

International Affairs

Pakistan postpones SAARC summit

Pakistan has officially postponed the 19th SAARC Summit to be held in November in Islamabad.

- Pakistan's decision to postpone the SAARC meet has come in the wake of five South Asian countries, including India, expressing their inability to participate in the summit.
- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka had already pulled out of the SAARC summit indirectly blaming Pakistan for creating an environment which is not right for the successful holding of the meet.

Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise Mitra Shakti 2016 begins in Ambepussa, Sri Lanka

The fourth edition of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'MITRA SHAKTI 2016' is being conducted at Ambepussa, Sri Lanka from 24 October to 06 November 2016.

- The Indian Contingent is represented by a platoon from the RAJPUTANA RIFLES Regiment and the Sri Lankan Army will be represented by a platoon from the Sinha Regiment.

US & Vietnam navies begin 7th annual NEA in Da Nang

The US and Vietnamese navies have begun the 7th annual Naval Engagement Activity NEA, Vietnam 2016 at Tien Sa Port in Da Nang.

- The exercise will focus on non-combatant events and Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea and search and rescue scenarios.

India home to highest number of poors, Naijria second: World Bank

A recent World Bank report said that in the 2013, the highest number of people living below poverty line were in India.

- It was said in a report titled 'Poverty and share Prosperity'.
- The report says, 'India is a country where most number of people are living below the international standard of \$1.90 per day. Number of people living below poverty line is calculated to be 22.4 Crore.
- It's almost 2.5 times the Nigerian number of Poor people which is 8.6 Crore. Nigeria Finished second in terms of number of people below poverty line.

US lifts economic sanctions on Myanmar

The U.S. on 7 October 2016 lifted sanctions against Myanmar that have been in place for nearly two decades.

- The Treasury Department stated that the economic and financial sanctions administered by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control were no longer in effect.
- The Government of Myanmar was under economic sanctions by the US Treasury Department.

Pakistan passes long-awaited anti-honour killing and anti-rape legislations

Pakistan Parliament in a joint sitting on 6 October 2016 unanimously passed two bills, one seeking to curb murders in the name of honour and the other to punish rapists by use of modern technology of DNA testing in probes involving rape cases.

- The two bills are titled as, Criminal law amendment (offences in the name or on the pretext of honour) bill, 2016 and Anti-rape (criminal laws amendment) bill, 2016.
- The anti-honour killing bill states, relatives of the victim will be able to pardon the killer if he/she is awarded capital punishment; however, the culprit will have to face mandatory life sentence (25 years).

World Post Day: 9th October

World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.

- The theme for this year 2016 is Innovation, Integration and Inclusion.

World Mental Health Day: 10 October

World Mental Health Day is observed annually on 10 October.

- This year theme is 'Psychological First Aid'.
- The day is annually observed with an aim to raise awareness about mental health issues around the world and mobilising efforts in support of mental health.

International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October

International Day of the Girl is observed annually on 11 October; it is also called the Day of the Girl.

- The theme for this year's International Day of the Girl (11 October) is "Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress: What Counts for Girls".
- On December 19, 2011, United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.
- The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.

Russia & Turkey agree to intensify military, intelligence contacts

The Russian and Turkish leaders have agreed to intensify military and intelligence contacts after a meeting in Istanbul, Turkey.

- After his meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, they have agreed on the need for aid to get to the northern Syrian city of Aleppo.
- The two countries have also signed a deal to construct two pipelines to send Russian gas under the Black Sea to Turkey.

India-Indonesia Bilateral Maritime Exercise Commence at Belawan, Indonesia

India and Indonesia has kicked off their bilateral Maritime exercise at Belawan, Indonesia. It aims for Cooperation in the field of Maritime security.

- In a demonstration of India's commitment to its ties with Indonesia and to the maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, Indian Naval Ship Karmuk, an indigenously built missile corvette, based under the Andaman and Nicobar Command, alongwith a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, is participating in the 28th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol and Second Bilateral Maritime Exercise
- It is scheduled from 10-27 Oct 16 in the Andaman Sea.

Global hunger index 2016

India ranked 97th out of 118 countries on the International Food Policy Research Institute's (IFPRI) Global Hunger Index (GHI) in 2016, behind Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, among others.

- It was positioned at 80 out of 104 countries the previous year.
- Besides, the country was still rated with 'serious' hunger levels in the 2016 Index.
- Overall, the Central African Republic, Chad, and Zambia fared the worst while Argentina fared the best among the countries included in the study.

International Day for Disaster Reduction: October 13

International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed annually on 13 October.

- This year theme is Live to Tell: Raising Awareness, Reducing Mortality.
- Initially, in a meeting of UNGA, it was decided to observe the day on every second Wednesday, but in a proposal in 2009, it was decided to observe the day on 13th October.

India donates Rs. 9.3 million to Mandela Foundation

India has donated Rs. 9.3 million to the Nelson Mandela Foundation to help it in its welfare work for the people of South Africa.

- Announcing the donation at the offices of the Foundation here, Indian High Commissioner Ruchi Ghanashyam said the donation was a direct result of the recent visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Nelson Mandela Foundation was established in 1999 after the then President Nelson Mandela stepped down as the President of South Africa.

World Student Day: October 15

October 15th, Dr. Abdul Kalam's birthday is observed as World Student Day by United Nations Organization annually.

- In India, he is highly respected as a scientist and as a great personality.
- He was the 11th President of India.

India, Brazil ink 4 MoUs in Goa

India and Brazil signed four Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on investment cooperation and facilitation treaty, on cattle genomics and assisted reproductive technologies, on genetic resources, agriculture, animal husbandry, natural resources and fisheries and on pharmaceutical products regulation.

- PM Modi invited Brazilian companies to invest in India. Brazilian President Michel Temer was here to attend BRICS Summit.
- Brazil is among the most important economic partners of India in Latin America.

MoU between India and Hungary on water management

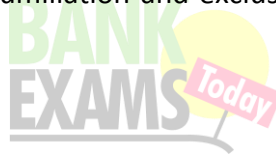
The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Hungary on cooperation in the field of water management.

- First MoU , particularly is on river basin management/ integrated water resources management, efficiency in water supply and irrigation technology innovation and flood & drought management while the other one is on cooperation between international affairs councils.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: October 17

The United Nations' International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on October 17 each year since 1993.

- This year's theme is 'moving from humiliation and exclusion to participation: Ending poverty in all its forms'.



World Food Day 2016 – October 16 2016

The World Food Day—a day to heighten public awareness about the interconnection of agriculture, food security and world hunger was observed on 16th October.

- This year's theme is "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too."

BRICS to set up credit rating agency

The five-nation group of emerging economies BRICS has agreed to set up an independent BRICS Rating Agency in its efforts to challenge western hegemony in the world of finance.

- It was announced during the 8th BRICS summit held in Goa, India. BRICS comprises five emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Second Joint tactical Exercise held by Indian and Chinese army in Ladakh

As part of the ongoing initiative to enhance interaction and cooperation between India and China, under the provisions of Border Defense Cooperation Agreement, 2013, the Indian and Chinese armies held Second Joint Exercise "Sino India Cooperation 2016" today, as a sequel to the first Joint Exercise held on 06 Feb 2016 in the area of Border Personnel Meeting Hut at Chushul Garrison of Eastern Ladakh, along with Chinese troops of Moldo Garrison.

- During the day long exercise on Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) a fictitious situation of earthquake striking an Indian Border village was painted. Thereafter joint teams carried out rescue operations, evacuation and rendering of medical assistance.
- The joint exercise, compliments the Hand in Hand series of the India -China joint exercises and the effort of both the nations to enhance cooperation and maintain peace and tranquility along the border areas of India and China.

India, Myanmar signed 3 MoUs including Cooperation in the field of Power Sector

India and Myanmar signed three agreements to boost the bilateral relations between the two nations. Keeping in view the sensitivity of each other's strategic interests, the two nations also agreed for close security coordination in border areas.

- MoU for designing an academic and professional building programme for insurance industry of Myanmar.
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Power Sector
- MoU on Banking Supervision between RBI and Central Bank of Myanmar.

Maldives leaves Commonwealth after warnings over democracy

Maldives has announced its decision to leave the saying it was treated unjustly and unfairly by the Commonwealth.

- The Maldives has been under international scrutiny over its crackdown on opposition leaders, especially over the jailing of the most senior members of the main parties, including former President Mohamed Nasheed.
- Commonwealth, is an intergovernmental organisation of 52 member states that were mostly territories of the former British Empire

List of most unsafe countries in the world released

Global Travel and Tourism Report released by the World Economic Forum on 14th October 2016 ranked India 13th while Pakistan the 4th most unsafe country in the world.

- Nigeria was ranked as the most unsafe country with a score of 2.65.
- Finland (6.7) is followed by Qatar (6.61) as the safest countries in the world.

World Standards Day: 14 October

World Standards Day is observed annually on 14 October.

- The theme for World Standards Day 2016 is "Standards Build Trust".

- The aim of World Standards Day is to raise awareness among regulators, industry and consumers as to the importance of standardization to the global economy.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince to be 2017 Republic Day chief guest

The crown prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will be chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January.

- Mohammed bin Zayed said, "Our strong relations are deeply rooted in history; our strategic cooperation has increased, driven by our mutual aspirations to develop it."
- The Republic Day chief guest in 2016 was French president Francois Hollande.

International day of Older Persons: 1st October

Every year 1st October is observed as International day of Older Persons.

- The significance of Day is to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly and to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.
- This year, the theme is "Take a Stand Against Ageism."

International day for non violence: 2nd October

The 8th International Day of Non-Violence was observed on 2nd October.

- The day that falls on October 2 has been declared unanimously by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2007, in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The day is being celebrated against terrorism and violence since 2008.

India, Singapore sign three agreements

India and Singapore have signed three agreements (MoUs) in the fields of skill development and IPR to boost bilateral relations between them.

- MoU in the field of Industrial Property Cooperation: It was signed between Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Singapore
- MoU on collaboration in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training: It was National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and ITEES Singapore.
- MoU on collaboration in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training: It was signed between Government of Assam and ITEES Singapore.

India up 21 places in WEF gender gap report: WEF

India has climbed 21 spots to rank 87th on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2016.

- With this jump in ranking, India has now overtaken China which is ranked 99th out of 144 countries.
- Iceland tops the latest rankings followed by Finland, Norway and Sweden. The World Economic Forum is a Swiss non-profit foundation, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

India, New Zealand Sign Three Agreements

India and New Zealand signed three agreements in the areas of double taxation avoidance, food security and sports to carry forward the ties between both sides.

- The agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart John Key after the delegation-level talks.

France becomes first country to ban plastic cups and plates

France has become the first country in the world to ban disposable plastic cups and plates.

- The country has passed a law in September 2016 that will go into effect in January 2020. The law will require all disposable tableware to be made from 50% biologically-sourced materials that can be composted at home. That number will rise to 60% by January of 2025.
- The measure is an addition to France's Energy Transition for Green Growth Act, a wide-reaching law adopted in 2015 with the aim of mitigating the impact of climate change. In July 2016, France imposed a total ban on the distribution of lightweight plastic bags at supermarket checkouts.
- As per the French Association of Health and Environment, ASEF One hundred and fifty single-use cups are thrown away every second in France, which counts to 4.73 billion per year.

World Teachers' Day: 5 October

The World Teachers' Day (WTD) 2016 is being observed across the world on 5th October.

- The theme for the World Teachers' Day 2016 is Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status.

National News

Indira Gandhi International achieved carbon neutral status

The Delhi International Airport Limited announced that the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has become the first airport in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve carbon neutral status.

- The announcement on the carbon neutral status was made by Airports Council International (ACI) during the Airport Carbon Accreditation certificate presentation ceremony held in Montreal, Canada

Arunachal CM flags off all-women Mt Gorichen expedition

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu flagged off an all-women Mt Gorichen expedition here.

- This will be the first all women team attempting to summit the second highest peak of the state, which is considered as a technical peak and only seasoned climbers can make it to the top (6,488 m).
- Anshu Jansempa, who climbed Mt Everest twice, will lead the team of ten members.

Jharkhand becomes first state to implement Direct Benefit Transfer in Kerosene

Jharkhand on 1 October 2016 became India's first state to implement Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Kerosene.

- The scheme is being implemented in four identified districts of the State namely Chatra, Hazaribagh, Khunti and Jamtara.
- This initiative is aimed at rationalising subsidy and plugging the leakages.

Justice Reddy committee on One Rank One Pension submits report

The one-man judicial committee on One Rank One Pension submitted its report to the Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar.

- The Central Government had appointed the committee under the Chairmanship of Justice L Narasimha Reddy retired Chief Justice of Patna High Court.

Delhi Police launches mobile app for senior citizens

Delhi Police launched a mobile application for senior citizens to enable them to reach out to the police quickly in emergency situations.

- On the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, the app 'Delhi Police Senior Citizen' was launched by Delhi Lt Governor Najeeb Jung.
- It will serve as an aid to the elderly in times of distress or in case of medical emergencies.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis declares Nagpur first digital district of India

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis declared Nagpur as the first digital district of India.

- At a function in Mumbai, he said all 29,000 gram panchayats across Maharashtra would be digitally transformed by December 2018.

Prasar Bharati CEO Jawhar Sircar resigns

Prasar Bharti CEO Jawhar Sircar resigned. His term was to end in February next year.

- An UPA appointee and an expert of culture, Sircar is also a writer who has a regular column in some newspapers.
- Sircar has served as secretary of the Ministry of Culture for over three years from 2008 to 2012 after which he was posted at Prasar Bharati.

GSAT-18 launched successfully on board Ariane-5 from Kourou

India's latest communication satellite GSAT-18 was successfully launched by a heavy duty rocket of Arianespace from the spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana.

- GSAT-18, built by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), aims at providing telecommunications services for the country by strengthening ISRO's current fleet of 14 operational telecommunication satellites.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and European Union on water cooperation

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the signing of MoU between India and European Union in the field of water resources.

- The MoU envisages strengthening the technological, scientific and management capabilities of India and the European Union in the field of water management on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

BRICS summit concluded with adoption of Goa-declaration

The eighth BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit was held from 15 to 16 October 2016 in Benaulim city of Goa, India. It was held under the theme Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions.

- The summit was attended by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Brazilian President Michel Temer, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Jacob Zuma.
- At the end of the summit, Goa Declaration was released by the leaders saying it is the responsibility of all states to prevent terrorist actions from their territories. In the 109 point Declaration, the leaders called upon all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates 10 days long 'RashtriyaSanskritiMahotsav - 2016'

Continuing its endeavour to promote India's Heritage, Ministry of Culture has organised 10 days long diversified cultural carnival 'RashtriyaSanskritiMahotsav - 2016' at the premises of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Janpath, New Delhi.

- The festival was inaugurated by Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Minister for Home Affairs in the presence of Dr Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism and Shri Padamanabha Acharya.
- The inaugural day witnessed fusion performances from 400 artists, highlighting different dance forms including folk and tribal, accompanied with glorious aerial acts.
- The celebrated festival will continue to connect people with India's rich culture till 24th October, 2016.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Shaurya Smarak in Bhopal

PM Narendra Modi unveiled the war memorial 'Shaurya Smarak' in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- The 'Shaurya Smarak' was constructed by the state government in honour of those who laid down their lives for the country.
- Participants of the event were Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and the three Service chiefs.

Union Government has launched Mining Surveillance System

The mines ministry came out with mining surveillance system (MSS), a pan-India surveillance network using latest satellite technology, to check illegal mining.

- MSS is a satellite-based monitoring system, which aims to check illegal mining activity through automatic remote-sensing detection technology.
- The Indian Bureau of Mines, on behalf of the mines ministry, has developed MSS, in co-ordination with the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar, and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY).

Ashok Leyland launches first India-made electric bus

Hinduja Group flagship Ashok Leyland today launched - Circuit - the first "Made in India" electric bus.

- The bus with a minimum seating capacity of 35 to a maximum of 65 can run up to 120 kilometres on a single recharge under standard test conditions.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates three mega hydro projects in Himachal Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated three hydro-electric projects (HEPs) with a generating capacity of 1,752 MW in Himachal Pradesh.

- **Koldam HEP:** It is 4×200 MW capacity project executed by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).
- **Parbati HEP:** It is Stage-III project with a capacity of 540 MW of National Hydropower Corporation (NHPC).
- **Rampur HEP:** It is 412 MW capacity project of Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN).

PM Modi launches National SC/ST hub in Ludhiana

For the welfare of SC/ST entrepreneurs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched national SC/ST (Schedule Castes/Schedule Tribes) hub in Ludhiana. He also launched the Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) scheme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- Besides, he also gave away national awards to MSME entrepreneurs. He distributed 500 spinning wheels (spinning wheels) to women of weaker sections of Punjab to make them able to earn their livelihood.

Kashmiri Red Stag to be declared as 'Critically Endangered'

As the Kashmir Stag popularly known as Hangul is on the verge of extinction, the International Union for Conservation of Nature is all set to declare it a 'critically endangered' species to protect this beautiful animal from disappearing from the earth.

- Hangul has been hunted over centuries and its habitat destroyed, leading to its wild population shrinking to 150.

India completes nuclear triad by commissioning INS Arihant

India has completed its nuclear triad by inducting the first endogenously built strategic nuclear submarine INS Arihant into service.

- With this, India becomes sixth country to have a nuclear triad i.e. capable of delivering nuclear weapons by aircraft, ballistic missiles and submarine launched missiles.
- Other countries having nuclear triad are Russia, United States, Britain, France and China.

Government approves the establishment of National Academic Depository.

The decision aims at bringing another dimension and enhancement of the vision of Digital India.

- The NAD would be operationalised by NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML) and CDSL Ventures, Limited (CVL) – two of the wholly owned subsidiaries of the Depositories registered under Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992.

National Ayurveda Day being observed

The National Ayurveda Day is being observed on 28 Oct 2016. The Ministry of AYUSH is organizing a day-long national seminar on Prevention and Control of Diabetes through Ayurveda in New Delhi. The Ministry will launch Mission Madhumeha through Ayurveda on this occasion.

- The Mission Madhumeha will be implemented throughout the country through a specially designed National Treatment Protocol for effective management of Diabetes through Ayurveda.

INS Tihayu Joins the Indian Navy

Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) INS Tihayu was commissioned into the Indian Navy by the Flag-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command Vice-Admiral H.C.S. Bisht.

- The 315-tonne INS Tihayu is the sixth WJFAC Car Nicobar Class vessel to be commissioned and allotted to the Eastern Fleet of the Navy.

Maharashtra govt launches 'KaushalyaSetu' skill-development programme

Maharashtra government launched 'KaushalyaSetu', (SETU - Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation) its skill development programme for students on 19th October 2016 in Mumbai.

- It will create around 7.5 Lac employments.
- Under the KaushalyaSetu initiative, students of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education, who fail to clear Class X or SSC exam, would be accommodated in the skill development courses, so that they do not lose a year.

EC hosts first ever International Conference on Voter Education

The Election Commission of India hosted the first ever International Conference on Voter Education in New Delhi. The three day (from 19 to 21 October, 2016) conference was inaugurated by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Dr Nasim Zaidi

- The topic of the first of its kind conference is Voter Education for Inclusive, Informed and Ethical Participation.
- It has been organized with an aim to share best practices, initiatives and policies of voter education by election management bodies.
- 27 countries and 5 international organizations are participatedg in it.
- Ambitious VoICE.NET project, a Global Knowledge Network on voter education was also launched in the Conference

PM Narendra Modi announces India's first Railway University in Vadodara

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the integrated terminal building of Vadodara's Harni Airport on 22nd October 2016.

- He also announced to set up nation's first railway University here.
- He also attended a programme to distribute artificial limbs and other implements to more than 8000 'Divyangs' (disabled persons) in the city.

Aviation scheme UDAN(UdeDesh Ka AamNaagrik) takes off

The Centre unveiled a regional connectivity scheme, known as UDAN (UdeDesh ka AamNagrik), with flights priced at Rs.2,500 for one hour of flying time to and from regional airports.

- Under the scheme, airlines will be offered a slew of sops at smaller airports such as waiver of landing and parking charges.

INS Viraat, World's Oldest Aircraft Carrier, Retires From Navy

INS Viraat, the world's oldest aircraft carrier, was accorded a grand send-off from the port in Kochi, after over five decades of its service to the Navy.

- The ship, which underwent a decommissioning refit, is being towed back by three tugs to Mumbai for the decommissioning ceremony on 29th October.
- The final journey of the carrier began with Navy officials led by the Chief of Staff, Southern Naval Command, Rear Admiral Nadkarni bidding farewell to the carrier at Ernakulam Wharf of Cochin Port Trust.
- It was commissioned in Indian Navy in 1987.

PM launches #Sandesh2Soldiers campaign

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a campaign through which people can send their Diwali greetings and messages to the soldiers to boost their morale.

- The messages can be sent under the #Sandesh2Soldiers campaign on the Narendra Modi App, through MyGov.in, and also through All India Radio.

President inaugurates Sardar Patel Heart Institute at Ankleshwar

President Pranav Mukherjee has inaugurated the Sardar Patel Heart Institute at Ankleshwar in Gujarat.

- He also unveiled the statue of Sardar Patel situated in the institute premises and delivered an address at the institute.

84th Air Force Day observed across India

The Air Force Day 2016 was on 8 October 2016 observed across India. This is the 84th celebration of the Day that began in 1932.

- The Air Force Day was officially celebrated for the first time on 8 October in the year 1932 as an auxiliary air force of Indian Empire.

Haryana to observe 2017 as Garib Kalyan Varsh

Haryana Government has decided to observe 2017 as the "Garib Kalyan Varsh". The announcement was made by Chief Minister Manohar Lal.

- During the observation period of Garib Kalyan Varsh, the government would lay emphasis on welfare of poor people and generating employment opportunities for the youth.
- Khattar, who completed two years in office, also said that the outgoing year (2016) was dedicated to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- Besides, Khattar also said that the state government would make some announcements on 31 October and Prime Minister Narendra Modi would also launch a host of schemes on 1 November at Gurugram.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates first National Tribal Carnival

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first National Tribal Carnival in New Delhi to promote a sense of inclusiveness among the tribals.

- The main purpose of this four-day carnival is to promote a sense of inclusiveness among the tribals.
- It will also showcase and promote various facets of tribal culture on a large scale.

IGIA's T3 becomes first Platinum rated green airport terminal building in India

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced on 6 October 2016 that the Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) achieved Platinum rating from Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

- The plaque and certificate for the achievement was handed over by IGBC to Douglas Webster, COO-DIAL and Roy Sebastian, VP- Project and Engineering, during the 14th Green Building Congress, 2016 organized by IGBC in Mumbai.
- With this, the state-of-the-art Terminal 3 of IGIA has become the first Platinum rated green terminal building under Green Existing Building O&M Rating System by IGBC. This is another significant environmental achievement by IGIA, after being accredited as the first Carbon Neutral airport in Asia Pacific recently by Airports Council International (ACI).
- The Indian Green Building Council, part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), was formed in 2001.

Arjun Vajpai scales Mt. Cho Oyu

Arjun Vajpai, a 23-year-old professional mountaineer from Noida, became the youngest in the world to scale the Mount Cho Oyu, the 6th highest mountain peak in the world at 8,188 metres above sea level.

- With this, he has become youngest to climb 5 peaks above 8000 metre.

Union Power Minister assures electricity for all by May 2017

Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal assured that India would have 100 per cent electrification for all by May 1, 2017.

- He also launched the Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Mobile (Urja) app, developed by the state-run Power Finance Corporation, to enhance consumer connect with the urban power distribution sector.

Rs.114 cr approved for HRIDAY projects

The Union Ministry of Urban Development has approved projects worth Rs.114 crore under HRIDAY scheme for improving infrastructure facilities around core heritage sites in five cities.

- These five cities are: Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Amritsar (Punjab), Dwaraka (Gujarat), Puri (Odisha) and Warangal (Telangana).

India to host conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

India will host the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) next month.

- The three-day conference, to be held from November 3, is being organised in collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Doordarshan, IGNOU sign agreement for telecast of Gyan Darshan channels

Doordarshan and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have entered into an agreement for transmission of four Gyan Darshan educational channels.

- Gyan Darshan ran successfully till June 2, 2014, but was shut down by ISRO to facilitate its migration from INSAT 3C to GSAT-10.

India's first international arbitration centre inaugurated by Devendra Fadnavis

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated India's first centre for international arbitration in Mumbai.

- The MCIA will be governed by a 17-member governing council.
- The Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA) will initially be located at Express Towers.

Bathukamma Event Enters Guinness Book of World Records

The Telangana government organised the traditional state festival of 'Bathukamma' on at the Lal Bahadur stadium in Hyderabad.

- The event, attended by about ten thousand women, found a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.
- The Telangana government has declared 'Bathukamma' as a state festival.

Telangana redraws its map by adding 21 new districts

Telangana on 11 October 2016, had redrawn its map by creating 21 new districts. With these, the total number of districts of the youngest state of India went up to 31.

- Telangana, which came into existence on 2 June 2014 as the 29th State of India, started out with 10 districts.
- Besides, the state government also created 25 new revenue divisions, 125 new mandals, four new police commissionerates, 23 new police subdivisions, 28 new circles and 91 police stations.

MP to launch 'Lalima Abhiyan' to make state free from anaemia

With an aim to make Madhya Pradesh anaemia-free, the state government has decided to launch a scheme- 'Lalima Abhiyan'- that will be effective from November 1.

- Under the campaign, free iron folic acid tablets will be provided in aanganwadis', academic institutions and hospitals.

First World Tsunami Awareness Day to be celebrated at AMCDRR

The First World Tsunami Awareness Day will be celebrated on November 5, 2016. To commemorate the occasion, an event will be organised with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Champions at the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016.

- The Conference is being organised from November 3-5, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi by the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

First BRICS Trade Fair and Exhibition begins in Delhi

The first BRICS Trade Fair and Exhibition began in the national capital, ahead of the BRICS political summit in Goa.

- The fair is a platform for respective BRICS countries, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to exhibit state-of-the-art technologies and advances made in industrial development.
- The theme of the fair - BRICS- cooperation for innovation.
- Haryana is the state partner of the fair.

Kabaddi WC venue is India's 1st convertible stadium

The Arena by Trans Stadia in Ahmedabad, venue of the ongoing Kabaddi World Cup, is India's first convertible stadium.

- The Rs. 550 crore project converts an outdoor stadium into an indoor arena in 6 minutes at a touch of a button.

Cabinet approves setting up of IIM Jammu

The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of an Indian Institute of Management school in Jammu among other approvals that were cleared.

- The announcement of the establishment of an IIM in Jammu comes as part of PM Narendra Modi's development package for Jammu and Kashmir.

CCEA approves revision of ethanol prices for supply to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the mechanism for revision of ethanol price for supply to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to carry out the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.

- The administered price of ethanol for the Programme will be 39 rupees per litre for the next sugar season from 1 December 2016 to 30 November 2017.

Nitin Gadkari launches Indian Bridge Management System

To make sure that the bridges across India remains safe, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari on 4 October 2016 launched the Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS) in New Delhi.

- IBMS is being developed to create an inventory of all bridges in the country and rate their structural condition so that timely repair and rehabilitation work can be carried out based on the criticality of the structure.
- IBMS is the largest platform in the world owned by a single owner, with database that could exceed one lakh fifty thousand bridge structures.
- So far one lakh and fifteen thousand bridges have been inventorized, of which eighty five thousands are culverts and the rest are bridges.
- At the time of creation, each bridge was assigned with a unique identification number or National Identity Number based on the state, RTO zone and whether it is situated on a National Highway, State Highway or is a district road.

Banking and Economy



Google to set up data centre in India by 2017

Google will set up its first India data centre in Mumbai by 2017, hoping to take on global incumbents such as Microsoft and Amazon, who have a presence in the country, and allow local customers to host their applications on the internet.

- Google controls a majority market share in India in search, email and on smartphones through its Android operating system.
- It also has a significant presence in offering enterprise applications such as mail and other services, but lags behind Microsoft and Amazon in its cloud business.

Kotak Mahindra Bank acquires BSS Microfinance

Kotak Mahindra Bank, the country's fourth largest private sector lender, has acquired BSS Microfinance in an all-cash deal for Rs 139.2 crore.

- The bank said with this, it has entered the microfinance space that has been growing at a rapid pace.
- This acquisition will allow Kotak to tap the lower end of the customer base and will also help the bank in meeting the priority sector lending (PSL) targets, as BSS' loans book qualifies for PSL.

Government decides to raise EPFO investment in ETF

The Government has decided to raise the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) investment in Exchange Traded Funds from present 5 per cent to 10 per cent.

- Announcing this Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, the Minister of State(IC) for Labour and Employment said that the decision has been taken considering the good returns in ETF investment.
- Accordingly, for the last one year, the EPFO has invested 6,577 crore in ETF for the financial year 2015-16. This investment has yielded a good return of 13.24 per cent.

SBI opens branch in Yangon after 53 years

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, expanded its overseas footprint by entering Myanmar, opening a branch Yangon after 53 years, the former capital and the largest city of that country.

- With the opening of this branch, SBI has extended (its) global presence to 37 countries through 198 offices .

Indian Pharma companies rank 19th in Biopharmaceutical Competitiveness & Investment (BCI) Survey

Indian pharmaceutical companies have ranked low at 19th position with an overall score of 59 out of 100 among in the Biopharmaceutical Competitiveness & Investment (BCI) Survey.

- The survey of 28 countries was commissioned by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and executed by the Pugatch Consilium.
- It was third edition of survey.

Union Government to invest Rs 15000 crore to increase Panipat oil refinery capacity

The Union Government has decided to invest 15,000 crore rupees to increase the capacity of Panipat refinery in Haryana to 25 Million Tonnes from existing 15 Million Tonnes. It was announced by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan at a function in Panipat.

- Besides, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will also set up bio-ethanol plant in Panipat with a cost of 500 crore to generate alternative fuel from agricultural residue which would boost agriculture sector.
- The expansion of Panipat refinery will help raise specifications of fuel quality from BS-IV to BS-VI to meet future demand. It will also create employment opportunities for the people and also help in raising quality of fuel in the country by the year 2020.

Ease of doing business: India ranks 130 out of 190 countries

India is ranked 130 out of 190 countries in World Bank Group's annual report on the ease of doing business, 'Doing Business 2017: Equal Opportunity for All'.

- Last year India was ranked 131st.

- New Zealand topped the World Bank ranking for ease of doing business, followed by Singapore, Denmark, Hong Kong, South Korea, Norway, UK, US, Sweden, and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Flipkart CFO Sanjay Baweja quits

Flipkart chief financial officer Sanjay Baweja has quit the company, just under two years of joining India's largest e-commerce marketplace.

- Baweja had joined Flipkart in November 2014 from Tata Communications where he was serving as the Global CFO.
- He's also had stints at Bharti Airtel, Xerox, ModiCorp and has over three decades of work experience.

In the First, Bank deposits cross Rs 100 lakh crore

According to the data released by the RBI ,India' banking system reported total deposits of Rs 100 lakh crore for the first time ever in September month of this year.

- With demand deposits crossing Rs10 lakh crore and time deposits crossing the Rs 90 lakh crore mark, the month saw the highest-ever monthly rise of Rs 5.32 lakh crore — more than the total deposits in the banking sector 20 years back.
- Banks' deposits grew at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 12.88% in the last five years, they had grown at a CAGR of 19.9% in the previous five years.

Market capitalization : Infosys loses fifth spot to ONGC

Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC) beat India's second largest software exporter Infosys Ltd to become the fifth most valuable company in India by market capitalization.

- TCS is India's most valuable company with a market capitalization of Rs4.66 trillion, followed by Reliance Industries Ltd, HDFC Bank Ltd and ITC Ltd at Rs3.49 trillion, Rs3.21 trillion and Rs2.90 trillion, respectively, data showed.

India-Russia sign agreement to produce Ka-226T helicopters jointly

India and Russia formally inked the agreement to create a joint venture to produce Ka-226T helicopters in India.

- Under the agreement, the joint Russian-Indian enterprise created by Russian Helicopters, JSC Rosoboronexport and India's HAL must arrange for the localization of production and supply of 200 light multi role Ka-226T helicopters for nine years.

Essar Oil inks Rs 86,100 cr deal to sell 98% stake to Rosneft

Essar Group sealed a \$13-billion (Rs 86,100 crore) deal to sell 98% stake in its flagship 20 million tonnes per annum refinery to a consortium led by Russia's state-owned energy giant Rosneft.

- The first outlines the sale of 49% to Petrol Complex, a unit of Rosneft.

MakeMyTrip acquires rival travel portal ibibo

Online travel company MakeMyTrip has announced to acquire rival portal ibibo group.

- However, the amount of the deal was undisclosed.
- Founder Deep Kalra will remain Group CEO and Executive Chairman of MakeMyTrip. Founder and CEO of ibibo Group, Ashish Kashyap, will join MakeMyTrip's executive team as a Co-founder.

Government grants BP PIClicence to set up petrol pumps in India

The Government has formally granted a license to British Petroleum 'Petroleum industry company', Europe's third-biggest oil company, to set up 3,500 petrol pumps in India.

- The company has its headquarters in London, England.
- India currently has about 56,190 petrol pumps, with public sector firms operating a majority of them.

RBI asks banks to replace 17.5 lakh debit cards

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to replace debit cards whose security is suspected to have been compromised after being used in some automated teller machines (ATMs).

- The total debit card base in the country was 697 million as of July 2016.
- Banks such as State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank and Bank of Baroda have already started replacing the cards. SBI, the country's largest lender, has started the process of replacing 0.6 million debit cards.

Russia to lease another nuclear-powered submarine to India

Russia has quietly signed an agreement with India to lease out a second Russian Akula-2 class nuclear-powered submarine to the Indian Navy at a cost of two billion dollars.

- The attack submarine will arrive in Indian waters in 2020-21.
- The lease agreement was signed between PM Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin during the BRICS Summit in Goa.

SBI declares Silchar as its 5th zone in North East

The State Bank of India (SBI) has declared Silchar as its 5th zone in North East after Guwahati, Shillong, Dibrugarh and Jorhat.

- Earlier, Silchar was under Guwahati zone and it was tough on the part of the bank to address the complaints and issues of the customers with such a difficult terrain.

- The bank has 736 branches across North East together with 3,000 ATMs and 3,000 customer service points for customer facilitation.

Railways, Urban Development Ministries sign MoU to redevelop stations under smart city plans

The Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Railways signed a MoU under which railway stations and adjoining areas will be redeveloped on smart city lines for enhancing passenger amenities, easy access to stations, enabling optimal utilization of land at railway stations.

- Initially, 10 stations are chosen for redevelopment. These cities are Sarai Rohilla (Delhi), Bhubaneshwar, Lucknow, Varanasi, Jaipur, Kota, Thane, Margao(Goa), Tirupati and Puducherry.

Wipro acquires US firm Appirio

IT-major Wipro has acquired US-based consultancy firm Appirio, a services firm with a large offshore firm that helps corporates implement cloud applications such as SalesForce, said reports.

- Appirio was founded by Chris Barbin, Mike O'Brien, Glenn Weistein and Narinder Singh in 2006.
- The nearly decade-old firm had revenues of \$200 million in 2015.

RBI decides to allow FDI up to 100% in other financial services

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to allow foreign investment up to 100 per cent under the automatic route in 'other financial services'.

- However, sectors such as insurance, which already have pre-defined FDI limit (49 per cent in insurance), will continue to follow that.
- Other financial services' will include activities which are regulated by any financial sector regulator, including the Reserve Bank of India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, National Housing Bank.

HSBC to wind up P-note business in India

HSBC is planning to wind up participatory notes (P-notes) operations in India, as tightening of regulatory framework has made the business unviable.

- HSBC is among the top five issuers of P-notes, or offshore derivative instruments, in India with a market share of more than 6 per cent at the end of last financial year.
- Participatory Notes commonly known as P-Notes are instruments issued by registered foreign institutional investors (FII) to overseas investors, who wish to invest in the Indian stock markets without registering themselves with the market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India - SEBI.

2,000 notes will be in circulation soon

Banknotes of the denomination of Rs.2,000 will be in circulation. The Reserve Bank of India has very nearly completed preparations for introducing this new high-value currency.

- The notes have already been printed and their despatch from the currency printing press in Mysore has commenced.

Aditya Birla Group to invest Rs. 20,000 cr in Madhya Pradesh

Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla pledged an investment of Rs. 20,000

crore for the state in sectors like retail, telecom and cement.

- Addressing the Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit, Birla said the state is among the top markets for Idea Cellular, which has already invested nearly Rs. 7,000 crore over two decades.

NABARD sanctions Rs. 19,702 crore loan to National Water Development Agency

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned loan worth Rs. 19,702 crore to National Water Development Agency (NWDA).

- The loan will be provided through NABARD's Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) for 50 irrigation projects from 11 States.
- This loan will be part of the Central share of assistance to State Governments.

India, Algeria mull fertilizer Joint Venture

India's plan for a joint venture arrangement with Algeria for a multi-billion dollar fertilizer plant located in the North African country seemed to have been initiated on following a meeting between Algerian Minister for Industry and Mining and the Indian Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh L. Mandavia.

- India's bilateral trade with Algeria currently stands at \$1.5 billion a year with the trade balance in Algeria's favour given India's import of oil and gas. India seeks 49 per cent share in Algerian phosphate block having 6-billion tonne capacity.

Finance Ministry announces fresh tranche of gold bonds

The Finance Ministry announced the sixth tranche of sovereign gold bonds. The duration of the bond will be for a period of eight years with exit option from the fifth year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.

- A person is allowed to invest a minimum of 1 gm while a maximum of 500 gm gold in a financial year.

World Bank pledges \$2b aid to Bangladesh to tackle climate change

The World Bank has pledged 2 billion US dollars aid to Bangladesh to tackle climate change.

- The Bank's president Jim Yong Kim said that Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to climate change accounting for almost 70% of all storm surges in the world.

Standard Chartered Bank forms tie-up with Uber

Foreign lender Standard Chartered Bank has announced a tie-up with Uber under which its credit cardholders, across six countries, will get a cash-back of up to 25 per cent for hailing cabs from the app.

- In India, the cardholders will get a 20 per cent cash-back on all Uber rides, subject to a cash—back cap of Rs. 600 per month.
- Additionally, first-time Uber users will get a discount of Rs.50 for the first three rides.

ICICI Bank first Indian lender to execute Blockchain transaction

ICICI Bank has become the first Indian lender to complete a banking transaction using Blockchain technology.

- This remittance transaction has been completed in partnership with Emirates NBD, a lender from the West Asia.
- Blockchain technology simplifies the process and drastically reduces duration of the transaction to few minutes.

Cabinet approves pact between EXIM Bank, NDB

Union Cabinet approved a pact between Export-Import Bank of India and BRICS-promoted New Development Bank, along with other development financial institutions of member nations, with an aim to strengthen trade and economic ties.

- The New Development Bank (NDB) aims to mobilize resources for development projects in BRICS, emerging economies and developing countries.

Bank of Maharashtra renews tie-up with United India Insurance

State-run Bank of Maharashtra has renewed its corporate agency tie-up with United India Insurance Company.

- Customers can buy the entire gamut of UIC products at any of the 1,896 branches of the bank across the country.

RBI announces 4th Bi-monthly Policy Statement

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut the short-term lending rate, or repo rate, by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent from 6.50 per cent earlier.

- This was the first exercise by the monetary policy committee (MPC), chaired by Governor Urjit Patel.
- The central bank has maintained status quo on cash reserve ratio (CRR), which stands at 4 per cent while statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) remained unchanged at 20.75 per cent.
- The marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate, meanwhile, has been adjusted to 6.75 per cent from 7 per cent earlier.

IMF revises India's growth to 7.6% for FY17 and FY18

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised projections for India's economic growth by 0.2 percentage points to 7.6 per cent for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

- It, however, retained global economic growth at 3.1 per cent for 2016 and 3.4 per cent for 2017.

Oil India Limited signs Memorandum of Understanding with University of Houston

Oil India Limited (OIL), an Upstream Oil & Gas PSU, with intent of augmenting its reserves base and maximising recovery from its aging oilfields, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Houston(USA), one of the leading universities on oil and gas of the world.

- The MoU was signed in presence of Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (I/C), Petroleum & Natural Gas in New Delhi.
- The MoU, amongst others, is focused to collaborate in the fields of Improved Oil Recovery & Enhanced Oil Recovery for production enhancement from matured fields, seismic interpretation & reservoir characterisation studies, improvement of drilling and well intervention practices and unconventional hydrocarbon studies.

Appointments

Riyadh Mathew is new PTI Chairman

Riyadh Mathew, Director of Malayala Manorama, and Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Express , were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of PTI.

- Mr. Mathew, who is Senior Assistant Editor and member of the Manorama management, succeeds Hormusji N. Cama, Director of Bombay Samachar. Mr. Goenka succeeds Mr. Mathew as Vice-Chairman.

Ratan Tata replaces Cyrus Mistry as Tata Sons chairman

In one of the biggest upheaval in the corporate sector, the Tata Sons Board has appointed Ratan Tata as the interim chairman of the group, replacing Cyrus Mistry.

- The decision was taken at a Board meeting.
- Mistry has resigned from his post as chairman.

Shakti Sinha to head Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

Retired IAS officer Shakti Sinha was appointed as the Director of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML). His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

- Sinha, who served in the Prime Minister's Office during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure, was also Director in India Foundation, a think tank aligned to the RSS.
- The post of Director of NMML was vacant since the resignation of its previous Director Mahesh Rangarajan in the year 2015.

Costantini appointed as Indian TT team chief coach

The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) re-appointed Italian Massimo Costantini as the national team chief coach for a two-year period.

- "All the players know him well and have a very good understanding with him. His earlier service was satisfactory" said Dhanraj Choudhary, secretary general of TTFI.
- He will take charge on October 1. His tenure will be up to September 30, 2018.

Arundhati Bhattacharya Gets Year-Long Extension as SBI Chief

Government has given one-year extension to SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya amid the lender's consolidation with its associate banks.

- Earlier this year, the Cabinet gave its nod for merger of State Bank of India (SBI), its associate lenders and Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) that would make the state-owned lender a global-sized bank.
- SBI has five associate lenders — State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Hyderabad.

Somesh Sharma is INS President

Somesh Sharma of Rashtradoot Saptahik was elected as president of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) on Friday for 2016-17. He succeeds P V Chandran of Grehalakshmi of Mathrubhumi Group.

- Akila Urankar of Business Standard was elected as the new deputy president of INS at its annual general body meeting. K Balaji of The Hindu Weekly has been elected vice-president while Sharad Saxena of Hindustan Times is the new treasurer.
- V Shankaran will continue to be the secretary general.

Sunil Bharti Mittal elected as GSMA Chairman

Bharti Enterprises Founder and Chairman Sunil Mittal has been elected as GSMA (Global System Mobile Association) Chairman for a two-year period from January 2017 through December 2018.

- Current GSMA Chairman Jon Fredrik Baksaas will step down from the Board at the end of 2016.
- Mittal, who is the first Indian to be elected as Chairman of global telecom industry board, will oversee the strategic direction of the organisation, which represents nearly 800 of the world's mobile operators, as well as more than 300 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem.

Gavaskar appointed 'Stroke Ambassador'

Former Indian Cricketer Sunil Gavaskar has been named as 'Stroke Ambassador of India'.

- The Indian Stroke Association which is hosting the World Stroke Congress (WSC) along with World Stroke Organization (WSO) made this announcement.
- Stroke is a leading cause of disability and death worldwide.
- Gavaskar is happy to be "The Stroke Ambassador for India" to create awareness that strokes are treatable.

- World Stroke day is observed on 29th October in every year. This is the first time that India is hosting the WSC meeting.

Dr. Ajay M. Gondane appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia

Dr. Ajay M. Gondane has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia.

- Currently he is working as the Additional Secretary (Political) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- He has previously served as High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea and as Deputy Consul General of India in New York.

Rajeev Sharma takes over as Power Finance CMD

Rajeev Sharma has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC) with effect.

- Sharma succeeds M K Goel who retired on September 30, 2016 on attaining the age of superannuation.
- Prior to joining PFC, Sharma was the CMD of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

Kersti Kaljulaid elected as first female President of Estonia

Kersti Kaljulaid was elected as the President of Estonia by the parliament.

- With this, Kaljulaid will become Estonia's first female president.
- Kaljulaid won vote 81-0, with 20 members absent or abstaining.

S Sivakumar appointed as full time member of 21st Law Commission of India

The Union Government has appointed S. Sivakumar as a full-time Member of the 21st Law Commission of India (LCI). He is the professor at the Indian Law Institute (ILI) in New Delhi.

- He hails from Kerala and has authored several books on law.
- Former Supreme Court (SC) judge Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan is Chairman of the commission.
- The first commission was constituted in 1955 and since then various commissions were re-constituted every three years.

R Ravindra concurrently accredited Ambassador to Guinea

R. Ravindra (IFS: 1999) has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guinea, with residence in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire).

- Presently he is serving as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire. He will now serve as the ambassador for the both countries.

Valvoline ropes in ViratKohli as brand ambassador

Valvoline Cummins India has signed up India Test captain Virat Kohli as its ambassador.

- As part of the association, Kohli will be the face of Valvoline engine oils and lubricants range.

Navdeep Singh Suri is India's New Envoy to UAE

Senior diplomat Navdeep Singh Suri was appointed Ambassador to United Arab Emirates, a strategically important nation country which is a major supplier of oil to India and is home to around 2.6 million-strong Indians.

- Mr Suri, a 1983 batch Indian Foreign Service official, is expected to take up the assignment shortly, the External Affairs Ministry said.
- He is currently serving as Indian High Commissioner in Canberra.

Amandeep Singh appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the UN Conference

Former IAS officer Amandeep Singh Gill was appointed as the next Ambassador/PR of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva.

- The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is a forum established in 1979 by the international community to negotiate multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements.

Sanjay Singh appointed Member Secretary, Law Commission

Former legislative secretary Sanjay Singh has been appointed as Member Secretary, Law Commission of India.

- President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Singh to the post for a period upto August 31, 2018, an official order said.
- Singh, a retired officer of Indian Legal Service, was in August 2014, appointed as legislative secretary.

Saina Nehwal appointed member of IOC's Athletes' Commission

In a rare honour for an Indian sportsperson, star shuttler Saina Nehwal has been appointed as a member of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Commission.

- Saina has received a letter to the effect from the IOC President Thomas Bach.
- The Athletes' Commission is chaired by Angela Ruggiero and it comprises nine vice presidents and 10 other members.

BCCI president Anurag Thakur part of powerful ICC sub-committee

BCCI president Anurag Thakur has taken charge as the member of the ICC's powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs committee.

- Anurag Singh Thakur is a member of Lok Sabha from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh.

S.P Yadav elected new President of Urology Society of India

S P Yadav has been elected as the new President of the North Zone of Urology Society of India.

- His tenure would begin from October 2017 for a period of one year.
- The announcement was made at the conclusion of a 3-day annual conference held under the auspices of the Agra Urology Association from 16 October to 18 October 2016.

Environmentalist Rajendra Shende unanimously elected to UN expert panel

One hundred and ninety-seven countries have unanimously approved India's nomination of Rajendra Shende as a senior expert to the United Nations Environment Programme's Technology and Economic Assessment Panel of the Montreal Protocol — the most successful global treaty aimed at protecting the ozone layer.

- Shende, a former UN diplomat on global environmental treaties and presently Chairman of the TERRE Policy Centre, was seconded by the US, Brazil, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.
- The Technology and Economic Assessment Panel is the UNEP's overarching body of that assesses emerging alternative technologies in five main industrial sectors that safeguard the ozone layer and climate system.
- It provides the cost benefit analysis and policy relevant information for the countries to take transformative decisions towards sustainable development.

Visa CEO Charles Scharf resigned

The San Francisco-based payments network Visa's CEO Charles Scharf had resigned from his post on October 18, 2016.

- The company named Alfred Kelly Jr, a former president of American Express Co and a current Visa board member, as CEO.

Geeta Phogat appointed DSP in Haryana Police

Haryana Government has appointed international woman wrestler Geeta Phogat as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in Haryana Police.

- A proposal of the Home Department was approved at a meeting of the state cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

Roopa ganguly nominated for rajya sabha

Actress and BJP leader Roopa Ganguly has been nominated to fill the post in Rajya Sabha vacated by cricketer turned politician Navjot Singh Sidhu, who resigned earlier this year.

- She had portrayed the epic role of 'Draupadi' in TV Serial 'Mahabharata.' She has become the state president of Mahila Morcha few months ago.

Yesudas to be brand ambassador of 'Haritha Keralam' project

CPI(M)-led LDF government has roped in eminent Carnatic vocalist and playback singer K J Yesudas as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'Haritha Keralam' (Green Kerala) project.

- It is a massive initiative envisaged for a garbage-free and clean state.
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan informed the state Assembly that the veteran singer had given his consent to be associated with the project.

Gautam Lahiri elected PCI president

Senior journalist Gautam Lahiri was elected president of the Press Club of India, while Vinay Kumar was elected its secretary general. The election was held on October 1.

- According to the results for the press club elections, Manoranjan Bharti was elected as vice-president; Jomy Thomas was elected the joint secretary of the PCI while Arun Kumar Joshi was elected treasurer.

Luo Zhaohui, China's new ambassador to India

China's President Xi Jinping appointed Luo Zhaohui, a senior diplomat with previous assignments in Pakistan and Canada, as China's new ambassador to India.

- He will take over from former Chinese ambassador to India Le Yucheng who left New Delhi in April.

PV Sindhu now brand ambassador of Vizag Steel

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), the corporate entity of Vizag Steel, has roped in top ranked Indian Badminton Player PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador.

- Sindhu, currently amongst the top 10 ranked players in the world, is the first Indian female athlete to win the Olympic silver medal at the Rio Olympics and she is also the first athlete to win back-to-back medals at the World Badminton Championships.

Morocco: Abdelilah Bekirane appointed for another term as PM

Abdelilah Bekirane, leader of Morocco's Islamic Justice and Development Party, was appointed as country's Prime Minister on 10 October 2016. This will be his second term as Prime Minister of Morocco.

- Mohammed VI, the king of Morocco, made the announcement after Benkirane's PJD party emerged with the most number of seats in the 395-seat lower house of parliament.
- Benkirane and the PJD will now reach out to other parties to form a coalition government, because the multi-party system in the kingdom makes it impossible for any political party to win an absolute majority.

World Bank appoints Kristalina Georgieva as chief executive

The Former head of EU humanitarian affairs and vice-president of the European commission Kristalina Georgieva has been appointed the chief executive of the World Bank.

- Recently, she lost out in the race to become United Nations (UN) secretary general.
- Georgieva is currently European commission vice-president for budget and human resource.

Michel Aoun set to be elected Lebanon's president

Lebanon's parliament has elected Michel Aoun as president, ending a political stand-off that has left the post empty for more than two years.

- Mr Aoun is backed by the powerful Shia Islamist group, Hezbollah.

- His candidacy was blocked by the rival, Sunni-dominated Future Movement until a deal was struck earlier this month.

Renu Pall appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Austria

Former Indian Foreign Service officer Ms. Renu Pall has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Austria.

- Austria is a German-speaking country in Central Europe, characterized by mountain villages and baroque architecture.

Govt appoints G Mahalingam as Sebi whole-time member

The government has appointed Reserve Bank's Executive Director G Mahalingam as a Whole-Time Member of markets regulator Sebi.

- Apart from the Chairman, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) can have three Whole-Time Members (WTMs).

Bank of Baroda signs brand endorsement with Sindhu, Srikanth

Public lender Bank of Baroda sealed a principal sponsorship contract with badminton Olympians P V Sindhu and K Srikanth.

- "The three-year deal with the two players was agreed in-principle before they represented and made India proud on the international stage at the Rio 2016 Olympics," the bank said in a statement.
- Bank of Baroda logo will now appear on the centre chest of the two athletes' playing jerseys in international and domestic tournaments under the aegis of Badminton World Federation Events (BWF) and Badminton Association of India-sanctioned events, respectively.

Amrit Lugun concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the State of Eritrea

Amrit Lugun, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of the Sudan, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the State of Eritrea, with residence in Khartoum (Sudan).

- Eritrea officially the State of Eritrea, is a country in the Horn of Africa. Its capital at Asmara and Currency is Nakfa.

Softbank names Rajeev Misra as head of \$100 billion tech fund

Japanese telecom and internet major Softbank Corp has named India born Rajeev Misra as head of its ambitious \$100 billion fund which will invest in technology companies across the world.

- Misra joined Softbank Group in 2014 as head of strategic finance and also works with SoftBank Internet and Media Inc, which Nikesh Arora headed as CEO.

Ajay Kumar Bhalla appointed as Director General of Foreign Trade

Senior IAS officer Ajay Kumar Bhalla was appointed as the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). He succeeds Anup Wadhawan, who was appointed as Additional Secretary in the commerce ministry.

- Bhalla, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, is presently an Additional Secretary in the Commerce Ministry.

Sushil Chandra appointed CBDT Chairman

The Government has appointed Indian Revenue Service officer Sushil Chandra as the next chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

- “The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Sushil Chandra, IRS (IT: 1980),” said an official statement.
- He will take over from the current CBDT Chairperson Rani Singh Nair, who will retire on October 31. Chandra is currently posted as Member, CBDT.

Mohan Reddy appointed Hon. Consul of Germany

Germany has appointed former Nasscom Chairman B V R Mohan Reddy as an Honourary Consul of that country in Hyderabad. Mohan Reddy will be the Consul for Germany in Telangana and Hyderabad.

- Mohan Reddy, who is also the Executive Chairman of Cyient Ltd, said that there was a need for collaboration between the two countries in science and technology and in vocational training.

Gavaskar appointed ‘Stroke Ambassador’

Former Indian Cricketer Sunil Gavaskar has been named as ‘Stroke Ambassador of India’.

- The Indian Stroke Association which is hosting the World Stroke Congress (WSC) along with World Stroke Organization (WSO) made this announcement.
- Stroke is a leading cause of disability and death worldwide.

Portugal's Antonio Guterres set to be UN secretary general

Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres is poised to be the next United Nations Secretary-General.

- It is expected to be formally recommended to the 193-member General Assembly for election by the Security Council, diplomats said.
- He will replace current Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, whose tenure is ending in early 2017.

Awards

Nadia Murad and Lamiya Aji Bashar wins 2016 Sakharov Prize

Two Yazidi women, Nadia Murad Basee and Lamiya Aji Bashar, who escaped sexual enslavement by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Iraq, have won Europe's top human rights award, the Sakharov prize.

- The announcement of the year's joint laureates was made following a decision by European Parliament on 27 October 2016. The Sakharov award ceremony will be held in Strasbourg on 14 December.

Gangtok conferred Cleanest Tourist Destination honour

The Union Ministry of Tourism has conferred Gangtok, capital of Sikkim, the 'Cleanest Tourist Destination'.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 30 handed over the award in New Delhi. The award was received by the Commissioner of Gangtok Municipal Corporation.
- Chandigarh and Mysore were awarded as 'Clean Cities in million plus population category'.
- Urban Development and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation responsible for implementing the flagship programme, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban and Gramin), had organised a workshop at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi.

Indian-origin scientist bags young scientist award in US

KirtirajKundlik Gaiwad, an Indian scientist with the Department of Packaging, has been awarded the prestigious IAFP Young scientist scholarship award for his research work on "development of novel oxygen absorbing package in the field of active packaging for oxygen sensitive food products".

- This award worth \$2000 and award plaque was presented in the annual meeting of International Association of Food Protection (IAFP) held in St Louise, USA by The IAFP Foundation, USA.

Mizoram's Pachuau declared India's oldest working journalist

The Mizoram government's Information and Public Relations department and the Mizoram Journalists' Association (MJA) declared LalbiakthangaPachuau, the editor of 'ZoramTlangau', a Mizo language daily, as the "oldest working journalist in the country".

- The 90-year-old soldier-turned-journalist started editing his own newspaper in 1970 and was elected the president of MJA for three terms.

Nadia Murad and Lamiya Aji Bashar wins 2016 Sakharov Prize

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- The announcement of the year's joint laureates was made following a decision by European Parliament on 27 October 2016.
- Basee and Bashar were among thousands of Yazidi girls and women abducted by ISIS militants and forced into sexual slavery in 2014. But, both survived and now campaign for the Yazidi community.

C Radhakrishnan selected for Mathrubhumi Literary award

Eminent writer C Radhakrishnan has been selected for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award in recognition of his contribution to the field of literature.

- The award carries a cash prize of ₹ 2 lakh, a citation and a statuette.
- Radhakrishnan was selected by a panel chaired by novelist M Mukundan with Sethu and Sarah Joseph being the other members of the jury, Mathrubhumi Managing Director M P Veerendra Kumar and Managing Editor P V Chandran said in a statement.
- Recipient of several honours, including the Literary Academy of India, Kerala Literary Academy, Radhakrishnan has proved his mettle in various capacities as novelist, short story writer, cine director, teacher and media personnel.

Sonam Kapoor awarded ET Panache's 'Trendsetter Awards 2016'

Bollywood Actress Sonam Kapoor has been bestowed upon with the 2016 ET Panache Trendsetter Award in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- The award recognizes the efforts of entrepreneurs, innovators, newsmakers and athletes whose stories inspire millions and whose services transform lives.

Robert De Niro to Receive Chaplin Award

The Film Society of Lincoln Center has announced Robert De Niro as the recipient of the 44th Chaplin Award.

- He is also the high-profile co-founder of the Tribeca Film Festival, launched in the wake of 9/11 in an effort to boost the economic prospects of lower Manhattan.
- De Niro will be presented with the award at an award gala on 8 May 2017.

State Bank of Patiala gets special award for excellence in MSME lending

State Bank of Patiala has been conferred "Special Award for Excellence in MSME lending" for its performance in lending to the MSME sector during the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 with a growth of Rs 2597 crore (annualized 23%) and Rs 994 crore (annualized 7.10%) respectively, covering the entire range of services.

- S A Ramesh Rangan, Managing Director and Devendra Kumar, General Manager, State Bank of Patiala received the award on behalf of the Bank in the National Award Function held at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana wherein the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, was the chief guest.

International Prize in Statistics awarded to Sir David Cox

Noted British statistician Sir David Cox on 19 October 2016 was named the inaugural recipient of the International Prize in Statistics.

- He is honoured for Survival Analysis Model Applied in Medicine, Science, and Engineering.

Nobel Peace Prize for Colombia's Juan Manuel Santos

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos won the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for FARC agreement. 376 People were nominated this year for the prize.

- Santos has promised to revive the peace plan even though Colombians, in a referendum, narrowly rejected the accord. Many voters believed it was too lenient on the FARC guerrillas.
- Last year, the award was given to the Tunisian organisation 'National Dialogue Quartet'.

Nobel Prize in Economics 2016 awarded to Oliver Hart and Bengt Holmstrom

British-born Oliver Hart and Finland-born Bengt Holmstrom won the 2016 Nobel Economics Prize for their contributions to contract theory, helping the understanding of issues like the performance-based pay for top executives.

- Hart is economics professor at Harvard University while Holmstrom is professor of economics and management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- The economics prize, officially called the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was established in 1968.

Chandigarh International Airports limited (CHIAL) won IBC award

Chandigarh International Airports Limited (CHIAL), a Joint Venture Company of Airports Authority of India and States of Punjab and Haryana, has been conferred with IBC award and Trophy for excellence in built environment in infrastructure projects for "New Integrated Terminal Building of Chandigarh International Airport for the year 2014-15" at 21st Annual Convention Inaugural function held in New Delhi.

- The award was presented by Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Minister for Urban Development, in presence of Shri Shobhit Uppal, President IBC, Shri D. Kamra, General Manager (Engineering-Project), received the award on behalf of Airports Authority of India.

Sir Ian McKellen honoured at UK Theatre Awards

Veteran actor Ian McKellen was honoured at the UK Theatre Awards on for his individual contributions to British theatre.

- McKellen was honoured with the Outstanding Contribution to British Theatre prize.
- The 77-year-old actor is best known for his roles in the "X-Men" and "Lord of the Rings" film franchises.

Bob Dylan wins 2016 Nobel prize in literature

The American lyricist, musician and activist has been awarded this year's Nobel Prize in Literature "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition".

- He is the first songwriter to win this prestigious award.
- With this award to Dylan, the Nobel prizes for the year come to a close.

Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank awarded by Ugandan govt for his literary work

Former Uttarakhand chief minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been conferred with a prestigious award by the Ugandan government for promoting human values through his literature.

- Nishank, who is currently a BJP MP from Haridwar, has authored a number of books and anthologies.

Portugal's Renato Sanches wins 2016 European Golden Boy Award

Portugal's Renato Sanches on 24 October 2016 was awarded the 2016 European Golden Boy award.

- Sanches was selected following a vote by journalists from 30 newspapers across Europe to name the best player in 2016 under the age of 21.

54 personalities selected for Yash Bharti Awards 2016

The Uttar Pradesh government has declared the list of Yash Bharati awardees 2016. 54 personalities have been selected for the coveted award for the year 2016-17.

- The award is given by the Uttar Pradesh Government for excellence in literature, fine arts, folk and classical music and sports.
- Some of the prominent names: Bollywood actor Naseeruddin Shah, PayTM CEO Vijay Shekhar, Paralympic athlete Varun Kumar, Qawwali singers Aftab and Hashim (Sabri Brothers), Film director Saurabh Shukla.

U.S. author Paul Beatty wins Man Booker Prize

Paul Beatty has become the first US author to win the Man Booker Prize for his novel "The Sellout". With this, he has become first American to win this prestigious prize.

- The jury behind the world's most prestigious English-language literary award said the novel was a "shocking and unexpectedly funny" portrayal of Beatty's native Los Angeles, using satire to explore racial equality in a fictional neighbourhood.
- The winner of the Man Booker receives £52,500, (\$64,100, 59,000 euros).
- The Man Booker was launched in 1969 and has awarded writers including Iris Murdoch and Salman Rushdie.
- This Prize is different from Man Booker International Prize, which was awarded this year to Han Kang of South Korea.

World Bank award for Almatti dam

Almatti dam, one of the largest reservoirs in Karnataka, was chosen for the World Bank's Award of Excellence for best utilisation of funds for renovation to enhance the strength of the dam.

- The World Bank had granted Rs.72 crore to the Krishna Bhagya Jal Nigam Limited to prevent seepage which could damage the dam.

SCOPE Meritorious Awards to CPSEs Announced

Jury for the SCOPE Meritorious Awards has announced the names of the Award Winners. The Awardees for the SCOPE Meritorious Awards 2014-15 are as under:

- SCOPE Meritorious Award for Environmental Excellence & Sustainable Development: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.
- SCOPE Meritorious Award for Corporate Governance: Power Finance Corporation , Hindustan Aeronautics Limited & WAPCOS Limited.
- Jury has announced to present ths award to 10 PSUs.

R.A. Mashelkar conferred award by Centre for Organisation Development

R. A. Mashelkar, former Director-General of CSIR, has been conferred the V Krishnamurthy Award for excellence by the Hyderabad-based Centre for Organisation Development.

- The former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Governor of Tamil Nadu, K Rosaiah, presented the award at a function in Hyderabad.

Gujarat world heritage site: Rani Ki Vav bags 'Cleanest Iconic Place' award

Gujarat's 900-year-old World Heritage Site Rani ki Vav bag an award for the "Cleanest Iconic Place".

- The monument was felicitated at the conference, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Rani ki Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) was built as a memorial to a king in the year 1063 by Queen Udaymati and is located in the north Gujarat district of Patan.
- It was added as part of the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2014.

'Murga' wins first prize at Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival

Young filmmaker Katyayan Shivpuri, from Maharashtra, won the first prize at the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival for his work "Murga".

- Minister of Information and Broadcasting, M Venkaiah Naidu awarded Katyayan with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakhs.
- Vani Tripathi, filmmaker Gitanjali Rao, and Prahlad Kakar served as the jury to select the best 20 short films.

Japan's Ohsumi wins Nobel Prize in medicine

Yoshinori Ohsumi of Japan won the Nobel Medicine Prize for his work on autophagy -- a process whereby cells "eat themselves" -- which when disrupted can cause Parkinson's and diabetes.

- Autophagy is a fundamental process in cell physiology with major implications for human health and disease. The process is essential for the orderly degradation and recycling of damaged cell parts and its failure is believed to be responsible for ageing and cell damage.
- Ohsumi, 71, received a PhD from the University of Tokyo in 1974. He is currently a professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology.
- He is 23rd Japanese to win a Nobel and 6th Japanese to win it for Medicine. The prize comes with eight million Swedish kronor (around \$936,000 or 834,000 euros).

Indian-origin teen wins Google Science Fair prize

A 16-year-old Indian-origin South African teen Kiara Nirghin has won a \$50,000 scholarship, the grand prize at the annual Google Science Fair for her work using orange peel to develop a cheaper "super-absorbent material" that helps soil retain water.

- Kiara Nirghin submitted her project titled 'No More Thirsty Crops' which was aimed at tackling the severe drought plaguing South Africa.
- The Google Science Fair is a programme for budding scientists between the ages of 13 to 18, who are invited to solve the world's biggest challenges using science and technology.

British trio win Nobel Prize in Physics

The study of "strange states" of matter earned British scientists David Thouless, Duncan Haldane and Michael Kosterlitz the 2016 Nobel Prize for Physics.

- The trio, all based in the US working in the highly-specialised mathematics field of "topology", studied unusual phases or states of matter.
- Thouless won half of the eight million Swedish kronor (around \$931,000) prize, while Haldane and Kosterlitz share the other half.

France confers knighthood on elephant researcher

Film-maker and elephant researcher Prajna Chowta has been appointed *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite* (Knight in the National Order of Merit), one of the highest civilian recognitions of the French government. The official ceremony is expected to be held later this year in Bengaluru.

- Ms. Chowta is the founder of Aane Mane Foundation, which has been researching and conserving wild Asian elephants.
- She has also authored the Elephant Code Book on captive elephant management as well as the French book *Enfant d'Elephant* (Elephant's Child) in 2014, which is based on the sketches of tribals and their relationship with elephants.

Tiny machines win chemistry Nobel Prize

Chemists Jean-Pierre Sauvage of France, Scotland's Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Dutch Bernard L. Feringa won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on molecular machines.

- The winning paper was entitled "For the design and synthesis of molecular machines".
- Molecular machines are tiny molecules, a thousand times thinner than a strand of hair, with controllable movements, which can perform a task when energy is added.

Daughters of Mother India wins at CAM International Film Festival

Indian National Award winning documentary "Daughters of Mother India" has won the first prize in the Documentary Film category at the sixth CAM International Film Festival in Cairo, Egypt.

- The CAM International Film Festival has been organised by Arabic Egyptian Society for Culture, Media and Arts (CMA).
- The fest is organised annually to promote cinema as a means of combating ignorance, poverty and terrorism.
- The 2016 edition featured around 92 films from 33 countries in three categories (Short Fiction, Documentary and Animation).

47th international film festival of India to be held in Goa

The 47th International Film Festival of India will be held in Goa from 20th-28th November.

- It will screen 26 feature films, including Sultan, Airlift and 21 non-feature films.
- Award-winning films on 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' will also be screened during the festival.
- Film Festival being held jointly by the Goa Government, Information and Broadcasting Ministry and Directorate of Film Festivals.

Nayanjot Lahiri bags prize for book on Ashoka

Professor Nayanjot Lahiri (History) at the Ashoka University has been awarded the 2016 John F. Richards Prize for her book Ashoka in Ancient India

- The Richards Prize is awarded annually by the American Historical Association (AHA) to the best book in South Asian history.

Sports

India beat Bangladesh to lift U-18 Asia Cup hockey

The Indian men's hockey team lifted the 4th U-18 Asia Cup after defeating hosts Bangladesh 5-4 in a pulsating summit clash in Dhaka.

- The young Indians held their nerves in the dying moments of the nail-biting finale as they exacted revenge for a 4-5 loss to the hosts in the tournament opener.
- This is the second time that India has lifted the prestigious trophy after winning it in 2001.

Daniel Ricciardo wins F1 Malaysian Grand Prix

Daniel Ricciardo has claimed maiden Formula One Malaysian Grand Prix win.

- Max Verstappen and Nico Rosberg finished second and third respectively.
- Malaysian Grand Prix is a part of World Championship.
- It is being organised at Sepang Circuit since 1999.

India lifts Asian Champions Trophy

India has lifted the Men's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey at Wisma Belia Hockey Stadium, Kuantan, Malaysia.

- India has defeated defending champions Pakistan 3-2 to win the tournament.
- Earlier, India had won the inaugural edition of the Asian Champions Trophy by defeating Pakistan in the final in 2011.

Kieren Dsouza becomes the first Indian to complete World's toughest race, Spartathlon

Bengaluru's Kieren Dsouza has become the first Indian to complete the Spartathlon, widely described as the "world's toughest race".

- The 23-year old completed the 246.6 km distance in the 2016 edition, in 33 hours, one minute and 38 seconds.
- The Spartathlon is an annual run between Athens and Sparta in Greece, with a reported success rate of 50%.

Kabaddi World Cup kicks off in Ahmedabad

The 2016 Kabaddi World Cup kicked off in the presence of captains of the 12 competing nations, including hosts India.

- Besides the hosts, the US, England, Australia, Iran, Poland, Thailand, Bangladesh, South Korea, Japan, Argentina and Kenya will vie for the top honours.
- South Korea beat India by 34-32 in opening game.

Sprinter Srabani Nanda wins Ekalabya Award

Sprinter Srabani Nanda has bagged the 24th Ekalabya Award for the year 2016 in recognition of her sporting excellence.

- Srabani won gold in 200m, silver in 100m and 4x100m relay in 12th South Asian Games held in Guwahati in February.
- She had also won bronze in 100m and 4x100m relay in Asian Grand Prix Athletics in Thailand in June 2015.

Andy Murray wins 2016 China Open Men's Singles

Andy Murray won the 2016 China Open Men's Singles title at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China.

- World Number two Murray defeated Grigor Dimitrov by 6–4, 7–6.
- The China Open is an annual professional tennis tournament held in Beijing, China.

Agnieszka Radwanska wins 2016 China Open Women's Singles

Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska won the 2016 China Open Women's Singles at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China.

- Radwanska defeated Johanna Konta 6-4, 6-2 to grab the title.

Virat Kohli presented with ICC Test Championship mace

Indian captain Virat Kohli was presented with the ICC Test Championship mace for leading his team to the top of the Test Team Rankings.

- The mace was presented by former India captain and ICC Cricket Hall of Famer Sunil Gavaskar at a ceremony following the conclusion of the third and final Test against New Zealand in Indore after the home team completed a 3-0 whitewash.

Brazil lifted Inaugural BRICS U–17 Football Tournament Championship

Brazil has lifted the 1st BRICS U-17 Football Tournament 2016 held at Goa. In the Finals they defeated South Africa 5-1.

- Earlier in the match for the 3 rd place between Russia and China, Russia defeated China 2-1.
- Ten-day BRICS tournament was held in Goa.

India becomes first team to play 900 ODIs

When India walked out to the middle for the first match of the five-match series against New Zealand, it was the 900th time the team took field in the format. No side has played more ODIs than India.

- India played its first ever ODI in 1974 against England at Leeds which ended in a victory for the hosts.

Usian Bolt to retire after the 2017 World Championships

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt will be running his last race at June's Racers Grand Prix before taking retirement from competition two months later.

- Bolt is widely considered as the greatest sprinter of all-time and is the first man to hold both the 100m and 200m records as well as the record being a part of the 4X100m relay.

Sourabh Varma wins men's singles title at Chinese Taipei Open

Sourabh Varma clinched the men's singles title at the Chinese Taipei Open after defeating Malaysia's Daren Liew in the summit clash of the \$55,000 Grand Prix tournament in Taipei.

- He won the game with the scoreline reading 12-10 12-10 3-3. The 23-year-old from Madhya Pradesh rallied to grab the first two games.

Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat retains WBC Asia welterweight title

Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat outpunched Australia's Ben Kite to retain the WBC welterweight Asia title.

- The 24-year-old prevailed 120-110, 119-109, 115-113 in a unanimous decision for the gruelling 12-round contest against his 26-year-old rival.

FIFA gives nod to Kochi, Navi Mumbai for U-17 World Cup

Football's world governing body FIFA has ratified Kochi and Navi Mumbai as a venue for the Under-17 World Cup to be held in India next year.

- Kochi became the first Indian city to be officially declared as one of the venues for hosting the U-17 World Cup after it received a green signal from a high-level delegation of football's world body.

FIFA unveils mascot for 2018 World Cup

Russia have unveiled their mascot for the 2018 World Cup – Zabivaka the wolf.

- The wolf's name, according to FIFA means "the one who scores".
- It received 53 per cent of the more than one million votes cast in a poll, beating a tiger (27 percent) and a cat (20 percent).

India beat Iran 38-29 to win 2016 Kabaddi World Cup

A brilliant second half performance saw India stage a memorable comeback as they beat Iran 38-29 in the title clash to lift the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup in Ahmedabad.

- India has also beat Iran in last two WC finals and Asian games.
- Ajay Thakur was the star performer claiming 12 points in the final.

North Korea won 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

North Korea won the 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup after defeating Japan on penalties in the final of the tournament.

- North Korea, who were the champions of the tournament's maiden edition in 2008, became the first team to win the tournament twice.
- Spain's Lorena Navarro was awarded the Golden Shoe for scoring eight goals in the tournament.

Lewis Hamilton wins 2016 United States Grand Prix

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton on 23 October 2016 won the 2016 United States Grand Prix. The race was held at the Circuit of the Americas, Austin, Texas, United States.

- Nico Rosberg finished second while Red Bull Racing-TAG Heuer's Daniel Ricciardo finished third in the race.

Indian shooter Jitu Rai named 'Champion of Champions' by ISSF

Ace shooter Jitu Rai has been awarded the 'Champion of Champions' title for pistol shooting in 2016 by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

- The army man beat Serbia's Damir Mikec, 29.6 to 28.3 in the Champions Trophy 10m Air Pistol final held at the TSN Shooting Range in Bologna, Italy.
- Jitu was also awarded a cash reward of \$5,587 (5000 euros) along with the title.

Nico Rosberg won the Japanese Grand Prix

Nico Rosberg of Germany and Mercedes GP won the Japan Grand Prix at Suzuka Circuit.

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton finished the GP second and third respectively.

R Ashwin regains No. 1 spot in Test rankings

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin reclaimed the number one spot in Test rankings for bowlers following a career-best match haul of 13 for 140 in the third Test against New Zealand in Indore.

- Ashwin, who was named man of the series after he finished with 27 wickets in a 3-0 sweep by India, now has 220 wickets, the most by any bowler after 39 Tests.
- Ashwin has joined a select band to have touched a rating of 900 points since 2000, the others being Muttiah Muralitharan, Glenn McGrath, Vernon Philander, Dale Steyn and Shaun Pollock.

Mark Webber announces retirement from racing

The Formula-F1 driver from Australia Mark Webber will retire from professional racing at the end of this year in Bahrain.

- Webber won the World Endurance Championship (WEC) title in 2015.

India's Gaganjeet Bhullar wins Korea Open

India's Gaganjeet Bhullar ended a long trophy drought with a one-stroke victory at the Shinhan Donghae Open in South Korea for his sixth title on the Asian Tour.

- The 28-year-old carded a final round four-under-par 67 for a tournament total of 15-under 269 at the Bear's Best Cheongna Golf Club in Incheon.
- Tour rookie Scott Vincent (69) of Zimbabwe and local favourite Kim Tae-woo (71) finished a stroke behind.

BRICS U-17 football tournament begins in Goa

The first edition of the BRICS Under-17 Football tournament begins in Goa.

- The tournament featuring Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) has been organised on the occasion of the 8th BRICS summit that will be held in Goa on the 15th of this month.
- The inaugural match will be played between Brazil and China.

Deaths

Noted artist Yusuf Arakkal passes away

Noted contemporary artist Yusuf Arakkal passed away on 4 October 2016 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was 71.

- He was born in Kerala in 1945 and got his Diploma from Karnataka Painting council.

Freedom fighter Ramesh Kulkarni passed away

Freedom fighter and Congress leader Ramesh Kulkarni passed away here following a brief illness. He was 89.

- Kulkarni (87) is survived by a son and two daughters.
- He started taking part in the country's freedom movement since his school days.
- In 1942, he smuggled pamphlets relating to the freedom movement in a tea kettle and was apprehended by the police at Dadar in Mumbai.

Manipur theatre legend Kanhailal passed away

Manipur-based theatre legend Heisnam Kanhailal passed away on 6 October 2016 following a brief illness in Imphal. He was 75.

- He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in theatre and Sangeeta Natak Academy award in 1985.

Carlos Alberto, Brazil's 1970 World Cup hero, passes away aged 72

Carlos Alberto, who scored one of the greatest goals in World Cup history while captaining Brazil to glory in the 1970 final against Italy, has died aged 72 following a heart attack.

- The classy defender played for Fluminense, Santos, Flamengo and New York Cosmos and earned the nickname 'The Captain' for his leadership qualities.

Rwanda's last king, Kigeli V, dies aged 80

Kigeli V Ndahindurwa (80), the last king of Rwanda, has recently passed away in the United States.

- He ruled the east African nation for less than a year in 1959 before being forced into exile after clashing with the Belgian colonial power.

South African struggle icon MewaRamgobin passes away

South African struggle icon MewaRamgobin (83-year) has passed away at Cape Town.

- Ramgobin was married to Ela Gandhi, a human rights activist and Mahatma Gandhi's granddaughter.
- He was among the first supporters of the Release Mandela campaign.
- Ramgobin's commitment to the Gandhian cause saw him establish a Gandhi museum and library, organizing the Annual Gandhi Lecture and educate people from different race groups on Gandhian philosophies.

Qatar: Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani passes away

Former Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani passed away aged 84, the EmiriDiwan announced.

- He ruled Qatar from 1972 until 1995.
- Qatar will observe three days of mourning, the EmiriDiwan said.
- Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani was the grandfather of the current leader of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Legendary Kashmiri singer Raj Begum dies

Celebrated Kashmiri singer Raj Begum passed away in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. She was 89.

- She was also referred to as the Nightingale of Kashmir.
- She was awarded Padma Shri in 2002.
- She was bestowed with State award by Jammu and Kashmir government in 2009.

Mehar Mittal, legend of comedy in Punjabi movies, passes away

Veteran Punjabi actor Mehar Mittal, who acquired legendary status with his comic roles, passed away at a hospital in Mount Abu, Rajasthan, on 22nd October 2016 after prolonged illness.

- He was to turn 81 on October 24, 2016.
- Mittal was awarded in Mumbai on 136th DadaSahebFalke Jayanti for his excellent contribution to Punjabi Cinema.

First Woman to conquer Mount Everest has passed away aged 77

First Woman to conquer Mount Everest Junko Tabei passed away in Tokyo. The Japanese mountaineer was 77 years old.

- She conquered the Everest in 1975 at an age of 35. By 1992, she'd conquered the Seven Summits.

Former boxing champion Aaron Pryor dies at 60

Former junior welterweight boxing champion, and one-half of one of the most electrifying fights of all time, Aaron Pryor, has died after a long fight with heart disease.

- Pryor built a 39-1 record with 35 knockouts during his career.
- His biggest moments in the ring were his two junior welterweight victories over Arguello.

Oscar-winning Polish film director Wajda dies aged 90

One of Poland's most famous film directors, Andrzej Wajda, has died at the age of 90.

- His one of his best-known releases, 1957's "Canal", showed the struggle of the Polish underground army in the Warsaw uprising.
- He was awarded Oscar Lifetime award in 2000.

Thailand king Bhumibol Adulyadej passes away

Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch, has died after 70 years as head of state.

- He was seen as a stabilising figure in a country hit by cycles of political turmoil and multiple coups.
- Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn will be the new monarch, the prime minister has said.

Italian playwright and Nobel Literature Prize winner Dario Fo passes away

Italian playwright and actor Dario Fo, who won the Nobel prize for literature in 1997, has died at the age of 90, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi announced.

- Left-winger Fo, one of the leading figures in 20th century farce and political theatre, was best known for his works "Accidental Death of an Anarchist" and "Can't Pay, Won't Pay".

Renowned writer and litterateur Dayanand Anant passed away at 88

Renowned writer and litterateur from Uttarakhand, Dayanand Anant, passed away at his residence in Bhowali near Nainital. He was 88.

- He was one of the most prominent writers of Uttarakhand who penned two short story books, three novels, five TV dramas and many comics and satires.

Japan's Prince Mikasa, world's oldest royal, dies at 100

Japanese Prince Mikasa, uncle of Emperor Akihito, died at the age of 100 on Thursday, 27 October. He was the oldest imperial family member in the world.

- Mikasa was the fifth in the line of succession to the Japanese throne Chrysanthemum, a metaphorical name for the monarchy.

Goa's First Woman Chief Minister Shashikala Kakodkar Dies At 81

Shashikala Kakodkar is a prominent leader of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), a political party based in Goa, India, that espouses the cause of the Bahujan Samaj.

