

## International Affairs

### **International Jazz Day 2016**

International Jazz Day was observed on 30 April. It was celebrated by UNESCO in Washington D.C. as host city.

- The day was declared during the UNESCO General Conference in 2011. The first annual International Jazz Day was kicked off in Paris.

### **International Workers' Day**

The International Workers day celebrated on 1st May every year to highlight this significance. This is also known as International Labours Day and May Day.

- The theme of International Labour Day 2016 is Celebrating the international labour movement.

### **Iraq declares state of emergency as protestors storm into Parliament**

Iraq government has declared a state of emergency after supporters of Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr stormed parliament. Protesters in the capital has reached the cabinet headquarters inside the Green Zone of the cabinet building.

- It's the most major political crisis in Iraq after the demise of Saddam in 2003 following an attack by US army.

### **Prime Minister Modi Visit to Iran Overview**

Prime Minister first visit to Iran and the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 15 years

- PM Modi had discussion with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iran President Hassan Rouhani.

- India and Iran sign 12 bilateral agreements including Chabahar port development
- India, Iran, Afghanistan ink historic trilateral transit pact.
- The Persian service of All India Radio has launched a multimedia website and mobile app by PM Narendra Modi.

### **India, Thailand, Myanmar to be connected with a 1400-km road**

In a bid to give fillip to trade and cultural exchanges between the three countries India, Thailand and Myanmar are working on a 1,400-kilometre highway which will link India with Southeast Asia by land for the first time in decades.

- There are 73 bridges totally in Myanmar, built more than seven decades ago were being repaired with funding from India for highway safe movement.
- The repair work will take about 18 months from the commencement of the work. The planned highway starts in the eastern region of India from Moreh to Myanmar's Tamu city.

### **Obama lifts arms ban in his first visit to Vietnam**

U.S. President Barack Obama lifted a decades-old arms export embargo on Vietnam during his first visit to the communist country, looking to bolster a government seen as a crucial, though flawed partner even as he pushes for better human rights from the one-party state.

- Mr. Obama announced the full removal of the embargo at a news conference, saying the move was intended to step toward normalizing relations with the former war enemy and to eliminate a "lingering vestige of the Cold War."

### **World Humanitarian Summit held at Istanbul**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon inaugurated the first world humanitarian summit Purpose: World leaders to be committed to improving the humanitarian responses to crises

- Venue: Istanbul
- Top 100 countries, companies and socialist took part in this summit.

### **India bans nationals from travelling to strife-torn Libya**

Indian External Affairs Ministry has banned Indian nationals from travelling to Libya in view of prevailing security situation in the country, irrespective of the purpose of the visit.

- This decision has been notified to all immigration authorities by the Ministry of External affairs led by Sushma Swaraj.
- This move comes after reports of a Libyan former minister being killed in clashes between unity government forces and fighters of the ISIS group in Sirte.

### **Indian-American Rishi Nair wins 28th annual National Geographic Bee Competition**

Indian American student Rishi Nair won the prestigious National Geographic Bee competition 2016.

- As National Geographic Bee champion, Nair received a 50000 US dollars college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society. He also won a trip to Alaska and Glacier Bay National Park.
- This is the fifth consecutive year that an Indian-American has won the prestigious national tournament. In 2015, Karan Menon had won the competition.

### **IAF Participation in Ex Desert Eagle – II at UAE**

Indian Air Force and United Arab Emirates (UAE) went into a bilateral exercise of Second Edition named Ex Desert Eagle – II which is underway at Al-Dhafra Air Base in UAE from 24 May 16 to 03 Jun 16.

- Indian Air Force's Su-30 MkI and Mirage 2000-9, F-16 of UAE Air Force are taking part in the air combat exercise under multiple simulated scenarios.
- These exercises will provide exposure towards mission planning and execution in a simulated high threat combat environment besides building up crew confidence and bonhomie with both the sides.

### **Sadhguru to lead yoga session at UN on 2nd Int'l Yoga Day**

Isha Foundation founder Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev to lead a yoga session at the UN on the occasion of the second International Yoga Day to be commemorated next month.

- The International Yoga Day this year will be commemorated on June 21 with the theme of Yoga for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The first Yoga Day was commemorated at the UN with aplomb last year, with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj leading the celebrations.

### **Wipro inaugurates Saudi's 1st all-women IT park**

IT services company Wipro has inaugurated Saudi Arabia's first all women business and technology park (WBP) at the Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University in Riyadh.

- The WBP is a joint venture between Wipro and the university, with oil firm Saudi Aramco acting as the strategic adviser.

- The initiative is expected to create nearly 21,000 jobs by 2025.

### **4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting to be held in New Delhi**

The eight nations composing the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children, (SAIEVAC) are assembling in New Delhi from 9<sup>th</sup> May for their 4th Ministerial Meeting.

- The meeting will set strategies and agree on commitments to ensure the protection and security of the children of the region and will be hosted by the Ministry of Child and Women Development.
- The Ministerial meeting on 11th of this month will be preceded by a two day technical consultation focusing on critical issues of child protection and violence in the region.
- Delegates from the governments and civil society organizations of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will assess progress and developments of the past decade of regional effort and identify priorities for SAIEVAC for the next five years.

### **Nepal recalls envoy in India for alleged 'non-cooperation'**

Nepal has recalled its Ambassador to India over charges of non-cooperation and indulging in anti-government activities.

- Ambassador Deep Kumar Upadhyaya had confronted with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli regarding the cancellation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari's scheduled visit to India.
- The conversation between Oli and Upadhyaya reportedly

took place after the cancellation of the President's trip.

- Nepal's first woman President Bhandari was scheduled to visit India from May 9 as the state guest at the invitation of President Pranab Mukherjee.
- She was also scheduled to participate in a 'Shahi Snan' in Ujjain's Simhastha Kumbh on May 14.

### **Investments through Mauritius to be taxed from April 2017**

India will start imposing capital gains tax on investments routed through Mauritius from April next under a revised tax treaty to curb tax evasion and round-tripping of funds.

- Mauritius and Singapore are among the top-most sources of foreign direct investments into India.
- From beginning April 1, 2017, capital gains tax will be imposed at 50 per cent of the prevailing domestic rate. Full rate will apply from April 1, 2019.

### **India, Bangladesh power ties with 21st-century nuclear deal**

India inked a 21st century nuclear agreement with Bangladesh to engage the bilateral neighbourhood relationship between two nations.

- Signed between Minister of External Affairs and Bangladesh Department of Science and Technology
- Four Indian based companies — BHEL, Reliance, Shapoorji-Pallonji and Adani — have bid to set up power plants in Bangladesh.

### **World Press Freedom Day**

World Press Freedom Day is celebrated every year on May 3 to mark the international community that

freedom of the press and freedom of expression are fundamental human rights.

- This year Theme is Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms – This Is Your Right.
- The Day was established by the General Assembly of the UN Nations in 1993 as an outgrowth of the Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press.

### **India to hold festival in Egypt to mark Tagore's birth anniversary**

To mark the 155th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, India will organize a cultural festival in Egypt next week.

- The festival will be host from 8 May to 12th May by the Embassy of India in Cairo and Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture.

### **2016 Red Flag Aerial combat exercises conclude in Alaska**

The Air Forces of India and the U.S. concluded the 2016 Red Flag aerial combat exercises at Alaska in the U.S.

- A successor to the Cope Thunder exercise series, the main phase of the Red Flag exercises had commenced on 28 April 2016 with a mix of combat and support elements from the Indian Air Force (IAF), US Air Force (USAF) and US Navy (USN).
- The four-week long aerial combat exercises were held at the Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska, United States of America. This was the second time India had participated in such an exercise after 2008.

- Exercise Red Flag is an advanced aerial combat training exercise hosted at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.
- Red Flag – Alaskais held at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. It is a successor to the previous COPE THUNDER exercise series in the Western Pacific and Alaska.

### **India, US hold first Maritime Security Dialogue**

In order to promote the partnership in the Maritime Field, India and US made the successful first round of discussion under the Maritime Security Dialogue in New Delhi.

- First round of Discussion Discovered the scope of maritime cooperation under the framework of this maritime dialogue at the bilateral and multilateral level to be brought up.
- Issues Discussed are Asia-Pacific Maritime Challenges, Naval Cooperation and Multilateral Engagement.

### **India and Slovenia have signed Protocol amending the India-Slovenia Double Taxation Avoidance Convention.**

India and Central European country Slovenia have signed a protocol to amend an existing double taxation avoidance treaty.

- This agreement will widen the scope of the existing framework of exchange of tax related information.
- The protocol was signed by Indian ambassador to Slovenia Sarvajit Chakravarti, and Slovenian Finance Minister Dusan Mramor on behalf of Slovenia.
- The framework is likely to help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance between the

two countries and also enable mutual assistance in collection of taxes.

### **Taj Mahal in top 5 tourist attractions in the world and Second position in Asia: Survey**

Most Iconic wonders of the world, The Taj Mahal has been surveyed as top five tourist spots in the world and Second in Asia. Survey was conducted by Travel Planning and Booking site TRIP advisor

- Machu Picchu in Peru is the first in list while Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi remain second.
- Trip Advisor India Country Manager Nikhil Ganju expressed that India has a rich Cultural History and Architectural landmarks that built and recognized on the world stage.

### **International Buddhist conference begins in Nepal to remember the Buddha Birthday Anniversary**

A two-day International Buddhist conference to remember the 2,560th birth anniversary of Lord Buddha began.

- Inauguration by Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli
- Theme: Lumbini, Nepal: the birth place of Lord Buddha and the fountain of Buddhism and world peace
- One of the Monks from India who delegated the conference expressed that India's Emperor Ashoka and Indian Scholar BR Ambedkar have played major role in spreading the message of Lord Buddha

### **Beijing-New Delhi Yoga Conference opens in China**

Chinese yoga practitioners gathered in large numbers over 1,000 for a group performance in Kunming in China to open the China-India Yoga Conference.

- The five day conference to be held between May 18 and 22 will feature activities including courses from Indian yoga masters and yoga introductions for communities.
- The Yoga gathering was organised by the Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese affairs offices and the China-India Yoga College in Kunming.

### **Tsai Ing-wen sworn in as new president of Taiwan**

Democratic Progressive Party leader Tsai Ing-wen has been sworn in as the new president of Taiwan.

- Tsai also becoming its first female leader of the country also fills the shoes of President Ma Ying-jeou, who served two four-year terms since May 2008.

### **Lakhakpa becomes first woman to climb Everest seventh time**

Lakhakpa Sherpa, US-based Nepali climbed Mount Everest for the seventh time, breaking her own record for the most summits of the world's highest mountain by any woman.

- She works in a 7-Eleven shop in Connecticut in the US
- Two Sherpa climbers share between them the record of 21 ascents of Everest, the most number of climbs by men.

### **G7 finance summit held in Japan**

The G7 finance summit held in Sendai in Japan to give fillip for balancing the growth of the global economy amid the slowing down of the Chinese economy and those of other emerging countries.

- The world's seven most developed countries was represented by finance ministers and governors of the central banks.
- G7 representatives and their European Union counterparts met informally in the forum titled Future of the Global Economy.

### National Affairs

#### **Rajasthan to be 1st state to issue ads to appoint V-Cs**

Rajasthan becomes India's first state to issue newspaper advertisements to select vice-chancellors for state universities to ensure better-qualified candidates apply for the job and greater transparency in the process.

- The move will replace the existing convention riddled with delays and allegations of political favouritism of direct appointment of V-Cs.
- Applicants must mention general personal information, educational qualification, subject of expertise, details of work at administrative posts and academic publications.

#### **YSR Congress Party in Telangana assembly merges with TRS**

Telangana Legislature Assembly Speaker Madhusudhan Chary has officially announced the merger of all three Legislators of YSR Congress party with the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

- While two of its MLAs joined the ruling party last year, the third one Venkateswarlu and Khammam MP P. Srinivas Reddy quit the party and joined the ruling TRS a few days ago.

#### **India's single emergency number '112' to be active from Jan 1**

The single emergency number '112' will be functioning throughout India from January 1, 2017

- Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has approved the provision of a single number for various emergency services.
- It is similar to '911' all-in one emergency service being used in the US.
- The service will also be accessible even through those SIMs and landlines whose outgoing call facility has been temporarily suspended.

#### **Gujarat Government accords minority status to Jain community**

Gujarat government announced a government resolution (GR) granting minority status to the Jain community.

- The grant will benefit the poor among the Jain community as they can avail of various scholarships, government welfare schemes as per Article 30 of Indian Constitution.

#### **Environment Minister launches Web-Based Application on Integrated Waste Management System**

Union Government has launched a web-based application on Integrated Waste Management System (IWMS) for better management of waste also to provide an opportunity to all the industries dealing in hazardous waste to apply online.

- It can track the movement of hazardous waste and will also help in ensuring its proper management.
- There are 43000 industries dealing in hazardous waste, of which about 30000 industries have been mapped through this application.
- The web-based application intends to enhance transparency in the working of the Ministry and other Centre/State level regulatory bodies.
- The move also to reduce the time taken for processing applications, seeking various types of permissions under the recently notified waste management regulations.

### **Uma Bharti Launches Rural Sanitation Initiatives for Ganga Rejuvenation in Jharkhand**

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti launched nine projects for rural sanitation initiatives under Namami Gange Programme for conservation of river Ganga in Sahibganj, Jharkhand.

- Speaking on the occasion the Minister said the entire 83 Km. stretch of Ganga in Jharkhand will be covered under this programme. She said the project will focus on three significant interventions;
- Promotion of safe, individual hygiene practices to ensure open defecation free status of all 78 villages along the river Ganga, Promotion of cost-effective, appropriate local, low cost, easy to manage technologies using local resources to ensure improved access,
- Sustained use and maintenance of infrastructure created for effective management of solid and liquid waste and strengthening of local institutions including panchayats.

- Village level sanitation committees and self-help groups to effectively manage, enhance and maintain facilities established for improved sanitation in the villages and an integrated and a holistic livelihood approach.

### **Mahesh Sharma Releases Commemorative Coin on Maharana Pratap**

Culture and Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma has released a Commemorative coin of Rs. 100/- and a Circulation coin of Rs. 10/- in New Delhi as a part of 475th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Maharana Pratap.

- The Ministry has been celebrating the birth anniversary during 2015-16 in association with the Rajasthan. A Conference and Special Lecture on Maharana Pratap was organized by Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) in the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur earlier this year. iv. Union government and the Rajasthan Government have decided to create a multi-purpose indoor stadium at Khel Gaon, Udaipur in his memory and also agreed to give a sum of Rs. 9.50 crore for this.

### **Parliament approved anti-hijacking bill providing for death penalty**

The parliament approved the Anti-Hijacking Bill that award death penalty to the criminals in case of death of hostages or security personnel

- Initially Life imprisonment or confiscation of Movable and immovable property as punishment to the Accused.
- Central government award powers of investigation, arrest and prosecution on any officer of the central government or the National Investigation Agency ii. Offenders cannot be released on bail or

bond unless among other things  
iii. In case the investigation is carried out by the National Investigation Agency, the designated court shall be a court set up under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008

### **INS Tarmugli Joins the Indian Navy**

The Indian Navy commissioned indigenously built Fast Attack Craft INS Tarmugli for deployment of coastal patrol and surveillance operations along the East Coast of India.

- It was commissioned by the Vice Admiral HCS Bisht AVSM, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam. It was named after a pretty island in the Andaman Islands group.
- Tarmugli is conceived, designed and built indigenously that measures 48 meters in length, can achieve speeds in excess of 30 knots also weighing 320-tonne.

### **Union Government announced 13 cities as Smart Cities**

The Union government announced the names of 13 more cities that will be developed under the Centre's "Smart City Mission."

- Other cities are Warangal in Telangana, Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), New Town Kolkata, Bhagalpur (Bihar), Panaji (Goa), Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Imphal (Manipur), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Faridabad (Haryana).
- Seven cities — Patna (Bihar), Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), Naya Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) — that were not among the 100 shortlisted for the

competition will be able to participate in the next round.

### **NGT bans over 10-year-old light, heavy diesel vehicles in six Kerala cities**

National Green Tribunal has banned light and heavy diesel vehicles, which are passed more than 10 years old, in six major cities in Kerala.

- The tribunal also directed the state government not to register any diesel vehicle in the capacity of 2000 CC and more, except public transport and local authority vehicles.
- The Bench directed the following cities where the ban will be in force, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kochi, Thrissur, Kozhikode and Kannur.

### **Cabinet approves National Capital Goods Policy 2016**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved National Capital Goods Policy 2016, First ever policy for Capital Goods sector.

- Increasing production of capital goods from Rs. 2.30 crore in 2014-15 to Rs. 7.50 crore in 2025 and raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million.

### **Govt renames disability dept; 'divyang' replaces 'viklang'**

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities named as 'Divyangjan' Sashaktikaran Vibhag in Hindi, after leaving the word 'viklangjan' from its previous terminology.

- This decision comes from the centre after PM Modi emphasized such changes in his so called radio address Mann Ki Baat last December that physically challenged people have a "divine ability" and the term "divyang" should be used in place of viklang.



- The president gives assent in Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 the formal name will be used in regular business.

### **New website of Ministry of AYUSH and web portal for IDY launched by Shri Shripad Yesso Naik**

AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik has launched the new website of the Ministry of AYUSH and web portal for International Day of Yoga (IDY) in New Delhi.

- The web portal has been developed by NIC as part of digital India Campaign, using content management framework approach across all platforms such as Android, IOS and Windows.
- The IDY's new portal has a provision for news to provide all the updated and relevant information relating to International Day of Yoga this year.

### **Railway launches week-long drive to showcase achievements**

Ministry of Railways launches "RAIL HAMSAFAR SAPTAAH" – a Week Long Celebration to showcase Railway Achievements during 2014 – 2016.

- Each day of the week will focus on a particular theme: Swachhta Diwas, Satkar Diwas, Sewa Diwas, Satarkata Diwas, Saamanjasya Diwas, Sanyojan Diwas, Sanchaar Diwas held during 26th May to 1st June, 2016.
- Purpose is to highlight the Initiatives and Significant achievements by Indian Railways in the areas of responsiveness, accessibility and improvement of passenger amenities.

### **Cabinet clears Railway projects worth Rs 11,000 crore**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for Railway projects worth Rs 11,000 crore for improving infrastructure in various states.

- The group of projects include Bina-Katni 3rd line project at an estimated cost of nearly 2,500 crore the other project is Vizianagaram and Titlagarh 3rd line project, will be constructed at an estimated cost of 2,335 crore.
- The other projects are Surendranagar-Rajkot project, Pune-Miraj-Londa railway line and Roza –Sitapur Cantt – Burhwal Broad Gauge single line.

### **Cabinet gives nod to six new IITs; Upgrades Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad to IIT**

The Cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to the amendment to the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 for incorporation of six new IITs and conversion of Indian School of Mines (ISM) Dhanbad to an IIT.

- The six new IITs will be located at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Palakkad (Kerala), Dharwar (Karnataka), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Goa and Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir).
- The decision came at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches Nirbhaya buses with safety measures for women**

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched 20 Nirbhaya buses of Rajasthan State Transport Corporation that comes with safety measures of Women commuters.

- These bus security measures include Vehicle Tracking System (VTS), CCTV and panic buttons on every seat. The panic buttons will enable the police to track the exact location of the bus and provide prompt assistance.

### **Maharashtra Mantralaya's 150 Computers Attacked By Locky Virus**

Maharashtra's e-governance platform Mantralaya's 150 computers have been attacked by a malicious software known as Locky ransomware.

- The virus blocks access to computers by encrypting important files from the Public Works Department and the Revenue department.
- To safeguard the government's e-governance platform the information technology department isolated all the systems that went under the attack.

### **Dial 139 for wait-listed ticket cancellation**

Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu launched 139 service for RAC and wait-listed tickets to cancel their tickets, Earlier only confirmed ticket holders could cancel their tickets through 139 service and IRCTC website.

- Upon this online cancellation by 139 will be allowed only 4 hours before the scheduled departure of the train in case of confirmed tickets and up to half an hour before the scheduled departure of the train in case of RAC and wait-listed cases.

### **First bullet train to run in India by 2023: Suresh Prabhu**

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu said the first bullet train will run in India in 2023 heralding a new era in train operations in the subcontinent.

- The bullet train is expected to cover 508 km between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in about two hours, running at a maximum speed of 350 kmph and operating speed of 320 kmph.
- Passengers will get the thrill of riding under the sea while travelling between Mumbai and Ahmedabad on the first bullet train of the country. The 508 km long Mumbai-

Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor will have a 21 km tunnel under the sea.

### **Union Information & Broadcasting Ministry framed Policy guidelines for Online Central Government advertisements**

Information & Broadcasting Ministry decided to frame Policy guidelines and criteria for Central Government advertisements on websites.

- Empanelment of suitable agencies: Websites are owned and operated by companies that are incorporated in India
- Websites are owned by foreign companies be empanelled if such companies have branch office are registered and operating in India for minimum one year.

### **Retirement Age for Government Doctors Will be 65, Says PM Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced rising of retirement of government doctors age to 65 years will be increased from the current 62 to 65 at a rally in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district.

- The PM observed that there is a need for more doctors across India but it was not possible to fill the gap in two years of his government.
- The decision will have ambit of all government doctors whether serving under states or the central dispensation. The cabinet will give its nod in a week time.

### **PM Narendra Modi flagged off trains to Mizoram, Manipur including Kamakhya-Vaishno Devi Katra weekly train**

Prime Minister and Railway Minister flagged off passenger train services to Mizoram and Manipur on the newly-laid broad gauge line and Kamakhya -Vaishno Devi Katra weekly train which was announced during Railway Budget 2014-15.

- The Prime Minister and Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu were present during Flag off using remote control from Shillong.

### **First Time in History, Polls Cancelled On 2 Tamil Nadu Assembly Seats**

The Election Commission of India has decided to call off the elections to the two Tamil Nadu constituencies such as Thanjavur and Aravakurichi that was postponed ahead of the May 16 polls in Tamil Nadu. This move is first in India's electoral history.

- The pronouncement comes after ECI's found malpractices through large scale distribution of money and gifts to electors by the candidates and political parties.
- The Commission gone with such the decision later considering reports of observers, special teams of central observers, report of the special team of observers to the two constituencies.

### **NGT imposes Rs.50 lakh fine on East Coast Railway**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a fine of `50 lakh on East Coast Railway for operating a illegal railway siding without consent of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) at Jakhapura railway station near Kalinga nagar in Odisha's Jajpur district.

- The Kolkata bench of NGT that was hearing the case asked the railway board to deposit the fine amount at the Jajpur Collectorate within 2 months as environmental compensation for five years for operation of the railway siding.

### **High-Speed Spanish Talgo Train initiated the experimental Run In India**

The trial of Spanish train Talgo, the lighter and faster vehicle with speed up to 115 km per hour,

was conducted between Bareilly and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh as part of the Railways' strategy to increase the speed of trains.

- The train has to undergo 12 trials. All the trials would be conducted between Moradabad to Bareilly.
- The nine-coach Talgo train consists of two Executive Class cars, four Chair Cars, a cafeteria, a power car and a tail-end coach for staff and equipment.

### **Lakshadweep signs 24x7 'Power for All' document**

Lakshadweep became first Union Territory (UT) to sign "24x7 Power for All" document. Representative of Government of India and the Administration of Lakshadweep signed the document in presence of Shri P.K. Pujari, Secretary, Ministry of Power.

- The document chalks out a plan to increase solar capacity of the region from 2.15 MW to 8.45 MW.
- As a part of energy efficiency measures, 1 lakh LED bulbs will be distributed by UT administration through Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
- Incandescent lamps/CFL bulbs will be replaced with LED bulbs under UJALA programme.
- Additionally, replacement of 3000 conventional street lights with LED street lights is also being taken up.

### **Tollywood superstar Mahesh Babu adopts AP village**

Telugu film actor Mahesh Babu has adopted a village in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district village Burripalem under the Smart Village-Smart Ward programme. The actor also launched several development works worth about Rs 2.14 crore.

- The financial grant of Rs 2.14 crore used for the construction of an Anganwadi building, a community hall, additional classrooms in the local school, laying of water pipelines, development of roads and drains in the village.

### **Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance JioInfocomm launches digital wallet**

Mumbai based Reliance Jio has launched digital wallet service called Jio Money for common people. With this users can do mobile and DTH recharges, send/receive money, make bill payments, pay insurance and other premiums.

### **Indian Navy launches underwater vigilance system in Visakhapatnam & decommissions fighter planes Sea Harriers**

The Indian Navy has launched the state-of-the-art harbor defence systems viz., integrated underwater harbor defence and surveillance system and marine warfare data centre, which would enhance the Navy's surveillance capability and response to security threats at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

- Indian navy has decommissioned its fleet of Sea Harriers. These planes will be replaced by new generation MIG-29 K fighters.

### **National Technology Day**

National Technology Day is being observed across India on May 11 to glorify the importance of science in day-to-day life and motivate students to adopt science as a career option.

- Theme: 'Technology enablers of Startup India'

### **NDA framed NITI Aayog to replace 5-year plans with 15 year vision document**

NDA Government led by Prime Minister decided to liberate of the Nehruvian five year plans and replace the plans with 15 year vision credentials. **Focus is** Country's social goal & Sustainable development agenda

- The current **12th Five-Year Plan** will be concluded in the current financial year, 2016-17
- The first **15-year vision** document will start from 2017-18, along with a seven-year National Development Agenda.

### **India's first solar train set for trial run in Jodhpur**

Indian Railways is all set to conduct trials of its **first solar panel-powered train** which will have its lights & fans run on solar energy in **Jodhpur**.

- A train using solar power can reduce diesel consumption by up to 90,000 litres per year and also bring **down carbon dioxide emissions by over 200 tonnes**.

### **Four out of top 5 world's most polluted cities in India, Delhi ranks 11th**

WHO reported that India is home to four of the five cities in the world with worst air pollution. 4 most polluted cities out of top 5 – Gwalior, Allahabad, Patna, Raipur

- Report stated that more than 7 million premature deaths occur every year due to air pollution, 3 million of them due to outdoor air quality.
- The dirtiest air was recorded at Zabol in Iran.
- Delhi ranks 11th in the world.

### **World's largest cargo plane AN-225 Mriya lands in Hyderabad**

The world's largest cargo carrier aircraft **Antonov An-225 Mriya** landed at the **Rajiv Gandhi International airport** in Hyderabad in en route to Australia from Europe.

- The landing is first in India as it is making a technical halt at Hyderabad it is arrived from Turkmanbashi in Central Asia and will proceed to Jakarta and is destined for Perth.

### **Cabinet approves country's first Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy**

Union Cabinet has approved the **National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy** with a view to promoting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

- It aims to create awareness about economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among iprall sections of society.

### **India Post goes high-tech, geo-tags post offices on mobile app called BHUVAN**

With the support of the Department of Space, India Post has geo-tagged over 1.5 lakh post offices on the indigenous Geo-Portal called **BHUVAN**

- It's an Initiative to make use of Department of Space in different sectors

### **India third in attractiveness index of renewable energy: EY Report**

India ranks at **third position** after the United States and China in the category of Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index reported by EY.

- India achieved the position due to strong focus of the Government stress on Renewable Energy with the implementation of Renewable energy projects.
- Ranked on the basis of Size and Scale of renewable activity

### **J P Nadda Lays Foundation Stone For 3 Medical Colleges In Jammu And Kashmir**

Health and Family Welfare Minister **JP Nadda** laid the foundation stones

of **three** medical colleges, to be set up at a cost of around Rs 189 crore each, in Jammu and Kashmir.

- These colleges will be built at **Rajouri** in Jammu, **Anantnag** in south Kashmir and **Baramulla** in the north.
- These Medical Colleges will be attached to district hospitals of these three districts. Each medical college is to have **intake capacity of 100 for MBBS course**.

### **15 days Swachh Office drive launched across the country**

Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu launched a 15-day special 'Swachh Office Drive' for ensuring cleanliness at all Government offices across the country as an intensive thematic campaign under Swachh Bharat Mission.

- The Minister also planted a Neem sapling at Nirman Bhawan and inspected the building for about an hour for an on the spot assessment of sanitation.
- The Ministry's suggestion include ensuring water supply at 45 litres per head per day, one toilet for every 25 persons, urinals to be provided based on employee strength, removal of stains every week, checking electrical fittings twice a week, acid cleaning and scrubbing of toilets daily, schedule of inspections etc.

### **Section 144 imposed in Chandigarh**

Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1973 had been deployed in Chandigarh as a result protesters will not be allowed to enter into the city.

- The vicinity around the residences of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief

Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal in Sector 2 was sealed with barricades.

- This protest by the AAP party is against the alleged Rs 12,000-crore missing food grain scam in Punjab, rampant corruption and failure of the Punjab government to curb the drugs racket.

### **Military tourism initiative 'Veer Yatra' launched in Pune**

Maharashtra Ex-servicemen's Corporation has launched the Veer Yatra, an initiative by the Military body that aims to spice up a vacation with on-locale narratives of real-life dare-devilry and heroism.

- This Yatra is for civilians provides a peek into the lives of the country's defence forces, also focusing on areas of historic importance.
- It also targets to provide employment to 1,000 ex-servicemen and war widows over the next year.

### **National Conference on 'Gaushalas' Inaugurated**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries organized a day-long national conference on Gaushalas—cowsheds in New Delhi.

- Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar underlined that villages were traditionally planned in such a manner that there were facilities for human beings and fodder for animals.
- The Ministry is mulling for draft of a policy is being prepared, which will include a provision to provide protein-rich fodder free of cost to the people living in villages adjoining the jungles.

- According to Agriculture Ministry there are 19 crore livestock in the country, which is about 14% of the world's livestock and out of this, 15 crore are indigenous livestock.

### **India successfully test fires its indigenously developed Prithvi-II missile**

India has successfully blasted off its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile as part of a user trial by the army from a launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha.

- The Missile have a strike range of 350 km also capable of carrying 500 kg to 1,000 kg of warheads and is thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines also nine-metre-tall. It uses advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring trajectory to hit its target.
- DRDO developed Prithvi is India's first indigenously-built ballistic missile.

### **World's largest Single Rooftop Solar Power Plant inaugurated in Amritsar**

World's largest single rooftop stretch of 42 acre solar power plant of 11.5 Mw capacity was installed in India

- It was inaugurated by New & Renewable Energy Resources Minister of Punjab Bikram Singh Majithia at Beas in Punjab.
- Mandalay Bay Resort Convention Centre, Las Vegas in the United States is next biggest solar photovoltaic power station

### **Trial run of Delhi Metro's new 'driver-less' train begins**

The country's first driverless-metro train was tested on track in the capital, equipped to run on Unattended Train Operations mode.

- The train was flagged off by Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at new Mukundpur depot.
- The trial run started at the Mukundpur depot and ended at Majalis Park station on the Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar corridor.

### **President of India inaugurated IOC in Rashtrapati Bhavan**

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated an Intelligent Operations Centre and launched a Mobile App 'Monitor' for transformation of President's Estate into a smart township at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

- This facilities will help the residents of the Estate become more socially responsible, aware and collaborative.
- The solution designed by IBM which helps collect and make sense of the rich data streaming in from several sources within the Estate to provide intelligent insights.
- This application is a collaboration tool of the Intelligent Operation Center. This will help residents and Energy, Water, Horticulture, Waste and Security supervisors to collaborate in a smarter way for their observations

### **Himachal CM launches PEHAL programme**

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh has introduced PEHAL programme in Shimla district.

- Shimla has become the 1st district in the state to launch such different programme to work as a team with the people.
- The PEHAL will focus on five areas namely- Primary Education, Forest Rights, Health and Sanitation, Campaign against drugs and skill development and Women Empowerment.

### **Hindustan Motors CEO resigns**

The beleaguered Hindustan Motors chief executive officer Ajay Kumar Bansal has resigned.

- The C.K. Birla group company did not cite any reason for Bansal's resignation.
- The crisis-ridden auto maker, which produced iconic Ambassador cars, had appointed Bansal as the chief executive with effect from November 2, 2015, for a period of two years.

### **J P Nadda launches 'Kayakalp Fortnight' to be observed across the country in Central**

#### **Government hospitals**

Union Health Minister, J P Nadda launches 'Kayakalp Fortnight' at AIIMS, New Delhi in order to set protocols for hygiene and sanitation at government health facilities.

- 'Kayakalp Fortnight' will be observed throughout the country in various central government hospitals from 20th May to 3rd June, 2016.

- Standards and protocols have been put in place for upkeep of services within and outside the buildings.

### **After liquor, Bihar government bans gutka and pan masala**

Bihar government has decided to prohibit the distribution, manufacture, storage, distribution, consumption, transportation, display or the sale of any type of 'gutka' and pan masala for a period of one year with effect from 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016.

- The state is empowered under Section 30 (2) (a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

### **2016 Women Economic Forum (WEF) hosted by India and organized by All Ladies League**

The ALL Ladies League (ALL) organised the Women Economic Forum (WEF) from May 16-21, 2016 in New Delhi, India

- Theme: "Women: Uplifting and Uniting the World"
- Participants: 1500 women from 75 countries
- Goal: Energize women's entrepreneurship and leadership

### **LED Bulb Ujala Yojana inaugurated in Bhopal**

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal jointly inaugurated Urja Daksh LED Bulb UjalaYojana in Bhopal.

- Under this scheme over 3 crore LED bulbs would be distributed all over the State at Rs 85 per bulb.

### **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 comes into force after 8 yearlong efforts**

Real Estate Act comes into force with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May after 8 yearlong efforts to make operational Rules, Setting up regulatory authorities and Appellate tribunals.

- The Act was initiated during National Conference of Housing Ministers of States and Union Territories in January 2009.

### **ADMM plus Exercise on Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism at Brunei and Singapore**

In a bid to India's Act East Policy The Naval Ship (INS) Airavat of India arrived at Brunei and will take part in the ADMM Plus (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus) Exercise on Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism from 01 to 09 May 16.

- ADMM plus Ex MS & CT is a multinational exercise of ADMM Plus countries group. This edition will commence at Brunei and conclude at Singapore.
- During the course of the exercise the Indian Navy would engage with participating navies from various ASEAN and other countries through professional interactions in harbour and complex operations at sea.

### **PM Modi launches country's 1st solar-powered e-boats in Varanasi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the country's first solar powered e-boats at the Assi Ghat in the river Ganga, Varanasi.

- The initiative is aimed at reducing pollution and keeping the Ganga river clean.
- With the help of this e-boats, the boatmen will be able to save rs. 500 a day without spending on diesel.

### **Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam & Odia now classical languages of India**



All four Southern languages - Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia are now the classical languages of India.

- Earlier, Sanskrit alone had this status. Demands have come to grant the classical status to Marathi as well.
- Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma gave this information in the Lok Sabha.
- He elaborated that any language to have a classical status must have high antiquity going back to 1500 to 2000 years.

### **SC appointed RM Lodha-panel to reform Medical Council of India**

Supreme Court appointed a three-member panel headed by RM Lodha to oversee how the regulator of medical profession and education in India function

- The five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice AR Dave ordered to reform the Medical Council of India.
- MCI's policy decisions will require approval of the oversight committee.
- The committee has the panel has former CAG Vinod Rai and Dr SK Sareen. Initially the panel will function for a year.

### **Bengal's Enclave-dwellers to Vote for the First Time**

West Bengal's Cooch Behar district, came up for discussion in May 2016. The district, located in the lower area of the eastern Himalayas, is in the news when 51 enclave were given the right to vote for the first time since independence in 1947.

- On May 5, 2016, 9000 people who live in these enclaves will cast their votes.
- 51 districts of Cooch Behar, till July 31 2015, was known as No Man's Land. Earlier neither India nor Bangladesh had the right. As a result, the citizens of the

area were not receiving the full rights of a single country.

- On July 31, 2015, Land Boundary Agreement 1974 formally applied on the region to become part of the country. That day, 162 enclaves between India and Bangladesh were transferred.

### **Vijay Mallya Spared Being Expelled As MP, Resignation Accepted**

Vijay Mallya, who has refused to return from the UK to face banks over unpaid loans, has been allowed to resign from Parliament.

- Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Hamid Ansari, has accepted Mr. Mallya's resignation sent, Parliament was informed.
- Earlier, the Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha had recommended that the fugitive tycoon should be expelled with immediate effect, rather than being allowed to quit.

### **Piyush Goyal to unveil portal on payment to contract workers**

Coal and Power Minister Piyush Goyal will introduce a new portal for Contract Labour Payment Management System.

- He will also felicitate employees for their path-breaking work towards lighting up India in the last two years.
- The Web portal is created for monitoring compliance of labour payment and other benefits to contract workers under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970.

### **Memorandum of Cooperation to be signed between Ministry of Women & Child Development and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) between

Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

- In accordance with the cooperation in Information and Communication Technology enabled Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). It also deals with other technical matter.

### **DRDO and Ayush join hands to impart yoga training to Defence Wing Staff**

Delhi based DRDO's laboratory Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS) DRDO in collaboration with Department of AYUSH organised a training program on Yoga for the Defence Wing Staff.

- Earlier the DRDO's lab has imparted training to about 8000 Army and Paramilitary personnel deployed at various locations.

### **Lok Sabha passes Bankruptcy Bill**

The Parliament has passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill, 2016 Bill. Now it will be presented to Rajya Sabha.

- The "Transformational" legislation that will help improve India's ranking in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' index. Currently India is at 130<sup>th</sup> place in such Index.

### **Army Exercise Chakravayuh-II In Rajasthan**

In a follow up to 'Exercise Shatrueet' by the Strike Corps (Strike One) in Apr 2016, the pivot formations are holding major military training exercise codenamed "Exercise CHAKRAVYUH-II" in the general area of Pallu – Sardarsahar (Suratgarh) in Rajasthan.

- The exercise conceptualized by the Pivot Corps involves rapid mobilization and execution of plans in sync with Air Force.
- The exercise aims to validate the battle readiness and operational effectiveness of the pivot formation and RAPID division along with all its affiliated components.

## **Business/ Economy**

### **UNICEF-Kerala IMA partnership announced**

UNICEF and Indian Medical Association's Kerala wing joined hands to promote safe and healthy practices across the state for improving maternal and child health.

- The partnership will orient all the 35,000 doctors of the association in the state, on the importance of prescribing good practices to their patients besides medicines.
- All the branch of the total 103 spread in all the 14 districts in Kerala will adopt ten schools for promoting behavioural practices among students who will carry the message to homes.

### **55,669 villages to have mobile connectivity by 2019**

Union Government mulling to provide mobile connectivity in 55,669 villages by 2019 in a phased manner.

- Centre also would commission a project to connect 8,621 villages in the north-eastern region by installing 321 mobile tower sites at an estimated cost of Rs 5,336.18 crore has already been approved by 2017.
- To connect rural India through high-speed broadband it has completed laying of optic fiber in 48,199 gram Panchayats as on 2016.

### **Manamadurai-Rameswaram rail track to become first green corridor**

Nearly 114 km route between Rameswaram and Manamadurai in Tamil Nadu will become first green corridor by the end of this month.

- There are about 14 stations between Rameswaram and Manamadurai.

### **India ranks ninth in crony-capitalism index**

India is ranked at ninth position in crony-capitalism with crony sector wealth accounting for 3.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

- Germany is the cleanest with least number of crony capitalists.
- Russia tops the list followed by Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

### **India signs loan agreement with World Bank for 'Karnataka Urban Water Supply**

The Loan and Project Agreements for World Bank (IBRD) assistance of US\$ 100 million for the Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization project were signed between Government of India/Government of Karnataka and the World Bank.

- The Project is aimed to provide city-wide access to a continuous piped water supply in the eligible cities in Karnataka and also to reinforce the service delivery arrangements across the city.
- It will hold four key components such as (i) Capital Investment Program (ii) Institution Building (iii) Technical Assistance for Sector Development and (iv) Project Management.
- The project set to be executed over a period of 6 years, to begin with the twin cities of Hubballi-Dharwad, with provision for other eligible cities to join the project later.

### **India Post payments bank to be operational from March 2017**

Union IT & Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad informed that India Posts payments bank will start functioning from March 2017.

- The minister stated that the proposal to start the Payments will be kept before the cabinet and postal payments bank will become operational from next march.

The ministry will invest about Rs.800 crore ,Rs.400 crore by the department and the remaining amount will be equity part which is aimed for financial inclusion.

### **Islamic Development Bank announced to open its first branch in India at Ahmedabad**

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) announced to open its first branch in India at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. IDB is headquartered at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

- The plans to set up the branch at Gujarat is part of MoU signed between India's EXIM Bank and IDB during Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE) in April 2016.
- It also announced to provide 30 medical vans as part of IDB's social sector initiatives.
- These vans will be used for the tribal areas of Chhota Udepur, Narmada and Bharuch in Gujarat, in the first phase.

### **Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval to the MOU between India & Japan for power development**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi signed agreements on MOU between India and Japan

- Purpose is to address issues and barriers in promoting sustainable, stable and low-carbon thermal power development.
- Union Government also gives ex-post facto approval to India-Maldives MoU on

tourism to exchange visits of Tour Operators/Media/Opinion Makers for promotion of two-way tourism.

### **MoU between Indian Space Research Organisation and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency**

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi apprised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency (UAESA) in New Delhi on February this year.

- The joint agreement will help in setting up a Joint Working Group with members from ISRO and UAESA that will strengthen the work out the plan of action including the time-frame and the means of execution of this MoU.

### **Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval to the Yes Bank's proposal for increase in the FDI limit**

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has granted ex-post facto approval to the proposal of Yes Bank for scale up in the foreign investment limit to 74% from the present foreign equity limit of 41.87%.

- This increase in the limit comes without any sub-limits, for investment by way of issue of non-equity shares and/or other permissible instruments to eligible non-resident investors.
- This approval comes of instruments that includes Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP) of equity shares and/or issue of ADRs/GDRs and/or QFIs/FPIs under the Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) by acquisition of permissible securities on stock exchange.

### **India becomes 5th largest producer of e-waste in world: ASSOCHAM-KPMG study**

India has become the Fifth largest producer of e-

waste in the world, wastages roughly 18.5 Lakh metric tonnes of electronic waste and telecom equipment accounting for 12%.According to a study taken by ASSOCHAM and KPMG e-waste.

- India emerged as the Second largest mobile market with 1.03 billion subscribers.
- About 100 crore mobile phones in circulation, nearly 25 per cent end up in e-waste annually.

### **EPFO doubles insurance for subscribers to Rs 6 lakh**

Union government has imposed the decision of retirement fund body EPFO to closely double the maximum sum assured under its insurance scheme to Rs 6 lakh from Rs 3.6 lakh for its 4 crore subscribers.

- Central Board of Trustees which is Employee Provident Fund Organisation's apex decision making body had decided to increase benefits under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance scheme to Rs 6 lakh.

### **Govt. approves over Rs 5500 Cr investment to improve infrastructure in six states**

The Centre has approved an investment of over 5534 crore rupees for basic urban infrastructure in six states under Atal Mission.

- The States are Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand and Meghalaya. The decision was taken by the Apex committee of Urban Development Ministry under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, AMRUT in New Delhi.
- An official release said, the investment will be made for providing household water taps, improving water supply, sewerage networks, urban transport and provision of open and green spaces in one hundred eleven Atal Mission cities of these states.

- The Apex Committee also approved the release of central assistance of 520 crore rupees for the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, JNNURM scheme.

### **India's growth to rise to 8 percent in FY2019:**

#### **Fitch**

US based Fitch Ratings Inc has said India's economic growth will accelerate to 8 percent by 2018-19 fiscal as gradual implementation of structural reforms will contribute to higher growth.

- The company in its latest Global Economic outlook forecasts India's real GDP growth to rise to 8 percent by 2018-19, from 7.9 percent in 2017-18 and 7.7 percent in 2016-17. However it is estimated to have grown by 7.6 percent in 2015-16.

### **Government cancelled all defence tenders**

#### **bagged by Finmeccanica**

The Union government has decided to cancel all ongoing tenders for defence equipment won by Italy's Finmeccanica.

- Firm is being investigated for bribery in the Agusta Westland VVIP chopper deal. This was Announced by Defence Minister Manohar Parikkar.

### **World Steel Association reported that India**

#### **among top 10 steel importers in 2015**

According to the data released by the Global Industry body World Steel Association, India become the world's third largest steel producer, was among the top 10 importers of the alloy in 2015. India is 3<sup>rd</sup> largest steel producer.

- India imported more than China in 2015 while India exported 6 mt of steel in 2015 which was fraction of China Exported during the year at 111.6 mt

### **Saraswat Bank donates Rs 1 cr relief for drought in Maharashtra**

India's largest urban co-operative bank Saraswat has donated of Rs one crore towards relief work drought conditions in various parts of Maharashtra.

- The bank's Vice Chairman Gautam E Thakur handed over a cheque of Rs 50 lakh to Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis Of the 1 crore handed over another cheque of Rs 50 lakh to NAAM Foundation.
- The NAAM Foundation, an NGO started by actors Nana Patekar and Makarand Anaspure, specifically aimed at alleviating the impact of drought.

### **Odisha Government launches DBT scheme for farmers**

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme for farmers and pledged digging of at least one lakh bore wells to improve irrigation facilities.

- On behalf of this move farmers will get themselves registered online to purchase seeds and get the subsidy amount in their bank accounts directly of the state.
- The first beneficiary of the DBT scheme was Ramesh Rout of Laxminarayanpur area. The seeds subsidy amount was deposited in Rout's bank account.

### **Ayush to ink pact with WHO to spread significance of Ayurveda**

The Ayush ministry will sign a pact with the World Health Organization (WHO) to spread the importance of Ayurveda and Ayush across the world. This agreement will take place in the US in the presence of Prime Minister Modi.

- The preparations for the second World Yoga Day is on the track. Ayurveda needed to promote and spread the ancient practise of medicine the ministry says.
- On behalf of this India and the US will sign an agreement in the next two months to carry out a research on cancer.

### **RBI releases draft norms for universal bank licences on tap**

Allowing individuals with 10 years of experience in banking and finance to apply for a licence successful track record for at least 10 years are eligible to apply for a licence.

- The initial minimum paid-up voting equity capital required is Rs.500 crore, and thereafter the bank should maintain a minimum net worth of Rs.500 crore at all times.

### **RBI to issue Rs 1000 banknotes with inset letter R**

Mumbai based Reserve Bank of India is mulling to issue banknotes of 1000 rupees denominations with inset letter 'R' in both the number panels.

- The banknotes will also have on the obverse side that all the other security features, including ascending size of numerals, bleed lines and enlarged identification mark, These banknotes will bear signature of RBI Governor.
- It will also have the year of printing 2016 printed on the reverse side.
- The current series of banknotes was began in 1996 and known as the Mahatma Gandhi series.

### **Nalco signs MoU with BARC for research and development**

National Aluminium Company (Nalco) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, for Research and Development (R&D) in fields of mutual interest.

- "Extraction of Gallium from Bayer Liquor will be NALCO's first R&D project with BARC with an objective to develop indigenous technology for this strategic metal, in national interest,"
- The pact was signed by BK Satpathy, Executive Director of NALCO and Jagtap, Director of BARC.
- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is a Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India. It was established on 7th January, 1981, with its registered office at Bhubaneswar.

### **SC strikes down TRAI's penalty on call drops**

The Supreme Court **struck down the TRAI regulation** making it mandatory for telecom companies to compensate subscribers for call drops levied by the Telecom Regulator. The court direction comes in the aftermath of clutch of petitions by Cellular Operators Association of India, Unified Telecom Service Providers of India and 21 telecom operators. The petition is challenging sector regulator TRAI's notification asking them to pay compensation to consumers **Rs 1 for each call drop**, subject to a maximum of three disrupted calls per day.

### **Cabinet approves pact between SEBI and FSRA Abu Dhabi**

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved signing of a pact between markets regulator **SEBI and Financial Services Regulatory Authority, Abu Dhabi** for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.

- The Market regulator's move will promote further development of economic links and cooperation between the two signatories and will help create conditions for **development of securities markets** in the two countries.
- It would also back towards strengthening the information sharing framework between the two regulators.

**SC**

**slaps Rs 10 lakh on Spicejet for offloading disabled flyer**

Country's Apex Court directed budget airline **Spicejet** to pay **Rs 10 Lakh** as damages to a disabled flyer, who was forcibly offloaded disabled Jeeja Ghosh in 2012.

- The apex court the manner in which the female passenger, a cerebral palsy patient, was de-boarded depicts total lack of sensitivity.

**India's GDP likely to expand by 7.7% in FY17: NCAER**

New Delhi based non-profit Economics think tank projected India's economic growth rate to grow marginally to 7.7 percent in 2016-17.

- Sub-par monsoon have resulted on the output in the last two years of the agriculture sector that has witnessed meager growth on account of drought in the past.
- The average rate of growth in the agricultural and allied sectors' GDP for 2014-15 and 2015-16 has been a low 0.5 percent.

**NABARD partners Germany for Food Security initiative**

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) joint venture with German government for a special programme on 'Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security'

- Soil conservation and rehabilitation of degraded land for food security in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and innovation of watershed development for rehabilitation of degraded soils
- Climate change adaptation in five states (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan).

**DBS Bank to set up new technology hub in Hyderabad**

Singapore-based DBS Bank has decided to set up its biggest technology hub outside its headquarters in Hyderabad. The company also plans to hire about 1,500 people over the next two years.

- This decision from the Singapore major is to focus on technology and in order to grow it, the lender has launched a mobile-only bank recently.
- This tech hub comes at a time when the lender is awaiting clearance from the RBI India to convert into a wholly-owned subsidiary in the country.

**IT dept launches e-portal to fast track taxpayer's grievances**

The Income Tax department has launched electronic grievance redressal portal called 'e-nivaran' to clear taxpayers grievances and ensure early resolution of their complaints in fast track route.

- The system is called 'e-nivaran' means electronic solution which integrates all online and physical complaints gathered by the department at this platform which will be monitored by the Assessing Officer.
- Recently an exclusive also separate window for grievance redressal has been launched in the Income Tax

Business Application electronic platform for the regular operations.

- The new system is called unified grievance management system which is not only records the origin of the grievance on the electronic platform it works on, but it also keeps tracking it till it reaches its logical conclusion for final resolution

### **Govt opens Tatkal window for faster patents to startups**

Union government has opened a Tatkal window to fast-track patent proposals. Start-ups by new applicants that fills the criteria allowed to use this route for obtaining faster clearances.

- By March 2018 the government also plans to significantly cut down the time period for granting of patents to one-and-a-half years from the existing five to seven years.
- This makes entities can choose the fast track for obtaining patent by paying additional fees if they select India as International Search Authority or International Preliminary Examining Authorities and file their applications in India first.  
v. The application fees for individuals and start-ups have been kept at Rs 8,000 while for companies, it could be as much as Rs 60,000.

### **Associate banks to merge with SBI**

Country's largest lender State Bank of India has planned to merge its five associate banks and also to merge Bharatiya Mahila Bank. All six are state-owned.

- The five associate banks have a collective advances base of Rs.3.78 trillion and a deposit base of Rs.5.03 trillion.
- While the BMB was created in 2013 by the UPA government, particularly to cater to women's lending needs based in Delhi.
- The Banks to be merged with the SBI are,

1. State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur,
2. State Bank of Hyderabad,
3. State Bank of Mysore,
4. State Bank of Patiala,
5. State Bank of Travancore,
6. Bharatiya Mahila Bank Limited.

### **Ola signs MoU with govt. to benefit 'Safai Karamcharis'**

Cab aggregator Ola has signed a MoU with National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) to focus on building a sustainable framework by supporting entrepreneurship, skill development training and self-defence courses for Safai Karamcharis and Scavengers.

- This partnership has the potential to generate synergies that will result in a better future for driver entrepreneurs by creating sustainable careers and livelihoods for them.
- This initiative is in line with Ola's mission to up-skill drivers and create an ecosystem that is conducive for them to grow as entrepreneurs belonging to the families of Safai Karamcharis.

### **Google launches group-sharing app Spaces on iOS, Android**



Google launches Group-Sharing App Spaces to let out users easily share content and commentary, group-messaging style, on any topics they wish.

- With this it is simple to find and share articles, videos and images without leaving the app, since Google Search, YouTube, and Chrome come built on.
- With new Spaces App someone shares something new to a space, the conversational view lets you see what the group is talking about without missing a beat on Android, iOS, desktop, and mobile web for all Gmail accounts.

### **Nepal SBI Bank launches payment gateway**

SBI's subsidiary Nepal SBI Bank has launched payment gateway to facilitate online trade and non-trade transactions between the Himalayan nation and India.

- Under this payment gateway customer of Nepal SBI Bank can utilise various features of mobile banking and other value added services.
- The Payment Gateway was inaugurated by SBI Managing Director B Sriram, and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae

### **PNB reports Q4 loss of Rs 5,370 crore, biggest in Indian banking history**

New Delhi based Punjab National Bank has reported a net loss of Rs 5,370 crore in the March quarter, the biggest ever quarterly loss in India's bank history. As the bank has had reported a net profit of Rs. 307 crore in the last year quarter.

- PNB's gross nonperforming assets (NPAs) poured to 12.9% in the fourth quarter, as against 8.47% in the December quarter.
- In terms of absolute figures the gross NPAs for the quarter stood at Rs 55,818 crore, as against Rs. 34,338 crore in the same quarter.

### **Nomura exits mutual fund JV with LIC**

Tokyo based Nomura financial Services Company has wholly withdrawn its mutual fund joint venture with LIC of India. In the aftermath LIC Nomura Mutual Fund has now been renamed LIC Mutual Fund.

- Upon this LIC holds a 45 per cent stake and LIC Housing Finance a 20 per cent stake in the venture, however Japanese firm, Nomura owns 35 per cent shares.

### **Apple announces opening of its map development centre in Hyderabad**

Tech giant Apple has opened a new development center in Hyderabad which will focus on development of Maps for iPhone, iPad, Mac and Apple Watch.

- This move from the company will create up to 4,000 jobs.

### **Three Indians feature in the list of highest paid CEOs, with two in top 10**

Three persons of Indian origin have been included in the list of 100 highest-paid CEOs globally.

- PepsiCo's Indra Nooyi
- Lyondell Basell's Bhavesh Patel
- Microsoft's Satya Nadella

### **India ranks on 5th Place in forge goods trade, China on Top in the list**

India ranks fifth position in the exports of Fake goods globally, while china is No.1 in the list with a huge 63 % share in the estimated half-a-trillion dollar worldwide imports of forged and pirated goods.

- Released by OECD (Organisation Economic Cooperation and Development) and the European Union's Intellectual Property Office

### **MoU signed between Railways and Haryana & Punjab for plantation of trees alongside Railway Track**

In order to save the environment, Haryana & Punjab Forest Department inked MoU with Ministry of Railways to plant the trees alongside Railway Track on Railway Land Boundary.

- Signed between Pankaj Saxena, Chief Engineer /P&D, Northern Railway on behalf of Minister of Railways and Dr. (Mrs.) Amrinder Kaur, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) on behalf of Minister of State (IC) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Railway can contribute significantly towards the Green India Mission

### **Bitcoin creator confirms identity**

Australian entrepreneur Craig Wright has publicly identified himself as Bitcoin creator. He has decided to make his identity known to stop the spread of misinformation about the virtual currency.

- Craig Wright is the man previously known by the Satoshi Nakamoto. The computer scientist, inventor and academic launched

the currency date back in 2009 with the help of others.

- Jon Matonis is also one of the founding directors of the Bitcoin Foundation. He is convinced that Wright is who he claims to be and is responsible for a brilliant achievement.

### **BHEL commissions 600 MW thermal power plant in MP**

Power major Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) announced the commissioning of a 600 MW coal-based thermal power plant in Madhya Pradesh.

- The Avantha group's Jhabua Power Ltd developed unit has been commissioned at the 1×600 MW Thermal Power Project (TPP) located in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh.
- This is the second project of APIL earlier the power major BHEL commissioned the 1×600 MW in Chhattisgarh.

### **Cabinet approves currency swap deal with UAE**

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of United Arab Emirates (UAE) on co-operation concerning currency swap agreement. The MoU inked in February, this year.

- The MoU will further strengthen the close economic relationship and cooperation between the sides.
- Under this approval India and the UAE will be a step closer to bilateral currency swap on mutually agreed terms and conditions.
- The agreement is to be expected to facilitate invoicing of bilateral business in local currencies.

### **Reliance Power to setup plant in Bangladesh**

Reliance power is all set to setup a 3,000 MW LNG-based power plant in Bangladesh as its Government of has granted in-principle approval for the first phase of Reliance Power's project in the country.

- The first Phase of 750MW gas-based power plant established at Meghnaghat near Dhaka, along with a floating storage of 2 million tonnes and regasification unit (FSRU) at Moheshkhali Island in Bangladesh.
- The first phase will be commissioned in 24 months will help in meeting Bangladesh's rising demand for electricity.
- This is set be the largest foreign direct investment in Bangladesh with a potential investment of over USD 1.3 billion in the power sector.

### **Indo-Japan sign MOU for Cooperation in Sports**

India and Japan agreed to exchange sports persons, coaches, experts and administrators to improve the standard of the game in both nations.

- The decisions were taken during a meeting between Sports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and a 12-member delegation from Japan led by Hase Hiroshi, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- In 2020 Tokyo will host the Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games, while India will host the Under-17 World Cup in next year.

### **ICICI Bank signs MoU with BRICS Grouping-promoted New Development Bank**

Private sector lender ICICI Bank has tied up with New Development Bank chaired by K.V. Kamath.

- It has become the first financial institution in the country to tie up with the BRICS

Grouping-promoted New Development Bank (NDB) for a partnership in bond issuances, co-financing, treasury management and human resources.

## **Appointments**

### **Ajay Mittal takes charge as I&B Secretary**

1982 batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh Cadre Ajay Mittal took charge as the Information and Broadcasting Secretary.

- Mr Mittal succeeded Sunil Arora who retired on April 30.
- Prior to his appointment, Mr Mittal was serving as Additional Chief Secretary for Transport, Social Justice and Empowerment Department in Himachal Pradesh.

### **Enda Kenny re-elected as Prime Minister of Ireland**

Taoiseach Enda Kenny (65-years) has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Ireland .

- Kenny (leader of Fine Gael party) was elected for the post 70 days after a general election which had produced no outright winner.
- He has been re-appointed with 59 votes in favour and 49 votes against.
- He has made history in the Irish Parliament by becoming the first Fine Gael Irish Prime Minister to be re-elected to the office.

### **UK: Sadiq Khan elected as new Mayor of London**

In UK(United Kingdom), Sadiq Khan has been elected the new Mayor of London. Mr Khan, son of a Pakistani bus driver, is the city's first Muslim mayor after beating Tory Zac Goldsmith.

- He is a former human rights lawyer and an MP from Tooting, east London, since 2005.

### **AIADMK chief Jayalalithaa sworn-in as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on the row of Continuous Second Time**

AIADMK general secretary Jayalalithaa was sworn in as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister for a record of Sixth Time by Governor K. Rosaiah with Twenty Eight ministers

- ADMK won 134 seats out of 232 seats
- Venue: Madras University's Centenary Hall, Chennai

### **Lt General Saini new commandant of Indian Military Academy**

Lieutenant General S K Saini assumed the office of commandant of the prestigious Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun.

- Prior to his new appointment Saini was earlier a senior directing staff in National Defence College in New Delhi.
- He is an alumni of National Defence Academy and IMA. In 1981, he was commissioned to the seventh battalion of the Jat regiment.

### **Sarbananda Sonowal sworn in as Assam CM**

BJP government formed the Legislative Assembly and Sarbananda Sonowal took charge as the Chief Minister of the state along with 11 ministers.

- Assembly Constituencies: 126
- Ruling Party: Bharatiya Janata Party
- Opposition Party: Indian National Congress
- Chief Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal
- Governor: Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya
- BJP Government has won 60 seats out 126 seats

### **Left Democratic Front Party – Pinarayi Vijayan sworn-in as Kerala CM**

The Cabinet of the Left Democratic Front

Government comprises of 19 members including Chief Minister has sworn in.

- Left Democratic Front won 91 seats out of 140 seats
- Governor P. Sathasivam administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and 18 members.

### **Guinea Bissau president names Baciro Dja as prime minister**

Guinea Bissau President Jose Mario Vaz named BaciroDja as prime minister by passing new laws.

- Dja succeeds Carlos Correia, who was sacked earlier this month in a move that threatened to deepen political turmoil in the tiny West African nation.
- The ruling party said it would not support Dja, who held the same post briefly last year but was forced to resign.

### **Mamata Banerjee sworn-in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal for a second term**

Trinamool Congress Mamata Banerjee sworn in as the chief minister of West Bengal for the second consecutive time along with 42-member ministry.

- Mamata Banerjee was administered oath of office and secrecy by state Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi.
- Second time consecutive won in 2016 election by Mamata Banerjee lead the Trinamool Congress with 211 out 294 seats which is two thirds majority mark.

### **Sanjay Bangar appointed as India's head coach for Zimbabwe tour**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has named Sanjay Bangar as India's head coach for the team's tour to Zimbabwe

- Abhay Sharma has been appointed as the fielding coach for the side.

- The former India all-rounder will be Head coach for the tour to Zimbabwe, which comprising 3 One-Day International matches and 3 T20 International matches to be played in Harare.

### **Vice Admiral Girish Luthra Takes Over Western Naval Command**

Vice Admiral Girish Luthra assumed office of Mumbai based Western Naval Command as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief from Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba at a ceremonial parade held at INS Shikra.

- He will succeed Indian Navy's Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba, who will take over as the Chief of Naval Staff succeeding Robin Dhovan.

### **Madhavan becomes goodwill ambassador for LEPRO India**

Bollywood Actor R Madhavan appointed as the goodwill ambassador for the the LEPRO India organisation that fights against diseases.

- Telangana based non-government organization LEPRO India is working in the fields of leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV or AIDS and community health.
- The Actor has been appearing in films from seven different languages.

### **Mickey Arthur appointed as Pakistan cricket team's head coach**

Mickey Arthur (47-years) has been appointed as head coach of Pakistan ahead of this summer's tour of England.

- He is currently working as head coach of Karachi Kings in Inaugural edition of Pakistan Super League(PSL).
- He takes over from Waqar Younis, who stepped down from the post following

Pakistan's lacklustre show at the recently concluded ICC World Twenty20.

- Arthur led South Africa from 2005-10 during which team secured no. 1 ranking in all formats of the game and Australia from 2011-13.

### **Apple elevates Sanjay Kaul as new India head**

California-based technology giant Apple has reportedly promoted Sanjay Kaul as the country manager for Apple India operations.

- Kaul's appointment comes at a time when Apple is attempting to open its own-brand stores in India also comes months after Apple's long-time India head Maneesh Dhir quit from the company.

### **Senior advocate Atma Ram Nadkarni appointed Additional Solicitor General**

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Bombay High Court's senior advocate Atma Ram Nadkarni as Additional Solicitor General for a period of three years.

- Earlier he had served as Advocate General of the Goa.

### **Claire Furlong is new ICC General Manager: Strategic Communications**

Cricket governing body ICC appointed **Claire Furlong** as new General Manager to steer its strategic communications, she will assume his duty on July 17.

- Furlong is presently working at **Hannover Sport Company** as a head of sport with clients including England and Wales Cricket Board, NFL and Asian Football Confederation.
- Earlier she ran her own consultancy for a number of years with a range of clients that

included team England for whom she led the media operation at **Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games**.

### **Gianni Infantino names Fatma Samoura as FIFA's first female secretary general**

Senegal Based Fatma Samoura has been elected as FIFA's first Female Secretary General as she has no experience in Soccer administration.

About Fatma Samoura:

- Brought up from Senegal aged 52 who has replaced Frenchman Jerome Valcke
- Started her United Nations career with the World Food Programme in Rome in 1995 and has served as a representative or director in six African countries

### **Shashank Manohar elected unopposed as ICC's chairman**

Former Board of Control for Cricket in India president Shashank Manohar has been elected unanimously as the first Independent chairman of the International Cricket Council.

- He quits the BCCI President and made him eligible to contest for the ICC chairman Post.
- Mr Manohar contests as sole nominee for the position and the Board unanimously selected as ICC chairman. Independent Audit Committee Chairman, Mr. Adnan Zaidi declared the election.

### **Rahman joins Olympic Goodwill Ambassadors' list**

Oscar winning music Director A R Rahman will also to be the Goodwill Ambassador of the Indian Olympic contingent joining the earlier appointed ambassadors list.

- The Tamilnadu hailed Composer received two Academy Awards, two Grammy Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe, four National Film Awards,

fifteen Filmfare Awards and thirteen Filmfare Awards.

### **SEBI approves appointment of Ashok Chawla as NSE chairman**

Mumbai based India's biggest exchange, NSE, had nominated Ashok Chawla as its new chairman after obtaining a clearance from the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India.

- He is set fill the shoes of previous holder S.B. Mathur.

### **Hindupur Pradeep Rao appointed as Deputy CAG**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of senior audit service officer Hindupur Pradeep Rao as Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) with effect from July 1, 2016.

- Pradeep is a 1981 batch officer of Indian Audit and Account Service, is presently working as Additional CAG. Comptroller and Auditor General is country's top auditing body.
- In another appointment the cabinet committee has also appointed A K Mittal as Member (Engineering) in Railway Board whois presently General Manager of East Central Railway.

### **Anil Kumble re-elected as ICC Cricket Committee Chairman for three years**

Former Indian Bowler Anil Kumble re-elected as ICC Cricket Committee Chairman for a second term.

- There are also two Newly Elected Members are Rahul Dravid and Mahela Jayawardene.
- Former Australia off-spinner Tim May elected as current player representative, replacing Laxman Sivarama krishnan.

- Richard Kettleborough, three-time ICC Umpire of the Year, has been appointed as umpires' representative and replaces Steve Davis.

### **Axis Bank appoints Sanjiv Misra as Non-Executive Chairman**

Mumbai based Private sector lender **Axis Bank** has appointed retired bureaucrat Sanjiv Misra as independent director and non-executive chairman for a period of five years.

- In a string of appointments the bank elevated Rajesh Dahiya and Rajiv Anand as executive directors.
- Prior to his new stint Misra was earlier the SUUTI nominee on the board as Non-Executive Chairman for **three years** till 11th May 2016.

### **Michel Temer takes over as interim Brazil president**

Brazil's interim president Michel Temer set to remain in office till 2019. He took over the presidency from Brazil's first female President Dilma Rousseff, who was suspended from office for 180 days over an impeachment.

- He will run Brazil amidst some of its most turbulent and eventful times as country is facing its worst recession and in August it will host the Olympic Games for the first time in its history.

### **Justice Mukul Mudgal appointed as deputy chairman of FIFA governance committee**

Ex-Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana Mukul Mudgal has been appointed as the deputy chairman of world governing body FIFA's Governance Committee.

- The FIFA's governance committee which will be headed by Portuguese Luis

Miguel Maduro, who is a former European Court of Justice Advocate General.

- The Judge earlier in 2013 headed the IPL 2013 spot-fixing probe and recently he was also included in by the Asian Football Federation in a similar roles.
- Mudgal who is also roped in overseeing the conduct of international cricket matches and IPL games at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi.

### **A V S Ramesh Chandra appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania**

IFS officer A V S Ramesh Chandra Presently High Commissioner of India to Uganda, has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to Romania.

- He Joined Indian Foreign Service in August 1989. He did Master's Degree in Veterinary Science majoring in Dairy Technology from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (APAU) in Hyderabad.

### **Rakesh Kumar Mishra is CCMB Director**

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research appointed Genetics Expert Rakesh Kumar Mishra as the new Director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).

- He had joined in the Hyderabad based institute in 2001 as a senior scientist.

### **Indian Origin Philip Abraham elected Deputy Mayor of Loughton in U.K.**

Philip Abraham a journalist from Kerala has been unanimously elected the Deputy Mayor of Loughton town in the UK for following year.

- Councillor Carol Davis presented the Deputy Mayor's Badge to Philip Abraham. The Deputy Mayor normally goes on to become the Mayor for the following year.
- He is from Kerala, earlier in 2012 won the election to the Loughton Town Council. Loughton is a vibrant town.

### **Ex-finance Secretary, Ratan P Watal, appointed as Niti Aayogs Principal Adviser**

Former Finance Secretary, Ratan P Watal has been appointed as Principle Adviser for social sector in Niti Aayog .

- He has been appointed to the post for three years by the Department of Personnel and Training.
- Ratan P Watal, a retired IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, had been Finance Secretary from August 2015 to April 2016.

### **Government sets up panel to relook defence expenditure**

Union government has appointed the 11-member committee led by Lt Gen D B Shekatkar (retd) to relook defence expenditure

- Aim is to ensure India's combat capabilities and potential are enhanced, with a better teeth-to-tail combat ratio, within budgetary constraints.

### **Cairn India MD and CEO Mayank Ashar resigns**

The petroleum exploration arm of London-listed Vedanta Resources Cairn India's managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) Mayank Ashar has resigned from his post.

- He will be replaced by the company's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Sudhir Mathur as the interim CEO.

### **Anurag Thakur becomes BCCI president gets elected unopposed after Shashank Manohar**

Anurag Thakur was unanimously elected as the second youngest BCCI President and taking charge as the Most profile position in Indian Cricket Administration

- Previous President: Shashank Manohar
- Current President: Anurag Thakur

### **Former IPS officer Kiran Bedi appointed as Lt Governor of Puducherry**

The BJP government has named former IPS officer and BJP leader Kiran Bedi as the lieutenant-governor of Puducherry for nearly two years.

- The post was lying vacant after the centre sacked UPA nominee Virendra Kataria.
- Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Island Lt Gen Ajay Singh had been given additional charge of Puducherry.

### **Rohit Sharma signs as Brand Ambassador for Hublot watches**

Star Indian opener Rohit Sharma became the 'Brand Ambassador' of world famous watch brand Hublot becoming second renowned cricketer after former Australian captain Michael Clarke to be associated with the brand.

- Hublot is a Swiss luxury watchmaker founded in 1980 by Italian Carlo Crocco. The headquarter is located in Nyon, Switzerland.



### **Indian American Sikh woman elected to key Republican Position**

An Indian based American Sikh woman Harmeet Kaur Dhillon from California has been selected to a major position in the Republican Party at the National Level.

- Elected as the newest national Committee of the Republican National Committee
- Earlier she was served as the Vice Chairman of the California Republican
- She was the first woman elected to this position of vice chairman of the California Republican Party.

### **Sachin Tendulkar to be India's goodwill ambassador at Rio Olympics**

The Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar has accepted India's Olympic Association's invitation to become the Goodwill Ambassador for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

- Ever since IOA named Salman Khan as ambassador comments up roared in social media, the Olympic body were forced into naming other ambassadors after a furor over naming a non-sporting ambassador.
- The goodwill ambassadors would play as iconic sports persons and celebrities will spread the idea of Olympic movement in every nook and corner of the country.
- Earlier the IOA named Beijing Games gold medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra as another Goodwill Ambassador.

### **Kishore Biyani appointed as MD of Bharti Retail**

Future Group appointed Kishore Biyani as the managing director of Bharti Retail group as part of the reconstitution of the board following their merger pact that was announced last year.

- Future Retail Ltd will be renamed as Future Enterprises and will be listed in share market.

### **Head of All World Gayatri Pariwar Pranav Pandya nominated to Rajya Sabha**

Head of All World Gayatri Parivar, Pranav Pandya has been nominated to Rajya Sabha by the Narendra Modi government.

- On April 22, the President had nominated six members to the Rajya Sabha -- former Indian cricketer and two-time Lok Sabha member Navjyot Singh Sidhu, well-known Malayalam film actor Suresh Gopi, journalist Swapan Das Gupta, former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, former Planning Commission member Narendra Jadhav and boxer M. C. Mary Kom.

### **DR. Radha Binod Burman nominated as president of the National Statistical Commission**

Eminent statistician. Dr. Radha Binod Berman has took over as part-time Chairman of the National Statistical Commission.

- Pro. S Mahendra Dev, Pro Rahul Mukherjee, Dr. Rajeev Mehta and Dr. Manoj Panda are other part-time members of the Commission.
- NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer is ex-officio member of the Commission.
- The Commission is an advisory body on issues related statistics, formed to increase public confidence in official statistics.

### **Patricia Espinosa selected new UNFCCC Executive Secretary**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has selected Mexican diplomat Patricia Espinosa as the executive secretary of the UNFCCC (United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). She will replace Christiana Figueres.

- Earlier, she had served as Mexico's representative at the UN in New York for drug traffic, human rights, women promotion, social development and children's rights.
- The UNFCCC is an international environmental treaty negotiated at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and entered into force in 1994.

### **Fleming become next MCC President**

Former England all-rounder Matthew Fleming has been appointed as the next Marylebone Cricket Club president. He was nominated by the current president Roger Knight at the AGM at Lord's.

- Prior to his new appointment he is the current Chairman of Cricket and will take charge on October 1, 2016.

### **Sunil Lanba to take over as next Indian Navy chief**

Defence Ministry appointed Sunil Lanba as the new Chief of Naval Staff and will assume charge on May 31 as 21<sup>st</sup> Chief.

- He is will succeed Robin K. Dhowan as the Chief of Naval Staff when the latter retires in May this year.
- He is an alumnus of National Defence Academy and was commissioned in the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy in 1978.

### **Manohar Kumar takes over as Director (Engg) in NPCC**

Shri Manohar Kumar has taken over as Director (Engineering) on the Board of National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC).

- A graduate from the then Delhi College of Engineering Shri Kumar later did MBA

from MDU, Rohtak. He has put in more than three decades of service in Civil Engineering field.

- NPCC is a PSU under Ministry Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- NPCC was established in 1957 as a premier construction company to create necessary infrastructure for economic development of the country in the core sectors of irrigation and water resources, power and heavy industries.

### **Kumar Rajesh Chandra appointed Chief of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Senior IPS Officer Kumar Rajesh Chandra as chief of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

- He has been appointed in the place of IPS officer G S Malhi, who had completed his tenure as BCAS chief in November 2012. The crucial post was lying vacant since then.

## **Awards**

### **Japanese honour for N.K. Singh**

Former bureaucrat and parliamentarian N. K. Singh will receive one of Japan's highest civilian honours for promoting economic, educational and cultural ties between India and Japan.

- Mr. Singh, who is a former Member of the Planning Commission, will receive the 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver'

### **SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring Service of Nagaland bags National award**

The SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring System of Nagaland police has bagged the National Award

for Smart Policing instituted by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

- The SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring System was launched last year and has led to in substantial reduction in theft of four-wheelers. While more than 100 vehicles have been recovered so far using the application.
- The system an easy platform for policemen and citizens to report vehicle theft and alert the various field formations of police by sending a SMS.

### **MP Tourism wins 'Best Indian Destination for Wildlife' award**

Madhya Pradesh Tourism has received the Best Indian Destination for Wildlife award by the Lonely Planet Group.

- It is to be noted that Madhya Pradesh has 25 wild life sanctuaries including nine National Parks.
- The award was handed over to MPT Special Duty Officer Vinod Kumar Amar by actress Amy Jackson.
- The state government launched number of programmes for the conservation of flora and fauna because of which Kanha and Pench were regarded as the most beautiful national parks in Asia.

### **Gorakhpur scientist bags SGD 3mn grant from Singapore's NRF**

An Indian scientist from Gorakhpur has been awarded a grant of SGD 3 million by National Research Foundation to research in congenital and adult cardiovascular diseases.

- Manvendra K Singh, among the seven young scientists from across the world to be endowed with the

Singapore NRF fellowship to carry out cutting-edge research this year in the field of congenital and adult cardiovascular diseases.

- Singh is working as an assistant professor in the cardiovascular and metabolic disorders programme at Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore.

### **ISRO ex-chairman UR Rao becomes first Indian in International Astronautical Federation's 'Hall of Fame'**

Former ISRO scientist and Professor Udupi Ramachandra Rao will be honoured with the 2016 IAF Hall of Fame Award by the International Astronautical Federations for his immense contribution to the progress of astronautics.

- This honour consists of a permanent gallery of these personalities, including a citation, biographical information and a picture, in a special part of the IAF web presence.
- Also this year's 67th International Astronautical Congress will be held in Mexico later this year.

### **Indian American Revathi Balakrishnan named as 2016 Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year**

Indian Born American woman Elementary teacher Revathi Balakrishnan honoured by US President Barack Obama for her contribution work in the Education.

- She has taught Family consumer science at Brady High School in Brady ISD for seven years

### **International prestigious Award for Novelist named Man Booker International Prize announced the Winner**

South Korean Novelist Han Kang has been awarded the Man Booker International Prize for his Novel "The Vegetarian" deals with a

woman's rejection of Human Brutality and giving up of eating meat.

- Han Kang succeeds over Nobel Laureate Orhanpamuk and Best Seller Elena Ferrante and shared the award with her Translator Deborah Smith

### **JK Rowling receives highest French civilian honour**

Eminent Harry Potter Series Author JK Rowling has been honored with the highest French civilian honour French Legion of Honour.

- J K Rowling or Robert Galbraith is a British novelist, screenwriter and film producer. She was given honorary title by the President of France Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy at a ceremony in Paris.

### **England cricketer Joe Root bags top three England cricket awards and awarded ODI Cricketer of the Year**

Eminent England Cricket Batsman Joe Root has been honored with England's Test and One Day International Cricketer of the year during England Cricket Board Annual Awards

- Root clinched the award beating Stuart Broad and Ben Stokes in test while Jos Butler and David Willey in Limited overs.

### **Mumbai based Mukesh Ambani honored with Othmer Gold Medal for Entrepreneurial Leadership**

United Based Chemical Heritage Foundation honored the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani with prestigious Othmer Gold Medal for his entrepreneurial leadership

- Awarded during the occasion of the Heritage Day of the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) at Philadelphia, United States of America.

### **Indian-American Journalist and her colleagues receives Edgar A Poe Award**

An Indian-American journalist Neela Banerjee was awarded by US President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle and her colleagues were awarded with a prestigious award during the annual White House Correspondents carnival.

- Awardees are Neela Banerjee and Three of her colleagues – John Cushman Jr, David Hasemyer and Lisa Song from Inside Climate New.

### **Sikkim CM Chamling honoured with Nepal's literary award**

Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was honoured with 'Yug\_Kavi Siddhicharan Award'

- The award is given by the Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma.
- On the occasion of 105th birth anniversary of the late poet Shrestha. An event is organised by Siddhicharan Shrestha Academy

### **Sunil Bharti Mittal receives this year's Harvard Alumni award**

Telecom Tycoon's Bharti Enterprises founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has awarded with Harvard Business School Alumni Achievement Award for this year.

- Mittal has served on the Harvard Business Scholl Board as a Dean's Advisor since 2010.
- The award presented annually since 1968.It is the highest honour the Harvard Business School confers on its alumni who have

contributed significantly to their companies and communities.

### **Indian author Aditi Krishna kumar won Scholastic Asian Book Award**

Indian Author Aditi Krishna kumar won the “Scholastic Asian Book Award” for her 32,000 word manuscript embedded in “love of Indian history”

- Prize Money was 10,000 Singapore Dollar and she won it for her manuscript: Codex: The Lost Treasure of the Indus

### **Telangana survey enters Limca Book**

Telangana government’s the house-to-house *survey* carried out in August 2014 in a single day with a marathon function of gathering entire information of people enters into the history of Limca Book of Record.

- The survey involved 4 lakh government employees who covered over 1.09 crore households in a single day, between 7am and 8pm.
- The survey was carried out to ascertain the social and economic status of citizens to identify the real beneficiaries of the government welfare schemes.

### **Indian-American Scientist Arnab De Wins Springer Theses Award**

An Indian-American scientist Arnab De’ has awarded with the prestigious Springer Theses Award for his outstanding research in which he developed transgenic mice to study a critical tumour-suppressor called A20.

- Arnab has also developed peptide-based prodrugs as therapeutics for diabetes, had received the Young Investigator Award at the American Peptide Symposium.

- Globally top-ranked research institutes select their best thesis annually for publication in the book series: Springer Theses: Recognising Outstanding PhD research. The winners also get a cash prize of 500 euros.

### **President Pranab Mukherjee Presents Malti Gyan Peeth Puraskars**

The President Pranab Mukherjee presented the Malti Gyan Peeth Puraskars for the year 2016 at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan New Delhi.

- The award presented annually since 2013 to Government school teachers from Punjab Government’s High & Higher Secondary Schools receive this award for their contributions in the field of education.
- This award carries one lakh cash prize, certificate of excellence, a robe of honour and a medal.

### **AR Rahman conferred with Japan's Fukuoka prize 2016**

Legendary Oscar winning Indian music composer A.R. Rahman was awarded Japan's Fukuoka prize for 2016.

- Rahman has been conferred with the award for his outstanding contribution towards creating, preserving and showcasing South Asian traditional fusion music.
- The Fukuoka Prize is an award established by the city of Fukuoka and the Yokatopia Foundation to honour the outstanding work of individuals or organizations in preserving or creating Asian culture.

### **Modi’s mother given Nari Jagran Samman 2016 award**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother Heeraben was presented with the Nari Jagran Samman – 2016 award by the Nari Jagran magazine in Varanasi.

- Nari Jagran magazine's editor Meena Chaubey and another member Ashok Chaurasia presented the award to Mr. Somabhai who is the elder brother of Modi received the award on behalf of his mother as she has difficulty in travelling.

### **Indian professor wins Commonwealth short story regional prize**

India Author Prashar Kulkarni has won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize – 2016, for the Asia region for his politically grounded fiction Cow and Company.

- The author is set to compete for the 5000 pounds grand prize to be announced at the Calabash International Literary Festival in Jamaica later this year.

### **Corporation Bank gets "Excellence Award on Empowering MSMEs 2016"**

Mangalore based Corporation Bank has been awarded with Excellence Award on Empowering MSMEs 2016.

- Bank MD and CEO Jai Kumar Garg received the award from Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister for MSMEs, in New Delhi.
- The award is instituted by the Federation of Industry, Trade and Services .

### **Swiss government honours Yash Chopra with statue**

Bollywood director Yash Chopra has been honoured with a special statue by the Swiss government. The 250 kilos bronze statue of the late filmmaker was inaugurated by his wife Pamela and daughter-in-law Rani Mukerjee.

- The director's statue is installed at the heart of Interlaken, inside the Kursaal area, near the Congress Centre which is a prime, popular spot with tourists.

## Sports

### **Charles Borromeo resigned from Tata Steel Sports Department**

Tamilnadu hailed 1982 Asian Games gold medalist Charles Borromeo head of the Tata Steel sports department has resigned citing personal reasons.

- This resignation comes after the vigilance department officials of the company questioned him in connection with alleged irregularities in tender process of synthetic track laying at the JRD Tata Sports complex.
- He bagged a gold medal of 800 m at the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi and also a part of Indian Olympic commission that took place at Los Angeles in 1984.

### **Sania Mirza, Martina Hingis Win Italian Open**

India's Sania Mirza and Switzerland's Martina Hingis clinched the Rome Masters title, defeating their Russian opponents 6-1, 6(5)-7, 10-3 in the women's doubles final.

- This win is their fifth title for the year after Sydney, Brisbane, Saint Petersburg and Australian Open.
- It is their 14<sup>th</sup> title together all over.

### **Pankaj Advani creates history by winning Asian 6-Red Snooker title**

Prominent cueist Pankaj Advani made history by clinching the Asian 6-Red Snooker title in Abu Dhabi.

- Pankaj has become the first in the world to hold both world and continental titles at the same time in 6-red snooker.
- In the high octane game he defeated top seeded Malaysian Keen Hoh Moh by 7-5 in a match that see-sawed from start to finish.

### **FIFA's acting Secretary General Markus**

#### **Kattner sacked**

Football governing body's Deputy Secretary General Markus Kattner has been dismissed from his position with the immediate effect after a probe found violations in his fiduciary responsibilities in employment contract.

- German hailed Markus took over as acting general secretary after Jerome Valcke was sacked due to irregularities in his administration in the illegal sale of tickets for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

### **IPL 9 Final: David Warner, Ben Cutting help**

#### **SRH win maiden IPL title**

Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated the Royal Challengers Bangalore to seal their maiden IPL trophy in their first shot at the title.

- Going first up at the M. Chinnaswamy stadium and rattling off an imposing 208 for 7, Warner and Co. took the Gayle storm in their stride to peg the Challengers to 200 for seven for an eight-run victory.

### **IPL 9**

- Orange Cap - Virat Kohli 973 runs (16 matches)
- Purple Cap - Bhuvneshwar Kumar took 23 wickets (17 matches)
- Most Valuable player - Virat Kohli 356.5 points
- Most sixes - Virat Kohli (38)
- Fair Play Award –Sunrisers Hyderabad

### **Pakistan beat India at**

#### **Asian Kabaddi championships**

Pakistan has won the third edition of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2016 (Circle Style) by defeating India.

- In the final match held at Pakistan Ordinance Factory Sports Complex in Wah Cantonment, Pakistan defeated India by 50-31 points.
- The championship was organised by the Pakistan Kabaddi Federation (PKF).

### **Novak Djokovic beats Andy Murray in Madrid**

#### **Open final**

World number one Novak Djokovic beat defending champion Andy Murray 6-2 3-6 6-3 in the Madrid Open final.

- The defeat means the 28-year-old Briton will lose his world number two ranking to Roger Federer.
- Djokovic now moves ahead of Spain's Rafael Nadal with a record 29 ATP Masters 1000 titles.

### **Shashank Manohar Resigns as BCCI President**

Shashank Manohar has resigned as president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

- Manohar has left the office as he believes recommendations made by RM Lodhapanal are impossible to implement.
- He won't be BCCI representative at Asian Cricket Council.

### **Vijender Singh beats Andrzej Soldra to win sixth pro fight**

Pro turned Haryana hailed Boxing star Vijender Singh's charging winning strip remained intact as he carved out a sixth

consecutive knockout victory by battering Poland's Andrzej Soldra.

- The result makes him unbeaten in Pro Boxing and has won all his bouts by a knockout.

### **Stephen Curry named NBA's Most Valuable Player for second straight year**

Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry was named the NBA's Most Valuable Player for the second straight year he is set to be the 11th person to win consecutive MVP awards.

- With this feat he is becoming the first unanimous Winner in the award's 61-year history after a record-breaking contribution to his side.

### **Andy Murray beats Novak Djokovic to win first Italian Open title**

Britain's Andy Murray won his first Italian Open title with a 6-3 6-3 victory over Novak Djokovic.

- It's his first Italian Open and will boost him before the French Open, which begins on 22 May.
- Earlier, Serena Williams ended a nine-month title drought with a 7-6 (5), 6-3 win over Madison Keys in an all-American women's final.

### **India women settle for silver after losing to Malaysia in Asian Squash Team Championship**

Indian women's squash team ended with a silver medal in its Asian Team Championship campaign as they lost to Malaysia by 0-2 margin in the summit clash in Taipei.

- Earlier the team has won bronze-medal finish in the earlier edition of the championship. Sachika lost in straight

games 7-11 6-11 10-12 to Sivasangari Subramaniam in the first match.

- India's top seed Joshna Chinappa provided a tough fight to Delia Arnold, who finally prevailed with 9-11, 13-11, 11-8, 11-9 victory.
- She had lost to Delia Arnold in the earlier meeting of the two teams.

### **Max Verstappen becomes youngest Formula 1 winner**

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen became Formula One's youngest race winner aged 18 by winning the Spanish Grand Prix.

- Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen was second and teammate Sebastian Vettel third. Verstappen's teammate, Daniel Ricciardo, finished fourth.
- He became the winner after Mercedes teammates Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg crashed into each other on the first lap.

### **Women's 4x100m relay team breaks national record at IAAF Meet**

The Indian women's relay team in 4x100m category broke the 18-year-old National record to finish in 4th position at the IAAF World Challenge in Beijing China.

- The 4x100m women relay team comprising Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda, HM Jyoti and Merlin Joseph clocked 44.03s to finish the race in the fourth spot.
- This new record was set up by breaking the 18-year-old record of 44.43s created by the quartet of Saraswati Dey, Rachita Mistry, EB Shyla and PT Ushain 1998 in Japan.



### **India lose to China in semi-final of Uber Cup**

Indian women's team settled for a bronze medal after suffering a 0-3 defeat at the hands of defending champions China in the semifinals of the Uber Cup badminton championship, at Kunshan in China.

- After top shuttlers Saina Nehwal and P V Sindhu went down narrowly against their respective opponents in the two singles match, Jwala Gutta and N Sikki Reddy also bit the dust in the first doubles, ending India's campaign.
- Indian eves had scripted history in the last edition when they won a historic bronze in New Delhi and they repeated the feat this time at Kunshan Sports Center Stadium.

### **China beats South Korea to win Uber Cup 2016 badminton final**

China beat South Korea 3-1 to win the Uber Cup badminton final 114<sup>th</sup> time.

- Tang Yuanting and Chen Qingchen beat Chang Ye-na and Lee So-hee 21-14, 21-16 in doubles to give the hosts an insurmountable 3-1 lead.
- Indian women's team settled for a bronze medal after suffering a 0-3 defeat at the hands of defending champions China in the semifinals of the Uber Cup badminton championship, at Kunshan in China.

### **Denmark win first Thomas Cup title**

Denmark finally got their acts right by beating fancied Indonesia 3-2 in the final to become the first European country to win the Thomas cup world team title.

- 13<sup>th</sup> seeded Vittinghus stayed calm throughout the match to beat an inexperienced 21-year-old Ihsan Maulana Mustofa 21-15, 21-7 in the decider.

### **Mohun Bagan beats Aizawl FC 5-0 to lift 14th Fed Cup title**

Mohun Bagan clinched Hero Federation Cup by defeating Aizawl Football Club by a record 5-0 margin and regain the title after eight years, at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Kolkata.

- The record margin victory comes as two goals was Mizoram striker JejeLalpekhlua while Haitian Sony Norde, Dhanachandra Singh and Bikramjit Singh scored one each.
- Mizoram striker JejeLalpekhlua became the most prolific Indian striker, as he completed a tally of 20 goals in the season. He scored eight goals, including a hat-trick in the contest.

### **Sudha Singh qualifies for Rio Olympics in 3000m steeple chase event**

Sprinter Sudha Singh has booked berth for Rio Olympics by finishing second in the 3000m steeplechase event at the Federation Cup in New Delhi.

- Another national record was set in the Men's 400m event with Rajiv Arokiya clocked 45.47 seconds, 0.7 seconds behind the Rio standard of 45.40.

### **Indian team win one silver, two bronze in Archery World Cup**

Indian women's Archery team sealed silver after losing to Chinese Taipei seed in the title clash in the Archery World Cup at the Yuanshen Stadium in Shanghai, China.

- Women's team comprising Deepika Kumari, Bombayla Devi Laishram and Laxmirani Majhi lost to the lower-ranked Chinese Taipei in the recurve team final.
- Third seeded Indian men's recurve team of Atanu Das, Jayanta Talukdar and Mangal Singh Champa hammered ninth seed British team to bag the bronze
- The mixed pair of Deepika and Atanu from India getting fancied Koreans in shoot-off to end with another bronze.

### **Vijender Singh records 5th consecutive victory in Professional Boxing**

Pro turned Indian Boxer Vijender Singh notched up his fifth consecutive knockout win by battering Matiouze Royer of French in London.

- Vijender was declared winner little over a minute into the fifth round of the six-round super middleweight contest which was incidentally his longest bout so far.

### **Nico Rosberg has won Russian Grand Prix**

The Formula One championship leader Nico Rosberg has won the Russian Grand Prix in Sochi.

- It's his fourth-straight win of this season.
- His Mercedes teammate, Lewis Hamilton and Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen has finished at 2nd and 3rd respectively in the race.

### **Leicester wins its first Premier League title**

English football club Leicester city FC secured its first Premier League title short of playing after second-place Tottenham drew 2-2 at Chelsea.

- The English club was playing in the second tier only two years ago came close to be demoted again last year.

### **Seven Indian shuttlers qualify for Rio Olympics**

Seven Indian shuttlers have booked their berth for the upcoming Rio Olympics, scheduled in August.

- Of the seven, the list includes two female singles players in Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu, a male singles' player in Kidambi Srikanth, women's doubles pairing of Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa while Manu Attri and Sumeeth Reddy make up the male doubles team.

### **Mark Selby wins 2016 World Championship title of Snooker**

England's world number one snooker player Mark Selby (32-years) beat China's Ding Junhui 18-14 to win his World Championship title of Snooker.

- With this win, Selby also ended Ding's chance of being the first Asian player to win the world title.
- This was Selby's second World Snooker title, the first was won against Ronnie O'Sullivan in 2014.

## Deaths

### **Cameroon Footballer Patrick Ekeng dies after collapsing on pitch**

Cameroon international footballer Patrick Ekeng (26-years) has died after collapsing on the pitch playing a first division match yesterday with his Romanian side Dinamo Bucharest.

- He fell to the ground without any contact with another player in the 70th minute of the game against Viitorul, just seven minutes after coming on as a substitute.
- Earlier, Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe also died after collapsing on the pitch, during a Confederations Cup match in 2003 against Colombia in France.

### **Pakistan's Human rights activist Khurram Zaki shot dead in Karachi**

Human Rights Activist Khurram Zaki, has been shot dead in Karachi, Pakistan. He is known for his strong stance against hatred and violence targeted at Shia Muslims. He was 40.

- The Hakimullah Mehsud faction of the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

### **Former MLA Rajeshwara Rao passes away**

Former Sircilla MLA Chennamaneni Rajeswara Rao has passed away. The 93-year-old Rao is the brother of Maharashtra Governor Vidyasagar Rao.

- Rao worked for the Communist Party of India for four decades since his student days and was elected as its MLA four times from Vemulawada.
- He was the president of the Telangana Freedom Fighters Association and the president of the farmers' wing of CPI. However he quit the CPI as the chairman of its legislature party in 1999 and joined the Telugu Desam. He detached himself from politics after 2009.

### **US actor William Schallert passes away**

Former SAG president William Schallert, best known as TV dad Martin Lane on The Patty Duke Show has died at the age of 93 at his home in Los Angeles.

- Schallert was born in Los Angeles in 1922 and began acting while a student at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and, in 1946.
- His role as patriarch Martin Lane on the popular 1960s show was among his most memorable.

### **Nirankari mission Baba Hardev Singh passes away**

Nirankari spiritual leader Baba Hardev Singh was killed in a road accident in Montreal, Canada. When he was travelling from New York to Montreal. He was 62.

- Baba Hardev Singh, took over as the chief of the mission in 1980 after his father Gurbachan Singh was assassinated.
- The organization had over 100 branches spread across 27 countries by 2009.

### **Renowned West Indies cricket commentator**

#### **Tony Cozier passes away**

Legendary West Indian Cricket Commentator and journalist Tony Cozier died at the age of 75 following a long illness.

- He voiced many series of West Indies in his five decade career from 1962 of the most respected cricket writer, broadcaster and historian to have come out of the region.

### **Congress Rajya Sabha MP Praveen Rashtrapal passes away**

Gujarat Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Praveen Rashtrapal died after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 76.

- He was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 2G scam in the previous Lok Sabha. However he was an Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax before he took politics career.

### **Veteran RSS leader Balraj Madhok passes away**

Veteran RSS leader and founder of Bharatiya Jan Sangh, Balraj Madhok passed away. He was 96.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his last respects to the departed leader this afternoon. He said, Madhok was selflessly

devoted to the nation and society with a strong ideological commitment.

### **Former Test cricketer Deepak Shodhan passes away**

Gujarat-born Former Test cricketer Deepak Shodhan has passed away at the age of 87. He was India's oldest living Test cricketer in Ahmedabad.

- The left-handed batsman made his international debut against Pakistan in 1952 in which he scored 110 in the first innings.
- He scored 1802 runs, with 4 hundreds and 7 fifties in 43 first class games, besides taking 73 wickets at an average of 34.05.

### **Veteran CPI(M) leader K Anirudhan passes away**

Former Communist party leader and Member of Parliament K Anirudhan has died due to old age related ailments, He was 92 at his residence in Thiruvananthapuram.

- Anirudhan, also an active trade union leader, and in 1967 Lok Sabha elections he represented from Attingal constituency

### **Pink Panther and James Bond actor Burt Kwouk dies aged 85**

The British actor Burt Kwouk has died aged 85. He was best known for his role as Cato in the Pink Panther films.

- He was awarded an Order of the British Empire in the 2011.

### **Newly elected AIADMK MLA 'S.M. Seenivel' passes away**

Newly elected MLA from Tiruparankundram constituency belonging to All India Anna Dravida

Munnetra Kazhagam S.M. Seenivel has passed away in Madurai.

- Seenivel has suffered a stroke that day and remained hospitalized since then as his condition gradually worsened.
- He also had already served as an MLA of same constituency when AIADMK was in power between 2001-06.
- The AIADMK formed its second consecutive government first time since 1984 by winning 134 seats in the recently held public elections.

### **Communist veteran K.C. Mathew dead**

K.C. Mathew, veteran communist leader died at a private hospital here on May 24, 2016. He was 92.

- He was the prime accused in the attack on the Edappally police station in February 1950, which resulted in a witch-hunt of the communists by the police.
- Born into a well-to-do family at North Paravur in 1924, Mathew graduated from UC College in Aluva and was drawn to the communist ideals right from the college days.

### **Actor Suresh Chatwal passes away in Mumbai**

Eminent film and television actor Suresh Chatwal has passed away after prolonged illness in Mumbai.

- The actor was known for his popular show FIR on Television who also played many roles in films and he was last seen on the big screen in Nakshatra in 2010.
- He started his acting career in the year 1969 with Rakhi Rakhi and was seen in films like Karan Arjun, Koyla and Munna Bhai MBBS

### **Veteran Gujarati folk singer Diwaliben Bhil passes away**

Legendary Gujarati folk singer Diwaliben Bhil, has passed away due to age-related ailments in Junagadh. She was 80.

- Besides folk songs and garba songs, Diwaliben had also lent her voice to several film songs.
- The Government had honoured her with the Padma Shri in 1991

### **World's Oldest Olympic champion Sandor Tarics, Berlin veteran, dies at 102**

#### **Tarics, Berlin veteran, dies at 102**

The world's oldest Olympic champion, Sandor Tarics, has died at the age of 102 in San Francisco.

- He was the team member of the Hungarian water polo team that gave triumph to its side in the Berlin Olympics in 1936, pushing Germany into second place.

### **Former J&K Congress minister passes away**

Senior Congress leader Romesh Sharma passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 65. He was also Former Jammu and Kashmir Minister.

- He was Minister from Nowshera Constituency. Sharma who was also an Ayurvedic doctor, joined politics before 2000 and won the Assembly elections in 2002.

## **Books**

### **Book on Param Vir Chakra winners launched**

Indian High Commissioner to Britain Navtej Sarna launched a book celebrating the lives of 21 Param Vir Chakra winners written by a well-known Indian social activist.

- Param Vir Diary by Manju Lodha covers a total of 21 instances of bravery recounted by the friends and families of Param Vir Chakra awardees.
- Lodha chairs the Lodha Foundation, it wants proceeds from the book to go to the foundation that will be passed on to the Indian Army.

### **No Time to Pause – book by Pavithra Ramesh**

Pavithra Ramesh released her debut novel named No Time to Pause, which is the story about a girl who, for want of privacy and independence goes to college in a different city.

- The book chronicles the life of a typical college student who chooses to reside miles away from her family to get value education.

### **President of India receives first copies of books**

#### **“Tagore’s Vision of the Contemporary World” and “Tagore and Russia”**

India's President Pranab Mukherjee will receive the first copies of books “Tagore’s Vision of the Contemporary World” and “Tagore and Russia” at a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

- Both books are being published by Delhi based Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) also contains papers presented at international conferences organized by ICCR in New Delhi and Moscow in 2011 as part of the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore.

### **Two new books released by Ruskin Bond**

Sahitya Academy Award Winning author Ruskin Bond has released two new books both themed on nature.

- The books namely
  1. My Favourite Nature Stories
  2. The World outside My Window

### **Biography of Shashi Kapoor released**

The biography titled Shashi Kapoor – the Householder, the Star, has been authored by film journalist Aseem Chhabra of veteran actor Shashi Kapoor.

- Kapoor, who was felicitated with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2015. Also in 2011, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan.

### **Book Gujarat Files: Anatomy of a Cover Up authored by Rana Ayyub**

Book titled Gujarat Files: Anatomy of a Cover Up authored by Rana Ayyub was launched in New Delhi.

- The book is an account of an eight-month long undercover investigation by journalist Rana Ayyub, who is a filmmaker from the American Film Institute Conservatory to investigate the Gujarat riots.