

GK Digest : July 2016

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Raman deep Singh

## International

### World Oceans Day being observed on 8th June

The World Oceans Day is being observed globally on 8th June every year to raise global awareness of the current challenges faced by the international community in connection with the oceans. The day also seeks to provide a unique opportunity to honour, protect, and conserve the world's oceans.

- The theme of this year is “Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet”.

### India Ranks low at 141st place in global peace index

India has been ranked 141 on the 2016 Global Peace Index (GPI), falling behind countries like Burundi, Serbia and Burkina Faso.

- In a ranking of total 163 countries, compiled by global think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Syria has been named as the least peaceful.
- Iceland was ranked as the world's most peaceful country, followed by Denmark and Austria.

### India becomes third largest oil consumer

According to recently released BP Statistical Review of World Energy India has surpassed Japan to become the world's third-largest oil consumer.

- With the demand of 4.1 million barrels a day (BPD), India is the third-largest consumer behind the United States (19.39 million BPD) and China (11.96 million BPD).
- India accounted for 4.5% of world oil consumption in 2015.

### Pakistan tops in 2016 Malware Infection Index

Pakistan has topped the list of 19 countries figuring in the 2016 Malware Infection Index (MII) in the Asia-Pacific region.

- The index for the Asia-Pacific region was released by technology giant Microsoft in which India was placed at 8th position.
- The index identifies the key malware threats in the Asia-Pacific region.

### NATO launches biggest ever Joint Military Exercise Anaconda-16 in Poland

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members and partners on 6 June 2016 launched **Anaconda-16 Exercise**, the biggest ever joint military exercise in Poland.

- The drill is part of NATO's exercise program and is being held just weeks before NATO's summit in Warsaw that is expected to decide that significant numbers of NATO troops and equipment will be based in Poland and in the Baltic states.

- The exercise was launched at the crucial time when central and eastern European nations are seeking strong security guarantees amid concerns about Russia.

### **Exercise Malabar – 2016 kicked off**

In consonance with India's 'Act East Policy' and growing relations among India, US and Japan, IN ships Satpura, Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch are participating in the 20th edition of Ex MALABAR-16 with the USN and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF).

- IN and USN have regularly conducted the annual bilateral exercise named 'MALABAR' since 1992. Since 2007, MALABAR has been held alternatively off India and in the Western Pacific.
- The 19th edition of the exercise, Ex MALABAR-15, was conducted off Chennai and included participation by the JMSDF.

### **Emaar MGF MD Shravan Gupta steps down**

Dubai based Emaar MGF's Executive Vice Chairman & Managing Director Shravan Gupta has resigned from the post after the two joint venture partners Emaar Properties and India's MGF Development had decided to part ways and restructure the company's business.

- Upon the restructuring process realty major Emaar would take control of the company's uncompleted projects to ensure completion of those projects.
- Shravan Gupta will continue to act as director of the company, and While Sanjay Malhotra is the new acting CEO of the company.

### **Pedro Pablo Kuczynski wins Peru's Presidential Election**

Peruvian economist Pedro Pablo Kuczynski defeated his rival Keiko Fujimori with a thin margin to become Peru's next President.

- The National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE) announced that the Peruvian political organization Peruanos Porel Kambio received the most votes representing 50.12% of valid votes.
- The difference in the total votes was of 41438 with 8580474 votes for Kuczynski and 8539036 for Fujimori.

### **12 June: World Day against Child Labour**

The World Day Against Child Labour is being observed annually across world on 12 June to bring awareness against child labour.

- 2016 Theme: 'End child labour in supply chains – It's everyone's business.' The theme focuses on child labour and supply chains.

### **President embarks on a six-day visit of three African nations**

President Pranab Mukherjee has begun his six-day three-nation visit to Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Namibia.

- This is the maiden visit of any Indian President to Ghana and Ivory Coast whereas to Namibia, such a visit comes after two decades.
- Even though Mukherjee has toured a number of countries in the African continent, he will be visiting these countries for the first time in his long political career.

### **Norway becomes the first country to ban deforestation**

Norway has become the first country in the world to prohibit deforestation. In this regard, Norwegian Parliament had pledged to make government's public procurement policy deforestation-free.

- The step was taken by Norwegian Government based on official recommendations of Norwegian Parliament's Standing Committee.

### **India and US to sign 2 key pacts during Homeland Security Dialogue**

The first deal which is likely to be signed would exempt prominent Indian citizens from immigration checks in America and the other one pave the way for exchange of information on terrorists on a real time basis.

- India and US are all set to sign two key agreements in the month of July during the Homeland Security Dialogue, the Indian delegation will be lead by the Home Minister Rajnath Singh while the US team would be headed by Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Charles Johnson.

### **India chases to 41st slot on competitiveness ranking**

India rose its and standard and ranked at 41st position on the IMD World Competitiveness Scoreboard, 2016.

- Hong Kong takes the place of US by the World's most competitive economy.

### **Ex-Chad dictator sentenced to life for war crimes**

An African court sentenced former Chadian dictator Hissene Habre to life in prison for guilty of crimes against humanity, rape, forced slavery and kidnapping as well as ordering the killings of 40,000 people during his rule between 1982 and 1990.

- The court in Senegal declared the verdict and has given him a 15 day time to appeal against the verdict.
- Hissene Habre was the president of Chad during 1982-1990 and was guilty of killing nearly 40,000 murders.

### **World's longest and deepest rail tunnel has inaugurated in Switzerland**

The world's longest and deepest rail tunnel, running under the Switzerland Alps, has inaugurated in Switzerland.

- The 57-kilometer long Gotthard Base Tunnel has connected northern and southern Europe and shorten travel time for many rail routes.

- This tunnel was built in 17 years by 2,400 workers, which cost of over 12 billion dollars. The full service of this tunnel will begin in December.

### **India gifts 2,000 bicycles to poor dalit girls in Nepal**

India has gifted 2,000 bicycles to poor dalit girls in different government schools of Nepal to encourage them to enroll in schools and enhance the literacy rate among them.

- The bicycles gifting programme received a total financial assistance of NRs 13.65 million by the Government of India under its Small Development Project scheme.

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

Sweden raised its standard by acclaiming best country in World which is named in the 'Good Country' 2015 index.

- India positioned at the 70th position among 163 nations.
- Libya was ranked as the least "good" country in the world.

### **PM inaugurates Afghan-India Friendship Dam**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated the Afghan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam) with President of Afghanistan Dr. Ashraf Ghani at Chist-e-Sharif in Herat province in Western Afghanistan.

- Afghan-India Friendship Dam is a Multipurpose project planned for generating 42 MW of power, irrigating 75000 hectares of land, water supply and other benefits to the people of Afghanistan.
- Salma Dam is a landmark infrastructure project undertaken by Government of India on river Hari Rud , in Herat province of Afghanistan. The project was executed and implemented by WAPCOS Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking under Mministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

### **PM visits Workers Camp in Doha**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today interacted with Indian Workers at a project site in Mesheireb in Downtown Doha.

- Addressing the assembled workers, he said that his first engagement after arriving in Doha was to meet them. The Prime Minister said he is aware of the issues being faced by them, and raises them with the Qatari leadership whenever he meets them.
- The Prime Minister, who briefly visited a medical camp on the site, before arriving for the interaction, complimented the doctors for the good work they have been doing.

### **World Environment Day observed with theme Zero tolerance for the illegal trade in wildlife**

World Environment Day (WED) was observed globally on 5 June 2016 with theme **Zero tolerance** for the illegal trade in wildlife.

- The day aims at inspiring more people to take action to prevent the growing strain on Earth's natural systems from reaching the breaking point.

### **India, Tunisia sign MoUs for co-operation in IT, handicrafts sector**

India and Tunisia signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation in Information Technology and promotion of traditional handicrafts.

- The MoUs were signed after the delegation level talks between the two countries in the presence of Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid in Tunis.

### **India, Qatar sign seven agreements to boost bilateral ties**

India and Qatar have signed seven agreements in various fields to boost bilateral ties in presence of PM Narendra Modi and Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani.

The signed MoU includes-

- MoU for investment in National investment & infrastructure fund (NIIF)
- MoU on cooperation in tourism
- Agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in custom matters
- MoU on Finance Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and Qatar Financial Information Unit (QFIU)
- MoU in the field of youth and sports
- MoU on cooperation in skill development & recognition of qualifications
- MoU on cooperation in the field of health

### **Asia's largest annual security forum Shangri-La Dialogue concluded in Singapore**

Asia's largest annual security forum Shangri-La Dialogue was concluded in Singapore after talking about security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

- The forum has been organised by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).
- The three day event was attended by at least 20 Defence Ministers from Asia-Pacific countries including India represented by Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

### **World Blood Donors Day 2016 observed with theme Blood connects us all**

World Blood Donors Day (WBDD) 2016 was observed on 14 June 2016.

- The theme of the 2016 World Blood Donor Day campaign is Blood connects us all. The theme highlights the common bond that all people share in their blood.
- The slogan for 2016 WBDD is Share life, give blood. The slogan focuses on voluntary donation systems.

### **Jupiter-like planet, Kepler-1647b, orbiting two stars discovered**

Scientists have discovered a Jupiter-like planet, Kepler-1647b, orbiting a system of two stars, making it the largest such cosmic body ever found.

- The planet Kepler-1647b, located in the constellation Cygnus, was discovered by astronomers from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre and San Diego State University (SDSU) in the US.
- Researchers said that the Kepler-1647 is 3700 light-years away and about 4.4 billion years old, roughly the same age as the Earth.

### **Israel elected to chair UN committee**

Israel has been elected to chair a UN committee for the first time in the world body's 71 years history.

- Israel has got 109 votes in secret voting. None of the member has voted against Israel.

### **PM Modi, Sri Lankan President inaugurate Duraiappah stadium in Jaffna renovated by India**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, jointly inaugurated the newly renovated Duraiappah Stadium in Jaffna through video-conferencing from New Delhi.

- The stadium was kept unused since 1997, has been renovated by the Indian government at a cost of over Rs 7 crore.
- The Duraiappah Stadium, named in honour of a former Mayor of Jaffna late Alfred Thambirajah Duraiappah.

### **India, South Korea launch 'Korea Plus' for FDI**

Union Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Joo Hyunghwan, the Minister of Trade, Industry & Energy, Korea launched an initiative called Korea Plus to promote and facilitate Korean Investments in India.

- This initiative comes as an effect of MoU that was inked during the Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit to South Korea 2015.
- Korea Plus, which encompasses representatives from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy, Korea and representative from Korea Trade Investment and Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and three representatives from Invest India.

### **21 June: International Day of Yoga**

The International Day of Yoga is being observed across the world on 21 June 2016 with the theme 'Connect the Youth'.

- This year's observance of the Day highlights the important role healthy living plays in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015 by all 193 UN Member States.
- In India, the Union Government organised the event titled The National Event of Mass Yoga Demonstration at the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh where Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself performed yoga.

### **Ganges-Danube Cultural Festival of India inaugurated by Tourism & Culture Minister Mahesh sharma in Hungary**

Union Tourism minister Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the Ganges-Danube Cultural Festival of India at Vigado Theatre in Budapest in Hungary.

- The Minister also inaugurated Yoga workshop. Hungarian artists, proficient in Indian art forms took part in the programme.
- The Festival will showcase Indian culture, i.e. dance, music, yoga, film and exhibitions. Indian martial art experts and puppet artists are also performing.

### **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's statue unveiled in Malaysia**

A bronze statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose has been unveiled at the Indian cultural centre premises in Malaysia in the presence of nine Indian National Army (INA) veterans.

- It was announced during the last year visit of PM Modi to Malaysia. At that time, he has also announced the renaming of Indian Cultural Centre as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre

### **Martian crater named after Nepal quake-hit village Langtang**

The International Astronomical Union named a 9.8 kilometers wide crater on Mars as Langtang, a popular trekking site in Nepal.

- Langtang is one of the villages of Nepal that was worst hit by the 25 April 2015 earthquake. As per reports, at least 215 people were killed in the village after the quake triggered an avalanche.
- The researcher behind the move, Dr. Tjalling de Haas, said that he chose this name because his colleague had worked there while studying Himalayan glaciers. It was his base camp for a long period, so we said maybe it is a nice tribute.

### **India, Thailand sign 2 agreements to boost ties**

India and Thailand have signed two agreements in culture and educational sectors to boost bilateral ties.

- The agreements were signed in New Delhi during the three-day official state visit of Thailand Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha to India.

### **United Nations Public Service Day 2016 observed globally**

The United Nations Public Service Day was celebrated by the United Nations (UN) on 23 June 2016.

- The day was celebrated to mark the invaluable contributions of public servants and administrators to build a better world for all.
- The 2016 United Nations Public Service Day's theme is 'Leaving No One Behind: Innovative Institutional Approaches and Public Service Delivery.'



### **Mercer's Cost of Living Survey 2016 released; Mumbai costliest in India**

Mercer's Cost of Living Survey 2016 was released on 22 June 2016. Asia dominates the top 5 of 2016 Cost of Living Rankings, with Hong Kong bagging the No. 1 spot, pushing Luanda, Angola to 2nd.

- The survey includes 209 cities across five continents.
- New York City is used as the base city for all comparisons and currency movements are measured against the US dollar.

### **Mahasthangarh declared as the SAARC cultural capital for 2016-17**

Mahasthangarh, the 3rd century BC archaeological site in Bogra, Bangladesh, has been declared as the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) cultural capital for the year 2016-17.

- As a SAARC cultural capital, the historic place will host festivals on literature, films, foods and dances from October 2016 to September 2017.

### **Day of the Seafarer 2016 observed with theme At Sea For All**

Day of the Seafarer 2016 is being observed across the world on 25 June 2016. The theme for the year is At Sea for All.

- The themes highlight the point that seafarers serve at sea not just for the shipping industry or for their own career purposes but for all of us.

### **Brexit wins as Britain votes to leave European Union in historic referendum**

The United Kingdom has decided to leave the European Union after a historic referendum.

- The United Kingdom has voted by 52 % to 48 % to leave the European Union after 43 years in a historic referendum.
- Meanwhile because of the referendum, the pound fell to its lowest level against the dollar since 1985 as the markets reacted to the results.

### **UK Prime Minister David Cameron announced resignation after Brexit vote**

The Prime Minister of United Kingdom (UK) David Cameron announced his resignation hours after the Brexit vote.

- In the referendum that was held on 23 June 2016, 51.89 % of the voters preferred to leave the EU. Among the 46.5 million people who registered to vote, only 48.11 percent voted to remain in the grouping.
- Cameron will step down in October 2016.

### **Colombia and FARC rebels sign historic ceasefire deal to end 50-year conflict**

The Colombian government and FARC guerrillas have declared the final day of one of the world's oldest wars with the signing of a ceasefire agreement to end more than 50 years of bloodshed.

- The formal peace talks for the deal were started three years ago, in October 2012, in the Cuban capital.

### **Sri Lanka's parliament votes in favour of right to information bill**

Sri Lankan Parliament has unanimously passed the Right to Information (RTI) bill with amendments. The bill that seeks to restore transparency and good governance in the country was adopted without a vote in the Parliament after two days of debate.

- A five-member Right to Information Commission will be formed to monitor and ensure compliance.
- The members who will have powers to hold inquiries and hear appeals will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Constitutional Council.

### **India joins Missile Technology Control Regime as full member**

India has joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) as a full member and said its entry as 35<sup>th</sup> member would be mutually beneficial to enhance global non-proliferation norms.

- Marking India's first entry into any multilateral export control regime, Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar signed the instrument of accession to MTCR.
- MTCR membership will now enable India to buy high-end missile technology and also enhance its joint ventures with Russia.

### **Nepal bans citizens from working in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya**

Nepal banned its citizens from working in strife-torn Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya.

- The decision was made at a cabinet meet after 13 Nepali security guards were killed in a Taliban suicide bombing in Kabul.
- Nepali nationals killed in Afghanistan were employed as security guards in the Canadian embassy in Kabul.

### **China launches first Dark Sky Reserve in Tibet to limit light pollution**

China in the fourth week of June 2016 launched its first dark sky reserve in Ngari Prefecture, Tibet.

- The purpose of the dark sky reserve is to limit light pollution and preserve sites for making astronomical observations.
- The reserve covers an area of 2500 square kilometres. It was jointly launched by the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation and the regional government of Tibet.

### **Gudni Johannesson wins Iceland's presidential election**

Gudni Johannesson has won the Iceland's presidential election. He is a history professor who ran as an independent in the election and was able to secure 39.1% of the vote.

- He will succeed Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, who served 20 years as head of state.

- The elections were held in the backdrop of the Panama Papers leak in April, which implicated several top officials of the country.

### **India ranked 105th on WEF's Human Capital Index**

India has been ranked 105th out of 130 countries on the World Economic Forum's Human Capital Index, which measures countries' ability to nurture, develop and deploy talent for economic growth.

- Finland topped the index while other countries like China (71) and Bangladesh (104) were ranked above India.
- The index has been released by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) with the title 'New Champion'.

### **India signed the SCO's Memorandum of Obligations**

India has signed a memorandum of obligation in Tashkent to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

- The document was signed by Secretary (East) Ministry of External Affairs Sujata Mehta at the SCO summit which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Pakistan is also being inducted into SCO as a full member.
- The SCO had set the ball rolling to make India a member of the bloc during its summit in Ufa in July last year when administrative hurdles were cleared to grant membership to India, Pakistan and Iran.

### **Panama Canal opens after nine years of reconstruction works**

The 77 Km long Panama Canal was opened for navigation, June 26, in a festive ceremony after nine years of reconstruction works.

- The cost of reconstruction works was estimated originally at \$5,25 billion. The Chinese container ship Cosco Shipping Panama was the first vessel that entered the canal from the side of the Atlantic Ocean.

### **Sweden inaugurates world's first electric road**

Sweden inaugurated a test stretch of an electric road. With this, the country has become one of the first countries in the world to conduct tests with electric power for heavy transports on public roads.

- The test was conducted on parts of road E16. It involved a current collector on the roof of the truck cab feeding the current down to a hybrid electric motor in the truck.
- The experiment is based on the government's goal of energy efficiency and a fossil fuel-free vehicle fleet by 2030. It will also contribute to strengthening Sweden's competitiveness.

## **National**

### **Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to launch green-concept based State Data Centre**

Himachal Pradesh became the first state in the country to have a State Data Centre (SDC), designed using green data centre concept to minimize power requirement and increase power utilization efficiency. It was launched by the Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh in Shimla.

- The centre will offer 101 people-oriented services online through an integrated data base. It would help in saving time and money spent on creation of infrastructure as all services would be provided online in digital format thus, giving boost to paperless governance.

### **Guwahati declares Gangetic River Dolphin as its 'city animal'**

Guwahati has become the first city in the country to have its own 'city animal' with Kamrup metropolitan district administration declaring Gangetic River Dolphin as its mascot.

- The district administration had organised online and off-line voting among three protected creatures to decide the 'city animal'.
- These three creatures are Gangetic River Dolphin, Black Softshell Turtle (Bor Kaso) and Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila) and are on the verge of extinction.

### **Swachh Yug campaign to make gram panchayats along Ganga open defecation free**

As part of its efforts to make villages located along Ganga open defecation-free, Government has launched a campaign 'Swachh Yug', a collaborative effort of three Union Ministries.

- There are 5,169 villages located along Ganga falling under 1,651 gram panchayats (GPs) in 52 districts of five states – UP, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal from where the holy river flows through.
- Youth agencies under the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs such as the Bharat Scouts and Guides, Nehru Yuva Kendras and National Service Scheme will be deployed for the campaign.

### **Rajasthan Government launches Mobile App RajVayu on Air Quality Index**

Rajasthan Government has launched mobile application RajVayu for sharing information about air quality index of Jaipur, Udaipur and Jodhpur.

- The app has been designed by Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) jointly with Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).
- The information provided on RajVayu app is based on the data collected by sophisticated air quality monitoring equipment and weather sensors.

### **Piyush Goyal Launches 'Surya Mitra' Mobile App**

Minister for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal has launched 'Surya Mitra' mobile app at the national workshop on rooftop solar power in New Delhi.

- The GPS-based mobile app is developed by National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) which is an autonomous institution of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).

- This app is a high-end technology platform which can handle thousands of calls simultaneously and can efficiently monitor all visits of Suryamitra's.

### **SBI, ICICI Bank heads among four Indians in Forbes 'Powerful Women' list**

Four Indian women, including SBI Managing director Arundhati Bhattacharya and ICICI Bank Managing director Chanda Kochhar, are in the new list of Forbes' world's 100 most powerful women who are building billion-dollar brands and calling the shots in the financial markets.

- The Forbes '100 Most Powerful Women' in the world list 2016, topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.
- Bhattacharya, ranked 25th on the list. While Kochhar comes in at the 40th spot. However, Mazumdar-Shaw is ranked 77th on the list and Bhartia is ranked 93rd on the list. Nooyi is ranked 14th on the list.

### **Maharashtra to observe 21st of every month as Yoga Day**

Maharashtra government has decided to celebrate the 21st day of every month as Yoga day across all schools, colleges and universities in the state.

- It is also decided that every district will have to set up a Yoga Day committee at their levels to plan 'Yoga Mahotsav' (Yoga Festival) every year in between January 12-21 and a separate committee at the state level will monitor and coordinate with these committees.

### **Internet Saathi, a joint initiative of Google and Tata has launched in West Bengal**

Internet search engine Google and Tata Trusts' joint initiative Internet Saathi was launched in Kolkata, West Bengal.

- The initiative aims at reducing the digital gender gap in rural areas of India such as Purulia, where girls have now been trained to use the Internet and teach others in turn.
- In the last ten months, the initiative has been active in villages across five states in India, namely Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

### **Suresh Prabhu flags off Champaran Satyagrah Express train in Bihar**

In Bihar, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off Champaran Satyagrah Express train. This train will run between Bapudham, Motihari to Anand Vihar, Delhi.

- The Minister also inaugurated Banmankhi - Purnea rail section and Pipraha Railway Station. Mr. Prabhu also inaugurated road over bridges at Motihar, Begusarai, and Danapur through video conferencing.

### **Union Government announced new Print Media Advertisement policy**

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced new Print Media Advertisement Policy for Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity to Focus Transparency and Equity.

- It's main Objective is to Promote transparency and accountability in issuing of advertisements in Print Media.

### **Sikkim becomes India's first State to launch open government data portal**

Sikkim became the first state in India to have an open government data portal linked 'sikkim.data.gov.in'.

- The portal was launched by Lok Sabha MP, P D Rai and also launched Open Government Data Platform (Sikkim).
- The open government data portal facilitates free use; reuse and redistribution of data produced or commissioned by the government or government controlled entities by anyone.

### **Indian Railways, PEC sign MoU to set up Kalpana Chawla Chair on geospatial technology**

The PEC University of Technology of Chandigarh and Union Ministry of Railways have signed an MoU for setting up of Kalpana Chawla Chair on Geospatial Technology for Indian Railways at the University.

- The objective of the chair is to encourage research activities of Indian Railways in Geo-spatial Technology.
- The Chair will be headed as Chairman by V.K. Gupta, and Manoj Arora, as Co-chairman.

### **PM releases National Disaster Management Plan**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has released the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). This is the first ever national plan prepared in the country.

- It aims to make India disaster resilient and significantly reduce the loss of lives and assets. The plan is based on the four priority themes of the "Sendai Framework," namely: understanding disaster risk, improving disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction (through structural and non-structural measures) and disaster preparedness, early warning and building back better in the aftermath of a disaster.
- The plan covers all phases of disaster management: prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. It provides for horizontal and vertical integration among all the agencies and departments of the Government.
- The plan also spells out the roles and responsibilities of all levels of Government right up to Panchayat and Urban Local Body level in a matrix format. The plan has a regional approach, which will be beneficial not only for disaster management but also for development planning.

### **Four month window to disclose black money opens**

The Income Declaration Scheme which seeks to provide an opportunity to all person who have not declared their income correctly in previous years to come forward and declare undisclosed incomes, will open today and will remain in force till 30th of September, 2016.

- The Scheme is part of Finance Act, 2016 and will provide an opportunity to domestic black money holders to come clean by paying tax and penalty of 45 % on undisclosed assets.

### **Sachin Tendulkar's name to be used in Kerala Government's Anti-Drug Campaign**

Former Mumbai Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has agreed to feature a campaign against drug and liquor abuse in the state after a request of CPI-M LDF government in Kerala.

- This was stated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan after Tendulkar has given consent to use his name to strengthen the campaign against liquor and drug abuse in the state.
- The CM also said that the KBFC has agreed to set up a residential Football Academy to train young talents in the state.

### **India joins Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation**

India jointly consolidated Hague Code of Conduct in opposition to Ballistic Missile Proliferation which was apprised by HCoC Central Contact which is situated in Vienna.

- Delhi has combined with HCOC for elevating India's membership application towards desired Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
- The NSG plenary meeting will be held in Seoul in June 2016.

### **Maharashtra Revenue Minister Eknath Khadse resigns following corruption charges**

Maharashtra Revenue Minister Eknath Khadse resigned after alleged over a string of corruption charges, including a questionable land deal. The allegations extending that his cellphone allegedly appearing in the call records of gangster Dawood Ibrahim.

- His resignation was formally accepted by Maharashtra governor Vidyasagar Rao. He is a six-time MLA from Muktainagar constituency in Jalgaon Maharashtra.

### **“Indian Navy Pledges 1.5 Per Cent of its Works Budget Towards Renewable Energy Generation”**

The Green Initiatives Programme of the Indian Navy completes two years on World Environment Day. Over this period, considerable impetus has been given to reduce the overall carbon footprint of the Navy.

- Being a responsible and multidimensional force, the Indian Navy believes in an all inclusive and sustainable growth. Accordingly, the focus has not only been on correcting its 'impact' on the energy and environmental footprint, but also to address the root cause of the problem, which lies in the way energy is used.

### **Suresh Prabhu launches Tiger Express train on the World Environment Day**

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

- Suresh Prabhu who was on tour to Mumbai, flagged off this train through video conferencing between Mumbai and Delhi.
- The launch of this Tiger Express on World Environment Day is to highlight the significance of environment in our lives. The Railway Minister took personal interest in conceptualizing this train. This tourist train will be operated by Indian Railway PSU namely Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

### **Khattar inaugurates 'Jai Jawan Awas Yojna' to provide affordable housing to serving, retired JCOs**

Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar laid the foundation stone of Jai Jawan Awas Yojna (JJAY), an initiative to provide affordable housing to serving and retired JCOs and Other Ranks at Bahadurgarh, Haryana.

- Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, added that over 3000 Ex Servicemen will be inducted into Haryana Police.

### **Haryana Government launches Asia's first Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme**

Haryana Government has launched Asia's first 'Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme' at the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre at Pinjore.

- It was launched by state Chief Minister Manohar Lal by releasing 2 captive bred Himalayan Griffons vultures in the pre-release aviaries close to the breeding centre at Pinjore.
- The vultures were released as part of the soft release or reintroduction programme, in a pre-release aviary where they would have an unobstructive view of the surrounding. This would help them in getting used to the habitat in which they would be released in the wild in future.

### **Bihar CM Nitish Kumar launches Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act**

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has launched Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act.

- The law has strict provisions in non-compliance of applications. Officials not adhering to provisions of the law could be dismissed from service or face a penalty of from 500 rupees to 5000 rupees.
- All the 42 Departments of the State government will be covered under the new Act.

### **IISc Bangalore is India's best university: QS**

The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore has retained its position as the country's best university, according to the latest Asian university rankings by global higher education analysts Quacquarelli Symonds. It's global rank is 33<sup>rd</sup>.

- The QS Asia rankings for 2016 also see IIT Madras and IIT Kanpur break into the list of top 50 Asian universities. While IIT Madras has moved 13 places up to No. 43, IIT Kanpur has moved to No. 48. IIT Bombay has risen 11 places to 35th position, moving past IIT Delhi, which has moved six notches up to 36th rank.



### **Indian Railways launches Janani Sewa, optional catering Scheme on pilot basis**

The Union Ministry of Railways has launched three passenger service initiatives namely- a Janani Sewa for mothers, optional catering in Rajdhani, and Shatabdi trains on a pilot basis and a children's menu on trains.

- These services have been launched by Union Railways minister Suresh Prabhu in New Delhi.

### **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated Child Labour Tracking System**

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS). The system was launched to keep a track of rescued child labour for their proper rehabilitation.

- Besides, CM Nitish Kumar also announced that he had in principle accepted the Charter of Demands submitted by the rescued child labour.
- A committee headed by Chief Secretary for implementation of children's demands will also be set up.
- Even if children are rescued from working as child labour, there is no guarantee that they would not be forced to work. Therefore, there is need for tracking those children who have been rescued besides, monitoring such children as to what they are doing.

### **Railways flags off 1st time-tabled freight train**

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off India's first timetabled freight train, named 'Cargo Express', from Delhi to Bengaluru.

- The move aims to reduce the delay and uncertainty over the time schedule for delivery of goods.
- Earlier, passenger trains in the country used to get preference over goods trains for transportation across busy routes.

### **HRD minister Smriti Irani launches Vidyanjali in New Delhi**

Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani has launched Vidyanjali, a school volunteer programme in New Delhi.

- Vidyanjali is an initiative under Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, to enhance community and private sector involving government-run elementary schools across the country. Through Vidyanjali, the government aspires to bring change in the quality of education in schools.

### **Kiran Bedi launches a mobile app to help senior citizens in distress**

The "Help Age SOS App" was launched by Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi at Raj Nivas.

- The app provides for an SOS-Save our seniors button to immediately reach to the counsellor desk of Help Age for rendering emergency help and assistance.
- It has 24x7 functionality and aims at helping elders in distress at any given time.

### **First batch of three female fighter pilots commissioned in the Indian Air Force**

Creating the significant success stone for the first time in the Indian Air Force by injecting three female Pilots into combat roles First batch of three female pilots:

- Avani Chaturvedi
- Bhawana Kanth
- Mohana Singh
- Three female fighters will be inducted to fly fighter Jets like the Sukhoi and Tejas after the completion of the Stage III training at Bidar in 2017.

### **Centre approves proposal for Greenfield Electronic Park in Odisha**

Union Government gave its final approval for setting up of a Greenfield Electronic Park which is a dedicated IT hub near Bhubaneswar.

- The park, to be set up under Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) scheme of the Centre, will come up on 203 acres of land at a cost of Rs 205 crore out of this centre will give Rs 95 crore with the rest will borne by the Odisha government.
- The park intends to provide employment potential of 10,000 to 12,000 persons and common facilities for training, incubation and R & D activities to the interested entrepreneurs.

### **Assam Government launches Maitree Ek Gyan Yatra initiative to link primary schools to colleges**

The Assam Government has launched a unique initiative 'Maitree Ek Gyan Yatra' to link primary schools to high schools to colleges. Initially, it will be launched at in Sivsagar district of the state and later will be implemented across the state.

- The purpose of the programme is to change the mindset of the teachers, as in some places in states teachers of a school considered it below their dignity to teach the lower level students.

### **Punjab Government launches Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund**

The Punjab government has launched a special fund "Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund" to provide free treatment for patients affected by Hepatitis C.

- With this initiative, Punjab became the first Indian state to provide free treatment to confirmed cases of Hepatitis C.
- The fund will have an initial corpus of 20 crore rupees. This fund will provide all the residents of Punjab affected by Hepatitis C free treatment.

### **Union Government bans the use of cancer-causing chemical potassium bromate as food additive**

The Union Government has banned the use of potassium bromate (KBrO<sub>3</sub>) as a food additive on the recommendation of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

- Early in May 2016, FSSAI in its recommendation asked health ministry to remove potassium bromate, a cancer-causing chemical, from the list of permissible food additives.

### **ISRO launches record 20 satellites from Sriharikota**

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 22 June 2016 launched a record 20 satellites in a single mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

- With this launch of 20 satellites, ISRO also managed to break its previous record of placing 10 satellites into orbit in a single mission in 2008.
- The 20 satellites including India's latest earth observation satellite Cartosat-2 was launched on-board Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV C-34. The other 19 satellites were from the US, Germany, Canada and Indonesia as well as two satellites from Sathyabama University, Chennai, and the College of Engineering, Pune.

### **Aadhaar to be linked with caste, domicile certificates**

Union Government in June 2016 asked all state governments to link Aadhaar with caste and domicile certificates of school students. Under first-of-its-kind initiative, the states have been asked to ensure that such certificates are issued within 60 days time to the students when they are studying either in Class V or VIII.

- To make sure that the scholarships will be granted on time to students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and without causing any harassment to SC/STs students. There have been complaints of delay in grant of scholarships and harassment.
- To facilitate access of bona fide candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to the reserved posts and services under the State or Central governments.
- To secure admission in educational institutions and get other facilities.

### **Maharashtra Govt grants minority status to Jews**

Maharashtra Government has accorded minority status to Jews in the state as per the provisions of the Maharashtra State Minorities Commission Act, 2004.

- In October 2006, the State government declared Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains as religious minorities.

### **Railway minister flags off Danapur-Saharsa Janhit Express**

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off a new train service between Danapur and Saharsa in Bihar through video-conferencing at Rail Bhawan in New Delhi with an aim to connect every region of the country with the rail network.

- Besides flagging off the Danapur-Saharsa Janhit Express (daily), Railway Minister has also announced the extension of three train services in Bihar and Jharkhand.
- While the daily service of Jaynagar-Saharsa Janki Express (daily) was extended up to Katihar and Patna-Murliganj Koshi Express (daily) was extended up to Purnea Court.

### **Union Government launches India's first pilot programme to run two-wheelers on CNG in New Delhi**

Union Government has launched a pilot programme to run two-wheelers on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in New Delhi to curb air pollution in cities.

- The project was jointly launched by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar at the CGO Complex CNG station.

### **Andhra Pradesh joins UDAY scheme**

Andhra Pradesh became the 13th State to sign the agreement and formally join the Central scheme for reviving financially-stressed electricity distribution utilities, called the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY).

- This move will help Andhra Pradesh's electricity sector get a Rs. 4,400 crore benefit over the next three financial years.

### **Nagaland Governor launches women's helpline number '181'**

Governor of Nagaland and Assam P B Acharya has launched women helpline number - 181 in the premises of District Hospital Dimapur in Nagaland

- He also inaugurated Sakhi, a one stop Centre, intended to support women affected by violence both in private and public spaces under one roof.

### **DRDO inks MoU with Kolkata's JU to establish Rs.100 cr research centre at Jadavpur University**

Heralding a new era of DRDO-Academia Partnership, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jadavpur University (JU), Kolkata to establish the Jagadish Chandra Bose Centre for Advanced Technology (JCBCAT).

- The 100 crore research centre at Jadavpur varsity aims to develop technologies related to cyber security and robotics for the defence forces.

### **PM Narendra Modi launches Smart city Mission Projects in Pune**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Smart City Mission' involving 83 projects from 20 different cities in the country.

- The Smart City Mission' projects included 14 projects of Pune (Maharashtra) and 69 projects from 20 different shortlisted cities in the country to be implemented at a cost of 1,770 crore rupees.
- These projects are related to water supply projects, sewage treatment plants, solid waste management under Swachh Bharat Mission and development of green and open spaces under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).
- It also includes housing projects for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and area development and technology based pan-city solutions under Smart Cities Mission.

### **Union HM Rajnath Singh inaugurates 22nd meeting of Eastern Zonal Council at Ranchi**

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 22nd meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

- Chief Ministers of Jharkhand Raghuwar Das and of Bihar, Nitish Kumar, along with other Ministers and very senior officers from various Ministries of the Central Government, and governments of Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal are taking part in the meeting.
- The meeting started with the review of the progress of implementation of the recommendations made by last year Eastern Zonal Council of 2015 that was held at Patna.

### **Suresh Prabhu flags off maiden train between Sonapat-Jind**

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off a maiden train on 81-km railway line between Sonapat and Jind and stressed on the need to create infrastructure to promote growth and to meet future challenges.

- The MoU was signed recently between them for constitution of a joint venture entity for development of rail infrastructure in the state.

### **Majuli in Assam becomes India's first island district**

Majuli was in news on 27 June 2016 as the Government of Assam approved its up gradation as a district. With this approval, Majuli has become the first island district in the country.

- The approval was given by the State Cabinet in its first meeting after the formation of the government on 24 May 2016.
- At present, Majuli is a Mohkuma, a sub division of the Jorhat District and represented by the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in the Assembly.

### **Rajnath Singh inaugurates h.q. of Jharkhand's special anti-Maoist force**

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the newly constructed headquarters of Jharkhand's special anti-Maoist force 'Jharkhand Jaguar' in Jharkhand's capital city Ranchi.

- Singh also inaugurated the administration block and other buildings at Jharkhand Jaguar campus.
- Jharkhand Jaguar is an anti-Maoist squad formed eight years ago in 2008 and has led many successful operations against Maoists so far.

### **Odisha government launched Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana**

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a new scheme Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana with an aim to provide education loan at 1 % interest to students for pursuing higher studies.

- Odisha government will provide a cost of 500 crore rupees from its own resources for this purpose.
- Under this scheme, poor students aspiring to pursue professional and technical education can now avail themselves of study loan up to 10 lakh rupees at 1% interest rate.

### **Navy inducts Indigenous Heavyweight Torpedo 'Varunastra'**

Indigenously developed heavyweight torpedo Varunastra was inducted in the Indian Navy on 29 June 2016. It was handed to the Indian Navy by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

- With this India joined a select group of eight countries having the capability to design and develop heavyweight torpedoes.
- The torpedo was designed and developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory of the DRDO for the Indian Navy. It carries 95 percent of indigenous content.
- It weighs around 1.25 tonnes and is capable of carrying about 250 kg of explosives at a speed of around 40 nautical miles an hour.

### **Exercise ‘Jalrahat’ commences in Assam**

As a measure for counter operation during Natural calamities, exercise ‘Jalrahat’ commenced at Narangi Cantt in Assam which is a joint initiative by State Govt and Armed Forces for relief during floods.

- Taking the leaf from the latest National disaster management policy – 2016 and the call given by the Prime Minister urging the enhanced cooperation and involvement by Armed Forces in mitigating disasters, the Exercise Jalrahat is a joint initiative taken by the Assam State Govt and the Armed Forces that is being led by GAJRAJ Corps with full support from HQ Eastern Command.

### **World Bank releases India Development Update 2016**

The World Bank Group on 20 June 2016 released the mid-year edition of India Development Update 2016: Financing Double-Digit Growth. The report finds that India’s economy expanded at a faster pace in FY 2016.

- It expects India’s economic growth to be at 7.6 percent in 2016-2017, followed by a modest acceleration to 7.7 percent in 2017-2018 and 7.8 percent in 2018-2019.

### **LIC Chairman S K Roy resigns**

S.K. Roy, the head of state-run Life Insurance Corp (LIC), the biggest single investor in the country, has tendered his resignation two years before his term was due to end.

- Roy has written to the finance ministry but his resignation is yet to be confirmed.
- Roy had been with the insurer more than three decades after rising through the ranks to be appointed chairman in 2013.

### **Aveek Sarkar resigns as Chief Editor of ABP Group of Publications**

Aveek Sarkar has resigned as the Editor-in-Chief of Ananda Bazaar Patrika (ABP) and The Telegraph. However, he would continue as the chairman of the group. He is succeeded by Arup Sarkar.

- Moreover, Anirban Bhattacharya was appointed as the Editor of the Ananda Bazaar Patrika and R Rajagopalan was named as the Editor of The Telegraph.
- Aveek Sarkar will now play an advisory role as Editor (Emeritus) and Vice Chairman of the company.

## **Trade & Economy**

### **RBI has announced Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement**

Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan has announced the Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for the year 2016-17.

- This time he keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%, reverse repo rate stays at 6.00 %, and CRR remains at 4%. While, LAF will remain unchanged at 6.0 %, and the MSF rate and the Bank Rate at 7.0 %.

### **India, ADB sign \$120 million loan pact for irrigation in Odisha**

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$ 120 million loan pact to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in Odisha.

- Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs and M Teresa Kho, Country Director, ADB's India Resident Mission signed the loan agreement.
- The soft loan is the second tranche of a \$ 157.5 million financing facility under the Orissa Integrated Irrigated Agriculture and Water Management Investment Program. Selected areas for investment program are Baitarani, Brahmani, Budhabalanga and Subernarekha river basins and parts of Mahanadi delta.

### **RBI nod for online bidding platform for Sovereign Gold Bond scheme**

BSE, Asia's oldest bourse, has received the Reserve Bank approval to start an online bidding platform for Sovereign Gold Bond scheme.

- The bond is issued by RBI on behalf of government and investors can apply for the bonds at the price as disseminated by RBI.

### **World Bank slashes India's growth forecast to 7.6 per cent**

The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim has slashed India's 2016 growth forecast to 7.6 per cent.

- The bank has also slashed down 2016 global growth forecast by 0.5 per cent to 2.4 per cent.
- It is critically important for governments to pursue policies that boost economic growth and improve the livelihood of those living in extreme poverty.
- The cut in forecast was due to advanced economies experiencing mediocre growth, while low commodity prices, weak global trade and stilted capital flows also impacted.

### **Axis Bank launches India's first certified green bond at London Stock Exchange**

Axis Bank has launched India's first internationally-listed certified green bond to finance climate change solutions around the world at London Stock Exchange (LSE).

- The proceeds of the bond will be invested by Axis Bank in green energy, transportation, and infrastructure projects. The green bonds of Axis Bank were certified by the Climate Bonds Standards Board.

### **IMF releases \$1.5 billion loan to Sri Lanka**

International Monetary Fund (IMF) formally approved the loan to Sri Lanka = to support the South Asian island nation's economic reform agenda.

- The Executive Board of the IMF accepted this 36-month extended arrangement under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with Sri Lanka under special drawing rights.
- The IMF has signed off on the loan with the first tranche of \$168.1 million released and the remainder available in six instalments subject to quarterly reviews.

### **India Post launches logo, tagline design contest for payments bank**

The Department of Posts launched a logo and tagline design contest on the MyGov portal. The Open Contest invites participation from all Indian citizens, institutions, agencies and entities for a period of one month, until 9th July 2016.

- The best entry will be awarded Rs 50,000/. An expert panel will help shortlist 20 best entries which will thereafter be put up for voting on the MyGov platform to choose the winner.
- Earlier Union cabinet cleared a proposal of Rs. 800 crore to set up India Post Payments and a plan for 650 branches operational by September 2017.

### **SBI, Spain's Caixa Bank ink pact to fund Indo-Spanish JVs, local business**

SBI and Spain's CaixaBank have inked pact to provide loans to Indo-Spanish joint ventures and local enterprises here.

- State Bank of India (SBI) and CaixaBank have signed a memorandum of agreement to enhance business synergies.
- As per the agreement, they will expand banks' guarantee transaction businesses by jointly providing credit to Indian-Spanish joint ventures and Indian local enterprises, SBI said in a statement.
- The banks will also cooperate through introduction of business opportunities and partnering on possible infrastructure funds

### **Tata Power acquires Welspun's renewable energy assets**

Tata Power has acquired the renewable energy (RE) subsidiary of Delhi-based Welspun Energy. It is estimated to be a Rs 9,900-crore deal.

- Tata Power's subsidiary, Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL), signed a share purchase agreement with Welspun Energy to acquire Welspun Renewables Energy Pvt Ltd (WREPL).

### **Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal top 3 sites for sellers: Nielsen**

Amazon followed by Flipkart and Snapdeal were the most preferred e-commerce websites among sellers, with highest top of the mind recall, a recent study has revealed.

- The findings came as a result of a study by Nielsen for the January-March quarter, which surveyed 1,184 online sellers.



- It revealed that 39 per cent of online sellers "explore two or more e-commerce websites as an option to sell products on and grow their business."

### **Panel to list RBI Governor candidates**

The government has made a selection committee headed by cabinet secretary P K Sinha to shortlist the candidates for Reserve Bank of India governor post.

- The decision in this regard was taken earlier by the Prime Minister in consultation with the finance minister.

### **No tax deduction for PF withdrawals of up to Rs. 50,000 from June 1**

The government has notified that it has raised the threshold limit of PF withdrawal for deduction of tax (TDS) from existing Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000. So there will be no deduction for PF withdrawals of up to rs. 50,000.

- Also, no tax is deducted if employee withdraws PF after a period of five years. The provision will come into effect from June 1, 2016.

### **Nomura lowers India's GDP growth to 7.7% for FY17**

Nomura today marked down India's GDP growth forecast marginally to 7.7 per cent for the current fiscal, from 7.8 per cent earlier, saying there is still no sign of an export or private capex turnaround.

- The Indian economy grew at 7.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2015-16 taking the overall GDP growth for the last fiscal to a five-year high of 7.6 per cent.
- Nomura said the headline GDP data suggests that the underlying recovery continues at a gradual pace but it is narrowly based, driven primarily by private consumption.

### **India and World Bank sign agreement for efficient bus service**

The Government of India and the World Bank has signed a 9.2 million US dollar grant agreement under the World Bank-Global Environment Facility (GEF) Programme for the Efficient and Sustainable City Bus Service Project.

- The project aims to improve the efficiency of the transport and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in selected Indian cities which include- Chandigarh, Jaipur and Mira Bhayandar municipality in the Thane district of Maharashtra.
- The IBRD will be the implementing agency of the GEF for the project. The total cost of the programme is \$113 million, out of which \$9.2 million will come as a grant from the World Bank and \$103.07 million will be funded by the Centre, state and city governments for the funding of buses and ancillary infrastructure.

### **India and Morocco launch Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

The India and Morocco have launched the India-Morocco Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IMCCI) in Rabat which was inaugurated by Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Moroccan Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane.

- The IMCCI aims to accelerate the pace of economic development between the two countries.
- The India-Morocco Chamber will focus on the requirements of both sides and will also help them to achieve their trade target.

### **Union Government approved setting up of India Post Payments Bank**

Union Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for setting up the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts with 100% Government of India (GOI) equity share.

- Total Expenditure incurred will be Rs. 800 Crore. Beneficiaries will be all Indian Citizens and 40% of the Country's People in outside the country.

### **ADB, India ink \$200 million loan agreement for Jharkhand roads**

The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed an agreement for a \$200 million loan to upgrade 176-km roads in Jharkhand.

- The agreement will help upgrade the existing sections of four state roads and also support improvements in the design, safety and maintenance of the road network.

### **DCB Bank launches Aadhaar enabled ATM in Bengaluru**

DCB Bank launched Bengaluru's first ATM that accepts Aadhaar number and Aadhaar fingerprint (biometric) instead of ATM/Debit Card and PIN to dispense cash.

- The "cardless and PIN less" ATM was launched by former Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India, Nandan Nilekani.

### **Microsoft agrees to buy LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion**

Microsoft has announced it will buy enterprise social network LinkedIn in a deal valued at \$26.2 billion.

- Microsoft will pay \$196 per share in an all-cash deal, including LinkedIn's net cash. This is a 49.5% premium to the social network's closing price.
- LinkedIn will retain its brand, culture and independence and Jeff Weiner will remain the chief executive officer, Microsoft said in a statement.

### **Cabinet approves SBI takeover of units**

A cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the takeover by State Bank of India (SBI) of several subsidiaries.

- As earlier proposed, SBI wants to take over five units that had been running at arms-length, as well as state-run Bharatiya Mahila Bank.
- The merged entity will create a banking giant, which can compete with the largest in the world with an asset base of almost Rs 37 lakh crore, with 22,500 branches and 58,000 ATMs as on December 2015.
- SBI alone has close to 16,500 branches, including 198 foreign offices spread across 36 countries.

### **Florida bank issues first US credit card for use in Cuba**

A small regional Florida bank, Stonegate Bank has made history by issuing the first credit card that can be used in Cuba. That could make it easier for Americans to travel and work on an island largely.

- Until now, Americans have generally had to bring cash to Cuba and change it either at state institutions that impose a 10 percent penalty on the dollar or in informal exchanges with locals.

### **State Bank of India creates a dedicated Rs 200 crore fund for Fintech startups**

India's largest public sector lender State Bank of India has created IT innovations and startup fund and have allotted Rs 200 crore for investment in promising startups.

- The fund would be covering upto Rs 3 crore for any India registered entity for their business promotion in India using information technology for banking.

### **Max Life, Max Fin Services to merge into HDFC Standard Life**

HDFC Standard Life and Max Life and Max Financial Services are entered into merger agreement that will create the largest private player in India's insurance sector.

- The proposed merger between the companies will create an entity with assets worth over Rs 1 lakh crore.
- A combination of the entities would be overtaking ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd
- The agreement facilitates for a commonly agreed exclusivity period for due diligence and discussions between the parties in relation to a proposed transaction.

### **Boeing, Tata to set up joint aerospace facility in Hyderabad**

Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar laid the foundation stone of Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL) which will be set up under the government's 'Make in India' initiative in Hyderabad.

- Upon this American player Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) jointly to set up a facility to co-produce Boeing AH-64 Apache helicopter fuselages and other aero structures at the aerospace Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Adibatla in Hyderabad.
- The production facility will eventually be the only producer of AH-64 which is the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter and used by the US forces as well as many other countries, including India.

### **India and Bangladesh initiated trans-shipment operations at Ashuganj Port**

Bangladesh's Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan inaugurated the operation at Ashuganj port in central Bangladesh

- 1,000 tonnes of Iron and Steel sheets were emptied to be trans-shipped to Tripura via Bangladesh territory by trucks from Kolkata.

### **Microsoft & AICTE signed agreement to build app for HRD Ministry's SWAYAM platform**

All Indian Council for Technical Education(AICTE) signed agreement with Microsoft and chosen Microsoft as their Technical partner for Online Courses.

- The Online Course programme is named as SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Mind)
- About 2,000 Massive Open Online Courses to be started.
- Over 3 Crore Students and public will be nurtured under the Courses.

### **Union Government approves 100% FDI in Aviation, Defence and e-commerce sectors**

The Union Government has radically liberalized the foreign direct investment (FDI) norms by permitting 100 % FDI under government approval route for almost every sector including defence to give impetus to job creation and ease of doing business in the country.

- Current 49% FDI in broadcasting sector has now been extended to 100 % with the ammendments in rules.
- While, FDI in defence will only be allowed for small arms and their parts, according to Arms Act, 1959.

### **SBI in 'Hall of Shame' of banks funding cluster bomb makers**

State-run banking behemoth SBI has been named in a 'Hall of Shame' list of 158 banking and financial institutions globally that have invested billions of dollars in companies making cluster bombs.

- State Bank of India (SBI) is the only Indian entity on the list, which includes global giants like JP Morgan, Barclays, Bank of America and Credit Suisse.
- They invested over \$28 billion in seven producers of cluster munitions between June 2012 and April 2016.

### **RBI releases framework on payments systems**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released its much awaited 'Vision-2018' document.

- The 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision-2018' aims at building best of class payment and settlement systems for a 'less-cash' India and ensuring access to mobile banking services to even basic phone users.
- RBI expects the Vision to result in a continued decrease in the share of paper-based clearing instruments.

### **Tech Mahindra Ltd acquires UK-based BIO Agency Ltd**

Technology services provider Tech Mahindra Ltd (TechM) has acquired UK-based digital transformation firm The BIO Agency Ltd for 4.5 crore pound(45 million).

- Tech Mahindra will acquire 100 percent of shares of the company. The move will help Tech Mahindra to strengthen its digital portfolio in providing better digital strategy, services and customer experience.
- The acquisition is expected to be in July this year.

### **ADB approved \$500-million loan for river bridge in Bihar**

ADB, multilateral lending agency based in Manila, Philippines, has approved a 500 million dollars loan to build a bridge across the Ganga River in Bihar.

- The loan funds will be used to build 9.8 km road bridge in Bihar on the Ganga River. On completion of the project it will be the India's longest river bridge.
- The new river bridge will provide a vital transport link between the northern and southern parts of the state and neighbouring Nepal.

### **AIIB approves first loans for projects in four countries**

The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved first set of loans totaling US 509 million dollars to finance projects in four countries namely- Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Tajikistan.

- These loans for the four projects were approved in Board of Directors meeting of AIIB held at its headquarters in Beijing, China.
- AIIB was founded last year with an authorized capital of \$ 100 billion. China is the largest shareholder with 26.6 percent of the voting shares. India is the second largest shareholder with 7.5 percent share. Russia's share in the bank is 5.93 percent, while Germany's 4.5 percent.

### **World Bank approves \$63 million for Tejaswini Project in Jharkhand**

The World Bank Board approved the 63 million US dollar project, Tejaswini: Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Jharkhand.

- Tejaswini is the first World Bank project in India that is solely focused on the welfare of adolescent girls and young women.
- The project will support adolescent girls and young women between the ages of 14 and 24 to complete their secondary level education. It will also help them to acquire relevant skills for the job market.

### **Amul signs up as official sponsor of Indian team to the Olympics**

India's leading food products company Amul has signed up as the official sponsor for the Indian contingent to the Rio Olympics 2016.

- Amul will launch a series of advertising campaigns for milk and various dairy products to promote this association in the coming months.
- Amul has embarked upon an 'Eat Milk with Every Meal' campaign.

### Appointments

#### **Facebook Appoints Former Adobe Executive Umang Bedi As India MD**

Facebook India has appointed Umang Bedi as managing director.

- He will take over from Kirthiga Reddy, who will be returning to the US to take on a new role at the company's Menlo Park headquarters.
- Prior to joining Facebook, he was the managing director, South Asia, at Adobe.

#### **Ashok Ganapathy appointed as Director of Airtel Business**

Ashok Ganapathy has appointed as the Director of Bharti Airtel Ltd.

- He will take over the post with effect from 1 July 2016. In this new role, Ashok will be responsible for driving the growth of Airtel's B2B portfolio that serves top corporations, government entities and other corporate with end-to-end solutions.
- Ganapathy succeeds Manish Prakash as Director (Airtel Business). Prakash has been appointed as Director (strategic alliances). He will report to Gopal Vittal, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director (India & South Asia), Bharti Airtel.

#### **Kulmeet Bawa appointed Adobe MD for South Asia**

Adobe has announced the appointment of Kulmeet Bawa as Managing Director (MD) for South Asia.

- He will begin his new role on 24 June 2016. Bawa currently serves as the Head of Sales for Adobe in India.
- Bawa will take over the position from Umang Bedi, who is leaving the company after five years of service.
- Bawa will report to Paul Robson, President of Adobe Asia Pacific. Bawa will lead Adobe's customer-facing engagements in India.

#### **Dia Mirza named Ambassador for Swachh Saathi programme**

Bollywood actress Dia Mirza has named as the ambassador for Swachh Saathi (student internship) programme.

- It is a youth-based programme of Swachh Bharat Mission.

- She would help the programme to reach out to more youngsters as it was aimed to make it a viral youth led movement.

### **Dr. Shahid Rasool Takes Charge at CEMCA**

Dr. Shahid Rasool, a communication technology specialist, has taken charge as the new director of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA).

- Rasool will guide CEMCA, an arm of the Vancouver-based Commonwealth of Learning (COL) - in its mission to ensure effective utilisation of educational media resources for distance education.

### **Naresh Goyal re-elected to IATA board of governor**

Jet Airways chairman Naresh Goyal has been re-elected to International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Board of Governors.

- This would be his 5th successive tenure and only representative from India on this board.

### **Satya Pal Jain appointed as part time member of 21st Law Commission**

Additional Solicitor General of India and former Parliamentarian Satya Pal Jain was appointed as a part-time member of the 21st Law Commission of India.

- His appointment is in addition to present charge as an Additional Solicitor General of India.
- Satya Pal Jain is a noted constitution lawyer and senior BJP leader.
- President Pranab Mukherjee had constituted the 21st Law Commission of India in September 2015. Justice BS Chauhan is the head of the Commission.

### **Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad takes charge of Chief Justice of Manipur HC**

Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad, the senior-most Judge of the Manipur High Court assumed charge of the Chief Justice of the High Court.

- He succeeded Justice Laxmi Kanta Mohapatra who relinquished the office on 9 June 2016.
- Earlier on 9 February 2016, Justice Prasad was transferred from Jharkhand High Court to Manipur High Court. He was transferred by President of India in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 222 of the Constitution of India.

### **Ashok Lavasa named as Finance Secretary**

Ashok Lavasa, has been designated as the Finance Secretary by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by PM Narendra Modi .

- He was recently appointed as the Secretary, Expenditure in the Finance Ministry.

- The 1980 batch IAS officer was shifted from the Environment Ministry to the Finance Ministry after the retirement of Ratan P. Watal on April 30.
- Watal has been appointed as Principal Advisor in NITI Aayog.

### **Navin Agarwal appointed NADA chief**

Senior IPS officer Navin Agarwal was appointed chief of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), working for dope-free sports for five years.

- Agarwal is currently working in his cadre Jammu and Kashmir Cadre. He is a 1986 batch IPS officer.
- NADA is the national nodal agency responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control program in sports in all its forms in India.

### **NK Chari is the new State Bank of Mysore MD**

N.K.Chari took charge as the new Managing Director of State Bank of Mysore.

- Prior to his new appointment, he was the Deputy Managing Director of State Bank of India.
- Chari had served as the Chief Operating Officer in National Banking Group of State Bank of India.
- He has also served as the Managing Director of Nepal SBI Bank for four years stint.

### **Nita Ambani nominated for International Olympic Committee**

Reliance Foundation's Founder and Chairperson Nita Ambani has just been nominated as a member by the International Olympic Committee.

- She will become the first Indian woman ever to be recommended for the esteemed position.
- Her appointment is subject to the 129th IOC elections in Rio de Janeiro in August this year as this nomination is acknowledgement of her work in promoting education and sports.

### **CR Sasikumar takes charge as MD, State Bank of Travancore**

CR Sasikumar took charge as the Managing Director of State Bank of Travancore which is one of the five associate banks of State Bank of India.

- Prior to the new appointment in SBT, he was Deputy Managing Director, Inspection & Management Audit, at SBI Corporate Centre in Hyderabad.
- He started his career as a probationary officer in 1978 and has since held several key positions.

### **V Narayanasamy sworn in as Puducherry CM**

Congress Legislature Party leader V Narayanasamy has sworn in as Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

- Lt. Governor Kiran Bedi administered the oath of office and secrecy at a function held at the historic Gandhi Thidal in Beach Road.



- Narayanasamy represented Puducherry in Rajya Sabha for three terms. He was elected to Lok Sabha in 2009 and served as Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office in UPA II.
- Congress legislators A Namassivayam, Shah Jahan, M Kandasamy, R Kamalkannan and Malladi Krishna Rao were sworn in as ministers.

### **Ranu Langthasa appointed as first woman chairperson of NCHAC in Assam**

Ranu Langthasa was unanimously appointed as the chairperson of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) in Assam on 13 June 2016.

- With this, she also became the first women chairperson to be appointed to the post since the formation of Autonomous Council in 1950s.
- The NC Hills Autonomous Council can be described as a state in miniature having all the paraphernalia of a Government like Legislative, Executive and Judiciary.
- On the 29 April 1952, the Dima Hasao District Council came into being as an autonomous body under the provision of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

### **Peter Thomson elected as the President of 71st session of United Nations General Assembly**

Fijian diplomat Peter Thomson has been elected as the President of 71st session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

- In the secret ballot election for the post, Peter Thomson defeated Andreas Mavroyiannis of Cyprus by 94 to 90 votes, with one abstention.
- Thomson will begin his tenure in September 2016 at the commencement of the 71st session of UNGA and will replace incumbent President Mogens Lykketoft.

### **Senior IAS officer Supriya Sahu appointed as Director General of Doordarshan**

Senior IAS officer Supriya Sahu was appointed as Director General of Doordarshan. She will be the full-time director general.

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved to appoint Sahu for the post.
- She would replace Aparna Vaish who was acting head of Doordharsan. Tripurari Sharan was the last full-time director general at Doordarshan who stepped down in July 2014.

### **Sunil Bharti Mittal elected as ICC Chairman**

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman, Bharti Enterprises, has been elected as the Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The ICC World Council elected the new leaders at a voting held in Sao Paolo, Brazil.

- He takes over from Terry McGraw, Chairman Emeritus of S&P Global, who will subsequently become ICC's Honorary Chairman.

- He is the third Indian business leader to hold this position in ICC's near 100-year history.

### **Indian-origin woman Kamala Shirin Lakhdhir nominated as US Ambassador to Malaysia**

An Indian-origin diplomat as the next American ambassador to Malaysia, the US President Barack Obama has nominated her post, Kamala will succeed Joseph Y Yun, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service.

- The Foreign Service officer Lakhdhir is a Class of Counsellor who was Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs from 2011 to 2015, was announced by the White House along with several other key administration appointments.
- Earlier Lakhdhir served as the US Consul General in Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom from 2009 to 2011 and also served as a political officer in Indonesia and as a consular officer in Saudi Arabia.

### **Chetan Chauhan named NIFT Chairman**

Former BJP MP Chetan Chauhan, who had played Test cricket for India, has been appointed as the chairman of the prestigious National Institute of Fashion Technology.

- He is also the vice president of Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA).

### **Major General Sanjeev Kumar Sharma is new General Officer Commanding of Tiger division**

Major General Sanjeev Kumar Sharma is set to take over as a General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Jammu-based Tiger Division. He succeeds Maj Gen Sanjeev Narain.

- Sanjeev is a distinguished officer has an illustrious career spanning over three decades. He is an alumni of the Defence Services Staff College and has also appeared the prestigious higher defence management course and the national defence course.

### **Bipin R Patel appointed as President of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Businessman Bipin R Patel was appointed as the President of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) for the term 2016-17. He succeeds Rohit J Patel.

- The decision in this regard was taken during the annual general meeting (AGM) of the GCCI. In another development, Shailesh Patwari was appointed as the Senior Vice-President of the chamber.

### **Virginia Raggi became first female mayor of Rome**

Virginia Raggi, a leading member of the populist anti-corruption Five Star Movement (M5S) was elected as Rome's first female mayor.

- She is also the first candidate from that party, M5S to be elected to Rome's mayoralty. A lawyer and local councilor, Raggi was elected to the post in the Italian capital after winning 67% of the vote in a runoff ballot against the Democratic Party's (PD) Roberto Giachetti.

### **Mahendra Singh Dhoni becomes brand ambassador of Exide Life Insurance**

India Limited format's Cricket Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been appointed as brand ambassador for Exide Life Insurance Company with immediate effect.

- The Cricketer will feature in the company's marketing campaign Lamba saath, bharose Ki baat (Long term relationships build trust). This is his first endorsement deal in the insurance category.

### **PayPal appoints Anupam Pahuja as India Country Manager and MD**

World's leading payments platform PayPal announced the appointment of Anupam Pahuja as the Managing Director (MD) and Country Manager for its India operations.

- Prior to this, he was technical head for Asia Pacific.
- He will also be responsible for further strengthening of the company's operations in the country.

### **Anil Kumble appointed head coach of India**

Legendary spinner Anil Kumble has been appointed the new head coach of the Indian cricket team on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 for a period of 12 months. He will replace Ravi Shastri.

- Kumble's name for the role was put forth by the three-member advisory committee comprising of Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman.
- Last week, the sport's governing body had shortlisted 21 candidates out of 57 applicants for the post of head coach of the Indian team after they met the primary criteria specified by the BCCI. Muttiah Muralitharan and Shane Warne was also in the race.

### **Syria's President Assad names new prime minister Imad Khamis**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad named electricity minister Imad Khamis as the new prime minister of the war-ravaged country.

- Assad tasked Khamis with forming a new government, the official news agency SANA reported.
- He is to submit his proposal for new ministerial appointments in the coming days.
- The 54-year-old engineer replaces Wael al-Halqi who had held the post since August 2012.

### **Nokia appoints Sanjay Malik India head**

Nokia has announced the appointment of Sanjay Malik as the head of Indian market, effective August 1.

- Malik is currently head of Network Implementation (NI) at Nokia Global Services.
- He is credited with efficiently driving growth and delivering strong performance both in terms of revenue and operational efficiency and will take Gurgaon office.

### **Indian-origin lawyer to chair panel on human rights in South Sudan**

South African Indian-origin lawyer Yasmin Sooka has been appointed to chairman of three member UN commission (committee) to monitor the human rights situation in South Sudan.

- The committee was constituted by the United Nations Human Right Council (UNHRC) resolution 31/20 which was adopted by consensus, the 47-member body. Other two members of the committee are Kenneth R. Scott (US) and Godfrey M. Musila (Kenya).
- The committee has been tasked to monitor human rights violations in South Sudan and make recommendations for the process of transitional justice, healing and reconciliation.

### **Lalchand Rajput appointed Afghanistan cricket coach**

Former India batsman Lalchand Rajput was named head coach of the Afghanistan national cricket team, replacing ex-Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq who resigned from the post in April.

- Recommended for the job by the BCCI, Rajput pipped India's Mohammad Kaif, Pakistan's Mohammed Yusuf, South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs and West Indies' Corey Collymore.
- He will be joining the team for the Scotland, Ireland and Netherland tour.

### **Sujoy Bose appointed as CEO of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund**

Sujoy Bose has appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

- His appointment was made by the Union Government following his selection by the Selection Committee constituted under Department Of Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das.
- At present, Bose works as the Director and Global Co-Head of infrastructure and natural resources at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a part of the World Bank group.

### **N Srinivasan re-elected as TNCA president for 15th term**

Former BCCI President and former International Cricket Council Chairman N Srinivasan has re-elected as the president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) for the 15th consecutive term.

- While, Mr. KS Viswanathan has been elected as a secretary of the TNCA for the 15th consecutive term.

### **Anju Bobby George & Pullela Gopichand taken as members of Khelo India**

Anju Bobby George and Pullela Gopichand have been named as the members of Khelo India. Khelo India is a national programme launched by the Union Government for the development of sports in the country.

- George, India's lone athletics World Championship medal winner and Gopichand, the chief national badminton coach are the two sportsperson who were included in the seven-member committee of Khelo India. The committee will be headed by Sports Secretary Rajiv Yadav.

### **N S Vishwanathan appointed as the new deputy governor of RBI**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has cleared the appointment of NS Vishwanathan as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- He would succeed H R Khan, who will retire on July 3.
- He is currently working as an executive director at the RBI since April 2014.

### **WHO appoints Peter Salama as head of health emergencies programme**

WHO has announced the appointment of Dr Peter Salama as the Executive Director of its new Health Emergencies Programme, at the level of Deputy Director-General. He takes up his new post on 27 July 2016.

- Dr Salama is from Australia and is currently UNICEF Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa.
- WHO's new Health Emergencies Programme is designed to deliver rapid, predictable and comprehensive support to countries.

### **Suzuki Motors appoints scion Toshihiro Suzuki as CEO**

Suzuki Motor Corp has appointed Toshihiro Suzuki, son of Chairman Osamu Suzuki, as its next chief executive effective the same day, as the Japanese automaker attempts to recover from a vehicle testing scandal.

- The appointment comes after patriarch Osamu Suzuki this month said he would decline the CEO position to take responsibility for the automaker's use of incorrect testing methods when calculating vehicle mileage.

## **Awards**

### **US Army Reserve officer Deshauna Barber crowned as Miss USA 2016**

Deshauna Barber, a serving Army Reserve officer of United States (US), has crowned as the Miss USA 2016 at the Miss USA competition 2016 held at the T-Mobile Arena off the Las Vegas Strip.

- Miss Hawaii Chelsea Hardin came in as the first runner-up and Miss Georgia Emanii Davis was the second runner-up.
- She will now represent the USA at Miss Universe Competition 2016.

### **Putin awards UN chief Ban Ki-Moon with order of friendship**

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree awarding the Order of Friendship to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

- The decoration was awarded to Ban for special merits in strengthening peace, friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding between peoples.

### **Akhil Sharma wins €100,000 Dublin International literary award**

An Indian American author Mr. Akhil Sharma has won the prestigious 2016 International DUBLIN Literary Award for his novel 'family life'.

- The Award is organised and sponsored by Dublin City Council and at €100,000 is the world's largest prize for a single novel published in English.

### **Singer Rod Stewart receives knighthood**

Singer Rod Stewart has received a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth, for his services to music and charity.

- The 71-year-old singer, whose recording career spans 50 years, is currently on tour, where he announced his knighthood live in front of a huge crowd.

### **Arunachal tiger reserve bags biodiversity award**

Pakke Tiger Reserve in East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh has received the 'India Biodiversity Award 2016' in one of its four categories, officials said.

- The Hornbill Nest Adoption Programme of the Pakke Tiger Reserve was awarded the prize under the category, "conservation of threatened species".
- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority and United Nations Development programme.

### **2 Indian-origin women in Forbes' self-made American women list**

In the Forbes' annual list of America's 60 wealthiest and most successful self-made women entrepreneurs list two Indian-origin women have featured who have articulated invention and innovation.

- India-born Neerja Sethi, who is a co-founder of IT consulting and outsourcing firm Syntel with her husband Bharat Desai ranked 16th on 'America's Richest Self-made Women' list while president and CEO of Arista Networks Jayshree Ullal is ranked 30th.
- The richest self-made woman in America is topped by ABC Supply owner Diane Hendricks is worth 4.9 billion US dollars and the company is the largest wholesale distributor of roofing and siding in the country.

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

Qatar based Doha Bank's CEO Dr. R Seetharaman has been honoured with the 2016 Green Economy Visionary Award for his contribution in environment-friendly activities and thereby promoting green economy for nearly two decades.

- He received the award from Mr. Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman of Union of Arab Banks at the 2016 Union of Arab Banks (UAB) International Banking Summit held in Rome.

### **PM Narendra Modi conferred with the Highest Civilian Honour of Afghanistan**

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been conferred with Amir Amanullah Khan Award, Afghanistan's highest civilian honour.

- He was bestowed the honour by President Ashraf Ghani after the inauguration of the landmark Afghan-India Friendship Dam in Herat.
- It is the Highest Civilian honour bestowed by Afghan government to Afghan national as well as foreigners in appreciation of their services. The citation on the reverse of the medal reads: “nishan-e dawlati Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan”, or "State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan.”

### **V. O. Chidambaranar Port Bags National Award For Excellence In Cost Management**

V.O. Chidambaranar Port has bagged National Award for Excellence in Cost Management for the year 2015 from The Institute of Cost Accountants of India under the category of Public Service Sector- Small.

- The port participated in the 13th National Awards for Excellence in Cost Management-2015, organised by The Institute of Cost Accountants of India.
- This is the third time this port is receiving the award , the earlier years being 2008 and 2012.

### **Sudarsan Pattnaik wins gold in People's Choice Prize**

Renowned Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won the gold medal in people's choice prize at world championship festival of sand sculpting Russe, 2016, which was held in Bulgaria.

- Pattnaik's sand art highlights the issue of drugs in the sporting field 'Titled Drugs Kill Sports'. He has got the highest vote from visitors.

### **President Mukherjee receives the highest civilian award of Ivory Coast**

President Pranab Mukherjee has been awarded the highest civilian award of Ivory Coast, 'the National Grand Crois’.

- The award was bestowed upon Pranab Mukherjee during his two days visit to Ivory Coast on the second leg of his three-nation African tour.

### **Margaret Atwood awarded 2016 PEN Pinter Prize**

Canadian poet, novelist and environmental activist Margaret Atwood has been awarded with the 2016 PEN Pinter Prize.

- She is a winner of the Arthur C. Clarke Award and Prince of Asturias Award for Literature.
- She has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize five times, winning once for her novel The Blind Assassin.
- The PEN Pinter Prize is an annual literary award launched in 2009 by English PEN.
- It was launched in honour of the late Nobel Literature Prize-winning playwright Harold Pinter.

### **Indian Diabetes specialist Shashank S Shah wins Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award 2016**

Pune-based diabetes specialist Shashank S Shah was conferred with the Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award 2016.

- The award was given by American Diabetes Association (ADA) for his pioneering research on diabetes in South Asia.

### **Former Indian football team coach Syed Nayeemuddin to be conferred with Mohun Bagan Ratna**

Mohun Bagan on 15 June 2016 announced that it will honour country's only Dronacharya football coach Syed Nayeemuddin with the Mohun Bagan Ratna.

- Nayeemuddin was chosen for the prestigious award for his overall contribution to the club and the country both as a player and as a coach.
- Syed Nayeemuddin is an Indian football coach and former player.
- As a player, he captained the Indian national team that won a bronze medal at the 1970 Asian Games.

### **Karnataka Bank gets award**

Karnataka Bank Ltd has bagged CFBP (Council for Fair Business Practices) Jamnalal Bajaj award for fair business practices.

- The bank has been awarded under the 'service enterprises – large' category.
- Mahabaleshwara MS, Chief General Manager of the bank, received the award from Ajay Piramal, Chairman of Piramal Group, in Mumbai.

### **Kerala Tourism bags four awards at 'FilmAT' International Film Festival in Poland**

Kerala Tourism has bagged four awards at the 11th edition of the festival FilmAT, a film festival dedicated to tourism, art and ecology, in Poland.

- Three of the honors were given to a single campaign. 'Responsible Tourism' initiative started by Kerala and the Best Promotional Social Campaign and in the Protection of Nature and Eco-Food, categories for, respectively, the New Worlds films Sowing the Seeds of the Future and A Taste of Life.
- The fourth award for the tourism board's ad film 'The Great Backwaters of Kerala' won the 'Best Editing Award' which showcased life in and around the legendary backwaters.

### **Kannada film 'Thithi' wins best film award at Shanghai International Film Festival**

Kannada film Thithi has won the Best Film and Best Script Writers Award at the ongoing 19th Shanghai International Film Festival in Shanghai.

- The film Thithi was directed by Raam Reddy's and it is about 3 generations reacting to the death of the oldest in the clan.

### **IIT-Kanpur professor Sanjay Mittal awarded 2015 GD Birla Award**

IIT-Kanpur professor Sanjay Mittal has been awarded the twenty-fifth GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for the year 2015.

- He has been bestowed with this award for his significant contributions have been in the area of Mechanics.



- He is Professor at the Department of Aerospace Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur.

### **International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2016 presented**

The 17th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2016 were presented on 25 June 2016 in Madrid, Spain.

- The awards were presented by the International Indian Film Academy honouring the best Hindi films of 2015.

<b>Award</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Best Film	Bajrangi Bhaijaan
Best Director	Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Bajirao Mastani
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Ranveer Singh for Bajirao Mastani
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Deepika Padukone for Piku
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Anil Kapoor for Dil Dhadakne Do
Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Priyanka Chopra for Bajirao Mastani
Best Male Debut	Vicky Kaushal for Masaan
Best Female Debut	Bhumi Pednekar for Dum Laga Ke Haisha
Best Performance in a Comic Role	Deepak Dobriyal for Tanu Weds Manu Returns
Best Performance in a Negative Role	Darshan Kumar for NH10
Best Story	Juhi Chaturvedi for Piku
Best Debut Couple	Sooraj Pancholi and Athiya Shetty for Hero
IIFA Award for Woman of the Year	Priyanka Chopra
Best Music Direction	Amaal Mallik, Meet Bros Anjjan, Ankit Tiwari for Roy
Best Lyrics	Varun Grover for Moh Moh Ke Dhaage from Dum Laga Ke Haisha
Best Male Playback Singer	Papon for Moh Moh Ke Dhaage
Best Female Playback Singer	Monali Thakur for Moh Moh Ke Dhaage

### **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar awarded Honorary Fellowship in UK**

National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) have awarded Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with an Honorary Fellowship in the UK for his contributions to world peace and culture.

- As per NISAU statement, the organization is proud to honour Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for his immense contribution to furthering world peace & working towards a violence-free society, for his social and cultural contributions to India and for furthering Yoga, Meditation and Spiritual Studies in a global context.

### **Social entrepreneur Zubaida Bai wins UN honour for corporate sustainability initiative**

Zubaida Bai, Indian social entrepreneur, in the fourth week of June 2016 was named among the top 10 Local SDG Pioneers for 2016.

- The 2016 Local SDG Pioneers is a part of the United Nations Global Compact's Making Global Goals Local Business campaign.
- The Local SDG Pioneers programme seeks out individuals who are demonstrating how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can enable business to unlock economic, social and environmental gains for the world.

### Sports

#### **Serena pips Sharapova world's top paid sportswoman**

According to Forbes Magazine report, Serena Williams has overtaken Maria Sharapova as the world's highest-paid sportswoman.

- She earned USD 28.9 million over the past 12 months.
- American mixed martial arts star Ronda Rousey was third on the list with USD 14 million.

#### **Lucknow to host Junior hockey World Cup**

According to International Hockey Federation Lucknow will host the junior men's hockey World Cup from the 8th of December this year.

- The Eleven-Day long event will feature 16 teams.
- They include defending champions Germany, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, England, India, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, South Africa, New Zealand, Pakistan and Spain.
- The women's Hockey Junior World Cup takes place shortly beforehand in Santiago, Chile, between November 24 and December 4. India will not be part of that event.

#### **Tintu Luka runs season's best, wins silver in Prague**

Rio Olympics-bound Tintu Luka has won a silver medal in 800 metres in the Josef Odlozil Memorial Athletics Meet in Czech Republic.

- The reigning Asian champion was second behind 2013 World Youth Championship gold winner Anita Hinriksdottir of Iceland who ran the distance in 2 minutes and 54 seconds.
- She is placed at 30th spot among the season's top list.

#### **Eden Gardens to host India's 1st pink ball match**

Kolkata's Eden Gardens is set to host India's first-ever pink ball cricket match in the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Super League final starting June 17.

- The three-day match, which will be played under lights, will feature pink Kookaburra ball.

#### **Maria Sharapova receives two-year ban for failing drug test**

The Russian tennis sensation Maria Sharapova has been banned for two years by the International Tennis Federation for using a prohibited drug.

- She was provisionally banned in March after testing positive for meldonium at Australian Open in January this year.
- Sharapova will now challenge the suspension, at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

### **World's highest-paid athletes: Cristiano Ronaldo tops Forbes 2016 list**

Real Madrid Cristiano Ronaldo has become the first athlete from a team sport in almost 20 years to top Forbes annual list of the World's Highest-Paid Athletes.

- Ronaldo, with earnings of 88 million US Dollars, takes the top spot for the first time, which is also the first time for a soccer player.

### **Saina Nehwal lifts Australian Open Super Series Badminton trophy**

Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal on 12 June 2016 won the women's title of the Australian Open Super Series Badminton tournament. In the final match played at Sydney, Saina defeated Chinese Sun Yu 11-21, 21-14, 21-19.

- With this win, she also pocketed a cheque of 56250 US dollars.
- This was first title of year 2016 for 29-year-old Saina and second Australian Open title of her career. She won her first Australian Open title in 2014.

### **USA wins FINA Women Water Polo World League Super Final**

The USA Women's Senior National Team on 12 June 2016 won gold at the FINA Women Water Polo World League Super Final. The team defeated Spain 13-9 in the championship match in Shanghai, China.

- On the other hand, Australia defeated China 11-3 for the bronze medal.
- The FINA Water Polo World League is an international water polo league organized by FINA, which plays annually.
- League play features continental tournaments for men and women, from which the top teams emerge to play in the Super Final where the league champion team is crowned.
- Men's league play began in 2002 to capitalize on increased worldwide popularity of water polo created by the 2000 Olympic Games.
- The women's league was added in 2004, based on growing interest in women's play.

### **Alastair Cook Becomes Youngest Cricketer To Score 10000 Test Runs**

England captain Alastair Cook has become the youngest ever batsman to cross 10,000 runs in Test cricket and also become the 12th man to join the elite 10,000-run club in Test cricket.

- Cook, who is 31 years and five months old, beat Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar's record, who was 31 years and 10 months old when he crossed 10,000 runs.

### Sri Lanka's Nuwan Kulasekara retires from Test Cricket

Sri Lanka seamer Nuwan Kulasekara has announced his retirement from Tests to focus on limited-overs cricket.

- The right-arm pacer has represented Sri Lanka in 21 Test matches and picked up 48 wickets since making his debut in April 2005.
- He has also won the best bowler award in the 2002-03 domestic competition.

### League system for Test matches to start by 2019

Dave Richardson, the Chief Executive Officer of the International Cricket Council has stated that a league system for Test Cricket will be in place by the end of 2019.

- Richardson also stated that this system will provide more meaning to the bilateral Test Series.
- Currently, the only way Test teams are regulated is by the virtue of the Test Rankings.

### Argentina retain top spot in FIFA rankings

Argentina (1st) and Belgium (2nd) continue to hold on to the top two spots in the latest FIFA rankings, with Colombia rounding up the top three.

- World champions Germany are fourth in the table with European Championship holders Spain now sixth.
- India have fallen down one spot to 163, while England have been replaced in the top 10 by Austria.

### IBC Gets Affiliation from Commonwealth Boxing Council

The Indian licensing body for professional boxers Indian Boxing Council (IBC) has been officially granted affiliation by the Commonwealth Boxing Council (CBC).

- The commonwealth body will now formally register Raja as a Director in its Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held later this year in December.

### French Open 2016

Title	Winner	Runner Up	Result
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovich	Andy Murray	3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4
Women's Singles	Garbine Muguruza	Serena Williams	7-5 6-4
Mixed Doubles	Martina Hingis and Leander Paes	Sania Mirza and Ivan Dodig	4-6, 6-4, 10-8
Men's Doubles	Feliciano Lopez & Marc Lopez	Bob and Mike Bryan	6-4 6-7 6-3
Women's Doubles	Caroline Garcia & Kristina	Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina	6-3 2-6 6-4

### **Lewis Hamilton wins 2016 Canada Grand Prix of Formula 1**

Mercedes racing driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain won the Formula 1 Canada Grand Prix title. To win the title, he overcame Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel in the final race held in Montreal, Canada.

- For Hamilton, the present win in Montreal was the fifth in his career and the second in a row. His previous titles were secured in 2007, 2010, 2012 and 2015.

### **Indian men's 4x400m relay team breaks 18-year-old national record**

The Indian men's 4x400m relay team on 12 June 2016 created a new national record, clocking 3:02.17 at the International Sprint and Relay Teams Cup at Erzurum, Turkey. The team improved the previous record of 3:02.62 set at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok.

- On the other hand, the Indian women's 4x400m relay team clocked 3:30.16 and jumped to world No 12 in the rankings. In the 2016 South Asian Games, the women's relay team finished the race with a timing of 3:35.44 to win the gold. They also recorded their fastest time of 3:29.08 in the 2016 IAAF World Championships which took place in Beijing.

### **'A new world' - the Official slogan for Rio Olympics**

The Rio 2016 organising committee revealed the official slogan for the first Olympic and Paralympic Games in South America – “A new world”

- It also unveils the medals, 52 days from the start of the quadrennial extravaganza.
- Along with the Olympic torch, the medals and the mascots, the slogan plays a major part in creating the unique identity of each Olympic Games.

### **Champions Trophy Hockey : India settle for silver medal after Australia win penalty shoot-out**

India finished with Silver Medal in the 36th edition of the Hockey Champions Trophy after losing to Australia in the final.

- Both teams were goalless after regular time and Australia defeated India 3-1 to win their 14th title after a penalty shoot-out at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in London.

### **India won Silver medal at Archery World Cup in Antalya**

The Indian mixed recurve team of Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das won silver at the Archery World Cup in Antalya, Turkey.

- In the final clash at Konyaalti Beach Park, the Indian team lost to South Korea 1-5.
- Indian team trailed 0-2 in the first set against the top-seed Korean pair of Choi Misun and Ku Bonchan and went down 1-5 in the final.

- The Sixth seeded Indian duo reached final after beating second-seeded pair of Mauro Nespoli Guendalina Sartori 5-1 in straight sets in the semi-finals.
- Earlier, the women's recurve team of Deepika Kumari, Bombayla Devi Laishram and Laxmirani Majhi also went down in the bronze medal clash to Italy 1-5.

### **Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg won 2016 Formula 1 Grand Prix of Europe**

Nico Rosberg of Germany won the European Grand Prix Formula 1 championship in Baku, Azerbaijan.

- To win the title, the Mercedes driver overcame Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany in the final race.
- In this championship, Rosberg completed second career Grand Slam. Prior to him, only Lewis Hamilton, Mika Hakkinen, Jack Brabham and Juan Manuel Fangio could able to achieve this rare feat.

### **Andy Murray beats Milos Raonic to win record fifth Queen's title**

Britain's Andy Murray dismantled Milos Raonic's huge serve to become the first man to win the Queen's Club title five times.

- Raonic led by a set and 3-0 before Murray became the first player this week to break the Canadian's serve, doing so twice in succession.
- The top seed and defending champion went on to win 6-7 (5-7) 6-4 6-3.
- The Scot overtakes the likes of John McEnroe, Boris Becker and Roy Emerson with five Aegon Championships titles.

### **106-year-old Aida Gemanque becomes oldest Olympic torch bearer**

106 year old Aida Gemanque also called extreme granny became the oldest Olympic torch bearer when she carried the flame in the Amazonian city of Macapa.

- Gemanque broke the record formerly held by Alexander Kaptarenko, who was 101 when he took part in the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics relay.

### **BCCI suspends Goa Cricket Association officials for misappropriation of organization funds**

The BCCI has suspended and issued show-cause notices to the top Goa Cricket Association officials, who were arrested for alleged misappropriation of organization funds.

- GCA president Chetan Desai and secretary Vinod Phadke, who are also part of important committees of BCCI, along with treasurer Akbar Mulla were arrested earlier this week by police for alleged misappropriation of Rs 3.13 crore belonging to the organization.

### **Harika wins best women's player in Kazakhstan Blitz**

Grand Master Harika Dronavalli has won the best women's player award in the Eurasian Blitz chess tournament in Kazakhstan.

- The India number two player picked up a cash prize of \$2500 and 60 ELO points to regain her position in the top 10.
- Harika had won the best woman's prize at the Zalakaros International Chess Festival in Hungary last week to jump to world number 9 in the classical rankings list.
- The 25-year-old's win is particularly impressive as the Blitz tournament saw an elite field, including world number one Hou Yifan of China. In fact, she was tied with Yifan with 12.5 points at the end of the tournament and ended up victorious in the tie-breaker.

### **Anju Bobby George quits as president of Kerala Sports Council**

India's only medalist at World Athletics Championship Anju Bobby George along with 13 others quit the post of president of the Kerala Sports Council.

- Earlier this month, the star long jumper alleged that the state's new sports minister, EP Jayarajan, accused her of being corrupt and said she belongs to the United Democratic Front (UDF) coalition, which was in power in Kerala until last month.

### **BCCI to host mini IPL in September**

The BCCI is set to introduce a new Twenty-20 event, to be branded as mini IPL, outside India in September.

- According to BCCI president Anurag Thakur, In the month of September, the BCCI is willing to host a mini IPL or IPL overseas with all the eight teams participating. It will be a shorter format, not home and away matches but a lesser number of matches. In a two-week window we should be able to complete it.
- The BCCI move was on the cards with the scrapping of the Champions League T20 last year. The details of the shortened version of IPL are yet to be chalked out and possible venues are US and UAE.

### **Chile beat Argentina to win 2016 Copa America Football tournament**

Chile beat Argentina 4-2 in Penalty shootout to win 2016 Copa America Football tournament.

- Being deadlocked 0-0 after 90 minutes and another half an hour extra time in the match, the two teams were supposed to opt for penalty shootout.
- Copa America, formerly known as the South American Football Championship is an international men's football tournament contested between national teams from CONMEBOL and CONCACAF. It is the oldest international continental football competition.
- The competition determines the continental champion of South America. Since the 1990s, teams from North America and Asia have also participated.

### **Lionel Messi retires from international football**

Ace footballer Lionel Messi on Monday announced retirement from International Football after Argentina's loss in Copa America final.

- Messi, a five-time FIFA player of the year, winner of four Champions League titles and eight Spanish La Liga crowns with Barcelona.
- Messi scored 55 goals in 112 games since making his debut for Argentina in 2005.

### **Artemi Panarin wins 2015-2016 Calder Memorial Trophy**

Russian hockey winger Artemi Panarin, playing for the Chicago Blackhawks, won the 2015-2016 Calder Memorial Trophy. The announcement was made by the US National Hockey League (NHL).

- In the selection process, Panarin received votes on all 150 ballots and was the top choice with 1258 voting points.

### **Argentina women win record seventh FIH Champions Trophy title**

The Argentina women's team has claimed a record seventh International Hockey Federation (FIH) Champions Trophy title with a 2-1 win over reigning World and Olympic champions, the Netherlands, in the final at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.

- The Netherlands hit back with a high-quality penalty corner flick from Eva de Goede just after half time, but Argentina held on to win their third successive Champions Trophy title.
- Best player: Carla Rebecchi (Argentina)
- Best junior player: Maria Granatto (Argentina)
- Best goalkeeper: Joyce Sombroek (Netherlands)

### **National Inter-State Senior Athletics C'ships begin in Hyderabad**

The 56th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships, a qualifying event for the Rio Olympics, has begun in Hyderabad.

- 744 athletes, including 264 women from 26 states will take part in the five-day event.
- A Sri Lankan relay team will also take part in the event in its bid to attain the Rio qualification standard.

### **India's Sanjeev Rajput wins silver in ISSF**

Sanjeev Rajput, a doyen shooter of India bagged a silver medal for India in men's 50-metre rifle 3 position event at the ongoing series of sport activities of ISSF World Cup in Baku.

- Rajput shot 456.9 in the combined three events. This made him distant from the gold medal only by 0.6.
- The gold medal was acquired by Petar Gorsa from Croatia doing 457.5. Hyeonjun Kim, the player representing Korea took away the bronze medal after shooting 445.5.



### Deaths

#### **Chess Grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi passed away**

Chess grandmaster Victor Korchnoi has passed away in Wohlen, Switzerland. He was 85 years old.

- He appeared in World Championship thrice but always defeated by Anatoly Karpov and never won a world championship.
- In September 2006, he won the World Senior Chess Championship.

#### **The veteran musician, composer of Nepali national anthem, Mr. Amber Gurung passed away**

Amber Gurung, the renowned Nepali musician, and composer of the country's national anthem has passed away. He was 78 years old.

- Mr. Gurung is the composer of Nepali national anthem 'Sayaun Thunga Fulka Hami' written by vyakul Meila.

#### **Veteran Journalist KK Katyal passes away**

Veteran journalist KK Katyal (88-year) has passed away after a brief illness in Delhi.

- Mr. Katyal had worked with various newspapers including The Statesman, Hindustan Times and The Hindu.
- Katyal was the founder of the India chapter of the South Asia Free Media Association.

#### **Former Kerala Assembly Speaker T S John passed away**

Former Kerala Assembly Speaker T S John has passed away at a hospital at Chertala in Alapuzha.

- He was a leader of a faction of the Kerala Congress (Secular), had also served as a minister in the A K Antony cabinet.

#### **BJP MLA dies in road mishap in Madhya Pradesh**

In Madhya Pradesh, ruling BJP MLA Rajendra Dadu died in a road accident. He was 62 years old.

- His vehicle suffered an accident on the Bhopal-Indore road in Sherpura vicinity on the outskirts of Sehore district.
- This was his second consecutive term as MLA of Neapanagar in Burhanpur district. He was going Indore to attend a BJP Legislature Party meeting.

#### **Canadian ice hockey legend Gordie Howe dies at 88**

Canadian hockey star Gordie Howe has passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 88 years old. Howe is considered one of the greatest ice hockey players of all time.

- He was well known for his nickname Mr. Hockey, and an ironman in many respects both on and off the game. He retired in 1971 and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto in 1972
- Howe maintained in the top 10 of scorers for 21 successive years and was named Most Valuable Player six times.
- He was also the inaugural recipient of the NHL Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.

### **Karnataka Bank former chairman MS Krishna Bhat passes away**

Former Chairman of Karnataka Bank MS Krishna Bhat has died in Mangaluru. He was 78.

- Krishna had joined the bank in 1970, and was elevated to the position of General Manager in 1989.
- Krishna Bhat took over as the Chairman in 1995, for a period of two years. This was extended for another three years up to 2000.

### **Veteran journalist Inder Malhotra passes away**

Veteran journalist Inder Malhotra passed away in Delhi after a brief illness. He was 86.

- Chandigarh hailed Malhotra began his career in journalism at United Press of India after graduating from Punjab University.
- He also worked with the Statesman, the Times of India and the Guardian and as Indian Express columnist. He was also a Nehru Fellow and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.
- Malhotra has penned several books which includes Indira Gandhi: A Personal & Political Biography (1989) and Dynasties of India and Beyond (2003).

### **Noted Playwright and Actor Achyut Lahkar passes away**

Noted playwright and actor Achyut Lahkar passed away on 12 June 2016 following a protracted illness. He was 85.

- Born in 1931, Lahkar, a theatre enthusiast from his childhood days.
- Lahkar was considered to be the father of the Bhramyaman or Mobile Theatre of Assam.

### **Donald Carr, former England Cricket captain, dies aged 89**

Donald Carr, the former captain of England Cricket team, died on 12 June 2016. He was 89.

- Beside prominent batsman Carr was also one of the most prominent administrators of the post-war era.
- He captained England at Madras in 1951-52 in his second and final appearance.\

### **Former Lok Sabha MP Rudra Madhab Ray passes away**

Former Lok Sabha MP from Odisha and senior BJP leader Rudra Madhab Ray has passed away at a hospital in Bhubaneswar. He was 79 year old.

- He was elected to the Odisha Assembly three times from Daspalla constituency from 1990 to 1995, 1995 to 1997 and again from 2004 to 2009.

### **Bollywood actor and Comedian Razzak Khan passes away**

Famous comic star Razzak Khan, who is popularly known for his comic roles in movies has passed away after having a heart attack in Mumbai.

- Razzak has worked with many stars including Salman Khan, Govinda and Shah Rukh Khan over the years in movies like Hello Brother, Hungama, Badshah and Hera Pheri.

### **Former Eden Gardens curator Prabir Mukherjee passes away**

Eden Garden's renowned curator Prabir Mukherjee has passed away in Kolkata. He was 86 year old. He was suffering from liver problems for quite some time.

- Mukherjee was in charge of the Eden Gardens for over two decades and also served as the manager of Bengal and East Zone teams. His association with Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) began in 1979.
- His last assignment at the Eden Gardens was for a Twenty 20 International between India and South Africa in October last year.

### **Boxing legend Muhammad Ali passes away**

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali, who was hospitalised following respiratory problems, passed away. He was 74.

- Ali, whose fame transcended sport during a remarkable heavyweight boxing career that spanned three decades, had been hospitalised in the Phoenix, Arizona, area with a respiratory ailment this week.
- Ali had been hospitalised several times in recent years, most recently in early 2015 when he was treated for a severe urinary tract infection initially diagnosed as pneumonia.

### **Actor-director Balu Anand passes away**

Famous actor and director, Balu Anand has died due to a massive heart attack in Coimbatore. He was 61 years old.

- The actor has appeared in some 100 films like Pistha, Anbe Sivam, Anna Nagar, Mudhal Theru among others.

### **Veteran actor Sulabha Deshpande passed away**

Eminent actor and theatre personality Sulabha Deshpande passed away 4 June 2016 in Mumbai. She was 79.

- Deshpande was considered to be one of the pioneers of the experimental theatre movement that swept Mumbai in the 1970s.

### **India's first Mr Universe Manohar Aich passes away**

India's first Mr Universe Manohar Aich has passed away in Kolkata. He was 104 year old.

- 4 feet 11 inch long Aich became very famous in Bengal after becoming India's first Mr. Universe when he won the 1952 National Amateur Body-Builders' Association Universe Championships. He is also called 'Pocket Hercules' for his pint-size.
- He is 3 time Asian games gold medalist and his motto of life was 'to exercise and be happy.'

### **Renowned Hindi writer Mudrarakshasa passes away**

Distinguished Hindi writer, activist, thinker and cultural personality Mudrarakshasa passed away following a prolonged illness in Lucknow. He was 82.

- Born in Behta near Lucknow in 1931
- He was the editor of Anuvrata, a Calcutta based magazine.
- He worked as Editor at All India Radio from 1962 to 1976.

### **Assam Pradesh Congress President Anjan Dutta passes away**

Assam Pradesh Congress President (APCC) Anjan Dutta has passed away in New Delhi. He was undergoing treatment at AIIMS for past several days. He was 64 years old.

- Dutta was born on 13th April 1952 in the Sibsagar district of Assam and was a three times MLA from the Amguri Constituency. He served as the Minister and the Member of the State Legislative Assembly.

### **Veteran Odia actress Manimala Devi passes away**

Manimala Devi, veteran Odia actress, passed away on 16 June 2016 following a prolonged illness at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. She was 86.

- Manimala ruled the Odia film industry in the 1960s as lead actress with her influential performances in various films.

### **Famous TV actress Ann Morgan Guilbert dies**

Famous Television actress Ann Morgan Guilbert died on 16 June 2016 after battling with cancer. She was 87.

- She began her TV career in the 1960s, appearing on popular programmes such as I Dream of Jeannie, My Three Sons, The Alfred Hitchcock Hour, The Partridge Family, Love, American Style, and The New Andy Griffith Show.

### **Renowned Educationalist Jeppiaar passes away**

Jeppiaar, a renowned politician-turned-educationalist and founder of Jeppiaar Educational Trust, passed away following a brief illness at Chennai. He was 85.

- He was originally named as Jesadimai Pangiraj. He was a pioneer in the setting up of private engineering institutions in Tamil Nadu and was the founder chancellor of Sathyabama University.

### **Telangana poet and lyricist Guda Anjaiah passes away**

Telangana poet and lyricist Guda Anjaiah has died at his house at Ragannagudem, Telangana following a brief illness. He was 61.

- He was born in Lingapuram village of Dandepalli mandal in Adilabad district in 1955.
- His songs both regaled and incensed supporters of statehood movement.

### **Neil O'Brien, India's first quizmaster, dies**

Neil O'Brien, the pioneer of quizzing in India, passed away on June 24 at his home in Kolkata.

- A former member of Lok Sabha, O'Brien was also a three-time nominated Anglo-Indian MLA in West Bengal and an educationist.
- He was the chairman of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and managing director of Oxford University Press, India.

### **Noted Malayalam theatre artist Kavalam Narayana Panicker passes away**

Veteran Malayalam theatre artist and poet Kavalam Narayana Panicker passed away on 26 June 2016 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He was 88.

- In 1961, he was nominated as Secretary of Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi.
- He has written over 26 Malayalam plays, many adapted from classical Sanskrit drama and Shakespeare.

### **Founder of Titan, Xerxes Sapur Desai has passed away**

Xerxes Sapur Desai, the man who founded India's largest watchmaker company 'Titan Co Ltd', has passed away following a prolonged illness in Bengaluru. He was 79 years old.

- He also worked with Tata Press, Tata Chemicals, and Taj Hotels before setting up Titan in 1986.
- With the success in watches, he got Tata's approval to start Tanishq, the jewelry business that is now a trusted brand and India's largest jewelry firm.

### **Renowned painter KG Subramanyan passes away**

Renowned painter and freedom fighter KG Subramanyan passed away on 29 June 2016 following a brief illness in Vadodra. He was 92.

- Subramanyan was a versatile painter who blurred the lines between art and artisans by making his mark in pottery, design and terracotta art as well.

## **Books**

### **The Unseen Indira Gandhi authored by Dr KP Mathur released**

A new book titled *The Unseen Indira Gandhi* authored by Dr KP Mathur was in the news as this was released this month. The Book was published by Konark Publishers.

- The book also talks about several milestone moments in Indira's life, the Bangladesh War of 1971, Pokhran Nuclear tests of 1974, imposition of Emergency, death of Sanjay Gandhi and circumstances in Maneka's walk out of the family.
- The book also covers former PM's relations with foreign counterparts including Margaret Thatcher who was former PM of the United Kingdom.
- KP Mathur was personal physician of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for nearly two decades till her assassination in 1984.

### **A Life in Diplomacy authored by MK Rasgotra**

The book titled *A Life in Diplomacy* was in news in the third week of June 2016. The book was written by former Indian diplomat Maharaja Krishna Rasgotra.

- It is an insider's account of the personalities and policies that shaped Indian diplomacy.
- The book provides a ringside view of the beginnings of ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, the last years of the Cold War, the negotiations on the formation of SAARC, Indira Gandhi's assassination and the Bhopal gas disaster.

### **PM releases book titled "The Birds of Banni Grassland"**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a book titled "The Birds of Banni Grassland" in New Delhi.

- The Book is a compilation of the research work, relating to more than 250 species of birds found in the Banni area of Kutch, Gujarat.
- The book was presented to the Prime Minister by the Scientists of Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology.
- The Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, located at Bhuj, has been studying the plant, bird and marine life in the Rann of Kutch for over 15 years.