



Current Affairs September - 2016

120, Gokale Street

Ramnagar

Opp - Senthil Kumaran Theatre

Coimbatore

Phone:0422 4378847, 9994146662



SHANMUGAM

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1. Petroleum companies to hold first international conference on cooking gas in Bhubaneswar from today

State-owned petroleum companies will hold the nations first international conference on cooking gas in Bhubaneswar from today. The two-day meeting will deliberate on the need for an LPG-enabled household and use of traditional cooking fuels. Delegates from over a dozen developing countries, such as Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria, Nepal and Sri Lanka will participate in the conference.

Jharkhand Governor Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the conference. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will attend the event.

2. Odisha CM to share his thoughts through Radio every month

Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, would share his thoughts on different issues through the radio for 10 minutes every month. This was decided at a meeting chaired by Mr Patnaik yesterday. The State government has decided to launch Biju Goan Radio through which the Chief Minister would address the people soon.

The programme would provide information on agriculture, cooperation, health, education, irrigation and culture. It would be broadcast from 6 pm to 7 pm for one hour every day. The repeat broadcast would be held from 8 pm to 9 pm on the same day.

3. Justice Dhingra submits report on Robert Vadra's land deals

A judicial inquiry into the controversial land deals in Haryana allegedly involving Congress President Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra has submitted its report to the state government. Justice S N Dhingra heading the inquiry commission, presented a 182-page report to Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar yesterday. The Commission had been appointed to probe land deals in Gurgaon during the tenure of the then Chief Minister, Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Interacting with media after submitting the report, Justice Dhingra said he has elaborated in the report the manners adopted to commit irregularities and the people behind it. He, however, refused to give details of the report as the government has not made it public yet.

The Chief Minister said, the government is studying the report and action will be taken against guilty thereafter. Former Chief Minister Bhupender Singh Hooda has said that inquiry is nothing but witch hunt against political opponents.

4. Solung festival is being celebrated in Arunachal

The Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating Solung festival from today. The festival is celebrated in the first week of September every year for 5 days. Solung is an agro-based festival. It also reflects the socio-religious features of the Adi people.

People perform various rituals and make offerings to gods and goddesses during the celebration and pray for a bumper harvest. Mithun, Great Indian Bison, whose sacrifice is given during the celebration, is considered as holy animal and occupies an important religious significance among the Adis. People present gifts of meat and Apong (rice beer) to neighbours and relatives on the occasion thus cementing family and social relationships.

Another feature of this festival is care and protection of animals which are vital components of their family and social life. Merry-making and feasting also form a part of this celebration.

In brief, Solung reflects the Adi community's cultural, socio-economic and spiritual values.

5. 100-Year-Old Runner From India Gets Gold Medal

Man Kaur from India needed almost a minute-and-a-half to cross the finish line in the 100-meter dash, but she still picked up a gold medal Monday at the American Masters Games.

That's because the 100-year-old Kaur was the only female competitor in her age category at the competition for older athletes. When she crossed the finish line in Vancouver, her competitors many of them in their 70s and 80s, were there

to cheer her on.

Earlier, she won gold medals in the javelin and shot put. Kaur has now won more than 20 medals in Masters Games across the globe.

The World Masters Games take place every four years, with regional games in between. The average age of the athletes is 49, and there's one man who is even older than Kaur 101-year-old Nihal Gill of Richmond, British Columbia.

6. R Ashwin remains highest-placed Indian bowler

Off-spinner R Ashwin dropped a rung to 3rd but remained the highest-placed Indian bowler, while Ajinkya Rahane remained static at 8th in the batsmen's list of the latest ICC Test rankings issued today.

Rahane was the lone Indian in the top-10 of batting charts but among the bowlers, Ravindra Jadeja was there at 8th to give Ashwin company in the top-10.

South Africa pace bowler Dale Steyn stormed back to the number-one position rankings for Test bowlers after producing a match-winning performance in the Centurion Test that helped his side complete a 204-run victory over New Zealand.

Steyn has now been number-one for a record 263 Tests with Muralidaran coming second in the list at 214 weeks. In terms of days, Steyn has spent 2,320 days at the top, the most by any bowler since World War II.

Meanwhile, the 1-0 series win has pushed South Africa up two places to fifth in the Team Rankings, while New Zealand have slipped two places to seventh. India stand 2nd in the list behind Pakistan.

7. What is National Pension System (NPS)?

The National Pension System (NPS) is the umbrella old age social security mechanism for providing pension to the citizens. It was launched on 1st January, 2004 with the objective of providing retirement income to all the citizens. NPS aims to institute pension reforms and to spread the habit of saving for retirement amongst the citizens. A remarkable feature of the NPS is that it provides pension to the employees of the formal sector (central and state government and other organized sector employees) and also to unorganised sector workforce. For the organized sector, NPS scheme is designed with tax concessions to encourage participation. Central Government Employees, State Government Employees, as well as all citizens between the age of 18 to 60 can join the NPS. Pension for the unorganised sector Atal Pension Yojana For the unorganised sector, government is also contributing to the pension premium of the citizens. There are schemes aimed at providing coverage to people who are not covered under the usual NPS launched for organized sector can join it. Government has designed several initiatives like the NPS Lite, Swavalamban and later the Atal Pension Yojana for providing pension to the unorganised sector. The Atal Pension Yojana replaced the Swalamban scheme. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is the pension scheme focusing on the unorganised sector workers. Under the APY, guaranteed minimum pension of Rs. 1,000/-, 2,000/-, 3,000/-, 4,000 and 5,000/- per month will be given at the age of 60 years depending on the contributions by the subscribers. The minimum age of joining APY is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years. In APY, Government will co-contribute 50% of the total contribution or Rs. 1,000/- per annum, whichever is lower, to the eligible APY account holders who join the scheme. The Government contribution will be given for 5 years from FY 2015-16 to 2019-20. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) PFRDA is the autonomous body set up by the Government of India to develop and regulate the pension market in India including the administration of the NPS. NPS offers following important features to help subscriber save for retirement: The subscriber will be allotted a unique Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN). This unique account number will remain the same for the rest of subscriber's life. This unique PRAN can be used from any location in India. PRAN will provide access to two personal accounts: Tier I Account: This is a non-withdrawable account meant for savings for retirement. Tier II Account: This is simply a voluntary savings facility. The subscriber is free to withdraw savings from this account whenever subscriber wishes. No tax benefit is available on this account. Benefits of NPS Some of the benefits of the National Pension System (NPS) are: It is transparent - NPS is transparent and cost effective system wherein the pension contributions are invested in the pension fund schemes and the

employee will be able to know the value of the investment on day to day basis. It is simple - All the subscriber has to do, is to open an account with his/her nodal office and get a Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN). It is portable - Each employee is identified by a unique number and has a separate PRAN which is portable i.e., will remain same even if an employee gets transferred to any other office. It is regulated - NPS is regulated by PFRDA, with transparent investment norms regular monitoring and performance review of fund managers by NPS Trust. Taxability of NPS Presently, the NPSs tax treatment is on EET (Exempt, Exempt, Tax) mode. That means the subscription to NPS is exempted from tax, the accruals from the contribution and the amount used by the subscriber to buy the annuity is also not taxable. Tax will be there only when the subscriber gets his pension after 60 years of age. Income tax concessions for NPS Different income tax concessions are extended by the government for the subscription of NPS. The major one is section 80CCD. Section 80 CCD NPS offers tax deduction in the form of two sections 80CCD (1) and 80CCD (2). Section 80 CCD is for investment in pension schemes of the Central Government i.e., for contribution to the National Pension Scheme. Deduction under this section is available only to individuals and to HUFs. The individual claiming deduction under this section may be Resident or Non Resident. Section 80 CCD (1) is for employees contribution towards notified pension scheme (NPS). Section 80 CCD (2): deduction to NPS scheme for contribution by the employer (NPS).

8. New Health Insurance Scheme in Andhra Pradesh to Launch Soon

The state government of Andhra Pradesh would introduce a new health insurance scheme in the state in coming months. The government has assured of coming up with a scheme similar to the one launched by the previous Congress Government. The new scheme would provide a comprehensive health coverage to the state residents. The announcement of the new health insurance scheme will be made after holding talks with the insurance firms and completing other mandatory procedures. The new scheme will be launched on the likes of the previous health insurance scheme of AP Government. Apart for this, the state government would also introduce free whole body checkup scheme at the government hospitals. The scheme is not launched yet, the information above is tentative, keep visiting this page for more information on this scheme.

9. 3 New Self-Employment Scheme Launched in Telangana

The state government of Telangana has decided to launch three new self employment scheme to provide livelihood to the youth. The government has introduced three types of new self employment scheme on 30th August, Tuesday. The three schemes, Scheme-A, Scheme-B and Scheme-C will cater the needs of different project models based on the capital requirement. Under the scheme-A, for projects up to Rs. 1 lakh, 80 per cent of the unit cost will be borne by government as subsidy whereas the remaining 20 per cent amount would be provided as loan through banks. Similarly, Scheme-B is for the projects costing between Rs. 1 Lakh to 2 Lakh. In this case, government subsidy would be 70% of the total cost while rest can be availed as loan from the banks. Scheme-C will cater the financial needs of projects costing more than Rs. 2 Lakh. Under this scheme, the state government would bear 60% of the cost of the project or a maximum of Rs. 5 Lakh. Allowed Activities

As per the scheme guidelines, the government will allow all types of activities under the scheme-A while only industrial or service related activities are allowed in Scheme-B and Scheme-C. Under the Scheme-C, the small scale industry can be setup. Preference will be given to the industry being setup in the rural areas in the state. How to Apply The candidates selected under the Scheme-B and C would become eligible for the loan after undergoing a special Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) training. The eligible candidates as per the qualification and age limit can apply for the scheme through MPDO, municipal commissioners concerned. The applications then will be scrutinized and recommended to the district level committee. Then, the district sanction committee will scrutinize the applications and accord administrative sanction to release financial assistance in the form of subsidy to the bank account of the selected beneficiary.

10. Indian Railways Passenger Travel Insurance Scheme Starts

Announced in railway budget 2016-17, the travel insurance scheme for the passengers has been launched by the Indian Railways. Under the new scheme, railway is providing an insurance cover of Rs. 10 Lakh at a premium of mere 92 Paise. The premium can be paid while booking a ticket from irctc website. The insurance is however optional, it is up to you to opt for the insurance cover. The facility is available to all those booking e-tickets and traveling by passenger trains except suburban trains. The facility is available irrespective of the class. The insurance cover would not be applicable to children below 5 years of age and foreign citizens. The scheme will be applicable for passengers holding

confirmed, RAC or wait listed ticket. Under the scheme, the insurance company would pay the nominee a sum of Rs. 10 Lakh in case of death or total disability. 7.5 Lakh in case of partial disability, upto Rs 2 lakh for hospitalization expenses and Rs 10,000 for transportation of mortal remains from the place of a train accident or where an untoward incident, including terrorist attack, dacoity, rioting, shootout or arson, occurs. The premium will not be refunded in case of cancellation of the ticket.

11. **Samajwadi Yuva Swarozgar Yojana Loan Scheme**

Samajwadi Yuva Swarozgar Yojana is a new self-employment scheme launched by the Uttar Pradesh Government in order to make the youth self-reliant. Under the Samajwadi Yuva Swarozgar Yojana, the state government provides financial assistance in forms of loan for setting up industry. Under the scheme, the state government would allow the unemployed youth in the state to avail loan from the nationalized banks and setup their business/industry. Samajwadi Yuva Swarozgar Yojana Features A loan of up to 25 Lakh to setup an industry and 25% of the cost of the project in case of service industry. Margin money of up to 6.25 Lakh in case of industry and up to 2.5 Lakh in case of service industry. General category candidates are required to contribute 10% of the cost of the project while special category candidates are required to contribute only 5% of the cost of the project. Samajwadi Yuva Swarozgar Yojana Eligibility The applicant should be the permanent resident of Uttar Pradesh. The age of applicant should be between 18-40 years. Minimum qualification is 10th passout. Applicant should not have been declared defaulter by any financial institution. The applicant should not already be a beneficiary of any such scheme of state or central government. The applicant or anyone in his/her household will be benefited only once under the scheme. Affidavit has to be presented as mandatory document for availing the loan facility.

12. **Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana Launched in Odisha**

Chief Minister of Odisha has launched a new scheme, named as Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana, the scheme is aimed at improving the sex ratio at birth and child sex ratio in three districts of the state. The scheme was launched during the birth centenary celebrations of legendary leader Biju Patnaik here at the Secretariat. The chief minister also unveiled the logo of the scheme during the launch. The Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana will be implemented on pilot basis in three districts of the state including the CMs home district, Ganjam. The other two districts would be Dhenkanal and Angul. The child sex ratio in these three districts has declined to an alarming level. Under the Biju Kanya Ratna scheme, the state government would focus on all round development of the girl child including their education and health. The state government has made a provision of Rs. 3.5 Crore for the scheme.

13. **G-20 Summit begins in China**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for an action oriented agenda of collective, coordinated and targeted action from G 20 members.

Speaking at the opening session of the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China Sunday afternoon, he said, this will require strong network of partnerships.

Mr Modi said, the current global situation faces complex political and economic challenges.

He laid out an agenda for structural reforms to revive global growth.

He asked for creating an environment for free flow of goods, services and human resource.

The Prime Minister said, policies of member nations need to be people centric and inclusive and also allow easy access to digital technologies and promote development of skill set.

Mr Modi said, connected machines, digital revolution and new technology is laying foundation for the next generation global growth.

The prime Minister said countries should refrain from competitive devaluation of their currencies.

He also stressed on reducing external imbalances and keep the exchange rates stable.

Meanwhile, G-20 summit began in Chinese city of Hangzhou on Sunday. Declaring the summit open, Chinese President and Chairman of the summit Xi Jinping urged partnership among the members to tackle challenges and realize shared goal of economic growth.

During the meeting US President urged Beijing to uphold its legal obligations in the disputed waters of the South China Sea.

He also stressed the commitments of the US to its regional allies. While Xi said China would continue to safeguard its sovereignty and maritime rights in the South China Sea.

14. **Mother Teresa is now St. Teresa of Calcutta**

Mother Teresa is now Saint Teresa of Calcutta following canonization by Pope Francis in Vatican City.

Thousands of Mother Teresa's followers had gather at St. Peter's Square to witness the canonization of the Nobel Peace laureate , who dedicated her life to helping the poor.

The canonization comes on the eve of her 19th death anniversary.

She will now be known as Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

The canonization ceremony began at 2 pm and was followed by an Eucharistic celebration.

A 12-member central delegation led by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and two state government-level delegations from Delhi and West Bengal, led by Chief Ministers Arvind Kejriwal and Mamata Banerjee represented India at the ceremony.

Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997.

On October 19, 2003, Pope John Paul II beatified Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She was conferred with the country's highest award Bharat Ratna.

Minister of State for Communications Manoj Sinha on Sunday released a special postage stamp to mark Mother Teresas canonisation as a saint at The Vatican.

The postage stamp was released at Divine Child High School in Andheri in Mumbai to commemorate the event being celebrated globally.

While releasing the stamp, Mr. Sinha said that her canonisation is a matter of pride for the nation. He said, Mother Teresa devoted her whole life serving the poor and destitute people in India.

In Kolkata, nuns shed tears of joy and hugged each other, amid euphoric scenes at the Mother House, the global headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity, as the orders founder Mother Teresa was declared a saint by the Vatican on Sunday.

Nuns of the Missionaries of Charity on Sunday cheered joyously and loudly, clapped freely and rang bells the moment Pope Francis at Vatican declared Mother Teresa a saint.

Decked up with larger-than-life posters of the Mother, the Mother House, headquarters of the congregation and house of the saint, was kept open throughout the day as visitors poured in to watch the ceremony live on big TV screens and offer flowers at her tomb.

Nuns decorated the Mother House with flowers, portraits of Teresa and lights.

Since morning, the House was kept open for public as visitors came throughout the day to pay their respects to the

Mother.

We remain focused on the service of the poor and staying away from worldly pleasures of life is an integral part of the congregation. But this is an exceptional case. We all are very overjoyed. She is our mother and so we have to watch this, they said.

15. Delhi govt orders restarting registration of diesel vehicles of 2000 cc and above

The Delhi government has ordered restarting registration of diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000 cc and above on payment of one per cent of the ex-showroom price of such vehicles as green cess. The move comes after the Supreme Court on 12th of last month lifted its order banning registration of such diesel cars upon one per cent of the cost of the vehicle deposited with Central Pollution Control Board, CPCB.

In an order issued last week, the Transport Department of Delhi government directed all Regional Transport Officers to register these vehicles in the capital. The purchaser has to give one per cent of the cost of the vehicle as Environment Protection Charge to dealers who will be required to deposit this amount with CPCB for pollution mitigation efforts.

16. Railway budget likely to be presented by Finance Minister by 2017

By 2017, the railway budget is likely to be presented by the Finance Minister in general way and not separately as a Railway budget. Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu assured this at International Conference on Indian Railways held in Mumbai today. He said that a committee has been set up for the same. Mr Prabhu intends to scrap the 90 year colonial trend of presenting the railway budget separately. He wants it to be presented by the Finance Minister of India in a consolidated way along with the general budget.

Emphasising on railway safety, the minister said that it is one of the most serious concerns which the Ministry is focusing upon for which a demand of 5 lakh crores has already been made to the Finance Ministry for the next 5 years.

Mr Prabhu said that the State joint ventures with Indian Railways is going to be a game changer in the times to come . The major advantage of joint ventures with the State is that the management bandwidth would be increased which would definitely speed up the implementation process and completion can be achieved within the stipulated span of time.

17. Odisha govt inks lease agreement with Falcon Marine Exports

Odisha government has signed a lease agreement with Falcon Marine Exports for the operation of Jagatjore Shrimp Culture Project in coastal Kendrapara district.

Odisha's Fisheries and Animal Resource Development Minister Pradeep Kumar Maharathy said the the government decided to go for long term lease agreement with Falcon Marine Exports, who was the highest bidder, to revive the project.

The Project executed in 2000 had become defunct as only crop was partially successful, he said.

The lease period will be for 15 years which, will fetch a revenue of 13 crore rupees to the government, the minister added.

18. Air India Express turns profitable for the first time

Air India Express, the low-cost international subsidiary of Air India, has turned profitable for the first time since it started operations in 2005.

The airline has made net profit of 361.68 crore rupees in the fiscal year 2015-16 against the loss of Rs. 61 crore registered in the year 2014-15, said an Air India Express release.

K Shyam Sundar, CEO of Air India Express said this turnaround is the outcome of the sustained efforts made by every member of Team Air India Express.

He noted that the capacity offered and the Operating Revenues are expected to go up further by about 25 per cent in the

fiscal 2016-17.

19. **Serena Williams sets women's record of 307 victories in grand slams**

In Tennis, world number one Serena Williams has created history by setting a record of most number of Grand Slam matches wins by a woman in the Open era. In the US Open last night, the American defeated Johanna Larsson of Sweden, 6-2, 6-1 to progress to the pre-quarterfinals and surpass Martina Navratilova's record of 306 wins.

Serena is now tied with Roger Federer who holds the record for men.

Serena is eyeing to clinch a 23rd Grand Slam Singles title. If she wins, she will become the most successful woman in the Open Era. The American is currently equal with Steffi Graf with 22 major Singles titles.

Others who have entered the Singles fourth round include Andy Murray, Stanislas Wawrinka, Agnieszka Radwanska, Simona Halep, Juan Martin del Potro and Kei Nishikori.

In Mixed Doubles, Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian team-mate Gabriela Dabrowski stormed into the quarterfinals.

However, Leander Paes and Martina Hingis made an exit.

In Women's Doubles, the seventh seeded Indo-Czech pair of Sania Mirza and Barbora Strycova advanced to the pre-quarterfinals.

20. **Urjit Patel assumes charge as the new RBI Governor**

Dr. Urjit Patel has assumed charge as the 24th Governor of Reserve Bank, succeeding Raghuram Rajan whose three-year tenure ended yesterday. Dr. Patel assumed charge effective September 4 after serving as deputy governor since January 2013. He was reappointed as deputy governor on January 11, 2016, after the completion of his first three-year term in office.

Among his assignments as deputy governor, Dr Patel chaired the Expert Committee to Revise and Strengthen the Monetary Policy Framework. He has several publications in areas of Indian macroeconomics, monetary policy, public finance, financial sector, international trade, and regulatory economics. Dr. Patel has a PhD in economics from Yale University, an M Phil from University of Oxford and a BSc from the University of London.

21. **Nation celebrates Teacher's Day today**

Teachers' Day is being celebrated throughout the country today. Various programmes in schools and colleges throughout the country are being organised in the honour of teachers who shape the lives of students and show them the path of success. The day is celebrated on the birthday of educationist and former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan since 1962.

In his message, Pranab Mukherjee said, teachers day is an occasion to recognise the dedicated services of the teachers, who are engaged in building and strengthening the intellectual and ethical foundations of the children. He said, a sound education system is the bedrock of an enlightened society and inspired teachers are the building blocks of a good education system. President said, the teachers also need to imbibe technology and new methodologies to create modern and effective approaches to teaching and learning.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, the country salutes the dedication and commitment of all teachers, whose role in nation building is paramount. Mr Modi paid tributes to Dr. Radhakrishnan and said, he was a scholar, statesman and a respected teacher who shaped many minds and served the country.

22. **Assam CM to inaugurate world class library in NIT Silchar**

In Assam, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal is going to inaugurate a new world class library, Bharat Ratn Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Learning Resource Centre in National Institute of Technology (NIT), Silchar today. The library is established with the help of university of Illinois, USA.

The library is one of kind in the entire north-eastern region equipped with modern technology and infrastructure. NIT Silchar has invested approximately 28 crore rupees to create a world class library in the 80 thousand square feet carpet area.

During his day-long tour, Chief Minister will also take part in other programs organized by Assam University, Silchar Medical College and Hospital and Cachar Cancer Institute. He will also inaugurate a start up centre in NIT Silchar under the start up India campaign launched by Prime Minister.

23. Indian Embassy in Hanoi sets up grid connected solar energy generation plant

The Indian Embassy in Hanoi has set up a grid connected solar energy generation plant in its office building recently. The Indian Ambassador P. Harish told AIR correspondent in Hanoi that the plant was set up as per the wishes of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to make Indian Missions abroad green. He said that Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Technology have commercial applications and this step is a fulfillment of the directive of the Prime Minister.

AIR correspondent reports that the Indian embassy in Hanoi is the first to start this mission green, in abroad. It is an electricity grid connected solar power generating plant set up in the embassy. The energy not used would be automatically added in the power grid and the amount of this energy will be deducted from the monthly bill. Now in the second phase all the bulbs and tube lights of the embassy would be replaced with the LED bulbs.

24. Haryana govt to develop 340 villages as Horticulture Villages

Haryana Government has decided to develop 340 villages as Horticulture Villages at a cost of 93 crore rupees during the Golden Jubilee year of the State. It has also decided to establish 140 clusters in these villages. This was stated by Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister OP Dhankar. An MoU was also signed with the Apio Inc. for processing and packaging of horticultural products in New Delhi today.

The Minister said, these organisations would manage the activities of the clusters with the assistance of the Horticulture Department. Under this project, producers in Haryana will supply fruits, flowers, vegetables and dairy products to these areas.

25. Sikki Reddy and Pranaav Jerry Chopra clinch Brazil Open Grand Prix title

India's mixed doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Pranaav Jerry Chopra clinched their maiden Grand Prix title in the Brazil Open Grand Prix. The top seeded Indian pair defeated Canadian combo of Toby Ng and Rachel Honderich 21-15, 21-16 in straight games at Costa Cavalcante.

The 23-year-old Sikky won as many as five international challenger titles last year which includes two mixed doubles and three women's doubles crowns.

Pranaav was part of the Indian team that stunned mighty China 3-2 to win a bronze in the Asia Badminton Team Championships.

26. Chinese President Xi urges BRICS efforts to protect free trade

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the BRICS safeguard free trade from the emerging trend of protectionism. He also called the group to continue its effort reform the governance of major world institutions. Xi was speaking at the meeting of the BRICS heads of states meeting at Hangzhou where the G20 leaders makes their first meeting in China. The Chinese President has already emerged as the iconic leader among leaders from the largest economies of the world with China showing symptoms of firm voice in world political and economic arena in recent years. The BRICS leaders usually assemble before the G20 meeting. This time also, Xi has demanded the group to raise their voice for reform in global economic governance. He stressed that the five countries should work to safeguard the position of multilateral trade system as the key channel, jointly build an open world economy and oppose all kinds of protectionism and exclusionism. The BRICS should ensure that all countries will be equal in terms of development rights, opportunities, and rules, - the Chinese President has said. A fresh element in Xi's remark is his request for safeguarding trade and open economy set up. Interestingly, last one year witnessed continuous attempts in the West to retreat from advanced trade liberalization. China sees this protectionism trend practice by others is detrimental to its interest though Beijing is

increasingly engaged in protectionism. Change in the governance structure of the world institutions especially the IMF and World Bank is a major demand of the BRICS group. Similarly, this is the area where the BRICS members have a common voice as well.

27. What is "sudden stop" for an economy?

What will happen to an emerging market or developing economy when all of sudden foreign capital inflows (like foreign investment) into that economy stops as a result of an economic crisis? Immediately, its currency may undergo devaluation. In the coming months, as a result of reduction in investment (because of decline in foreign investment), its GDP growth may decline. All these possibilities are explained in the sudden stop hypothesis. It says that when a developing economy which is used to live with foreign capital comes to a standstill when foreign capital stops quickly. Sudden stop describes a swift reversal of international capital flows; either a stopping of capital inflows or sharp capital outflows. The sudden stop problem is characteristic to emerging market economies that tends to depend on capital inflows. The problem is severe in countries which accept hot money or short term private capital which is quickly mobile. A major feature of sudden stop is that the capital outflows are followed by currency crisis (steep depreciation of the currency), fall in investment, output, employment and economic growth in the host countries. Sudden stop tells the story of agony of small developing countries that are susceptible to capital flow reversals. The phenomenon of sudden stop became a matter of attention after the Mexican crisis of 1994. In a research paper titled Currency Crises and Collapses (1995) Rudiger Dornbusch and co-authors quoted that It is not speed that kills, it is the sudden stop. The Sudden stop indicates a situation where a developing country after conditioned by sizable capital inflows for a considerable time, is deprived of such funds all of a sudden. As a result, the overall economic activities like investment, production halts, leading to loss of economic momentum and steep fall in economic growth.

28. Apply Online for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in UP

[Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana \(PMAY\)](#) or Housing for all is an ambitious housing scheme of Narendra Modi Government aimed at providing housing for all by the year 2022. The scheme is being implemented across the nation with the help of state governments and housing development authorities. Uttar Pradesh Government is inviting applications for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana through the online mode. The residents of the state of UP can apply online for the PMAY by just filling their personal and contact details including the AADHAR number.

29. DDA Housing Scheme 2016 to Accept Online Applications for 12K Flats

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is all set to launch its much awaited DDA housing scheme 2016 near Diwali. The authority would be offering about 12K flats for the EWS, LIG, and MIG categories across the capital city. Each housing scheme of Delhi Development Authority is highly anticipated by the home seekers. A lot of people shows their interest by applying for the scheme offered by DDA. In fact, DDA received more than 9 lakh applications for its [housing scheme 2014](#) for allotment of about 25K flats. The authority invited the applications through both offline and online modes in 2014 scheme but this time, the authority to go entirely online. According to the media reports, the authority may come up with the online only option for application for DDA housing scheme 2016. Online Applications for DDA Housing Scheme 2016 The online application process is being adopted by the authority to bring in more transparency efficiency to the whole process. All the details such as application fee, procedure, eligibility criteria, modes of payment and scheme brochure would be available online. The authority is also expected to raise the registration fee amount this time. According to the reports, the authority may require LIG MIG applicants to pay Rs. 3 Lakh and 5 Lakh respectively compared to just Rs. 1 Lakh in previous scheme. DDA Housing Scheme 2016 A Brief The DDA housing scheme 2016 may be launched in the first week of October with a total of about 12000 flats on offer. However, the final decision on the launch date would be taken in a meeting of senior DDA officials on 23rd September. The flats would be 1BHK and 2BHK type. The scheme is also expected to include some of the surrendered flats of 2014 scheme. Majority of the flats in 2016 housing scheme of Delhi Development Authority would be of the one bedroom type. Of total, about 90% of the flats would be offered to the Lower Income Group (LIG) category while the rest would be for the MIG category. There would not be any flats on offer for the higher income group in the 2016 housing scheme. Location of Flats in DDA Housing Scheme 2016 Almost all the LIG flats being offered in the upcoming scheme are from the old constructions and located in Rohini, Dwarka, Narela, Vasant Kunj and Jasola. The cost of flats in 2016 scheme is expected to be higher compares to last scheme. The cost of LIG flats would be between Rs. 18-20 Lakh while MIG flats would be priced between Rs. 60 to 70 Lakh.

30. Project LIFE – Housing Scheme for Homeless in Kerala

Project LIFE Livelihood, Inclusion, Financial Empowerment, an ambitious mission of the state government of Kerala has been announced. The mission is to provide homes to 2 Lakh homeless families in the state within next 5 years through a comprehensive housing scheme. The project was announced by the Chief Minister of Kerala two days after the CPM-led government completed 100 days in power. The mission is not just to provide homes to the homeless but also to provide the occupants with opportunities to integrate with the mainstream by bringing in social security schemes. The government, under the Project LIFE would construct homes by keeping in mind the sensitivity of acquiring land the scarcity in the state. Under the first phase of the mission, the government would provide homes to 600 families in the first year on pilot basis. The government would build housing complexes with all residential facilities such as skill training centres, common study rooms for students, meeting hall, crche, gymnasiums and palliative care units to take care of the elderly. The government would also ensure facilities such as power supply backup, water supply, sanitation facilities, cooking fuel and other amenities are being taken care of in the complexes. Each complex build under the Project LIFE housing scheme would offer flats to about 100 families. Under the housing scheme, priority would be given to families run by women, single women, households which have ill or old people, girl students below 15 years of age, and victims of riots, natural calamities and domestic violence. The project LIFE would be launched on November 1, 2016.

31. Free Smartphone Scheme UP – Register/Apply Now & Get Phone in 2017

Uttar Pradesh Government has come up with another scheme to attract more voters as a preparation of 2017 elections. This time, free smartphone scheme has been announced by the UP chief minister under which the government would provide free smartphone if it come back to power in 2017. Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav announced the smartphone scheme for the poor at the inauguration of Ala Hazrat Haj House in Ghaziabad. Free Smartphone Scheme Online Registrations The online registrations for free smartphone scheme of Uttar Pradesh Government are likely to start within a month. The phones will be delivered to the doorstep of the people in the second half of 2017. Those who are eligible can register for the scheme by filling up his/her details online. The registration and selection process would be completely online for better transparency and to prevent corruption at any level. The link to apply or register for the phone would be available within a month, as per the reports. According to the statement, the smartphone will act as a two way communication tool to inform and educate people about the scheme and policies of UP government. The smartphone will come with the latest software and loaded with the app where users can share feedback about the government policies and schemes. Eligibility for Free Smartphone Scheme Since the scheme is not launched yet, below is the basic eligibility criteria of free Smartphone Scheme of UP Government The age of applicants should be at least 18 years as on 1st January 2017. The applicant should be a permanent resident of Uttar Pradesh. Family income of the applicant should not be more than Rs. 2.00 Lakh per annum. The applicant should not be in a Government Job. A high school certificate is required. The smartphones will be delivered on the first come first serve basis. Features of Smartphone under the Scheme The smartphones to be distributed under the free smartphone scheme would be equipped with latest software including useful apps for rural population, students, youth and small time businessman. The Uttar Pradesh Government has already run such a scheme for laptop distribution in the state. The government has so far distributed about 18 Lakh laptops under the scheme.

32. ASEAN Summit begins in Laos capital Vientiane

The 28th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit began in Laos capital Vientiane today. During the summit, the world leaders will review the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025. The ASEAN leaders are scheduled to meet the heads of state, government of ASEAN dialogue partners which include China, India, Japan, Korea, Australia and the United States.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will reach Vientiane tomorrow to attend the 14th ASEAN-India Summit. On Thursday, Mr Modi will attend the 11th East Asia Summit. On the sidelines, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral meetings with several leaders.

AIR correspondent reports that India's engagement with ASEAN and the wider Asia Pacific Region has acquired further momentum following the enunciation of the Act East Policy by Mr. Modi.

Talking to AIR correspondent in Vientiane, Indian Ambassador to Laos, Ravi Shankar Aisola said, Mr Modi's visit will

strengthen the bilateral relations between India and Laos. He said, in Act East Policy, the aim is to engage every possible sphere with the eastern neighbours. Mr Aisola said, Laos offers huge opportunities to Indian Investors.

33. Centre launches biggest Leprosy Case Detection campaign

Centre has launched the biggest Leprosy Case Detection campaign in the country. The Health Ministry, in a release, said, 32 crore people, across 19 States and Union Territories, will be screened under the campaign. The objective is to detect the disease early so that those affected can be saved from physical deformity.

The Ministry said, the districts, having a prevalence rate of more than one case per 10,000 population in the last three years, have been included in the campaign. Around three lakh teams will visit every house in their allotted area and screen all the family members for leprosy.

To eradicate Leprosy from the country, Health Minister JP Nadda reviewed the National Leprosy Eradication Programme yesterday. The states and UTs to be covered in this campaign include Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.

AIR correspondent report that the first Leprosy Case Detection Campaign was launched in March this year in 50 districts of 7 states. During the campaign, around 65,000 suspected cases were identified out of which nearly 4,000 were later confirmed.

34. Govt identifies 99 irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

Government has identified 99 irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana with an aim to enhance water availability for farms. Water Resource Minister Uma Bharati today said in New Delhi that identified major and medium irrigation projects will be completed by 2019-20.

She said that total funds of 77, 595 crore Rupees is required for these projects and dedicated Long Time Irrigation Fund has been created in NABARD with initial corpus of about 20,000 crore rupees. The Minister informed that 60% of project cost will be provided by center and remaining cost will be borne by concerned States.

35. G-20 leaders pledge to work for fair global tax system

Leaders from the world's top economies G20 have pledged to continue to work for a globally fair and modern international tax system, foster growth and refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies.

A communique released after the summit said, the leaders pledged to continue the work on addressing cross-border financial flows derived from illicit activities, including deliberate trade mis-invoicing, which hampers the mobilisation of domestic resources for development.

AIR correspondent reports that the leaders vowed that they will go ahead on the ongoing co-operation on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, BEPS, exchange of tax information, tax capacity-building of developing countries and tax policies to promote growth and tax certainty.

The leaders said, they are determined to use all policy tools to achieve the goal of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. The leaders said that Britain's vote to exit the European Union added uncertainty to the global economic outlook but G20 economies were well positioned to deal with the economic and financial fallout.

The G20 group agreed at the summit that refugees are a global issue and the burden must be shared. The group called for strengthening humanitarian assistance for refugees and invited all states to ramp up aid according to their individual capacity to international organisations assisting affected countries.

36. Mexico on alert as Hurricane Newton heads for Pacific coast

In Mexico, a huge storm bearing down on the Pacific coast has strengthened to a hurricane just hours before it is due to make landfall. Hurricane Newton is heading north-west towards the southern end of the Baja California peninsula with winds of about 120 kilometre per hour.

The US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said Newton could trigger flash floods. It warned that preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion.

The same weather system lashed areas of the south-western state of Guerrero over the weekend before strengthening to a tropical storm. Torrential rain that began last Saturday caused more than 30 mudslides across the state, forcing main roads to close.

In the resort of Acapulco, floods and landslides affected dozens of homes and schools and about 200 people had to be rescued from a housing complex.

37. UK appoints ambassador to Iran for first time since 2011

The UK has appointed an ambassador to Iran for the first time since 2011, as part of its aims for more productive co-operation.

The Foreign Office announcement comes one year after the reopening of the British Embassy in Tehran. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said this is an important moment in the relationship between the UK and Iran.

Nicholas Hopton, a former British ambassador to Qatar and Yemen, will take up the role of ambassador. The British embassy in Tehran was closed after it was stormed and ransacked by protesters in November 2011.

The embassy was reopened in August 2015 by then-British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and the two countries resumed ties on Charge d'Affaires level.

38. Odisha celebrates Nuakhai festival today

Nuakhai, the agrarian mass festival of western Odisha, is being celebrated today. The festival is celebrated to welcome the new rice of the season. It is observed on panchami tithi, the day after Ganesh Chaturthi. To mark the day, several traditional programmes have been organised.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted the people of Odisha on the occasion. He said in a tweet that may this festival bring more prosperity in the lives of farmers. After three days of heavy rain, the weather is sunny in the state today.

39. Centre launches NIDHI for nurturing ideas & innovation into start ups

Centre has launched a new program called National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) for nurturing ideas and innovation into successful start ups. Talking to reporters in New Delhi today, Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said, the programme will focus on helping startups to meet their funding, infrastructure and other mentorship needs. He said, youth of the country are highly talented and innovative and through NIDHI, government will help them to give their ideas concrete shapes.

Mr. Harsh Vardhan said, there are eight components of NIDHI that support each stage of a budding startup from idea to market. The Minister said, the first component is PRAYAS (Promoting and accelerating young and aspiring innovators and startups) which aims to support innovators to grant up to 10 lakh rupees. The Minister said, during the current financial year, Department of Science has allocated 180 crore rupees, with a view to drive the innovation and startup centric new initiative.

40. Serena Williams surpasses Roger Federer to win maximum number of Grand Slam matches

In Tennis, world number one Serena Williams has set a new record of most number of Grand Slam matches wins. In the US Open early this morning, Serena defeated Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan, 6-2, 6-3 to enter the quarterfinals and record her 308th majors victory. The 34-year old American surpassed Roger Federer in the all-time list. Serena, who is eyeing to win a record 23rd Grand Slam title and beat Steffi Graf, will take on fifth seed Simona Halep for a place in the semi-finals.

Meanwhile, Serena's sister Venus Williams bowed out in the pre-quarterfinals after losing to lower-placed Czech Karolina Pliskova, 6-4, 4-6, 6-7. World number four Agnieszka Radwanska also made a shock exit. She was stunned by

18-year old unseeded Croatian Ana Konjuh, 4-6, 4-6. Konjuh has made it to the Grand Slam quarter-final for the first time.

However, world number two Andy Murray, Stanislas Wawrinka and Juan Martin Del Potro booked quarterfinal berths. Top seed Novak Djokovic, Angelique Kerber and Lucas Pouille, who defeated Rafael Nadal in the fourth round, will be seen in action in the quarterfinals today.

In Women's Doubles, the seventh placed Indo-Czech pair of Sania Mirza and Barbora Strycova will play for a semi-final berth. They will take on the top seeded French team of Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic. Sania is the only Indian left in the tournament.

41. Sushil Kumar nominated for Padma Bhushan

Two-time Olympic-medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar has been nominated for the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honour, by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). The Federation has also recommended female wrestler Alka Tomar and Dronacharya awardee Yashvir Singh, Sushil's coach, for the honour.

Earlier, Sushil's name was recommended for the honour two years ago but was rejected. Sushil is the only Indian athlete to have won two individual Olympic medals -- a bronze in the 2008 Beijing Games and a silver in the 2012 London Games.

Already bestowed with the Khel Ratna award -- the country's highest sporting honour -- Sushil is also a World Championships gold-medallist, a two-time Commonwealth Games gold-medallist, four-time Commonwealth champion.

42. What is Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)?

The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is a comprehensive irrigation scheme launched by the government by integrating the existing irrigation schemes. Given the challenges in the irrigation sector of the country, the scheme aims to provide irrigation coverage to more agricultural lands on the one hand and to increase water efficiency by adopting better irrigation practices. Reflecting this overall water efficiency theme, the slogan of the scheme is more crop per drop. The PMKSY is implemented through the collective efforts of Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development. State governments also join the scheme by designing irrigation oriented development plans for specific areas. PMKSY will be implemented across the country with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore in five years (2015-16 to 2019-20) to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level. The PMKSY is formulated by amalgamating ongoing schemes like Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RDGR), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the On Farm Water Management (OFWM) of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC). According to the PMKSY document, The major objective of PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop), enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices by exploring the feasibility of reusing treated municipal waste water for peri-urban agriculture and attract greater private investment in precision irrigation system. PMKSY has a decentralized State level project execution structure under which States will formulate their irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plan (DIP) and State Irrigation Plan (SIP). The programme is designed as a convergence platform for all existing and proposed water sector activities including drinking water sanitation, MGNREGA, application of science technology etc.

43. International Day of Charity - 5 September

Poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, particularly in developing countries. In recognition of the role of charity in alleviating humanitarian crises and human suffering within and among nations, as well as of the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals, including the work of Mother Teresa, the General Assembly of the United Nations in its [resolution A/RES/67/105](#) designated the 5th of September, the anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa, as the International Day of Charity. On this International Day of Charity, the United Nations invites all Member States and all international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to commemorate the Day in an appropriate manner,

by encouraging charity, including through education and public awareness-raising activities.

44. International Literacy Day - 8 September

This year marks the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day and UNESCO is celebrating it under the banner Reading the Past, Writing the Future. International Literacy Day 2016 celebrates and honours the past five decades of national and international engagement, efforts and progress made to increase literacy rates around the world. It also addresses current challenges and looks to innovative solutions to further boost literacy in the future. Fifty years ago, UNESCO officially proclaimed 8 September International Literacy Day to actively mobilize the international community and to promote literacy as an instrument to empower individuals, communities and societies. Now International Literacy Day is celebrated worldwide, bringing together governments, multi- and bilateral organizations, NGOs, private sectors, communities, teachers, learners and experts in the field. On this day also International Literacy Prizes are awarded to people with outstanding solutions that can drive literacy towards achieving the 2030 Education Agenda. This year the focus is on innovation. This is the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context the vision of literacy is aligned with lifelong learning opportunities with special focus on youth and adults. Literacy is a part of Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The target is that by 2030 all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy (SDG Target 4.6). The International Literacy Day will be celebrated all around the world. The main global celebration of the day will take place at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris in the form of a two-day conference on 8 - 9 September, the highlight of which will be the awarding of the Literacy Prizes. At the same time the Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL) will be launched, a new and ambitious initiative to make all major stakeholders pull together to promote literacy as a foundation for lifelong learning.

45. PM leaves for Vientiane to attend ASEAN- India and East Asia Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Vientiane, the capital of Lao Peoples Democratic Republic on a two day visit, a short while ago. He will attend the 14th ASEAN- India Summit and the 11th East Asia Summit in Vientiane.

During the visit, Mr Modi will also have bilateral meetings with leaders of Japan, South Korea, Lao PDR and Myanmar. He will arrive at Vientiane in the afternoon. Soon after his arrival, Mr Modi will have bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe and later in the evening with Prime Minister of Lao, PDR Thongloun Sisoulith. The two summits are scheduled to take place tomorrow.

In his pre-departure message, the Prime Minister said that ASEAN is a key partner for Indias Act East Policy and strategic partnership with ASEAN is important for Indias security interests and countering traditional and non-traditional security challenges in the region.

On East Asia Summit, Mr Modi said, India wants to enhance physical and digital connectivity in the region, enhance people to people links and also strengthen institutional linkages and leverage the modern interconnected world for the mutual benefit of the people in the region.

Meanwhile, at the ongoing ASEAN summit in Vientiane, leaders adopted the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 last evening. The Plan focuses on five strategic areas: sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence and people mobility.

46. Karnataka starts releasing Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu

Amid protests, Karnataka started releasing Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu from midnight last night complying with the Supreme Court directive. The apex court had asked the Karnataka government to release 15,000 cusecs per day to the neighbouring state for ten days.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, after an all-party meeting, had told reporters last evening that the state will release water. He had also said, they would approach the Supreme Court with a modification petition explaining its difficulties in implementing the order.

Meanwhile, protesters have intensified their agitation in Mandya and other parts of the state. They have blocked several

roads forcing schools and colleges to shut down.

AIR correspondent reports that the Karnataka State Government is fighting Cauvery water issue from three fronts. Apart from legal battle, it is receiving brickbats from the Opposition and from agitators on the streets. The Opposition is criticizing the Government for not representing the plight of the state effectively in the court and agitators are demanding to stop release of water to Tamilnadu. Major concerns are to meet drinking water needs of Bengaluru, Mysuru and Mandya till the next monsoon rains. The agriculture minister Byre Gowda has asked farmers in the state not to cultivate water intensive crops. Chief Minister has appealed to agitators to calm down. All the dams on Cauvery river in Karnataka are cordoned off by police and schools and colleges in Mandya have been declared holidays. Bus services from Tamilnadu is suspended as highways are getting blocked by agitators.

47. India free from Yaws, Maternal & Neonatal Tetanus, WHO certifies

India today received certificates from World Health Organisation, recognizing the elimination of Yaws and Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) from the country. Union Health Minister J P Nadda in a tweet informed that India received WHO's certificates for MNTE Yaws-free India at 69th session of Regional Committee of WHO at, Colombo.

The health minister received the certificate from WHO Director General Margaret Chan and its South East Asian Region Director General Poonam Khetrapal Singh. In May this year, WHO had declared India yaws-free after a team of experts verified interruption of disease transmission in the country.

India is the first country under the 2012 WHO neglected tropical diseases (NTD) roadmap to eliminate yaws, a disease known to affect the most underserved population. India had eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus . Until a few decades ago India reported 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 neonatal tetanus cases annually which was reduced to less than one case per 1 000 live births in all 675 districts.

48. Indian film 'Thithi' wins best film award at BRICS Film Festival

Indian film Thithi won the best film award at the BRICS Film Festival concluded in New Delhi last evening. Best Director Award went to Huo Jianqi of China. South Africa's Thabo Rametsi took home the best Actor award while Russian actor Yulia Peresild was given best actress award.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the festival Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu invited filmmakers of BRICS countries to shoot films in India. Mr Naidu expressed hope that creativity of film fraternity will touch new heights. The Minister said, as cinema has influence on minds of the people, it propagate the message against terrorism. He said, new age cinema should not only entertain people but also enlighten them on social issues.

AIR correspondent reports Chinese movie Skiptrace, directed by Renny Harlin, was the closing film of the festival. The film festival opened in New Delhi on 2nd of this month with the screening of a Malayalam movie, Veeram.

49. India on path of becoming hub for hi-tech world manufacturing: UN

United Nations has said, India is on the path of becoming a hub for high-tech world manufacturing even as global manufacturing growth is expected to remain low this year. UN Industrial Development Organisation said this in its quarterly World Manufacturing Production report. It said, world manufacturing output is expected to increase by only 2.8 per cent this year due to weakened financial support for productive activities.

According to the latest GDP data released in India, the manufacturing sector grew 9.1 per cent during April-June this year, a slight decline from 9.3 per cent clocked in January to March.

50. J P Nadda leads Yoga session in Colombo today

Union Health Minister Mr. J.P.Nadda led a Yoga session in Colombo today. Mr. Nadda is on three-day visit to Sri Lanka to attend the 69th session of WHO (World Health Organisation) Regional committee meeting. Today's morning session at the natural sea beach was organized as part of Be the change theme for promoting physical activities.

Health minister of Sri Lanka and other participating nations, high commissioner of India, other delegates were among

those who participated. In his brief speech, the health minister stressed upon the many benefits of Yoga saying it is unique method of combining body, mind and soul. AIR correspondent reports that in his brief speech, the health minister stressed upon the many benefits of Yoga saying it is unique method of combining body, mind and soul. Mr. Nadda said that it is very useful in fighting non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension and heart attacks.

The ongoing regional meeting of WHO has adopted a special resolution to combat non-communicable diseases which are on the rise. Booklets and leaflets on Yoga postures were made available to participants at the venue. More than 100 people including health ministers of 11 nations, delegates, senior officials of high commission of India, WHO and others participated in the half-hour long Yoga session.

51. Ministry of DoNER goes LIVE on e-office

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has gone LIVE on e-office from yesterday. The e-office platform would not only digitize the entire office correspondence and file notings, but also ensure an audit trail of all entries and correspondence, thus providing an unprecedented level of accountability. It also migrates the chain of custody from the individual to the system allowing easy access to relevant documents at all times.

52. Centre sets target to facilitate LPG connection to 75 lakh families by Dec 2018

The Centre has set a target to facilitate LPG connection to 75 lakh families, which constitute 70 per cent of the total family in Odisha by December 2018. The oil-major Indian Oil Corporation Limited said the Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry has decided to take up the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana up to the panchayat level across the State.

Chief LPG Manager and State Nodal Officer for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana G Swaminathan at a Press meet in Bhubaneswar yesterday said the Petroleum ministry has set a target of release of 30 lakh new LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and another 10 lakh under normal release by December 2018. He said the LPG connection percentage has increased from 24 per cent in 2014 to 40 per cent in Odisha by now.

The Union Government has set a target of 5 crore LPG connections to be distributed to BPL households across the country under the scheme.

53. About 50 million children 'uprooted' worldwide: UNICEF

War and poverty have forced around 50 million children around the world from their homes. A UNICEF report said, up to 28 million of the children have been uprooted by violent conflict, with nearly as many abandoning their homes in search of a better life.

The report, titled 'Uprooted - The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children', also said, the number of child refugees has more than doubled in the past 10 years from four million to 8.2 million. The UN agency said, the children are some of the most vulnerable people on earth and has warned that if governments do not act, the numbers are likely to grow. The report said, children make up about a third of the world's population as of 2015 and accounted for nearly half of all refugees.

54. DoT unveils new norms on SIM upgradation

The Department of Telecom, DoT has come out with new guidelines on SIM upgradation from 2G to 3G or 4G. It can be done only with a clear go-ahead from mobile users and on their request. The new guidelines have already come into effect.

To upgrade the SIM card, the subscriber will have to generate a request through customer care or online or point of sale of the company.

Once the request is received, the operator will issue a new SIM card to the subscriber. The new norms will put an end to automatic upgradation of SIM to allow high-value service by some operators.

On receiving affirmative confirmation from the subscriber, the operator may initiate the process of deactivation of the

old SIM card and activation of the new one.

55. What are the different models for Public Private Partnership (PPP) in infrastructure?

PPP is a mode of providing public infrastructure and services by Government in partnership with private sector. It is a long term arrangement between Government and private sector entity for provision of public utilities and services. PPP mechanism is a major element of India's infrastructure creation efforts as there is huge level of investment requirement in the sector. The twelfth plan targets to spend \$1000 bn to expand infrastructure. Conventional form of finance the budgetary allocation by the government is not enough to meet this big investment size. So the government at present is making several efforts to modify and energize the PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode of infrastructure generation. A committee chaired by Kelkar also made valuable recommendations to empower the PPP mechanism. India's experience with PPP in a serious manner started from 2006 onwards. PPP requires private sector participation in public asset creation through money, technology and management. For this, several models inviting their participation were launched for different projects. Some of the commonly adopted forms of PPPs include build-operate-transfer (BOT) and its variants, build-lease-transfer (BLT), design-build-operate-transfer (DBFOT), operate-maintain-transfer (OMT), etc. These models operate on different conditions on the private sector regarding level of investment, ownership control, risk sharing, technical collaboration, duration of the project, financing mode, tax treatment, management of cash flows etc. Following are the main models of PPPs. (a) Build Operate and Transfer (BOT): This is the simple and conventional PPP model where the private partner is responsible to design, build, operate (during the contracted period) and transfer back the facility to the public sector. Role of the private sector partner is to bring the finance for the project and take the responsibility to construct and maintain it. In return, the public sector will allow it to collect revenue from the users. The national highway projects contracted out by NHAI under PPP mode is a major example for the BOT model. (b) Build-Own-Operate (BOO): This is a variant of the BOT and the difference is that the ownership of the newly built facility will rest with the private party during the period of contract. The public sector partner agrees to purchase the goods and services produced by the project on mutually agreed terms and conditions. (c) Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT): This is also on the lines of BOT. After the negotiated period of time, the infrastructure asset is transferred to the government or to the private operator. This approach has been used for the development of highways and ports. The proposed Rs. 4,800 crore Elevated Light Rail Transit System (ELRTS) in Bangalore is to be run on BOOT basis over a 30-year concession period. (d) Build-Operate-Lease-Transfer (BOLT): In this approach, the government gives a concession to a private entity to build a facility (and possibly design it as well), own the facility, lease the facility to the public sector and then at the end of the lease period transfer the ownership of the facility to the government. The Own Your Wagon scheme run by Indian Railways is a variant of BOLT under which a set of wagons, purchased by private parties, is leased to Railways on fixed rentals. (e) Lease-Develop-Operate (LDO): Here, the government or the public sector entity retains ownership of the newly created infrastructure facility and receives payments in terms of a lease agreement with the private promoter. This approach is mostly followed in the development of airport facilities. (f) Rehabilitate-Operate-Transfer (ROT): Under this approach, the governments/local bodies allow private promoters to rehabilitate and operate a facility during a concession period. After the concession period, the project is transferred back to governments/local bodies. (g) DBFO (Design, Build, Finance and Operate): In this model, the private party assumes the entire responsibility for the design, construction, finance, and operate the project for the period of concession. (h) The private party assumes the entire responsibility for the design, construct, finance, and operate or operate and maintain the project for the period of concession. (i) Management contract: Here, the private promoter has the responsibility for a full range of investment, operation and maintenance functions. He has the authority to make daily management decisions under a profit-sharing or fixed-fee arrangement. (j) Service contract: This approach is less focused than the management contract. In this approach, the private promoter performs a particular operational or maintenance function for a fee over a specified period of time.

56. MNRE plans to double Solar Park electricity target to 40000 MW

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is planning to double target electricity production from its ace Solar park programme to 40000 MW from the present 20000 MW. Solar Park Scheme was launched to construct solar parks that can generate electricity between 500 MW and 1000 MW. Speaking at the 10th Renewable Energy India Expo in the capital, Upendra Tripathi, Secretary of MNRE, told that the ministry will seek cabinet approval for scaling up the target. Already, the solar energy target of 100 GW set for 2022 is described as ambitious from the angle of huge investment required. Solar energy potential of the country is estimated at 1000 GW which is four times the present installed electricity generation capacity. Explaining the scope for the doubled target, the Secretary pointed out that revenues from

clean energy cess has increased by eight times. Solar park scheme is the anchor programme for realizing the year 2022 target of 100 GW solar energy production. Grid linking of the solar park energy will be made correspondingly. Over the last couple of years, MNRE along its affiliated Solar Energy Corporation were able to generate an efficient ecosystem for solar parks in the country. MNREs target is to set up 25 solar parks with a capacity of 500 to 1000 MW each; targeting around 20000 MW of solar power installed capacity. Ultra-Mega Solar Power project is a single power project with capacity of over 500 MW.

57. Mariyappan Thangavelu fought poverty and disability to win Gold at Rio Paralympic Games; President and PM congratulate him

India have won its first Gold medal of the Rio Paralympic Games. Mariyappan Thangavelu in the Men's High Jump T-42 event brought laurels to the country as he finished first to give India's its third ever Gold at the Games and the first after 12 years. Bronze in the event also went to India through Varun Singh Bhati.

India had claimed a Gold and a Bronze at Athens in 2004. Javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia had then won the Gold, with Rajinder Singh claiming the Bronze in powerlifting.

In the last edition of the Games in London, India had attained just a Silver.

India had won its first ever Paralympics Gold in the 1972 Heidelberg Games through Swimmer Murlikant Petkar.

President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Sports Minister Vijay Goel have congratulated Mariyappan on winning a Gold and Varun for the Bronze at the Paralympic Games.

Meanwhile, accolades are pouring in for Mariyappan who created history by clearing 1.89 metres in high jump and bagging the Gold.

58. Complete ban on use of polythene in all national monuments and tourist destinations from 2nd October: Tourism Minister

Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma said there will be a complete ban on use of polythene in all national monuments and tourist destinations from 2nd October. He told PTI in New Delhi Friday that in an initiative to carry forward the Swachh Bharat Mission, the government chose the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to impose this ban.

The Minister said the trial phase of the initiative will be launched immediately. He however, clarified that plastic bottles would not be banned but tourists would be asked to place them in the recycle container at the tourists destinations. The ban would be applicable to the protected zone or 100-m radius of the monuments.

59. World Bank and NDB agreed to strengthen cooperation especially in infrastructure

The World Bank and the New Development Bank, NDB, set up by five emerging economies have agreed to strengthen cooperation, especially in infrastructure. World Bank President, Jim Yong Kim, and NDB President, K.V. Kamath, signed a memorandum to this effect Friday.

The NDB was launched in July last year by the five BRICS nations- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The two institutions agreed to co-finance infrastructure projects and exchange information and knowledge on loans.

Mr Kamath said, he appreciates the support of the World Bank and looks forward to deepening the cooperation. Mr Kim said, the institutions will work together to support development projects that drive growth.

60. What is New Economic Reforms?

New economic reforms in India refers to the neo-liberal policies introduced by the government in 1991 and in the later years. The central point of the reforms was liberalization of the economy, giving more role to the private sector and opening up of the economy to competition. New industrial policy of 1991 is the heart of the new economic reforms. The philosophy of the new economic policy was enhancing competition based upon more market orientation. During the last twenty-five years, the economic reform has produced significant impact on the economy- mostly positive. Following are

the main features of New Economic Reforms. 1. Deregulation of the industrial sector- the industrial sector of the economy has been opened up to the private sector after the New Industrial Policy of 1991. Previously, the public sector has given reservation especially in the capital goods and key industries. Other operators- private sector and foreign investors were not allowed in these critical industries. Deregulation of the industrial sector allowed private sector operation in most of these sectors except in eight selected areas including atomic energy, mining and railways. 2. Industrial delicensing policy: the most important part of the new industrial policy of 1991 was the end of the industrial licensing or the license raj or red tapism. Under the previous industrial licensing policies, private sector firms have to secure licenses to start an industry. This has created long delays in the startup of industries. The industrial policy of 1991 has almost abandoned the industrial licensing system. It has reduced industrial licensing to fifteen sectors. 3. Opening up of the economy to foreign competition: another major feature of the economic reform measure was that it has given welcome to foreign investment and foreign technology. Opening up of the economy to foreign competition started a new era in India's economic policy with permission to FDI upto 51 per cent in selected sectors. 4. Liberalization of trade and investment: the economic reforms introduced extensive liberalization of foreign trade and foreign investment. The import substitution and import restriction policies were abandoned and instead import liberalization and export promotion policies were introduced. On the investment front, the economic reforms mark the era of capital mobility in the country. Foreign capital in the form of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investment) were entered into our country. 5. Financial Sector Reforms: on the financial sector the government is introducing numerous measures for the deregulation as well as liberalisation of the sector. Different banking sector reforms including removal of control on interest rate and branch licensing policy liberalization were launched. Capital market reforms and money market reforms were extensive after 1994. 6. Reforms related to the Public sector enterprises: reforms in the public sector were aimed at enhancing efficiency and competitiveness of the sector. The public sector will be concentrating in key and strategic sectors. Government has adopted disinvestment policy for the restructuring of the public sector in the country along with several other policies. 7. Abolition of MRTP Act: The New Industrial Policy of 1991 has abolished the Monopoly and Restricted Trade Practice Act. In 2010, the Competition Commission has emerged as the watchdog in monitoring competitive practices in the economy. The economic reforms were started in 1991, and they are still continuing. A major feature of economic reforms was that it was implemented in a gradual manner. The reforms were comprehensive and extensive as it covered all sectors- trade, investment, industrial sector, financial sector, public sector, fiscal sector etc. The new industrial policy introduced in 1991 is the central point of the economic reforms. In the following years, the government has introduced further policy changes for trade liberalization, financial sector liberalization and foreign investment policy changes to sustain the momentum initiated in 1991. Over the last twenty-five years, as a result of the launch of the new economic policy and its continuation, the Indian economy has undergone significant improvement and now is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The famous BRIC report predicts that India will grow as the second largest economy by 2050. At present, India is categorized as an Emerging Market Economy (EME) along with China, Brazil, Russia etc. Even in the current crisis phase of the global economy, India's macroeconomic performance is comparatively better.

61. United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation - 12 September

South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing South-South cooperation, not as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation. The international community should support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation. To mark the importance of South-South Cooperation, the General Assembly decided to observe this Day on 12 September every year, commemorating the adoption in 1978 of the [Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries](#). The Assembly also urged all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives. Development cooperation beyond 2015 will have to increase and continue to support developing countries, with a special emphasis in poor and vulnerable communities facing sustainable development challenges, while mobilizing additional resources to address global challenges, such as climate change and managing global commons.

62. Nirman Shramik Pension Yojana – Pension Scheme for Construction Workers

Nirman Shramik Pension Yojana is a new pension scheme launched by the state Government of Odisha. The new pension scheme will specially be for the construction workers in the state. Nirman Shramik Pension Yojana would benefit about 25 Lakh construction workers in the state. The scheme has been launched under the mission of Social Security for All to bring the construction workers under the security net. The scheme would provide monthly pension to nearly 25 Lakh construction workers in the state of Odisha. Nirman Shramik Pension Yojana Pension Amount Under the scheme, construction workers of 60 years and above will be provided pension of Rs. 300 per month. The workers whose age is 80 and above will be provided monthly pension of Rs. 500. Widows of the workers and differently abled will also be included under the scheme. There is no requirement of being registered with the Odisha Building Other Construction Workers Welfare Board for 5 years, as was in the case of [Nirman Shramik Pucca Char Yojana](#). According to the chief minister, the state government is actively working towards the betterment of the society including the welfare of low income group and construction workers. The government has already increased the maternity assistance amount from Rs. 8000 to Rs. 10000. The state government also provides a medical assistance of up to Rs. 3.00 Lakh to the workers suffering from critical illness.

63. Annapurna Yojana – Meal Programme for Poor in Madhya Pradesh

Annapurna Yojana, a new scheme to provide healthy food to poor is all set to be launched by the state government of Madhya Pradesh. Inspired from the Tamilnadus Amma Canteen scheme, the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan will make a formal announcement of the scheme on 25th September. Annapurna Yojana, the subsidized meal programme will provide a healthy and filling Thali to for just Rs. 10 to the poor living in the state. The scheme will be announced in Bhopal on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. The Rs. 10 Thali which would be provided under the Annapurna Yojana would comprise of Roti, Dal, Sabji, Rice and Pickle. Initially, the subsidized meal scheme would be launched in four cities including Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur. The responsibility of providing the food through various outlets would be given to the local municipal corporation. The scheme is aimed at feeding the poor and is under consideration as per the TOI report. The official announcement is yet to be made regarding the scheme.

64. Guangdong Province issues warnings for super typhoon Meranti in China

In South China, Guangdong Province issued warnings for super typhoon Meranti, which is expected to make landfall in the east of Guangdong in three days. Typhoon Meranti strengthened into a super typhoon in the Pacific Ocean on yesterday.

It will move at 20 to 25 kilometers per hour and approach Taiwan's southeast around September 14th and likely make landfall near the coast of Guangdong and Fujian provinces. According to Guangdong meteorological authorities, the typhoon will bring strong winds and heavy rainfall to Guangdong from September 14th to 16th.

65. Cuba & US holds their first talk on intellectual property

Cuba and the United States have held their first talk on the issue of intellectual property, the island's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday. A statement revealed that Daniel Marti, Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator at the White House visited Havana on September, 8th and 9th and met with representatives of the Cuban Office of Industrial Property.

In this first official meeting between Cuba and the US on intellectual property, the parties exchanged views on current regulations in the respective countries. They also expressed concern about the ongoing US embargo, which affects the recognition of the rights of Cuban trademarks and companies, especially in the case of the well-known Havana Club and Cohiba brands. Havana and Washington reestablished diplomatic relations on July 20th, 2015 after 54 years of political enmity.

66. Punjab govt abolishes stamp duty of 2% levied on immovable property

Punjab government will abolish the stamp duty of two per cent levied on immovable property while awarding the power of attorney. A decision to this effect was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal in Chandigarh yesterday. A spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said the decision will be a major relief for people aspiring to buy their own houses. The stamp duty will now be a nominal 1,000 rupees on the General Power of Attorney and 500 rupees on Special Power of Attorney, irrespective of the market value.

In another major decision, Cabinet decided in principle to offer the proprietary rights under concessional terms and conditions to the small and marginal agricultural farmers cultivating up to five acres of provincial government agricultural land. These tillers who have been cultivating government land for at least 20 years will be entitled to allotment at significant discount from the collector rates.

67. Visakhapatnam gears up for 3rd BRICS Urbanisation Forum Meet

In Andhra Pradesh, the Visakhapatnam district administration and city police are geared up for the smooth conduct of the 3rd BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Urbanisation Forum Meet with the theme- Building responsive, inclusive and collective solutions for urbanisation.

The Union government had selected Visakhapatnam for hosting the summit wherein delegates will discuss investments, urbanisation, formation of new cities and policies and will explore solutions for the challenges. The conference would discuss how to increase the productivity, how to make a separate urban finance system and creation of employment opportunities.

The three-day meet beginning tomorrow will be inaugurated by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in the presence of Union Minister of Urban Development, M. Venkaiah Naidu and other dignitaries.

With an eye on promoting Sunrise Andhra Pradesh on the global arena, the state government had also gone all out with convening several high-level meetings as well as forming an array of committees to oversee the proceedings of the meet. Based on the discussions and deliberations during the three days, Vizag Declaration will be prepared, which would play a vital role in the ministers conference of BRICS to be held on October 15 and 16 in Goa. About 70 delegates from Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa will be attending the three-day summit.

Apart from them, there will be over 230 delegates from India. Security has been beefed up in the city with elite forces at the venues of the meetings, while Navy, Coast Guard and Coastal Security Police will augment the security arrangements and check threats from the seaside. The city got a facelift with beautification works taken up by the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and other organisations. Several committees, each headed by a senior officer have been formed to take care of every arrangement. Cultural programmes will be conducted at Novotel hotel on September 14 and atop Kailasagiri on September 15.

68. CCEA gives nod to raise buffer stock of pulses to 20 lakh tonnes

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs(CCEA) today gave its nod to raise buffer stock of pulses to twenty lakh tonnes from eight lakh tonnes. It will be done at an estimated cost of 18,500 crore rupees to keep prices stable and encourage farmers to grow dal crop

The stock will be built through domestic procurement and imports of 10 lakh tonnes each. The specific variety of pulses and their respective quantities for the stock, their phasing and procurement will be decided based on price and availability position. Releases from the stock and procurement in subsequent year would be based on the prevailing pulse scenario as well as buffer stock position. Requisite funds for this operation would be provided to the 'Price Stabilisation Fund' Scheme of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

For creating the buffer stock, the domestic procurement operations will be undertaken by the central agencies or any other agency as decided by the government. State governments may also be authorized, wherever possible, to undertake the procurement in a manner similar to decentralized procurement of food-grains.

Later briefing reporters, Food Minister Ramvilas Paswan said the stock limit on pulses will not be lifted while export ban and zero import duty regime will continue. He said there will not be any paucity of funds for creating the buffer stock of pulses. The Minister also assured that price of essential items will be kept under control and warned that the Centre could cap retail prices using its power under the Essential Commodities Act.

AIR correspondent reports that the exercise will ensure a stable price regime for pulses and will also encourage domestic farmers to increase production of pulses. The production of pulses is expected to rise to 20 million tonnes in 2016-17 as farmers have grown pulses in larger area this year following good monsoon.

69. Deepa Malik wins Silver in women's Shot-Put event in Rio Paralympics

Deepa Malik has created history by winning silver medal in Women's shotput at Rio Paralympics 2016. It is the first

Medal by an Indian Woman in Paralympics games. It is India's 3rd medal in the ongoing games at Rio.

70. SAI-AIFF launch online portal for Global Scouting Programme

Boys of Indians living abroad will be able to play in India's team in FIFA under-17 world cup next year scheduled in different cities of the country. Sports Authority of India (SAI) and All India Football Federation today jointly launched an online portal for its Global Scouting Programme, which will conduct off-field trials for NRI boys.

The applicant have to upload a two minute playing video on the site. The project will provide them a chance to present his playing talent to the scouts of India's U-17 team through its online portal.

Launching the portal, Sports Minister Vijay Goel said, it will allow Indian players who hold valid Indian passport but are residing overseas to provide their profile electronically and directly to the scouts of India FIFA under-17 world cup team.

71. Government ratifies duty structure for APTA

Government has approved the duty structure for Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)- a preferential trade agreement between six developing countries of Asia including China and Korea. As a preferential trade arrangement, the APTA gives a low level of trade liberalization. Tariff concession will not be substantial as in the case of usual free trade arrangements. Similarly, the number of tradeable goods under the agreement will also be limited. The APTA has six members at present India, China, Bangladesh, Lao PDR, South Korea and Sri Lanka. Mongolia is trying to join the trade bloc. APTA is an initiative by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for trade promotion through exchange of tariff concessions among developing country members of the Asia Pacific region. "The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the exchange of tariff concessions, on margin of preference basis, under the fourth round of negotiations under the APTA and related amendments," an official statement described the Cabinet decision to agree with the APTAs tariff structure. "The Cabinet approved India's offer of 28.01 per cent of dutiable national tariff lines with an average Margin of Preference (MoP) of 33.45 per cent," the official note has added about the new tariff lines offered by the country. The term "margin of preference" means the absolute difference between the most-favoured-nation rate of duty and the preferential rate of duty for the same product. As per the cabinet decision, the duty under APTA imports will be 33.45% lower than the WTOs MFN rate. Through the Cabinet note, India has also agreed to amend the preamble of APTA to effect accession of Mongolia as the 7th participating state.

72. What is Smart Cities Mission?

The Smart Cities Mission is a major urban renewal program launched by the Government to develop and upgrade living conditions and infrastructure in selected 100 cities across the country. Objective of the programme is to modernize cities by providing core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions. The programme was officially launched on 24th of June 2016 and in the first phase, 20 cities will get funding for converting them into smart cities. In the next two years, the remaining cities will also participate in the project. Ministry of Urban Development is the anchoring agency for the implementation of the project. According to the smart cities mission, A 'smart city' is an urban region that is highly advanced in terms of overall infrastructure, sustainable real estate, communications and market viability. It is a city where information technology is the principal infrastructure and the basis for providing essential services to residents. The main focus of the project is the area based development of cities by transforming existing areas through retrofitting and redevelopment. Selected areas including slums will be modified and living conditions will be improved by setting better amenities and services. Another component of the smart cities project is the development of new areas. Greenfield or new areas will be developed around cities in order to accommodate the expanding population in the smart cities. Similarly, adoption of Smart Solutions with the use technology, information and data are expected to improve infrastructure and services under the project. Financing of smart cities mission Financing of the mission will be collaboratively done by the Centre, state and local bodies. Fund from the private sector will be invited and Public Private Partnerships will support the project financially. The most vital contribution will be provided by the centre as it will provide Rs.48,000 crores over five years i.e. on an average Rs.100 crore per city per year. Matching the centre's contribution, an equal amount will be made by the State/ULBs. Altogether nearly one lakh crore rupees from government sources will be available for Smart Cities Project. In addition to the Centre/state/ULB funding, funds from other sources including user charges, PPP, fourteenth finance commission awards, municipal bonds, multilateral and bilateral borrowings, NIIF funding, and use of funds from

various government schemes will also be used. For the implementation of the project each city should form a dedicated Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The SPV will plan, appraise, approve, release funds, implement, manage, operate, monitor and evaluate various projects. Each smart city will have an SPV and it will be headed by a full time CEO and have nominees of Centre and State governments and ULBs on its Board.

73. Starting the mega work on GST

After the ratification of the GST legislation, the center and state governments are starting the next mega work of determining the rate structure of the new unified tax. The difficult phase of deciding the GST rate structure and selection of the commodity/service groups with consensus is the main milestone in the GST reform. The rate structure of the GST will be decided by the newly constituted GST Council which is going to be meet on September 22 and 23 at New Delhi. Though GST has been practically accepted by the countrys administrative federal constituents, the tax rates are to be determined. It is the GST Council that led by the Finance Minister and comprised of state Finance Ministers that will decide the crucial tax rates. The most difficult work of the Council will be fixation of the standard GST rate. This is the rate that will be applicable for most of the goods and services. Centres Aravind Subramanian Committee suggested a revenue neutral rate of 18%. But states are apprehensive of revenue loss and are insisting on a 20% plus rate to protect their revenues. Selection of the merit and non-merit goods on which tax rate will be lower and higher compared to the standard rate is also done by the Council. A major practical issue that should be addressed by the Council is how service tax rate will be handled. Service tax rate is 15% at present much below than the cumulative 27% on goods. Merging the two and setting a common rate was the so far accepted approach. But when the service tax rate goes up to 20%, it may cause serious distortions according to many experts. In this context, the Council may search for a separate standard rate for services which will be lower than the goods rate. If this is the policy, the Council may go for a 20% plus standard rate on goods and a 16- 18% standard rate on services. Given the fact that the revenue neutral rate is a guess work so far, search and consensus for a standard rate will be much complex especially in the context of the uncertainty about service tax treatment. Hence the work of the GST Council may be just initiated on 22nd and a conclusion can be extended sometimes closer to the deadline of the general budget.

74. The Shake-up in Budget 2017

The Finance Ministry is preparing for a major budget exercise realignment with the incorporation of three major changes that are in front of the Cabinet right now. Removal of the plan-nonplan classification of expenditure is the much anticipated one. Besides, the Ministry is preparing for merging Railway budget with the general budget. Another component that may altogether shift the revenue side is an early or rather timely consensus on GST. If GST discussions are finished well before the budget formulation stage, the tax design procedure should accommodate the GST structure. On the first change, that is the phasing out of the plan and non-plan classification, the preparation difficulty is much less as already the government is going through the process of shifting away from the planning era practices. Now, the major classification remains the economic and functional one with budget is divided into revenue and capital budgets. The novel element of the planned shake-up will be the merger of Railway budget into the General budget. A Committee under Shankar Acharya has submitted for analyzing the technical side of such a merger and the Cabinet is considering the proposal. If implemented, the Railway budget details will be inducted as annexure to the general budget. From the governments side, the merger of the two will end political scrutiny of the railway budget proposals and will end the possible popular negative sentiments. The third and perhaps the most important one is the finalization of the GST structure well before the budget date. If it happens, the new budget will come with a different look. Less number of tax rates, limiting the commodities and services into the agreed rate size etc. will make the budgetary exercise different. At the same time, adjusting to the new format itself need time for the Ministry to best fit the commodities into the agreed tax rate structure.

75. International Day of Democracy - 15 September

2016 Theme: Democracy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) -- a plan for achieving a better future for all, laying out a path over 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of the Agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals, which call for mobilizing efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. The new goals result from a process that has been more inclusive than ever, with Governments involving business, civil society and citizens from the outset. Now, the task of implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals requires

States to work in close partnership with civil society. Parliaments in particular have a critical role in translating the new sustainable development agenda into concrete action through passing legislation, making budget allocations and holding governments accountable. Speaking at the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon [commended the parliamentarians of the world](#) for the valuable role they played in shaping the new framework. He also underscored that their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be equally critical: People will look to you to hold your governments accountable for achieving the goals, and to write the laws and invest in the programmes that will make them a reality, he said, noting that democratic principles also run through the entire document like a silver thread. [Sustainable Development Goal 16](#) addresses democracy by calling for inclusive and participatory societies and institutions. It aims to Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The Goal is both an end in itself and a crucial part of delivering sustainable development in all countries. It has been seen by many commentators as the transformational goal and key to ensuring that the Agenda can be accomplished.

76. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer - 16 September

2016 Theme: Ozone and climate: Restored by a world united. In 1994, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer ([resolution 49/114](#)). States were invited to devote the Day to promote activities in accordance with the objectives of the Protocol and its amendments. The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet. The phaseout of controlled uses of ozone-depleting substances and the related reductions have not only helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change; furthermore, it has protected human health and ecosystems by limiting the harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the earth. The theme for this year's International Ozone Day recognizes the collective efforts of the parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol towards the restoration of the ozone layer over the past three decades and the global commitment to combat climate change.

77. Samajwadi Kisan & Sarvhit Bima Yojana

Samajwadi Kisan Bima Yojana or Samajwadi Kisan Sarvhit Bima Yojana is a new insurance scheme launched by the state Government of Uttar Pradesh. The scheme will now be implemented throughout the state to benefit about 15 Crore population in the state. The main objective of the scheme is to provide financial and social security cover to the farmers and weaker section in the state. The scheme also marks the end of older Krishak Durghatna Bima Yojana from 14th September itself. Samajwadi Kisan Sarvhit Bima Yojana Introduction The chief minister of Uttar Pradesh Mr. Akhilesh Yadav made a statement on 14th September that the scheme would soon be launched formally in the state. Under the Samajwadi Kisan Bima Yojana, the state government would provide insurance cover to about 3 Crore households in the state. The scheme would benefit farmers between 18 to 70 years of age who are registered under Khasra and Khatauni. The insurance coverage under the Samajwadi Kisan Sarvhit Bima Yojana would also be extended to the people whose household income is less than Rs. 75000 per annum. Benefits under Samajwadi Kisan Sarvhit Bima Yojana Following main insurance benefits would be provided to the beneficiaries under the scheme: In case of death or permanent/temporary disability caused in an accident, the head of the household would be given two benefits as following: Individual accidental insurance of up to Rs. 5 Lakh. Medical assistance of up to 2.5 Lakh to the beneficiary and his/her family members for treatment. The victim would be provided cashless treatment facility. The eligible candidates would be provided free Samajwadi Kisan Sarvhit Bima Yojana Care Card. BPL families and the Samajwadi Pension Yojana beneficiaries need not to present any income certificate to avail the scheme benefits. The insurance cover benefits under the scheme would be provided even in the case of snake biting or any harm by wild animals. In case of mutilation of any part, Up to Rs. 1 Lakh would be provided for artificial part. The scheme would be applicable even in the case of the accident outside the state. Medical assistance of up to Rs. 25000 for first aid in any nearest medical center would be given to beneficiary in case of accident. Samajwadi Kisan Sarvhit Bima Yojana Care Card The state government, under the scheme would issue care cards to all the eligible candidates which can be used to avail scheme benefits. However, even in case of not having the care card, the scheme benefits would be provided to the beneficiary. Samajwadi Kisan Evam Sarvhit Bima Yojana was first given its approval by the state cabinet for implementation from 1st April 2016. The state government has appointed the renowned bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui as the brand ambassador for the scheme. How to Claim under Samajwadi Kisan Bima Yojana To avail the

scheme benefits, the beneficiary needs to submit the scheme claim form along with the following documents:

1. Age certificate of the household head.
2. Certificate copy of the Khasra Khatauni.
3. Income certificate (Not required from BPL households and Samajwadi Pension Yojana Beneficiaries)
4. family distribution letter
5. Copy of FIR
6. Death certificate
7. Certificate from the head doctor in case of disability
8. Heir certificate
9. Treatment related bills from the hospital/medical center
10. Saving bank account number, bank name and IFSC code of the beneficiary or the nominee.

78. Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme (SCCS) Gets Cabinet Approval

The much anticipated and ambitious [Student Credit Card Scheme \(SCCS\)](#) of Bihar Government has finally got the cabinet approval on 14th September. The state government under the scheme will facilitate education loans to the students for higher studies. To be run by the education department, Student Credit Card Scheme (SCCS) will facilitate the education loan to the 12th passout students willing to pursue higher education. The state government will facilitate education loans of upto Rs. 4 lakh from the nationalized banks by acting as guarantor. Irrespective of the financial background, 12th Pass students who secures admission in any of the recognized institutes for higher education will be eligible to avail the loan. Under the scheme, the state government has set a target of disbursing education loans to 5 Crore students within 2016-17. Under the scheme, the students need not to directly approach the banks for loans, instead, the district registration centers will be accepting the applications from students. Once the physical verification of the documents is done by the district centers, the applications will be sent to the banks. The banks will have 15 days to approve the loan applications. After the loan application is approved, the banks will specify another date within next 15 days to sign the loan agreement document and complete other formalities. The applicant students will be informed via e-mail and text messages about the important dates and status of the loan.

79. Startup Chhattisgarh â€“ Scheme to Promote Startup Culture

State Government of Chhattisgarh has launched a new Chhattisgarh Startup Challenge for the entrepreneurs to promote the startup culture in the state. Under the Startup Chhattisgarh scheme, the state government would be offering several incentives for the startup entrepreneurs. This scheme has been launched on the lines of the Narendra Modis Startup India mission. To promote the startup culture in the state, the government would be extending its full support to develop the enabling ecosystem for startups. The state government, for the same purpose has also launched a website www.startupcg.com to accept the startup ideas. The interested candidates can submit their idea of any kind whether it is just an idea, prototype, validated in market or an existing business with revenue on this website. The state government would organize boot camps across all 27 districts in the state. The boot camp would be a campaign to identify the potential start-up idea which can be incubated and turned into successful business. The startups selected for incubation will be provided support by the state government in all aspects of nurturing the idea. The government would provide support in developing the business plan, building a prototype, market testing of the product, service and funding. Under this initiative, Government also aims at nurturing startup companies which are much closer to the local environment. Preference will be given to startup in priority sectors, healthcare, animal husbandry and value addition of core sector products. Under the Startup Chhattisgarh Scheme, startup in priority sectors such as healthcare, animal husbandry and value addition of core sector products will be given preferences in selection.

80. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) or Housing for All by 2022 Mission

The Housing for All by 2022 under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing for All (Urban) launched by the central government aims to provide housing to all urban people by 2022. It provides central assistance to States and UTs for constructing houses to all eligible sections by concentrating on urban slums and economically weaker sections. Hence, slum rehabilitation and affordable housing to Economically Weaker Sections are the major features of the project. The programme has following components/options to States/Union Territories and cities: - a) Slum rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers with participation of private developers using land as a resource; b) Promotion of Affordable Housing for weaker section through credit linked subsidy; c) Affordable housing in partnership with Public Private sectors and d) Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction or enhancement. All statutory towns as

per Census 2011 and towns notified subsequently would be eligible for coverage under the Mission. A major component of the scheme besides slum rehabilitation is to provide affordable housing to all Economically Weaker Sections (per capita income less than Rs 3 lakh). As per the criterion of the project, a house constructed for EWS will be an all-weather-single unit or a unit in a multi-storeyed super structure having carpet area of upto 30 sq. m. with adequate basic civic services and infrastructure services like toilet, water, electricity etc. States can determine the area of EWS as per their local needs. Financing of the scheme The project will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. But the credit linked subsidy component will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme. The Mission also prescribes certain mandatory reforms to make adequate urban land available for affordable housing. Houses constructed under the mission would be allotted in the name of the female head of the households or in the joint name of the male head of the household and his wife. State governments have considerable participation in the programme as it would have the flexibility in deploying the slum rehabilitation grant to any slum rehabilitation project taken for development using land as a resource for providing houses to slum dwellers. Under the Credit Linked Interest Subsidy component, interest subsidy of 6.5 percent on housing loans availed upto a tenure of 15 years will be provided to EWS/LIG categories. Central assistance at the rate of Rs.1.5 lakh per house for EWS category will be provided. State Government or their affiliates like Housing Boards can take up project of affordable housing to avail the Central Government grant. The scheme will cover the entire urban area consisting of 4041 statutory towns with initial focus on 500 Class I cities and it will be implemented in three phases as follows, viz. Phase-I (April 2015- March 2017) to cover 100 Cities to be selected from States/UTs; Phase II (April 2017- March 2019) to cover additional 200 Cities and Phase-III (April 2019- March 2022) to cover all other remaining Cities. Credit linked subsidy component of the scheme would be implemented across the country in all statutory towns from the very beginning.

81. India has to abandon domestic sourcing of solar equipment as WTO favours the US stand

Indias forex saving policy on solar front that of local manufacturing should take place in India has to be abandoned with the WTO verdict against it. The WTO in its verdict has agreed with the US stance and directed that Indias domestic component manufacturing for energy projects under the National Solar Mission is against the National Treatment principles of WTO. Earlier, the US, one of the largest producers of solar photovoltaic cells sued India at the WTOs Dispute Settlement Body that Indias domestic manufacturing requirements are anti trade. The issue was related with the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission which tried to encourage solar energy production through budgetary support. Government tried to impose local content requirement on the ground that the procured power is used from government purposes railway and defense. Real aim was to check erosion of the benefits of the subsidy supported National Solar Mission mostly going to solar equipment providers of other countries. India has only 5000 MW solar equipment capacities. More than that, the domestic industry is at the infancy stage. They dont enjoy a vertical integration as in the US or China. In both countries, the solar equipment manufactures enjoy advantage of integration of the equipment manufacturing with power production. Large scale assured power purchase agreements, government incentives for green energy etc., enabled them to develop cost-effective solar equipment industry at an early stage. Globally, there is a solar equipment glut as supply capacity is excess. Indias solar mission is a golden opportunity for US and China manufactures as Indias solar energy target is one of the biggest in the world. The ruling may put the solar energy programme in some policy trouble. Subsidy and other incentives were given by the government for the Solar Mission to encourage emission free renewable energy production. Several environment protecting type incentives and subsidies were given for the sector. Power purchase agreements were authored despite the volatility and uncertainty of power generation from solar parks. Similarly, the biggest risk of the 100 GW solar energy target and the Solar energy programme is the pressure it may put on the balance of payment front for importing solar equipment.

82. Railways launches 'Cleanliness Week'

Indian Railways marked the 'Swachh Paryavaran Diwas' (Clean Environment Day) by launching the Swachhta Saptah (Cleanliness Week) from Saturday.

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, while inaugurating the drive in New Delhi said the objective behind the initiative is to spread wider awareness on sanitation and cleanliness in rail premises and make hygiene a habit amongst the travelling public.

Mr Prabhu on the occasion also spelled out the Railways commitment by recounting the initiatives taken under the 'Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat Mission'.

83. **India calls for concrete action in fight against terrorism at NAM summit**

India has called for concrete action in the fight against terrorism and asked the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to set up a mechanism to ensure effective cooperation in combating the menace. Addressing the 17th NAM Summit at Porlamar in Venezuela last night, Vice President Hamid Ansari said terrorism is the main threat to security, sovereignty and development of the nations.

He said, terrorism is one of the most egregious sources of human right violations today and its use as an instrument of state policy should be unequivocally condemned. Mr Ansari asserted that no cause justifies the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians as a means to achieve a political goal or change of policies. He said it is therefore imperative for the NAM to galvanise the international community to strengthen the international legal framework to address this menace.

Mr Ansari said, the NAM must also ensure that all existing structures that are the building blocks of UN's Global Counter Terrorism Strategy function in a non-partisan and professional manner.

The final draft declaration of the 17th NAM summit also strongly pitched for decisive and coordinated action to prevent and combat the financing and illicit transfer of weapons. The NAM countries also reaffirmed that terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion or nationality.

They also recognised the threat posed by the scourge of terrorism, particularly the activities carried out by terrorist groups such as the Taliban, al-Qaeda, Islamic State and affiliated entities.

During his speech, Mr Ansari also strongly flagged the issue of UN reforms and said the NAM must use the forthcoming 71st UN General Assembly to ensure that discussions at the Inter-governmental Negotiations move forward.

He asked whether an organisation designed in 1945 with just 51 member states, is really appropriate to serve the needs of an international community that comprises 193 independent sovereign states facing the challenges of 21st century.

Earlier yesterday, Venezuela assumed NAM's rotating presidency from Iran which had hosted the bloc's summit in 2012. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro accepted the presidency and vowed to strengthen the bloc.

84. **Delhi govt panel rules out Chikungunya as primary cause of deaths**

The committee set up by the Delhi government to review cases of death attributed to dengue and chikungunya complications has ruled out chikungunya as the primary cause of fatality. Committee said it was co-morbid conditions in its patients which led to their deaths. The committee in its report, which was released yesterday has only reviewed nearly 20 cases.

Review of some of the cases are still awaited, for lack of documents from the hospitals. Doctors say that chikungunya is not a life-threatening disease in general, but in rare cases leads to complications that prove fatal, especially in children and elderly persons.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain has also repeatedly said according to medical literature, chikungunya cannot kill, and therefore people need not panic. He said most of the victims were old people, and had some sort of medical history.

Hospitals in the Delhi have reported at least 15 deaths this season due to complications triggered by chikungunya which has also affected over 1,700 people in city.

85. **Tigresses stride into history in Thrissur town**

In Kerala, for the first time in history, women donned tiger costumes and performed Pulikali yesterday evening in Thrissur. Breaking the conventional gender barriers, they performed along with men on the streets, dancing to the beat of drums wearing tiger masks and body painted with the face of big cat.

The organization 'Women Integration And Growth Through Sports' along with the Viyyur Pulikali Sangham was behind

the initiative to involve women in Pulikali the folk art performed during Onam season.

One of the women who performed in Pulikali was Vinaya, who works as an ASI at the police academy. As Pulikali is the next important celebration for the people of Thrissur after Thrissur Pooram, a huge crowd thronged the Swaraj Round to watch the performance, that brings down curtain on the Onam celebrations.

86. World Bank to invest nearly 1,000 crore rupees for improvement of inland waterways in Assam

World Bank will invest nearly 1,000 crore rupees in Assam for the betterment of the inland waterways. It was conveyed to State Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. Official sources in Guwahati told AIR that the money will be utilised to develop inland waterways including ghats.

The Union Minister also assured to re-construct jetty for which 100 percent assistance will be given by the Centre. On the other hand, emphasising on road safety, driving school will be set up in all districts of Assam. It is also decided that driving license will be issued from the proposed driving schools later. Road accidents claimed lives of thousands of people every year in Assam and so the government has given much stress on road safety.

On the other hand, Mr Patowary also requested Union Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to include tea course at Tocklai Tea Research Centre in Jorhat. He also urged the Union Minister to shift head office of Tea Board to Guwahati from Kolkata.

87. World Bank chief Jim Yong Kim heads for 2nd 5-year term

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim effectively won a second five year term after nominations to lead the global development bank closed on Wednesday with no other candidates proposed.

The World Bank executive board said in a statement that, following official procedures, it would formally meet with Kim as a candidate with the expectation of completing the selection process by the 2016 Annual Meetings, which take place on 7th to 9th of October.

Kim, a Korean-American medical doctor who has focused the World Bank on programs to reduce extreme poverty, earned solid backing for a second term from the United States, France, Germany, China, and other major shareholders of the bank.

88. Govt appointed panel recommends for MSP of gram to Rs 4,000 a quintal

A government appointed committee has recommended for Minimum Support Price, MSP of gram to 4,000 rupees a quintal for Rabi season 2016 and 6,000 rupees a quintal for both urad and tur for kharif season 2017.

The committee headed by Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian had been set up to review the MSPs and related policies to incentivize the cultivation of pulses. Mr Subramanian today submitted the report to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.

Briefing reporters, Mr Subramanian stressed on the need for enhancing domestic production of pulses. The report also suggested that government procurement machinery should be in high gear to ensure procurement of kharif pulses at this season's MSP.

89. 4 crore rupees, govt job for Deepa Malik: Haryana Sports Minister

Haryana government has announced a cash award of four crore rupees for Paralympics medalist Deepa Malik, at par with medal-winners at the Olympic Games.

State's Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, Anil Vij said that it is a matter of pride for Haryana that a sports person from the state had bagged a medal at the Paralympic Games as well.

Mr Vij, who welcomed the athlete at IGI Airport in New Delhi yesterday, said that Deepa will also be given a government job as per her educational qualifications.

Deepa, hailing from Sonapat in Haryana, became the first Indian woman athlete to win medal at Paralympics. She won a silver medal in the women's shotput event with a throw of 4.61 metres at the Rio Paralympics.

90. Indian shooter Subhankar Pramanick wins gold at ISSF Junior World Cup in Azerbaijan

Young Indian shooter Subhankar Pramanick clinched the gold medal in 50-metre rifle prone event at the ISSF Junior World Cup for pistol, rifle and shotgun in Gabala, Azerbaijan today.

The Indian shot 205.5 overall to finish top of the podium.

Czech Republic's Filip Nepejchal (205.2) followed in second position, while Romania's Dragomir Iordache (185.1) was placed third at the end of the finals.

A total of 279 junior athletes, representing 27 countries, are battling it out in 18 events.

91. Rio Paralympic Games marred in the final hours by death of an Iranian cyclist

Rio today closes a Paralympic Games that many feared would be a fiasco but which turned into a triumph, though marred in the final hours by the death of an Iranian cyclist.

Eleven days of competition where China dominated the medals table, followed by Britain, Ukraine and the United States, were ending today with the last few events, including marathons and wheelchair rugby.

At the closing ceremony in Rio de Janeiro's Maracana football stadium Brazilian officials were officially to hand over to Tokyo for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The upbeat mood in Rio however was darkened late Saturday by the death of Iranian cyclist Bahman Golbarnezhad, 48.

The athlete, who wore a prosthesis on his left leg, fell during a mountainous descent in the road race and died before he could be treated in hospital.

Philip Craven, the International Paralympic Committee president, called the tragedy truly heart-breaking.

92. India finishes 2nd in Track Asia Cup; win two more gold medals on final day

India ended their campaign in the Track Asia Cup at second position at the Cycling Velodrome in IG Stadium in New Delhi today. India got eight medals, including two gold, on the final day of the competition today.

With this, India's medals tally comprises 16 with five gold, four Silver and seven bronze. Hong Kong topped the table with 18 medals which comprise 11 Gold, four Silver and three bronze.

India's Deborah Herold, in her Final Sprint event, clinched the top position with a time of 12.576 minutes and 12.493 minutes in the first and second rounds, respectively. She beat Zhaojuan of Hong Kong, who clocked 12.820 minutes and 12.734 minutes in both the rounds to settle for a silver. The third position was taken by Farina Shawati of Malaysia with a time of 12.552 and 12.342.

Another Indian -- Kezia Vargheese -- missed the bronze medal by a whisker, finishing fourth in this event. Deborah, however, lost the gold medal in her favourite event -- Keirin -- and managed to win a silver ahead of her teammate Kezia Vargheese, who bagged the bronze. The 21-year-old Deborah turned out to be the star performer for the country, having clinched three gold and one silver.

In the Men's Elite Keirin event, Indian cyclist Amarjeet Singh finished 8th, but in the Junior Keirin competition, Emerson won the bronze medal for India.

93. International Day of Peace - 21 September

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The Days theme for 2016 is The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were unanimously adopted by the 193 Member States of the United Nations at an historic summit of the world's leaders in New York in September 2015. The new ambitious 2030 agenda calls on countries to begin efforts to achieve these goals over the next 15 years. It aims to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. The Sustainable Development Goals are integral to achieving peace in our time, as development and peace are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are our shared vision of humanity and a social contract between the world's leaders and the people, said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. They are a to-do list for people and planet, and a blueprint for success. Sustainability addresses the fundamental needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Modern challenges of poverty, hunger, diminishing natural resources, water scarcity, social inequality, environmental degradation, diseases, corruption, racism and xenophobia, among others, pose challenges for peace and create fertile grounds for conflict. Sustainable development contributes decisively to dissipation and elimination of these causes of conflict and provides the foundation for a lasting peace. Peace, meanwhile, reinforces the conditions for sustainable development and liberates the resources needed for societies to develop and prosper. Every single one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is a building block in the global architecture of peace. It is critical that we mobilise means of implementation, including financial resources, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, as well as the role of partnerships. Everyone has a stake and everyone has a contribution to make.

94. TRIPs and India's intellectual property rights regime

The TRIPs (Trade Related Intellectual Property) regime has emerged as the basic framework for ensuring intellectual property rights across the world. It is not the universal Intellectual property law. But it provides a basic framework. Every member of WTO should include TRIPs provisions in their domestic intellectual property legislations. Intellectual property regime is anchored by legislations in the corresponding fields. With the establishment of WTO and the international enforcement of its various provisions; India also has made corresponding changes in the intellectual property regime. The intellectual property right regime of the country has been modified by a number of legislation since 1995. For India, the WTO's TRIPs agreement became binding from 2005 onwards as the country has got a ten-year transition period (1995-2005) to make the domestic legislation compatible with TRIPs. Here, India has got additional five-year transition period because of not having product patent regime in critical sector like pharmaceutical. Hence, existing laws were amended and fresh legislations were introduced during this period. Different amendments to the various existing Acts- Patent Amendment Act (2005), Copy right Amendment Act (2010), are made to strengthen domestic legal framework to fulfill the harmonization with the WTO's TRIPs agreement. Similarly, a number of fresh legislations are made to upgrade the country's intellectual property regime. The following are the main legislations made to accommodate the TRIPs envisaged IPRs rights. 1. Patents: Patent Amendments: Patent amendment Act 1999, 2002 and 2005 2. Protection of Traditional Knowledge under Patent Amendment Act 2002 3. Industrial Designs: the Design Act, 1999 4. Trademarks: A new Trademarks Act 1999 has been enacted (The Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958). 5. Copyrights: The Copyrights Act 1957 has been amended in 1983, 1984, 1992, 1994, 1999 and 2010. The latest amendment of 2010 became effective from 2012 onwards. 6. Geographical indications: The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act) 1999. 7. Layout design of integrated circuits: The Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Layout Design Act, 2000 8. Plant Varieties: The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act 2001. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 also supports the IPR regime of the country. Several modifications are also expected in the immediate future to fine tune the country's IPR regime in the post TRIPs environment.

95. India's external debt surges to \$486 bn; share of ECBs and Short term debt falls

The external debt of the country reached \$486.6 bn as on March end 2016. According to the verification of the trend by the government on the basis of the Report published by the RBI, the external debt of the country increased by \$10.6 bn compared to a year ago. NRI Deposits drives external debt Unlike in the past, debt was driven by NRI deposits. The share of NRI deposits increased to 25.1% though commercial borrowings continue to be the major component of external debt with 37.3% share. According to the data, NRI deposits increased from \$115 bn to \$127 bn during the year. on the other hand, ECBs increased to \$ 181.3 bn from \$180.6 bn. A positive development about the debt scenario is the slowly declining short term debt. It was \$ 91.7 in March 2014, declined to \$85.5 in March 2015 and again fell to \$83.4

bn. The declining share of short term debt is desirable as it reduces the liquidity problem related with debt servicing. Share of short term debt is now 17.2% compared to 23.6% in 2013. In the total debt the share of government debt continues to be small at 19.2%, highlighting that India's external debt is incurred more by the corporate. The debt GDP ratio for the country is nearly stagnant at around 23.7% during the last three years.

96. Centre announces third list of smart cities

Centre today announced the third list of smart cities. These include five cities from Maharashtra, four each from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, three from Uttar Pradesh, two each from Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and one each from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Nagaland and Sikkim. Announcing this in New Delhi, Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu said, over 1 lakh 44 thousand crore rupees have been proposed for 60 cities under smart city plans. He said, 27 of 63 participating cities have qualified.

Mr Naidu said, the willingness and enthusiasm among cities to participate in more than one round of competition is a clear evidence of the urban renaissance set in motion. He said, competition based selection has made the cities rediscover themselves as they are undertaking a thorough assessment of gaps in the present levels of infrastructure and service delivery and coming out with comprehensive, credible and actionable plans for area based development and technology based Pan-city solutions.

From Maharashtra Thane, Nashik, Nagpur, Kalyan Dombivali and Aurangabad have made it to the list. Gwalior and Ujjain from Madhya Pradesh qualified for the third list. From Rajasthan, Kota and Ajmer and from Gujarat Vadodara have made the cut. Amritsar and Jalandhar from Punjab and Madurai, Salem, Thanjavur and Vellore from Tamil Nadu were included in the Smart City Mission. Kohima, Capital city of Nagaland and Namchi in Sikkim are two cities from North-East incorporated in the list. Spiritual city Tirupati from Andhra and industrial city Rourkela of Odisha are also part of the Mission.

The list also includes Hubli-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Tumakuru and Shivamogga from Karnataka and Varanasi, Agra and Kanpur from Uttar Pradesh. The cities were put through three rounds of tough competition where they were evaluated on a variety of factors. The first list of the smart cities was announced earlier this year. The city will have facilities such as assured water and power supply, sanitation and solid waste management systems, efficient urban mobility and public transportation, IT connectivity and e-governance, among others.

Each city will receive Central assistance of 200 crore rupees in the first year and 100 crore rupees over the three subsequent financial years. State governments and respective urban local bodies will also match the Centres contribution. The Government aims to transform about 100 cities by 2019-20.

97. India successfully test fires long range surface-to-air Barak-8 missile off Odisha coast

India today successfully test-fired the most advanced surface-to-air missile 'Barak-8' off the Odisha coast. The long-range nuclear capable ballistic missile, developed jointly with Israel, was first test-fired at 10:13 hrs from a mobile launcher; while the second test was conducted at 14:25 hrs this afternoon at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur in Balasore district. The 4.5-meter missile weighs around 3 tonnes can carry a payload of 70 kilograms.

Both the missiles swung into action after getting signals from the radars to intercept a moving aerial target supported by an unmanned air vehicle Banshee over the Bay of Bengal. DRDO sources said, more tests of the missile will be carried out tomorrow.

As a precautionary measure, the system also includes a Multi-Functional Surveillance and Threat Alert Radar for detection, tracking and guidance of the missile. Barak-8 was successfully test fired twice on June 30th and once on July 1st. As a precautionary measure, Balasore district administration had temporarily shifted 3,700 people residing within the 2.5 kilometer radius of the test.

98. Railways launches Yatri Mitra Sewa to help elderly, differently-abled

In a move to make rail travel comfortable for elderly, differently-abled and ailing travelers, Railways has launched 'Yatri Mitra Sewa' to facilitate access to wheelchairs, battery operated cars and porter services.

'Yatri Mitra' or 'Passenger Friend' can be an assistant or any other person nominated for the purpose. The service will be available at major railway stations across the country.

The service can be availed at the time of online booking of tickets, calling or messaging '139', accessing an app developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), or by simply dialling a dedicated mobile phone number to be activated for the purpose.

99. Govt to build one crore houses by 2019 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna: Tomar

Union Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has said that the Centre has set a target of providing housing to all by 2022. Participating in a conference in Guwahati yesterday, Mr. Tomar said one crore houses will be constructed by 2019 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna.

The minister also emphasized on timely submission of Utilisation Certificate to avoid delay in releasing funds for various schemes. He said that Prime Minister has given much thrust for the development of the North East region. Mr. Tomar also urged states to work to achieve the target of making the country open defecation free by 2019.

On the second and final day of the conference today, a cleanliness drive will be held at Kamakhya temple premises. Assam Chief Minister and several Union ministers will take part in the drive.

Later, Mr. Tomar will hold a meeting with the MPs from North East on development projects. Rural Development Ministers of several states are taking part in the conference.

100. Two-day national labour meet kicks off in Odisha

A two-day national conference on labour began in Bhubaneswar, Odisha today. The conference, organised jointly by the Odisha Labour department and the International Labour Organisation, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Presiding over the function, Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Bandaru Dattatreya urged the state government to spend the fund allocated under the Building and Other Construction Workers judiciously. He said, more needs to be done to ensure social protection to construction workers who are severely exploited because of they lack skills and hail from backward regions.

The first-of-its kind labour meeting is attended by Labour Ministers and Chairpersons of Labour Welfare Boards of 29 states.

Major issues pertaining to social security of organised and un-organised sector labourers, child and bonded labourers, various welfare measures, skill development as well as wage issues are to be discussed in the conference.

The conference will also likely to discuss about how to manage the labour welfare boards and regulate child labour laws in a better and effective ways.

101. Two Indians, one Indian-American among 17 UN Young Leaders

Two Indians and an Indian-American are among the 17 people selected for the inaugural class of United Nations Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals. They are, Trisha Shetty, Ankit Kawatra and Indian-American Karan Jerath.

UN has chosen them for their leadership and contribution to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. 25-year old Trisha Shetty is the founder and CEO of 'SheSays', a platform she launched last year to educate, rehabilitate and empower women to take direct action against sexual assault in India.

Ankit Kawatra, aged 24, founded 'Feeding India' in 2014 to address the issues of hunger and food waste, particularly by distributing excess food from weddings and parties to the needy. 19-year old Indian-American Karan Jerath invented a ground-breaking, subsea wellhead capping device that contains oil spills at the source as a solution in the aftermath of

the BP deepwater horizon oil spill - the largest marine oilspill in US history, near his home in Texas.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, the 17 young change-makers are a testament to the ingenuity of youth. He congratulated them for their exceptional leadership and demonstrated commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

102. North Korea carries out 'successful' rocket engine test

North Korea has carried out a successful ground test of a new rocket engine to launch satellites. Kim Jong-un, the country's leader, asked scientists and engineers to make preparations for a satellite launch as soon as possible. It is the latest in a series of missile-related tests this year. Meanwhile, the US and China have agreed to step up co-operation at the UN to address the North's fifth nuclear test.

The underground nuclear test, conducted earlier this month, is thought to be the country's most powerful yet. North Korea regularly makes claims about the progress of its nuclear and missile programmes, but analysts say most of them are impossible to independently verify.

According to Diplomats, US and Chinese officials have started discussions on a possible UN sanctions resolution as a response. But Beijing has not said directly whether it will support tougher steps against Pyongyang.

103. Typhoon Malakas slams Japan

A powerful typhoon slammed into Japan today, leaving at least 3 dozen people injured and one missing, as torrential rains caused serious flooding that washed away a bridge and inundated homes and cars.

Transportation across southern Kyushu - hit by deadly quakes earlier this year - and parts of western Japan came to a standstill as Typhoon Malakas ripped across the country, packing winds of up to 180 kilometres per hour. Officials issued evacuation advisories that affected about 620,000 people.

Regional train services slammed to a halt and about 180 flights were cancelled because of strong winds from the raging storm, which was moving toward Tokyo this afternoon with officials warning of high seas, possible landslides and more flooding.

104. Three-day international seafood show in Vizag from Friday

A 3-day international seafood show will be held in Visakhapatnam from Friday. Themed 'Safe and Sustainable Indian Aquaculture', the event will have participation of 2,000 delegates from India and 200 from abroad. They will discuss technological advances and sustainable practices followed in fisheries capture and culture to ensure quality of seafood for both domestic and export markets.

The Marine Products Export Development Authority under the Union Commerce Ministry is organising the event in association with the Seafood Exporters Association of India.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate the event. Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu and Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitaraman will also take part in the event.

105. Rushiraj wins rapid fire pistol gold at ISSF Junior World Cup

Indian shooters continued their impressive show in the ISSF Junior World Cup with Rushiraj Barot striking gold in the junior men's 25m rapid fire pistol event on day three of the competition at Gabala in Azerbaijan today. The 19-year old Indian, who qualified for the six-man final in fifth position with a score of 556 in the qualifying, edged out Lukas Skoumal of the Czech Republic 25-23 to record his first triumph at the Junior World Cup stage. Rushiraj had finished ninth in the same event in the first Junior World Cup of the year held in Suhl, Germany, in May. Sergei Evglevski of Australia won the bronze.

India picked up four more medals today, including one more gold, to sit firmly in second place on the medal table, winning six gold, four silver and eight bronze for a total haul of 18 medals so far. Russia are on top of the medal table with 10 gold for a total of 21 medals. Earlier in the day, Pratik Borse, Arjun Babuta and Prashant won the team gold in

the 10m air rifle event with a combined score of 1849.9.

The team from Singapore won the silver logging a total of 1847 while Japan won the bronze with a total score of 1846.8. Both Arjun and Pratik also qualified for the individual finals where Arjun Babuta won the bronze medal. Rising Czech talent Filip Nepechal, who had also won the senior World Cup Gold in the event in Baku earlier this year, won the gold with his last shot, ahead of Japan's Atsushi Shimada.

In the junior men's 5m pistol, Anmol notched up another medal when he teamed up with Nishant Bhardwaj and Arjun Das to win the team silver medal. Their combined score of 1600 was behind team Russia's gold medal score of 1640. In the junior women's 10m air rifle, Dilreen Gill, Geetakshi Dixit and Aashi Rastogi helped India bag another team bronze. There are two more competition days left for the ISSF Junior World Cup to conclude.

106. US lawmakers introduce bill to designate Pakistan a terrorist state

In US, two influential lawmakers have introduced a bill in House of Representatives to designate Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism. The bill known as the Pakistan State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Act has been moved by Republican Ted Poe and Democrat Dana Rohrabacher, who is a ranking member of the influential Congressional Committee on Terrorism.

Ted Poe, who is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism, said Pakistan is not only an untrustworthy ally but has also aided and abetted enemies of the US for years.

He said it is time that US stopped paying Pakistan for its betrayal and designate it a state sponsor of terrorism.

Poe said from harboring Osama bin Laden to its relationship with the Haqqani network, there is more than enough evidence to determine whose side Pakistan is on in the War on Terror.

107. SC rejects PIL seeking independent public body for appointment of judges

Supreme Court has rejected a PIL seeking setting up of a public body, independent of the executive and judiciary, to ensure fair appointment of judges in High Courts and the apex court.

A bench comprising of justices Arun K Mishra and U U Lalit while hearing the PIL yesterday, said, judges do not need certificates from anybody. The bench also said the setting up of such a body would amount to amending the Constitution which cannot be done by the apex court.

The observation came when it was alleged that there has been nepotism in the appointment of judges in High Courts and the apex court.

The bench disagreed with the plea of National Lawyers' Campaign for Judicial Transparency and Reforms that a body independent of executive and judiciary to select Judges to the higher judiciary was needed, as those talented amongst a vast majority of lawyers were never considered by the collegium for selection as Judges.

The lawyers' body has contended that an independent judge selection body was needed to end the alleged control of the elite section over judiciary.

108. Vadodara to host Power Ministers' conference on October 7

A two-day conference of Power, Renewable Energy and Mines Ministers of 29 States and Union Territories will be held at Vadodara from 7th October. Union Minister of State for Power, Piyush Goyal, will inaugurate the conference.

The aim is to review the implementation of various ongoing schemes and programmes and host of issues pertaining to power, coal and renewable energy sectors. Ministers and secretaries of the states and union territories and senior officials will discuss on issues like implementation of Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY), 24x7 Power for All and Rural Electrification Programme.

109. Centre to set up a committee to deal with complaints regarding Waqf properties

Centre will soon set up a one-man Board of Adjudication to deal with complaints regarding Waqf properties. The Committee to be set up at Central level will be headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge or retired High Court Chief Justice.

According to an official release, the decision was taken in the meeting of Central Waqf Council chaired by Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in New Delhi yesterday. He said, three-member Tribunals are being established in the States and about 16 states have already established these tribunals.

During the meeting, Mr Naqvi also informed that the government has started a campaign to free the Waqf properties from illegal occupants, so that they can be used for the purpose of the welfare of the Muslim community.

He said, complaints of illegal occupation of Waqf properties in collaboration with officials of State Waqf Boards have been received from some States.

He informed that a high-level inquiry is going on and strict legal action will be taken against the encroacher. He directed the State Waqf Boards to ensure on-line registration of all the Waqf properties by this year-end to ensure transparency.

110. 193 countries sign declaration to stamp out drug-resistant infections

The 193 countries of the United Nations have signed a landmark declaration to rid the world of drug-resistant infections or superbugs. Six years in the making, the international commitment could prevent 700,000 deaths a year, say experts.

It is the fourth time a UN declaration has been reached on a health issue, following HIV in 2001, non-communicable diseases in 2011 and Ebola in 2013. The signatories now have two years to report back with an action plan.

Experts say treatment-resistant infections pose one of the biggest known threats to humanity today.

111. Rourkela selected as second Smart City in Odisha

The steel city Rourkela is set to become Odisha's second smart city. It figures among the list of 27 smart cities released yesterday in New Delhi by Union urban development minister Venkaiah Naidu. Rourkela, which had missed the bus in the first round when the list of 20 smart cities with Bhubaneswar at the top was declared on January 28.

Welcoming the announcement and greeting residents of the steel town, chief minister Naveen Patnaik promised all help from the state government to turn Rourkela into an ideal smart city. The announcement by the Centre sparked off celebrations in Rourkela with local MLA Dilip Ray hailing it as a timely move that would open the doors for multiple development activities in the city.

112. Women entitled to end pregnancy regardless of reason: HC

The Bombay High Court has held that the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act should extend to the mental health of a woman and she should be allowed to opt out of an unwanted pregnancy irrespective of the reason.

A division bench of Justices VK Tahilramani and Mridula Bhatkar yesterday said the benefits of the Act must be extended to not just married women but also to those women who stay with their partners as married couples in live-in relationships.

The court made the observation while taking suo motu cognizance of a news report about pregnant women prisoners who were not taken to hospitals, despite informing the jail authorities of their wish to terminate pregnancy.

The court said the right to control their own body and fertility and motherhood choices should be left to the women alone. It further said this right emerges from her right to live with dignity as a human being in society and protected as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

113. Kerala government opposes GM mustard cultivation

Kerala Government yesterday objected to Genetically-Modified, GM, mustard being considered for commercial cultivation in India. Briefing the media after the cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said, his Government does not favour GM mustard as it has been proved to be unhealthy. The State Government will inform the Centre that this should not be given the nod for it to be cultivated in India, he added. This is the first time that the Kerala Government has openly expressed its concern about GM mustard.

114. Amritsar tops the list of 27 new smart cities

The Golden Temple city of Amritsar topped the list of 27 new smart cities announced by the Minister of Urban Development Shri M.Venkaiiah Naidu here today. Eight other cities of pilgrim and tourism importance that made to the third list of smart cities are ; Ujjain, Tirupati, Agra, Nashik, Madurai, Thanjavur, Ajmer and Varanasi. With this the number of cities selected under Smart City Mission for financing implementation of smart city plans has gone up to 60. Announcing the cities that were selected in a competition among 63 cities, Shri Naidu said The willingness and enthusiasm among cities to participate in more than one round of competition is a clear evidence of the urban renaissance set in motion. Competition bases selection has made the cities rediscover themselves as they are undertaking a thorough assessment of gaps in the present levels of infrastructure and service delivery and come out with comprehensive, credible and actionable plans for area based development and technology based Pan-city solutions The Minister informed that the new 27 smart cities have proposed an investment of Rs.66,883 cr under smart city plans including Rs.42,524 cr under Area Based Development and another Rs.11,379 cr for technology based Pan-city solutions that benefits all the citizens of respective cities. With this, the total investment proposed by the 60 cities selected so far has gone up to Rs.1,44,742 cr, he said. The 27 cities selected in the latest round of Smart City Challenge competition in order of the marks scored by them are: S.No City State 1 Amritsar Punjab 2 Kalyan-Dombivili Maharashtra 3 Ujjain Madhya Pradesh 4 Tirupati Andhra Pradesh 5 Nagpur Maharashtra 6 Managaluru Karnataka 7 Vellore Tamil Nadu 8 Thane Maharashtra 9 Gwalior MP 10 Agra Uttar Pradesh 11 Nashik Maharashtra 12 Rourkela Odisha 13 Kanpur UP 14 Madurai Tamil Nadu 15 Tumakuru Karnataka 16 Kota Rajasthan 17 Thanjavur Tamil Nadu 18 Namchi Sikkim 19 Jalandhar Punjab 20 Shivamogga Karnataka 21 Salem Tamil Nadu 22 Ajmer Rajasthan 23 Varanasi UP 24 Kohima Nagaland 25 Hubballi-Dharwad Karnataka 26 Aurangabad Maharashtra 27 Vadodara Gujarat The 27 smart cities announced today are from 12 States including 5 from Maharashtra, 4 each from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, 3 from Uttar Pradesh and 2 each from Punjab and Rajasthan. Nagaland and Sikkim have made it to the smart city list for the first time. With today's announcement, implementation of smart city plans is now spread over 27 States and UTs, said Shri Venkaiiah Naidu. 9 States/UTs still to enter implementation phase are; Uttarakhand, J K, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Daman Diu and Dadra, Nagar Haveli. Stating that Smart City Mission is running ahead of schedule, Shri Venkaiiah Naidu informed that the next round of competition to select the remaining 40 cities would begin in January next year.

115. Dr Mahesh Sharma receives three Ancient Artefacts in Australia

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture Tourism attended a special event at National Gallery of Australia (NGA) in Canberra, Australia today in which Senator Mitch Fifield formally handed over three ancient artefacts stolen and smuggled out of India and inadvertently acquired by National Gallery of Australia. The returned artefacts are [Seated Buddha, Goddess Pratyangira and Worshippers of Buddha](#). A brief background note on these artefacts are enclosed. Earlier, during the visit of Australian Prime Minister to India in September 2014 the Australian government had also returned statue of Dancing Siva'.

116. Smt. Alka Sirohi to perform the duties of UPSC Chairman

The President has appointed Smt. Alka Sirohi, Member, Union Public Service Commission to perform the duties of the post of Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, with effect from the September 21, 2016 (Forenoon). The appointment is till further orders or till completion of her term as Member on January 03, 2017, whichever is earlier.

The post of Chairman. UPSC will fall vacant on 20.09.2016, consequent upon demitting of office by Sh. Deepak Gupta on attaining 65 years of age.

117. India, France ink deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets

India and France today inked the deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets. The deal was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and his French counterpart Jean Yves Le Drian. The aircraft will be equipped with latest missiles and weapon system. The 7.8 billion Euro deal is crucial for the Indian Air Force and is expected to give India the dominant status in the air.

The features that make the Rafale a strategic weapon is its Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Meteor air-to-air missile with a range in excess of 150 kilometre. During the Kargil war, India had used a BVR having 50 kilometre range. The delivery of this aircraft will start in 36 months and will be completed in 66 months from the date the contract is inked.

118. President, PM launch VP's book titled "Citizen and Society"

President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched Vice President Mohd Hamid Ansari's book titled "Citizen and Society" at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.

Describing Mr Ansari's life as that of a perfect citizen, the President said, the theme of the book is that a citizen cannot be apolitical and has to take part in politics to build the society. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, it is a matter of pride that India has hundreds of languages, various religions and beliefs.

119. Childhood cancer awareness exhibition to be held at Taj Mahal

A first-of-its-kind exhibition on childhood cancer awareness will be held at the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra from September 25 to 27. The exhibition 'CanKids-Kidscan' is being organised by National Society for Change for Childhood Cancer in India.

In a press release, the organizers said the exhibition will include 'Chalo Chalein Taj programme' under which around 1,500 cancer-affected children and their families will visit the Taj Mahal. Street play by childhood cancer survivors will also be shown at the function, the release added.

120. About 52,000 primary schools in Odisha have no teacher per class

In Odisha, about 52 thousand government primary and upper primary schools functioning under the School and Mass Education Department, have no teacher for each class and above 41 thousand schools have no room for each class. This was revealed from information furnished by School and Mass Education Minister Debi Prasad Mishra in the State Assembly yesterday in response to a question of BJP MLA Dilip Ray.

The information also revealed that 212 schools have no toilets. However, drinking water supply system has been put in place in more than 51 thousand 815 schools, the minister said. Notably, a total of more than 34 thousand primary and 17 upper primary schools are operating under the mass education department of Odisha government.

121. Jordan's Brotherhood back in parliament after vote

In Jordan, Muslim Brotherhood has made a return to parliament after winning 16 seats in the 130-member house, according to results announced by the country's electoral commission. The Brotherhood's Islamic Action Front contested Tuesday's polls after having boycotted two previous parliamentary elections in the kingdom, in 2010 and 2013, in protest at the electoral system and alleged voting fraud.

The voter turnout in this election has been recorded very low as just 1.5 million people votes out of a 4.1-million electorate. Final results are expected next week. The election considered to be significant as Jordan, a key ally of Western countries, is facing wrestles with the spillover of wars in neighbouring Syria and Iraq and the burden of hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees.

122. Chinese city Yangzhou to host India business, culture fest

China's Yangzhou city is set to host India Week celebrations from tomorrow with a business and investment meeting to be attended by CEOs of top Indian firms. The city in coastal Jiangsu province has been an important business partner for India in the Eastern China Region. Consulate General of India in Shanghai, Prakash Gupta, said companies in Yangzhou have shown keen interest in investing in India as part of the projects available under the 'Make in India' initiative. He said, Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China's Yangzhou unit, Xie Zhengyi, will soon lead an

investors' delegation to India to explore opportunities for investment.

As part of Yangzhou's International Cuisine Festival, an 'Incredible India Pavilion' will also be inaugurated tomorrow, showcasing select Indian food delicacies and for promoting tourism-related travel options for Yangzhou visitors to India.

123. **India bag five medals on day four of Junior Shooting World Cup**

India added five more medals, including three gold, on day four of the ISSF Junior World Cup in Gabala, Azerbaijan. With this, India's medals tally in the junior shooting world cup swells to 23. India has won a total of nine gold in the competition to be ranked second in the medals tally behind Russia.

India won two team gold medals in the mens and womens 25 meter pistol events respectively. The third gold of the day came in the individual mens 25 meter pistol competition. The day's only silver came in the men's 25m pistol. Indias bronze of the day was won by the womens trap team.

124. **BCCI appoints new selection panel with MSK Prasad as Chief Selector**

BCCI has appointed a new selection panel. Ajay Shirke has been re-elected as the BCCI secretary. MSK Prasad, former wicket-keeper has been elected as the chief-selector. Other members include Jatin Paranjape, Devan Gandhi, Gagan Khoda and Sarandeep Singh. The decision was taken in the 87th Annual General Meeting of the BCCI in Mumbai.

125. **BPCL lifts title of Obaidullah Khan Heritage Cup Hockey Tournament**

The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd-BPCL, lifted the title of the Obaidullah Khan Heritage Cup Hockey Tournament. The team defeated Railways by 3-0 in the final played at Aishbagh Stadium in Bhopal this evening. The match was decided by penalty shoot-outs as both the teams scored one goal each till the end of prescribed time.

Air India got the third place in the Tournament. It defeated ONGC in a match played to decide third place. Winning team received 51 lakh rupees.

126. **Niti Aayog chalks up plan to secure 50 medals in 2024 Olympics**

Government's think-tank Niti Aayog has devised a short-term and medium-to-long term action plan to help India achieve 50 medals in 2024 summer Olympics. In its action plan for revitalising sports in India, Niti Aayog said, India still does not have a conducive environment for sports to polish the talent of Indian sports persons and make them at par with their global counterparts.

The short-term vision (4-8 years) envisages targeting a group of priority sports, organising sports persons into three groups for each priority sport, harnessing the potential of indigenous and regional sports, selecting world-class coaches as well as a grading system for coaches. While the medium to long term vision (8-15 years) will focus on identifying talent at a young age, having sports curriculum in schools, a dedicated training program for coaches, encouraging development of sports infrastructure through private or PPP mode and developing a health and psychological support division.