

## International

### International Tiger Day observed

International Tiger Day was observed on 29 July 2016. The day is held annually on 29th July to give worldwide attention to the reservation of tigers.

- The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.
- It was founded in 2010 at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit, with the aim to double the big cat population by 2022.

### Joint Indo-Thailand Military Exercise 'Maitree' culminates

The Indo-Thailand Military Exercise Maitree concluded on 29 July 2016 at Krabi, Thailand. The exercise had commenced on 15 July 2016 under the aegis of the Royal Thailand Army.

- The aim of the joint exercise was to train contingents of both the armies on conduct of counter terrorist operations in an urban environment.
- 90 soldiers of Indian Army and Royal Thailand Army had participated in the two week long Exercise.
- The exercise included combined training, familiarization with weapons & equipment used by both the countries.

### World Hepatitis Day 2016 observed with theme Elimination

World Hepatitis Day 2016 was observed across the world on 28 July 2016 with the theme Elimination.

- The day acts as a significant global platform for raising awareness about hepatitis and influence real change in disease prevention, testing and treatment.
- The theme for the 2016 focuses on elimination of hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

### Kargil Vijay Diwas being observed

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed on 26 July every year in honour of the Kargil War Heroes.

- On this day, 26 July 1999, India successfully took command of the high outposts which had been lost to Pakistani intruders.
- This day is celebrated in the Kargil - Dras sector and the national capital New Delhi, where the Prime Minister of India, pays homage to the soldiers at Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate every year.

### KP Oli Stepped Down As Nepal PM

K.P. Sharma Oli resigned as prime minister of Nepal on Sunday, minutes before facing a no-confidence motion in parliament he was certain to lose, plunging the impoverished, quake-hit nation into fresh turmoil.

- Oli was forced to quit after former Maoist rebels deserted his fractious, ruling coalition, accusing him of renegeing on past deals and following deadly unrest over a divisive new constitution.

### India makes the first contribution to UN Trust Fund

India has contributed USD 100,000 to a trust fund set up for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers.

- This is the first contribution to the Trust Fund the Secretariat has received.

India has historically been one of the largest troop-contributing countries in peacekeeping operations.

### **India ranks 110th on Sustainable Development index**

In Sustainable Development index, India has ranked 110 out of 149 nations on where they stand with regard to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India ranks 110th on the list is followed by Lesotho on 113th position, Pakistan (115), Myanmar (117), Bangladesh (118) and Afghanistan (139).

- The index is topped by the Sweden followed by Denmark and Norway on the top three performing countries respectively.
- However, in the latest index the Central African Republic and Liberia are at the bottom of the Index while the US ranks 25th in the index and Russia 47th.
- The index is formed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung. The aim of creating this index is to provide a report card for tracking Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) progress and ensuring accountability.

### **Fox News CEO Roger Ailes resigns**

Roger Ailes, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Fox News Channel has resigned from his post.

- He will be succeeded by Rupert Murdoch, Head of parent company 21st Century Fox and Founder of the empire that includes Fox.
- However, Ailes will continue to serve as an informal adviser to Rupert Murdoch.

### **India first country to become YAWS-free**

India achieves yet another public health milestone, becomes first country to be declared free of Yaws, an infection of the skin and bones, much ahead of WHO global target year of 2020. Union Health Minister JP Nadda received an official citation from the World Health Organisation and the UNICEF for Elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus and for being YAWS-free.

- YAWS is a kind of bacterial infection that affects skin, bones and joints, while tetanus, another bacterial infection, leads to muscle spasms that can be fatal.

### **World Youth Skills Day 2016 observed globally**

The World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) was on 15 July 2016 observed globally with the theme Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment.

- The World Youth Skills Day was established by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 11 November 2014.
- The Assembly designated 15 July as the World Youth Skills Day in order to raise awareness about the importance of investing in youth skills development.

### **Nelson Mandela International Day 2016 observed**

Nelson Mandela International Day was observed across the world on 18 July 2016 to honour the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nelson Mandela (1918-2013).

- The day is aimed at inspiring individuals to take action to help change the world for the better.
- The Day was celebrated for the first time on 18 July 2010 as per a UN General Assembly resolution of November 2009.

### **Turnbull sworn in as Australia's PM**

Malcolm Turnbull was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Australia for another term. Representative Queen Elizabeth II, Governor General Peter Kasgrove arranged the oath ceremony.

- Turnbull was sworn in after a narrow election victory with budget repair and a public vote on same sex marriage among his top priorities.
- Malcolm Bligh Turnbull is the 29th and current Prime Minister of Australia. He is the Leader of the Liberal Party.

### **India is the worst place for retirement, says global index**

Retiring in India is very bad idea. The country ranked last in the Natixis Global Asset Management's fourth annual Global Retirement Index (GRI), making it the world's worst country for retirees.

- Switzerland, Norway and Iceland are among the top three countries to retire, followed by the United States, which is ranked 14th.
- The list by Natixis ranks 43 nations compared to 150 last year with 34 from IMF's advanced economies, five from OECD and four from BRICS.
- In last year's survey, India scored No. 88 among the 150 countries ranked, but was the worst performing BRICS country.

### **Turkey declares three-month state of emergency after a failed military coup**

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared a three-month state of emergency in the country. The emergency was declared in response to the failed coup that happened on 15 July 2016.

- The decision was made following a meeting with cabinet ministers and top security advisers in Ankara.
- While declaring the imposition of the emergency Erdogan said that the measure was being taken to counter threats to Turkish democracy.
- A coup was attempted by a faction within the Turkish Armed Forces against the incumbent Justice and Development Party in Turkey, which ultimately failed.

### **India-Mozambique ink three agreements**

India and Mozambique have signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) in areas of drug trafficking, pulse trading and sports.

- MoU on long term agreement for purchase of pulses.
- MoU on cooperation in the field of youth affairs and sports.
- MoU on reduction of drug trafficking and psychotropic substances and related materials.

### **India sets up apparel training centre in Nigeria**

India has set up an apparel training centre in Nigeria to support textiles industry of the west African country.

- This is a first of its kind centre in Nigeria set up in partnership with their government. The center is aimed to support and catalyze the initiative of Nigeria in realising the objectives to rebuild the cotton and textile value chain and address the need for the skilled workforce for domestic as well export-oriented apparel industry in the West African region.

### **NATO summit starts in Poland**

Biennial NATO summit has begun in Warsaw, capital of Poland. NATO's 28 member countries, partner countries and international organizations will attend the conference.

- In NATO summit Warsaw military engagement plan in Central and Eastern Europe will be passed. NATO will send the troops to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.
- Germany, UK, USA, Canada will lead the forces.

### **Russian leader Putin signs 'Big Brother' law**

Russian President Vladimir Putin in July 2016 signed the "anti-terrorist" legislation adopted by the lower and upper houses of parliament in June 2016.

- This anti-terror amendment is dubbed as Big Brother by US intelligence contractor turned privacy activist Edward Snowden.
- Critics say that the measures may cost billions to the internet and telecom companies.
- Law enforcement agencies will be granted access to any user's messages without any judicial oversight.

### **11 July: World Population Day**

World Population Day was observed on 11 July 2016 with theme investing in teenage girls. The theme focuses on the empowerment of teenage girls.

- On the call of the UN, it is celebrated every year on July 11. "World Population Day" is observed to alert people to the world's growing population.

### **India, Kenya signed seven agreements to deepen cooperation**

India and Kenya inked seven agreements to enhance cooperation and bilateral relations between the two countries. Modi was on a four nation visit to Africa namely Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Mozambique from 7 July to 11 July 2016.

- Revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).
- Bilateral agreement on exemption of Visa for holders of Diplomatic passports.
- MoU on Defence Cooperation.
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of standardisation, expertise sharing and mutual trade between Bureau of Indian Standards and Bureau of Kenya Standards.
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management.
- Line of Credit Agreement for US \$15 million (first tranche of US \$30 million) to IDB Capital Limited, Kenya, for development of various small and medium enterprises [SMEs] in Kenya.
- Line of Credit Agreement for US \$29.95 million to the Government of Kenya for upgrade of Rift Valley Textiles Factory [RIVATEX East Africa Limited], Kenya.

### **Operation 'Sankat Mochan' launched to evacuate Indian citizens from South Sudan**

Union Government started the operation 'Sankat Mochan' to evacuate its citizens stranded in South Sudan's capital Juba. Two C-17 military transport aircrafts have been pressed in service to make the evacuation.

- The operation being undertaken by Indian Air Force (IAF) will be headed by Minister of State for External Affairs General (Retd.) VK Singh.
- The Indian Ambassador in South Sudan Srikumar Menon and his team is organising this operation on the ground.

### **Five Indians in Forbes Asia's 2016 Heroes of Philanthropy list**

Five Indians have made it to Forbes Asia's annual 'Heroes of Philanthropy' list for 2016, which was made public by the magazine. The list of 13 countries in the Asia Pacific region working in philanthropy covers 40 celebrities.

- SAMPARK Foundation's founder Anupama and Vineet Nayar
- Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla
- Ben India CEO Amit Chandra and his wife Archana Chandra

### **Theresa May becomes Britain's prime minister**

Theresa May has been appointed as the second female prime minister of Britain after Margaret Thatcher.

- British Prime Minister Theresa May (59) started her new job after she curtsied before Queen Elizabeth II.
- She has committed to maintaining unity between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### **SRK, Akshay join Taylor Swift in Forbes highest paid celebrity list**

Bollywood stars Shahrukh Khan and Akshay Kumar were the only Indian celebrities to make way for the Forbes list of world's highest paid celebrity.

- With annual earnings of 33 Million dollars, Fan's star Shahrukh Khan successfully bagged the 86th position on the list. On the other hand, Akshay Kumar was placed on 94th position with making about 31.5 million dollars in a year.
- Musician Taylor Swift with \$170 million in her earning bag seized the top spot on the list.

### **Pokhara-New Delhi direct bus service launched**

The first direct bus service between Pokhara (Nepal) and New Delhi (India) was launched to connect South Asia's two important cities.

- This bus service was flagged off by Nepal Home Minister Shakti Bahadur Basnet and India's ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae from Pokhara (Nepal's famous tourist spot).
- The agreement was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Nepal visit in 2014.

### **Cabinet approves the Revised Cost Estimate of Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of Rs. 7290.62 crore for the ongoing 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (HEP) in Bhutan. The total cost escalation for the project, at this stage, is Rs.3512.82 crore.

- The Project will provide surplus power to India and thus augment power availability in the country and would enable project works to proceed smoothly without interruption.

### **Rodrigo Duterte sworn-in as new Philippine President after a landslide election victory**

After a landslide election victory in May, Rodrigo Duterte was sworn in as the 16th president of the Philippines and promised to make sweeping changes to the country's political system.

- Maria Leonor Robredo was sworn in as Vice President.
- The Supreme Court Associate Justice Bienvenido Reyes administered Duterte's oath of office at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall in Malacanang, the presidential palace.

### **Exercise RIMPAC 2016 begins**

Exercise RIMPAC 2016, the Pacific military exercise, began on 30 June 2016 at Hawaii with 26 nations participating in the war games that will cover the Hawaiian Island and southern California.

- The theme of RIMPAC 2016 is Capable, Adaptive, Partners. RIMPAC 2016 is the 25th exercise in the series that began in 1971.
- Twenty-six nations including India, 45 ships, five submarines, more than 200 aircraft, and 25000 personnel will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise that is scheduled from 30 June to 4 August 2016.

### **India jumps 19 places on World Bank Logistics Performance Index; moves to 35th rank**

India improved its ranking in the World Bank group's (WBG) bi-annual "Logistics Performance Index 2016", jumping from 54th in 2014 to 35th in 2016. This was announced by the World Bank Group in its recent launch of the report.

- In the latest ranking India has gone past countries like New Zealand, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Iceland, Latvia and Indonesia who were ahead of it in the index.

### **Cyprus set to sign the new tax treaty with India**

India and Cyprus have agreed to revise their tax treaty under which capital gains tax will be levied on the sale of shares of investments made after April 1, 2017.

- The new Cyprus Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), which has been agreed upon by both the countries, would provide for source-based taxation of capital gains on transfer of shares.
- The completion of the negotiation on avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion will also pave the way for the removal of Cyprus from the list of 'Notified Jurisdictional Areas' retrospectively from November 2013.

### **NASA's Juno successfully enters Jupiter's orbit**

NASA's \$1.1 billion Juno spacecraft has successfully entered the orbit of Jupiter, the largest planet of the solar system.

- It was launched five years ago, and will study Jupiter's composition, gravity, magnetic field and search clues about the planet's formation.

### **India ranks 91 in Networked Readiness Index 2016**

India was placed at 91st position in the Networked Readiness Index (NRI) 2016 that was released by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF). The index was released as the part of the WEF's Global Information Technology Report 2016.

- Singapore is at the top of the list. Finland holds the second place.

## **National**

### **7th Pay Commission to be implemented from August**

The Centre has published the implementation notification of the 7th Pay Commission, stating that central government employees will get the revised pay from August.

- As the Commission had recommended a 23.55 percent overall hike in salaries, allowances and pension involving an additional burden of Rs 1.02 lakh crore, or nearly 0.7 percent of GDP.
- The entry-level pay has been recommended to be raised to Rs 18,000 per month, from the current Rs 7,000, while the maximum pay, drawn by the Cabinet Secretary, has been fixed at Rs 2.5 lakh per month from the current Rs 90,000.

### **Karnataka opens dedicated start-up cell**

The Government of Karnataka has set-up a dedicated start-up cell for speeding up the implementation of the initiatives under its start-up policy.

- This is the first time in India that a government has come up with a dedicated Start-up Cell guided by the Start-up Policy, which envisages the growth of 20,000 new start-ups, including 6,000 product start-ups, by 2020 in Karnataka.

### **Kerala Government launches first ever Water Metro project in the country**

Kerala Government has launched Kochi Water Metro project, the first ever Water Metro project of the country. It was launched by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at Kochi, Kerala.

- The project aims to provide water connectivity to people living between islands in the Kochi agglomeration area and the city.
- It will be built at an estimated cost of rs. 747 crore.
- The project will be implemented by the Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) and funded by German Development Bank.

### **First green rail corridor opens in Tamil Nadu**

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has inaugurated 114-km long Rameswaram-Mana Madurai route as the country's first green rail corridor with zero toilet discharge section.

- Accordingly, 10 passenger trains consisting of 286 coaches moving in the section have been provided with bio-toilets enabling the rail corridor free from the discharge of human waste on the track.
- Stepping up the Swachh Bharat drive launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Railways have taken up a mammoth task of providing human waste discharge free bio-toilets in all its coaches and the same would be completed by September 2019.

### **Kerala Government constitutes State Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation**

The Kerala State Government has constituted a State Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (STAGI) on the lines of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

- The Group will advise the State government on the policies and practices to be adopted and implemented under the National Immunisation Programme.
- The group will provide technical and academic inputs and leadership in the State's immunization efforts. It will have the Director of Health Service as the chairman and the Director of Medical Education as co-chairman. Apart from the chairman and the co-chairman, it will have eleven members.

### **A 3-day meeting between BSF & Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) begins in Agartala**

A three-day meeting between Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has begun in Agartala to sort out problems along the border.

- The meeting is a 21-member BGB delegation, led by Brig Gen Mohammad Habibul Karim, arrived in Agartala.
- The 'Border Coordination meeting' was a routine affair to identify problems and sort them out. IG, BSF, Tripura Frontier, JB Sangwan is leading the 21-member BSF delegation at the meeting.

### **Motorcycle rally 'Ride for Accessibility' flagged off in Delhi**

A motorcycle rally named Ride for Accessibility was organized in the national capital with a message to empower differently abled persons, Divyangs.

- The rally which saw 500 young men and women motorcycle riders was flagged off at India Gate by Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar, Science and Technology Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot.
- Accessible India Campaign also known as Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan is aimed at creating universal accessibility in built environment, public transportation and Information and Communication Technology eco-system for Divyangs.

### **Modi lays foundation stone AIIMS and revival of a fertilizer plant in Gorakhpur**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and revival of fertilizer factory which was closed for the last three decades in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

- Recently only, the Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of AIIMS under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,011 crore.

### **Sunil Munjal steps down as Hero MotoCorp Joint MD**

The Hero Group said that Sunil Kant Munjal, joint managing director of Hero MotoCorp and Chairman Hero Corporate Services will step down from the Board of Directors of the two-wheeler maker to focus on his independent core business and to pursue new business interests.

- Sunil Kant Munjal is the youngest son of Brijmohan Lall Munjal.
- During his lifetime itself the succession plan of Hero MotoCorp was decided with the elevation of Pawan Munjal as the Chairman of the company.

### **Lok Sabha passes Lokpal and Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2016**

The Lok Sabha passed the Lokpal and Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2016. The bill with amendments was passed without any discussion.

- The bill seeks to amend the existing Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 that provides Lokpal (at Centre) and Lokayukta (at States) statutory backing to inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.

### **Union Cabinet approves setting up of AIIMS in Bhatinda**

The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a All India Institute Of Medical Science (AIIMS) at Bhatinda in Punjab under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

- It will provide super specialty health care to the population while creating a large pool of doctors and other health workers in this region that can be available for primary and secondary level institutions/facilities being created under National Health Mission (NHM).
- The cost of the project for establishment of the AIIMS in Bhatinda shall be 925 crore rupees. This cost estimate does not include recurring costs (wages & salaries and operation & maintenance expenses).

### **BJP MP Chhedi Paswan's Lok Sabha membership cancelled by Patna HC**

The Patna High Court cancelled the Lok Sabha membership of BJP MP from Sasaram Chhedi Paswan over concealing information in his election affidavit.

- A petition was filed against Paswan in the Patna High Court alleging that he concealed information in his election affidavit ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

### **T Nanda Kumar resigns as Chairman of National Dairy Development Board**

T Nanda Kumar resigned from the post of Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Kumar had submitted his resignation.

- Kumar's resignation was accepted by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet on 27 July 2016.
- Kumar, who had a five-year term ending in 2019, will be relieved on 1 August 2016.
- T Nanda Kumar is a retired 1972-batch IAS officer from the Bihar cadre.

### **Rajya Sabha passes Compensatory and Afforestation Fund Bill, 2016**

The Rajya Sabha unanimously passed the Compensatory and Afforestation Fund (CAF) Bill, 2016 that allows States to access nearly 42000 crore rupees and channel into afforestation projects.

- The Bill was already passed by Lok Sabha on 3 May 2016.
- The Bill establishes the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India, and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state.
- These Funds will receive payments for: (a) compensatory afforestation, (b) net present value of forest (NPV), and (c) other project specific payments.



### **Union Government forms 'Disha' for timely implementation of Central Schemes**

Union Government announced the formation of District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DDCMC) that will be known as 'Disha'. First meeting of Disha will be held on 13 August 2016.

- Disha was created for effective development and coordination of Central Government's programme, whether it is for infrastructure development or Social and human resource development.
- It will monitor the implementation of 28 schemes and programmes of Ministry of Rural Development and other Ministries.

### **CM Chandrababu Naidu launches 'Mission Harita Andhra Pradesh'**

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched 'Mission Harita Andhra Pradesh', by planting saplings at Sunkollu village under Nuzividu mandal in Krishna district.

- Interestingly, Harita Andhra Pradesh was a pet project of late chief minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy but Chandrababu has now made it a 'mission' with a new slogan Vanam-Manam (forest and we).
- The objective of the mission is to increase the green cover in the state to 50 per cent by the year 2029.

### **West Bengal govt. sets target to construct toilets across all villages of the state by March 2019**

The West Bengal government has set a target to construct toilets across all villages of the state by March 2019 to enable open defecation free (ODF) rural Bengal.

- Mr. Dibyendu Sarkar, Commissioner in the State's Panchayat and Rural Development Department, has stated that, by March 2019, his department plans to have toilets across all rural homes in the state.
- According to him, Hooghly, East Midnapore and North 24 Parganas districts will be ODF by September this year, while the districts of Burdwan and South 24 Paraganas are working fast and hope to achieve ODF by March 2017.
- As in 2015, Nadia district became the first to achieve ODF status in the country.

### **BHEL commissions 250 MW power plant in Gujarat**

State-run BHEL has commissioned another 250 MW unit based on eco-friendly Circulating Fluidised Bed Combustion (CFBC) technology, using low-quality coal (lignite) as the primary fuel.

- The unit has been commissioned at Bhavnagar Energy Company (BECL) 2x250 MW thermal power project, located at Padva village in Bhavnagar district, Gujarat.
- The second unit of this project is also at an advanced stage of completion. This is the third 250 MW unit based on CFBC technology, commissioned by BHEL, with two others commissioned earlier in Tamil Nadu.

### **Madhya Pradesh becomes first state to approve setting up of Happiness Department**

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on 15 July 2016 gave its nod to set up Happiness Department in the state. The department will work as knowledge resource centre on the subject of happiness.

- With this approval, Madhya Pradesh became the first state of the country to set up such a Department.
- Apart from the department, the cabinet also decided to establish a state Happiness Institute under the Happiness Department. Initially it will have a budget of 3 crore 60 lakh rupees.

### **TRI-NETRA - Terrain imaging for diesel dRivers Infra-red, Enhanced Optical & Radar Assisted system**

Ministry of Railways, Railway Board has initiated a proposal to install TRI-NETRA systems on locomotives for enhancing the vision of Locomotive Pilots in inclement weather. TRI-NETRA stands for - Terrain imaging for diesel dRivers INfra-red, Enhanced opTical & Radar Assisted system.

- TRI-NETRA system shall be made up of high-resolution optical video camera, high sensitivity infra-red video camera and additionally a radar-based terrain mapping system.
- These three components of the system shall act as three eyes (Tri-Netra) of the Locomotive Pilot.

### **74 schemes of 17 Ministries & Departments brought under DBT**

The GOI has been brought 74 schemes of 17 Ministries and Departments under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

- Addressing the members of Consultative Committee of his Ministry in New Delhi, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that DBT is a very important scheme as it transfers the benefit to the targeted beneficiaries.

### **Indian Naval Ships visit Port Kelang, Malaysia**

Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch have arrived at Port Kelang on a four day visit, as part of deployment of the Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea and Western Pacific.

- The INS Sahyadri is commanded by Captain K S Rajkumar, INS Shakti is commanded by Captain Gagan Kaushal and INS Kirch is commanded by Commander Sharad Sinsunwal.
- There, Indian Naval Ships will have professional interaction with the Royal Malaysian Navy for further enhancing co-operation between the two forces.
- In addition, sporting and cultural interactions and sharing of best practices, aimed at strengthening ties and mutual understanding between the two Navies, are also planned.

### **Maharashtra CM launches virtual, digital classrooms across 32 ITIs in state**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has launched the facility of virtual and digital classrooms across 32 ITIs in the state on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day.

- According to him, the facility of virtual classrooms will bridge the urban-rural divide and open the doors of knowledge. Mr. Fadnavis asked students to master their passion, and assures that jobs will come in plenty due to the power of skill development.

### **'Ramayana month' begins in Kerala**

Kerala on 16 July 2016 started observing Ramayana month in the temples. In Malayalam it is termed as the Ramayana Masam. The Ramayana Month starts with the commencement of Malayalam month 'Karkidakam'.

- During this month the temples and homes of the state recites Adhyatma Ramayanam Kilippattu written by medieval devotional poet Thunjath Ezhuthachan for the 30 days. Ezhuthachan is regarded as the father of Malayalam literature.
- Karkkidakam (July - August) is the last month of Malayalam calendar and is considered as month of rain and scarcity (Panjamaasom). As per belief, the month brings good luck and prosperity to the families as well as spiritual strength to go through different difficulties that comes during monsoon.
- Karkkidakam month comes ahead of Chingam that brings colourful festival of Onam for the Malayalis.

### **Union Commerce Ministry launches e-marketplace portal for goods procurement**

The Union Commerce Ministry has launched an e-marketplace portal for online purchase of goods and services by various central government ministries and departments.

It was launched by the Union Minister of State (MoS) Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.

### **Three Indian sites make it to UNESCO's World Heritage List**

UNESCO listed Chandigarh's Capitol Complex and Sikkim's national park home to the world's third highest peak Mount Khangchendzonga among its World Heritage Sites, approving all three nominations linked to India this session.

- Approval comes two days after the ruins of Nalanda University in Bihar made to the elite tag at the 40th session of The World Heritage Committee meeting in Istanbul. UNESCO added total 21 sites in this session.
- With this, India now has 35 sites in the prestigious UNESCO list.

### **India's first e-court opened in Hyderabad**

India's first e-court has opened at High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad. It is the common high court for the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

- Inaugurating the e-court, Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B Lokur stated that Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were first two states in the country to be chosen for Integrated Criminal Justice System project.
- Justice Lokur, who heads the e-Committee of the Supreme Court, said modalities of the system will be worked out at a meeting scheduled on July 28.

### **Government launches Transforming India portal**

Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched a website 'Transforming India'.

- The Transforming India portal will provide information in a user-friendly format enabling citizens to view the content in the form of Infographics, e-books, performance dashboard, videos, daily news corner, and so on.
- Viewers can engage with the content by comments and share it through social media.

### **Govt releases Rs 100 Cr towards co-contribution in APY**

The Government has released Rs 100 crore towards its co-contribution for Atal Pension Yojana (APY) for 2015-16. APY provides minimum guaranteed pension ranging between Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month for the subscriber from the age of 60 years.

- The same amount of pension is paid to the spouse in the case of the subscriber's demise.
- Under the scheme, individuals who have registered before March 31, 2016, will get a co-contribution from the government, which will be 50 per cent of the subscriber contribution up to a maximum of Rs 1,000. The co-contribution will be for 5 years from 2015-16 to 2019-20.
- The total number of subscribers registered under APY as on June 30, 2016, has crossed 30 lakh and every day, nearly 5,000 new subscribers are added.
- Only those users who are not income tax payers and not part of any other social security schemes are eligible for the central government co-contribution.

### **Sidhu resigns from Rajya Sabha**

BJP leader and nominated Rajya Sabha member Navjot Singh Sidhu resigned from the House, fuelling rumours that he may join the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

- According to sources, Mr. Sidhu and his wife Mrs Kaur are all set to join the AAP.
- Rumours are afloat that Mr. Sidhu could be named as the AAP's chief ministerial candidate for the for the Punjab Assembly elections next year.

### **Parliament passes Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016**

On the first day of the Monsoon session, Parliament has passed the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016.

- The bill seeks to establish a Regional Centre for Biotechnology, an institution of education, training and research, under the auspices of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the National Capital Region. It also confers upon it the status of an institution of national importance.
- The Regional Centre is to disseminate knowledge by providing teaching and research facilities in biotechnology and related fields.
- Besides, it will help create a hub of biotechnology expertise and promote co-operation at the international level.

### **Odisha government to celebrate bicentenary of 1817 Paika revolt**

Odisha Government on 19 July 2016 decided to celebrate the bicentenary (200 years) of the 1817 Paika revolt against the British Empire in 2016.

- For the purpose, the state will organise a series of events in Odisha and at national level.

- The decision was taken at a high level meeting held under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Ashok Chandra Panda.

### **NITI Aayog, Intel India sign Sol to start Atal Tinkering Lab Initiative for Young Innovators**

The NITI Aayog on 19 July 2016 signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with Intel India to start the Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) initiative as a part of its flagship programme Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

- The aim of setting up Atal Tinkering Laboratories is to build relevant skill sets among youngsters and to provide access to technology that will enable solutions.
- These laboratories intend to impact 250000 youth with innovation skills & skills for the future across 500 communities & schools.

### **Cabinet approves construction of a New Dry Dock of Cochin Shipyard Limited**

The Cabinet Committee has given its approval for construction of a new dry dock within the existing premises of Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) at an estimated cost of Rs.1799 crore to augment the shipbuilding / repair capacity of the country.

- The objective is to augment the shipbuilding/ ship repair capacity essentially required to tap the market potential of building specialized and technologically advanced large vessels such as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) vessels, Indigenous Aircraft Carriers of higher capacity, Jack up Rigs, Drill ships, large Dredgers and repairing of offshore platforms and larger vessels.
- This big sized dry dock is a critical requirement of CSL to promote ship building and is a step in the direction of "Make in India" initiative of the Government.

### **Railway passengers to get Rs 10 lakh insurance for less than Rs 10 from September**

Indian railway is likely to start voluntary passenger insurance scheme from September by charging a minimal premium of less than Rs 10 per ticket from travelers for an insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh in case of death or permanent disability caused in train accident.

- IRCTC, a public sector undertaking, has shortlisted 17 insurance companies and of these three will be selected to provide insurance cover to passengers in case of any untoward incident.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has announced plans to launch passenger insurance scheme in Rail Budget this year.
- As of now, the scheme will be launched on pilot basis for passengers booking online ticket and it may be extended to passenger buying tickets from counters and monthly season ticket travelers in days to come.

### **Cabinet approves establishment of AIIMS at Gorakhpur**

The cabinet approved the establishment of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), said an official statement.

- According to the cabinet, the cost of the project will be Rs 1,011 crore.
- The institution will have a hospital with capacity of 750 beds which will include Emergency/Trauma Beds, AYUSH Beds, Private Beds and ICU Speciality and Super Speciality beds.

### **Union Cabinet approves Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016**

The Union Cabinet approved The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016 to protect transgenders from discrimination.

- Through this Bill, the Government aims to evolve a mechanism for social, economic and educational empowerment of the transgenders.
- The Bill will benefit a large number of transgender persons, mitigate the stigma, discrimination and abuse against this marginalized section and bring them into the mainstream of society.

- It will lead to greater inclusiveness and will make the transgender persons productive members of the society.

### **ECI launched National Electoral Roll Purification 2016**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that launch of National Electoral Roll Purification (NERP) 2016 programme across the country.

- The programme was launched to improve health of Electoral Rolls (ERs) and to optimize the Polling Station (PS) location and area across the country.
- The motto of ECI for the year 2016 is No voter to be left behind.

### **Union Cabinet approves incorporation of Sagarmala Development Company**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the incorporation of Sagarmala Development Company (SDC) under the Companies Act, 2013. It will be under the administrative control of the Ministry of Shipping.

- SDC will be developed with an initial Authorized Share Capital of 1000 Crore rupees and a Subscribed Share Capital of 90 Crore rupees.
- It will provide equity support to the project Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and funding support to the residual projects under the Sagarmala Programme.
- Implementation of the identified projects will be done mainly through private or PPP mode. It will provide equity support for the project Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) set up by the Ports/State/Central Ministries window.

### **2nd Anti-Drug Working Group meeting of Heads of Drug Control Agencies of BRICS countries concludes**

The Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs organized the 2nd anti-drug Working Group meeting of Heads of Drug Control Agencies of BRICS countries.

- The meeting was inaugurated by the Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh earlier in the day. The meeting assumes significance as India shall be hosting the eighth BRICS summit in October, 2016 in Goa. The seventh BRICS summit was held in July 2015 in Russia.

### **Govt rolls out KVK portal for monitoring of farm centre**

Agriculture Minister has launched an online portal designed to monitor the functioning of nearly 645 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), known as farm-science centres, spread across the country.

- The KVK portal will provide information related to all schemes, market development, and weather updates, besides advisory to farmers. This portal will also facilitate online monitoring of KVKs.

### **Govt to clean 10 iconic places under Swachh Bharat Mission**

As per Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, the government will carry out a drive to clean ten iconic places in the country as part of a pilot project under the Swachh Bharat mission, Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

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

### **Kerala Government imposes 14.5% fat tax on junk food**

The Kerala government has announced to impose 14.5 % tax on junk food on the lines of 'Fat Tax' imposed on such food items.

- This will make food items like burgers, pizzas, pasta costlier.
- The need for the so-called 'fat tax' is explained by the fact the state currently has the second-highest obesity rate for children in India.

### **West Bengal to set up three biotechnology hubs**

The West Bengal Government has taken up a project to set up three biotechnology hubs across the state to bring in more biotechnology innovations to the State

- The three proposed biotechnology hubs will come in Bardhaman, Kalimpong and Medinipur districts.
- They will help in the coordination of various departments with the Biotechnology Department in a better way.

### **Ministry of Health launches Nationwide Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF)"**

Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri J P Nadda, launched nationwide Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF)"to be observed from July 11-23

- Under this initiative, the government aims at covering over 80 % of children affected by diarrhoea across the country.

### **Najma Heptullah quits, Naqvi gets a promotion**

Minister for Minority Affairs Najma Heptullah and G M Siddheswara, Davangere MP and MoS for heavy industries tendered their resignation. Both resignations have been accepted by President Pranab Mukherjee.

- Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has now being given independent charge of Minister for Minority Affairs.
- Minister of state for Urban Development, Babul Supriyo has been assigned the Ministry of Heavy Industries, after being divested of his former charge.

### **INS Karna commissioned by Navy chief**

Indian Navy has commissioned INS Karna, an independent base of Marine Commandos (MARCOS) at Bheemunipatanam Naval Base, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- It was commissioned by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba at the commissioning ceremony held at Bheemunipatanam Naval Base.

### **Kerala launches 'world's first' digital student incubator**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has launched SV.CO, purportedly world's first digital student incubator, as a digital makeover of the Startup Village in Kochi.

Startup Village is India's first PPP model technology incubator and has supported more than 500 start-ups and helped create 3,000 jobs during its first phase 2012-15.

### **Cabinet allocates Rs 12,000 crore to impart skill training to 1 crore people over next 4 years**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) with an outlay of Rs.12000 crore to impart skilling to one crore people over the next 4 years (2016-2020).

- The PMKVY will impart fresh training to 60 lakh youths and certify skills of 40 lakh persons acquired non-formally under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

### **Cabinet approves revival of defunct Fertilizer Units in Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the revival of defunct Fertilizer Units in Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni.

- These include two closed urea units of Fertilizer Corporation India Limited (FCIL) at Sindri (Jharkhand) and Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Barauni (Bihar) unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL).

### **Cabinet approves Official amendment to the Bill for change of name to "Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University"**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has also given its ex-post facto approval for the Official amendment to the Rajendra Central Agricultural University Bill, 2015 for change of name from "Rajendra Central Agricultural University" to "Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University".

- Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, situated in Pusa is to fulfill the desired goal and achieve excellence in teaching and produce the much-needed manpower educated in agriculture and allied sciences.
- This would help in getting over the shortage of technical manpower and infrastructural facilities and would contribute to the development of agriculture, including animal husbandry, horticulture, and fisheries in the region.

### **Supreme Court ordered restoration of Nabam Tuki government in Arunachal Pradesh**

The five-judge Constitutional bench of the Supreme Court (SC) unanimously restored Congress Government led by Nabam Tuki in Arunachal Pradesh. Bench directed the immediate imposition of status quo ante as on December 15, 2015.

- Supreme Court said that without consulting the government, the session to be called by the governor is unconstitutional.

### **India successfully test fires ballistic missile 'Barak-8' off Odisha coast**

Ballistic missile Barak-8 was successfully tested from Balasore district of Odisha. The missile was launched from test fired from launch pad no-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.

- The Barak-8 is India's new surface to air missile which is developed jointly with the Israel.
- The system also includes a multi-functional surveillance and threat alert radar (MF STAR) for tracking, detection and guidance of the missile.

### **Govt approves MoU with Tanzania for bilateral cooperation in water resources management**

The Government approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Tanzania for bilateral cooperation in water resources management and development.

- The agreement was approved by the Union cabinet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **India's first integrated defence communication network launched**

India's first integrated defence communication network was launched, enabling the army, air force, navy and the Special Forces Command to share situational awareness for a faster decision-making process.

- The Defence Communication Network (DCN), a strategic, highly secure and scalable system, has a pan-India reach from Ladakh to the North East to island territories.

### **Indigenous Tejas aircraft inducted into IAF**

The first squadron of home-grown Light Combat Aircraft Tejas was inducted into IAF with two fighter planes joining the force in Bengaluru.

- IAF, plans to induct six aircraft this financial year and about eight in the next.
- The commissioning of the India-made fighter planes comes more than three decades after LCA went into development. The squadron will be based in Bengaluru for the first two years before it is moved to Sullur in Tamil Nadu.

### **The Union HRD Minister launches Prashikshak- a teacher education portal**

H'onble Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani dedicated Prashikshak - a teacher education portal, to the nation in New Delhi.

- Prashikshak is launched with a vision to strengthen District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and bring quality teachers into the Indian school education system.
- She highlighted the fact that though the Prashikshak has started only for DIETs, it will cover Block level institutes in the future and identify gaps at the bottom of the pyramid.
- It will help benchmark DIETs to enable aspiring teachers to make informed choices about their future.

### **Suresh Prabhu launches NIVARAN portal**

Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Minister of Railways has launched "NIVARAN portal", an online system for redressal of service related grievance of serving and former railway employees.

- It has been developed by CRIS (Centre for Railway information systems), an IT arm of Indian Railways.
- Nivaran portal is an online system that seeks to facilitate the employees to lodge their grievances and also monitor the progress.

### **Maharashtra target of planting 2 crore trees in state crossed**

Maharashtra government started an initiative for plantation of about 2 crores trees.

- State Forest Department will plant 1.50 crore under the scheme and 5 million trees will be planted in 36 districts.
- The Forest Minister said that the state plans to plant over 31,166,057 plants, for which 3 crore 5 lac 50 thousand 604 pits have been dugged too.

### **Radha Mohan Singh launches a web-based App CMRS**

The Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh has launched Crop Manager for Rice-based Systems (CMRS) a web-based App for better crop and Nutrient management released for Bihar farmers in a program organised at ICAR-RCER in Patna.

- Crop Manager for Rice-based Systems (CMRS) is a web-based App which can be used with computer, mobile and tablet and aims to increase farmer's net income and sustain the productivity for rice-based cropping systems in Bihar, India.
- CMRS provides irrigated and rainfed farmers with rice-based cropping systems in Bihar with a crop and nutrient management guideline customized to the needs of an individual farmer.

### **Rapid Rural Police Response System launched in Punjab**

A Rapid Rural Police Response System was launched across Punjab to ensure prompt and effective police response in the state's over 12,000 villages.

- Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal, who launched the scheme, also flagged off 400 new motorcycles and 220 new Bolero jeeps under the new system.
- under the system, police will respond to any crime or law and order situation within 20 minutes of it being reported.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address 'Mann Ki Baat' to be broadcast in Bangladesh**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' will now also be telecast to Bangladesh.

- Mann Ki Baat will be broadcast in Bangladesh on All India Radio's upcoming Bangla language service channel Akashvani Maitree, for which AIR has made arrangements to receive comments and voice messages from Bangladeshi citizens.

### **INS Tarasa, Follow-on Water Jet Fast Attack Craft, launched by Indian Navy**

Indian Navy on 30 June 2016 launched the fourth in the series of Follow-on Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (FO-WJFAC) called INS Tarasa. It was launched at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata.

- The name of the ship, like the previously launched FO-WJFACs, is based on the picturesque island in the Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal.
- These are powered by the latest MTU engines.
- Along with an advanced machinery control system and water jets it can attain a maximum speed of up to 35 Knots.

### **Kerala government decided to ban 'electronic cigarettes'**

Kerala government has banned 'electronic cigarette'. It was banned in view of studies claiming that its use can cause various health issues, including cancer and heart ailments.



- In this regard, the health ministry directed the additional chief secretary (health) to issue an order banning the production, sale and advertisement of 'electronic cigarette' alias 'e-cigarette'.
- With this, Kerala became the fourth Indian state to ban e-cigarettes. The other three states are Punjab (1st state to do so), Maharashtra and Karnataka.

### **1st meeting of BRICS Working Group on Energy Saving begins in Visakhapatnam**

The first meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency began in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- The two day conference will be attended by all 5 member BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries.
- India being BRICS chair for 2016 has organised this event in order to shape and steer the BRICS agenda. The Union Power Ministry is hosting the meeting of the Working Group.

### **Second BRICS Youth Summit concludes in Guwahati**

The second BRICS Youth Summit was held in Guwahati, Assam from 1st July 2016 to 3rd July 2016.

- The theme of the summit was "Youth as bridge for intra-BRICS exchanges".
- The summit was inaugurated by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in presence of Union Sports Minister Jitendra Singh.

### **New industrial township to develop in Haryana**

Haryana would develop a new industrial township with Chinese help at a cost of USD 5 billion dollar spread over 1,500 acres of land in Sohna and Manesar in Gurgaon district.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed between Haryana Government and China Fortune Land Development (CFLD) Company.
- Under the agreement, HSIIDC and CFLD Company would execute the project as a Joint Venture.

### **India's first Commercial Court and Commercial Disputes Resolution Centre inaugurated in Chattisgarh**

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh has inaugurated country's first commercial dispute resolution centre and a commercial court in the state capital.

- The commercial court is located in Naya Raipur area of the city.
- The court also consists of arbitration centre and a meditation centre.

### **President inaugurates smart village pilot project at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

President Pranab Mukherjee has inaugurated a smart model village pilot project at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

- Initially, this initiative will be implemented in five selected villages in Haryana than later on will be spread to the entire country.
- The five villages which will be developed into the smart villages under this pilot project are Dhaula, Alipur, Harichandpur and Taj Nagar from Gurgaon district and Rojka Meo from Mewat district of Haryana.

### **PM attends martyrdom anniversary of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attended a commemorative event to mark the 300th Martyrdom Anniversary of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur in New Delhi.

- On the occasion, Prime Minister Modi has released a book and souvenir on the life of Banda Bahadur.

### **World's largest charkha unveiled at Delhi airport**

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Minister Kalraj Mishra has unveiled the world's largest Charkha at Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, IGI in New Delhi.

- The four tones Charkha made from high-quality Burma teak wood is estimated to last for over 50 years.

### **President of India inaugurates swami Vivekanand Sabhagar at Kathak Kendra of Sangeet Natak Akademi**

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has inaugurated Swami Vivekanand Sabhagar at Kathak Kendra of Sangeet Natak Akademi in New Delhi.

- The President said that Swami Vivekananda, whose name adorns this beautiful auditorium was not only a good singer but was also an accomplished pakhawaj player.

### **Rajasthan becomes first state to introduce minimum wages for part-time workers**

Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to introduce minimum wages for part-time workers. Labour Department has issued a notification in this regard.

- As per the notification, it is now mandatory to pay 50 per cent of the prescribed a day minimum wage to a person who works for less than four hours in a day.
- With this notification, part-time workers now come under the Minimum Wages Act 1948.
- In another decision, the government has increased minimum wages in all categories of scheduled employments by Rs 104 per month.

### **New 19 Ministers inducted and 1 elevated to the Cabinet rank into PM Modi's Cabinet**

In a much-awaited council of minister's expansion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expanded his Cabinet by inducting 19 new ministers in the government. Minister of State with independent charge Prakash Javdekar was elevated to the rank of Cabinet Minister.

- The Ministers of State are Faggan Singh Kulste, S.S. Ahluwalia, Ramesh Jigjini, Vijay Goel, Ramdas Athawale, Rajen Gohain, Anil Madhav Dave, Parshottam Rupala, M.J. Akbar, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Jaswant Singh Bhabhor, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Ajay Tamta, Smt. Krishna Raj, Mansukh Mandaviya, Smt. Anupriya Patel, C.R. Chaudhary, P.P. Chaudhary, and Dr. Subhash Bhamre.

### **Centre to allot Rs 400 Crore for developing airports in UP**

The Centre government has released an official statement that it will provide an assistance of 400 crore rupees for developing airports at Agra, Allahabad, Kanpur and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh.

- To develop an airport at Kushinagar the state government has already provided 200 crore rupees which will be complete within a year.
- The Centre has also set up a committee comprising two officials each from union civil aviation ministry and state government of UP. This committee will prepare a feasibility report to develop airports in Meerut, Faizabad and Moradabad as well.

### **Jawaharlal Nehru Port becomes India's first port to implement Logistics Data Tagging of Containers**

Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become the first port in India to implement logistics data tagging of containers.

- The logistics data bank tagging of containers is a first of its kind facility which will help importers and exporters track their goods in transit.
- A RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Tag) tag would be attached to each container which would be tracked through RFID readers installed at different locations.
- It will integrate the information available with various agencies across the supply chain to provide detailed real-time information within a single window.

### **Mission Indradhanush to next cover 13 MP districts**

The third phase of 'Mission Indradhanush' will cover Alirajpur, Jhabua, Ashok Nagar, Raisen, Vidisha, Sagar, Damoh, Tikamgarh, Chhattarpur, Panna, Umaria, Satna and Rewa districts,"

- V Kiran Gopal Rao, Mission Director, National Health Mission for Madhya Pradesh said.

### **Centre nod for renaming of Mhow railway station after B R Ambedkar**

The central government has given its nod for renaming Mhow railway station in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh after BR Ambedkar as the Dalit icon was born there.

- In this regards, the Union Home Ministry has requested the Madhya Pradesh government to issue a Gazette notification with spelling the name accordingly.
- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot had already written to Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu last year and in January this year, demanding that the name of Mhow railway station be changed to BR Ambedkar railway station. Although, the Mhow was already renamed as Dr. Ambedkar Nagar in the year 2003.

### **231 Namami Gange projects have been launched**

Giving a major boost to Namami Gange Programme, Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti has inaugurated 231 projects at various locations across seven states including Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Haryana and Delhi.

- These projects will involve modernization and redevelopment of Ghats and crematoriums, development of sewage infrastructure and treatment, afforestation, tree plantation, pilot drain project, interceptor drain project, trash skimmers and conservation of biodiversity.

### **Interest subvention scheme for crop loans cleared**

The Union Cabinet approved the Interest Subvention Scheme for farmers for 2016-17, earmarking a sum of ₹18,276 crore for this purpose.

- The interest subvention will be offered through banks and Nabard for the benefit of farmers taking short-term crop loans up to ₹3 lakh, payable within one year at only 4 per cent per annum.
- Under this scheme, the Centre will provide interest subvention of 5 per cent a year to all farmers for short-term crop loan up to one year for loans up to ₹3 lakh during 2016-17.
- In case farmers do not repay the short-term crop loan in time, they would be eligible for interest subvention of 2 per cent.

## **Trade & Economy**

### **Union Cabinet increases limit for foreign investment in Stock Exchanges from 5% to 15%**

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for raising foreign shareholding limit from current 5% to 15% in Indian Stock Exchanges.

- The decision brings the investment limit of foreign entities at par with that of domestic institutions. This enhanced limit is for a stock exchange, depository, banking company, insurance company and commodity derivative exchange.
- Additionally, the Union Cabinet also gave its approval for foreign portfolio investors to acquire shares through initial allotment, besides secondary market, in the stock exchanges.

### **SBI Launches Debit Card-Less Instant Money Transfer Facility**

The India's largest public sector bank, State Bank of India has launched a payment system at its ATMs which will allow the account holders to transfer the money by using the mobile phone number as an identifier.

- This payment facility system works on instant money transfer (IMT) platform which will enable a payment of up to Rs 10,000 from any SBI bank account and the recipient of this payment can withdraw funds instantly from an IMT-enabled ATM without using a debit card.
- The IMT is a unique payment system launched by Eempays Payment Systems Pvt Ltd.

### **Vodafone M-Pesa ties up with Punjab power utility**

Vodafone M-Pesa, a mobile phone-based money transfer service, has tied up with Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) to enable consumers pay their electricity bills instantly.

- Vodafone M-Pesa offers customers a cashless, secure platform for electricity bill payments to enable digitization of money for cash holding population.
- M-Pesa is a mobile phone-based money transfer, financing and microfinancing service, launched in 2007 by Vodafone.

### **Flipkart's unit Myntra acquired Jabong**

Flipkart's unit Myntra, has acquired Jabong from Global Fashion Group to become India's biggest fashion shopping destination.

- This acquisition will strengthen Flipkart Group's position in Fashion and Lifestyle segment to compete with Amazon Fashion in India.
- Jabong has been in the market for a sell-off and had held talks with companies such as Future Group, Snapdeal, Aditya Birla -owned Abof among others.

### **Karnataka Bank's solar initiative for rural students**

Karnataka Bank Ltd has initiated a programme to provide solar lights in the non-electrified houses of students in rural areas.

- The initiative has been launched in association with the Manipal-based non-governmental organization Bharatiya Vikas Trust (BVT) under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme.
- The initiative has been termed as a 'solar light scholarship' for rural students as those students lacking electricity connection at their house have been given this facility.

### **HDFC ERGO enters into bancassurance tie-up with SVC Bank**

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company and Shamrao Vithal Co-operative (SVC) Bank have announced their bancassurance agency partnership to provide a range of non-life insurance offerings to the customers of the bank.

- The partnership combines HDFC ERGO's experience in introducing innovative non-life insurance products with SVC Bank's customer base across various States.
- New Delhi-headquartered SVC Bank has 194 branches in 10 States. While HDFC ERGO has headquartered in Mumbai, India and operates in 89 Indian cities with over 109 branches.

### **NDMC signs MoU with NEERI to develop sewage treatment plants**

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to develop 12 sewage treatment plants (STP).

- This project will help increase the green cover in NDMC areas and curb dust pollution. NDMC will bear only pumping cost while the NEERI will bear the cost of the project.
- All these plants will be connected to all parks which will help the horticulture department to maintain the parks.

### **Corporation Bank launches 'Green PIN' facility**

Corporation Bank has launched a new facility called 'Green PIN'.

- This is an online module for generation of Personal Identification Number (PIN) for credit card holders. PIN is compulsory for all point-of-sale (POS) terminal transactions at a merchant establishment.
- SK Roy, Chairman of LIC of India, launched the facility.

### **RBI sets up Sudarshan Sen-headed Inter-regulatory Working Group on Fin Tech and Digital Banking**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted an inter regulatory Working Group (WG) to study the entire gamut of regulatory issues relating to Fin Tech (financial technology) and Digital Banking in India.

- The 13-member working group will be headed by Sudarshan Sen, the executive director of RBI. It has been asked to submit its report within six months from the date of its first meeting.

### **Justice Shah headed SIT on black money recommends ban on cash transactions above 3 lakh rupees**

The Supreme Court-constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) on black money on 14 July 2016 submitted its fifth report to the apex court. The SIT was headed by retired Justice M B Shah.

- It has recommended ban on cash transactions above 3 lakh rupees in a day. It recommended enacting a law to declare such transactions as illegal and punishable.
- It also suggested capping the cash holding of an industry or individual at 15 lakh rupees.

### **India, ADB sign 100 Million US dollar loan agreement for Cauvery Delta project in Tamil Nadu**

The Union Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 14 July 2016 signed a 100 million US dollars loan agreement to strengthen key irrigation and drainage system and improve water management in the Vennar sub-basin of the Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu.

- The financing will be used to strengthen embankments of six major irrigation water channels in the Vennar system and rehabilitate 13 irrigation pumping schemes.

### **RBI asks banks to exchange upto 20 soiled notes free of charge**

The Reserve Bank of India has asked banks to exchange up to 20 pieces of soiled currency notes with a maximum value of Rs. 5,000 over the counter free of charge in an effort to improve customer service. However, if the number of notes to be exchanged is more than 20, banks can levy service charge.

- As per RBI, the facility of exchanging mutilated or imperfect notes is available at designated bank branches and also non-branch branches.
- In case notes are presented in bulk (where the number exceeds 20 pieces or 5,000 in value per day), banks will accept them, against receipt, for value to be credited later.

### **Tata Advanced Systems signs deal with Bell Helicopter**

Tata Advanced System (TASL) and Bell Helicopter, a Textron Company have signed an agreement to work together in support of India's aviation and defense modernization initiatives. The agreement was inked with an emphasis on 'Make in India'.

- Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, is the strategic Aerospace and Defence arm of the TATA Group.

### **Terrapin 3 Acquisition Corporation acquires Yatra Online for \$218 mn**

Yatra Online, Inc. and Terrapin 3 Acquisition Corporation entered into a definitive merger agreement. The transaction values Yatra at an enterprise value of 218 million dollars (1458 crore rupees).

- Founded in 2006, Yatra is one of the fastest growing consumer travel platforms and online travel agents in India with more than 4 million customers.

### **Sovereign Gold Bond scheme opened for subscription**

The fourth tranche of the Sovereign Gold Bonds scheme has opened for subscription.

- The bond can be purchased from the National Stock Exchange and Bombay Stock Exchange, besides all Bank branches, select Post Offices and the Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited.

- The government had fixed 3,119 rupees per gram as the issue price of the bond.. The minimum subscription has been reduced to 1 gram, although the maximum remains at 500 gram per person or institution. Earlier, the minimum denomination was 5 gram.

### **Coimbatore-based Air Carnival commences operations**

Low-cost airline with pink and white themed Air Carnival has launched its operations with its maiden flight from Coimbatore to Chennai. The airline, which is based in Coimbatore, will focus on short-haul services with ATR72-500 aircraft.

- The carrier charged Rs. 1 for the first flight. It plans to keep the tariff at Rs 999 for the first three months.
- The airline will have daily service for 10 sectors including 3 daily flights from Chennai to Coimbatore (up and down) and two daily flights from Chennai to Madurai (up and down).

### **Dabur and DRDO unit tie up for high altitude medicinal plants**

Dabur, a leading ayurvedic FMCG firm has tied up with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO's) unit Defense Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), Leh, to promote sustainable cultivation of high-altitude medicinal plants in Ladakh.

- As per this deal, both organizations will educate farmers and help enhance livelihood opportunities in the cold desert area.

### **IMF lowers India growth forecast to 7.4%**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) marginally pared India's growth estimate, saying it expects it to grow 7.4% in the current financial year (2016-17). IMF, in its latest update to the World Economic outlook, said the Indian economy will grow by 7.4% in 2017-18 as well. The IMF had earlier estimated India's economic growth at 7.5%.

- The Indian economy, Asia's third largest, grew 7.6% in 2015-16.
- India still remains the fastest growing major economy in the world as China's growth is expected to moderate. China's growth forecast for 2016 is up 0.1 percentage point, to 6.6%, and is unchanged for 2017 at 6.2%.
- Taking into account the better-than-expected economic activity so far in 2016 and the likely impact of Brexit, global growth forecasts for 2016 and 2017 were lowered by 0.1 percentage point relative to the April 2016 outlook to 3.2%

### **Iraq undercuts Saudi Arabia to grab top spot in India oil market**

Iraq overtook Saudi Arabia for the first time to become India's top oil supplier in the June quarter, helped by sales of discounted heavy crude that refiners have also been using to make bitumen to build roads in the world's No.3 oil consumer.

- Iraqi oil accounted for about a fifth of Indian imports in the second quarter, up from 16 percent a year ago.
- The Saudi market share in India over the period fell to about 18 percent from a fifth last year, marking the first time Iraq has overtaken Saudi Arabia in an entire quarter.

### **Govt allocates Rs 22,915 cr capital to 13 PSU banks for FY17**

The Narendra Modi government has allocated Rs 22,915 crore capital to meet the capitalization needs of 13 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in the current fiscal.

- The maximum capital infusion will be for State Bank of India (SBI) at Rs 7,575 crore and the least for Allahabad Bank at Rs 44 crore.
- The capital infusion exercise is based on an assessment of need as assessed from the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of credit growth for the last five years, and banks' own projections of credit growth.

### **CBDT signs 7 advance pricing agreements to cut tax litigation with Indian taxpayers**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed seven Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers in a moving design to reduce tax litigation.

- With this, the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT has reached 77. This includes 3 bilateral APAs and 74 unilateral APAs.
- The latest APAs signed with taxpayers pertain to various sectors like banking, information technology, and automotive.
- The international transactions covered in these agreements include software development Services, IT enabled Services, Engineering Design Services & Business Support Services. Some of the agreements also have a Rollback provision as well.
- The APA Scheme was introduced in the Income-tax Act in 2012 while the Rollback provisions were introduced in 2014.
- The scheme endeavours to provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing and setting the prices of international transactions in advance.

### **Herbalife associates with IOA as nutrition partner**

Herbalife International India, a global premier nutrition company, has entered into a two-year exclusive partnership with Indian Olympic Association to be the official nutrition sponsor of the Indian Olympic contingent to Rio De Janeiro.

- Herbalife International is an American multinational multi-level marketing corporation that develops, markets and sells nutrition supplements, weight management, sports nutrition and personal-care products.
- The company was founded by entrepreneur Mark Hughes in 1980, and it employs around 7,800 people worldwide.

### **Dabur acquires South African cosmetic firm Discaria Trading**

Homegrown FMCG major Dabur has stated that it has acquired South Africa-based Discaria Trading (PTY) Ltd for an undisclosed amount. The South Africa based firm is engaged in manufacturing and trading of cosmetics.

- Dabur International, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dabur has completely acquired (100% share) Discaria Trading in South Africa.
- Accordingly, Discaria has become a step down wholly-owned subsidiary company of Dabur India.
- This marks Dabur's entry in the high-potential South Africa market. The company currently has manufacturing in Nigeria and Egypt, which caters to the North and East African markets.

### **SBI, Brookfield collaborate on investments in stressed assets**

India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Brookfield Asset Management to collaborate on investments in stressed assets.

- SBI and Brookfield propose to form a joint venture (JV), whereby Brookfield will commit approximately Rs 7000 crore and SBI up to 5% of total investments into stressed assets.
- The proposed JV will independently evaluate and invest in various stressed assets, and will rely upon Brookfield's operational expertise to manage recapitalized businesses.

### **Tata is most valuable brand in India**

Tata remained India's most valuable brand in 2015-16 with a brand valuation of \$13.7 billion despite 11 per cent value erosion during the year due to troubles concerning its steel business in the U.K, according to Brand Finance India.

- The top 10 brands of 2015-16 include Tata, LIC (\$6.6 billion), Airtel (\$5.7 billion), SBI (\$5.7 billion), Infosys (\$4.7 billion), Reliance (\$3.5 billion), ONGC (\$3.4 billion), L&T (\$3.3 billion), Indian Oil (\$3.2 billion) and HCL (\$3.2 billion).
- Infosys brand value grew 110 per cent in two years due to leadership change.
- Brand Finance values the brands on basis of several factors.

### **SBI to help Railways promote ticketing activities**

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the country's largest public sector bank, State Bank of India (SBI), have signed an MoU to hammer out a detailed plan for promotion of rail ticketing activities, including Internet ticketing and the unreserved ticketing system, a release said.

- Under the MoU, the signatories "will jointly explore areas of cooperation and draw up a detailed plan for promotion of rail ticketing activities."
- IRCTC, a 'mini ratna' PSU of the Indian Railways which handles catering, tourism and Internet ticketing activities, and the SBI will also undertake development of the Unreserved Ticketing System and "such other services which can be jointly undertaken".

### **L&T Infotech bags contract for Project Insight**

L&T Infotech has bagged the Project Insight contract to help the Income Tax Department nab evaders.

- The IT firm will profile all taxpayers and flag high-risk individuals.
- The project, worth about Rs 1,000 crore, will use technology to allow the government to collate all information available with the I-T department and profile people using Permanent Account Number (PAN) details.

### **CCEA approves Ghatampur Thermal Power Project in Uttar Pradesh**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave its approval for installation of Ghatampur Thermal Power Project (GTPS) of 1980 MW capacity through a Joint Venture Company.

- The Joint Venture Company is named as Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited (NUPPL). The company is formed jointly by Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL).
- The project will be implemented at an estimated cost of 17237.8 crore rupees. The estimated cost includes Interest During Construction component of 3202.42 crore rupees.

### **Seven Indian companies in Fortune 500 list**

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

- Indian Oil Corp is ranked highest at 161st among Indian firms, while another state-run firm ONGC has moved out of the rankings for 2016. Private gems and jewellery Major Rajesh Exports has made its debut at 423rd position.
- Indian Oil is ranked 161st with revenue of USD 54.7 billion (down from 119th last year), while RIL is now at 215th (down from 158th).
- Bharat Petroleum slipped from 280th to 358th this year and Hindustan Petroleum is at 367th, down from 327th.
- While Tata Motors has taken the 226th position, up from 254th last year, SBI is ranked 232nd, up from 260th last year.
- The overall list was topped by Walmart with revenue of USD 482,130 million, followed by State Grid (revenue of USD 329,601 million) and China National Petroleum (USD 299,271 million) at the second and third place respectively.

### **Federal Bank ties up with Reliance Jio Money**

Federal Bank has signed an agreement with Reliance Jio Money for one-click payment service.

- Reliance Jio money is a wallet application that will be launched soon for mobile devices where Federal bank will enable a direct payment option for its customers.



- Through this service the bank's customers can complete a transaction without funding the wallet. Bank's customers will get a facility to directly pay from their account for the services offered through the wallet (without pre-loading their wallet).
- This arrangement will help customers retain cash in their account and use it only when a transaction is made unlike other instances where a wallet will require the user to maintain balance exclusively in the wallet.
- Once launched the bank's customers will be able to perform a variety of transactions across numerous merchants in just a click.

### **India's GDP growth to expand about 8% in next two years: S&P**

International credit rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) has struck a buoyant note, penciling in a 8% growth for India in the next two years.

- This is much higher than forecast of other international agencies. IMF has forecast 7.4% growth in the next two years.
- The rating agency has, however, put some condition before India can climb to this growth, including a good selection of Reserve Bank of India governor. Indian economy expanded 7.6% in FY16.
- Along with India, the rating agency also had a more positive view of the Asia-Pacific region. "China's growth should continue to ease throughout the rest of this year, but we have raised our GDP forecasts to 6.6% this year and 6.3% next year," it said.

### **Global e-commerce market is worth \$22 trillion: UNCTAD**

Globally, the electronic commerce, or ecommerce, market is worth around \$22.1 trillion, according to latest UNCTAD estimates.

- China is the world's largest business-to-consumer (B2C) ecommerce market, both in terms of sales and in number of online shoppers, followed by the US and Japan.
- India, the 10th largest market in terms of buyers, was ahead of Brazil and Russia in per capita ecommerce spend, the report said.

### **Over 5,600 wilful defaulters owe banks Rs. 58,792 crore: AIBEA**

The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has named 5,610 wilful defaulters, who collectively defrauded public sector and private sector banks in India of a staggering amount of Rs. 58,792 crore as on March 2016.

- As per the list released by the apex bank employees' association, the nationalised banks had the most 3,192 accounts as wilful defaulters with amount running up to Rs. 28,775 crore.
- Top defaulters of PSU banks and financial institutions included Winsome Diamonds and Jewellery Ltd with a default amount of over Rs. 2,266 crore, Forever Precious jewellery & Diamonds (Rs 1,001 crore), Kingfisher Airlines Ltd (Rs 1,201 crore), Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd (Rs 884 crore), Indian Technomac Co Ltd (Rs 625 crore), Rank Industries (Rs 566 crore), Raza Textiles (Rs 694.59 crore), Rei Agro Ltd (Rs 580 crore), S Kumars Nationwide Ltd (Rs 598 crore), Zenith Birla (India) Ltd (Rs 139 crore), Zoom Developers (Rs 1,710 crore), and Electrotherm India (Rs 385 crore).

### **Google acquires Paris-based startup Moodstocks**

Search Giant Google acquired Moodstocks, a startup based out of Paris that develops machine-learning based image recognition technology for smartphones.

- Moodstocks' on-device image recognition software for smartphones will be phased out as it joins Google.

### **SBI launches social media banking platform SBI Mingle**

The State Bank of India (SBI) launched SBI Mingle, a social media banking platform for Facebook and Twitter users.

- The platform was launched by SBI Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya, on the occasion of 61st State Bank Day that is observed on 1 July every year.

- It will allow SBI's customers to access various banking services via these social platforms.
- To avail services from this platform, customers will have to register for it through a simple one time registration process using either their social account number or their ATM/Debit Card details.

### **ICICI SECURITIES tops IPO Ratings**

ICICI Securities has topped the Initial Public Offering (IPO) league table in the first half of 2016.

- ICICI Securities is ICICI Bank's investment banking arm.
- Kotak Investment Banking, which was in pole position last year, is currently second, with four deals worth Rs 1,036 crore.

### **India, South Africa signed four agreements**

India and South Africa signed four agreements to give new impetus to bilateral co-operation between the two nations.

- The agreements were inked during the official tour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to South Africa. He visited South Africa from 7 July to 9 July 2016 on an invitation of President of South Africa Jacob Zuma.
- MoU on ICT
- Programme of Cooperation in Arts and Culture
- MoU on Tourism
- MoU on Grass Root Innovation (S&T)

### **India, Tanzania signed five agreements**

India and Tanzania inked five agreements to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

- MoU on Cooperation in the field of water resource management and development between the two countries.
- MoU on Visa waiver agreement for Diplomatic/Official passport holders between the two countries.
- Agreement on Joint Action Plan (JAP) between National Small Industries Corporation of India (NSIC) and Small Industries Development Organization Tanzania (SIDO).
- MoU for Establishment of Vocational Training Centre at Zanzibar.
- LOC of 92 million US dollar for rehabilitation and improvement of water supply system in Zanzibar.

### **Indian economy likely to grow 7.9% this fiscal: CRISIL**

Indian economy is likely to grow at 7.9 per cent in the current fiscal provided the country receives normal monsoon as it will boost agriculture growth and lift rural demand, says a report.

- As per the rating agency Crisil's latest report, GDP is expected to grow by 7.9 per cent in 2016-17 as against 7.6 per cent in the previous fiscal if "monsoon is normal and global situation does not deteriorate from here".

### **Lafarge to sell India assets to Nirma for \$1.4 billion**

Lafarge-Holcim has entered into an agreement with Nirma Ltd to sell its entire 100% holding in cement maker Lafarge India for an enterprise value of \$1.4 billion.

- The deal is subjected to approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) also the proceeds from the divestment will be used to reduce debt.
- Lafarge India operates three cement plants and two grinding stations with a total capacity of around 11 million tonnes per annum. The company also markets aggregates and is one of India's leading ready-mix concrete manufacturers.

### **Sun Pharma introduces anti-cancer product in Europe**

Sun Pharma has announced rollout of Gemcitabine InfuSMART in Europe. InfuSMART is a technology in which oncology products are developed in a ready-to-administer (RTA) bag.

- With the introduction of Gemcitabine InfuSMART, Sun Pharma become the world's first pharmaceutical company to manufacture and launch a licensed RTA oncology product.

### **IDFC Bank acquires Grama Vidiyal**

IDFC Bank has announced it had acquired Tamil Nadu-headquartered microfinance institution Grama Vidiyal in an all-cash deal.

- The company did not disclose the deal size.
- The bank has obtained in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India for the deal.

### **HDFC to sell masala bonds**

Housing Development Finance Corp (HDFC) is set to become the first Indian company to sell masala bonds, a rupee-denominated bond sold to foreign investors and listed on an overseas exchange.

- It plans to raise as much as Rs 3,000 crore.
- These bonds will bear a fixed coupon and will have an incumbency period of 3 years and 1 month.
- The company has named Axis Bank, Credit Suisse and Nomura as joint venture runners and lead managers to the event.

### **SBI signs MoU with IIT Bombay to promote startups**

India's top public sector bank, State Bank of India (SBI), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), (IIT) Bombay's technology business incubator, to promote innovation by startups in the financial sector.

- As per the MoU, both the parties will identify FinTech startups that have products or applications to cater to the financial sector and can help SBI explore opportunities to enhance the synergy for their banking services.
- SBI will provide a platform for testing/ piloting such products/applications and maybe also check for any specific business linkages. This MoU also aims to help evaluate startups operating out of SINE or those being promoted by SINE for early stage funding within the bank's norms.

### **Bangladesh, India sign Rampal power plant construction agreement**

Bangladesh and India have signed a landmark deal for the construction of a 1,320-megawatt Rampal coal-fired power plant, the biggest project under bilateral cooperation that would mark the transition from electricity export to generation level.

- It was selected under an open international tender for constructing the super thermal plant at Bangladesh's southwestern Rampal near the Sundarbans.
- India's Exim Bank will provide \$1.49 billion for the project, scheduled to start generating power in 2019.

### **HAL, Safran to set up support centre in India for helicopters**

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and French firm Safran Helicopter Engines have agreed to establish a support centre in India for national and international rotorcraft customers.

- The new centre will provide MRO services for Safran TM333 and HAL Shakti engines that power HAL-built helicopters.
- Safran and HAL will provide their customers with services including optimised engine availability.

### **World Bank, ISA sign agreement for collaboration in solar energy**

The World Bank Group has signed an agreement with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), to collaborate on increasing solar energy use around the world with the goal of mobilising \$1 trillion in investments by 2030.

- The ISA is a group of 121 countries led by India and is headquartered in India.
- The agreement was signed when the World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim met the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy.

### **India Post opens 'My Stamp' scheme for individuals and corporate**

India Post opened up the ongoing scheme of customized printing of 'My Stamp' for individuals and corporate also.

- Under the scheme an individual or a corporate entity can get their photo or logo printed inside the postage stamp at a price of 12 lakh rupees.
- As per reports, this time there will be 5000 sheets comprising 60000 postage stamps. These stamps can be used for general postal mail.

### **Union Cabinet approved MoU between UPSC and Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan**

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC).

- The MoU will strengthen the existing relationship between RCSC and UPSC. It will facilitate sharing of experience and expertise of both the parties in the area of recruitment.

### **Royal Enfield announces collaboration with Flipkart to sell its accessories**

E-commerce major Flipkart and Royal Enfield have entered into collaboration where flipkart will sell complete range of accessories of Royal Enfield.

- Royal Enfield is first time entering into the partnership with a third-party for selling its accessories as it previously worked only with own website and authorized retail network.

### **HDFC Bank launches e-banking platform for SMEs**

HDFC Bank launched SME Bank, touted as India's full fledged banking service for small and medium enterprises (SME). The new entity would allow clients access full bouquet of services instantly on 24x7 basis over personal computers or mobile phones.

- Documents necessarily need to upload them by visiting the portal.
- The bank itself will carry forward the process to contact them.
- SMEs through the portal will be able to track their loan application.
- This is the first SME bank.

### **RIL, SBI sign shareholder agreement for payments bank JV**

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has signed a shareholder agreement with State Bank of India (SBI) have signed Subscription and Shareholders Agreement to set up payments bank.

- According to the agreement, Reliance Industries will be the promoter with a 70 % equity contribution in the payments bank and SBI as joint venture will have 30 % equity contribution.

### **SBI secures \$625 million from World Bank for solar program**

India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has signed an agreement worth 4,200 crore rupees (\$625 million) with the World Bank to support its grid connected rooftop solar photovoltaic (GRPV) programme.

- The programme also aims at improving the investment climate for solar PV, and increase the ease of doing rooftop business. It will also support development of the overall solar rooftop PV market.

### **SBI Card launches premium credit card 'Elite'**

SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card), the third-largest card issuer by number has launched a premium credit card 'Elite'. Elite is a bundle of several privileges and benefits for high net worth individuals (HNIs).

- The 'Elite' card is launched on the Master Card World platform which is enabled with NFC (Near Field Communication) technology. This allows customers a contactless payment experience, adding more speed and save to their wallets.
- The new card comes with a joining fee of Rs 4,999 and all customers will receive a welcome gift worth Rs 5,000 in the form of vouchers from popular lifestyle and travel brands. ELITE offers privileges such as 24x7 concierge services, golf course reservations, spa, and limousine or movie ticket bookings, all of these can be availed with just one phone call.

### **Cabinet decision: Axis Bank allowed to raise foreign stake to 74 per cent**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved increase in foreign investment from the current approved level of 62 per cent to 74 per cent of the total paid up share capital of the Axis Bank on a fully fungible basis

- With the approval, foreign direct investment to the tune of Rs 12,973.14 crore will be received in the country.
- Earlier this year, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, headed by Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das, had recommended the Axis Bank's proposal to the CCEA for its approval, as the foreign investment was over Rs 5,000 crore.

### **Aditya Birla Fashion acquires global clothing brand Forever 21**

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) has stated that it will acquire global clothing brand 'Forever 21' in the Indian market for USD 26 million (around Rs. 175.52 Crore).

- Aditya Birla Fashion executed a business transfer agreement with Diana Retail, and DLF Brands for an acquisition of the business undertaking of Diana Retail under the Forever 21 brand.
- With this, Forever 21 business will form part of ABFRL's Madura Fashion & Lifestyle division.

## Appointments

### **BCCI chief Anurag Thakur joins Territorial Army as Lieutenant**

BCCI chief Anurag Thakur was commissioned into the Territorial Army (TA) as a regular officer by Army chief Dalbir S Suhag.

- Thakur is the first serving BJP MP to join the military force.
- He made it to the TA after clearing an exam and an interview.

### **Railway Board Chairman, AK Mital, gets 2-year extension**

The current Chairman of the Railway Board, AK Mital, has got an extension to continue for 2 more years.

- Mital was supposed to superannuate on July 31, and today would have been his last working day.

### **KJ Ramesh to be the new IMD chief**

KJ Ramesh will be the new Director General of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), replacing Laxman Singh Rathore.

- "Ramesh's name was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Appointments and he will be the next DG of the IMD," M Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences said.
- Rathore, an officer from the Indian Meteorological Service (IMS), will retire this month end.
- During his tenure, the IMD saw very precise prediction of cyclones Hudhud and Phailin, forecasting of heatwave and nowcasts.

### **MS Dhoni named brand ambassador of Craig McDermott cricket academy in Australia**

India's ODI and T20 skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been named as the face and brand ambassador of the Craig McDermott International Cricket Academy (CMICA), a leading, state of the art private cricket and educational sports academy in Australia.

- Dhoni said that he was excited to be part of this initiative as it will give him the opportunity to meet and mentor young aspiring cricketers in both India and Australia.

### **Centre forms a panel to prepare a draft bill on Ganga river**

Centre has constituted a committee to prepare Draft Bill on Ganga to deal with all the issues related to the River.

- The committee will be chaired by the retired Justice Giridhar Malviya.
- The committee will submit its report within three months. The legislation will have provisions to ensure cleanliness and uninterrupted flow of Ganga.

### **Odisha govt forms a judicial panel for reforms in Jagannath temple management**

The Odisha government has constituted a judicial commission to study the functioning of the Puri Jagannath Temple.

- The one-man commission will be headed by retired Orissa High Court judge Bimal Prasad Das.
- It will recommend reforms for smooth management of the Shree Jagannath Temple and propagation of the Jagannath culture. Although, the government has not set any deadline for the commission to complete its report.
- The major issues the commission will cover are temple security, behavior of priests, streamlining of rituals and preservation of the 12th-century shrine.

### **Ganesh Singh appointed as Head of JPC for Land Acquisition Bill**

Ganesh Singh has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Land Acquisition Bill.

- Mr. Ganesh Singh replaced S S Ahluwalia, who became Minister of the State for Parliamentary Affairs in reshuffle of the council of ministers on 5 July 2016.
- Ganesh Singh will submit a proposal seeking to expand the seventh term of the panel in Lok Sabha.

### **Turkish musician Kudsi Erguner named UNESCO Artist for Peace**

Turkish musician Kudsi Erguner was on 10 July 2016 appointed as the UNESCO Artist for Peace by the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova.

- Erguner was appointed for the post at a ceremony held at the Congress Center in Istanbul (Turkey) after the opening ceremony of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, which ends on 20 July 2016.

### **Pema Khandu sworn-in as Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister**

Pema Khandu was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh at Raj Bhawan in Itanagar on 17 July 2016. Governor Tataghata Roy administered the Oath of Office and Secrecy to him.

- Chowna Mein was also sworn-in as the Deputy Chief Minister.
- With this, Khandu, 37, also became the youngest chief minister of the country. He has replaced Nabam Tuki.
- Pema khandu, born on 21 August 1979, is the son of former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh late Dorjee Khandu.

### **World Bank Group appoints Paul Romer as Chief Economist**

World Bank Group on 18 July 2016 appointed Paul Romer as World Bank Chief Economist with effect from September 2016. Romer is a widely respected economist and a successful entrepreneur.

- Romer will join the Bank at a critical time when the field of development is transforming under the forces of rapid technological change, globalization, and demography.

### **Odisha-born bureaucrat Guruprasad appointed as chairman of AAI**

An Odisha-born bureaucrat Guruprasad Mohapatra has been appointed the chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI). He is a 1986 batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer.

- He had also served as Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad for over three years. He started in the State Electricity Sector with the erstwhile Gujarat Electricity Board in 2002 and worked with various Electricity Companies such as GSEC and the distribution companies such as PGVCL, DGVCL & UGVCL.

### **Steve Elworthy appointed Managing Director of 2019 World Cup**

Steve Elworthy, the former South Africa fast bowler, on 19 July 2016 was appointed the Managing Director (MD) of the 2019 World Cup, which will be held in England and Wales.

- In his new role, Elworthy will oversee the lead-up and running of the 2019 World Cup as well as the Champions Trophy and Women's World Cup.
- The Champions Trophy and Women's World Cup will be hosted by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in 2017.
- Elworthy has previously been the Tournament Director for the 2007 and 2009 World T20s and the 2013 Champions Trophy.

### **A B P Pandey appointed CEO UIDAI**

Senior IAS officer A B P Pandey was today appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), mandated to issue Aadhaar numbers to all citizens in the country.

- Pandey, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre, is the first CEO of UIDAI, which was formed in January 2009. He is at present working as its Director General and Mission Director.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved appointment of Pandey as the CEO, UIDAI, with effect from July 12, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training said.

### **Vishal Kapoor to be the new CEO of IDFC MF**

IDFC Mutual Fund has announced the appointment of Mr. Vishal Kapoor as its chief executive officer.

- Kapoor will be responsible for driving the accelerated growth of IDFC AMC.
- He will take charge from September this year.
- At present, He is working with Standard Chartered Bank as the managing director.

### **Tathagata Roy sworn-in as acting Governor of Arunachal Pradesh**

Tripura Governor Tathagata Roy has sworn in as the acting Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

- With this he becomes 18th Governor to be sworn in as Governor of Tripura.
- He has been given the additional charge of Governor of Arunachal Pradesh during the leave of absence of incumbent Governor Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa.

### **Sanjay Gupta appointed as CMD of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited**

Sanjay Gupta was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL).

- Prior to Gupta's elevation, he had been working as Director (Operating & Commercial) of Konkan Railway since 30 September 2013.
- He had also been officiating as the CMD since 24 November 2015 after the retirement of B P Tayal.

### **Sushila Karki confirmed as Nepal's first woman Chief Justice**

Nepal's Parliamentary Hearing Special Committee (PHSC) unanimously endorsed Sushila Karki as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

- With this, Karki has become the first woman to lead Nepal's judiciary. She will be appointed to the post by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

### **D Rajkumar appointed CMD of BPCL; Utpal Bora to head Oil India**

D Rajkumar and Utpal Bora has appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Oil India Ltd, respectively.

- Rajkumar, at present, working as Managing Director of Bharat Petro Resources Ltd.
- Bora is Executive Director in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited.

### **Ashok Patnaik appointed as CEO of NATGRID**

The Union Government appointed Ashok Patnaik as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), one of the most ambitious intelligence projects that failed to take off during United Progressive Alliance (UPA) rule.

- Patnaik is currently serving as Additional Director in the Intelligence Bureau and he will continue to hold this post till his superannuation in 2018.
- Patnaik is a 1983-batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre.

### **K V R Murthy new CMD of Jute Corporation**

K V R Murthy has taken over as chairman-cum-managing director of the Jute Corporation of India Limited.

- His appointment is for a period of five years or till the date of his superannuation
- The Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI) is based in Kolkata. It is an agency of the government of India that assists jute cultivators in states where this crop is grown, providing minimum price support.

### **Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi appointed CBSE Chairman**

The government appointed a 1987- batch IAS officer Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for a five-year term.

- Chaturvedi was Resident Commissioner of Madhya Pradesh in Delhi. From 2004 to he was on central deputation.
- During the three years he was a director in the Ministry of Urban Development. Meanwhile, he was joint director in the Ministry of Textiles for two years.

### **Indian-American Dr. Kinshuk named US university Dean**

Dr. Kinshuk has been named the dean of university of North Texas, USA.

- An Indian-American professor with a diverse set of academic experience in the field of science and technology has been named the dean of a leading U.S. university.
- He received his doctoral degree from De Montfort University in England, a master of science in mechanical computer aided engineering from Strathclyde University in Scotland and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from University of Rajasthan in India.

### **Arvind Subramanian panel constituted to tackle pulses shortage**

Union Government constituted a high-level committee to review the minimum support price (MSP) and bonus for pulses. The committee will be headed by Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian. It has been asked to submit its report within two weeks.

- The production of pulses in India is expected to increase to 20 million tonnes in 2016-17 from 17 million tonnes in 2015-16.
- It will look into various options to frame a long-term policy on pulses to tackle shortage.

### **London Mayor appoints Rajesh Agrawal as deputy mayor for business**

London Mayor Sadiq Khan has appointed India-born Rajesh Agrawal as the deputy mayor of London for business.

- Agrawal was Khan's business adviser during his mayoral campaign. Khan tasked Agrawal with championing London's interests following the exit of Britain after the EU referendum, and protecting jobs and growth while the negotiation process for exit takes place.
- He is the founder and CEO of Xendpay, an international money transfer service

### **Malaysia gets 2 women Shariah HC judges**



Two women have been appointed as judges of Malaysia's Islamic Shariah High Court for the first time in the history of the judiciary of the Muslim-majority country.

- Noor Huda Roslan, 40, and Nenny Shuhaidah Shamsuddin 41, been appointed by Sultan Sharrufuddin Idris Shah.
- Shariah High Court deals with exclusively Islamic laws, having jurisdiction upon every Muslim in Malaysia.

### **D K Hota assumes charge as BEML chairman**

D K Hota has been appointed as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML) with effect from July 1.

- Prior to assuming his office, he was the Director (HR) on the board of the company.

### **Zee Learn appoints Debshankar Mukhopadhyay as CEO**

Essel Group's education arm Zee Learn has appointed Debshankar Mukhopadhyay as Chief Executive Officer.

- Mukhopadhyay has over 20 years of experience in educational and financial sectors across South Asia.
- Prior to joining Zee Learn, he was the Head of Educational Sales, Financial Services and Insurance at Manipal Global Education Services.

### **Sudarshan Sen appointed Executive Director of RBI**

Sudarshan Sen has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He will replace NS Vishwanathan who was elevated as Deputy Governor of RBI.

- In his new role, Sudarshan Sen will look after Department of Banking Regulation, Department of Co-operative Bank Regulation and Department of Non-Banking Regulation.
- Earlier, he had served as in charge of the Department of Banking Regulation. He also had served as the Regional Director of Ahmedabad office of the RBI.

## Awards

### **Four new writers get Jananpith 'Navlekhan' award**

Four new writers have got the Bharatiya Jnanpith's 11th Navlekhan award for the year 2015 in a ceremony held in New Delhi. Out of these four, three are from Rajasthan.

- The awardees were chosen by a selection panel headed by senior writer and journalist Madhusudan Anand, comprising eminent literary figures Vishnu Nagar, Govind Prasad and Om Nischal.
- Amlendu Tiwari and Balram Kawant were awarded for their novels 'Parityakt', and 'Sara Morila,' while Om Naagar and Tasneem Khan were awarded for their non-fictions 'Nib Ke Chire Se' and 'Yeh Mere Rahnuma' respectively.

### **Kerala Tourism has secured two Gold Awards at PATA awards**

Kerala Tourism has secured two Gold Awards at the prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) awards in recognition of its trendsetting marketing initiatives.

- The two gold medals for 'Marketing Media' are in the categories of 'Travel Advertisement Broadcast Media' and 'E-Newsletter', which were clinched by the successful 'Visit Kerala' television commercial campaign and the popular Kerala Tourism E-Newsletter respectively.
- The awards will be presented at the PATA Gold Awards Luncheon and Presentation on September 9 in Jakarta.

### **Goutam Ghose, Bappi Lahiri conferred Bengal's 'Mahanayak Award'**

Renowned Music Director and singer Bappi Lahiri and Critically-acclaimed filmmaker Goutam Ghose have been honoured with 'Mahanayak award' by the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee.

- The award has been conferred to them on the occasion of 36th death anniversary of Uttam Kumar. The awards were instituted in 2012 in the memory of Bengali matinee idol Uttam Kumar who is revered in this part of India as "Mahanayak".
- In addition to Ghose and Lahiri, director-actor Kaushik Ganguly was also honoured with the award for best director.

### **Anand Kumar of Super 30 receives award from Arun Jaitley**

Anand Kumar, who runs Bihar-based Super 30 coaching institute for underprivileged students, has been honoured with the Lakshmi Pat Singhania IIM Lucknow National Leadership Award by finance minister Arun Jaitley.

- It has helped hundreds of students from underprivileged sections of the society successfully chase their IIT dream. Through the programme, Anand selects 30 students and mentors them for a year without charging any fee.

### **S. R. Nathan conferred Pravasi Bharatiya Samman**

Singapore's former president S R Nathan has been conferred with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest honour accorded to people of Indian-origin overseas.

- Mr. Nathan was presented with the award by Union Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Vayalar Ravi, himself at a function.
- The award honours individuals who have made outstanding contributions in their chosen field.
- Mr. Ravi made the trip to Singapore especially to present the award to Mr. Nathan, as the former president was unable to receive the award in January, when it was given out, said the Channel report.
- Mr. Nathan, 87, is a Singaporean of Tamil descent. He was the sixth president of Singapore from 1999 to 2011.

### **Rohit Khandelwal becomes first Indian to win Mister World title**

India's contestant Rohit Khandelwal won the coveted Mister World 2016 title. The grand finale of Mr World 2016 was held at the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre in Southport, U.K.

- With this, Khandelwal has become the first Indian and Asian to win the Mr World title at the competition.
- Mr World 2014 Nicklas Pedersen passed on the title to Khandelwal. He also won a cash prize of 50000 US dollar.
- Puerto Rico's Fernando Alberto Alvarez Soto was named the first runner-up and Aldo Esparza Ramirez of Mexico was named the second runner-up.

### **Nigeria's Didi Akinyelure wins BBC World News Komla Dumor Award**

Nigerian journalist Didi Akinyelure on 19 July 2016 won the BBC World Service News Komla Dumor Award for 2016.

- Akinyelure is the second recipient of the award, which was established to honour Ghanaian BBC World News presenter Komla Dumor.
- The Award aims to celebrate African journalism and reward exceptional talent.
- Ugandan news anchor Nancy Kacungira was the winner of the first BBC World News Komla Dumor Award.

### **Chennai Boy Advay Ramesh Bags Google Community Impact Award**

Advay Ramesh, a 14-year-old student from Chennai, has won the prestigious Google Community Impact Award from Asia for creating a device that enhances fishermen's safety and productivity, Google India announced

- Ramesh, a Class 10 student from Chennai's National Public School, is also among 20 finalists shortlisted to compete for a \$50,000 scholarship from Google.
- Ramesh's "Fishermen Lifeline Terminal (FELT)" hand-held terminal uses the Standard Position Services (SPS), an open service without encryption provided by the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System to enhance fishermen's safety and productivity at the sea.

### **Nimi Sunilkumar wins Gourmand World Cookbook Award**

Cookbook author and food blogger Nimi Sunilkumar has won the Gourmand World Cookbook Award for 2015-16.

- She was bestowed with this award for her cookbook "4 o'clock Temptations of Kerala".
- It was chosen for the award in the 'Best Indian Cuisine Cookbook' section.
- Nimi Sunilkumar has won award for the second time.

### **51st Jnanpith Award conferred on Gujarati writer Dr. Raghuvver Chaudhari**

President Pranab Mukherjee on 11 July 2016 conferred the 51st Jnanpith Award on renowned Gujarati writer Dr. Raghuvver Chaudhari at Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.

- He was awarded with the India's highest literary honour for the year 2015.

He was given a cash prize, a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Goddess Saraswati.

### **Radhika Menon becomes first woman to bag IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea**

Captain Radhika Menon on 7 July 2016 was selected for the 2016 International Maritime Organization (IMO) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.

- Menon has been selected for the prestigious award for her role in the rescue of seven fishermen from a sinking fishing boat in the Bay of Bengal in June 2015.
- Captain Menon will also be the first female to receive the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.

### **HDFC Bank's Aditya Puri named best banking CEO in Asia**

Aditya Puri, the chief executive and managing director of the second largest private sector lender HDFC Bank, has been ranked as the best banking CEO in Asia by the investor community.

- The bank's chief financial officer Sashi Jagdishan has been ranked as the best CFO.
- Called the All-Asia Executive Team rankings 2016, the survey had 1,394 investment professionals from 582 financial institutions participating in it. They picked HDFC Bank in the Best CEO, Best CFO, and the Best IR company categories.

### **South African writer Lidudumalingani wins Caine Prize**

The South African writer and filmmaker, Lidudumalingani, has won the prestigious Caine Prize for his short story, Memories We Lost.

- The prize, launched in 2000, is awarded annually to an African writer of a short story published in English.
- The winning story, set in the Eastern Cape, explores how traditional beliefs are used to tackle schizophrenia.

### **Viswanathan Anand honoured with 'Honoris Causa' Doctor of Science degree**

World Champion Viswanathan Anand was conferred the "Honoris Causa" Doctor of Science by Indian Institute Of Technology (IIT) during its 49th convocation ceremony.

- The 46-year-old Anand was bestowed with the degree by NITI aayog chairman Arvind Panagariya.
- He was also the first recipient of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 1991-92, India's highest sporting honour.
- In 2007, he was awarded India's second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, making him the first sports person to receive the award.

### **President Pranab Mukherjee presents BC Roy National Awards for 2008, 2009 & 2010**

President of India, Pranab Kumar Mukherjee has presented the Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy Award national awards for 2008, 2009 and 2010 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

- These awards were presented on the occasion of National Doctors' Day observed on July 1 to pay honour and tribute to India's most famous physician Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- Top Five Awardees are: 1. Dr. Mammen Chandy 2. Prof. Rajeshwar Dayal 3. Dr. Rohit V. Bhatt 4. Dr. Neelam Mohan 5. Prof. Mohan Kameswaran

### **Sudarshan Pattnaik's 100 sand 'Raths' set new world record**

Renowned sand artist Sudarshan Pattnaik has set another world record and got place in Limca Book of Records by carving 100 sand chariots at the Puri beach in Odisha.

- Patanayak took more than 20 hours to complete it.
- He is also brand ambassador of Odisha international sand art festival.

## Sports

### **Muralitharan, Lohmann, Morris and Rolton to be inducted into Cricket Hall of Fame**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that Muttiah Muralitharan, Karen Rolton, Arthur Morris and George Lohmann will be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

- With the announcement, off-spinner Muralitharan becomes the first Sri Lankan player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.
- They will be presented with commemorative caps honouring their contribution to the game to mark their induction.

### **After wrestler Narsingh, shot putter Inderjeet fails dope test**

A few days after wrestler Narsingh Yadav was caught for doping, another Rio Olympics qualified athlete Inderjeet Singh, a shot putter, has failed a dope test as his 'A' sample returned positive for a banned substance.

- NADA has asked the Haryana athlete if he wants to test his 'B' sample and if so, to do this within seven days. If the 'B' sample also tests positive, he will have to face the prospect of being banned for four years under the new WADA Code.
- Inderjeet is an athlete who trains on his own with his personal coach.

### **GM Harika Dronavalli wins Fide Women's Grand Prix trophy in China**

India's Grand Master Harika Dronavalli has won the Fide Women's Grand Prix trophy in Chendu in China. Harika was playing with white against Russia's Olga Girya and made draw to win the title, her maiden career GP title.

- Harika finished on 7 points in the round robin tournament featuring the world's top 12 players to be crowned the champion.

### **India jumps 11 places to 152nd in football rankings**

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

- Overall, Argentina remain on top, despite losing to Chile in the Copa America Centenario summit clash. Belgium, Colombia, retained their places at second, third while UEFA Euro 2016 champions Portugal moved up two places to be at sixth.

### **Vijender Singh defeats Kerry Hope to clinch WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title**

Vijender Singh, the boxing star from India, on 16 July 2016 clinched the WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title at the Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi. To win the title, the six-footer from Haryana defeated former WBC European champion Kerry Hope.

- Virender, 30, took all 10 rounds to dismantle the 34-year-old Australian Hope and record his seventh straight win in the circuit.
- With this, Singh also became the country's first-ever professional boxing title holder. The win also helped him to climb to 15th in the world in his category.

### **Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Saurav Ghosal clinch National Squash titles**

Dipika Pallikal Karthik toppled defending champion Joshna Chinappa to regain the women's title in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Senior National Squash Championship in Mumbai.

- The men's crown was captured by the titleholder and top seed Saurav Ghosal, who created history by winning it for the 11th time, defeating fourth seed Harinderpal Singh Sandhu in five hard-fought games.
- Saurav Ghosal beat Harinderpal Singh Sandhu 11-7 7-11 3-11 11-8 14-12 after an 88-minute battle to go past RK Narpat Singh's feat of 10 titles, won from 1946 to 1955.

The World no. 19 Dipika, who was playing in the nationals after a five-year gap when she won in 2011, made it to the tops once again by beating arch-rival Joshna 4-11 11-6 11-2 11-8 in 43 minutes.

### **Pakistan's Yasir Shah scales number one spot in ICC Test rankings**

Pak spinner Yasir Shah has scaled the number one spot in the ICC Test rankings following a brilliant figure at Lord's.

- He reached the number-one spot after bowling Pakistan to a 75-run victory over England in the first Test at Lord's. Yasir, who recorded the figures of six for 72 and four for 69, leapfrogged India's Ravichandran Ashwin and England's fast bowling pair of James Anderson and Stuart Broad.

### **Abdul Wahid Tanveer wins 2W MRF Rally of Coimbatore**

Abdul Wahid Tanveer of Team TVS clinched the 2016 MRF MoGrip FMSCI National Rally Championship for two-wheelers.

- Bengaluru-based Wahid, riding a TVS RTR 450, clocked 1 hour 02 min, 13 seconds to complete the challenging Special Stages set around the wind farms near the Kethanur (Palladam) area.
- The total distance of the route was approximately 145 km and total distance of the special stages was about 70 km.
- R Nataraj of Team TVS, astride a TVS RTR 450, came overall second with a time of 1 hour 04 minutes and 21 seconds. S D Viswas, a privateer, grabbed third position overall on a Yamaha 250F motorcycle, clocking 1 hour 12 minutes and 01 seconds.

### **Lewis Hamilton wins 2016 British Grand Prix**

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton on 10 July 2016 claimed the 2016 British Grand Prix title of Formula One at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom.

- It is Hamilton's overall fourth British Grand Prix title after winning it in 2008, 2014 and 2015. He also became the first driver to win the British Grand Prix three times in a row.
- Red Bull-TAG Heuer's Max Verstappen occupied the second place in the race. Nico Rosberg from Germany stood third in the race.

### **Andy Murray won men's singles title of 2016 Wimbledon**

Britain's Andy Murray clinched a second Wimbledon title and third Grand Slam crown on 10 July 2016. In the final clash, he defeated Milos Raonic of Canada 6-4, 7-6(3), 7-6(2).

- Murray became the first British man to win multiple Wimbledon singles titles since Fred Perry in 1935.
- With this win, the world number two added the 2016 trophy to his 2013 triumph.

### **Portugal wins Euro 2016 football championship; defeated France 1-0**

Portugal on 10 July 2016 lifted the Euro 2016 football championship. In the final clash played at Saint-Denis in Paris, Portugal defeated France 1-0.

- Eder scored the goal with 11 minutes of extra time left to stun France after the host team had dominated the match. This was France's first tournament defeat on home soil in 19 games, since 1960 third-place play-off.

### **Jinson Johnson, Dharambir Singh, Renjith Maheshwari qualify for Rio 2016 Olympics**

Sprinter Dharambir Singh and Jinson Johnson along with Triple jumper Renjith Maheshwari were the latest athletes to join the line for representing the country at the Olympics in Brazil.

- Renjith Maheshwari and Dharambir Singh also broke two national records in Triple jump and 200-metre race event respectively.

### **Jerome Taylor retired from Test cricket**

West Indies fast bowler Jerome Taylor has retired from Test cricket.

- Jerome Taylor was born on June 22, 1984.
- He is a right-arm fast bowler.
- Taylor had made his international debut in 2003 against Sri Lanka.
- He played 46 Tests for the West Indies in a career spanning 13 years and took 130 wickets.

### **Gurpreet Singh Sandhu makes history again, becomes first Indian to feature in Europa League**

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu has become the first from the country to play in the Europa league competition.

- Sandhu was named in Norwegian club Stabaek FC's squad for their Europa League qualifying match against Welsh Premier League side Connah's Quay Nomads FC,.

### **Sameer emerges fastest athlete of 56th National Inter-state Athletics**

Sameer Mon, the veteran sprinter of India, won gold in 100 meter dash in 10.60 seconds at the 56th National Inter-state Senior Athletics Championships in Hyderabad.

- With this, Sameer, representing Manipur, also became the fastest athlete in the country.
- 32-year-old Sameer was a member of the bronze winning Indian 4x100m relay quartet in Delhi Commonwealth Games. He had earlier won the Inter-state titles in 2008 and 2011.

### **Lewis Hamilton wins 2016 Austrian Grand Prix**

Lewis Hamilton won the 2016 Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria.

- He won the race by finishing in One hour 27 minutes 38.107 seconds, while Max Verstapen of Red Bull finished second, while Ferrari's Kimi Rekonen finished third.
- Nico Hulkenberg of Force India failed to take advantage of the beginning of the season, and stood 19th place. Hulkenberg's team-mate Sergio Perez finished 17th.

### **Serena Williams gets 300th Grand Slam win**

Serena Williams clinched her 300th Grand Slam victory as the defending champion raced into the Wimbledon fourth round.

- She achieved this with a 6-3, 6-0 demolition of Germany's Annika Beck.
- Williams's triple century moved her second place on the all-time list, with only Martina Navratilova's Open era record of 306 ahead of her.

### **India to host world's first MMA League**

India will be hosting the world's first Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) 'Super Fight League' from August 26 to October 1.

- The franchise-based league will feature eight teams – Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai, Haryana, Bangalore, Punjab, Pune and Goa.

- The league will be a platform for Indian MMA players like Anup Kumar, CJ Singh, Amit Roy, Dhruv Chaudhary to showcase their skills.
- Each team will constitute nine Indian fighters and three international ones.

### **Saudi Arabia becomes Associate Member of ICC**

Saudi Arabia was unanimously elected as the 39th Associate Member of International Cricket Council's (ICC) during its full council meeting in Edinburgh.

- The Saudi Cricket Centre (SCC) has been an Affiliate Member of the ICC since 2003 having 4350 cricketers and 80 facilities..

### **Niranjan wins eight medals in IWAS World Games**

Bengaluru para-swimmer Niranjan Mukundan has won eight medals, at the recently-concluded IWAS (International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports) U-23 World Games in Prague, Czech Republic.

- He has won the gold medals in the 200m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 50m breaststroke, silver in the 100m fly and 50m freestyle, as also bronze in the 100m freestyle, 100m breaststroke, and 100m backstroke events, stated by a release from GoSports Foundation, which is supporting Niranjan through the Para Champions Programme.

### **Annu Rani sets national record at National Interstate Athletics Championships**

Javelin thrower Annu Rani has bettered her national record with a 59.87m throw at the 56th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships in Hyderabad.

- Rani has improved her previous meet mark with her first round 59.06m However, her 59.87m throw came in the fourth round.

### **Bengali actor Jeet acquires Kolkata team of PFL**

Bengali cine star Jeet has acquired the Kolkata franchise of the first-ever multi-nation Premier Futsal League (PFL), which is scheduled to start on July 15.

- The team will be known as 'Kolkata 5s' as each franchise will be similarly named in the inaugural season.
- The owners will be allowed to rebrand their respective teams from season two.

### **Dipa Karmakar named World Class Gymnast by International Gymnastics Federation**

Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar was named a 'Gymnaste de Classe Mondaile' (World class gymnast) by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG).

- In this regard, she received the official letter confirming the distinction from the federation on 6 July 2016.
- With this, she also became the first-ever Indian gymnast to receive the honour.

## Deaths

### **Noted writer-activist Mahasweta Devi passes away**

Social activist and writer Mahasweta Devi passed away at a private nursing home in Kolkata. The noted author had been in a critical condition for the last few days and was put on life support. At the time of her death, she was 90.

- The Ramon Magsaysay awardee had been suffering from various ailments. She had been put on non-invasive ventilation after her condition worsened.
- The writer, who was honoured with the Jnanpith Award in 1996, has written books like Jhansi ki Rani, Hajaar Chourasi ki maa, rudali etc.

### **Former diplomat Arundhati Ghose passes away**

Eminent diplomat Arundhati Ghose, who was India's ambassador to the UN and played a decisive role in India's negotiations on Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), passed away at the age of 76.

- She was suffering from cancer and breathed her last at around 12:30 am at her residence in Palam Vihar in West Delhi, a family member said.
- During her illustrious career, Ghose had served in a number of positions including in Indian Missions in Austria, the Netherlands, Bangladesh, South Korea and Egypt. She was also the first Indian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Offices in Geneva.

### **Legendary artist S H Raza passes away**

Modern Indian artist S H Raza has passed away following a prolonged illness. He was 94 years old and was suffering from old-age related ailments and was in the ICU of a private hospital for the last two months.

- He is an internationally acclaimed painter and was also honoured with the Padma Shri. He was elected as a fellow of the Lalit Kala Akademi in 1983.

### **Legendary singer Mubarak Begum Shaikh passes away**

Legendary singer and ghazal maestro Mubarak Begum Shaikh has passed away at her residence in Mumbai after a prolonged illness. She was 80 years old.

- Mubarak Begum is known for the evergreen song 'Kabhi tanhaiyon mein hamari yaad ayegi' from the 1961 movie 'Hamari Yaad Aayegi'.
- Her notable singing career spanning over 110 films over four decades till the between 1950 to 1970.

### **Hockey legend Mohammed Shahid dies**

Mohammed Shahid, one of the greatest names in Indian hockey, died on 20 July 2016 due to severe liver condition and kidney failure. He was 56.

- Shahid was the part of the Indian hockey team that won the gold medal at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.
- Born on 14 April 1960 in Varanasi, Mohammed Shahid is considered one of India's best to have played hockey.
- He made his first appearance for India in the junior team in 1979 at the Junior World Cup in France.

He made his first appearance in the senior team in 1979 in a four-nation tournament in Kuala Lumpur.

### **Oldest and last Babri litigant Hashim Ansari passes away**

Mohammad Hashim Ansari, the oldest litigant in the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri title suit, died due to heart-related complications in the temple city of Ayodhya. He was 95.

- Ansari, born in Ayodhya, was one of the seven main litigants from Muslim side in the 1949 Babri Masjid case regarding placing of Lord Rama idols in the premises. He was the lone surviving litigant of the case.
- The other six main litigants were Mohammad Farooq, Ashhad Rashidi, Maulana Mahfuzurur Rahman, Mufti Hasbullah, Mahmud and Sunni Central Waqf Board.

### **Former French cyclist Dominique Arnaud passes away**

Former French cyclist Dominique Arnaud passed away in Dax, Aquitaine due to cancer. He was 60.

- Born on 19 September 1955 in Tarnos, France, Dominique Arnaud was a French racing cyclist.
- He rode in eleven editions of the Tour de France, which is an annual multiple stage bicycle race primarily held in France.

### **Veteran music director Om Prakash Sonik passes away**

Veteran music director Om Prakash Sonik, also known as Omi, part of the Sonik-Omi duo, has passed away in Mumbai following a brief illness. He was 77 years old.



- The duo was known for their work on Hindi film soundtracks. Some of their best-known works are Bhakti Mein Shakti, Dharma, Dil Ne Phir Yaad Kiya, Sawan Bhadon, Aabroo, Truck Driver, Mehfil, Beti, Dharti Ki God Mein and Raftaar.

### **Legendary football coach Amal Dutta passes away**

Amal Dutta, former India player and first professional full-time football coach of the country, died on 10 July 2016 following old age complications. He was 86.

- As a coach, Dutta had introduced new formations including the diamond system in the 1990s.
- He also represented India in the 1954 Asian Games at Manila.

### **Pakistani philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi passes away**

Noted Pakistani philanthropist, social activist, ascetic and humanitarian Abdul Sattar Edhi (92-year) has passed away in Karachi.

- He was suffering from many diseases. Idhi Foundation has been conducting Centre for street children and the elderly.
- In 2000 he was awarded with the International Baljan award.
- On 26 March 2005 he was awarded with lifetime achievement award.

### **William H McNeill, prize-winning world historian, died at 98**

William H McNeill, the prize-winning scholar who wove the stories of civilizations worldwide into the landmark "The Rise of the West" and helped pioneer the history of disease and epidemics in "Plagues and People," has died at age 98.

- His most popular work is The Rise of the West: A History of the Human Community. The book had won national award. .

### **India's Olympic Silver Medalist Joe Antic passed away**

Hockey Olympian Joe Antic passed away in Mumbai. He was 90.

- Antic represented the country in the Rome Games where Pakistan won the final between the arch-foes 1-0.
- The hockey player was also a part of the hockey squad that finished runner-up, again to Pakistan, in the Asian Games at Jakarta.

### **World famous futurist, writer Alvin Toffler dies at 87**

Alvin Toffler, the Famous author of Future Shock, passed away on in Los Angeles, United States. He was 87.

- Toffler's book Future Shock outlines people's anxiety at the pace of social change in the 1960s.
- Alvin Toffler was known for his works discussing modern technologies. His works included the digital revolution and the communication revolution with emphasis on their effects on cultures worldwide.

### **Renowned Marathi literary scholar R C Dhere no more**

Renowned Marathi literary scholar Dr. Ramchandra Chintaman Dhere passed away after prolonged illness in Pune, Maharashtra. He was 86.

- Dhere was known for his exhaustive research in folk literature and bhakti tradition of Maharashtra.
- He received a Sahitya Akademi Award in 1987 for his work Shri Vitthal: Ek MahaSamanvay.
- His other important literary works are Dakshinecha Lokdev Khandoba, Marathi Loksanskritiche Upasak, Gangajali and Musalman Marathi Santkavi among others.

### **Michael Cimino, director of film The Deer Hunter, died**

Michael Cimino, the director of the Vietnam War classic The Deer Hunter, died on 2 July 2016 at his Los Angeles home. He was 77.

- Cimino was best known for directing, producing and co-writing the 1978 Academy Award-winning film The Deer Hunter. The film won five Oscars, including Best Director and Best Picture for Cimino.

- He was also remembered for writing and directing Heaven's Gate, which proved to be a financial failure.

### **Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel dies**

Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate passed away on 2 July 2016 in New York, U.S. He was 87.

- In his first book, Night, Wiesel gave an account of his family being sent to the Nazi concentration camps.
- Elie Wiesel was a Romanian-born American Jewish writer, professor and political activist.
- He wrote mostly in French and English.
- He was the author of 57 books, including Night, in which he shared his experiences as a prisoner in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps.
- He was also involved with Jewish causes and helped establish the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.
- He had been described as the most important Jew in America by the Los Angeles Times.
- In 1986, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

### **Ex-MP Ranji player Kapil Seth passed away**

Former Madhya Pradesh cricketer Kapil Seth has recently passed away. He was 38 years old. The all-rounder was suffering from Hepatitis B.

- Kapil who represented the state in only one first-class and a List A game in the 2000-01 season, made his sole Ranji Trophy appearance against Vidarbha in November 2000.

### **Former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard dies**

Michel Rocard, former Prime Minister of France, passed away in Paris, France. He was 85.

- Rocard served as Prime Minister under President Francois Mitterrand from 1988 to 1991.

## **Books**

### **President of India receives copy of book 'India's most Powerful Women'**

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received a copy of a coffee table book 'India's Most Powerful Women' at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The book has been written by Mrs. Prem Ahluwalia.

- Speaking on the occasion, the President congratulated Mrs. Prem Ahluwalia, the author of the book for making an attempt to recognize the contribution of women in India through her book.
- He expressed hope that the objective of the book and the stories of its women reach every young mind and inspire them to move towards a progressive society.
- He said that the book will also serve as good source of research for researchers and analysts.

### **Who Moved My Interest Rate? authored by Duvvuri Subbarao**

A book titled Who Moved My Interest Rate? authored by Duvvuri Subbarao, the former Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will be released on 27 July 2016.

- The book gives an account of the dilemmas Subbarao confronted while leading the Reserve Bank through the extraordinary economic and political challenges India and world faced from 2008 to 2013.
- He was the 22nd Governor of Reserve Bank of India from 5 September 2008, with an extension in 2011 till 4 September 2013.

### **Courage & Commitment authored by Margaret Alva**

A book titled Courage & Commitment: An Autobiography by Margaret Alva was in news in the second week of July 2016.

- Via this book, Alva narrates her forty-year career under four Prime Ministers, namely Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, PV Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh.
- In the book, Alva also speaks about her denunciation of the manipulation of seats by her own party; and the events leading to her resignation in 2008.

### **The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable authored by Amitav Ghosh**

The Book titled The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable authored by Indian novelist Amitav Ghosh was in news in the second week of July 2016.

- The book addresses the challenges of representing the complexity of climate change in literature and the responsibility of writers to document the extreme reality humans are now facing.
- He examines the inability at the level of literature, history and politics to grasp the scale and violence of climate change.

### **Shah Rukh Khan launches Sania Mirza's autobiography 'Ace Against Odds'**

Bollywood's Badshah Shah Rukh Khan launched tennis star Sania Mirza's the autobiography, 'Ace Against Odds', in Hyderabad.

- The book captures Sania's journey of becoming World's No.1 player in women's doubles and the difficulties and challenges faced by her in making her dream come true.

### **Ringside With Vijender authored by Rudraneil Sengupta released**

The book titled Ringside With Vijender authored by Rudraneil Sengupta released on 8 July 2016.

- The book, published by Juggernaut Books, throws light on the Beijing Olympics bronze medallist boxer Vijender Singh's life post his transition to the world of pro boxing.
- The book also deals with the boxer's sudden decision to turn pro just an year ahead of the Rio Olympics. It also offers an insight into his struggles, changes in his boxing style, training and his personal life.