

International

29 September: World Maritime Day

The World Maritime Day is being observed across the world on 29th September to highlight the importance of shipping safety and maritime security.

- 2016 Theme: "Shipping: indispensable to the world".
- The theme focuses on the critical link between shipping and global society.

India moves to 39th spot in Global Competitiveness Report

World Economic Forum (WEF) released the Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) 2016-2017. The report assesses the competitiveness landscape of 138 economies.

- India has jumped 16 places in the GCI report to occupy the 39th spot. In 2015-16 GCI report, India was placed at 55th position as compared to 71st rank in 2014-15 report.
- Top 10 countries in ranking are Switzerland, Singapore, United States, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong (SAR), and Finland respectively.

India-Russia Joint Military Exercise Indra-2016 Begins in Vladivostok

The eighth edition of India-Russia Joint Military Exercise 'INDRA-2016' has begun in the Ussiriysk District in Vladivostok, Russia.

- Main focus of this edition of the joint exercise is on 'Counter-Terrorism Operations in semi mountainous and jungle terrain under United Nations Mandate'.

Lopamudra Raut , the second runner-up at Miss United Continents 2016

Jeslyn Santos from Philippines won the title of Miss United Continents 2016 whereas India's Lopamudra Raut bagged second runner-up spot at Miss United Continents 2016 at a grand ceremony held on 25th September, 2016 at Crystal Palace Guayaquil, Ecuador.

- The competition saw 32 participants from the 4 continents of America, Asia, Europe and Africa, giving a stiff competition.

Pakistan assembly passes marriage bill protecting Hindu women's rights

Pakistan's lower house of parliament has passed a landmark bill giving its small Hindu minority the right to register marriages, the last major hurdle on the way to enacting a law aimed at protecting women's rights.

- Activists say that Hindu women have been disproportionately targeted for abduction, forced conversions and rape because their marriages were never officially recognised and therefore not provable in court.
- Hindus make up approximately 1.6 percent of Pakistan's Muslim-majority population, but have not had any legal mechanisms to register their marriages since independence from Britain in 1947.

Four SAARC member including India decided to boycott the Summit in Islamabad

Four SAARC member countries, namely India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan, decided to boycott the 19th SAARC Summit to be hosted by Pakistan. The summit is scheduled to be held in Islamabad from 9 to 10 November 2016.

- As per rules, the summit is postponed if any head of state or government decided not to participate in the summit.
- Nepal is the current chair of SAARC.

World Rabies Day: 28th September

World Rabies Day has observed on 28 September 2016.

- The theme for the World Rabies Day - Educate. Vaccinate. Eliminate.
- The day is annually celebrated to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating the disease.

Vice President Ansari to represent India at NAM Summit

Vice-President Hamid Ansari will be representing India at the upcoming 17th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to be held at Margarita Island in Venezuela from September 17-18.

- India is one of the founding members of the Non Aligned Movement and India hosted the 7th NAM Summit in 1983 in New Delhi. The last NAM Summit was hosted by Iran in 2012.
- The membership of NAM comprises 53 countries from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 2 from Europe (Belarus, Azerbaijan).
- The Non Aligned Movement came into being 55 years ago when leaders of 25 developing countries met at the 1961 Belgrade Conference.

Priyanka Chopra among world's 10 highest paid TV actresses: Forbes

Priyanka Chopra is among the world's 10 highest paid television actresses, with her ABC TV show Quantico and endorsements netting her \$11 million in earnings, according to Forbes.

- The Forbes top paid TV actresses' list was headed once again by Modern Family star Sofia Vergara who earned \$43 million this year.

First Indian music & dance festival starts in Sydney

A first-of-its-kind Indian music and dance festival aimed to showcase the country's rich and diverse culture was kicked off in iconic Sydney Opera House.

- The 10-week festival "Confluence: Festival of India" was inaugurated by Union Tourism and Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma with spectacular joint performances by Indian and Australian artists.
- Almost 2000 people attended the two-hour long show which showcased the rich and diverse culture of Indian music and dance along with Australian performers.
- The festival, an initiative of Indian government supported by the Australian side, will run across seven cities including Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Canberra and Adelaide.

China, Russia conducted joint naval exercises Joint Sea-2016

China and Russia have carried out joint naval exercises dubbed as Joint Sea-2016 in the resource-rich South China Sea (SCS) off China's southern Guangdong province.

- The exercise conducted during 13-19 September highlighted Marine Corps units in "live-fire drills, sea crossing and island landing operations and island defense.

India second most unequal country globally after Russia while Japan most equal: Report

India is the second most "unequal" country in the world after Russia, with millionaires controlling more than half of its total wealth, a report by Johannesburg-based wealth research firm New World Wealth said earlier this week.

- In India, 54 percent of its wealth is controlled by millionaires. While India is among the 10 richest countries in the world with a total individual wealth of \$5,600 billion, the average Indian is quite poor, the report said.
- Worldwide, Russia is the most unequal country where millionaires control over 62 percent of the nation's total wealth.
- Instead, Japan showed up as the most equal country, with millionaires controlling only 22 percent of total wealth.

Nearly 50 million children uprooted worldwide: UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released the report titled Uprooted: The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children.

- According to the report, nearly 50 million children have been uprooted across the globe and millions more migrating in the hope of finding a better, safer life.
- Children represent a disproportionate and growing proportion of those who have sought refuge outside their countries of birth: they make up about half of all refugees.
- In 2015, around 45 percent of all child refugees under UNHCR's protection came from Syria and Afghanistan.
- Turkey hosts the largest total number of recent refugees and very likely the largest number of child refugees in the world.
- Relative to its population, Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees by an overwhelming margin: Roughly 1 in 5 people in Lebanon is a refugee.

- When considering refugee-host countries by income level, however, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, and Pakistan host the highest concentration of refugees.
- A refugee child is five times more likely to be out of school than a non-refugee child.
- In the worst cases, xenophobia can escalate to direct attacks. In Germany alone, authorities tracked 850 attacks against refugee shelters in 2015.

PM to visit Vietnam, China

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi would be visiting Vietnam from 2nd September 2016 to 3rd September 2016.

- Prime Minister will also be attending Annual G-20 Leaders Summit in Hangzhou, China from 3rd September 2016 to 5th September 2016.

India jumps 19 places in Logistics Performance Index: World Bank

India jumped 19 places in the Logistics Performance Index to rank 35th in this year's list of 160 countries.

- The World Bank has recently released a Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2016 report titled 'Connecting to Complete 2016'.
- The logistics' list was topped by Germany.

Bhutan set to host Asian Tennis Tour event this month

Bhutan is set to become the fourth Asian country to host a tournament on the Asian Tennis Tour.

- India, Thailand and Iran have already hosted a series of tournaments, both men and women, on ATT and Bhutan is scheduled to host its maiden event from September 16 to 18.

Michel Temer sworn in as new Brazil president

Michel Temer, Brazil's former vice president, has been sworn in as the country's new president A few hours after the country's Senate voted to remove Dilma Rousseff from office.

- The Senate voted 61 to 20 to end the presidency of Brazil's first female leader. She was found guilty of violating budgetary laws in an effort to improve her chances of re-election in 2014.
- He is expected to stay in power until the next scheduled election in late 2018.

BRICS Convention on Tourism begin

The two-day long "BRICS Convention on Tourism" begins at world heritage site Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh.

- Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the convention. Delegations from the BRICS countries India, Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa will participate in it.

President of Egypt to arrive on three-day visit to India

President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, is arriving on a three-day visit to India.

- He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Ministers, officials and business leaders.

India, Vietnam Sign 12 Agreements to Boost Bilateral ties

India and Vietnam have signed 12 agreements for cooperation in areas, including defence and IT, to boost bilateral ties.

- The agreements were signed by officials of the two sides in presence of Prime Minister
- This is the first bilateral prime ministerial visit from India to Vietnam in 15 years since the visit of then PM. Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2001.

India, Egypt sign agreement in area of Maritime Transport

India and Egypt has signed an agreement on Maritime Transport.

- The agreement would help the two nations to step-up co-operation on the seas not only in terms of maritime commerce but also in transit of naval vessels.

11th G20 Summit Concludes in Hangzhou, China

The 2016 G20 Summit was held for two days on 4 September and 5 September 2016 at the Hangzhou International Exhibition Centre, Hangzhou, China.

- The theme of 2016 G20 Summit was 'Toward an Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy'.
- It was the first ever G20 summit to be hosted in China and the second Asian country to host the Summit.
- It was the second time that an Asian country hosted the summit. Before China, Seoul, South Korea, hosted the 2010 G20 Summit.
- It was the 11th summit since the inception of G20 in 1999.
- The summit was attended by all the leaders of the G20 including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- 8 countries were invited in the conference as guest delegates - Chad, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Laos, Senegal, Spain, Singapore and Thailand.
- The 2017 G20 Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany, under the leadership of Angela Merkel.

WHO certifies Sri Lanka malaria free

The World Health Organisation certified Sri Lanka a malaria-free nation and awarded certificate on 6 September.

- Sri Lanka is the second country in the WHO South-East Asia Region to eliminate malaria after Maldives in 1994.
- For this, Sri Lanka campaigned in the country and provided regular medical check up.
- 24-hour hotline to identify patients, treated early.
- Used Parasite control strategy rather controlling mosquitoes.
- Taken care of cleaning and linked the communities by integrated management systems.
- By October 2012, the indigenous cases were down to zero. From the last three-and-a-half years, no locally transmitted cases have been recorded in the country.

India Kazakhstan Joint Exercise “PRABAL DOSTYK-16”

As a part of India’s continued efforts to strengthen Indo-Kazakhstan relations, troops of Indian & Kazakhstan Army are presently engaging in a joint exercise ‘PRABAL DOSTYK – 16.

- The Indian Army is being represented by a platoon strength. The Kazakhstan Army contingent comprise of platoon from Special Operating Force’s Unit. A pioneering endeavor with the Kazakhstan Army, the exercise is being conducted in Karaganda region of Kazakhstan and will conclude on 17 Sep 2016.
- The primary aim of the 14 day exercise will be to enhance interoperability while undertaking Counter Terrorism & Counter Insurgency Operations in rural & semi-urban environment under the umbrella of United Nations.

UN Charter translated into Sanskrit



The UN Charter, the seminal treaty of the United Nations, has now been translated into Sanskrit.

- It was translated by Jitendra Kumar Tripathi, Secretary of the Lucknow-based Akhila Bharatiya Sanskrit Parishad.
- The United Nations Charter was signed on June 26 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organisation, and came into force on October 24 1945.
- The Charter is available in all six official languages of the UN.

International Literacy Day: 8 September

The world celebrated 50th International Literacy Day on 8th September, 2016 under the theme “Reading the Past, Writing the Future”.

- The event was first celebrated in 1966 when the UNESCO officially proclaimed September 8 as the International Literacy Day.
- Its aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.

India, Greece sign MoU for air services agreement

India on 7 September 2016 signed the bilateral Air Services Agreement with Greece to allow unlimited points of call for domestic airlines in Greece.

- Both the countries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard under the Open Sky Policy.

ASEAN Summit 2016 concludes in Vientiane, Laos

The 28th and the 29th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit concluded on 8 September 2016 at Vientiane, Laos. The theme for the 2016 summit was Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community.

- H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR, was the Chairperson of the summit that was held from 6 September 2016 to 8 September 2016.
- The Summit was attended by the leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations. They are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia.
- ASEAN was established in 1967 by the five founding members namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia joined later.
- It's headquarter is in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Rodrigo Duterte is its current Chairman.

PepsiCo's Indra Nooyi only Indian-origin woman in Fortune list

PepsiCo CEO and chairman Indra Nooyi is the only Indian-origin woman in Fortune's 51 Most Powerful Women list.

- List was topped by Mary Barra, CEO and chairman of General Motors.
- Nooyi was ranked second on the list, same as 2015. In 2014, she was ranked third.
- The list comprises 22 CEOs of major companies.

Government approves agreement with Kenya for cooperation in National Housing Policy

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post-facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Kenya on cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management (NHPDM).

- The MoU was signed on 11th July, 2016 at Nairobi during the visit of the Prime Minister of India.
- Under the MoU, both the sides will collaborate on all matters relating to housing and human settlements through various strategies including training of personnel, exchange visits, expos/exhibitions, conferences and workshops.
- The cooperation between the two countries will focus on upscaling slum upgradation.
- They will collaborate on development and sharing of information on housing and real estate data base including market trends, best practices and investment opportunities.

Joint Indian-US army exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2016' to begin in Uttarakhand

As part of the ongoing Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise, 'Yudh Abhyas 2016' is set to be conducted in Uttarakhand from September 14 to 27.

- The exercise in Chaubattia was being conducted by the headquarter Central Command.
- It is the 12th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by the two countries.
- The two week exercise will witness participation of about 225 personnel of the US Army and similar strength of Congo Brigade of the Indian Army.

World's 1st robotic eye operation performed in Britain

British surgeons have carried out the world's first robotic operation inside the eye -potentially revolutionising the way vision conditions are treated.

- The procedure was carried out by surgeons at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital. The robotic eye surgery trial involves 12 patients undergoing operations with increasing complexity.

'Bhattacharya, Kochhar among most powerful women outside US'

India's top women bankers, SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya, ICICI head Chanda Kochhar and Axis Bank CEO Shikha Sharma, are among the 50 most powerful women based outside the US, according to a list by Fortune which is topped by Banco Santander's boss Ana Botin.

- Bhattacharya, 60 is ranked second on the list, while Kochhar comes in on the fifth spot and Sharma on the 19th position in the Fortune's '50 Most Powerful Women International' list, which has ranked the women based outside the US.
- Botin, Group Executive Chairman of Banco Santander, Eurozone's largest bank by market value, repeats as No. 1, in a time of economic and political volatility for all.
- The 2016 list spans 19 countries.

21 September: International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace is observed across the world annually on 21st September.

- It is dedicated to world peace and specifically the absence of war and violence.
- The theme of this year (2016) is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace".
- Earlier, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had designated 21st September as the International Day of Peace in 1981.

India stands at 112th spot on World Economic Freedom Index

India has slipped by 10 positions to 112th, out of 159 countries and territories, as it "fared badly" across categories including legal system and regulation, according to the Economic Freedom of the World: 2016 Annual Report.

- Although China, Bangladesh and Pakistan lagged behind India at 113th, 121st and 133th ranks respectively, Bhutan (78), Nepal (108) and Sri Lanka (111) were better placed on the World Economic Freedom Index.
- "India has fared badly in all categories i.e. legal system and property rights (86), sound money (130), freedom to trade internationally (144) and regulation (132) except the size of the government (8)," the report said.
- According to the report, Hong Kong has the highest level of economic freedom worldwide, followed by Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, Canada, Georgia, Ireland, Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, and the UK.

Oxford tops the list as the world's leading university

Oxford University (UK) topped the list as the world's leading university in the latest Times Higher Education world rankings index.

- The United States had 63 institutions in the top 200, while the UK had 32 and Australia had 8.
- Asian region's top institution, National University of Singapore was ranked 24th.
- Indian Institute of Science of Bengaluru has been placed in the rank segment of 201 to 250 while IIT Bombay is in the 301 to 350 segment.



Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana launched in Jammu & Kashmir

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan have launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in the state.

- The scheme provides free LPG connections to the women from BPL households.
- A new LPG bottling plant would be started in Kargil, while gas production would be increased in Leh.

West Bengal govt decides to install monorail

The West Bengal Chief Minister Ms. Mamata Banerjee has decided to install monorail from Budge Budge in South 24-Parganas to Ruby Connector in Kolkata at a cost of 4,216 crore rupees.

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between Burn Standard Company Limited and the state transport department for execution of the project to install the monorail.
- Burn Standard Company Limited will be funding the project and the state government will provide land.

Govt. announces Rs. 90 lakh cash reward for Rio Paralympics winners

The Union government has announced a total cash reward of 90 lakh Rupees for the medal winners of Rio Paralympics.

- Gold medal winners paralympic Mariyappan Thangavelu (high jumper) and Devendra Jhajharia (Javelin thrower) will be rewarded with 30 lakh Rupees each.
- Deepa Malik (silver medal) in Shotput will be rewarded 20 lakh Rupees and Varun Singh Bhati (high jumper), bronze medal at the Rio games will be given 10 lakh Rupees.
- The cash reward will be given by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot under the Awareness Generation and Publicity (AGP) scheme.
- It was India's best-ever performance in Paralympics history .

Cabinet approves implementation of the Project SAKSHAM

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved 'Project SAKSHAM', a New Indirect Tax Network (Systems Integration) of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

- The total project cost involved is Rs.2256 crore which will be incurred over a period of seven years.
- It will help in implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST),
- It will help in extension of the Indian Customs Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT).
- It will help in other taxpayer-friendly initiatives under Digital India and Ease of Doing Business of Central Board of Excise and Customs.
- The implementation strategy for the project will be to ensure readiness of CBEC's IT systems by April, 1, 2017, when GST is to be introduced.
- All Taxpayers/Importers/Exporters/Dealers under various indirect tax laws administered by CBEC- presently about 36 lakhs, likely to go up to over 65 lakhs after introduction of GST.

Childhood cancer awareness exhibition at Taj Mahal from Sept. 25

A first-of-its-kind exhibition on childhood cancer awareness began in the premises of the Taj Mahal, authorities said.

- As many as 1,500 children are expected to participate in the three-day exhibition, which is a part of the 'Go Gold India-Taj Goes Gold and UP Goes Gold' campaign of non-government organisation (NGO) 'CanKids, Kidscan', National Society for Change for Childhood Cancer in India.
- Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav has also extended his support to the campaign.

2nd SAARC Anti-Terrorism Mechanism held in New Delhi

The second meeting of the High Level Group of Eminent Experts to strengthen the SAARC Anti-Terrorism Mechanism was held in New Delhi.

- Delegations from all eight SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) member countries participated in the conference.
- SAARC members are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Railways launched 'Yatri Mitra Seva'

In an initiative to improve the railway travel experience of elderly, differently-abled and ailing passengers, the Ministry of Railways has announced the launch of 'Yatri Mitra Seva' to simplify access to wheelchairs, battery operated cars and porter services.

The scheme will be operational at all major railway stations.

'Yatri Mitra' or 'Passenger Friend' can be an assistant or any other person nominated for the purpose.

Sports Ministry to launch Talent identification portal

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Vijay Goel has decided to start a Talent Search Portal under the Department of Sports.

- The portal is intended to give a fair opportunity to talented children from every nook and corner of the country to pursue their dreams of achieving excellence in sports.
- Details of the performance and potential of a child including video and photographs could be uploaded on the portal by children, their parents, relatives, teachers and others on the portal. A format will be available on the portal to capture the key details of the child.
- After due scrutiny, children with potential will be given an opportunity to appear for a battery of tests which could be conducted at the nearest SAI Centre among others. Those who pass the battery of tests will be admitted to the training centres of SAI.
- Such talented children who are not able to leave their current places of residence for any reason may be offered a scholarship to help them pursue excellence in sports.
- The plan is to target talented children of 8 years and above.

India Declares itself Free from Avian Influenza (H5N1)

India declared itself free from the highly contagious avian influenza (H5N1) or bird flu. The declaration was made by the Department of Animal Husbandry under the Agriculture Ministry.

- The Department in a statement said that it had notified the same to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
- To make sure that this H5N1 free status is maintained, the union government has asked the chief Secretaries of states to continued surveillance especially in the vulnerable areas bordering infected countries and in areas visited by migratory birds.

Ahmedabad to host African Development Bank meet next year

India will host the Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group in May next year.

- To be held at Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre, Ahmedabad on May 22-26, the event is expected to be attended by over 5,000 delegates from 80 member countries of AfDB.

ISRO launched advanced weather satellite INSAT-3DR

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launched advanced weather satellite, INSAT-3DR on 8 September 2016.

- The advanced weather satellite was launched with the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F05), from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- GSLV-F05, the tenth flight of India's GSLV, carried 2211 kg INSAT-3DR into a Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- INSAT-3DR is an advanced meteorological satellite of India configured with an imaging System and an Atmospheric Sounder.

GST bill gets nod by President Pranab Mukherjee

The legislation amending the Constitution to enable goods and services tax (GST) has become a law with President Pranab Mukherjee giving his assent to the bill ratified by more than 50 per cent state assemblies.

- This is a significant milestone achieved in the implementation of GST that sets the stage for GST Council, which will work out the details of the tax, including the rate at which it will be levied.
- Parliament had on August 8 passed the bill that was then sent to states for ratification. Such a constitution amendment bill requires at least half the state assemblies to ratify it before president's assent is sought.

'IoT (Internet of Things) India Congress, 2016' began in Bengaluru

The three-day Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2016 kicked off in Bengaluru that aims to bring together key stakeholders across the value chain and verticals to collaborate, ideate and share a common road-map for IoT implementation.

- The event was inaugurated by Information Technology (IT) and Electronics Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and JS Deepak, Secretary, Ministry of Telecommunications.
- It will bring the IoT practitioners (hardware-devices, portables, sensors, software, business) and IoT enablers (regulatory, training, investors in IoT, end users) to work together and create a platform that is industry efficient as well as robust.
- The event will also host the "IoT Thought Leadership Awards 2016" and the "IoT Start-Up Awards 2016".

Jharkhand becomes first state to implement PFMS

Jharkhand is the first state in the country to have implemented Public Fund Management System (PFMS).

- Development Commissioner Amit Khare said Union Finance Secretary Ashok Lavasa appreciated the implementation of Jharkhand's public fund management system.

MoUD, Amar Chitra Katha sign MoU to publish comic book on Swachh Bharat Mission

Storyteller to generations of Indians, Amar Chitra Katha will now publish and distribute a special edition of a comic book focusing on Swachh Bharat Mission.

- The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) has signed an MoU with Amar Chitra Katha to publish and distribute a 32-page comic.

Kerala to form JV with Railways for infrastructure projects

Kerala has decided to enter into joint venture agreement with Railways for rail projects in the state under the 51:49 equity partnership arrangements.

- The state government has prepared a priority list of rail projects for consideration under the joint venture.

Union Minister JP Nadda unveiled Mera Aspatal initiative

J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the “Mera Aspatal / My Hospital” initiative at the third National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Facilities at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

- Speaking on the occasion, the Health Minister stated that for any innovation we must think of scale, skill and speed as has been said by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Gujarat becomes first state to distribute 2 Cr. LED bulbs

Under the Government's initiative of affordable LEDs for all (UJALA) scheme, Gujarat has become the 1st state to distribute 2 crore LED bulbs.

- Gujarat has reached this milestone in just 96 days and over 42 lakh households have already benefitted from the scheme.

Govt panel clears 16 highway projects across 11 states

The Government has approved 16 highway projects in 11 states to be executed at a cost of 7,457 crore rupees.

- The projects are in Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Sikkim.

First BRICS film festival to begin in New Delhi

The first BRICS film festival was begin at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi.

- Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurated the festival.
- The film festival is the run up to the BRICS summit which is to be held in Goa next month from 15th to 16th.

Gujarat signs MoU with aviation ministry

The Gujarat government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the ministry of civil aviation to develop 11 airports and airstrips to boost regional connectivity.

- The central government's new civil aviation policy emphasises regional connectivity to serve unconnected or under-served towns and boost infrastructure.

Odisha govt launches Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana

Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has launched the Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana for the development of girls in three districts (Ganjam, Dhenkanal and Angul) of the state.

- The Objective of the Yojana to improve sex ratio at birth and child sex ratio.
- The scheme will ensure enrollment of girls in elementary education, tracking dropout girls from schools and creating a better environment for them.

TVSN Prasad Committee submitted its report on use of Pallet Guns

TVSN Prasad committee has submitted its report to Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi.

- The committee was not in favor of completely removal of the pellet guns in the Kashmir Valley but suggests that it should be replaced with the polymer, rubber and paper bullets.
- Earlier, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted a seven-member expert committee on the use of pallet guns.

PM announces Rs 200 cr for sports in J&K

With a view to engaging youth of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) in constructive sporting activities, a special package of Rs. 200 crore has been announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- The package provides for construction of indoor sporting halls in all districts of the State with a view to provide playing facilities to youth during long winter in the state.

Majuli named world's largest river island

Majuli Island on the Brahmaputra in Assam was declared the largest river island in the world, toppling Marajo in Brazil, by Guinness World Records. The river island covers an area of around 880 sqkm.

- According to Guinness World Records, the island lost around one-third of its area in the last 30-40 years due to frequent flooding of the river.

India Post releases commemorative postage stamp on Saint Teresa

To celebrate the canonisation of Mother Teresa as a saint, India Post released a commemorative postage stamp on her.

- Union Minister of State for Communications Manoj Sinha unveiled the postage stamp during a ceremony at the Divine Child High School, an official statement said.
- Bishop Agnelo Gracias and Sister Rubella, a representative from Missionaries of Charity, were present at the ceremony.
- Teresa, who worked for the destitute in Kolkata and became a global icon of Christian charity, was declared a saint by Pope Francis at the Vatican.

GRSE hands over fast attack craft "TIHAYU" to Indian Navy

The Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC), "TIHAYU" built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was handed over to the Indian Navy.

- The warship was handed over by Rear Admiral (Retd) AK Verma, Chairman & Managing Director, GRSE to the Commanding Officer of the ship Cdr. Ajay Kashov, at a ceremony held in GRSE.
- Rear Admiral SR Sarma, Chief Staff Officer (Technical) of Eastern Naval Command carried out final inspection of the ship prior to acceptance by the Navy.

Haryana govt to develop 340 villages as Horticulture Villages

Haryana Government has decided to develop 340 villages as Horticulture Villages at a cost of 93 crore rupees during the Golden Jubilee year of the State.

- It has also decided to establish 140 clusters in these villages.
- An MoU has signed with the Apio Inc. for processing and packaging of horticultural products in New Delhi.
- Under this project, producers in Haryana will supply fruits, flowers, vegetables and dairy products to NCR area.

Pondy Lt Guv launches Shramdaan movement in remote village

Lt Governor Kiran Bedi launched 'Shramdaan movement' as part of Swachh Bharat and Swachh Puducherry initiative at a remote village.

- Launching the movement at Seliamedu village in Bahoor commune Panchayat limits, she urged people to ensure that the goal of clean Puducherry is achieved at the earliest.

Goa to host three-day bird festival from Nov 11

Goa will host a three-day bird festival from November 11 to 13, which will see a presence of around 200 bird lovers.

- Goa's state bird "Bulbul" has been chosen as the logo for the festival.
- 1224 bird species recorded in India, out of 10293 in the world, tiny Goa has recorded 432 species.

PM to attend 14th ASEAN-India Summit and 11th East Asia Summit at Vientiane, Laos

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi will be attending 14th ASEAN-India Summit and 11th East Asia Summit at Vientiane, capital city of Laos from 7 September 2016 to 8 September 2016.

- ASEAN is a key partner for India's Act East Policy, which is vital for the economic development of its North-eastern region.

Health Ministry launches the biggest Leprosy Case Detection Campaign in the country

In line with the vision to eradicate Leprosy from India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the biggest Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) in the country on 5th September 2016 across 149 districts of 19 states/UTs.

- This fortnight-long campaign will cover 1656 blocks/urban areas of these districts and screen a total of 32 crore people for leprosy.
- For this purpose, 297604 teams comprising of one lady ASHA worker and one male volunteer each would visit every house in their allotted area and screen all the family members for leprosy.

Assam CM inaugurates Asia's biggest digital library in Silchar

On the occasion of the 55th Teachers' Day, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Asia's biggest digital library dedicated to the memory of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, in NIT Silchar.

- It was the wish of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam during his last visit to the Institute to have a world class library stacked with 1 lakh books and research papers.
- In order to bring his memory alive, the library built at the cost of Rs.28 crore and standing on 90,000 sq. ft. has been named 'Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Learning Resource Centre'. It will remain open 24x7.
- The Chief Minister also unveiled the marble statue of the late President in the premises of the digital library.

Dharmendra Pradhan launches 'Gas4India' campaign to boost natural gas use

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, launched #Gas4India campaign.

- The campaign is aimed at promoting the use of gas in the country.
- Public and private sector companies working in the sector have joined hands to promote the natural gas sector.
- Pradhan also launched the website, Twitter handle, Facebook page and theme song of the campaign.
- Gas4India is a unified cross-country, multimedia, multi-event campaign.
- It promotes the national, social, economic and ecological benefits of using natural gas as the fuel of choice.

Govt launches dedicated pan-India helpline for power outages

Consumers can now get an update from power distribution companies about outages in their area through 'Urja Mitra Helpline' by dialling 14401.

- Department of Telecom (DoT) has created the helpline to facilitate power distribution companies to provide information about outages to customers.
- The helpline is for pan-India usage to send information through voice calls and SMSs to apprise customers about power situation in their area so that they can plan accordingly, DoT said in a notification.
- It is a mandatory service, which will be provided by all the telecom operators.

DigiLocker Launched to Digitally Store Vehicle Documents

DigiLocker - the country's first secured cloud-based platform for the storage, issuance and verification of documents and certificates in a digital manner - was launched in New Delhi.

- The innovative measure was jointly launched by Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and Minister for Information and Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad at the Transport Ministry in New Delhi.
- The platform launched under the Digital India initiative, which the Indian government initiated to digitally empower society and knowledge economy, targets the idea of paperless governance.
- DigiLocker will eliminate the use of physical documents, help accessing them anytime, anywhere and able to share online, and avoid forgery.

1st phase of ESIC's pilot project of telemedicine services inaugurated

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, the Minister of State for Labour and Employment inaugurated the first phase of Tele-medicine services of ESIC for providing specialist medical services at a distance to insured workers.

- With this Employees State Insurance Corporation's (ESIC) Model Hospital Basaidarapur has been connected with three ESIC dispensaries at Katihar (Bihar), Unnao (UP) and Rudarpur (Uttaranchal).
- ESIC has launched an ambitious Pilot Project of Tele-Medicine Services at 11 ESI locations in coordination with C-DAC, Mohali under the aegis of "Digital Inclusive and Smart Community (DISC)" which is a part of Digital India Programmed of Government of India.

- In all, three specialized ESIC Hospitals will be connected with eight ESI Dispensaries at remote locations of the country where there are no specialized ESI healthcare services available.

India's light utility helicopter maiden flight successful

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd test flew its homegrown light utility helicopter for the first time.

- The LUH, which is being designed to replace the ageing Chetak helicopters of the armed forces, flew for around 15 minutes.
- So far, the armed forces have committed to order 200 LUH, to replace its ageing Chetak and Cheetah helicopters.
- The choppers will be built at the new helicopter complex being set up in Tumakuru, around 70 kms outside Bengaluru.

M/o Tourism approves projects of Rs. 450 Crore under Swadesh Darshan

The Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) for the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in Ministry of Tourism has approved projects to the tune of Rs. 450 Crore for development of Heritage circuit in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Ramayana Circuit in Uttar Pradesh, North East Circuit in Sikkim and Coastal Circuit of Tamil Nadu.

- The Heritage Circuit in state of Madhya Pradesh, covers Gwalior- Orchha- Khajuraho-Chanderi-Bhimbetka-Mandu with total project cost of approximately Rs. 100.00 Crore.
- The Heritage Circuit in Uttarakhand is on developing Tourism Infrastructure in Jageshwar-Devidhura-Katarmal-Bairnath sites with total project cost of approximately Rs.83 Crore.
- Coastal circuit in State of Tamil Nadu envisages development Chennai- Mamamallapuram-Rameshwaram-Manpadu-Kanyakumari with total project cost of approximately Rs.100 Crore has been approved.
- Ramayana Circuit in State of Uttar Pradesh envisages development of two destinations viz. Chitrakoot and Shringverpur.
- North East circuit in State of Sikkim with approximate project cost of Rs.95.50 Crore includes development of eco log huts, cultural centre, paragliding centre, craft bazaar, base camp for mountaineering and meditation hall.

World's biggest river island Majuli gets district status

Majuli in Assam, the 400 sq km island on the Brahmaputra has become the first river island district of India.

- The island, which is the cultural capital of the state, is also fighting for survival as almost 60% of the land has been washed away by the Brahmaputra.
- The island remains cut off from the world by the mighty Brahmaputra for a good part of the day and the entire night.
- With Majuli becoming the 35th district of Assam, the 1 lakh 54 thousand odd people living here can breathe easy.

- Majuli has shrunk to by almost 60% of the 1,245 square km of its area in 1950.

Mandi and Sindhudurg found to be the Cleanest Districts in India

The Minister, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, released the 'Swachh Survekshan' for rural India, revealing Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) and Sindhudurg (Maharashtra) as the cleanest districts in India.

- A total of 22 hill districts and 53 plain areas were assessed under the Gramin Swachh Survekshan launched in May 2016.
- Mandi was judged as the cleanest district in "Hills" category and Sindhudurg as the cleanest in the "Plains" category, with districts of Sikkim, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), Nadia (West Bengal) and Satara (Maharashtra) featuring at the top of the index.
- The Ministry had commissioned Quality Council of India (QCI) to carry out the assessment. Each district has been judged on four distinct parameters. Maximum weightage was placed on accessibility to safe toilets and water.

Sikkim cleanest, Jharkhand worst, shows NSSO survey

Sikkim is the cleanest state in India and Jharkhand is the worst in terms of rural sanitation, as per the results of a survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

- The findings were released by Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi.
- The NSSO conducted the survey in May-June 2015 covering 73,176 households in 3,788 villages across the country.
- Sikkim scored 98.2 per cent on a scale of 100 while Jharkhand, scored 17.7.

Govt. approves subsidized chopper service for JK, Himachal

The Union Government has approved subsidized helicopter services in 10 sectors of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Himachal Pradesh (HP) to connect inaccessible destinations.

- Officers of the State Government on tour, Income tax payers or tourists will not be eligible for subsidized fares.
- The operator of the services will be selected by the open tender process by the State Government.
- The operation of helicopter services in the State will continue till March, next year.

Mehbooba launches "CM Scooty Scheme" for girls in J&K

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has launched the 'CM Scooty Scheme' in the state to encourage girls to go to colleges for higher studies.

- Under CM Scooty Scheme 300 girls of two colleges were distributed scooters.

- Eligibility for a scooty was based on a minimum percentage of 65% and an annual family income of Rs. 4 lakh.

Rajnath Singh commissions offshore patrolling vessel Sarathi in Goa

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the offshore patrolling (OPV) vessel, Sarathi, at Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), the defence shipyard in south Goa.

- This vessel is the third in the series of six OPVs built by the shipyard for Indian Coast Guard.
- The induction of *Sarathi* will help meet the increasing requirements of the Indian Coast Guard for policing and patrolling the vast Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.

Centre inaugurates national AROGYA fair in Bengaluru

A national fair was organized on comprehensive Indian Medicine system (AROGYA) in Bengaluru, to project the strength of Indian System of Medicines and Homeopathy alongside BRICS Wellness Workshop.

- Union Minister of State for Ayush (Independent Charge) Shripad Yesso Naik and Union minister for Fertilisers and Chemicals and Parliamentary Affairs Ananth Kumar inaugurated the National Fair.

Govt launches toll-free number for postal complaints

The government launched toll free number 1924 to register postal complaints, over a month after introducing Twitter Sewa for redressal of telecom and postal grievances.

- The service will be operational initially for 12 hours on working days between 0800 hrs to 2000 hrs.
- Complaint can be registered in Hindi, English and Malyalam.
- Department of Posts (DoP) is 8th largest department in terms of number of complaints received.

4th Russia and India Working Group meeting held in New Delhi

Russia and India acknowledged their mutual interest in further strengthening and expanding bilateral investment cooperation between across the sectors.

- The two sides discussed on the existing as well as proposed projects in two countries in sectors like chemical, automobiles, engineering, highlighting importance and the issues for facilitating the projects.
- Both sides recommended to the Russian and Indian companies to formulate and prepare a road map on the identified priority investment projects.
- The Indian delegation headed by Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy. The Russian delegation was led by Mr Alexander TSYBULKSIY, Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Russian Federation.

Arunachal Pradesh's first Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Store inaugurated

The Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated Arunachal Pradesh's first Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Store at Naharlagun, Itanagar.

- Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Pema Khandu also shared the dais on the occasion.

- In this function, both dignitaries witnessed signing of a MoU between Health & Family Welfare Department of Arunachal Pradesh and Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI), an agency under Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- As per the MoU, 84 Jan Aushadhi Stores will be opened in Arunachal Pradesh.

Arunachal Governor Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa sacked

Acting on the aid and advice of the Centre, President Pranab Mukherjee signed an order removing Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa from the post of Arunachal Pradesh Governor.

- President had appointed Meghalaya Governor V Shanmuganathan "to discharge the functions of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, in addition to his own duties, until regular arrangements for the office of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh are made.
- Earlier, Rajkhowa had refused to step down and said he would only go if the President dismissed him.

Hindi Divas being celebrated throughout country today

Hindi Divas was celebrated throughout the country on 14 September.

- Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14th September every year, because on this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of the country adopted the Hindi language as the official language of the Republic of India.

3rd BRICS Urbanisation Forum Meet begins in Vishakhapatnam

The third edition of BRICS Urbanisation Forum Meet has started in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- The three days conference was inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in the presence of Union Minister of Urban Development, M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- In this edition of conference the delegates from the BRICS nations, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are participating. During the three-day deliberations, they will discuss investments, urbanisation, formation of new cities and others.

Andhra Pradesh becomes second state to achieve 100% electrification

Andhra Pradesh has become the second state in the country after Gujarat to achieve 100 per cent electrification of households, a latest report has said.

- JM Financials published the report based on a national -level survey on electrification in various states. Discussing this through a tele-conference with top officials of the Energy Department, on 13 September, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said, "We achieved 100% electrification by June-end.

Raman Singh launches 'Start Up Chhattisgarh' project

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh has inaugurated the 'Startup Chhattisgarh' scheme, which aims to give impetus to startup projects in the state.

- The state government launched its action plan for promoting start-ups in Chhattisgarh and announced for boot camps covering all 27 districts of the state.
- After the launch of 'Start-Up India' campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January, 2016, states were to prepare their action plan and were asked to implement the same.

All India Radio Launches Balochi Website, Mobile App

To enable people of Balochistan settled across the world listen to Balochi content from India, All India Radio launched a multimedia website and app of its Balochi radio service.

- The short wave radio service in Balochi has been functional since 1974 and reaches several parts of Pakistan with a one hour capsule every day that contains news, news commentary and cultural programmes.

Guided missile destroyer 'Mormugao' launched in Mumbai

An indigenously built warship equipped with a range of high-tech missiles was launched with Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba saying the stealth destroyer can be compared with the best vessels in the world.

- Christened 'Mormugao', the vessel has been built by government-run Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) and belongs to Visakhapatnam class of ships being constructed under Project 15B.

Prabhu launches cleanliness drive at railway premises

Leading the campaign from the front, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu launched the 'Swachhta Saptah' as part of the Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat Mission from New Delhi Railway Station.

- In order to create massive awareness on sanitation and cleanliness in railway premises and make hygiene a habit amongst the travelling public, the Railways is organizing a special nine-day long public outreach programme from 17 September, Prabhu said after launching the cleanliness drive.

HRD Minister inaugurates Super Computer PARAM-ISHAN at IIT Guwahati

Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the Param-Ishan supercomputing facility at IIT, Guwahati.

- Prof. Gautam Biswas, Director, IIT Guwahati said that PARAM-ISHAN have power of 250 Teraflops and three hundred tera bites capacity and this will not only augment the research initiatives in the Institute, but also help in creating an ecosystem for attracting right talents to the field of research.

M/O Tourism Observes "Swachhta Pakhwada"

The Ministry of Tourism is observing cleanliness related themes based fortnight (Swachhta Pakhwada) during the period from 16th to 30th September, 2016.

- During the period Ministry of Tourism is undertaking certain innovative activities, including cleaning of tourist sites like India Gate and around, Jantar Mantar, Nizamuddin Dargah, etc. holding in-house Essay competition, special cleaning inside the office premises and Run for Swachh Paryatan, etc.

Charkhi Dadri is Haryana's 22nd district

Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced a district status for Dadri, the biggest sub-division in the state, increasing the district count of Haryana to 22 from 21.

- The chief minister said the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) had been treating Dadri as a district since 1992, as it had been appointing representatives in the sub-division in a similar way as they do in a district.

'Selfie with toilet' to boost Swachh Bharat in Ludhiana

To make the Swachh Bharat Mission successful and encourage people to use clean toilets, the Ludhiana district administration has started a 'Selfie with my Shauchalya' campaign.

- The owner of the cleanest toilet, having all facilities, would be honoured on October 2.
- In Ludhiana district, 20000 toilets have been constructed so far of the targeted 26107. The construction of all toilets would be completed by October 31.

Govt to expand DBT to 147 schemes by next March

The Government is planning to expand Direct Benefit Transfer and double the number to 147 schemes by March 2017.

- Finance Secretary said government has launched pilots for paying subsidy on food, kerosene and fertiliser directly via bank accounts of beneficiaries.
- Benefits and subsidies in 74 schemes of 17 government departments and ministries are paid directly to beneficiaries under DBT as of now.

27 new cities selected under Centre's Smart Cities mission

Five cities in election-bound Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency of Varanasi, have made it to the Centre's third list of Smart Cities that will get funding for initiating urban reforms.

Out of the total 27 cities:

- Five cities from Maharashtra (Thane, Nashik, Nagpur, Kalyan-Dombivali and Aurangabad)
- four from Tamil Nadu (Madurai, Salem, Thanjavur and Vellore) and Karnataka (Hubballi-Dharwad, Managaluru, Shivamogga and Tumkaru)
- Three from Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi, Kanpur and Agra)
- Two each from Punjab (Amritsar and Ludhiana), Rajasthan (Kota and Ajmer) and Madhya Pradesh (Gwalior and Ujjain)
- One each from Andhra Pradesh (Tirupati), Odisha (Rourkela), Gujarat (Vadodara), Nagaland (Kohima) and Sikkim (Namchi)

India successfully test-fires surface-to-air missile

In a bid to galvanise its air defence capabilities, India successfully test fired a new, long range surface-to-air missile jointly developed with Israel from a defence base off Odisha coast.

- The long range missile, a product of a joint venture between India and Israel, was test launched from a mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur near Balasore, a DRDO official said.
- The trial was successful and some more rounds of test are expected to be conducted shortly, the DRDO scientist said.

Punjabi version of PM Narendra Modi's website launched

The Punjabi version of the official website of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was launched, an official statement said.

- "People can now visit the PM website in Punjabi language at the URL www.pmindia.gov.in/pa," the statement said.
- The website which was initially started in English and Hindi, is now accessible in nine regional languages -- Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Telugu and Punjabi.

PM's Race Course Road will now be known as Lok Kalyan Marg

India's most famous address will no longer be 7, Race Course Road. The street in Delhi on which Prime Minister Narendra Modi lives has been renamed 'Lok Kalyan Marg'.

- The BJP lawmaker Meenakshi Lekhi had earlier proposed the name 'Ekatma Marg'.

Indira Awas Yojana Renamed After Prime Minister

The flagship rural housing scheme Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), started by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, has been restructured and renamed as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), which will be launched next month.

- The IAY will be subsumed by the PMAY from April 1 next year. Under the new scheme, the government is aiming to construct one crore houses by 2019, according to sources.
- However, officials in Rural Development Ministry gave no reason as to why the name of the scheme was changed.
- Under IAY, the government has set a target of constructing 38 lakh houses by end of the current financial year (2015-16), out of which 10 lakh have been completed.

Govt merges Railway Budget with Union Budget

There will be no separate rail budget from now. The union cabinet headed by PM Modi has approved the proposal of merging rail budget into General budget.

- The union cabinet also approved finance ministry's proposal to advance the general budget's presentation by a month from the end of February.

Government approves 9 highway projects worth Rs 2,600 crore

The central government has approved nine highway projects at a cost of Rs 2,600.31 crore, a statement said.

- The projects will be carried out under engineering, purchase and construction EPC.
- The highways approved are in the states of Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh.

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

Niti Aayog has devised a short-term and medium-to-long term action plan to help India achieve 50 medals in 2024 summer Olympics.

- The premier policy-making body said it is "disappointing" that the world's second-most populous country with world-class talent in various disciplines has not been able to produce champions in sports.

Mukesh Ambani tops Forbes' 100 Richest Indians list

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has grabbed the top most position in the Forbes' '100 Richest Indians' list with a net worth of \$22.7 billion. This is the ninth year in a row that Ambani has topped the list.

- Pharmaceutical magnate Dilip Shanghvi at number two with a net worth of \$16.9 billion.
- However, the third spot is bagged by the Hinduja brothers with a net worth of \$15.2 billion, up from \$14.8 billion last year.
- Tech magnate Azim Premji, who has led Wipro for five decades, slips one spot to number four on the list with a net worth of \$15 billion.

World's largest solar power plant installed in Tamil Nadu

Adani Green Energy (Tamil Nadu) Ltd, part of the Adani Group, has dedicated to the nation the world's largest solar power plant of 648 megawatts (MW), set up at Kamuthi in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu.

- The plant has been set up with an investment of around Rs 4,550 crore, a company spokesman said.
- It is part of the state government's target to generate 3,000 MW in line with its new solar energy policy unveiled in 2012.

Rajasthan replaces 5 lakh streetlights with LED bulbs

Rajasthan becomes the first state to adopt Centre's Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) in all its urban local bodies (ULB). Almost 5 lakh conventional streetlights have been replaced with LED streetlights across the state.

- The project has been funded by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a public energy services company under the administration of Union ministry of power at no cost to the state.

Five Indian cities in the top 100 Mastercard Global Destinations Cities Index

Five Indian cities have made it to the top 100 destination cities for 2016. Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Pune are the Indian cities in the list.

- The study is based on data from IATA, National Tourism Boards, IMF and other organisations.
- Bangkok has emerged as the leading destination city going by the international overnight visitor arrivals.

ISRO launches SCATSAT-1 mission

This was one of the longest and most complex missions undertaken by ISRO. The main satellite was SCATSAT-1 that will enhance the study of ocean and weather conditions.

- The 37th Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle or PSLV took off successfully from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh with weather SCATSAT and satellites of five other countries.
- This Launch vehicle carried eight satellites - three from India, three from Algeria, and one each from Canada and the US.
- The rocket's main cargo was the 371 kg SCATSAT-1 for ocean and weather related studies. It is meant for weather forecasting, along with detection and tracking of cyclones.

Agriculture Minister inaugurates Krishi Unnati Mela in Mathura

Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh has inaugurated 4- days Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Krishi Unnati Mela – 2016 in Mathura.

- The Agriculture Minister has also laid the foundation stone of first Gokul Gram Project in Mathura.
- He also presents Antyodaya Krishi Puruskars to 22 farmers for their contribution in the agriculture sector at the birth place of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay in Mathura.

Govt sets target of toilets in every household by 2019: Tomar

Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation Narendra Tomar has set a target of toilets in every household by 2019.

- According to Tomar 23 districts are now totally free from open defecation.
- Toilets have been made in every household in 85,000 villages of the country.
- Swachh Bharat Week is being celebrated from 25th September to 2nd October.

Telangana ties up with ISRO for bandwidth to telecast coaching programmes

The Telangana Government has signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to get bandwidth to telecast Mana TV programmes.

- It will be beneficial for the students getting free education and living in the remote areas.
- To start with, the TV channel will air coaching programmes for students appearing for various competitive examinations to get government jobs.

Trade/Banking

Govt appoints ICICI Prudential AMC to manage new CPSE ETF

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Ministry of Finance has appointed ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd as the asset management company for the creation and launch of a new Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).

- The new ETF will comprise of shares of listed CPSEs and other corporates. ICICI Prudential AMC is India's largest asset manager.

Chandigarh Administration, French Development Agency sign MoUs

Chandigarh Administration and French Development Agency (AFD) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoUs) on Chandigarh Smart City Project and 'Technical Cooperation' in the field of Sustainable Urban Mobility.

- The MoUs were signed by K K Jindal, Secretary Transport, Chandigarh Administration and Minister Counsellor, Embassy of France in India, Jean Marc FENET and Director French Development Agency, Nicolas Fornage.

Govt fixes export quota of white sugar to EU for 1 year

Government has fixed an export quota of ten thousand tonnes of white sugar to the European Union (EU) under a certain provision for the one-year period.

- It has allocated white sugar under concessions to European Union for the period October 2016 to September next year.

Infosys launches e-commerce platform Skava Commerce

Infosys has launched Skava Commerce, an e-commerce platform for retailers.

- The Skava Commerce platform has evolved from its roots as an industry leading mobile-commerce platform to a complete e-commerce platform with a modern, next generation micro-services architecture.
- Skava is a Silicon Valley based e-commerce startup which was acquired by Infosys.

Google launches instant messaging mobile app Allo

Google has launched its latest mobile chat application "Allo" along with Google Assistant.

- Allo can be used in online conversations with friends.
- The messaging app is similar features to most other messaging applications available for Android and the iPhone.

Centre sacks Bank of Maharashtra's Mhnot

In an unprecedented move, the Centre sacked Sushil Mhnot, chairman and managing director of Pune-based Bank of Maharashtra, four days short of his scheduled retirement.

- Mr. Muhnot was scheduled to retire on September 30.
- The new chief executive officer Mr. RP Marathe, who was an executive director with Bank of India, took charge.

Axis Bank, BHU team up for banking courses

Private sector Axis Bank has tied up with Banaras Hindu University (BHU) to offer specialised banking courses.

- The bank along with the Faculty of Commerce at BHU will develop the design and curriculum of courses, besides deciding on e-learning modules, structure and courseware, Axis Bank said in a release.
- The partnership will offer courses like Masters in Commerce (MCom), Master of Financial Management (MFM), Master of Financial Management (Risk & Insurance) MFM - RI, Master of Foreign Trade (MFT).
- Axis Bank said the programmes will be launched in a phased manner, starting with first batch commencing from academic session 2016-17.

World Bank will invest nearly 1,000 crore rupees in Assam

World Bank will invest nearly 1,000 crore rupees in Assam for the betterment of the inland waterways.

- It was conveyed to State Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.
- Official sources in Guwahati told AIR that the money will be utilised to develop inland waterways including ghats.
- The Union Minister also assured to re-construct jetty for which 100 percent assistance will be given by the Centre.
- On the other hand, emphasising on road safety, driving school will be set up in all districts of Assam.

NPCI launches Bharat Bill Payment System pilot project

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a pilot project for Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) with 26 Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs).

- In the first phase, BBPS will cover repetitive payments for everyday utility services such as electricity, water, gas, telephone and Direct-to-Home (DTH).

Ten Sports sold to Sony Pictures for Rs 2,600 crore

Sony Pictures Networks India (SPN) and ZEE have entered into definitive agreements to acquire TEN Sports Network and its subsidiaries for \$385 million.

- The acquisition will add five sports channels, TEN 1, TEN 1 HD, TEN 2, TEN 3, TEN Golf HD to SPN's existing portfolio of channels.
- Ten Cricket and Ten Sports operate in the Maldives, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Middle East and Caribbean.
- Sports Broadcasting Business is currently housed under Taj TV Ltd, Mauritius.

Mobikwik joins hand with 12 state electricity boards

India's largest digital payment company in India, MobiKwik has announced coalition with 12 state electricity boards.

- Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tripura, Meghalaya, Kolkata, Rajasthan and union territories of Daman and Diu are the states inclusive in the coalition agreement.
- The MobiKwik took this initiative ahead of its expansion plan to set up a national base for utility payments.

Goa govt signs MoU with Google India

The Goa government has signed a memorandum of understanding with Google India to promote digital literacy and drive the digital transformation in the state.

- Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar and Vice President, Google South East Asia and India Rajan Anandan signed the MoU.

Country's economic growth recorded 7.1% in first quarter of current fiscal

The country's economy grew at 7.1 % in the April to June quarter of the current fiscal.

- According to data released by the Central Statistics Office.

Allow mobile registration from any bank's ATM: RBI

With cellphones becoming a crucial part of banking, the RBI has made it mandatory for banks to allow customers to register their mobile numbers through any ATM.

- Banks have also been told not to insist that customers visit only their home branch to get their mobile numbers registered and to have this facility for customers across branches.
- In addition, banks have also been asked to make available mobile registration through internet banking.

DCB launches 'mVisa', a mobile-based payment solution

DCB Bank has launched 'mVisa', a mobile-based payment solution that will make payments at retail outlets much easier.

- DCB Bank Ltd. is a private sector scheduled commercial bank in India.

LG Electronic ties up with Amazon on smart-home services

LG Electronics Inc. has tied-up with Amazon.com Inc on smart-home services.

- This tie-up will help to enable the services of Amazon such as the Alexa virtual assistant on some of the electronics maker's devices.
- Alexa will work with its SmartThinkQ Hub, an LG device used to connect with home appliances over the internet.

CCI slaps Rs 6700 crore fine on 10 cement companies

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed the penalty of over Rs 6,700 crore on 10 cement companies.

- These companies including ACC, Lafarge, Ultratech, Jayprakash Associates, Binani and their trade association the Cement Manufacturers Association (CMA) on charges of cartelisation in the sector.

Canada's British Columbia becomes first foreign government to issue masala bonds

Canada's Province of British Columbia has become the first foreign government entity to issue a masala bond by floating Rs 500 crore rupee denominated overseas bonds on the London Stock Exchange.

- Masala Bonds are rupee-denominated bonds issued to overseas buyers, aimed at investments into India's infra needs.

Infosys sets up JV for Saudi Arabian market

Infosys Ltd has become the latest Indian IT services company to set up a joint venture with Saudi Prerogative Company (SPC) in Saudi Arabia.

- The deal is subject to approval from the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority.
- Infosys lags behind local rivals such as Wipro and Tata Consultancy Services in engaging with the Saudi Kingdom.

MobiKwik launches one step offline payments with 'Bubble Pin'

MobiKwik has launched a one-step offline payments mode, called Bubble Pin.

- This pin is generated on the MobiKwik app when a user clicks on the 'Pay at store', and it is valid for 60 seconds. The pin is a combination of alphabets and numbers.
- To make a payment, the user needs to share this pin with the retailer.
- The company claims that Bubble pin is designed to make transaction more secure, considering that no phone number needs to be shared.
- Users can soon use this functionality in over 25,000 offline stores across India.

Rajasthan partners with Cisco for connected learning solution

Rajasthan's education department has partnered with US-based technology firm Cisco to promote digital learning across the state using virtual digital room solutions.

- The financial details of the partnership were, however, not disclosed.
- Under this association, Cisco and SIEMAT have committed to 50,000 manhours of training annually through the virtual digital classrooms.
- Cisco has partnered with the Rajasthan government to establish Digital Learning Solution Rooms (DLSRs) which will deploy virtual digital classrooms across 12 institutes as part of the government's ongoing social initiatives programme locations in Rajasthan.
- The partnership covers various initiatives of digitising the state, which include projects on urban development and accelerating local innovation.

Expansion of India – Chile Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)

An agreement on the expansion of India–Chile Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was signed between India and Chile in a meeting held between Ms. Rita Teatota, Commerce Secretary and Mr. Andrés Barbé González, Ambassador, Embassy of Chile on 6th September, 2016.

- A Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and Chile was earlier signed on March 8, 2006 and came into force with effect from August, 2007.
- In the original PTA concluded in March 2006, India's offer list to Chile consisted of 178 tariff lines the Margin of Preference (MoP) ranging from 10%-50% at 8-digit level and Chile's offer list to India consisted of 296 tariff lines with MoP ranging from 10% - 100% at 8-digit level.
- Under the expanded PTA, Chile has offered concessions to India on 1798 tariff lines with Margin of Preference (MoP) ranging from 30%-100% and India has offered concessions to Chile on 1031 tariff lines at 8-digit level with MoP ranging from 10%-100%.
- India's export basket with Chile is diversified and keeping in view the wide variety of tariff lines offered by Chile, the expanded PTA would immensely benefit India.
- Among the LAC countries, Chile was the third largest trading partner of India during 2015-16.

Reliance Communications-Aircel merger approved

Anil Ambani-led Reliance Communications agreed to merge its wireless telecom business with smaller rival Aircel to create the country's 4th-biggest mobile phone operator with asset base of more than Rs 65,000 crore.

- In the largest consolidation in the country's telecom sector, RCom and Aircel's majority owner, Malaysia's Maxis Communications Berhad (MCB), announced signing of definitive documents for the merger of their Indian wireless businesses.

Uber partners NSDC, Maruti to skill 1 million by 2018

Transportation app Uber has launched a new initiative in partnership with Maruti and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), for creating livelihood opportunities for one million people by 2018.

- Under UberSHAAN, the company will provide access to skill development and driver training to the unskilled, Uber India President Amit Jain said.
- The initiative will also help trained drivers receive commercial licenses, vehicle financing and leasing solutions, he added.

- Uber has about 4 lakh drivers on its platform in India, which is its second largest market in terms of trips taken after the US. R S Kalsi.

Federal Bank launches FederalSkill Academy at Coimbatore

Federal Bank has launched its second FederalSkill Academy at Coimbatore, as part of its CSR initiatives.

- The academy at Coimbatore will be initially providing an in-demand CNC Machine Operator Certificate Course in Milling & Turning, which will be certified by COINDIA.
- The initiative will facilitate underprivileged students to successfully complete the courses, and get employment opportunities both in India as well as abroad.

Andhra Pradesh tops in attracting industrial investments

Andhra Pradesh has emerged on the top among all other states in attracting industrial investments in 2015-16, pushing the previous year's topper Maharashtra to the third spot.

- Andhra Pradesh attracted an investment of Rs 21,914 crore out of the Rs 1,38,700 crore gross investments across India, the state government said in an official release, quoting a report by the Reserve Bank of India. This was 15.8% of the total investments of over Rs 10 crore each unit. In 2014-15, AP's share in the country's investments was 8.1%.
- Gujarat retained the second place attracting 14.5% of investments, while Maharashtra was pushed to the third spot with 10.9% in 2015-16.

India's GDP to grow by 8% over next few yrs: S&P

Backed by broadening of domestic consumption base, S&P Global Ratings projected India to clock a "steroid-free" growth of 8 per cent over the next few years.

- In its 'APAC Economic Snapshots--September 2016' report, S&P said India's structural reform agenda has maintained strong momentum and should propel growth higher.

Vijaya Bank rolls out 3 new apps

Vijaya Bank has launched three innovative information technology (IT) products, coinciding with Hindi Diwas celebrations.

- The new IT products, according to Kishore Sansi, Managing Director and CEO of Vijaya Bank, are: VPAYQWIK, Vijaya *99# and V-eConnect+.

RBI cancels registration certificate of 5 NBFCs

Registration certificates of five non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) have been cancelled by The Reserve Bank while two surrendered their certificate to the central bank.

- The entities whose certificates were cancelled are Simco Consultants, Lunkad Securities, Rajvir Marketing and Investment, Crystal Investments, and Shri Jaya Investments Agency.
- The NBFCs which surrendered the certificate are Texas Resources and Vivek Vyapar.

ICICI Bank introduces software robotics

The country's leading private sector lender ICICI Bank has forayed into 'software robotics' - a first by any Indian bank.

- Software robots will reduced the response time to customers and increase accuracy thereby improving the bank's productivity and efficiency.
- Over 200 software robots are now performing over 10 lakh transactions per day for the bank which comprises 10% of its total transactions.
- The bank will engage 500 software robots by the end of the year which will help it to automate 20% of its total transactions.

HP, Singapore sign MoU for smart integrated township

Himachal Pradesh government signed a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore government for developing a smart integrated township in Jathiadevi near Shimla airport.

- The MoU was signed between Himachal Pradesh Housing and Urban Development Authority (HIMUDA) and Asian Pacific Singapore Enterprise in the presence of Urban Development and Town and Country Planning and Housing minister Sudhir Sharma during a meeting.
- Presiding over the meeting of delegates of the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE), government of Singapore and senior officers of the HIMUDA, Sharma said development of a smart integrated township near the state capital was an ambitious project of the government which would go a long way in decongesting the highly populated city.

Patanjali launches mega food park at Nagpur industrial hub

Yoga guru Ramdev-promoted Patanjali Ayurveda launched its mega food park on a 230-acre land at an industrial hub in Nagpur, promising to employ 10,000 people.

- The company plans to develop a Rs 1,000-crore food park at Multi-model International Cargo Hub and Airport, Nagpur (MIHAN), where juices would be made from famous Nagpuri oranges and for the first time packaged as a brand.
- The plant would be Patanjali's first expansion from its facility near Haridwar in Uttarkhand.

CCEA approves proposal for initiation of 3rd phase of TEQIP

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal for initiation of the Third Phase of Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP).

- The Project will be implemented as a 'Central Sector Scheme' with total project outlay of Rs. 3600 crore.
- However, the project would be initiated with a cost of Rs. 2660 crore, with the possibility of additional financing of Rs. 940 crore at later stage.
- Out of the Rs.2660 crore, the Central share will be Rs.1330 crore and external assistance from the World Bank through International Development Association (IDA) Credit of Rs. 1330 crore.

Cabinet approves establishment of Higher Education Financing Agency

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the creation of the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to give a major push for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions.

- The HEFA would be jointly promoted by the identified Promoter and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) with an authorised capital of Rs. 2, 000 crore. The Government equity would be Rs. 1, 000 crore.
- The HEFA would be formed as a SPV within a PSU Bank/ Government-owned-NBFC (Promoter). It would leverage the equity to raise up to Rs. 20,000 crore for funding projects for infrastructure and development of world class Labs in IITs/IIMs/NITs and such other institutions.

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

Aiming to increase the number of automatic pass-throughs at toll plazas to 50 percent in two years, the government has expanded the number of lenders and wallets, who can issue the electronic tags for vehicles, a top official said.

- State Bank of India , Punjab National Bank , IDFC Bank and the digital wallet PayTM will also start issuing the tags, which are required for electronic toll collection, National Highways Authority (NHA) chairman Raghav Chandra said.

HP to Acquire Samsung Printer Business for \$1.05 Billion

HP Inc said it would buy Samsung Electronics Co Ltd's printer business in a deal valued at \$1.05 billion.

- The acquisition will bring around 6500 printing patents and 6000 employees to HP.
- Samsung has centres in South Korea while it is working in India, USA, China, Japan, Russia, Canada, Brazil and other countries.



PayU acquires Citrus Pay for \$130 million

Global online payment service provider PayU has acquired Indian payments technology player, Citrus Pay, for \$130 million in an all-cash deal.

- The statement described PayU's \$130 million transaction as the largest ever merger and acquisition cash deal in the Indian fintech sector.
- The deal will grow PayU India customers to more than 30 million, processing a forecasted 150 million transactions in 2016 worth a combined \$4.2 billion, growing at more than 50 per cent year-on-year, the statement said.
- Amrish Rau, currently Citrus Pay managing director, will become CEO of PayU in India.
- Citrus Pay founder Jitendra Gupta will drive PayU's Fintech foray into credit through Citrus Pay's Lazypay.

ADB approves \$631 million loan for Vizag-Chennai industrial corridor

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$631-million loan for construction of industrial corridor between Visakhapatnam and Chennai, part of India's first coastal industrial corridor running from West Bengal to Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu.

- The total cost of the project is \$846 million and work on it is expected to be over by 2031. The remaining \$215 million will be funded by the Andhra Pradesh government.

BSE ties up with Twitter to provide live stock updates

Bombay Stock Exchange has partnered with Twitter to provide live updates of S&P BSE Sensex levels, stock prices and opening and closing figures of Sensex companies to millions of investors, in Asia's first such collaboration between a stock exchange and a social media platform.

- Both Twitter and BSE stated the partnership is a move towards democratising financial information by enabling millions of Indian investors to easily access stock market and stock-related information through a digital platform.
- While BSE has been running a Twitter handle since 2012, there was no real time feed available on social media to investors, a BSE spokesman said.

Partners Janalakshmi Financial Services for three years

The Board BCCI of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) tied up with financial services firm Janalakshmi Financial Services (Jana) as an associate sponsor.

- Janalakshmi will be the official financial services partner of the BCCI where the brand would enjoy visibility on the field.

Flipkart becomes 1st e-commerce in India to cross 100 million customers

Homegrown e-tailer Flipkart has crossed the 100-million registered users mark, becoming the first e-commerce company in the country to hit the milestone.

- The Bengaluru-based company has doubled its user base over the last year and added 25 million users in the past six months alone.

Rafale deal cleared

India and France have reached an agreement on acquiring 36 Rafale jets from the latter, after repeated delays over price negotiations threatened to derail the deal.

- An Inter-Government Agreement was inked after the deal was cleared by both sides.
- The cost of acquisition is believed to be around 7.87 billion Euros. India is keen on inducting the fighter jets in the Indian Air Force for their strategic role to deliver nuclear weapons.

Appointments

Ajay Singh elected BFI president

The Chairman and Managing Director (MD) of Spicejet Airlines Ajay Singh has elected as the new president of the Boxing Federation of India(BFI).

- Maharashtra's Jay Kowli was elected the Secretary General while Assam's Hemant Kumar Kalita was elected Treasurer.
- Ajay Singh got 49 votes against the 15 that his rival Rohit Jain (Delhi) polled in the election which had observers from the International Boxing Association (AIBA) and the Sports Ministry to monitor the proceedings.

Anurag Srivastava appoints Ambassador of India to the Republic of Djibouti

Anurag Srivastava (IFS: 1999), presently Ambassador of India to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Djibouti, with residence in Addis Ababa.

- Djibouti officially the Republic of Djibouti, is a country located in the Horn of Africa. Its Capital is city Djibouti City and currency is Franc.

Arun Goyal appointed Additional Secretary in GST Council

Senior IAS officer Arun Goyal has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council.

- The Council, headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, is mandated to decide on tax rate, exempted goods and the threshold limit.
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved Goyal's appointment against the newly created post, an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training said.
- Goyal, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Union Territory cadre, is at present working as Additional Secretary, Project Monitoring Group, Cabinet Secretariat.

Sanjiv Singh is new Chairman of IOC

Sanjiv Singh will be the new Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, the nation's largest company.

- Singh was selected for the top job after government head hunters Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) interviewed eight candidates.
- Singh, who has been Director of Refineries at IOC since July 1, 2014, will replace B Ashok on his superannuation at end of May 2017.

Vijay Kelkar elected president of Indian Statistical Institute

Former petroleum secretary Vijay Kelkar has been elected president of the prestigious Indian Statistical Institute (ISI).

- Kelkar succeeded former RBI governor C Rangarajan.

- He was elected at the general body meeting of the institute, which functions under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Yashvardhan Sinha appointed India's High Commissioner to UK

Senior IFS officer Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha was on Tuesday appointed as India's High Commissioner to the UK succeeding Navtej Sarna.

- Sinha, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1981 batch, is currently serving as India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.
- Sarna has been appointed as India's Ambassador to the US.

Veerappa Moily-led parliamentary panel to examine merger of budgets

The parliamentary committee headed by the Congress MP M Veerappa Moily, has been constituted to review the all budgetary reforms.

- Besides the budget, the committee will also review the disinvestment policy, the banking sector in India, RBI's emerging role and its framework.

Obama nominates ambassador to Cuba

US President Barack Obama said he is nominating the first U.S. ambassador to Cuba in more than 50 years.

- The nominee, Jeffrey DeLaurentis, has been the most senior U.S. official in Havana since the summer of 2014.
- He is currently the chargé d'affaires at the embassy and lives in the ambassador's residence in Havana.

IPS officer OP Singh taking over as the new Director General of CISF

IPS officer O P Singh took over as the new Director General of CISF, a paramilitary force.

- Singh, a 1983-batch officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, was serving as the Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- His tenure is till January 2020.

Jim Yong Kim heads for second term as World Bank president

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

- Kim, 56, a Korean-American earned solid backing for a second term from the United States, France, Germany, China, and other major shareholders of the bank.
- Following an unwritten rule, since the World Bank was created in the wake of World War II to help rebuild the global economy, its leader has always been an American chosen by Washington.

Hiroshi Nakagawa takes over as Chairman of Isuzu Motors India

Japanese automobile maker Isuzu today announced top level changes in its Indian operations with Hiroshi Nakagawa taking over as the Chairman of Isuzu Motors India (IMI) with immediate effect.

- Hiroyasu Miura, the erstwhile Chairman of IMI will take over as the Chairman & Managing Director of Isuzu Engineering Business Centre India Pvt Ltd (IEBCI) with immediate effect, the company said in a statement.
- Nakagawa (62) has spent over 35 years with Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan.
- He has been actively involved in ISUZU business division for over 20 years in key ISUZU markets.

Nadia Murad named UN Goodwill Ambassador

A young Yazidi woman who survived trafficking and gang-rape by so-called Islamic State militants is to be appointed a UN ambassador.

- Nadia Murad, who is also a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, will become the UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking.

Atul Kumar Goel takes charges as ED in UBI

Atul Kumar Goel, General Manager, Allahabad Bank, has taken charge as Executive Director in Union Bank of India.

- The Central Government appointed Goel through a notification dated September 15. The appointment is for a period of three years.

Satbir Singh appointed as next Ambassador of India to Algeria

Satbir Singh, presently Additional Secretary in the Ministry has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

- The Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1985 batch, was expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- Algeria is a sovereign state in North Africa on the Mediterranean coast. Its capital and most populous city is Algiers. Its currency is Dinar.

Aishwaryaa R Dhanush appointed UN Goodwill Ambassador

Director Aishwarya R Dhanush, daughter of Superstar Rajinikanth, has been given a great honour. She has been appointed as the UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador for India.

- She was assigned this honour in a special ceremony.
- Her duties are to advocate for gender equality and women empowerment in India.

Ashok Chawla is new Chancellor at Teri university

The Energy and Resources Institute (Teri) has officially appointed former Finance Secretary Ashok Chawla as the new Chancellor of Teri university.

- With this, Teri ended its last association with former Chancellor and Head R.K. Pachauri, who was accused of sexually harassing a female colleague in 2015.

State Bank of Travancore appoints new Chief GM Ashok Kumar Pradhan

Ashok Kumar Pradhan has taken over as its Chief General Manager of State Bank Of Travancore.

- He succeeds S Adikesavan, whose transfer to Hyderabad had kicked up a controversy recently.
- Pradhan, who is from Cuttack in Orissa, started his banking career in 1985 as a Probationary Officer in State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur.

Anuradha Rao appointed as MD, CEO of SBI Mutual Fund

Sbi Mutual Fund has appointed Anuradha Rao as its Managing Director and chief executive. Prior to this, Rao was Deputy Managing Director at Sbihandling New Business Portfolio.

- She has also worked as the Chief General Manager of personal Banking at the bank.

Deep Kumar Upadhyay re-appointed as Nepal's envoy to India

Deep Kumar Upadhyay was re-appointed as Nepal's ambassador to India.

- The meeting held at Prime Minister's office in Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, proposed Upadhyay for Nepali ambassador to India and Chief Secretary Lila Mani Poudel for China, reports Kathmandu Post.
- Upadhyay, who was serving as Nepal's ambassador to India since April 2015, was suddenly recalled by the erstwhile K.P. Sharma Oli-led government in May.

Punit Goenka appointed as new IBF President

Punit Goenka, Managing Director, Zee Entertainment Enterprises has been elected as the President of The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF).

- The IBF Board also elected Rajat Sharma (Chairman, India TV), NP Singh (CEO, Sony Pictures Network), Sudhanshu Vats (Group CEO, Viacom 18), K Madhavan (Managing Director, Asianet Communications) as Vice-Presidents; and KVL Narayan Rao (Executive Vice-Chairperson, NDTV) as the Treasurer of the Foundation for a period of one year.

Mah, Guj Governors given additional charge of TN and MP

Maharashtra Governor Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao has been given the additional charge of Tamil Nadu while Gujarat Governor Om Prakash Kohli will discharge additional duty as Madhya Pradesh Governor.

- According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan statement, Mr Rao has been assigned the additional charge of Tamil Nadu Governor in place of K Rosaiah, who completed his tenure on August 30.
- Mr Kohli will hold the additional charge of Madhya Pradesh in place of Ram Naresh Yadav, who will complete his tenure on September 7.

K K Aggarwal elected National President of IMA

Cardiologist Dr.K K Aggarwal has been elected as the National President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) for the year 2016-17. Presently, he is the Secretary General of the doctors association.

- IMA has over 2,53,000 doctors as its members through more than 1,650 active local branches spread across the country.

Sakshi Malik appointed Wrestling Director of Rohtak University

The Haryana Government has announced the appointment of Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik as Wrestling Director at Maharshi Dayanand University in her native town Rohtak.

- Announcing this, Haryana Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Anil Vij, also said that she will be given Rs 21 lakh out of his discretionary fund and a plot measuring 500 square yards.

Kerala appoints Sachin as brand ambassador for anti-liquor campaign

Legendary Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has been appointed as brand ambassador for anti- liquor and drug campaign by the Kerala government.

- According to the Excise and Labour Minister T P Ramakrishnan this was part of the government's move to create awareness among people against alcoholism and drug in the state.

UK appoints ambassador to Iran for first time since 2011

The UK and Iran has appointed ambassadors for the first time since 2011, restoring diplomatic relations.

- The decision comes nearly five years after Iranians invaded the British Embassy and one year after the British Embassy reopened in Tehran.
- Nicholas Hopton, a Middle East specialist, was appointed UK charge d' affairs in Tehran in December, and his role was upgraded to ambassador.

John Abraham roped in as brand ambassador of Arunachal Pradesh

John Abraham has been roped in as a brand ambassador for Arunachal Pradesh Tourism.

- BE Viacom18 in a first of its kind initiative, has partnered with the government of Arunachal Pradesh to provide strategic consultation services to promote the tourism in the state.

- Representing the state as a brand ambassador, he is of the opinion that the state has lot to offer to its tourist be it culture, heritage, adventure sports and music

Ex IAS officer J Satyanarayana appointed part-time UIDAI chief

Former IAS officer J Satyanarayana was on September 6 appointed as part-time chairperson of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), tasked with issuing Aadhaar numbers.

- The post has been lying vacant following resignation of Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani's resignation in 2014.
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved Satyanarayana's appointment as part-time chairperson of UIDAI, an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training said.
- Satyanarayana, an IAS officer of 1977 batch belonging to Andhra Pradesh cadre, retired as Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Besides him, technocrats Rajesh Jain and Anand Deshpande have been appointed as part-time members of the UIDAI.

CK Asnani assumes charge as CMD of Uranium Corporation of India Limited

CK Asnani assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), an undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy.

- Asnani is a Chemical Engineer from Osmania University.
- He was the Director (Technical) of Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai before the present assignment.
- Asnani was earlier associated with Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad.
- UCIL is a Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Atomic Energy.

Syndicate Bank appoints Director

Jayant Purushottam Gokhale has been appointed director of Syndicate Bank.

- The Centre has nominated Gokhale as part-time non-official director under the chartered accountants category for a period of three years.
- His appointment is subject to his resignation from the board of LIC Nomura Mutual Fund Asset Management Company, before joining the bank's board.
- Syndicate Bank is one of the oldest and major commercial banks of India. The Bank is headquartered in Manipal, Karnataka.

Mexico sets up first consulate in South India

Mexico has set up its first consulate in south India in Chennai that will cater to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

- This is the Latin American country's third consulate in India, with the other two being in Mumbai and Kolkata.
- Ramkumar Varadarajan, Managing Director, Shri Govindaraja Textiles, has been appointed Honorary Consul.
- Mexico had overtaken Brazil as the top destination of India's exports to Latin America. India's exports to Mexico were \$2.8 billion in 2015-16.

Bakytzhan Sagintayev appointed as the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan's president Nursultan Nazarbayev has appointed Bakytzhan Sagintayev the country's new prime minister.

- Nazarbayev made a number of government reshuffles on September 8.
- Prime Minister Karim Masimov was dismissed to be appointed chief of the National Security Committee and First Deputy Prime Minister Bakytzhan Sagintayev promoted to acting prime minister.

Vidya Balan Brand Ambassador of Samajwadi Pension Yojana

Uttar Pradesh government named Bollywood actress Vidya Balan as brand ambassador of the ambitious Samajwadi Pension Yojana.

- The actor who had earlier been associated with the "ghar-ghar shauchalya" campaign of the union government will be seen campaigning about the scheme in the coming months.
- UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav has launched the pension scheme with an aim to provide Rs 500 per month to poor women and cover at least 50 lakh beneficiaries in the state.

105-yr-old Kunwar Bai made 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' mascot

105-year-old Kunwar Bai, who built toilet by selling off her goats, has been chosen as the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' mascot.

- Prime Minister Modi will felicitate Kunwar Bai in the national capital to mark 'Swachhta Diwas' on September 17.
- Kunwar Bai had sold-off her 8-10 goats to build two toilets at her home. Subsequently, she started showing other villagers the toilets at her home while informing them about its importance.

Anoop K Sharma new CMD of Shipping Corporation

Anoop Kumar Sharma has taken charge as the chairman & managing director of Shipping Corporation of India for a period of three years.

- He has taken charge for a period of three years.
- As the country's premier shipping line, the SCI owns and operates around one-third of the Indian tonnage, and has operating interests in practically all areas of the shipping business, servicing both national and international trades.

Nawazuddin appointed brand ambassador of UP farmers' scheme

The Uttar Pradesh government appointed Bollywood actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui as the brand ambassador of its flagship programme 'Samajwadi Kisan Beema Yojana', a scheme aimed at insuring farmers.

- Flanked by Nawazuddin, Akhilesh hoped that with the actor's joining, awareness about the scheme will reach far and wide.
- Earlier, the Samajwadi Party government had roped in actress Vidya Balan as brand ambassador for the Samajwadi Pension Scheme.

V K Sharma gets additional charge as LIC chairman

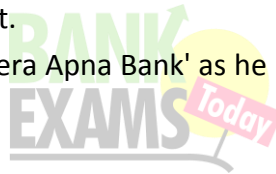
V K Sharma, who is currently one of the two managing directors at Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), has taken additional charge as Chairman, LIC of India.

- LIC in a statement said that he will take the place of S K Roy who has been relieved of his duties.
- He has been in the role of Managing Director since November 1, 2013.

Punjab National Bank appointed Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador

State-owned Punjab National Bank has roped in Indian test skipper Virat Kohli as brand ambassador to improve its image which has taken a hit due to rising bad loans.

- "Today PNB is seen as a complete universal bank. Punjab National Bank, focus and for whom winning is a habit," the bank said in a statement.
- On the occasion Kohli said 'PNB is Mera Apna Bank' as he has been an account holder of the bank since the age of 16 years.



Alka Sirohi appointed UPSC chairman

Former IAS officer Alka Sirohi has been appointed as chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), in place of Deepak Gupta who demits office on 20th September.

- President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Sirohi to perform the duties of the post of the chairman, UPSC, with effect from September 21, an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training said.
- She is presently member in the Commission.
- The appointment is till further orders or till completion of her term as member on January 3, 2017, whichever is earlier, it said.
- Incidentally, the Centre had in November 2014 appointed Gupta as the UPSC chief, breaking away from the tradition of appointing the chief from the serving members of the commission.

Anandi Ramalingam assumed charge as BEL first woman director

Anandi Ramalingam on 16 September 2016 assumed charge as functional/whole time director of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

- She is a full time director. With this, company now has six directors.

New ED for Syndicate Bank

SS Mallikarjuna Rao has taken charge as executive director of Syndicate Bank.

- Prior to joining the bank, Rao was General Manager and CFO of Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), looking after alternate delivery channels, marketing and publicity.
- He started his career as probationary officer in Bank of Maharashtra in 1985. He has been a professional banker for over 31 years.

Monika Kapil Mohta appointed Ambassador to Sweden

Monika Kapil Mohta has been appointed as the next envoy of India to Sweden. Mohta is presently the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

- Previously, she has served as the ambassador of India to Poland and Lithuania.
- She is charged with all political and bilateral matters relating to Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor.

Bangladesh's Junaid Ahmad new World Bank head in India

The World Bank has appointed Junaid Ahmad as its new Country Director for India. He will replace Onno Ruhl who completed his four-year term.

- Hailing from Bangladesh, Ahmad was previously the Chief of Staff to World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim.
- An economist by training, he holds a PhD in Applied Economics from Stanford University and a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University.

Ajay Shirke re-elected as BCCI Secretary

Ajay Shirke was re-elected unopposed as the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) at its 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) here.

- No other nominations were received for the post. The AGM was chaired by BCCI President Anurag Thakur.
- Shirke became the secretary in July after Thakur was elevated to the president's post, vacated by Shashank Manohar who quit BCCI to become the International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman.
- Shirke is also chief of the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA).

BCCI appoints new selection panel with MSK Prasad as Chief Selector

Former India wicketkeeper M.S.K. Prasad has been appointed as the new chairman of selectors at its 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in Mumbai.

- Prasad will replace Sandeep Patil as Chairman of the selectors.

- Other members include Jatin Paranjpe, Devan Gandhi, Gagan Khoda and Sarandeep Singh.
- Former India seamer Venkatesh Prasad has been retained as chairman of the junior selection committee.

Navtej Sarna appointed India's new envoy to US

India's High Commissioner to the UK, Navtej Singh Sarna, has been appointed the new Ambassador to the US. He will succeed the current envoy Arun Singh.

- A veteran Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1980 batch, Sarna was Secretary (West) in the Foreign Ministry prior to becoming High Commissioner to the UK.
- He held the position of spokesperson of the MEA for a long period from 2002 till 2008.
- Sarna also served as India's Ambassador to Israel from 2008-2012.
- Also, the government has appointed Taranjit Singh Sandhu as the next High Commissioner of India to the Sri Lanka.

Centre appoints three members to Monetary Policy Committee

Barely a fortnight ahead of the RBI's next policy review, the Centre appointed three academicians as members to the Monetary Policy Committee, which will set interest rates.

- The appointees are Chetan Ghate, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI); Pami Dua, Director, Delhi School of Economics (DSE); and Ravindra Dholakia, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A).
- The appointments will be for four years, or until further orders, said an official order.

Mohan M Shantanagoudar new CJ of Kerala

Justice Mohan M Shantanagoudar was sworn in as Chief Justice of Kerala High Court at a function held at Raj Bhavan.

- Governor Justice (Retd) P Sathasivam administered oath of office to Justice Shantanagoudar, who was the acting Chief justice.

Girish Chandra Gupta sworn in as Calcutta HC chief justice

Justice Girish Chandra Gupta was sworn in as Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

- West Bengal Governor K.N. Tripathi administered the oath of office to Justice Gupta at the Raj Bhavan.
- Gupta replaces Manjula Chellur, who has taken over as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court.

Awards

Telugu writer conferred with Moortidevi Award of Bharatiya Jnanpith for 2015

Noted Telugu writer Prof.Kalakaluri Enoch has been conferred with Moortidevi Award of Bharatiya Jnanpith for the year 2015.

- The award was given for his novel "Anantajivanam".
- The award carries a shawl, Saraswati Statue, Citation and a cheque of four lakh rupees.

Visaranai to take a shot at Oscar nomination

Visaranai, the Tamil docu-drama crime thriller, has been chosen India's official entry to Best Foreign Language Film category at the 89th Academy Awards to be held in 2017.

- The national award-winning film, directed by Vetrimaran, and produced by actor Dhanush's Wunderbar Films, documents four migrant workers who suffer police brutality and corruption after being jailed on false charges.
- Part of the film is based on true events recorded in novel *Lock Up*, written by M. Chandrakumar, an autorickshaw driver from Coimbatore.

First Jesse Owens Award goes posthumously to Muhammad Ali

The first Jesse Owens Olympic Spirit Award will recognize the late Muhammad Ali.

- The Owens Award was started this year, the 80th anniversary of Owens' four-gold-medal performance at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, and is to be presented annually to recognize people who have served as an inspiration in society.
- Owens' granddaughter, Marlene Dortch, will present the award.

Uttam Singh to be honoured with 'Lata Mangeshkar Award'

Veteran music director and violinist Uttam Singh was named for the 2016 Lata Mangeshkar Award for Lifetime Achievement of the Maharashtra Government.

- The award carries a citation, a trophy and 500000 rupees in cash.
- The Lata Mangeshkar Award is a national-level award instituted to honour works in the field of music. The state Government of Maharashtra started this award in 1984.

ISRO, Katrina, Juhi Chawla will get Priyadarshini Global Awards

Bengaluru-based Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Bollywood actors Katrina Kaif and Juhi Chawla are among recipients of the Priyadarshini Global Awards 2016.

- Other recipients of the awards, instituted by a socio-cultural and educational organisation Priyadarshini Academy, in various fields are from Israel, Switzerland and UK.
- The awards are given to personalities and organisations for contribution in their respective fields.

'Sunrise', Parched' scripts archived at Oscar library

The scripts of Adil Hussain-starrers "Sunrise" and "Parched" have been archived at the library of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

- The Delhi-based actor shared a copy of the letter from Margaret Herrick Library of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
- The Margaret Herrick Library is a non-circulating reference and research collection devoted to the history and development of the motion picture as an art form and an industry.
- Established in 1928 and now located in Beverly Hills, the library is open to the public and is used year-round by students, scholars, historians and industry professionals.
- "Sunrise", directed by Partho Sen-Gupta, is the story of Inspector Joshi, a grieving father, searching for his daughter Aruna, who was kidnapped years ago at the age of six.

Award for KVGB insurance effort

Dharwad-headquartered Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank has bagged four awards for inclusive insurance for 2016 from Skoch Group.

- A Bank press release said S Ravindran, chairman, received the award from Sameer Kochhar, chairman of Skoch Group, in Hyderabad.

Vijaya Bank gets award

Vijaya Bank has bagged the second prize under Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (Region C) for the year 2015-16.

- The prize was accepted by Kishore Sansi, Managing Director & CEO Vijaya Bank, from President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan Auditorium, New Delhi.

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw awarded highest civilian French honour

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, chairperson and Managing Director of Biocon Limited, was awarded with 'Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur' (Knight of the National Order of the French Legion of Honour) for her contribution to biosciences and research.

- Chevalier l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur the highest civilian award of the French Republic for outstanding contribution in diverse fields.

Sudarsan Pattnaik wins prize in Moscow sand art show

India's Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won the people's choice prize for his sand sculpture titled "Mahatma Gandhi - World Peace" at the ninth Moscow Sand Sculpture Championship 2016.

- Sudarsan has already won a gold medal for the 15-foot-high sculpture.

Jackie Chan to receive lifetime achievement Oscar

Martial arts expert and actor Jackie Chan will receive a lifetime achievement Oscar.

- The announcement was made by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Chan made his movie debut at the age of 8.

Zaheer Khan made honorary life member by Marylebone Cricket Club

Former pacer Zaheer Khan has been made an honorary life member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), becoming the 24th Indian cricketer to be bestowed the honour.

- Zaheer is the second former India international to be elected in recent weeks following Virender Sehwag, who became an Honorary Life Member last month. The list also includes the likes of Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar, who were inducted in previous years.
- Zaheer played 92 Test matches for his country during a successful career, taking 311 wickets at 32.94 runs apiece.
- The 37-year-old was also a mainstay in the One-Day International side. Making his debut in 2000, Zaheer took 282 wickets in 200 ODIs at an average of 29.34.

Mother Teresa is being declared saint by Pope Francis in Vatican City

Mother Teresa is being declared a saint by Pope Francis at a canonisation ceremony in Vatican City.

- The canonization comes on the eve of her 19th death anniversary. Once declared Saint, she will be known as Saint Teresa of Calcutta.
- A central delegation led by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and two state government-level delegations from Delhi and West Bengal, led by Chief Ministers Arvind Kejriwal and Mamata Banerjee are in Vatican City to attend the ceremony.

Sonitpur selected for 'Saakshar Bharat Award'

Sonitpur district of Assam has been selected for the 'Saakshar Bharat Award' in recognition of its efforts in implementation of the SB programme, according to a National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) letter to the state government.

- The award comprising a trophy and a certificate will be given by the President on the occasion of International Literacy Day in Delhi on September 8.
- Two districts have been selected for this award across the country and they are Sonitpur and Surguja in Chattisgarh.
- Among the states, Chhattisgarh has been selected for the award.

JSS Malappuram wins UNESCO literacy award

The Jan Sikshan Sansthan (JSS), Malappuram, has won the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy in recognition of its literacy-linked skill development activities among the underprivileged in rural areas.

- Innovations such as Braille applications and the talking pen used by the JSS impressed UNESCO.
- JSS chairman will receive the award in Paris on September 8.
- The award sponsored by China consists of \$20,000, diploma, and a silver medal.

Dr Hrushikesh Mallick to get prestigious Sarala Award-2016

Noted Odia poet Dr Hrushikesh Mallick will be honoured with the 37th edition of prestigious Sarala Award for his outstanding poetry.

- The annual award carrying a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation would be conferred on Mallick for his poetry work "Jeje Dekhi Nathiba Bharat", the Sarala Award Committee announced.

LIFFI: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Tannishtha Chatterjee win Best Actors award

Acclaimed talents Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Tannishtha Chatterjee were named Best Actors at the debut edition of the Lonavla International Film Festival India (LIFFI), where the Best Director honour went to Anant Mahadevan for "Rough Book".

- While Nawazuddin was lauded for bringing alive the struggle of real life hero Dashrath Manjhi in "Manjhi – The Mountain Man", Tannishtha's portrayal of a teacher with a difference in "Rough Book" won the LIFFI jury's heart.
- Tannishtha shared the Best Actor (Female) Award with her National School of Drama senior Bhagirathi Bai Kadam who has delivered a power-packed performance in Assamese film "Scarecrow".

Anjum Chopra, India's first woman to get MCC membership

Anjum Chopra has been awarded an honorary life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

- She is the first Indian woman cricketer to get the prestigious life membership of MCC.
- The 39-year-old Anjum played 12 Tests, 127 ODIs and 18 T20 Internationals for India. She scored 548 runs in Tests with 4 half-centuries, and 2,856 runs with one century and 18 half-centuries in ODIs.

Honorary doctorate for Mary Kom

President of India, Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to the proposal to confer an honorary doctorate on Olympic medallist Mary Kom by the North Eastern Hill University.

- First lady Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission Rose Millian Bathew Kharbuli, 85, was also conferred an honorary Doctor of Letters degree.
- The degree will be conferred on March 29.

- Mary Kom was awarded the honorary Doctor of Letters degree in absentia for her outstanding contributions in the field of Sports.

Filmmaker K G George to be Honoured with J C Daniel Award

Veteran award-winning film director K G George was announced winner of the prestigious J C Daniel Award for his overall contribution to the Malayalam film industry.

- The award will be given along with the State Film Awards at a function to be held at Palakkad in Oct 2016.
- Mr George won the National Award for the Best Film in Malayalam for his debut film *Swapnadanam* in 1975.
- He has also won nine State Awards for his films which include *Yavanika*, *Irakal* and *Adaminte Variyal*.
- The award is considered the top one in the industry and given by the Kerala government to honour a film personality for his or her contribution.

Thithi wins Best Film honour at 1st BRICS Film Festival

Raam Reddy's Kannada film Thithi was conferred the Best Film award by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu at the closing ceremony of the 1st BRICS Film Festival.

- South African actor Thabo Rametsi won the Best Actor (Male) award for his role in Kalushi.
- Russian actress Yulia Peresild was given the Best Actor (Female) honour for her film "The Battle for Sevastopol".
- Chinese director Huo Jianqi was announced as the Best Director for helming Indo-Chinese co-production film, Xuan Zang.
- The festival featured 20 films in the competition section which focussed on a variety of issues and themes ranging from discrimination, love, history and relevant social challenges being faced by BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Sushil Kumar nominated for Padma Bhushan

Wrestler Sushil Kumar has been nominated for the Padma Bhushan by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

- The Federation has also recommended female wrestler Alka Tomar and Dronacharya awardee Yashvir Singh (Sushil's coach) for Padma Shri.
- Sushil is the only Indian athlete to have won two individual Olympic medals a bronze in the 2008 Beijing Games and a silver in the 2012 London Games.
- He already bestowed with the Khel Ratna award (the country's highest sporting honour).
- In spite of Sushil, Snooker Champ Pankaj Advani is also nominated for Padma Bhushan.

Malayalam critic M Leelavathi bags Mohanan Suvarna Mudra Award

Eminent Malayalam critic and academician Dr M Leelavathi has been chosen for the prestigious N Mohanan Suvarna Mudra Award 2016, instituted in memory of well-known short story writer N Mohanan.

- The honour comprises a gold medal of one sovereign.
- Jnanpith winning poet late O N V Kurup was the previous winner of the honour.

Canara Bank conferred with the Dun & Bradstreet Banking Awards 2016

Canara Bank has been conferred with the 'Dun & Bradstreet Banking Awards 2016' for being the Best Bank under priority sector lending and Best Retail Growth performer amongst public sector banks.

- The award was received by Harideesh Kumar B, Executive Director, Canara Bank, from Vinod Rai, Chairman of Banks Board Bureau, in the presence of Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, in Mumbai.
- Canara Bank is an Indian state-owned bank headquartered in Bangalore, in Karnataka. It was established at Mangalore in 1906, making it one of the oldest banks in the country.

Filipino revenge drama wins best picture at the world's oldest film festival

Philippines film The Woman Who Left, a black and white drama by director Lav Diaz, has won the Golden Lion for best film at the Venice Film Festival.

- It tells the story of a schoolteacher's thirst for revenge and her feelings of forgiveness after 30 years in jail for a crime she did not commit.
- Twenty movies competed in the 73rd edition of the film festival.

Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Awards presented

The five-day-long 22nd Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival concluded at the Rabindra Mandap auditorium with the presentation of the prestigious awards named after the legendary Odissi artists.

- The Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2016 for lifetime achievement was presented to Jharana Das (Cinema) and Guru Kishore Kumar Mohanty (Odissi).
- Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Prativa Samman 2016 for exceptional diligence and accomplishment was awarded to Rajib Bhattacharya (Odissi), Madhusmita Mohanty (Odissi), P. Praveen Kumar (Bharatanatyam) and Rupak Kumar Parida (Odissi vocal).

T R Zeliang receives Pangkor Dialogue Award in Malaysia

Nagaland Chief Minister T R Zeliang has received 'Pangkor Dialogue Award 2016' in Malaysia for the efforts made by the people of the state for environmental preservation and promotion.

- The award was handed over to him at a function at Ipoh city in Malaysia in the presence of leaders, academicians and personalities from various parts of the world, a release issued by CMO said.
- Zeliang was awarded by the organisers- Institute Darul Rudzuan and Malaysian government.

Odisha bags 9th Global Agriculture Leadership Award 2016

Odisha bags 9th Global Agriculture Leadership Award 2016 at the National Level gathering of important stakeholders in agriculture development at the Agriculture Leadership Summit at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi.

- Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) have awarded State in the category of Best Agriculture State-2016 in recognition of the efforts towards development of agriculture and bringing rural prosperity.
- Shri Pradeep Maharathy, Minister, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development received this prestigious Award.

Subramanian Swamy was awarded 'Tamil Ratna' in US

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy has been honoured with 'Tamil Ratna' award by a body of Tamil diaspora in New York for fighting corruption and working for more transparency in the functioning of the government.

- The America Tamil Sangam awarded the 'Tamil Ratna' to the senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP, who is currently on a visit to the US.
- Previous Tamil Ratna awardees include Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman and movie director Bharathi Raja.

Mumbai-based writer wins FON South Asia Short Story Award

Writer Meghna Pant will be honoured with Kumaon Literary Festival's FON (Fellows of Nature) South Asia Short Story Award in Nature writing in October for her short story "People of the Sun."

- The annual travelling literary festival gives this award in partnership with the French Institute of India and Wildlife Trust of India.
- Its aim is to "revive nature writing and bring the spotlight on critical environment issues like climate change through this form of literature."

West Bengal to confer Bangabibhushan award to Lata Mangeshkar

West Bengal government will confer this year's 'Bangabibhushan' to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told reporters at the state Secretariat about the decision taken by her government.

- The Trinamool Congress government had started conferring Bangabibhushan to eminent personalities for their contribution to various fields since 2011.

Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi to get humanitarian award

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been honored as the 2016 humanitarian of the year by students and faculty at the Harvard Foundation.

She became one of the world's most well-known political prisoners during her 15 years of house arrest for participating in protests against the government in 1989.

Shubha Mudgal to get 'Lalit Arpan Samman'

Hindustani classical singer Shubha Mudgal will be honoured with the annual 'LalitArpan Samman' this year.

- Mudgal, a Padma Shri recipient, was born in Allahabad and is known for her singing in genres of Khayal, Thumri and Dadra. She has also given her voice to many popular Indie-pop numbers.
- The 15th edition of LalitArpan festival will also acknowledge artist couple Paramjit and Arpita Singh.

HDFC Bank named India's most valuable brand

HDFC Bank Ltd, the largest private sector bank in India, was India's most valuable brand for the third successive year, and emerged on top of the BrandZ Top 50 Most Valuable Indian Brands ranking released by WPP Group and Kantar Millward Brown.

- HDFC Bank was also the only Indian brand in the BrandZ top 100 most valuable global brands list released in June.
- HDFC is followed by Airtel and State Bank of India.

Adi Godrej conferred Clinton Global Citizen Award

Industrialist Adi Godrej, the Chairman of Mumbai-based Godrej Group, was conferred the 10th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Award for leadership in business and philanthropy.

- The award recognises Godrej's "leadership in transforming the intersection of business and philanthropy and making the Godrej Group a global example of what can be achieved through inclusive, sustainable business strategies".
- It was presented by Hikmet Ersek, CEO and President Western Union, in the presence of former US President Bill Clinton and his daughter Chelsea in New York.

HP wins Better Performing Project Award 2015

Himachal Pradesh has won the 2015-Better Performing Project Award for development of infrastructure in the state, an official spokesman said today.

- The award was given for development of infrastructure in the state by tourism department under the ADB Funded Project.
- The award was conferred during the Tripartite Portfolio Review meeting and it was received by Commissioner of Tourism Mohan Chauhan and Project Director Manoj Sharma.

Sports

Sania Mirza-Barbora Strycova crowned women's doubles champions at Pan Pacific Open

India's Sania Mirza and her partner Barbora Strycova from Czech Republic produced a straight sets win over China's Chen Liang and Zhaoxuan Yang 6-1, 6-1 in the final to win the women's doubles titles at Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo.

- Playing their third tournament together, Sania and Strycova have earlier won the Cincinnati Open last month by beating Martina Hingis and Coco Vandeweghe in the final.
- The current tournament in Tokyo is Sania's 40th doubles title win and third in Tokyo. She had earlier won the same title with Cara Black twice.

Alexander Zverev stuns Stan Wawrinka to claim St Petersburg Open title

Germany's 19-year-old Alexander Zverev won his first tour title, beating U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka in a tight battle in the St. Petersburg Open final.

Zverev took the first set before Wawrinka responded to draw level. The German was a break down in the decider, but fought back to win 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

Japan to host 2026 Asian Games: Olympic Council of Asia

Japan's Aichi prefecture and its capital city Nagoya were confirmed as co-hosts of the 2026 Asian Games, adding yet another major event to the country's bulging international sports calendar.

- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) formally endorsed the bid after Aichi Prefecture governor Hideaki Ohumra and Nagoya city mayor Takashi Kawamura presented their joint offering to the OCA General Assembly in Danang, which is currently hosting the fifth Asian Beach Games.
- Held every four years, the 2018 Asian Games have already been awarded to the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang while the 2022 edition will be held in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

R Ashwin becomes fastest Indian to take 200 Test wickets

Indian Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has become the fastest Indian and second overall fastest to take 200 wickets in his 37th Test.

- Ashwin trapped New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson in front to get to the 200th wicket.
- Leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett (Australia) got to the 200 of wickets faster than Ashwin in 36 Tests.
- He left behind the likes of Dennis Lillee (Australia) and Waqar Younis (Pakistan) who took 38 Tests to get to 200 wickets.

Sathiyam Gnanasekaran wins Belgium Open

Sathiyam Gnanasekaran has become only the second Indian table tennis player to win an ITTF event as he clinched the men's singles title of the Belgium Open.

- Sathiyam won his first pro title by defeating local player Nuytinck Cedric
- Achanta Sharath Kamal was the first Indian to win an ITTF event in 2012.

East Bengal wins Calcutta Football League 2016

Indian football giants East Bengal on 16 September 2016 won the Calcutta Football League (CFL) for the seventh consecutive time.

- The team defeated Mohammedan Sporting 1-0 at the Kalyani Stadium.
- East Bengal bettered its own record of winning it six times straight from 1970 to 1975.
- East Bengal Football Club is a professional football club, based in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- East Bengal FC was founded in 1920.

Davis Cup: Spain beat India 5-0

Host India was routed by Spain 0-5 in the Davis Cup World Group Play-off tie.

- In the last match, Ram kumar Ramanathan lost to David Ferrer in straight sets 6-2, 6-2.
- Earlier, in the first rubber match Marc Lopez defeated Sumit Nagal 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 giving Spain 4-0 lead.
- Earlier, Saketh and Ramkumar had lost their opening Singles matches.

Rio Paralympics 2016 Concluded

The 2016 Rio Paralympic Games have concluded at Maracana Stadium in Brazilian City, Rio de Janeiro with the theme Bio Diversity: Our Inspiration.

- The Games held 528 medal events in 22 sports with participants from 159 countries.
- China dominated the Rio Paralympics games with 239 medals, followed by Britain, Ukraine and the United States.
- On the occasion, tributes were also paid to the Iranian cyclist Bahman Golbarnezhad, who died in an accident during his event.
- India finished 43rd with their best ever tally of four medals (2 Golds, One Silver and One Bronze).

100-year-old athlete from India, wins Gold Medal at Masters Games

India's 100-year-old athlete, Man Kaur has won Gold medal at the American Masters Games in the 100-meter dash.

- She took a minute-and-a-half to cross the finish line in Vancouver.
- Kaur from Chandigarh was the only female competitor in her age category at the competition for older athletes.

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

In Tennis, world number one Serena Williams has created history by setting a record of most number of Grand Slam matches wins by a woman in the Open era.

- In the US Open, the American defeated Johanna Larsson of Sweden, 6-2, 6-1 to progress to the pre-quarterfinals and surpass Martina Navratilova's record of 306 wins.
- Serena is eyeing to clinch a 23rd Grand Slam Singles title. If she wins, she will become the most successful woman in the Open Era. The American is currently equal with Steffi Graf with 22 major Singles titles.

Nico Rosberg wins Italian Grand Prix

Nico Rosberg won the 2016 Italian Grand Prix at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza in Monza, Italy.

- Lewis Hamilton finished second in the race.
- This is his first win in Italy, seventh in session and 21st overall.

Abhinav Bindra announces retirement from shooting

Abhinav Bindra has officially announced his retirement. The ace shooter felt it was time to move on and let the younger generation take over.

- Bindra finished 4th in the Rio Olympics and was India's one and only individual gold medallist at the games.
- He secured the winner's position in the 10m rifle event in Beijing.

Serena Williams makes Grand Slam history with 308th win

World number one Serena Williams set a new Grand Slam record of 308 victories with a win over Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan at the US Open in New York.

- The American won 6-2 6-3 against Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan
- With this, she has passed Roger Federer in the all-time list of matches won at the tennis majors.

Australia breaks T20 record; beats Sri Lanka

Australia broke the world scoring record in Twenty20 internationals as an unbeaten century by opener Glenn Maxwell helped the team to 263 for 3 and an 85-run victory in the first match against Sri Lanka.

- Asked to bat first, Maxwell smashed nine sixes and 14 boundaries for his 145 not out in 65 balls to guide Australia to its record-breaking 20-over total.
- The previous mark had been set by Sri Lanka at 260 for 6 against Kenya in 2007.
- Australia's tight bowling paid off with regular wickets, limiting Sri Lanka to 178 for 9.
- It was Sri Lanka's heaviest loss against Australia in Twenty20 internationals, with the previous low point having been an 81-run defeat in 2010 at Bridgetown.

Deaf shooter Priyesh Deshmukh wins bronze in World Championship

Priyesh Deshmukh has won bronze at the 1st World Deaf Shooting Championships. It was her first Championship.

- World Deaf Shooting Championships was held in Kazan, Russia from September 7 to 15.
- She clinched the medal in the 10m air rifle category. She has got 180.4 points to win the medal.
- Ukraine's Svitlana Yatsenko and Serbia's Gordana Mikovic won gold and silver respectively.

Rio Paralympics: Mariyappan Thangavelu wins gold in men's high jump

India's Mariyappan Thangavelu created history by winning a gold medal in the men's high jump T-42 event at the Rio Paralympics.

- His compatriot Varun Singh Bhati clinched the bronze medal the same event.
- While Thangavelu made a leap of 1.89 metres, Bhati jumped his personal best of 1.86 metres to finish third.
- USA's Sam Grewe bagged the silver medal.

Deepa Malik becomes first Indian woman to win medal at Paralympics

India's Deepa Malik created history by becoming the first ever woman from the country to win a medal at the Paralympics.

- Deepa bagged a silver medal in the shotput F-53 event. Her throw of 4.61m was the best in her six attempts.
- Fatema Nedham of Bahrain won the gold medal with the best throw of 4.76m while Dimitra Korokida of Greece bagged the bronze medal with a throw of 4.28m.
- Deepa's silver is third medal of the Games after gold and bronze were won by Mariyappan Thangavelu and Varun Singh Bhati in men's high jump.

Army Green beat Neroca FC to win Durand Cup

Army Green defeated newcomers Neroca Football Club 6-5 on penalties to win the 128th edition of the Durand Cup at Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi.

- The final was decided in the penalty shoot-out after both the teams failed to score goal even after the added 30 minutes of extra-times.
- With the victory, Army Blue also became the first Army team to win the title since 2005 as they collected the biggest cash prize in the tournament history - Rs 45 lakh.
- Neroca was rewarded with Rs 20 lakh for finishing runners-up in the Asia's oldest football tournament.

Javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia wins gold at Rio Paralympics

Devendra Jhajharia has won gold in the men's javelin throw F46 event at the Rio Paralympics.

- Devendra won gold in the javelin event at the 2004 Athens Paralympics with a record throw of 62.15 metres, becoming only the second gold medallist at the Paralympics for India, and improved upon it with an attempt of 63.97 metres at the Olympic Stadium (Engenhao).
- Devendra competed in the event alongside fellow Indians Rinku Hooda and Sundar Singh Gurjar. Rinku finished fifth with a personal best of 54.39 metres in six attempts.
- Devendra took India's tally at this edition of the Paralympics to four medals-two golds, one silver and a bronze.
- The Rajasthan born athlete, with an amputated left hand, was awarded the Arjuna award in 2004 and the Padma Shri in 2012, becoming the first Paralympian to receive the honour.

- He is the first Indian to win two Paralympic Gold medals.

Sushmita wins bronze at World Martial Arts Masterships

Indian kickboxer Sushmita Rai (Mazitar, East Sikkim) has won the Bronze medal at the World Martial Arts Masterships 2016, at Cheongju in South Korea.

- She was among the 12 member team who were representing India in the International event.
- The competition, which is considered by many as the equivalent of Olympics for the martial arts, attended by 2,073 participants from 87 countries.

Indian Railways Men Hockey Team Wins MCC Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey Tournament For The First Time

Indian Railways Men Hockey Team has won MCC Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey Tournament 2016 for the first time held at Chennai. In the finals Indian Railways Hockey Team beat Indian Oil Corporation Team by 2 - 1.

- Before finals Indian Railways Hockey Team defeated the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Team by 3 - 2 in the semi finals.

India Blue wins 2016-2017 Duleep Trophy tournament

Gautam Gambhir-led India Blue won the inaugural day/night Duleep Trophy Cricket tournament held in Greater Noida.

- In the final, India Blue defeated India Red, captained by Yuvraj Singh, by a massive 355 runs.
- Ravinder Jadeja, who bagged 5 wickets in the second innings, finished the game with a 10-wicket haul.
- Cheteshwar Pujara was named the Player of the Match.

Misbah-ul-Haq becomes first Pakistani to receive Test mace from ICC

Misbah-ul-Haq on September 21 received the prestigious ICC Test Championship mace for inspiring Pakistan to the top of the ICC Test Team Rankings for the first time since the current rankings system was introduced in 2003.

- ICC Chief Executive David Richardson presented the mace to Misbah at the home of Pakistan cricket at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore and Pakistan captain Misbah said it was befitting that the mace presentation was taking place there.

India becomes fourth team to play 500 Test matches

India becomes only the fourth team in history to have played 500 Test matches when they took on New Zealand in Kanpur on September 22, 2016.

- England has played highest 976 test matches.
- India joins a rather exclusive club of teams that have played 500 or more Test matches that thus far included England, Australia and West Indies.
- On this occasion, India's celebrated skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni was named the captain of reputed cricket magazine Wisden's all-time India Test XI.

Ritu Rani retires from international hockey

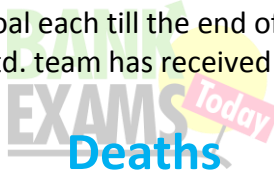
Former Indian women's hockey captain Ritu Rani has retired from international hockey after being deeply hurt following her axing from the Rio Olympics-bound squad.

- Ritu, who was controversially dropped from the team for the Rio Olympics citing "attitude" issues, however was included in the 29 probables for the National camp which began in Bhopal.
- But it seems the 24-year-old midfielder hasn't quite been able to come to terms with the Olympic axing and decided to call time on her international career.
- In fact, it was under Ritu's captaincy that the Indian eves qualified for the Rio Olympics after a gap of 36 years.
- It was also under her captaincy that the national team had won a bronze medal at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games and a silver medal at the 2013 Asian Champions Trophy.

BPCL lifts title of Obaidullah Khan Heritage Cup Hockey Tournament

The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has lifted the Obaidullah Khan Heritage Cup Hockey Tournament in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

- The BPCL team defeated Railways by 3-0 (penalty shoot -outs).
- Earlier, both the teams scored one goal each till the end of prescribed time.
- The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. team has received 51 lakh rupees.



FCAT chairman Mahajan dies

Former Delhi High Court judge S K Mahahan, who was serving as the chairman of Film Certification Appllate Tribunal (FCAT), died.

- He was cremated at the at Lodhi road crematorium, where many legal luminaries including judges and dignitaries including Minister of State of Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Rathore were present.

Former Australian cricketer Max Walker passes away

Former Australian cricketer Max Walker has passed away in Melbourne. He was 68.

- His awkward and unorthodox bowling action earned him the nickname 'Tangles'.
- Walker played 34 Tests between 1972 and '77, taking 138 wickets at an average of 27.47, including six five-wicket hauls.

Israel's former President Shimon Peres passes away

Israeli ex-president and Nobel Peace Prize winner Shimon Peres died. He was 93.

- Peres served twice as prime minister and also as president, a mostly ceremonial role, from 2007 to 2014.
- He won the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in negotiating the Oslo Accords.

US golf legend Arnold Palmer dies at 87

US golfer Arnold Palmer, viewed as one of the greatest players in the sport's history, has died at the age of 87. The United States Golf Association reported.

- The United States Golf Association also confirmed his death in a tweet calling him "golf's greatest ambassador".
- During a long career he won more than 90 tournaments worldwide, including seven majors.

Playwright Reoti Saran Sharma passes away

Eminent Hindi and Urdu writer Reoti Saran Sharma (92-year) passed away in New Delhi.

- He was conferred with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2007 for his contribution to theatre.
- Sharma was awarded Sahitya Kala Parishad and Ghalib Award.

US playwright Edward Albee dies aged 88

US playwright Edward Albee, the author of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, has died aged 88.

- Albee's assistant said he died at his home on Long Island near New York. No cause of death was given.
- A three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, he was arguably America's greatest living playwright after the deaths of Arthur Miller and August Wilson in 2005.

Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov dies at 78

Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov had died aged 78 after suffering a stroke. He saw himself as the protector of his Central Asian nation against the threat of militant Islam.

- To his critics, he was a brutal dictator who used torture to stay in power.
- He was the country's only president in a quarter-century of independence from the Soviet Union

Australia's Oldest Surviving Test Player Dies

Australia's oldest surviving Test cricketer, Len Maddocks, has passed away aged 90.

- Maddocks, a batsman and wicket-keeper, played seven Tests for Australia between 1954 and 1956, and managed the Australian cricket team on its 1977 tour of England.

Senior BJP leader Arif Beg passes away

Former union minister Arif Beg (81-year) passed away in Bhopal.

- He Beg was a minister of state (1977-79) in the Morarji Desai-led Janta Party government at the centre.
- In 1989 he was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Betul constituency.

World's oldest cricketer Lindsay Tuckett passes away

World's oldest cricketer, Lindsay Tuckett passed away in Bloemfontein at the age of 97.

- Tuckett represented South Africa in nine Test matches against England between 1947 and 1949.
- The distinction of the oldest surviving cricketer in the world now passes to another South African player, all-rounder Johnny Watkins, who is 93.
- Tuckett was the backbone of the South African pace attack in the years immediately following World War II.
- Record books show that Tuckett made his debut in the first Test at Trent Bridge, Nottingham in 1947, taking 5/68 in the first innings in 37 overs.
- In his full international career he took 19 wickets, including two five-wicket hauls.

Ken Higgs passes away aged 79

Kenneth Higgs, the former England cricketer, passed away on September 7, aged 79.

- A right-arm fast bowler, Higgs, played 15 Tests and took 71 wickets in an international career that spanned from 1965 to 1968.
- Higgs represented Lancashire and Leicestershire in the County circuit and is one among ten bowlers to take over 1000 first-class wickets.

Former Italian PM Carlo Azeglio Ciampi dies

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, an Italian statesman who served first as a soldier, then a resistance fighter in World War II, and who, as finance minister half a century later, pushed for Italy to join Europe's currency union, died after a long illness.

- A commanding presence throughout Italy's postwar history, Mr. Ciampi long list of public offices included premier, central-bank governor and, finally, president from 1999 to 2006. After that, he was made a senator for life.

Oscar-winning writer and director Curtis Hanson dies at 71

Oscar-winning writer and film director Curtis Hanson has died at his home in Hollywood at the age of 71.

- A report said he had retired in recent years due to Alzheimer's.
- Hanson won an Oscar in 1998 for best adapted screenplay for LA Confidential.

- His directing credits included The Hand That Rocks the Cradle and Wonder Boys.

Books

Uttarakhand governor releases book by author Nagrath

Uttarakhand Governor K K Paul today released a book titled 'Shanti ki Talaash mein Zindagi' written in Hindi by Haridwar-based author and journalist Radhika Nagrath.

- Describing the book as a result of in-depth study of life and people, Paul said it highlighted the importance of leading a life that avoids engaging itself with the superficial side of things.

Stuart Blackburn's book based on Arunachal wins MM Bennetts Award

A book, which tells the story of the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh during British India, has bagged the MM Bennetts Award for Historical Fiction 2016 in the UK.

- Stuart Blackburn was presented the award at the HNS Conference in Oxford for his novel "Into the Hidden Valley".
- The book, published by Speaking Tiger, looks into a little-known episode in the colonial history of British India. Blackburn vividly brings alive the world of the Apatanis.
- The novel dramatises the colonial encounter with tribes by telling two stories, one of a British official and the other of a tribesman.

Chris Gayle launches his autobiography 'Six Machine' in India

Explosive West Indies opener Chris Gayle has launched his autobiography 'Six Machine', which contains extensive details about his life and career.

- Published by Viking - Penguin UK, the book was unveiled by Anurag Singh Thakur, President of the BCCI at a gala event in Delhi, which was organised by Dunamis Sportainment in association with Penguin India.
- Christopher Henry "Chris" Gayle is a Jamaican cricketer who plays international cricket for the West Indies.
- Considered one of the most powerful batsmen in limited-overs cricket, Gayle has set numerous records in all formats of the game.

Malaysian envoy releases translated book on Sai Baba

The Consul General of Malaysia in India Eldeen Husaini Muhammad Hashim has released the translated version of 'Sai Charitra Granth', a book on the life of Sai Baba.

- The book is translated into Malay by a social outfit called 'I love Sai'.

President released VP's book 'Citizen and Society'

President Pranab Mukherjee released the book 'Citizen and Society' written by Vice-President Mohd Hamid Ansari.

- The President has released the book at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

