to a massive galaxy, termed "the lens", lying between it and the observer. The strong gravitational field produced by the lens galaxy distorts the structure of space-time in its neighborhood, and this does not only attract objects which have a mass, but also bends the paths of light. When the two galaxies are exactly aligned, the image of the more distant galaxy is converted into an almost perfect circle which surrounds the lens galaxy. The irregularities in the circle are due to asymmetries in the source galaxy. The chance discovery was made by Margherita Bettinelli, of IAC when she was examining data taken through the "Dark Energy Camera" (DECam) of the 4m Blanco Telescope at the Cerro Tololo Observatory in Chile. She was analysing the stellar population of the Sculptor dwarf galaxy and noticed the peculiar morphology of the Einstein ring. Researchers then started to observe and analyse its physical properties with the OSIRIS spectrograph on the Gran Telescopio CANARIAS (GTC). This "Canarias Einstein ring" is one of the most symmetrical discovered until now and is almost circular, showing that the two galaxies are almost perfectly aligned, with a separation on the sky of only 0.2 arc seconds, researchers said.

53. Japanese scientists develop new tool to predict spread of Zika virus

The spread of the Zika outbreak has already reached stunning proportions. Scientists in Japan have developed a new tool that is capable of predicting the spread of the Zika virus outbreak, which originated in Brazil. Hiroshi Nishiura, a professor of hygiene at Hokkaido University, and his colleagues can predict Zika's potential of importation and local transmission using the tool, according to a report from [NDTV](#). The team is using a survival analysis model, data about airline transportation networks and information about the transmission of dengue and chikungunya viruses. Zika, dengue and chikungunya are all transmitted by infected Aedes species mosquitoes, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) wrote. Pregnant mothers infected with Zika can pass the virus to their unborn infants, with Zika manifesting as the congenital condition microcephaly in babies. Doctors also fear that the virus can give eye damages to newborns. According to the researchers, countries that have ties with Brazil have high risks of contracting Zika. Subtropical and tropical nations like the Caribbean and South and Central America are vulnerable from the Zika outbreak once the virus sets foot in their countries. Countries such as China, France and the UAE with histories of dengue and other mosquito-borne illnesses are high risks as well. Zika has already reached more than 40 countries. In the U.S., southern states are more at risk because of their warm and humid climate that is suitable for mosquito breeding grounds. Remedies Proposed Ohio Congressman Bob Gibbs pushed for the easing of restrictions slapped on pesticides. Cities, municipalities and mosquito-control organizations are using pesticides to control and eliminate mosquito breeding grounds, but this can be challenging when there's a flawed permitting process, [CNBC](#) reported. Scientists at the University of Hawaii, meanwhile, are working on creating a vaccine by studying a vial containing the Zika virus, according to [KHON 2](#). The vial came from the CDC and will be heavily guarded and monitored so untoward incidents will not occur. The vial will be stored in a bio-safety cabinet that has filters. WHO Issues Warnings Just recently, WHO warned couples or women returning from Zika-infected countries to wait at least eight weeks before attempting to conceive a child, [CBC](#) reported. This is to make sure that the virus has already left their bodies and their babies will not be affected. WHO officials said males infected with Zika should practice safe sex abstinence for six months. They advised safer sexual practices like non-penetrative sex, accurate and constant use of male or female condoms, less numbers of sexual partners and postponing sexual debut.

54. Nuwan Kulasekara quits Tests to focus on ODIs, T20s

Sri Lankan pace bowler Nuwan Kulasekara quit Test cricket on Wednesday in order to focus his attention on the sports shorter formats, in which he is considered a greater threat with the ball. Despite lacking express pace, Kulasekara made the most of his ability to swing the new ball to claim 48 test wickets since his 2005 debut against New Zealand in Napier. Kulasekara played the last of his 21 Tests against England at Lords two years ago but has been a standout performer in one-dayers, with 186 wickets from 173 matches, and was ranked the top ODI bowler in March 2009.

55. Prabir Mukherjee, former Eden Gardens curator, passes away at 86

Prabir Mukherjee, the former chief curator of the Cricket Association Bengal (CAB), passed away in Kolkata on Tuesday (May 31) night at the age of 86 after suffering from liver problems. Mukherjee was in charge of the tracks at the Eden Garden for close to 25 years and last worked there till the third Twenty20 International between India and South Africa in October last year. He served as the manager of the Bengal and West Zone teams as well after starting work with the CAB in 1979. The late curator, who retired as an accounts officer with South Eastern Railway, started working as a curator in the mid-1980s and looked after the pitches at the Eden Gardens, the Jadavpur University Ground in Salt Lake and at the Deshbandhu Park. He gained a lot of attention during England's tour of India in 2012 when he refused to produce rank turners even on Mahendra Singh Dhoni's request. He then went on leave to protest, but returned to work before the Test.

56. World Milk Day Celebrates Dairy Benefits

GLOBAL - World Milk Day takes place (Wednesday 1 June). The first World Milk Day was organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in 2001. Speaking ahead of her speech on the benefits of dairy at the International Dairy Federation's celebration of World Milk Day in Seoul, South Korea, Dr Judith Bryans, Chief Executive of Dairy UK, said: "As the world celebrates this World Milk Day, let's remember that milk is a product to be greatly proud of. Demand for dairy is growing across the globe and we have a key role to play to help feed a growing world population with safe, nutritious and affordable foods." Dr Bryans added: "Dairy makes a difference to millions of people every day, everywhere. As we pour milk on our cereal or add it to tea or coffee, we should remember that milk gives us so many of the nutrients that our bodies need. It's tasty, versatile and healthy and it also plays an important nutritional role at all stages of life. "Our industry is a vibrant and dynamic community which provides millions of

livelihoods across the world. On World Milk Day, more than 30 countries will celebrate what milk has to offer and the dedication of all of those who put milk on our tables, from farmers to processors, manufacturers and milkmen. Let's join them, raise a glass and spread the word!" However, some farmers in Europe are targeting World Milk Day for protests against the low prices that they are facing due to the global dairy market crisis, according to the European Milk Board. The protests have been going on all week and included action to disrupt EU agriculture ministers' meetings. Action took place in France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy.

57. Certificates of Appreciation awarded to Ministries and Departments based on performance in CPGRAMS

Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh awarded the Certificates of Appreciation to the Ministries and Departments based on their performance in the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) at New Delhi today. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Singh said the number of grievances received have increased in the last two years.

He added it is an indication of increasing faith of the citizens in the grievance redressal mechanism. He said that he himself and the senior officers of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances have been personally calling the people whose grievances have been redressed. These calls are made at random to the citizens to take feedback from them and to ascertain their satisfaction level.

AIR correspondent reports that the CPGRAMS is an online web enabled application to facilitate speedy redress of public grievances as it allows for online lodging and status tracking of grievances by the citizens.

The system is flexible enough to be extended to multiple levels as per the requirement of concerned Ministry, Department, Government Organization for speedy forwarding and redress of grievance. There has been a five-fold jump in Public Grievances to 10 lakh complaints in 2015-16 over previous year. With continuous monitoring a record disposal of 95% has been achieved.

58. India inks pact with US to enhance cooperation in energy security & other areas

India has inked a pact with the United States to enhance cooperation in energy security, clean energy and climate change. In a statement, Power ministry today said that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in New Delhi with an aim to promote sustainable growth. Power Secretary P K Pujari and US Ambassador to India Richard R Verma signed the MoU.

The pact will boost energy ties between the two countries through increased bilateral engagement .It also intended to increase incentives for innovation including research and development, and mutually-agreed technology transfer, as well as the deployment of clean energy technologies in both countries.

The priority initiatives under the MoU would be US-India Energy smart Cities Partnership, greening the grid and promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy (PEACE) expansion among others.

59. UN Security Council condemns N Korea missile tests

United Nations Security Council condemned three recent failed ballistic missile tests by North Korea and threatened to take further significant measures.

Tension in Northeast Asia has been high since North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January and followed that with a satellite launch in February and test launches of various missiles.

Last month, the 15-member Security Council was unable to condemn two failed ballistic missile launches by North Korea in late April after Russia proposed amendments to a draft statement that had already been approved by the remaining 14 members. However, United States, Japan and others found the proposals unacceptable.

The statement issued by the Council yesterday condemned the two late April tests as well as another failed missile launch by Pyongyang on Tuesday.

Earlier in April North Korea had conducted an intermediate-range ballistic missile test and a submarine-launched ballistic missile test, which were both condemned by the Security Council at the time.

60. International Court ruling on China, Philippines dispute could be vital

An international tribunal is expected to soon issue a ruling on a territorial dispute between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea.

Though the decision will not determine sovereignty of the territory in question, it could have wide ranging implications for China's sweeping claims in one of the world's most important and bitterly contested waterways.

If, as expected, the court rules at least partially in the Philippines' favor, it could put important diplomatic pressure on China. It could also provide an important symbolic victory for Asian leaders who say Beijing is ignoring international law as it seeks to assert its power in the region.

A ruling against China would also set an important legal precedent and become part of international law. It could also encourage other countries who have territorial disputes with China to take similar legal action.

61. South Korea welcomes US decision to label North a money launderer

[South Korea](#) welcomed the [US](#) decision to label [North Korea](#) a "global money laundering concern" -- a move that will further isolate Pyongyang from the global financial system.

The measure will prevent both direct and indirect North Korean financial activities within the US banking network, ensuring that any third-party deals involving significant sums of US dollars or other currencies cannot transit the United States.

"The government highly appreciates the action which reflects the firm US commitment to strongly pursuing its own separate sanctions" against North Korea, South Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Washington led the drive for a UN Security Council resolution that imposed the harshest sanctions to date on North Korea following its fourth nuclear test in January.

As well as unprecedented inspections of all cargo to and from North Korea, the resolution called on UN members to terminate banking relations with Pyongyang.

Last week, the European Union also tightened sanctions on Pyongyang, blocking any trade finance activity and banning certain trade and investment with the country.

The foreign ministry statement said South Korea would "continue to step up sanctions and pressure against the North" to force it towards a path of denuclearisation.

The UN Security Council yesterday strongly condemned a recent series of attempted ballistic missile launches by North Korea and urged world governments to ramp up efforts to implement the recent sanctions resolution.

62. Centre to increase rice quota for Odisha under NFSA

Centre has agreed to increase rice quota for Odisha under National Food Security Act (NFSA). A official release said considering requests of Union Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and the Odisha government, the allocation of rice and wheat has been revised from May 2016 onwards in the ratio as demanded by the state government.

Odisha had requested the Centre to increase the rice and wheat quota from 79:21 to 85:15. The release also said Odisha was being allocated 1,33,972 tons of rice and 35,978 tons of wheat per month which has now been revised to 1,45,859 tons of rice and 24,800 tons of wheat in the ratio of 85:15.

63. PM greets people of Telangana on their Statehood Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted the people of Telangana on their Statehood Day today. In a tweet, Mr Modi hoped that the state progresses to new heights in the years to come.

India's 29th state Telangana is celebrating the second year of its formation today. Telangana came into existence on 2nd of June, 2014 as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act passed in Parliament.

Prime Minister also conveyed his greetings to the people of Andhra Pradesh and wished as the state continues to develop at a rapid pace.

64. Goa govt. to install bio metric machines in fair price shops

In Goa, the government will soon be installing bio metric machines in the fair price shops. The machines will be installed on a pilot basis in 43 out of the total 450 fair price shops in the state by early next month.

Vilas Gaunekar, Director of Civil Supplies said that the machines, fitted with a SIM card and operated on GPRS, will register the thumb impression of the ration card holder to allow him to avail the benefit under PDS. The machines are linked to Aadhaar card and will help the department to keep the food grain supply records.

Recently the directorate has cancelled over one lakh bogus ration cards and the move will help plug the leakages in the PDS system.

65. ICICI Bank cuts lending rate by 0.05%

Country's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank has cut its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 0.05 per cent, to take it at par with the rates offered by SBI and HDFC Bank. This will help reduce the rate of interest to new borrowers.

Under the new rate structure effective from yesterday, the bank will give out overnight loans to new borrowers at 8.95 per cent, while the one-year MCLR, to which its housing loans are linked, now comes down to 9.15 per cent. RBI introduced the MCLR system from April 1 this year for faster transmission of its policy actions by the lenders.

66. TRAI launches mobile app for subscribers to register complaints against pesky calls, SMSes

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched a mobile application for telecom subscribers to register their complaints against pesky calls and SMSes to tighten the noose on telemarketers.

Talking to reporters in New Delhi yesterday, TRAI Chairman R S Sharma said, the new mobile app will help people in easily filing complaints and help the authority in monitoring such activities. He said, it will ease filing of complaints and also help us in monitoring action taken by telecom operators on complaints.

The DND (do not disturb) services mobile app is an easy alternative for filing pesky calls and SMS complaints. Earlier, subscribers had option of filing complaint by forwarding SMS to 1909 which they received from telemarketers and mention mobile number from which they have received it along with date of receiving.

The SMS option was not available for pesky calls. As per rule, Trai has mandated all telecom operators to disconnect telephone numbers from which a pesky call or SMS has originated on receipt of the first complaint.

67. Indian economy making good progress: Arvind Panagariya

With the Indian economy growing by 7.9 per cent, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya today said that the country is making "good" progress.

He said there is a good bit of turnaround today in the economy which was not in a "great shape" when the Narendra Modi government came into power in 2014. Mr Panagariya said at a discussion organised by the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York, on the two years of the Modi government.

He said for the 2015-16 year, the Indian economy grew by 7.6 per cent and in the last quarter of the fiscal, the growth

rate was 7.9 per cent.

Mr Panagariya noted that inflation has been contained around five percent and forex reserves are also in good shape.

Addressing the discussion attended by analysts, executives and diplomats, Mr. Panagariya added that there are certain continuing weaknesses, which are largely inherited.

He cited the example of the steel, construction, textile and banking sectors, saying all of these have serious legacy issues. However, he said that it should not distract that several of the sectors such as auto, pharma, software, engineering goods, are doing well.

68. Purbashree Emporium at Handloom Haat, Janpath inaugurated

The Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Smt. Rashmi Verma inaugurated the Purbashree Emporium here today. In order to give a boost to the development and promotion of North-East handicrafts and handlooms products, North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd (NEHHDC) has set up its Purbashree Emporium in the Handloom Haat, New Delhi showcasing a wide variety of ethnic and exquisite handlooms products which are eco-friendly and bio-degradable.

During the inauguration, Smt. Rashmi Verma said that this is a major step wherein a designated place has been allocated to showcase the products of North East. She said that marketing is very important to showcase the products from North East and it is a significant step in this direction. Smt. Rashmi Verma said that she could see a variety of products from different states and it is a major step for the marketing required for these products. By setting up such stalls, people will come to know and appreciate the variety of North eastern products, she added.

The NEHHDC markets the handicrafts and handlooms of the North Eastern Region through its chain of emporia located at Shillong, Guwahati, and New Delhi and also through its Regional Sales Promotion Offices located in Bengaluru and Chennai. Besides, NEHHDC conducts 50-80 exhibitions and marketing events per year across the country and abroad for showcasing the exquisite handicrafts and handlooms items of the North Eastern Region.

The NEHHDC was set up in March 1977, for the development and promotion of handicrafts and handlooms of the North Eastern Region. Since its inception, NEHHDC has been spearheading various activities viz., training and capacity building to artisans and weavers, design and technology upgradation, skill development, RD activities, marketing and exports.

69. Arrival Of Mega Luxury Cruise Vessel "Ovation Of The Seas"

Mega Luxury Cruise Vessel M.V.Ovation of the Seas called at the Cochin Port for a 2-day stop-over in its circuit of Dubai-Muscat-Kochi-Penang-Singapore. The vessel with 4000 passengers and 1649 crew was given a warm and colourful reception at the Cochin Port in ethnic style with flowers, sindhoor and chendamelam.

M.V.Ovation of the Seas is a brand new ship of the Royal Caribbean Lines which was floated out in April this year. It is 348 m long and is in the 2nd largest class of cruise vessel. 90 passengers from Dubai/ Muscat disembarked at Cochin Port and 80 passengers will embark from the Port.

A brief plaque exchange ceremony was held to commemorate the inaugural call. Shri G.Senthilvel, Chairman, Cochin Port, Dr. C.Unnikrishnan Nair, Traffic Manager, Cochin Port, Shri Sethuraman, IPS, FRRO (Bureau of Immigration), Shri M.M.Haseeja, Ministry of Shipping, Shri Mohamed Farouk, Asst. Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India, Shri Thomas Korah, Joint Director, Kerala Tourism Department and other officials participated. Senior officials from Kerala Tourism and India Tourism were present to help the tourists for the local visits. Officials from the Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had specially come from New Delhi to welcome the cruise vessel as part of the Government of Indias measures to promote Cruise Tourism. It may be noted that a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Cruise Shipping was notified by the Ministry of Tourism during the Maritime India Summit held during April, 2016. The Port had arranged pre-paid taxis and auto rickshaws for the tourists. The state police in large numbers regulated the safe passage of the tourists to the city.

The Port facilitated setting up of 30 stalls displaying and selling ethnic items including exquisite coir carpets, paintings, metal ware and cotton goods from Erode which caught the fancy of the tourists immensely. A special stall was dedicated for selling products by Tribal Welfare Department. The tourists visited various parts of Cochin and about 500 tourists went to Alleppey for the House Boat ride.

70. V.O.Chidambaranar Port bags National Award for Excellence in Cost Management

V.O. Chidambaranar Port has bagged National Award for Excellence in Cost Management for the year 2015 from The Institute of Cost Accountants of India under the category of Public Service Sector- Small. The port participated in the 13th National Awards for Excellence in Cost Management-2015, organised by The Institute of Cost Accountants of India. This is the third time this port is receiving the award, the earlier years being 2008 and 2012.

The award has been given for exemplary performance of V.O. Chidambaranar Port towards optimization of manpower, savings in electricity, implementation of Solar Energy Systems, reduction of overall cost of handling by mechanization and improvising efficiency and logistics support. The Institute of Cost Accountants of India, a statutory body under an Act of Parliament, presents awards for excellence in Cost Management to promote and recognize Cost Management practices in the Corporate Sector. The awards under various categories were selected by a Jury panel headed by Honble Justice Mr. V.N.Khare, former Chief Justice of India and persons of eminence from Industry, Government, Judiciary and CMA profession.

71. Facebook site of WCD Ministry scales another milestone; hits 2,00,000 Likes

The Ministry of Women Child Development has scaled another milestone in the area of social media when the Facebook site of WCD Ministry hit 2,00,000 likes on 1st June, 2016. The Facebook site of WCD Ministry added 1,00,000 likes in less than five months. In an attempt to apprise beneficiaries about the policies framed and the schemes unveiled for them, the Social Media wing of the Ministry puts out content from which every common person can benefit.

The Minister of Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi took to Facebook on June 1, 2016, to have a one-on-one interaction with people through a Live Facebook Chat. The activity reached out to nearly 1,00,000 people, with over 1,600 questions received. The Minister has promised to answer all the questions personally.

On Twitter too, the Ministry's handle (/MinistryWCD) uses every opportunity to post content to empower the beneficiaries and to enhance transparency of governance. The Ministry's recent activities release of Draft National Policy for Women, 2016, and Draft Anti-Trafficking Bill, 2016 were trending on Twitter, a sign of being successfully able to reach out to the larger audience.

Recognizing the power of Internet in GenNext and in keeping with the desire of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to connect with citizens through online space, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is now reaching out to people through popular social networking sites i.e. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube among others.

72. K Rajini set to compete in 2016 China Superbike Championship

Rajini has been in the news for several reasons this year. To begin with there was the fact that the defending Malaysian Superbike Champion in the 1000cc category needed to crowdfund his way to a race seat for 2016, in order to be able to defend his title. Of course, this was in addition to various pieces of information like the Red Bull Road to Rookies Cup making it to India, with Rajini as one of the lead instructors. There's more news now. And this time it's very, very good. The Indian rider has been just signed a contract with the Kawasaki China Racing Team. He has been signed by the team to compete in the 2016 China Superbike Championship, and will participate in the stock category astride a 2016 Kawasaki Ninja ZX-10R. Rajini is currently in China testing the motorcycle at the Zhuhai International Circuit. This means Rajini will be racing in both the Malaysian Superbike Championship and in the China Superbike Championship, this year. The first round of the China SBK takes place later this month June 17 to 19, 2016. We will keep you posted on how he does there.

73. BCCI wants to set up academy in Bengaluru

The National Cricket Academy chairman Niranjan Shah today said BCCI wanted to set up cricket academy in

Bengaluru, and it would be shifted to some other state only if the Karnataka Government could not provide the land by June 30, 2016.

"BCCI always has been keen on having academy set up in Bengaluru as the weather in Bengaluru is favourable all through the year and that suits all sports and training," Shah said in a press release issued by the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) here today.

On May 29, an NCA board meeting was held in Bengaluru where the NCA indicated shifting of the academy from Bengaluru as the Karnataka Government had not taken decision on the BCCI's demand for land. "It has been decided that the secretary (Ajay Shirke) will write to all state associations and if any of them can get us 30 to 40 acres land with necessary permission from the state government, there is a good chance of NCA being shifted there," Shah had said after the NCA meeting.

"NCA can remain in Bengaluru if Karnataka Government provides land by June 30, 2016," Shah was quoted as saying in the release issued today.

Shah also welcomed the Karnataka Government's recent action. "It's a positive sign that the state government is coming forward to allot land for the academy after making academy wait for more than six years," Shah added.

74. Bengaluru among top 5 global locations for innovation centres

India has been named among the top five global locations for innovation centres, with Bengaluru emerging as the most favourite destination within the country having four such facilities.

According to a Capgemini report titled Digital Dynasties: The Rise of Innovation Empires Worldwide, India is becoming a new innovation destination of choice, doubling the number of innovation centres since July 2015 and seeing brands such as Apple, Airbus and Visa locate there.

Silicon Valley, London and Paris, were named as the top three locations for innovation centres, followed by Singapore and Bengaluru in the fourth and fifth place, respectively.

"India has been rising in the ranks of favorite destinations to open innovation centres. Our previous research identified eight innovation centres in India in July 2015. India has since seen eight more innovation centers open their doors," the report said.

Bengaluru has been the most favoured city with four new innovation centres. Bengaluru is home to several billion-dollar Indian startups such as: Flipkart, InMobi and Mu Sigma, and attracts world-class technology talent and investments.

Among the new innovation centres opened in Bengaluru are: Airbus' BizLab, which intends to bring together startups and Airbus' internal entrepreneurs; and Visa, whose new technology center will house 1,000 developers accelerating development of next generation payment solutions.

"Global firms are showing interest in other Indian cities as well," the report said adding that TriMas Corporation a diversified global manufacturer of engineered and applied products opened an innovation centre in Delhi to focus on driving innovation across its range of packaging solutions, while Puratos, a leading global food ingredient company, launched an innovation centre in Mumbai.

The report noted that though Silicon Valley still remains the hub of the world's most dominant innovation "empire", the innovation centre phenomenon has continued to spread globally, a number of new 'empires' have emerged.

"Over the last year, we witnessed the rapid rise of Asia as a destination for innovation centres. Compared to our previous research, Asia has seen a 29 per cent rise in the number of innovation centres being launched," the report said.

75. **India joins global code against ballistic missile proliferation**

[India](#) has joined the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, the government announced on Thursday. "India has joined the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation by notifying the HCoC central contact in Vienna through diplomatic channels," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Vikas Swarup said in his weekly media briefing here. "The HCoC is a voluntary, legally non-binding international confidence building and transparency measure that seeks to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles that are capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction," he said. "India's joining the code signals our readiness to further strengthen global non-proliferation objectives." The HCoC was formally brought into effect on November 25, 2002, at a launching conference hosted by the Netherlands in The Hague. It was earlier known as the International Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

76. **W Bengal govt to provide subsidised Ramzan food packets**

[Trinamool](#) Congress-led government in Bengal is planning to provide special 'Roza' food packets at a subsidised rate from ration shops across the state during the fasting month of Ramzan.

"In all the ration shops across the state, Roza food packets will be provided from June 5- July 6. It will be given twice in the one-month period. The food packets will have each and every ingredient – sugar, flour, chick peas and others food items and will cost lesser than in the open market," state Food Supplies Minister Jyotipriyo Mullick told PTI.

According to food supplies department sources, this is being done to help minorities in the state who go on fast during the Ramzan month.

77. **Northern Ireland to lift gay-blood lifetime ban**

Northern Ireland authorities were on Thursday set to lift a lifetime ban on gay men donating blood.

Health Minister Michelle O'Neill was due to make the announcement later on Thursday, BBC reported.

A lifetime ban came into force across Britain during the 1980s AIDS crisis, but was lifted in England, Scotland and Wales in November 2011. Northern Ireland retained the permanent ban.

78. **Today in History - June 3**

1098 - Christian Crusaders of the First Crusade seized Antioch, Turkey.

1539 - Hernando De Soto claimed Florida for Spain.

1621 - The Dutch West India Company received a charter for New Netherlands (now known as New York).

1784 - The U.S. Congress formally created the United States Army to replace the disbanded Continental Army. On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress had created the Continental Army for purposes of common defense and this event is considered to be the birth of the United States Army.

1800 - [John Adams](#) moved to Washington, [DC](#). He was the first President to live in what later became the capital of the United States.

1805 - A peace treaty between the U.S. and Tripoli was completed in the captain's cabin on board the USS Constitution.

1851 - The New York Knickerbockers became the first baseball team to wear uniforms.

1856 - Cullen Whipple patented the screw machine.

1888 - "Casey at the Bat" the poem by Ernest Lawrence Thayer was first published.

1918 - The Finnish Parliament ratified its treaty with Germany.

1923 - In Italy, Benito Mussolini granted women the right to vote.

1932 - Lou Gehrig set a major league baseball record when he hit four consecutive home runs.

1937 - The Duke of Windsor, who had abdicated the British throne, married Wallis Warfield Simpson.

1938 - The German Reich voted to confiscate so-called "degenerate art."

1952 - A rebellion by North Korean prisoners in the Koje prison camp in South Korea was put down by American troops.

1959 - The first class graduated from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, [CO](#).

1965 - Edward White became the first American astronaut to do a "space walk" when he left the Gemini 4 capsule.

1970 - Har Gobind Khorana and colleagues announced the first synthesis of a gene from chemical components.

1985 - After five years, the characters of Nancy and Chris Hughes returned to CBS-TV's "As the World Turns."

1989 - Chinese army troops positioned themselves to begin a sweep of Beijing to crush student-led pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square.

1999 - Slobodan Milosevic's government accepted an international peace plan concerning Kosovo. NATO announced that airstrikes would continue until 40,000 Serb forces were withdrawn from Kosovo.

1999 - Dennis Muren received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

2003 - Sammy Sosa (Chicago Cubs) broke a bat when he grounded out against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. The bat he was using was a corked bat. ([Illinois](#), [Florida](#))

2003 - Toys "R" Us, Inc. announced that it had signed a multi-year agreement with Albertson to become the exclusive toy provider for all of all of Albertson's food and drug stores.

79. No love among crude producers to cut production

Crude prices failed to move up from \$ 50 from the impact of OPECs failure to induce a production cut. The Brent crude was trading at \$49 per barrel down by 1.3% after the impact of the OPEC decision. This is a downturn in prices after the commodity has achieved rise during the last few weeks. The new development has given considerable relief to leading crude importers like India. Return of crude to above \$50 would have opened the previous painful import bill burden for many import dependent countries. The OPEC meeting was dominated by a tussle between Saudi Arabia and Iran with the former insisting all members to cut production. But Iran was reluctant to do so. OPECs two political rival had contrasting views about production and price strategies. Besides, non OPEC serious producers like Russia are also disjoint with Saudi efforts. Over the last two years, OPEC has is losing control over the market due to increasing share in production by non-members like the US and Russia. The re-induction of Iran as an active producer in the crude market with the elimination of the Wes sponsored ban has also made crude an oversupplied product in the market. Iran is now a major player with Tehran selling heavily to consumption heavyweight India. Exports from Iran to India recorded spectacular growth at the expense of Saudi in recent months. Indian private sector firms are getting heavy cargo from Iran and this has given Tehran more bargaining power at the OPEC.

80. Sachin Tendulkar to Lend Name For Kerala Government's Anti-Drug Campaign

Cricket icon [Sachin Tendulkar](#) has agreed to a request from the Kerala government to use his name in a campaign against drug and liquor abuse in the state. This was stated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan after Tendulkar along with

three other co-owners of the [Kerala Blasters Football Club](#) (KBFC) met him at the state secretariat on Wednesday. "Tendulkar has given consent to use his name to strengthen the campaign against liquor and drug abuse in the state. He has agreed to cooperate in the campaign," he told reporters. Asked whether Tendulkar would be the state's 'ambassador' for the campaign, Vijayan said all those things would be discussed later. Vijayan also said the KBFC has agreed to set up a residential Football Academy to train young talents in the state. Speaking on the occasion, Tendulkar said the main mission of the academy was to produce international level players from the soccer-crazy state in the next five years. "You will have really something to smile in a few years time," Tendulkar said. Actor-turned politician Chiranjeevi, actor Akkineni Nagarjuna and Prasad, the co-owners of the KBFC, state Sports Minister E P Jayarajan, Finance Minister T M Thomas Issac were also present on the occasion.

81. **2 Indian-Origin Women In Forbes' Self-Made American Women List**

Two Indian-origin women have featured on the Forbes' annual list of America's 60 wealthiest and most successful self-made women entrepreneurs who have "crashed ceilings through invention and innovation".

India-born Neerja Sethi, who co-founded IT consulting and outsourcing firm Syntel with her husband Bharat Desai, is ranked 16th on 'America's Richest Self-made Women' list while president and CEO of Arista Networks Jayshree Ullal (55) is ranked 30th.

According to Forbes, the richest self-made woman in America is Diane Hendricks, the owner of ABC Supply, the largest wholesale distributor of roofing and siding in the country. Hendricks is now worth USD 4.9 billion, USD 1.2 billion more than last year when she was ranked second.

The second annual tally of America's wealthiest, most successful self-made women includes 60 trailblazers -- 10 more than last year. The 60 women, who are worth a combined USD 53 billion, have created some of the nation's best known brands such as Gap and Spanx, while a number of them have also helped build some of the most successful companies in tech, including Facebook, eBay and Google.

Ms Sethi (61) has a net worth of USD 1.1 billion. Her company employs more than 25,000 people and boasts a recent market cap of USD 3.6 billion.

She is currently the vice president of corporate affairs, a role she has had since the company's inception. She also sits on the board of directors alongside her husband, who remains the chairman.

Born in London, raised in New Delhi, Ullal has a net worth of USD 470 million. She became president and CEO of Arista Networks in 2008, when it had no revenues and fewer than 50 employees. The company reported USD 838 million in revenue in 2015, after going public in June 2014.

82. **India among top 5 green energy markets in 2015: report**

The 2015 global renewable energy development had a strong Indian flavour to it, with India being ranked among the top five nations in new investments, and in the top four as regards creating jobs in the green energy sector. Emerging markets broke the record in 2015 by committing larger investments than developed nations. China led with more than double the investment of the next largest investor, the US, followed by Japan, the UK, and India, according to a report by the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (Ren21). While China, the US, Japan and the UK maintained their positions relative to 2014, India moved up to displace Germany, which saw a sharp drop in investment. India's investments in renewable energy sector increased to \$10.2 billion in 2015, when compared to \$8.3 billion in 2014. The new investments saw growth for the second consecutive year, aided by a jump in utility-scale solar power financing, which reached \$4.6 billion, up 75 per cent over the previous year -- a direct result of the Indian governments increased focus on renewable energy, it pointed out. Asset finance

Also, \$4.1 billion of asset finance was invested in wind power, an increase of 17 per cent from 2014. Record capacity-addition also led to strong growth in new jobs. Considering all renewable energy technologies, the leading employers in 2015 were China, Brazil, the US and India. Globally, the green energy sector has created about 8.1 million jobs. China created about 3.5 million, followed by Brazil at 9.18 lakh, the US at 7.69 lakh and India at 4.16 lakh. The

calendar year 2015 saw substantial activity in the Indian solar and wind power markets as the ambitious renewable energy targets are translated into concrete policy frameworks. Central and State auctions for solar PV contributed to the installation of 2 GW in 2015, and to an impressive pipeline of 23 GW. Employment in solar PV expanded by 23 per cent in 2015, and jobs in the wind sector also rose. Major challenge

However, congestion in the grid will be most immediate challenge for Indias solar sector, and for scaling up solar power capacity to achieve the target of 100 GW by 2022. India installed about 2.6 GW, surpassing Spains capacity to rank fourth globally for total wind power capacity, with nearly 25.1 GW in 2015. But, the sector added less capacity than expected, largely due to shortage of available transmission capacity.

83. TERI signs MoU with IKSL

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and a subsidiary of Indian [Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited \(IFFCO\)](#) on Thursday signed a pact to work together in empowering farmers by providing them information about efficient use of natural resources to help them increase their productivity.

"[TERI](#) and [IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited \(IKSL\)](#) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together with the objective to empower farmers and people living in rural India with pertinent and high quality information and services through affordable communication network in a [sustainable](#) manner," a TERI statement said.

TERI has the expertise in developing knowledge based sustainable solutions in the field of agriculture and rural electrification to mitigate impact of climate change and promoting efficient use of natural resources.

IKSL has extensive experience in broadcasting informal messages to rural communities, this is the first time that the organisation will venture into enlightening rural households as part of its mandate.

The partnership will include creating awareness about benefits of clean lighting and cooking solutions, providing information on energy solutions and community level solutions that improve energy conditions in schools, public health centres.

"The partnership will provide bio-based products such as pesticides and fertilizers and awareness about efficient use of natural resources to farmers in order to support increased productivity with increased sustainability.

"This will enhance the livelihoods and the quality of life of over one billion Indians who depend on agriculture," Ajay Mathur, director general, TERI said.

The partnership will also include training and capacity building for energy entrepreneurs and technicians at a village level for providing clean energy, promotion of integrated pest and nutrient management of various crops, promotion of [bio-pesticide](#) and bio-fertilizer amongst others.

"We are relying on the technology developed by TERI to provide the kind of support that will empower the farmer and disseminate that research knowledge through our platforms," said Sandeep Malhotra, CEO, IKSL.

84. Novak Djokovic becomes the first player to win a \$100m prize money

Someone who just became the first tennis player to pass the \$100 million mark in prize money should be happy. No doubt Novak Djokovic was. But Djokovic's goal heading into the French Open was to win the only grand slam to elude him and he knows his task remains difficult, thanks in large part to Mother Nature. The world No. 1 defeated Roberto Bautista Agut 3-6 6-4 6-1 7-5 to move into the quarterfinals at Roland Garros and he should have brought a sleeping bag, since -- if organizers don't tweak the pre-planned tournament schedule -- he'll be back Thursday and Friday. That is, of course, if he keeps winning and the rain stays away. Or enough of it. Sprinkles surfaced Wednesday, intensifying for a spell in the evening. More stoppages and organizers might be forced to push the men's final to Monday, which would especially suit Djokovic and others in the top half of the draw who were a round behind those in the bottom half entering Wednesday. It could happen, what with the forecast bleak for the coming days. In that bottom half, defending champion Stan Wawrinka and second-seed Andy Murray set up a semifinal showdown. Djokovic and the hard-nosed Spaniard

began their fourth-round outing Tuesday, with the former appearing agitated and unfocused. Maybe he was thinking about the complicated road ahead. He did, however, lead 4-1 in the third when play was stopped.

85. The Unseen Indira Gandhi authored by Dr KP Mathur released

Late Indira Gandhi wanted her younger daughter-in-law Maneka Gandhi to help her in politics after the death of her son Sanjay Gandhi, but Maneka was in the company of people who were antagonistic to Rajiv, a new book written by Indira Gandhi's doctor says.

"Although PM (Indira Gandhi) was always more fond of Sonia, during the period after Sanjay's death, she became a little more inclined towards Maneka. However, it failed to bring Maneka closer to her. Generally Sonia held the upper hand in household affairs while Maneka's views were considered by the PM (Indira Gandhi) when it came to political matters since Maneka had good political sense," says KP Mathur, Indira Gandhi's personal physician.

Dr Mathur, a former physician at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi who served for nearly 20 years as the physician to Indira Gandhi and called on her every morning till her assassination in 1984, details Mrs Gandhi's journey as a politician and her relations with family in a new book 'The Unseen Indira Gandhi'. Within a couple of years of the death of Sanjay Gandhi, Maneka had to leave the then PM's house under rather trying circumstances, the book says.

"After Sanjay's death, PM's attitude towards her (Maneka) softened a great deal. In fact, she wanted Maneka to come and help her in politics.

"But Maneka was often in the company of people who were antagonistic to Rajiv. This grew into the formation of the organisation, the Sanjay Vichar Manch. It was an organisation which wanted to carry on with the legacy of Sanjay Gandhi. Maneka Gandhi and her associates were part of it, they were known to be acting against Rajiv Gandhi, although I never came to know what specifically they were doing," says Dr Mathur.

What brought matters to a head was a convention of the Sanjay Vichar Manch which was held in Lucknow, which Mrs Gandhi advised Maneka not to address. Mrs Gandhi was touring abroad at that time and sent a message to Maneka, but the latter went ahead and addressed the convention.

After Rajiv and Sonia's marriage, the doctor said, Indira Gandhi and Sonia took to each other within no time. "Sonia gave a lot of respect and the latter showered her with affection and regard... Sonia very soon took over the responsibility of the household."

"A voracious reader, Mrs Gandhi, on Sundays and other holidays relaxed with some books, especially biographies. She liked subjects connected with the body and the mind as well as popular science magazines and was fond of solving crossword puzzles in international publications," says Dr Mathur.

"Sometimes, after lunch, she played cards. Her favourite card game was Kali Mam..." says the book.

The 151-page book describes Mrs Gandhi as "very tense, a bit confused and not sure of herself" in the first year or two of her becoming the PM in 1966.

"In the initial phase of her premiership, PM Indira Gandhi used to be especially nervous when faced with some speaking assignments, either in Parliament or outside and would try and avoid it," writes Dr Mathur.

"But notwithstanding the initial jitters, Mrs Gandhi was a very determined person. She visited Madras University, which was the epicentre of the anti-Hindi protests in Tamil Nadu and remained undaunted by hostile sloganeering."

"She told the students, 'Don't say down with Hindi. Say up with Tamil. I will learn Tamil and you also learn Hindi'," Dr Mathur recalls.

The doctor writes that the former Prime Minister appeared "quite perplexed and fidgety in the hours leading to the May

18, 1974 Pokhran tests.

"When I asked about her health, she just answered in monosyllables. I tried to make some small talk but she wasn't attentive. She fixed her gaze on the telephone on her bedside table, lifted the receiver once and put it down. I looked in that direction and saw a notebook on which the Gayatri mantra was written in long hand," the book says.

The book also refers to the 'ominous emergency' years after Emergency was imposed on June 25, 1975, when thousands of people were put in jail all across the country.

"The discontent against PM and Sanjay Gandhi was growing by the hour and she was fast losing her people's confidence and sympathy... PM herself was not satisfied with the state of affairs, but somehow she did not intervene and let it go on. Perhaps she had become a victim of the tyranny of the excessive love she had for her younger son..."

"After her defeat in the elections of 1977, Indira Gandhi decided to visit Belchi in remote Bihar where upper caste land owners had massacred a number of Harijans over some land dispute but found it difficult to get transport to travel in the rainy season."

"Ultimately with her courage and determination she reached Belchi in the dark of night riding on an elephant.... All this she narrated to me on her return," says Dr Mathur.

The book is interspersed with written instructions and messages on bits of paper, collected by the doctor.

The tome talks about Mrs Gandhi's relations with foreign heads of government including Margaret Thatcher, former PM of the United Kingdom, who Dr Mathur says, "respecting her age and seniority showed due deference" towards Mrs Gandhi.

Sonia Gandhi's daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has written a foreword to the book which describes Dr Mathur as one whose keen sense of humour and an ability to grasp the finer details of human emotion endeared him to all.

86. India, Tunisia sign MoUs for co-operation in IT, handicrafts sector

India and Tunisia last night signed Memoranda of Understanding for co-operation in Information Technology and promotion of traditional handicrafts. The MoUs were signed after the delegation level talks between the two countries in the presence of Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid in Tunis. In a joint press statement after the talks, Mr Ansari said, the entire gamut of bilateral as well global issues were discussed during the talks. He said, the discussion on bilateral ties focused on economic partnership and adding new areas of collaboration in IT and education.

The Vice President said, the two sides also decided to enhance co-operation in counter terrorism. Mr Ansari also appreciated Tunisia's support to India's candidature to the expanded United Nations Security Council. He also invited 350 Tunisian citizens to India for training in different institutes over the next five years.

The Vice President is scheduled to call on President Beji Caid El Sebsi today and meet several other leaders. He will also deliver a lecture at the Al Dhiyafa University. Mr Ansari will return home on Saturday.

87. India donates 2000 bicycles to needy girls in Nepal

India has donated 2,000 bicycles to needy girls in Nepal as part of a program that aims to encourage school enrollment and increase the youth literacy rate. In an official statement, Indian Embassy said, bicycles were given away to poor girls studying in different government schools in Nepal. The program was initiated by the Indian government under its Small Development Project scheme to stop poor Nepali girls from dropping out of schools and to enhance literacy. According to Unicef, literacy rates in Nepal are low, the total adult literacy rate in the country in 2008-2012 was 57.4 percent.

Apart from this, India has been providing assistance to various government programs for the improvement of education

and health services across Nepal. India has also granted 59 ambulances, 7 buses and one eye care van to four Nepal districts to serve the medical and educational needs of the local people.

88. Centre to complete almost all remaining infrastructure works at border in next three years

The Centre has said that it will complete almost all the remaining infrastructure works at the border in next three years. Home Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the Border Management at a meeting in New Delhi yesterday in which Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju and senior officials of the Department of Border Management were present. An official release said, during the meeting it was informed that major impediments hampering the development of border infrastructure have been resolved which will increase the pace of development of border infrastructure in coming years. Mr Singh directed the officials to complete the fencing along Indo-Bangladesh border in Assam. The release added, over 223 kilometers fence has been constructed for sealing of Indo-Bangladesh Border and there are 122 locations where physical barrier is not present. It was decided that 100 locations covering 11.9 kilometers area will have fence and 22 locations in riverine areas will have non-physical barriers including technological barriers which will completely seal the border and it will be achieved by June, 2017. The Home Minister also directed for full use of technology to secure sensitive areas along the borders. This will involve networking of equipments including High Resolution Cameras, Radars, Unattended Ground Sensors, Optical Fibres and Infra Red Sensors.

89. Universe expanding faster than expected

The universe is expanding faster than expected and scientists speculate the finding may be explained by a mysterious force called dark radiation. An international team of researchers of the Space Telescope Science Institute and The Johns Hopkins University have made the most accurate measurements so far of the universe's rate of expansion following the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago. They discovered the universe is expanding 5 per cent to 9 per cent faster than expected. The findings, to be published in The Astrophysical Journal, have prompted a rethink of our understanding of the universe and in particular, the concepts of dark matter and dark energy.

90. US singer Prince died from accidental overdose of painkiller

US singer Prince died from an accidental overdose of the painkiller fentanyl, medical examiners have found. The report, from Midwest Medical Examiner's Office in Minnesota, comes more than a month after the singer was found slumped in a lift at his home. Detectives have already questioned a doctor who saw the 57-year old twice in the weeks before he died. A police warrant has also revealed that Dr Michael Schulenberg prescribed medication to the singer on April, 20th, the day before he died.

91. Asia's largest annual security forum opens in Singapore

Asia's largest annual security forum opens today in Singapore. Territorial disputes in the South China Sea, North Korea's military provocations and Islamist extremism are expected to dominate discussions. The Shangri-La Dialogue, organised by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, IISS, is being attended by at least 20 Defence Ministers led by Pentagon chief Ashton Carter.

Beijing's claim to nearly the entire South China Sea has angered Southeast Asian neighbours and pitted it against the United States. US has conducted patrols near Chinese-held islands to press for freedom of navigation in the body of water that encompasses key global shipping lanes.

The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam have competing claims in the area, which is believed to have significant oil and gas deposits. IISS Asia Executive Director Tim Huxley said, there is much speculation about China's next steps in the South China Sea, particularly in the context of an apparently imminent ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

92. US announces near-total ban on trade of African elephant ivory

US authorities have announced a near-total ban on the trade of African elephant ivory, finalizing a years-long push to fight the poaching of the threatened animals. Conservation groups welcomed the move by the United States, the world's second-largest consumer of illegal ivory after China, even though it comes with notable exemptions including

for antiques. US Fish and Wildlife Service said, the new rule, which takes effect July 6, substantially limits imports, exports and sales of ivory across state lines.

More than 35,000 elephants are slaughtered each year on the African continent from an approximate population of more than 4,50,000 in the wild. The Wildlife Conservation Society hailed the US move to protect the species as historic.

93. UN: Violations against children in conflict rose in 2015

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has expressed shock at the escalating recruitment and killing of children in conflicts last year especially in Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia and South Sudan. The UN chief's annual report on children and armed conflict released yesterday said the scale and increasing severity of grave violations included continuing large-scale abduction of children and aerial attacks by some governments and international coalitions which killed and maimed many youngsters.

Ban called on all parties to conflicts to immediately end violations against children and take measures to prevent the recruitment, killing, abduction and sexual abuse of children caught in conflicts. He warned that combatants who violate children's rights will find themselves under scrutiny by the United Nations and stressed that accountability remains a key priority.

The UN said it verified 1,306 incidents resulting in 2,829 child casualties.

94. Odisha demands rollback of 1 per cent service tax

The Odisha government demanded rollback of 1 per cent service tax, which the Centre has increased in past one year. The Centre has raised the rate of service tax from 14.5 per cent to 15 per cent by imposition of Krishi Kalyan Cess at 0.5 per cent on all taxable services with effect from beginning of this month. Earlier, it was raised from 14 per cent to 14.5 per cent on imposition of Swachh Bharat Cess from November, last year.

State finance minister Pradip Kumar Amat addressing a news conference in Bhubaneswar yesterday, said increase of cess and surcharge goes against the spirit of cooperative federalism. He said the Centre has estimated to generate 3.3 lakh crore rupees from service tax at 14.5 per cent in 2016-17 of which it would distribute 90,720 crore rupees among different states including Odisha's share of 4303 crore rupees. The finance minister also said he has also written a letter to Union finance minister Arun Jaitley to lodge Odishas protest against increase of cess and surcharge.

95. Andhra Pradesh CM lays foundation stone for super-specialty hospital in Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, yesterday laid the foundation stone for the new super-specialty hospital in Vijayawada coming up at a cost of 150 crore rupees, released under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The hospital will come up on the new Government General Hospital premises.

The building plan has been approved and tenders will soon be called for according to Mr. Naidu. He said the six-storey hospital with 240 beds will be a one-stop centre for all critical cases. He said the hospital will come up with all facilities such as emergency wards for cardio-thoracic surgery, surgical oncology, surgical gastroenterology, pediatrics and other surgery blocks.

96. LDF candidate Sreeramakrishnan elected as Kerala Assembly speaker

In Kerala, ruling LDF candidate P. Sreeramakrishnan was today elected Speaker of the 14th State Assembly. He polled 92 votes while the opposition UDF candidate V. P. Sajeendran got 46 votes.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan welcomed the new speaker and said the speaker does not only represent the LDF but the entire Assembly. Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala and other legislative party leaders also congratulated Mr. Sreeramakrishnan.

The two-day session of the House has since come to a close. It is scheduled to reassemble on the 24th when the Governor will make a policy declaration of the Government.

97. P Dhanapal, Jayaraman re-elected as TN Speaker, Deputy Speaker

In Tamil Nadu, P Dhanapal and Pollachi V Jayaraman were today unanimously re-elected as Speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively of the Legislative Assembly. Both had served as Speaker and Deputy Speaker during the 2011-16 AIADMK regime.

While Mr Dhanapal was re-elected to the Assembly from Avinashi (Reserved) constituency for sixth term, Mr Jayaraman was re-elected from Pollachi seat for fourth term.

98. HUDCO to release Rs.650 cr to acquire land for Bhogapuram Airport

In Andhra Pradesh, the state finance department, HUDCO and the Special Purpose Vehicle Bhogapuram International Airport Company Ltd., (BIACL) have entered into a formal agreement yesterday paving the way for the International Airport to come up near Visakhapatnam.

Andhra Pradesh government would stand guarantor to the Rs.650-crore loan to be extended by HUDCO. The amount will be released in 10 to 15 days to BIACL which will be utilised by the government to acquire 2,400 acres for the Airport in the first phase.

According to official sources the BIACL will keep the money at the disposal of Vizianagaram District Collector to initiate the land acquisition process and make the payments to the land owners.

The Investment and Infrastructure department earlier proposed to acquire 13,000 acres under land pooling that met with stiff resistance from local people and farmers. The government, however, decided to acquire only 2,400 acres in the first phase under the Land Acquisition Act after a series of meetings with the stakeholders.

The land acquisition process is expected to be over in about six months and the HUDCO loan comes with a moratorium of three years and the loan would have to be repaid over 17 years.

The BIACL would invite international bids for the construction of the airport which will be big enough for the biggest aircraft Airbus 380 to land and accessible to three north Andhra districts.

99. Services sector growth eases for 2nd straight month in May

Services sector growth in the country contracted for the second straight month in May and also registered the weakest rise since last November. The Nikkei Services Business Activity index, which maps the services sector activity, fell from 53.7 in April to 51.0 in May.

Meanwhile, the Nikkei India Composite PMI Output Index, which maps both manufacturing and services sectors, fell to a six-month low of 50.9 in May, from 52.8 in April. Manufacturing production growth eased in May, which combined with the slowdown in services resulted in a weaker increase in private sector output, the survey said.

This could raise the chances of further cuts in interest rates by the RBI, to be supported by subdued inflationary pressures. Earlier in April, the RBI cut its policy rate by 0.25 per cent to 6.5 per cent. While this was the first rate cut after a gap of six months, the RBI has lowered its rate by 1.5 per cent cumulatively since January 2015.

Meanwhile, the Indian economy grew at 7.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2015-16 taking the overall GDP growth to a five-year high of 7.6 per cent in the fiscal.

100. Centre to establish 10 startups in higher educational institutions to promote young entrepreneurs

Centre will establish 10 startups in higher educational institutions across the country to promote energy and zeal among young entrepreneurs. It will also support setting up of 35 new livelihood colleges in states to fructify the skill India programme.

This was announced by Human Resources Development Minister Smriti Irani while dedicating initiatives carried out in ten states through Video conferencing from New Delhi under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan. She said the government will also set up modern language labs in all states to promote different languages.

On the occasion, the Minister digitally launched New Model Degree Colleges in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha among other initiatives.

AIR correspondent reports that the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan aims at strengthening infrastructure and ensuring quality education in states. It provides strategic funds for states besides giving impetus to governance, academic and administrative reforms. Under the scheme, 115 Universities and 1183 Colleges across the country are provided grants for enhancing infrastructure for the first time.

Speaking on the occasion of digital launch of Rashtriya Uchchatar Siksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for Government Degree College in Atmakur of Kurnool District today, Union Minister for Human Resources Development Ms. Smriti Irani said this will transform education in educationally backward district of Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh through the Model Degree College.

The Government Degree College at Atmakur is coming up at a cost of 12 crore rupees funding under RUSA. Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM K.E. Krishna Murthy, Chairman AP Legislative Council A. Chakrapani Yadav and district officials participated in the programme.

101. India reaffirms commitment to pursue green path to growth

India has reaffirmed its commitment to pursue a green path to growth as leaders of 20 countries and the European Union gathered in San Francisco for the seventh ministerial level meeting on Clean Energy. At the inaugural session of Mission Innovation, ministers from all partner countries released their respective governments' plans to double clean energy research and development funding over five years.

The Indian delegation is being led by Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan. The Minister announced India's current investment of 72 million US dollars and doubling plan of 145 million US dollars in Clean Energy Research. He also announced new joint collaborations with Mission Innovation Countries.

India has launched a number of collaborative research and development efforts to pursue research in solar energy, energy efficiency, advanced biofuels, electrical transmission and storage with the US, the UK, Australia, Norway, South Korea and many other countries.

102. Why Rajan is a class apart?

'Man with a third eye among the blind' Recent trends across the world shows an interesting development- that central bank heads are chosen after intensive selection process. Couple of years back, England imported Mark Carney an Irish Canadian for the Bank of England Governor post. Similarly, at the time of US Fed Reserve Chairmans election, there were arguments that women cannot do the business of central bank head. The job of the central bank governor is the most sophisticated professional one as monetary policy has emerged as the only game in the town. In India, the RBI Governor is usually chosen from the civil services. But unfortunately, the Indian civil service is power without skill. Recent events in the world economy shows that monetary policy management need super-sophistication to understand, track and solve problems in an increasingly interconnected world. Raghuram Rajan came into international limelight when he warned the then Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke about the disastrous effect of dumping the economy with bank sponsored debt. Rajan, an outsider of the US officialdom, questioned the logic of ultra-easy monetary policy when Bernanke was the god in the domain of central banking. A year later, the world saw that what Rajan said was correct with the outburst of the global financial crisis. Bernanke and Greenspan belongs to the top class of monetary economists who have confidently anchored the US FED. But Rajan with his comprehensive and quick wisdom with practical skill, excel them. Nobody can turn their ears when Rajan brought the idea of collaborative monetary policy that central banks in the West should implement monetary policy by considering the status of other countries as well. Again Rajan has warned that the Fed cant make exit form quantitative easing easily. Even now, the Fed is going through this difficulty and it was not able to make an exit. In his tenure as the Governor of RBI, Rajan was invited to different forums to talk

about the future management issues in the world economy. Few months back, he was invited to a task force set up by the Davos World Economic Forum to study about the future of global financial system. Accompanying him was the Bank of England Governor Mark Carney. The era of Bernanke and Greenspan are over. Janet Yellen is doubtful about her ability to bring out the US economy from the QE mess. And now, if any person can explain, predict and suggest problems in the global economy in the most authoritative way it is Rajan. Not because he belongs to the ultraorthodox monetary economists who were born in Chicago, but his comprehensive analytics were proved accurate. Perhaps, if Rajan was born in the US or England they, would have been too happy to make him the Governor of their central banks. Many Indians are leading corporates in the US. But central banking is a different business and foreigners are not welcome; whatever may be their skill. In recent years, extreme criticism is raised against Raghuram Rajan, interestingly, well timed at the end of his tenure. They argue that he has not made a rate cut that would have stimulated business and economic growth. Such people should remember what happened to Chinese financial market in recent years. Low interest rate, excess credit and government promoted stock market boom have brought catastrophe in the financial system. Brining down interest rate by forgetting the macroeconomic fundamentals will amplify asset prices especially stocks and will increase debts and NPAs. This is simply feeding disaster (read: A Step in the Dark: Unconventional Monetary Policy after the crisis Raghuram Rajan, BIS, Andrew Crockett Memorial Lecture). Financial stability is like dignity for a person; once lost, it will be very difficult to bring it back. Of course some of the ideas of Rajan like inflation targeting and inflation management claims cant be agreed in the Indian context. His stand that inflation is seasonal and not structural lacks credibility when he pitted against Surjit Bhalla. But we can console that a conservative monetarist is a fair choice. I have gone through a large volume of literature in my research in monetary economics that of Bernanke, Mishkin, Calvo etc. Many of them put theories and became central bank governors. Compared to them, Rajan is more accurate and practical in his approach while managing the frontier problems in global and Indian economy. Really, he is a class apart. Ridiculing him will be like spitting on our own face. The world is watching us and will laugh on our ability to throw away the best because of our ignorance.

103. India-Pakistan rivalry for a gate to Central Asia

An India Pak rivalry is intensifying for the Central Asian connectivity with the Chabahar port deal last week. The Chabahar port which is just 100 km away from Pakistans Gwadar port is competing each other to become the gateway for China bound goods traffic to the Persian Gulf. Chabahar is especially important for India as it gives New Delhi an option to skip Pakistan to travel to Central Asia. At the same time, Chbahar is an alternative to the whole Chinese sponsored OROB (One Road One Belt) connectivities in the region. As India becomes a non-joiner in the China OROB initiative, the triparty India-Iran-Afghanistan land connectivity to central Asia from Chabahar becomes a competitor to the OROB. Competition for connectivity to central Asia is intensifying in recent times especially after the removal of ban on Iran by the West. In February 2016, China has run the first train from Yiwu in Eastern China to Tehran. The train travelled nearly 10000 km through Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan before reaching Iran in 14 days. Compare this to cargo ships, that needs 45 days sailing from Shangahi to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas- the land routes gain is immense. Understandably, most of the routes under OROB doesnt goes through Afghanistan because of political instability. Here, Indias triparty Chabahar route involving Afghanistan has some risks. But a bigger potential threat to Chbahar is consolidation of its opponents and pressure from Beijing on Iran and Afghanistan. The land route will give India considerable economic gain and will dilute the significance of the China-Pakistan sponsored Gwadar port from the Indian perspective. Already, Pakistan after sensing competition from Chabahar has attributed military colour to the project. For Islamabad, any alternative to Gwadar is against its geo-strategic and economic dreams. Similarly, the mighty Chinese who lures the neighbours by showing the economic power while reviving the silk route may not like any alternatives, especially one initiated by the non-joiner in OROB -India. In a recent interview with Afghan High Commissioner in Beijing, the Chinese tabloid- Global Times interviewer has questioned the stand of Afghanistan joining the Chabahar initiative by declaring it as a competitor to OROB. The Global Times: India, Iran and Afghanistan have signed a tripartite agreement to turn the Iranian port of Chabahar into a transit hub. Some believe the cooperation is a challenge to the Gwadar port project between China and Pakistan and to China's "Belt and Road" initiative. What do you think?

Janan Mosazai (Afghan High Commissioer to China): We have never and will never look at the two strategic relationships that Afghanistan has with the two important neighbors in the context of any competition. There is no question that China is going to make huge economic and political gain through the OROB initiative. While doing so, if Beijing is able to support win-win development in the region, the efforts will revive the Silk Road and the glory of the

past. But if it is trying to magnify political conflicts and cornering India, New Delhi may depend on the camp that Beijing dislike for breath. For all these, the Chababar will be a test drive.

104. **Tough journey ahead for online lenders**

The regulators were hiding behind the curtain to see how far the new generation kid digital bankers (k known in different names like peer to peer lenders) will go. At last the US Treasury has brought a report pointing suspicion about the stability of the financial tech bankers or peer to peer lenders. The online lenders were emerging as another wave of digital disruptors. Central bankers watched them without brining any blockade at the infancy stage. At the same time, most of the central bankers are not believers of online lending; they can be so especially after the bitter experiences of the global financial crisis. Genesis and growth of new financial services and practices occurs in the West; precisely in the US. Generally, any such venture initiative gets applause from the US regulators, but only before 2007. The US Treasury was in some sort of a historical mission to develop an approach towards online lending. nobody the regulation industry is ready to take the blame for suffocating a newborn industry. Understandably, the treasury waited and like in the case of every emerging sector, some problem arose in the online lending industry as well. The alleged mis-selling of loans by the US peer to peer lending firm Lending Club provided the treasury an opportunity to publish a prepared text that casts doubt about the stability of the platform. After lauding the innovative efforts of online lenders, the treasury added that many of the new platforms in the US, around 400, had no experience of operating through a complete credit cycle. The online lending industry is just growing in most countries including in some big developing countries like China and India. but how the sector is to be regulated before any major setback appears is not answered by many central banks. In India, the RBI has issued a discussion paper about peer to peer lending. so far, it has given definitions and other academic base works. But in future, with other central banks developing concrete idea about regulation and facilitation, the RBI may put a strong regulatory regime for the new kids in the financial tech industry.

105. **Khattar to unveil foundation stone of Jai Jawan Awas Yojana**

[Haryana](#) Chief Minister [Manohar Lal Khattar](#) will lay the foundation stone laying ceremony of housing project Jai Jawan Awas Yojana (JJAY) in Haryana's Bahadurgarh on Friday. Khattar will be accompanied by Army Chief General [Dalbir Singh](#) and Western Army Commander Lieutenant General KJ Singh A large number of Veer Senani and Veer Naris will be present for the ceremony. Khattar will also address the gathering in the stone laying ceremony, after which he will interact with the ex-servicemen.

106. **Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of India Sign \$200 Million Loan Agreement**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed today in the national capital an agreement for \$200 million new loan to upgrade 176 Kilometers of State roads in State of Jharkhand. The financing for the Jharkhand State roads II Project will upgrade existing sections of four State roads to two lane standard and will also support improvements in the design, safety and maintenance of the network.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary (Multilateral Institutions), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, who signed the agreement on behalf of Government of India said that for achieving faster growth, Jharkhand needs to improve mobility through better roads. Besides upgrading 176 km of roads, the project will help the State develop an international standard road safety master plan for promoting road safety in Jharkhand, he added. He further said that this will enhance the States ability to systematically identify, analyze, develop and prioritize critical road safety measures, which will benefit all road users.

107. **Sweden best country in the world, India ranks 70th: Report**

[Sweden](#) has been voted as the best country in the world when it comes to serving the interests of its people and contributing to the common good of humanity while [India](#) figured low at 70th position on a list of 163 nations.

According to the 'Good Country' 2015 index which seeks to measure how countries contribute to the global good, Sweden, relative to the size of its economy, does more "good" and less harm than any other country.

The report ranked a total of 163 countries taking 35 different UN and World Bank indices into account, including global contributions to science, culture, peace and security, climate change and health and equality.

The top ten best countries included Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, the UK, Germany, Finland, Canada, France, Austria and New Zealand whereas Libya was ranked as the least "good" country in the world.

India figured at 70th position overall, three places below China, with the best ranking (27th) in International peace and security and the worst (124th) in prosperity and equality category.

While the country stood at 37th position in health and wellbeing and 62nd in science and technology, it was ranked 119th in culture, 106th in climate and 100th in world order.

"The [Good Country Index](#) is pretty simple: to measure what each country on earth contributes to the common good of humanity, and what it takes away, relative to its size," the report said.

"Using a wide range of data from the UN and other international organisations, we've given each country a balance-sheet to show at a glance whether it's a net creditor to mankind, a burden on the planet, or something in between," it said.

The biannual index was founded by Simon Anholt, a British government adviser whose aim is "to find ways of encouraging countries to collaborate and co-operate a lot more, and compete a bit less".

"A good country is one that successfully contributes to the good of humanity. Of course it must serve the interests of its own people, but never at the expense of other populations or their natural resources: this is the new law of human survival," he said.

In 2014, Ireland had topped the first Good Country Index, outranking 130 other countries.

108. Tamil actor-director Balu Anand dies of heart attack

Sathyaraj-starrer 'Annanagar First street' and Vijayakant-starrer 'Nane Raja Naane Mantri,' were some of his hit films. The actor has appeared in several films like Pistha, Anbe Sivam, Anna Nagar Mudhal Theru among others. He is survived by his wife, son and a daughter. Balu has acted in some 100 films and directed a few Tamil movies. His mortal remains have been kept for public and others to pay their last homage at his home in Kalampalayam, Coimbatore. The funeral will take place around 3 PM today, according to reports.

109. Today in History

1595 - Henry IV's army defeated the Spanish at the Battle of Fontaine-Francaise.

1752 - Benjamin Franklin flew a kite for the first time to demonstrate that lightning was a form of electricity.

1794 - The [U.S.](#) Congress prohibited citizens from serving in any foreign armed forces.

1827 - Athens fell to the Ottomans.

1851 - Harriet Beecher Stow published the first installment of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in "The National Era."

1865 - The first safe deposit vault was opened in New York. The charge was \$1.50 a year for every \$1,000 that was stored.

1884 - [U.S.](#) Civil War General William T. Sherman refused the Republican presidential nomination, saying, "I will not accept if nominated and will not serve if elected."

1917 - American men began registering for the World War I draft.

1924 - Ernst F. W. Alexanderson transmitted the first facsimile message across the Atlantic Ocean.

1927 - Johnny Weissmuller set two world records in swimming events. Weissmuller set marks in the 100-yard, and 200-yard, free-style swimming competition.

1933 - [President Roosevelt](#) signed the bill that took the [U.S.](#) off of the gold standard.

1940 - During World War II, the Battle of France began when Germany began an offensive in Southern France.

1942 - In France, Pierre Laval congratulated French volunteers that were fighting in the U.S.S.R. with Germans.

1944 - The first B-29 bombing raid hit the Japanese rail line in Bangkok, Thailand.

1946 - The first medical sponges were first offered for sale in Detroit, [MI](#).

1947 - [U.S.](#) Secretary of State George C. Marshall gave a speech at Harvard University in which he outlined the Marshall Plan.

1956 - Premier Nikita Khrushchev denounced Josef Stalin to the Soviet Communist Party Congress.

1967 - The [National Hockey League \(NHL\)](#) awarded three new franchises. The Minnesota North Stars (later the Dallas Stars), the California Golden Seals (no longer in existence) and the Los Angeles Kings.

1967 - The Six Day War between Israel and Egypt, Syria and Jordan began.

1973 - The first hole-in-one in the British Amateur golf championship was made by Jim Crowford.

1975 - Egypt reopened the Suez Canal to international shipping, eight years after it was closed because of the 1967 war with Israel.

1981 - In the [U.S.](#), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that five men in Los Angeles were suffering from a rare pneumonia found in patients with weakened immune systems. They were the first recognized cases of what later became known as AIDS.

1986 - A federal jury in Baltimore convicted Ronald W. Pelton of selling secrets to the Soviet Union. Pelton was sentenced to three life prison terms plus 10 years.

1987 - Ted Koppel and guests discussed the topic of AIDS for four hours on ABC-TV's "Nightline".

1998 - A strike began at a General Motors Corp. parts factory near Detroit, [MI](#), that closed five assembly plants and idled workers across the [U.S.](#) for seven weeks.

1998 - Volkswagen AG won approval to buy Rolls-Royce Motor Cars for \$700 million, outbidding BMW's \$554 million offer.

1998 - C-Span reported that Bob Hope had died. The report was false and had begun with an inaccurate obituary on the Associated Press website.

1998 - A strike at a General Motors parts factory began. It lasted for seven weeks.

2001 - [Amazon.com](#) announced that it would begin selling personal computers later in the year.

2004 - The U.S.S. Jimmy Carter was christened in the U.S. Navy in Groton, CT.

110. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression 4 June

On 19 August 1982, at its emergency special session on the question of Palestine, the General Assembly, appalled at the great number of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese children victims of Israel's acts of aggression, decided to commemorate 4 June of each year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression ([resolution ES-7/8](#)). The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children.

111. World Environment Day - 5 June

World Environment Day aims to inspire more people than ever before to take action to prevent the growing strain on planet Earth's natural systems from reaching the breaking point. The 2016 theme highlights the fight against the illegal trade in wildlife, which erodes precious biodiversity and threatens the survival of elephants, rhinos and tigers, as well as many other species. It also undermines our economies, communities and security. This year's slogan "Go Wild for Life" encourages you to spread the word about wildlife crime and the damage it does, and to challenge all those around you to do what they can to prevent it. 2016 Theme: Zero tolerance for the illegal trade in wildlife The booming illegal trade in wildlife products is eroding Earth's precious biodiversity, robbing us of our natural heritage and driving whole species to the brink of extinction. The killing and smuggling is also undermining economies and ecosystems, fuelling organized crime, and feeding corruption and insecurity across the globe. Wildlife crime endangers iconic elephants, rhinos, tigers, gorillas and sea turtles. In 2011, a subspecies of Javan rhino went extinct in Vietnam, while the last western black rhinos vanished from Cameroon the same year. Great apes have disappeared from Gambia, Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo, and other countries could quickly follow. Lesser-known victims include helmeted hornbills and pangolins, as well as wild orchids and timbers like Rosewood flowers and timber are also considered wildlife! Learn more about this year's [World Environment Day theme](#). Host Country: Angola This year's World Environment Day celebrations are hosted by Angola, a country seeking to restore its elephant herds, conserve Africa's biodiversity-rich wildlife, and safeguard the environment as it continues to rebuild after more than a quarter-century of civil war. Angola is delighted to host World Environment Day, which will focus on an issue close to our hearts, said Angolan Environment Minister Maria de Fatima Jardim. The illegal wildlife trade, particularly the trade in ivory and rhino horn, is a major problem across our continent. By hosting this day of celebration and awareness-raising, we aim to send a clear message that such practices will soon be eradicated. See more information on the [host country](#).

112. IIT KGP Research suggests Indus Valley Civilization is 8000 years old

The rise of the post-Neolithic Bronze Age Harappan civilization 5700 - 3300 years before present, spread along the Indus Valley of Pakistan through the plains of NW India, including into the state of Gujarat and up to the Arabian Sea and its subsequent decline has remained an enigma in archaeological investigation. In the Indian subcontinent the major centers of this civilization include Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro in Pakistan and Lothal, Dholavira and Kalibangan in India. In recent years excavation at Rakhigarhi and few other places indicate that the civilization probably was more expansive than thought before. Whatever may be the extent most Harappan settlements grew in the floodplains of river systems including those of the Indus or now defunct Ghaggar-Hakra (mythical river Saraswati?). Many archaeologists believe that weakening of the summer monsoon after ~5000 years and a major drought around 4200 years throughout the Asia probably were the reason behind the Harappan collapse.

The recent research by a team of researchers from IIT Kharagpur, Institute of archaeology, Deccan college Pune, Physical research laboratory and Archaeological survey of India shows that the civilization itself was much older than thought before going back to 8th millennium before present and probably climate was not the only cause of Harappan collapse. The findings come from a major excavated site of Bhirrana, Haryana that shows preservation of all cultural levels of this ancient civilization from Pre-Harappan Hakra phase through Early Mature Harappan to mature Harappan time. While the earlier phases were represented by pastoral and early village farming communities, the mature Harappan settlements were highly urbanized with several organized cities, developed material and craft culture having trans-Asiatic trading to regions as distant as Arabia and Mesopotamia. The late Harappan phase witnessed large scale deurbanization, population decrease, abandonment of many established settlements, lack of basic amenities, interpersonal violence and disappearance of Harappan script. Bhirrana was part of a high concentration of settlements along the now dried up mythical Vedic river valley 'Saraswati', an extension of Ghaggar river in the Thar Desert. To find out how old the civilization is the researchers dated potteries of Early Mature Harappan time by a technique called optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) which were found to be nearly 6000 years old, the oldest known pottery so far.

The levels of Pre-Harappan Hakra phase have been dated to be as old as 8000 years.

"That the Bhirrana and probably several of the Indian Indus valley sites are much older than 5700 years has been guessed by many archaeologists for quite some time. Our study pushes back the antiquity to as old as 8th millennium before present and will have major implications to the evolution of human settlements in Indian sub-continent" says Prof. Anindya Sarkar of Department of Geology and Geophysics, IIT Kharagpur and the lead investigator. The findings have been published in prestigious journal Nature Scientific report on 25th May.

113. Doha Bank CEO Dr. R Seetharaman conferred with 2016 Green Economy Visionary Award

Dr. R. Seetharaman, Chief Executive Officer of Doha Bank, is a prominent personality in the banking industry throughout the Middle East, an economic expert who has achieved remarkable success for his contributions to Banking, Trade, Investment, Economics, Environment, Social responsibility, Philanthropy and Charity. He is recipient of multiple doctorates from leading universities of the world, including: PhD in Global Governance by European University

PhD in Green Banking and Sustainability from Sri Sri University.

Honorary degree Doctorate of Laws by Washington College for his unique and valuable contribution to society in the field of banking and knowledge management.

Doctorate of Honoris Causa from European University for his contribution to global governance and social responsibility.

He is a Chartered Accountant and holds certificate in IT systems and Corporate Management, whilst being a Gold medallist in his graduation Bachelor of Commerce. Recently he was recommended for Nobel Peace Prize by the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations. Dr. R. Seetharaman, CEO of Doha Bank was honored with the Green Economy Visionary Award in 2016 by Union of Arab Banks (UAB) for his outstanding contribution of close to two decades towards environment friendly activities thereby promoting Green economies. He has also been conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award by The Banker Middle East in May 2015 to honor his contribution to the industry, not only as the leader of one of Middle East's most dynamic banks, but also for his personal contribution to the greater understanding of the economic development of the region and his support for the environment and the business. He has been named "Best CEO in Middle East" 3 times in the last 10 years and World Leader Business Person. He has received the Business Man of the Year Award in 2015 from Qatar Today, "Life Time Achievement Award" from the Institute of Directors at the Global Summit 2014 and The "Man of the Year" at IAIR Awards 2014. A leading top-tier Bank CEO, he has transformed Doha Bank as one of the best performing Banks in the Middle East region. He is a high profile economist and is invited on a regular basis by international media such as BBC, CNN, FOX, CNBC, Sky News, ABC and Bloomberg to share his views.

114. Nita Ambani nominated to International Olympic Committee

[Nita Ambani](#), Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation has been nominated as a candidate to be a new member, pending election, of the [International Olympic Committee \(IOC\)](#), headquartered at Lausanne, Switzerland on Friday.

The International Olympic Committee is the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement. It acts as a catalyst for collaboration between all parties of the Olympic family, from the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), the International Sports Federations (IFs), the athletes, the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs), to partners and United Nations agencies. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) shepherds success through a wide range of programmes and projects. It ensures the regular celebration of the Olympic Games, supports all affiliated member organisations of the Olympic Movement and strongly encourages, by appropriate means, the promotion of the Olympic values. The election will be held at the 129th IOC Session that will take place in Rio de Janeiro between 2nd and 4th August 2016. The independent selection process follows a new procedure for recruitment of IOC members based on the Olympic Agenda 2020 recommendations. Once elected, she will continue to be a member until the age of 70.

115. Sweden voted best country in the world, India ranks 70th: Report

Sweden has been voted as the best country in the world when it comes to serving the interests of its people and contributing to the common good of humanity while India figured low at 70th position on a list of 163 nations. According to the Good Country 2015 index which seeks to measure how countries contribute to the global good, Sweden, relative to the size of its economy, does more good and less harm than any other country. The report ranked a total of 163 countries taking 35 different UN and World Bank indices into account, including global contributions to science, culture, peace and security, climate change and health and equality. The top ten best countries included Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, the UK, Germany, Finland, Canada, France, Austria and New Zealand whereas Libya was ranked as the least good country in the world. India figured at 70th position overall, three places below China, with the best ranking (27th) in International peace and security and the worst (124th) in prosperity and equality category. While the country stood at 37th position in health and wellbeing and 62nd in science and technology, it was ranked 119th in culture, 106th in climate and 100th in world order. In 2014, Ireland had topped the first Good Country Index, outranking 130 other countries.

116. Govt to come out with revised IIP, WPI by year-end

The Government will come out with revised Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI) by the end of this year with a new base year of 2011-12. This will be done to make the indices more representative of the changing economic scenario.

Chief Statistician TCA Anant told in an interview to a news agency that IIP and WPI are due for revision and are under process at a very advanced stage.

The present indices of IIP and WPI have base year of 2004-05.

Mr Anant said, as part of the revision, the basket of items and weightage assigned to different entries on the basis of which indices is computed will be updated. He added that with the new series in place, both IIP and WPI will become more comparable with the GDP numbers than it is currently.

The National Statistical Commission has recommended to revise the base year of all economic indices every five years. Government had last revised these indices in 2011 with the base year of 2004-05.

117. Mou signed to facilitate hassle-free entry of Indians into US

To facilitate hassle-free entry of Indians into the US at selected airports, India and the United States have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, providing for expedited security clearances.

The move would take a few months to implement and provide speedy security clearances for pre-approved, low-risk Indian travellers upon arrival in US at selected airports. According to a statement issued by the Indian Embassy, the MoU was signed between Indian Ambassador to US, Arun K Singh and Kevin K McAleenan, Deputy Commissioner of the US Customs and Border Protection.

The statement said procedures are expected to be completed in the coming few months. Mr Singh said strengthening people-to-people ties between the two countries has been at the very core of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India's bilateral relationship with the United States. He also added that India's entry into Global Entry Programme will further ease travel between our two countries and strengthen the people-to-people ties.

India is only the ninth country with which the US has entered into this International Expedited Traveller Initiative (also known as the Global Entry Programme), reflective of the growing relationship between the two largest democracies of the world.

118. World Environment Day being observed today

Today is World Environment Day. The day is observed every year on 5th of June to raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth.

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has urged citizens to plant a sapling on this day, click photographs and share it on the website wedsselfie.nic.in. Addressing an event organised on the occasion in Mumbai, the Minister laid stress on urban forestry. He also said massive tree planting will be taken up in 200 cities. Mr Javadekar said that shoot at sight orders have been given to armed forest guards at Kaziranga which has helped reduce rhino poaching considerably. The Minister released a leaflet on Living With Leopards and CDs on Vulture Conservation.

In his message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the nation to take a pledge to collectively work towards conserving the precious environment resources, adding that the Earth should be kept clean and green. In a tweet, Mr Modi said, this day is a commitment to protect the environment and live in harmony with the nature. In the 21st edition of Mann Ki Baat programme on All India Radio last month, the Prime Minister had called for protection of the environment saying that conservation of water and forests are peoples responsibility.

AIR correspondent reports that several programmes are being organised all over the country to mark the occasion.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day is Go Wild For Life. The aim is to stimulate interest in all species under threat and promote zero tolerance for the illegal trade in wildlife. The United Nations has called for a worldwide campaign to take strong action to curb the illegal trade of wildlife products that are threatening the biodiversity of the planet. Elephants, Rhinos, Turtles and Whales are just some of the species that are mercilessly being killed and smuggled for their meat, fur, skin and tusks. This years World Environment Day celebrations are hosted by Angola, a country seeking to restore its elephant herds, conserve Africas biodiversity-rich wildlife and safeguard the environment as it continues to rebuild after more than a quarter-century of civil war.

119. **Switzerland holds first ever vote on basic income**

Switzerland is voting on whether to introduce a guaranteed basic income for every citizen, becoming the first country to hold such a vote. The proposal calls for adults to be paid an unconditional income of 2,500 Swiss francs a month, whether they work or not. Supporters of the idea say 21st Century work is increasingly automated, with fewer jobs available for workers. But polls suggest that only about one quarter of Swiss voters back the idea. Under the terms of the basic income, workers who already earn more than 2,500 Swiss francs would not get any additional money. There is little support among Swiss politicians for the idea and not a single parliamentary party has come out in favour.

120. **HP becomes first state to have State Data Centre**

Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to have a State Data Centre (SDC). It is Green Data Centre as it minimizes power consumption by maximizing power utilization efficiency. It will offer 101 people-oriented service online through an integrated data base.

Launching the 58-crore rupees facility in Shimla yesterday, Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh said the Centre will integrate the websites of various departments and all services could be accessible through the integrated data base. Mr Singh also said it is a major green initiative as all services will be provided online and online and paperless governance will become a reality.

The SDC will further help the departments to roll out more government-to-citizen-services and people can avail them from anywhere and anytime. On this occasion, the Chief Minister also inaugurated Mobile Parking App for the Shimla town.

AIR correspondent reports that the parking app is a unique initiative which would help the tourists and local residents of the Shimla town to find parking slots through a call or by sending a message.

The owner of the parking would inform about the capacity and parking fee to be charged on the basis of time for which the vehicle would be parked. This facility would also be started in other towns of the state shortly. Definitely, this app will not only save the time of the people but also stop excess charging for parking.

121. **Maharashtra CM condoles death of actress Sulabha Deshpande**

Condoling the death of Veteran theatre and film actor Sulabha Deshpande, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra

Fadnavis, termed her as a versatile actress who led to the progress of the Marathi theatre and the film world.

Mr. Fadnavis hailed Sulabha Deshpandes associated and contribution with experimental Marathi theatre and childrens theatre in Mumbai.

The Chief Minister said that her prominent characters of Champa in Sakharam Binder, Benare Bai in Shantata! Court ChaluAahe and her small screen character of Rane Aaji in Mrs Tendulkar will always be remembered.

He added that her role as a mother almost became synonym to her name. The world has not only lost a versatile actress but also a functionary of Marathi theatre, he said.

The veteran actress died at her Mumbai residence yesterday after a prolonged illness. She was 79.

122. EPFO may have Rs 1600 crore surplus by year-end: Dattatreya

Union Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya has said that the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is likely to have a surplus of 1,600 crore rupees by the end of this year. Talking to media in Hyderabad yesterday, he said that at a time when interest rates in all banks are coming down, the EPFO gave an interest rate of 8.8 per cent. Despite that, there is likely to be a surplus of 680 crore rupees. He said there is a chance that it may go up to 1,600 crore rupees by this year end. Noting that the government is working on providing universal minimum wage, the minister said the statutory amendments need to be made to make it mandatory.

There is no uniformity in minimum wages being paid in the country at present. He said, the government has held talks with trade unions and different ministries on providing universal minimum wage. The minister said the Labour Ministry will organise an exhibition and seminar on its achievements in Hyderabad today.

123. Volkswagen to recall 1.9 lakh cars in India

Car maker Volkswagen today said it will recall 1.90 lakh cars sold in the country starting next month to fix the emission software in wake of the emission scandal.

The company said that the recall is purely voluntary in nature as it did not face any charges regarding violating emission norms in India unlike the US.

Volkswagen India head of marketing Kamal Basu told PTI that from next month, communication would be sent to the customers regarding this.

The German auto major had admitted use of defeat device in 11 million diesel engine cars sold in the US, Europe and other global markets that allowed manipulation of emissions tests by changing the performance of the vehicles to improve results.

124. Indian judoka Avtar Singh qualifies for Rio Olympic Games

South Asian Games gold medallist Indian judoka Avtar Singh has qualified for the Rio Olympic Games under 90kg weight category. According to an official statement of the International Judo Federation, Avtar has qualified for the Olympic under the continental quota. His World Ranking is now 79 with 182 points.

Avtar, who hails from Gurdaspur in Punjab, won a gold in South Asian Games held in Shillong in February and a bronze medal in Asian Junior Judo Championships in 2011. He also won gold medals in Senior National Judo Championships in 2013-14 and 2014-15. In the Asian Judo Championships in April in Uzbekistan, Avtar finished fifth after beating judokas from China and Iran.

125. Ujala Gujarat Yojana for Distribution of LED Bulbs

Gujarat Government has launched the Ujala Gujarat Yojana for distribution of energy saving LED bulbs across the state. The Ujala Gujarat Yojana has been launched under the central governments Ujala Yojana scheme at a function in Vadodara. Objective of Ujala Gujarat Yojana The state government has set a target of providing LED bulbs to 1.21

Crore households across the state in next one year. The main objective of the scheme is to encourage people to adopt sustainable energy options to save and reduce energy costs and consumption. Under the Ujala Gujarat Yojana, the state government will provide LED bulbs to the state residents at a subsidized rate. The LED bulbs under the scheme will be available at Rs. 80-85 per piece to the domestic consumers while LED bulbs will be sold at Rs. 90 per piece to industries. A single LED bulb can save upto Rs. 315 a year and installing LEDs throughout the home can save a lot to the domestic consumers. The provided bulbs under the scheme will come with 3 year replacement warranty. The LEDbulbs will consume only 7-8 watt of energy and provide luminosity of 900 lumens. The state government plans to distribute about 12 Crore LED bulbs to 1.21 crore households within next one year under the Ujala Gujarat Yojana. One household will get a maximum of 10 LED bulbs in the first phase and the amount will be charged in 8-10 installments through the electricity bill. How to buy LED bulb under Ujala Gujarat Yojana
The consumers can buy the LED bulbs by showing monthly electricity bill or ID cards.

126. What is Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)?

A major cause for the slow growth in agriculture during the last few decades in India is said to be lack of adequate investment in agriculture especially public investment. Agriculture growth was just 3% during the 1980s. Hence, the National Development Council has ratified a major scheme to raise investment in the sector at the same time by considering the agro climatic conditions and other aspects prevailing at the state and district levels. Given these problems and prospects in agriculture, the NDC has launched the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in 2007-2008. Main objective of RKVY is to incentivize States to draw up comprehensive agriculture development plans, taking into account agro-climatic conditions, natural resources and technology for ensuring more inclusive and integrated development of agriculture and allied sectors. Operational guidelines of the RKVY is changed and higher attention has been given for the generation of agricultural assets. The revised Operational Guidelines of the scheme mandated that at least 35% of normal RKVY allocation should be utilized by the states for implementing Infrastructure and Assets development projects. The main objectives of RKVY Scheme are following: To incentivize the States so as to increase public investment in Agriculture and allied sectors. To provide flexibility and autonomy to States in the process of planning and executing Agriculture and allied sector schemes. To ensure the preparation of agriculture plans for the districts and the States based on agro-climatic conditions, availability of technology and natural resources. To ensure that the local needs/crops/ priorities are better reflected in the agricultural plans of the States. To achieve the goal of reducing the yield gaps in important crops through focused interventions. To maximize returns to the farmers in Agriculture and allied sectors. To bring about quantifiable changes in the production and productivity of various components of agriculture and allied sectors by addressing them in a holistic manner. Strategy of RKVY RKVY gives considerable flexibility and autonomy to States in planning and implementing projects related to agriculture and allied sectors. States have to formulate strategies for the development of the sector in a holistic way taking into account their agro-climatic conditions so as to effectively address their local needs and priorities. Diversity in the agricultural situation across the country is well considered under the scheme as there is no one size fits all approach. RKVY also emphasizes on convergence through District Agriculture Plans (DAPs) and State Agriculture Plan (SAP) for optimal utilization of funds by avoiding overlapping under multiple schemes. The RKVY has four components: RKVY - Production and Growth (35% weightage), RKVY - Infrastructure and Assets (35% weightage), RKVY Special Schemes (20% weightage) and RKVY Flexi Fund (10% weightage). Budget 2016 has provided an allocation of Rs 5400 is made for RKVY.

127. India is the new hot bud for innovation; Bangalore emerges as the fifth best city

According to French consulting cum software giant Capgemini's report about world innovation hubs, India has emerged as the fifth largest innovation country in terms of number of innovation centers. Bangalore has emerged as the fifth largest innovation hub in the world. Bangalore has made a big jump as it breaks into top ten of the league with into the fifth position. Innovation hubs that rank above Bangalore are Silicon Valley, London, Paris and Singapore. Along with Bangalore, the US city of Boston also entered into the top ten as a new face. Bangalore has pushed down its Asian rival Shanghai into seventh. Capgemini ranks cities in accordance with corporates innovation presence and activities. Major organizations launches innovation centers in active geographies to accelerate digital innovations. The report also highlights India's growth as a country with several fast emerging innovation centers. Number of innovation centers have doubled to 16 as India is in the top-five spot for innovation. India has been rising in the ranks of favoured destinations to open innovation centers. Our previous research identified eight innovation centers in India in July 2015. Since then, India has seen eight more innovation centers open their doors, says the report. Last year, Compass

has identified Bangalore as the fastest growing startup ecosystem. The city was placed at fifteenth in a list headed by Silicon Valley.

128. PM Narendra Modi conferred with the Highest Civilian Honour of Afghanistan

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been conferred with Amir Amanullah Khan Award, Afghanistans highest civilian honour. He was bestowed the honour by President Ashraf Ghani after the inauguration of the landmark Afghan-India Friendship Dam in Herat yesterday.

The Prime Minister shared his sentiments on Twitter saying, "My deepest gratitude to the Government of Afghanistan for conferring the Amir Amanullah Khan Award."

It is the Highest Civilian honour bestowed by Afghan government to Afghan national as well as foreigners in appreciation of their services. The citation on the reverse of the medal reads: nishan-e dawlati Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan, or "State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan.

Background:

The Amir Amanullah Khan medal is highest civilian honor of Afghanistan. The award is named after the Afghan national hero, Amanullah Khan (Ghazi), who championed the cause of Afghanistans freedom. He was the ruler of the Emirate of Afghanistan from 1919-1929 who led Afghanistan to independence.

King Amanullah advanced Afghanistans modernist constitution, incorporated equal rights and individual freedom. He modernised the country, creating cosmopolitan schools for both boys and girls and also increased Afghanistans trade with Europe and Asia. The vision of King Amanullah for an independent and modern Afghanistan remains as relevant today as ever.

King Amanullah had strong ties with India, and moved here briefly in 1929. His affectionate ties for the country continue to be reflected in the strong partnership between the two nations.

PM Modi received the Amir Amanullah Khan award following the inauguration of the Afghan-India Friendship Dam in Herat on 4 June. As the first Indian, and amongst only a handful of foreign leaders to receive the award, it signifies the strength of a unique relationship and is a testament to the personal commitment of the PM in advancing India-Afghan ties.

This award was instituted by the Afghanistan government in 2006. Previous recipients include: US President George Bush, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, NATO General James Jones, former Afghan President spiritual leader Sibghatullah Mujaddedi, and Afghan Chief Justice (CJ) Abdul Salam Azimi

129. Indian Navy Pledges 1.5 Per Cent of its Works Budget Towards Renewable Energy Generation

The Green Initiatives Programme of the Indian Navy completes two years on World Environment Day. Over this period, considerable impetus has been given to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the Navy. Being a responsible and multidimensional force, the Indian Navy believes in an all inclusive and sustainable growth. Accordingly, the focus has not only been on correcting its impact on the energy and environmental footprint, but also to address the root cause of the problem, which lies in the way energy is used.

Creation of an Energy and Environment Cell at Naval Headquarters in Jan 16 to monitor pan Navy implementation of green measures is a concrete step in this direction. This Cell has been tasked to enable the Navys vision of adding a Green Footprint to its Blue Water Operations and make it an environmentally responsible force which is not only energy and resource efficient, but also resilient to energy costs/ disruptions.

130. Suresh Prabhu launches Tiger Express train on the World Environment Day

In terms of Budget Announcement 2016-17, Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu today flagged off the inaugural run of the Tiger Trail Circuit Train from Delhi Safdarjung Station. The launch of this Tiger Express on

World Environment Day is to highlight the significance of environment in our lives. The Railway Minister took personal interest in conceptualizing this train. This tourist train will be operated by Indian Railway PSU namely Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The train with 5 days/6 nights itinerary will start from Delhi Sudarjung railway station and travel via Katani, Jabalpur, Bandhavgarh, Kanha. The semi-luxury train will take the guests onboard to the world famous Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks in Madhya Pradesh. In addition the trip will also take tourists to Dhuadhar Waterfall in Bedhaghat near Jabalpur. Salient features of the Tiger Express: The launch of the Tiger Express is in tune with the announcement in this regard in the Railway Budget 2016-17. The objective of the train is to create awareness about our national animal, the Tiger. The Tiger Express is one of the most innovative tourism products ever launched by Indian Railways. The Indian Tiger has always allured tourists from both India and abroad. The semi-luxury train will take the guests onboard to the world famous Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks in Madhya Pradesh. The Kanha National Park is known for the presence of tigers, Swamp Deer, and the Barasingha. It is also recognized as the source of inspiration for the famous writer Rudyard Kipling for his famous novel, The Jungle Book. The Bandhavgarh National Park is known for its biodiversity. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is one of the highest known in India. The park has a large breeding population of leopards and various species of deer. The 5 days / 6 nights itinerary of the Tiger Express includes three Tiger Safaris, and it gives ample opportunity to the tourists to have a sight of the majestic wild cats in their natural environs and a spectacular view of the wildlife. The 5th June, 2016 trip of the Tiger Express is the inaugural run of this train. Regular Monthly trips of the fully air-conditioned train, which has been vinyl-wrapped with motifs of the wildlife, are to begin from October, 2016 onwards. The most important objective of the train is to create and spread awareness about the wildlife in general and the tiger in particular. An added attraction of the trip is a visit to the famous Dhuadhar Falls in Bhedaghat, Jabalpur. IRCTC has been designated to execute the entire itinerary. They have been efficiently conducting a variety of tour programmes like the Desert Circuit in Rajasthan and the Heritage Circuit in North India. This is for the first time that Indian Railways have forayed into the exciting and fascinating wildlife tourism.

131. WCD Ministry to hold first ever 'All India Women Journalists' Workshop on 7th June, 2016

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, in association with Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information Broadcasting is organizing the first ever All India Women Journalists Workshop on 7th June, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The Conference will bring together 250 journalists from all parts of the country together on a single platform. The women journalists represent print, electronic and online media across the country including small and regional media organizations.

This Conference will be a unique gathering of women journalists, who specialize in social sector reporting, coming together to understand, discuss and deliberate on issues concerning women and children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development will be showcasing the achievements during the last two years and also obtain a feedback on a number of issues concerning women and children especially on the recently released Draft National Policy for Women, Draft Anti Trafficking Bill, Draft Regulations under JJ Act. The Ministry is also looking forward to new ideas/ areas concerning women and children which could be taken up in the coming months.

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman will also address the participants.

Journalists from 30 States/UTs have already confirmed their participation and more participation is expected in the coming two days. The participating journalists represent several regional publications and regional news channels of the country.

The WCD Ministry will also be putting up an exhibition of two of its large initiatives namely; Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao and Childrens Helpline-Childline.

132. PM inaugurates Afghan-India Friendship Dam wapcos executes landmark infrastructure project

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated the Afghan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam) with President of Afghanistan Dr. Ashraf Ghani at Chist-e-Sharif in Herat province in Western Afghanistan today. Afghan-India Friendship Dam is a Multipurpose project planned for generating 42 MW of power, irrigating 75000 hectares of land, water supply and other benefits to the people of Afghanistan. Salma Dam is a landmark infrastructure project undertaken by Government of India on river Hari Rud, in Herat province of Afghanistan. The project was

executed and implemented by WAPCOS Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

The project is located 165 km east of Herat town and connected with earthen road. Due to security reasons Indian engineers and technicians involved with the project have been reaching the site once in a month by helicopter service provided by Government of Afghanistan. All equipment and material were transported from India to Bander-e-Abbas port of Iran via sea and then along 1200 km by road from there to Islam Kila border post at Iran-Afghanistan border and then further 300 km by road from the border post to the site. Cement, steel reinforcement, explosives etc. were imported to Afghanistan from neighboring countries. The gross capacity of the Dam is 633 Million M³. The height of the Dam is 104.3 Mt, length 540 Mt and width at the bottom is 450 Mt.

Rs.1775 crore project was funded by Government of India and took more than ten years to complete. The successful completion of the project represents culmination of years of hard work by 1,500 Indian and Afghan engineers and other professionals in very difficult conditions.

133. India's first Mr Universe Manohar Aich passes away

104-year-old bodybuilder Manohar Aich, who was once a household name in Bengal after becoming India's first Mr Universe in 1952, died at his Baguiati residence this afternoon.

"Aich was on a liquid diet for last 10-15 days and had stopped talking. He breathed his last at 3.50pm," his son Khokan Aich told PTI.

Aich is survived by two daughters and two sons, one of whom manages a gym and fitness centre to fulfill his father's dream of making the youth "healthy and strong".

"Never quit exercise, he would always say. His mantra to stay healthy was simple healthy eating and exercise," Khokan added.

Former Bengal cricket captain Laxmi Ratan Shukla, who is Minister of State for Sports, visited Aich's residence to offer his condolence.

Aich, who turned 104 on March 17, had become India's first Mr Universe when he won the 1952 National Amateur Body-Builders' Association Universe Championships.

Born in the district of Comilla (now in Bangladesh), Aich, at just four feet and 11 inches, was not the tallest of men.

134. China inaugurates environmental prize

A total of 33 individuals and 19 groups in [China](#) today won a newly established environmental prize on the occasion of World Environment Day.

The winners of the ecological civilisation award were from provinces and regions including Sichuan, Xinjiang, Zhejiang and Tibet.

The award event will be run by the Ministry of Environmental Protection every three years, state-run Xinhua [news](#) agency reported.

A symposium was also held here to promote ecological conservation aimed at building a beautiful China.

Shen Yueyue, vice chair of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, said the award showed that the central government highly valued ecological conservation.

While calling for determination and confidence in all endeavours, Shen asked the nation to learn from the winners and create a favourable environment for pursuing ecological conservation.

According to the ministry, 133 Chinese cities and counties have won the title of ecology-friendly cities.

135. **India, Qatar to boost cooperation in hydrocarbons**

With [Qatar](#) having the world's third largest gas reserves and being India's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG), both countries are expected to give a fillip to [cooperation](#) in the [hydrocarbons](#) sector. Qatar has gas reserves exceeding 900 trillion cubic feet (25 trillion cubic metres) -- or 14% of global reserves. It is the largest [LNG](#) exporter in the world. The Gulf Cooperation Council member accounted for 65 per cent of India's total LNG imports last fiscal. India is also hoping to tap the Gulf nation's sovereign wealth fund, estimated at \$300 billion, for [infrastructure](#) projects. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is visiting [Doha](#) on the second leg of his five-nation foreign tour, praised the role of the Emir of Qatar in promoting business ties with India. Modi on Sunday also invited Qatari industry leaders to invest in India. "India is a land of opportunity. I have come to personally invite you to take advantage of this opportunity," Modi said, according to a tweet by India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Vikas Swarup. "Business First. For first engagement of the day, PM attends roundtable meeting with Qatari Business Leaders," the spokesperson said in another tweet following Modi's meeting here with business leaders. "Qatar's Minister of Trade and Economy welcomes PM @narendramodi, seeks more intensive eco engagement with India," it added. This is the second prime ministerial visit from India to energy-rich Qatar in eight years after Manmohan Singh's visit in 2008. "It (Qatar) can also be a large economic partner as it has a large sovereign wealth fund," Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar said on Friday in a pre-departure media briefing. Bilateral trade between India and Qatar stands at \$10 billion. Earlier this year, India re-negotiated favourably its LNG agreement with Qatar to bring down the cost of importing natural gas to less than \$5 per unit from \$12. In return for the renegotiation, India's Petronet LNG has signed an agreement for additional import of one million tonnes of LNG per year from Qatar's Ras Gas for about 12 years with effect from January 1, this year, at the prevailing market prices. Ras Gas will also not seek Rs.12,000 crore from Petronet for under-lifting LNG by 38 per cent. The new contract is effective from January 1, 2016, and ends in 2028. Modi addressed Indian workers at a medical camp in Doha on Saturday night. There are 6,30,000 Indians living in Qatar -- comprising the largest expatriate community in that country. Modi, who arrived here from Afghanistan, will also visit Switzerland, the US and Mexico during his seven-day sojourn.

136. **Delhi Govt launches crackdown against unregistered dealers**

The Trade and Taxes department of Delhi Government has launched crackdown against unregistered dealers in the national capital. In its recent survey, the department found that many such dealers are making sale through e-commerce websites in the national capital which is illegal. VAT Commissioner S S Yadav said the department has issued an advisory to thousands of these dealers to get registered immediately whose annual turnover is more than Rs 20 lakh and involved in inter-state sale or purchase. According to Trade and Taxes department, there are about 3.3 lakh dealers registered with it. However, it is estimated that there are at least 2 lakh more dealers who qualify for registration but have not registered themselves so far. In last one week, the department has sent enforcement teams to the premises of 10 unregistered dealers for search and survey operations and has unearthed tax evasion of crores of rupees by these dealers, Yadav said, adding that more such dealers will be surveyed by the trade and taxes department in the coming days. He also said department will continue strict action against unregistered dealers and will not spare any tax evaders. Government has also launched awareness drive to educate people about legal provisions regarding registration under the Delhi Value Added Tax Act 2004 and the Central Sales Tax Act through print, electronic media and hoardings, Yadav further said.

137. **Today in History**

1674 - Sivaji crowned himself King of India.

1813 - The [U.S.](#) invasion of Canada was halted at Stony Creek, Ontario.

1833 - Andrew Jackson became the first [U.S.](#) president to ride in a train. It was a BO passenger train.

1844 - The Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London.

1882 - The first electric iron was patented by H.W. Seely.

1890 - The United States Polo Association was formed in New York City, [NY](#).

1904 - The National Tuberculosis Association was formed in Atlantic City, [NJ](#).

1924 - The German Reichstag accepted the Dawes Plan. It was an [American](#) plan to help Germany pay off its war debts.

1925 - Chrysler Corporation was founded by Walter Percy Chrysler.

1932 - In the [U.S.](#), the first federal tax on gasoline went into effect. It was a penny per gallon.

1933 - In Camden, [NJ](#), the first drive-in movie theater opened.

1934 - [U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt](#) signed the Securities Exchange Act, which established the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

1936 - The first helicopter was tested in a building in Berlin, Germany.

1941 - The [U.S.](#) government authorized the seizure of foreign ships in [U.S.](#) ports.

1942 - The first nylon parachute jump was made by Adeline Gray in Hartford, [CT](#).

1942 - Japanese forces retreated in the World War II Battle of Midway. The battle had begun on June 4.

1944 - The D-Day invasion of Europe took place on the beaches of Normandy, France. 400,000 Allied American, British and Canadian troops were involved.

1946 - The [Basketball Association of America](#) was formed in New York City, [NY](#).

1968 - [U.S.](#) Senator Robert F. Kennedy died at 1:44am in Los Angeles after being shot by Sirhan Sirhan. Kennedy was shot the evening before while campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination.

1971 - "The Ed Sullivan Show" aired for the last time. It was canceled after 23 years on the air. Gladys Knight and the Pips were the musical guests on show.

1978 - "20/20" debuted on ABC.

1982 - Israel invaded southern Lebanon in an effort to drive PLO guerrillas out of Beirut.

1985 - The body of Nazi war criminal Dr. Josef Mengele was located and exhumed near Sao Paolo, Brazil. Mengele was known as the "Angel of Death."

1985 - The U.S. Senate authorized nonmilitary aid to the Contras. The vote authorized \$38 million over two years.

1993 - Mongolia held its first direct presidential elections.

2005 - The United States Supreme Court ruled that federal authorities could prosecute sick people who smoke marijuana on doctor's orders. The ruling concluded that state medical marijuana laws did not protect users from the federal ban on the drug.

138. What is meant by balance sheet syndrome with Indian characteristics?

The Economic Survey 2016 and the Mid-Year Economic Analysis 2015 (both by the Ministry of Finance) have popularized two related concepts in recent years. First is the concept of balance sheet syndrome with Indian characteristics and the second, the twin balance sheet (TBS) problem. The two are highly related. Understanding the

balance sheet syndrome will help us to understand the twin balance sheet problem. Balance sheet syndrome with Indian characteristics The term balance sheet syndrome with Indian characteristics was mentioned in the Mid-Year Economic Analysis 2015, by the Ministry of Finance and was elaborated in Economic Survey 2015. Here, the balance sheet syndrome refers to the worsening profit scenario and mounting losses of private sector specifically corporate. High losses by the corporate discourages future investment and in this way, the economy suffers. The balance sheet problem of rising debt and losses occurred in many other countries especially in advanced countries in recent years. But in India, unlike in Japan and in the US, the problem has some unique features and hence is a "balance sheet syndrome with Indian characteristics." In Japan, there was a balance sheet problem after the real estate and equity boom of the late 1980s. Similarly, in the US there was a balance sheet problem after the global financial crisis. The economic survey elaborates three reasons to show why this syndrome is distinctively Indian. First, India is not suffering from recession or stagnation (in Japan and in the US, there is recession). Second, in India, there is no weak macro-economic demand. Rather, there is moderately strong demand (at least relative to supply) reflected in moderately high inflation and a moderately high current account deficit. On the other hand, in advanced countries like the US and Japan, demand is poor. Third, perhaps even more distinctly, the Indian balance sheet problem has partly due to private sector investment in infrastructure via the so-called public private partnership (PPP) model. This was because the public sector was reluctant to actively intervene in infrastructure projects. What are the reasons for balance sheet syndrome? There are five reasons for the balance sheet syndrome. First is weak profitability and high burden of debt for the private sector: Weak profitability and over-indebtedness discourages investment by corporate in India. Second, stalled projects and inadequate bankruptcy procedures. Third, failed PPP models has contributed to losses of the private sector. Fourth, many PSBs have financed several infrastructure projects and stalled infrastructure projects has resulted in large volume of stressed assets in banks. Fifth, the PSBs are now not ready to give loans to the business sector fearing penal action for managers in the context of rising NPAs. It further stalls projects by the corporate. What is painful about the balance sheet syndrome is that it discourages private investment. The balance sheet syndrome with Indian characteristics creates a web of difficult challenges that could hold back private investment. Private investment must remain the primary engine of long-run growth. The survey observes that because of this balance sheet problem, increasing capital flows will not be converted into real investment in the private sector. How to escape from the syndrome? Public investment overall is necessary to escape from the syndrome. To revive growth, public investment, especially in the railways, will have an important role to play.

139. India is now an electricity surplus country -says CEC Report

For the first time in history, India is going to experience power surplus as per the Central Electricity Commission report. The CEC's Load Generation Balance Report 2016-17 says that the country is likely to experience the energy surplus of 1.1% and peak surplus of 3.1%. According to the report, almost half of the states would be either surplus or balanced, and the remaining states would face both peaking and energy shortages in varying degrees during 2016-17. In the case of deficit states, the real shortage depends upon its drawings from other states. Electricity transmission infrastructure has gone up during the last year with the commissioning of 28,114 circuit-km of transmission lines in 2015-16. Surplus energy is anticipated of the order of 3.3% and 6.9% in the Southern and Western Regions respectively. Northern, Eastern and North-Eastern regions are likely to face energy shortage of 1.8%, 10.3% and 8.3% respectively. The report also considers renewable energy production while estimating total energy production.

140. India, Singapore agree to enhance scale of military cooperation

India and Singapore on Friday held the first dialogue between their defence ministers as they agreed to enhance the scale and complexity of existing bilateral military interaction, at a time when freedom of navigation in international waterways has emerged as a major concern. The first Defence Ministers Dialogue (DMD) between Manohar Parrikar and his Singaporean counterpart Ng Eng Hen marked raising of bilateral defence cooperation to the highest level. We had very detailed discussions. We have agreed on expanding the interaction between the armed forces and defence RD and industry participation under Make in India, Parrikar told reporters after the dialogue. I am very hopeful that this association with Singapore is going to build up to a much more than the strategic partnership, said Parrikar, who also called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong before the DMD. We have agreed the scope and complexity of the interaction between the armed forces would be further enhanced, he said. Parrikar said the two sides also agreed to collaborate between industries. Under the Make in India initiative, the industry-to-industry cooperation has already begun and it is showing positive response, he said. The agreement will also see the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) working with a Singapore research agency on research-oriented projects. Singapore minister Ng said, We both

agreed that we will work towards renewal of agreements for training of Singapore armed forces in India from 2017 and 2018.

141. Assam Assembly passes Ease of Doing Business Bill

Assam Assembly has passed the Assam Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2016 yesterday. The bill has the provision for speedy processing of applications and issue of clearances for setting up industries. Commerce and Industries minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said that the state government proposed to enact the legislation to facilitate the enterprises with a view to attract fresh investment in the state through an easy computerised clearance system. The basic aim of the bill is to create an investment-friendly environment for economic development of the state. With the BJP coming to power, industry leaders in Assam hoped that the new government will usher in a positive change and facilitate ease of doing business. The bill provides for establishing a bureau under the name and style of Assam Bureau of Investment Promotion for the purpose of overall supervision and administration of the speedy processing of applications and issue of various clearances.

142. Asia's first vulture re-introduction programme launched in Haryana

The Haryana government on Friday launched Asia's First 'Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme' at Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore. VULTURE CONSERVATION The Centre has become prominent vulture breeding and conservation centre in the country-after successfully breeding Himalayan Griffon Vultures-an old world vulture in the family of Accipitridae-in captivity. Releasing two Himalayan Griffon Vultures-Union Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, [Prakash Javadekar](#) said that with this achievement, country will 'have four crore vultures in the next 10 years,' he added. The Himalayan Griffon is closely related to the critically endangered resident Gyps species of vultures but is not endangered. Two Himalayan Griffons-released on Friday - have been in captivity for over a decade and have been in the aviary with resident Gyps vultures. These birds were wing-tagged and were leg-ringed for identification. DICLOFENAC KILLED VULTURES "Breeding and conservation of vultures is a significant step in the direction of saving the species. It is a matter of concern that some vulture species have become endangered. Almost 95 per cent vultures have disappeared and the reason is diclofenac, a pain killer drug given to cattle which can kill them," Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said. Khattar said that the behavior and movement of the birds will be closely monitored. Having been in captivity for many years, it will be interesting to see how they adjust to wild conditions.

143. CR Sasikumar takes charge as MD, State Bank of Travancore

CR Sasikumar has taken over as Managing Director of State Bank of Travancore (SBT), one of the associate banks of State Bank of India (SBI). Sasikumar started his career as a probationary officer with SBI in 1978 and has since held several key assignments. Prior to the present posting in SBT, he was Deputy Managing Director, Inspection Management Audit, at SBI Corporate Centre in Hyderabad. Assuming charge as SBT Managing Director, he said his immediate priority would be the management of non-performing assets (NPAs) and achieving a growth of ₹12,000 crore in advances and ₹16,000 crore in deposits, which the bank has set as its policy objective for 2016-17. I am happy that last years financial results were satisfying under very trying circumstances. We shall focus more on retail loans this year and try to acquire a higher share of the MSME (micro, small and medium enterprise) segment in Kerala.

144. Scientists developed Bionic leaf that turns sunlight into liquid fuel

The days of drilling into the ground in the search for fuel may be numbered, because if [Daniel Nocera](#) has his way, it'll just be a matter of looking for sunny skies. [Nocera](#), the Patterson Rockwood Professor of Energy at Harvard University, and [Pamela Silver](#), the Elliott T. and Onie H. Adams Professor of Biochemistry and Systems Biology at [Harvard Medical School](#), have co-created a system that uses solar energy to split water molecules and hydrogen-eating bacteria to produce liquid fuels.

145. World's smallest pacemaker implanted in 92-year old at Gurgaon Hospital

The world's smallest pacemaker was successfully implanted in a 92-year-old man at Medanta Medicity Hospital here, one of the first hospitals in the country to offer such a heart device, said a doctor on Thursday.

A senior doctor at Medanta said the world's smallest pacemaker was for patients with bradycardia, a condition characterised by a slow or irregular heart rhythm, usually fewer than 60 beats per minute.

Recently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Micra Transcatheter Pacing System (TPS) is a new type of heart device that provides patients with the most advanced pacing technology at one-tenth the size of a traditional pacemaker.

The first procedure was performed by Balbir Singh, Chairman of Cardiac Electrophysiology and Pacing Section and also a Senior Interventional Cardiologist at Medanta Medicity Hospital here in Sector 38.

In patients suffering from bradycardia, the heart is unable to pump enough oxygen-rich blood to the body during normal activity or exercise, causing dizziness, fatigue, shortness of breath or fainting spells.

Pacemakers are the most common way to treat bradycardia.

Comparing it to the size of a large vitamin capsule, Singh selected to use the Medtronic Micra TPS because unlike traditional pacemakers, the device does not require cardiac wires (leads) or a surgical "pocket" under the skin to deliver a pacing therapy.

Instead, the device is small enough to be delivered through a catheter and implanted directly into the heart with small tines or prongs, providing a safe alternative to conventional pacemakers without the complications associated with leads -- all the while being cosmetically invisible.

146. IBC Gets Affiliation from Commonwealth Boxing Council

The Indian Boxing Council (IBC), a licensing body for professional boxers in the country which has Vijender Singh among others on its roster, has been granted affiliation by the Commonwealth Boxing Council (CBC). I am delighted to be able to inform you that, following completion of the voting referral procedure to all CBC Directors, the recommendation that your application for affiliation on behalf of the Indian Boxing Council to the Commonwealth Boxing Council be accepted has been endorsed unanimously, CBC Honorary secretary Simon Block wrote in a letter to IBC President Brig (Retd) P K Muralidharan. The CBC will now formally register Raja as a Director in its Annual General Meeting scheduled in December this year.

147. India ranked 2nd on GRD index on ease of doing business: Study

India has jumped 13 positions from last year to rank second among 30 developing countries this year on ease of doing business. According to 2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI), which ranks top 30 developing countries for retail investment worldwide, a pick up in GDP growth and better clarity regarding FDI regulations have helped India achieve a second ranking.

India's retail sector has expanded at a compound annual growth rate of 8.8 per cent between 2013 and 2015, with annual sales crossing the USD 1 trillion mark, according to A T Kearney, a London-based business consultancy which brings out the GRD Index annually. The GRDI analyses 25 macroeconomic and retail-specific variables to help retailers devise successful global strategies to identify emerging market investment opportunities.

148. Govt sets target of disbursing Rs 1.80 lakh crore under Mudra Yojna

Government has set a target of disbursing Rs 1.80 lakh crore under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana in 2016-17. This is 50 per cent more than last year's target of 1.22 lakh crore.

Addressing media in New Delhi after chairing a quarterly performance review meeting with the chief executive officers of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said that bank have not only achieved previous year's target, but also distributed more than Rs 12,000 crore.

More than three crore people were given loans under the MUDRA scheme in the last fiscal. The Mudra Scheme was launched in April last year, under which loans between 50 thousand and 10 lakh rupees are provided to small entrepreneurs.

149. Govt proposes making villages along banks of Ganga Open Defecation Free

Government proposes to make all villages along the banks of the Ganga Open Defecation Free. Ministry of Water resources along with Youth Affairs Ministry is intensifying support to the five States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, in this campaign.

According to official release, there are more than five thousand villages along the river Ganga that fall under 52 districts. The Ministry of Youth Affairs, under the coordination of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, is enlisting the support of youth agencies such as the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Nehru Yuva Kendras and National Service Scheme.

All relevant government departments will also be involved to contribute towards making this initiative a success. The local district administrations of the 5 States, through a series of video conferences, have been advised to mobilize local NGOs, associations, private sector organizations, faith-based organizations and developmental agencies to support this work.

150. **6.3-magnitude earthquake rocks Maluku Islands in Indonesia**

A 6.3-magnitude earthquake rocked the Maluku Islands in eastern Indonesia this morning, but no casualties or damage have been reported so far. The Indonesian Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency reported that the quake struck at 01:25 am local time. The epicenter was 146 kilometre southwest of South Buru Regency, Maluku Province, 299 kilometre from Maluku Province's capital Ambon with a depth of 445 kilometre under the sea.

The United States Geological Survey put the magnitude at 6.3 with a depth of 428 km. The Indonesian agency said, there was no potential for tsunami. Indonesia sits on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire" where several tectonic plates meet, making it vulnerable to frequent earthquakes.

151. **V Narayanasamy sworn in as Puducherry CM**

Congress Legislature Party leader V Narayanasamy today sworn in as Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry. Lt. Governor Kiran Bedi administered the oath of office and secrecy at a function held at the historic Gandhi Thidal in Beach Road. Congress legislators A Namassivayam, Shah Jahan, M Kandasamy, R Kamalkannan and Malladi Krishna Rao were sworn in as ministers.

Narayanasamy represented Puducherry in Rajya Sabha for three terms. He was elected to Lok Sabha in 2009 and served as Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office in UPA II. Narayanasamy is not a member of the house hence need to face polls in 6 months.

While Kamalakannan represents the outlying enclave of Karaikal, Malladi Krishna Rao is from Yanam. Of the four regions of the Union Territory, Mahe alone do not have representation in the Council of Ministers. Congress fought the election in alliance with DMK. DMK which has 2 members in the Assembly will be supporting the Government from outside.

Senior Congress leader Mukul Wasnik, DMK Treasurer MK Stalin, Tamil Nadu PCC President EVKS Elangovan were among the dignitaries who attended the function.

152. **Gadkari launches Setu Bhartam project in Himachal Pradesh**

Union Minister for Road Transport, Surface and shipping Nitin Gadkari launched Setu Bhartam project in Himachal Pradesh from Palampur town in the Kangra District today. Addressing a rally he also announced various road projects for the district. Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, BJP MP Shanta Kumar and Opposition Leader Prem Kumar Dhumal were also present on the occasion.

Under the programme five Over Bridge ORB would be constructed on railway crossing in Shimla and Kangra districts with sum of five hundred crore rupees. Besides it, Nitin Gadkari dedicated newly constructed Bathu Bridge on Dehra-Kangra National Highway.

153. **KG Basin likely to attract Rs 1 lakh cr investment: Minister**

Oil and Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said, Krishna-Godavari, KG Basin will become the hub of oil

and gas reserves in the country in the coming years. Talking to reporters in Hyderabad yesterday, he said, KG Basin is likely to attract new investment of 1 lakh crore rupees. Mr Pradhan said, along with investments from ONGC, GSPC and RIL, from this financial year to the next 5-7 financial years, new investment of 1 lakh crore rupees in KG Basin, will create new employment and set up downstream industry. The minister further said, KG Basin has rich hydrocarbon deposits and is amongst the five most challenging oil fields in the world.

He said, 'gas hydrates' resources finding has been made in the KG Basin, however there is a need for commercially viable technology to tap it. Mr . Pradhan said, based on the prevalent practice on policy management, gas production in the KG Basin was a big challenge and hence, the government brought out a new pricing and marketing mechanism. The minister added that though ONGC had oil and gas fields since 2000 in KG basin, but there was no production because it was a challenging field and there was no price viability for it.

154. Cairn Energy's Rs 29,000 crore arbitration gets underway

Arbitration proceedings over Rs 29,000 crore tax demand on British explorer Cairn Energy by Income Tax Department has begun.

Agency report says that the three-member arbitration panel is headed by Geneva-based arbitrator Laurent Levy. The outcome of the arbitration may take about a year.

Our correspondent reports that Cairn had in January 2014 received a notice from the Income Tax Department seeking 10,247 crore rupees as tax due to a transaction carried out in 2006.

The Department alleges that Cairn Energy made a capital gain of 24 thousand crore rupees when it transferred shares of Indian assets that were held in a subsidiary set up in the tax haven.

The company has challenged the notice citing technical issues. Out of Rs 29,000 crore, 18,800 crores are interest.

155. Novak Djokovic beats Andy Murray to claim 1st French Open title

World number one Novak Djokovic beat Britain's Andy Murray 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to win his first French Open title and complete the career Grand Slam.

Djokovic won his 12th major title and became the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all four Grand Slams at once.

Second seed Murray played superbly to win the first set but could not convert a break point early in the second, and Djokovic took control to win in three hours.

He becomes only the eighth man in history to have won all four of the sport's major singles prizes - and could yet match Laver's achievement of winning all four in a calendar year.

156. VICE ADMIRAL G ASHOK KUMAR, AVSM, VSM ASSUMES CHARGE AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF

Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar, AVSM, VSM has assumed charge as the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff today, 06 June 16. An alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune, he was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1982. The Admiral has held various challenging Staff and Command assignments during his distinguished naval career spanning more than three decades. After having completed his specialisation in Navigation and Direction at Kochi in 1989, he served as the Navigating Officer of Indian Naval Ships Beas, Nilgiri, Ranvir and Vikrant. His other sea tenures include Commanding Officer of INS Kulish and Ranvir, and Executive Officer onboard INS Brahmaputra. Among his shore tenures, the important ones include Staff officer (Ops/ND) at Indian Naval Work-up team, Head of Training Team (Navy) at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and as Defence Advisor at the High Commission of India in Singapore. He has also been the Chief Staff Officer (Operations) of the Western Naval Command. On promotion to Flag rank, he has held the important assignments of Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST), Chief of Staff (COS) of Southern Naval Command and Flag Officer Maharashtra and Gujarat (FOMAG). In the rank of

Vice Admiral he has been the Commandant of the National Defence Academy, Pune. The Admiral assumed the office of Deputy Chief of Naval Staff on 06 Jun 16. The Admiral is a graduate of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and has attended the Army Higher Command Course at Mhow as well as the Expeditionary Operations Course at Quantico, Virginia, USA. The Admiral is married to Mrs Geetha Ashok and they have two daughters.

157. Transport Corporation of India launches world-class cold chain warehouse in Gurgaon

Transport Corporation of India (TCI) inaugurated its first state-of-the-art cold chain Warehouse on Pataudi Road, Gurgaon in the NCR region. This is TCI's first foray in temperature controlled warehouses as part of an overall strategy to build a cold chain network of warehouses and refrigerated trucks and partner with the high value added segments of Quick service restaurants (QSR), retail and life sciences. The warehouse will be managed by TCI Supply Chain Solutions, a division of TCI for multi-user customer requirements. Clients from these industries were present at the inauguration and were taken on a tour of the facility.

158. French Open final 2016: Garbine Muguruza stuns Serena Williams to claim first Grand Slam title

A Spaniard was crowned champion at the French Open -- but it wasn't Rafael Nadal. Garbine Muguruza upset Serena Williams 7-5 6-4 on Saturday to win the first grand slam of her career, while also depriving the American of tying Steffi Graf's Open Era record of 22 majors. While Nadal is considered the greatest clay-court player of all time -- he owns a record nine titles at Roland Garros but had to withdraw with a wrist injury last week -- Spain hadn't produced a women's champion at the French Open since Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in 1998. "We were so sad when Rafa had to pull out," Conchita Martinez, Spain's Fed Cup and Davis Cup captain, told reporters. "If you know Rafa you know how much he wanted to play here. "It was a sad day but the way Garbine was playing, you could see that she would have a chance to win this tournament, so Spain is very lucky to have these unbelievable tennis players," added the 2000 French Open finalist.

159. Now Watch IIT Lectures Live on DTH Channels Soon

The HRD ministry is all set to launch a new ambitious project of live telecasting the lectures from 6 IITs across the country. The Ministry will soon launch 32 Direct-to-Home channels to provide live telecast of the lectures from 6 IITs and some other top institutions. Two transponders on the GSAT series satellites have been provided by the department of space for the ambitious project. The HRD ministry has signed MOUs with many institutions for providing the lessons and content to be beamed on these channels. The six IITs which will be the teaching ends are the IITs located in Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Kharagpur, Kanpur and Guwahati. The ministry will also include about dozens of other top institutions for the live telecast of the classroom lectures through these channels. The HRD ministry is working hard enough to ensure that these channels are on air in next couple of months. These channels will be freely available on Doordarshan's FreeDish DTH platform. However, a Set Top Box will be required to receive the channels. According to some sources, the channels are to be operationalised by August this year.

160. PM Awas Yojana (Urban) Guidelines Updated for BLC

The central government has updated the guidelines of [Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana \(Urban\)](#) for the Beneficiary Led Construction component of the scheme. As per the new amendment, the beneficiary would be required to add at least 9 sq mt of area to the existing house. The minimum addition of 9 sq mt of area to the existing house will be required to be eligible for a grant of 1.50 Lakh under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of the housing scheme. The modified guidelines have been notified to States and Union Territories for compliance while sending affordable housing proposals for enhancement of existing houses. The Ministry of Housing Urban Poverty Alleviation notified the new guidelines on Wednesday, 1st June 2016. There are 3 more components under the [PM Awas Yojana](#) giving more options to beneficiaries, three more components are In-situ Slum Redevelopment, Affordable Housing in Partnership and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme. The central government aims to provide homes to 20 million urban poor by the year 2022 under the mission. [Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana](#) has also been launched by the central government to provide houses to the Rural Poor. Under the Gramin Awas Yojana, government will build 3 Crore Pucca houses for rural poor by the year 2022.

161. Tiger Express Train â€“ Package Fare, Route, Itinerary & Booking Information

Tiger Express, a tourist train to highlight the significance of environment in our lives has been flagged off from the Delhi Safdarjung Station on 05 June, World Environment Day. The semi-luxury train features a 5 days/6 nights itinerary

which will start from Delhi Sufdarjung railway station and travel via Katani, Jabalpur, Bandhavgarh, Kanha. The Tiger Express tourist train will be operated by Indian Railway PSU namely Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The semi-luxury train will take the guests onboard to the world famous Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks in Madhya Pradesh. In addition the trip will also take tourists to Dhuadhar Waterfall in Bedhaghat near Jabalpur. Tiger Express is one of the most innovative tourist product ever launched by Indian Railways. The objective of the train is to create awareness about our national animal, Tiger and their protection. The 5th June, 2016 trip of the Tiger Express is the inaugural run of this train. Regular Monthly trips of the fully air-conditioned train, which has been vinyl-wrapped with motifs of the wildlife, are to begin from October, 2016 onwards. Salient features of Tiger Express The list of places to be covered includes world famous Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks in Madhya Pradesh. The 5 days / 6 nights itinerary of the Tiger Express includes three Tiger Safaris, and it gives ample opportunity to the tourists to have a sight of the majestic wild cats in their natural environs and a spectacular view of the wildlife. A visit to the famous Dhuadhar Falls in Bhedaghat, Jabalpur is the added attraction of the trip. This is the first semi-luxury train on a tourist circuit having a dining car. The objective behind it is to facilitate frequent interactions among travellers during the travel. No other semi-luxury train is equipped with a dining car. Tiger Express Package Fare Structure Below is the itinerary tariff structure

Traveling in 1AC

Rs 49,500 for single occupancy

Rs 45,500 for double occupancy

Rs 44,900 for triple occupancy

Rs 39,500 for child with bed (5-11 years) Traveling in AC 2-tier

Rs 43,500 for single occupancy

Rs 39,000 for double occupancy

Rs 38,500 for triple occupancy

Rs 33,500 for child with bed (5-11 years). However, these rates are valid for Indian citizens only. An additional surcharge of Rs. 4,000 per person will be charged from foreigners for the Safari booking at Bandhagarh and Kanha.

Package Inclusions The itinerary has been chalked out in a manner that the guests not only enjoy a comfortable travel but also spend considerable time of the trip in the midst of Nature. The package includes the following Journey by the exclusive semi luxury air conditioned train Accommodation in air-conditioned rooms of 3 star equivalent hotels for three nights (one night in Bandhavgarh and two nights in Kanha in Mogli Resorts) Sightseeing and road transportation by AC vehicles Buffet meals Game safaris Inter-city transfers Travel insurance

162. Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje launches mobile app on air quality index

[Rajasthan](#) Chief Minister [Vasundhara Raje](#) today launched a mobile app 'RajVayu' for sharing information about [air quality](#) index of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur.

Another app 'Drishti' for monitoring of pollution levels in industrial regions was also launched by Raje. Both apps were launched on the eve of World Environment Day.

"Such apps should be made more interactive and interesting by installing gaming features to ensure participation of common man and particularly youth in pollution control and environment conservation," Raje said.

[RajVayu](#) is based on the data collected by sophisticated air quality monitoring equipment and weather sensors.

It would share details about the air quality, such as levels of pollutants likes Particulate Matter, SO_x, NO_x, CO, Ozone particles with the city residents and tourists.

Also, temperature, humidity, wind speed, weather forecast and advisories would be issued through this, a statement said.

Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) is the first state Board in the country to have this app for its citizens.

This is based on the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting Research (SAFAR-India).

Presently, Delhi, Mumbai and Pune are connected with this system.

Next year, this network would be expanded to Ajmer, Alwar, Bhiwadi, Kota and Pali.

RajVayu app has been designed by RSPCB with the help of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and UNICEF Rajasthan while [Drishti](#) has been designed by the RSPCB with the support from RajComp, the statement said.

163. French Open 2016 – Overview

The French Open, also called as Roland Garros is a major tennis tournament held in Paris, France. The tournament named after the French aviator Roland Garros. It is the premier clay-court tennis championship and the second of four annual Grand Slam tournaments.

The Winners of 2016 Edition Category Winner Runner Mens Singles Novak Djokovic (Serbia) Andy Murray (United Kingdom) Womens Singles Garbine Muguruza (Spain) Serena Williams (United States) Mens doubles Feliciano Lopez (Spain) / Marc Lopez (Spain) Bob Bryan (United States) / Mike Bryan (United States) Womens Doubles Caroline Garcia (France) / Kristina Mladenovic (France) Ekaterina Makarova (Russia) / Elena Vesnina (Russia) Mixed Doubles Martina Hingis (Switzerland) / Leander Paes (India) Sania Mirza (India) / Ivan Dodig (Croatia)

164. Birmingham to host seventh World Carrom Championship

India will attempt to regain the mens title that it had lost to Sri Lanka last time in the seventh World carrom championship to be hosted by the United Kingdom Carrom Federation at Birmingham from November 7 to 11. India had dominated the earlier editions through A. Maria Irudayam (2), R.M. Shankara (2) and Yogesh Pardeshi in the mens section. Anu Raju, G. Revathy, Rashmi Kumari (2), S. Apoorva and I. Ilavazhaki had accounted for the womens titles for India. Each team can have a maximum of four men and four women, who can compete in the individual singles and doubles, apart from team event and Swiss league competition. The entry fee for each player will be \$250. The host will take care of boarding, lodging and transport expenses of all the teams. Entries will close on August 30.

165. RBI keeps key policy rate unchanged

Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan today kept key policy rates unchanged. So the RBI's short-term lending rate, or repo rate, was retained at 6.5 percent, and the Cash Reserve Ratio at 4 per cent.

In the bi-monthly monetary policy, the RBI governor said data since the April policy announcement show a sharper-than-anticipated upsurge in inflationary pressures emanating from a number of food items, and a reversal in commodity prices.

He said rising crude prices and implementation of the seventh pay commission award are key risks. But Raghuram Rajan added that the central bank's policy stance will remain accommodative, provided data are supportive.

The RBI governor observed that the forecast of an above normal monsoon by the met department, various supply-side management steps, and introduction of the electronic national agriculture market trading portal should help moderate unanticipated flaring up of food inflation.

He retained the January 2017 inflation target at 5 per cent, with an upside bias. Noting that domestic conditions for growth are improving gradually, driven mainly by consumption demand, Raghuram Rajan retained the GDP forecast at 7.6 percent for the current fiscal.

He said there are signs that corporate performance is improving, and there has been a pick-up in capacity utilisation and order books. Rajan also said more monetary transmission to support the revival of growth is critical. The RBI will also soon review implementation of the Marginal Cost Lending Rate framework by banks.

166. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to be launched in Odisha

In Odisha, state-level launch of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to provide free of cost LPG cooking gas connections to women from BPL households will be held in Sambalpur on 20th of this month. Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram and Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan are scheduled to flag it off.

Official sources said, through this scheme, it is planned to increase the number of LPG customers in Odisha from 39 lakh at present to 80 lakh by December 2018. The scheme has already been launched regionally by the Centre in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

167. Odisha govt creates another 500 posts of doctors

The Odisha government has created another 500 posts of assistant surgeons to maintain the cadre strength in the field level to take care of patients. AIR correspondent reports that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved the proposal of the department of health and family welfare in this regard. As doctors are going for higher studies in large numbers, to maintain the short fall and looking at the requirement of taking care of the patients at the field level, the Health related Apex Committee favoured creation of more posts.

168. Delhi govt announces policy to make national capital solar city

Giving a major push to clean energy, Delhi government came out with an ambitious policy announcing incentives and tax breaks to promote solar power and making it mandatory for government and public institutions to install rooftop solar panels. The solar policy, finalized yesterday at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The policy aims to make Delhi a solar city through generation of 1,000 megawatt of power by 2020 and taking it further to 2,000 MW by 2025. Mr Kejriwal said making Delhi a solar city is one of our 70-point agenda. He said this policy is very progressive and will help in providing clean and green energy.

The government official said, building bylaws were amended for rooftop solar installations up to the height of two meters. The height of the structure carrying solar panels will not be counted towards total height of the building as permitted by building bylaws, except near airports where building regulations issued by the Airport Authority of India take precedence.

He said no approval will be required from municipal corporation or other urban development bodies concerned like DDA for putting up solar plants including any additional system for monitoring the performance of solar plant in existing or new buildings. The policy mandated deployment of solar plants on all government-owned rooftops in the next five years. It requires private power distribution companies to meet at least 75 per cent of their solar renewable purchase obligation within Delhi.

169. Puducherry goes hi-tech to promote voluntary tax compliance

Puducherry Commercial Tax Department has come up with a innovative step to promote voluntary tax compliance. It introduced a dedicated WhatsApp number for the purpose. A special email id too is created exclusively to file suggestions and complaints regarding tax.

Public too can file complaints on these platforms. The Department undertakes to keep the identity of the complainant confidential.

Lt. Governor Kiren Bedi had in her first public interaction asked people to insist on bill for every purchase they make. The step aims check tax evasion in the Union Territory.

170. India, ADB sign \$120 mn loan pact for irrigation in Odisha

India today signed loan agreement of USD 12 crore with the Asian Development Bank in New Delhi to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in Odisha. Finance Ministry in a release said, the financing will be used for modernizing seven irrigation subprojects resulting in improved irrigation in over one lakh hectares and strengthening the institutional capacity of Odishas Department of Water Resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Raj Kumar said that agriculture is a priority sector for the country and especially for Odisha because of its high potential to generate jobs and contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

He said, the project aims to improve existing irrigation infrastructure, operation and maintenance, and water use

efficiency that will lead to higher agricultural productivity.

171. Hope transmission of earlier RBI rate cuts will yield effective results: India Inc

Reacting on the RBI Monetary policy, Industry Body FICCI said, the RBI has maintained status quo on the policy rates and expressed hope that continuous focus of the central bank on improving the transmission of the previous rate cuts into lower lending rates would yield effective results. FICCI President Harshvardhan Neotia said the recently announced GDP numbers indicate that the economy has moved to a steady growth trajectory. He expects the capacity utilization rates to improve as both rural and urban demand will note an uptick on back of good monsoons and the pay commission announcement respectively. As capacity utilization rates improve and fresh investment plans come, it will be important to have a supportive monetary policy to sustain the momentum.

ASSOCHAM President Sunil Kanoria said, by choosing to retain the benchmark policy interest rate at 6.5 per cent, the RBI has not given any surprise to the industry since the central bank wants to wait and see the impact of Monsoon along with certain global factors. He said, the policy statement rightly emphasizes on the transmission of the lending rates by the banks by a slew of measures unveiled in earlier policies, including better liquidity management. The ASSOCHAM President complimented the RBI Governor Dr Raghuram Rajan in keeping a close watch on the global risks and a constant eye on the unfolding liquidity situation with regard to the dollar supply.

172. World Oceans Day - 8 June

2016 Theme: Healthy oceans, healthy planet The ocean is the heart of our planet. Like your heart pumping blood to every part of your body, the ocean connects people across the Earth, no matter where we live. The ocean regulates the climate, feeds millions of people every year, produces oxygen, is the home to an incredible array of wildlife, provides us with important medicines, and so much more! In order to ensure the health and safety of our communities and future generations, its imperative that we take the responsibility to care for the ocean as it cares for us. This year, the theme is Healthy oceans, healthy planet, and were making a special effort to stop plastic pollution. Plastic pollution is a serious threat because it degrades very slowly, polluting waterways for a very long time. In addition, plastic pollution impacts the health of aquatic animals because animals including zooplankton mistake the microbeads for food. Scientists also fear health impacts for humans. The United Nations will celebrate [World Oceans Day 2016](#) and recognize the winners of the [Annual World Oceans Day Oceanic Photo Competition](#) at an event on 8 June 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters. Why do we celebrate World Oceans Day? To remind everyone of the major role the oceans have in everyday life. They are the lungs of our planet, providing most of the oxygen we breathe. To inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean. To develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean. To mobilize and unite the worlds population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans. They are a major source of food and medicines and a critical part of the biosphere. To celebrate together the beauty, the wealth and the promise of the ocean.

173. What is Strategic Debt Restructuring (SDR)Scheme?

The leading financial sector problem at present in India is NPAs of the Public Sector Banks. So far the RBI has taken several steps to tackle NPAs and one of them is the Strategic Debt Restructuring (SDR) Scheme. Under SDR, banks who have given loans to a corporate borrower gets the right to convert the full or part of their loans into equity shares in the loan taken company. The SDR scheme which was introduced by the RBI in June 2015 thus helps banks recover their loans by taking control of the distressed listed companies. The SDR an initiative can be taken by the group of banks or JLF that have given loans to the particular defaulted entity. The Joint Lender Forum (JLF) is a committee comprised of the entire bankers who have given loans to a potentially stressed or stressed borrower. At present, banks can form a JLF if the account by a borrower is classified as Special Mention Account 2 (not paid any money back during the last 60 days). The RBI in its "Framework for Revitalizing Distressed Assets in the Economy - Guidelines on Joint Lenders' Forum (JLF) and Corrective Action Plan (CAP)" has suggested change of management as a part of restructuring of stressed assets. Change of management means share transfer from the promoter to the banks. The SDR gives banks more power in the management of the company who has taken loan and has defaulted. The RBI has modified the scheme later to give a correct shape. Who should initiate it? The Joint Lenders Forum. Corporate Restructuring Cell can initiate the SDR scheme The JLF/Corporate Debt Restructuring Cell (CDR) may consider the following options when a loan is restructured: Possibility of transferring equity of the company by promoters to the lenders Promoters infusing more equity into their companies; Transfer of the promoters holdings to a security trustee or an escrow arrangement till

turnaround of company. Major Features of SDR Scheme Following are the major features of the SDR Scheme. At the time of initial restructuring, the JLF must incorporate an option to convert the entire loan (including unpaid interest), or part thereof, into shares in the company in the event the borrower is not able to achieve the critical conditions as stipulated in the restructuring package. Provisions of the SDR would also be applicable to the accounts if necessary clauses are included in the agreement between the banks and borrower; The decision on invoking the SDR by converting the whole or part of the loan into equity shares should be taken by the JLF. The decision should be documented and approved by the majority of the JLF members (minimum of 75% of creditors by value and 60% of creditors by number). In order to achieve the change in ownership, the lenders under the JLF should collectively become the majority shareholder by conversion of their dues from the borrower into equity. After the conversion, all lenders under the JLF must collectively hold 51% or more of the equity shares issued by the company; The basic purpose of SDR is to ensure more stake of promoters in reviving stressed accounts and providing banks with enhanced capabilities to initiate change of ownership, where necessary, in accounts which fail to achieve the agreed critical conditions and viability milestones. SDR cannot be used for any other reason.

174. Fighting NPAs: Government to give more power to PSBs

Finance Minister Jaitely has offered more power to PSB management including a protection to bankers on bona fide decisions to settle bad loans. The other two measures include more legal empowerment to banks and strengthening the stressed asset funds. The decision came at the meeting between the Finance Minister and the Chief Executives of PSBs. Slowing economy and rising wilful default trend has created high level of NPAs especially for PSBs. Many PSBs have registered big losses in the last quarters. The leader SBI has made more than 12000 crores provisioning to cover up NPAs. Punjab National Bank recorded Rs 5367 crore losses whereas Bank of Baroda recorded Rs 3230 losses during the last quarter. More freedom to the bank management is expected with the conferring of resolution rights to settle NPAs to bank management. The government will consult the Indian Bank Association on specific provisions to protect the bank managers while settling NPAs. Regarding legal provisions to tackle NPAs, the SARFAESI Act will be amended; most probably in the next session of the Parliament. These set of new laws along with SDR (Strategic Debt Restructuring) would definitely empower the banks to handle the situation Jaitely has remarked.

175. Dia Mirza named ambassador for Swachh Saathi programme

Bollywood actress Dia Mirza has been named the ambassador for Swachh Bharat Missions youth-based Swachh Saathi (student internship) programme. The Rehna Hai Tere Dil Mein star will take forward the message of the governments Swachh Saathi programme, which she hails as the most important part to realise the dream of a clean country. Swachh Bharat is among the most important initiatives taken up by the government and I believe that the Swachh Saathi programme will be an extremely important part of our dream to realise a clean, healthy and environmentally conscious youth and country, Dia, 34, said in a statement.

176. Hamid Ansari leaves for Morocco, Tunisia

Vice-President Hamid Ansari on Monday embarked on a five-day visit to Morocco and Tunisia as part of efforts to build on diplomatic gains from the India-Africa Summit and lay platform for a future partnership. This is the first visit by an Indian Vice-President in 50 years to the two nations. The Vice-President will discuss with leaders of the two north African countries issues of terrorism, U.N. Security Council expansion and investments in private sector, as well as ways to strengthen outreach to Africa and regional matters. Mr. Ansari will be in Morocco till June 1 at the invitation of Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane and the two leaders would jointly launch the India-Morocco Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Rabat, the External Affairs Ministry (MEA) said. During the visit, a number of MoUs will be signed in areas like education, IT and communication technology sectors, focusing on capacity building and cultural exchange. In the second leg of his tour, Mr. Ansari will visit Tunisia from June 2-3. Mr. Ansari's visit will build on diplomatic gains from the India-Africa summit and we have chosen these two countries as they are great examples of democracy, Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA Amar Sinha had said. The King of Morocco had set the ball rolling when he came here in October, Mr. Sinha said. The New Delhi Summit of which Morocco's King Mohammed VI was the first confirmed guest was the largest political conference in modern history connecting Indian and African leaders. He said it is the first high-level visit to the African country after Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee went there in 1999. At the level of Vice-President the visit comes after 50 years, he had said, noting that it is the 50th year of Morocco's independence. Hello Africa, Tell me how are you doing? will be India's motto for the continent, he had said, adding, there will be a series of visits by Indian leaders to Africa in the coming days. The two countries are important for

India as it shares economic relations with them and the visit will help in building contemporary relationship between these two countries and India. Both the countries are looking forward to the visit as they are key partners in food security and fertilisers and investments in private sector. Our car and truck manufacturers are looking at prospective markets, he said. While Morocco's trade with India is substantial, there is scope for increasing it with Tunisia. Morocco is a developing destination for Indian film industry, he said.

177. **India no. 2 on AT Kearney's ease of doing business index**

India has jumped 13 positions from last year to rank second among 30 developing countries this year on ease of doing business, according to consultancy firm AT Kearney. The 2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI), which ranks top 30 developing countries for retail investment worldwide, said a pick-up in GDP growth and better clarity regarding foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations have helped India improve its ranking. India's strong ranking reflects foreign retailers' increased optimism in its retail market and its vast growth potential, said Debashish Mukherjee, a partner with AT Kearney and co-head of the consumer industries and retail products practice for India and Southeast Asia. India has relaxed several key FDI regulations in single-brand retail and this has paved the way for multinational firms to enter the market. India's retail sector has expanded at an annual growth rate of 8.8% between 2013 and 2015, with annual sales crossing the \$1 trillion (₹67 lakh crore) mark, according to AT Kearney. We expect to see e-commerce propel India's growth and make it a more attractive proposition. However, India remains a challenging and complex market for foreign retailers, where understanding dynamics at the state level is important, Mukherjee said.

178. **Sudarsan wins gold medal in sand art contest in Bulgaria**

Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won a gold medal in World Sand Art Championship in Bulgaria. He has won people's choice prize for his sculpture 'Drugs Kill Sports'. It is an awareness sand sculpture to uphold the sanctity, richness and sports, as an ever-cherished saga of entertainment source, in high esteem, Mr. Pattnaik said. The championship was held between May 26 and June 3 in which 10 artists from across the world participated. Drug controversy In my sculpture, I created the two faces -- one of Lance Armstrong and another of Maria Sharapova, the two iconic players who were mired in the drug controversy, thus bringing bad name for themselves and the entire sports world. Through my art, I wanted to convey the message to the entire sports fraternity to uphold the sanctity, richness and inspirational stature of sports. Let the spirit of the game prevail, said Mr Pattnaik. The theme of the competition was Sport World and Olympic Symbols and the height of the sculpture was two metres. Mr. Pattnaik got highest number of votes from visitors. Modern day sports, supplemented by advanced technologies, have reached a new level of competition throwing new challenges to all stakeholders such as sports personnel, organisers and regulators. One such unsolicited issue is usage of performance enhancing drugs by sports personnel. My sand art 'Drugs Kill Sports' is an awareness creating sculpture, he said during the prize distribution ceremony held on Friday. Sudarsan has participated in more than 50 international sand sculpture championships across the world and won many awards for the country. He has also got the fourth highest civilian award Padma Shri in 2014. Recently, he won the gold medal in Moscow for creating sand sculpture on Peace Non-Violence. Sudarsan runs a sand art school at Puri beach in Odisha.

179. **New Indian navy deputy chief takes over**

Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar on Monday assumed charge as the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff. An alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune, he was commissioned into the Executive Branch in July 1982. Specialising in navigation and direction, Ashok Kumar has served as the navigating officer of Indian Naval Ships Beas, Nilgiri, Ranvir and Vikrant. He has also been the commanding officer of INS Kulish and Ranvir, and executive officer onboard INS Brahmaputra.

180. **BHEL commissions 3 thermal units in UP**

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has commissioned three supercritical units of 660 MW each at the 1980 MW coal-based Lalitpur Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) in Uttar Pradesh within three months. All the three units have been synchronised by BHEL four months ahead of the schedule through enhanced focus on project execution using innovative erection techniques and meticulous project management, according to a BHEL release. The 3 x 660 MW Lalitpur STPP has been developed by Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited, promoted by the Bajaj Hindusthan group, in Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh. The main plant package contract of this 1980 MW power plant is executed by BHEL. Supercritical units are more efficient, consume less coal, and are eco-friendly. The key equipment for the project has been manufactured by BHEL at its Haridwar, Tiruchi, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru units, while the construction of the

plant has been undertaken by the company's Power Sector Northern Region. In the last one year, BHEL has commissioned four supercritical sets of 660 MW each in Uttar Pradesh, the release added.

181. All train coaches will have bio-toilets by 2019

Stepping up efforts to make environment better, the railways has set a target to install bio-toilets in all coaches to ensure the entire rail network as zero discharge zone by 2019.

"Our target was to install bio-toilets in all our coaches by 2021. But now we have advanced it to 2019," Railway Board chairman AK Mital said at the World Environment Day function in New Delhi.

According to the action plan, railways will install 1.40 lakh bio-toilets in about 55,000 coaches in the next three years.

Railways has installed about 37,000 bio-toilets in coaches till now.

Referring to the severe water crisis that the country is facing, Mr Mital said there is a need to save every drop of water.

Railways has also set a target of increasing the use of bio-diesel upto 5 per cent of its total diesel consumption and also to focus on clean fuel like solar and wind energy to reduce emission in a significant way.

Besides, it will ensure environment friendly disposal of all kinds of waste being generated in the rail premises while setting up waste to energy plants at major stations.

"Whether it is for horticulture purpose, washing platforms or coaches potable water should not be used," he said adding "washing plants are being set up to recycle water."

Currently railways has about 32 water recycling plants and is generating about 12 million water per day.

182. Bopanna books ticket to Rio Olympics

Rohan Bopanna cleared a lot of suspense with regard to India's tennis entries for Rio Olympics, by reaching No. 10 in doubles ranking, but opted to stay quiet till the selectors announce the Indian squad on June 11. With Leander Paes, gunning for his seventh Olympics, having slipped to No. 46 in the world, it was important for Bopanna to be in the top 10 on the cut-off date, and thus assure India of a mens doubles entry. Even though the 36-year-old Bopanna may have the choice of partners, ranging from Paes, Purav Raja (103), Divij Sharan (114), Saketh Myneni (125), Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan (134), Mahesh Bhupathi (164), Yuki Bhambri (147 singles), etc., it is clear that there will not be any selection drama this time. With Yuki and Saketh recovering from injuries and lacking the exposure at the highest level, it will be a practical choice that Bopanna would play with the 42-year-old Paes, even though he may be holding his cards close to his chest at the moment. Equally, it is clear that World No.1 Sania Mirza would play with Bopanna as that would be the only team that stands a chance of getting into the small mixed doubles draw of 16 for the Olympics. The most important factor is that the ranking of players of June 6 would be considered for entry into the mixed doubles draw, which would be on site from among the players available for singles and doubles.

183. Gujarat Government announces new policy for IT-based start-ups

Aiming to promote and financially assist 2,000 start-ups in the state in next five years, Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel Sunday declared her government's Information Technology (IT) and Electronics Start-up policy. Declaring the policy here at a press conference, the CM added that through the policy estimated investment of Rs 7,000 crore was likely to come in Gujarat which would also bring in lots of employment opportunities. Under the policy, IT and Electronics start-ups will get a number of incentives and financial assistance from the state government for two years and the successful start-ups will continue to get incentives and benefits under the broader IT/ITeS Electronics Policy of Gujarat Government which have already been announced.

184. Gangetic River Dolphin to be City Animal of Guwahati

The Assam state capital on Monday become the first city in the country to have its own City Animal with the Kamrup Metropolitan district administration declaring the Gangetic River Dolphin as the mascot. In a press conference,

Kamrup Metropolitan Deputy Commissioner M Angamuthu said that the animal, locally known as 'Sihu', would be the 'City Animal' of Guwahati. The district administration had organised online and off-line voting among three protected creatures, which are on the verge of extinction, to decide the mascot. Along with Gangetic River Dolphin, the other two animals were Black Softshell Turtle (Bor Kaso) and Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila). While less than 2,000 Gangetic River Dolphins remain in the Brahmaputra along Guwahati, a recent survey said only a small population of Black Softshell Turtle were found in the river and its tributaries. The number of Greater Adjutant Stork is less than 1,200 in and around the state capital. The three-month long voting process attracted 60,003 participants to decide the City Animal and Gangetic River Dolphin received 24,247 votes. While Greater Adjutant Stork got 18,454 votes, Black Softshell Turtle was the choice of 17,302 people. In the off-line voting, 76 schools and colleges across Guwahati participated. Along with the Kamrup Metropolitan district administration, other organisations such as Assam Forest Department, Assam State Biodiversity Board and an NGO Help Earth worked closely to decide the City Animal, he said.

185. Arundhati Bhattacharya 5th Most Powerful Woman in Finance: Forbes

Arundhati Bhattacharya, the first female chairperson of the nations largest bank SBI, has been ranked among the top five most powerful women in finance by Forbes magazine. Bhattacharya has moved up five spots from the previous year to clinch the 5th spot this year, SBI said in a statement. She was also ranked 25th in Forbes list of The Worlds 100 Most Powerful Women, which features top female leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, scientists, philanthropists and CEOs. Bhattacharya has been instrumental in transforming the bank which is over 200 years old into a technologically-driven lender with newer features like: SBIiNTOUCH digital banking outlet Mobile wallet State Bank Buddy Internet banking for smartphones State Bank Anywhere SBI Tech Learning Centres for educating customers Payment aggregator service SBI e-Pay

Under her leadership, SBI grew its network to include 17,000 branches. It serves over 330 million customers and is present in 36 countries.

186. Nato countries begin largest war game in eastern Europe since cold war

The largest war game in eastern Europe since the end of the cold war has started in Poland, as Nato and partner countries seek to mount a display of strength as a response to concerns about Russias assertiveness and actions. The [10-day military exercise](#), involving 31,000 troops and thousands of vehicles from 24 countries, has been welcomed among Natos allies in the region, though defence experts warn that any mishap could prompt an offensive reaction from Moscow. A defence attache at a European embassy in Warsaw said the nightmare scenario of the exercise, named Anaconda-2016, would be a mishap, a miscalculation which the Russians construe, or choose to construe, as an offensive action. Russian jets routinely breach Nordic countries airspace and in April [they spectacularly buzzed the USS Donald Cook](#) in the Baltic Sea. The exercise, which US and Polish officials formally launched near Warsaw, is billed as a test of cooperation between allied commands and troops in responding to military, chemical and cyber threats. It represents the biggest movement of foreign allied troops in Poland in peace time. For the first time since the Nazi invasion of Soviet-occupied [Poland](#) began on 22 June 1941, German tanks will cross the country from west to east. Managed by Polands Lt Gen Marek Tomaszycski, the exercise includes 14,000 US troops, 12,000 Polish troops, 800 from Britain and others from non-Nato countries. Multinational operations publicised so far include an airdrop involving 1,130 parachutists over the northern Polish city of Toruń, on Tuesday including 500 US troops and 230 British ones engineers building a bridge to carry 300 vehicles over the Vistula river and a night-time assault involving 35 helicopters.

187. Umang Bedi to take over as Facebook India MD

[Facebook](#) has appointed Adobe South Asia region MD Umang Bedi as Managing Director, India. Bedi will lead in building and maintaining strategic relationships with top clients and regional agencies in the country, a note from the social network said. Kirthiga Reddy will be returning to United States to take on a new role at the companys headquarters at Menlo Park. Umang has close to two decades of leadership experience covering sales, marketing and partnerships where he successfully built teams and grew businesses for multinational companies. At Adobe, Bedi was responsible for growing their business in India and helping India grow to amongst the leading markets for Adobe.

188. IOC honours IOA chief N Ramachandran with Olympic Order

The [International Olympic Committee](#) (IOC) has awarded the prestigious [Olympic Order](#) to [Indian Olympic](#)

[Association](#) (IOA) president N. Ramachandran. A report in The Hindu carried the letter of recognition written to Ramachandran by IOC president Thomas Bach. It is with great pleasure I inform you that the IOC Executive Board by its decision on June 1, 2016 has awarded the Olympic Order to you for your outstanding services to the Olympic movement. My heartfelt congratulations, the letter read. The award is given in acknowledgement for Ramachandran's outstanding contribution to the Olympic movement. Ramachandran said he was truly humbled and honoured with the highest award of the Olympic movement. My grateful thanks to the IOC president Dr. Thomas Bach and the IOC Executive Board for choosing me for this coveted award, the report quoted him as saying. Ramachandran became IOA president in February 2014. Former IOA president, the late B.S. Adityan was also honoured with the same award, in 1995.

189. Indian-origin professor in UK awarded by Queen

Eminent Indian-origin professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya has been awarded the prestigious Regius Professorship in Manufacturing by Queen Elizabeth II for his outstanding contribution in manufacturing.

"WMG, at the University of Warwick, which was founded by eminent Indian Professor Lord Bhattacharyya, has been bestowed the prestigious Regius Professorship in Manufacturing by Her Majesty the Queen," a release said today.

Through his career, he has advised the UK government on manufacturing, innovation, and technology, including former Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair. Bhattacharyya, Chairman and founder of WMG, said: "Having founded WMG in 1980 to invigorate UK manufacturing, it is a wonderful honour to be bestowed upon the Group. This is recognition to every member of staff, over the last 35 years, who has contributed to our success.

190. World's first 3D printed plane THOR unveiled by Airbus

3D printing technology is fast evolving, with companies now producing objects ranging from castles to lawn mowers. But until now, no one has been able to print a 3D airplane that flies. Now, European aerospace company, Airbus, has created a mini-plane, named Thor, which is the world's first 3D printed aircraft. The mini plane was presented at the Berlin air show this week. Airbus have named the aircraft Thor - which stands for 'Test of High-tech Objectives in Reality.' Thor is a windowless drone that weighs in at 46 pounds (21 kilograms) and is less than four metres (13 feet) in length. The aircraft is completely 3D printed, except the electrical elements, which are built from a substance called polyamide. Both Airbus, and their rival, Boeing, are using 3D printing to make parts for some of their planes, such as the A350 and B787 Dreamliner. However, at only 46 pounds (21 kilograms) and less than four metres (13 feet) in length, Thor is the first time an entire aircraft has been 3D printed.

191. Serena Williams Tops Sharapova As The World's Highest-Paid Female Athlete

[Serena Williams](#) lost the French Open final Saturday to Garbine Muguruza. It marked her third failed attempt to win a 22nd singles Grand Slam title, which would tie the Open-era record set by Steffi Graf. Williams was extremely gracious in defeat as she addressed the crowd at Roland Garros in French. The tennis icon can afford to be gracious these days: She earned \$28.9 million over the past 12 months. That makes her the world's highest-paid female athlete over that span, unseating [Maria Sharapova](#), who had held the title the past 11 years. Williams, 34, has dominated her sport for a decade and a half. She won her second Grand Slam in 2002 and has added 19 more since then. Her career prize money of \$77.6 million is more than twice as much as any other female athlete. Her late-career tear has made Williams a compelling figure for marketers. She ranks second among active athletes, behind only [LeBron James](#) in the U.S., on [Repucom's CelebrityDBI](#), which tracks consumer perceptions of celebrities based on awareness, as well as seven attributes. Her 89% awareness level ranks in the top 3% of the nearly 4,000 celebrities Repucom follows, and she scores highly on the aspiration and influence attributes in particular.

192. India to host junior hockey World Cup

The city of Lucknow will host the junior men's hockey World Cup from December 8 to 18, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced on Tuesday. The event will feature 16 teams -- defending champions Germany, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, England, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, South Africa, New Zealand, Pakistan and Spain. "The Hockey Junior World Cup, aside from being one of international hockey's showcase events, is also a competition that shows the future of our sport. It highlights the best of the best in the years to come. And for such an event, there is no better host than the cradle of Indian hockey," Hockey India President Narinder Batra

said. "Lucknow is the perfect stage for our young stars to shine. It is a hotbed for hockey, its residents passionate about our great sport. Their energy combined with Hockey India's experience of delivering first class events will be key to the success of the men's Junior World Cup," FIH President Leandro Negre said. While the men's competition takes place in December, the women's Hockey Junior World Cup takes place shortly beforehand in Santiago, Chile between 24 November and 4 December. India will not be part of that event.

193. **Indo-US civil nuclear deal changed colour of relationship between two countries: PM Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is now addressing a joint session of the US Congress at Capitol Hill in Washington.

Mr. Modi was given a rousing welcome by the members as he entered the House. The Prime Minister said American Democracy has encouraged and empowered other democracies of the world.

Prime Minister quoted Abraham Lincoln and said spirit of America was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Our belief in democracy is common. Over 120 million Indians enjoys freedom every moment of their life. Constitution is our Holy Book which gives people freedom of speech and equality

Today India lives as one, grows as one and celebrates as one. Our thinkers shaped our society. Gandhi's non-violence inspired the heroism of Martin Luther King.

A mere distance of three miles separates the Martin Luther King memorial at Tidal basin from the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Massachusettes Avenue.

Genius of B.R. Ambedkar was nurtured in the years he spent at the Columbia university a century ago. Former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee called India and the US natural allies.

Our relationship has overcome the hesitation of history. Comfort, candour and convergence define our conversation.

Mr. Modi said India US Nuclear deal has changed ties between the two countries. There are 30 million Americans are practicing yoga.

Indian Americans are bridging both the nations. Today the Indians are among the America's best of academics, scientists, doctors, CEOs and even the best spelling Bees.

194. **India, US pledge to pursue new opportunities to bolster economic growth, peace and security**

India and US today pledged to pursue new opportunities to bolster economic growth and sustainable development, promote peace and security.

In a joint statement both countries reiterated their commitment to strengthen inclusive, democratic governance and respect for universal human rights.

The leaders welcomed the significant progress made in bilateral relations between India and United States during their tenure, in accordance with the road maps set out in the Joint Statements issued during Prime Minister Modi's visit to the United States in September 2014 and President Obama's visit to India in January 2015.

Both the leaders welcomed the start of preparatory work on site in India for six AP 1000 reactors to be built by Westinghouse and noted the intention of India and the U.S. Export-Import Bank to work together toward a competitive financing package for the project. Once completed, the project would be among the largest of its kind, fulfilling the promise of the US-India civil nuclear agreement and demonstrating a shared commitment to meet India's growing energy needs while reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Both sides welcomed the announcement by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. and westinghouse that

engineering and site design work will begin immediately and the two sides will work toward finalizing the contractual arrangements by June 2017.

The joint statement said, United States and India share common climate and clean energy interests and are close partners in the fight against climate change.

The United States and India also announced creation of a \$20 million US-India Clean energy Finance (USICEF) initiative, equally supported by the United States and India, which is expected to mobilize up to \$400 million to provide clean and renewable electricity to up to 1 million households by 2020.

President Obama thanked the Prime Minister Modi for his substantive contribution to and active participation in 2016 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C., and welcomed his offer to host a Summit on Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism in 2018.

The Statement said United States and India will work together to combat the threat of terrorists accessing and using chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological materials. Recalling their shared commitment to preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, the leaders looked forward to India's imminent entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime.

President Obama welcomed India's application to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), and re-affirmed that India is ready for membership. The United States called on NSG Participating Governments to support India's application when it comes up at the NSG Plenary later this month. The leaders affirmed their support for U.S. India cooperation. Mr Modi extended an invitation for Obama to visit India at his convenience.

195. Urban schemes: Centre to review progress in Punjab, Haryana

The Urban Development Ministry will review the progress in implementation of its various schemes in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh tomorrow.

An official release by the ministry today said that Urban Development Secretary Rajiv Gauba will take stock of implementation of new urban missions Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart City Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission in a meeting in Chandigarh.

The meeting will be held as a part of state-wise review being held by the Ministry of Urban Development. Similar review meetings have already been held in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Jaipur and Visakhapatnam. Twenty cities in Haryana, 16 in Punjab and Chandigarh have been included in AMRUT which is aimed at improving basic urban infrastructure.

196. AIR celebrating 80 years of existence

All India Radio (AIR) is today celebrating completion of 80 years of its existence. On this day in 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio.

To mark the 80th anniversary of the world's largest radio network, the Social Media team started an online campaign, asking people to share their memories, pictures using #80YearsOfAIR.

The campaign received an outstanding response from different sections of people. Congratulating AIR, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore said the public broadcaster is an integral part of the lives of the people and most have an emotional connect with it.

In a series of tweets, Mr Rathore informed that AIR has embarked on an ambitious expansion plan to extend FM coverage to 65 percent of the population of the country for noise free improved sound quality.

He said, AIR reaches more than 99 per cent of Indias population, catering to a wide spectrum of socio-cultural diversity, focusing on Information and Edutainment. Several Cabinet ministers, Chief Ministers and political leaders also greeted AIR on the special occasion.

197. Railways to provide baby food at stations

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu today launched a facility to provide baby food at stations. Launching the scheme in New Delhi today, Mr Prabhu said railway are introducing Janani Sewa to make mothers happy.

He said railways will ensure availability of essential items like hot milk and water at stations under the scheme and this will help mothers who are traveling. The Minister said the initiative was taken after a complaint of a mother about the absence of milk at rail premises.

Mr Prabhu said railways have taken steps to fulfill all budget promises. While many have been implemented, the rest are at various stages of implementation. The facility is being introduced at over 25 stations including New Delhi, Mumbai Central, Howrah, Chennai, Nagpur, Pune, Surat, Lucknow and Moradabad.

Seeking to explore the possibility of making mandatory catering services optional on trains, Railways today also announced to undertake the scheme on Nizamuddin-Mumbai August Kranti Rajdhani Express and Pune-Secunderabad Shatabdi Express.

According to the scheme, optional catering service will be provided on trial basis to passengers from tomorrow. However, catering services will be included by default. Passengers have to specifically opt out from the mandatory food option and catering charges will be excluded from the ticket fare.

198. Centre to introduce International Yoga Award Scheme

The Centre has decided to introduce International Yoga Award Scheme with a view to promote yoga.

The AYUSH Ministry today said, it is working on the scheme and it will start giving the award from 2017.

Inaugurating the National Health Editors' Conference in New Delhi, Minister of State for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik pitched for adoption of yoga due to its large benefits in terms of health aspects and others.

He said, Yoga has become popular worldwide as people practice Yoga in some form or the other for spiritual or health purposes and to overcome stress.

Mr Naik also dismissed the controversy related to chanting of Om during the International Day of Yoga, last year and said it was not made mandatory.

The theme of the conference was Yoga for Holistic Health - Recent Researches.

The conference had been organised by Ministry of AYUSH in association with Press Information Bureau and is a part of the series of planned events leading to the International Day of Yoga - 2016.

199. France to launch terror alert mobile app today

In France, a new smartphone app designed to alert users to possible terror attacks will be launched by the government today. The interior ministry said, the application will send users a warning in case of a suspected attack.

Alerts will appear on the app less than 15 minutes after the incident and will be customised according to the user's exact location. App users will also be able to monitor alerts for up to eight different geographical zones, allowing them to check on family members or friends.

It will also provide advice on how to stay safe, with information tailored to each particular situation, the ministry added. The launch comes a day after Britain warned that stadiums and fan zones could be targeted during Euro 2016 football tournament.

200. UN welcomes Indo-US commitment to join Paris agreement

UN chief Ban Ki-moon today welcomed steps taken by India and the US to join the Paris Climate agreement, saying

he is encouraged by the resolve of the two countries to pursue low greenhouse gas emission development strategies.

In a statement issued by Ban's spokesman in New York, Ban commended the India-US joint statement on climate change announcing their support for early entry into force of the Paris Agreement. Climate change was one of the major topics of discussion between Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is currently on a three-day, US visit and President Barack Obama. As of today, 177 countries have signed, and 17 have ratified the climate agreement.

201. **India to open new consulate in Seattle**

India will soon open another consulate in Seattle to cater to the needs of large number of Indian-Americans living in the northwestern part of the United States. This was stated in a joint statement issued after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Barack Obama at the White House yesterday.

Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar said, both sides committed to open additional consulates in each other's country. India will be opening a new consulate in Seattle and the US will open a new consulate at a mutually agreed location in India. The two countries also announced a series of measures to encourage people-to-people contacts.

202. **Thailand becomes first Asian country to eliminate mother to child HIV**

Thailand has become the first Asian country to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Describing the elimination as a remarkable achievement and a milestone in the fight against the disease, World Health Organisation today said, Thailand has demonstrated to the world that HIV can be defeated.

The announcement is a boost for a generation of Thai health workers who have transformed the nation from one of Asia's most HIV-ravaged societies to a pin-up for how to effectively tackle the crisis. The global health body said Thailand's routine screening and universal free medication for pregnant women with HIV was crucial in stopping the virus being passed to new generations. Cuba is the only other country to have eliminated mother-to-child transmission under the WHO's criteria.

203. **No internet for Singapore public servants**

Public servants in Singapore will be blocked from accessing the internet on work place computers from May next year. The move aims to plug potential leaks from work e-mails and shared documents amid heightened security threats.

Officials said, employees across government would also be barred from forwarding any work-related information to personal emails. Singaporeans have responded with shock and scepticism online.

204. **World Bank slashes global growth forecast to 2.4 per cent**

The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim has slashed its 2016 growth forecast by 0.5 per cent to 2.4 per cent and said it is critically important for governments to pursue policies that boost economic growth and improve the livelihood of those living in extreme poverty. The cut in forecast was due to advanced economies experiencing mediocre growth, while low commodity prices, weak global trade and stilted capital flows also impacted.

Commodity importing emerging markets are forecast to expand at a 5.8 per cent rate, slipping from the 5.9 per cent rate estimated for 2015, with low energy prices and modest recovery in advanced economies supporting economic activity. In January, the World Bank cut its forecast to 2.9 per cent, citing disappointing growth in major emerging market economies including China and Brazil.

205. **SBI merger with associates to boost market share: Bhattacharya**

State Bank of India's merger with its five subsidiaries will strengthen and boost its market share exponentially. This was stated by SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya in Jaipur yesterday. She said, SBI will be three times bigger than its nearest competitor once the merger take place. Ms. Bhattacharya said, the move will also bring down several costs.

The SBI chief hoped that the approval from the government will come in a month's time and said it will take around 6 months to complete the merger. She said that once the government gives its in-principle approval, talks with bank unions will take place and their concerns related to the proposed merger will be addressed.

206. Centre announces upgradation of two sports stadia in J&K

Centre will upgrade two major sports stadia of Jammu and Kashmir at a cost of 42 crore rupees. These are the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu and Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar.

This was announced by Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in New Delhi after convening a meeting of his Ministry to discuss some of the pending issues related to Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, the government will ensure that the upgradation work should start before the end of this year. The Minister added the existing stadia in Poonch and Rajouri will also be upgraded at a cost of four crore rupees.

He also informed that the Centre has plan to build 12 new indoor game halls at different locations in the state soon.

207. Ghosh reaches a new career-high of 61 in ITTF rankings

India's four Rio Olympic Games qualifiers in TableTennis - Soumyajit Ghosh, Achanta Sharath Kamal, Mouma Das and Manika Batra - have shown considerable improvement in their world rankings. According to the latest ITTF rankings, Ghosh has jumped four places to be at No. 61 from No. 65 while Sharath Kamal, who was 73 last month, now occupies slot No. 69.

Manika Batra, who was occupying the No. 128 position last month, has moved 13 places up the ladder to be at 115, the best thus far for the reigning National champion.

Mouma has managed to go up by 13 places to occupy No. 145 in the world ranking. She was earlier placed at No. 158, her previous best.

In the junior rankings, Ananth Devarajan and Manav Thakkar have hit the world chart to do India proud. While Ananth occupies the 24th spot, Manav Thakkar holds the 54th position. Incidentally, this is the first time that two Indian boys have entered world ranking bracket.

Among junior girls, Archana Girish Kamath has broken into the top 25 bracket, with her perseverance and hard work.

208. Tintu Luka runs season's best, wins silver in Prague

Rio Olympics-bound Tintu Luka has won a silver medal in 800 metres in the Josef Odlozil Memorial Athletics Meet in Czech Republic. At Prague last night, Luka covered the distance with her season's best timing of 2 minutes point Six One seconds. The reigning Asian champion was second behind 2013 World Youth Championship gold winner Anita Hinriksdottir of Iceland who ran the distance in 2 minutes point five four seconds.

27-year-old Luka is still a long way to go as she is placed at 30th spot among the season's top list. Former world champion and London Olympics silver medallist Caster Semenya of South African is leading with 1 minute, 56.6 four seconds.

The Kerala runner holds the national record of 1:59.17 which she did way back in 2010. She qualified for Rio Olympics during the World Championships in Beijing last year.

209. What is animal spirit in economics? What is its significance in fighting recession?

The term animal spirit was innovated by John Maynard Keynes and it indicate the internal urge for action by business people and consumers to engage in more investment and consumption. Hence animal spirit is the psychological urge to get into more economic activities by investors and consumers. Keynes explains the concept in this book General Theory: Most, probably, of our decisions to do something positive, the full consequences of which will be drawn out over many days to come, can only be taken as the result of animal spirits a spontaneous urge to action rather than inaction. What is the significance of animal spirit in overcoming recession? Most important aspect about animal spirits is that it is economic optimism and confidence that drives investors to make more investment even when there is uncertainly. This means that even if the economic environment is not good, if animal spirits is activated, higher investment can occur. In recent years, animal spirit is frequently used because increased investment is necessary to rejuvenate economies from recession. This urge out of confidence will lead them to make more investment and more consumption even if the economy is in uncertainty. As a result of this higher investment, the economy can come out of a

recession or slow down. Animal spirit shows how human psychology drives the economy.

210. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Launching in Uttarakhand

[Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana](#) is all set to be launched in Uttarakhand today by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State, Petroleum and Natural Gas. The scheme for distribution of free LPG connections to BPL women will be launched from Ramleela Ground, Ganesh Bazaar, Srinagar, Puri between 11 AM to 1PM. Some other ministers of state will also be present at the venue to witness the launch and distribute free LPG connections. Under the [Ujjwala Yojana](#), the central government aims to provide free LPG connections 5 Crore women belonging to BPL households in the country by the year 2019. The central government will provide a financial assistance of Rs. 1600/- to each eligible BPL household to purchase the connection. Initially launched on 1st May, the second phase of the scheme was launched on 15th May in Gujarat by BJP president Mr. Amit Shah.

211. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jeevandayeeni Yojana – Cashless Treatment Scheme for Poor

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jeevandayeeni Yojana is the new name to the popular Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana with some amendments. Maharashtra Government has changed the name of the cashless treatment scheme for poor after social reformer Mahatma Phule. The scheme has been modified and some new processes have been added to make it more comprehensive for the poor. The government has decided to implement Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jeevandayeeni Yojana in the state with some unique features. Earlier the scheme covered 971 ailments which has now been increased to 1,100, including old age issues such as hip and knee replacement, sickle cell, anaemia treatment etc. The financial benefits under the scheme has also been increased from 1.5 Lakh to 2 Lakh and from 2.5 Lakh to 3 Lakh in case of Kidney Transplantation. Ashramshala, orphanage, old age homes and journalists are also now included in under Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jeevandayeeni Yojana along with farmers from 14 distressed districts. The scheme is primarily aimed at improving access of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families (excluding White Card Holders as defined by Civil Supplies Department) to quality medical care. The scheme can be availed by eligible beneficiary families residing in all 36 districts in the state of Maharashtra. As per the official website of Jeevandayeeni website www.jeevandayee.gov.in, there are 475 empaneled private and Government hospitals across the state where the cashless treatment can be availed. Who is eligible
Orange/Yellow/Annapurna /Antyodaya Cards holders can enroll into the scheme.

212. Bal Thackeray Upgath Vima Yojana – Free Treatment for Accident Victims

State Government of Maharashtra has announced a new scheme named Bal Thackeray Upgath Vima Yojana. The scheme aimed to help road accident victims get instant treatment at the trauma care hospitals across the state. Under the Bal Thackeray Upgath Vima Yojana, the accident victims will be treated for free in trauma care hospitals for up to 3 days. The state government will cover the cost of treatment of up to Rs. 30,000/-. This is the first time such a scheme has been launched in the state of Maharashtra in the name of late Shiv Sena leader Bal Thackeray. Such a scheme is currently in operation in Tamil Nadu. The state government launched the scheme on Tuesday 7th June. The day also witnessed the renaming of popular cashless treatment scheme Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana to [Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jeevandayeeni Yojana](#).

213. Shri Piyush Goyal Launches – SURYAMITRA – Mobile App

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New Renewable Energy launched Surya Mitra mobile App at National Workshop on Rooftop Solar Power here today. The GPS based mobile app is developed by National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) which is an autonomous institution of Ministry of New Renewable Energy (MNRE). The Surya Mitra Mobile App is currently available in Google play store, which can be downloaded and used across India. This App is a high end technology platform which can handle thousands of calls simultaneously and can efficiently monitor all visits of Suryamitras. The trained Suryamitras who opt for entrepreneurship have joined in the Mobile App in several states. These Suryamitras are once again sensitized by NISE on soft skills Customer Relations Management, Punctuality and are now ready to deliver the services. This innovative mobile approach shall enhance the employment of trained youth insolarPV technology and also improve the businesses of solar entrepreneurs because of quality servicing, maintenance and repairing professionals are now available to customers at the click of a button on their mobiles. Under NABARD scheme of Off grid Solar PV system few lakhs of off-grid systems have been installed and systems do require regular maintenance. To keep the system in good condition skilled manpower is required, therefore, the proposed technical platform of Suryamitra Mobile App can be utilized for this purpose too. MNRE has an

ambitious target of installing 100,000 solar PV pumps in several states. Suryamitra Mobile App would come handy with respect to O M, Repair and maintenance of solar pumps. Similarly, millions of Square meter of solar water heater systems are already installed in various states. In order to maintain the existing system and to install new systems properly, Suryamitra App would be very useful. Overall this technical platform which is very useful in the field of Renewable energy to serve customers at their doorsteps with quality installation, repair, and OM services. Suryamitras with the help of NISE ensure standard functioning and servicing of Solar PV and thermal systems to all customers. NISE has checks and controls in place to ensure that all Suryamitras offer quality service at reasonable price to their customers. NISE has fixed a price Rs 150/- per visit as visiting charges for Suryamitra Services and for installation and OM Charges Suryamitras would charge standard charges as per MNRE advised rates. It is hoped that Suryamitra Mobile App would act as an effective catalyst in creating demand for solar products in the country and in offering employment and business opportunities for Suryamitras. BACKGROUND National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), an autonomous institution of Ministry of New and Renewable (MNRE), is the apex National RD institution in the field Solar Energy. The institute is involved in demonstration, standardization, interactive research, training and testing of solar energy technologies and systems. Government of India intends to achieve the target of 175 GW which includes 100 GW from Solar Energy by 2022. Make in India is an initiative of the Prime Minister to encourage multinational and domestic companies to manufacture their products in India. Suryamitra initiative is also a part of Make in India. Suryamitra course is a 600 hours (i.e. 3 months) skill development program designed to create skilled manpower in installation, commissioning, and Operation Maintenance of solar power plants and equipment. The course is jointly designed by MNRE and NISE. The objective of this program is to provide employability and entrepreneurship to rural and urban youth women. Special emphasis is given to skill youth from SC/ST/OBC categories. The qualification required to participate in the program is ITI (Electrical Wireman) / Diploma in Engineering (Electrical, Electronics Mechanical). Higher qualified participants such as B.Tech etc are not eligible. The course teaches the basics of electrical, SPV applications and solar power plant including standards, preventive maintenance, trouble shooting etc. To achieve and maintain the target of 100 GW solar power plants for 25 years, India requires about 6.5 lakh personnel, trained in solar energy sector (estimated by CII). This course is designed and oriented as per requirement of solar industry. MNRE set a target of 50,000 Suryamitras of skilled manpower in solar energy sector in next 3 years. As on date more than 3,200 Suryamitra are trained under the program. The target for FY 2016-17 is to train 7,000 Suryamitras. NISE is the apex body to implement the program across the country, in association with State Nodal Agencies (SNAs). Suryamitra is a residential program which is 100% funded by Govt. of India and implemented by NISE across the country. The institutes like universities, polytechnics, ITIs etc. are executing the Suryamitra skill development program at various locations in the country. So far more than 125 institutes in 25 states are implementing the Suryamitra program and creating job opportunities to the unemployed youth. About 80% of the Suryamitras are placed in various solar industries with decent salaries. The rest are becoming entrepreneurs in the field of solar energy.

214. Forbes Announced 13th Annual World's Most Powerful Women List

Forbes today announced the 2016 list of The [World's 100 Most Powerful Women](#) (p.16 of the June 21 issue of Forbes magazine). There has been an influx of women elected to office in the past year, and the number of women leaders in the world has more than doubled since 2005. As a result, nearly a third of the women on this year's list lead a nation or play a pivotal role in calling the shots in their country. Together, this elite group governs or directly influences more than 3.6 billion people. The 100 most powerful women represent seven categories or power bases: billionaires, business, finance, media, politics, philanthropists and NGOs, and technology. The entertainment category has been removed this year, making room for a wider inclusion of female leaders across the globe who have been elected to office. The 2016 ranking includes several recently elected female leaders, evidence of the growing number of women who are winning national elections in countries around the world, including Taiwan, Nepal, Croatia, and Scotland. German Chancellor Angela Merkel retains the top spot on the list for the sixth consecutive year and eleven times in total. She is followed by presidential candidate Hillary Clinton (No. 2), U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen (No. 3.), Bill Melinda Gates Foundation Co-Chair, Melinda Gates, (No. 4) and General Motors CEO Mary Barra who remains in the No. 5 spot. Among the twenty newcomers on this year's list are CEO, Lens Technology Zhou Qunfei; President, Taiwan Tsai Ing-Wen (No. 17) and Editor-in-Chief, The Economist, Zanny Minton Beddoes (No. 78). Notable drop-offs include Elizabeth Holmes, Founder CEO, Theranos and Dilma Rousseff, 36th President, Brazil. The United States represents 51 women on the list, followed by China in a distant second with 9 women on the list, China's highest showing since the list's inception. This year's Power Women control nearly \$1 trillion in revenues. Forbes uses four metrics to determine this list: money (personal fortune, company sales, national GDP); media presence; influence exerted across multiple

spheres; and success at implementing change within ones organization, company or country.

215. **Joint Indo-Korean coast guard exercise starts on June 8**

An Indo-Korean joint coast guard four day exercise "Sahyog Hyeoblyeog 2016" will be held off Chennai coast from June 8.

The exercise is aimed at further strengthening the relationship between the coast guards of the two countries and refine joint operating procedures, according to a coast guard press release.

Korea Coast Guard ship 3009 would visit Chennai between June 8 to 11, it said, adding the exercise includes anti- piracy drills, search and rescue demonstrations and external fire fighting.

"The exercise would be jointly witnessed by Director General Rajendra Singh, Coast Guard and Commissioner General of Korean Coast Guard Honglk Tae," the statement said.

A Korean delegation would call on dignitaries here and a friendly volleyball match will be held between the coast guards on June 9.

216. **US returns 200 artifacts worth \$100 million to India**

The US today returned to India over 200 stolen cultural artifacts, some dating back 2,000 years, estimated at USD 100 million, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing the cultural heritage as a great binding force in bilateral relationships.

"Usually relationship between the countries of the world are very often covered by the present. It is present that plays a big role, but sometimes heritage becomes important in the relations of two countries. Sometimes what cannot be done by living persons is done by idols," the Prime Minister said at a ceremony held at the Blair House for the return of stolen artifacts to India.

Speaking in Hindi, the Prime Minister said that in the last two years various countries have endeavoured to return India's stolen cultural heritage.

"Both governments and law enforcement agencies of these countries now have become more alert on trafficking of cultural artifacts and are not only working to prevent it but also to send it back to the place of its origin," the Prime Minister said.

"I am grateful to the United States and President (Barack) Obama for returning these treasures to India which join us to our past," he said.

"For some, these artifacts may be measured in monetary terms and could be in millions for them, but for the people of India, it is a part of our culture and heritage that joins us to our past, that joins us to our values," the Prime Minister said in his brief remarks.

Modi said many tourists don't want to see only modern sites, but also they want to see the rich history a place offers.

People are attracted to India for its ancient civilisation, he said.

Referring to the Indus Valley civilisation, he said tourists are now flocking to India to see towns dating back 5,000 years.

"There treasures are to be enjoyed by the entire world.

Technology can help us catch those indulging in illicit trafficking," the Prime Minister said.

Indian Ambassador to the US Arun K Singh said on Monday 12 artifacts have been returned and process has begun for the transfer of rest of the treasured artifacts.

Items returned included religious statues, bronzes and terra-cotta pieces, some dating back 2,000 years, looted from some of India's most treasured religious sites.

Among the pieces returned is a statue of Saint Manikkavichavakar, a Hindu mystic and poet from the Chola period (circa 850 AD to 1250 AD) stolen from the Sivan Temple in Chennai, which is valued at USD 1.5 million. Also included in the collection is a bronze sculpture of the Hindu god Ganesh estimated to be 1,000-year-old.

217. Walmart Retains Top Position in Fortune 500 List

For the fourth consecutive year, Walmart registered the top spot in [The Fortune 500 list](#). Rounding out the top ten in the magazine's 62nd annual rankings: Exxon Mobil, Apple, Berkshire Hathaway, McKesson, UnitedHealth Group, CVS Health, General Motors, Ford Motor and ATT. Apple, which was the most profitable company in the list with \$53 billion in profits, was among companies making big moves this year, jumping to No. 3 from No. 5 last year. Other movers in the Top 25 included Amazon.com (No. 18) and Walgreens (No. 19), which moved into the top 20 from No. 29 and No. 35 last year. And Microsoft made the Top 25 for the first time, up from No. 31 last year. Facebook jumped 85 spots to No. 157, while Netflix leaped 95 spots to No. 379 (from No. 474) and Expedia moved 73 to No. 385. More than half of Fortune 500 companies saw sales drop, including No. 1 Walmart, which had a sales decline of 0.7% in 2015. For the entire list, revenues were down 4.2% from 2015. Overall, Fortune 500 profits fell 11%. Not surprisingly, the biggest loser was energy as low oil prices led to a net loss of \$44 billion on \$1.3 trillion in revenues for the 62 companies in the list's energy sector.

The Fortune 500 emerged a bit battered from events of the past year," said Fortune Editor Alan Murray in writing about this year's [Fortune 500 list](#). "The poor performance of energy companies, in particular, took its toll, as did the flight from public markets by companies like Safeway and PetSmart. But the list remains the benchmark of business success, with total revenues equaling two-thirds of U.S. GDP. As ever, the Fortune 500 represent the bulk and the breadth of American, and global, business. Collectively, The Fortune 500 had total annual revenues of \$12 trillion dollars, about two-thirds the size of the U.S. GDP -- but down 4% [from last year](#)'s all-time high of \$12.5 trillion.

Taking second place in profits, behind Apple, was J.P. Morgan Chase, which saw earnings up 12.3% jump in earnings, and displaced Exxon in the number two spot. Other big Fortune 500 movers included engineering firm AECOM, which made the year's biggest jump (187 spots) to No. 156; retailer Dollar Tree, up 150 to No. 180; Lithia Motors at No. 346 (up from 482); NGL Energy Partners at No. 167 (up from No. 300); Kindred Healthcare up 119 to No. 372; Kraft Heinz at No. 153, up 119; Laboratory Corp. of America, up 115 to No. 325; Molina Healthcare, up 100 to No. 201; and cloud computing company Salesforce, up 97 spots to No. 386.

218. West Indian all-rounder Kavon Fubler banned for seven years

The Bermuda Cricket Board (BCB) has banned all-rounder Kavon Fubler from cricket for seven years for smashing the stumps and abusing an umpire after being given out leg before wicket (lbw) during a Premier Division game. Fubler appeared at a disciplinary meeting on Tuesday when he was charged with a number of Level 4 offences relating to his behaviour for his club side Willow Cuts in the game against Baileys Bay at Sea Breeze Oval, reports CMC. Despite his behaviour, Fubler continued playing in the game, bowling 6.3 overs as Baileys Bay won by seven wickets. Fubler may have escaped with a lighter sentence had he not thrown a ball at umpire Cal Waldron after leaving the field, and had he not been heard to say he was going to smash his stumps if given out, immediately before doing so. Southampton Rangers captain Janeiro Tucker served a one-game suspension last month after knocking over a stump in frustration at being hit for a four. In 2011, Fubler was banned from Somerset Cricket Club after he subjected selector Molly Simons to a foul-mouthed tirade when he was left out of the club's squad for a match, Bermuda's premier domestic annual fixture between Somerset and St Georges. This week's punishment by the BCB follows a life ban it handed to Bermuda wicketkeeper Jason Anderson for his part in an on-field fight with fast bowler George O'Brien last season. O'Brien is still serving a six-game suspension he was given for his part in the incident.

219. Eminent journalist KK Katyal passes away

K.K. Katyal, veteran journalist and former Delhi Chief of Bureau of The Hindu, who led the newspapers wide-ranging coverage from the national capital during a particularly eventful phase of political change, passed away in hospital on Wednesday after a brief illness. He was 88. In the 28 years from 1976 that he spent at The Hindu, Mr. Katyal built his work on access to a wide body of political and diplomatic sources. In the 1980s and 1990s when The Hindu expanded its reach and presence in the national capital, he led the growing team in Delhi from the front. During this period, The Hindu launched its edition in Delhi in 1986. He superannuated in 1995 and continued till 2004, finally as Consulting Editor. Mr. Katyal, who earlier worked with The Statesman and Hindustan Times in Delhi, had started his career in the News Chronicle soon after Independence. Originally from Jhang in Pakistan, he was deeply interested in Pakistans politics and was founder of the India chapter of the South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA). A widely travelled man, Mr. Katyal was a regular in Prime Ministerial entourages. The ideals of the Non-Aligned Movement were a passion for him and he invariably covered its summits. Memorably, he was part of a group of journalists who accompanied Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Lahore in a significant Prime Ministerial outreach to the neighbouring country. He was a thorough professional and great colleague, who had remarkable sources in the Congress, S. Nihal Singh, his former colleague at The Statesman, said. Among the deans of the New Delhi press corps. The best informed political/gov reporter of his times, Shekhar Gupta, former Editor-in-Chief of The Indian Express, tweeted. President Pranab Mukherjee and Congress president Sonia Gandhi condoled Mr. Katyal's passing away. He is survived by his wife Darshan and daughters Anita and Sugita. His elder daughter Anita performed the last rites at the Lodi Road crematorium on Wednesday evening.

220. Father of modern Nepali music Ambar Gurung passes away

Father of modern Nepali music and composer of the country's national anthem Amber Gurung died at the age of 79 on Tuesday morning. Veteran lyricist, singer and composer, Gurung breathed his last at Kathmandu-based Grande International Hospital. Issuing a statement, the hospital confirmed that veteran musician breathed his last at around 2:37 a.m. local time. Gurung was admitted to the hospital before a week following complications in his food pipe. His health got further deteriorated since Friday due to which he was kept on the ventilator at the Intensive Care Unit. Earlier, legendary of Nepali music Gurung was admitted to Medanta Hospital in India for removing tumor from his food pipe. He was suffering from various ailments including diabetes and Parkinson's disease since long. Born in Darjeeling of India in 1938, Gurung was invited to Nepal by the then King Mahendra Shah in 1969 to lead the music department at the Nepal Academy of Arts and Literature. In his six-decade career, Gurung composed more than 1,000 songs which are very popular among the Nepalese music lovers. The national anthem penned by Byakul Maila and composed by Gurung in 2007 is one of his most noted works. Gurung is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter. Meanwhile, the Nepal government has decided to provide state honors at funeral of Gurung, which will be held later Tuesday.

221. Chess Grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi dies

Victor Korchnoi, who has died aged 85, was one of the most enduringly consistent grandmasters on the international circuit and reckoned by some to have been the strongest chess player never to have been world champion; in 1976 he became the first Russian chess grandmaster to defect from the Soviet Union and much of his later career was overshadowed by Cold War politics. Korchnoi began his international chess career in the 1950s and in the 1960s won the Soviet Championship four times. He won five European Championship titles, two interzonal tournaments for the world championship, and two Candidates Tournaments, in 1977 and 1980.

222. President of India to receive first copy of book "The Education President"

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the first copy of a book titled The Education President today (June 8, 2016) at a function held in Rashtrapati Bhavan. He received the book from Vice President, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari who formally released it.

The book published by the International Institute for Higher Education Research Capacity Building, OP Jindal Global University highlights President Mukherjees contribution to the field of higher education as Visitor to 116 institutions of higher learning in India.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said it was the contradiction between our aspirations to occupy a place at the high table of the comity of nations and the reality of higher education in the country that motivated him to draw attention to the need to improve quality of higher education in the country. The President said India has a large higher education

network comprising 757 universities and over 38,000 colleges. However, issues relating to quality and excellence are one of the biggest challenges, yet to be addressed comprehensively. We must keep up with our own past. India could boast of having universities like Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramashila, Valabhi, Somapura and Odantapuri, which were global leaders in various times between the sixth century BC and twelfth century AD. Students and teachers from around the world attended these institutions. Today, in the absence of adequate number of good quality educational institutions, around 2 lakh students go overseas to study. Similarly, while our teachers and students are both very talented, no Indian since CV Raman in 1930 has won the Nobel Prize from an Indian university. The President said India pays minimum attention to research. Only 0.6 per cent of our GDP is spent on research as compared to 2.8 per cent of China's 10.38 trillion economy, 3 per cent in Japan and 5 per cent in USA. If we have to create a knowledge society, we must invest more in research and development.

The President said advanced societies recognize and honour scholars and teachers. There should be cross fertilization of ideas and academic freedom. It is with this purpose that he has taken with him delegations of Vice Chancellors and other heads of educational institutions on his State visits abroad.

The President thanked the International Institute of Higher Education Research and Capacity Building of O.P. Jindal Global University for recognizing the work that has been done in last four years by Rashtrapati Bhavan and publishing it in the form of this informative and analytical book. He said that his interaction with universities, faculty and students has enriched his life and expanded horizons.

223. Shri Piyush Goyal Releases Book "The World in 2050- Striving for a more just, Prosperous and Harmonious Global Community"

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New Renewable Energy released book titled 'The World in 2050- Striving for a More Just, Prosperous and Harmonious Global Community' written by Shri Harinder S. Kohli here today. While delivering Keynote address, Shri Goyal said that the 10 Megatrends that this book has articulated are relevant and extremely important for all of us to reflect on. The Minister discussed various issues raised in the book at the event.

Talking about women empowerment, Shri Piyush Goyal said that women have potential to determine destiny of India or possibly this world. Personally, I have no doubt in my mind that the Women of this country have the ability to become agent of change", he added.

Shri Goyal discussed the emerging concern of demographics in the country and said that demographics, can be a boon and can equally be a disaster for the country, unless we channelize it in the right direction and strengthen the youth for tomorrow. True empowerment can only come through proper infrastructure whose major portion consists of electricity.

Shri Goyal commented on burden of aging people by 2050 and said that to save India from such problems, we need to focus on skill development and entrepreneurship skills of today's youth. And in some sense, a lot of efforts is going in this subject in India today.

The Minister talked about India's leading role in world's climatic concerns and global terrorism issues. He also read out excerpts from the book at the occasion.

224. Mexico backs India's bid for NSG membership; PM Modi heads home after winding up five-nation tour

Mexico support to India's membership to the Nuclear Supplier Group and working towards elevating relationship from Privilege Partners to Strategic Partnership were two important outcomes of the bilateral talks held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto in Mexico city today. Making statements on the outcome of the talks, both the leaders termed their talks as productive, stimulating and effective.

At a joint media interaction with Mr Modi, Mr Nieto said that Mexico supports positively and constructively India's membership of the Nuclear Supplier Group. On his part, the Prime Minister thanked Mexico for its support and called the country an important partner for India's energy security.

Mr. Modi invited the Mexican President to visit India and exchanged assurances on greater cooperation and understanding between the two countries. Both the leaders expressed confidence on carrying forward the scope and scale of partnership and mutual cooperation.

Mexican President welcomed investments from India in steel, pharmaceuticals and automobiles sector. Clean energy, agriculture best practices and Science and Technology were other areas pointed out by Mr Modi for greater cooperation between the two countries. The Prime Minister's five nation trip concluded with a short working visit to Mexico today, affirming greater and stronger ties between both the countries.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister has left for home after wrapping up his visit to Mexico. Spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry Vikas Swarup tweeted that after a productive visit to Mexico, Prime Minister departed for Delhi. Mexico was the last leg of Mr Modi's five-nation tour.

Mr Modi tweeted, "Thank you Mexico", adding that a new era in India-Mexico ties has begun and this relationship is going to benefit our people and the entire world. The tour, that began on June 4, saw Mr Modi visiting Afghanistan, Qatar, Switzerland, the US and Mexico with an aim to bolster ties.

Besides addressing a joint sitting of the US Congress, Mr Modi received the backing of two key Nuclear Suppliers Group members - Switzerland and Mexico - for its bid to secure the membership of the 48-nation bloc. He also held wide-ranging talks with President Barack Obama at the White House following which the US recognised India as a "major defence partner".

225. UGC forms pay review panel for academic staff of Universities, Colleges

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a five-member committee for pay revision of academic staff of Universities and Colleges.

The Pay Revision Committee will be chaired by UGC member Prof V S Chauhan and it will submit its report in six months, official sources said yesterday.

The panel will also examine the present structure of emoluments and service conditions of university and college teachers, librarians, physical education personnel and other academic staff.

Among other things, the panel will suggest revision in the pay structure, taking into account the minimum qualifications, career advancement opportunities and benefits like superannuation benefits, medical and housing facilities.

It will also make recommendations on the ways and means for attracting and retaining talented persons in the teaching profession among other things.

226. Food Ministry proposes 25% duty on sugar export

Food Ministry has proposed to impose 25 per cent duty on export of sugar to ensure sufficient supply in the domestic market.

In a series of tweet, Food and Consumer affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said that the international prices of sugar are rising and therefore traders may increase the export of sugar to make profit. He said, the Ministry has proposed to levy 25 per cent custom duty on export of sugar to keep the export of the sweetener in control.

Mr Paswan said, this move will keep sufficient availability of sugar in domestic market and the price will be under control.

According to trade sources, sugar exports have become viable now as global prices have increased by 50 per cent in last three months due to disruption in supply from Brazil. The country had exported 14 lakh tonnes of sugar so far in the 2015-16.

Retail sugar prices had crossed 40 rupees per kg last month due to eleven per cent fall in domestic sugar output in the ongoing 2015-16 season.

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

India has joined a group of nearly 40 nations that have signed a Europe-led clampdown on tax evasion and corruption, committing to automatically exchange information on beneficial ownership.

The UK's Treasury Department said in London that these 40 countries have committed to the initiative to automatically exchange information on beneficial ownership. The next stage will be for the development of a global standard for this exchange.

Besides India, some of the other countries outside Europe on the list include Afghanistan, Nigeria, Mexico and the UAE. Most European countries except Switzerland are part of this automatic exchange mechanism.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an election pledge in 2014 to recover billions of dollars sent to tax havens abroad to avoid income tax. The move is seen as a step in that direction.

228. US polls: Obama officially endorses Hillary Clinton as Democratic presidential nominee

US President Barack Obama has officially endorsed Hillary Clinton as the Democratic Party presidential nominee. His endorsement came after meeting Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders yesterday who has been battling Mrs Clinton for the nomination.

Speaking in a video tweeted out by Mrs Clinton, Mr Obama said she may be the most qualified person ever for the role of President. The two are set to start campaigning together soon. Speaking after following the endorsement, Mrs Clinton said Mr Obama's endorsement means the world.

229. Maha govt to celebrate 21st of every month as Yoga Day

Maharashtra government has decided to celebrate the 21st of every month as Yoga day across all schools, colleges and universities in the state.

Maharashtra School and Higher Education minister Vinod Tawde had recently held a meeting with yoga institutions like Shri Shri Ravishankar's Art of Living, Ramdev Baba's Patanjali Yog Samiti, Samarth Vyayam Mandir, Bharat Swabhimani Nyas and others to discuss on various ways to celebrate International Yoga Day on June 21 on a grand scale at district levels.

The minister said that it has been decided that every district will have to set up a Yoga Day committee to plan 'Yoga Mahostav' (Yoga Festival) every year between January 12 and 21 and a separate committee at the state level will monitor and coordinate with these committees.

230. Odisha govt to hold first travel bazaar this November to boost tourism

Odisha government will hold its first travel bazaar this November. The event, to be organized will act as a platform to bring together tour operators from across the globe alongside local operators and various stakeholders under one roof to promote the state's tourist destinations.

State tourism and culture minister Ashok Chandra Panda said yesterday that the event will be hosted between November 27 and 29 in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He said the government was taking initiatives to make the state a 365-day tourist destination, both for foreign nationals and Indian tourists.

The Odisha tourism department had recently faced a lot of criticism from different quarters for failing to attract tourists to the state, especially foreign nationals, during last year's Nabakalebar festival. While 71,426 tourists from abroad had visited the state in 2014, the number came down to 66,971 during the festival.

231. Tamil Nadu teen IM Visakh becomes first Indian to win Mayor's chess

Tamil Nadu teenager and International Master NR Visakh created history yesterday by becoming the first Indian to

clinch the Mumbai Mayor's International Open Chess Tournament and lead a top-three sweep in Mumbai.

The 17-year-old International Master drew his final round match with fellow-Indian and GM Diptayan Ghosh and was tied for the top place on 8 points with Ghosh and Chandigarh's Himel Gusain in a three-way tie. The arbiters declared Visakh (ELO 2400) as the champion on a better tie-break as he reached a draw with Ghosh in 16 moves.

Visakh thus emerged as the first Indian to capture the title in its nine-year history and won 3 lakh rupees, while Ghosh took home 2 lakh rupees and Gusain 1 lakh rupees. Five other Indians also finished among the 8 players in joint second place.

232. Dharamsala, Ranchi among six venues to host Test match for first time

Six new Test centres will be hosting five-day matches for the first time during a busy home season for the Indian cricket team, which will be starting with the New Zealand series in September.

In a statement, BCCI Secretary Ajay Shirke said that Rajkot, Vizag, Pune, Dharamsala, Ranchi and Indore, were upgraded as Test centres in November last year, will host five-day matches for the first time.

The Indian team will have a busy international schedule in the coming home season with 13 Test matches, eight One-Day Internationals and three T20 Internationals scheduled by the BCCI.

The new centres would also host Tests this season against the visiting New Zealand, England, Australia and Bangladesh. The announcement was made by the BCCI after the meeting of its Tour Programmes and Fixtures Committee.

233. Euro 2016 to kick off in Paris today amid tight security

Europe's biggest football extravaganza, Euro 2016 begins in France today. 24-teams will vie for the supremacy in European football, during the one month-long marathon. Hosts France will launch the tournament with a Group A game against Romania tonight at the Stade de France. The stadium with a capacity of over 81,000 people will also host the final on July 10.

Defending Champions Spain are aiming to win an unprecedented third straight European title. Besides World Champions Germany, Italy and Portugal are the other favourites, while England and Belgium are rated as dark horses this time. World Cup semi-finalist the Netherlands have failed to qualify.

Meanwhile, unprecedented security arrangements have been made for the month long European Football tournament which kicks off today. More than 90 thousands police, soldiers and private guards will be deployed at the tournament, with seven million fans expected to visit the 10 host cities. The US and British government have both warned fans they could be at risk.

But organisers, Uefa, and the French authorities, insist they have done everything possible to keep the 2.5 million spectators expected at the 51 matches safe. France remains under a state of emergency after last November's attacks on Paris, when 130 people were killed.

234. The Westinghouse deal is a big political and economic gain for India

The US based Westinghouses announcement to build six reactors in India is a breakthrough in its relationship with the US as well as the countrys effort to produce bulk energy without depending on fossil fuels. It is especially significant as India is not a signatory of the Non Proliferation Treaty. Westinghouse has finalized a deal to build six reactors in Andhra Pradesh, eight years after India and the US signed a historic civil nuclear deal in 2008. The deal brings two interesting plus points for India. Firstly, for the first time, the US is engaging in nuclear cooperation with India. The US being a historical opponent of Indias interest during the cold war era has now became one of the leading supporters of Indias effort to achieve prosperity. Secondly, the deal takes Japan also in the alliance. Westinghouse is the US unit of the Japanese firm Toshiba corporation. Japan is yet to seriously decide on civil nuclear cooperation with India. So far, two countries that have nuclear cooperation agreement with India on the energy front are Russia and France. Russia's Rosatom operates two reactors at Kudankulam, while France's EDF signed a preliminary deal with Nuclear Power

Corporation of India (NPCIL) to build six reactors at Jaitapur, Maharashtra. India aims to quickly increase its nuclear capacity to 63,000 MW by 2032, from the present 5,780 MW, as part of the effort to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. At present, nearly 64% of the countrys electricity is produced from coal based power plants. Shift form fossil fuels to less polluting nuclear energy will help the country to support climatic change mitigation efforts as well.

235. PM Ujjwala Yojana in Odisha to be Launched on June 20

In a series of state level launches of [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana](#), the scheme is all set to be launched in Odisha this month. The Ujjwala Yojana, a scheme for distribution of free LPG connections to BPL families will be launched on 20th June from Sambalpur. Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram and Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan are scheduled to flag it off. According to the sources, there are 39 Lakh LPG customers at present in Odisha. The government is planning to increase the number by more than double. A target of increasing the number to 80 Lakh by December 2018 has been set under the Ujjwala Yojana. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has already been launched countrywide on 1st May by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The state level launches of the scheme have already took place in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. Under the scheme, the central government is providing a financial assistance of Rs. 1600/- to each eligible BPL candidate to buy an LPG connection. A total budget of Rs. 8000 Crore has been set by the Government for the distribution of LPG connections to 5 Crore BPL families by 2019.

236. Indian Reserve Battalion to be named after Maharana Pratap Rajnath

A new Indian Reserve Battalion in Rajasthan will be named after Maharana Pratap, the great warrior of Mewar region, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has said. The Home Minister, who is on a two-day visit to the state, made the announcement at a programme here yesterday. Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje had made a request to Singh in this regard. The Indian Reserve Battalion will be named after Maharana Pratap, a Rajput ruler who had fought against the Mughals and never bowed before them, Singh said. The government will make sure that his contribution is highlighted, he said. The Union minister also announced setting up of a global centre for counter terrorism at Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice at Jodhpur and said the process of police modernisation will be expedited.

237. Google And Tata Trust's Internet Literacy Program For Rural Women Launched In West Bengal

Google India and the Tata Trust launched their Internet literacy program 'Internet Saathi' for rural women in West Bengal. The program aims to reach 400 villages and teach 1 lakh women in the state how to use the Internet in the coming months. Under the program, women will receive initial training from Google and Tata about the World Wide Web and its uses and become an 'Internet Saathi'. They will be given a bicycle, a smartphone, a tablet, and training material so they can visit other villages and train more women, making them Internet literate too. In the next few months, we will see the project roll out across 400 villages and reach one lakh women in Purulia, said Sapna Chadha, head of marketing, Google India. Google had [originally launched this project in July 2015](#) in partnership with Tata Trust. So far they have covered five states and made 1 lakh women e-literate in rural areas. The current phase of the program will cover the states of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Uttar Pradesh. Globally, Google has a program called [Women Tech Makers](#) to support women in coding and innovation.

238. India ranked 141 in global peace index, Syria least peaceful

India was on Wednesday ranked 141 on a Global Peace Index -- making it less peaceful than countries like Burundi, Serbia and Burkina Faso -- with violence taking a 680-billion dollar toll on its economy in 2015. In a ranking of 163 countries, compiled by global think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Syria has been named the least peaceful, followed by South Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. On the other hand, Iceland was ranked as the worlds most peaceful country, followed by Denmark and Austria. India has moved up two position, from 141st last year, but the study said the countrys peace score has deteriorated over the past year -- which means the slight rise in ranking could be due to worse performance of others. The report said that in the last decade, Indias position deteriorated when it came to peace by 5 % largely due to deteriorations in the indicators measuring UN peacekeeping funding and the level of political terror. Within South Asia, Bhutan was ranked best (13th overall rank), while India was fifth followed by Pakistan at sixth (overall 153rd) and Afghanistan at sixth place (global 160th). The report said, Indias scores for ongoing domestic and international conflict and militarisation have deteriorated slightly. The country remains vulnerable to acts of terror and security threats at its shared border with Pakistan. As such, the number of deaths caused by externally organised terror strikes has risen over the year. At the same time, Sri Lanka saw the greatest upswing in its score in the region and the report attributed the countrys increased peacefulness to better relations with neighbouring countries,

particularly India. The GPI 2016 ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness. It further said that violence impacted Indias economy by USD 679.80 billion in 2016, 9 % of Indias GDP, or USD 525 per person. The economic impact of violence on the global economy touched USD 13.6 trillion or 13.3 % of gross world product. The amount is also equivalent to 11 times the size of global foreign direct investment, it added. According to the report, world became a less peaceful in 2016, mainly on account of increased terrorism and higher levels of political instability. Rankings of 81 countries have improved but deterioration in another 79 outweighed these gains. IEP Founder and Executive Chairman Steve Killelea said increasing internationalisation of internal conflicts has coincided with UN peacekeeping funding reaching record highs in 2016. However, peace building and peacekeeping spending remains proportionately small compared to the economic impact of violence, representing just two % of global losses from armed conflict, he noted. In 2015, violence containment expenditure in India totalled USD 679.8 billion PPP, an increase of 7 % from 2008. At 9 % of GDP this was ranked 65th in the world, Killelea said. As per the report, addressing the global disparity in peace and achieving an overall 10 % decrease in the economic impact of violence would produce a peace dividend of USD 1.36 trillion. This is approximately equivalent to the size of world food exports.

239. India becomes third largest oil consumer

India has surpassed Japan to become the worlds third-largest oil consumer, with its oil demand galloping 8.1 per cent in 2015, according to BP Statistical Review of World Energy released on Wednesday. With demand of 4.1 million barrels a day, India is the third-largest consumer behind the U.S. (19.39 million bpd) and China (11.96 million bpd). India accounted for 4.5 per cent of world oil consumption in 2015. Indias demand growth surpassed Chinas 6.3 per cent expansion. The U.S. oil consumption grew 1.6 per cent, which accounts for 19.7 per cent of the total world pie of 95 million bpd in 2015. Japan slipped to the fourth spot after its oil usage contracted 3.9 per cent to 4.15 million bpd in 2015. In 2014, it used 4.3 million bpd, ahead of Indias 3.84 million bpd. The review shows that global demand for primary energy grew only 1 per cent in 2015, which is significantly slower than the 10-year average. This reflected continued weakness in the global economy and lower growth in Chinese energy consumption as the country shifts from an industrial to a service-driven economy, it said. Oil remained the worlds leading fuel, accounting for 32.9 per cent of global energy consumption and is gaining market share for the first time since 1999. Coal came in as the second-largest fuel by market share (29.2 per cent). Natural gas market share of primary energy consumption stood at 23.8 per cent.

240. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin awarded UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with Order of Friendship

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree awarding the Order of Friendship to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The decoration was awarded to Ban for special merits in strengthening peace, friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding between peoples, the officially yesterday published decree said. Among those awarded are Prince Michael of Kent, Oscar Niemeyer, the architect of the Brazilian capital, and former President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge. The order, set up in 1994, is meant to reward Russian citizens and foreign nationals for outstanding accomplishments in strengthening peace and cooperation with Russia, as well as for charity activities.

241. Rama Mohana Rao named TN Chief Secretary

In a major shuffle of senior bureaucrats, the Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday transferred K. Gnanadesikan and posted P. Rama Mohana Rao as Chief Secretary. Mr. Rao would also hold full additional charge of Vigilance Comissioner and Commissioner for Administrative Reforms. Mr. Gnanadesikan would be appointed as the chairman and managing director of Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), according to a GO of the Public Department. Santha Sheela Nair has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty in the Chief Minister's Office. Following the transfers, K.N. Venkataramanan, Shiv Das Meena, S. Vijayakumar and A. Ramalingam would function as Secretary-I, Secretary-II, Secretary-III and Secretary-IV to the Chief Minister respectively. The transfers made on Wednesday are the first major shuffle of IAS officers since the AIADMK was re-elected to power in the May 16, 2016 Assembly polls.

242. Maria Sharapova gets 2-year ban for failed drugs test

The International Tennis Federation (ITF), the world governing body, said in a statement that the ban would be backdated to January 26 due to the players prompt admission of her violation following a positive test for meldonium, a banned drug, at this years Australian Open tournament. The 29-year-old Russian, who until recently was the worlds

highest paid female athlete, said she would appeal her suspension to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), describing the punishment as unfairly harsh. Sportswear group Nike, one of her corporate sponsors which had said they would drop their support, said on Wednesday that it would continue to work with Ms Sharapova. The five-times grand slam champion sent shockwaves through the sporting world in March when she [announced](#) she had tested positive for meldonium, an endurance-enhancing drug.

243. **Eden Gardens to Host First Day-Night Test in India**

The venerable [Eden Gardens ground will play host to the first ever day-night Test](#) in the country when India take on New Zealand later this year, a senior Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) official confirmed on Thursday. The Tour Programme and Fixtures Committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday announced the fixture stating that New Zealand will play three Test matches and five One-Day Internationals. The venues for the Test matches are Indore, Kanpur and Kolkata. "We had written to the BCCI and they have accepted our request. Eden Gardens will host the day-night Test against New Zealand. This is fantastic news," a top CAB official told IANS. The New Zealand series will be followed by five Test matches, three One-Day Internationals and three T20 Internationals against England. In total, [India will be playing 13 Tests](#) in the upcoming season.

244. **Former Kerala Assembly Speaker T.S. John passes away**

Former Speaker and Minister T.S. John passed away at a private hospital at Cherthala on Thursday morning. The 76-year-old founder leader of the Kerala Congress had been reportedly ailing for some time. Mr. John became a political activist during his student days at SB College, Changanassery. An advocate by profession, he represented the Kallappara Assembly constituency four times. He was Speaker of the Assembly during 1976-77 and Minister for Food and Civil Supplies in the A.K. Antony-led Ministry in 1978. He became Minister in the succeeding Ministry led by P.K. Vasudevan Nair. Born at Kaviyoor in Thiruvalla in 1939, Mr. John became part of the Kerala Congress led by P.J. Joseph when the party split. Later, he became chairman of the Kerala Congress (Secular) led by P.C. George. In the latest round of Assembly elections, he moved away from the party and supported the UDF.

245. **“The Central Port Authorities Act 2016” to replace the “Major Port Trust Act, 1963”**

The Ministry of Shipping has prepared a draft bill The Central Port Authorities Act 2016 to replace the Major Port Trust Act, 1963. This step is being taken keeping in view the need to give more autonomy and flexibility to the Major Ports and to bring in a professional approach in their governance.

Salient Feature of the The Central Port Authorities Act 2016

The salient features of the new Bill are:

- a) Composition of board has been simplified. The board will consist of 9 members including 3 to 4 independent members instead of 17-19 under the Port Trust Model. Provisions has been made for inclusion of 3 functional heads of Major Port as Members in the Board apart from a Government Nominee Member and a Labour Nominee Member. (Section 3(2)).
- b) The disqualification of the appointment of the Members of the Board, duties of the Members and provision of the meetings of the Board through video conferencing and other visual means have been introduced on the lines of Companies Act, 2013. (section 5,10 12)
- c) Port related and non-port related use of land has been defined. A distinction has been made between these two usages in terms of approval of leases. The Port Authorities are empowered to lease land for Port related use for upto 40 years and for non-port related use upto 20 years beyond which the approval of the Central Government is required. (Section 21)
- d) The need for Government approvals for raising loans, appointment of consultants , execution of contracts and creation of service posts have been dispensed with. The Board of Port Authority have been delegated power to raise loans and issue security for the purpose of capital expenditure and working capital requirement. (Section 30)

- e) The provision for maintenance of books of account and financial statements in accordance with the accounting standards notified under the Companies Act, 2013 or as prescribed by Central Government has been provided. (Section 44)
- f) Concept of internal audit of the functions and activities of the Central Ports has been introduced on the lines of Companies Act, 2015 (Section 25)
- g) The Board of the Port Authority has been delegated the power to fix the scale of rates for service and assets. The regulation to tariff by TAMP has been removed. (Section 25)
- h) An independent Review Board has been proposed to be created to carry out the residual function of the erstwhile TAMP for Major Ports, to look into disputes between ports and PPP concessionaries, to review stressed PPP projects and suggest measures to review stressed PPP projects and suggest measures to revive such projects and to look into complaints regarding services rendered by the ports/private operators operating within the ports would be constituted. At present, there is no independent body to look into the above aspects and the Review Board will reduce the extent of litigation between PPP Operators and Ports. (Section 59)
- i) Power of Central Govt. to take over the control of the Port Authority is limited to the event of grave emergency or in case of persistent default by Port Authority in performance of their duties. (Section 53)
- j) Provisions of CSR development of infrastructure by Port Authority have been introduced. (Section 65)
- k) The status of Port Authority will be deemed as local authority under the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1887 other applicable Statutes so that it could prepare appropriate regulations in respect of the area within the port limits to the exclusion of any Central, State or local laws. (Section 66).

246. India Post launches logo and tagline design contest for IPPB on MyGov

The Department of Posts on 10.6.16 launched a logo and tagline design contest for the soon to be set up India Post Payments Bank on the MyGov website. The Cabinet has on 1st June 2016, given its nod to the setting up of the IPPB under the Department of Posts to further financial inclusion in the country.

Department of Post wants to connect with and involve the people of India in designing the DNA of the India Post Payments Bank. One of the guiding principles of the India Post Payments Bank would be cocreating value propositions and products with its customers and other stakeholders. The present contest is the first step towards this ongoing engagement. It has also initiated a nationwide survey to understand the needs of different segments of customers.

Reward: The contest is open to all Indian citizens, institutions, agencies and entities for a period of one month, until 9th July 2016. The best entry will be awarded Rs 50,000/-. A panel of eminent designers/ experts will help shortlist 20 best entries which will thereafter be put up for voting on the MyGov platform for the final selection of the winner.

About the India Post Payments Bank

The India Post Payments Bank will offer digitally enabled payments, banking and remittance services of all kinds between entities and individuals and also provide access to insurance, mutual funds, pension and credit products in partnership with third party financial service providers and Banks. It is poised to emerge as the main vehicle of financial inclusion in the country by bringing the physical reach of 1.55 lakh post offices and a modern payments platform powered by ubiquitous information and communication technologies together to create a national payments architecture that can be accessed by all users like never before. The stakeholders of the India Post Payments Bank within the Government and outside are looking at this new entity as a catalyst to social and financial inclusion. The roll out of the IPPB is to be completed by September 2017.

247. Exercise Malabar – 2016

In consonance with India's Act East Policy and growing relations among India, US and Japan, IN ships Satpura,

Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch are participating in the 20th edition of Ex MALABAR-16 with the USN and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF).

IN and USN have regularly conducted the annual bilateral exercise named MALABAR since 1992. Since 2007, MALABAR has been held alternatively off India and in the Western Pacific. The 19th edition of the exercise, Ex MALABAR-15, was conducted off Chennai and included participation by the JMSDF.

The 20th edition of the exercise, Ex MALABAR-16, is being conducted from 14 to 17 June 16 with the harbour phase at Sasebo from 10 to 13 June 16 and the sea phase in the Pacific Ocean from 14 to 17 June 16. The primary aim of this exercise is to increase interoperability amongst the three navies and develop common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations. The scope of MALABAR-16 includes professional interactions in harbour and a diverse range of activities at sea, including complex surface, sub-surface and air operations.

The IN ships participating in the exercise are from the Eastern Fleet and include INS Sahyadri and INS Satpura, indigenously built guided missile stealth frigates, INS Shakti, a modern fleet tanker and support ship and INS Kirch an indigenous guided missile corvette. The ships have embarked one Sea King 42B ASW helicopter and two Chetak utility helicopters.

The US Navy will be represented by ships from CTF 70 of the USN 7th fleet, which is based at Yokosuka, Japan. The CTF will include the aircraft carrier USS John C Stennis (CVN 74), Ticonderoga class Cruiser USS Mobile Bay and Arleigh Burke class destroyers USS Stockdale and USS Chung Hoon, all with embarked helicopters. In addition, one nuclear powered submarine, carrier wing aircraft and Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft will also participate in the exercise.

The JMSDF will be represented by JS Hyuga, a helicopter carrier with SH 60 K integral helicopters and Long Range Maritime Patrol aircraft, besides other advanced warships for specific parts of the exercise. Additionally, the Special Forces (SF) of the three navies will also interact during the exercise.

MALABAR16 will be another significant step in strengthening mutual confidence and inter-operability as well as sharing of best practices between the Indian, Japanese and US Navies. The exercise will support maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region, and benefit the global maritime community.

248. Ministry of Shipping Awards – 2015-16

In view of the excellent performance by Port Trusts during the year 2015-16, the Ministry of Shipping has rewarded the best performers. The awards were conferred during the review meeting held in Goa earlier this month. The awards were given in four categories namely:

- 1) Top Three Ports in achieving the RFD targets in 2015-16
- 2) Port with highest growth rate in traffic
- 3) Port with best improvement in efficiency parameters
- 4) Best Port to achieve the highest growth rate in operating surplus
- 5) Special Award

The winners

The winners of the above mentioned awards were:

Top Three Ports in achieving the RFD targets in 2015-16: The top three ports who achieved the RFD targets for 2015-16 were

- 1) Mormugao
- 2) V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust
- 3) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust.

Port with highest growth rate in traffic: The award for the Port with highest growth rate in traffic was given to Mormugao Port Trust. V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust came second while Kolkata Port Trust was third on the list. Mormugao port showed a 41.23 % positive variation as compared to last year. V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust showed a positive variation of 13.68% as compared to last year while Kolkata Port Trust showed a variation of 8.43 %.

Port with best improvement in efficiency parameters: Paradip Port Trust has achieved outstanding efficiency parameters among the major Ports. Vessel turn round time has been drastically reduced by 36% from 7.01 days in 2014-15 to 4.50 days during 2015-16. Similarly, berth day output has also increased by 19% from 17,736 metric tonnes to 21,139 metric tonnes.

Best Port to achieve the highest growth rate in operating surplus : This award was bagged by Cochin Port Trust which showed a massive increase of 230% as compared to 2014-15. The operating surplus in 2014-15 in case of Cochin Port Trust was 20 which jumped to 66 in 2015-16.

Special Award: A special award was conferred to Kandla Port Trust for achieving 100MT traffic in 2015-16.

These awards were given away by the Minister for Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari.

249. Green Port initiatives at Cochin

The World Environment Day was celebrated in Cochin Port Trust with various programmes including planting of saplings, awareness class on Environment Protection Act and Rules etc. Shri G. Senthilvel, Chairman and Heads of Department planted saplings near Samudhika Convention Centre. Ms. Rameena, Assistant Engineer, Pollution Control Board, Kerala State conducted the awareness class for employees. Cochin Port Trust also proposes planting of 500 saplings in the port area and office premises during this monsoon season.

Cochin Port has been promoting several GREEN PORT initiatives which include:

1. Cold Frontage Shore Power supply has been introduced at the berths
2. Construction of a Septage Treatment Plant is in progress at South end of Willingdon Island.
3. Effluent Treatment Plant has been established in the Cochin Port Trust Hospital.
4. Bio Gas Plant has been installed in the CISF Barrack complex.
5. Action has been initiated for establishment of a 150 KW Solar Power Plant on the roof top of Port Substation, installation of Bio Gas Plant in the Nursing School and a Vermi Compost Plant in Willingdon Island.
6. The Port has also decided to lease out land in Willingdon Island for Organic Farming.

250. Union Government released the Road Accidents in India 2015 Report

The Minister of Road Transport Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari launched the report Road Accidents in India 2015 in New Delhi today. Road accidents have emerged as a major public health problem globally, and more so in India where almost 5 lakh accidents occurred last year, killing 1,46,000 people and leaving thrice the number injured. With one of the highest motorization growth rate in the world, accompanied by rapid expansion in road network and urbanization over the years, our country is faced with serious impacts on road safety levels. According to the report compiled by the Transport Research Wing, the total number of road accidents increased by 2.5 per cent from 4,89,400 in 2014 to

5,01,423 in 2015. The total number of persons killed in road accidents increased by 4.6 per cent from 1,39,671 in 2014 to 1,46,133 in 2015. Road accident injuries have also increased by 1.4 per cent from 4,93,474 in 2014 to 5,00,279 in 2015. The severity of road accidents, measured in terms of number of persons killed per 100 accidents has increased from 28.5 in 2014 to 29.1 in 2015. The analysis of road accident data 2015 reveals that about 1,374 accidents and 400 deaths take place every day on Indian roads which further translates into 57 accidents and loss of 17 lives on an average every hour in our country. About 54.1 per cent of all persons killed in road accidents were in the 15 -34 years age group during the year 2015. Thirteen top states namely Tamil Nadu (69,059), Maharashtra (63,805), Madhya Pradesh (54,947), Karnataka (44,011), Kerala (39,014), Uttar Pradesh (32,385), Andhra Pradesh (24,258), Rajasthan (24,072), Gujarat (23,183), Telengana (21,252), Chattisgarh (14,446), West Bengal (13,208) and Haryana (11,174) together accounted for 86.7 per cent of all road accidents in the country. Around 83.6 per cent of all road accidents fatalities also occurred in the top thirteen states. The fifty Million Plus Cities accounted for a share of 22.1 per cent in total road accidents in the country, 11.3 per cent in total persons killed in road accidents and 16.4 per cent in total persons injured in road accidents. Mumbai had the highest number of road accidents (23,468) while Delhi had the highest number of deaths (1622) due to road accidents. Accident severity in terms of percentage share of 50 Million Cities was 14.9 per cent in 2015 as against 15.0 per cent in 2014. Drivers fault has been revealed as the single most responsible factor for road accidents, accounted for 77.1 per cent of total road accidents during 2015 as against 78.8 per cent during 2014. Within the category of drivers fault, road accidents caused and persons killed due to exceeding lawful speed/over speeding by drivers accounted for a share of 62.2 per cent (2,40,463 out of 3,86,481 accidents) and 61.0 per cent (64,633 out of 1,06,021 deaths) respectively. Speaking on the occasion the Minister reiterated India's resolve and commitment as a signatory to the Brasilia Declaration, to reduce the number of road accidents and fatalities by 50 per cent by 2020. He dwelt at length on the various measures being taken in this direction, including steps like rectifying black spots, incorporating engineering solutions at the design stage, safety standards for automobiles, proper trauma care and generating public awareness.

251. Suresh Prabhu flags off Champaran Satyagrah Express train in Bihar

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off Champaran Satyagrah Express train at a function in Motihari, Bihar. This train will run between Bapudham, Motihari to Anand Vihar, Delhi. The Minister also inaugurated Banmankhi - Purnea rail section and Pipraha Railway Station.

The Champaran Satyagrah Express Train has been flagged off on the occasion of 100th anniversary of Champaran Satyagrah. It will run on one day in a week. Then Later, at the inauguration function only, he has also inaugurated road over bridges at Motihar, Begusarai, and Danapur through video conferencing.

252. Delhi CM sets up committee to look into matters related to water bodies

Delhi Chief Minister [Arvind Kejriwal](#) today constituted a high-level committee under the chairmanship of PWD Minister Satvendar Jain to look into matters related to water bodies in the national capital. Water Minister Kapil Mishra and Environment Forests Minister Imran Hussain will be members of the committee. The CEO of Delhi Jal Board, Keshav Chandra will be its Member Secretary. A senior government official said the committee will look into matters related to water bodies in Delhi and issues related to taking necessary steps like site inspections, proper identification/confirmation of water bodies for updated inventory, suggesting suitable recommendations to restore them, rain water harvesting for the benefit of water bodies along with their development and beautification plan on targeted basis for all the water bodies-owning agencies. The official said the move is in reference to the NGT's June 3 judgment on Society for Protection of Culture Heritage, Environment, Traditions Promotions of National Awareness (CHETNA) vs. Union of India Ors.

253. NIIF and Qatar Investment Authority inked MoU to boost infrastructure investments

With a view to attract investments from Qatar, the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Ltd has signed a memorandum of understanding with Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), which is the sovereign wealth fund of Qatar. This MoU was signed on June 5 by Abdullah Bin Mohamed Al Thani, CEO of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), and Amar Sinha, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, on behalf of NIIF Ltd. It was signed during the recent visit of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Doha on June 4 and 5. The objective of the MoU is to facilitate QIA to study investment opportunities in the infrastructure sector in India and develop a framework for exchange of information with regard to such investment opportunities in order to enable both sides to decide on joint investments. This MoU will remain in effect for 12 months during which period both parties will discuss and agree on

the terms, principles and criteria for such investments. The NIIF will share with QIA a pipeline of investment opportunities available in the infrastructure sector in India, an official release said.

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

[Axis Bank](#) today raised \$500 million at the London Stock Exchange after it launched India's first internationally-listed certified [green bond](#) to [finance](#) climate change solutions around the world.

One of India's leading private sector capital markets banks opened trading at the London Stock Exchange (LSE) with the bond, which is certified by the Climate Bonds Standards Board and raised \$500 million.

Axis Bank said the proceeds of the bond will be invested in green energy, transportation and [infrastructure](#) projects, reinforcing India's commitment to produce 175,000 MW of renewable power by 2022.

"London Stock Exchange is a world leader in green bond listings, home to [international](#) green finance from India and China. In partnership with the [UK](#) government, we remain committed to building London as the premier centre for green bond issuance and green finance and look forward to further collaboration with Axis Bank, as it continues to strengthen its presence in the UK and globally," said Nikhil Rathi, CEO of London Stock Exchange PLC and Director of International Development, London Stock Exchange Group.

He described Axis Bank as a "long standing and distinguished equity issuer" on London Stock Exchange with the latest issuance building on the "far-reaching announcements made during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit strengthening financial ties between the UK and India" in last November.

This is the first green bond for Axis Bank within its \$5 billion Medium Term Note (MTN) programme, which has also listed entirely on LSE.

Shikha Sharma, managing director CEO of Axis Bank, said: "We, at Axis Bank, have always demonstrated our commitment to fostering a green and sustainable environment through our various initiatives. In addition to putting in place 'sustainable lending' practices on the lending side, Axis has also taken measures at its corporate office and branches to promote a green footprint".

"To further progress on this journey, Axis Bank launched and successfully completed the first certified Green Bond issue, the issue we are pleased to list on the London Stock Exchange today," she said.

"The encouraging response to this issue is reflective of the keenness of global investors to promote and support a sustainable environment and also acknowledge Axis's credibility in this space.

The ease of the listing process and breadth of investors seen in this bond issuance demonstrates the role London Stock Exchange can play in supporting India's financing needs. She added.

To celebrate the listing, Rathi also welcomed Indian-origin Alok Sharma MP, British Prime Minister David Cameron's Infrastructure Envoy to India, to open trading at LSE.

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

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$100 million loan to strengthen a key irrigation system and improve water management in the Vennar subbasin of the Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu one of India's most water-stressed states. The delta river basin is a critical source of water for agriculture, both within Tamil Nadu and neighboring states, but a lack of investment over many years has left irrigation systems unable to meet user demand and increasingly vulnerable to floods and droughts. Much of India is currently reeling from its worst drought in decades, sparked by an extreme El Niño weather pattern, and this is forecast to give way to a La Niña system that could potentially bring above average monsoon rains in 2016, heightening flood risks. The Vennar irrigation network is no longer able to meet the needs of many of its poorest farmers particularly in coastal areas, and the climate extremes that have been battering the country and are expected to worsen mean there is a pressing need to upgrade it, said Manjula Amerasinghe,

Project Management Specialist in ADBs South Asia Department. This project will support both physical improvements and stronger water management, giving a significant boost to the lives of coastal communities who often go without sufficient irrigation water. The project will strengthen the embankments of six major irrigation water channels in the Vennar system to make them more resilient to floods and upgrade water regulators, sluices and pump stations. To boost management, more community members will be tapped to take part in planning and delivery of water services, training will given to state water resource department officers, and flood forecasting and warning systems and flood risks maps will also be drawn up to help communities respond more proactively and effectively to extreme events. A feasibility study will also be carried out to examine the potential for similar improvements elsewhere in the Cauvery delta in a follow up project. The work is expected to be completed in December 2020. The Cauvery delta, on the east coast of Tamil Nadu, is known as the rice bowl of the state, with over 70% of the delta population engaged in farming and fishing, but access to water is unreliable and flooding common during the monsoon season. This is expected to worsen as climate change intensifies with projections that storm rainfall could increase by 19%, the sea level could rise by up to 0.87 meters by 2100, and maximum temperatures could increase by as much as 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050. The Cauvery River flows through the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and part of the Union Territory of Puducherry, with over half the catchment area in Tamil Nadu. ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, ADB in December 2016 will mark 50 years of development partnership in the region. It is owned by 67 members 48 from the region. In 2015, ADB assistance totaled \$27.2 billion, including cofinancing of \$10.7 billion.

256. Akhil Sharma wins a ₹100,000 Dublin International literary award

A second novel, which cost its author years of hardship and emotional stress to write, is the winner of this years International Dublin Literary Award, out of an initial 160 nominations. Indian American Akhil Sharmas Family Life, an autobiographical account of the tragedy which devastated his parents and left him adrift throughout his childhood, was announced as the 21st winner of the 100,000 prize. Although Family Life had also won the Folio Prize last year, Sharmas win is unexpected considering the popular support for Marlon James brashly obvious 2015 Man Booker winner, A Brief History of Seven Killings and the magisterial presence on the short list of Marilynne Robinson with her acclaimed Lila. However most surprising of all, is the overlooking of German writer Jenny Erpenbecks profound and moving five variations of one womans potential life un-lived, The End of Days, translated by [Susan Bernofsky](#). Another superb contender was Brazilian Michel Laubs Diary of The Fall, translated by Margaret Jull Costa.

257. Tata Power Solar bags MNRE award

Tata Power Solar has bagged the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) award for rooftop solar power projects. The company has won in the Channel Partner/EPC contractor category at the National Excellence Awards 2016 instituted by MNRE for the first time. According to Ashish Khanna, ED and CEO, Tata Power Solar, as per MNRE, the awards are presented to encourage efficiency and give positive feedback to various government bodies as well as private sector. Tata Power Solar has commissioned 112.5 MW of rooftop projects till 2016. Rooftop power plants are expected to constitute 40 per cent of the Governments 100 GW target solar capacity to be achieved by 2022. Recently, MNRE announced a 30 per cent subsidy for all residential and non-profit organisations installing rooftop solar.

258. G.Kalyanakrishnan new Chief Executive of NFC

G Kalyanakrishnan, Distinguished Scientist, has taken over as Chief Executive, Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad today. He succeeds N Saibaba, who has retired on completion of two years of extended period of service. Kalyanakrishnan will also be the Chairman of the NFC Board. Prior to this assignment, he was the Deputy Chief Executive. He has vast experience in erection commissioning as well as operation of Heavy Water Plants. He has also contributed in the successful commissioning of Zirconium Complex (ZC a Unit of NFC) at Pazhayakalay, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu and in achieving its nameplate capacity of 250 MT in the shortest time. A chemical engineer from the Regional Engineering College, Warangal in 1980, Kalyanakrishnan has joined the 24th batch of 1980-81 Training School of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai.

259. Researchers in Assam developed two rice variants for submerged areas

Researchers at Assam Agricultural University have developed two rice varieties, namely Ranjit Sub-1 and Bahadur Sub-1. These rice varieties were developed to get better yields under submerged conditions in state mainly Barak Valley.

Most parts of the state including Barak valley is prone to periodical flash floods particularly during the monsoon season. These are ideally suited for such submerged areas in the khariff season. These new rice variants are improved forms of the Ranjit and Bahadur varieties which the farmers of the state have been using for years. An additional gene has been incorporated in the new variants which ensure productivity even if the crops remain submerged during flash floods.

260. Pakistan tops in 2016 Malware Infection Index

At least four out of ten computers in Asia-Pacific countries with Pakistan on top are likely to be infected with malware, a study by Microsoft has found. Out of the top five locations across the globe most at risk of infection, a total of four is from the Asia Pacific Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Nepal, topping the rankings at first, second, fourth and fifth places respectively. The Asia-Pacific region is especially vulnerable to emerging markets most at risk of malware threats, the study has found. While Pakistan tops the list of countries figuring in the Malware Infection Index 2016, India ranks 8th on the list. The index, which was released on Tuesday, identifies the key malware threats in the region and ranks markets in Asia-Pacific according to how much they are affected. The index has also identified the top three most encountered malware as Gamarue, a malicious computer worm that is commonly distributed via exploit kits and social engineering; and Skeeyah and Peals which are trojans that try to look innocent to convince you to install them, the index reveals. This malware can steal your personal information, download more malware, or give a malicious hacker access to your PC. The findings are based on data from the Microsoft Malware Protection Center (MMPC) and the Microsoft Security Intelligence Report (SIRv20), said Keshav Dhakad, regional director, IP and digital crimes unit, Microsoft Asia. More than forty per cent of computers in the 19 countries in Asia-Pacific region are infected against the global average being around 20 per cent, Microsoft has claimed. In fact, the Windows Defender Advanced Threat Hunting team in April reported the discovery of a group of cybercriminals, dubbed PLATINUM, who have actively been targeting governmental organisations, defence institutes, intelligence agencies, and telecommunication providers in South and Southeast Asia since 2009. Gamarue is particularly prevalent in the ASEAN region and was the third most commonly encountered malware family worldwide in 2H 2015. Certain heavily affected locations such as Indonesia reported Gamarue encounter rates of over 20 percent in 4Q 2015.

261. Names of 4 new Periodic Table elements announced

Nihonium, moscovium, tennessine, and oganesson are the recommended names for elements 113, 115, 117, and 118, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) announced today. IUPAC officially added the elements to the periodic table at the end of 2015. Those credited with discovering the elements get the rights to propose permanent names and symbols. The names will be finalized after [public review](#) and formal approval by the IUPAC Council. According to recommendations published by IUPAC in April, elements can be named after a mythological concept, a mineral, a place or country, a property, or a scientist (Pure Appl. Chem. 2016, DOI: [10.1515/pac-2015-0802](#)). Element names should also have an ending that reflects and maintains historical and chemical consistency, the recommendations say. This would be in general -ium for elements belonging to groups 116, i.e. including the f-block elements, -ine for elements of group 17 and -on for elements of group 18. Japan's [RIKEN research institution](#) was credited with discovering element 113. Nihonium (Nh) comes from Nihon, which is one of two ways to say Japan in Japanese. It is the first element discovered in and named after an Asian country.

262. India, Japan and US begin Malabar Exercise near South China Sea

India, Japan and the US kicked off their marine war games, Malabar Exercise, near South China Sea. The 8-day joint exercises will see in action over 100 aircraft and 22 naval ships including a nuclear submarine.

The exercise assumes significance as it is being conducted close to South China Sea at a time when Chinese assertiveness in the region is a raging issue. It aims to achieve deeper military ties and greater interoperability amid rising tensions in the region.

The Indian Navy said that their four ships are participating in the 20th edition of the naval exercise in consonance with India's 'Act East Policy' and growing ties among the three countries.

The Navy said, the exercise will support maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region and benefit the global maritime community.

India and the US have regularly conducted the annual exercise since 1992. Since 2007, Malabar has been held alternatively off India and in the Western Pacific. Last year, it was conducted off Chennai and included participation of Japan.

While the harbour phase of the exercise started yesterday at Sasebo, the sea phase in the Pacific Ocean will be held from June 14 to 17.

Indian ships participating in the exercise are from the Eastern Fleet and include INS Sahyadri and INS Satpura, indigenously built guided missile stealth frigates, INS Shakti, a modern fleet tanker and support ship, and INS Kirch, an indigenous guided missile corvette. Additionally, the Special Forces (SF) of the three navies will also interact during the exercise.

263. Govt announces passenger friendly measures in civil aviation sector

Government today announced a few passenger friendly measures in the civil aviation sector including adequate compensation in case of flight cancellation. Addressing media persons in New Delhi, Minister for Civil Aviation Ashok Gajapathi Raju said airlines will be made to offer ten thousand rupees as compensation in case of flight cancellation within 24 hours.

He said regulations are being made to improve facilities for the differently-abled people. Their compensation will be enhanced upto 20 thousand rupees in case of denied boarding. He said the airlines would also have to ensure that refunds are processed within 15 days for domestic passengers.

Mr Raju said the rule will be applicable even in the case when the tickets are booked by the passengers through travel agents or online portals. He said that the cancellation amount cannot exceed the basic fare and there shall be no additional charge to process the refund.

The Minister said the refunds will be applicable on all fares including promotional and special fares. However, the onus will be on passenger to decide the amount to be received in cash or credit.

Mr Raju also said excess baggage of upto 5 kg beyond 15 kg will not to be charged more than 100 rupees per kg.

264. More than 80 % of world's population lives under light-polluted skies

A study suggests that more than 80 per cent of the world's population lives under light-polluted skies. German scientists explain in Science Advance how ground measurements and satellite data were used to create an atlas of a world brightened by artificial lights. It reveals that the population of Singapore, Kuwait and Qatar experience the brightest night skies. Conversely, people living in Chad, Central African Republic and Madagascar are least affected by light pollution. Scientists in Potsdam say that the artificial light in our environment is coming from a lot of different things.

265. China plans to build deep sea lab to look for minerals under sea bed

China is planning to build a deep sea lab to look for minerals under the sea bed. According to a proposal presented by the Chinese Science Ministry, the lab will be placed about 3,000 meters deep and provide long-time living and working space for scientists looking for sources of oil, natural gas and valuable minerals. The idea was included in the current five-year economic plan but Bloomberg news reports that after a recent review, authorities moved it to second place on the government's list of 100 science and technology priorities. China has not disclosed the possible location of the lab, but the Communist-led country has been asserting its power in disputed areas of the South China Sea. Although such a lab can also have military objectives, a senior researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Xu Liping, said that its purpose will be mainly civilian. In spite of the recent slowdown, China's economy is still looking for new sources of raw materials and the deep sea remains one of the world's least explored areas.

266. V Vaithialingam elected unopposed as Speaker of Puducherry Assembly

In Puducherry, Congress leader and former Chief Minister V Vaithialingam was today elected unopposed as the Speaker of the legislative Assembly. He has been the Chief Minister of the Union Territory twice.

Pro-tem Speaker VP Shivakozhuthu was declared elected unopposed as the Deputy Speaker. The newly elected Speaker and Deputy Speaker were led to their respective seats by Chief Minister V Narayanasamy and leaders of other political parties. The main opposition NR Congress kept off the session.

Narayanasamy lauded the new Speaker for the good work he has done in his capacities as an MLA, Chief Minister and Opposition leader. He has always been empathetic to common man and the underprivileged, the Chief Minister said.

267. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation gets award for Smart City strategy

The Canadian Institute of Planners, a professional institute working for effective planning on land use, has awarded Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation under planning excellence merit category. The award has been given to Odisha capital city for its Smart City strategy.

According to the Institute, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has played a pivotal role in redefining existing planning processes.

268. Assam govt to give incentives to industrialists investing in state

The Assam government has decided to give incentives to those industrialists who will invest in the state.

Talking to news persons in Guwahati today, Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said that in a bid to woo businessmen to the state, the new government has recently passed the Assam Ease of Doing Business bill.

He said that the Assam government is mulling to set up Land Bank and Special Economic Zones.

269. Sikkim becomes India's 1st State to launch open govt data portal

Sikkim on Saturday claimed to become the first state in India to have an open government data portal.

Lok Sabha MP, P D Rai launched the open government data portal 'Sikkim.data.gov.in' and Open Government Data Platform on Saturday.

State IT officials said, on the open government data portal, data produced or commissioned by the government or government controlled entities can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone.

270. SEBI issues stricter KYC, disclosure norms for P-Notes

Markets regulator SEBI has put in place a stricter KYC norms and disclosure regime for Participatory Notes. The aim is to make it tougher to use these offshore instruments without disclosing the money-trail and details of their users. The measure comes after taking into account suggestions from SIT on black money to ensure this route is not used for money laundering.

Under the new norms, all the users of P-Notes would have to follow Indian KYC and Anti Money Laundering Regulations, irrespective of their jurisdictions. The P-Note issuers will be required to file suspicious transaction reports with the Indian Financial Intelligence Unit.

271. India, EFTA agree to address issues to resume FTA talks

India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) today agreed to resolve the outstanding issues for resumption of long-stalled negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement.

A meeting between the chief negotiators of India and EFTA was held in New Delhi to take stock of the ongoing negotiations for Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement. The four EFTA members are Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

The proposed pact covers trade in goods and services, market access for investments, protection of intellectual property

and public procurement. According to an official release, both sides expressed their willingness to jointly address the major outstanding issues and agreeing to an early resumption of negotiations and concluding a balanced agreement in a time-bound manner.

The trade pact talks had started in 2008 and so far, 13 rounds of negotiations have been held at the level of chief negotiators.

The last round of negotiations was held in November 2013 and thereafter the negotiations have remained suspended. The negotiations were stuck on some issues related with intellectual property rights.

272. Industrial production shrinks 0.8% in April this year

The country's industrial production shrank 0.8 per cent in April this year, dragged down by a poor performance of the manufacturing and capital goods sectors.

Factory output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production, IIP, had expanded 3 percent in April last year. Data released by the Central Statistics Office showed that the manufacturing sector, which constitutes over 75 per cent of the index, contracted 3.1 per cent in April this year.

Capital goods output--a barometer of investment--shrank a hefty 24.9 per cent during the month. Overall consumer goods output dipped 1.2 per cent in April, while consumer non-durable production fell 9.7 percent.

But production of consumer durables jumped 11.8 per cent, and electricity generation surged 14.6 per cent during the month.

273. Legendary Canadian ice hockey player Gordie Howe dies

Legendary Canadian ice hockey player Gordie Howe, who was nicknamed Mr Hockey has died at the age of 88. Howe spent most of his career with the Detroit Red Wings, winning the Stanley Cup four times. He was in the top 10 of scorers for 21 consecutive years and was named most valuable player six times before finally retiring in 1980. Howe was also named an NHL All Star 23 times and was inducted into the hockey Hall of Fame in 1972.

274. Leander Paes to partner Rohan Bopanna at Rio 2016 Olympics

Veteran tennis player Leander Paes on Saturday got the nod for his seventh Olympic appearance after the All India Tennis Association, AITA paired him with Rohan Bopanna for the men's doubles competition.

Announcing the squad for the Olympics, beginning on 5th August, AITA chief Anil Khanna said Bopanna will be pairing up with Sania Mirza in the mixed doubles event.

In the women's doubles event, Sania will team up with Prarthana Thombare.

The committee also decided to nominate Rohan Bopanna and Sania Mirza in the mixed doubles competition.

275. What are Micro- Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)?

The Micro- Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are small sized entities which are defined in terms of their size of investment and is significantly contributing output, employment export etc. in the economy. They perform a critical role in the economy by providing employment to a large number of unskilled and semi-skilled people, contributing to exports, raising manufacturing sector production and extending support to bigger industries by supplying raw material, basic goods, finished parts and components, etc. As per the MSME at a Glance Report of the Ministry of MSMEs, the sector consists of 36 million units and provides employment to over 80 million persons. The Sector produces more than 6,000 products contributing to about 8% of GDP besides 45% to the total manufacturing output and 40% to the exports from the country. How MSMEs are classified? The MSMEs are classified in terms of investment made in plant and machineries if they are operating in the manufacturing sector and investment in equipment for service sector companies. Though the primary responsibility of promotion and development of MSMEs is of the State Governments, the center has passed an Act in 2006 to empower the sector and also has formed a Ministry (Ministry of MSMEs). It was the Micro,

Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act which was notified in 2006 that defined the three tier of micro, small and medium enterprises and set investment limits. Table: Classification of MSMEs

Classification of the MSME	Ceiling on Investment in Plant and Machinery (in Rs)
Micro	Below 25 lakhs
Small	25 lakhs to 5 crores
Medium	5 crores to 10 crores

For the service sector, the investment limits are Rs 10 lakh, 2 crores and 5 crores in terms of investment made in equipment. In 2015, the government has introduced an amendment bill to enhance the investment limit in all categories.

276. World Day Against Child Labour - 12 June

2016 Theme: End child labour in supply chains - It's everyone's business! The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them. This year, the focus for World Day Against Child Labour is on child labour and supply chains. With 168 million children still in child labour, all supply chains, from agriculture to manufacturing, services to construction, run the risk that child labour may be present. To support businesses in their actions to remove child labour from their supply chains, the ILO and the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) have jointly created the [Child Labour Guidance Tool](#), a resource for companies to increase their knowledge and ability to conduct business in line with international labour standards on child labour. A high-level event to mark the World Day held on 8 June 2016 in the Human Rights Council room of the Palais des Nations from. The event took place during the [105th Session of the International Labour Conference](#)

277. President to embark on three-day visit to Ghana, Ivory Coast & Namibia

President Pranab Mukherjee today embarked on a six day three-nation tour to Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Namibia. On the first leg of his visit, Mr Mukherjee will reach the Ghanaian capital Accra later this evening. Earlier, talking to AIR, Minister of State in PMO, Dr Jitender Singh said, the visit assumes importance as its the first tour ever by any Indian President to Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. He said, the world expects leadership role from India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the international community. Mr Singh, who is part of the delegation accompanying the President, said, India believes in inclusive approach and this visit is to take on board African nations on various issues. Our correspondent covering the President's visit reports that during his stay in Accra, Mr Mukherjee will hold talks with his Ghana counterpart John Mahama on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

278. Actor Achyut Lahkar passes away

In Assam, the pioneer of mobile theatre, actor Achyut Lahkar passed away this morning at his residence at Pathsala in Barpeta district. He was 85 years old. He started Natraj Theatre in 1963. It gave a new dimension to the Assamese drama movement. Now Assam has over 50 number of mobile theatre groups. Some of his famous dramas are -Black Money, Usha, Sankardev and Doctor Babu. He also directed several plays. Several cine stars and organizations have expressed condolence over the demise of Lahkar.

279. Odisha Government, Save the Children organise event on world day against child labour

Save the children, Labour Directorate and Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) organised an event on the 12th of June to commemorate world day against child labour as part of the Raahgiri Diwas. In order to addressing Child labour, Government of Odisha has taken specific step like development of an Integrated Action Plan to eliminate child labour in convergence with all relevant departments and stakeholders. Many civil society organisations are also working on the issue still Child Labour exists. It is 15th year since the International Labour Organization (ILO) decided to mark 12th June as a World Day Against Child Labour, but the situation in India still have not changed much for those children who are still forced to work as domestic helps, factory labourers, agriculture labourers or at home based work like bidi rolling or incense stick rolling etc. Enforcement of existing law is essential but society has a vital role to play to stop child labour. Children should be given enough space and care to avail their rights. It is a fact that millions of children are denied their constitutional rights, whether it is the Right to (free and compulsory) education, prohibition from forced labour or employment of child labour in hazardous occupation. And we need to change the situation together said Shri Prafulla Kumar Mallick, Minister of State (Ind. Charge), Labour and Employees State Insurance Department, Govt. of Odisha. Shri Anant Narayan Jena, Mayor, BMC expressed that the dream of the smart city is only possibly if we as responsible citizens make and effort together to prevent child labour in any form in our own surroundings and

neighbourhood. Dr. Soumya Kanta Mishra, Assistant Manager, Save the Children said Child labour free India and Odisha is a dream for us and we do believe that it is not impossible. Even after India signed UN CRC in 1989, still the situation is unchanged as India is having the largest number of child labourers in world. In order to make concrete changes in the situation all of us need to come together and address the issues in a collaborative manner. Guests on dais also released the newsletter Sishu Sampad developed by the State Labour Institute. 20 children also participated in drawing competition during the event. A puppet show on the issue of child labour was staged by an organization Kandhei Ghara. Among others Honble MP Bhubaneswar Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Honble MLA, Bhubaneswar North Shri Priyadarshi Mishra, Dr. B. B. Acharya, SPC-SRC, Labour Directorate, Odisha, Souri Bandhu Kar, General Secretary, AITUC, Odisha, Ms. Sandhyabati Pradhan, Member, Odisha Child Protection Commission, Smt Rajlaxmi Dash of OSCPCR, Shri. Sudhir Sabat, State Convenor CACL, and Ms. Moitrayee Mondal, Advocacy, Campaigns and Communication Coordinator, Save the Children have anchored the programme.

280. China witnessing heavy downpours over three-day Dragon Boat Festival

In China, vast parts of south and east parts of the country are witnessing heavy downpours over the three-day Dragon Boat Festival. The Meteorological authority forecast torrential rainfall will hit the south in the coming week, warning residents and travellers to take safety precautions. China has seen the heaviest rainfall in 43 years during the flood season, which started in March. Storms in south and east China have disrupted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people over the past two weeks, forcing many homes to be evacuated and causing extensive damage.

281. Saina Nehwal lifts Australian Open Super Series Badminton trophy

Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal has lifted the Australian Open Super Series Badminton tournament title. In the final match played at Sydney today, Saina defeated Chinese Sun Yu to claim her first title of year 2016.

The match went see saw, as both won a set each and the decider set was won by Saina. In the first set the Chinese took lead 11-21, and Saina took the second set 21-14 and third was won by Saina 21-19.

In the semi-finals yesterday, while Seventh Seeded Saina easily saw off higher placed Chinese Yihan Wang, Sun stunned compatriot and third seed Xuenu Li.

282. Sex Workers, HIV Patients To Get Rice At Rs. 2 Per kg In West Bengal

In a first, the West Bengal government has decided to provide rice at Rs. two per kg to sex workers and poor HIV patients in the state.

"This project is the brainchild of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. For the first time in the country, a state government has decided that sex workers and poor HIV patients will be given rice at Rs. 2 per Kg," state Food and Supplies Minister Jyotipriyo Mullick told PTI in Kolkata. Poor leprosy patients, deaf and dumb children in various homes will also be included in the scheme and in the first phase, about one lakh beneficiaries from across the state will be identified for the purpose, the minister said in an interview.

The state food department, he said, is all set to start a survey in a few days to identify sex workers and HIV positive patients in the state.

"The survey will be completed in the next six months and the implementation of the project will start from January next year," Jyotipriyo Mullick said.

"We have seen how old and ill sex workers suffer at times. So this project of providing them rice at a subsidized rate will help them to some extent. The same applies for poor HIV patients in the state," he said.

The survey would be first carried out in the red light areas of the state such as Sonagachhi in the city. It would be done by officials of the food department in coordination with local authorities.

"To identify HIV positive patients, we will appoint a food department official in all the state-run hospitals. We will collect the data from the hospital and send those details to the health department for further verification," Jyotipriyo Mullick said.

Once the verification is complete, ration card numbers of the HIV positive patients will be put into the data bank of the food department so that they can avail rice at Rs. 2 per Kg from nearby ration shops, he said.

283. Usain Bolt wins 100m in 9.88 seconds at Racers Grand Prix

Triple World and Olympic champion Usain Bolt graced local fans with a blistering season's best run of 9.88 seconds to win the men's 100 metres at the inaugural Jamaica National Racers Grand Prix now on at the National Stadium. His is the second fastest time this year in the event. Bolt, the world's fastest man, won ahead of Nickel Ashmeade (9.94s) and his Racers Track Club team-mate Yohan Blake (9.94s) in a positive 1.0 metres per second wind speed here on Sunday. Former World record holder Asafa Powell finished fourth in a time of 9.98s. The highly anticipated event, which was the highlight of the meet, did not disappoint the spectators in the almost-packed stadium. Bolt, running from lane four, stumbled out of the blocks but the towering figure quickly recovered and burst through the middle of Powell and Blake, who were in lanes three and five, respectively. Ashmeade, out in lane eight, closed well to separate the big trio in what was a blanket finish for the minor places.

284. Priyanka Chopra nominated in Teen Choice Awards

Actress Priyanka Chopra has been nominated for her stint as FBI trainee Alex Parrish in American TV series "Quantico" at the 2016 Teen Choice Awards.

The 33-year-old actress bagged the final nomination in the Choice TV Breakout Star category.

An elated Priyanka took to Twitter to express her delight.

"So fun! Thank you #TeenChoice for the

#ChoiceTvBreakOutStar nomination for #Quantico. Excited, grateful @TeenChoiceFOX," she wrote.

The show revolves around a group of young Federal Bureau of Investigation recruits, who are training at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

In the past, her debut role on an international TV show made her win the Favourite Actress title in a New TV series award at the People's Choice Awards 2016.

285. International Albinism Awareness Day - 13 June 2016

People with albinism face multiple forms of discrimination worldwide. Albinism is still profoundly misunderstood, socially and medically. The physical appearance of persons with albinism is often the object of erroneous beliefs and myths influenced by superstition, which foster their marginalization and social exclusion. This leads to various forms of stigma and discrimination. In some communities, erroneous beliefs and myths, heavily influenced by superstition, put the security and lives of persons with albinism at constant risk. These beliefs and myths are centuries old and are present in cultural attitudes and practices around the world. On 18 December 2014, the General Assembly adopted a [resolution](#) proclaiming, with effect from 2015, 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day. The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a [resolution in 2013](#) calling for the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism. Moreover, in response to the call from civil society organizations advocating to consider persons with albinism as a specific group with particular needs that require special attention, on 26 March 2015, the Council created the mandate of Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism.

286. 92K Houses to be Built Under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana in Odisha

State Government of Odisha has set a target of constructing about 2.5 Lakh houses in the state within next one year. The housing units will be constructed in rural areas for the rural poor in the state. Out of the total 2.5 Lakh total houses to be built, state government will develop 1.20 Lakh homes under the centrally sponsored housing scheme [Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana](#). About 92 thousand homes will be developed under the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana which is sponsored by the state itself. According to the sources, the state government given its instructions to to all district collectors to ensure the successful implementation of the scheme. [Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana](#) aims to convert all the kutcha houses in the state to Pucca House (Cemented Home). State Panchayati Raj department of the state has also announced

the incentives for timely completion of the construction for homes. The cost of construction of pucca home with a minimum built up area of 20 Sq.Mt. excluding the toilet is Rs. 70,000/- for non IAP districts and 75,000/- for IAP districts. The cost can be revised by the state government time to time.

287. Scientists turn CO₂ into rock to combat climate change

Scientists have turned carbon dioxide into stone in a matter of months by pumping it deep underground, offering a revolutionary new way of storing the greenhouse gas to tackle climate change. The pioneering experiment in Iceland mixed CO emissions with water and pumped it hundreds of metres underground into volcanic basalt rock where it rapidly turned into a solid. We need to deal with rising carbon emissions. This is the ultimate permanent storage turn them back to stone, said Juerg Matter, lead author of the study, which was published Thursday in the journal Science. Carbon dioxide is a key factor in global warming, and experts have long called for innovative carbon capture and storage solutions. Attempt in aquifers

Previous attempts to inject CO into sandstone soils or deep saline aquifers have struggled, as they relied on capping rocks to hold the gas down triggering fears it could eventually leak. In contrast, the Carbfix project at Iceland's Hellisheidi plant the world's largest geothermal facility, which powers Reykjavik sought to solidify the CO₂. The plant produces 40,000 tons of CO a year just five percent of the emissions of a similarly sized coal plant, but still significant. In 2012, they began pumping 250 tons of CO mixed with water underground. Scientists had feared it could take hundreds or even thousands of years for the mildly acidic liquid to solidify. But 95 per cent of the injected mixture which they had tagged with tracer chemicals in order to check it didn't leak out had become chalky white stone within two years. It was a very welcome surprise, said Edda Aradottir, who heads the project for Reykjavik Energy. Encouraged by the success, the company has scaled up the project and from this summer will be burying some 10,000 tonnes of CO each year, Ms. Aradottir said. This means that we can pump down large amounts of CO and store it in a very safe way over a very short period of time, said study co-author Martin Stute, a hydrologist at Columbia University's Earth Observatory. In the future, we could think of using this for power plants in places where there's a lot of basalt and there are many such places. It's what we hoped for ... and in some ways better, said David Goldberg, a Columbia University geophysicist who wasn't part of the team but praised it. What's going on here is a natural process being accelerated. A 2014 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that without carbon sequestration technology, adequately limiting global warming could prove impossible. On seafloors

Basalt makes up most of the world's seafloors and approximately 10 per cent of continental rocks, according to the study's researchers. A porous, blackish rock, basalt is rich in calcium, iron and magnesium, minerals researchers said are needed to solidify carbon for storage. Carbon capture is not the silver bullet, but it can contribute significantly to reducing carbon dioxide emissions, Mr. Matter said.

288. Paralympic Committee of India gets recognition

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) with its headquarters in Germany has recognised the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) led by Rao Inderjit Singh as the president. The Union Minister of State for Planning and Defence, Rao Inderjit Singh, along with vice president Gursharan Singh had visited the IPC Headquarters in Bonn on May 27, to ensure the ratification of the PCI election that was held in October 2015.

289. Veteran journalist Inder Malhotra passes away

Veteran journalist Inder Malhotra passed away in a Delhi hospital on Saturday. He was 86. He had been on ventilator for some time. One of the most respected journalists of the country, Mr. Malhotra had worked with The Statesman and The Times of India, New Delhi. He began his career with the United Press of India. He joined it soon after graduating from the Punjab University. He also wrote for The Guardian (1965-95). He is both a Nehru Fellow (1986-87) and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow (1992-93). His publications include Indira Gandhi: A Personal Political Biography (1989), Dynasties of India And Beyond (2003), and a fresh biography of Indira Gandhi (2006). He was working on a book on "Indian Security: Past, Present and Future." Mr. Malhotra is survived by his son, painter Anil Revri. His wife Rekha Malhotra died in 2007.

290. Vaishno Devi shrine sets new record, over 51,000 pilgrims visit in single day

In Jammu and Kashmir, Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage yesterday set a new record when the number of pilgrims

performing darshans of the holy cave crossed 51 thousand. Sources said, it was, so far, the highest figure of pilgrims on a single day.

They said, despite such a large number of pilgrims, the yatra was progressing smoothly at all places including Adh Kunwari, Sanji Chat and shrine area from both the tracks. During normal days 25,000 to 30,000 pilgrims pay obeisance to the Goddess while the number goes up to 35,000 or 40,000 in the weekends. It may be mentioned here that after witnessing slump during 2014 and 2015, the pilgrimage to holy cave shrine in Trikuta Hills of Katra, has started witnessing rise this year.

291. Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad takes charge of Chief Justice of Manipur HC

Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad, the senior-most Judge of the Manipur High Court has assumed charge of the Chief Justice of the High Court. An official press release of the state government said, this is consequent upon the relinquishment of the charge of office of the Chief Justice of the High Court by Justice Laxmi Kanta Mohapatra.

292. China launches 23rd BeiDou navigation satellite

China launched a satellite to support its global navigation and positioning network. The satellite, launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province yesterday, was taken into orbit by a Long March-3C carrier rocket. It is the 23rd satellite in the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, which is being developed as an alternative to US GPS. The satellite, after entering its designed work orbit and finishing in-orbit testing, will join others already in orbit and improve the stability of the system, preparing for BDS to offer global coverage.

293. Solar-powered airplane on globe-circling voyage lands in New York

The solar-powered aeroplane on a globe circling voyage that began more than a year ago in the UAE reached a milestone on Saturday, completing a trip across the US with a Statue of Liberty fly-by before landing in New York. The Swiss-made Solar Impulse 2 landed at John F. Kennedy International Airport after a 4-hour 41-minute flight of about 165 miles from Lehigh Valley International Airport in Pennsylvania. Its trip across the US began on April 24th, when Solar Impulse landed in San Francisco from Hawaii.

The Solar Impulse 2s wings, which stretch wider than those of a Boeing 747, are equipped with 17,000 solar cells that power propellers and charge batteries. The plane runs on stored energy at night. The trip began in March 2015 from Abu Dhabi and made stops in Oman, Myanmar, China and Japan.

294. BAI announces Rs 10 lakh award for Saina Nehwal

Badminton Association of India (BAI) has announced a reward of 10 lakh Rupees for Saina Nehwal for winning the Australian Open Super Series badminton tournament in Sydney.

BAI President Akhilesh Das Gupta said this is another milestone in her career. He said, this win will surely motivate her for the most important Rio 2016 Olympics where she is leading the Indian Badminton contingent.

He also congratulated her Coach Vimal Kumar and Support Staff, who have been on their toes to bring out the best of Saina.

295. World leaders condemn Orlando nightclub shooting

Several world leaders including US President Barack Obama, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi among others have condemned the killing at a gay night club in Orlando, Florida that left fifty people dead.

Law enforcement officials in US have labelled the attack as an act of domestic terrorism. According to reports, Omar Mateen the Afghan-origin gunman had called 911 once the attacks began and swore allegiance to the Islamic State terror group.

Mateen's father Seddique Mateen, however, suggested his son was motivated by a different hate and the killing had nothing to do with the religion. He had earlier said Omar was angered after seeing two men kissing in Miami. Mr.

Seddique said, they were not aware of any action the shooter was taking and are in shock like the whole country.

Mateen's ex-wife Sitora Yusufiy said he was mentally unstable and disturbed . Sitora lived with Mateen for four months in 2009 but left him after he started physically abusing her .

296. Ola launches its luxurious ride â€œOla Luxâ€™ in Delhi NCR

After a successful launch in Mumbai, Ola, Indias most popular mobile app for transportation brings its newest luxury category Ola Lux to Delhi NCR. The taxi aggregators new feature Ola Lux will offer high end luxury sedans and SUVs like Jaguar, Mercedes, Audi, BMW, Toyota Camry and Fortuner amongst others. The service will be available on the Ola app at a minimum fare of Rs. 200 and just Rs. 19/km. A ride time charge of Rs. two per minute is also applicable. The launch of Ola Lux in Delhi NCR comes close on the heels of its launch in Mumbai.

297. World Blood Donor Day 2016: Blood connects us all

The theme of the 2016 World Blood Donor Day, 14 June, campaign is "Blood connects us all". The objectives are to thank blood donors for their life-saving gift of blood and highlight the theme of blood connecting us all; to create wider public awareness of the need for regular blood donation, and inspire those who have not yet donated blood to start donating; to persuade countries to show appreciation to regular, voluntary, unpaid donors and commit to self-sufficiency in blood supply.

298. How China is driving India towards the US side

Four US visits and seven meetings with Obama within two years; PM Modis deepening engagement with the US has already started others wondering how the US- India relationship is transforming quickly. At the end of the day, the US has finalised a deal to create six nuclear reactors in Indias power sector. But the battle to win the NSG membership is a blooming of the ties between the two powers whatever may be the result of Indias attempt. All 48 members of the NSG knows that the US is making out of the box efforts to include a non-NPT signatory country into the group. The camp against India at the NSG is led by China, though some independent countries oppose Indias entry from some other angle. China and Pakistan have made strong alliance and notable campaign against Indias membership. But the duos stand lack credentials as it is not motivated by disarmament but because of regional rivalry. What is seeing on the diplomacy front is that the NSG campaign is pushing India more towards the US side, for which China has to blame itself. So far, India has pursued own policy and kept distance from the US on South China Sea. Rather, it has taken an opportunity to harden its stand on enhancing the influence in the Indian Ocean. The Malabar exercise conducted near to the strait of Malacca clearly gives a signal to the Chinese that there is a boundary between the South China Sea and Indian Ocean. Chinas policy of encircling India has reached its maximum return but the opposite counterbalancing response from India has just started. Even now New Delhi has not used its friendship with US to block the interest of China and this gives more credibility to its diplomatic endeavors. On the other hand, Chinas veto the UN ban on Masood Azhar has weakened Beijings stand internationally. What the NSG alliance brings to India will be more economic and technological partnership between the US and India. New Delhis independent foreign policy and the synergy of democratic culture between the two countries will cement this partnership. China and Pakistan are triggering this process over the last couple of years. Still, Beijing can learn its lesson and should recognize that the return from economic cooperation with India will be great and will be good for the entire region.

299. Microsoft buys LinkedIn to reinvent through social networking

Softwares pioneer entity Microsoft is buying professional networking firm LinkedIn to boost its business. In a major acquisition move, Microsoft has offered \$26.2 bn to LinkedIn which means the Seattle based operating system specialist is paying a golden premium of nearly 50%. The deal is the biggest acquisition for Microsoft which is thinking about new ways to expand sales and to grow in the digital world. Few years back, Facebook acquired Whatsapp for \$19 bn signaling intense competition in the network. Microsoft was trying constant experiments during the last few years by coming out of its traditional software tag. Acquisition of Nokia and some small companies indicated the companys doubt in continuing just as a software firm when chances are high for new unimaginable benefits if presence in multiple sectors are made. Googles artificial intelligence and FBs venture into publishing all convinced top executives to redesign its working model. Chief executive Satya Nadella unveiled a plan to reinvent the company through spreading its wings. The companys cloud business and the Office 365 need more sales push especially among professionals. LinkedIn will give this sales momentum.

300. Centre forms team to assess water bodies in western UP

Centre has constituted a five member team to assess the existing water bodies, farm pond and other sources of irrigation in the selected districts of Western Uttar Pradesh including Meerut and Muzaffarnagar.

The team will be on a two day visit to several villages of these areas from today to study status of irrigation development and implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna.

The team of officers established by the Agriculture Ministry will suggest various measures for improving ground water recharge besides studying the feasibility of promoting micro irrigation and linking with available sources of water.

It will also assess the irrigation requirement in sugarcane areas, the water use efficiency for sugarcane crop and measures to promote precision irrigation in sugarcane farms.

301. Satya Pal Jain appointed as Law Commission member

Additional Solicitor General of India and former Parliamentarian Satya Pal Jain has been appointed as a part-time member of the Law Commission of India.

Jain joined as Member of the Commission here yesterday.

This appointment is in addition to his charge as an Additional Solicitor General of India.

Jain is a noted constitution lawyer and senior BJP leader.

He has been a lawyer in various important civil and criminal cases, Liberhan Commission of Enquiry, Presidential election disputes, various election petitions and other important civil and criminal cases.

He has also been the Dean of the Law Faculty of Panjab University and is a Member of the Panjab University Senate for the last 40 years.

The President had constituted the 21st Law Commission of India on September 14, 2015. Justice B S Chauhan, retired Judge of the Supreme Court, is the Chairman of this Commission and Justice Ravi R Tripathi, retired judge of Gujarat High Court and Bimal N Patel Director, GNLU are the other nominated members of this Commission.

The Secretary Department of Legal Affairs Secretary, Legislature Department of Ministry of Law Justice of the Government of India are ex-officio members of the Commission.

302. Centre orders import of 12,500 tonnes of pulses for buffer stocks

The Centre has ordered import of 12 thousand five hundred tonnes of pulses for buffer stocks to ensure the availability of commodity at reasonable prices. Of this, ten thousand tonnes will be Masur and two thousand five hundred tonnes will be Urad. So far, over 14 thousand tonnes of pulses have already been imported by the government agencies against the total contracted quantity of 38 thousand five hundred tonnes.

An official release said, Secretary Department of Consumer Affairs, Hem Pande today reviewed the prices of essential commodities at an inter-ministerial meeting in New Delhi and discussed measures to ensure availability of these commodities at reasonable prices. National Cooperative Consumers' Federation, NCCF has been asked to start distribution of Tur and Urad pulses through mobile vans in Delhi at the rate of 120 rupees per kilogram.

The secretary expressed hope that such steps make pulses available in other states at reasonable prices. The meeting also discussed lowering of import duty on wheat besides reviewing the enforcement measures being taken by the states to check hoarding of essential commodities. The release said, procurement of Rabi pulses has reached to 64 thousand tonnes till 13th of June. With this so far total domestic procurement of pulses by government agencies has reached one lakh 15 thousand tonnes.

303. **India, Ghana agree for greater security and defence cooperation**

India and Ghana have agreed for greater security and defence cooperation. President Pranab Mukherjee and his counterpart John Mahama said in a joint press statement today that international terrorism is a scourge and a threat to the entire civilized world. They called for greater exchanges between the two countries in dealing with these challenges.

Both the leaders expressed satisfaction that bilateral trade and investments have been steadily growing. However, they observed that these were still below the existing potential. They acknowledged the need to take up mutually beneficial projects such as joint fertilizer plant with an emphasis on greater value addition. India also proposed to establish a chair on Indian Studies in the University of Ghana. Before concluding his tour to Ghana, the President Mukherjee this morning will visit India Ghana Kofi Annan Center of Excellence in ICT which has been set up with Indian assistance. He is also likely to announce a further grant assistance of one million US dollars to the institute. The president will leave for Cote d'Ivoire later today. This is Anand Saurabh.

Meanwhile, talking exclusive to AIR, the High Commissioner of India to Ghana K Jeeva Sagar has said that the President Visit to Ghana expresses the world's largest democracy's solidarity with the country with the thriving democracy and the region.

304. **Manohar Parrikar hails NCC Girls Expedition Team on scaling world's highest peak**

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar today said National Cadet Corps, NCC, has always been at the forefront of adventure activities. Lauding NCC Girls Expedition Team, which successfully scaled the world's highest peak on May 21 and 22, Mr Parrikar said in New Delhi it is an extraordinary achievement.

All ten girl cadets of the expedition team are between the age group of 17 and 21 years. Team scaled the peak after dividing the group into two parts making it a first ever successful expedition by NCC girl team. The aim of mountaineering expeditions in NCC is to strengthen the character and instill qualities of courage, comradeship, discipline and leadership among the cadets.

305. **India to impose anti-dumping duty on import of Chinese chemical**

India is planning to impose an anti-dumping duty, up to \$168.76 per tonne on five countries including China and Iran, for the import of a chemical that is used in the packaging and textile industry. Anti-dumping duties are imposed to save domestic players from losses. Indian players Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and MCC PTA India Corp have together filed an application asking for an anti-dumping investigation. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) has discovered that Purified Terephthalic Acid that was exported to India from Indonesia, Iran, China, Taiwan and Malaysia was of low-quality and had to be dumped. The DGAD confirmed under such conditions it becomes inevitable to impose anti-dumping duties on the exporting countries. The DGAD in a notification said, The authority recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty, so as to remove injury to the domestic industry. The Directorate General revealed that anti-dumping duties could vary between \$83.08 per tonne to \$168.76 per tonne depending on the imports of the chemicals. While the process for the imposition of the anti-dumping duty is recommended by DGAD, the finance ministry executes it. Countries normally initiate an anti-dumping investigation to find out if the below-cost imports are hurting the domestic industry. Duties imposed are clearly specified under the WTO.

306. **Jupiter-like planet orbiting two stars discovered**

Scientists have discovered a Jupiter-like planet orbiting a system of two stars, making it the largest such cosmic body ever found. The planet Kepler-1647b, located in the constellation Cygnus, was discovered by astronomers from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre and San Diego State University in the US.

Kepler-1647 is 3,700 light-years away and about 4.4 billion years old, roughly the same age as the Earth, researchers said. The planet has a mass and radius nearly identical to that of Jupiter, making it the largest transiting circumbinary planet ever found. Planets that orbit two stars are known as circumbinary planets. The study was published in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

307. **Last rites of famous Hindi novelist Mudrarakshas performed in Lucknow**

The last rites of the famous Hindi novelist and critique Mudrarakshas were performed with full state honours in

Lucknow today. Thousands of his fans, followers and fellow litterateurs were present to bid him adieu at Bhainsakund on the banks of river Gomti. Mudrarakshas had died on Monday of old age related causes in Lucknow. He was 82. Educated in Lucknow, Mudrarakshas worked as editor of Hindi journal Gyanodaya, published from Kolkata.

AIR correspondent reports that born on June 21, 1933 in Lucknow, Mudrarakshas' original name was Subhash Chandra, who wrote novels and other forms of Hindi prose besides producing literature for children with his pen name. He also edited Hindi journal 'Anuvarta' and was also associated with All India Radio Lucknow for long.

His write-ups invariably hinged on various vital social causes and issues. Famous literary figure Doodhnath Singh said that Mudrarakshas wrote intensely on the issues related to women and dalits. His writings were non-traditional, refreshing and unique in their own rights. He refrained from following any particular style or tradition. He always built his own path - a tradition, which is the first criteria for the original writings.

308. RBI announces new scheme for resolution of stressed assets

RBI has come out with a scheme for resolution of bad loans of large projects wherein a portion of the debt will be converted into equity or other instruments under supervision of Indian Banks Association, IBA's Overseeing Committee. In a statement, it said, the Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets, S4A, will cover those projects which have started commercial operations and have outstanding loan of over 500 crore rupees.

It said, the scheme is an optional framework for resolution of large stressed accounts. RBI said, the S4A has been issued in order to further strengthen the lenders' ability to deal with stressed assets. It said, the scheme will help put real assets back on track by providing an avenue for reworking the financial structure of entities facing genuine difficulties. The RBI said, the S4A envisages determination of the sustainable debt level for a stressed borrower, and bifurcation of the outstanding debt into sustainable debt and equity/quasi-equity instruments. It said, these instruments are expected to provide upside to the lenders when the borrower turns around.

309. India clinch ODI series against Zimbabwe with 8 wickets win in 2nd ODI at Harare

India clinched the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe today. The visitors crushed the minnows by eight wickets in the second ODI at Harare, to earn an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series. On Saturday, India had taken the lead after winning the opening ODI comfortably by nine wickets.

It was a dominant performance yet again from the new-look Indian side today. Their bowlers first skittled Zimbabwe for a lowly 126 in 34.3 overs, with the hosts losing their last seven wickets for only 20 runs. Young leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal was the most successful bowler, with three wickets for 25 runs.

Later, the Indian batsmen hardly broke a sweat to get past the target in only 26.5 overs. Ambati Rayudu was the top scorer with an unbeaten 41 off 44 balls. The two batsmen out were:- Karun Nair 39 and K L Rahul 33. Manish Pandey was not out on 4.

If India manage a 'whitewash' by winning the third ODI on Wednesday, then it would be a hat-trick of all-out series wins for the Indian teams, maintaining a clean slate in the African nation after their victories in 2013 and 2015.

310. What is a Super Monsoon Monitor?

Monsoon is approaching, but the information concerning its approach drew much ire when the MeT failed to give precise news. To combat inefficient readings, the Meteorological Department is heard to be spending Rs 400 crore on a super computer to enhance precision in monsoon forecasts.

This new system is in line with the current US models that are in use and will generate 3-dimensional models to help predict the development of monsoon. So, here are six things to know about the super computer: This will be replacing the British-era statistical model. The system will be set in place in 2017. It will require immense computing power to generate 3-dimensional models. It is 10 times faster than Bhaskara supercomputer that the MeT office uses. It will provide better accuracy of cyclones, cloud bursts and heavy rainfalls. It will help the farmers in deciding the sow season, hence increasing the output by almost 15%.

311. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - 15 June

The global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 542 million in 1995 to about 1.2 billion in 2025. Around 4 to 6% of elderly people have experienced some form of maltreatment at home. Elder maltreatment can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences. The incidence of abuse towards older people is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations. Elder abuse is a global social issue which affects the health and human rights of millions of older persons around the world, and an issue which deserves the attention of the international community. The United Nations General Assembly, in its [resolution 66/127](#), designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It represents the one day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations.

312. What is Privatization? How privatization has been implemented in India?

Privatization is a broad concept and its meaning goes slightly different in different countries. Privatization generally refers to inducing private sector participation in the management and ownership of Public Sector Enterprises. In a narrow sense, privatization implies induction of private ownership in state owned enterprises. It is the process of transferring ownership of a business, enterprise, agency, public service or public property from the public sector (a government) to the private sector, which usually operates for a profit. Privatization in the global context Privatization was a global trend in the late 1980s and early 1990s to reform the loss making and inefficient public sector enterprises. In countries with many state-owned enterprises, including developing countries, post-socialist countries, and countries of Western Europe, privatization is the transfer of enterprise ownership in whole or in part from the state to private hands. This is often referred as denationalization and destatization. Why there is the need for privatization? One of the main arguments for the privatization of publicly owned operations is the estimated increases in efficiency that can result from private ownership and business practices. The increased efficiency is thought to come from the greater importance that the private firms make on profit maximization. Privatization in India India is a mixed economy with both the private sector and the public sector performing various activities in accordance with regulations. But the public sector was affected by inefficiencies and incompetence in a non-sustainable manner by 1991. The New Industrial Policy of 1991 contained several reform measures for the public sector. Some of them are selling of loss making units to the private sector, inviting private participation in PSEs, and strategic sale. Some of these reform measures included privatization in a low degree. In India, hence privatization was in a unique form in accordance with the priorities of our mixed economy and as well as by considering operational aspects of the PSUs. Privatization in the country was launched mainly to enhance the efficiency of the public sector enterprises as well as to concentrate the operation of the public sector in priority areas. The degree of privatisation in India Following the industrial policy of 1991, the government has adopted disinvestment, strategic sale of minority shares to private partners and selling of loss making units to the private sector. Some of the chronically loss making units were either sold off, or closed after all workers got their legitimate dues and compensation. Selling of loss making units and strategic sale imply full privatization as the company's ownership is transferred to a private entity. But the main form of inviting private participation was disinvestment which results in transfer of minority shareholding to the general public, at the same time the government maintaining 51% share. The sale of minority stake to private sector has enabled the government to inject competitive and efficient private sector business practices in government enterprises.

313. States move closer to GST

The Goods and Service Tax that is on the launch mode for several years is entering on the last phase of its introduction as the last barrier-ratification by states is almost complete. According to the Finance Minister, almost all states except Tamil Nadu has agreed to its implementation. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in May 2015 but is still pending on the Rajya Sabha. According to government sources, the new bill will not have a built in upper cap (rate) suggested by the Congress. Finance Minister Arun Jaitely indicated that such a cap will remove flexibility in the tax structure. Once GST is ratified by the Rajya Sabha where the Congress is losing its strength, the reform will be implemented across the country. Interestingly, the lone but major objection came from Tamil Nadu that also not touching any serious differences in the present format contained in the bill. TN has made an opposition on the ground that it will reduce the fiscal autonomy of the states. But, political observers believe that TN's opposition is unrelated to GST rather it seeks to get some benefits on some other issues regarding the package the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has submitted to the Prime Minister.

314. List of Documents Required for Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana Enrollment

[Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana](#) or DDSSY is a new health insurance scheme launched by the Goa state government to provide affordable health insurance cover to entire population of the state. However, the residents of the state who are residing there for five or more years are eligible to apply for the scheme. The registrations for DDSSY are open and the interested applicants can apply for the scheme by going to any of the designate centers along with the required documents. Self attested photocopies of original documents are required to be attached along with the forms. Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana Required Documents * Aadhaar Card / Enrollment Acknowledgement Slip of every family member above age of 5 years. (Compulsory) * Residence Proof of eligible person. (All Documents issued minimum 5 years ago) Passport Residence Certificate (5 years residence in goa state) Voter ID Driving License Ration card to define a family. NOTE : For Aadhaar card, compulsorily submit xerox of original. Do Not submit xerox of xerox.

In case ration card is not available enclose all the below mentioned documents: For spouse Marriage Certificate of the eligible person. For dependent child Birth / School leaving certificate. For dependent parents Declaration stating Parent(s) / In-Laws are not employed. For OBC of non creamy layer Caste certificate issued by Deputy Collector along with Income Certificate showing income less than 6 lakhs per annum. For SC/ST Caste Certificate issued by Directorate of Tribal Welfare/Deputy Collector. For Differently abled eligible person Disability certificate issued by Medical Board.

315. Gujarat govt. to launch mobile app for delivery of common services

People of Gujarat would soon be able to avail a host of government services through their smartphones and tablets, with the state government deciding to launch a mobile application for the same. The Gujarat government has decided to launch the mobile app Digital Gujarat by August 15. Our aim is to put most of the services on the fingertips of citizens, so that they dont have to visit government offices, Dhananjay Dwivedi, Secretary -states Science and Technology department, said. Initially, it would offer 30 services for which the citizens hitherto had to visit government offices or access the online portal digitalgujarat.gov.in, he said. Using this app, people can apply for various services, such as ration card. Initially, the services available through the app would include procurement of ration card, senior citizen certificate, caste certificate, domicile certificate, income certificate, widow certificate, SC/ST certificate, non creamy-layer certificate and religious minority certificate. These services are currently available through our portal also, he said. We plan to add 70 more services in later stages and take the number of services to 100, he said, adding the citizens would no longer be required to visit any government office even to register themselves. We have prepared a Request For Proposal (RFP) to find a suitable developer to design the app, he apprised. Earlier, when the common services portal was launched, people were still required to visit nearby Jan Seva Kendra to verify their credentials before being registered. Now we have done away with that provision, as we would verify the authenticity of the (app) user by checking his Aadhaar number or ration card number, Dwivedi said. Apart from providing e-services, the app would be equipped with several other features, including e-Locker to digitally store certificates, he said. Users would be able to pay application fees among others using the e-Pay feature, he further said. He said as per the guidelines issued in the RFP, the app would have option of feedback by the user, image capture, document upload, multilingual support, access to social media websites, etc. To make it userfriendly, the user interface would be available in English as well as Gujarati languages. The app would facilitate the users in the submission of applications, tracking status of their application, receiving alerts and notifications and paying fees online, he said.

316. Kashmiri Pandits Arrive In Valley To Celebrate Annual Kheer Bhawani Festival

Thousands of Pandits are arriving in Kashmir to celebrate the annual Mata Kheer Bhawani festival that symbolises Valley's religious harmony. The festival is an occasion to revive the strong bonds between communities in the Valley and to pray for the return of Kashmiri Pandits.

For 87-year-old Shobavati it is a homecoming. 26 years ago she migrated from Anantnag to Jammu when militancy erupted in the Valley. Now she is back with her family at the Kheer Bhawani Mela at Ganderbal, 27 km from Srinagar.

Singing religious hymns with her family at the Kheer Bhawani temple, Ms Shobavati is praying for peace in the Valley and a safe return of Kashmiri Pandits.

This year the celebrations are coming in the backdrop of rising tension over a proposal to rehabilitate displaced Pandits in separate colonies in the Valley.

317. Norway Becomes World's First Country to Ban Deforestation

Norway has become the first country to stop clear-cutting of trees, a huge step toward curbing global deforestation. At the rate we are going, the world's rain forests could [completely vanish](#) in 100 years. In their pledge last week, Norwegian lawmakers also committed to find a way to source essential products such as palm oil, soy, beef and timber so that they leave little to no impact on their ecosystems. It's a pledge Norway made at the U.N. Climate Summit in 2014, alongside Germany and the United Kingdom. This move could be potentially transformative. [According to the United Nations](#), the production of palm oil, soy, beef and wood products contributed to a little less than half of total tropical deforestation. When forests are cleared and set in flames, the carbon in the trees is released as carbon dioxide -- [the main greenhouse gas contributing to climate change](#). Norway has shown its commitment to a cleaner environment in other ways. [Rainforest home to vast treasury of life](#) In 2008, the country gave Brazil \$1 billion to help fight deforestation of the Amazon rainforest -- slashing deforestation by 75% in seven years. It is also in the process of restricting the sales of gas-powered cars by 2025.

318. India to provide Rs 48 mn aid for college building in Nepal

India has pledged a financial assistance of Rs 48.84 million to Nepal for the construction of a college building in the capital Kathmandu.

Ambassador of India to Nepal Ranjit Rae laid foundation stone of the building for Koteshwor Multiple Campus in Kathmandu district.

The campus building is constructed with financial aid from India and the project is being implemented through District Development Committee of Kathmandu.

Established in 1990, Koteshwor Multiple Campus is a non-profit, non-governmental, service-oriented community college situated at Koteshwor on the outskirts of Kathmandu.

The current infrastructure of the college is inadequate and is being run from an old school building. The college has enrolled more than 2000 students. The new campus building will provide much needed classroom space and create an improved environment for learning and contribute to the development of education in the area, said a statement issued by Indian embassy here.

India has provided a financial aid of nearly Rs 501 million to Nepal in the financial year 2015-2016 to help the quake-struck country renovate, restore and upgrade its various religious, cultural and educational institutions, it said. The India-Nepal Economic Cooperation Programme has an outlay of over Rs 76 billion with more than 529 large and small development projects completed or being implemented in almost all the districts of Nepal. These development projects, mainly in the sectors of education, health and infrastructure development have been undertaken in response to local needs and in partnership with the Government of Nepal, the statement said.

319. SKS Microfinance renamed Bharat Financial Inclusion

SKS Microfinance on Monday said the name of the company has been changed to Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd. "Pursuant to approval of Government, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Registrar of Companies, the name of the company has been changed from 'SKS Microfinance Limited' to 'Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited' with effect from today (June 13, 2016)," it said in a regulatory filing.

It is the only listed company in the microfinance space in the country.

Earlier in May, the company had said the decision to change the name was taken as its core had undergone a transformation, equipping it to play a major role in fulfilling the national priority of financial inclusion.

The company is among the largest microfinance players in India. It has presence across 18 states covering 1,00,000 villages, catering to its 63.65 lakh women members.

The company was mired in a serious controversy in late 2010 due to rising spate of suicides by its borrowers, triggered by allegedly coercive recovery practices.

Shares in SKS Microfinance, on Monday, ended 1.13 per cent lower at Rs.668.45 apiece on the BSE, whose benchmark Sensex index finished down 0.89 per cent.

320. Ranu Langthasa first woman chairperson of NCHAC

Ranu Langthasa was unanimously appointed as the chairperson of the NC Hills Autonomous Council in Assam in a special session held in the NCHAC today.

She is the first woman chairperson to be appointed to the post since the formation of N C Hills Autonomous Council in 1951.

After assuming office, Langthasa said she is hopeful that new developments will take place in the district under the leadership of the newly elected CEM Debolal Gorlosa.

321. Pedro Pablo Kuczynski wins Peru's Presidential Election

A 77-year-old former American citizen appears to have bested the daughter of a disgraced Peruvian president in a photo-finish race to become the next president of Peru. Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has won a bare majority of votes -- 50.12% -- over Keiko Fujimori, Peru's national election office announced on its official Twitter page Thursday evening. Kuczynski cannot be named president-elect until the electoral college makes the vote official, the election office said. "Thank you Peru, it is time to work together for the future of our new country," Kuczynski announced on Twitter, although Fujimori has yet to concede. Kuczynski, a former World Bank executive and ex-prime minister of Peru who has also served as finance and energy ministers, ran for president the first time in 2011. He came in third in that race, behind Fujimori and current President Ollanta Humala. He had refused to renounce his American nationality, which had become a campaign issue. Known as PPK, he has since renounced his American citizenship, although he is married to an American woman and his children live in the United States. Fujimori is the 41-year-old daughter of [controversial former President Alberto Fujimori](#) who is imprisoned for corruption and human-rights violations. Her father, who was president from 1990 to 2000, is credited with restoring economic stability and with defeating the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas, who carried out terrorist attacks. But his authoritarian style led to accusations of human rights abuses and corruption. In separate trials, Alberto Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, was found guilty of authorizing illegal wiretaps and bribing lawmakers and journalists. He was also convicted of using public money to pay the country's spy chief and with burglarizing the spy's chief's house to steal incriminating videos. In 2009, he was sentenced to 25 years in prison after being convicted of authorizing the operation of a death squad responsible for killing civilians. Kuczynski is the son of a French teacher and a German Jewish doctor who fled the Nazis. The winner will take over Peru's government on July 28 from Humala. Peru's constitution barred him from seeking a second term.

322. Lewis Hamilton wins Canadian GP after feisty fight with Sebastian Vettel

Lewis Hamilton took another giant stride towards a fourth world championship by winning the Canadian Grand Prix for the fifth time in his career, enabling the defending champion to capitalise fully on Nico Rosberg's struggles that came from a first-corner collision between the Mercedes team-mates. After recording his first victory of the season in Monaco, Hamilton arrived at one of his favourite tracks with momentum firmly behind him. Rosberg could only manage seventh in Monte Carlo, and a fifth-place finish in Montreal on Sunday saw his one 43-point lead eradicated to just nine points. Rosberg had a late chance to salvage fourth, but an error saw him pitted in to a spin when attempting to pass Max Verstappen and he had to make do with conceding 15 points to Hamilton.

323. US win FINA women water polo world league super final

The USA Womens Senior National Team won gold once again at the FINA World League Super Final, this time defeating Spain 13-9 in the championship match. The victory marks the United States third straight FINA World League Super Final title and 10th overall. 10 different goal scorers were led by [Courtney Mathewson](#) (Anaheim Hills, CA/UCLA/NYAC) who added two goals in the final and was named tournament MVP. [Ashleigh Johnson](#) (Miami, FL/Princeton/NYAC) did the job in net stopping nine shots. Next up for Team USA will be the naming of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Womens Water Polo Team this Thursday at the LA84 Foundation in Los Angeles, CA. Team USA took an early lead against Spain grabbing a 3-2 advantage after the first quarter. The United States kept the attack going in the second quarter outscoring Spain 4-2 to build a 7-4 lead at halftime. The two teams were even in the third quarter scoring three goals apiece to leave Team USA up 10-7 going to the fourth quarter. The United States pulled away over the final eight minutes outscoring Spain 3-2 on the way to a 13-9 victory. Both teams were strong on the power play with Team USA going 6/9 while Spain was 5/8 with neither team attempting a penalty shot. Im proud of the teams performance today. We can still be sharper defensively but offensively we were very efficient, said USA Head Coach [Adam Krikorian](#)

324. India receive wildcard, set for maiden show at U17 Futsal World Cup

India are set to make their maiden appearance in next months Under-17 Futsal World Cup, after being invited by the sports governing body, the Association Mundial de Futsal (AMF), as a wild card to take part in the event. The competition, among futsal's biggest global events, is to be held from July 11-20 in Paraguay, with India one among a total of 12 competing countries, a media release said on Monday. India have been drawn in Zone A which pits them against hosts Paraguay, Catalonia and Kazakhstan. Colombia, Belgium, Brazil and Australia make up Zone B, whereas Argentina, Uruguay, Morocco and Curacao complete the line-up in Zone C. The U-17 Futsal nationals, organised by the Futsal Association of India (FAI), which is the AMF-accredited governing body for futsal in the country, are to take place in Haryana from Tuesday. The tournament, in which 16 states would be taking part, would serve as the selection process to pick players to represent India at the World Cup. Ahead of the teams trip to Paraguay, FAI is to appoint an international coach for FAI-India team and on-board sponsors. The final decision is to be taken during the FAI-AGM which will be held on the sidelines of the National Championship in Haryana, the release said. The FAI-India team training camp is to be held in Mumbai from June 23 to July 5, the release added.

325. Cabinet clears Civil Aviation policy to boost regional air connectivity

Union Cabinet today cleared the new Civil Aviation Policy with an aim to increase regional air connectivity, and ease rules for airlines to fly overseas. The Policy lays focus on regional connectivity with an aim of providing affordable aviation services in Tier-II and Tier-III cities. It will help bring down the prices of air tickets by giving exemptions including service tax, customs duty, landing and parking fee and VAT.

Under the policy, the airfares have been fixed at 2,500 rupees for one-hour long flights. Briefing reporters, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the policy has quashed the rule which restricted companies from flying abroad unless they have flown in India for 5 years and have fleet size of 20 aircraft.

326. NGO moves SC seeking stay on controversial film Uda Punjab

A Punjab-based NGO today moved Supreme Court challenging the Bombay High Court order on the film 'Uda Punjab'. On Monday, The Bombay High Court had cleared the release of movie 'Uda Punjab', whose makers were locked in a dispute with the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

A division bench of the court had directed the CBFC to certify the film within 48 hours to enable the makers to release it on its schedule this Friday. The court directed the makers of the film to delete one scene and to display a revised disclaimer.

327. Retirement age of PHSs, General Duty Medical Officers raised to 65

Cabinet today enhanced the age of superannuation of non-teaching, Public Health Specialists and General Duty Medical Officers in sub-cadre of Central Health Service to 65 years. Briefing reporters, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, this will help in better patient care, proper academic activities in Medical colleges. It will also help in effective implementation of National Health Programmes for delivery of health care services. The government had recently enhanced retirement age of doctors in teaching sub-cadre from 62 to 65 years in view of huge shortfall of teaching specialists.

The Cabinet also gave ex-post facto approval to the MoU between Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India and India Taipei Association of Taiwan for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied Sector. In another decision, the Cabinet cleared the signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Taiwan. The Agreement signifies an important landmark in the civil aviation relations between the two countries and has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges.

The Cabinet also approved signing of 15 year contract by the Earth Sciences Ministry with the International Seabed Authority for undertaking exploration and other developmental activities related to Polymetallic Sulphides in the allotted area of ten thousand square kilometer. It will be done in parts of Central and South - West Indian Ridges, located in the Indian Ocean.

The Cabinet also gave its ex-post facto approval to the Agreement on Labour Co-operation between India and Saudi

Arabia. It was signed in Riyadh in April this year during the visit of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Saudi Arabia. It would benefit the Indian emigrant workers, especially in the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled categories who are working in Saudi Arabia. Besides, the Cabinet was apprised of the MoU between Indian Space Research Organization and Canadian Space Agency on cooperation in the field of outer space.

328. Govt launches scheme for setting up of 1000 MW wind power project

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has launched a scheme for setting up of 1000 Mega Watt Wind Power Project connected to transmission network of Central Transmission Utility. The objective of the scheme is to facilitate supply of wind power to the non-windy states at a price discovered through transparent bidding process.

An official release said Ministry has designated Solar Energy Corporation of India as nodal agency for implementation of the scheme. Government has set an ambitious target of achieving 175 Giga Watt power capacity from renewable energy resources by 2022. Out of this, 60 Giga Watt has to come from wind power.

329. CCEA approves 10% stake sale in HUDCO

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs today approved ten per cent stake sale in Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) out of government's shareholding of 100 percent. It has also approved allowing a price discount up-to 5 percent on the Issue Price to the retail investors and the employees of HUDCO.

The paid up equity capital of HUDCO is over two thousand crore rupees. Net worth of the company is around 7,800 crore rupees. The Centre has set a disinvestment target of 56,500 crore rupees for this fiscal. Of this, 36 thousand crore is to come from minority stake sale in PSUs and 20 thousand five hundred crore rupees from strategic sale.

330. CCEA approves of 4/6 laning of Kharar-Ludhiana Section of NH-95 in Punjab

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the development of 4 and 6 laning of Kharar-Ludhiana Section of NH-95 in Punjab. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

The cost is estimated to be around 2069 crore rupees including cost of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and other pre-construction activities. The total length of the road to be developed is approximately 76 kilometres.

The project will help in expediting the improvement of infrastructure in Punjab and in reducing the time and cost of travel for traffic, particularly heavy traffic, plying between Kharar and Ludhiana section.

The development of this stretch will increase employment potential for local labourers for project activities. It has been estimated that a total number of over four thousand man-days are required for construction of one kilometre of highway.

331. France ratifies Paris Agreement on climate change

France's President Francois Hollande has ratified the Paris Agreement, a deal on curbing global warming reached last year by 195 countries. France today became the second European country to ratify, after Hungary, and the first in the Group of Seven advanced economies. The ratification was formally authorized by the French parliament last week.

The Paris agreement aims to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius compared with pre-industrial times. It will come into force as soon as 55 countries representing at least 55 per cent of global emissions join it.

China, the world's top carbon emitter, said it intends to ratify the agreement before the G-20 summit in China in September. The United States, the second-largest emitter, also announced its intention to ratify this year.

332. Puducherry LG Kiran Bedi launches mobile app to help senior citizens in distress

In Puducherry, Lt. Governor Kiran Bedi launched a mobile Application for helping senior citizens in distress. Developed by Helpage India, the App provides for an SOS button to reach instantly the Counselor at Helpage India. Through them, the senior citizens can avail emergency help as well as health related information.

Releasing the App on the eve of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Ms Kiran Bedi called upon the NGO to work in tandem with the Social Welfare Department. She said that the NGOs should share their domain expertise with the Government Departments and strengthen each other's functioning.

333. Florida bank issues first US credit card in Cuba

In US, a new credit card issued by the Florida-based Stonegate Bank and available today will allow Americans to avoid the Cuban 10-percent penalty on the dollar.

US citizens traveling to Havana can now do so without exchanging dollars, at a 10-percent fee, into the Cuban peso. Stonegate, the first US bank to introduce a debit card for use in Cuba, has issued a credit card as well.

The bank announced yesterday that US travelers will be able to use its Mastercard to charge purchases at Cuban state-run businesses and some private businesses, starting June 15th.

334. President of India honoured with highest national award of Cote d'Ivoire

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received yesterday (June 14, 2016) the highest national honour, the Grande Croix Commandeur in National Merit Order, from the President of Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Alassane Ouattara. Speaking after the occasion, President Mukherjee said he was accepting it with humility on behalf of the one billion plus Indians.

335. Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding with Taiwan for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sector

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding between Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India and India Taipei Association in Taipei, Taiwan for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sector.

The MoU provides for cooperation in the fields of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Food Processing, Genetic Resources as well as Environmental Sustainability. Both sides will encourage the private sector in both countries to enter into cooperation in these areas. The cooperation between the two sides involves exchange of visits, information, technology and training and also expansion of agricultural trade while reducing trade barriers.

Under the MoU, a Joint Working Committee will be constituted to identify priority areas of mutual interest and follow up on the progress of implementation of the activities identified by both sides. The MoU will be initially signed for a period of five years and shall be automatically renewed for subsequent periods of five years unless either party expresses its desire/intention to terminate it.

336. Cabinet appraisal of MoU between ISRO and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) on cooperation in the field of outer space

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Space / Indian Space Research Organization (DOS/ISRO) and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) on cooperation in the field of outer space. The MoU was signed in Ottawa, Canada on 15th April 2015.

The MoU would lead to establishment of joint team, drawing members from ISRO and CSA, which will further work out the plan of action including examination and defining cooperative projects and the time-frame. This will also provide opportunities for diverse research in the field of peaceful uses of space technologies.

Background

The successful space cooperation is being pursued through two Implementing Arrangements in the field of Satellite Tracking Network Operations, and in the field of the ultra Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) Detector Subsystem, in support of the ASTROSAT astronomy mission in December 2003 and June 2004, respectively. It is aimed at future

cooperation in and use of outer space for peaceful purposes to reinforce scientific and technological development and the ties between two countries at government, industrial and academic levels.

337. Cabinet approves India's Membership of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for Indian membership of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP) consortium by signing an MoU with the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam GFZ German Research Centre for geosciences. This is a government-funded, Public Law Foundation of the State of Brandenburg, Germany.

By signing the MoU on the membership for a period of five years with ICDP, India would enable engaging internationally renowned experts with profound expertise in different aspects of scientific drilling in order to accomplish deep drilling and associated investigations in Koyna region. As a part of the membership agreement, India will get a seat on two ICDP panels - Executive Committee (EC) and Assembly of Governors (AOG). Also, ICDP will provide technical / operational support, facilitate capacity building in terms of manpower training in key scientific areas, sample and data management and support workshops for the Koyna scientific deep drilling project undertaken by Ministry of Earth Sciences.

As a member of ICDP, scientists/engineers from India would have right to submit proposals, to participate in all ICDP co-funded workshops and drilling projects and have access to all data results from ICDP projects. This will shed new light on the genesis of seismicity and better understanding of earthquake processes.

338. Cabinet approves signing of contract for Exploration of Poly metallic Sulphides between India and International Seabed Authority

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of 15 years contract by the Ministry of Earth Sciences with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for undertaking exploration and other developmental activities related to Polymetallic Sulphides in the allotted area of 10,000 sq km. It will be done in parts of Central and South - West Indian Ridges (SWIR), located in the Indian Ocean.

By signing the 15 year contract, India's exclusive rights for exploration of Polymetallic Sulphides in the allotted Area in the Central Indian Ridge, and South West Indian Ridge in Indian Ocean will be formalized. Further, it will enhance India's presence in the Indian Ocean where other players like China, Korea and Germany are active. The program will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences with the participation from various national institutes and research laboratories/ organisations.

Background

Deep seabed Poly-Metallic Sulphides (PMS) containing iron, copper, zinc, silver, gold, platinum in variable constitutions are precipitates of hot fluids from upwelling hot magma from deep interior of the oceanic crust discharged through mineralized chimneys. PMS in the Ocean Ridges have attracted worldwide attention for their long term commercial as well as strategic values.

The International Seabed Authority (ISA), under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), earlier approved an application submitted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, for allotment of 10,000 sq. km. area along with 15 years plan of work for exploration of Polymetallic Sulphide (PMS) along Central Indian Ridge (CIR) 85 Southwest Indian Ridge (SWIR) region of the Indian Ocean. ISA governs non-living resources of seabed lying in international waters.

339. Platinum Jubilee Celebration of First Assam Regiment

The First Battalion The Assam Regiment celebrated its 75th Raising Day (Platinum Jubilee) with ceremonial fervor at Shimla, Himanchal Pradesh, today. The highlight of the whole occasion was release of 'First Day Cover' by Colonel of the ASSAM REGIMENT ARUNACHAL SCOUT, Lt Gen Subrata Saha and flagging in of a Motorcycle Rally, led by Brig Charandeep Singh, by Lt Gen PM Hariz, General Officer Commanding -in - Chief of the Army Training Command.

The Battalion was raised on this very day in 1941 and has had an illustrious military history. It is one of the only units in the history of warfare to have been awarded six Battle Honours, namely, JESSAMI (Nagaland), KOHIMA (Nagaland), ARADURA (Nagaland), MAWLAIK (Burma), KYAUKMYAUNG (Burma) and TOUNGOO (Burma) and one Theatre Award BURMA within a short span of three years of its raising. The Battalion is also proud recipient of Chief of the Army Staff Unit Citation for its role in combating terrorism on Line of Control in Jammu Kashmir.

The celebrations were spread over three days commencing from 13 Jun with large number of senior veteran officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and Others Ranks along with a number of civilian dignitaries gracing the occasion. Church Service was organised at Christ Church for the Platinum Jubilee guests on 14 Jun. On 15 Jun, a Wreath Laying Ceremony was organized wherein all serving and retired soldiers and officers paid respect to the Martyrs.

340. First Sikh Sworn-In As Police Officer In US City

A 28-year-old Sikh man has been sworn-in as the first officer from the community who can wear his turban and beard on work despite grooming policy that requires officers to be clean shaven in the Modesto Police Department, California.

Varinder Khun Khun, who was born in India, graduated from the Napa Police Academy on June 11 along with two other officers. He is one of 33 officers hired by the department so far this year, The Modesto Bee reported.

"I've never seen police officers wearing a turban before; I didn't know if I would get a chance (to be a police officer)... I am thankful for the department for giving me the opportunity," Khun Khun said before the swearing-in ceremony in Modesto. The Modesto Police Department's grooming policy requires officers be clean shaven, allowing only for a mustache that extends to the edge of the lip.

Khun Khun approached Police Chief Galen Carroll a year ago about applying for the job and the requirement that he have a beard and wear a turban, it said.

"I told him that that didn't matter, that we would make accommodations for his religious beliefs and that, more importantly, we were looking for people with high character standards and he would be an addition to the Police Department as a segment of the community that is not represented in the Police Department," Carroll said.

"You want to have a police department that mirrors the community as much as possible. When you call an officer and nobody looks like you... you don't feel like they can understand you or relate to you, so it is important to have that so you build stronger ties with the community," Carroll added.

In 2012, California Governor Jerry Brown signed a law that added to California's Fair Employment Act protection against discrimination for religious dress and grooming practices.

In April, three Sikh US Army enlistees won permission to wear beards and turbans after filing federal lawsuits that seek to force the Pentagon to accommodate those who wear beards for religious purposes.

341. International Day of Family Remittances

There are almost 250 million international migrants worldwide living outside the country they call home. Throughout civilization, people have always been on the move, seeking better opportunities for themselves and their families; but the scale of migration from rural to urban areas, and across national borders in the 21st century, is unprecedented. Indeed, this phenomenon has been accurately characterized as the human face of globalization. No matter how many people leave home, many more remain behind. It is estimated that family remittances the money sent back by migrant workers to their relatives support another 750 million people worldwide. Adding senders and receivers together, remittances directly touch the lives of one in every seven people on Earth. A significant majority of migrant workers send money home, typically US\$200 or US\$300, several times a year. While these amounts may appear to be relatively small, they are often 50 per cent or more of their families income back home. Adding together all the billions of transactions involved, remittances reached over US\$450 billion in 2015, more than three times the official development assistance from all sources. Fifteen years ago, remittances were literally unaccounted for because migrant

workers and their families didn't count. This has changed dramatically, as remittances have now become an important part of the development agenda for governments and international organizations working around the globe to lower transfer costs, promote financial inclusion, and maximize the impact of these resources for the benefit of families and the communities where they live. It is within our capacity to make every hard-earned dollar, euro, pound, ruble, yen, dinar or naira sent home count. These flows already represent a critical lifeline for millions of households, helping families raise their living standards above subsistence and vulnerability levels, as the extra income goes toward improving health, education and housing, and starting or expanding businesses. But remittances have the potential to count even more. It is indeed at the local level that the positive impact of remittances can be amplified by providing more options and greater economic opportunities for families on the receiving end. At IFAD, we believe that remittances count the most in the small rural towns and villages of developing countries around the world. Here, the most important value is not measured by millions or billions, but by the individual remittance that a father or mother, son or daughter, sister or brother sends home regularly as a demonstration of devotion and commitment to their families' future. Proclaiming an International Day of Family Remittances represents an invaluable opportunity not only to recognize the efforts of migrant workers globally, but also to strengthen current partnerships and create new synergies among sectors to promote the development impact of remittances worldwide. 2016 observance This year, over 100 money transfer operators have endorsed the International Day of Family Remittances and have committed to take concrete action to ensure that every hard-earned dollar, euro, pound, ruble, yen, dinar or naira sent home count for even more.

342. Vidyanjali Yojana – “A School Volunteer Programme/Scheme by HRD Ministry

Vidyanjali, a school volunteer programme by the Ministry of HRD has been launched on 16th June with an aim of enhancing the involvement of community and private sector in Government run elementary schools. The Vidyanjali scheme has been launched under the overall aegis of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. What is Vidyanjali Under the Vidyanjali Volunteer Programme, people from the Indian Diaspora, retired teachers, retired government officials including retired defense personnel, retired professionals and women who are home makers can volunteer at a school that requests for one. Aim of Vidyanjali The government has received requests from society about the desire of giving back to the society, particularly to children in government schools. Retired government and other professionals, home makers and members of the Indian Diaspora and their children have expressed interests providing educational services to children in government schools particularly for co-scholastic areas. The Vidyanjali scheme has been designed for the schools which really need the services of volunteer and for the people who want to serve. The scheme will help strengthen the implementation of co-scholastic activities in government schools through services of volunteers. Implementation of Vidyanjali Programme The ministry has selected over 2200 schools in 21 states across the country where volunteers will be invited to serve and educate children. The programme will be implemented with children in elementary classes (Std. 1-8) of a government school. Schools that will participate in the pilot programme must meet the following requirements. Have a full time Head Teacher for the school. Have at least one female teacher in the entire school if it is a girls school or a co-ed school. The School should have internet connectivity. The School should have a safe and secure school building with functional toilets. The school should have PTR as per the RTE norms. Tasks for Volunteers in Schools Volunteers under the Vidyanjali programme will offer their services to government schools without receiving any compensation. Following are some of the activities which will be conducted by the volunteers Reading to children. Helping children with creative writing. Public speaking. Play acting. Preparing story books with children. Model making. Counseling for academics and life-skills. Music and dance. Eligibility for Volunteer The following persons can apply for the Volunteer Programme (VP) under Vidyanjali (i) An Indian citizen (retired Professionals, retired government official including retired defense personnel, working professional or homemaker) (ii) A foreign national of Indian origin. Foreign nationals of Indian origin must ensure that they have an OCI card. (iii) Retired professionals, working or self-employed professionals with a graduation degree. (iv) Home makers should be at least high school pass. Persons from the Indian Diaspora Must be at least 18 years of age and should have completed schooling (equivalent to class 12 How to Apply Any interested candidate meeting the eligibility criteria can apply for the Volunteer Programme through the MyGov portal. Below are the steps to apply for the Volunteer Programme under Vidyanjali Scheme. Log in / Sign up to mygov.in portal by filling up the basic information. Select the school in your district/area which requires volunteers and fill the form. OR Download the MyGov app from the Google Play Store and apply for the volunteer programme. MyGov Android App Download Link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=in.mygov.mobile&hl=en> Selection Process The filled in application form will be reviewed by the concerned Block Education Officer (BEO) who, in consultation with the concerned Head Teacher of the school, will give permission for the Volunteer. The volunteer will be selected to serve for a minimum of

2 weeks i.e 12 days or one day per week for 12 weeks. The volunteer however then can request for the extension of duration through the online application.

343. **Delhi Summer Festival 2016 from June 24-26 at Dilli Haat**

The Delhi Tourism department is all set to organize Delhi Summer Festival 2016 from June 24-26 at Dilli Haat in Janakpuri. Delhi tourism minister Kapil Mishra on Wednesday made the announcement that the yearly mango festival is being rechristened as the summer festival with added features. This will be an exclusive summer treat for all dilli walas. Till last year, Delhi had been celebrating the fragrant and flavorful mango and that too for 27 glorious years. This year, under the theme of SummerFestival, we will have three days of fantastic extravaganza in Dilli Haat, Janakpuri, Mishra said

344. **What is Free Rider Problem?**

Free rider problem indicates a situation where an individual or groups not paying a tax or contributing anything in return for the goods or resources or services they availed. An example for free rider is someone who does not pay his or her share of taxes after benefiting from roads, water treatment plants, free education etc. Free rider problem is thus associated with the consumption of public goods. Excess consumption of a public good when the people who have the ability to pay for it, especially by paying taxes may lead to the non-production or under-production of a public good. The free rider problem also arises when an individual consumes more than his fair share of a public good provided by the government like drinking water.

345. **New Aviation policy opens up competition- more players can fly overseas**

The new aviation policy brought by the government introduces liberalization on multiple fronts and opens up fresh competition. Any domestic company can be eligible for overseas flight license when they acquire 20 aircrafts or 20 percent capacity compared to a wait of five years after starting domestic flight. New simplified regulation brings Vistara and AirAsia India as eligible for making international flights. Another step is an open sky policy on the international front. For SAARC Countries and for those locations which has a distance of above 5000km, integrational flights can be made on reciprocal basis. Reciprocal arrangement implies foreign airlines can make flights to India by extending equal number of seats to Indian operators. On the domestic front, the policy makes a cap of Rs 2500 per one-hour flight. The measure will enhance regional connectivity between Tier II and Tier III cities. For Helicopters, no approval is needed from the ATC for flying below 5000 feet.

346. **General Assembly elects Permanent Representative of Fiji as President of 71st session**

In a rare secret ballot vote, the United Nations General Assembly today elected Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji, as President of its upcoming 71st session. Mr. Thomson, who will replace current General Assembly President Mogens Lykketoft, will begin his tenure in September at the commencement of the 71st General Assembly session. The new President-elect defeated Andreas Mavroyiannis of Cyprus by a secret-ballot vote of 94 to 90, with one abstention. The selection of the President of the General Assembly follows a geographical rotation system, with respective regional groups putting forward a consensus candidate every year. If a group cannot reach consensus on a nominee, a vote by secret ballot will take place. Following the voting, Mr. Thomson highlighted that his election marked the first time that a representative of a Pacific small island developing State will serve as Assembly President. He added that as a representative of such a State, he planned to be vocal on the issue of climate change. Mr. Thomson also noted that the Assembly's 71st session would bring momentum to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and serve to achieve progress on the 17 [Sustainable Development Goals\(SDGs\)](#). In that regard, he pledged to serve the Assembly and UN in a spirit of fidelity and commitment to the common good. For his part, Mr. Lykketoft noted that Mr. Thomson brought extensive experience in matters of rural development, as well as in international affairs for many years. Expressing his support for Mr. Thomson's preparations to assume the presidency on 13 September, Mr. Lykketoft said that much work remained to be done during the current session, including preparing for [a high-level event on large movements of refugees and migrants](#) in September, and further informal dialogues with candidates for the position of Secretary-General, as necessary. Congratulating Mr. Thomson on his new role, [Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted](#) that the President-elect brings a broad perspective to his new post, having years of experience in the international arena, both working for the Government of Fiji and in the private sector.

347. **Australian Rodent Is First Mammal Made Extinct by Human-Driven Climate Change, Scientists Say**

Australian researchers say rising sea levels have wiped out a rodent that lived on a tiny outcrop in the Great Barrier Reef, in what they say is the first documented extinction of a mammal species due to human-caused [climate change](#). The rodent was known to have lived only on Bramble Cay, a minuscule atoll in the northeast Torres Strait, between the Cape York Peninsula in the Australian state of Queensland and the southern shores of Papua New Guinea. The long-tailed, whiskered creature, called the Bramble Cay melomys, was considered the only mammal endemic to the Great Barrier Reef. The key factor responsible for the death of the Bramble Cay melomys is almost certainly high tides and surging seawater, which has traveled inland across the island, Luke Leung, a scientist from the University of Queensland who [was an author of a report](#) on the species apparent disappearance, said by telephone. The seawater has destroyed the animals habitat and food source. This is the first documented extinction of a mammal because of climate change, he said. Anthony D. Barnosky, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who is a leading expert on climate changes effects on the natural world, called the disappearance of the melomys a cogent example of how climate change provides the coup de grace to already critically endangered species. I think this is significant because it illustrates how the human-caused extinction process works in real time, Dr. Barnosky added, noting that storm surges and rising seas had wiped out a species that had no route of escape. On land, were seeing the same thing, except rather than water barriers, the barriers are the 51 percent of the Earths land surface that has been taken over by people. Warming seawater temperatures have caused [significant coral bleaching](#) along the northern sections of the Great Barrier Reef of [Australia](#) this year. Scientists have reported that bleaching has led to the death of some corals, and that climate change is the main long-term threat to the health of the reef.

348. **Indian 4x400m quartet breaks National record**

The Indian mens 4x400m relay team broke the 18-year-old National record, clocking a stunning 3:02.17s, in the International Sprints and Relay Cup on Sunday. The team, comprising Asian Games bronze medallist Arokiya Rajiv, Mohammed Anas, A. Dharun and Kunhumammed, bettered the record of 3:02.62s set at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok. Another performance close to this time could carry the mens team to the top-16 in the world rankings and bring it a Rio Olympics berth. Women climb to 13th Meanwhile, the womens mile relay team of Anilda Thomas, Juana Murmu, Aswini Akkunji and M.R. Poovamma clocked a season-best 3:30.16s, which helped it climb from the 16th spot to 13th in the world rankings, improving its chances of making it to Rio. Only the top-16 teams, which include the top eight finishers of last years world relays meet in Bahamas, will qualify for the Olympics. The next eight will be based on the world rankings, which will take into account the aggregate of the teams two-best times clocked between January 1, 2015 and July 11 this year.

349. **BSNL extends free roaming service by a year**

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, BSNL has extended free roaming service for its mobile subscribers by another year. In a statement, state-run telecom firm BSNL said, the decision to extend the facility has been taken in view of overwhelming response of its customers in mobile number portability and achieving highest growth of the customer in February and March months. The PSU had launched the scheme last year.

350. **IAS officer Supriya Sahu appointed Doordarshan DG**

Senior IAS officer Supriya Sahu has been appointed Director General of Doordarshan, a post lying vacant for nearly two years. A 1991 batch officer, Sahu is currently working in her cadre state Tamil Nadu. She has been appointed to the post for three years. Sahu has earlier worked as Director and Joint Secretary in Information and Broadcasting Ministry, nodal authority for the national broadcaster Doordarshan.

351. **Union Minister Ananth Kumar launches India Chem 2016 in Mumbai**

Giving a clear signal that no compromise would be done on effluent treatment, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Ananth Kumar launched the India-Chem 2016, in Mumbai today. The event has been jointly organised by Ministry of Chemical and Petrochemicals and FICCI.

Mr. Kumar said the petrochemical sector has 50 billion dollars investment. His ministry will clear the brown field development, if the Environment ministry assured that the chemical industry will come forward in a cluster manner and will safeguard the environment.

The Minister said India currently ranks 6th in the world in chemical sector and expressed his wish to occupy top rank.

352. US Senate approves enhanced military cooperation with India

The US Senate has unanimously approved a move to enhance military co-operation with India for developing threat analysis, military doctrine, force planning, logistical support and intelligence collection and analysis.

An amendment titled to authorise military-to-military exchanges with India was agreed in the Senate by a voice vote as part of the National Defence Authorisation Act -2017.

Moved by Senator John Sullivan, the amendment was co-sponsored by Senator John Corny and Mark Warner, the two co-chairs of the Senate India Caucus along with Senator Mark Kirk.

353. Congressional resolution introduced backing India's UNSC bid

A resolution has been introduced in the US House of Representatives supporting India's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. The resolution, introduced in the House last night, says that a permanent seat for India in the UNSC will strengthen democracy around the world.

It was introduced by Congressman Frank Pallone, the co-founder of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans and Congressman Ami Bera, the only Indian-American in the Congress and current co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans. India is the only country which has been endorsed by the Obama administration for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

In a statement after he introduced the bill, Mr Pallone said, at a time when international relations are being redefined, the US should acknowledge and empower those nations that share America's enduring core values. He said, it is in the interests of the United States and the world to have a UN Security Council whose members combine military strength with respect for democracy and pluralism, and an appreciation of the dangers posed by rouge states and terrorist groups.

Mr Pallone and Mr Bera said the UN Security Council still reflects the world as it was in 1945 when the United Nations was created. Despite the fact that the UN has grown from 51 member nations at its inception to nearly 200, the Security Council has not grown to reflect these dramatic changes, they said. There are currently five permanent members of the Council including the US, the UK, Russia, France and China.

Last week, Mr Pallone and Mr Bera applauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to strengthen ties between the US and India during a speech before a joint session of Congress. Mr Bera said as the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest democracy, the United States and India share common values and a growing partnership on many fronts, especially on defence cooperation.

354. India-Bangladesh transit facility becomes operational

India-Bangladesh transit facility, under the revised Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol, becomes operational today. It was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka in June last year. A ship from Kolkata carrying 1000 tonnes of steel and iron sheets reached Ashuganj river port in Bangladesh last night.

From there it will transit throughout Bangladesh territory to reach its destination in Tripura. The transit facility with provision of third country access was formally inaugurated this morning in Ashuganj by Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

The Kolkata-Ashuganj-Tripura transit through a river route and land route crossing Bangladesh territory cuts the Kolkata-Agartala distance via Siliguri's 'chicken neck' from 1600 km to 800 km. The reduced distance cuts the transportation costs from mainland India to the northeastern region from 67 US dollars to 35 US dollars per tonne, and the time from 30 days to just 10 days. India pays transit fees of 192.25 dollars per tonne as negotiated between the two countries.

With the formal inauguration of the transit facility between India and Bangladesh, both friendly neighbours sharing a strong historical and cultural bond have crossed yet another milestone in their bilateral relations. The Kolkata-Ashuganj-Tripura transit route gives mainland India easier and cheaper access to the seven northeastern states.

The revised Inland Water Transit Trade Protocol under India-Bangladesh Bilateral Trade Agreement gives India and Bangladesh the right to each other's territory for transiting goods to third countries.

Bangladesh can thus use Indian territory to transit goods to Nepal and Bhutan while India can access Myanmar via Bangladesh. The protocol facilitates trade and development not only between India and Bangladesh but in the entire sub-region facilitating trade and development in the sub-region.

355. Russia launches most powerful nuclear icebreaker Arktika

Russia's new Project 22220 nuclear powered icebreaker dubbed Arktika was launched from the Baltic Shipyard in Russia's second largest city of St. Petersburg on today. Built at the Baltic Shipyard, which belongs to Russia's United Shipbuilding Corporation, project 22220 is the worlds largest and most powerful vessel of its kind. The Project 22220 vessel is 189.5 yards long and 37.1 yards wide. The ship displaces 33,540 metric tons. Fitted with two specifically designed RITM-200 nuclear power reactors.

356. WHO: Hot beverages can cause esophageal cancer

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, part of the World Health Organization, said that there is evidence that drinks consumed at temperatures above 65 Celsius can cause esophageal cancer. The conclusion comes from analyzing studies from Iran, China and South America where tea and coffee are often served at 70 Celsius or above.

In developed countries, causes of esophageal cancer include smoking and alcohol, but cancer is more common in parts of the world where drinks are often consumed at very high temperatures. The National Coffee Association called the change great news for coffee drinkers.

357. Assam Pradesh Congress President Anjan Dutta passes away

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Anjan Dutta passed away this morning at the AIIMS hospital in New Delhi following cardiac failure. Congress President Sonia Gandhi has expressed deep shock and grief over the untimely demise of Anjan Dutta.

Extending her condolences, Mrs Gandhi said that not only the Assam PCC, but the entire Congress Party as indeed the State of Assam had lost a leader committed to the people.

358. First Mizo female to scale Mt Everest gets rousing reception in Aizawl

The first Mizo female to scale the summit of Mt Everest arrived at Aizawl, this evening. Lalrintluangi, the only person chosen from the North-East for the 10-member female NCC expedition to climb the highest mountain was greeted by a large crowd today. The summit was reached on 21st and 22nd May, this year in two groups.

In a felicitation ceremony, she was promoted to Under Officer in the NCC and was awarded with cash of five lakh rupees by the state government. Lalrintluangi, a student of Government K M Higher Secondary school, is a resident of Dawrpui locality in Aizawl. Earliar, Zohmangaiha became the first person from Mizoram to reach the summit of Mt Everest a few years back.

359. ESIC to provide free health checkup to subscribers

Employees' State Insurance Corporation, ESIC has decided to offer free annual health checkup to insured members aged 40 and above under its health insurance scheme.

Besides routine general physical or clinical examination, the health checkup will include tests for blood sugar, kidney, liver, check X-Ray and ECG.

The health insurance scheme run by the ESIC provide cover to not only the two crore insured persons but also to their dependents in the family.

A large section of insured persons are working under harsh and hazardous industrial environment and hence are more likely to develop illness.

360. India's CAD narrows sharply to USD 300 million on lower trade deficit

The Reserve Bank today said that India's current account deficit (CAD) narrowed sharply to 300 million US dollars, or 0.1 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, in the fourth quarter of 2015-16.

In a press Release on Preliminary data on countrys balance of payments (BoP) for the fourth quarter issued today, the Apex bank has said that for the entire 2015-16 fiscal, the difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange or CAD shrank to 1.1 per cent of the GDP.

It stated that the contraction in CAD is primarily on account of lower trade deficit, which stood at 24.8 billion dollars compared to 31.6 billion dollars in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

It said that for the full fiscal 2015-16, CAD stood at 22.1 billion dollars, or 1.1 per cent of GDP, as against 26.9 billion dollars, or 1.8 per cent of GDP, in 2014-15, on the back of contraction in the trade deficit.

The country's trade deficit narrowed to 130.1 billion dollars last fiscal from 144.9 billion dollars in 2014-15. The overall Balance of Payment (BoP) during the fiscal moderated to 17.9 billion dollars from 61.06 billion dollars in 2014-15.

The RBI has also mentioned that the Net Foreign Direct Investment inflows during the last fiscal stood at 36 billion dollars, up sharply by 15.3 per cent over the level in 2014-15.

Portfolio investment, however, recorded a net outflow of 4.5 billion dollars during the fiscal as against a net inflow of 40.9 billion dollars in 2014-15.

361. World Day to Combat Desertification - 17 June

There is probably no greater issue than land in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals that touches everyone. From the food we eat, to the clothes we wear and the houses we live it all stems from land resources. In order to leave no one behind as proclaimed in the new Sustainable Development Goals, achieving land degradation neutrality needs to be in the forefront to meet our requirements and develop sustainability. This years World Day to Combat Desertification advocates for the importance of inclusive cooperation to restore and rehabilitate degraded land and contribute towards achieving the overall Sustainable Development Goals. Theme and slogan Inclusive cooperation among all actors is key for making Land Degradation Neutrality a fundamental solution for achieving SDGs. The slogan, Protect Earth. Restore Land. Engage People. addresses the importance of comprehensive participation and cooperation in working towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality. Global observance The global observance event on 17 June 2016 will be held in Beijing, China, hosted by the State Forestry Administration of China (SFA). In 2013, China embarked on the new development strategy, The Belt and Road, aiming to strengthen cooperation among countries primarily in Eurasia. Since then, it has been promoting green and low-carbon infrastructure construction in cooperation with the neighboring countries connected by the historic Silk Road. By organizing the global observance in China, the 2016 WDCD will demonstrate how Land Degradation Neutrality can be a critical element for achieving other sustainable development goals, especially for promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth. At the global observance, the host country will announce the One Belt and One Road Joint Action to Combating Desertification Initiative together with interested countries and stakeholders. In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 17 the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought to promote public awareness of the issue, and the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

362. What is Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act? What are the amendments to it?

The FRBM Act is a fiscal sector legislation enacted by the government of India in 2003, aiming to ensure fiscal discipline for the centre by setting targets including reduction of fiscal deficits and elimination of revenue deficit. It is a legal step to ensure fiscal discipline and fiscal consolidation in India. The targets set under the Act was postponed several times in later years though some other goals of the Act including phasing out of government borrowing from the RBI were implemented. Why FRBM became necessary? The FRBM Act was enacted in 2003 as rising government borrowing and the resultant government debts have seriously eroded the financial health of the government. High revenue deficit due to higher expenditure on subsidies, salaries, defence etc. compelled the government to make big borrowing from early 1990s onwards. With inadequate revenues, government resorted to high level of borrowing. The

borrowing again produced high interest payments. In this way, interest payments became the largest expenditure item of the government. To arrest this financial weakness in its budget, the government has taken some serious deficit cut targets by introducing a law in the form of the FRBM. What the FRBM says? The FRBM rule set a target reduction of fiscal deficit to 3% of the GDP by 2008-09. This will be realized with an annual reduction target of 0.3% of GDP per year by the Central government. Similarly, revenue deficit has to be reduced by 0.5% of the GDP per year with complete elimination by 2008-09. Later, the target dates were reset and budget 2016-17 aims to realise the 3% fiscal deficit target by March 2018. The Act gives slight flexibility to the government regarding the realisation of the target as well. It gives the responsibility to the government to adhere to these targets. The Finance Minister has to explain the reasons and suggest corrective actions to be taken, in case of breach. Following are the provisions of the Act in detail. The government has to take appropriate measures to reduce the fiscal deficit and revenue deficit so as to eliminate revenue deficit by 2008-09 and thereafter, sizable revenue surplus has to be created. Setting annual targets for reduction of fiscal deficit and revenue deficit, contingent liabilities and total liabilities. The government shall end its borrowing from the RBI except for temporary advances. The RBI not to subscribe to the primary issues of the central government securities after 2006. The revenue deficit and fiscal deficit may exceed the targets specified in the rules only on grounds of national security, calamity etc. Though the Act aims to achieve deficit reductions prima facie, an important objective is to achieve inter-generational equity in fiscal management. This is because when there are high borrowings today, it should be repaid by the future generation. But the benefit from high expenditure and debt today goes to the present generation. Achieving FRBM targets thus ensures inter-generation equity by reducing the debt burden of the future generation. Other objectives include: long run macroeconomic stability, better coordination between fiscal and monetary policy, and transparency in fiscal operation of the Government. Amendments to the FRBM Act Amendments to the Act were made after its initial version in 2003. This include revision of the target realisation year and introduction of the concept of effective revenue deficit. In 2012 and 2015, notable amendments were made. As per one provision of the amendment, a Medium-term Expenditure Framework statement should be prepared which will set a three-year rolling target for expenditure indicators. As per the amendments in 2012, the Central Government has to take appropriate measures to reduce the fiscal deficit, revenue deficit and effective revenue deficit to eliminate the effective revenue deficit by the 31st March, 2015 and thereafter build up adequate effective revenue surplus and thereafter as may be prescribed by rules made by the Central Government. As per Finance Act 2015, the target dates for achieving the prescribed rates of effective deficit and fiscal deficit (3% fiscal deficit) were further extended by 3 years to March 2018. Committee to review FRBM targets As per the Union Budget 2016-17, the government constituted a Committee to review the implementation of the FRBM Act. This was after a widely held view among experts that instead of fixed fiscal deficit targets, it may be better to have a fiscal deficit range as the target. This will help the government to meet specific situations like recessions which demand high government expenditure. There is also a suggestion that fiscal expansion or contraction should be aligned with credit contraction or expansion respectively, in the economy. While remaining committed to fiscal prudence and consolidation, Budget stated that a review of the FRBM Act is necessary in the context of the uncertainty and volatility in the global economy.

363. Current account deficit comes down but remittances and service exports fall amidst declining trade

India's current account deficit has registered its smallest deficit figure in the last seven years. Declining trade deficit amidst the global recession has helped to narrow down the trade deficit. According to the RBI's quarterly estimate about trade data for the quarter, other developments for the quarter include fall in services exports which is a matter of concern in the context of sharp decline in exports of goods. The current account deficit for the fourth quarter of the last financial year (2015-16) was just \$300 million which is around 0.1% of GDP. This is significantly lower than US\$ 7.1 billion (1.3 per cent of GDP) in Q3 of 2015-16 and marginally lower than US\$ 0.7 billion (0.1 per cent of GDP) in Q4 of 2014-15. According to the RBI Report, the contraction was driven by declining trade deficit. Trade deficit for the quarter was US\$ 24.8 billion than in Q4 of last year (US\$ 31.6 billion) and US\$ 34.0 billion in the preceding quarter. At the same time, the data shows an undesirable trend of declining service exports. Net services receipts declined on a year on year basis mainly due to fall in exports of transport, financial services and telecommunication, computer and information services. Another negative trend is the decline in remittances. It is expected that remittances are adversely affected by new indigenization drive in Gulf countries coming out of the crude price fall. Services and remittance flows are instrumental in offsetting the trade deficit for the country historically. Declining trend in these two will put additional pressure on the balance of payment in near future if the quarterly data is an indicator.

364. Govt slaps 20% export duty on sugar to check prices

Government has imposed 20 per cent customs duty on sugar exports. The duty has been imposed to boost domestic supply and check prices of the commodity. In a release the finance ministry said that the duty will be applicable on the export of raw sugar, white or refined sugar. It added that a decision to this effect has been notified by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

With retail sugar prices rising, the government has taken various steps to contain prices including withdrawal of export-linked production subsidy and imposition of stock limits on traders. India, the world's second largest sugar producer after Brazil, has exported 1.6 million tonnes of sugar so far in the 2015-16 marketing year (October-September).

365. UGC approves new guidelines for Deemed universities

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved new regulations for Deemed Universities and removed the ceiling on the number of off-campus centres. The new guidelines also give a time bar of seven months for the UGC and Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry to process applications for setting up new centres.

HRD Minister Smriti Irani has announced the new guidelines for Deemed Universities at a Press Conference yesterday. She also said the permission to open off-campus centres would only be given to the highest ranked deemed universities.

The new regulations also allow setting up of off-campus centres abroad but for that additional permission of the Home Ministry and Ministry of External Affairs would be needed. It has also been decided that Universities will not be able to charge more than Rs 10,000 at the time of counselling and capitation fee will not be allowed.

Deemed Universities have also been given more freedom in opening new departments related to core areas, for which they now don't have to immediately seek the permission of the regulator.

366. US: Philadelphia introduces soda tax to fight obesity

In the US city of Philadelphia has introduced a levy on carbonated sugary drinks, despite a multimillion-dollar campaign by the beverage industry to block it. It will become the first major US city to implement a so-called soda tax, which supporters say will improve the health of 1.5 million residents. But opponents say it will hurt small businesses and poorer people. The measure will come into force in January and is expected to raise 90 million dollars next year. In Philadelphia, more than 68 per cent of adults and 41 per cent of children are overweight or obese.

367. Chinese surgeon to transplant human head for first time in the world

A Chinese surgeon has announced that he will conduct the world's first transplant of an entire human head within the next year, much to the dismay of medical leaders across the globe. Earlier this year, Doctor Ren Xiaoping of the Harbin Medical University in China claimed to have transplanted the head of a monkey, but the animal was immobile following the operation and had to be euthanized 20 hours later.

Xiaoping was also one of the surgeons on the team who completed the first human hand transplant in the US in 1999. Now, the doctor claims he will attempt a head transplant on a human. The operation will involve removing a disabled volunteer's head and attaching it to the body of a cadaver.

Xiaoping has reportedly been inundated with volunteers, many of whom are paralyzed, willing to risk their lives for a chance at mobility. Italian neurosurgeon Dr. Sergio Canavero has also stated that he plans to conduct a head transplant by the end of 2017, but Xiaoping believes he will be ready to perform the macabre and risky surgery sooner.

368. Obama nominates Indian-origin as ambassador to Malaysia

US President Barack Obama has nominated an Indian-origin diplomat as the next American ambassador to Malaysia. Kamala Shirin Lakhdir would replace Joseph Y Yun as the next US ambassador to Malaysia. Nomination of Lakhdir was announced by the White House along with several other key administration appointments. Lakhdir served as the US Consul General in Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom from 2009 to 2011. She received a BA from Harvard College and an MS from the National War College. Her father Noor Lakhdir was born in Mumbai in mid 1920s.

369. Gravitational waves detected for second time

For the second time, scientists have directly detected gravitational waves created by the collision of two black holes 1.4 billion light years away, which once again confirms Einstein's theory of general relativity. The scientists detected the gravitational waves - ripples through the fabric of the space-time continuum - using the twin Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) interferometers in the US.

On December 26 last year both detectors, situated more than 3,000 kilometres apart, picked up a very faint signal amid the surrounding noise. While LIGO's first detection, reported on February 11 this year, produced a clear peak in the data, this second signal was far subtler, generating a shallower waveform that was almost buried in the data, researchers said.

Using advanced data analysis techniques, the team determined that indeed, the waveform signaled a gravitational wave. The researchers calculated that the gravitational wave arose from the collision of two black holes, 14.2 and 7.5 times the mass of the Sun. The signal picked up by LIGO's detectors encompasses the final moments before the black holes merged.

For roughly the final second, while the signal was detectable, the black holes spun around each other 55 times, approaching half the speed of light, before merging in a collision that released a huge amount of energy in the form of gravitational waves, equivalent to the mass of the Sun.

This cataclysm, occurring 1.4 billion years ago, produced a more massive spinning black hole that is 20.8 times the mass of the Sun. This second detection of gravitational waves, which once again confirms Einstein's theory of general relativity, successfully tested LIGO's ability to detect incredibly subtle gravitational signals.

370. NASA captures pictures on foothills of Mount Sharp

Using a 7-foot long camera called the Mars Hand Lens Imager, the NASA Curiosity rover team took the pictures on the foothills of Mount Sharp last month, a 3.4-mile high area near a site called Okuruso.

Curiosity spends most of its time drilling rocks and processing samples in the Mount Sharp area, and two of these holes can be seen in the photos. This research helped researchers understand the history of fluids on Mars at rock formations called Stimson and Murray. This research has provided surprising insights into the Red Planet.

371. Maha govt to make Bhima river pollution free

Maharashtra government has decided to make the ancient Bhima river at Pandharpur pollution free and revive its sanctity through the 'Namami Chandrabhaga' project. The project Namami Chandrabhaga was first mentioned by Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar in his budget speech this year where he spoke of changing the face of the river by 2019. Bhima River is called 'Chandrabhaga' at Pandharpur in Solapur district as it resembles a half-curved moon.

It flows southeast for 861 kms through Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Telangana, before entering the Krishna river. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board in its report pointed out the pollution in Bhima and its ally rivers. Indrayani, Mula and Mutha are major allied rivers of Bhima which are polluted in Pune district due to sewage water. The river also gets polluted in Pandharpur.

Lakhs of devotees gather at Pandharpur every year on Ashadhi and Kartiki Ekadashi. There are no permanent and sufficient facilities of toilets and devotees practice open defecation during their yatra. It needs awareness as well as a need to construct basic amenities and facilities like sewage treatment plant to stop the river from getting polluted. Recently a meeting was held at Pandharpur to discuss the details of the project. Actual work on Namami Chandrabhaga is expected to start soon.

372. Garment bank set up in Himachal Pradesh

In Himachal Pradesh, the Shimla Municipal Corporation has set up a garment bank in the state run Kamla Nehru Hospital Shimla for new born babies. President of the State Red Cross Society Pratibha Singh inaugurated this bank yesterday. The Deputy Mayor Tikender Panwer claimed that possibly, it is the first such garment bank in the country.

This unique garment bank would help those needy people who remained unable to purchase new cloths for their new born babies. In the garment kit besides cloths, one blanket and set of some books would also be included. Initially nearly one hundred such kits have been kept in the Kamla Nehru Hospital. The whole expenditure on this bank would be bear by the Corporation under its social responsibility.

373. Max Life, Max Fin Services to merge into HDFC Standard Life

In the biggest consolidation in the country's private insurance sector, Max Life Insurance and Max Financial Services will merge into HDFC Standard Life Insurance.

"The Board of Directors of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company, Max Life Insurance Company Ltd, and Max Financial Services Ltd have approved a potential combination through a merger, HDFC said in an NSE filing. Max Financial Services said the agreement provides for a mutually agreed exclusivity period for due diligence, and discussions between the parties in relation to the proposed transaction.

The proposed arrangements will be subject to due diligence, definitive documentation and applicable board, shareholder, regulatory and other third party approvals. At present, 49 per cent FDI is allowed in the insurance sector.

374. Govt to extend incentives to boost exports: Nirmala Sitharaman

The Government today said fall in India's exports have been arrested in May and now it is time to extend incentives to boost the overseas shipments.

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, although the pick up in exports may be slow but the bottoming out has happened. The Minister said, government will extend incentives to boost exports.

The remarks assume significance as exports fell for the 18th month in a row in May, though marginally by 0.79 per cent, to 22.17 billion dollars as several non-oil sectors such as engineering and gems and jewellery saw a rise in outward shipments.

Further talking about the 20 per cent customs duty on sugar exports, Ms Sitharaman said the move would help in increasing availability of the commodity in the domestic market.

375. Champions Trophy: India reaches final for first time; To meet Australia in summit clash

India to take on Australia in the summit clash of Champions Trophy hockey tournament at Lee Valley Park in London today. Australia topped the league standings with 13 points while India finished second with seven points. India managed to enter their maiden Champions Trophy final despite the 2-4 defeat in the final group match against Australia last night.

India's hope to qualify for the title clash hanged in balance but a 3-3 draw in the Britain-Belgium match helped India to get a ticket to the Champions Trophy final. India have never won the prestigious Champions Trophy since the tournament's inception in 1978. India won only a bronze medal in 1982.

376. Ganges-Danube Cultural Festival of India being organized in Hungary from 17th to 19th June, 2016

Ganges-Danube Cultural Festival of India in Hungary will be inaugurated by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Culture Tourism (I/C) and Civil Aviation on 17 June 2016 at Vigado Theatre in Budapest, Hungary. Dr Sharma will also inaugurate International day of Yoga followed by Yoga workshop on 18th June. The Festival will showcase Indian culture, i.e. dance, music, yoga, film and exhibitions. Indian martial art experts and puppet artists are also performing. Hungarian artists, proficient in Indian art forms will also participate in the programme. During the period of the festival (17-19 June 2016), the following events of the Festival will be staged in different cities of Hungary, namely, Budapest, Debrecen, Szeged, Eger, Nagykanizsa, Esztergom, Szentendre and Balatonfured:

(1) Shri Patel Ras Mandal Folk Dance Group of Latipur, Jamnagar, Gujarat (2) Kalaripayattu Dance Group from Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts, Bangalore (3) The Mystical Forest Dance performance by Sadhya A Unit of Performing Arts, from New Delhi (4) Mehendi Demonstration (5) Lac Bangle Demonstration (6) Kathputli Show

377. **India records highest-ever tea production in FY16**

[India](#) recorded its highest-ever tea production at 1,233 million kilos during 2015-16, while the [exports](#) crossed 230 million kilos during the period.

Tea production rose by three per cent in 2015-16, up from 36 million kilos in the preceding year, a Tea Board statement said today.

Exports during the last fiscal was the highest after 35 years and valued at Rs 4,493 crore, and a 17 per cent rise in terms of quantity, it said.

The last time exports crossed the 230 mkg mark was during 1980-81, it added.

Increase in exports was mostly in the markets of Russia, Iran, Germany, Pakistan, Bangladesh, [UAE](#) and Poland.

The increase in production could be attributed to a rise in North India, while south suffered from adverse climatic conditions and labour issues in Kerala.

Production by Bought Leaf Factories (BLF) increased 5.81 per cent during the period and contributed 34 per cent to overall production.

Average price realisation at the tea auctions increased 8.05 per cent, according to the statement.

378. **India, Thailand agree to forge closer partnership in defence, maritime cooperation**

India and Thailand have agreed to forge a closer partnership in the fields of defence and maritime cooperation. The two countries also inked two agreements in the area of culture and education.

In a press statement after delegation level talks with the visiting Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-Cha in New Delhi this afternoon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said close security partnership would help both the countries to secure people from rising threat of terrorism.

He said beyond terrorism, India and Thailand agreed to further deepen security engagement in the fields of cyber security, narcotics, transnational economic offences and human trafficking.

To welcome more tourists from Thailand, Mr Modi announced that India will soon facilitate double entry e-tourist visas for Thai citizens.

Recognizing that smooth flow of goods, services, capital and human resources between the economies needs a strong network of air, land and sea links, Prime Minister Modi said, India and Thailand have prioritized completion of India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral highway and early signing of the Motor Vehicles Agreement between the three countries.

Noting that connectivity is also an area of priority for India's development, Mr Modi said, improving access to Southeast Asia from Northeastern States benefits people of the both sides.

He said, early conclusion of a balanced Comprehensive Economic and Partnership Agreement is a shared priority for both the nations.

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-Cha said, he and Mr Modi agreed to encourage Indian and Thai businessmen to invest in each other's countries. He also said there is a need to expedite negotiations regarding free trade agreement between India and Thailand to increase volume of trade.

The visiting dignitary said he will encourage his country's businessmen to be part of India's Make in India programme. He said, Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) Thai king Bhumibol Adulyadej can be applied to support the

realization of sustainable development goals and Thailand as the current chair of G-77 is ready to share its development experience with the developing countries. He said the Thai side will translate the concept of SEP into Hindi language.

379. HRD ministry to launch app and portal Swayam providing online course content

Union HRD minister Smriti Irani has said that an App and portal named 'Swayam' will be launched within next two months. Using this App and portal, students of various streams including science and technology will be able to access and download very high quality UGC approved course content free of cost for their studies, she said.

Addressing a program in Lucknow today she called upon the students to go for Mudra Yojna and Start UP India to become an entrepreneur instead of a job seeker. She also appealed to the guardians and parents that they should insist on excellence in children instead of high marks.

She said that our true colour, character and education reflects in our attitude towards respect and dignity of our women and girls.

380. Karnataka, Goa sign pact to join Uday scheme: Piyush Goyal

Karnataka and Goa have signed an agreement to join the UDAY scheme for the revival of discoms. Both States may be benefited about four thousand five hundred seventy crores rupees from this scheme over next 3 years.

Power Minister Piyush Goyal said in a tweet that Karnataka signed UDAY MoU resulting in gains of about 4,300 crores rupees over the next 3 years. Goa will also gain around 270 crore rupees through UDAY reforms.

Government had earlier said that the Power Ministry would soon approach the Cabinet to seek approval for enabling private sector electricity distribution companies (discoms) to get operational benefits of the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY).

Under this scheme for reviving financially stressed electricity distribution utilities, state governments takeover 75 per cent of the debt with the electricity distribution utilities. The remaining debt is issued as discom bonds, backed by state governments.

381. Yellow Fever Vaccination facility inaugurated at Tuticorin

A Yellow fever Vaccination facility was inaugurated by Smt Dr. Megha Pravin Khobragade, DADG (IH), Ministry of Health Family Welfare, Government of India in the presence of Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman and Shri S. Natarajan, Deputy Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust at the premises of Port Health Organisation, World Trade Avenue, Port Estate.

Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust in his special address thanked the officials concerned from Ministry of Health Family Welfare for considering the request of the Port and establishing the facility within a short period. He further stated that the new facility would add a feather to the cap to the service requirements of EXIM community. Smt Dr. Megha Pravin Khobragade, DADG (IH), Ministry of Health Family Welfare, in her address stated that Tuticorin is the 35th centre in the country to provide Yellow fever Vaccination facility and would pave way to save money and time to the intending travellers from this part of the state.

382. Naval Institute of Aeronautical Technology celebrates Diamond Jubilee

The Naval Institute of Aeronautical Technology (NIAT), the premier Aviation technical training establishment of the Indian Navy celebrated 60th anniversary on 17 Jun 16. An International Seminar on Challenges in Maintenance and Training of Fixed and Rotary wing Naval Air Assets along with Industry Exposition (Aero-Expo) showcasing emerging technologies in field of Aviation and Marine was conducted which was inaugurated by the chief guest, Vice Admiral A R Karve AVSM, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command. A special day cover was also released jointly by Vice Admiral A R Karve and Smt. Sumathi Ravichandran, Post Master General, Kochi for commemorating the occasion. NIAT, Having been set up as the Naval Air Technical School (NATS) in the wake of the induction of the amphibious Sea Land aircraft in 1956, has grown and evolved over the years and can be counted today among the premier training establishments of the country. The growth of the Institute has been rapid especially over the last decade. The

institute is recognised as a Centre for Aeronautical Science and Technology by Cochin University with the offering of a host of academic qualifications for courses conducted at the institute such as MTech, BSc, and Diploma in Aeronautics etc.

383. Margaret Atwood wins 2016 Pen Pinter Prize

The Canadian novelist and poet is well known for her environmental campaigning. Judges praised Atwood's political activism, and described her as an "exemplary public intellectual". Atwood will formally receive the award at the British Library on 13 October, where she will also deliver an address. The judges said she was a "consistent supporter of political causes", adding: "Her work championing environmental concerns comes well within the scope of human rights she is a very important figure in terms of the principles of Pen and of Harold Pinter." Atwood said she was "humbled" to be the recipient of this year's prize. The prize was established in 2009 in memory of playwright and Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter, who had died the previous year. It is given annually to a writer who shows a "fierce intellectual determination... to define the real truth of our lives and our societies". The winner also helps to decide, together with the judging panel, the winner of the International Writer of Courage prize - which recognises a non-British writer who has faced persecution. Atwood will announce her international co-winner when she receives her own award at the October ceremony.

384. Guinness Book Recognises the largest Karma Naach Dance by 3049 people in MP

To celebrate the culture and history of the Gond tribes of central India, an amazing 3,049 people took part in the Largest Karma Naach dance ever at a recent event in Madhya Pradesh in India. Organised by District Administration Mandla, the participants formed 61 large circles of 50 people and performed the traditional tribal dance in spectacular synchronicity. In accordance with the Guinness World Records guidelines, the choreographed Karma Naach dance continued for a minimum of five minutes. All the participants were dressed in traditional clothing to complete the attempt, and the folk dance was accompanied by live music. India has already played host to a multitude of impressive mass participation dances, including the [Largest Bollywood dance](#), which took place in Amritsar in January with 8,726 people. At the Thanima 2015 arts festival in Trinjalakuda (India), we saw 5,211 dancers set a new record for the [Largest Kaikottikali dance](#) in front of a captivated audience of over 55,000.

385. Bharti Enterprises' Sunil Mittal to head of International Chamber of Commerce

Sunil Bharti Mittal, founder chairperson of Bharti Enterprises, has been elected as the head of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), based in Paris, France. Mittal is the third Indian business leader to head ICC in its near-hundred year history of being the world's oldest and most respected global business organisation. He takes over from Terry McGraw, chairman emeritus of SP Global, who will now become ICC's honorary chairperson. The ICC World Council elected the new leaders after a voting held on Thursday in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Bharti Enterprises said in a statement. I am honoured at being given the opportunity to lead this prestigious global institution and look forward to working with our members. There is an urgent need to restore trade and investment as a driver of growth and jobs, particularly in the developing world and this will be a focus of my tenure, Mittal said. Mittal serves on many international bodies and think-tanks. He is currently the chair of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Telecommunications Steering Committee. He is also a member of the India-US, India-UK and India-Japan CEO forums.

386. Hollywood actor Anne Hathaway appointed as UN Women Goodwill Ambassador

Hollywood actress Anne Hathaway was named as the Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women. In her new role she will focus her efforts on injustices mothers around the world and also challenging issues like unpaid leave, wage gaps and a lack of access to affordable childcare. About Anne Hathaway Anne Hathaway is Hollywood actress and singer from United States. She had started her professional acting career in the television series Get Real. Her first appearance as lead role in the film was in The Princess Diaries. Later in 2005 she had starred in Brokeback Mountain along with Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal. In 2006, she acted in the movie The Devil Wears Prada. In 2012, she received the Academy Award (Oscar) for Best Supporting Actress for the film Les Misérables. About UN Women The UN Women also known as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women nodal UN agency for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. It became operational in January 2011.

387. Navy Officer Becomes 1st Indian to Win Racketlon Competitions

Commodore Ashutosh Pednekar's passion for racket sports and perseverance has led to him becoming the first

Indian in sports history to participate and win international tournaments in the sport of racketlon. At the recently concluded competitions in Denmark and Belgium, he made the country proud by clinching [gold](#) medal in both the men's amateur and the veterans (plus 45) categories at the Nordic Racket Games held at Vejen, Denmark on May 28 and 29. Then at prestigious Super World Tour - King of Rackets tournament held at Oudenaarde, Belgium from June 3 to 5, he once again proved himself by bagging gold in plus 45 and silver in men's amateur category. Though becoming increasingly popular internationally, racketlon is still a relatively young and unknown sport in India. It is modelled on the lines of decathlon/triathlon and is a combination sport comprising four racket games namely table tennis, badminton, squash and lawn tennis. The typical match comprises 4 sets of 21 points each in each of the above individual sports played in succession one after another. Winner is the player winning maximum points. Pednekar's stellar performance and its unique significance to the games has gone unnoticed due to lack of awareness about the game in India and absence of an active formal sports body to promote it. Never one to court spotlight, the unassuming naval officer for whom racket sports is second nature, has now set his eyes on winning gold medals at World Racketlon Championships scheduled later this year in November at [Germany](#).

388. PM Modi, Lankan President dedicate Duraiappah Stadium to Sri Lankan people

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena today jointly dedicated to the people of Sri Lanka, the newly renovated Duraiappah Stadium in Jaffna. President Sirisena was present at the stadium in Jaffna and Prime Minister Modi joined the event through video-conferencing from New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Modi said, the Duraiappah Stadium is not just brick and mortar, it is a symbol of optimism and economic development.

He said, its successful completion is a signal that past have been left behind and both the countries are looking to the promise of a prosperous future. The Prime Minister said, India will walk side by side with Sri Lanka as it charts its own path to progress and prosperity for all of its citizens.

The Sri Lankan President termed it a historic occasion which he said will strengthen relations between India and Sri Lanka. Mr Sirisena thanked the Indian Government for extended the financial assistance for renovation of the stadium. The Stadium, named after of former Mayor of Jaffna, late Alfred Thambirajah Duraiappah, has been renovated by India at a cost of over seven crore rupees. It has a seating capacity of 1850 and will provide the necessary infrastructure to promote sports and recreational activities, and assist the overall development of the youth of the Northern Province in Sri Lanka. The stadium has not been in use since 1997.

The renovated stadium will provide the necessary infrastructure to promote sports and recreation activities and benefit more than 50 thousand students from different schools and educational institutions in the northern province.

Prime Minister Modi and President Sirisena also witnessed the first major event at the renovated stadium, which is a celebration of the second International Day of Yoga. Eight thousand people performed yoga on the sports ground and around 1500 to 1800 people watched the proceedings of the event.

389. India, South Korea launch platform to promote investments

India and South Korea today launched a platform to promote and facilitate investments from the east Asian country. The platform 'Korea Plus' was launched by Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her South Korean counterpart Joo Hyunghwan in New Delhi.

The commerce and industry ministry, in a statement said it is a special initiative to promote and facilitate Korean Investments in India. Korea Plus comprises a representative each from the South Korean Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy and KoreaTrade Investment and Promotion Agency (KOTRA).

Besides, it includes three officials from Invest India. The statement said, a Memorandum of Understanding for establishing Korea Plus was signed between the two sides in January. The MoU came as an outcome of the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to South Korea in May last year.

390. Govt decides to allow export of 10% missile systems to friendly countries

Government has decided in principle to allow export of missile systems to 'certain' countries who have friendly relationship with India. Talking to reporters in Bengaluru today Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said the government

had taken a very conscious decision that 10 per cent of the missile capacity will be permitted to be exported if producers manage to get export orders subject to parameters set by the union government and External Affairs Ministry.

About Rafale fighter plane deal, the Defence Minister said discussion between both sides had concluded and he was waiting for a report from the Indian team which had held negotiations. The deal was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April last year during his visit to France. Earlier, Parrikar flagged off the inaugural flight of India's indigenous basic trainer aircraft HTT 40 designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

391. NCERT to organise 3-day 'Yoga Olympiad' from tomorrow

After science and mathematics Olympiad, the NCERT is set to organise the first ever 'Yoga Olympiad' for all government and government-aided schools students ahead of the International Yoga Day on June 21. NCERT Director Hrushikesh Senapaty told reporters in New Delhi that three-day event will begin today and culminate on the eve of the International Yoga Day with an award ceremony to be attended by HRD minister Smriti Irani. He said the theme of the Olympiad is 'Yoga for Health and Harmony'.

392. Rio declares financial emergency, requests funding for Olympics

In Brazil, State of Rio de Janeiro has declared a financial emergency less than 50 days before the Olympics. Interim Governor Francisco Dornelles says the serious economic crisis threatens to stop the state from honouring commitments for the games. The Governor has blamed the crisis on a tax shortfall, especially from the oil industry, while Brazil overall has faced a deep recession. Rio state employees and pensioners are owed wages in arrears. Hospitals and police stations have been severely affected. Interim President Michel Temer has promised significant financial help.

393. Barack Obama travels west for National Parks anniversary

US President Barack Obama is visiting two national parks with his family to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the creation of America's national park system. Obama, his wife and their daughters toured a maze of caverns beneath the desert at Carlsbad, New Mexico, yesterday before flying to California's Yosemite National Park, the country's oldest national park. The family vacation will also give the president the opportunity to talk today about his plan to reduce carbon emissions and to tout his initiatives to preserve open spaces. Obama has added 20 sites or monuments to the national park system since taking office. Half of those were approved by Congress, while Obama used his own authority to create the other half. Environmental groups have urged Obama to do even more to preserve public spaces before he leaves office in January.

394. Thailand PM visited Mahabodhi temple in Bihar

Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha today visited world famous Mahabodhi temple at Bodh Gaya in Bihar. He was accompanied by his wife. The Thai Prime Minister offered prayer to Lord Buddha and meditated under the pious Peepal tree in the premises of Mahabodhi temple. He also visited Thai temple and offered prayer. Mr. Chan-o-cha said his country will extend help for the development of Mahabodhi temple as well as in the field of tourism in Bodh Gaya.

395. Former Maharashtra DGP Suryakant Jog passes away

Former Maharashtra Director General of Police Suryakant Jog passed away in Mumbai last night. Jog (90) was the DGP of the state from 1985 to 1987. He was well known as generator of the movement for water conservation, Vasundhara in Amravati, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis paid tributes to the late officer, acknowledging his work for water conservation post-retirement. He expressed grief by the demise of former DGP of Maharashtra Suryakant Jog, who was not only known for good policing but also for his work on water conservation. The CM tweeted that after retirement Mr. Jog had spent all his energy devising implementing ingenious ways of storing rainwater to address the problem of water shortage. Collecting rainwater drained from the narrow village roads, construction of small bunds were some of the projects he implemented in Amravati.

Former Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde, who was a policeman before joining politics, had worked under Jog.

396. NRIs can now join NPS online through eNPS: Finance Ministry

Government today said non resident indians (NRIs) can now open National Pension Savings (NPS) accounts online

if they have Aadhaar Card or PAN card. Till now, NRIs could open NPS accounts only through paper applications by approaching Bank offices.

In a statement, Finance Ministry said through eNPS, a subscriber will be able to open an NPS account from the comfort of his home. They will be able to open NPS accounts both on repatriable and on non-repatriable basis.

The Ministry expressed hope that both repatriable and non-repatriable schemes will greatly appeal to NRIs who intend to return to India after their employment abroad, in view of their attractive returns, low cost and , flexibility.

India has the second-largest diaspora in the world, with around 29 million people living in over 200 countries and out of them 25 per cent live in the Gulf countries.

397. CBDT to soon launch e-nivaran for speedy grievance redressal

The Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT will soon launch an E-Nivaran portal for speedy redressal of taxpayers' grievances.

Briefing reporters in New Delhi after the conclusion of two day Annual Conference of Tax Administrators in New Delhi, the CBDT Chairman Atulesh Jindal said, the portal will be launched for Delhi on a pilot basis within two-three weeks.

He said, all kinds of platforms on which the grievances from the taxpayers are received will be integrated through this portal.

In response to a question about widening the tax net, Mr Jindal said, the CBDT is focusing on non-intrusive method for widening the tax base to boost up tax collection. He said, during the conference, session, Prime Minister also pitched for adopting a taxpayer friendly approach.

Mr Jindal said, the Tax Department has put in place a robust system to get information about high-value transaction. Mr Jindal said, during the meeting, it has been also decided to publicise Income Disclosure Scheme and Income Dispute Resolution Scheme at various levels.

398. Australia beat India to clinch 14th Champions Trophy title

Australia beat India 3-1 in the final of Champions Trophy Hockey tournament in London last night. India settled for silver after losing to Australia in penalty shootout. Both the teams failed to score a goal even after getting several penalty corners during regulation period and the match went into the shootout to decide the winner.

India have lodged an appeal against the second shot awarded to Australia in the title-deciding shootout delaying the final outcome of the match.

During the shootout, only Harmanpreet Singh was able to score for India while SK Uthappa, SV Sunil and Surender Kumar all shot wide off the target. Just four attempts were required from the two teams as Australia had gained a winning 3-1 lead.

Aran Zalewski, Daniel Beale and Simon Orchard scored for Australia, while Trent Mittons try was blocked by goalkeeper PR Sreejesh.

There was plenty of drama in the shootout as Beale's shot was re-taken after he failed to score and sought a video review. The video umpire asked the shot to be taken again, leaving Indian coach Roelant Oltmans fuming on the sidelines.

Since the review was still under process, the officials removed the trophies from the ground as the fans also left the stadium.

Earlier, Indian team qualified for their maiden Champions Trophy final despite suffering a 2-4 defeat in their final pool

match of the tournament against Australia on Thursday. India made it to the summit showdown after Belgium settled with a 3-3 draw against Great Britain in their group clash.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today congratulated the Indian hockey team for winning silver medal in champions Trophy. In a tweet Mr. Modi praised the team for a spirited performance in the final match. He said team effort has been brilliant. Prime Minister said we're proud of the team.

399. India Gets First Women Fighter Pilots at Combined Graduation Parade on 18 Jun 16

Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh became the first women fighter pilots to be formally commissioned by the Indian Air Force on Saturday. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, who was chief guest at the combined graduation ceremony at Air Force Academy, Dundigal on the city outskirts, termed the event as a "milestone" as it also the first time that women have been given a combat role. "It is a golden letter day," he said, asserting that "total gender parity" will be achieved "step-by-step" in the armed forces in the coming years. "There are technical and administrative difficulties which we are likely to face in certain areas, so, step by step we will see that this parity is achieved. Number will depend on how many we can accommodate depending on our infrastructure," Parrikar said. The three women pilots, who successfully completed pre-commissioning training by the Flight Cadets of various branches of IAF, said they consider themselves "fortunate". The trio will go to Bidar in Karnataka for their stage-III training for a year on Hawk advanced jet trainers, before they get to fly supersonic warplanes. Only three of 6 female cadets were competing to become fighter pilots after the government in a landmark move approved an IAF plan in October to induct them as fighter pilots were selected. Parrikar conferred 'President's Commission' on behalf the President to 130 Flight Cadets, including 22 women trainees, who were commissioned as Flying Officers

400. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict - 19 June

On 19 June 2015, the United Nations General Assembly ([A/RES/69/293](#)) proclaimed 19 June of each year the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, in order to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and to pay tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes. The date was chosen to commemorate the adoption on 19 June 2008 of [Security Council resolution 1820 \(2008\)](#), in which the Council condemned sexual violence as a tactic of war and an impediment to peacebuilding. A [panel discussion](#) to commemorate the first annual International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Tuesday, 21 June 2016

401. Raghuram Rajan: The Gladiator returns to Chicago

The Teacher who became a Governor; decides to return to Chicago. After rescuing India from Fragile Five and helping to become the Bright Spot, Raghuram Rajan declared his intention to exit as the Governor of the RBI. Indias most popular and perhaps glamorous central bankers in history, Rajan intimated his staff at RBI that he is not taking a second term. The 23rd governor of the RBI, who took charge three years ago when rupee was sliding, opened his mind that he is returning to Chicago University as teacher. Chicago University is the mecca of monetary economics and is a laboratory for economic policy. Rajan might be aiming more satisfaction as a teacher than hanging on an administrative post at politicians mercy. Raghuram Rajan exit raises questions about the countrys systemic ability to retain quality stuff at national institutions. The man who resisted political and business lobbying to orchestrate a speculator friendly soft interest rate policy was under attack from a section of the crony capitalists and their political mentors. He was even portrayed as antinational though the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister supported Rajans credentials. Rajans decision to exit exposes the countrys inability to insulate economic reforms from the speculative attack of vexed interested political forces. Though several other governors of the past had resisted ambitious interest rate to cut to ensure stability, Rajan was brighter than them because of his outstanding acceptability in the global arena. His wisdom and perception about global economic events and his tag as a pundit of crisis management economics, separate Rajan from other central bankers in the world at present. Inarguably, Raghuram Rajan leaves after helping the economy to be ranked as one of the stable performers in global economy. He made a legacy which is difficult to follow. His outstanding contribution is the stability of the economy with reduced interest rate and avoided economic disasters that would have caused had the interest rate lowered to unsustainable levels. Exiting from the RBI Governor will not reduce Rajans career as an economist. Even before the appointment as the RBI Governor, he is being considered as one of the best expertise on world economic issues. But a remarkable personal achievement of Raghuram Rajan during his time at RBI

was that he championed and stood for the cause of emerging markets. His demand that that advanced countries should implement monetary policies by considering their impact on developing countries makes him a higher order economist when he returns to Chicago. Rajan the teacher will have more peace productivity and is a superior profession compared to administrator and bureaucrat. Best wishes to RajanIndia and the emerging markets need you again.

402. Ujala LED Bulb Distribution Scheme Launched in Goa

Ujala LED bulb scheme, a LED bulb distribution scheme of central government has been launched by the Union Minister of Power Piyush Goyal on 16th June in Goa. Under the scheme, mass distribution of LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs at subsidized rates will be done in the state. Under the Ujala LED Bulb Scheme in Goa, the residents will get 3 LED bulbs at Rs. 25 each in the first stage. Subsequently, each bulb can be purchased at Rs. 85, part of which can be paid in installments. The consumers will get 9 watt of LED bulbs under the scheme. The actual market price of the LED bulbs being distributed is Rs. 300-350. The scheme of Ujala LED bulbs was launched by the minister while addressing a two-day conference on power and renewable energy Panaji. The government aims to distribute about 15 lakh LED bulbs affecting 5 Lakh households in the state in the first state of the scheme. The scheme will not only help cut power bills for the consumers but also help saving a lot of electricity for the nation. According to the minister, the Ujala scheme is a part of the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to get 247 power for all. Ujala scheme in Goa is expected to save over 78 million KWH of power every year in the state and about Rs. 850-1,000 on annual electricity bills per household. The government is ensuring that all the scheme related to energy conservation and production are being implemented successfully in a completely transparent manner. Pradhan Mantri UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED for all) Yojana is a central government scheme under which LED bulbs are being provided to consumers at subsidized rates.

403. Urja App to Better Consumer Connect – Download from Play Store

URJA- Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan, an android mobile app to better consumer connect has been launched by the Ministry of Power. Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal launched Urja mobile app at a conference in Panaji on 16th June. The Urja app is aimed at enhancing the consumer connect with the urban power distribution sector. The app is developed by the Power Finance Corporation, the Nodal Agency for Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) on behalf of the Ministry of Power. The Urja app will help better connect consumers with the urban power distribution sector by providing power related information such as Information on power outage

Timely release of new power/electricity connections

Addressing complaints

Power reliability Urja App captures Consumer centric parameters from the IT systems created under IPDS covering 1222 towns across the country. The towns are ranked based on the monthly performance on following parameters: Consumer complaints redressal Release of new service connection Average number of interruptions Average duration of interruptions Number of consumers making e-payments Energy lost / power theft i.e. ATC loss One of the aim of the app is to generate healthy competition between the towns and increase the efficiency and productivity in delivery of power services.

404. Apply Online as Farmer Under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

[Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana](#) is an ambitious agriculture insurance scheme of Narendra Modi Government. The central government provides insurance cover and financial assistance to the farmers in the times of difficulty. The insurance cover financial help to the farmers under the PMFBY is provided in the events of crops damaged due to heavy rain, other natural calamities, pests or diseases. The scheme is being implemented across the country and farmers can avail the scheme benefits. Premium for Fasal Bima Yojana has been brought down significantly by the government to 2 percent for Kharif and 1.5 percent or the sum insured for Rabi crops. The interested farmers can register themselves online under the PMFBY on the official website of Crop Insurance by the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The interested farmers need to fill all the basic details such as Name, complete address including state, district, block, gram panchayat, village. Land and bank details are also required to be filled to receive the PMFBY policy amount directly into the bank account. After the farmers fill the complete form and submit, an application number will be provided using which they can track, modify or print their application in future. The government has also released [PMFBY android app](#) to view more information and status about the crop insurance schemes.

405. ARYA Scheme to Attract Rural Youth in Agriculture in Jharkhand

The state government of Jharkhand is planning to launch a new scheme to attract rural youth in agriculture. The scheme named as ARYA Attracting Rural Youth in Agriculture will be launched by the Chief Minister Raghubar Das soon. The objective of the ARYA scheme will be to promote the green revolution in the state. Under the ARYA scheme, the state government will attract rural youth in agriculture by making them skilled and make the state self-dependent in agriculture. Under the scheme, Agriculture Technology Management and Training (ATMA) will provide the training to the rural youth. From each village, two youths will be selected and trained on how to make the proper use of barren and uncultivated land and inspired to grow pulses. The chief minister sent instruction to the departments to connect the youths with agriculture. CM wants the youth not to be a part of the rush in the cities and earn their livelihood in their villages itself. Following will be the activities to be performed by the trained youth under the ARYA scheme To identify barren land in their respective villages under the guidance of Agriculture- Science Center and promote farmers to grow pulse on them. To promote farmers to grow something else after harvesting paddy. To inspire farmers to use fertilizers as per Soil Health Card. To propagate the use of neem coated urea in their respective areas. To inspire farmers for Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme. To promote farmers for agriculture of rabi. To appeal to farmers not to graze their cattle in open in the season of rabi. To promote seed treatment. To grow advanced seed and promote it among the farmers. To register farmers on Farmer Portal. To provide farmers new technology by telephoning Kissan Call Center. To constitute farmer group in their respective areas.

406. HRD ministry to setup Yoga Departments in six central varsities this year

Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani today said that her Ministry has decided to setup Yoga Department in the six central universities during this academic year.

Speaking to media today at the first ever Yoga Olympiad for all government schools ahead of the International Yoga Day, Ms Irani said the decision has been taken on the basis of recommendations of a UGC committee, which was set up to explore the feasibility of Yoga studies in higher education institutions.

She said, last year during the International Yoga Day, HRD Ministry had not only organized a competition for school children through NCERT, but also proposed introducing Yoga in B.Ed and M.Ed curriculum. This year, in a bid to introduce it in higher education, UGC had formed a committee and it has made its recommendations to the government.

The universities where the initiative will be introduced are Central University in Uttarakhand, Central University in Kerala, Central University in Manipur, and Central University in Rajasthan and Central University in Amarkatnak.

407. ASSOCHAM says over 53 % of corporate companies are opting for yoga sessions in workplace

Industry body ASSOCHAM has said over 53 per cent of the corporate companies are opting for yoga sessions in workplace to boost productivity, increase mental clarity and to fight stress.

A survey conducted by ASSOCHAM said that companies are adding yoga at workplace to boost productivity. The corporate industry is looking to promote healthier practices for their employees to boost productivity, adds the survey.

As per the ASSOCHAM recent estimates, there is about a 35 percent annual increase in demand for yoga learning in India with a growing publicity and health awareness.

This demand trend will accelerate further to become multi-billion dollar market in the form of health clinics, ayurveda resorts, holiday camps and corporate training.

408. Tamilnadu government closes down 500 state run liquor outlets

The Tamil Nadu Government closed down 500 state-run liquor outlets from today. After assuming the office recently for a second term, Chief Minister Jayalalithaa ordered reduction of working hours of all liquor outlets by two hours.

A fresh order was issued last night by the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation in this regard.

AIR correspondent reports, prohibition has been a raging issue during the state Assembly election campaigning in Tamil Nadu.

It fuelled high pitch demonstrations by various political parties and NGOs insisting the state to go dry.

All parties in their manifesto promised total prohibition except the AIADMK that favoured it in a phased manner.

Though the government headed by the party during its previous term refused to climb down from its position that prohibition is impractical and lead to huge revenue loss, it has now begun to honour its commitment to gradually bring down curtains on the 6826 liquor shops beginning with 500 of them from today.

409. Centre approves proposal for Greenfield Electronic Park in Odisha

The Centre has approved a proposal of the Odisha government for the development of Greenfield Electronic Park spread over an area of 203 acres in Bhubaneswar.

With an investment of Rs. 205 crore, the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation which is developing the electronic park, will house around 100 units of an electronic manufacturing cluster with state-of-the-art infrastructure and common facilities.

The electronic park is expected to attract investment to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crore. Official sources said, around 10,000 skilled and semi-skilled persons will be engaged, in the electronic park.

The state government has formulated attractive investor-friendly policies such as Industrial Policy Resolution 2015 and ICT Policy 2014 to facilitate and incentivise investors in the electronic manufacturing sector.

Several national and international companies operating in the electronics sector have shown interest in setting up manufacturing facilities in Odisha.

410. Goa govt. to appoint yoga trainers in primary & high schools in the state

Goa government will appoint yoga trainers in primary and high schools in the state.

Addressing a press conference in Panaji today Chief Minister Lakshmi Kant Parsekar said these yoga trainers will be appointed on contractual basis.

He said, there will be no compulsion for the schools to appoint yoga trainers and they will be provided on the schools request.

Informing media about International Yoga Day programme, he said the main event will be held at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee indoor stadium. He said there will be special events in all the talukas of the state. Schools are also organising Yoga day programmes.

Mr Parsekar also announced that state government will soon appoint security guards and librarians for schools in the state.

411. Prime Minister to lead the world in celebrating the Second International Day of Yoga on June 21st

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will lead the Second International Day of Yoga celebrations in the country and across the globe by participating in a mass Yoga demonstration of Common Yoga Protocol at the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh on the morning of 21st of June. A theme song for International Day of Yoga, named Yog Geet has been released this year in addition to the Yoga Protocol of forty five minutes. This song is of 3 minutes and 15 seconds in Hindi language. The song is written and produced by Deeraj Saraswat and Sh. Gandhar T.D. Jadhav and Ms. Gatha Jadhav have given their voice to the song. Music has been composed by Sh. Sumanto Ray.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has taken up the initiative 'Yoga Olympiad' with participation from

school children from government schools in order to promote Yoga.

International Day of Yoga was organized successfully in India and throughout the world for the first time last year, after United Nations General Assembly, in December 2014, declared 21st of June as International Day of Yoga. Last years mass demonstration of Yoga protocol at Rajpath in Delhi had entered the Guinness Book of World Records for largest number of participants learning Yoga at a single venue (over 35 thousand) and also for participants from most number of countries (84).

412. World Refugee Day - 20 June

In a world where violence forces hundreds of families to flee each day, the [UN Refugee Agency](#) believes now is the time to show world leaders that the global public stands with refugees, and it will launch its #WithRefugees petition on June 20th to send a message to governments that they must work together and do their fair share for refugees. The #WithRefugees petition will be delivered to UN headquarters in New York ahead of the UN High Level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants, scheduled for the 19th September. The petition asks governments to: Ensure every refugee child gets an education. Ensure every refugee family has somewhere safe to live. Ensure every refugee can work or learn new skills to make a positive contribution to their community. World Refugee Day has been marked on 20 June, ever since the UN General Assembly, on 4 December 2000, adopted [resolution 55/76](#) where it noted that 2001 marked the 50th anniversary of the [1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees](#), and that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had agreed to have International Refugee Day coincide with Africa Refugee Day on 20 June.

413. Rupee and Market May make a "vote" on Rexit tomorrow

Anxiety about how the Rupee and stock market will respond to the news of Raghuram Rajans exit is looming. Though Rajan was not a friend of market volatility makers or the so called speculator classes who loved low interest rate, his feat of producing stable macroeconomic fundamentals won investors mind. But the Chicago university professors exit may raise doubts in the minds of investors who prefer the long term stability of the economy. Many foreign commentators who sells their ideas to global investors describe the entire issue as a victory of bad politics over sophisticated economics. In this context, the Rexit may leave doubt among investors about India's reform credentials. More affected will be the foreign exchange market. Considerable selling in equities and bonds during the initial hours may bring the domestic currency under pressure. Especially in the context of Rajans achievement of keeping the value of rupee stable despite strong faults in other EME currencies, the rupee and stocks may go downwards. According to a Reuters report, traders predict the rupee would likely fall by 0.15 to 0.20 rupees per dollar during initial trading. For investors, Rajan was a confidence factor. Seeing him on board of the economy, investors anchored their expectations. If market goes south, Rajan himself and the Finance Minister may come out with soothing statements to calm the investors.

414. RBI Simplifies Registration Of New Non-Banking Financial Companies

In order to make the registration process of new non-banking finance companies smoother and hassle-free, the Reserve Bank of India has revised the application form for registration of these companies and the checklist of documents to be submitted. The number of documents to be submitted by NBFC applicants has been reduced from the existing set of 45 documents to seven to eight in the revised process, the central bank said in a statement. The RBI said henceforth there would be two different types of applications for non-deposit taking NBFCs (NBFC-ND) based on sources of funds and customer interface. The first type (Type-I) will be a NBFC-ND not accepting public funds/ not intending to accept public funds in the future and not having customer interface/ not intending to have customer interface in the future. Public funds include funds raised either directly or indirectly through public deposits, commercial paper, debentures, inter-corporate deposits and bank finance but excludes funds raised through issue of instruments compulsorily convertible into equity shares within a period not exceeding 10 years from the date of issue. Customer interface means interaction between the NBFC and its customers while carrying on its business. The second type (Type-II) will be NBFC-ND accepting public funds/ intending to accept public funds in the future and/or having customer interface/ intending to have customer interface in the future. Fast track mode The RBI said processing of cases for Type-I of NBFC-ND applicants would be on fast track mode. As these companies will not have access to public funds and will not have customer interface, they will be subjected to less intensive scrutiny/ due diligence. However, the certificate of registration issued to Type I - NBFC-ND companies will be conditional. These companies will be prohibited from

accessing public funds and having customer interface, the RBI said. In case Type-I companies intend to avail public funds or intend to have customer interface in the future, they are required to take approval from the Reserve Bank of India, Department of Non-Banking Regulation.

415. **Karnataka Bank bags fair business practice award**

Karnataka Bank bagged CFBP Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Fair Business Practices Certificate of Merit under the category Service Enterprises Large recently. Banks Chief General Manager M.S. Mahabaleshwara received the award from Ajay Piramal, chairman, Piramal Group, in Mumbai on Tuesday. Shekhar Bajaj, president, and Kalpana Munshi, vice-president and chairperson of awards committee, Council for Fair Business Practices (CFBP) were among the dignitaries who were present. A release from the bank said the award was constituted by the CFBP under four categories Manufacturing, Services, Trade and Distribution, and Charitable Association. Awards are decided on eight parameters customer satisfaction, customer communication, employee motivation, supply chain system, regulatory compliance, environment protection, corporate social responsibility, and compliance with laws. The release quoted banks Managing Director and CEO P. Jayaram Bhat as saying, Our bank is committed to promoting the highest ethical practices in our dealings with our customers and stakeholders to provide them complete satisfaction and to create sustained value. Fair business practices are our way of life. We are happy to get this unique distinction in recognition of the fair business practices adopted by us.

416. **Indian Diabetes specialist Shashank S Shah wins Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award 2016**

Pune-based diabetes specialist Shashank S Shah was conferred with the Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award 2016 on 12 June 2016. He was awarded at the ADAs 76th Scientific Sessions from 10 June to 14 June 2016 in New Orleans. The award was given by American Diabetes Association (ADA) for his pioneering research on diabetes in South Asia. He was selected for his research titled Gastric Bypass vs. Medical/Lifestyle Care for Type 2 Diabetes in South Asia with BMI 25-40 kg/m² The COSMID Randomised. It is one of the pioneering bariatric surgeons in India and laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy in Asia. The first Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award was awarded to Dr Vijay Viswanathan who was Diabetologist and Director of MV Hospital for Diabetes, Chennai in June 2014 About Shashank S Shah He was born in Solapur, Maharashtra and is the current director of Laparo-Obeso Centre in Pune. He is the first and only Indian to head three major international societies on diabetes, namely AIAARO (All India Association for Advancing Research in Obesity), Obesity Surgery Society of India (OSSI) and IEF (International Excellence Federation, India Chapter). He also holds a world record for conducting 45 hernia surgeries in 10 hours. About ADAs meetings This is the worlds largest medical conference in which more than 2500 original research presentations by the participants around the world and also gives them an opportunity to interact with leading diabetes experts and other join academic sessions. ADA is leading the fight to combat the diabetes since 1940 through research, managing and curing the lifestyle disease, community services, awareness programmes and prevention.

417. **Former Indian football team coach Syed Nayeemuddin to get Mohun Bagan Ratna**

Among Important Sports Current Affairs, On 15th June 2016, It was announced that Dronacharya awardee football coach Syed Nayeemuddin will be awarded with Mohun Bagan Ratna. Mohun Bagan Ratna is a prestigious award which is being awarded annually to football players. He will be getting awarded with this award on 29th July on Mohun Bagan Day.

Syed Nayeemuddin is only football player of India who has got Dronacharya award. He was captian of Indian football team which clinched bronze medal in 1970 Asian games. He is only sports person who has been awarded with both Arjuna and Dronacharya Awards for football.

418. **Living bone grown in lab for the first time**

In a first, scientists have grown a living bone in the lab to repair large defects in the head and face of patient, taking a step forward in improving treatments for people with craniofacial defects. A new technique developed by Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic, professor at Columbia University, uses autologous stem cells derived from a small sample of the recipients fat and precisely replicates the original anatomical structure of the bone. Weve been able to show, in a clinical-size porcine model of jaw repair, that this bone, grown in vitro and then implanted, can seamlessly regenerate a large defect while providing mechanical function, said Vunjak-Novakovic. The quality of the regenerated tissue, including vascularisation with blood perfusion, exceeds what has been achieved using other approaches, she said. This is

step forward in improving regenerative medicine options for patients with craniofacial defects, she added. Researchers, including those from Louisiana State University and Tulane University in the U.S., fabricated a scaffold and bioreactor chamber based on images of the jaw defect, to provide a perfect anatomical fit. The scaffold they built enabled bone formation without the use of growth factors, and also provided mechanical function, both of which are unique advantages for clinical application. They then isolated the recipients own stem cells from a small fat aspirate and, in just three weeks, formed the bone within a scaffold made from bone matrix, in a custom-designed perfused bioreactor. An unexpected outcome was that the lab-grown bone, when implanted, was gradually replaced by new bone formed by the body, a result not seen with the implantation of a scaffold alone, without cells. Our lab-grown living bone serves as an instructive template for active bone remodelling rather than as a definitive implant, said Ms. Vunjak-Novakovic. This feature is what makes our implant an integral part of the patients own bone, allowing it to actively adapt to changes in the body throughout its life, she said. Tissue repairs Researchers are now including a cartilage layer in the bio-engineered living bone tissue to study bone regeneration in complex defects of the head and face. Today, tissue engineering is truly changing the way we approach tissue repair, drug testing, disease modelling, Ms. Vunjak-Novakovic said. We now can put the cells to work for us and make tissues, by providing bio-engineered environments that mimic their native milieu, she added.

419. Dolphins to get first-ever sanctuary in North America

After years of research on dolphin behavior and under pressure from animal rights groups, [the National Aquarium in Baltimore](#) has decided to move the marine mammals to a sanctuary, officials said Wednesday. It will be the first sanctuary for dolphins in [North America](#). The transfer from the aquarium in the [Atlantic coast](#) port city will not be done before 2020, they said. The venue for the dolphins will be a protected coastal habitat, where the animals will continue to live under human care. "We now know more about dolphins and their care, and we believe that the [National Aquarium](#) is uniquely positioned to use that knowledge to implement positive change," said [John Racanelli](#), chief executive officer of the National Aquarium. "This is the right time to move forward with the dolphin sanctuary." Management and the board of directors at the aquarium in Baltimore, near [Washington](#), started working on a strategy for the dolphins five years ago. Many ideas were floated, including rebuilding the existing marine mammal facility, which is 25 years old, to create a more natural-style setting. Transferring the dolphins to other licensed facilities was also considered. But officials ultimately decided to set up a coastal refuge with National Aquarium staff continuing to take care of the dolphins and interacting with them. "This is a special time in history concerning evolving attitudes about treating all forms of life with dignity and respect -- other humans very much included," said [Sylvia Earle](#), a marine biologist, explorer and author. "The idea of providing sanctuaries for elephants, chimpanzees, big cats -- and now dolphins -- is a sign of a maturing ethic of caring unthinkable in past millennia, centuries and even decades." The venue, in a tropical or subtropical location, will also contain natural stimuli for the dolphins, such as fish and sea plants. Its location was not immediately announced. The National Aquarium is seeking donations to fund the sanctuary.

420. Rio 2016 Unveils Official Slogan for Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Rio 2016 organising committee has unveiled the official slogan (motto), A New World for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games scheduled to be held in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The slogan was unveiled by Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at a special ceremony held at Olympic Park in Barra da Tijuca, Brazil. Key Facts The core values of the slogan and the manifesto for Rio 2016 are unity, respect for diversity and the will for change. The motto of Rio 2016 is to promote the concepts of transformation through sport and changing the world for the better. 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the first Olympic and Paralympic Games to held in South America. Besides releasing official slogan, the organising committee also unveiled the designs for the 2488 gold, silver and bronze medals to be given to winners. Background The creation of official slogan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games is a tradition of each Olympic Games. Previous Olympic slogans included Welcome home for Athens in 2004, One world, one dream for Beijing in 2008, and Inspire a Generation for London in 2012.

421. Veteran Odia actress Manimala Devi passes away

Noted theatre personality and popular yesteryear Odia film actress Manimala Devi passed away at a private hospital here today. She was 90.

Manimala was admitted to the hospital for treatment of her old age-related complications. She was suffering from chest congestion before her death, the actor's son Shankar Ghosh said.

Besides Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and a host of ministers, a large number of people paid their tribute to the veteran artiste. "Her demise is a great loss for the cultural fraternity of Odisha," Patnaik said in a condolence message.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Prasad Harichandan and BJP state president Basant Panda also condoled Manimal's demise.

Manimala, who was among the first generation artistes in the state, had worked in over 40 films of which 14 bagged the national award. Her film career began in 1960 with the classic Odia film- 'Sri Loknath'.

Her national award winning films included- Laxmi in 1962, Surjya Mukhi and Jeevan Sathi in 1963, Abhinetri and Malajanha in 1965. Two of her films directed by eminent director Nirod Mohapatra, also bagged the Rashtrapati Award for second best national level film (1983).

Besides, she has also worked in over 100 plays during a career spanning over half-a-century. Manimala was conferred with the prestigious 'Jayadev Purashkar'- the state's highest cine award in the year 2000.

422. Boeing, Tata to set up joint aerospace facility in Hyderabad

Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems have laid the foundation of a new facility in Hyderabad for its joint venture TATA Boeing Aerospace Ltd (TBAL). The joint venture has been established to co-produce Boeing AH-64 Apache helicopter fuselages and other aerostructures, as well as to pursue integrated systems in aerospace. The Hyderabad production facility will eventually be the sole producer of AH-64 fuselages globally. The Apache has been flown or selected for acquisition by the US and 15 other nations, including India. The joint venture between Tata and Boeing is a significant step in developing India's capabilities for aerospace defence manufacturing and becoming a global exporter. This is a clear example of the significant progress made towards Make in India for defence, Manohar Parrikar, Defence Minister, said. Boeing and Tata group companies have established partnerships in India to manufacture aero-structures for Boeings commercial and military aircraft. Tata Advanced Materials has delivered composite panels for the power and mission equipment cabinets and auxiliary power unit door fairings for the P-8I long-range maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft. TAL Manufacturing Solutions is manufacturing complex floor beams out of composite materials for the Boeing 787-9, the most modern aircraft with exceptional environmental and fuel-efficient capabilities. TAL Manufacturing Solutions has provided ground support equipment for the C-17 Globemaster III strategic airlifter.

423. Kerala Tourism bags four awards at FilmAT International Film Festival in Poland

Kerala Tourism won four awards at FilmAT which is one of the biggest international film festivals dedicated to tourism, art and ecology in Poland. Three of the honours were given to a single campaign. Responsible Tourism initiative started by Kerala Tourism won three awards under categories of the Best Promotional Social Campaign, Protection of Nature, and Eco-Food categories respectively. The tourism board's ad film The Great Backwaters of Kerala won the Best Editing Award. This film showcases the lifestyle of people living near and into the backwaters in a picturesque and charming way. The film was created and scripted by Stark Communications and Kerala Tourism's creative and brand management agency. The director of the film is by highly regarded Malayalam filmmaker Anwar Rasheed. The Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Polish Tourism Organisation, the Austrian National Tourist Office, the National Tourism Organisation of Serbia, the South Australian Tourism Commission, The Ministry of Tourism of the Bahamas, Visit Finland and Visit Denmark also won the awards at the festival.

424. Major General Sanjeev Kumar Sharma is new General Officer Commanding of Tiger division

General Sanjeev Kumar Sharma has taken over as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Jammu-based Tiger Division.

Maj Gen Sharma took over the command from Maj Gen Sanjeev Narain, a defence spokesperson said today. Sharma, a distinguished officer has an illustrious career spanning 32 years. He is an alumni of the Defence Services Staff College and has also attended the prestigious higher defence management course and the national defence course.

425. Indigenous trainer aircraft HTT-40 makes inaugural flight

India's indigenous basic trainer aircraft, Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40), made its inaugural flight in the

presence of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar here on Friday. The HTT-40 is the first indigenous trainer aircraft to emerge from the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) stable in over five decades. The HTT-40 development programme, funded to the extent of nearly Rs 350 crore through resources generated by HAL itself, is seen as an effort by the PSU to fit in with Prime Minister [Narendra Modi's](#) Make in India programme and reassert its status as an indigenous aircraft manufacturer. When I came here in March 2015, the confidence they had infected me too. They had promised me that within a year they would fly the aircraft. I am happy they have kept their promise, Parrikar said after the 15-minute inaugural flight by Group Captain C Subramaniam and Group Captain Venugopal at the HAL airport.

426. Govt approves 100% FDI in defence, aviation, pharma under automatic route

Government today approved 100 per cent FDI in a host of sectors including civil aviation, defence, pharma and single brand retail sector under automatic route. Other sectors in which FDI norms have been relaxed include e-commerce in food products, broadcasting carriage services, private security agencies and animal husbandry. The decision was taken at a high level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give major impetus to employment and job creation in the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has welcomed the liberalisation of FDI regime. In a series of tweets after the announcement, Mr Modi said the move will provide employment in the country and help create jobs. He said the new measures undertaken by NDA Government during the past two years have resulted in increased FDI flow. He said India has been rated as number one FDI destination by several global agencies

In Defence sector, at present upto 49 per cent FDI participation in equity of a company is permitted under automatic route. Now, beyond 49 percent, foreign investment would be through government approval route for access to modern technology. Besides, FDI limit for defence sector has also been made applicable to Manufacturing of Small Arms and Ammunitions covered under Arms Act 1959.

In brown field pharmaceutical sector, the new FDI limit would be up to 74 per cent under automatic route and beyond 74 percent, government approval will continue. In green field pharmaceuticals, 100 per cent FDI is already allowed under automatic route.

In civil aviation, foreign investors barring overseas airlines, can now have up to 100 per cent stake in local carriers. Besides, the norms for FDI in brownfield airports have been permitted upto 100 percent under automatic route. The government has allowed 100 per cent FDI under government approval route for trading, including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India.

In single brand retail trading, government has decided to relax local sourcing norms up to three years, along with relaxed sourcing regime for another five years for entities undertaking trading of products with state of art and cutting edge technology. This is the second major reform after the last radical changes announced in November last year.

Now, most of the sectors would be under automatic approval route, except a small negative list. With these changes, India is now the most open economy in the world for FDI.

In last two years, government has brought major FDI policy reforms in a number of sectors, including Defence, Construction Development, Insurance, Pension Sector and Broadcasting Sector. Measures undertaken by the Government have resulted in increased FDI inflows at 55.46 billion dollars in the last financial year, as against 36.04 billion dollars during the financial year 2013-14.

Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said today's decision is aimed at giving clear direction to FDI flows with an objective to make India a manufacturing hub. Briefing reporters in New Delhi, she said that it will help in creating more jobs by promoting Make in India scheme.

427. Animal Welfare Board terms notifications on vermins arbitrary

The Supreme Court today asked animal rights organisations to make representations before the Centre regarding three notifications declaring Nilgais, monkeys and wild boars as vermins. The Animal Welfare Board of India, which is

a statutory advisory body on animal welfare laws and promotes animal welfare in India, questioned the notifications issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change declaring these animals as vermins for one year in the states of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The board termed it as an arbitrary decision. The bench said, it would hear the contentions of the board when the main matter is heard. The bench, which refused to issue notice on the petitions, asked the Centre to consider the representations within two weeks and take appropriate steps as required.

428. Bangladesh-based BRAC returns to top spot in NGO Advisor 2016

Bangladesh-based NGO BRAC has been ranked as the top non-government organisation among the world's 500 best NGOs this year. Geneva-based media organisation NGO Advisor made the announcement yesterday after conducting a survey for one year upon the 500 best non-profitable NGOs across the world. The organisation has been operating the survey since 2009.

BRAC had clinched the top ranking in 2013, but had slipped to second position in 2014. This year it regained the top slot by pushing Doctors without Borders to second position and Oxfam to fifth rank. BRAC which operates in 10 other countries besides Bangladesh was selected on the basis of innovation, impact and sustainability of its programmes.

For the last 40 years since its founding, BRAC has provided opportunities for over 150 million people across the globe to tackle poverty in a holistic manner through improved food security, livelihood enhancement, health improvement, women empowerment, etc.

429. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to be launched in Odisha

In Odisha, State-level launch of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to provide free of cost LPG cooking gas connections to women from BPL households will be held in Sambalpur today. Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram and Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan are scheduled to flag it off. Official sources said, through this scheme, it is planned to increase the number of LPG customers in Odisha from 39 lakh at present to 80 lakh by December 2018.

The scheme has already been launched regionally by the Centre in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Under the scheme, the central government is providing a financial assistance of 1,600 rupees to each eligible BPL candidate to buy an LPG connection. A total budget of 8,000 crore rupees has been set by the government for the distribution of LPG connections to 5 crore BPL families by 2019.

430. Assam: Initiative to link primary schools to high schools to colleges launched

In Assam, a unique initiative 'Maitree Ek Gyan Yatra' has been taken by the state Education department in Sivsagar district to link primary schools to high schools to colleges. Official sources said, under the initiative, college teachers are taking classes in high schools and high schools teachers are teaching in primary schools voluntarily. The aim of the programme is to change the mindset of the teachers, as in some places subject teachers of a school considered it below their dignity to teach the lower level students.

Sivsagar Deputy Commissioner said, the basic idea of implementing the initiative was to improve quality of school students and create better synergy in education sector. AIR correspondent reports that the Education department is planning to replicate the initiative across the state.

431. India settles for Silver medal at Archery World Cup in Antalya

The Indian mixed recurve team of Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das has won silver at the Archery World Cup in Antalya. Indian team lost to South Korea 1-5 in the final at Konyaalti Beach Park yesterday. Indian team trailed 0-2 in the first set against the top-seed Korean pair of Choi Misun and Ku Bonchan and went down 1-5 in the final.

The Sixth seeded Indian duo reached final after beating second-seeded pair of Mauro Nespoli Guendalina Sartori 5-1 in straight sets in the semi-finals. Earlier, the women's recurve team of Deepika Kumari, Bombayla Devi Laishram and Laxmirani Majhi also went down in the bronze medal clash to Italy 1-5.

432. International Day of Yoga - 21 June 2016

Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word yoga derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness. Today it is practiced in various forms around the world and continues to grow in popularity. Recognizing its universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as International Yoga Day by [resolution 69/131](#). International Yoga Day aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga. Highlights:

PM Modi leads second International Yoga Day in Chandigarh with 30000 participants

President of India inaugurates 2nd International Yoga Day celebrations in Rashtrapati Bhavan

International Yoga Day is being observed by 193 countries around the World.

Venue: Times Square in New York Over 1000 people participated.

Isha Founder Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev leads yoga session at UN on 2nd International Yoga Day

United Nations building was lighted up with Parvatasana on occasion of International Yoga Day

Union Ministry of AYUSH releases 3 minutes 15 seconds Yog Geet for 2016 International Yoga Day.

Union HRD Minister Smiriti Irani gives away prizes to winners of 1st Yoga Olympiad

Over one lakh perform yoga together in Faridabad, set new world record

Gujarat: More than 1600 pregnant women set new Guinness Book record by practising yoga

Country's first Yoga OPD inaugurated in Jaipur

PM Modi announces International Yoga Award and National Yoga Award

433. Why the present FDI policy change is a radical liberalization?

The government has brought some impressive and telling changes in the FDI policy that may make the country a more open economy. Compared to the several rounds of the usual FDI policy changes of the past, which were marginal, the present modifications made on 20th of June 2016 indicate careful and powerful liberalization of FDI rules in three critical sectors the sensitive and high growth food processing sector, strategic sector -defense and competitive sector -pharma. Besides opening these sectors for more foreign sector participation, a remarkable policy shift was introduced in this policy as most of the sectors were placed under the automatic approval route, thereby reducing the prohibited small negative list. According to the Prime Minister, with these changes, India is now the most open economy in the world for FDI. Following are the main features of this policy that makes the policy a radical liberalization attempt. 1. Food Product Industry The most actively engaged sector by the domestic MSMEs is the food product industry. This is a high growth sector and is sensitive with the participation of large number of people. The government has decided to permit 100% FDI under government approval route for trading, including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India. Opening of the food product sector to big food MNCs is a game changer. 2. The FDI Defence Sector increased up to 100% Defence is always a strategic sector. In the last year, the government has opened the sector for foreign investment up to 49%. Still there were several restrictions depending upon the type of technology used and shareholding participation by the foreign investor. Previously, foreign investment above 49% were allowed depending under approval route on case by case if the project involves transfer state of the art technology. But the new policy removes such state of the art technology conditionality and suggests just modern technology. This means that the effective foreign investment limit in defence is increased to 100% through approval route. 3. Pharmaceutical Sector: A major push occurred in pharmaceuticals with respect to brown filed FDI. The sector witnessed several foreign firms taking over Indian firms. This is called brown field FDI. But such a practice adversely affects priorities of the country as it may cause control of the pharma sector by the MNCs. Hence the government has restricted brownfield FDI under automatic route. But this policy permits up to 74% FDI under automatic route in brownfield pharmaceuticals and government approval route beyond 74% will continue. 4. Civil Aviation Sector: In civil aviation sector, the new policy allows up to 100% FDI in domestic airlines and new airports. This will enable foreign companies to fully own Indian domestic carriers and greenfield (newly built) airports and up to 74% in existing airports. 5. Single Brand Retail Trading The new policy allows foreign retailers to be exempt from local sourcing (purchasing goods/components from domestic suppliers) upto three years and for another five more years for entities undertaking Single Brand Retail Trading of products having state-of-art and cutting edge technology. This will attract more foreign companies as they may get more time to find local suppliers. Several other sectoral limits also have been liberalized. In animal husbandry, the limit has been increased to 100%. In private security services sector, FDI up to 49% is now permitted under automatic route and FDI beyond 49% and up to 74% would be permitted with government approval route. Altogether, the present FDI policy modification is a serious reform attempt that will open the Indian economy in a significant scale.

434. Government launches sweeping reforms in the FDI front

Major FDI liberalization drive in food processing, pharma and defence: The government has announced major reform measures by removing existing notable restrictions in critical sectors. These include relaxation in three sectors the sensitive and high growth food product sector, strategic sector -defense and competitive sector -pharma. Announcing the decision, Prime Minister described that India is the most open economy in the world now. The announcement also helped the government to calm markets that started to react violently to Raghuram Rajans exit decision. A remarkable outcome of the new policy is that upto 100% FDI is allowed under defence and civil aviation sectors. The single brand retail FDI norms gives a maximum exemption limit against local sourcing at eight years. Hence single brand companies planning to invest in India like Apple, should source from locally eight years after starting their business operations in India. Changes in single brand retail norms will facilitate Apples direct marketing operations in India. In the defence sector, the policy permits foreign investment beyond 49% under approval route. The condition of state of the art technology requirement has been dropped. In civil aviation sector, the new policy allows up to 100% FDI in domestic airlines and new airports. This will enable foreign companies to fully own Indian domestic carriers and greenfield (newly built) airports and up to 74% in existing airports. In the case of pharmaceutical sector, foreign investments in brownfield projects up to 74% has been permitted under the automatic route and beyond 74%, approval route becomes mandatory. A major as well as the unexpected push is the permission given to foreign investors to trade in food products where large number of MSMEs are engaged. The sector has been opened to 100% FDI. The policy also permits 100% FDI in teleports, direct to home, cable networks and mobile TV under automatic route.

435. Kannada film "Thithi" wins best film award at Shanghai International Film Festival

Kannada film "Thithi" has won the best film and best script writers award at the Asia New Talent Awards in the 19th Shanghai International Film Festival

Directed by debutante filmmaker Raam Reddy, "Thithi," was the only film from India that was selected and screened in the festival.

Elated by the movie's win Reddy said the response from the Chinese audience was overwhelming and he is happy with the experience.

"Shanghai is the first place the film is being screened in Asia outside of India, and I was really keen to see how people from China and different parts of Asia react to the film. The Jury was from China, Japan and Korea and they unanimously loved the film.

"The response from the Chinese audience has been overwhelming as well. It is hard to imagine the diversity of people who have seen and accepted Thithi, and I really couldn't be happier with the experience here!" Reddy said in statement.

Other films nominated in the best film category were "One Night Only (China)," "Hana's Miso Soup (Japan)," "Land of the Little People" (Israel) and "Detective Chinatown" (China).

Based in a small village of Karnataka, the script of the dramatic comedy has been written by Reddy along with Ere Gowda.

"I am really happy that people around the world have seen and loved Thithi, set in a small but culturally rich village in Karnataka, which is my native place," Gowda said.

The director also took to his Facebook page to thank the team of the film for continuous support.

"I dedicated the award in my speech to the cast, especially Gadappa, who are the collective soul of the film.

Feeling amazing, thank you everyone for all the support!

"Last but not least, the film is still in theatres! Don't miss it on the big screen!," Reddy wrote.

Produced by Pratap Reddy and Sunmin Park, "Thithi" has screened in over 13 prestigious international and national film festivals and won 15 awards.

The movie won First Feature Award for the best debut feature at the Locarno International Film Festival where it had its international premiere in 2015.

"Thithi" was released across India on June 3.

The film revolves around Gadappa his materialistic middle-aged grandson, Thamanna, and his confident pubescent great grandson, Abhi. The story begins after the death of Century Gowda, a highly cranky 101 year old man.

436. US Scientists make world's first 1,000-processor microchip

A team of scientists from the US has created the world's first microchip that has 1,000 processors and is thought to be the fastest chip designed in a university lab.

This energy-efficient microchip, designed by a team at the University of California, Davis, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is named as the "KiloCore" chip and has a maximum computation rate of 1.78 trillion instructions per second and contains 621 million transistors.

"To the best of our knowledge, it is the world's first 1,000-processor chip and it is the highest clock-rate processor ever designed in a university," said [Bevan Baas](#), professor of electrical and computer engineering.

Fabricated by [IBM](#) using their 32nm CMOS technology, KiloCore chip's each processor core can run its own small programme independently of the others. The team said other multiple-processor chips that have been created till now never exceeded 300 processors.

437. Europe's Ariane 5 launches two satellites into space

Europe's Ariane 5 rocket launcher successfully sent two telecoms satellites, one for a US-based communications service provider and one for an Indonesian bank, into space on Saturday. They were launched from Kourou, in French Guiana, at 6:38 pm (2138 GMT), according to launch company Arianespace. It was the third launch of the year, placing into orbit the Echo Star XVIII for satellite service provider Dish Network, and BRIsat for Rakyat Indonesia bank. Twenty-nine minutes after launch, the satellite Echo Star XVIII entered orbit. The satellite is designed to provide direct broadcasting services for 15 years to the continental US, Alaska and Hawaii for Dish Network. Forty-two minutes after blast off, the satellite BRIsat reached its orbit. It is the first telecommunications satellite dedicated to a financial institution, Bank Rakyat Indonesia, which has 53 million customers across the Indonesian archipelago, according to Arianespace.

438. South Pole CO2 levels cross 400 ppm first time in 4 million years

The Earth passed another unfortunate milestone when carbon dioxide levels surpassed 400 parts per million (ppm) at the South Pole for the first time in four million years, according to US scientists. The South Pole has shown the same, relentless upward trend in carbon dioxide (CO2) as the rest of world, but its remote location means it is the last to register the impacts of increasing emissions from fossil fuel consumption, the primary driver of greenhouse gas pollution, researchers said.

439. 106-year-old Aida Gemanque becomes oldest Olympic torch bearer

Three years after becoming the world's oldest skydiver, Aida Gemanque became the oldest Olympic torch bearer on Saturday when she carried the flame in the Amazonian city of Macapa, aged 106. She broke the record formerly held by Alexander Kaptarenko, who was 101 when he took part in the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics relay. The 95-day torch relay will pass through 325 Brazilian cities before ending at Rios Maracana Stadium for the lighting of the Olympic cauldron on August 5.

440. Army performs yoga asanas at Siachen

Amid sub-zero temperature, the Army celebrated [International Yoga Day](#) at the Siachen Glacier, situated at the

height of over 20,000 feet.

"The soldiers and the officers posted at Siachen, commonly known as the highest battlefield in the world, on Tuesday celebrated International Yoga Day", a defence spokesman said.

He said apart from Siachen, the Army's Fire and Fury Corps also celebrated the day at Leh, [Kargil](#) and other forward locations along the [Line of Control](#) (LoC) and [Line of Actual Control](#) (LAC).

The event at [Leh](#) was attended by over 900 personnel which included officers, junior commissioned officers and jawans of the Leh Garrison, the spokesman said.

"Large attendances were also organised at Siachen, Kargil and other forward locations along the borders," he said.

Apart from giving an impetus to physical fitness, the events were aimed to popularise yoga and also to spread awareness on benefits of yoga among the soldiers, he said, adding large number of soldiers showed interest in learning yoga asanas, [pranayama](#) and meditation.

The Indian Army has incorporated yoga asanas into the daily routine of the soldiers in high altitude areas with harsh climatic conditions, he said.

441. **China reveals new supercomputer**

China revealed a new supercomputer, complete with 10.65 million computer cores made exclusively by Chinese-built microprocessors. No American made system quite competes with the Sunway TaihuLight, the new Chinese system.

According to the Top500 list, which catalogs the worlds fastest supercomputers, it can perform up to 124.5 petaflops, and is the first system to surpass 100 petaflops.

One petaflop is equal to one quadrillion sustained floating point operations per second. Chinas efforts in developing their own processors stems from Washingtons decision to block Beijings access to Intels processors last February.

442. **Finance Ministry denies any statement authorizing IT officials to arrest tax defaulters**

Finance Ministry has said that the Income Tax Department has not issued any statement authorizing its officials to arrest willful tax defaulters. In a clarification issued on Tuesday evening, it said there are provisions for arrest and detention by the Tax Recovery Officers in respect of the non-compliant tax defaulters in the Income-tax Act, but these are used very sparingly. The clarification came in the wake of media reports that the I-T Department has asked its officers to impose penalty and initiate prosecution against non-filers of income-tax returns.

AIR correspondent reports that the number of non-filers with potential tax liabilities has risen from 22.09 lakh in 2014 to 58.95 lakh in 2015.

443. **Aadhaar to be linked with caste, domicile certificates**

Centre has asked all state governments to link Aadhaar with caste and domicile certificates to be issued to school students. It has also asked them to ensure that such certificates are issued within 60 days time to the students of Class V or VIII. The development assumes significance in the backdrop of complaints of delay in grant of scholarship to students belonging to SC and ST communities.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) issues Aadhaar a 12-digit number which acts as a proof of identity and address, anywhere in the country.

444. **Country's first Yoga OPD inaugurated in Jaipur**

Country's first Yoga OPD has been opened on Tuesday in the Sawai Mansingh hospital in Jaipur on the occasion of International Yoga Day. Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and Union Minister for water resources Uma Bharti

inaugurated the Yoga OPD in the hospital premises. Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje said that this will be helpful for the patients in fast recovering from their illness.

445. Govt keeps interest rates on small savings scheme unchanged

Interest rates for Small Savings Schemes will remain unchanged for the next quarter beginning July, government notified. Presently the rate of interest for both Five Year National Savings Certificate and Public Provident Fund Scheme is 8.1 per cent.

The rate of interest for Kisan Vikas Patra is 7.8 and Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme is 8.6 per cent. Interest rates for small savings schemes are notified by the government on quarterly basis.

446. Govt's FDI reforms to attract capital, create jobs: India Inc

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has appreciated government's decision regarding liberalization of FDI norms. FICCI Secretary General Dr. A. Digar Singh said the simplification in the investment policies in sectors like defence and aviation is a positive step for the economy. He said the move will help in ease of doing business.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has also welcomed the decision. CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said, it will attract new investments across major sectors which will boost growth and employment opportunities. He said the decision affirms that India is open for business from the world, and will contribute greatly to investments and development of the country.

447. Indian transgender band wins Cannes Grand Prix Glass Lion

India's first transgender band, 6 Pack Band, won the coveted Cannes Grand Prix Glass Lion at the Cannes Lions Festival. The pop band, launched by Y-Films, bagged the award for it in collaboration with Mindshare Mumbai and Brooke Bond Red Label on late Monday night. It won for its extraordinary campaign around gender rights and outreach. This particular category of the Cannes Lions Festival awards creative work that celebrates culture-shifting creativity and addresses and impacts gender inequality, imbalance or injustice. As many as 30 brands competed from across the world, including four from India, but the 6 Pack Band initiative that highlights the hidden talent of the 'Hijra' (transgender) community of India, was chosen as the winner of the highest Cannes Lion award for its incredible impact in battling prejudice and discrimination against the transgender community.

448. Ravi Shankar inaugurates Yoga celebrations in EU Parliament

Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar today inaugurated the International Yoga Day celebrations at the European [Parliament](#) in Brussels, saying Yoga is aspiring for the highest goal of the world as one family.

"I am so glad that today here in the European Parliament, the heart of Europe, where 48 countries sit and do their deliberations and lead their countries, they are taking up this beautiful mission of wellness and bringing happiness to people," Ravi Shankar said while interacting with parliament members at the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin Hall.

449. India ranks 10th in FDI inflows: UNCTAD report

India continues to be among the top ten countries in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows globally and the fourth in developing Asia, as per the World Investment Report 2016 by the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD). India's FDI inflows have increased to \$44 billion in 2015 as compared to \$35 billion in 2014, and the growth has been across the board, the report said. A surge in investments in the first four months of 2016 is mainly on account of the Make in India initiative, along side liberalization measures and reforms initiated by the National Democratic Alliance, which make India an attractive investment decision, according to Nagesh Kumar, who heads the South, South-West Asia office of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The huge potential offered by India, the fastest growing major economy, is also one of the main reasons, he added. To be sure, China with more than three times India's FDI at \$136 billion in 2015 is ranked third in terms of FDI flows among all countries, as per the report. In terms of outflows, there has been a decline in most developing and transition regions. However, China is one of the exceptions.

450. Bengaluru tunes to musical instruments most: report

India's tech hub [Bengaluru](#) has emerged as the most musically inclined city in the country, as evident from highest sale of musical instruments online, said e-tailer Snapdeal in a report on Tuesday, which is also celebrated as 'World Music Day'. "Bengaluru led the sales of musical instruments at 18 per cent, followed by Kolkata at 15 per cent and Mumbai 6 per cent," the NCR-based e-commerce player said in a statement. The report is based on a study of online sales of musical instruments in the first half of this year, which saw demand for digital variety accounting for 30 per cent. "With 60 per cent of the demand coming from metros, musical instruments has posted tremendous growth online, with guitars and bass being the most sought after," the statement said. Among the states, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh were the top buyers. "Guitars and bass are the top selling musical instruments, followed by keyboards and Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) and brass and wind instruments," said the statement. In the digital instruments category, Casio MA-150 and Yamaha PSR E253 electronic keyboards, Boss ME-25 guitar multiple effects processor, Radel Dg108 digital Tanpura and Alesis DM6 USB electric drum kit emerged the favourite. "Music is an integral part of a place's culture and shopping trends from different states are indicative of that," said Snapdeal Vice president, Saurabh Bansal in the statement.

451. 3 Gujarat discoms bag top performance rating for FY15

Three power distribution utilities of Gujarat have bagged top rating of A+ on the basis of their performance for 2014-15 in an assessment by the Union Power Ministry. The three power utilities are - Uttar Gujarat Vij Company, Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company and Madhya Gujarat Vij Company. A book containing these ratings has been recently released by Power Minister Piyush Goyal. "Three state distribution utilities in Gujarat figure in the top most category of A+," it said. However, Paschim Gujarat Vij Company which was given A+ rating for its performance in 2013-14, last year, has been accorded one notch lower rating of A this time for its performance in 2014-15. Six utilities including Mangalore Electricity Supply Company, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company, Uttarakhand Power Corporation, Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corp and Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana have been placed in A category. There are 18 utilities in category B+ or B while 13 utilities have been placed in category C+ or C. The integrated rating methodology for state power distribution utilities was developed by Power Ministry with active involvement of government bodies including Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and transmission utilities. Credit rating agencies CRISIL, ICRA and CARE had also assisted the ministry for rating the transmission utilities in the country. The methodology was given final shape in consultation with Department of Financial Services and major public sector banks. Power Finance Corporation was mandated to coordinate the rating exercise to be conducted annually. ICRA and CARE were selected to carry out the annual rating exercise for three years. It was unveiled in July 2012. The exercise covers 40 state power distribution utilities and does not cover private utilities and state power or energy departments.

452. Exide Life Insurance signs Mahendra Singh Dhoni as brand ambassador

Exide Life Insurance, on Tuesday announced cricketer [Mahendra Singh Dhoni](#) as its brand ambassador. Starting June 22, 2016, Dhoni will feature in the [Exide Life Insurance](#) marketing campaign Lamba saath, bharse Ki baat. (Long term relationships build trust). "Dhoni represents a unique blend of skill, commitment and stability which are all personality traits that are relevant to the life insurance category. As a life insurance company, we believe that long term relationships build trust, and Mahendra Singh Dhoni is a perfect embodiment of that belief. Dhoni has appeal that cuts across geography, gender and age groups," said Mohit Goel, Director-Marketing, Exide Life Insurance. Private life insurer Exide Life Insurance commenced operations in 2001-02 and is head quartered in Bengaluru. The company is 100% owned by Exide Industries Limited. During the financial year 2015-16, the company achieved total Premium Income of over Rs 2,000 crore. "This is my first endorsement deal in the insurance category. Long term relationships build trust and I have always planned for the long term in all aspects of my life. Exide Life Insurance is a brand that resonates well with me and I look forward to working with them very closely, said Mahendra Singh Dhoni

453. Sebi approves BSE, NSE for electronic book mechanism launch

The capital market regulator on Tuesday approved stock market majors -- [BSE](#) and the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) -- for launch of electronic [book mechanism](#) (EBM) for issuance of debt securities on private placement. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) allowed the key stock [markets](#) to carry out [EBM](#) under the provisions of an earlier issued circular dated April 21, 2016. The new regulation will come into effect from July 1, 2016. "This mechanism would help in streamlining the procedures for issuance of debt securities on private placement basis. Known

as [BSE-BOND](#) (BSE Bidding Online for Debt), this would ensure transparency while dealing in debt securities," the BSE said in a statement. "Any issuer can use the EBM. However, an issuer coming out with an issue of more than Rs 500 crore (inclusive of the green shoe option) would have to mandatorily use this mechanism." According to the NSE, the mechanism will streamline procedures for issuance of debt securities on private placement basis and enhance transparency to discover prices "It is a bidding platform and will not function as a trading platform. Main beneficiaries of this mechanism will be issuers, arrangers, sub-arrangers, and participants, the [NSE](#) said in a statement. "Presently the issuance of private placement has been made offline. The detailed guidelines on electronic book mechanism will be provided subsequently."

454. **Nikesh Arora quits Softbank amidst disagreement with founder Masa**

Softbanks promised CEO and Indian origin executive Nikesh Arora resigned from the Japanese tech company. His resignation came after the Japanese business world's difficulty in adapting a non-Japanese head and later disagreement with the founder Masayoshi Son. Arora was one of the highly paid executives in the world but was in serious trouble due to lack of support from shareholders of the company. The Japanese shareholders were generally unhappy about the big salary package to an executive from outside their cultural territory. The lack of synergy transformed into accusations against the India born executive for conflict of interest, financial misdeal high paid salary etc. A committee set by the company has found such complaints baseless couple of days back and Arora announced his resignation immediately after the report. Few seasons back, Arora was snatched by Masayoshi Son, the founder of Softbank in 2014 from Google when the former was the fourth important executive of the US company. Son while bringing Arora from Google announced that the Indian will be the future CEO as he himself retires at the age of 60. But recently, Son who founded Softbank as a distribution company has reversed his decision and declared that he will continue as CEO indicating Arora has no place at the top. It seems that Son was buying the sentiments of the shareholders. The founder who developed a small company into one of the biggest tech and tech financing firm in the world will continue to lead the company when the type of his company's business need constant inventions not matching his age. For Softbank, which financed the Chinese titan Alibaba, its search to find the next Alibaba from India or China gets a big setback with Arora's exit. Already, the Japanese firm has made big investments in Indian internet firms and the new development may lead to loss of momentum in such investment activities.

455. **PSLV-C34 Successfully Launches 20 Satellites in a Single Flight**

In its thirty sixth flight (PSLV-C34), ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle successfully launched the 727.5 kg Cartosat-2 Series Satellite along with 19 co-passenger satellites today morning (June 22, 2016) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. This is the thirty fifth consecutively successful mission of PSLV and the fourteenth in its 'XL' configuration. The total weight of all the 20 satellites carried on-board PSLV-C34 was 1288 kg. After PSLV-C34 lift-off at 09:26 hrs (9:26 am) IST from the Second Launch Pad with the ignition of the first stage, the subsequent important flight events, namely, strap-on ignitions and separations, first stage separation, second stage ignition, heat-shield separation, second stage separation, third stage ignition and separation, fourth stage ignition and cut-off, took place as planned. After a flight of 16 minutes 30 seconds, the satellites achieved a polar Sun Synchronous Orbit of 508 km inclined at an angle of 97.5 degree to the equator (very close to the intended orbit) and in the succeeding 10 minutes, all the 20 satellites successfully separated from the PSLV fourth stage in a predetermined sequence. After separation, the two solar arrays of Cartosat-2 series satellite were deployed automatically and ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) at Bangalore took over the control of the satellite. In the coming days, the satellite will be brought to its final operational configuration following which it will begin to provide remote sensing services using its panchromatic (black and white) and multispectral (colour) cameras. The imagery sent by the Cartosat-2 series satellite will be useful for cartographic applications, urban and rural applications, coastal land use and regulation, utility management like road network monitoring, water distribution, creation of land use maps, precision study, change detection to bring out geographical and manmade features and various other Land Information System (LIS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) applications. Of the 19 co-passenger satellites carried by PSLV-C34, two SATHYABAMASAT weighing 1.5 kg and SWAYAM weighing 1 kg are University/Academic institute satellites and were built with the involvement of students from Sathyabama University, Chennai and College Of Engineering, Pune, respectively. The remaining 17 co-passenger satellites were international customer satellites from Canada (2), Germany (1), Indonesia (1) and the United States (13). With today's successful launch, the total number of satellites launched by India's workhorse launch vehicle PSLV has reached 113, of which 39 are Indian and the remaining 74 from abroad.

456. At least 100 killed due to lightning in Bihar, UP & J'khand; PM expresses grief

Lightening has claimed 100 lives in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. In Bihar, the death toll in various parts of the state has risen to 56 while in Uttar Pradesh it has reached 40. Four deaths have also been reported from Jharkhand.

Lightening had struck several places including Patna, Rohtash, Kaimur, Aurangabad and Buxar districts. The State Disaster Management Department has instructed District Magistrates of the affected areas to assess the extent of damage.

Principal Secretary of the Department told AIR that they have been told to send detailed report about natural calamity. He said, ex-gratia of four lakh rupees will be paid to the next of the kin of deceased who killed in the lightning. Injured have been admitted in local hospital where free treatment is being given.

The MeT department has predicted, there will be lightning in next 48 hours in several parts of the state. It said, there will be heavy rain in northern parts of Bihar as monsoon is active. There will be rain in Southern parts of the state after 24 hours.

In Uttar Pradesh, the number of people killed in lightning and rain related incidents across the state has reached 40. 24 people were reportedly killed in Varanasi and Azamgarh divisions while 11 died in Basti and Gorakhpur divisions which also included several children in rain related incidents.

Reports of deaths have also received from various other districts. Relief operations being undertaken in affected areas. Compensation, as per laid down norms and rules in cases of death due to natural calamities, will be paid to the families of those killed. Azamgarh, Gonda, Amethi, Sitapur and Chitrakoot districts are among those areas experiencing moderate to heavy rain intermittently since yesterday.

In Jharkhand, 4 tribals were killed in lightning at Haldia tand in Chatra district. All of them were of one family. Four others were injured in the incident who were admitted to Chatra Sadar hospital.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed deep anguish over the loss of lives due to lightning in parts of UP, Bihar and other parts. In a tweet, Mr Modi said, his thoughts and prayers are with those who lost their near and dear ones due to the lightning. Mr Modi also wished for the speedy recovery of the injured.

457. India to become permanent SCO member during 2-day summit in Uzbekistan tomorrow

India will become the permanent member of Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) during the organisation's 2-day summit meeting beginning in Uzbekistan capital Tashkent tomorrow. For the membership, India will sign a memorandum of obligation. Talking to media, Uzbekistan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Anvar Nasirov said, Uzbekistan, within the framework of its presidency at SCO, has paid great attention to India's admission to the organisation. He said, at a meeting in Ufa last year, heads of member states took the decision to include India as a full member. Mr Nasirov said, the process will be completed in the forthcoming meeting.

At present Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are permanent members of SCO. The organisation aims at strengthening friendly relations amongst member states and maintaining peace, stability and security in the region. It promotes co-operation in combating terrorism and the menace of narcotic substances. AIR correspondent, covering the summit, reports that on so many occasions, the organisation has seen friction and distrust among the member states, but India's inclusion in the group is likely to lift its influence in the international arena.

Indias inclusion in the group will expand the territory of the organization and it will nearly account for 80% of the Eurasian continent and will have a population of 2.7 billion, more than one third of worlds population. While expansion may hinder the organisations ability to act decisively, it will give SCO the opportunity to transform into a more comprehensive institution capable of converting and integrating a broad swath of Asia.

The expansion of SCO would infuse fresh vigour into the groups future development and boost its influence and appeal

in the international arena. Addition of India will increase blocks political and economic potential and improve its ability to counter pressing regional challenges. Meanwhile, smaller SCO members concerned of being squeezed by two dominant partners in the group, the interest of two superpowers, see the inclusion of India as an opportunity to diversify and build new partnerships.

458. INS Sindhuvir to undergo refit at HSL next year

Russia-made submarine INS Sindhuvir will undergo refit at the Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) from January 2017. The Sindhughosh class submarine after the successful launch of INS Sindhukirti post refit has made the HSL to fetch the order for INS Sindhuvir. The order for complete repairs is estimated at Rs. 400 crore and the delivery time fixed for the submarine, which undertook several operations of the Navy, is two years. HSL Chairman and Managing Director Rear Admiral L.V. Sarat Babu said it will be another prestigious project after delivering the new-look Sindhukirti last year.

The HSL is also in the race among other Defence PSUs, and LT and Pipavav Defence for bagging the contract for construction of 10 futuristic submarines to augment the capacity of the Navy at an estimated cost of Rs. 60,000 crore under P-75 (1) project. Rear Admiral Sarat Babu said due to the new Defence procurement policy, a decision was awaited on strategic partnerships. He said a decision on P-75 (1) is expected only after the air on stand-on strategic partnerships are cleared.

459. Andhra Postal circle releases stamps on Yoga booklet

To commemorate the International Day of Yoga, Andhra Pradesh Postal circle have organised the programme of releasing the booklet for public and stamps on yoga for Philatelists yesterday. The booklet contained illustrations and description of 24 yoga asana (postures) while 12 stamps on Suryanamaskarams were released. Director of Postal Services K Soma Sundaram said that the department of posts released the booklet to encourage customers and employees to take to yoga. He said the special stamps are limited edition collection which will interest philatelists.

Andhra Pradesh Yoga Association General Secretary VV Rama Rao said retaining youth and regulating death is only possible with yoga. Yoga is a way of life which is born in the country to enable one to live healthily and longer. He added that yoga is a natural way of staying fit leaving behind the external pressures of current day society. There is a dire need to go back to nature's way of living since technology and competition in the changed scenario plays havoc with the physical and psychological aspects of human race.

Having habituated to depend on artificial intelligence and technology which increased stress levels of people and distanced physical activity, he said people today hardly go for a long walk these days, which is actually a mandatory function of the body. All these factors have given rise to disorders like diabetes, blood pressure, asthma and hypertension.

460. Punjab Government launched Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund

The Punjab Health Department launched the Mukh Mantri Hepatitis-C Relief Fund for residents of the city here today. While inaugurating the scheme here today, Civil Surgeon, Dr Pardeep Chawla, said free of cost treatment would be provided to patients. The treatment for Hepatitis C costs Rs 50,000 and tests, too, are subsidised. Dr Chawla said in order to avail free treatment, patients would have to undergo medical test, which would be conducted by a private laboratory. He added that the government had tied up with a private laboratory for these tests. He said the medical test for ascertaining the Hepatitis-C was also subsidised by 50 per cent. Patients would be given an oral treatment under a new therapy and its success rate was 50 per cent, he added. The Civil Surgeon said medical experts had been trained for the Hepatitis C treatment. They would also have tele-medicine link with experts of the PGI,

461. Railway Ministry launched two liberalised Policies

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu in a programme held today i.e. 15.06.2016 at Rail Bhawan, launched and dedicated following services to the nation as a part of fulfilment of Budget Announcements 2016-17. Flagging off of inaugural run of first time-tabled container train service from Domestic Container Terminal, Okhla (Delhi) and Whitefield (Bengaluru), by remote from Rail Bhawan Launch of liberalized comprehensive parcel leasing policy Launch of liberalized policy for parcel cargo express trains. Integrated (Facebook Twitter) Social Media

Platforms for grievance redressal. And also, Announcement of implementation of policy allowing differently abled persons to avail concession while travelling without escort. Minister of State for Railways Shri Manoj Sinha was present to grace the occasion. Member Traffic Mohd. Jamshed, other Board Members and Senior Officials were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhu said that the Railways is diligently working for compliance of all the Budget Announcements and today's services are also part of this year's Railway Budget. He said that the services launched today will certainly benefit the rail users. He said that Railways is not only launching services but their proper implementation is also being minutely monitored. While launching integrated social media platform (Facebook Twitter) for redressal of grievances he said that we would soon bring two Apps one for ticketing and other for grievances. Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Railways Shri Manoj Sinha said that these services are in compliance of budget announcements. He said that the every service which railways launches was a result of hard work of railwaymen. Railways is committed to ensure better journey experience to all passengers.

462. Arun Jaitley Lays Foundation Stone For New Campus Of IIM-Amritsar

Education and agriculture will have to go hand in hand for India's development as has been the case in countries like Japan and South Korea, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said today as he laid the foundation stone for a new campus of IIM-Amritsar. This would be the own campus of IIM-Amritsar, the 15th Indian Institute of Management in the country, which has been so far operating from a temporary facility. Jaitley said the government and private companies will have to join hands for taking the education sector forward in Punjab. Stressing that 55 per cent of people are engaged in agriculture, Jaitley pointed at rising unemployment in the farm sector which has forced people to look at other sectors for income and stressed on the need for good quality education. He also said that the government's efforts to develop the premier institute in Punjab will encourage more educational institutes to set up campuses in the state. Education and agriculture will have to go hand in hand as we have seen in other countries like Japan and South Korea... Government and private institutions both will have to contribute for development of education in India, Jaitley said. The Union Minister also highlighted the contribution of Narendra Modi government in bringing reputed institutions like the AIIMs and IIMs to Punjab. The new campus of IIM-Amritsar, which commenced its first batch last year out of a temporary facility, will be built on a 60-acre land in Manawala on the National Highway-1. Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani, Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal also attended the event.

463. Haryana to have India's first AYUSH University

Haryana to have country's first of its kind AYUSH university as the state cabinet approved a proposal to upgrade Shri Krishna Government Ayurvedic College, Kurukshetra as a university. The Shri Krishna AYUSH University would have courses of all the systems of AYUSH, a release said here on Saturday. Health Minister Anil Vij, said an ordinance would soon be introduced for the university following which it would become functional. Undergraduate and postgraduate courses in all AYUSH systems including Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy would be started in the university, he said. These would include surgery, anatomy, physiology and panchakarma, among others. Students from other states would also be able to study in this university, he added. He said at present, one Homeopathic and 10 Ayurvedic colleges are functioning in the state, including two government colleges. These were affiliated with Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak. However, all the 11 colleges would now be affiliated with Shri Krishna AYUSH University, the Health Minister added.

464. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's statue unveiled in Malaysia

A bronze statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose has been unveiled at the Indian cultural centre premises here in the presence of nine Indian National Army (INA) veterans, including three women. During a visit to Malaysia last year Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced renaming of the Indian Cultural Centre here as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre. It marked a historic moment for INA, the Rani of Jhansi regiment, Balak Sena and the veterans of the INA in Malaysia. Nine INA veterans participated at the unveiling on Saturday and two more joined through a video message to the gathering. Three of the veterans who participated were women who were part of the Rani of Jhansi regiment of the INA. The bust was unveiled by the traditional lighting of the lamp. There were two INA speakers, Rasamma Bhupalan of the Rani of Jhansi regiment and Dr K R Somasundaram, and two more joined through video link, Dr L Krishnan and Janaki Bai Fateh Singh. Veteran of the Rani of Jhansi regiment Meenachee Perumal (90 years) sang gusty INA songs in Bengali and Tamil much to the admiration of the crowd which had filled the Cultural

centre to the brim. All INA veterans were given commemorative plaques by the High Commissioner T S Tirumurti. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose strode like a colossus across the Malay Peninsula inspiring numerous Malaysians, particularly those of Indian-origin, to join the army. Malaysia has the second largest Indian-origin community in the world of around two million. One of the most distinguished INA veteran in Malaysia, who passed away last year, was Capt. Janaki Athi Nahappan, who had served as deputy leader in the Rani of Jhansi regiment of the Indian National Army under Capt. Lakshmi Sahgal. The Indian Cultural Centre, inaugurated in 2010, showcases India's rich heritage and promotes multilayered cultural exchanges between peoples of India and Malaysia. The High Commission of India hosted the first ever Festival of India in Malaysia last year. The bronze bust of Netaji was sculpted by Ram Sutar and sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

465. India, UAE to set up parliamentary panel to enhance ties

Seeking to boost the growing bilateral strategic ties, India and the UAE will set up a joint panel of parliamentarians to enhance relations and facilitate their visits to promote cooperation to tackle security issues and challenges facing the region.

A decision was taken in this regard during a meeting between first woman speaker of UAE's Federal National Council (FNC) Amal Abdullah Al-Qubaisi and the Indian ambassador here T P Seetharam yesterday.

During the meeting, Al-Qubaisi stressed the importance of activating parliamentary relations between FNC and Indian parliament by establishing a friendly Emirati-Indian parliamentary committee, and by prompting parliamentary visits between the two sides, state-run WAM news agency reported.

Al Qubaisi said it was important that the two countries strengthen relations in all fields and achieve the required communication for parliamentary diplomacy, as well as to unify their visions and positions on various issues as part of their important roles in addressing issues of security and stability and the challenges facing the region.

The two sides stressed the importance of consultation and coordination between FNC and Indian parliament delegations during their participation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union in order to unify positions and views on various issues of interest to both countries and peoples.

They also agreed to prepare a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the parliamentary committee, and highlighted existing areas of cooperation in various political, economic, cultural and investment sectors.

Al Qubaisi and Seetharam stressed that bilateral relations have reached a higher level of strategic partnership following the momentous visit by Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, in February to India, the report said.

She said India has a deep-rooted democracy in the world and serves as a model for a constitution based on democracy, pluralism, and women's political participation.

Al Qubaisi also paid tribute to the important role played by the Indian parliament locally and internationally in serving the people of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the UAE in August last year, during which the two countries elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

India and the UAE agreed to boost bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism operations, intelligence-sharing and capacity building during Modi's visit.

466. Furore over Chauhan's appointment as NIFT chief

The appointment of former cricketer and two-time BJP MP Chetan Chauhan as Chairperson of the premier National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) not only set off questions about his eligibility to hold the post but also invited mirth on Twitter. A loyalist of former Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) president and Union Minister

Arun Jaitley, sources said Mr. Chauhan gained from the backing of the BJP, but were hard-pressed to explain what his credentials to hold the post were. I congratulate him on his appointment and only hope he spends less time at the DDCA where he is the vice-president, Kirti Azad, BJP MP, said. Mr. Chauhan has been rewarded by his invisible and visible political masters. Mr. Azad, who has locked horns with Mr. Jaitley over mismanagement of the cricket body, has been sued by Mr. Chauhan. The AAP government held a press conference questioning the wisdom of Mr. Chauhan's appointment, especially when only last year, it had alleged financial irregularities in the cricket body and had targeted Mr. Jaitley. The reason for Mr. Kejriwal's opposition to Mr. Chauhan's appointment, according to party sources, stems from his belief that the former Indian cricketer played a major role in shielding the Union Minister against the criticism levelled against DDCA especially of a financial nature last year.

467. 3 International Space Station astronauts land in Kazakhstan

An International Space Station crew including an American, a Briton and a Russian has landed safely in the sun-drenched steppes of Kazakhstan. The Soyuz TMA-19M capsule carrying NASA's Tim Kopra, Tim Peake of the European Space Agency and the Russian agency Roscosmos Yuri Malenchenko touched down as scheduled at 3:15 p.m. local time (0915 GMT) on Saturday southeast of Zhezkazgan in Kazakhstan. The crew reported feeling fine as their ship slid off the orbit and headed down to Earth. The trio spent 186 days in space since their launch in December 2015. They have conducted hundreds of scientific experiments. NASA astronaut Jeff Williams along with Russians Oleg Skripochka and Alexey Ovchinin of Roscosmos will operate the station for three weeks until the arrival of three new crew members.

468. NASA Electric Research Plane Gets X Number, New Name

With 14 electric motors turning propellers and all of them integrated into a uniquely-designed wing, NASA will test new propulsion technology using an experimental airplane now designated the X-57 and nicknamed Maxwell. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden highlighted the agency's first X-plane designation in a decade during his keynote speech Friday in Washington at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) annual Aviation and Aeronautics Forum and Exposition, commonly called Aviation 2016. With the return of piloted X-planes to NASA's research capabilities which is a key part of our 10-year-long New Aviation Horizons initiative the general aviation-sized X-57 will take the first step in opening a new era of aviation, Bolden said. As many as five larger transport-scale X-planes also are planned as part of the initiative. Its goals like the X-57 include demonstrating advanced technologies to reduce fuel use, emissions and noise, and thus accelerate their introduction to the marketplace. The X-57 number designation was assigned by the U.S. Air Force, which manages the history-making process, following a request from NASA. The first X-plane was the X-1, which in 1947 became the first airplane to fly faster than the speed of sound. Dozens of X-planes of all shapes, sizes and purposes have since followed all of them contributing to our stature as the world's leader in aviation and space technology, said Jaiwon Shin, associate administrator for NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate. Planes like the X-57, and the others to come, will help us maintain that role.

469. Nico Rosberg wins 2016 European Grand Prix of F1

Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg from Germany has won the 2016 European Grand Prix of Formula One. 2016 European Grand Prix title race was the eighth race of the 2016 season of Formula One in which total 11 teams had participated. The race was run on a street circuit in Baku, Azerbaijan. It was Rosberg's overall ninetieth championship title of F1 in his career and the fifth win in the 2016 season. Earlier he had won Australian Grand Prix, Bahrain Grand Prix, Chinese Grand Prix and Russian Grand Prix in the 2016 season. Result of 2016 European Grand Prix First Position: Nico Rosberg (Germany) of Mercedes team. Second Position: Sebastian Vettel (Germany) of Ferrari team. Third Position: Sergio Perez (Mexico) of Force India team. Fourth Position: Kimi Raikkonen (Finland) of Ferrari Team. Fifth Position: Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom) of Mercedes Team. Top 3 teams are: Mercedes, Ferrari and Force India.

470. Sri Lanka pacer Shaminda Eranga suspended by ICC for illegal action

Hospitalised Sri Lanka pacer Shaminda Eranga has been banned from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect because of an illegal action, the International Cricket Council announced Sunday. The ICC's statement

came just hours after Eranga had been taken to a Dublin hospital to undergo tests on an elevated heartbeat after he fell ill during Sri Lanka's 136-run win over Ireland in the second one-day international at Malahide on Saturday. "The International Cricket Council today (Sunday) announced that an independent assessment has found the bowling action of Sri Lanka's Shaminda Eranga to be illegal and, as such, the fast bowler has been suspended from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect," said a statement issued by the global governing body.

471. Tamil Nadu leaders condole educationist Jeppiaar's death

Leaders of political parties, including DMK president M Karunanidhi, condoled the death of prominent educationist Jeppiaar. A close aide of former Chief Minister M G Ramachandran, the 85-year-old Jeppiaar died after a cardiac arrest here on Sunday. In his condolence message, Karunanidhi said that he was grieved and anguished to learn about the death of Jeppiaar who ably administered several educational institutions started under the Jeppiaar Educational Trust. His son and DMK treasurer M K Stalin, accompanied by former Mayor M Subramaniam, visited Jeppiaar's house and paid his last respects. Speaking to reporters, Stalin said that Jeppiaar had earned the trust of MGR and served as the chief whip in the then Tamil Nadu Legislative Council and his death was an irreparable loss to the State. MDMK general secretary Vaiko in his condolence message recalled Jeppiaar's achievements through his Sathyabama Engineering College which became the first technical institution in the State to be awarded the deemed-to-be university status.

472. Govt okays Rs 10,000 cr corpus for Startups

The Cabinet has approved setting up of Fund of Funds for Startups under Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for extending support to Startups.

The corpus of FFS is Rs 10,000 crore, which will be built up over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles.

An amount of Rs 500 crore has already been provided to the corpus of FFS in the last fiscal year, and 600 crore rupees earmarked in the current fiscal. The Fund is expected to generate employment for 18 lakh persons.

473. Cabinet approves mega spectrum auction

The Union Cabinet today cleared the way for mega auction of spectrum. Briefing media in New Delhi, Finance minister Arun Jaitley said, more than 2300 Megahertz, MHz, spectrum are available for auction across seven bands.

The bands are 700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz. The availability of such a large quantity of spectrum will give a fillip for Digital India programme. It will allow telecom operators to purchase spectrum at par with international holding values and end spectrum shortage.

The Cabinet also approved extension of timeline for taking over 50 per cent of Outstanding Debt of DISCOMs, by States under the UDAY scheme. The extended timeline of one year upto 31st March, 2017 will allow States which could not participate in UDAY earlier to join in.

The Cabinet also gave its nod for special package for employment generation and promotion of exports in Textile and Apparel sector. It is expected to generate one crore jobs over next three years.

It will also attract investment of 74 thousand crore rupees over next three years and lead to cumulative increase of 30 billion dollars in exports. The scheme will help in women empowerment as they constitutes 70 per cent of workforce in garment sector.

474. US stocks rise after Yellen takes a cautious tone on interest rates

US stocks rose, yesterday, after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said the Fed will remain cautious in raising interest rates. Stocks traded higher and bond prices fell for the second day in a row, as investors felt a bit surer that Britain will stay in the EU. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 25 points, or 0.1 percent, to close at 17,830. The Standard Poor's 500 index gained 6 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,089. And the Nasdaq composite added 7 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,844.

In her testimony to the Senate Banking Committee, Yellen said a victory for the leave camp in this weeks UK

referendum on membership in the EU would pose a significant risk to the U.S. economy and global financial market stability. Yellen reiterated the cautious approach to raising interest rates. The overall tone of the market was nervousness and cautiousness.

475. Brexit: RBI says keeping close vigil on developments

In the run up to the 'Brexit' referendum tomorrow, the Reserve Bank of India has said that it is keeping a close watch on all the developments.

In a statement issued from Mumbai today, RBI said it will take all necessary steps including liquidity support to ensure orderly conditions in the financial markets.

There has been some turbulence in global financial markets, including India ahead of the referendum in the United Kingdom on its continuing in the 28-nation European Union.

Britain's exit from the EU, or Brexit, could have implications for the international financial markets and exchange rates.

Meanwhile, the Indian markets have ended in the red. The benchmark index at the Bombay Stock Exchange lost 47 points to close at 26,766 while Nifty ended at 8,204; lower by 16 points.

476. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Germany

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Steinbeis GmbH Co. KG for Technologietransfer, Germany on technology resourcing in manufacturing, including sub-sectors of Capital Goods. The MoU was signed on 25th April, 2016 during the Industrial Exhibition Hannover Messe 2016 in Hannover, Germany.

Steinbeis GmbH is leading organization for applied industrial research in Europe. It will act as a Technology Resource Partner for implementing identified projects in manufacturing. The field of cooperation envisaged in the MoU are:

- a) profiling of specific technologies;
- b) technology road mapping for specified Capital Goods sub-sectors,
- c) assessment of technology status of Capital Goods Cluster;
- d) cooperation in events on technology; and
- e) upgrading existing technology institutes / setting up Greenfield institutes in India and other technology related co-operation and collaboration.

The MoU is a framework instrument to facilitate industrial technology projects by Indian Capital Goods Sector. The MoU will provide a platform to various public sector undertakings and Capital Goods Sector units to have easy access to capabilities and expertise of Steinbeis GmbH for identifying and plugging technology gaps.

477. Rehabilitation of four lane of Mahatma Gandhi Setu on Ganga River at Patna in Bihar

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the project namely rehabilitation of four lane 5.575 km long Mahatma Gandhi Setu at NH-19 on Ganga River at Patna in Bihar. The bridge will be constructed after dismantling the damaged pre-stressed cantilever arms superstructure and subsequent re-decking by steel truss. The project will be in Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode. The cost is estimated to be Rs.1742.01 crore.

The project is covered in the region of Patna-Hazipur connecting North and South Bihar. It will help in expediting the improvement of infrastructure in the State besides reducing the time and cost of travel for traffic, particularly heavy traffic, plying between North and South Bihar. The rehabilitation of Mahatma Gandhi Setu will also help in uplifting the

socio-economic condition of this region in the State.

Background:

Four-lane Mahatma Gandhi Setu at Patna on Ganga River was constructed during year 1980s by State Government of Bihar. This distressed Bridge is very important link between North Bihar and South Bihar and is a route for several economic as well as socio political activity. Business of Nepal and Bhutan is also flowing through this connection. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has made efforts to rehabilitate this Bridge since last 15 years but the efforts were not successful. After a lot of studies through national and foreign experts it has now been decided that only remedy left is to dismantle the existing superstructure followed by subsequent re-decking by steel truss. Accordingly, a detailed estimate has been prepared for rehabilitation of superstructure of Mahatma Gandhi Setu in Patna.

478. World Hydrography Day at Southern Naval Command

World Hydrographic Day was celebrated by the Southern Naval Command on 21 Jun 16. The theme for this year was Hydrography - The Key to Well Managed Seas And Waterways.

On the occasion, about 120 students from different colleges of Kerala (TKM College of Engineering and Technology Kollam, St. Teresas College Ernakulam and St. Xaviers College for Woman Aluva) visited Indian Naval Ship Sutlej at the naval base, Kochi. The students were shown various facets of hydrography including high precision equipment and the charts produced by India.

There are three survey ships based in Kochi. In addition, a Hydrographic Survey Unit (Kochi) functions under the Southern Naval Command. While the Survey Unit undertakes local surveys, the ships carry out hydrographic surveys both in Indian as well as international waters. All the three ships have been involved in Foreign Cooperation Surveys in the recent past in friendly countries like Tanzania, Kenya and Mauritius. This provides an excellent platform for better diplomatic engagements with foreign nations.

Hydrographic day has been celebrated worldwide every year on 21 June since 2005. The day is observed to create awareness about hydrography which is an essential science before undertaking any activity on or under the sea.

479. United Nations Public Service Day - 23 June

The UN General Assembly, in its resolution [57/277](#), designated 23 June as Public Service Day. The UN Public Service Day intends to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector. Since the first Awards Ceremony in 2003, the United Nations has received an increasing number of submissions from all around the world. This year's United Nations Public Service Day Awards Ceremony and Forum will take place in [Medellin, Colombia from 23 to 26 June, 2015](#).

480. What is Green Box Support under WTO?

The WTO is an organization standing for trade liberalization. It has many agreements that members have to ratify while joining. The TRIPs, TRIMs, GATS and Agreement on Agriculture are the main agreements of the WTO that contain extensive trade liberalization measures. The Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) The AoA contains various agricultural policies to be adopted by the member countries. These includes reduction of tariffs (market access) on imports, elimination of export subsidies (export competition) and reduction of domestic subsidies (domestic support) and limiting it to permissible types of subsidies. Domestic support The domestic support is nothing but subsidies given by member countries to their domestic agriculture sector. According to WTO, some of the domestic support measures or subsidies are distorting trade. Trade distortion means a high cost producing country becoming exporter by giving high domestic subsidies to farmers. The AoA hence prohibits such subsidies. On the other hand, there are other types of subsidies that dont distort trade. AoA says that such subsidies can be continued. In terms of the trade distortionary effect, the WTO classifies subsidies given by governments into different boxes Green Box, Blue Box (these two subsidies are permitted and hence non- reducible) and Amber Box (not permissible or to be reduced). The colours simply indicate whether they are permissible or not permissible. Green Box Green Box contains those types of subsidies that dont distort trade or that cause only minimum distortion. Hence they are permitted subsidies and thus are non-reducible subsidies. The Green box subsidies are provided by governments through variety of programmes like the provision of income support to farmers during crop failure, incentives to farmers to protect environment, subsidies for research and

development, food aid to the poor people etc. These subsidies are provided through programmes; without influencing (decoupled) the current level of production and prices. Member countries thus can give green box subsidies without limits; provided they comply with relevant criteria. The green box measures comprises of several type of support measures or subsidies. They basically comprise of two support groups. The first involves public services programmes (for example, research, training, marketing, promotion, infrastructure, domestic food aid or public food security stocks). The second involves direct payments to producers by the government. These mainly involve income guarantee and security programmes (natural disasters, state financial contributions to crop insurance, etc.); programmes aimed at adjusting structures and environmental protection programmes, regional development programmes. The direct payments are also known as decoupled income support measures as these measures are not influencing market price or production decisions of farmers. Green box measures are compatible with the WTO framework and hence are totally exempted from reduction commitments (non-reducible). Green Box and developed countries An important fact file about green box subsidies is that they are mostly given by developed countries. Since these domestic supports are exempted, the developed countries provide such subsidies in huge amount. On the other hand, the developing countries are not able to provide such big subsidies because of lack of financial resources. Similarly, the green box subsidies are not efficient in promoting agriculture in the developing world because of their backwardness. Many developing world countries are of the opinion that indirectly, the green box subsidies are trade distorting. Hence they are demanding that the green box should also be brought under the reducible category of subsidies.

481. Mudra Yojana targets Rs 1.8 lakh crore loan disbursal for the current fiscal

The government targets Rs 1.80 lakh crore loan disbursal to MSMEs under the Prime Minister Mudra Yojana for 2016-17. Explaining the progress of the scheme, Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha revealed that the actual for the previous year was Rs 1.2 lakh crore. Around 3.5 crore beneficiaries have availed funds under the scheme. The MUDRA Scheme that stands for Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency became the chief lending channels for small businesses who takes loans below Rs 10 lakh. Loans to the enterprises are divided into Shishu, Kishor and Tarun based on the loan limits. Shishu loans will be upto Rs 50000, Kishor from Rs 50000 to Rs five lakh and Tarun loans ranges from Rs five lakh to Rs 10 lakh. Loans above Rs 10 lakh to MSMEs are provided by SIDBI. Besides loans technical assistance are also provided to small enterprises. The quantum of loan disbursal to small units is sizable under the Mudra Yojana compared to the previous SIDBI sponsored MSME lending schemes. So far, the scheme has emerged as the largest enterprise development programme in the country in terms of number of units financed.

482. New Super fast train between Vijayawada-Secunderabad launched

A new superfast intercity express train between Vijayawada and Secunderabad with just one stop was launched today, mainly to facilitate travel of [Andhra Pradesh Government](#) employees to the new capital region from Hyderabad. Railway Minister [Suresh Prabhu](#) and Chief Minister N [Chandrababu Naidu](#) tonight flagged off the train, the first-ever single stop superfast service between Secunderabad and Vijayawada and non-stop between Guntur and Secunderabad. This train, which runs six days a week, has been introduced primarily for the convenience of Government employees commuting between Vijayawada and Hyderabad (and its twin city Secunderabad) during the transition period when the State Departments are being shifted to the new capital region (located between Vijayawada-Guntur). The train, running from Monday to Saturday, will cover a distance of 351km between the two cities in less than 6 hours. It starts at 5.30 pm from Vijayawada and will reach Secunderabad at 11.10 pm with a single stop at Guntur. In the return, the train leaves Secunderabad at 5.30 am and reach Vijayawada at 11 am. Prabhu and Naidu also laid the foundation stone, through a remote video link, for the doubling of existing rail line between [Guntakal](#) and [Kalluru](#) in [Anantapuramu](#) district. The project, which also includes electrification of the tracks, is being taken up at a cost of Rs 323 crore to ease congestion and enhance section capacity. The doubling will facilitate fast movement of freight and passenger traffic on the busy Mumbai-Bengaluru line.

483. Jaitley releases commemorative silver coin to mark 300th martyrdom day of Banda Singh Bahadur

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Wednesday released a commemorative silver coin to mark the 300th martyrdom day of Sikh General Banda Singh Bahadur. Jaitley, who is also the Information and Broadcasting Minister, said Banda Singh Bahadur was a great leader who continues to inspire the people. He said, Bahadur fought the Mughals and established the first sovereign Sikh state. Jaitley said there is a need to educate people about the rich history and tradition of Punjab, including iconic leaders like Banda Singh Bahadur. Banda Singh, who was born in 1670 in Rajouri, was given the title of Bahadur by 10th Sikh Guru

Guru Gobind Singh. He was appointed by Guru Gobind Singh as his deputy and military lieutenant. Armed with the blessing and authority of Guru Gobind Singh, Banda Singh Bahadur assembled a fighting force and led the struggle against the Mughal Empire.

484. SBI in "Hall of Shame" of banks funding cluster bomb makers

State-run banking behemoth [SBI](#) has been named in a 'Hall of Shame' list of 158 banking and financial institutions globally that have invested billions of dollars in companies making [cluster bombs](#).

State Bank of India (SBI) is the only Indian entity on the list, which includes global giants like JP Morgan, Barclays, Bank of America and Credit Suisse that invested over \$28 billion in seven producers of cluster munitions between June 2012 and April 2016, according to a report by Dutch campaign group PAX.

While SBI said it "always works in accordance with local laws and regulations" and there is "no prohibition, whatsoever either in US or in India to finance such commercial projects", PAX said the investments have been made in these cluster bomb producers despite an international ban.

In its 275-page report, PAX said the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) categorically bans use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions.

This convention was signed by 94 countries in 2008 and it came into force from August 1, 2010.

Most financial institutions named in the Pax list are from countries that have not signed this convention. However, there are also banks from the countries that have adopted this treaty over years.

The maximum number of 74 banks are from the US, followed by China (29) and South Korea (26).

485. Indian world war heroes honoured in UK digital archive

Britain has launched [a new digital archive](#) telling the inspiring stories of war heroes, including six Indians, as part of the UK governments centenary celebrations to mark World War I. As many as 175 men from 11 overseas countries were awarded Britains highest award for valour, the Victoria Cross (VC), during the war. These included six soldiers from undivided India who fought in the war as part of the British Indian Army and honoured in a commemorative plaque presented to India back in 2014. The new Digital Archive was launched by FCO on Monday to chronicle individual biographies of Risaldar Badlu Singh from Punjab, Sepoy Chatta Singh from UP, Naik Darwan Singh Negi and Rifleman Gabar Sing Negi from modern day Uttarakhand, Lance-Daffadar Gobind Singh from Rajasthan, and Lance Naik Lala from Himachal Pradesh. They were all awarded for their conspicuous bravery on the battlefield. Besides six VCs from India, the 11 countries covered by the special plaques include Pakistan (3); Nepal (2); Canada (70 VCs); Australia (66); New Zealand (16); South Africa (14); US (5); Denmark (2); Belgium (1) and Ukraine (1). August 2014 had marked 100 years since Britain entered the First World War. Prime Minister David Cameron had launched the ongoing commemoration programme back in October 2012. The new digital archive can be accessed through the UK governments official gov.uk portal.

486. China's Sunway TaihuLight named world's top supercomputer

A new Chinese supercomputer called Sunway TaihuLight is the worlds most power machine, according to the TOP500 organization, whose researchers compile a biannual global listing of the top supercomputers. TOP500 released the new supercomputer rankings on Monday in Frankfurt, Germany during the International Supercomputing Conference. Sunway TaihuLight overtakes the top spot from the Chinese supercomputer Tianhe-2, which TOP500 [said](#) in November was the worlds leading supercomputer at the time. TaihuLight, which is currently being used at the National Supercomputing Center the Chinese city of Wuxi, is three times as powerful as Tianhe-2, according to TOP500. This is the seventh straight time that a Chinese supercomputer has topped the rankings. The new top supercomputer was also built with exclusively based technology developed in China, touted Top500. This is noteworthy because of the belief held by some researchers that Chinese supercomputers require foreign technology to effectively compete with other countries supercomputers, according to Top500. Tianhe-2, for example, uses [Intel](#) processors whereas TaihuLight employs a new ShenWei processor, which was built in China. As the first number one system of

China that is completely based on homegrown processors, the Sunway TaihuLight system demonstrates the significant progress that China has made in the domain of designing and manufacturing large-scale computation systems, said Wuxi-based National Supercomputing Center director Dr. Guangwen Yang in a statement. Additionally, China has overtaken the U.S. in the amount of supercomputers being used. China now has 167 supercomputers in use whereas the U.S. has 165 similar machines. The Top500 researchers also shared some interesting tidbits about some big U.S. technology companies, notably Intel [INTC](#) 0.90% and Hewlett Packard Enterprise [HPE](#) 1.25% , in regards to the supercomputing list. HPE maintains the most supercomputers in the world with 127 machines, while Intel totally dominates other chipmakers in systems using their processors.

487. Use of potassium bromate as food add-on banned

The government on Monday banned the use of potassium bromate as a food additive following a Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) study that found its presence in bread caused cancer. FSSAI [Food Safety Standards Authority of India] has banned potassium bromate, said its CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal. A notification has been issued in this regard. As far as potassium iodate is concerned, it has been referred to a scientific panel. Potassium iodate is also used as a food additive and it too is said to be carcinogenic. A CSE study had found that 84 per cent of 38 commonly available brands of pre-packaged breads, including pav and buns, tested positive for potassium bromate and potassium iodate. The two food additives are banned in many countries and are listed as hazardous to public health. According to the CSE, potassium bromate typically increases dough strength, leads to higher rising and gives uniform finish to baked products. Potassium iodate is a flour treatment agent.

488. HP launches the world's thinnest laptop, Spectre 13

PC-maker HP launched the company's flagship laptop Spectre 13 series in India on June 21. The metal clad HP Spectre 13, which was originally unveiled in the U.S. in April, has finally arrived in India. It boasts aluminium and carbon fibre-based body with copper accents and despite the luxurious use of metal, it measures just 10.4 mm in thickness, making HP Spectre 13 the thinnest laptop in the world. Under the hood, it houses Intel Core i5-6200U/ Intel Core i7-6500U processor, 8GB RAM, Intel HD Graphics 520, TrueVision HD Webcam, Bang Olufsen audio with quad speakers and also boasts segmented 38 Wh Li-ion polymer battery, which can keep the laptop running for more than nine hours. In terms of connectivity, it features Bluetooth v4.2, Wi-Fi (802.11 ac), three USB Type-C ports, where-in two ports are Thunder-bolt enabled for superfast file transfer.

489. Mars crater named after Nepal quake-hit village Langtang

A nearly 10-km wide crater on Mars has been named after one of the villages worst hit by the devastating earthquakes in Nepal last year. The International Astronomical Union has named the crater after Langtang, also a popular trekking site. At least 215 people were killed in Langtang when a quake-triggered avalanche submerged the village. The IAU Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature approved the name on June 14, the BBC reported. The researcher behind the move, Tjalling de Haas, said it was a tribute to the Nepali village. de Haas, who studies Mars's physical geography at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, told the BBC that he chose Langtang because his colleague had worked there while studying Himalayan glaciers. "It was his base camp for a long period, so we said maybe it's a nice tribute to call (the crater) Langtang," he said. The crater is said to have a diameter of 9.8 km. Along with Langtang, three other craters on the planet were named Bunnik, Nqutu, and Talu respectively.

490. Andy Murray downs Milos Raonic to win record fifth Queen's Club title

Andy Murray became the first player to hold aloft the super-sized Queens Club trophy for a fifth time after he beat Canadian big-server Milos Raonic 6-7(5) 6-4 6-3 in the final of the Aegon Championships on Sunday. The British top seeds title hopes appeared to be faltering when he trailed Raonic by a set and 3-0 down in the second set but the 2013 Wimbledon champion relied on his greater grasscourt pedigree to turn the match around. Murray, who won the title in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015, had shared the previous record of four Queens titles with seven other men, including Boris Becker, Roy Emerson and Raonic's new grasscourt coach John McEnroe. However, a backhand volley into the net from Raonic allowed Murray to climb to the top of the pile and celebrate a winning start to his renewed coaching relationship with Ivan Lendl.

491. DRDO to start new research centre to develop technologies related to cyber security & robotics

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is collaborating with Jadavpur University to start a

new 100 crore rupees research centre to develop technologies related to cyber security and robotics for defence forces.

Housed in the campus of the state-run university, foundation stone of the Jagadish Chandra Bose Centre for Advanced Technology was laid today.

Officials said, the focus of the centre will be on pursuing collaborative advanced research, starting with secure systems and cognitive technologies, directed energy, unmanned and robotics technologies and then venturing towards other futuristic technologies.

Expected to be ready in the next two years, the centre will act as a self-accounting unit of the DRDO.

492. Sanitation coverage increases since launch of Swachh Bharat Campaign in 2014

The Sanitation coverage in the country has increased by 14 per cent to 52 per cent since the launch of the Swachh Bharat Campaign in October 2014.

Talking exclusively to AIR, Secretary, Drinking Water and Sanitation Parameswaran Iyer said, of the 677 districts of the country only 16 have been declared open defecation free.

He said, the government has undertaken 160 districts under the first phase where intensive sanitation drive was needed to make them open defecation free.

He said, the Centre is assisting the States in providing technical and financial assistance to scale up the efforts for achieving the goal. Mr Iyer said, his Ministry will undertake 200 to 250 other districts later this year.

Mr Iyer also told AIR that the government has identified ten iconic heritage places where intensive clean up drive will be launched under Swachh Bharat mission. These places are Vaishno Devi in Jammu and Kashmir, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Maharashtra, Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh, Tirupati Temple in Andhra Pradesh, Golden Temple in Punjab, Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi, Ajmer Sharif Dargah in Rajasthan, Meenakshi Temple in Tamil Nadu, Kamakhya Temple in Assam and Jagannath Puri in Odisha. He said, the government has sought technical assistance from the World Bank to scale up the cleanliness efforts at these places.

493. Centre launches pilot programme to run two wheelers on CNG in New Delhi

In a major step to curb rising air pollution in cities, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar today launched pilot programme to run two wheelers on Compressed Natural Gas, CNG in New Delhi.

Welcoming the initiative, Mr Pradhan said that government is actively striving to promote clean fuel in the country. He said government is promoting the use of gas and fulfilling the COP-21 commitments to curb pollution. Mr Pradhan said, gas share in the countrys fuel basket is just 7 percent compared to world average of around 24 percent.

The Minister also said he has already written to Delhi Government to make Bawana power plant fully operational on LNG so that cheaper and clean power is made available to residents of Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said government is fully committed to control pollution in the country. He said, there will be a jump from Euro-IV type fuel to Euro-VI by 2020. He said Environment Ministry will fully support the endeavours to promote clean fuel, including Gas.

AIR correspondent reports the pilot programme, being implemented by Indraprastha Gas Limited, involves 50 CNG retrofitted two wheelers. Of these, the first batch of ten CNG retrofitted two wheelers were flagged off today.

494. Bangladesh: Mahasthangarh in Bogra selected to function as SAARC cultural capital this year

In Bangladesh, a 3rd century archaeological site called Mahasthangarh in Bogra has been selected to function as the SAARC cultural capital this year.

The historic place featuring the remains of a 3rd century ancient city, besides an ancient Hindu temple and medieval

Muslim palace will host year-long SAARC cultural capital related activities beginning October this year.

Bangladesh Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor told reporters that delegates and experts from all SAARC countries are expected in Dhaka next month to finalize the programme details.

Noor said hosting the SAARC cultural capital activities like festivals of films, literature, dance and food would enable Bangladesh to project the nation's heritage and culture to the world.

Every year, a culturally and archaeologically rich city of one of the eight SAARC countries is declared as the cultural capital with the aim of creating a bridge among the peoples of the region.

Bamiyan, a historic city of Afghanistan is the current SAARC cultural capital.

495. 9 wild life species become extinct in Bangladesh: IUCN

In Bangladesh, 39 wild life species have become extinct and another 390 endangered according to an assessment by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, 2015.

Of the 39 extinct species, 11 are mammals, 19 birds and one is reptile.

The striped hyena, Indian rhinoceros, Bengal florican, sloth bear and nilgai, among others, have already gone extinct from Bangladesh.

The IUCN Red List provides periodical information and analysis on status, trends and threats to various wildlife species in an area.

The goal is to facilitate and catalyse action for the conservation of the threatened species.

The IUCN Report says that 3 species become extinct every hour somewhere in the world on account of degradation of their natural habitat brought about by both nature and human activity.

496. Bill paving way for indirect election of mayors by councillors passed in TN assembly

A bill paving the way for indirect election of mayors by councillors was today passed in the Tamil Nadu assembly amidst some drama with opposition DMK seeking a division while the Speaker going for a headcount.

The bill, Tamil Nadu Municipal Corporation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2016, seeks to ensure election of mayors by councillors and not by the people as was the practice so far.

The amendments also make it mandatory for removal of mayors and deputy mayors through no confidence motion to have the support of four-fifth of the total members in Corporations.

The other amendments to the Municipalities and panchayats acts seek election without any reorganization of the boundaries of local bodies. In Tamil Nadu, elections to the local bodies are due to be held by October this year.

The House saw an intense debate on the bill with DMK questioning the ruling AIADMK's intention behind it, and asking as to why it made such a proposal even though AIADMK was dominating all the 12 corporations in the state.

497. Govt extends date for reporting accounts details under FATCA

Government has extended the date for reporting details of accounts under Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) by six months to December 31, 2016.

An official release said, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) also excluded 'withholding foreign partnership (WP) and withholding foreign trusts (WT)' from the purview of FATCA reporting norms on Wednesday.

India and US in July 2015 signed an Inter-Governmental

Agreement to implement the FATCA in India.

According to the agreement, foreign financial institutions in India are required to report tax information about US account holders to the Indian government which will, in turn, relay that information to the US Internal Revenue Service.

498. Russian hockey winger Artemi Panarin wins 2015-2016 Calder Memorial Trophy

Russian hockey winger Artemi Panarin, playing for the Chicago Blackhawks, has won the 2015-2016 Calder Memorial Trophy.

The US National Hockey League announced on twitter last night.

The Calder Memorial Trophy is an annual award given to the player selected as the most proficient in his first year of competition in the National Hockey League.

Panarin, 24, surpassed all rookies in goals 30, assists 4, points 77, power-play goals 8, power-play points 24 and game-winning goals 7 in 80 games in 2015-16.

499. Manoj Kumar becomes second Indian boxer to qualify for Olympic Games

Former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist, Manoj Kumar today became the second Indian boxer to qualify for the Olympic Games.

He qualified after advancing to the semifinals of the AIBA World Qualifying Tournament in Baku, Azerbaijan, beating Tajikistan's Rakhimov Shavkatdzhon in the quarterfinal 3-nil in the 64 kilogram category. Manoj Kumar will now face European champion Pat McCormack of Britain in the semifinal tomorrow.

Manoj, also a former Asian Championships bronze-medallist, had competed in the 2012 London Games as well and had lost in the quarterfinals.

Before Manoj, Shiva Thapa had made the cut in the 56 kilogram category for the Rio Games during the Asian Qualifying Tournament held in China this March.

500. Former Spinner Anil Kumble is new coach of Indian Cricket Team

Former Spinner Anil Kumble will be the new coach of Indian Cricket Team. The decision of his selection was taken in the BCCI working committee meeting today in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. His tenure would be for one year.

Selection of the bowling, batting and assistant coaches will be done soon. Kumble's first assignment will be India's four-Test tour of West Indies.

Forty-five year old Anil Kumble was among 57 candidates who applied for the position advertised by the BCCI earlier this month. The Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman and Saurav Ganguly then proposed the name of Kumble after interviewing a number of candidates.

Kumble's international cricket career spans 18 years. He is the highest wicket-taker for India till date and third in the international list, behind Muttiah Muralitharan and Shane Warne.

Kumble has played 132 tests, claiming 619 wickets including a best of 10 for 74 against Pakistan in Delhi in 1999. He accumulated 337 ODI wickets. In Twenty20 internationals, he captured 57 wickets in 54 matches. Overall, Kumble has 1136 wickets to his name in first class cricket.

Kumble was awarded Padma Shri and also received Arjuna Award. He was Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1996. He

was appointed Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee in 2012, a position he still holds. He was also included into the Great Hall of Fame in 2015.

501. IIT-Kanpur prof bags G D Birla Award for Scientific Research

IIT-Kanpur professor Sanjay Mittal has bagged the prestigious G D Birla Award for Scientific Research for 2016. 48-year-old Mittal, a professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, has been chosen for his contribution in the area of Mechanics, the K K Birla Foundation said in a statement. Mittal has made significant contribution to development of finite element algorithms for high performance computing (HPS). Mittal's most significant contribution has been in the area of Bluff Body Flows (flows past blunt bodies associated with large unsteady separation and leading to large fluid forces). He is among a very few people in India who have worked on and used Finite Element Analysis for fluid flows. He was instrumental in establishing the HPC facility, primarily funded by DST, at IIT-Kanpur. Mittal did his B.Tech from IIT-Kanpur in 1988 after which he got enrolled at University of Minnesota, Twin Cities for MS programme. He then received his Ph.D and worked as a research associate under Prof Tayfun E Tezduyar. After working for two years at Army High Performance Computing Centre, he returned to India and joined IIT-Kanpur in 1994 as an Assistant Professor. Mittal has also been awarded with Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology. G D Birla Award for Scientific Research, instituted in 1991, seeks to recognise Indian scientists aged below 50 living and working in India for their outstanding contribution to any branch of science and technology. It carries a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh.

502. Haryana to provide 100 per cent rebate in property tax

In a major relief to all those whose properties were damaged during Jat quota stir in February, Haryana government has decided to provide hundred per cent rebate in property tax for residential, commercial, institutional and other properties. The rebate would be given for a period of one year from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. A notification to this effect has been issued by the Urban Local Bodies Department, an official release said today. Notably, the government has already waived electricity dues for the current and impending billing cycles of all those consumers whose houses or commercial properties were damaged or looted during the agitation from February 15 to 22 in 2016.

503. South India Bank launches Remit2India Service

South Indian Bank has announced the launch of its Remit2India service, a secure online money transfer service for NRIs. The new arrangement facilitates faster, cost-effective remittance from the US to SIB accounts in India. As an inaugural offer, NRI customers get cash back of ₹1,600 each on the first three remittances, until August 8. Customers can avail this service by registering on www.southindianbank.com. Currently, South Indian Bank's facility is available for remittances from Europe, Australia, the UAE and Singapore.

504. Mallya quits as Chairman of Bayer CropScience

Controversial industrialist Vijay Mallya has quit as Chairman of Bayer CropScience Ltd., promoted by Bayer AG. He has also resigned his position as director of the company. The company has since accepted his resignation. Mr. Mallya was appointed Chairman of the Board in March 2004. Bayer CropScience will appoint a new Chairman at the next meeting of its board of directors, says a release.

505. Dustin Johnson won the US Open golf tournament title

Dustin Johnson's physical gifts have never been in dispute, but sometimes it seems like everything else is. In a scene reminiscent of the [2010 PGA Championship at Whistling Straits](#), Johnson wound up in [another rules dustup](#) at the 116th U.S. Open at Oakmont on Sunday. But he played so well it didn't matter, beating Jim Furyk (66), Scott Piercy (69) and third-round leader Shane Lowry (76). "Luckily it didn't affect the outcome," Johnson said. He laughed. "It's just one more thing to add to the list, right?" Johnson birdied the par-4 18th hole to ice it, and after the round he was given a one-stroke penalty for his ball having moved as he addressed it on the fifth green. The penalty stroke, while controversial, was a moot point as Johnson's 69 and his four-under total was still good for a three-shot win. It marked Johnson's first major victory at age 31, and atoned for a handful of late gaffes on some of golf's biggest stages, most recently his three-putt par at the 72nd hole of the 2015 U.S. Open at Chambers Bay. Sergio Garcia (70) and Branden Grace (71) tied for fifth, five back.

506. Harika wins best women's player in Kazakhstan Blitz

Grand Master Harika Dronavalli added another feather to her cap by winning the best womens player award in the Eurasian Blitz chess tournament in Kazakhstan. The India number two player picked up a cash prize of USD 2500 and 60 ELO points to regain her position in the top 10. Harika had won the best womans prize at the Zalakaros International Chess Festival in Hungary last week to jump to World No. nine in the classical rankings list. I am really delighted to win these two awards back to back, an exultant Harika said. The 25-year-olds win is particularly impressive as the Blitz tournament saw an elite field, including World No. one Hou Yifan of China. In fact, she was tied with Yifan with 12.5 points at the end of the tournament and ended up victorious in the tie-breaker.

507. Renowned telangana poet and lyricist Guda Anjaiah passes away

Renowned Telangana poet and lyricist Guda Anjaiah, passed away at his home in Ragannagudam, Hayatnagar on the city outskirts on Tuesday. He was 61. Anjaiah had been suffering from heart-related ailment and paralysis for quite some time. Born in Lingapur village in Dandepally mandal of Adilabad district in 1955, Anjaiah was a prolific writer, singer and above-all a kind-hearted man of the masses who penned most of his lyrics on the oppressed and downtrodden sections of society. He was a staunch supporter of T-movement. In his illustrious career spanning four decades, Anjaiah penned many songs including Nenu Raanu Biddu Sarkaaru Davakhaanaku, Jara Bhadram Koduko, Koduko Komranna, Pudithokkati Satthe Rendu Rajanna ori Rajanna.. Ethhura Telangana Jenda Rajiga ori Rajiga etc. One of his songs Ooru Manadhira.. Ee Vaada Manadhira, was translated into 16 languages. His popular songs and books, including Polimera, a novel, were translated into several languages. Anjaiah was discharged from NIMS a fortnight ago after a prolonged treatment but his condition started deteriorating in last couple of days and he breathed his last on Tuesday afternoon.

508. India to sign Memorandum of Obligation to join SCO

India will sign a memorandum of obligation in Tashkent today to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India is likely to be given the status of full member of the SCO during the extended meeting of member states and observer countries of the organisation today.

India will also sign about 30 other documents during the period of one year to become a permanent member of the SCO.

Prime Ministers Narendra Modi will hold bilateral meetings with the Presidents of Russia, Belarus and Tajikistan on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Tashkent today.

The two-day SCO summit began yesterday. The Prime Minister's meeting with the Russian President assumes significance in the backdrop of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) Meeting in Seoul. Mr. Modi is expected to raise the issue of Indias NSG membership during the meeting with the Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russias support at this point in time may boost the chances of India becoming member of prestigious nuclear group. France and US have already reiterated their support for Indias membership to the Nuclear Supplier Group(NSG) saying New Delhis entry into the NSG will help better regulate nuclear trade.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Modi raised this issue during the meeting with Chinese president Xi Jinping. Mr Modi urged China for fair and objective assessment of Indias application to NSG and said that it should judged on its merit.

Before leaving for New Delhi, Mr Modi will visit pay tribute to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in Tashkent.

509. Pioneer of Indian quizzing Neil O'Brien passes away

Neil O'Brien, a pioneer of quizzing in India and leader of the Anglo-Indian community, passed away in Kolkata on Friday, his son and TMC MP Derek O'Brien said. He was 82.

Brien is survived by his wife Joyce and three sons, Derek, Andy and Barry. A former member of Lok Sabha, Neil O'Brien was also a three-time nominated Anglo-Indian MLA in West Bengal and an educationist.

510. Civil Services recruits now need to undergo mandatory yoga classes

All Indian Civil Services recruits will now have to undergo yoga classes as part of their training. This was announced by Minister of AYUSH Sripad Naik in New Delhi yesterday.

He said, several efforts have been made by the government to promote Yoga including efforts to include Yoga training in the Military and Para-Military forces and developing a separate central sector scheme for Yoga Training for Police personnel. He said, NCERT has prepared syllabi on Yoga for the class sixth to eighth and ninth to tenth standards and circulated to all the State Governments and School Boards.

511. **RBI releases framework on payments systems**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released its much awaited 'Vision-2018' document yesterday. The Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision-2018 aims at building best of class payment and settlement systems for a less-cash India and ensuring access of mobile banking services to even basic phone users.

The current vision document is focussing on improving the infrastructure and regulations in the country to reduce cash transactions and increase use of technology. RBI said that its vision document focuses on responsive regulation, robust infrastructure, effective supervision and customer centricity.

RBI said the proposed new policies to be framed under the Vision with focus on electronic payments will influence trends in payment systems in the country.

Service providers will be encouraged to use technology to provide innovative easy to use mobile based payment solutions in an interoperable environment without compromising on security. RBI expects the Vision to result in a continued decrease in the share of paper-based clearing instruments.

512. **Vikas Krishan settles for bronze medal in AIBA qualifiers**

Assured of an Olympic berth, Indian boxer Vikas Krishan (75kg) on Friday settled for a bronze medal in the International Boxing Associations (AIBA) World Qualifying Tournament after he was ruled out of the semifinal clash owing to a cut on his forehead. He sustained the cut on Thursday night during his quarterfinal contest against Korea's Lee Dongyun. The Indian triumphed 3-0 to make the semifinal and assured himself of an Olympic quota berth. However, the injury he sustained required stitches on his forehead, which forced him out of Friday's semifinal clash against Turkmenistan's Achilov Arslanbek, who got past Italian Cavallaro Salvatore in his quarterfinal contest. Vikas Krishan can't box today as he was declared medically unfit by the official doctors of the competition in the morning weigh in and medical examination because of stitches above his eyes, an official of the Indian team told PTI. Former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Manoj Kumar (64kg) was the other Indian boxer to secure an Olympic ticket yesterday by winning in the quarterfinal. Manoj will be up against European champion Pat McCormack of Britain in the semifinal today. McCormack had defeated Frenchman Amzile Hassan in his quarterfinal bout. Also in action on Friday in the evening session would be Commonwealth Games silver-medallist L Devendro Singh (49kg), who will have to beat Spaniard Carmona Heredia Samuel in the semifinal to be assured of a berth in the Olympics as only two quota places are up for grabs in his weight category. Sumit Sangwan (81kg), who lost to top seed Petr Khamukov of Russia in the quarterfinal last night, also remains in contention for Rio. He will qualify if Khamukov goes on to win the gold medal. So far, three Indian boxers have qualified for the Olympic Games. Apart from Vikas and Manoj, Shiva Thapa (56kg) has also made the cut, booking his berth in the Asian Qualifiers in March.

513. **Defence FDI: the US is the ally; but does F16?**

In the last twenty-five-year history of India's economic liberalization only few steps were as big as the permission of 100% FDI in defence. On Monday, when government opened the defence sector allowing foreign companies to start fully owned plants, it makes the foreign military firms thinking. The welcome given by the largest defence importer in the world is not small for them, especially when every big market is indigenized. The new policy has opened the door fully to foreign players. Government approval will be made on a case by case mode where modern technology is accompanying. Manufacturing of small arms and ammunitions are also covered under the new policy. Now, who will be coming to India? The Europeans, Americans, Russians the list is not lengthy. Defence investment is not like the conventional type of investment decision making. Several factors beyond economics and finance becomes decisive here. There is no question that the European military hardware industry is not going to establish its foot in India as it likes to

produce at home; by protecting technology. Russians are more reserved. Hence the court is free for American firms as there is a fresh and deep warmth in the relationship between India and the US in recent times. In the most important products like aircrafts, long term strategic collaboration at the government level is a necessity for foreign companies to start production in India. Strategic outcome of the new defence FDI policy The defence policy will bring radical changes in Indias strategic relationship as well. Former Defence Minister A.K. Antony puts his opinion with a warning: Allowing 100% FDI in the defence sector means India's defence sector is thrown mostly into the hands of Nato-American defence manufacturers. He observes that if Nato-American defence manufacturers came into India, then it would affect Indias independent foreign policy too. Antony has the opinion that it may threaten the countrys national security. FDI policy and US collaborations Big and quick developments are taking place in the Indo-US relationship. India has nearly emerged as a military partner of the US. All these indicate that given the government level synergy, the new defence FDI policy is more opened to the US firms. And most importantly, all these developments took place after PM Modis US visit. The immediate outcome of the FDI policy will be on Rafale negotiations. Europeans especially the French doesnt like to share employment or production benefit with the buyer. Defence offset policy goals are difficult to be realized in critical hardware like aircraft with Rafale. But given the policy shift, India can search for more options. If one set aside the suitability of Rafale to Indias requirements, the new policy may help us to find more desirable options. Specifically, to look for producers who can make their production in India. In an interview to The Hindustan Times last month, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar indicated that India was looking at getting a foreign military firm to manufacture its fighter in India. I am not looking for assembly at all. I am looking for a company to join with an Indian partner and to start manufacturing here by Transfer of Technology (ToT) in most of the items. I know that 100 per cent ToT may not be possible and 100 per cent indigenisation is not possible. Even with so many efforts, LCA has only around 40 per cent indigenisation, Here comes the case of Lockheed and Martin-producers of F-16. In the US, F-16s production is almost halted. In a historic turnaround, the Air Force has given license to Northrop Grumman Corp in 2015 to produce new long-range bomber under the name B-21. Lockheed and Boeing have lost the bid. Hence, the company should search for alternative markets. India is a right opportunity for it to survive. Lockheed and Martin is active in Indian entry discussions and has hinted about establishing Indian production presence earlier. But one question again arises does the forty-two-year-old aircraft fit to Indias requirements? According to the Chairman of HAL -Suvarna Raju, the F-16 doesnt meet the features of medium multirole combat aircraft that India needs. But still what makes many admiring about F-16 is its ability to compete with several new generation fighters. The B-35 was defeated several times in mock dogfight by the F-16. What is wonderful about F-16 is its continuous upgradation. The F-16, born in 1974, has been continuously upgraded by incorporating new technologies into the cockpit, avionics, sensors and weapons and thus the aircraft remains reliable. The Hindu has quoted a government official about the recent aircraft negotiations and he observed that discussions with the French government on Rafale fighters havent succeeded in securing a competitive price. Lockheed Martin, on the other hand, is keen to close down its F16 production facility in the U.S. Talks are on to invite the company to shift its F16 production line, lock, stock and barrel, to India. Defence FDI policy doesnt fly alone; rather it should be accompanied by strategic alliance formations. Given this, the new FDI policy sets path for the US biggies to come to India. Realizing the best for the country need several efforts on different fronts. The new FDI policy opens several opportunities; maneuvering them is vital for the interest of the country as the largest import dependent military force in the world.

514. Financial markets on knife edge as trends indicate early lead for Brexit

The referendum on Britains continuation in the EU has produced a close call with early lead indicating Brexit despite forecasts for a marginal win for remain. Pound has plunged against other major currencies with the news of initial lead for Brexit. Overall, forecasts are that remain vote will consolidate towards the end. Economist have indicated turbulence in financial markets if leave wins. Both for Britain and for UK, the leave verdict will cause negative economic outcomes. Already, central bankers and financial sector regulators have deployed stabilizing mechanism so that market remain cushioned in the context of a Brexit vote. In India, the RBI has clarified that the \$360 forex reserves will protect against any currency volatility. A separated Britain will hurt capital flows to India and this eventuality may cause negative sentiments in the market once leave wins.

515. Bengaluru to host the International Oral History Association Conference

The 19th International Oral History Association Conference will be held in India for the first time, co-hosted by the International Oral History Association (IOHA) and Oral History Association of India at the Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bengaluru. This is also the first time that this conference will be held in Asia. The International

Oral History Association was constituted at Gteborg in 1996 as a professional, bilingual (English and Spanish) collective with the aim of documenting human experience through oral history and providing a forum for oral historians around the world. The Oral History Association of India is a smaller body of professional oral historians, founded in 2013 in Bengaluru. The field of oral history is relatively new in India, but has gained recognition in North America, UK, Australia, South Africa, Latin America and parts of Europe. The practice of oral history places an emphasis on the voices of individuals and their lived experiences. In India, a multitude of oral traditions shape the culture of orality, story-telling and memory, folk and performing arts. Oral history or the recorded interview which focuses on life stories and peoples experiences takes on many narrative forms throwing up new questions that could redefine the field itself.

516. Andhra Pradesh cabinet approves Swiss Challenge model to develop Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to go ahead with the controversial Swiss Challenge model for selecting the master developer for the states new capital city Amaravati. The state Cabinet, which met here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, approved the Swiss Challenge model after a high-powered committee headed by Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnu cleared the proposal. Briefing media at the end of the Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister said a Singapore consortium of Ascendas-Singbridge and Sembcorp Development Limited had submitted a proposal on October 30 last year under Swiss Challenge to be the master developer of Amaravati.

517. Centre returns 14 bills of Delhi govt

Centre has returned 14 bills of Delhi government citing procedural lapses. These include Janlokalpal and the Minimum Wages (Delhi Amendment) Bills. Sources in the Home Ministry said, in none of the bills, the Delhi government took prior approval from the central government and straightway passed them in the assembly therefore bills were returned to the City government for correction.

Since Delhi is a Union Territory, any bill the City government wants to adopt in the assembly has to be first sent to the central government for approval. If the nod is given, only then it can be moved for legislative approval in the assembly. After the bill is passed in the assembly, it has to go to the Lieutenant Governor and again to the central government for Presidential assent.

Recently, President Pranab Mukherjee had withheld assent to a city government's bill which seeks to exclude the post of Parliamentary Secretary from the office of profit. The legislation was aimed at protecting 21 Aam Admi Party MLAs, appointed as Parliamentary Secretaries from office of profit.

Reacting to return of the bills, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing him of not allowing Delhi government to work. In a series of tweets, Mr. Kejriwal questioned whether Delhi's elected assembly should not have rights to pass the bill.

518. International Widowsâ€™ Day - 23 June

Absent in statistics, unnoticed by researchers, neglected by national and local authorities and mostly overlooked by civil society organizations the situation of widows is, in effect, invisible. Yet abuse of widows and their children constitutes one of the most serious violations of human rights and obstacles to development today. Millions of the worlds widows endure extreme poverty, ostracism, violence, homelessness, ill health and discrimination in law and custom. To give special recognition to the situation of widows of all ages and across regions and cultures, the United Nations General Assembly [declared](#) 23 June 2011 as the first-ever International Widows Day, to be celebrated annually.

519. Day of the Seafarer - 23 June

This year, IMO's Day of the Seafarer campaign wants to celebrate seafarers and let the world know how and why seafarers are indispensable to everyone. The campaign theme this year is: "At Sea For All". The theme has a clear link with the 2016 World Maritime Day theme, "[Shipping: indispensable to the world](#)", emphasising that seafarers serve at sea not just for the shipping industry or for their own career purposes but for all of us and, consequently, they are also "indispensable to the world". IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said: "this year, on June 25th, the Day of the Seafarer, we are once again asking people everywhere to show their appreciation for the seafarers that quietly, mostly unnoticed,

keep the wheels of the world in motion". You can start spreading the message on social media using the campaign hashtag [#AtSeaForAll](#). The 2016 toolkit is available below which tells you all about this year's campaign and gives examples of tweets and posts you can use to add your voice of thanks to ours! We also invite you to learn more about the [IMO Maritime Ambassador Scheme](#), launched by IMO to promote the maritime and seafaring professions and raise awareness of the positive benefits of choosing a career at sea or other maritime profession.

520. What is an economic union? What Brexit means for the future of European Union?

What is an economic union? An economic union is an economic integration arrangement under which countries engage in economic engagement by allowing free flow goods, services, capital and often people across the borders. The European Union (EU) is the highest level economic integration as an economic union. The EU had 28 members including Britain and it has been reduced to 27 with its exit. In the 59-year history of EU, no state has exited and Britain is the first. With Brexit vote, Britain is out of the European single market where goods, services, people and capital moves freely. What will be Britains future relationship with EU? Britain can now go for a formal WTO type trade relationship with EU. Going further ahead, it can try for a simple free trade agreement that implies only free trade in some commodities at the same time without allowing cross border movement of people. Switzerland's current arrangement with the EU or accessing the bloc under World Trade Organization rules can be a model for Britain future engagement with the EU. Second implication: on movement of people. Once Britain gets out of the EU, people from other EU countries cant go freely to Britain and vice versa. Citizens from other countries will not have the right to live and work in Britain. This is one area where the Leave campaigners argued strongly. Immigration of people from other European countries and the fresh wave of migrants from Middle East will take away the job of its citizens. Economic implications On Britain: Britain losses the advantage being part of a big market but will keep its labour for its own people. The exit means reduced level of trade and thus investment interaction with EU. Its trade with EU will be on higher tariff in future. Britain should compete with other countries say, like China in the EU market. This indeed will reduce Britains attraction as an investment location for products to the entire European market. In the long term Britain can perhaps overcome this disadvantage by enhancing its productivity. Economic implication on EU: The worlds largest economic union- the EU has to take Brexit as a no-confidence vote. Over the last few years, especially since the Greek crisis, people were questioning about the stability of an economic arrangement between countries that are in asymmetric development stages. Hence, the Brexit will give the EU an opportunity for consolidation by making necessary corrections. Many experts believe that Britains exit from EU could encourage other nations to follow suit with referendums of their own. At least many developing countries in the bloc may demand more to stay in. in all these context, EUs stability has been affected by Britains exit.

521. Britain has to restructure its economy after the Brexit

The Pound Sterling tumbled like a third world currency, financial markets shattered and a government fell on a vote that will restructure economic relations in Europe. Scotland and Northern Ireland interestingly voted to remain in the EU. The fact that Britain dragged the two out of the EU may give more political instability to the Brexit decision. Brexit is more than sentimental in terms of its outcome. Britain has to modify its economic management seriously in this old age. Some of the aging economic problems may be settled through exit, but not most of them. Its ability to raise productivity as seen in the industrial revolution era is difficult to bring back; especially at a time when there are new rising stars like China in the world economy. Those who saw these shortcomings warned constantly against any move towards Brexit. But all happened suddenly; Britain is no more part of the worlds largest economic union. Now, being out of the restrictive and restless economic union it gives Britain gives more freedom. But modifying its economy by delinking free link with Europe need exceptional economy management skills. Europe is not certainly giving easy market access to British goods. Here, Britain has to restructure its economy, by making more investment, aggressive trade promotion etc. All these prerequisites exceptional energy for an advanced country like GBR.

522. Jews in Maharashtra get minority status

Jews in Maharashtra are now a minority community. The State Cabinet on Tuesday approved the decision to grant minority status to the Jews, a demand pending for many years. The decision is based on the Maharashtra State Minorities Commission Act, 2004, which empowers the government to declare a community minority. In October 2006, the State government declared Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains as religious minorities. According to the application made by the Indian Jewish Federation to the government, the Jewish population in the State stood at 2,000-2,500. However, the government does not have any official number of the Jewish population because the

community was counted among the other religions. Now, the Jews can be counted independently as a religious minority. They can avail of all the schemes meant for minorities. A senior official of the Minority Department said: The minority status will also help to identify the problems of the community, and the government can come up with schemes to resolve them. Rabbi Israel Kozlovsky of Chabat Lubavitch, Mumbai, said the gains from the decision needed to be discussed with the authorities. He said Saturday is considered a holy day by the Jews. If there's a school exam, it creates a conflict among the people; it would be good if something is done about it. Rabbi Ezekiel I Malekar of Judah Hyam Synagogue, Delhi, said he hoped the Union government would follow Maharashtra's suit and grant Jews minority status in every State. We have been living here for the last 2,000 years; it's the right time to grant us this status.

523. **Mumbai is India's most expensive city: Mercer survey**

Mumbai (82) is India's most expensive city, followed by New Delhi (130) and Chennai (158), according to the 2016 Cost of Living Survey by Mercer, the New York-based human resource consultancy. Kolkata (194) and Bengaluru (180) are the least expensive Indian cities ranked. Globally, Hong Kong topped the list of most expensive cities for expatriates, pushing Luanda, Angola, to second position. Zurich and Singapore remained in third and fourth positions, respectively, whereas Tokyo is in fifth, up six places from last year. New Delhi and Bengaluru have become more expensive, over last year, and their rankings have gone up. The survey said the latter had the highest jump in ranking, on account of a surge in prices, especially on items pertaining to food and personal care. Inflation, among the highest in Indian cities, moved there from 3.27 per cent to 6.08 per cent during this period. Despite volatile global markets and growing security issues, organisations continue to leverage global expansion strategies to remain competitive and to grow. With a large number of Indian multinational organisations progressively expanding their footprint abroad, 70 per cent of them are expecting expatriate assignments to increase over the next two years to address business needs, as well as build careers and leadership development, said Ruchika Pal, India Practice Leader, Global Mobility, at Mercer. It said 85 per cent of companies in India pay a cost of living allowance to their long-term assignees, either as a separately identified allowance or as part of a single expatriate allowance, covering other items in addition to goods and services in the remuneration package. Across continents, countries with the highest current number of India assignees are America, Britain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Across continents, countries with the highest expected increase in the number of Indian international assignees are UAE, Britain and Kenya.

524. **Aadhaar to be linked with caste, domicile certificates**

All State governments have been asked to link Aadhaar with caste and domicile certificates to be issued to school students, as part of a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Centre. The States have been told to ensure that such certificates are issued within 60 days to the students when they are studying in Class V or VIII. The development assumes significance as there have been complaints of delay in grant of scholarship to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Besides, people have often complained of harassment allegedly by government officials in getting caste and domicile certificates issued. The State government may also try to get the information of students fed into the meta data to be made online and may link it to Aadhaar-enabled data, if feasible. Sincere efforts be made to issue these certificates along with Aadhaar number, reads Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) released by Personnel Ministry on issuance of caste and certificates in schools. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) issues Aadhaar a 12-digit number which acts as a proof of identity and address, anywhere in the country. The main objective of issuance of caste or tribe certificate is to facilitate access of bona-fide candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to the reserved posts and services under the State or Central governments and secure admission in educational institutions and get other facilities.

525. **A Life in Diplomacy authored by MK Rasgotra**

The book titled *A Life in Diplomacy* was in news that was written by former Indian diplomat Maharajakrishna Rasgotra. The book figures out insiders' account of the personalities and policies that shaped Indian diplomacy and a ringside view of the beginnings of ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, the last years of the Cold War, the negotiations on the formation of SAARC, Indira Gandhi's assassination and the Bhopal gas disaster.

Maharajakrishna Rasgotra:

Rasgotra joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1949 and rose up to the rank of Foreign Secretary. He was a Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board between 2005 and 2007.

526. **PM to launch Smart City projects in Pune today**

Stage is all set for the inauguration of execution of works in 20 smart cities by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Pune today.

Marking the first anniversary of the announcement of the government's flagship programme Prime Minister is expected to reach the venue of programme at around 4 pm.

At present all arrangements for the function are in final stage. Maharashtra Chief Secretary Swadhin Kshatriya, who is camping in Pune since Friday is personally looking after the preparations.

AIR Correspondent reports, 69 Smart City projects in 20 cities will be launched today in Pune with a total investment of about Rs. 1,770 crore.

These projects are related to solid waste management under Swachh Bharat Mission, water supply projects, sewage treatment plants and development of open and green spaces under Atal Mission.

It also includes housing projects for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and area development and technology based pan-city solutions under Smart Cities Mission.

Mr Modi will also inaugurate 'Make Your City SMART' contest, aimed at involving citizens in designing smart cities.

A 'Smart Net Portal' which enables the cities under different urban missions to share ideas and solutions for various issues during the implementation of various missions will also be launched.

The inaugural function will be attended by number of Union ministers, Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagara Rao and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, among others.

527. First flight of BrahMos air to ground missile from Sukhoi-30 aircraft successful

BrahMos Aerospace today successfully demonstrated the integration of the world's most formidable supersonic cruise missile system BRAHMOS on the frontline strike fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force Sukhoi-30.

With today's successful flight, the Brahmos air version programme now inches closer towards actual test firing when a 2.5-ton BRAHMOS air-to-ground missile will be fired from the Sukhoi-30 in the coming months.

This technological feat will go down in the history as first in the World combination of supersonic cruise missile with a long range fighter aircraft.

The powerful missile will enable the IAF to penetrate deep inside the enemy territory to deliver a deadly blow to their vital installations from stand-off ranges. The Sukhoi-BRAHMOS combination will carry out air combat operations within and beyond visibility range and will provide the IAF with the capability of attacking targets protected by powerful air defence assets.

528. J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti wins Anantnag bye polls

In Jammu Kashmir, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP President and incumbent Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has won the Anantnag Assembly by-poll. She defeated her nearest rival Hilal Shah of Congress by over 12000 votes.

AIR correspondent reports, for the fourth time Mehbooba Mufti was elected to the State Assembly today.

She retained the Anantnag assembly constituency for her Peoples Democratic Party.

Mehbooba has been elected to the State Assembly three times in the past 20 years. She won first Assembly elections in 1996 from Anantnag districts Bijbehara segment as a Congress candidate.

About 34 percent of voters exercised their franchise in Bye-elections of Anantnag Assembly Segment on Thursday (June

22).

The seat was left vacant with the demise of former Chief Minister and PDP Patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed on January 07.

529. FM Arun Jaitley to attend AIIB's 1st annual meeting in Beijing today

The first Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank will be held in Beijing today.

Governors and representatives from the Banks 57 founding signatories, along with invited observers from international partners, will participate in the two day meeting.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is in Beijing to participate in the meeting.

The theme of the meeting is the Partnership for Infrastructure Development.

The meeting will connect finance and development professionals to exchange ideas on Asian infrastructure development and regional connectivity.

AIR correspondent reports, the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has 57 member countries like South Africa, Australia, United Kingdom and Germany among others.

The world's two biggest economies United States and Japan are not a part of it. Finance minister Arun Jaitley who is in China to attend the meeting said on Friday, that India wants to attract manufacturing investment following its latest market-opening initiatives.

He said New Delhi is looking to the AIIB as a possible source of financing for a backlog of infrastructure projects. India is the bank's second-largest shareholder after China.

530. UP among major beneficiaries of PM Mudra Yojana: SIDBI chairman

The state of Uttar Pradesh is among the major beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana aimed at ensuring smooth credit flow to small entrepreneurs.

This was stated by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) chairman-cum-managing director, Kshatrapati Shivaji while speaking to journalists after presiding over the 18th annual general meeting of bank in Lucknow on Friday.

Shivaji highlighted various initiatives taken by the SIDBI during the financial year, including setting up Micro Units Development and Refinancing Agency (Mudra) as a wholly owned subsidiary of the bank.

AIR correspondent reports that the main objective of the Mudra Yojana is to provide funds to MSMEs as this sector faces the biggest hurdle in terms of financial support.

Mudra was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, 2015 to fund the unfunded very small and self-owned enterprises.

Mudra Yojana in the FY 2015-16 has sanctioned Rs.1,37,449 crore and had disbursed Rs. 1,32,954 crore to the MSME entrepreneurs in the country.

Out of which, an amount of 11880 Crore Rupees were disbursed in UP to the PM Mudra Yojana beneficiaries.

531. Four projects for beautification of Jaipur city begins

In Rajasthan, four projects for beautification of Jaipur city started today on the occasion of first smart city

anniversary.

Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje launched four projects for the Jaipur city which had secured 3rd rank in top 20 smart cities announced by the urban development ministry this year.

Chief Minister emphasized on heritage conservation during the development of the cities.

She said that in the smart city project state government is working to develop the cities without disturbing the soul of the cities like its culture.

On the occasion, she also announced 100 new buses for Jaipur city.

She claimed more than 72 per cent of election promises have been fulfilled during the two and a half year tenure of her government in the state.

532. Bangladesh becomes one of the 1st nations to secure loan from China-led AIIB

Bangladesh has become one of the first countries to have secured a loan from the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

The country will get \$165 million for a power distribution system upgrade and expansion project.

The board of the bank approved its first 4 loans totally \$509 million to 4 countries yesterday within 6 month's of its establishment.

The other 3 countries are Pakistan, Indonesia and Tajikistan.

Totally financed by the AIIB, the Bangladesh project will expand electricity coverage by providing 2.5 million new connections in rural areas, upgrade 2 grid substations and convert 85 km circuit overhead distribution lines into underground cables in north Dhaka.

Mohammed Zaman, Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry told reporters the project is expected to benefit 12.5 million people in rural areas.

AIIB which supports infrastructure development and regional connectivity in Asia is targetting lending \$1.2 billion in 2016. Germany, South Korea and Britain are among its 57 members.

533. Petroleum ministry to conduct road show in Guwahati

In Assam, Petroleum ministry will conduct a road show today in Guwahati ahead of upcoming auction of small oil field.

Union Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said it will be held in Guwahati for the first time.

Earlier it was held in Mumbai and Delhi. He said that auction for 67 oil fields will start from 15th of July.

The estimated values of the oil fields are Rs. 30,000 crore.

Official sources said that Assam has 12 non- monitorised oil fields which will go on auction.

Experts from oil sectors along with foreign companies will take part in todays road show in Guwahati.

Earlier Mr. Pradhan said that the Centre will make Assam as the hub of exporting petroleum products to South Eastern countries.

The minister said that Rs. 6000 crore will be invested in Assam in hydrocarbon sector in the current financial year and road map has already been prepared in this regard.

534. Govt to observe NPS Service Fortnight from June 27 to July 9

With a view to create awareness about the National Pension System, NPS, and improve subscriber interface, Finance Ministry has decided to observe NPS Service Fortnight from June 27 to July 9 by all the functionaries in the NPS value chain.

Finance Ministry in a release said these entities would include Points of Presence and the Central Record keeping Agency across the country.

This fortnight-long campaign is aimed at awareness creation, service orientation and information dissemination along with subscribers registration.

The NPS was made available to persons in the private and unorganized sector since May 2009.

Currently, the total number of subscribers under NPS and APY together has reached 12.86 million and AUM is more than Rs. 120,000 Crore.

There is tremendous potential in the private sector which needs to be tapped.

535. Sprinter Dutee Chand qualifies for Rio Olympics

Indian sprinter Dutee Chand has qualified for Rio Olympics in the womens 100metre event after meeting the qualification mark at 26th International Meeting G.Kosanov Memorial in Almaty, Kazakhstan on Saturday.

Dutee clocked 11.30 seconds beating the Rio Olympics qualification mark of 11.32 secs.

She became the first indian woman to qualify for the event since qualification started for the event.

PT Usha had qualified for the event in 1980 Olympics.

536. 4th edition of Pro Kabaddi league to kick start today

The fourth edition of Pro Kabaddi league will kick start today in Mumbai. The matches will be hosted across seven cities including Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Jaipur, Patna and Delhi.

The Pune leg of matches will be held in Mumbai this time around.

Puneri Paltan will take on Telugu Titans in first match today, followed by a clash between season 2 champions U Mumba and the inaugural season champions Jaipur Pink Panthers.

Season 2 champions U Mumba and rivals Puneri Paltan expressed confidence over their prospects in this season.

Mumbai coach E Bhaskaran has rebuilt the squad by including raiders Gurvinder Singh and Surender Singh while propping up the defense with Vikas Kale and Sunil.

Pune's chief mentor Ashok Shinde also said that his players have started practice from the 1st of this month and they are going very good.

He also mentioned that whatever is lacking from the 1st season, they have built up that thing and now everything is going well.

537. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - 26 June

2016 Theme Listen First 'Listen First' is an initiative to increase support for prevention of drug use that is based on science and is thus an effective investment in the well-being of children and youth, their families and their communities.

By [resolution 42/112](#) of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. This resolution recommended further action with regard to the report and conclusions of the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The UN General Assembly held a Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in April 2016. This Special Session marked an important milestone in achieving the goals set in the policy document of 2009 "Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem", which defined action to be taken by Member States as well as goals to be achieved by 2019. The outcome document recommends measures to address demand and supply reduction, and to improve access to controlled medicines while preventing diversion. The recommendations also cover the areas of human rights, youth, children, women and communities; emerging challenges, including new psychoactive substances; strengthening international cooperation; and alternative development. The text puts new emphasis on proportionate national sentencing policies and practices for drug-related offences, and features a strong focus on prevention and treatment.

538. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - 26 June

Torture seeks to annihilate the victims personality and denies the inherent dignity of the human being. The United Nations has condemned torture from the outset as one of the vilest acts perpetrated by human beings on their fellow human beings. Torture is a crime under international law. According to all relevant instruments, it is absolutely prohibited and cannot be justified under any circumstances. This prohibition forms part of customary international law, which means that it is binding on every member of the international community, regardless of whether a State has ratified international treaties in which torture is expressly prohibited. The systematic or widespread practice of torture constitutes a crime against humanity. On 12 December 1997, by [resolution 52/149](#), the UN General Assembly proclaimed 26 June the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, with a view to the total eradication of torture and the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, ([resolution 39/46](#)), annex, which entered into force on 26 June 1987. Recovering from torture requires prompt and specialized programmes. The work of rehabilitation centres and organisations around the world has demonstrated that victims can make the transition from horror to healing. This year, 2016, also marks the 35th anniversary of the [UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture](#), administered by the [UN Human Rights Office in Geneva](#), a unique victim-focused mechanism that channels funding for the assistance to victims of torture and their families.

539. Brexit proves public lack higher order thinking

The risk of democracy is hidden; and you should not throw sophisticated decision making process into the mob. Britains exit tragedy is a lesson for politicians who have the responsibility to make careful decisions. The historic event has put a sudden stop for the British economy. It has to reboot the economy again by integrating high tariff from its neighbors, at the same time closing borders to other Europeans. As a peoples choice, Britains Brexit Blunder is an irreversible democratic accident that denies the island economy a collective investment location for the entire Europe. Gains from coming out of the union depend upon the impact of the British decision to quit on EU. If Brexit triggers further exits and generate skirmishes within the European Union in future, Brexiters can claim that they were right. Understandably, the verdict by the mass has less economic logic. Rather it seems to be made out of Britains continuing slide in political and economic weight in Europe. Ever since the end of the colonial era, the country became noise makers in international platform that depended on the US to retain some element of power. Inside the EU, Britain will be overshadowed by the economic power of Germany and political power of France. In this context, the Brexit was an expression of psycho-identity crisis. History shows that Britain has continuously shown the symptom for exit very early. The Kingdom became a non-believer in Euro when it made an early exit from the European Monetary Union in the early 1990s. Plain speaking, it is better for a reluctant convert to go outside the Union. Definitely Britain will have flexibilities and choices outside the EU. It will not be affected by the problems of an asymmetric economic union. If every action has a good side also, this escape from ill-fitted economic integration is the consolation. But when trade is considered to be an engine of growth, regional disengagement becomes an irrational choice. Now, the next government has to design the new road map for trade and investment engagement with Europe and the rest of the world. Everything seems like building a new house after a hurricane. Only sophisticated economy management from the new government can put the British economy back into track. People can make mistake; but government cant.

540. **India to seek AIIB funding for smart city and other major infrastructure projects**

After the first annual meeting of the AIIB, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley told that India is expecting \$2-3 billion funding from the infrastructural lending institution for financing the countrys infrastructure projects. The new born China sponsored lender AIIBs first meeting was held at its headquarters in Beijing. India need around \$1000 bn in few years for the development of the infrastructure sector. Prime Minister Modi has just inaugurated the multi-billion Smart City Project in Pune last day. The initial project execution is planned in fourteen selected cities out of the proposed hundred. Though the project is implemented at a cost sharing between center-state and private sector, resource constraints is expected to hit soon with the progress of the projects as well as with the inclusion of more cities. A big ticket loan from a multilateral agency is essential to implement the project. India is a founder member of the AIIB and is the second largest shareholder after China. Finance Minister has asked the AIIB board to start a regional office at New Delhi. In his statement after the AIIB meeting, the Finance Minister has observed that the country expects financing in energy, urban transport, inland water ways, and water supply besides smart cities. Indias DJ Pandian is the Vice President of the AIIB and he will perform as the Chief Investment Officer as well.

541. **What is mean by India being the Major Defence Partner of the US?**

The India-US relationship is growing to new and higher levels and has reached defence partnership in the last couple of years. Latest development is that India has become the major defence partner of the US- a status that will give India access to military technology of the US. The US have major defence treaties with NATO countries, Australia and New Zealand, the Philippines, Japan and South Korea. According to the US defence sources, this category of Major Defence Partner was specifically created for India. The major defence partner status simply means that for defence related trade and technology transfer, the country would now be treated at par with Americas closest allies. The status implies export hurdle of high tech US military hardware and technology to India is removed. India can now get access to 99% of the US defence technologies. In June, a White House statement has hailed the ascending relationship between the two major democracies under the Press Release The United States and India: Enduring Global Partners in the 21st Century. The press release elaborates two dimensions of the Major Defence Partner status: The United States will continue to work toward facilitating technology sharing with India to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners. India would receive license-free access to a wide range of dual-use technologies in conjunction with steps that India has committed to take to advance its export control objectives. In support of Indias Make in India initiative, and to support the development of robust defense industries and their integration into the global supply chain, the United States will continue to facilitate the export of goods and technologies, consistent with U.S. law, for projects, programs and joint ventures in support of official U.S.-India defense cooperation. An official of the Obama administration has explained the development to PTI India [now] enjoys access to [defence] technologies that is on a par with our treaty allies. That is a very unique status. India is the only other country that enjoys that status outside our formal treaty allies, According to a report in the Hindu that quotes the noted defence observer Richard M Rossow, It certainly captures what is emerging as a unique relationship, exhibited by programs such as the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative [DTTI] and the establishment of a dedicated India Rapid Reaction Cell inside the Pentagon. Neither exists for a country other than India. The DTTI seeks to deepen defense cooperation between India and the United States by elevating dialogue on cooperative research and development and defense trade to the highest levels of government But in June 8, the US Senate has failed to pass some amendments related to the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA-17) which if passed would have recognized India as a global strategic and defence partner. Officials in New Delhi says that the failure is not serious in hurting the new status. Another set of observes view that new status may bring India closer to the privilege enjoyed by countries like UK and Israel in defence matters.

542. **India plans to launch Venus planet mission by 2020**

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Joint Director Pandyan said, India is planning to launch its Venus planet mission by 2020. He was speaking to reporters last night on the sidelines of a function near Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu. He also said, ISRO is planning to launch Chandrayaan II in 2018.

India is entering a new league as far as space science is concerned with the planning of Venus Mission launch in 2020. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Joint Director Pandyan said that this will help us know more about the planet. Chandrayaan II will be launched in 2018 and through land rover will do research in surface of Moon. Indias space mission is going to be expanded with the Aditya Mission to Suns atmosphere in 2019. India will complete its IRNSS-7 system equivalent to GPS system of America which will help in navigation control. ISRO is also planning to use satellite

technology to issue warnings to vehicles in unmanned railway crossings. With the launch of Mangalyaan and Chandrayaan I, we have secured a prominent place in space science in the world.

543. **Gudni Johannesson claims victory in Iceland Presidential election**

In Iceland, newcomer Gudni Johannesson has claimed victory in the Presidential election. Early results showed that history professor Johannesson, has garnered 37.8 per cent of votes.

Mr Gudni Johannesson told his supporters that though all the votes have not been counted, but he think that they have won.

544. **Thousands attend Yoga event across South East Asia**

Thousands of Yoga enthusiasts including foreigners today gathered at open grounds across South East Asia to take part in the Second International Yoga events attended by senior government officials and celebrities. In Thailand, around 6,000 people performed yoga at the prestigious Chulalongkorn University, in the heart of Thai capital Bangkok. Most of the participants were Thai, but there were also many foreigners. The participants also included students and yoga enthusiasts. A group of specially abled participants, sponsored by Deaf Association of Thailand also participated in the event.

Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Minister of Tourism and Sports of Thailand, Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi, India's Ambassador to Thailand, Pomthong Malakul, Vice President for Academic Affairs of Chulalongkorn University and Yada Theppanom, Miss Grand Thailand 2013, inaugurated the event. Video messages on the occasion of second International Yoga Day from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj were shown to the participants.

In Singapore, Indian High Commissioner Vijay Thakur Singh, led more than 4,000 multi-ethnic Singaporeans, diplomatic representatives and migrant construction workers for a 90-minute grand Yoga session this morning. Though, the official date for the international Yoga day was June 21 as set by the United Nations, in Singapore it was celebrated almost on a daily basis for a week.

545. **Eminent Odia writer Mohapatra Nilamani Sahoo passes away**

Eminent Odia writer Mohapatra Nilamani Sahoo passed away in Bhubaneshwar yesterday, family sources said. Sahoo was 90 and is survived by his wife, one son and a daughter. Sahoo was admitted at a private hospital and put on ventilator support due to multi-organ failure.

A recipient of many awards and recognition for his literary works, Sahoo was bestowed with the Orissa Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979 for his story book 'Akasha Patata'.

For 'Abhisapta Gandharba' (a compilation of short stories), he received the Sarala Award in 1983 and Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award for the same book in 1984.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik condoled Sahoo's demise and described him as a great writer. The state has lost an exceptional writer with the demise of Sahoo. May his soul rest in peace," the Chief Minister said in a condolence message.

546. **Four Indian athletes qualify for Rio Olympics**

Four Indians today qualified for the Rio Olympics beginning 5th of August. In Track and Field, Mohammad Anas in 400-meters, Srabani Nanda in 200-metres and Ankit Sharma in Long Jump made the cut, while Atanu Das sealed a berth at the Games in Archery.

At the Polish Athletics Championship, Mohammad Anas shattered his own 400-metre national record to qualify. He clocked 45.40 seconds, the exact Rio qualification timing.

Over at the international meet in Kazakhstan, Sprinter Srabani Nanda made the cut after covering 200-meter event in

23.03 seconds.

In the field event, national long jump record holder Ankit Sharma qualified with a jump of 8.17 metres. Archer Atanu Das has made it to the Games after selection trial at Bengaluru. The archer will represent India in the Men's Individual Recurve event. He got the better of his compatriots Jayanta Talukdar and Mangal Singh Champia for the spot. The four Olympic qualifications came a day after Dutee Chand made it to the Rio Games.

547. N. Srinivasan re-elected President of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association for 15th term

Former BCCI president N. Srinivasan was re-elected President of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association unanimously for a 15th consecutive term.

He along with the other office bearers of the state cricketing body for the current season were elected at its 86th annual general body meeting today in Chennai based on consensus.

The 71-year old Mr Srinivasan is at the helm of the TNCA since 2002-03 after the end of Mr AC Muthiahs reign. Mr KS Viswanathan is retained as the Honorary Secretary and Mr VP Narasimhan as its Treasurer.

548. India joins MTCR; membership to enable New Delhi to buy high-end nuclear technology

India today joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) as a full member and said its entry would be mutually beneficial to enhance global non-proliferation norms.

Marking India's first entry into any multilateral export control regime, Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar signed the instrument of accession to MTCR in the presence of France's Ambassador-designate Alexandre Ziegler, The Netherlands' Ambassador Alphonsus Stoelinga and Luxembourg's Charg d'Affaires Laure Huberty in New Delhi. Indias efforts to become a member of the MTCR began after the Indo-US nuclear deal in 2008. New Delhi has been keen to become a member of the four export control regimes MTCR, NSG, Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement. But with the nuclear deal stuck over liability issues, New Delhis bid to become a member of MTCR only gained momentum from April 2015, after the liability issue was resolved and the US lent its full support. The government made its case in June and October last year, but Italy raised objections in the 34-member grouping membership is decided by consensus (like NSG) since it was upset with India over the Italian marines dispute. With both the marines being allowed to return to their country, Rome has dropped its objections. Indias application was thus admitted and there were no objections from any MTCR member under the silent procedure. According to the silent procedure, a 10-day period is given by the chair for raising objections. If there are no objections, the new member can be admitted. The members of this international non-proliferation regime agreed to admit India early this month, coinciding with Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) visit to the US. Admission to MTCR will open the way for India to buy high-end missile technology, also making more realistic its aspiration to buy surveillance drones such as the Predator, made by General Atomics. India makes a supersonic cruise missile, the Brahmos, in a joint venture with Russia that both countries hope to sell to third countries, a development that would make India a significant arms exporter for the first time. Membership of the MTCR would require India to comply with rules, such as a maximum missile range of 300 km, that seek to prevent arms races. Interestingly, China is not a member of the MTCR, although it voluntarily decided to adhere to the regimes guidelines. Its application in 2004 was rejected, following allegations of it supplying missile technology to North Korea. After becoming a member of the MTCR, India can hold the key to blocking Chinas membership in the future a leverage, many feel, could be used to get Beijing to lift its objections to Indias membership to the NSG. Established in April 1987 by G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Great Britain and the US), the MTCR is an informal and voluntary partnership to prevent proliferation of missiles and unmanned aerial vehicle technology capable of carrying a 500-kg payload over 300 km or more. In 2002, the MTCR was supplemented by the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (ICOC), which calls for restraint and care in proliferation of ballistic missile systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction and has 119 members. The ICOC is also referred to as The Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC) against ballistic missile proliferation, which is considered to be complementary to the MTCR.

549. Google honours R.D. Burman on 77th birth anniversary

Search engine Google on Monday celebrated legendary music composer R.D. Burman's 77th birth anniversary with

a doodle on its India homepage. "Bringing in influences from all over the world, from disco, to funk, to cabaret, R.D. Burman revolutionised Bollywood," it said. Popularly known as Panchamda, R.D. Burman revolutionised the Hindi music industry by infusing it with western style. He is popular for his peppy songs such as Dum Maaro Dum, Piya Tu, Aaja Aaja Main Hoon Pyaar and O Haseena Zulfonwaali. He has also left behind a legacy of melodious songs such as Waadiyan Mera Daaman, Chura Liya, Ek Ladki Ko Dekha, Tumne Mujhe Dekha and Musafir Hoon Yaaro.

550. Nagpur, Chinese city Jinan sign pact for ideas and technology exchange

The city of Nagpur and Chinese city of Jinan have become sister cities after signing a pact which allows for exchange of ideas and technology in the field of education, sports, youth affairs, urban planning among other areas. The Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and Jinan, in a historic move, entered into an agreement on Monday to develop sister-city relationship. Nagpur civic commissioner Shравan Hardikar and Director of Jinan Municipal Peoples Congress, Xu Changyu, signed the pact in the presence of Nagpur mayor Pravin Datke and officials from the visiting Chinese delegation. Jinan is capital of Eastern Chinas Shandong province with a population of about 30 lakh and is know for its beautiful lakes. The move is a part of an agreement signed between Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peoples Republic of China, for facilitating co-operation and linkages between cities and states or provinces of India and China in May 2013.

551. Cygni Energy becomes the first startup to avail the benefits of Startup India Action Plan

Cygni Energy, becomes the first startup to avail the benefits of Startup India Action Plan, offered by the government. The Hyderabad based company is the only company that has been able to do so, since the plan was kicked off in January, to boost entrepreneurship. Cygni Energy works in the renewable energy sector and was founded a year ago. The startup is now filing for patent under the fast-track mode meant for startups for its inverterless solar energy technology. From a total of 200 submissions for consideration, only about 30 applications were shortlisted last month by the inter-ministerial board for tax and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) related benefits. Cygni met the required criteria of being an innovative business to get the boards approval. Venkat Rajaraman, CEO of Cygni Energy Rajaraman, who is a Stanford graduate, developed the idea of Cygni Energy at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. Having worked at Sun Microsystems in the US, followed by a stint at Portal Player, which developed the iPods chip, Rajaraman came back to India in 2007 and started working at Su-Kam Power Systems. The inverter-less solar power backup promises 40% savings in energy. With a established client base in India, the product is already generating interest globally, Rajaraman said. It plans to take its products to North Africa and Southeast Asia this year. Rajaraman said:

552. Swachhta Mission to be implemented in 10 prominent wildlife sanctuaries, Tiger reserves and National Parks

The government plans to take the cleanliness campaign to Indias national parks and forest reserves. Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, announced on Thursday that the Swachhta campaign would take off in 10 protected sites in the country. Protected areas in India, which include national parks, tiger reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and zoos, are spread over 1.62 lakh square km. The campaign, which focused on sensitising tourists on issues such as solid waste management and prevention of littering, was conducted between June 1 and 15. In order to extend the scope of Swachhta Campaign to include waste management concepts and recent regulations, special drives were launched in 10 select protected areas to sensitise the visitors on the regulatory regime for waste management, an official statement said. The protected areas under the campaign are Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Gir Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park, Kanha Tiger Reserve, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Flamingo Sanctuary, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Periyar Tiger Reserve, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve.

553. Darjeeling zoo to receive snow leopard from London

The Padma Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP) in Darjeeling, one of the highest high-altitude zoos in the country, is eagerly awaiting a new resident a snow leopard from Dudley Zoological Gardens in London. The two-year-old male snow leopard, named Makalu, will travel in air for about 16 hours with a stopover at Dubai before making an expected arrival at the Kolkata airport in an Emeritus Flight at 8.20 a.m. on Friday, from where the big cat will be transported to the park. The snow leopard is named after the worlds fifth highest peak at 27,765 feet on the south-east side of the Everest. One of the most elusive mountain cats, the snow leopard (*Panthera uncial*) is categorised as an endangered species in the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list. At this moment, the

PNHZZP has nine snow leopards. Eight of them are females while one is male, V K Yadav, Member Secretary, State Zoo authority told The Hindu. The male big cat, named Subhas, is 14 years old. The initiative to bring a male snow leopard to the zoological garden is seen as crucial to its conservation and breeding programme. Located about 7,000 feet above the sea-level, PNHZZP has given six snow leopards, a pair each, to high-altitude zoological gardens in Sikkim, Shimla and Nainital. In April 2014, the park received a three-year-old snow leopard named Sici from Czech Republic. However, the animal could not survive beyond a few months. Efforts are also on to bring another male snow leopard from France and necessary permission for this has been obtained from the Central Zoo Authority, park sources said. Makalu will be kept in isolation in the zoo and measures will be taken to help the animal acclimatise to the local weather. The conservation and breeding programme of snow leopards at the PNHZZP started in 1983. After the success of the programme, which includes 56 births, the authorities also took the initiative of conserving high-altitude herbivores that make up the prey base of the snow leopard. They include the Blue Sheep, the Himalayan Tahr, the Himalayan Goral and the Markhor. All the four herbivores have been placed in the Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which denotes that the species are threatened.

554. Pakistan: 50 clerics issue fatwa terming transgender marriages lawful

At least 50 Pakistani clerics have issued a fatwa stating that transgender marriages are lawful. The clerics affiliated with the little known Tanzeem Ittehad-i-Ummat issued the religious edict in Lahore yesterday.

The fatwa stated that a transgender person having visible signs of being a male may marry a woman or a transgender with visible signs of being a female and vice versa.

The fatwa, however, decreed that a transgender person carrying visible signs of both genders may not marry anyone. It declared that robbing transgender people of their share in inheritance is unlawful and that parents who deprive their transgender children of inheritance are inviting the wrath of God.

555. Spanish vote delivers hung parliament for 2nd time

Spanish elections delivered a hung Parliament for the second time in six months. Acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's centre-right People's Party (PP) has again emerged with the single biggest bloc of seats but fell short of a majority. The PP won 137 seats, up from 123 in December but short of the 176 needed for an outright majority. Spain's other main party, the Socialist PSOE won 85 seats, down from the 90 they had in the December election. The left-wing Unidos Podemos alliance and centre-right Ciudadanos are third and fourth.

Spain now enters another round of backroom talks to see which parties can form a governing coalition, a task that eluded them despite months of negotiations following the December's inconclusive poll. It has once again left the euro zone's fourth-largest economy at risk of another lengthy political stalemate.

556. Malayalam dramatist Kavalam Narayana Panicker passes away

Acclaimed Malayalam dramatist, theatre director and poet Kavalam Narayana Panicker, passed away in Thiruvananthapuram yesterday. He was 88. He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2007. He is survived by his wife Saradamani and son Kavalam Sreekumar. Kavalam is also a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1983) and Vallathol Award (2009). In 1975, his work Natakachakram was selected for the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award.

Hundreds of people from various walks of life are thronging Kavalam's residence 'Sopanam' in Thiruvananthapuram since morning to offer their tributes to the theatre doyen. The cremation will take place at Kavalam in Kuttanad on Tuesday.

557. Assam govt to set up Special Protection Force for Kaziranga National park

The first Cabinet of the Assam Government today decided to set up a 112 members Special Protection Force for Kaziranga national park. PWD Minister Parimal Sukla Baidya, later talking to newsmen said, to help the struggling local film industry, it was decided to re-structure the tax policy to make film making profitable and lucrative. He said a corpus for benefit of artists and technicians related to the film industry would be set up for assistance during exigencies.

The Cabinet further decided to recruit 10,000 new teachers through Teachers Eligibility Test and sanction posts for 700 new doctors. The full-fledged budget session of the state Assembly will be held from 18th of July to 12th of August.

558. **Sujoy Bose appointed CEO of NIIF**

Centre has appointed Mr. Sujoy Bose, Director and Global Co-Head, Infrastructure and Natural Resources, International Finance Corporation, Washington, as the Chief Executive Officer of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Ltd. A Finance Ministry press release said in New Delhi this evening that Mr. Bose has extensive international experience in the infrastructure sector including experience in raising funds from international investors.

The NIIF has been established with the aim to attract investment from both domestic and international sources for infrastructure development in commercially viable projects. It has been incorporated as a company under the Companies Act, 2013, duly authorized to act as investment manager of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.

The establishment activities of the NIIF are underway and steps are being taken to operationalize the initiatives with different investors including RUSNANO, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA). An initial budgetary allocation of 4000 crore rupees has also been made in 2016-17 budget. Further allocation would be made as and when necessary.

559. **Chile retain Copa America football title beating Argentina**

Chile has retained the Copa America Football title beating Argentina in the penalty shootout. In the Final played at New Jersey this morning, Chile defeated the 14-time winners 4-2. The score was 0-0 at the end of regulation and extra time. This Final was repeat of last year's title clash which Chile had also won in penalties. Yesterday, Colombia had defeated hosts United States, 1-0 to finish at third.

560. **Wimbledon gets underway in London with first round matches**

First round matches of the 2016 Wimbledon Tennis Championship began in London today. Women's singles final is on July 9 and the men's singles final on July 10. There are no matches scheduled for the two week tournament on Sunday, July 3. Novak Djokovic of Serbia is the defending men's singles champion.

The first round of men's singles match between defending champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia and J. Ward of Britain is underway in London. Djokovic won the first set 1-0 when reports last came in. In women's singles match, former world No. 4 in singles, Samantha Jane Stosur of Australia won her first round match against M. Linette of Poland 7-5, 6-3.

The 20 year old World No. 1 Djokovic, is chasing a third successive Wimbledon title. Rafael Nadal is missing from the scene as he is nursing a wrist injury.

Garbine Muguruzza, Roger Federer and Serena and her sister Venus Williams are among the top men and women players who will be seen in action at the Wimbledon championship.

Serena Williams will be eyeing her 22nd Grand Slam in this tournament.

561. **Lionel Messi retires as Chile stun Argentina in Copa America**

Lionel Messi sensationally announced his retirement from international football after Chile beat Argentina in the final of Copa America this morning in penalty shootout. Messi's dramatic announcement followed Argentina's third loss in a major final since 2014.

The 29-year-old said it hurts not to be a champion. He said he did all he could do for his country but for him the national team is over.

Messi, however, he will continue to play his club football for Spanish champions F.C. Barcelona.

Messi, the FIFA World Player of the Year for five times made his debut for Argentina in 2005, going on to make 113 appearances.

He is the highest scorer for Argentina with 55 goals.

With Barcelona, Messi has won eight La Liga titles and four Champions Leagues. But his only major international honour is 2008 Olympic gold.

562. Shri J P Nadda launches new Nurse Practitioner courses and "Live Register"™ for Nurses

Underscoring the importance of upgradation of skills of nurses across the country, Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare stated that the Government is committed to providing accessible, affordable and quality training to them. He also emphasised that the Nursing Staff occupies important position in healthcare delivery and without them the desired results cannot be achieved. The role of the nursing staff can be compared equally to that of the doctors when we think of achieving the SDGs. Shri J P Nadda was speaking at the inauguration of Indian Nursing Council Office Complex, here today. Dr Kirit P Solanki, Member of Parliament, Shri Ganesh Singh, Member of Parliament, and Shri Dileep Kumar, President, Indian Nursing Council were also present during the inaugural function. Shri Nadda launched two new Nurse Practitioner Courses, one in Critical Care and the other in Primary Healthcare. He also launched a web-based Live Register for Nurses.

563. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot Releases First Ever Draft List of Denotified & Nomadic Tribes

Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice Empowerment, released first ever draft list of Denotified, Nomadic Semi Nomadic Tribes, prepared by National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic Semi Nomadic Tribes here today. The draft list has state wise details of the Denotified, Nomadic Semi Nomadic Tribes.

Releasing the book, Shri Gehlot said that it is intention of the Government to bring all the downtrodden groups of the country into the mainstream as envisioned by the Prime Minister. In addition to the draft list of DNT communities, Minister also released the feedback from these communities, decisions of the commission and its communication with the State Governments. He also said that for the first time his Government has reviewed the progress of development of these communities, so as to identify their issues and suggest appropriate measures for their improvement.

564. What is Yield curve? What does it show about the economic conditions?

Yield is one of the most common terms used in finance and economics. Technically, yield is explained as the annual percentage return earned on a security (like bond). In a pure financial literature sense, yield is the rate of return we are getting from a security. For example, a 6% yield means that the investment averages 6% return each year (an example for return is interest rate). Yield applies to returns from various types of securities including shares, bonds, bills and insurance products. But it is mostly and more specifically used to describe the return on bonds and debentures. Yield are different types coupon yield, yield to maturity etc. But here, our objective is to understand how the yield that generally prevailing in an economy explains the present economic conditions. Hence we consider coupon yield or the return (interest rate) offered on a security (bond) by the issuing entity to the person who purchases the security. Here we consider the yield of the most important security - Government Bonds, indicate about the prevailing economic situation in the country. What is Yield Curve? How a normal yield curve looks? The yield curve shows the relation between the (level of) interest rate (or cost of borrowing) and the time to maturity. How the rate of return (say measured in terms of interest rate) changes with time (say, years) of investment. Investing for a period of time t gives a yield $Y(t)$. This shows that yield is related with time or is a function of time. This function Y is called the yield curve, and it is often, but not always, an increasing function of t . Higher yield shows that higher interest rate should be given for borrowing. Usually, higher yield is offered for a security to attract investors to make investment overtaking risk. Normal yield curve Yield curves are usually upward sloping; the longer the maturity, the higher will be the yield (interest rate offered). Higher the period for which you invest in a security, higher will be the yield (or rate of interest). But for increasing number of years, the increase in yield (interest rate) will be small. This means that the curve flattens out for higher maturity. A normal yield curve shows normal economic conditions generally. But at the same time, higher yield or rate of interest indicate that cost of borrowing is higher. Importance of government bond and its yield in understanding economic situations On which type of securities we can observe the trend in yield curve for a country? Here comes the importance of government bonds. Government is a very creditworthy borrower and a big borrower as well. Hence the yield curve of government bonds is taken as standard mirror explanation about current economic conditions. The upward sloping yield curve is the normal yield curve which shows you will get higher interest rate if you invest in a long term bond. This is a typical yield curve that is shown in the diagram attached here. But yield curve need not be upward sloping always. There are exceptions. The exceptions are flat yield curves and downward sloping yield curves as well. Flat yield curve In the case of a flat yield curve, there is no difference between short term interest rate and long term interest rates. Or in other

words, interest rate will be the same if you invest for a short time or for a long time. Inverted yield curve If there is negative relationship between interest rate and maturity period of a bond, the yield curve will be negative sloping. This is called inverted yield curve. Here, you get higher interest rate for short term investment. This type of inverted yield curve shows that economy is in some sort of a crisis now. because of the bad economic conditions now, you will get higher interest rate to cover the risk you are facing. But in the long term, interest rate (yield) decreases, indicating that the economy will come back to normalcy in the long term.

565. Government Constitutes Monetary Policy Committee

The centre 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. At present, the Technical Advisory Committee which is chaired by the Governor takes decisions on repo rate. But the RBI Governor has a veto power. According to the government sources, the MPC is responsible for bringing value and transparency to monetary policy decisions. Under MPC, the governor has a casting vote and doesn't enjoy veto power. Decisions will be taken on the basis of majority vote. There are six members in the MPC and three are from the RBI including the Governor, a Deputy Governor who will be the ex-officio chairperson, a Deputy Governor and one officer of the central bank. The other three 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. These three members of MPC will be experts in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy and will be appointed for a period of four years and shall not be eligible for re-appointment, says the statement which announced the formation of the MPC. The Committee is to meet four times a year and make public its decisions following each meeting.

566. RBI warns external sector risks if commodity cycle reverses

The RBI in its India Financial Stability Report has warned about adverse external sector impact once crude prices start rising. According to the central bank, faster growth in oil imports in recent months indicate that import bill will surge once price goes up. Oil prices have shown an uptrend over the last couple of months and projections are that it may settle around \$60 per barrel. The report observe that the countrys trade situation is strong because of declining current account deficit. But the potential for a commodity price reversal will bring back pressure on the BoP front. Regarding the financial sector, the IFSR observes that the prevailing trend in bad asset quality and the genera stress in the financial system has not reversed. Financial Stability Report is published by the RBI two times in a year June and December. The report makes an assessment of the overall financial stability risks like weakening of asset quality, financial stress and other indicators. The general macroeconomic trends that may produce a financial stability risk in future is also examined in the report.

567. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) – Free Health Checkup for Pregnant Women

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan or Yojana is a new initiative of the Narendra Modi Government launched on June 9, 2016. The scheme has been launched with the objective of boosting the health care facilities for the pregnant women, especially the poor. Under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, the pregnant ladies will be given free health check-up and required treatment for free on 9th of every month. The scheme will be applicable for pregnant women to avail in all Government hospitals across the country. Objectives of Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan Normally, when a women gets pregnant, she suffers from various kinds of diseases and health issues such as blood pressure, high sugar and hormonal diseases. The scheme thus will provide free checkup to the pregnant women assuring their good health and birth of a healthy child. Below are some of the main objectives of the scheme.

Provide a healthy life to the pregnant women.

Lowering the maternity mortality rate.

Making pregnant women aware of their health issues/diseases.

Making sure safe delivery and healthy life of the baby Main features of Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan The scheme is applicable only for the pregnant women. The free checkup will take place on 9th of every month. All kinds of medical checkups under this scheme will be completely free. Tests will took place at the medical centers, government and private hospitals and private clinics across the country. Women will be marked differently based on their health problems so that doctors can easily detect the problem. The scheme is applicable only to the women in their pregnancy period of 3 to 6 months. The women who are not fromm urban areas and belong to semi urban, poor and rural areas will be given preferences under the Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan. About the scheme Under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, several tests including blood pressure, sugar level, weight, haemoglobin test, blood test and screening will be

done at the medical centers. The doctors will use different colors of stickers on the health cards of the pregnant women as follows: Sticker Color Types of diseases Red Sticker Serious patients Blue Sticker High blood pressure Other diseases Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan is really a great initiative and will certainly help pregnant women from backward classes, rural areas and uneducated in remaining healthy throughout their pregnancy.

568. Kalinga Sikshya Sathi Yojana – Education Loan Scheme in Odisha

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a new education loan scheme for poor meritorious students in the state. Named as Kalinga Sikshya Sathi Yojana the state government will provide education loans at interest of just 1 percent per annum to the poor students. Objective of Kalinga Sikshya Sathi Yojana The objective of the scheme is to ensure that the meritorious students from the poor families enroll into the higher studies. Until now, many such students does not enroll into the higher studies due to lack of the funds, but Kalinga Sikshya Sathi Yojana will ensure help to such students and their better future. The students wants to undergo higher studies in education, medical, engineering, management, law and others can avail the education loan under the new scheme. The scheme will definitely reduce the burden of education loans and financial stress on the poor households across the state. On the next day of launch, students also thanked Mr. Chief Minister by visiting his residence. The state government has earmarked Rs. 500 crores for Kalinga Sikshya Sathi Yojana from its own resources. The state government has dedicated this scheme to former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik on his birth centenary.

569. PM Ujjwala Yojana Launched in Bihar – 50 Lakh LPG Connections to be Provided

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, an ambitious scheme of Narendra Modi Government to distribute LPG connections to BPL households has been launched in Bihar. Petroleum and Natural Gas minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the LPG connection scheme on 27th June. According to the statement given by the minister during the launch of Ujjwala Yojana, Bihar would be the largest beneficiary of the scheme. Out of the total 5 Crore LPG connections, Bihar alone would get 50 Lakh connections in next three years under the Ujjwala Yojana. According to the stats, 20 Lakh LPG connections have been added in Bihar in the last 2 years of NDA government taking the total to 68 Lakh from then 48 Lakh. The target of the central government is to take the number to 1.30 Crore by the year 2019. The central government will appoint 100 new LPG distributors in coming 2 months for implementation of the scheme. 2000 more distributors will also be added in the future for the same. [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana](#) was launched countrywide on 1st may by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Ballia in Uttar Pradesh. Since then the scheme has been launched regionally in several states.

570. Ujala Scheme LED Bulbs in Delhi to be Available at Rs. 75

State-run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) will be distributing 9 Watt LED bulbs in the capital city from July onward. The LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs will be available to both the home consumers as well as to commercial entities at same rates. Under the central Governmentss UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All), government will distribute 9 watt LED bulbs in Delhi at discounted prices. Earlier, 7 Watt LED bulbs were being distributed under the scheme which will no longer be available for sale. The consumers who already bought these 7 watt LED bulbs and facing some issues can get those replaced from dedicated replacement centers. The new 9 watt LED bulbs are technically superior than the earlier ones and each bulb can help save anywhere between Rs. 160 to Rs. 400 per year. The life expectancy of the bulb is 25000 hours, making the cost recovery in less than one year. The Ujala LED scheme will be implemented across 87 circles in Delhi. Under the Ujala Scheme, over 66 lakh LED bulbs have already been distributed resulting in an annual energy saving of 86 crore kWh. As per the Ujala online dashboard, 12,37,51,757 LED bulbs have been distributed across the country till June 28.

571. Ujala Gujarat Yojana LED Bulb Prices Reduced

Gujarat Government has reduced the prices of LED bulbs being distributed under the [Ujala Gujarat Yojana](#). The prices of the LED bulbs have been reduced by Rs. 10. The LED bulbs under the Ujala Yojana will be available at Rs. 70-75 instead of Rs. 80-85. The reduced prices will be effective from Monday onward. At present the consumers are being charged Rs. 80 per LED bulb if they buy it in cash or Rs. 85 if buying through installments. Launched on 26th May 2016, [Ujala Gujarat Yojana](#) has seen a great response from the consumers. The state government has already sold 63 Lakh LED bulbs within a month. Seeing the tremendous success of the scheme, the government has decided to reduce the price of the LED bulb by Rs. 10. However, LED bulbs at reduced prices will be available only to the households not to the commercial/industrial consumers. Under the scheme, each household is eligible to purchase a

maximum of 10 LED bulbs.

572. MMSFE Scheme for Additional 5 Kg Ration to Launch from July

Jammu and Kashmir Government is all set to launch a new scheme named Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Food Entitlement (MMSFE) from July 2016. Under the scheme, additional 5 kg ration to per soul per month will be provided in addition to his entitlement under NFSA. The scheme will protect the interest of the families having up to 6 members. According to the minister for CAPD, Ch. Zulfkar Ali, the scheme will benefit 81 lakh population of the State with an extra burden of Rs. 358 crore per annum. Under the National Flood Security Act-2013, which was implemented in the state from February 2016, each soul is entitled to get 5 kg ration per month. With the new MMSFE scheme, the ration quantity will go up by 100% to 10 Kg per soul per month. The scheme will be applicable to the people of Ladakh and other areas as well.

573. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Andhra Pradesh as Pilot Project

[Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana](#), a crop insurance scheme is all set to be started in Andhra Pradesh as pilot project. The scheme will be implemented to provide financial help to the farmers in the state. PMFBY, the central government scheme was launched in January 2016 to provide financial help to the farmers at low premium. The financial help under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana is provided in case of damage of crops due to natural calamities. Minister for Agriculture Pattipati Pulla Rao, during a meeting has instructed the official to implement the scheme in the state and create greater awareness among farmers about the scheme. The minister also suggested the official to encourage farmers to increase the horticulture area since it generates more revenue. The premium amount for Kharif crops is 2 percent and 1.5 percent of the sum insured for Rabi crops. The premium for commercial or horticultural crops (including cotton) is pegged at 5 percent for one year.

574. Union Defence Ministry gives nod for purchase of 145 Ultra Light Howitzers guns from the US

Defence Ministry on Saturday approved the much delayed purchase of 145 Ultra Light Howitzers, worth about Rs 5,000 crore, from the US and also the bulk production of 18 Dhanush artillery guns, the first acquisition of such weapon systems by the Army in three decades since the Bofors scandal. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, took up 18 proposals including new schemes worth Rs 28,000 crore for discussion. Another key project that got an Acceptance of Necessity (AON), which will now allow the Navy to issue tenders, was the proposal to build six next generation missile vessels under Buy Indian category for Rs 13,600 crore.

575. Nagaland Governor launches women's helpline - 181

Nagaland Governor P B Acharya today launched women helpline - 181 in the premises of District Hospital Dimapur in Nagaland and also inaugurated Sakhi, a one stop Centre, intended to support women affected by violence both in private and public spaces under one roof. Addressing the gathering, Acharya reminded society that women were marching ahead in every field.

He also highlighted the multiple roles played by women as home makers, guardians of children and the hard work put in by them in every field. "Yet despite all these, sometimes women are taken for granted and not looked at as human beings due to greed for money and entertainment and we should change this mindset with all seriousness", the governor said. He was optimistic that problems of distressed women would be addressed through this project and also appealed to all the stake holders for extending cooperation, so that violence against women would decline. Minister Social Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs, Kiyaneilie Peseyie who was also present appealed to the people to extend co-operation for strengthening the security of women.

576. Colombia government, FARC rebels sign historic ceasefire

The Colombian government and FARC rebels signed a ceasefire and disarmament agreement on Thursday, one of the last steps toward ending a half-century conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people. The deal puts a definitive end to fighting in Latin Americas longest civil war, which has torn the country apart with shootings and bombardments in its coca-rich jungles and hills. President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC leader Timoleon Jimenez shook hands and smiled after negotiators signed the deal at a ceremony in Cuba. Laying down of arms The deal establishes a bilateral ceasefire and end to hostilities and the definitive laying down of arms, according to the text. This is a historic day for our country, Mr. Santos said in a speech to assembled leaders including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. After more than 50 years of confrontations, deaths, attacks and pain, we have put a final end to the armed

conflict with the FARC. Disarmament will begin after the signing of a full final peace agreement, expected within weeks. Let this be the last day of the war, Mr. Jimenez said. Under the agreement, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) must hand over its weapons to United Nations monitors within six months. The FARC's members an estimated 7,000 or so will gather in normalisation zones for a demobilisation process. The sides also agreed to government action against criminal organisations blamed for fuelling the conflict. The United States congratulated Colombia. We will stand ready to help the Colombian people as they work toward a just and lasting peace, said U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice. The European Union's foreign representative Federica Mogherini in a statement called it a turning point in the Colombian peace process. Now all efforts must be devoted to reaching a final comprehensive agreement that will pave the way to durable peace in the country and justice for victims, she said.

577. Indian-origin lawyer Yasmin Sooka to chair UN commission on human rights in South Sudan

South African Indian-origin lawyer and long-time human rights activist Yasmin Sooka has been appointed to chair a UN commission to monitor the human rights situation in South Sudan and make recommendations for their improvement. Sooka, who has vast experience in global human rights matters, will serve together with Kenneth Scott from the US and Godfrey Musila of Kenya on the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, a senior UN Human Rights Council official said. The UN resolved to establish the Commission following calls for investigation into alleged atrocities by both government and rebel forces before an independent South Sudan was carved out of the larger Sudan in 2011. The Commissioners will provide guidance to the government of South Sudan on transitional justice, accountability and reconciliation issues and will engage with international and regional mechanisms to promote accountability for human rights violations and abuses, the official said. Sooka is currently the Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) in South Africa. A leading anti-apartheid activist, Sooka served on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) established by former President Nelson Mandela from 1996-2001, assisting with the final report of the Commission. She was also appointed by the UN to serve on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Sierra Leone from 2002-2004, as well as advising the UN Secretary General on accountability for war crimes committed during the final stages of the war in Sri Lanka.

578. Nepal bans citizens from working in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya

Nepal on Thursday decided to bar Nepali nationals from going to war-torn countries among others for employment, a government spokesman said. A meeting of the Nepalese Council of Ministers made a decision to bar its nationals from going to Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya, Minister for Information and Communications Sherdhan Rai told media. The Nepalese government's decision has come two days after 13 Nepali nationals working with the Canadian Embassy were killed in a suicide bomb in the Afghan Capital Kabul. Seven Nepali nationals were also injured in the barbaric terrorist attack which was taken responsibility by Taliban insurgents. Earlier in 2011, Nepal partially lifted the ban on its nationals from working in Afghanistan saying that workers would be allowed to work for selected employers including the United Nations, the NATO and Western diplomatic missions. Monday's tragic incident in Afghanistan is said to be the biggest tragedy surrounding Nepali migrant workers since the killing of 12 Nepali migrant workers in Iraq in 2004. At least 1,213 Nepali nationals have acquired work permit from the Nepalese government to work in Afghanistan in the first 10 months. Media reports suggest that approximately 20,000 Nepali nationals are currently working in various places of Afghanistan.

579. Asian Development Bank approved \$500 million loan for bridge over Ganga River in Bihar

Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has approved a \$500 million loan to build a bridge across the Ganges River in Bihar. The 9.8 km road bridge in Bihar will be India's longest river bridge and will provide a vital transport link between the northern and southern parts of the state and neighbouring Nepal, ADB said in a statement. The new bridge will make it easier for people to move between jobs and markets, particularly for poorer communities in the north wishing to travel to the state capital Patna, to the south of the river, it added. The statement said that in all, the bridge is expected to benefit over nine million people. According to a statement, the new bridge will span both channels of the Ganges and serve as an alternate route to the existing Ganga bridge, which has begun to deteriorate.

580. Scientists from University of Bristol have found a new bio-ink for 3D printing

Scientists from University of Bristol have found a new bio-ink for 3D printing with stem cells that allows printing of living tissue known as bio-printing. The new bio-ink contains two different polymer components: a natural polymer extracted from seaweed and a sacrificial synthetic polymer used in the medical industry. Designing the new bio-ink was

extremely challenging. You need a material that is printable, strong enough to maintain its shape when immersed in nutrients and that is not harmful to the cells. We managed to do this, said lead researcher Adam Perriman from school of cellular and molecular medicine. The synthetic polymer causes the bio-ink to change from liquid to solid when the temperature is raised and the seaweed polymer provides structural support when the cell nutrients are introduced. The special bio-ink formulation was extruded from a retrofitted benchtop 3D printer, as a liquid that transformed to a gel at 37 degrees Celsius, which allowed construction of complex living 3D architectures, Perriman added. The findings, published in the journal *Advanced Healthcare Materials*, could help printing complex tissues using the patients own stem cells for surgical bone or cartilage implants, which could be used in knee and hip surgeries.

581. Expanded Panama Canal reopens after 9 years of work

A giant Chinese-chartered freighter has passed through the expanded Panama Canal to mark the completion of nearly a decade of work forecast to boost global trade. Thousands of people cheered and waved flags on Sunday as they watched the vessel, especially renamed COSCO Shipping Panama, inaugurate the widening of the century-old waterway, which has been fitted with a new shipping lane and locks. "This is a great day, a day of national unity and a day for Panama," President Juan Carlos Varela said in a speech. "This is the route that unites the world." The United States and China are the two most frequent canal users. Its expansion is expected to greatly benefit commercial traffic between North America and Asia. Al Jazeera's Teresa Bo, reporting from Panama, said the country's authorities see the event as the beginning of a new era. "They are hoping to turn this country into a trans-shipping centre for the whole world and for the region," she said. "They want it to become a Dubai of the Americas." The expansion work carried out since 2007 - and finished two years late at a cost of at least \$5.5bn - allows a new generation of much larger ships, known as Neopanamax class vessels, to ply the canal. Neopanamax freighters can carry up to three times the cargo of older and smaller Panamax ships. Cruise ships built to the same dimensions typically double the number of passengers of the previous iteration. The expansion will also allow Panama to lure massive liquified natural gas (LNG) tankers for the first time.

582. Coca Cola to set up plant in Uttarakhand's Sitarganj

Coca Cola will set up a bottling plant in Sitarganj, in 70 acres of land to be provided by the Uttarakhand government, after the beverage giant cancelled its plan to establish a unit at Chharba village in the state on environmental grounds, an official said on Sunday. The company recently asked the State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (SIDCUL) to clear its stand on water, Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) and other issues in the 1,700-acre Sitarganj industrial estate. We have cleared their doubts and sent them detailed responses in this regard, Managing Director of SIDCUL R Rajesh Kumar said. Earlier, he said Coca Cola was in the final phase of setting up its bottling plant in Sitarganj and that land will be allotted to it. Coca Cola will set up the plant with the total investment of Rs 400-500 crore and has submitted an Earnest Money Deposit of Rs 1.26 crore, Kumar said. According to Kumar, Coca Cola officials have completed field inspections and hired a company as consultant on environmental issues. Two-three years ago, Chharba village residents opposed the Coca Cola plant on environmental grounds.

583. Former India batsman Lalchand Rajput appointed Afghanistan cricket coach

The Afghanistan Cricket Board has named former India batsman [Lalchand Rajput](#) as the new head coach of their national team. He takes over the position vacated by former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq in April 2016 and his first assignment is a tour of Scotland, Ireland and the Netherlands in July and August. According to ACB chief executive Shaiqullah Stanikzai, Rajput was chosen ahead of former Pakistan batsman Mohammad Yousuf, former South Africa batsman Herschelle Gibbs and former West Indies fast bowler Corey Collymore. The three of them had applied through their agents while Rajput's name was recommended by the BCCI. Previous coaching experience and administrative work had given Rajput an edge. He was in charge of the Indian team when they won World T20 in 2007 and for the controversial tour to Australia in 2007-08. Following his retirement after a 17-year playing career, he served as joint honorary secretary of the Mumbai Cricket Association. Rajput is in line for a two-year contract, but that decision would be finalised after the upcoming tour of Europe. Afghanistan play seven ODIs against Scotland and Ireland, and an Intercontinental Cup match against Netherlands. "I am excited to work again with an international team," Rajput told ESPNcricinfo. "The challenge is to get Afghanistan into the top 10. They also don't have the Test status and so our goal would be to work towards achieving that in the long term." It is learnt that the ACB had been in talks with former Sri Lanka fast bowler Chaminda Vaas, but they fell through. Rajput has played two Tests and four ODIs for India, to go along with his 110 matches and 7988 runs in first-class cricket. He has also coached his state side Mumbai in the Ranji

Trophy and in the Indian Premier League. Rajput has had successful stints at the helm of India Under-19 and A teams. He was also [among the final contenders](#) to take over as India's full-time head coach. But with Anil Kumble's appointment on Thursday, Rajput was free to take up the ACB's offer.

584. **17th International Indian Film Academy Awards was held in Spain**

The International Indian Film Academy Awards (also known as the IIFA Awards) are a set of awards presented annually by the International Indian Film Academy to honour both artistic and technical excellence of professionals in [Bollywood](#), the [Hindi language](#) film industry. Instituted in 2000, the ceremony is held in different countries around the world every year with the most [recent one](#) being held in [Madrid, Spain](#). The [IIFA Utsavam](#) is the [South Indian](#) segment of the annual IIFA Awards. The awards were introduced in 2016, around the films released in 2015. The [1st IIFA Utsavam](#) was held on 24 and 25 January 2016 at the [Gachibowli Athletic Stadium, Hyderabad, India](#). Best Picture Award

Bajrangi Bhaijaan

Best Direction Award Sanjay Leela Bhansali

Best Performance in a Leading role (Male) Award Ranveer Singh for Bajirao Mastani

Best Performance in a Leading Role (Female) Award Deepika Padukone for Piku

Best Performance in a Comic Role Award Deepak Dobriyal for Tanu Weds Manu Returns

585. **NATO appoints highest-ranking woman in its history**

NATO has appointed the highest-ranking woman in its history, naming US Under Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller as its next deputy secretary-general. The alliance's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said today that Gottemoeller "will bring to NATO a wealth of experience in international security policy, and in areas such as arms control and relations with Russia."

The deputy secretary-general is the alliance's second highest-ranking civilian official. Stoltenberg said Gottemoeller will be the first woman to hold the job, and called it "a milestone in NATO." Gottemoeller now advises Secretary of State John Kerry on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, NATO said. She succeeds Alexander Vershbow, a former US ambassador to Moscow who has been NATO's No.2 since February 2012. NATO said Gottemoeller will take up her new position on October 1.

586. **Assam's famous Kamakhya Temple receives an aid Rs. 25 crore for Infrastructure**

For the development of Kamakhya temples infrastructure, Union petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday announced an aid of Rs 25 crore over the next couple of years. Pradhan, who was in Guwahati to attend a series of meetings and road show made the announcement at the end of the historic Ambubachi Mela. Ambubachi is the celebration of goddess Kamakhya's annual menstruation cycle, considered as a symbol of fertility by the Hindus. The temple's sanctum sanctorum is closed to devotees during the period which marks the time of the fair. Kamakhya temple atop Nilachal Hills reopened its doors Sunday morning. During the festival, lakhs of devotees, including politicians made their way to the temple to have a glimpse of the Goddess. According to official sources, the Ambubachi mela drew more than 25 lakh pilgrims this time around, news agency The North East Today reported. Pradhan along with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and state Health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, were among the first to visit the temple when the gates opened at 6am. They were accompanied by Union HRD minister Smriti Irani, Union sanitation and drinking water minister Ram Kripal Yadav, and Assam and Nagaland governor P.B. Acharya. According to media agencies, Kabindra Sarma, the president of Bordeuri Samaj that looks after the management of the temple, said that the announcement for a grant to the temple would give a much needed facelift to one of India's major pilgrimage spot. Meanwhile, Sonowal told reporters that the government would make efforts to develop the temple into a major tourist attraction.

587. **Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Anti-Maoists Forces Headquarters**

Union home minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate the newly constructed headquarters of Jharkhand's special anti-Maoist force Jharkhand Jaguar (JJ) on Monday. JJ is going to get a permanent place eight years after it was created in 2008.

Police claim that it is a milestone in the progress of JJ, also known as Special Task Force, towards becoming a substitute for the central forces engaged in anti-guerrilla operations in 22 of the state's 24 Maoist-hit districts.

Jharkhand police spokesperson and IG operations M S Bhatia said all arrangements have been made for the event. "It will be a big motivation for the force that the home minister will inaugurate it," Bhatia said.

Spread over 173 acres in Tendargram in Kanke block on the outskirts of the state capital the permanent JJ camp houses anti-guerrilla warfare training facilities, functionally rich barracks, parade grounds, firing range besides administrative block and officers' mess. "It is situated away from the town and offers an ideal location for forces training and stay," said a police officer associated with JJ.

Helipad is the unique feature of the camp, said JJ IG Prashant Singh.

The objective behind the creation of the helipad is to facilitate emergency evacuation and helidrops, especially in Maoist-hit regions located around Ranchi like Chatra, Latehar, Lohardaga, Khunti, Gumla and Saranda (West Singhbhum and Saraikela).

588. Radha Mohan Singh launches a web based App CMRS for better crop and Nutrient management released for Bihar farmers

The Union Agriculture Farmers' Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh today launched Crop Manager for Rice-based Systems (CMRS) a web based App for better crop and Nutrient management released for Bihar farmers in a program organised at ICAR-RCER in Patna.

While launching the App, the Union Minister congratulated the scientists of different institutes involved in development of this app. The App will be a part of Digital India program, already launched by the Honble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and will be linked with Soil Health scheme for bringing access to new technologies to rural India.

Crop Manager for Rice-based Systems (CMRS) is a web-based App which can be used with computer, mobile and tablet and aims to increase farmer's net income and sustain the productivity for rice-based cropping systems in Bihar, India. CMRS provides irrigated and rainfed farmers with rice-based cropping systems in Bihar with a crop and nutrient management guideline customized to the needs of an individual farmer. CMRS uses a farmer's answers to questions on farming practices to automatically generate a rice, wheat, or rabi maize management guideline.

CMRS is designed for use by extension workers, crop advisers, input providers, and providers of services who interview a farmer using a personal computer, smartphone, or tablet. CMRS was adapted, evaluated, and verified in Bihar through collaboration of IRRI with the Indian Council for Agricultural Research- RCER (ICAR); Bihar Agricultural University (BAU), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and Rajendra Agricultural University (RAU) and CIMMYT.

589. India ranked 105th out of 130 countries on global human capital index

India was today ranked low at 105th position globally on a worldwide Human Capital Index, which measures countries ability to nurture, develop and deploy talent for economic growth and was topped by Finland. India ranks much below Chinas 71st position while Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka are also placed higher on the index released today by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) in this Chinese city at its Annual Meeting of New Champions also known as Summer Davos summit. Pakistan ranks further lower at 118th place. Giving India 105th rank out of the total 130 countries included in the index, WEF said the country has optimised just 57 per cent of its human capital endowment placing it in the top of the bottom quartile of the Index. India was ranked 100th last year out of total 124 countries included in the 2015 index. On positive side, India has got better rankings on quality of education system (39th), staff training (46th) and ease of finding skilled employees (45th) indicators. This suggests a primary avenue for improvement for the country consists of expanding access to its numerous learning and employment opportunities. Finland, Norway and Switzerland hold the top three positions, utilising around 85 per cent of their human capital. Japan leads when it comes to 55 year-olds and over. On the global index, Japan and Sweden have moved up to 4th and 5th places and are followed by New Zealand, Denmark, the Netherlands, Canada and Belgium in top ten. Among BRICS countries, India is ranked lowest as against Russias 28th, Chinas 71st, Brazils 83rd and South Africas 88th. Countries ranked below India include Nepal, Myanmar, Haiti, Malawi and Burundi while Mauritania, Yemen, Chad, Nigeria and Mali are placed in the bottom-five with below 50 per cent talent optimisation.

590. IMF clears payment of USD 500 million to Pakistan

The [International Monetary Fund](#) cleared payment of \$501 million for [Pakistan](#) taking the total amount given to the country to \$6.1 billion in the last few years. In a statement, issued after the conclusion of 11th review of Pakistan's economic performance under a three-year program supported by an [Extended Fund Facility](#) (EFF) arrangement, the [IMF](#) said the decision enables the immediate disbursement of about \$501 million to Pakistan. This brings the total disbursements to \$6.01 billion, the IMF said. In September 2013, the IMF had approved the 36-month extended arrangement under the EFF in the amount of about \$6.64 billion at the time of approval of the arrangement.

591. 3 Indian Navy Ships Reach Russia To Enhance Maritime Cooperation

Three Indian naval ships today reached Russia as part of efforts to enhance maritime cooperation between the navies of both countries.

INS Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch, under the Command of the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, Rear Admiral SV Bhokare, reached Vladivostok on a four day visit as part of deployment of the Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea.

During the visit, the ships will have professional interactions with the Russian Navy aimed at enhancing co-operation between the two forces.

The visiting Indian ships are also likely to conduct exercises with the Russian Navy, aimed at enhancing interoperability in communication as well as search and rescue procedures, post departure from Vladivostok.

The current visit seeks to enhance maritime cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Russian Navy. It will further bolster the strong bonds of friendship between India and Russia and contribute to security and stability in this vital part of the world, a statement by the Navy said.

592. Eminent Chess Player Viswanathan Anand honoured with "Honoris Causa" Doctor of Science degree

Five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand was conferred the "Honoris Causa" Doctor of Science by Indian Institute Of Technology (IIT) during its 49th convocation ceremony here today. The 46-year-old Anand was bestowed with the degree by NITI aayog chairman Arvind Panagariya here. While receiving the degree, Anand remembered the day when he was awarded the Arjuna Award in 1985 and shared that this dress code here brought back memories of that day at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. "Even after becoming the first Indian Grandmaster in 1987, I continued learning and focussed on my next goal of becoming the world champion. Similarly today is the day of celebration for you as you are graduating today but you also need to focus on next goals of your life," said Anand. "Even today I try to learn more and more about chess because whatever you have learnt will never go waste in the future," he added.

593. Two Indians get Queen's Young Leaders Award 2016

A visually challenged young man with a passion for education and a youth facilitator from Hyderabad are among 60 people from across the globe who were presented medals for their exemplary work by Queen Elizabeth at the Buckingham Palace. The two Indians are Kartik Sawhney (21) and Neha Swain (28). Launched in 2014 by the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry, each year from 2014 to 2018, 60 exceptional young people are selected to receive a Queens Young Leaders Award and become Queens Young Leaders one for every year that she has served as head of the Commonwealth at the time of her Diamond Jubilee. Sawhney is described as being passionate about universal access to education. Although he was born blind, he excelled in science and technology at school. However, he discovered that blind students were prevented from pursuing science after Class 10. After appealing, Sawhney enrolled as India's first Class 11 blind science student. He faced similar challenges when trying to enter engineering colleges, so in 2013 he took up a scholarship at Stanford University. He founded Project STEMAccess, which offers hands-on science workshops in India, as well as virtual training sessions. He is working on a portal that will allow students to convert textbooks into their desired accessible format. Swain has worked as a youth facilitator for five years. Two years ago, she co-founded an NGO called Rubaroo, which aims to provide an inclusive space for young people, irrespective of their socio-economic background to develop their leadership skills through interactive workshops. The team provides workshops in schools which cannot afford such programmes free of charge. It has so far worked with nearly 2,000 young people in Hyderabad. The Queens Young Leaders programme aims to discover, celebrate and support young people from every Commonwealth nation. The awardees are chosen for having transformed their own lives and the lives of those around them, despite challenges they may have faced along the way.

594. **Shariah High Court appoints first women judges in Malaysia**

Two women judges from Selangor have been appointed to the Shariah High Court, a first in Malaysia, the Star Online reported. Noor Huda Roslan, 40, and Nenny Shuhaidah Shamsuddin, 41, received their appointment letters from the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah during a ceremony at the Istana Bukit Kayangan. According to the news portal, the Shariah chief judge Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar said the appointments showed the Sultan's concern about Shariah Court matters. Dr Mohd Na'im added that the appointments had nothing to do with gender, and the two women were qualified for the job. Seven other women were made Shariah Lower Court judges.

595. **N S Vishwanathan is new deputy governor at RBI**

N S Vishwanathan is new deputy governor at Reserve Bank of India. Currently he is serving as an executive director at the central bank. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) made the announcement on 28 June. Vishwanathan will succeed H R Khan as the Deputy Governor of RBI on July 3, 2016.

RBI has provision for four deputy governors, two of whom are appointed from outside while the other two Deputy Governors are traditionally appointed from those working within RBI. He served as Principal Chief General Manager in the Department of non-banking supervision at Reserve Bank of India. Vishwanathan has been an Executive Director at Reserve Bank of India since April 2014. Vishwanathan, MA (Economics), served as a Director of Punjab National Bank from September 6, 2012 to May 31, 2013. He was also nominee director at Dena Bank Ltd. from May 30, 2011 to September 6, 2012. He has served as Chief General Manager of Vigilance at IFCI Ltd, Delhi-based government owned finance company.

596. **CSIR launches anti diabetic ayurvedic drug BGR -34**

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the aegis of Ministry of Science and Technology, has launched an anti-diabetic ayurvedic capsule priced at Rs. 5 per tablet. The capsule named BGR-34, abbreviated name for Blood Glucose Regulator that designed for type 2 diabetes. AIMIL Pharmaceuticals will manufacture this drug and market it.

BGR-34 is developed jointly by the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) and the Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP). The capsule can be taken as prescribed by the doctor for diabetes which will be available on all major medical stores in Karnataka and adjoining states.

597. **In J&K, Scientists succeed in introduction of Sericulture in Poyen Village of Kargil.**

In Jammu and Kashmir, Scientists of Temperate Sericulture Research Institute of SKUAST -Kashmir have succeeded in introduction of Sericulture in Poyen Village of Kargil. During 2015-16, 31 un-employed girls/women farmers received training at Poyen village and produced quality Bivoltine cocoons for the first time in Kargil district. On the instructions of Chairman Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Kargil Haji Mohd Hanifa Jan 40 days intensive Bivoltine Silk Worm rearing training programme is organized in the same village jointly by TSRI, SKUAST Kashmir and CSRI, Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, Pampore where 20 un-employed girls are presently receiving training. Development of Sericulture activities in Kargil is bound to serve purpose of achieving Cocoon productivity, increasing employment and income generation for rural youth and tribal farmers. It is worthwhile to mention that Zahra Parveen of Poyen village who attended Bivoltine Silkworm training from Scientists of Temperate Sericulture Research Institute of SKUAST -Kashmir last year has produced Silkworm eggs by collecting Silkworm Cocoons from the training Centre at her residence and developed a cleaning net in addition to paper trays used for silkworm rearing which is worth appreciating and she is at present rearing silkworms at her residence which are at advanced stage of rearing.

598. **China sets up first Dark Sky Reserve in Tibet to limit light pollution**

China has launched its first dark sky reserve in the Tibet autonomous region's Ngari Prefecture. The reserve covers an area of 2,500 square kilometers and aims to limit light pollution by stepping up protection of dark-sky resources for education and tourism development. It was jointly launched by the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation and the regional government of Tibet. Wang Wenyong, head of the legal affairs department with the foundation, said in a news briefing on Tuesday that the launch of the preserve is only the first step in protecting the area from light pollution. The reserve will also try to seek accreditation from the International Dark-Sky Association, a nonprofit organization based in the United States that is devoted to preserving and protecting the night time environment and dark skies globally. Wang Xiaohua, head of the Chinese branch of the International Dark-Sky

Association and a leader of the Ngari reserve program, said such areas were important for promoting astronomy. Ngari is among the best sites for astronomical observation on earth, due to its high altitude and large number of cloudless days throughout the year. However, the recent inflow of people from other areas has given rise to increasing urbanization, and thus the associated risk of more light pollution. "If we do not take action now to preserve the area, we risk losing one of the best astronomical sites on earth," said Wang at the news briefing. The foundation has also signed an agreement with authorities in Tibet's Nagchu prefecture to establish a night sky park, which will feature limited lighting facilities and a special area for astronomical observation.

599. Argentina women win record seventh Champions Trophy title

The Argentina womens team has claimed a record seventh Champions Trophy title with a 2-1 win over reigning World and Olympic champions, the Netherlands, in the final at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre here. First quarter goals from Martina Cavallero and Noel Barrionuevo yesterday gave Las Leonas a 2-0 lead to stun the top-ranked Dutch, who were missing team captain and talisman Maartje Paumen through injury. The Netherlands hit back with a high quality penalty corner flick from Eva de Goede just after half time, but Argentina held on to win their third successive Champions Trophy title. In the bronze medal game, USA battled to a shootout victory over Australia, giving the team a first Champions Trophy medal since winning bronze at the 1995 event in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The Americans, ranked world number seven, bounced back from 2-0 down to level at 2-2, thanks to a double from Katie Bam before their keeper Jackie Briggs kept a clean sheet against third-ranked Australia. Final standings:

1: Argentina

2: The Netherlands

3: USA

4: Australia

5: Great Britain

6: New Zealand Individual Awards

Best player: Carla Rebecchi (ARG)

Best junior player: Maria Granatto (ARG)

Best goalkeeper: Joyce Sombroek (NED)

600. Sanjeev Rajput Wins Silver in 50m Air Rifle 3 Positions at ISSF World Cup

Veteran rifle shooter [Sanjeev Rajput](#) shrugged off the disappointment of missing out of Rio Olympics by bagging the men's 50m rifle 3 positions silver medal on the seventh and concluding day of competitions at the ISSF World Cup on Tuesday. This is the 35-year-old shooter's third World Cup medal and his first in five years. This was also India's second medal of the competition and silver as well, after pistol ace Jitu Rai's silver winning effort in the men's 10m air pistol earlier in the competition. Rajput finished the 120 shot (40 shots each in Kneeling, Prone and Standing positions respectively) qualifying round at seventh with a combined score of 1167 to enter the eight-man final. He shot 456.9 in the finals to win the silver. Rajput started the 45 shot (15 shots each in the three positions with elimination beginning from the 10th shot in standing position and 40th shot overall) final round confidently, shooting 153.5 after the first 15 shots in Kneeling position to lie second. By the end of the 15 Prone series shots, Rajput slipped to third place and was even briefly lying fourth after a relatively poor 8.3 and 9.9 in his 41st and 42nd shots. He recovered brilliantly with consecutive scores of 10.8 in his next two shots, pulling away decisively from his nearest rival Hyeonjun Kim of Korea, who had to settle with the bronze. The gold medal went to Petar Gorsa of Croatia who led from pillar to post in the finals, shooting a total of 457.5 to Rajput's 456.9. In the men's Skeet, Man Singh overcame one shoot-off to qualify for the six-man final, but could not make it to the bronze medal match up. He eventually finished sixth. Earlier in the day, Man Singh had shot a score of 122 out of 125 in qualifying to be tied at joint fifth place with five other shooters. In the shoot-off that followed, he shot a score of 10 to qualify in sixth place. Nine Indians had qualified for the final rounds, a record in a Shooting World Cup. In the day's other Indian performances, Gagan Narang ended 23rd in men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions with a score of 1161 while Chain Singh shot 1159 to finish 32nd in the same event. In the men's Skeet, Mairaj Ahmad Khan shot 121 to finish 16th while Sheeraz Shaikh shot 117 to be placed 40th. India finished the Baku World Cup with two silver medals and nine finalists. Among the 10 out of 12 Rio bound shooters who participated in the World Cup, five including Abhinav Bindra, Narang, Jitu, Heena Sidhu and Kynan Chenai, reached the finals of their respective events. Gagan reached two finals. Only Jitu among them won a medal. In all the World Cups this year, Indians have picked up four medals, including one gold and three silver.

601. Naga Insurgent Leader Isak Chishi Swu Passes Away

Naga militant leader Isak Chishi Swu, who led a bloody insurgency in the northeast for over three decades, died in New Delhi on June 28 following multi-organ failure. Nagaland government spokesperson Kuolie Mere said that the 87-year-old chairman of the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) had been undergoing treatment for almost a year at a private hospital in south Delhi, where he breathed his last around noon. Swu, who belonged to the Sumi tribe, hailed from the Zunheboto district of Nagaland. His body will be taken to his native place on June 29 for last rites. Swu along with the NSCN-IM general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah formed the group in 1980 opposing the Shillong Accord signed by the then Naga National Council (NNC) with the Centre for bringing peace in Nagaland. Over the years, the NSCN-IM had been accused of indulging in killings, extortion and other subversive activities. Its persistent demand for separation from the country led to military clamp down on the group. In 1997, the NSCN-IM entered into a truce with the Centre for peace in Nagaland and since then had been continuing dialogue with Centre emissaries. In August last year, the NSCN-IM signed a framework agreement with the government which Prime Minister Narendra Modi described as a historic step. The pact was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Modi, home minister Rajnath Singh and national security adviser Ajit Doval and government interlocutor R. N. Ravi at the prime ministers residence in New Delhi. The pact was signed after over 80 rounds of negotiations that spanned 16 years with the first breakthrough in 1997 when the ceasefire agreement was sealed. Swu joined the NNC in the 1950s and served it in different capacities till its split in 1980.

602. Xerxes Desai, founder of Titan, dies

Xerxes Sapur Desai, the man who founded Titan Co. Ltd and made it an internationally renowned Indian watch brand, is no more. The 79-year-old died in Bengaluru on Monday because of acute gastroenteritis. He was not only our founder, but also our greatest advocate. Over the years, his guidance and dogged pursuit of perfection helped make Titan a household name and a market leader, the company said in an e-mailed statement. He was big thinking, iconoclastic, meticulous, insightful, humanitarian with an enhanced sense of style and taste, articulate and quality conscious. A passionate rationalist who believed that Yesterdays truths are todays heresies, said Bhaskar Bhat, Managing director, Titan. A graduate of Bombay and Oxford Universities, Desai played a key role in introducing India to its first quartz watch in the late 80s when he set up Titan Co. Ltd (part of Tata Sons), after enduring years of resistance from state-owned and now defunct HMT Watches. Desais journey in building one of the largest indigenous brands in the country was not an easy one. While the idea of Titan came about in 1979, it took him seven long years to finally set up a factory in Hosur, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, in 1986 with support from the Tamil Nadu government. It was a time, Desai recalled of days in the 60s in an earlier interview with Mint, when one had to write an application to HMT to get a watch you see. One couldnt buy it in the open market. You then got a letter of approval from the department and then over a couple of weeks you had to go to a store to collect it. Before Titan, Desai spent four decades working across the Tata Group TAS, Tata Press, Taj Hotels fighting odds and making a case for businesses to flourish in a closed economy.

603. PM releases book titled 'The Birds of Banni Grassland'

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released a book titled The Birds of Banni Grassland in New Delhi, today. The book was presented to the Prime Minister by the Scientists of Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE).

The Book is a compilation of the research work, relating to more than 250 species of birds found in the Banni area of Kutch, Gujarat.

The Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, located at Bhuj, has been studying the plant, bird and marine life in the Rann of Kutch for over 15 years.

604. Cabinet clears mineral exploration policy

The National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP) on Wednesday got the Cabinet approval, paving the way for auction of 100 prospective mineral blocks. The Cabinet today cleared NMEP. After the policy is approved, the government can auction 100 blocks that have been identified by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) for exploration, a source said. The Mines Ministry has already notified the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). Through NMEP, the government wants to attract private sector in exploration, besides involving State-un GSI, MECL and other notified agencies. States will also play a greater role by referring exploration projects, which can be taken up through NMET, a State government official had said. One of the important features of NMEP is attractive provisions for private

investment in the exploration sector, the official added. NMEP has proposed that private entities engaged in carrying out regional and detailed exploration would get a certain share in revenue (by way of royalty or premium accruing to the State government) in mining operation from the successful bidder after the e-auction of the mineral block. The revenue-sharing could be either in the form of a lumpsum or an annuity, to be paid throughout the period of mining lease with transferable rights. Selection of private explorer is proposed to be done through a transparent process of competitive bidding through e-auction. For this, reasonable areas or blocks for regional exploration will be earmarked or identified by the government for auctioning. Of India's entire Obvious Geological Potential (OGP) area, identified by GSI, only 10 per cent has been explored and mining is undertaken in 1.5-2 per cent of this area. The Ministry of Mines has, in the recent past, taken a series of measures for the growth of the mineral sector, including allowing 100% FDI. However, these initiatives have fetched only limited success. Further, over the years the dynamics of the mineral sector have undergone sea change thereby creating new demands and imperatives. There is a compelling need to provide an impetus to exploration activity in the country. This has prompted the Government to carry out a comprehensive review of its exploration policy and strategy. The amendments brought in to the MMDR Act in 2015 is a step in this direction. The most important feature of this amendment is that mining leases (ML) and prospecting license-cum-mining lease (PL-cum-ML) will be granted only through an auction process. This is expected to bring in transparency, expeditiousness and simplification in procedures in grant of mineral concessions. Against this background, the NMEP has been framed so as to provide a new set of objectives, sense of purpose and direction to exploration within the amended legal framework.

605. ZSI to record climate change impact on animals

The Zoological Survey of India has started five long-term monitoring plots in the Himalayas to document the impact of climate change on the animal world. The project, funded by the Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, will monitor indicators in species like fish, butterflies, bees and other insects to find out how their distribution has been affected by climate change, officials said. ZSI director Kailash Chandra said it has very old records and will compare the distribution of species in the past and present to come out with a study report on the impact of climate change on their survival. The project will run for three years in West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and more than Rs. 2 crore has been earmarked for the exercise. Last year, 262 new animal species were discovered from India, of which 70 have been credited to ZSI scientists. Mr. Chandra said the number of scientists working in ZSI has decreased over the years.

606. Renowned modern artist K G Subramanyan dies at 92

Legendary artist K G Subramanyan, credited with being one of the pioneers of Indian modern art, passed away in Vadodara today at the age of 92.

In a career spanning over six decades, the multifaceted artist, who lived and worked in Baroda, had been a painter, sculptor, muralist and print maker besides an author of children's books. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2012, Padma Bhushan in 2006 and Padma Shri in 1975.

He was renowned for his outdoor murals, terracottas, and toys and also experimented with weaving. In the 1970s, he began experimenting with reverse painting, an 18th century craft tradition where the artist paints on a sheet of glass and reverses the glass to view the final image. Subramanyam is survived by his only daughter Uma and son-in-law.

607. Cabinet approves Revised Cost Estimates for establishment of Eight New IITs

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Revised Cost Estimates for establishment of eight New IITs at Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Indore, Jodhpur, Mandi, Patna and Ropar. The revised Cost Estimate is Rs. 13,990 crore for establishment of eight new IITs over a period of 11 years from 2008-09 to 2018-19. The original project cost was Rs. 6080 crore. The increase in expenditure due to escalation in both time and cost overrun is Rs. 7910 crore.

The student strength in each IIT at the end of the project will be 2360. The total student capacity would be 12880 in these eight IITs by the end of the 11th year i.e. March, 2019.

The direct beneficiaries in terms of numbers would be about 12880 students. However, indirectly the eight new IITs

would be expected to bring about quantitative and quality growth in the areas of research, publication of books and research papers, registered patents / trademarks / designs, quality improvement programmes. These institutes would also meet the emerging needs of the industry and the economy as a whole, for skilled technical manpower is expected to be met from the talent pool of trained personnel of these new institutions. Apart from this, these institutions will provide research and development atmosphere with sizeable infrastructure which will contribute to new innovations and good faculty for premier technical educational institutions in the country.

IITs are institutions of national importance and have a brand name across the world, the products of IITs have been highly rated and have already brought reputation to the nation. A large number of alumni have contributed to the nation in terms of employment generation, wealth creation, and technology development. Apart from this, the IITs through research development, technology innovations and entrepreneurial spirit have contributed to the economic growth of the nation.

Background:

The Cabinet in its meeting held in July, 2008, had approved establishment of eight new IITs at Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Indore, Jodhpur, Mandi, Patna and Ropar as per the DPR and Cabinet approval, each institute was to be established with a total outlay of Rs. 760 crores amounting to Rs. 6080 crores for all eight new IITs.

608. Rajasthan: Govt grants Indian citizenship to Pak displaced Hindus

In Rajasthan, Union Home Ministry is organizing a two day camp from today in Jodhpur to grant Indian citizenship to the Pak displaced Hindus living there for the last several years.

Union Home Secretary Rajeev Maharishi along with other official from Home Ministry are camping there to accept the new applications for citizenship and listen to their grievances.

It is estimated that there are more than 3000 such displaced Pakistanis living in Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner, Sriganganagar and Jaisalmer.

After Indian citizenship is granted to Pak displaced Hindus, they will be entitled to avail facilities such as ration card, voter card and school admission for their children.

609. Get your photo, logo on postage stamp for Rs 12 lakh

An individual or a corporate entity can now get their photo or logo printed inside the postage stamp by paying 12 lakh rupees.

Secretary Department of Posts S K Sinha told reporters in New Delhi today there will be five thousand sheets comprising 60 thousand postage stamps. These stamps can be used for general postal mail. Earlier, India Post only allowed printing of photo or design next to postage stamp on a three hundred rupees My Stamp sheet.

The department has issued customised My Stamp for e-commerce platform Amazon India, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and has received various proposals from various entities, including educational institutes.

Mr. Sinha said, proposals have been received to print My Stamp from Western Union, SNTD Women's University, Allahabad High Court and many others worth two crore rupees in this fiscal. Total revenue from My Stamp last fiscal was of 2.83 crore rupees.

610. AIFF to launch National Under-13 League next year

In a significant move towards the development of the game at the grassroots, All India Football Federation will launch an Under-13 National League next year.

AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das said the league would be open to Under-13 teams of the Indian Super League, I-League and academies certified by the federation.

"AIFF stays committed to taking the sport to the kids and we feel 2017 is the best calendar year to launch the Under-13 league as it's also the year of the FIFA U-17 World Cup which will be hosted in India," Das told PTI.

"After the success of Under-19 I-League and Under-15 League, the Under-13 League is the next step in the structure which takes us closer to the grassroots," he added.

Asked which teams would be competing in the Under-13 League, Das said, "We expect all the clubs both from I-League and Indian Super League along with certain AIFF certified Academies."

AIFF Technical Director Scott O'Donnell said the Under-13 League would be one in the "right direction".

"Playing competitive football plays a big role in a player's development. There are some school tournaments for that age-group but with most of them being knock-out ones, the kids lose out when their team loses," he said.

"The Under-13 League will ensure that the players get to play a minimum number of games."

AIFF is currently following an academy certification system which would ensure that academies with right philosophy would be given preference.

Meanwhile, the AIFF organised a three-day Advanced Grassroots Course aimed at "talent identification".

"The advanced GR Programme is a step in the right direction and is of great relevance to the Under-13 National League," Das said.

611. Govt signs MoU with JNU to start courses on animal welfare activities

Ministry of Environment and Forests has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU with Jawaharlal Nehru University to start courses on various animal welfare activities at National Institute of Animal Welfare.

Talking to reporters in New Delhi, Minister for Environment and Forests Prakash Javadekar said, the courses will begin from this academic session. He said, initially there will be certificate and diploma courses and later there will also be Post Graduate courses.

Mr Javadekar said, the Ministry has put in place online process for granting environment clearances to the projects. He said, the Ministry has also opened a new portal for online approval to sand mining and minerals at district level.

He said, a hundred day time frame has been set to grant clearances to the projects without compromising environmental norms to avoid delay.

612. Four Indian-Americans to be honoured with Great Immigrants Award

Four Indian-Americans, including Google CEO Sunder Pichai, are among 42 US nationals to be honoured with this year's prestigious "Great Immigrants: The Pride of America" award for their inspiring professional accomplishments.

The other three Indian-Americans are Hari Sreenivasan, anchor and senior correspondent, PBS NewsHour, Vikram Malhotra Chairman of the Americas, McKinsey Company and Bharati Mukherjee National, Book Critics Circle Award-winning author.

The annual award of the Carnegie Corporation would be presented to them at an event in New York on June 30, a statement said on Tuesday.

For 2016, the corporation named 42 honorees, who represent some 30 different countries of origin, a wide range of personal immigration stories, and inspiring professional accomplishments. "These accomplished Americans are immigrants like our forefathers, who founded this nation of nations," said Vartan Gregorian, president of Carnegie Corporation of New York. "They are representative of the millions of immigrants who have come to the United States for economic opportunity, education, political or religious asylum, security, or reunification with families and relatives.

They, like all Americans, share a common faith in this country," he said. Pakistani American Shaiza Rizavi partner, Gilder, Gagnon, Howe Co are also in the list of awardees.

613. **235 crore person days' work generated by MGNREGA: Govt**

Often under attack over alleged poor execution of MGNREGA scheme, Government today claimed the average person days employment generated per household last fiscal was highest in eight years at 49 days even as there was improvement in timely payment of wages under the livelihood programme during the span. In its report titled, 'Performance, Initiatives and Strategies FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17', the government claimed that a total of 235 crore person days' work were generated last year.

The programme, the report said, could reach irrigation potential in 46.43 lakh hectares with a range of natural resource management initiatives - ponds, dams, wells, check dams, afforestation, land development, water shed management works, etc and benefited 33.61 lakh people. 55 percent of the total beneficiaries were women, a large quantum of whom is from scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and other vulnerable sections, the report states. Union Rural Development Minister Birender Singh, who released the report at a national conference of state Panchayati Raj Ministers here, claimed the timely payment of wages resulted in bringing back beneficiaries - who had distanced themselves from the scheme due to delay in wage payments - back to the programme. "The 49-day average is highest in past eight years. The previous highest was 46. Also, last year the MGNREGA budget was Rs 37,000 crore, while the expenditure stands at Rs 43,000 crore plus. So, the expenditure is additional Rs 6,000 crore. 235 crore person days is also a five-year record," Singh told reporters.

614. **India maintain third position in ICC ODI team rankings**

India maintained its number three position in the ICC ODI team rankings which is being headed by world champions Australia. With 110 rating points in its kitty, India are placed below Australia (123) and second-placed New Zealand (113).

In the ICC Player Rankings for ODI batsmen, India's Virat Kohli is placed second while Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan occupy the sixth and eighth positions respectively. According to ICC Ranking released in Dubai, South Africa's AB de Villiers has continued to lead the ODI batsmen chart while his countryman Hashim Amla is placed third.

Meanwhile, no Indian features in the top 10 of the ICC Player Rankings for ODI bowlers which is being headed by West Indian Sunil Narine, followed by New Zealand's Trent Boult and Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan.

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is the highest placed India in the 11th spot.

Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan leads the the ODI all-rounders ranking.

615. **Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding between Union Public Service Commission and Royal Civil Service Commission, Bhutan**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC), Bhutan.

The MoU will strengthen the existing relationship between RCSC and UPSC. It will facilitate sharing of experience and expertise of both the parties in the area of recruitment.

The draft MoU between UPSC and RCSC, Bhutan will be signed to develop institutionalized linkage between the Public Service Commission of both the countries, which share the common ideals. The areas of cooperation include the following:

- a) Sharing of experience and expertise in Civil Service matters such as recruitment and selection, exchange of resource persons and development of professional skills of the officers and staff of the parties through attachment and training programs.
- b) Sharing of expertise on use of Information Technology (IT) in examination processes, Computer Based Recruitment

Tests and Examinations, sharing of experience in Single Window System for expeditious scrutiny and speedy disposal of cases, building merit based staffing system, etc.

c) Sharing of experience on the modalities adopted on audit of processes and procedures followed by various Government agencies in recruitment for posts under the delegated powers.

d) Digitization of records, storage and display of historical records.

Background:

In the past, UPSC had signed MOU with Public Service Commission of Canada and Bhutan.

616. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Tanzania

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Tanzania for bilateral cooperation in water resources management and development.

The areas of enhanced cooperation include techniques in water harvesting, surface and groundwater management and development and aquifer recharge. Collaboration and sharing of expertise on the areas mutually agreed will benefit the country in techniques in water harvesting, water conservation, surface and groundwater management and development, and aquifer recharge. The Government shall encourage the exchange of experts, organization of training programs, study tours and other such activities including demonstrative pilot studies, in order to build capacities in the areas mentioned above. A Joint Working Group shall be formed to monitor the activities under the MoU.

Background:

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (WR, RDGR) has been envisaging bilateral cooperation with other countries in water resources development and management. These are mainly through sharing of policy and technical expertise, conducting of training courses, workshops, scientific and technical symposia, exchange of experts and study tours.

The enhanced cooperation comes in the wake of the visit of Minister of Water Resources, RD and GR, Government of Tanzania to New Delhi on 16th July, 2014. The two sides discussed the issue of water harvesting and management practices and decided to have a MoU after mutual consultations.

617. Statistics Day - JUNE 29 - 2016

The Government of India has been observing 29th June every year, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, as Statistics Day, since 2007, in the category of Special Days being celebrated at the national level, for creating public awareness, particularly among the younger generation, for drawing inspiration from the notable contributions made by Late Professor Mahalanobis in the field of economic planning and statistical development. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation will be celebrating the 10th Statistics Day on 29/6/2016 (Wednesday).

618. Launch of Prashikshak - Teacher Education Portal

Prashikshak, the teacher education portal for District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) will be launched by the Honble Minister of Human Resource and Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani on 30th June, 2016 at Hall No. 4 Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The objective of Prashikshak is to help DIETs make informed decisions about their institutes, compare the performance of their institute against other DIETs in the state/country as well as help aspiring teachers make informed decisions about which institute to join. Prashikshak Portal has been developed by the Ministry of HRD in collaboration with Central Square Foundation.

619. **BRICS Youth Summit, 2016 at Guwahati, Assam from 1st to 3rd July 2016**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in his remark at Fortaleza BRICS Summit, had stressed the role of youth and sports in furthering intra-BRICS cooperation. In this regard he had also announced Under-17 Football Cup during India's BRICS Chairmanship 2016. Shri Modi has laid special emphasis on giving wider publicity and dissemination of the BRICS events and their organization across the cities and provinces of India.

. Role of youth in fostering intra-BRICS bonds has been recognized during the past Summits. Youthful democratic profile of most BRICS countries combined with their economic vibrancy can be an asset in consolidating exchanges between BRICS countries. Investment in youth will make them stakeholders in future activities of the group. This is also aligned with Prime Minister's desire that our events be participative and people-centric.

It is in this context that BRICS Youth Summit, 2016 is being organised at Guwahati (Assam) from 1st to 3rd July, 2016. The Theme for the Summit is Youth as bridge for Intra-BRICS Exchanges. The subjects to be covered by thematic debates are (i) Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, (ii) Social Inclusion, (iii) Youth Volunteerism and (iv) Youth Participation in Governance. The programme for the Summit also includes thematic debates, cultural events, site-visits and interactive sessions with local youth. The Youth Summit would also be an occasion to introduce India's North-East to BRICS youth.

. The Youth delegates will also have an occasion to call upon the External Affairs Minister in New Delhi and to meet Assam Leadership and Senior Officials at Guwahati, Assam during the course of the Summit.

620. **What is Strategic sale? What is the role of NITI Aayog and DIPAM in strategic sale?**

In the budget 2016, the Government has proposed strategic sale or strategic disinvestment of PSEs for reviving them as well as to mobilize funds from the sale of shares of PSEs. In the near future, the strategic sale route where a considerable proportion of the shares of a PSE is transferred to a private sector investor will be adopted. This is another form of restructuring the PSEs just like the disinvestment route. The government has made a target of Rs 20500 crore revenue from strategic sale during 2016-17. On the other hand, disinvestment target is Rs 56500. Strategic sale was a method of privatization many years back but was not adopted over the last ten years. The disinvestment commission has defined strategic sale: "Strategic disinvestment would imply the sale of substantial portion of the Government shareholding of a central public sector enterprise (CPSE) of upto 50%, or such higher percentage as the competent authority may determine, along with transfer of management control." The idea for strategic sale comes from the government's policy for a comprehensive approach for efficient management of Government investment in CPSEs. Various programmes like addressing issues such as capital restructuring, dividend, bonus shares, etc. will be made as part of this policy. As a matter of change, the Department of Disinvestment is being re-named as the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). What is NITI Aayog's role in strategic sale? After budget 2016, the Finance Ministry has empowered the NITI Aayog to advise the Government on strategic disinvestment of CPSEs. It will do the following functions with regard to strategic sale. It will identify the CPSEs for strategic disinvestment. It will advise the government on mode of sale and percentage of shares to be sold; and It will suggest methods for valuation of the CPSE. The above responsibility of the NITI Aayog means it has to initiate the process of strategic disinvestment of CPSEs. The budget has given power to the NITI to identify public sector companies for strategic sale. In June 16, 2016, the NITI has prepared a report on CPSEs and suggested 32 PSUs for strategic sale including CPSEs. It has also suggested the winding up of 26 CPSEs out of the total 74. What is the role of DIPAM in strategic sale? After the NITI Aayog's suggestions, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) is finalizing a model for strategic sale of shares of PSEs. Earlier the government has approved the proposal of DIPAM for laying down the procedure and mechanism for strategic disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). Hence, the procedure for strategic sale will be prepared by DIPAM.

621. **London Mayor Appoints Indian-Origin Millionaire As Deputy**

London's Pakistan-origin mayor Sadiq Khan today announced an India-born millionaire as his deputy for business to champion the city's financial interests amid the fall-out of the EU referendum.

39-year-old self-made millionaire Rajesh Agarwal grew up in humble surroundings in India and went on to London to set up foreign exchange giant RationalFX, which had a turnover of more than 1.3 billion pounds last year.

The businessman who has also founded international money transfer service Xendpay is featured in the 'Sunday Times' rich list with a fortune of 90 million pounds.

"The mayor and I are determined to build a coalition that ensures the needs of business and financial services are at the fore over the coming months of negotiations with the EU. "My first priority will be to listen and engage with businesses, to hear their concerns and deliver reassurance," said Agarwal, who will step down from his businesses to focus on his new role at City Hall in London.

622. Central government staff to get 23.5% hike in salaries

The center declared a trend setting pay hike for its employees and pensioners under the Seventh Pay Commission Report. Nearly one crore central government employees and pensioners will get the benefit of the new package from January this year with arrears. The new hike will increase the budgetary burden of Rs 102100 crore this year and Rs 72800 crore next year according to the Finance Minister. Entry level pay will be RS 18000 whereas the Cabinet secretary will get the highest salary of RS 2.5 lakh. Salary of the Cabinet Secretary will be higher than that of MPs. Finance Minister Arun Jaitely said that the increased emoluments will promote consumption, savings and tax revenues in the economy. What makes the pay commission award appealing for the center is its impact on budget. Nearly one lakh expenditure on salaries and pension is expected to bring additional pressure on fiscal deficit target. The increase in pay and emoluments made by the center may also produce pressure on state governments to raise the salaries of state government employees.

623. India successfully test-fires surface-to-air missile

India on Thursday successfully tested a surface-to-air missile, developed jointly with Israel, from a defence base off the Odisha coast. The medium range missile (MRSAM) was successfully launched from a mobile launcher in the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur at 08.15 hours, a DRDO official said. The test launch was a grand success and it met all the targets, he said. The missile positioned at launch pad3 of the ITR swung into action after getting signal from the radars to intercept a moving aerial target supported by an unmanned air vehicle (UAV) Banshee over the Bay of Bengal, officials said. Apart from the missile, the system includes a Multi Functional Surveillance and Threat Alert Radar (MF STAR) for detection, tracking and guidance of the missile, they said. The missile, along with MFSTAR, will provide the users with the capability to neutralise any aerial threats, said a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientist. The Hyderabad-based Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), a laboratory of the DRDO, had jointly developed this missile in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), he said. A new production facility to deliver 100 missiles a year had been established for such type of missiles at Bharat Dynamics Limited. The missile, which was initially proposed to be tested on Wednesday, was deferred at the last moment to Thursday. The Indian Navy had successfully tested a long range surface-to-air missile (LRSAM). The test was undertaken on the Western Seaboard by INS Kolkata on December 30 last officials said. Such type of SRSAMs can fill the gap of existing missiles that India has in its armoury at present, they said. These missiles would be inducted in all the three Services after the users trials are completed. As a safety measure, the Balasore district administration, in consultation with the defence officials, temporarily shifted 3652 civilians residing within 2.5 km radius of the launch pad No.3 of the ITR to nearby shelter centres in the morning to ensure a safe launch of the missile, said a district revenue official. Fishermen in the Odisha coastal districts of Balasore, Bhadrakh and Kendrapada were asked not to venture into the sea during the test.

624. Railway Minister launches online grievance redressal system

An online grievance redressal system is being developed by the Railways for both its serving as well as retired employees. The system 'Nivaran' will become operational by June 24, according to railways. The main focus areas of the grievance redressal will be reimbursement of medical claims, pension claim, compassionate appointment and improvement in staff quarters. It will have provision for tracking progress on grievances and appeals. Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu would personally be able to review and monitor the functioning of this system. Currently, serving staff have a few forums available to them that allows them to interact with administration on resolution of their issues. However, availability of such facilities for retired staff is very limited. 'Nivaran' will benefit around 13.26 lakh serving railway employees and around 13.79 lakh retired railway personnel, the official said.

625. Parrisar dedicates DCN to the nation

Defence minister Manohar Parrikar today said defence communication network (DCN) is an important step towards joint operation and integrated communication architecture between the Army, Navy and Air Force. Dedicating the DCN to the nation, Mr Parrikar said these tri service net centricity will put in place the mechanism for jointmanship which will exponentially improve the military might of the nation in operations. Mr Parrikar complimented the Corps of Signals of Indian Army on the exemplary implementation of the first tri-services network of the Armed Forces, thus realising the vision of Digital India.

Chairman chief of staff committee and chief of the Air Staff Arup Raha said DCN is a major step towards ensuring Network centricity across the three services. Mr Raha said the network provides converged voice, data and video services to the Tri-services based on secured system with adequate redundancy.

Lt Gen Nitin Kohli, signal officer in chief said the network has a pan India reach. Lt Gen Kohli complimented Premkumar Seshadri, HCL infosystems MP for implementing this unique network.

626. China launches second Shijian-16 series satellite

China launched its second Shijian-16 series satellite. The satellite was carried by a Long March-4B rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The Shijian-16 satellite will be used for space environment measurements, radiation and its effect as well as technology testing. The first Shijian-16 satellite was launched in October 2013. This launch was the 231st flight by a Long March rocket. Long March-4B rocket It is used for the launch of sun-synchronous orbit meteorological satellites. It was first introduced in May 1999 and was developed by the Shanghai Academy of Space Flight Technology (SAST) based on the Chang Zheng-4. It is capable to launch a 2800 kg satellite into low Earth orbit, developing 2971 kN at launch. The 248470 kg rocket is 45.58 meters long and has a diameter of 3.35 meters.

627. Gujarat, Delhi Most Investment-Friendly, Andhra, Tamil Nadu Most Corrupt

Gujarat and Delhi are India's most investment-friendly states. Bihar and Jharkhand are the worst. Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are the most corrupt states for doing business. West Bengal is the most difficult for land acquisition, environmental clearances and approvals.

These are the findings of the recent "The NCAER State Investment Potential Index", released by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), which evolved an index to grade states on five main issues: Labour, infrastructure, economic climate, political stability and governance, and perceptions of a good business climate.

The report contains two types of rankings: First, N-SIPI 21, an index that ranks 21 states on the five issues, including through industry surveys; second, N-SIPI 30 which includes all states - including nine not covered by industry surveys - and are based on four issues, excluding perception.

The data reveals that Gujarat tops the N-SIPI 21 index, followed by Delhi and Tamil Nadu, while Delhi, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu top the N-SIPI 30 index.

Bihar and Jharkhand fall in the bottom five states in both rankings.

628. Arun Kumar Bhaduri to take over as IGCAR Director

Distinguished scientist Arun Kumar Bhaduri would tomorrow take over as the Director of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), the research centre said today. He would replace S A V Satya Murthy, who is superannuating today, it said in a release. Bhaduri joined the training school of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in 1983 and received the Homi Bhabha Medal for being the overall topper. An IIT Kharagpur alumni, Bhaduri joined IGCAR in 1984 and became the Director, Metallurgy and Materials Group.

He was also the Senior Professor at the Homi Bhabha National Institute. He received several awards, including the Metallurgist of the Year Award in 2003 by the Ministry of Steel.