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GK Digest : December 2016

Ramandeep Singh

Policy Rates	
Policy Repo Rate	6.25%
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	6.75%
Bank Rate	6.75%
Reserves Ratios	
CRR	4%
SLR	20.75%
Market Trends : Money Market	
Call Rates	4.75% - 6.30%
Government Securities market	
91 day T-billa	5.9428%
182 day T-bills	6.0748%
364 day T-bills	5.9598%

Current Affairs

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.

31st October: World Cities Day

The World is observing Cities Day with the commitment to work together for a planned and sustainable urban life in the wake of rapid growth of population and problems.

This year, the United Nations (UN) has selected the theme "Inclusive Cities, Shared Development" to

highlight the important role of urbanization as a source of global development and social inclusion.

Vigilance Awareness Week being observed

Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed across the country to promote probity in public life and achieve a corruption-free society.

The theme of the week this year is "Public participation in promoting integrity and eradicating Corruption".

The Commission will visit schools, colleges and industry bodies and other institutions to seek support for creating awareness against the corruptions.

The observance of week commenced with pledge taking by public servants in the Ministries,

Departments, PSUs, Banks and all other Organisations.

The week is observed every year from 31st October, the birthday Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Gujarati new year celebrated

New Year Bestu Varas is being celebrated with traditional zeal and fervour in Gujarat.

The next day after Diwali is marked as the beginning of Hindu New Year Vikram Savanstar, which is celebrated across Gujarat as a new year.

The day is of special significance for traders and businessmen as it is marked the beginning of the financial year for them and the new ledgers are opened on this auspicious day.

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.

DoPT launches Employees Online (EO) Mobile App

The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has launched Employees Online (EO) App.

The application would enable its users, which may include officers, media persons and all stakeholders to stay updated on real time basis with appointments and postings approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) and vacancies at the senior level in the Government of India.

The App aims to update on ACC appointments and postings on real time basis and to bring transparency.

Scientists develop new Arhar variety

The scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute have developed a new variety of Arhar PUSA-16 (pigeon-pea) variety that matures in 120 days.

It gives the same yields of normal plants and is amenable to mechanical combine harvesting.

The new high-yielding variety of the new arhar seeds will be made available to farmers from next Kharif season so that these are brought into the production chain at the earliest.

Its production is 20 quintals per hectare and has 20 to 23 percent protein content in it.

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.

SEBI tightens norms for credit rating agencies

SEBI has tightened disclosure norms for Indian credit rating agencies to boost transparency and accountability.

Rating agencies will have to publicly provide details of the criteria and process behind rating changes.

The new guidelines should be implemented within the next 60 days.

China unveils J-20 stealth jet fighters

China on Tuesday unveiled its J-20 stealth fighter jets at 'Airshow China'.

The radar-evading jets did a 60-second flypast.

It is seen as "a big step forward in Chinese combat capability"

No multiple-choice questions in XII board exam

HRD Ministry panel setup for recommending a common paper pattern for class XII across all boards has suggested removing multiple-choice questions.

It is also recommended to keep the theory and practical weightage at 70:30

State Bank of India cuts home loans to lowest in 6 years

State Bank of India (SBI) has cut home loan rates to a 9.1% -the lowest in six years -as part of a festive scheme.

Home loans for women (or loans with women as co-borrowers) will be available for 20bps above the benchmark rate, which translates into 9.1%.

Three Malayalam films in IFFI Panorama

Three feature films from Malayalam have been selected for the Indian Panorama at the 47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held in Goa in November.

Roopantharam directed by M.B. Padmakumar, Kaadu Pookkunna Neram directed by Dr. Biju, and Veeram by Jayaraj are the Malayalam films in the list.

Fourth Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey

The Indian women's team registered a 2-0 win over Malaysia in its third pool match of the fourth women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey.

India remained at the top of the table, above Korea, China, Japan, and Malaysia, with seven points

Manufacturing PMI at 22-month high

The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by Nikkei and Markit, reported a value of 54.4 in October, up from 52.1 in September.

India's factory activity rose for the tenth consecutive month to a 22-month high in October. A value of more than 50 shows expansion

FIFA nominates 10 managers for 2016's Best Men's Coach Award'

FIFA have announced their shortlist for the manager of the year award with 10 names being listed as potential winners of the award.

The list includes four managers from the English Premier League, three from Spain and three international managers as well.

The list includes Chris Coleman, Didier Deschamps, Pep Guardiola, Mauricio Pochettino, Claudio Ranieri, Jurgen Klopp, Luis Enrique, Zinedine Zidane, Diego Simeone, Fernando Santos.

Geun-hye is the new PM of South Korea

South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Wednesday appointed a former policy advisor Kim Byong-joon as the new prime minister.

It is an attempt to restore public confidence.

Shah Rukh's 'DDLJ' is the longest running Bollywood film

The Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol starrer 'Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge', which released in 1995 is the longest running Bollywood film,

It is spanning a period of over 1,000 weeks.

The movie continues to be screened at the Maratha Mandir in Mumbai

Bengaluru racer first in RC5 category at Malaysian rally

Fashion designer, stylist and actor Anitha Kholay has emerged as one of the category winners in the Malaysian Rally Championship-2016 of the Asia Pacific Rally.

The rally was held at Johor in Malaysia from October 28 to 30

Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards 2016

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave away the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards 2016 at a function in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The awards acknowledge exceptional work across 28 categories in print, broadcast and online journalism in English, Hindi and regional languages.

Christin Mathew Philip of The Times of India won Prakash Rakesh Kardaley Memorial Award for Civic Journalism

Online applications for affordable houses

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) has enabled online submission of applications by the urban poor for affordable houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) from Thursday.

Out of over 2 lakh common services centres across the country will enable online submission of applications for Rs 25 per application.

Council fixes 4-level GST rate structure

Finance Minister Mr. Arun Jaitley announced four-tier GST rate.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) will be levied at multiple rates ranging from zero per cent to 28 per cent.

Tax structure of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%, with lower rates for essential items and the highest for luxury

The highest slab of 28 per cent will include white goods and all those items on which the current rate of incidence varies from 30-31 per cent.

ICICI Bank cuts home loan rate by 15 basis points

ICICI Bank on Thursday announced a cut in home loan rate by 0.15 per cent for new borrowers.

Home loans up to Rs.75 lakh for women borrowers will now attract an interest of 9.15 per

The new rate for salaried class has been reduced to 9.20 per cent, as against 9.35 per cent earlier.

Twitter India MD Parminder Singh resigns

The microblogging network's MD for India, Southeast Asia and Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), Parminder Singh resigned.

Two days ago, Twitter India head Rishi Jaitly announced had also put his papers.

Mistry to chair IHCL board meet today

Ousted Tata Sons Chairman Cyrus Mistry is set to chair the board meeting of Indian Hotels Company (IHCL).

IHCL is a Tata Group firm,.

The meeting will be held at Bombay House, the corporate headquarters of the group, on Friday.

11-day International Space Science School to be held in Sangli

In a bid to bolster enthusiasm for the study of heavens among the rural young, a 11-day international 'Space Science School' will be organised in Sangli district in Western Maharashtra from November 7.

This school is part of a series of schools conducted jointly by the Canada-based Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP) and the International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI).

Food Security Act implemented: Paswan

The National Food Security Act (NFSA), which envisages supply of subsidised foodgrains, has been implemented across the country, the Centre said on Thursday.

As a result, 81.34 crore persons will get wheat at Rs. 2 per kg and rice at Rs. 3 per kg.

Google ties up with ASI for virtual tour of monuments

Google has tied up with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for 360 degree virtual tour of 280-odd monuments across the country.

Some of the major monuments are Taj Mahal, Victoria Memorial and the ruins of Hampi and eight were from Kolkata.

President approves 2% hike in Dearness Allowance.

President Pranab Mukherjee on Friday approved the 2% hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) to central government employees.

It would benefit 50.68 lakh employees and 54.24 lakh pensioners

Earlier this year, DA was hiked 6% to 125% of the basic pay.

Switzerland Tourism names Ranveer Singh as Indian ambassador

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh has been named the Indian ambassador for Switzerland Tourism

The actor will be promoting Switzerland Tourism's campaign for 2017 named 'Nature wants you back!'

Indian woman named Businesswoman of the Year in Australia

Uppma Viridi, an Indian hailing from Punjab and settled in Australia received the 'Businesswoman of the Year Award' at the India Australia Business Community Awards held in Sydney.

Viridi, a lawyer by profession, is the founder of the start-up 'Chai Walli', which sells tea blended with different flavours. She also holds 'Art of Chai' workshops in Australia..

Sonu Sood's 'Xuanzang' chosen as China's entry to Oscars

The Sonu Sood starrer historical adventure film 'Xuanzang' has been chosen by China as its official entry for the 89th Academy Awards

He portrays the character 'Harsha'. Directed by Huo Jianqi, the film also stars Indian actors Neha Sharma and Ali Fazal.

Lecture series on TV to help students clear IIT entrance

Starting January 1, a lecture series called "IIT Pal" will be telecast on a national television channel by the government to help students who cannot afford coaching classes clear the IIT entrance exam.

About 80% of the teachers recording the lectures are from IIT Delhi

There would be 200 lectures each on Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Andhra Pradesh tops in energy efficiency

The World Bank has ranked A.P. as number one in 'Energy Efficiency Implementation Readiness' with an overall score of 42.01.

The ranking figures in a study report of the bank titled: 'India's State Level Energy Efficiency Implementation Readiness' .

The report was launched here on Friday by Subash Garg, WB Executive Director.

The International Conference on Robotics, Automation and Communication Engineering

The International Conference on Robotics, Automation and Communication Engineering, organized by the SciencePlus will take place on 05 November 2016 at the Hotel grand sarovar in Mumbai, India.

The conference will cover areas like bring together leading researchers, engineers and scientists in the domain of interest from around the world.

Economy to grow at 7.6% in 2016-17: NCAER

NCAER has pegged India's GDP growth at 7.6% for 2016-17, following a pick-up in rural demand and "positive signals" on the manufacturing front.

Assam boy won 5 golds in South Asian Aquatic Championship

15 years old Assam's Bastab Tapan Bordoloi won five golds at the recently concluded South Asian Aquatic Championship in Sri Lanka

India wins 29 medals at Commonwealth Wrestling Championships

India won 29 medals, including 13 golds, at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championships in Singapore on Saturday.

Among the gold medalists were Rio Olympian Sandeep Tomar, who won the men's 57 kg freestyle event, Satyawart Kadian in 97 kg and Amit Dhankar in 70 kg. India's female gold winners included Ritu Phogat in 48 kg and Reshma Mane in 63 kg.

News Time Assam to show black screen for a day for violations

The Indian government has ordered that television channel, News Time Assam, be taken off air for a day on November 9 over multiple violations. The channel had revealed the identity of a child abuse victim.

India's first rural skate park in Bundelkhand

The Janwaar Skating Park, India's first rural skate park, is a not-for-profit project that teaches village children skateboarding for free.

It exists in Janwaar village in Bundelkhand and has been built by German community activist Ulrike Reinhard.

India, Sri Lanka sign pact to address fishermen crisis

India and Sri Lanka have signed an agreement under which a hotline will be set up between officials of the two countries to address the fishermen crisis.

It also set up procedures to return arrested fishermen and have a minister-level meeting every few months on the issue.

2 Indian films to compete with 13 foreign films at IFFI

Two Indian films have been selected to compete with 13 foreign films in the 'International Competition' section of the 47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

'Ishti', a Sanskrit film focussing on stigmas of Indian society, and 'Sahaj Paather Gappo' (Colours of Innocence) are chosen for the competition

Army launches 'School Chalo' operation in South Kashmir

The Indian Army has launched Operation School Chalo in South Kashmir, to identify teachers and provide students with free coaching.

The army also started 'Naujawan Club' where youth are given a chance to display their talent in sports.

Kvitova defeats Svitolina to win WTA Elite Trophy

Petra Kvitova defeated Ukraine's Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-2 to clinch the WTA Elite Trophy in Zhuhai, China.

The Elite Trophy was played between top 12 players who couldn't make it to the last week's WTA Finals.

Notably, it was Petra Kvitova's nineteenth career title.

India ranks 2nd on global business optimism index

India has ranked second on the global business optimism index during the September quarter.

India has improved its ranking by one spot, according to accounting firm Grant Thornton's report.

Indonesia ranked on top of the index.

Ex-Union minister Jayawantiben Mehta passes away at 78

JP leader Jayawantiben Mehta, passed away at 78 after a brief illness.

She was a minister in the Vajpayee government from 1996 to 1999,

Oyo appoints Anil Goel as CTO

Oyo Rooms has appointed Anil Goel, a former Amazon executive, as the company's Chief Technology Officer (CTO).

Goel was the global head of technology for customer returns and reverse logistic business at Amazon,

He was also the CTO for Hike Messenger.

'Pulimurugan' 1st Malayalam film to enter Rs. 100 crore club

The Mohanlal starrer 'Pulimurugan' has become the first Malayalam film to enter the ₹100 crore club with its worldwide earnings

The film was reportedly made on a budget of Rs. 25 crore.

Marie Curie is only woman to win Nobel Prize twice

Poland-born scientist Marie Curie is the only woman in history to be awarded the Nobel Prize twice.

Curie shared the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics with her husband for their research on the 'spontaneous radioactivity'

The scientist was awarded the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her discoveries of radium and polonium.

Ban on NDTV India on hold

A day before the Supreme Court was to hear NDTV's challenge to the government order imposing a one-day ban on its Hindi channel, NDTV India

Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu on Monday put the order on hold.

He gave NDTV Ltd. a chance to present its case once more before an inter-ministerial committee.

Vinod Rai to head Kerala's advisory commission

Kerala has roped in former Comptroller and Auditor General of India Vinod Rai as chairman of the Fund Trustee and Advisory Commission (FTAC)

He is appointed to ensure that the funds of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) are properly utilized and the interest of investors is protected.

Blacklisting policy for tainted defence deals approved

The government on Monday approved the long-pending policy for blacklisting firms involved in corruption in arms purchases

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) also accorded approval to begin the procurement process for fighter jets, tanks and attack helicopters cumulatively worth over Rs. 82,000 crores, all produced domestically.

The DAC headed by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar also reviewed all capital acquisition proposals of the armed forces currently under way.

Mahatma's grandson Kanu Gandhi passes away

Kanu Ramdas Gandhi, the 87-year-old grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and a former NASA scientist, passed away at a private hospital in Surat on Monday.

RBI appoints M Rajeshwar Rao as new Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed M Rajeshwar Rao as Executive Director (ED)

Mr. Rao will look after Department of Statistics and Information Management, Financial markets Operations Department and International Department of the RBI.

Government to issue new Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,000 notes from November 10

The government will start issuing the new ₹500 and ₹2,000 currency notes from November 10, said Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das.

The new Rs. 500 notes feature the Red Fort, the new Rs. 2,000 notes feature ISRO's Mars orbiter Mangalyaan.

PM Narendra Modi announced that Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes will be invalid effective November 8 midnight.

IOC gives women's sports award to a male journalist

The International Olympic Committee has presented its IOC Women and Sport World Trophy to male Ethiopian journalist Dagim Zinabu Tekle.

He was given the award for creating a radio show "dedicated to inspiring women and girls to be more active in sport."

Singapore Airlines to shop for world's longest jet

Singapore Airlines is evaluating offers by US-based Boeing and France-based Airbus to build the world's longest jet, which will be added to its fleet, reports have said.

The airline is expected to back one of the company's designs by the end of the year.

Both planes will be the longest twin-aisle jets ever, and the biggest with only two engines.

Sachin's "Playing It My Way" shortlisted for Crossword award

Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's autobiography "Playing It My Way" has been nominated for Crossword's Popular Choice Award.

The book is vying for the award alongside biographies on MS Dhoni and Salman Khan among others.

Flipkart's ex-CPO Punit Soni launches his own startup

E-commerce platform Flipkart's former Chief Product Officer Punit Soni on Tuesday announced the launch of his own startup 'Learning Motors'.

Soni had worked with Google and Motorola and also an adviser and investor in at least three startups.

Raja Krishnamoorthi heading to U.S. Congress

Indian Raja Krishnamoorthi, a protégée of President Barack Obama, has won the 8th Congressional District of Illinois.

He is the first Indian American to score a victory

He was a speaker at the Democratic National Convention earlier this year

Donald Trump wins White House race

Republican Donald J. Trump was elected the 45th President of the United States, the first public office that the 70-year-old real estate mogul-turned politician will hold.

Mr. Trump defeated Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Trump is the oldest person to be elected President.

4 Indian-Americans elected to the US Congress

A record number of 4 Indian-Americans were elected to the US Congress

Among the winners was two-term attorney general from California Kamala Harris, and Pramila Jayapal, the first Indian-American woman to be elected to the House of Representatives.

Raja Krishnamoorthi also got elected to the House of Representatives while Ro Khanna also got elected from California.

Dravid made brand ambassador for Blind T20 WC 2017

Former cricketer Rahul Dravid was announced as the brand ambassador for the 2nd T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind, to be held in January and February 2017.

Dravid also launched the 'Support Blind Cricket by buying a Cricket Ball' campaign.

Highest currency note ever printed by RBI is ? 10,000

The highest denomination currency note ever printed by the Reserve Bank of India is a ?10,000 note during the British Raj in 1938.

However, the ?10,000 note along with ? 1,000 and ? 5,000 notes were demonetized by the then PM Morarji Desai in 1978.

India's first LNG-powered bus flagged off in Kerala

India's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) bus was flagged off for its pilot run by Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram.

The Centre plans to use LNG, considered a cleaner fuel that emits less carbon, for mass transportation.

Sonakshi features on Nov cover of Cosmopolitan India

Actress Sonakshi Sinha has featured on the November cover of Cosmopolitan India

Sonakshi has talked about "love, life and her idea of feminism" in this edition of the magazine.

Hindalco becomes first Nifty company to gain 100% in 2016

Hindalco Industries, India's biggest aluminium maker, became the first Nifty company in 2016 whose stock gained more than 100% year-to-date.

Notably, Hindalco will report its September quarter earnings on November 12.

Ishaat Hussain named interim chairman of TCS

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced Tata Sons has appointed Ishaat Hussain as the chairman of the company.

Tata Sons Limited nominated Mr. Ishaat Hussain as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company in place of Mr. Cyrus P. Mistry with immediate effect.

No electronic chip in Rs. 2000 notes: RBI

The Rs. 2,000 notes that will enter into circulation from November 10, 2016 will not have any electronic chip

The security features of the Rs. 2,000 notes include latent images, coloured strip security threads, watermarks and several other features.

Single sentence novel wins £10,000 UK literary award

The novel 'Solar Bones' by Ireland's Mike McCormack was awarded the £10,000 (approximately 8.2 lakhs) 2016 Goldsmiths Prize, which recognises fiction that "breaks the mould"

The novel is written in a single sentence over 224 pages.

It is about the recollections of an Irish engineer brought back from the dead.

Notably, McCormack is the third Irish writer to win the award.

Roger Federer wins Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award

Former world number one Roger Federer won the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award at the ATP awards

It is Roger's 12th Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award.

The award is given to players who display the "spirit of the sport" on the court.

Roger Federer also won the Fans' Favourite Award for the 14th consecutive time in his career.

Kamala Harris becomes 1st Indian-American to enter US Senate

The 52-year-old Kamala Harris has become the first Indian-American elected to the US Senate.

Contesting for the Democratic party from California, Harris defeated Republican rival Loretta Sanchez.

is also the first black senator from California, and the second black woman to serve in the US Senate, reports said.

Pramila Jayapal 1st Indian-American woman to enter US House

India-born Pramila Jayapal won the Washington State Senate seat.

She becomes the first Indian-American woman to be elected to the US House of Representatives.

52-year-old Jayapal secured 57% votes to defeat her opponent, Brady Walkinshaw.

PM Narendra Modi In Japan for Annual Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Tokyo to attend the annual India-Japan bilateral summit to be held on Friday.

In a pre-departure statement in Tokyo on Wednesday, PM Modi said the high-speed railway cooperation between the two countries would boost bilateral trade and investment.

He will call on Japanese Emperor Akihito and review the entire spectrum of the bilateral cooperation with Prime Minister Abe in Tokyo on November 11.

National Education Day

National Education Day (NED) is observed on 11 November

It marks the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Ministry of Human Resource Development will make new initiatives to mark the National Education Day.

Second BRICS Communication Ministers meeting to begin in Bengaluru

The two -day second BRICS Communication Ministers meeting chaired by Minister of State for Communication Manoj Sinha will begin in Bengaluru on 10th November.

The high-level delegation from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa deliberate for greater cooperation in Telecommunication and ICT sectors.

This meeting is hosted for the first time by India, the Communication Ministers Conference will draw course of action on creating new frameworks of cooperation and collaboration among BRICS countries.

Two-day Economic Editors' Conference begins in New Delhi

The Press Information Bureau in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Finance has organised the meet.

Jaitley inaugurated the proceedings with the lighting of a digital lamp and later delivered the keynote address.

Other speakers included Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Petroleum & Natural Gas, and others.

Japan, India sign agreement on civil nuclear power

Japan has signed a controversial deal to sell civil nuclear power equipment and technology to India

The pact, signed on Friday in Tokyo by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, marked the first time Japan agreed to such a deal with a country that is not a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Kolkata film fest to begin on Friday

The 22nd Kolkata International Film Festival is all set to Make you Laugh, Cry, Scream and Sing Together from this 11th to 18th November, 2016.

The 22nd edition of the Kolkata International Festival will feature 156 movies from 65 countries in 20 categories in 13 locations..

The Tagline for this fest is Cinema For All, All For Cinema host international summit on tobacco-control

International summit on tobacco-control

India Hosted Seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) in New Delhi from 7th November to 12th November

The meetings, jointly organised by the Government of India and the Convention Secretariat, took place at the India Expo Centre & Mart.

Government of India to increase international co-operation and awareness of the WHO FCTC globally and especially in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Thematic Day on Small Islands and Developing States at COP22

UNESCO's Section for Small Islands and Indigenous Knowledge will organize a series of discussions on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and climate change during the thematic day on November 12 in Morocco

It is dedicated to SIDS at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP22).

World Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is being observed around the world on 11 November

to remember the Armed Forces who died during WW I.

Armistice Day is also commemorated yearly on November 11 to mark the armistice between Germany and the Allies.

Shah Rukh Khan launches his biography in Mumbai

Actor Shah Rukh Khan launched his biography 'SRK-25 Years of a Life' by Samar Khan at an event in Mumbai

Shah Rukh Khan was speaking at an event to launch a biography on him by "Kuchh Meetha Ho Jaye" director Samar Khan.

Kerala snake boats' replicas win World Travel Market award

Replicas of Kerala's snake boats, showcased at the Kerala Tourism pavilion, won the 'Best Stand Feature' award at the recently-concluded World Travel Market in London.

The pavilion also featured a video of a 'Vallam Kali' (snake boat race) in Kerala. Meanwhile, the judges said the snake boats made them "want to go to Kerala just to see that in action".

Indian women's team wins gold at World Carrom Championship

India's women's carrom team defeated Sri Lanka to win the gold at the 7th World Carrom Championship in UK on Friday.

India's S Apoorwa and Kajol Kumari also won gold in the women's doubles event.

Meanwhile, the men's team lost to Sri Lanka to win the silver medal in the competition.

8-yr-old Indian wins gold in U-8 World Kickboxing C'ship

Tajamul Islam, an eight-year-old girl from Kashmir, has won the gold medal at the under-8 World Kickboxing Championship in Italy

Tajamul won six games in five days and defeated an American opponent to clinch the gold at the 90-nation tournament.

She qualified for the event after winning gold in the sub-junior category at the 2015 National Kickboxing Championship in Delhi.

India, Myanmar and Thailand Friendship Motor Car Rally, 2016

India, Myanmar and Thailand Friendship Motor Car Rally, 2016 to Be Flagged-off on 13th November,

A Friendship Motor Car Rally from Delhi to Bangkok is being organized from 13th November to 3rd December, 2016 to sensitize the stakeholders of India Myanmar and Thailand Motor Vehicle Agreement

DRDO Conducts the 4th Young Scientists Meet

The 4th Young Scientists Meet (YSM), organized by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), New Delhi along with other Delhi based laboratories of the DRDO, commenced on November 11.

DRDO provides a platform to its young scientists in the form of YSM to interact, network, discuss and share their scientific ideas that help them unleash their creative and innovative potential.

YSM 2016 is a two-day technical event with participation of around 200 young scientists of DRDO coming from various laboratories from all over India.

India's HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar Launches the World's Largest Nation-Building Digital Initiative

Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated the world's largest digital national building initiative "Smart India Hackathon 2017"

The students will be required to solve during the Hackathon that will take place in early 2017.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), University Grants Commission (UGC), i4c, MyGov, NASSCOM, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and Persistent Systems have joined hands to organize this ambitious 'Smart India Hackathon 2017' under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The Smart India Hackathon 2017 will aim to find digital solutions to problems in the areas of power, education, health, water, finance, agriculture, energy, urban & rural development, aviation & shipping, transport, sanitation, sports, law & justice, skill development & entrepreneurship, defence, textiles, tourism, etc.

Three day Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet GRAM

A three-day international event of 'Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM)' for farmers concluded in Jaipur on November 11.

It showcased best global practices and technologies suitable for farmers.

Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh inaugurated the event, a platform for farmers, investors,

manufacturers and the academicians and researchers at Sitapura

Scheme for giving LPG to BPL families launched in Kairon

Union minister of state Vijay Sampla and Punjab cabinet minister Adesh Partap Singh Kairon launched scheme for giving LPG to BPL families

It would also go a long way in reducing indoor pollution and other health-related problems being faced by them,

Scheme aims at providing five crore LPG connections to BPL households pan India in three years

Sreejesh, Harmanpreet in fray for FIH awards

P.R. Sreejesh and Harmanpreet Singh are the only Indians in fray for the annual Hockey Stars awards 2016

Sreejesh is a contender for the goalkeeper of the year award, while upcoming defender Harmanpreet is a part of the list for the rising star of the year, which is a category for U-23 players.

There were no Indian contenders for the player of the year award in both the men's and women's categories.

Kakarala Madhavi Appointed as the Andhra Odisha Border (AOB) Secretary

The CPI (Maoist) Central Committee has reportedly appointed Kakarala Madhavi as the Andhra Odisha Border (AOB) secretary

She replaces Bakuri Venkataramana, alias Ganesh, who was killed in the encounter at AOB between October 24 and 26

Ms. Madhavi served the party in different roles for about 10 years in Telangana, Odisha, Dandakaranya and other areas.

Another senior Maoist leader Pothula Kalpana has been appointed in-charge of military operations in the area. Ms. Kalpana has been part of the banned outfit for about 10 years.

'The Guest' won short film award at MAMI Film Fest

Short film 'The Guest', which emerged as the winner in the 'Large Short Films' category at the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) Film Festival has been released online.

The short film has been directed by Ayappa KM and stars Avinash Tiwari and Yana Mistry. The film is about a young man, who unknowingly ends up in a strange place.

Narinder Batra becomes first Indian president of FIH

Narinder Batra on Saturday became the first Indian to be elected the president of the International Hockey Federation

Batra, who is the president of Hockey India, defeated David Balbirnie of Ireland and Australia's Ken Read to become the 12th FIH president -- the first Asian to grab the post.

Batra succeeds Leandro Negre, who has been the FIH chief since 2008.

PM Modi to lay foundation stone of new international airport at Mopa in Goa

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of a new international airport at Mopa in north Goa today.

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar will also attend the function.

This will be the PM's gift to Goa before elections there in February.

This would be the second visit of the Prime Minister to the state in the last two months, the first one being during the BRICS summit in south Goa.

11-year-old Pune girl wins Google India's doodle competition

Pune-based Anvita Telang has been declared the winner of Google India's 'Doodle 4 Google' competition. This year's theme was 'If I could teach anyone anything...' and through her doodle, the 11-year-old said she would "like to teach everyone to take time to enjoy every moment of life".

Her doodle will be displayed on Google India's homepage on November 14.

Mark Zuckerberg named Fortune's Business Person of the Year

Facebook Co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg has been named by Fortune magazine as the 'Business Person of the Year' for 2016.

According to Fortune, the 32-year-old's "ability to look into the future, his otherworldly consistency and business discipline" make him an effective businessperson.

Zuckerberg is currently the world's fifth richest person, with an estimated net worth of \$50.9 billion.

Anvita Telang won the National Doodle4Google competition

Google will showcase a picture drawn by an 11-year old Indian girl as its doodle on Children's Day in India.

Sixth-grade student Anvita Telang won the National Doodle4Google competition.

Her drawing, titled, "If I could teach anyone anything, it would be" received over 100,000 votes over the past 10 days.

Telang, a student at Vibgyor High School, Pune, illustrated greeneries, water, water life, balloons and other pleasantries in her picture with the message that people should try to enjoy every moment.

Aditi Ashok clinches Hero Indian Open

Teen golf sensation Aditi Ashok scripted history on Sunday

She became the first Indian woman to win a Ladies European Tour title by clinching the Hero Women's Indian Open in Gurugram.

Brittany and Belen finished tied second with identical totals of two-under 214 after 54 holes

Island Club's sports week begins today

The Island Club, Lagos' sports week will commence today at the club house at Onikan

The five-day sports fiesta, which is a forum for members to interact and create more bonds in a friendly environment, will end on Friday at the club's Peacock Hall.

Among top dignitaries expected at the closing ceremony are Governor of Lagos State, Akinwunmi Ambode, who is the special guest of honour and Oba Rilwanu Babatunde Osulale Aremu Akiolu.

Singapore FinTech Festival

A 5-day Singapore FinTech Festival starts today.

The inaugural Singapore FinTech Festival will bring together a series of distinct FinTech events back-to-back in the week of 14-18 November 2016.

Make in India' award for Akshit Batra

Akshit Batra, founder of I Can. India, a Dehradun-based company, was awarded the 'Make in India Award' by the Bharat Nirman Foundation in New Delhi

Akshit won the award under the entrepreneurship category. The award was given by the Chief Imam of India, Dr Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, who is the United Nations Peace Ambassador.

Satendra, Meena win 'Maa Ganga' marathon

Satendra Singh of Army Centre, Hyderabad, won the 21.1-km 'Maa Ganga' Marathon in men's category

Meena from Buladshahar, Uttar Pradesh, won the women's event, organised from Roshanabad till Har-ki-Pauri.

Both the winners were rewarded with cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. The first runners up were given Rs 75,000 while the second runners up were given Rs 50,000.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin arrives in India for six-day visit

Terming India as a "close friend", Israeli President Reuven Rivlin arrived in Mumbai for a six-day visit to India to further strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries that he said were places of "innovation and inspiration".

Rivlin, who arrived with a large delegation of businessmen and academics, will join President Pranab Mukherjee in opening an agro-tech conference in Chandigarh, hold meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and visit several sites of cooperation and joint projects between the two countries.

India Surfing Festival

Scores of surfers have gathered in Konark city, Odisha, for the fifth edition of the India Surfing Festival.

The three-day event has attracted enthusiasts from across the world. It offers people the chance to participate in workshops, competitions, musical events and much more.

During its course from Saturday to Monday, the festival, this time, will also host the Stand Up Paddle Championship.

Donald Trump Picks Reince Priebus as Chief of Staff and Stephen Bannon as Strategist

President-elect Donald J. Trump chose Reince Priebus, the chairman of the Republican National Committee and a loyal campaign adviser, to be his White House chief of staff, turning to a Washington insider whose friendship with the House speaker, Paul D. Ryan, could help secure early legislative victories.

The dual appointments — with Mr. Bannon given top billing in the official announcement — instantly created rival centers of power in the Trump White House

Pro-Russian Rumen Radev elected Bulgarian President

Former air force commander and pro-Russian candidate Rumen Radev has won the Bulgarian presidential election, winning 59.4% of the votes.

Radev is against immigration and has promised during his campaign that he will not allow the Balkan country to become a "migrant ghetto". Radev will assume office on January 22, 2017, for a five-year term.

36th India International Trade Fair inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee

The 36th India International Trade Fair, being held from November 14-27, was inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

The theme for this year is 'Digital India' and the fair will feature over 150 companies from 27 countries. The fair is open to business visitors till November 18, while the general public can visit it thereafter.

London tops 'World's Best City Brands' list

London topped the World's Best City Brands list, as per Resonance Consultancy's 2017 global Place Equity Index. Singapore, New York, Paris, and Sydney completed the top five spots in the ranking.

The report evaluated global principal cities on various categories like- Place, Product, Programming, People,

Prosperity and Promotion. The list was recently released at the World Travel Market in London.

RBI waives all ATM charges till December 30

To alleviate the hardship caused to the public on account of the demonetisation exercise, banks will waive levy of ATM charges for all transactions by savings bank customers done at their own banks' ATMs as well as at other banks' ATMs

SBI Will soon dispense Rs 20, Rs 50 notes to help public

IRCTC to accept eWallets

IRCTC to jump Into Cashless, Paperless Mode – Tickets May Soon Be Booked Via eWallets Like Paytm, Airtel Money

Parliament Winter Session begins today

As his government braced for a stormy start Wednesday to the winter session of Parliament over its demonetization decision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday urged all parties to work together to change the negative perception of people about politicians.

But the Opposition, despite differences in the ranks, put up a united front, calling the demonetisation of higher denomination notes a "currency scam" that needed to be probed.

Nitish Kumar launches free power connection programme

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on launched a programme to provide free electricity connection to about 50 lakh households above the poverty line.

The "Har Ghar Bijli Lagataar" programme, which aims to supply power to every household in the state in the next two years, is a part of the CM's "seven resolves" during the Assembly polls.

Google releases films to mark 'Transgender Awareness Week'

Google has released a series of short films '#transvoices' to share stories of transgender people as "regular people, doing regular things", as part of 'Transgender Awareness Week'.

One of the films is about Jasmine, who was the first transgender to open a tattoo shop in Philadelphia.

Notably, many of the crew who worked on the films also identified as transgender.

Viswanathan Anand wins 2016 Chess Champions Showdown

Indian chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand won the 2016 Champions Showdown in St Louis, USA

The tournament was played across five days, with two classical round robins, two rapid round robins and four blitz round robins, giving each competitor 24 matches in all.

Anand won a total of seven matches and drew 16.

13 years old Kerala boy sets freestyle swimming world record

Marital, a 13-year-old boy from Kerala, set the world record for the longest distance covered in freestyle swimming after covering over nine kilometres in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

The 13-year-old was given a target of 7 kilometres but he went on to cover 9.2 kilometres in three hours through 368 laps, which consisted more than 22,000 strokes.

Africa launches its first cycle-share scheme in Morocco

Africa's first fully functioning cycle-share scheme has been launched in Marrakech, Morocco to curb urban congestion and boost sustainable transport.

The idea, initiated by French bike company Smoove, further seeks to revive Marrakech's biking culture.

About 300 cycles named 'Medina bikes' after the city's ancient centre, will help transport cyclists between 10 hubs.

Pro-Russian Igor Dodon elected Moldovan President

Socialist leader and pro-Russian candidate Igor Dodon has won the Moldovan presidential elections

Dodson has promised to pursue closer ties with Russia rather than EU, which is in direct contradiction of the pro-European stance of the current government.

Notably, Moldova's President can return laws to parliament and has the power to dissolve the assembly.

Google buys search startup "Undecidable Labs"

Google has reportedly acquired search-focused startup Undecidable Labs, co-founded by Apple's former Director of Engineering, Cathy Edwards.

San Francisco-based Undecidable Labs reportedly raised under \$1 million (≈6.7 crore) funding before its acquisition without releasing any products.

Sonam Kapoor to receive Icon of India award

Actress Sonam Kapoor will be awarded the Icon of India award at the upcoming 11th Asiavision Movie Awards.

She will also receive the Best Actress Award for her performance in the film 'Neerja'.

Actress Radhika Apte will be awarded for her performances in the films 'Parched', 'Phobia' and 'Kabali'.

Rashmee strikes fourth skeet gold

Rashmee Rathore won the skeet gold for the fourth time as she beat the young Ganemat Sekhon 13-11 in

the 60th National shotgun championship at the JDA Range

The scores from the National championship form the basis for the selection of the National squad.

Harish Bhat appointed chairman of Tata Global

Tata Global Beverages on Tuesday replaced Cyrus Mistry with group veteran Harish Bhat as its chairman.

This is the second Tata group firm where Mistry has been removed from the post of chairman since he was ousted as the chairman of group holding firm TataSons on

DataWind bags award for outstanding contribution to 'Make in India Mission'

DataWind Inc the leader in delivering Internet access to emerging markets has been recognized for the Outstanding Contribution to Make in India Mission at the Digital Terminal Conclave 2016, New Delhi.

This Award honours the contribution of companies, organizations, institutes, and individuals among others, who has taken initiatives to render momentum to the socio-economic growth of the nation, enabling India to become a global leader.

Akufo-Addo To Receive Mother Teresa International Award For Social Justice

The 2016 presidential candidate of the New Patriotic Party, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, is set to receive the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for Social Justice at an event in Mumbai, India, on Sunday, November 20, 2016.

The event will also posthumously honour Faaraz Ayaaz Hossain, the brave Bangladeshi youth who was killed in the Dhaka terror attack on July 1st, 2016 for refusing to leave behind his friends who were from other countries.

3 stars who won President's awards

Three students from Devamatha CMI Public School, Thrissur, who excelled in extra-curricular activities, have received President's awards.

World chess champion Nihal Sarin, pianist Milen Manoj Earth, and artist Anujath Sindhu Vinay Lal received the 2016 National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement from President Pranab Mukherjee at function in New Delhi

Foldable paper bike helmet wins James Dyson design award

EcoHelmet', a foldable paper bike helmet, created by New York-based Isis Shiffer, has won the James Dyson design award 2016.

Shiffer came up with the idea when she started using bike-hire schemes and realised it required people to bring their own helmets which were expensive.

The recyclable 'EcoHelmet' is expected to cost around \$5 (approximately Rs. 340)

Man who inspired '3 Idiots' wins global innovation award

Ladakh-based engineer, Sonam Wangchuk, on whom Aamir Khan's character 'Phunsukh Wangdu' was based in the film '3 Idiots', was awarded the 'Rolex Awards for Enterprise 2016' for his 'Ice Stupas' project.

The project aimed at reducing water shortage in high altitudes, the project, which will be supported by the Rolex fund, involves conical ice mounds designed like mini-glaciers to slowly release water.

Denver becomes 1st US city to legalise social marijuana use

The people of Denver, US have passed a ballot initiative, allowing private businesses like clubs, bars and restaurants to apply for permits allowing marijuana consumption within their premises.

Denver had already legalised recreational marijuana use, but public consumption was illegal until now.

This comes after the US states California, Massachusetts, and Nevada legalised recreational marijuana use.

NASA astronaut set to become the oldest woman in space

NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, at an age of 56 years, will become the oldest woman in space history after she takes off for the International Space Station (ISS) on Thursday.

Notably, Whitson, who holds the record for most time spent in space by a woman, is also the first woman to become ISS commander.

This will be Whitson's third spaceflight.

Telangana signs MoU with Microsoft for digital services

Telangana government signed a MoU with Microsoft Corporation India for helping the government explore cloud, machine learning and mobile-based solutions to improve citizen services, education, healthcare and agriculture.

"Telangana government believes that ICT is the key to building not only a stronger economy but also an efficient and effective governance system," officials said.

Manuel Medrano wins best new artist at Latin Grammy Awards

Colombian singer Manuel Medrano and Puerto Rican artist Yandel each won two Latin Grammy Awards Thursday during a ceremony that began with a strong message in defence of Latinos.

Actor-director Diego Luna, who presented the song of the year award to the composers of "La Bicicleta," urged unity among Latinos.

SpiceJet receives World Travel Leaders Award at WTM, London

SpiceJet received the World Travel Leaders award at the WTM (World Travel Mart) Awards in London on 7th November 2016.

The airline was recognised for its dramatic turnaround and its use of innovation to rebuild customer loyalty. SpiceJet was the only airline to be recognised this year, globally.

The award was received by Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of SpiceJet.

Maruti Suzuki Baleno And Mahindra e2o Nominated For Next Green Car Awards UK

Made in India cars have once again made it to international grounds.

This time it's the 2016 Next Green Car Awards UK. Yes, the nominations are out for this award and two India-made cars have appeared on this list.

Livingstone school bags National Science Project Award

Livingstone Foundation-Hr. Sec. School (LFHSS) Dimapur has won the Best Science Project Award at the first ever National Science Concours of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT).

The event organized to mark the UNESCO initiative of observing the World Science Day for Peace & Development 2016 (Nov 10), was held at SMIT Campus in Majitar, East Sikkim from November 10-11 with the Vice-Chancellor of Sikkim Manipal University, Brig. (Dr.) Somnath Mishra was the Chief Guest.

Wednesday, November 16th, 2016 | Posted by Rattan Mall

Tanpreet Parmar of Vancouver crowned Miss India-Canada 2016 in Toronto

TANPREET Parmar of Vancouver was crowned Miss India-Canada 2016 at the 26th annual Miss India-Canada event in Toronto

Tanpreet is a Canadian actress, model, talk show host and mentor. She was crowned Miss Charity British Columbia 2014-2015 and awarded "People's Choice" at the Miss BC Pageant. Tanpreet was recognized for raising the most money for the Canadian Cancer Society

India Pharma Week 2016'

UBM India, India's leading exhibition organizer, launched the India Pharma Week, a bouquet of over 10 trend-setting activities across the city of Mumbai, to mark the special 10th anniversary of CPhI & P-MEC India 2016, its flagship event and the world's leading pharma networking event.

With the introduction of the India Pharma Week, the expo transformed itself from a three-day exhibition to a marquee show spanning a week (IPW, 17th-23rd November 2016)

Mumbai poetry festival to feature 51 poets from 5 countries

The 'Poets Translating Poets' festival in Mumbai, scheduled during November 25-27, will feature 51 poets from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Germany.

The festival will be the culmination of a two-year-long Indo-German literary exchange project aiming to "transcend boundaries of language and culture, through the act of translation and poetry"

Brazil couple sets world record for shortest married couple

Paulo Gabriel da Silva Barros and Katyucia Lie Hoshino from Brazil, with a combined height of 181.41 centimetres, is the shortest married couple, according to the Guinness World Records.

Individually, Paulo Gabriel measures 90.28 centimetres while Katyucia Lie measures 91.13 centimetres. The couple, who got married on September 17, 2016, was recognised for the same earlier this month.

Ashwin 1st bowler ever to take 50 wickets in consecutive years

Ravichandran Ashwin, with his 5-wicket haul against England in the Visakhapatnam Test, became the first bowler ever to complete 50 wickets in two consecutive calendar years. The off-spinner took 62 wickets in 9 Tests in 2015 and has so far claimed 52 wickets in 9 Tests in 2016. Notably, Ashwin was the top wicket-taker in Tests last year.

Global Citizen Festival has star lineup

Coldplay, the British rock band that has doled out several memorable tracks including Sky Full Of Stars, Viva La Vida and Fix You arrived at the concert at the Global Citizen Festival 2016 India tonight in Mumbai.

The concert that has the likes of Jay Z, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Alia Bhatt, Farhan Akhtar, Katrina Kaif, AR Rahman, Parineeti Chopra and Arijit Singh in performance is taking place just before the eighth anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

It is symbolic of the spirit of Mumbai — the show must go on.

International Children's Peace Prize

Khekashan Basu, a 16-year-old Indian girl in the UAE, is one of the three finalists for the International Children's Peace Prize instituted by the KidsRights Foundation.

International Film Festival of India begins today

The 47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will begin here on Sunday as a nine-day event as against 11 days in the previous years.

M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, will inaugurate the festival, in the presence of Bollywood director Ramesh Sippy, at the Dr. Shama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium. Actor and filmmaker Ajay Devgn will be the chief guest at the opening ceremony and director S.S. Rajamouli at the closing ceremony. S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, who has

served the film industry for five decades as a playback singer, actor and director, will be presented with the Centenary Award for Indian Film Personality of the Year

Women SHGs to get interest-free loans

Karnataka government will provide loans to members of women's self-help groups at zero percent interest soon. This announcement was made at the birth centenary celebration of former prime minister late Indira Gandhi at Nehru Maidan.

PV Sindhu wins China Open, 2016

PV Sindhu won the China Open on Sunday, to register her first tournament win post the Rio Olympics.

World number 11 Sindhu defeated ninth-ranked China's Sun Yu 21-11, 17-21, 21-11. This is the third straight year that an Indian woman has made the China Open final, with Saina Nehwal winning the title in 2014 and finishing as runner-up in 2015.

Nat Geo magazine cover features Mangalyaan's Mars photo

An image of the planet Mars taken by ISRO's Mars-orbiting spacecraft Mangalyaan has found a place on the cover of the November edition of the National Geographic magazine.

The spacecraft's launch had completed three years on November 5. The mission, which had cost ₹450 crore, was made to last six months but has now survived for three years.

Central India's National Park in National Geographic 'Best of the World List 2017'

National Geographic Traveler magazine recently announced its annual 'Best of the World List', highlighting 21 'must-see places' to visit in 2017.

The list includes Central India's National Parks, Kauai in Hawaii, Banff in Canada, Madrid in Spain, and Marrakech in Morocco. The chosen destinations fall

into different categories including- Cities, Nature, or Culture.

International Film Festival Of India Awards, 2016

Noted veteran playback singer S P Balasubramanyam is set to receive Centenary award for his contributions to India cinema for over 50 years.

The decision for the award was announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu

Korean Film Director Im Kwon Taek Received the Lifetime Achievement Award

Made in India: INS Chennai to be commissioned today

INS Chennai, one of the largest destroyers built in India, is to be commissioned in the Indian Navy by Union defence minister Manohar Parrikar today

After its commissioning, INS Chennai will be placed under the operational and administrative control of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. On completion of some additional sea trials of the ship-borne systems, the destroyer will be assigned to the Western Fleet and would be based in Mumbai.

Andy Murray defeats Novak Djokovic, ends 2016 as World No. 1

Britain's Andy Murray clinched the ATP World Tour Finals title, after defeating Serbia's Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-4 in the final in London.

With the win, Murray ended the 2016 season as the world number one. It was for the first time in the history of the 46-year-old tournament that the title match decided the year-end World number one.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar gets international peace prize

Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was on Sunday honoured with an international peace prize for his efforts in ensuring world peace.

The 'Dr Nagendra Singh International Peace Award' was given to him by Home Minister Rajnath Singh. The award has been instituted in the memory of Dr Nagendra Singh, an Indian judge at International Court of Justice, The Hague.

Google launches online exhibition on iconic Indian women

Technology giant Google has launched an online exhibition exploring narratives of "India's iconic women and unsung heroines through history

" The collection of artworks and stories spans 2,500 years and includes scientists, leaders, and artists.

Some of the women featured are India's first practicing woman doctor Savitribai Phule and eminent Indian painter Amrita Sher-Gil.

World's first Bollywood theme park opens in Dubai

Bollywood Parks Dubai, which is the world's first Bollywood-themed park, recently opened to the public.

A part of Middle East's largest integrated theme park, Dubai Parks and Resorts, it features five zones, including 'Bollywood Boulevard' and 'Mumbai Chowk'.

It also features an 856-seater Rajmahal Theatre that will showcase Broadway-style Bollywood musicals.

India becomes an Associate Member of CERN

India on Monday became an Associate Member of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the world's largest nuclear and particle physics laboratory.

CERN's Director General said that India's membership will open opportunities for Indian industries to

participate directly in CERN projects. As a member nation, CERN requires India to make an annual contribution of approx Rs.77 crore.

World Television Day is observed on November 21

The United Nations has designated November 21 as 'World Television Day', recognising that television plays a major role in presenting different issues that affect people.

It seeks to celebrate the philosophy of television, a tool which represents a symbol for communication and globalisation in the contemporary world. On November 21-22, 1996 the UN held the first World Television Forum.

Ariana wins Artist of the Year at American Music Awards

Singer Ariana Grande was named 'Artist of the Year' at the 2016 American Music Awards (AMAs).

While Selena Gomez won the AMA for 'Favorite Female Artist - Pop/Rock', Justin Bieber won the award in the male category.

Bieber also won the 'Video of the Year' award for his track 'Sorry'. Further, Drake was named 'Favorite Artist - Rap/Hip-Hop'.

NASA launches most advanced weather satellite into space

NASA successfully launched GOES-R, claimed to be the world's most advanced weather satellite, on Saturday from Florida.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration teamed up with NASA to rocket the spacecraft, which is the first in a series of four high-tech satellites initiative, valued at \$11 billion. GOES-R is missioned to provide faster and more accurate weather forecasts for the US.

China launches world's longest quantum communication line

China launched a 712-km quantum communication line on Sunday, stated to be the world's longest secure telecommunications network.

Linking Hefei to Shanghai, the line is equipped with ultra-high security systems and is claimed to be hack-proof.

It is part of a 2,000-km Beijing-Shanghai communication line, which will be connected to China's quantum satellite for the space-to-Earth communication network.

Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar wins Indonesia Open

Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar on Monday won the \$300,000 (₹2 crore) BANK BRI-JCB Indonesia Open for the second time in his career.

Two-time Asian Tour number one Jeev Milkha Singh finished tied-second in the tournament, which was his best result since 2012.

It was Bhullar's overall seventh Asian Tour victory and the second title this season.

India's longest expressway from Agra to Lucknow inaugurated

Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav inaugurated India's longest expressway from Agra to Lucknow on Monday.

The 302-km expressway, completed in a record time of 23 months, would reportedly reduce the Lucknow-Delhi journey time by almost half to 5-6 hours.

The inaugural event saw Indian Air Force fighter jets perform simulated landings on the expressway, a first for any road launch.

Andhra Pradesh CM commissions 5 MW solar power plant

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday commissioned a 5 MW solar power plant in Gollagudem village of the West Godavari district.

The plant, set up at a cost of ₹37.58 crore, will produce 8.06 million units of power annually.

Andhra Pradesh had also commissioned India's first solar park with a capacity of 250 MW in Ananthapuramu district.

Quikr buys home rental startup Grabhouse in all-stock deal

Bengaluru-based classified advertising platform Quikr on Monday acquired home rental startup Grabhouse in an all-stock deal reportedly worth Rs.68 crore (\$10 million).

As it struggled to grow, Sequoia Capital and Kalahari Capital-backed Grabhouse was looking for a buyer and was in talks with NestAway and Oyo for the buyout. In December 2015, Grabhouse fired 100 employees following a restructuring.

Humana Wins Two Stevie® Awards for Women in Business

Humana Inc. a leading health and well-being company, has won two Stevie® Awards – one for its Workplace Voluntary Benefit (WVB) well-being benefit and one for Sharon Parsons, Humana's integration product category leader – in the 13th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business

Humana's Workplace Voluntary Benefit (WVB) well-being benefit won a Bronze Stevie Award in the Best New Product or Service of the Year - Business Products and Services category. Meanwhile, Sharon Parsons received a Bronze Stevie Award in the Employee of the Year - Business - All Other Industries category.

Delhi's Khan Market ranked India's costliest retail location

Delhi's upscale Khan Market has been ranked as the most expensive retail location in India, according to real estate firm Cushman & Wakefield. Further, Khan Market has emerged as the world's 28th most expensive retail location. Notably, New York's Upper

5th Avenue has been ranked the world's most expensive retail location.

Bengaluru witnesses 'Pride Parade' to support LGBT community

On the occasion of International Day of Transgender Remembrance on November 20, several people took part in the 'Namma Pride Parade,' in support of the LGBT community in Bangalore.

The 'Pride Parade' was organised as a solidarity act across the entire LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual) community and emphasised on the intolerance of growing transphobia.

Pankaj Patel elected as FICCI President for 2017

Pankaj Patel, chairman and managing director of Cadila Healthcare, has been elected as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for 2017.

Patel is also on the advisory committees and academic councils of several educational institutions. He will take over from Harshavardhan Neotia, Chairman of Ambuja Neotia Group, during the next FICCI annual general meeting.

Padma Vibhushan awardee musician M Balamuralikrishna dies

Padma Vibhushan awardee musician M Balamuralikrishna, aged 86, passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on Tuesday.

He started learning music at the age of three and has composed over 400 songs in different languages including Sanskrit, Kannada and Tamil.

Balamuralikrishna received several awards including the Padma Shri and Knights of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government.

Sunny Leone on BBC's list of 100 most influential women 2016

Bollywood actress and former porn star Sunny Leone has featured on the 'BBC 100 Women 2016', a list of the most influential and inspirational women this year. The 35-year-old actress made her Bollywood debut with the 2012 film 'Jism 2'. Sunny has been part of campaigns for organisations like PETA India and American Cancer Society.

India successfully test-fires Agni-I ballistic missile

India successfully test-fired indigenously built nuclear-capable intermediate range Agni-I ballistic missile on Tuesday from a mobile launcher from Odisha coast.

The surface-to-surface missile, powered by solid propellants and equipped with a sophisticated navigation system, has a 700-km target range. The 15-metre-long and 12-tonne heavy missile has already been inducted into Indian Armed Forces.

Kohli enters top 5 in Test batsmen rankings for 1st time

India's Test skipper Virat Kohli has moved up nine places to a career-best fourth rank in the latest ICC Test batsmen rankings. He averages 69 in Tests and 84.33 across all formats this year, scoring 2277 runs in 37 innings. Moreover, Kohli is ranked at the top spot in T20I batsmen rankings and second in ODI batsmen rankings.

Indian Master Receives 2016 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea

Captain Radhika Menon is the first female captain in the Indian Merchant Navy and the first female to receive the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.

Captain Menon was nominated for the award by the Government of India, for her great determination and courage in leading the difficult rescue operation to

save all seven fishermen from the fishing boat Durgamma.

The boat was adrift following engine failure and loss of anchor in severe weather. Food and water had been washed away and they were surviving on ice from the cold storage.

Trump names India-origin Nikki Haley as UN ambassador

US President-elect Donald Trump has named South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley as the country's ambassador to the UN. Haley, daughter of Indian immigrants, was a Trump critic during the presidential race and had even endorsed Ted Cruz for the Republican nomination.

Haley is the first woman appointed to a top-level administration post during Trump's White House transition so far.

Michael Jordan awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom

US President Barack Obama presented American basketball legend Michael Jordan with USA's highest civilian honour in the form of the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Tuesday. The award was presented to a total of 21 recipients, including philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates, comedian Ellen DeGeneres, basketball player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and actors Tom Hanks and Robert De Niro.

Actress-comedian and TV show host Ellen DeGeneres was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by US President Barack Obama.

Airtel launches India's 1st payments bank

Bharti Airtel on Wednesday launched a pilot of India's first payments bank in Rajasthan with 7.25% interest on deposits in savings accounts.

Airtel subscribers' mobile number will function as a bank account number and transfer from Airtel to Airtel phone numbers will be free.

Payments banks can accept deposits of up to 1 lakh per account, but cannot issue loans.

Indian journalist gets International Press Freedom Award

Indian Journalist Malini Subramaniam has been conferred with the International Press Freedom Award for her reporting from Chhattisgarh's Naxal-infested Bastar area. She is one of the four journalists felicitated for their commitment to a free press. Subramaniam, a contributor to 'Scroll', has reported on abuses by security forces, sexual violence, jailing of minors and other issues in the region.

Mumbai's Oshiwara station to be inaugurated on Nov 27

The newly built Oshiwara station is set to be inaugurated on November 27 in Mumbai and will thereafter be open for commuters, reports said.

The suburban station would help in decongesting Jogeshwari and Goregaon stations which presently witness over 2.5 lakh passengers daily. "Trains stopping at Oshiwara station will help resolve our commuting woes here," a daily commuter said.

10th Sula Fest to be held in February

The tenth Sula Fest will be held between February 3 and 5 at the Sula Vineyards in Nashik, Maharashtra.

The 'early bird' tickets for the festival, which is also offering a camping stay facility, range from ₹1700 to ₹4700.

Sula Fest will feature professional wine tastings, grape stomping, as well as a complimentary bottle of wine per person.

India defeats Malaysia 4-2 in 4 nations hockey tournament

India registered their first win in the four nations Men's Invitational hockey tournament, defeating Malaysia 4-2 in Melbourne on Thursday.

Nikkin Thimmaiah scored a brace, while Rupinder Pal Singh and Akashdeep Singh got a goal each for India.

India, who lost their opening match against Australia on Wednesday, next face New Zealand on Saturday in a must-win game.

IIT Kharagpur named top university in India for jobs

For the second time in a row, IIT Kharagpur has been named the top university in India in terms of jobs and placements, by QS Employability Ranking of top 200 universities across the world.

IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Delhi and Delhi University also feature on the list. Stanford University in the US has topped the list globally.

Arunachal govt renames sports trophy after martyred jawan

Arunachal Pradesh's sports department has renamed the state-level Chief Minister's Trophy for men's and women's football and volleyball after martyred jawan Hangman Dada. Dada died in Kupwara on May 27 this year after killing three terrorists. Chief Minister Pema Khandu had proposed renaming the trophy after the martyr, with the decision being ratified on Wednesday.

Tribals celebrate Wangala harvest festival in Guwahati

Hundreds of Garo tribals gathered in Guwahati to celebrate the harvest festival of Wangala, which marks the end of a period of toil for farmers.

While men play the drums during the festival, women perform the Wangala Dance. The festival attracts a large crowd, including tourists, every year.

1st Moon mission coder receives US' highest civilian award

Margaret Hamilton, the lead software engineer on the world's first successful manned lunar mission, Apollo 11, has been awarded the Presidential Medal of

Freedom, US' highest civilian award. Hamilton headed the MIT department tasked with developing the guidance and navigation system software for the NASA project. Notably, Hamilton is often credited with coining the term 'software engineering'.

Airbnb partners with SEWA for rural tourism

Home rental platform 'Airbnb' on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA) to boost rural tourism in India.

Through the partnership, Airbnb will work with SEWA members to help them share their homes with Airbnb's guests, creating economic opportunities for women in rural areas and promoting tourism.

Maha Haddioui is the first Arab female professional golfer

Maha Haddioui from Morocco is the Arab world's first female professional golfer. Haddioui, who started playing golf when she was 13 years old, is now in the European Tour's Top 50 and also represented Morocco at the Summer Olympic Games. The video features her discussing the struggles she faced to become a professional golfer.

Miami named world's most inspiring city

Miami has been named the world's most inspiring city, in a survey by travel company TravelBird. It has been followed by Bruges and San Francisco.

TravelBird ranked a total of 85 cities, placing Jodhpur at 76th and Mumbai at 83rd place. The cities were ranked based on the number of performing arts companies, art schools, galleries and museums present there.

Mary Kom to receive 'Legends Award' by AIBA

Five-time World Boxing champion MC Mary Kom will be awarded the 'Legends Award' by Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA) on its 70th

anniversary. Speaking on the honour, Mary Kom said, "This recognition from AIBA will encourage young boxers in our country to work hard. It is a very emotional as well as a motivating day for me."

Taj Balloon Festival 2016 begins in Agra

The 'Taj Balloon Festival' 2016, organised by the UP tourism department, will take place between November 25-30 near the Taj Mahal in Agra. The festival will feature about 16 hot air balloons from 12 countries, including India, USA, UK, Canada, Spain, UAE, and Netherlands. Additionally, 40 lucky draw winners will get a free one-hour aerial ride during the festival.

7 Indian startups selected for Google Launchpad Accelerator

Google has selected 7 Indian startups to participate in the third edition of its Launchpad Accelerator program. The selected mid to late stage startups include Flyrobe, HashLearn, RentoMojo, Capture CRM, Curvy, Happy Adda Studios and Payment. Google will provide them with \$50,000 (₹34 lakh) in equity-free funding and a two-week all-expense paid boot camp at Google Headquarters in Silicon Valley.

Tata Steel removes Cyrus Mistry as Chairman

Tata Steel board on Friday announced that former Tata Sons head Cyrus Mistry will no longer serve as its Chairman. Independent director OP Bhatt has been appointed as the Interim Chairman till December 21. The board has also decided to convene an extraordinary general meeting to remove Mistry and independent director Nusli Wadia as directors on the company's board.

Delhi: Signal-free Viaspuri-Wazirabad corridor inaugurated

The 23.6 km-long Viaspuri-Wazirabad signal-free corridor in outer Delhi was opened to the public on Friday by the Delhi government. The corridor's last part, a six-lane flyover at Mukundpur Chowk, was

inaugurated on Friday, which is expected to ease traffic congestion on the city's Outer Ring Road. The corridor was conceptualised during the Sheila Dikshit-led government.

Manoj, Nawazuddin awarded at Asia Pacific Screen Awards

Actor Manoj Bajpayee was named the Best Actor for his film 'Aligarh' at the 10th Asia Pacific Screen Awards held in Brisbane, Australia on Thursday. Nawazuddin Siddiqui won a special mention in the Best Actor category for the film 'Raman Raghav 2.0'. The Asia Pacific Screen Awards is said to be the region's highest accolade in films.

India's first underwater festival to be held in Pune

The Pune Underwater Festival, considered the first of its kind in India, will be held in Pune on Sunday. The festival will feature an underwater playground, an underwater photo booth and an underwater obstacle course. Visitors will also get a chance to play underwater hockey and water polo. The tickets range from ₹1,750 to ₹4,500.

Sindhu becomes highest-ranked Indian shuttler for 1st time

PV Sindhu has surpassed Saina Nehwal for the first time in the Badminton World Federation rankings to become the highest-ranked Indian shuttler. Sindhu jumped two spots to be ranked 9th, while Saina dropped five places to the 11th spot, which is her lowest ranking in seven years. Saina had not been outside the top 10 since entering it in 2009.

Vishnu Raj Menon wins 'Peter England Mr India' pageant

Bengaluru-based Vishnu Raj Menon was on Thursday selected as 'Peter England Mr India' at the grand finale of the pageant at Playboy Club Mumbai. The pageant, which reportedly received over 10,000 entries, selected Viren Barman as the first and Altamash Faraz as the second runner-up. Bollywood

actor Hrithik Roshan was the celebrity guest at the event.

Bangladesh to honour 1,668 martyrs of the Indian Army

Bangladesh will honour 1,668 members of the Indian Army, who were martyred during the Bangladesh Liberation War. Their families will receive a Rs. 5 lakh purse as a mark of respect, said Liberation War Affairs Minister A.K.M. Mozammel Huq. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, will be in Delhi on 18-20 December to hand over the money, in Indian currency, to the martyrs' family members

November 26: Constitution day

The Samvidhan Diwas or the Constitution Day of India is being observed on 26th November to spread awareness of Indian Constitution.

On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra has released two books on Constitution 'Making of Constitution' and 'New Version of Constitution of India'.

Amitabh Kant Committee constituted to push cashless transactions

Union Government has constituted a new committee to form a strategy to expedite the process of transforming India into a cashless economy.

Amitabh Kant is the CEO of NITI Ayog

Indian Railways to introduce Tri-Netra to check collisions

Indian Railways will soon introduce Tri-Netra system on its trains to reduce train accidents.

Tri-Netra is an advance system is made up of a high-resolution optical video camera, high-sensitivity infrared video camera and a radar-based terrain mapping system.

Upma Chowdhary named first woman director of LBSNAA

Upma Chowdhary was appointed as new Director of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) at Mussoorie.

She will be the 23rd director and first woman director of LBSNAA. She will replace Rajeev Kapoor.

Delhi hosts 9th Queer Pride Parade

Hundreds of people marched from Barakhamba Road to Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Sunday, during the ninth Delhi Queer Pride Parade.

Section 377 and the Transgender Bill were some of the issues discussed at the parade, which also witnessed speeches and song and dance performances.

People held posters that read "Queer and Proud" and "Decriminalise not demonetize" at the parade.

NGO starts 16-day campaign on child trafficking in Bengaluru

An NGO named Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA) has launched a 16-day campaign to create awareness against child trafficking and missing children in Bengaluru.

The initiative comes after the National Crime Records Bureau released statistics, which shows that a child goes missing in India every eight minutes and 40% of these children remain untraced.

Force India finish fourth in F1 Constructors' Championship

Formula One racing team Force India finished fourth in the Formula One Constructors' Championship, their best ever season-ending finish in the championship.

With 173 points, Force India finished behind championship-winners Mercedes, second-placed Red Bull and Ferrari.

Notably, Force India's Sergio Perez registered two podium finishes in 2016, the team's best ever podium finish tally in a season.

Rosberg pips Hamilton to win his maiden F1 world title

Mercedes' Formula One driver Nico Rosberg won his maiden Formula One drivers' championship to become the 33rd Formula One World Champion in F1 history.

Rosberg, who needed only a podium finish in Sunday's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, finished second to deny Hamilton his fourth straight world title. Notably, Rosberg's father had also won the F1 championship 34 years ago.

Ashwin 3rd Indian to make 500 runs & take 50 wickets in a year

Ravichandran Ashwin became only the third Indian cricketer ever to register over 500 runs and take more than 50 wickets in a calendar year.

Prior to this, Vinoo Mankad achieved the feat in 1953 before former captain Kapil Dev achieved it twice in 1979 and 1983.

Notably, Ashwin has scored 530 runs and claimed 56 wickets this year so far.

Aditi Ashok claims her 2nd professional title in a row

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok claimed her second successive victory on the Ladies European Tour after winning the inaugural Qatar Ladies Open.

The 18-year-old won the Hero Women's Indian Open a fortnight ago to become the first ever Indian player to register a win on the Ladies European Tour

Sameer Verma finishes second at Hong Kong Open

Indian shuttler and current world number 43, Sameer Verma finished as the runner-up at the Hong Kong Open Super Series tournament after losing to host country's Angus Ng Ka Long 14-21, 21-10, 11-21 in the final.

This was the 22-year-old shuttler's maiden appearance in a final of a Super Series event.

Indian hockey team finishes third at 4 Nations Tournament

Indian hockey team defeated Malaysia 4-1 in the third-place playoff match to secure bronze in the 4 Nations Tournament in Melbourne on Sunday.

Akashdeep Singh opened the scoring in the second minute before stand-in captain VR Raghunath converted a penalty-corner in the 45th minute to double the lead.

Talwinder Singh and Rupinder Pal Singh scored the remaining goals for India.

PV Sindhu finishes runner-up at Hong Kong Open

India's Rio Olympics silver medal-winning shuttler PV Sindhu finished as runner-up at the Hong Kong Open Super Series after losing 15-21, 17-21 to world number three Taiwan's Tai Tzu Ying on Sunday.

This is world number nine Sindhu's second consecutive Super Series final, after winning the China Open last week. With this, Sindhu's nine-match winning streak came to an end.

Sachin 3rd Indian boxer to win gold at Youth World Championship

Sachin Singh became only the third Indian boxer to win a gold medal at the Youth World Championships after registering a 5-0 unanimous win over Cuba's Jorge Grinan in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The 16-year-old boxer, who fought in the 46-49 kg weight category, will be given Rs.1 lakh as a reward for his performance at the championship.

Six Indian male shuttlers in World Top 50 for the first time

For the first time, six Indian male shuttlers are ranked inside the top-50 men's world rankings.

In the latest Badminton World Federation rankings Kidambi Srikanth (12), Ajay Jayaram (19), HS Prannoy (25), Sai Praneeth (36), Sameer Verma (43) and Sourabh Varma (45), are all simultaneously ranked amongst the top 50 in the world.

Three-day wine festival begins in Mangaluru

A three-day wine festival, organised by the Karnataka Wine Board and the Horticulture

Department began in Mangaluru on Saturday.

The festival aims to showcase 12 wineries and over 150 brands.

"The board will showcase the state's wine heritage at the festival in order to popularise wine culture and create awareness on the health benefits of drinking wine said an official.

Ola teams up with SBI, PNB for setting up mobile ATMs

After petrol pumps, cash can now be withdrawn by swiping debit cards at select Ola cabs as India's largest ride-hailing service partners with lenders like State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank to ease the cash crunch.

Ola on a test basis in its cabs in Kolkata and Hyderabad where taxis with a bank officer and POS machine are parked at different locations and dispense cash of Rs. 2,000 per card.

In Kolkata, Ola has partnered with Punjab National Bank (PNB), while for Hyderabad, it has collaborated with SBI and Andhra Bank.

Lt General AK Bhatt to be appointed new DGMO of Indian Army

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Monday approved the appointment of Lieutenant General AK Bhatt as the new Director General Military Operation (DGMO) of Indian Army.

The incumbent DGMO Lt General Ranbir Singh has been promoted to General Officer Commanding of Strike 1 Corps. Notably, Bhatt was promoted to the rank of Lt General from Major General in April.

India's first bicycle highway inaugurated in UP

Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday inaugurated India's first bicycle highway, from Etawah to Agra, reports said.

The opening ceremony at Lion Safari in Etawah was followed by a rally of 90 cyclists from various countries.

The 207-kilometre long and 7-foot wide highway was constructed by the UP Public Works Department and runs parallel to the main highway.

Zimbabwe launches a new currency

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has launched bond notes equivalent to US dollar, to be issued on Monday by the country's central bank.

This comes after unrest in Zimbabwe as the government delayed state officials' salaries. The central bank said bond notes will ease currency shortages, but reports suggest it could encourage increased cash printing, similar to what happened in 2008.

Traditional arts by minority communities displayed at IITF

About 184 artisans from minority communities showcased traditional arts at the India International Trade Fair (IITF).

Various crafts, including Uttar Pradesh's chikan embroidery, Bihar's Madhubani art, and pottery works, were showcased at the 'Hunar Haat' during the 9-day fair at Pragati Maidan.

The initiative, organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, aimed at the upliftment of minorities.

Pranaav Chopra-Sikki Reddy finish second at Scotland Open

India's badminton mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy finished as runners-up at the \$55,000 Scottish Open Grand Prix.

They lost 21-13, 18-21, 16-21 to Malaysian pair of Goh Soon Huat and Shevon Jemie Lai in the final.

This was the Indian duo's third final in last five tournaments, having won two of them.

IAS officer Suhas LY wins gold in Para-Badminton Championships

Uttar Pradesh-based IAS officer Suhas LY won the Asian Para-Badminton Championships in Beijing after defeating Indonesia's Harry Susanto 21-4, 21-11 in the final. Suhas, who is currently posted as the Azamgarh district magistrate, was a wildcard entry to the tournament and had won six consecutive matches to reach the final.

Myntra appoints Ajit Narayanan as its new CTO

Flipkart-owned fashion platform Myntra has appointed Ajit Narayanan as its new Chief Technology Officer (CTO) as its previous CTO Shamik Sharma has moved on to an advisory role. Narayanan was formerly the head of engineering at Myntra. Sharma is reportedly expected to leave Myntra after a four-year stint at the company.

Rajnath to lead Indian delegation to Fidel Castro's funeral

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh will lead the Indian delegation at the funeral of Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro.

The delegation will reportedly include leaders from various political parties like Congress, CPI(M), CPI and Samajwadi Party.

The team will leave for Havana on Tuesday and is expected to return on Thursday.

Manipur hosts WWII Vintage Jeep Rally

Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh flagged off the World War II Vintage Jeep Rally from the Koirengei Airfield.

Organised as part of the Manipur Sangai Festival, the event was aimed at spreading a message of peace.

Participants were reportedly wearing Japanese and Allied Forces' uniforms and carrying flags of India, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Del Potro-led Argentina win their first ever Davis Cup

Juan Martín del Potro-led five-men Argentinian side defeated Croatia on Sunday to win their first-ever Davis Cup, dubbed as the World Cup of Tennis.

It is the seventh time a team has come from 1-2 down to win this tournament.

The Argentines, who had lost their four previous finals, were given a standing ovation by the spectators, including Diego Maradona.

Bill to tax deposits passed in Lok Sabha

The Taxation Laws (2nd Amendment) Bill 2016 was passed in the lower House of Parliament without any debate, provoking strong protests from Opposition leaders.

The new Taxation Laws (2nd Amendment) Bill 2016, passed sans debate in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, will entail a tax of 30 per cent of the income declared, an additional surcharge of 33 per cent of the tax amount, and a penalty of 10 per cent of the declared income.

This adds up to a total liability of about 50 per cent. In addition, the amendment states that 25 per cent of the declared income is to be deposited in an interest-free deposit scheme with a lock-in of four years.

Son has no legal right in parents' house, can stay at their mercy: Delhi high court

A son has no legal right to live in the self-acquired house of his parents, the Delhi high court has said

He can only reside there only at their "mercy"

Only because parents have allowed the son to live in their house does not mean they have to bear his "burden" throughout life, the court added.

The court also said that only because parents have allowed the son to live in their house as long as their relations are cordial does not mean they have to bear his "burden" throughout his life.

Akshay Venkatesh awarded Infosys Prize in Mathematical Sciences

Venkatesh, a professor of mathematics, is the 2016 recipient of the Infosys Prize in Mathematics, which is awarded by the Infosys Science Foundation.

Venkatesh's interests are impressively wide-ranging and include study of number theory, automorphic forms, topology, ergodic theory and representation theory. The award announcement commends his work as creative and foundational, describing it as "characterized by unexpected guiding heuristic ideas which are then brought to fruition with dazzling technical virtuosity."

Singapore tops global education rankings

Singapore has the highest-achieving primary and secondary pupils in international education tests in maths and science.

But primary school pupils in Northern Ireland were ranked sixth at maths, the highest of any in Europe.

England's performance has not advanced since tests four years ago.

The top places in these rankings are dominated by East Asian countries, such as South Korea and Japan, which are pulling away from their competitors.

Jagdish Chandra Bose's 158th birthday commemorated by Google Doodle

Jagdish Chandra Bose was one of the pioneers of radio communication, and discovered millimetre length electromagnetic waves, invented many components still used in microwave communications, and was one of the first to use a semiconductor to detect radio waves.

His research into radio waves were during the same time period when Marconi, widely credited to be the inventor of the radio was researching into radio communications.

The experiments by Bose were geared towards understanding radio microwaves, rather than using it as a form of communication.

Donald Trump Nominates 2nd Indian-American Woman To Top Administration Post

US President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday nominated a second Indian-American woman to a top administration position, putting her in charge of a federal agency within the health department as part of a "dream team" which he said would transform America's healthcare system.

"I am pleased to nominate (Dr) Seema Verma to serve as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services," Mr Trump said in a statement.

The announcement came along with Trump's nomination of Congressman Tom Price as his Health and Human Services Secretary.

A leading expert in the country on Medicare and Medicaid, Dr Verma would serve as Administrator of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Online Banking Frauds- Things You Must Know

Bank being a vital element in a nation's economy deal with monetary transactions and services to the public. The personal and financial information of the bank's customer are under the threat of being misused by

fraudsters.

What is a Bank Fraud?

Bank fraud is the criminal offence of knowingly executing or attempting to execute a scheme or artifice to defraud a financial institution or to obtain property owned by or under the control of a financial institution by means of false or fraudulent pretences, representations, or promises.

RBI, the regulator of banks in India, defines fraud as "A deliberate act of omission or commission by any person, carried out in the course of a banking transaction or in the books of accounts maintained manually or under computer system in banks, resulting in wrongful gain to any person for a temporary period or otherwise, with or without any monetary loss to the bank."

Types of Frauds

Phishing :

Phishing is an attempt by fraudsters to 'fish' for account holder's bank details. A phishing attempt usually is in the form of an e-mail that appears to be from the bank. The e-mail usually encourages the Customers to click a link in it that takes them to a fraudulent log-in page designed to capture customer details. Individual's email addresses can be obtained from publicly available sources or through social networks.

Act of phishing- How is it done?

The fraudsters send fake e-mails claiming that customer information has been compromised, due to which the bank account has been de-activated/suspended, and ask customer to hence confirm the authenticity of their information/transactions like credit card number, Personal Identification Number (PIN), passwords or personal information, such as mother's maiden name. In order to prompt a response, such e-mails usually resort to using statements that convey an urgent or threatening condition concerning to bank account.

When some emails are easy to identify as fraudulent, others may appear to be from a legitimate source. Reliability of the name or address in the "From" field should be checked, as this can be easily duplicated. Phishing e-mails may contain spelling mistakes.

Even the links to the counterfeit websites would contain URLs with spelling mistakes, to take customers to a fake website which looks like that of a bank in which customer maintains an account.

Phishing emails attempt to convey a sense of urgency or threat. For example: "Your account will be closed or temporarily suspended".

Fake e-mails may direct the customer to counterfeit websites carefully designed to look real. Hence, such websites may look very similar and familiar to them but are in fact used to collect personal information for illegal use.

Fake e-mails promise a prize or gift certificate in exchange for individuals completing a survey or answering a few questions. In order to collect the alleged prize, the customer may be asked to provide their personal information.

Spoofing:

Spoofing is the act of creating a website, as a hoax, with the intention of performing fraud. To make spoof sites seem legitimate, phishers use the names, logos, graphics and even the code of the actual website. They can even fake the URL that appears in the address field at the top of your browser window and the padlock icon that appears at the bottom right corner.

The act of spoofing- How is it done?

Fraudsters send e-mails with a link to a spoofed website asking a customer to update or confirm account-related information. This is done with the intention of obtaining sensitive account-related information like Internet Banking user ID, password, PIN, credit card / debit card / bank account number, card verification value (CVV) number, etc.

Vishing :

Vishing is a combination of Voice and Phishing that uses Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology wherein fraudsters feigning to represent real companies such as banks attempt to trick unsuspecting customers into providing their personal and financial details over the phone.

Act of Vishing- How is it done?

The fraudster sets up an automatic dialer, which uses a modem to call all the phone numbers in a region.

When the phone is answered, an automated recording is played to alert the customer that his/her credit card has had illegal activity and that the customer should call the recorded phone number immediately.

The phone number is with a caller identifier that makes it appear that they are calling from the financial company they misrepresent.

When the customer calls the number, it is answered by a computer-generated voice that tells the customer they have reached 'account verification' and instructs the consumer to enter his/her 16-digit credit card number on the keypad.

A fisher may not have any real information about the customer and would address the customer as 'Sir' and 'Madam' and not by name or the prefix 'Mr....' or 'Ms...'.

Once a customer enters his/her credit card number, the "fisher" has all the information necessary to place fraudulent charges on his/her card. Those respondings are also asked for the security number (CVV) found on the rear of the card.

The call can then be used to obtain additional details such as security PIN, expiry date, date of birth, bank account number, etc.

Skimming:

Skimming is a method used by fraudsters to capture customer's personal or account information of credit

card. Customer's card is swiped through the skimmer and the information contained in the magnetic strip on the card is then read into and stored on the skimmer or an attached computer. Skimming is a tactic used predominantly for credit-card fraud, but it is also a tactic that is gaining in popularity among identity thieves.

Act of Skimming- How is it done?

ATM machines

Fraudsters insert a skimming device to the ATM's card slot. This device scans the card and stores its associated information. While a customer keys in his PIN, the wireless skimming device transfers the data to the fraudsters. This information is then used by the fraudsters for online shopping or to make counterfeit credit cards.

At Restaurants / Shopping Outlets

At restaurants and shopping outlets, the credit card is swiped twice, once for the regular transaction and the other in the skimmer that captures the personal information which is retrieved later by the fraudsters.

Money Mules

After the fraudster has captured personal information using any of the ways like phishing, Vishing, spoofing or skimming, he/she needs an account to which he/she can transfer funds from the compromised account. This is where a "Money Mule" comes into the picture. A Money Mule is an unwitting participant in the fraud who is recruited by fraudsters to launder stolen money across the globe.

Act of Money Mules - How is it done?

The Fraudster contacts prospective victims (money mules) with job vacancy ads via spam e-mail, Internet chat rooms or job search websites. Jobs are usually advertised as financial Services/management work, and ads suggest that no specific domain knowledge is required.

The crime rings even persuade the victim to come

and work for their fake company. Some fraudsters even ask mules to sign official-looking contracts of employment.

Once recruited, money mules receive funds into their accounts. These funds are stolen from other accounts that have been compromised.

Mules then are asked to take these funds out of their accounts and forward them overseas (minus a commission payment), typically using a wire transfer service.

As the account of the mule has been involved in the transaction, the mule also becomes an unwitting participant in the frauds.

Pros and Cons of FDI in India

What is FDI?

FDI is very vast term. Various kind of deals can be classified as FDI deals. The deals can be categorised as FDI are

Purchases of assets if any assets have bought by any foreign origin person or entity then that deal would be considered as FDI.

Establishment of production facility by any company in the foreign country then it would be considered as FDI.

Expansion of business when any company expand their business in the foreign country and establish facilities for various purposes such as selling, production, services, in particular, the country this would also come in the category of FDI.

Mergers of companies or firms if any company merge with any foreign company or any company is a takeover by a foreign company. This type of commercial activity are also going to consider as FDI

Even purchase of the considerable amount of shares in any company by any foreign entity or person then it will be considered as FDI.

Long-term foreign loan if loan is taken for longer period from any foreign entity or person then it would be considered as FDI

Historical background of FDI

In the era of commercial revolution economies of the various countries and continents get linked with each other thru trade and commerce. Europeans had the monopoly over the intercontinental trade that's why they were the major beneficiaries of this trade. They use to earn a lot of profit thru this trade. They had to invest this extra money somewhere. For the protection of their commercial interest as well as for the enhancement of trade they establish some logistic facilities in other countries spatially in the Asian and African countries.

In my view, this is the beginning of the foreign direct investment. from last decades of 18 century till the mid of 20th century the various Asian and African countries ruled by Europeans'.

India also remains under British rule for the period of 150 years. In this period they financially exploited India. for this purpose they invested a large amount of money in various sector such as mining, textile and jute production, production of steel and machinery, plantation of tea, coffee, rubber, apart from all that investment colonial government also took loan from the British government as well as from private entities for the development of infrastructure.

Stand taken by Indian government regarding FDI after independence

Actually after independence stand of Indian government is not clear regarding FDI. Because of bitter experience of the colonial period Indian government was reluctant to accept FDI but at the same time, foreign technology and expertise also require for the industrial development. That's why in first industrial policy Indian government stated that FDI would be welcome but control should remain in the Indian hand. After this declaration, a foreign investor was scared and started to withdraw their investment. However after pry-ministers clarification that outflow of investment was stopped and incumbent industries and businesses continued their operations. However, in the decades of 60s government realise the importance of advance

technology and mobilisation of foreign currency. That's why in 1965s industrial policy government allowed FDI thru the collaboration of Indian companies with multinational companies Before that also government had relaxed its rule and regulation for some corporate houses. Even in the seventies decade government felt the need to promote FDI that's why government set up foreign investment board to facilitate the foreign investment. Apart from all that joint ventures were launched in the collaboration with multinational company by the government itself. Maruti is the best example of that kind of joint ventures.

Roots of foreign investment in India

There are two roots for FDI in India

Automatic root actually for so many sector permissions are not required for foreign investment only investor need to inform the RBI. Under this root, 100 percent FDI is permitted.

Government root, however, there are some sectors which are restricted in terms of level of investment and permission. That's why for those sectors which are completely not opened for the foreign investment approval of FIPB is required.

Advantages of FDI

The increase in the foreign currencies reserves thru FDI thru FDI foreign currency came in our country in large amount that's means countries foreign currency reserve get increased.

Boost to the industrial development most of the time FDIs main objective is to increase the production facility that's why the large-scale industry has been setup thru FDI. as well as small scale industries which provide ancillary to the large-scale industry will get a benefit of FDI.

Availability of the advance technology companies which are investing in foreign countries these companies would have strong financial and technical background that means they are definitely going to bring advanced technology in the country.

Generation of employment if foreign money is invested in any country that means activities like production, services, marketing, sale, are definitely going to boost and to carry out all these activities companies required huge manpower

The increase in the export foreign companies are investing in our country because they felt that if they produce commodities in our country then they would have some kind of advantages and because of these Advantages commodities produce by these industries are definitely going to export.

Import substitution at present we are importing so many sophisticated equipment if those companies which are producing this sophisticated equipment establish production facilities in our country then these made in India equipment will become a substitute for imported equipment.

Disadvantages of FDI

The threat to the small and medium industries because of advanced technology and huge investment position of multinational would become very strong in the market . however in the absence of adequate financial and technical support it is very difficult for small and medium industries to compete with multinational companies.

Unbalanced development of country foreign investor always looking to invest in that territory which is already developed and because of this attitude major industries get concentrated in the particular territory of the country.

Fear of establishment of monopoly if any foreign company which is technically and financially strong enter in Indian market then there is the possibility that Indian companies may not able to compete with that foreign company and that foreign company could establish its monopoly FDI in the particular sector.

Disincentive to the development of indigenous technology we are always looking towards a foreign company or foreign country for the acquisition of advanced technology. Why not are we trying to develop our own technology?

Conclusion

In my opinion, FDI is good if it is helpful for our financial and industrial growth but can we achieve all the developmental goal thru the FDI? In my view, we need to devise our own strategy for financial and industrial development as well as we need to develop indigenous technology for achieving our developmental goals. FDI should not be permitted blindly all the consequence must be understood properly before permitting the FDI. Apart from all this government is duty bound to protect the domestic industries particularly small and medium industries?

ASBA - A Mechanism to Subscribe IPOs through Banks

Introduction

Banks play a pivotal role in primary markets. ASBA is the service provided by banks.

ASBA means "Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA)". It refers to an application mechanism which helps investors to subscribe IPOs (Initial Public offerings)

ASBA ensures that the applicant's money remains in his/her bank account till the shares are allotted, it was introduced by Sebi for retail investors in 2008. Now it has been extended to corporate investors and HNIs as well (from January 1, 2010, onwards).

It is a mechanism in which the applicant has to give an authorisation to block his/her application money in the bank account for subscribing to the IPO.

What is ASBA?

ASBA is an application containing an authorization to block the application money in the bank account, for subscribing to an issue. If an investor is applying through ASBA, his/her application money shall be debited from the bank account only if his/her application is selected for allotment after the basis of allotment is finalised, or the issue is withdrawn / failed.

It is a supplementary process of applying in Initial

Public Offers (IPO), right issues and Follow on public offers (FPO) made through book building route and co-exists with the current process of using cheque as a mode of payment and submitting applications.

List of banks offering ASBA facility (as on 25 January 2016)

1. Axis Bank Ltd
2. State Bank of Hyderabad
3. Corporation Bank
4. State Bank of Travancore
5. IDBI Bank Ltd .
6. State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur
7. YES Bank Ltd.
8. Punjab National Bank
9. Deutsche Bank
10. Union Bank of India
11. HDFC Bank Ltd
12. Bank of Baroda.
13. ICICI Bank Ltd.
14. Vijaya Bank
15. Bank of Maharashtra
16. State Bank of India.
17. Andhra Bank.
18. HSBC Ltd.
19. Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
20. Bank of India.
21. CITI Bank.N.A
22. IndusInd Bank.
23. Allahabad Bank.
24. Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
25. The Federal Bank.
26. Indian Bank.
27. Central Bank of India.
28. Oriental Bank of Commerce
29. Standard Chartered Bank
30. J P Morgan Chase Bank,N.A.
31. Nutan Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd.
32. UCO Bank
33. Canara Bank
34. United Bank of India
35. Syndicate Bank
36. South Indian Bank
37. Indian Overseas Bank
38. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.

39. City Union Bank Ltd.
40. BNP Paribas
41. The Kalupur Commercial Cooperative Bank Ltd.
42. The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.
43. State Bank of Patiala
44. State Bank of Mysore
45. The Surat Peoples Co-op Bank Ltd
46. Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited(Has applied for new licence,as the previous one expired)
47. The Saraswat Co-Operative Bank Ltd.
48. DBS Bank
49. Dena Bank
50. Karnataka Bank Ltd.
51. The Ahmedabad Mercantile Co-Op. Bank Ltd.
52. ING Vysya Bank(merged with KMB)
53. Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd.
54. Barclays Bank PLC
55. Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd

Eligibility criteria:

- SEBI has been specifying the investors who can apply through ASBA.
- In public issues with effect from May 01, 2010 all the investors can apply through ASBA. In rights issues, all shareholders of the company as on record date are permitted to use ASBA for making applications provided he/she/it:
 - is holding shares in dematerialised form and has applied for entitlements or
 - has additional shares in the issue in dematerialised form;
 - has not renounced its entitlements in full or in part;
 - is not a renounced;
 - who is applying through blocking of funds in a bank account with the 'Self Certified Syndicate' Bank
- An "ASBA investors", at the time of submitting ASBA application should provide correct information related to
 - PAN,
 - DP ID,
 - Client ID,
 - Bid quantity, and

- Bank account number.
- His/her bank account is debited only after the basis of allotment is finalised, or the IPO is withdrawn or fails. In a case of a rights issue, the application money is debited after the receipt of instructions from the Registrars.

Benefits of ASBA

The investor need not pay the application money by cheque rather block his / her bank account to the extent of the application money, thus continue to earn interest on application money.

The investor does not have to bother about refunds, as in ASBA only an amount proportionate to the securities allotted is taken from the bank account when his / her application is selected for allotment after the basis of allotment is finalised.

The application form is simpler.

The investor deals with the known intermediary i.e. his or her own bank.

No loss of interest, since the application amount is not debited to the savings account on the application.

Since the amount is considered for calculation and crediting of quarterly interest.

Customer can revise / withdraw the bid before the end of the Issue in the prescribed format with the Bank.

8 Insurance Schemes Launched By PM Narendra Modi

1. Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY)

Launched on 10th August 2000 by Life Insurance Corporation.

Janashree Bima Yojana replaced social security group insurance schemes (SSGIS) and Rural Group Life Insurance Scheme(RGLIC)

Provides for an insurance cover of Rs.30000 on natural death, Rs.75000 on permanent disability to accident and Rs.37500 on partial disability.

The Premium is Rs.200 per member per annum.

45 occupational groups having 25 members.

For both Rural and Urban people

For BPL and marginally above BPL people.

50% of finance is met out of social security fund.

2. Aam Aadmi Bima Yojna (AABY)

Launched on 2nd October 2007.

It was launched by LIC for rural landless households at Shimla.

Premium fixed at Rs.200 per person per annum to be shared equally by centre and the states.

The age covered is 18 years to 59 years

Death or Permanent disability Rs. 75000, Partial disability Rs.37500

For Rural landless household.

Head of the family or one caring member in the family of rural landless

Free add-on benefit for children of the members of Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana.

3. Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS)

Launched from the year 2003-2004 for improving the healthcare access to the poor families.

Launched by four public sector general insurance company.

Export credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) and the Agriculture Insurance Company (AIC) are the specialised insurers.

4. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

Launched on 1st October 2007.

Provides smart-card based casters health insurance cover Rs.30000 per family per annum to BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganised sector.

The premium is shared in 75:25 between the center and the states.

For BPL families (A unit of five)

For unorganised sectors.

It's a smart card based cashless health insurance, cover Rs.30000 per annum of insurance or family floats basis.

It also cover migrant workers.

It was for 5 years from 2008 to 2013.

It cover all pre-existing diseased, maternity benefit, transport cost

It use IT application both private and public service providers for delivering the insurance package

No age limit has been prescribed.

5. Siksha Sahayog Yojana

Less the burden of parents in meeting the educational expenses of their children.

For BPL families

Between 9th to 12th Standard.

6. Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

Launched on 9th May 2015 in 2015 Budget.

Launched by PM Sri Narendra Modi.

It targeted at the Unorganised Sectors.

It has fixed pension for the Insurer ranging between Rs.1000 to Rs.5000, If he joins and contributes in between 18 years to 40 years, till they turn 60 Years.

This scheme is open to all bank account holders who are not a members of any statutory social security scheme.

The Minimum and Maximum age of Atal pension Yojana is 18 years & 40 Years

The Minimum period of this scheme i.e. Atal Pension Yojana is 20 years or more.

7. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

It was launched in 9th May 2015.

It was formally launched by PM Sri Narendra Modi.

It focused mainly on Accidental Death and disability of a person.

It will cover Rs.2 lakh on Accidental Death and disability of a person

The costs of Premium is Rs.12 per year as mentioned.

The scheme can be used by anyone who has a saving bank account in the banks that offer this Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Scheme.

This scheme is specially for drivers, security guards, news-paper vendors, etc. other than who are exposed to the risk of accidental death or disability.

8. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

This scheme was launched on 9th May 2015.

It was formally launched by PM Sri Narendra Modi.

This scheme is a pure protection term insurance cover which plays Rs.2Lakh on the event of the policy holder's death.

The Premium of this policy Rs.330 per year.

The basic eligibility is for Any-one in-between 18-70 years who has a saving bank account in a bank.

Airtel Payment Bank: Everything You Need To Know

Introduction

Airtel Payments Bank is the first company in India to receive a payments bank license from the RBI; plans to launch operations in the second quarter of the current FY 2016-17. Airtel M-Commerce Services Limited, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel Limited, has been renamed as Airtel Payments Bank Limited after receiving necessary approvals from RBI.

MD and CEO : Shashi Aurora

Key stakeholder : Kotak Mahendra bank (19.9%).

Kotak Mahendra bank contribution : INR 98.38 crore

Significance of the logo

The Company also unveiled a new logo to reflect its new identity. The new logo is a modified form of Bharti Airtel telecom services. It can be observed that Indian rupee symbol has been inscribed in it. The '=' sign denotes 'Equality'. A bank that gives equal access to everyone.(as declared officially by the Payment bank).

Significance of Airtel payment bank

Airtel Payments Bank Limited is the first payment bank in India to receive a payments bank license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on April 11, 2016.

It is a joint venture between Airtel M Commerce and Kotak Mahindra bank. The bank strongly focuses on the payments bank segment and to the Government's vision of financial inclusion and banking services for every citizen.

With Airtel's wide distribution network in the country, it claims that Airtel Payments Bank would deliver quality banking services to customers by leveraging the power of mobile the network which is well established.

The bank accounts will be opened with Aadhar numbers without the need for any other documentation and the customer's mobile number will be the bank account number.

The rate of interest offered is 7.25 % on demand deposits as the best in the banking industry, while other banks offer 4-5% on demand deposits.

It will allow money transfer to any bank account in India and free money transfer from Airtel to Airtel numbers within Airtel Bank.

The bank also offers personal accidental insurance of Rs 1 lakh with every savings account

At present the bank is operating on a pilot test basis in Rajasthan, it plans to expand this network to 100,000 retailers in Rajasthan by the end of this year.

Merchants who are part of the network would accept digital payments, helping customers go cashless.

The network of merchants (sellers/shops) across Rajasthan will accept digital payments from Airtel Bank from day one, offering customers the convenience of cashless purchase of goods and services via their mobile phones in a quick and secure manner.

Bancassurance: Everything You Need To

Introduction

Bancassurance is the concept of selling insurance products of insurance companies by banks. Bank acts as an agent and promotes Banca (bancassurance) products under section 6(1)(o) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

It originated in Europe in the 1980s and was successful. The bancassurance business model is a globally accepted profitable business.

Why Bancassurance?

Bancassurance is a structured banking product by which banks are enabled to offer diverse range of banking products in addition to products like CASA accounts, FDs, forex, etc.

Bancassurance is a good source of fee-based income to banks. Though banks deal with both life and non-life insurance schemes, the focus remains on offering life insurance schemes to individual customers in retail banking.

Types of bancassurance products:

Life insurance products:

- Term insurance plans(with accident and death benefits).
- Endowment plans
- ULIPs(Unit Linked Insurance Plans)

Non-life Insurance products:

- Health insurance
- Marine insurance(for cargo shipments)
- Property insurance(against natural calamities)
- Key Men insurance(Top executives of companies, partnership firms,etc)

Types of Bancassurance models in India:

1. Pure distributor Model:

In pure distributor, Model bank acts as a distributor of insurance schemes of Insurance company.

Example: Indian Overseas Bank acts as a distributor of Life Insurance Corporation of India

2. Strategic alliance Model:

In this model there would be an agreement between the bank and the insurance company to market banca products, other insurance functions are not carried out by the bank.

Example: HDFC bank with HDFC life insurance company and HDFC ERGO general insurance

company.

3. Joint venture Model:

In a joint venture model a new joint venture company is established in which the bank(s) and the insurance company will have shareholdings in agreed ratio.

Example: IndiaFirst Life insurance Co. Ltd is a Joint venture between Bank of Baroda (44%), Andhra Bank (30%) and UK's financial and investment company ' Legal and General' (26%).

Advantages of Bancassurance:

To Insurance Companies:

- Increased turnover.
- Higher market penetration (both urban and rural) through the existing customer base of the bank.
- Cost efficient as channel and network are well established by banks

To banks :

- Enhanced product portfolio.
- The source of additional fee-based income.
- Man power efficient- as existing bank staff can be trained.
- High degree of alignment in customised product sales and support services.

To Customers :

- A Higher degree of trust.
- Easy premium payment, as it can be linked to bank account.
- Access to a wider range of products within the bank.
- Assured advice and services by the bank.

ATM Recalibration & New Norms on Exchanging Old Currency Notes

Important points you must know

1. The colour of new notes of Rs.2000 – Magenta
2. The colour of new notes of Rs.500 – Stone grey
3. 7 Bleed lines on the side of Rs.2000
4. 6 Bleed lines will come up on the side of Rs.1000 (As announced)
5. 5 Bleed lines on the side Rs.500
6. The security thread in both the notes Rs.2000 & Rs.500 changes colour from green to blue at different angles.
7. Watermark of Mahatma Gandhi in both notes.
8. If you see on back side in both Rs.500 & Rs.2000 "Swachh Bharat logo" will be there.
9. In Rs.2000 with a motif of Mars orbiter Mangalyaan on the reverse.
10. On Rs.2000 Number panel with numerals growing from small to big on top left and bottom right sides
11. In Rs.500 Red Fort image with the Indian flag.
12. Rs.500 notes are smaller in size than the previous one.

ATM Recalibration

Central Bank of India i.e. RBI has formed a special task force under the chairmanship of Deputy governor of RBI "SS Mundra" to oversee all the ATMs & Cash dispensing machines after the government introduced new Rs.500 and Rs.2000 notes. More than 2.2lakh ATMs across the country out of which many ATMs is not working properly. Few ATMs still unable to cope with the vast demand for cash and consequently running dry, to accelerate the process of recalibration of these machines to dispense the new denomination of Rs.500 and Rs.2000, A task force led by "SS Mundra" will incorporate of representatives from the governments officials, large banks like SBI, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank etc. and select Chief General Manager CGM from RBI.

In time of crisis ATMs plays a vital role to meet the currency needs of the public. So The Panel headed by Deputy Governor of RBI "SS Mundra" will provide "direction and guidance" for recalibrating all infeasible ATM machines to dispense the new notes. It will take

some time to Re-calibration of all feasible ATMs and Cash dispensing machines, As engineers will have to physically visit the place for the recalibration.

Re-activation of ATMs extends the availability and disbursal of notes for the customers of banks at convenient time and location in judicious mix of higher and lower denominations," said by RBI

New Norms in Exchanging Notes

1. From 18th November the new limit for swapping currency notes at banks has been reduced to Rs.2000 for each person.
2. The new withdrawal limit was raised from Rs.2000 to Rs.2500 , and now a person can withdraw up to Rs.4000 per day.
3. In the season of wedding, Any Family member can withdraw Up to Rs.2.5 lakh from one account for celebrating weddings after showing PAN cards & Wedding ceremony card.
4. Farmers can withdraw up to Rs.25,000 in a week against loans sanctioned to them to buy seeds & fertilizers.
5. Time limit for repaying the sum of insurance premium on crop loan has been extended to 15 days.
6. All the National Highways will not going to collect tax till 24th November 2016 midnight.

Benefits on Banned of Rs.500 & Rs.1000

1. Temporary end of fake currency notes.
2. Temporary hurdle for terrorism
3. Temporary decrease in corruption.
4. Temporary decrease in taking bribe.

Drawback on Banned of Rs.500 & Rs.1000

1. Costs of replacing these old currency notes.
2. Severe impact on small business.
3. Inconvenience to innocent people.
4. Preliminary increase in corruption like few people exchange old currency at Rs.800 or Rs.900 for Rs.1000.
5. Travellers facing crisis.
6. Old ATMs or Cash dispensary machines unable to perform continuously due to heating.

Note: This scheme will close on 30th December until which you can exchange your old currency notes of Rs.500 & Rs.1000 in Banks / Cash depository machines / Post offices etc. during office Hours.

Financial Inclusion and Currency Exchange Scenario

Introduction

Financial Inclusion is needed for the overall economic development of the nation. The main idea behind financial inclusion is to bridge the gap between rich and poor by getting excess money from rich and giving to poor. RBI has the pivotal role in this financial inclusion.

What is Financial Inclusion?

Financial Inclusion may be defined as the usage and access of varied quality financial services in a simple and controlled manner

Mainly targeted towards the low-income group of the society

Aim

Every Indian must have a bank account

Need for financial inclusion

- To create awareness among poor people about banking systems and their applications
- To develop a savings habit among Indian people
- To provide a formal credit channel – Poor people rely on money lenders for credit
- Many farmer suicides occur due to the capacity of non-paying the interest on money borrowed from money lenders
- Financial inclusion will enable farmers to obtain credit from the banks
- To bring the unorganised sector under organised formal banking sector
- The credit channels will lead to increase in the economic growth and outputs rise

- The most vital need of financial inclusion is to bridge the gap in welfare programs and public subsidies
- Reduce the leakage of subsidies meant for poor to the rich

RBI major Initiative on Financial Inclusion

- Jan Dhan Yojana was inaugurated on 15th August under RBI
- Officially launched on 28 August across India with the Slogan “End of Financial Untouchability”
- Prime Minister Mr Modi said “Beginning of freedom from poverty”
- Jan Dhan Yojana is a successor of Swabhiman scheme

Jan Dhan Yojana Achievements

- More than 15 million accounts taken in a day through special camps in more than 77000 locations
- Jan Dhan Yojana created Guinness record
- RBI issues Rupay debit card to Jan Dhan account holders
- Life Insurance of 30000 rupees
- Accidental Insurance of 1 lac
- Joint network of banks and insurance companies

Other Steps were taken by RBI in lieu of Financial Inclusion

- Introduction of No Frills accounts by RBI
- Simplification of KYC norms
- Establishment of Business correspondents to reach individual households
- Business correspondents from the liaison between rural people in remote areas and banks
- Electronic Bank Transfer by RBI to ensure that the full amount reaches the actual beneficiary without interruption of any intermediary

Successful model of Financial Inclusion

- LPG Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is a successful model of financial inclusion of India
- DBT eliminated LPG subsidies given to rich by adopting a ceiling of households earning above 10 lacs are not eligible for subsidy
- Financial inclusion used effectively in DBT in transferring the subsidy directly to beneficiary bank account
- DBT eliminated all duplicate LPG connections through integration with Aadhar
- DBT helped bridge the gap between rich and poor by diverting the subsidies given to rich earlier to rural poor women
- Ujjwala Yojana of giving 2 Crore free LPG connections to poor is a direct implication of DBT and proper utilisation of subsidies

Concern Areas

- Duplication of bank accounts possible in Financial Inclusion
- Banks need to convert old bank accounts into new bank accounts availing free life and accident insurance policies
- Banking Infrastructure is still an area of concern with the need for more POS devices
- Number of banking branches is limited
- Poor will start transacting in a cashless manner once transactions are made simple and free of cost
- Changing the traditional habit of people borrowing from money lenders is a serious challenge
- Bringing the rural people to banks is a major challenge
- Despite several challenges, RBI has made Rupay ATM cum Debit card to reach millions through financial inclusion. This will enable BPL people to have 24*7 access to money.

Current Implication

- RBI's earlier measures of financial inclusion have made all people come in the purview of

the banks in the current currency exchange scenario

- This is one of the great measure of RBI to extract liquidity from the society and streamline the currency flow in a transparent manner through banks
- Tax collections will rise rapidly for the government
- Monitoring of bank accounts by RBI did in alliance with Income Tax department
- RBI has extracted all currency from the public and liquidity infusion is done in phases
- The success of these liquidity reforms by RBI for the overall economic growth of the nation will be revealed in figures before the February budget session, 2017.

Bank for International Settlement & BASEL Committee - PDF

INTRODUCTION

The Bank for International Settlement was established on 17th May 1930. It is one of the oldest Financial organisation in the world. It has two representative offices in Hong Kong & Mexico City. Its main purpose is to cooperation with central banks. Its Headquarter is located real-estate Basel, Switzerland. Recently it has 60 member's central banks. BASEL is a place in Switzerland where all the governors of Central Banks and finance ministers of developing countries conducted a meeting to minimize the risk factors involved in Banking Investment. In the meeting, a committee was formed known as "BASEL" committee on Banking supervision (BCBS).

A guideline provided by this committee is known as "BASEL" Norms. Until now three meetings were conducted by this committee termed as BCBS. These are –

1. **BASEL – I**
2. **BASEL – II**
3. **BASEL – III**

BASEL – I

The first meeting held in 1988 in that meeting BASEL committee on Banking supervision (BCBS) divided banks capital in three tier, namely

Tier -1

Tier -2

Tier -3

Tier -1

which can be easily liquidated like Gold, Shares & bonds. It is also termed as Core capital.

Tier-2

Which cannot be easily liquidated like fixed assets i.e. lands , buildings , etc. It can be termed as subordinate capital.

Tier-3

Which can never be liquidated like CRAR, SLR

BASEL committee on Banking supervision

(BCBS) identified two major risks these are as follows:

1. Credit Risk.

2. Market Risk

BCBS sets Banks should maintain a minimum capital adequacy requirement of 8% of risk assets. But Reserve Bank of India in India fixed it at 9%.

Tits Bits-

CRAR – Capital to risk waited assets ratio

CAR- Capital adequate ratio

RWA- Risk Weighted Assets

Basic Formula :

CAR

Now , Total Capital = Tier 1 Capital + Tier 2 Capital

BASEL –II

The second meeting held in 2008. It has mainly 3 pillar concept. These are :

3 Pillars –

Minimum Capital Requirement (Addressing Risk)

Supervisory Review

Market discipline

In that meeting, BCBS made the BASEL-I rules compulsory. They also introduced 3 pillar concept to support the risk management.

to time will be a challenging task for Bank's as well as Government of India. It is estimated that Indian Banks will require Rs. 6,00,000 Cr. In external capital in few years on so i.e. by 2020. It affects in the equity of these banks especially for Public sector banks. See below chart how it will affect Indian Banks.

Minimum Capital Requirement (Addressing Risk)

The capital ratio is the certain % of a bank's capital to its risk-weighted assets. Weights are defined by risk-sensitivity ratios whose calculation is dictated under the relevant Accord. Basel II requires that the total capital ratio must be no lower than 8%.

Supervisory Review – We can divide it into two parts.

ICAAP – Internal Capital adequacy & assessment process (By the Bank Itself)

SREP – Supervisory review & evaluation process (By the Central Bank)

Market discipline – It means Discipline in all the facts in social media for promotion and advertisement. This also helps in maintaining transparency & public confidence.

BASEL – III

The third meeting was held in 2010 in that meeting BCBS introduce extra precautionary measures. They ordered the bank to reserve 2.5% of Common Equity Tier-1 in capital conservation buffer. Banks can also use Tier-2 Capital on lease to real-state (Promoter) agent with a maturity period of 10 years. In India BASEL-III was implemented in 2013.

We can say BASEL-III is the global Regulatory standard on bank capital adequacy, stress testing & market liquidity risk.

Effects of BASEL-III on Indian Banking standard –

BASEL-III which is to be implemented by the bank in India as per the guideline issued by RBI from time

Basic Chart (Easy to Understand)

Requirements	According to BASEL-II norms	According to BASEL-III norms
Minimum Ratio of Total capital to RAW's	8%	10.50%
Minimum Ratio of common equity to RAW's	2%	4.5% – 7%
Tier 1 Capital to RAW's	4%	6%
Core Tier 1 Capital to RAW's	2%	5%
Capital conservation buffer	-	2.5%
Leverage Ratio	-	3%
Counter cyclical buffer	-	0 to 2.5%
NSFR	-	2018