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APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Persons	Post/Department
Pushpa Kamal Dahal	Prime Minister of Nepal
V.S. Achuthanandan	Head of administrative reforms panel in kerala
Angela Ruggiero	The new Chair of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Commission
Sreenivasan	Chief Digital Officer in New york
Vijay Rupani	Chief Minister of Gujarat
Nita Ambani	First women member of International Olympic Committee
Saina Nehwal	Brand ambassador for ITC's Savlon
Rajeev Krishnan	Managing Director of Max Hypermarkets India
Dinesh Kumar Khara	Managing Director of SBI
Sriram Rajamani	MD of India Research Lab
Akhil Joshi	Executive Director, Bharat Heavy Electricals limited (BHEL)
Birendersingh Yadav	High Commissioner of India to the West Africa's Republic of Ghana.
Edgar Lungu	President of Zambia
Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Brand ambassador of Incredible India

Mr.YogeshwarSangwan	Ambassador of India to Georgia
Urjit Patel	Next RBI Governor
Sunil Mittal	Chairman of BhartiAirtel
Dr.NajmaHeptulla	Governor of Manipur
P D Gupta	Vice Chancellor of Mumbai-based HomiBhabha National Institute (HBNI).
Novak Djoko	ATP Player Council President

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Name Of The Award	Award Winner	Key Point To Remember
PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grants 2016	Anita Gopalan	PEN America is a renowned literary organisation of the United States.
All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project Award 2015.	West Bengal	It was selected by the 51st committee from the Indira Gandhi KrishiBikash Kendra.
Tamil Ratna Award	A.R. Rahman	This award Honoured by the America Tamil Sangam
Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award	Scientist P Shanmugam	For meritorious services in the Higher Education Department of Tamil Nadu.

Most liveable city	Melbourne	Located in Australia
Most Enterprising CEO	SK Sharma	He is Chairman and Managing Director, BEL
Bagged the highest number of gallantry medal	Telangana	For police personnel in the country on the eve of Independence Day
France's Chevalier honour Chevalier de L'Ordre Arts et Lettres (The Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters)	Actor Kamal Haasan	The award is of France's premier award, the Legion of Honor.
the Olympic Order for his outstanding services to the Olympic movement	N Ramachandran	The Olympic Order is the highest award of the Olympic Movement
prestigious White House Fellow programme	Astrophysicist Anjali Tripathi from California physician Tina R Shah from Chicago	This offers firsthand experience of working at the highest levels of the US federal government.
Arjuna Award	Ajinkya Rahane Lalita Babar Shiva Thapa	
India's Oscar entry	Ketan Mehta	The Film Federation of India (FFI) 89th Academy Awards
Vyas Samman award 2015	Sunita Jain	For her poetry collection "Kshama" in Hindi
IEI-IEEE Award	Satheesh Reddy	For engineering excellence 2015 .
UEFA's Best Player in Europe	Cristiano Ronaldo	He is a Football player from Real Madrid

for 2016.		
Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)'s healthcare excellence award.	TelanganaAarogyasri Healthcare Trust	For the app having secured the 'Elite Smart Healthcare Conclave'
SJAM Golden Jubilee Annual Awards 2016	ShardulGagare Lalita Babar AjinkyaRahane	
world's most valuable automobile brand	Toyota	It is a Japanese car manufacturer
Connecticut Open title	SaniaMirza	She is a India's top tennis stars
Belgian Grand Prix Title	NicoRosberg	His maiden Title
Heritage Heroes Award'	Dr.BibhutiLahkar	Awarded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Tetsuya Tekano resigns as Ricoh India chairman

A week after admitting its accounts appear to have been "falsified", **Ricoh India** said its **Chairman and Director Tetsuya Takano** has resigned from the company. The company has appointed **Ian Peter Winham** as its **Director/Chairman** with immediate effect. "Mr **Tetsuya Takano** has resigned as Director/Chairman of the company with effect from **July 25, 2016**."

Karnataka opens dedicated start-up cell

Nine months after announcing its start-up policy, the **Karnataka government** has set up a **dedicated Start-up** Cell to fuel the implementation of the initiatives under the policy.

The cell provides a springboard to facilitate sanctions of incentives and concessions **under the Start-up Policy 2015-2020**, for start-ups registered with it.

Rajasthan aims to double farmers' income in six years

In an attempt to **double the income of farmers by 2022**, the Rajasthan government plans to bring in latest technological innovation and introduce best farming practices by inviting experts to **Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM) in Jaipur from November 9 to 11**.

The event, organised by the Rajasthan government in association with **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry**, will showcase investment opportunities in the sector involving products such as pressure irrigation, solar pumps, custom hiring of farm machinery and implements, farm mechanisation and agro-processing etc.

Vodafone M-Pesa ties up with Punjab power utility

Vodafone M-Pesa, a unique and innovative Digital Wallet service from **Vodafone** that offers Money Transfer, Bill & Utility Pay, Merchant Payments and Business Solutions, has partnered with **Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL)**, offering millions of people in Punjab a simple, easy-to-use option to pay their electricity bills instantly.

WEF India Economic Summit in Delhi on October 6-7

World Economic Forum (WEF), will host its **annual India Economic Summit** here on **October 6-7** which would be attended by **over 500 business and political leaders** including top **policymakers and CEOs**. This year's meet will be convened under the theme, '**Fostering an Inclusive India through Digital Transformation**'.

Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel resigns due to old age

Anandiben Patel, who served as **the state's first woman chief minister**, posted the resignation letter on her Facebook page. She said **the decision was driven by the fact that she was almost 75 years old**, the age at which Modi expects ministers to retire.

BHEL commissions 500 Mw Marwa Thermal Power station in Chhattisgarh

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned the second **500 MW thermal unit at Marwa Thermal Power Station in Chhattisgarh**. Located in **Janjgir-Champa district of Chhattisgarh**, **Marwa TPS** has been set up by **Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Ltd. (CSPGCL)**. The first unit of **Marwa TPS** was also commissioned earlier by BHEL.

Six New IITS Get Parliament Nod

Parliament approved establishment of six new IITs across the country by passing the **Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill 2016 in the Rajya Sabha**. IITs will also be started in **Palakkad (Kerala), Goa, Dharwad (Karnataka), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Jammu and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)**.

3,000 Jan Aushadhi Stores to be opened across India

Under PradhanMantri Jan AushadhiYojana (PMJAY), the central government will **open 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Stores (JAS)** pan India by the end of this fiscal to make quality drugs available at affordable prices.

National Handloom Day

The 2nd National handloom day is being celebrated all around the country on 7th August 2016. “**Observance of National Handloom Day** would generate awareness about the importance of handloom industry as a part of **our rich heritage and culture, promote handloom products**. National Handloom Day, which was **first celebrated in 2015**, will be celebrated at state level in **all states and in 200 different handloom clusters**.

Naidu launches SwachhSurvekshan for 500 cities

Minister of Urban Development Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu launched ‘Swachh Suvekshan-2017’ to assess and rank 500 cities and towns based on levels of **sanitation and efforts made by respective urban local bodies** and also to capture progress towards achieving ‘**Open Defecation Free**’ status. The Minister also released in New Delhi various publications and mobile applications to help the 500 cities and towns prepare for the survey to be conducted in January next year.

South India's first Doppler weather radar inaugurated

Southern **India's first Doppler weather radar**, which can provide advance **information about storms, cyclones, and other severe weather conditions**, was inaugurated at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram. This is India's second C-Band Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radar (C-DWR) as the first was unveiled by PM Narendra Modi in Cherrapunji, Meghalaya, in May 2015.

Adani gets extension for Sarguja power plan till FY20

The Adani Group had got the extension for setting up 540 Mw power plant in **Chhattisgarh's Sarguja region** till 2019-20. The 4×135 Mw thermal power project would be based on the coal washery rejects and would come up within the Parsa East and KeteBasan coal blocks, which had been originally allotted to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd (RRVUNL). Adani Mines had been assigned the work of Mining, **Development and Operation (MDO) of coal block**.

Government has proposed setting up of 4 major ports

The government has proposed to set up four new Major Ports viz. Enayam in Tamil Nadu, Sagar in West Bengal, Dugarajpatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Vadhawan in Maharashtra. Minister of State for shipping PonRadhakrishnan informed Lok Sabha. According to the Ministry of Shipping, around 95 per cent of India's trading by volume and 70 per cent by value is done through maritime transport. It is serviced by 13 major ports, 200 notified minor and intermediate ports.

Centre announces solar power projects for Railway and Ports

The Railway buildings and stations are all set to function using solar power to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, announced the Ministry of Railways. Addressing the issue, Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal & New and Renewable Energy and Mines announced this in Lok Sabha.

Railways, Chhattisgarh govt. ink agreement for formation of JV

The Ministry of Railways has signed an agreement with the Chhattisgarh government for formation of a **joint venture (JV) company** for **focused resource mobilisation, implementation and monitoring of critical rail projects.**

Union Minister PrakashJavadekar inaugurates Chhattisgarh's first IIT

Union HRD Minister PrakashJavadekar called upon students to strive for excellence and innovate while inaugurating Chhattisgarh's first IIT campus. Javadekar also said that Indians have always contributed to the evolution of valuable technological and IT solutions that have been invented around the world.

Odisha Government launches special assistance scheme for elderly weavers

The Government of Odisha launched a special assistance scheme '**BaristhaBunakarSahayataYojana**' for elderly handloom weavers on the occasion of '**National Handlooms Day**'(7aug). It has been launched by the **state Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** with an aim to improve the financial condition of over 8,000 weavers, who have been working in this field for the last 20 years.

PM launches Mission Bhagiratha and lays Foundation Stone of key development projects in Telangana

The Prime Minister, ShriNarendraModi, launched Mission Bhagiratha at Komatibanda Village, Gajwel, in Medak District of Telangana. The scheme has been launched by the State Government with an objective to provide safe drinking water to all. He also dedicated to the nation the 1200 MW Thermal Power Station of Singareni Collieries at Jaipur, in Adilabad district.

Himachal Pradesh to plant one crore saplings to increase green cover

Himachal Pradesh government has set a target of planting over one crore saplings this year to increase the depleting green cover in the state. Himachal Pradesh was the first state in country to earn carbon credit. Union Minister for Human Resource and Development PrakashJavadekar had inaugurated the transit campus of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Jammu and the IIT Jammu's transit campus.

CSIR-CFTRI Develops Nutrice Cream

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) constituent Laboratory, CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI) Mysuru, in association with M/s Oleome Biosolutions, Bengaluru and M/s Dairy Classic Ice Creams Pvt. Ltd., has developed Nutrice. **Nutrice cream** is an Omega-3 and Vitamin-E enriched frozen nutritional dessert from vegetarian source.

India's first tiger cell to come up in Dehradun

The country's first tiger cell will soon take shape at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) campus in Dehradun. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the setting up of the cell will be signed between the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and WII. The cell will house a database of tigers as well as DNA and stripes samples of the big cats from over 50 tiger reserves, and will aid conservation efforts by keeping an update on tiger numbers as well as tracking poaching incidents throughout the country.

Rajya Sabha passes Mental Health Care Bill

The Rajya Sabha passed Mental Health Care Bill seeking to provide better healthcare for people suffering from mental illness as members across the political spectrum sought urgent steps to address the lack of infrastructure and shortage of psychiatrists in the country. This is a historic and progressive Bill. It has been a long standing effort. It is patient-centric and focuses on how more facilities and support could be provided to the patients.

Lok Sabha unanimously passes GST Bill amendments

The long-delayed GST Constitution bill passed by the Rajya Sabha last week was unanimously passed by the Lok Sabha. All the 443 members present voted in its favour. Speaking during a debate on GST Bill, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the tax reform as a 'Great Step towards Transformation/Transparency

Govt spent over Rs 6,500 crore on Swachh Bharat in 2015-16

The government has spent over Rs 6,500 crore to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin. Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Narendra Singh Tomar told the Lower House of the Parliament that Rs 6,524.52 crore has been utilised for the

Swachh Bharat Mission in 2015-16. The government had allocated Rs 6,525 crore for the scheme.

Week-long Bharat Parv begun

The government will organize week-long 'Bharat Parv', the Festival of India, in the national capital as part of the Independence Day celebrations. Tourism secretary Vinod Zutshi said the prime objective of the festival is to inculcate and celebrate patriotic mood among people across the nation, besides ensuring wider participation by them.

Encephalitis to be made notifiable disease: Nadda

Encephalitis, which claims hundreds of lives every year in eastern India, will be made a notifiable disease, the government announced in the Lok Sabha amid concerns expressed by members over "failure" to check it despite years of efforts. Nadda sought to lay the blame at the doors of the state governments, particularly the Uttar Pradesh government; saying over Rs 50 crore given to it for vector-borne disease control was lying unspent this year.

Dharmendra Pradhan to launch LPG scheme for BPL households in West Bengal

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan would launch Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in West Bengal on August 14, targeting 1.06 crore BPL households of the state. West Bengal, where LPG penetration is lower than national average at 52%, would be the next destination for the launch of PMUY scheme covering all 20 districts, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) general manager R K Mahapatra.

M Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the Independence Day Film Festival

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu while inaugurating the 'Independence Day Film Festival' at Siri Fort Auditorium. "Cinema has an important role to create awareness among the people, to propagate patriotism, to inspire the people, to motivate their commitment to the country, and about its unity and integrity. There are a number of classics like 'Gandhi', 'Shaheed', 'Aarathi Thollayirathi Irupathi Onnu', 'Haqeeqat' and others that have inspired us," Naidu said while addressing students and dignitaries like Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Rathore.

IRCTC signs MoU with DRDO to get ready-to-eat food straight out of packet

The passengers of Indian railway will now get fresh and warm food on railway stations as Indian Railway as IRCTC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Defence Food Research Laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for Transfer of Technology of Retort Pouch Processed Foods so that ready-to-eat food can be warmed and eaten straight out of the packet

Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry join UDAY scheme

Madhya Pradesh and the Union Territory of Puducherry have signed thememorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Power to join the UjwalDiscom Assurance Yojana.For operational and financial turnaround of the DISCOMs.

Union Cabinet approves liberalization of FDI norms for NBFCs

The Cabinet approved **liberalization of foreign investment norms** for the **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)**, in yet another measure aimed at improving the ease of doing business. Foreign investment in NBFCs can now come under the automatic route provided they are regulated by any of the financial sector regulators. But entities not regulated by any of the regulators will need approval from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

Govt. sets up National Committee on Trade Facilitation

The Centre has constituted the National Committee on Trade Facilitation following India's ratification of the **WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)** in April. The NCTF will facilitate domestic co-ordination and TFA provisions' implementation, and help develop the pan-India trade facilitation road map. The committee is a mandatory, institutional arrangement under TFA.

Smart Ganga City programme launched in 10 cities

Union Ministers M Venkaiah Naidu and Uma Bharti jointly launched '**Smart Ganga City**' programme in 10 cities located along Ganga **to set up Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)** and improve drainage network there on hybrid annuity mode on public private partnership basis. Union Urban Development Minister Naidu and Water Resources Minister Bharti launched the

works through video conferencing and were joined in by District Magistrates/Mayors of cities/towns

No Rail Budget from next fiscal

The 92-year-old practice of presenting a separate Rail Budget is set to come to an end from the next fiscal, with the Finance Ministry accepting Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu's proposal to merge it with the General Budget.

Assam becomes first state to pass Constitution Amendment Bill on GST

Assam has become the first state to ratify Constitution Amendment Bill related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), following its passage by both houses of Parliament said Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. Hailing the GST as a revolutionary bill, Sonowal said the new tax regime will benefit the common people of the country.

Parliament passes Central Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The **Central Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 2016** was introduced in Lok Sabha by Mr. Sudarshan Bhagat, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The Bill proposes to amend the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992. The Bill amends this definition to include the state of Nagaland.

Calicut University to open 'touch and feel' garden

A first-of-its-kind "**touch and feel garden**" for the visually impaired people in the country was inaugurated near Calicut University campus by **Kerala Assembly Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan**. The garden has nearly 70 aromatic, medicinal and herbal plants brought from various parts the country.

Country's First Nuclear Supplier's Insurance Policy launched

The first Nuclear Supplier's insurance policy of India has been officially set in motion by Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP). The policy has been fully ratified by Shekhar Basu, The commissioner of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) and New India Assurance Company (NIAC) will issue the policy and administer the claims on behalf of the syndicate providers.

Bihar assembly passes GST bill

Bihar State Legislature has ratified the Constitution Amendment Bill on Goods and Services Tax (GST) in a special one-day session. The GST Bill needs to be ratified by at least 15 state legislatures before the President can notify the GST Council, which will then decide the new tax rate and other issues.

BHEL bags Rs 169 crore order for solar photovoltaic power plant

State-owned power equipment maker BHEL said it has secured an order to set up solar photovoltaic (SPV) plants, estimated to cost Rs 169 crore. The EPC order has been placed by West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Corporation Ltd (WBSEDCL). Three SPV plants of 10 MW each are to be set up at Mejia (Bankura), Santaldih (Purulia) and Chharrah (Purulia) in West Bengal.

Union government Constitutes national Committee on Trade and facilitation

India has initiated the process to set-up a National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) to domestically coordinate and implement the (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement. India is setting up a national panel that will cut red-tape for the export-import industry while also ensuring faster clearances of merchandise, in line with the commitment to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Suresh Prabhu announces four new trains

Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu announced four new categories of trains, one for unreserved passengers and three for reserved ones, which will be operational in the next couple of months. “The reason behind starting new train for unreserved passengers is to ensure that those belonging to the ‘Antodya class’ (very poor people) can also travel by train. A MoU was inked between city-based National Academy of the Indian Railway (NAIR) and MS University of Baroda.

Union Govt. allows Authentication using mobile connections

Telecom Sector regulator TRAI has put forth recommendations to the Department of Telecom (DoT) to allow electronic KYC of Aadhaar as one of the valid documents for getting a new

mobile connection. The government issued e-KYC guidelines to make the online process of application and authentication faster and simpler for subscribers.

Kerala to get solar powered e-rickshaws

Kerala will soon have a solar-powered three-wheeler. The project, conceptualised by an entrepreneur. The solar panels fitted on the roof of the three-wheeler will provide power, stored in a battery. The battery can be charged by electricity in the absence of solar power. The vehicle is being assembled by Lifeway Solar Private Limited, a Kochi-based enterprise, owned by Georgekutty Karianappally, who said the vehicle could seat five persons.

Kerala: Pink Patrol to check crime against women

Kerala police has a new addition- The Pink Police. These women officers will move around in pink coloured cars and they will have a special badge on their shoulders. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated a new beat of city police called the Pink Police Patrol, aimed at enhancing women's security.

Jharkhand becomes 3rd state to ratify GST Bill

The Jharkhand Assembly on Wednesday passed the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill and became the third state to ratify the bill after Assam and Bihar. The bill was passed unanimously in the state Assembly. "India has a tradition and culture to take taxes. The GST will end the tax discrimination and it will end the British tax system.

Kerala tourism growth rate falls post liquor ban

Kerala may no longer be foreigners' **top favourite tourist destination** if the figures by the tourism department are anything to go by. A recent study by the department shows a fall in the foreign tourist arrivals and all stakeholders have the state's liquor policy to blame.

The Trade Research 2016 which compiled data from the Kerala Tourism Statistics and Economic Review of 2015, shows that the tourism growth rate fell from 8.1 percent in 2013 to 7.6 percent in 2014 and 5.9 percent in 2015.

Govt slaps \$380 mn additional fine on RIL

Government has slapped an additional penalty of USD 380 million (around Rs 2,500 crore) on **Reliance Industries** and its partners for producing less than targeted natural gas from eastern offshore KG-D6 fields. the total penalty, which is in form of disallowing recovery of cost incurred, for missing the target in five fiscal years beginning April 1, 2010, now stands at a cumulative USD 2.76 billion.

Indian Railways to Collaborate With Google

Railways will collaborate with Google for digitizing and showcasing its heritage on digital platforms. Google has agreed to partner with Railways to digitize its heritage assets and help create a digital repository for universal online access free of cost. Indian Railway has a huge list of heritage assets including bridges, steam locos, buildings, artifacts and museums which can be showcased for global audience.

BSNL joins hands with Microsoft for enterprise business

State-run telecom firm BSNL has signed a strategic business pact with Microsoft India for offering complete suite of telecom and IT solutions for enterprise businesses. “BSNL signed a strategic business MoU (memorandum of understanding) with Microsoft India offering complete suite of telecom and IT Solutions for enterprise business.”

Uma Bharti launches Rs 560 crore Namami Gange projects at Kanpur

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti launched various projects worth Rs.560 crore under Namami Gange programme at Ganga Barrage in Kanpur.

This includes Rs.63 crore interception and diversion plan of Sisamau drain, Rs. 397 crore networking schemes and river front development scheme at Bithoor worth Rs. 100 crore. 14 Ghats and five crematoria will be constructed at Bithoor.

Global Innovation Index: India moves up to 66th rank

India has improved its innovation ranking in Global Innovation Index to reach 66th position from its last year's rank of 81st, this improvement in the rank for India comes after 5 years of

continuous drop in its ranking.

NLC Ltd to add 6,820 Mw of power at cost of Rs 27,740 crore

Navaratna company (NLC) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC), which comes under the Ministry of Coal, is planning to add over 6,821 megawatt (Mw) of power, with an investment of over Rs 27,740 crore in these projects.

Government selects four investment banks for share sale in HUDCO

The government has selected four investment banks for the proposed share sale in Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited. These are Nomura, SBI Caps, ICICI Securities and IDBI Capital. A leading investment bank participated in the process. “The fee quoted by investment banks were for the entire cost of the public issue, which is going to 10 crore. The government is planning to sell 10% stake in HUDCO, which is under administrative control of the urban development ministry, through an initial public offering.

Maneka Gandhi Inaugurate Animal Birth Control Centre in Dehradun

Union Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi inaugurated the state’s first animal birth control centre (ABC) at Kedarapuram . The centre will take up birth control measures with stray dogs the population of which has been rising in the city and the state.

Andhra Pradesh police launches pilot project on DNA profiling

With an aim to tightening the noose around criminals, Andhra Pradesh Police launched DNA Index System (DIS), the first-of-its-kind initiative that allows generation of DNA profiles from live samples like saliva and blood stains. The system uses the latest DNA technology tool called RapidHIT developed by IntegenX of USA.

President Pranab Mukherjee launches AkashvaniMaitree channel

President Pranab Mukherjee launched **AkashvaniMaitree channel for Bengali listeners and its website**, an initiative which will provide a platform for blending content both from India and Bangladesh and preserving Bengali culture. The channel will be broadcast from a state-of-the-art brand new high power 1000Kw DRM transmitter with a capacity to reach the entire length and

breadth of Bangladesh through medium wave and will be also available globally on its website and mobile app.

Gujarat becomes sixth state to ratify GST bill

The Gujarat State Assembly ratified the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Constitution Amendment Bill in the absence of the Opposition party Congress. It has become the sixth State to pass the Bill, which requires ratification from at least 15 state legislatures before the President notifies the GST Council. The Gujarat Government had convened a special two-day monsoon session of the State Assembly to ratify the GST Bill.

Maharashtra govt proposes internal security act

Maharashtra Government has proposed **an internal security act to deal with the challenges of terrorism and communal and caste violence**. The proposed legislation, 'Maharashtra Protection of Internal Security Act, 2016,' would be the first such state-level act for internal security which will give more power to the police department if implemented.

Govt mulls ban on cash transactions over Rs 3 lakh

Government is examining SIT's recommendation of banning cash transactions of over Rs.3 lakh in a bid to clamp down on black money in the economy, CBDT Chairperson Rani Singh Nair said. The move follows Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) on black money recommending banning cash transactions of Rs.3 lakh and above and restricting cash holding with individuals and industry to Rs.15 lakh to curb illegal wealth in the country.

Delhi to Get All-New Aerospace Museum

Delhi will soon have a sprawling new **Aerospace Museum** close to the international airport focused mainly on **Nation's rich aviation history**. New Aerospace Museum is not only meant to preserve the glorious tradition of the IAF but also to create awareness in general public about India's rich Aerospace heritage. A proposal for new Air Force Aerospace Museum was cleared by Ministry of Defence and final financial sanction on the Detailed Project Report is awaited.

Madhya Pradesh Assembly passes GST Bill

The Madhya Pradesh Assembly passed the Goods and Service Tax (GST) Constitution Amendment Bill. MP became the seventh state in the country to ratify the historic tax amendment bill. Before Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have already passed the bill in their respective assemblies. The bill has been passed with an aim to make India a common market in terms of uniform tax treatment of trade and commerce across states.

Suresh Prabhu commissions new rail line in Andhra Pradesh

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu commissioned **a new railway line between Nandyala and Yerraguntla**. They also flagged off a new passenger train between Nandyala and Kadapa. The 123-km railway line was built at a cost of Rs 967 crore and connects Kurnool and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh. This will also directly connect the Rayalaseema region with the state's new capital Amaravati.

BCCI signs MoU with TERI to promote renewable energy

Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) has signed an memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Energy and Resources Institute (Teri) **for promoting renewable energy**. **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** is a research institute based in New Delhi that conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development

India to host the 1st BRICS Film Festival from Sept. 2

India will be hosting the **first BRICS film festival** which will begin from Sept. 2, said Information and Broadcasting Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu. The five-day BRICS film festival would be held from September 2 to 6 at New Delhi. "The film festival will showcase an amalgamation of culture, films, song, dance and food of the 5-member countries including Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Maharashtra government to transform 1,000 villages with the help of corporates

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said **the State government plans to transform 1,000 villages with the help of corporate sector**, and the civil society over the next few years. He said corporate sector is already working with the government in various sectors through the

CSR and “we thought of using their resources, knowledge, technology and planning and implementation skills.

Maharashtra endorses Godavari water projects of Telangana

The Telangana and Maharashtra chief ministers signed an agreement that would clear the way for constructing three **new barrages by the lower riparian state on Godavari while protecting Maharashtra’s interests**. The two states have decided to bury the old water disputes after the Telangana government modified the original plans by changing the height and alignment of these barrages in a bid to ensure zero submergence on the other side

World Bank sanctions Rs 980 cr for Brahmaputra dredging

The World Bank has sanctioned Rs.980 crore to dredge the Brahmaputra as an initiative to develop waterways to Bangladesh and to other South East Asian countries in a bid to boost trade and industry in the Northeast. Opening up of the Brahmaputra waterways for trade will lead to a reduction in the cost of transportation of goods and will ultimately result in Assam becoming a export hub for the South East Asian countries.

Bengaluru to host 2017 BharatiyaPravasi Divas

The IT-BT capital of the country, Bengaluru, will host the 2017 BharatiyaPravasi Divas. Scheduled to take place on February 7, 8 and 9 of 2017, the Ministry of External Affairs held a meeting with Tourism Minister R V Deshpande for a preliminary round of talks. This will be the 15th BharatiyaPravasi Divas, meant to interact with representatives of the 30 million NRIs and PIOs around the world.

India’s first textile university to come up at Surat

Gujarat government is planning to set up India’s first textile university at Surat with an investment of about Rs.800 crore – Rs 900 crore. The textile industry will support the government in the endeavour.The state government will fund about Rs 800-900 crore for the university, which is expected to get operational in the next one and a half years.

Himachal Health Minister launches ambulance mobile app

Himachal Pradesh Health Minister Kaul Singh Thakur launched a mobile app for availing immediate and easy access to ambulances in the state. The app named '108 HP' can be downloaded on any smartphone. The app will make the access to the National Ambulance Service (NAS) much faster and does not require sharing of information such as name and location. Himachal has become the first state in India to launch any such app.

Nagaland becomes eighth State to pass GST bill

The Nagaland Legislative Assembly has ratified the Goods and Service Tax (GST) Constitution Amendment Bill. The bill was endorsed by the House by a voice vote following a brief discussion. Introducing the bill, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs KiyanieliePeseyie said the revenue of the state would go up as tax evasion would be checked due to transparency and broadening of tax base.

22nd Delhi Book Fair begins

The 22nd edition of the Delhi Book Fair this year aims to highlight initiatives undertaken by the central government for its 'SarvaShikshaAbhiyaan' flagship programme to inculcate better reading habits among the younger generation. The 9-day-long fair organised by Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) in association with Federation of Indian Publishers is scheduled to be held between August 27 and September 4 at PragatiMaidan in Delhi.

IIT-Dharwad Inaugurated by PrakashJavdekar

Union Human Resource Development Minister PrakashJavdekar will formally launch IIT Dharwad chapter in Dharwad. The inauguration, which was planned last month end, had to be postponed due to the KalasaBanduri agitation.

The prestigious higher education institute has already started functioning from this academic year from a temporary structure. Around 2000 students with Science and Maths background have been invited to the inaugural function to sensitise them about the higher learning institute.

Mehbooba Mufti launches UJALA scheme in Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti o launched the central government's UJALA scheme in the state with the distribution of LED bulbs among people. The National LED programme was launched by Prime Minister NarendraModi in January 2015. Under this scheme consumer can buy five LED bulbs at the rate of Rs 20 each by showing monthly electricity bills or ID cards.In case of purchase of more than five bulbs, consumers need to pay Rs 95 per bulb.

West Bengal Assembly passes resolution for State's name change

The West Bengal Assembly passed a resolution for renaming the state as 'Bangla' in Bengali and 'Bengal' in English, weeks after a proposal in this regard was put forward by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The proposal to pass the resolution was approved by the special session of the West Bengal Assembly, which was convened on August 26 to discuss the renaming of the state. In 2011, the state government had sent a proposal to the Centre for renaming West Bengal as "PaschimBango".

Maharashtra Assembly ratifies GST Bill

A special one-day session of Maharashtra Legislature to consider ratification of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Constitutional Amendment Bill passed by Parliament, got underway. In the Assembly, Finance Minister SudhirMungantiwar tabled a resolution to ratify the GST Bill, while Minister of State for Finance Deepak Kesarkar introduced it in the Council

Four athletes get Rajiv Gandhi KhelRatna award

It was a celebration of woman power in sports as Olympic stars PV Sindhu, Sakshi Malik and DipaKarmakar were conferred India's highest sporting honour the Rajiv Gandhi KhelRatna along with shooter JituRai in a gleaming awards ceremony at the RashtrapatiBhawan in New Delhi.

Doha Bank opens first branch in Kerala

Doha Bank, one of the prominent banks in Qatar, is formally inaugurating its first branch in Kerala . The branch offers all banking products to corporate and retail customers. It will be

formally inaugurated by the State Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The Bank has its other two branches in Mumbai.

Air India to fly over Pacific to save fuel, cost

Saving significant fuel costs and time, Air India will soon start flying over the Pacific Ocean region for its lucrative direct services to San Francisco from here with aviation regulator DGCA approving the new route. The regulatory nod comes as a boost for the national carrier, which would be doubling the frequency of its Delhi-San Francisco direct flights to six per week from November.

Govt plans to launch TV reality show for startups

Govt is taking some more steps to encourage startups in India after PM Modi's Startup India, Stand up India initiative. Now Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has come up with an idea of launching TV reality show for the Indian startups while commencing a dedicated TV channel destined only for the Indian startups and entrepreneurs.

Gurgaon to get new IT park worth \$400 million

Singapore-based business space solutions provider Ascendas-Singbridge said it will develop an IT Park, comprising 8 million sqft area, in Gurgaon at a project cost of USD 400 million. In the first phase, the company would develop two buildings with about 1 million sqft of Grade A office space. It would complete the first building in Phase 1 in Q4 of 2017.

Air India to fly over Pacific to save fuel, cost

Saving significant fuel costs and time, Air India will soon start flying over the Pacific Ocean region for its lucrative direct services to San Francisco from here with aviation regulator DGCA approving the new route. The regulatory nod comes as a boost for the national carrier, which would be doubling the frequency of its Delhi-San Francisco direct flights to six per week from November.

Human trafficking up by over 25% in 2015: NCRB

Human trafficking has emerged as the fastest rising crime, an increase of over 25 per cent in 2015, according to the latest report of **the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**. **Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Telangana** have reported the highest number of such cases. However, the overall incidents of crime in 2015 increased by merely 1.4 per cent as compared to 7.5 per cent in 2014.

Declare monkeys vermin for 1 more year: Himachal

The Himachal Pradesh government has urged the Centre to declare **monkeys as ‘vermin’ for one more year**. This comes ahead of the previous order of declaring monkeys as vermin for six months within the Shimla Municipal Corporation limits, coming to an end on September 14. Declaring an animal type as vermin allows authorities to kill them without forest department’s permission.

CABINET APPROVALS

Cabinet approves MoU between India and South Africa for cooperation in the field of Tourism

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and South Africa for cooperation in the field of Tourism.

The main objectives of the MoU are:

- a) to expand bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector
- b) to exchange information and data related to tourism ;
- c) to encourage cooperation between tourism stakeholders, including hotels and tour operators.
- d) to establish exchange programmes for cooperation in Human Resource Development;
- e) Investing in the tourism and hospitality sector;
- f) to encourage visits of Tour Operators/Media/ Opinion Makers and tourists from both countries for promotion of two way tourism;
- g) to exchange experiences in the areas of promotion, education, marketing, destination development and management;
- h) to participate in travel fairs/exhibitions in each other’s country; and
- i) to promote safe, honorable and sustainable tourism.

Amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 by introducing the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in Parliament. The maternity benefit Act 1961 protects the employment of women during the time of her maternity and entitles her of a ‘maternity benefit’ – i.e. full paid absence from work – to take care for her

child. The act is applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more persons. The amendments will help 1.8 million (approx.) women workforce in organised sector.

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for amendments to Section 44 and consequential amendments of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 by introducing the Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in the Parliament. The approved amendments will address concerns and apprehensions expressed by different categories of public servants and address the difficulties being faced in implementing the provision of section 44 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for amendment of Section 64 and section 65 and consequential amendment of section 115 of the Factories Act, 1948 by introducing the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in the Parliament. The approved amendments will give boost to the manufacturing sector and facilitate ease of doing business with an aim to enhance employment opportunities.

Cabinet approves Agreement between the India and Croatia on Economic Cooperation

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing and ratification of an Agreement between India and Croatia on Economic Cooperation. India and Croatia had earlier signed an Agreement on trade and economic cooperation in September, 1994 with an aim to promote and develop bilateral trade and economic relations. Signing of the new Agreement between India and Croatia would be a step in continuity as the existing Agreement expired in November, 2009.

Cabinet approves foreign investment in other Financial Services sector

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to amend regulation for foreign investment in the Non- Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs). The amendment in the existing Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by the Person Resident Outside India) regulations on Non- Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) will enable inflow of foreign investment in "Other Financial Services" on automatic route provided such services are regulated by any financial sector regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA etc.) / Government Agencies.

Cabinet approves financial support to BHEL for R&D project

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a proposal of R&D project for development of Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) Technology for Thermal Power Plant with an estimated cost of Rs.1554 crore and providing one time budgetary support of Rs.900 crore spread over a period of three years, commencing from 2017-18, to be provided as plan Gross Budgetary Support to BHEL for implementation of the R&D project.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Yemen govt accepts UN deal to end civil war

The Yemeni government accepted a UN-proposed peace agreement to end civil war in the country. However, it set a pre-condition that the Houthi rebels and ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh need to sign the deal by August 7. Notably, the deal abolishes the supreme political council set up jointly by Saleh and the rebels, and nullifies all its decisions.

The announcement came after a high-level meeting in Riyadh chaired by Yemen's President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi,

St Annes Kite Festival concludes in England

The fifth edition of St Annes Kite Festival held in England. The summer kite festival is organised as a family event for people to enjoy the beach. The Al-Farsi Kuwait Flying Team also participated in the event which included attractions such as the world's largest teddy bear kite named Oscar, a giant inflatable octopus, and stunt kites.

First-ever 'Pizza ATM' opens in US

Pizza lovers in the US can now relish their favourite cheesy delicacy by using the first-ever 'pizza ATM' in the country installed at a university campus. The pizza vending machine on the campus of Xavier University (XU) in Ohio can hold seventy 12-inch pizzas and dispense them fresh and hot in just three minutes. Customers can select what kind of pizza they want using the 24-hour machine's touchscreen.

Over 1,000 ancient cliff paintings discovered in north China

Archeologists have discovered over 1,000 cliff paintings dating back more than 1,000 years in North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region. The paintings are surprisingly well preserved, and feature sheep, camels, elks, tigers, wolves and people hunting, said Liu Bin, head of the Cultural Relics Bureau of Urad Middle Banner. The images are believed to have been engraved by the ancient tribal people known as the Tujue, and the Dangxiang, of which the modern day Qiang are descended from, about 1,000 to 1,500 years ago.

Jute Corporation to launch “Colours of Independence” campaign in Visakhapatnam

Jute Corporation of India has been entrusted with the task of launching the week-long “**Colours of Independence**” campaign. The campaign was being launched in 70 cities across the country to commemorate 70 years of Independence. “A jute fabric will be set up in the CMR shopping mall and State **HRD minister G. SrinivasaRao** will formally launch the programme by painting on it and the members of the public can participate later for the next seven days, till August 15.

China launches Gaofen-3 high-resolution radar imaging satellite

China launched a new **synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imaging satellite called Gaofen-3** from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province. According to Xinhua, the satellite, which was launched on a Long March 4C, is equipped with a radar payload that can produce high-resolution images of one meter. It will be used for civil applications such as 24-hour environmental monitoring, weather forecasting, disaster monitoring, and water resource assessments.

North Korea resumes plutonium production

North Korea confirmed the production of plutonium has been restarted in the country after speculations that it reopened its Yongbyon nuclear facility earlier this month. It will continue conducting nuclear tests till perceived threats from U.S. remain. The Yongbyon reactor was closed down in July 2007. However, North Korean government officials said in September 2015 that the plant was operational again, it was working on improving the “quality and quantity” of its nuclear weapons.

Apple acquires personal health startup Glimpse

Apple has reportedly acquired health data startup Glimpse, a company that collects and combines disparate threads of personal health info. Fast Company reports that the acquisition went down earlier this year, but there has yet to be any confirmation on the part of Glimpse. Glimpse was founded back in 2013 by seasoned entrepreneur Anil Sethi, who used to work as a systems engineer for Apple back in the 80s. He went on to sell Sequoia Software in 2001 to Citrix Systems in a cash transaction worth more than \$180 million.

New species confirmed 16 years after discovery

A new species of sea creature, named **Nudibranchs**, was recently confirmed in **Australia**, 16 years after it was first observed. Previously mistaken for sea slugs due to early shedding of shells, the soft-bodied organisms are distinguished from other species on the basis of size, anatomy, colouring and distribution and have been nicknamed “**butterflies of the sea**”.

Domino’s to launch unmanned drone delivery in NZ

A **New Zealand pizza chain** aims to become the **world’s first company to offer a commercial drone delivery service**, a milestone in the once-unthinkable quest to save time and money with an air-borne supply chain dispensing with people. Last month, U.S. convenience store chain 7-Eleven Inc conducted the first single commercial drone delivery – coffee, donuts and a chicken sandwich – as part of a trial.

China starts cargo train service to Russia

China launched a **cargo train service** from **Guangzhou city to Russia** to boost trade as part of its multi-billion dollar project to revive ancient silk routes. A cargo train left south China’s Guangzhou City for Vorsino, Kaluzhskaya Oblast, in Russia. It is the latest freight train route China has launched to boost trade ties along the ancient Silk Road, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Infosys invests \$4 million in Israeli firm Cloudyn

IT services major Infosys has **invested \$4 million in Cloudyn, an Israeli corporation**, as it seeks to strengthen its cloud computing service offering, an area in which the majority of Indian export companies struggle. **Israeli-based Cloudyn** is a start-up **that enables corporates to monitor** their cloud computing usage and optimise its usage of these services.

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Anti-dumping duty on steel from six nations

The government has slapped anti-dumping duty on the import of hot-rolled steel products from six nations, including China and South Korea, in a bid to shield domestic manufacturers against cheaper inward shipments. An anti-dumping duty of \$474-557 per tonne was imposed on 'hot-rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel' import from China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Brazil and Indonesia, the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance said in a notification.

NitiAayog partners US for energy data portal

Moving a step closer to set up a portal to host all the data related to energy sector in the country, NitiAayog inked a pact with US energy information administration (EIA). The think-tank is working to develop India's energy data agency, which would take three-four years to develop. The web portal will host all the data related to energy sector including oil & gas, coal, solar & thermal energy etc.

Minda forms JV with Chinese firm for auto components

Auto component maker Spark Minda group flagship firm, Minda Corporation Ltd has formed a joint venture with China's Shandong BeiQiHaiHua Automobile Parts Co (SBHAP). The 50:50 joint venture, to be known as Minda China Plastic Solutions Ltd, is being formed between Minda KTSN, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Minda Corp and the Chinese partner, the company.

First SAARC Youth Parliamentarians Conference begins in Islamabad

The First SAARC Young Parliamentarians Conference begins in Islamabad, with the key theme of "Peace & Harmony for Development." The National Assembly (NA) of Pakistan has taken the initiative to host the first ever conference inviting young parliamentarians from seven other SAARC member countries. For two days the young parliamentarians will share ideas, deliberate upon confronting challenges, identify avenues for cooperation and finalise strategy to implement their consensus-based ideas in future.

India pledges Rs 39.97 million for upgrading school in Nepal

India has pledged financial assistance worth 39.97 million Nepali Rupees for the construction of a new building and a hostel facility at a Sanskrit school in eastern Nepal. A tripartite agreement

between the Indian Embassy, the local development officer, Ilam District, and principal of Shree SaptmaiGurukul Sanskrit Vidhyashram Secondary School was signed in this regard.

BRICS women's conference begins in Jaipur

A two-day meeting of BRICS women parliamentarian's forum began in Jaipur. Lok Sabha Speaker SumitraMahajan said that government has chosen the path of removing poverty by empowering the poor. The Lok Sabha Speaker called on the BRICS countries to strengthen cooperative mechanisms and to innovate new institutional means for meeting the needs of the member countries. A total of 43 Parliamentarians from BRICS countries, including 28 MPs from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, are participating in the meeting.

China's high-speed train maker launches operation in India

China's largest high speed train maker has announced that its first USD 63.4 million joint venture plant in India to repair and manufacture railway locomotive engines has started operations. The state-run China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) is the first foreign company to set up assembly line of rail transportation equipment in India after Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled his ambitious 'Make in India' campaign in 2014.

PM ModiAfghanistan president Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurate the restore stor palace in Kabul

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Monday jointly inaugurated **the renovated Stor Palace in Kabul through video conferencing**. During the video conference, Prime Minister Modi assured that India's 1.25 billion citizens would always be on Afghanistan's side in its quest to establish regional peace, security and stability. The Stor palace has been the setting for many momentous historical events.

India, Germany sign pact on vocational training

Deepening collaboration on skill development, **India and Germany signed an agreement that aims to foster conditions that will help create and improve workplace-based vocational training in India's industrial clusters**. German technical assistance will be used to enhance industry institute partnerships between Indian and German organizations, build capacity of local training institutions and foster industry linkages which will help adapt elements of the German dual system into the Indian context.

India and the U.S signed the bilateral **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)** that will give the militaries of both countries access to each other's facilities for supplies and repairs. Defence Minister ManoharParrikar and U.S. Defence Secretary Ash Carter said in a joint statement that LEMOA "will facilitate additional opportunities for practical engagement and exchange."

BANKING AND FINANCE

Union Government fixes an inflation target of 4 percent for five years

The government formally notified a **consumer inflation target of 4%**, putting a stamp of approval on the pact with the RBI reached last year. The government has allowed for **two percentage points movement** on either side of the 4% target for five years starting from 2016, a move being seen as sticking to the idea floated by outgoing **RBI governor RaghuramRajan**.

Former RBI Deputy Governor AnandSinha joins IDFC Bank board

IDFC Bank, the newest lender in the country, has appointed **former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor AnandSinha** to the bank's board. In a notice to exchanges, the lender said Sinha would be joining as an additional director in the category of independent director on the board. His appointment comes into effect from August 1 . This comes after VinodRai, the former comptroller and auditor general of India, who served as a nominee director representing IDFC Limited on the board of IDFC Bank, stepped down after serving on the board for a year.

RBI retains GDP growth forecast at 7.6% for FY17

With India touted as a "bright spot" in a gloomy global economy, RBI retained its FY17 GDP growth projection at 7.6 per cent, same as it sees both upside and downside risks. While cutting the policy lending rate by 25 bps to 6.5 per cent, RBI expects a normal monsoon will revive rural demand. "The uneven recovery in growth in 2015-16 is likely to strengthen gradually into 2016-17, assuming a normal monsoon, the likely boost to consumption demand from the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission recommendations and OROP, and continuing monetary policy accommodation.

RBI transfers Rs 65,876 croresurplus to government

The Reserve Bank will transfer to the central government its surplus profit of Rs 65,876 crore, marginally lower than the amount given last year. "The (RBI Central) Board approved the

transfer of surplus of the Reserve Bank for the year 2015-16 amounting to Rs 658.76 billion to the Government of India,” the central bank said in a statement. The RBI had paid Rs 65,896 crore to the government for the previous year (2014-15) which came as a boon to the government in covering the deficit. The surplus transferred to the government was Rs 52,679 crore in 2013-14

Flipkart now on Kotak Mahindra Bank’s mobile banking app

Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB), announced the availability of **Flipkart’s mobile site in its mobile banking app**, which gives the customer a secure in-app shopping environment. KMB has been expanding the scope of offerings on its mobile banking app, and this move further strengthens its mStore which already allows booking of air tickets, hotels and bus tickets.

E-verifying without net banking: More banks to follow PNB, UBI

After **Punjab National Bank and United Bank of India**, more banks are likely to soon **start a facility wherein an account holder can verify his income tax return on e-filing site even without having net banking**. Electronic Verification Code (EVC) can be generated by pre-validating the bank account on the e-filing portal of the Income Tax Department.

UBI launches USSD based mobile app for basic banking needs with NPCI

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation for all retail payments system in the country is pleased to announce that Union Bank of India has launched USSD based *99#mobile application for their customers. UBI is the first bank to introduce Android based mobile application on USSD platform. The App is available for download on the play store as – Union Bank *99#.

Times Internet partners HDFC Bank to launch co-branded Debit Card

Times Internet, the digital arm of the Times of India Group, and private sector lender HDFC Bank entered into a partnership to launch co-branded debit cards. This is the second co-branded card launched by Times Internet with HDFC Bank, after launching a (co-branded) credit card targeted at the entertainment segment in 2013. The Times Points HDFC Bank Debit Card will offer customers the best deals in the online space as well as reward them for engaging with the Times Internet sites.

ICICI Bank unveils new 'smart keys' mobile app

ICICI Bank unveiled a payment service that uses a **smartphone keyboard**.

Christened '**iMobileSmartKeys**', this feature enables 'iMobile' users to make quick and secure payments on any mobile application including chat, messenger, email, games or search browser without having to exit their current application in their smartphone.

The 'iMobile Smart Keys' solution was developed by one of the winners at the 'ICICI Appathon'. The virtual mobile app development challenge which was organised by the bank earlier this year.

Deutsche Bank whistle blower refuses \$8 mn reward

Former Deutsche Bank risk officer has **refused his share of a \$16.5 million award from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)** for reporting misdeeds. Eric Ben-Artzi accuses the SEC of not going after executives, but hitting lower-ranked employees.

The whistleblower award was launched by SEC in 2011 to encourage people with insider knowledge to speak about financial crimes. Ben-Artzi is the first person to refuse the award.

NBFCs allowed using Sarfaesi for cases above Rs.1 Crore

The government has allowed NBFCs with asset base of Rs.500 crore and above to be covered under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Sarfaesi) Act 2002 for cases of above Rs.1 crore, like all other financial institutions. The restriction on using SARFAESI for cases of Rs.1 crore would mean that NBFCs couldn't enforce the security interest for lower ticket size loans. This would restrict their ability to recover smaller loans.

Punjab National Bank makes locker visiting facility free

The Punjab National Bank (PNB) becomes **the first public sector bank to make locker visiting facility free for its customers**. The lender had earlier allowed 12 free visits to the lockers per customer in a year. The new rule, which eliminates an additional fee charged by the bank during locker visits, has been introduced from August 1, 2016. PNB used to charge Rs. 50 per locker visit once a customer crossed the limit of 12 visits specified under the bank's rules regarding locker operations.

21 banks to go live with Unified Payments Interface

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** is live and currently available **for customers of 21 banks**. UPI is a payment solution which empowers a recipient to initiate the payment request from a smartphone. It facilitates “**virtual payment address**” as a payment identifier for sending and collecting money and works on single click 2-factor authentication.

Karnataka Bank launches KBL-SMARTz app based on UPI platform

Karnataka Bank has launched “KBL-SMARTz,” a mobile application built on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), umbrella organization for all retail payments system in India. UPI is new initiative from NPCI in digital payments ecosystem. Interface is designed to enable customers across UPI member banks to pay and collect money from their smartphones without entering any bank account information.

India’s Economy to Expand 7.6% in FY17: RBI

The near-term growth outlook for **India** seems brighter than last fiscal and the economy is likely to expand at **7.6 per cent in 2016-17**, the Reserve Bank . The effects of Brexit on the Indian economy have been relatively muted, including the immediate impact on equity and foreign exchange markets. Some support to industrial activity may, however, stem from the recent measures taken by the Government such as 100 per cent FDI in defence, civil aviation, pharmaceuticals and broadcasting.

HDFC to deploy robots at its branches: Report

Over the next few weeks, you may encounter a robot at a branch of **HDFC Bank** as the country’s second largest private sector lender **tries to match Japanese players that have launched humanoids**.

Taking a cue from Bank of **Tokyo-Mitsubishi**, which launched a robot named Nao last year, and Mizuho Bank’s Pepper, HDFC Bank has launched ‘**Project AI**’ (artificial intelligence) where the first product is now ready for deployment.

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Uber to sell China business to rival DidiChuxing

After a bruising two-year battle, ride-hailing firm **Uber** is selling its **China operations to bigger local rival DidiChuxing** in a deal that will give **Uber a one-fifth stake in Didi**.

The merged entity is worth around **\$35 billion** – combining **Didi’s most recent \$28 billion valuation** and **Uber China’s \$7 billion worth** – said a source familiar with the matter who did not want to be named before the deal was made public.

Neyveli Lignite plans to buy 1200 MW Raghunathpur Thermal Power Project

State-run **Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC)** is planning to acquire **Damodar Valley Corporation’s 1200 mw Raghunathpur Thermal Power Project (RTPP)** through a joint venture company.

NLC has initiated actions to acquire power assets and in this regard one of the proposals under consideration is the **acquisition of 1,200 mw Raghunathpur Thermal Power Project (RTPP) of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)** .

Zydus acquires derma brand Melgain from IssarPharma

Zydus Group has strengthens its derma portfolio with the acquisition of **Melgain,used for the treatment of vitiligo**, from Hyderabad-based **IssarPharma** for an undisclosed amount. By adding **Melgain** to its product portfolio, **Zydus** intends to make the treatment more affordable **for the patients** who are afflicted with this disfiguring skin disorder in the prime of their youth.

HDFC Standard, Max Life approve merger terms

Analjit Singh-led promoter group of Max Financial Services will get **Rs850 crore** as non-compete fee following merger of its life insurance business with **HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company Ltd (HDFC Life)**. The payment will be made by the merged entity over a four-year period, with an upfront fee of **Rs501 crore** followed by three equal annual instalments totalling **Rs349 crore**.

Unilever acquires Blueair

Blueair, a world leader in air purifying solutions with acclaimed leading — edge filtration technologies and design, announced it has been acquired by **Unilever**. **Blueair founder BengtRittri** said: “The acquisition will enable even more people to protect their health by using

Blueair air purifiers to remove indoor airborne contaminants such as hazardous PM2.5 sooty particles, allergens, chemicals and viruses.

SBI approves merger with its associate banks

State Bank of India (SBI) & its listed associate banks mainly State Bank of Travancore (SBT) and State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur (SBBJ) have rallied by up to 9% on the BSE after SBI approved the share swap ratios for the merger of five associate banks and BharatiyaMahila Bank with itself. SBI CFO Anshula Kant told that eight valuation experts were appointed to arrive at the share swap and that May 16, the day the merger was first announced.

Pfizer buys cancer drug firm Medivation For \$14 bn

The US-headquartered pharma major **Pfizer Inc has entered into an agreement to acquire MedivationInc**, a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing and commercializing small molecules for oncology, for a total enterprise value of approximately \$ 14 billion. Pfizer and Medivation can bring the full force of our combined research and resources to combat two of the most common cancers, as well as speed cures and make accessible breakthrough medicines to patients, redefining life with cancer.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA will launch spacecraft to bring samples from asteroid

US space agency NASA will launch a spacecraft in September to a near-Earth asteroid known as **Bennu** to harvest a sample of surface material and return it to the Earth to scan for signs of life. NASA's **OSIRIS-REx spacecraft** will measure the spectral signatures of **Bennu's mineralogical and molecular components**. Ideally, the sample will come from a region in which the building blocks of life may be found.

IBM, Apple open first global development hub in India

In a bid to **accelerate digital transformation in India**, IBM in partnership with **Apple** launched a **global development hub called Garage for iOS apps in Bengaluru** that will work with existing design locations in Atlanta, Chicago, Cupertino in the US and Toronto in Canada.

ISRO to launch two new meteorological satellites next month

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch two new meteorological satellites next month. Speaking at the valedictory function of a Science Seminar in Dharwad, ISRO Chairman A S Kiran Kumar said the launch would further improve weather forecast in the country. He said weather changes that were observed every half an hour earlier would now improve to every 15 minutes observation. This would provide good quality atmospheric profiles over Indian landmass and adjoining areas.

India's First facility to produce nickel launched by HCL in Jharkhand

Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) inaugurated the nickel, copper and acid recovery plant at Indian Copper Complex, Ghatsila (Jharkhand). This is the first facility in India to produce nickel metal of LME grade from primary resource. The Singhbhum Copper Belt has unique ore characteristics which contains appreciable quantity of nickel. Hindustan Copper has installed and commissioned the technology to recover as nickel metal.

New less addictive alternative of morphine made

Scientists claim to have developed a new drug that is less risky and addictive than morphine, but has the same painkilling power. Initial tests on mice revealed that the new compound activates nerve cell surface receptors responsible for morphine's painkilling effects. The compound is so new it doesn't have a name, just a number. It's only been tested in mice, and it needs years of additional animal studies before researchers can even start trials to see if it works safely in humans.

China launches World's 1st Quantum communication satellite

China has successfully launched the world's first quantum satellite which can provide "hack-proof" communications at speeds faster than light between space and the ground with significant military and commercial applications. The satellite will circle the Earth once every 90 minutes after it enters a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 500 kms. It is nicknamed "Micius" after Chinese philosopher and scientist who has been credited as the first one in human history conducting optical experiments.

Alibaba Group launches ‘million books’ donation drive

Online and mobile commerce major the Alibaba Group, along with Crossword and RatnaNidhi Charitable Trust, has launched ‘Mission Million Books’, a pan-India initiative inviting Indian citizens to donate textbooks and educational material for the underprivileged. The collected material will be distributed to more than 2,500 educational institutions across India.

World’s first leprosy vaccine developed in India

G.P Talwar, the founder-director of National Institute of Immunology (NII), has developed a first-of-its-kind, exclusive and indigenous leprosy vaccine in India. The vaccine, mycobacterium indicus pranii, has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) department of the US.

ISRO successfully test-fires scramjet engine

The Advanced Technology Vehicle (ATV), a sounding rocket (research rocket) with a solid booster carrying advanced scramjet engines, was successfully flight-tested from the launch pad of the SathishDhawan Space Centre, also known as Sriharikota Range (SHAR), at Sriharikota. This first experimental mission of Indian Space Research Organisation is aimed at the realisation of an Air Breathing Propulsion System which uses hydrogen as fuel and oxygen from the atmosphere air as the oxidiser.

OBITUARY

NAME	DEPT/FIELD
Chris Amon	The former Formula One driver
Ahmed Zewail	Nobel Prize-winning Egyptian-American chemist
Bernard “Midget” Farrelly	surfing’s first world championship
Hanif Mohammad	Pakistan cricket legend
S.P. SargunaPandian	Tamil nadu Politician
Na Muthukumar	Lyricist

Gurdial Singh	Punjabi writer
TA Razzaq	Malayalam screenwriter
JobaHavelange	Former FIFA president
Machli	World's most photographed tigress the longest surviving tigress,
Subrata Banerjee	a former international umpire
Donald Ainslie Henderson	American epidemiologist
K KSreedharan Nair	Mathrubhumi former editor
SR Nathan	Indian-origin former Singapore President
John Ellenby	Early laptop pioneer
Gene Wilder	America's foremost comic actors

SPORTS

WINNER	TITLE	SPORT/ VENUE
Patna Pirates	2nd Pro Kabaddi League title	Hyderabad
Australia	2016 Quidditch World Cup	fantasy sport
Lewis Hamilton	German Formula One Grand Prix	
Rafaela Silva	Brazil first Gold	In Rio Olympics
Michael Phelps	27th medal of his Olympic	Swimming
P V Sindhu	silver in women's singles badminton	At Rio Olympics 2016
Neymar	first Olympic gold	For brazil football team

Marco Asensio lob	La Liga campaign	
Man Kaur	the finish line in the 100-meter dash within a minute-and-a-half	He is 100-year-old

INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEX

Index	Indian's rank	First in the Index
Global Innovation Index	66	Switzerland
Disaster risk index	77	Bangladesh
Asia Pacific on fixed broadband	39	Hong kong
Wealthiest Countries List	7	America

IMPORTANT DAYS OBSERVED

First Sunday in August	International Friendship Day
August 6	Hiroshima Day, Anti-Nuclear Day
August 7	National handloom Day
August 8	World Senior Citizen Day
August 9	Nagasaki Day, International Day of the World's Indigenous People, Quit India Day
August 12	International Youth Day
August 13	International Left Handers Day
August 14	Pakistan's Independence Day
August 15	India's Independence Day, International Mourning Day

August 19	World Humanitarian Day, World Photography Day
August 20	National Sadbhavna Divas or Birthday of Rajiv Gandhi, World Mosquito Day, IndainAkshayUrjaDiwas or day
August 21	National Senior Citizen Day
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
August 29	National Sports Day or Dhyanchand's Birthday International day against Nuclear Tests
August 30	International day of the victims of enforced Disappearances

THANK YOU 😊 😊 😊