

Inside Highlights



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Indian Affairs

Atal Bihari Vajpayee to be honoured by Bangladesh

- For his outstanding support of India's independence from Pakistan in 1971 when he was a member of Lok Sabha, **former PM of India Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee** would be honoured by Bangladesh.
- As according to Foreign Ministry spokesmen statement, Bangladesh would hand over the "**Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War Award**" to present PM Mr Narendra Modi during his trip to Bangladesh in the coming days.

Fourth North East Youth Festival concluded in Jorhat district of Assam

- The 4th North East Youth Festival which started on 29 May, concluded at Majuli in Jorhat district of Assam on 31 May 2015. It was a three day long festival, participated by about 2100 youth delegates from eight North East States. It was organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) on behalf of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The Governor of Assam, Padmanabha Acharya was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony of the Festival and the festival was inaugurated by Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilisers, Ananth Kumar.
- The North East Youth Festival is organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport with the objective to nurture national Integrity and exchange and promotion of the rich cultural heritage of various tribes of North Eastern States.

Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa was sworn-in as the 19th Governor of Arunachal Pradesh

- A retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from 1968 batch and former Chief Secretary of Assam, Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa was sworn-in as the 19th Governor of Arunachal Pradesh after the then Governor Lt General (Retired) Nirbhay Sharma was transferred to Mizoram.
- President Pranab Mukherjee had appointed him as Governor on May 12, and he was given the oath of office by the acting Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Justice K Sreedhar Rao.
- During his service he had he served in various remote areas of the Northeast India including in Mizo Hills during the peak of the Mizo rebellion.

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister launches a BIS App

- Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan launched a BIS App to register complaints against sub-standard quality of ISI marked products and Hallmark jewellery
- He launched it during a press conference in Delhi as the government has completed one year in office. He also urged all the states to implement Food Security Act sayi.
- Paswan also launched a mobile application through which public can register complains about substandard ISI products.

IAP HealthPhone programme launched by the Union government

To address malnutrition in women and children, world's largest digital mass education programme, IAP HealthPhone programme, was launched by the Union government. Menaka Gandhi, Union Minister of Women and child development, launched this programme in New Delhi recently.

- This programme is an initiative of Indian Academy of Paediatrics IAP in partnership with UNICEF, UN
- Ministry of Women and Child Development WCD.
- This programme is supported by Vodafone India .
- Bollywood hero Aamir Khan is the brand ambassador for this programme.

India's fastest train 'Gatimaan Express' completes final test run in record time

- Gatimaan Express, India's first semi-high speed train service with supersonic caliber between Delhi and Agra, without any stoppages, completed a trial run, conducted by the maintenance department of Northern Railway in record time covering a distance of 195 kilometers, at a speed of 160 kph in 115 minutes.
- The train arrived 10 minutes late as the time estimated to cover the distance was 105 minutes. It has 5,400 HP electric locomotive and 12 modern coaches. It was the last trial run of Gatimaan Express, which will now be flagged off soon. The running schedule has also been decided, which would be 8 am from New Delhi and arrival at Agra would be at 9.45 am and the return trip will start from Agra at 5.30 pm and reach Delhi at 7.15 pm.
- The fare will be 25% more than Shatabdi express. The One-way fare of the air-conditioned chair car would be Rs 690, whereas the executive class fare would be Rs 1,365.

World Bank offers \$400 million loan for TN urban development project

- The government of India and of Tamil Nadu has inked a deal with the World Bank for a \$400 million loan for an sustainable urban development project in Tamil Nadu. \$400 million out of the total project cost of \$ 600 million would be financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), one of the arms of World Bank.
- The project's objective is to improve urban services in urban local bodies (ULBs) by improving the urban services, including water, sewerage, municipal solid waste, urban transportation, sewerage management and storm water drainage and creating of a reserve fund to provide credit to the municipal bonds and other market based loans.
- The loan agreement was signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, in the Finance Ministry.

World Bank approves \$ 250 million loan for Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project in J&K

- World Bank today has approved a \$250 million loan for Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project for reconstruction of flood-affected public infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir, will also aim to strengthen the capacity of state government to respond and better manage natural disasters in future.
- The loan which has a maturity of 25 years, including a five-year grace period, will be funded by World Bank's arm – International Development Association (IDA). The recovery project will focus on 20 districts — Anantnag, Baramula, Budgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Poonch, Rajauri and Udhampur.
- Heavy and continuous rains in September 2014 had caused Jhelum, Chenab and Tawi rivers, their tributaries and many other streams to flood, affecting the area badly.
- Onno Ruhl : World Bank, Country Director in India.

Maharashtra government for first time invokes MCOCA against ration mafia

- Maharashtra government has become the first state govt. to cite rigorous provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against five persons involved in the “ration mafia” which means pilferage of food grains meant for public distribution for illegal purposes, from Nashik.
- The five accused, identified as Sampat Namdeo Ghorpade (50), Vishwas Namdeo Ghorpade (46), Arun Namdeo Ghorpade (44), Magan Ratan Pawar (43) and Ramesh Somnath Patankar (45) – all residents of Nashik, were booked by Wadivarhe police in Igatpuri taluka, for previous cases and one was recently found involved in misappropriation of food grains in Sinnar taluka of Nashik district, where 280 sacks of rice from government godowns were sold directly to rice mills.
- Generally, underworld criminals, terrorists, slum-lords and bootleggers are booked under MCOCA but this is the first time that something as widespread as the “Ration Mafia” has been booked under this.
- Food and civil supplies minister of Maharashtra : Girish Bapat.

Northern Railway rolled out India’s first rail coach lit by solar panels

- The Delhi division of the Northern Railway on 3 June 2015 rolled out a non-AC coach lit by solar panels mounted on its roof.
- The eco-friendly solar panels will save fossil fuel as it needs reduced external charging of battery, thus reducing carbon foot print. The panels also require less maintenance in comparison to existing equipments.
- This is the first time in the history of Indian Railways, that a solar photovoltaic system has been used for power requirements of light and fan in a broad gauge coach.
- The coach, on an experimental basis, was attached to a high speed Self Propelled-Accident Relief Unit (SPART) that travelled from Delhi Cantonment to New Delhi railway station.

India loses poultry case against United States at WTO

India imposed a ban on the import of poultry **meats, egg and live pig** from USA because of concerns related to **bird flu in 2007**. This ban was imposed as a precautionary measure to prevent spread of Avian Influenza.

- **In 2012, USA filed a complaint against India at WTO.** A panel was constituted to look into the matter. The panel found that India’s measures were not based on international standards and were discriminatory.
- India went to the Dispute Settlement Board of the WTO to challenge the panel’s decision. The appellate body upheld the panel’s findings that India’s measures were inappropriate and were not based on international standards.
- India lost the case and has 12-16 months for implementation of this ruling. Now, because of this ruling, USA will be able to export their poultry products to Indian market without any trade barriers. This will help US farmers and poultry industry to supply their products to Indian broiler meat consumers which has increased to 3.72 million tonnes in 2014 from 3.45 million tonnes in 2013.

- India claimed that the panel committed legal errors in its interpretation. According to the WTO norms, affected parties are allowed to dispute panel's ruling on the points of law. However, the dispute settlement process can't re-open factual findings made by the panel.

JNPT & MMB ink MoU for Vadhawan port in Maharashtra

- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB)** have signed an MoU for the construction of green field port at Vadhawan in Thane district. The new port will have a capacity of over 60 million tonne per annum.
- The project involves an investment of Rs 6,000 crore, out of which JNPT will have 74% share while the remaining 26% will be balanced by MMB.
- This new port, whose foundation stone will be laid in December, will be used for the transportation of high quality coal in the Nashik and Bhusawal power generation plants run by the MahaGenco, among other purposes. The port development is expected to be complete in two years.
- The location is clear of fishing activities, and also has deep water depth contour of more than 20 meter which is a mere 4.5 nautical miles from the coast.
- The union minister for ports and shipping : **Nitin Gadkari**

Solar power capacity touches 4,000 MW, Rajasthan races ahead of Gujarat

- India has crossed the **4000 MW mark** in the total installed solar capacity.
- **Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu** are following closely. Some new states such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and newly formed Telangana are also joining the elite solar power generating group.
- India is likely to add 1.7 GW by the end of December, according to a study made by, a leading consultancy firm, Bridge to India – monitoring foreign investment in Indian renewable energy space. With 2.7 GW of expected capacity addition in 2015, India will likely surpass Germany and reserve a global top 5 spot for new yearly capacity addition.
- Senior Manager- Consulting at Bridge to India : **Jasmeet Khurana**
- India needs to add close to 15,000 Mw every year to meet **1 lakh MW target by 2022**.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates first Oil Spill Response Centre for Mumbai & JNPT Harbour

- Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, **Nitin Gadkarion** 5 June 2015 inaugurated the India's first of its kind Tier-I Oil Spill Response Centre (**OSRC**) for **Mumbai & JNPT Harbour** (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust). This will enable India in tackling pollution and oil spills in and around Mumbai easily.

IMA's first Jan Aushadhi medical store launched in Delhi

- Indian Medical Association's first Aushadhi medical store was inaugurated by Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Hansraj Gangaram Ahir on 5 June 2015 at IP Estate IMA's headquarter in New Delhi.
- The Minister said that about 1000 Stores of Jan Aushadhi would be opened to provide quality generic medicines at affordable rates to the entire population of the country.
- The store, which will offer over 118 commonly used drugs in their generic forms at 80-90 per cent lesser cost than its market price. The store will remain open from 9.30 am to 6.30 pm on all working

days of the week. A full-time qualified pharmacist will not only dispense drugs at the store but also counsel patients about the drug-drug and drug-food interactions and report adverse events.

India's first green police station inaugurated at New Delhi's Maurice Nagar

India's first green police station was inaugurated at Maurice Nagar in north Delhi on the occasion of world environment day.

The numerous provisions being taken by the PS for preservation and safety of the environment are:

- The green police station will have its roof coated with slaked lime for keeping it cool.
- Earthen pots will be placed on the roofs and water sprinkler system will be put in place which will reduce the overall temperature of the police station.
- All light fittings at the police station have been changed to LED lights, to reduce energy consumption. All fans installed at this police station will be of five star ratings.
- The toilets installed here are almost waterless. The PS will be furnished with bamboo furniture. 400 palm plants have been planted in the police station and its nearby surroundings to bring down carbon consumption.
- The general public will be provided recycled paper for filing their complaints.
- Visitors to the police station will also be educated about the need to preserve the environment.

Kerala to have country's first elephant hospital

- An exclusive hospital for Elephants, first of its kind in India, will be built in **Kerala**
- Dr. Jacob Cheeran, a famous veterinarian said: "The hospital will have an in-patient treatment facility for 10 elephants at a time. Besides, the state-of-the-art laboratory facilities would be there."
- The hospital with expected cost Rs.10 crore, is to be set up on a five-acre plot in the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Mannuthy.

FSSAI orders testing of GSK, ITC fast food brands

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) ordered testing of various noodles, pasta and macaroni brands manufactured by seven companies to check compliance of norms in the wake of Maggi controversy.
- The central food and safety regulator has also asked for testing of four variants of "Maggi Nutrilicious Pazzta with tastemakers".
- The seven companies whose products will be tested are Nestle India, ITC, Indo Nissin Food Ltd, GSK Consumer Helathcare, CG Foods India, Ruchi International and AA Nutrition Ltd.

Government puts in place easier norms for Companies

- To make things easier, the government has allowed private companies to accept deposits without an offer circular while government firms have been exempted from managerial remuneration limits.
- As part of its ongoing efforts to improve ease of doing business in the country, the Corporate Affairs Ministry has notified changes that further relax compliance requirements for private, government, charitable and nidhi companies.

IOC to invest Rs 15,000 crores to raise Panipat refinery capacity

By the year 2020, Indian Oil Corporation, India's largest oil firm, is planning to invest Rs 15000 crores to raise the capacity of its Panipat refinery to 34% from the current 20.2 million tonnes MT. According to an senior official of the company, only preliminary studies are on and the expansion would take five years with the investment amount of Rs 15000 crores.

- IOC has eight refineries and few weeks before started a new refinery at Paradip, Odisha.
- The total capacity is now 69.2 MT, IOC has got top slot among the refineries.
- IOC now has overtaken Reliance Industries having twin refineries at Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- Essar oil is the only other private firm having 20MT capacity per year unit at Vadinar, Gujarat.

International Indian Film Academy Awards 2015 Winners

- The 16th IIFA Awards, 2015 took place in the **Malaysian capital city of Kuala Lumpur**. This International Indian Film Academy awards is a three-day-long burlesque held every year.
- Vishal Bharadwaj's '**Haider**' was the most celebrated film of the award function, with a total of six awards.

The complete list of winners are tabled below:

- Best picture – **Queen**
- Best regional film – **Lai Bhari (Marathi)**
- Best story – **Vikas Bahl, Chaitally Parmar & Parvez Shaikh (Queen)**
- Best direction – **Rajkumar Hirani (PK)**

Finance Ministry exempts non-AC restaurants from service tax

- Finance Ministry stated that hat only air-conditioned or air-heated restaurants are required to pay service tax.
- Presently, service tax is charged on services provided by restaurants, eating-joints or messes that have the facility of air-conditioning or central air-heating in any part of the establishment at any time during the year in relation to serving of food or beverages.

MoU Between Indian Army and Punjab National Bank

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army and Punjab National Bank (PNB) on the Defence Salary Package. The signing ceremony was chaired by the Adjutant General, Lt Gen Rakesh Sharma and was attended by top dignitaries of PNB headed by Shri N K Arora, General Manager and Shri Subodh Kaushik, General Manager, Govt Business Division.

IIT Delhi ranked best engineering college in India

- IIT Delhi has been ranked as the best engineering college in India while Kolkata's Jadavpur University is ranked the best government engineering college in the country.
- The rankings are made by EDU, a niche online platform on higher education, with RAND Corporation, USA.

- The ranking has been done on the basis of college's employability, research productivity, faculty qualifications, and students' demand for education at the institution.

Cyclone ASHOBAA intensified into severe cyclonic storm

- The deep depression created over Arabian Sea is more likely to be intensified into cyclonic storm **Ashobaa**.
- This may cause rainfall over Karnataka, Konkan and Goa as well as south Gujarat during the next 24 hours.

Bhitarkanika witnessing denudation in mangrove vegetation

- Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary in **Odisha**, is witnessing an alarming denudation in large tracts of mangrove vegetation. It is a major coastal eco-system and one of the biggest estuarine crocodile habitats, The mangrove forest division has revealed that the denudation or saline blank formations have been noticed in Bhitarkanika forest block which is measured at 1700 acre.

Government to bring Ordinance to amend Negotiable Instruments Act

- The Cabinet has decided to bring in an ordinance to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, which provides for filing of cheque bounce cases in place where the cheque was issued, a move that will benefit **18 lakh people**.
- The Supreme Court had passed a judgement that if you receive a cheque from someone and the cheque gets bounced, then the jurisdiction for initiating action lies in the state where it was issued.
- 18 lakh such cases in various courts are pending. Government had brought a Bill in this regard in Parliament, but it was not passed from Rajya Sabha. So to give relief to these people government has brought this ordinance.

Pakistan Holds Legislative Assembly Elections in Gilgit-Baltistan

- Despite of objections by India, Pakistan holds legislative assembly elections in Gilgit-Baltistan.
- India reacted against the elections and said it is an attempt by Pakistan to camouflage its forcible and illegal occupation of the regions which are integral part of the country.

NCR gets bigger; Jind, Karnal and Muzaffarnagar districts added

- The sprawl of the National Capital Region (NCR) just got bigger as the nod has been given for the inclusion of Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh and the Jind and Karnal districts of Haryana as part of the conurbation.
- Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu announced the decision for including the three districts in NCR after chairing a meeting today of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) here.
- Naidu said that a committee has been appointed to look into the demands for the inclusion of more areas in NCR.
- The Union minister said that before including any area, the view of the particular state government will also have to be taken.
- Haryana Chief Minister Khattar said that with the inclusion of Jind and Karnal in NCR, 57 per cent of the state's area had become part of the entity.

Kapil Mishra to Succeed Jitender Tomar as Delhi's Law Minister

- Delhi Jal Board vice chairman Kapil Mishra will succeed Jitender Tomar as Delhi's law minister. A letter has been sent to the president in this regard.
- Mr Tomar had stepped down on Tuesday after being arrested over allegations that he had faked his law degree.
- Mr Mishra, the legislator from northeast Delhi's Karawal Nagar, was placed in the crucial Jal Board to help realise the Aam Aadmi Party's election promise of providing cheap water to Delhiites.

AMC launched "USE and GET PAID" scheme

- In a pioneering move to **exterminate open defecation**, the **Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation (AMC)**, has announced 'Use and get Paid' scheme under which people, using public toilets, will be **paid Re 1**.
- The civic amenities body has turned around its 'Pay and Use' public toilets scheme to 'Use and get Paid' in its proffer to keep the city clean and control the peril of open defecation. This scheme was cleared by Standing Committee of the AMC.

Bold operation by Indian Army in Myanmar

- Indian Army on 9 June carried out a bold cross-border operation into Myanmar, to avenge the killing of **18 soldiers** in **Manipur** last week. The operation which was in the knowledge of Myanmar authorities, was carried out by **70 commandos** of Indian Army who killed **38 insurgents** in 40mins.
- On June 4, insurgents killed 18 soldiers in an ambush in Chandel area of Manipur. The clearance of this operation was obtained from PM Narendra Modi, soon after he returned from Bangladesh.

India's first indigenous aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant undocked at Cochin

At the **Cochin Shipyard Limited CSL**, India's first home made **aircraft carrier INS Vikrant** was undocked successfully. A series of fitment and trial processes combined with series of static and dynamic trials will be made on the aircraft before it is inducted to Indian navy in 2018 end.

- India joins other countries like Russia, USA, UK, France in designing and construction of aircraft carriers now with the successful completion in constructing **40,000 tonne aircraft carrier INS Vikrant**.
- In August 2013, the carrier was launched and was left its dry dock in 2011 December.
- Cochin Shipyard Limited CSL CMD Mr Karthik Subramaniam and other officials were present when undocking took place.

India to attend Donors' Conference in Nepal

- A high level ministerial delegation will go to Kathmandu on June 25 to attend Donors' Conference.
- The conference has set up a \$2-billion fund for reconstruction and rebuilding of the earthquake hit Nepal. The preliminary estimates indicating that the costs could be five times higher.

Tamil Nadu and Adani Power Ltd signed PPA to set up 200 MW solar power plant in Ramanathapuram

- Tamil Nadu Government and Adani Power Ltd signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to set up a 200 MW solar power plant in Ramanathapuram district.
- The plant will be constructed with an investment of nearly 1400 crore rupees.

BHEL commissions Shrinagar hydroelectric project in Uttarakhand

- State-owned power equipment maker Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) today said it has commissioned a 82.5 megawatt unit at the Shrinagar Hydro Electric Project in Uttarakhand.

India looking to expand industrial presence in SE Asia: NSIC

- **National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC)** is looking at areas of mutual cooperation between Indian and Singaporean enterprises to expand India's industrial presence in South East Asia.
- NSIC chairman and managing director **Ravindra Nath** said "We would like to see if there are areas of mutual cooperation whereby Indian and Singaporean enterprises can have relationships. We would like to build that type of relationships."
- NSIC wants to see collaboration between companies of Singapore and India involving training, sharing of knowledge, expertise and machinery as per requirements.

Union Government launched Migrant Resources Centre in Chennai

- Recently, the **Union Ministry of Indian Overseas Affairs MOIA** in combination with **Tamil Nadu Government** launched the **Migrant Resource Centre MRC in Chennai**. In India already there are three such MRC's and with the recent one in Chennai it totals to four now in India.
- The first MRC was founded in **Kochi, Kerala** in the year 2008 by MOIA. It was followed by MRC's at **Hyderabad** (Telengana,Andhra Pradesh) , **Gurgaon** (Haryana) and now in chennai.

Govt sets up Rs 1500 cr nuclear insurance pool

- The government has set up an insurance pool of **Rs 1,500 crore** which is mandatory to offset financial burden of foreign nuclear suppliers, under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLND).
- This announcement was made by **Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy, Jitendra Singh**
- The nuclear insurance pool was formed because of the Clauses in the CLND Act, which give the operator the Right to Recourse and allow it to sue the suppliers in case of any accident were seen as being a major hindrance to the growth of the nuclear industry.

Second border haat opens in Sipahijala district of Tripura

- The second border haat (rural market) was opened for common people at Kamalasagar in Sipahijala district of Tripura bordering Brahmanbaria district of Bangladesh.
- The haat was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina by video-conferencing from Dhaka on June 6, 2015. This market is set up at the zero

line of the international border with one part on the Indian side and the other in Bangladesh.

Union Government scraps import duties on AIDS drugs and test kits

- Union Government has scrapped customs import duties for drugs and test kits used to treat Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).
- In this regard Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has issued a notice that will remain in effect till March 2016. This decision will help to cut prices of AIDS drugs across the country and thus help directly in Government's national program to fight the disease.
- It will also make import raw materials that are used to make antiretrovirals under the national program cheaper. This tax exemption will be applicable to certain first-line and second-line antiretroviral drugs which are used to treat adults and children.
- Apart from drugs certain diagnostic kits and equipment are also exempted from tax. In India more than 2.1 million HIV/AIDS patients are provided with daily antiretrovirals for free from state-run distribution centres which are operated by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).

Haryana village launches 'Selfie with daughter' contest

- In a unique initiative to save girl child in Haryana, where the sex ratio has been dismally low, a village panchayat in Jind has started a contest for clicking "selfie with daughter."
- Bibipur village panchayat has launched the contest in which parents from across the state have to take selfies with their daughters and send it to village Sarpanch Sunil Jaglan through social messaging app Whatsapp.
- The best three selfies would be awarded with trophies, certificates and cash prize, the village panchayat declared.

AP launches 'Mee Bhoomi' digital depository of land records

Chandrababu Naidu led, Andhra Pradesh govt. has launched "Mee Bhoomi" portal- a digital repository of land records in the state. This portal is available across all platforms. For mobile and tablets, there is an app available at the android play store. The portal can be reached at : (<http://meebhoomi.ap.gov.in/>)

Coal India now sixth- largest mining company in world

- **Coal India Limited** has become world's **sixth largest** mining company in terms of market capital according to recent PwC report.
- Earlier, CIL was at 8th spot among top 40 global mining firms.
- Another government company, **National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd** is at **21st spot** in the list. NMDC is the country's top iron ore miner.

Govt Plans 'Good Samaritan' Guidelines

- The central government has issued a set of enforceable instructions to protect citizens who help road accident victims.
- These guidelines will protect such "good Samaritans" from procedural and legal harassment if they help such victims, with suitable compensation provisions for the help rendered.
- These steps follow a Supreme Court (SC) directive.
- These new guidelines make the disclosure of any personal information voluntary and optional in hospitals on the filling of medico-legal forms.
- Guidelines forbidding all registered public and private hospitals from demanding payment for registration and admission costs of a road collision or accident victim from such samaritans will also be issued soon.

Digital Launch of Employment Exchange for Industries

- The Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, **Shri Kalraj Mishra**, digitally launched the Employment Exchange for Industries today.
- The Minister stated that the digital employment exchange is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of Digital India wherein through this employment exchange for industries, job seekers can find employers and vice versa.
- The Minister mentioned that industrialists have raised concerns of lack of skilled workforce not only for them but also for their suppliers, which are usually MSME units. Large units who are dependent on MSMEs as suppliers need high quality output, which in the absence of skilled manpower results in non-competitiveness of MSMEs and Indian industry as a whole.
- In our country there has been momentum to reap the demographic dividend. But unless, these skilled hands find the appropriate jobs and the appropriate employer, it will lead to frustration and skepticism to the entire skilling program of this country. Therefore, it is utmost important that these skilled hand get a platform where they can find livelihoods for themselves. Thus, this facility will enable industrial units find suitable manpower and job seekers find suitable jobs.

Assam govt to introduce Right to Health Services

- Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi today said the state government has decided to introduce Right to Health Services to offer free health care to poor people.
- "The Right to Health Services, which the government is contemplating to bring in, will ensure basic health care to everybody,"
- Providing affordable, accessible, accountable and quality health care services to all sections of the people has been a long cherished commitment.

SC cancels All India Pre-Medical Test

- Supreme Court has cancelled the AIPMT 2015 and has given an order to conduct the exam within four weeks.
- SC directed CBSE to hold re-examination in view of large-scale cheating in the test with students getting answers in the examination hall at many places.

States to call the shots in Smart City, AMRUT: Centre

- Minister for Urban Development Venkaiah Naidu said, "Under Smart Cities and AMRUT, more power will be given to states to prioritise what they need and this will be done taking MPs from the states in to confidence."
- Ministry sources said that disbursement of funds would be linked to a set of 11 reforms undertaken by the states, as against 23 reforms that were outlined in the UPA's flagship scheme.
- These reforms would be related to governance, citizens' services, wider digitisation and the government's Swachh Bharat initiative along with few of the existing reforms mandated in JNNURM.
- Unlike JNNURM, which was project-based, the new missions will be programme-based. The states are only expected to forward their proposals and rough cost estimates. Everything from there on, from preparing and sanctioning Detailed Project Report, estimates, the kind of technology to be used and tender conditions, will be done with the states in the driving seat.

Govt to sell 3 pc stake in BPCL to raise Rs 1,800 cr

- The government is planning to sell **3%** stake in **Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.** This selling of stake of **India's second largest state oil firm** is expected to raise funds around **1800cr.**
- The government holds **54.93 per cent** stake in BPCL.
- BPCL has refineries at Mumbai and Kochi. It also has a unit at Bina in Madhya Pradesh.

Centre approves WB anti-chit fund bill

- The central government has approved an anti-chit fund bill passed by West Bengal Assembly in 2013. The Centre has also agreed to the state government's proposal of having provisions for strong punishment in such financial crimes. Offenders may get punishment along with the fines.

Jaguar aircraft crashes near Allahabad, pilots eject safely

- Indian Air Force's Jaguar fighter aircraft crashed during a training run in Chaka area of Allahabad. This is the second such crash this year. Both the pilots ejected safely.

NDDB signs MoU with DD Kisan for farm content

- The **National Dairy Development Board** and **DD Kisan** signed a MoU to create meaningful content for the dairy and farm sector.
- The MoU is signed for spreading technical know-hows to the farmers, improve their livelihood and income by enhancing their knowledge and information on various technical issues related to farming in broader sense.

Adani Group in pact for 10K MW solar power park with Rajasthan Gov

- Adani Group signed an agreement with Rajasthan government to set up a joint venture solar power park of **10,000 MW.**
- The park will include generation projects and a large manufacturing unit for solar module, parts and equipments.
- This project will be India's largest solar park and will also contain manufacturing facilities to be set up under the country's ambitious Make In India initiative.

Union Government launches augmented reality application 'Sakaar'

- Union government launched an Augmented Reality (AR) **application** named '**Sakaar**' to highlight the achievements of the Department of Space during one year in office of the present Government.
- **Augmented Reality** is a live direct view of a physical, real-world environment whose elements are augmented (or supplemented) by computer-generated 3D models, animations, videos etc. The technology enhances user's current perception of reality.

Sushma Swaraj flags off Kailash Mansarovar yatra through new route

- Sushma Swaraj flagged off the first batch of pilgrims for **Kailash Mansarovar yatra** through a new route via **Nathu La pass**, which was announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit last September.
- This new route will facilitate more comfortable travel for the Indian pilgrims, especially for the elderly, by buses compared to the existing way via **Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand**.

Beno Zephine became first 100% blind officer in IFS

Beno Zephine, 25 years old from **chennai** has become the first 100% visually -challenged person to be inducted into the IFS

- A postgraduate in English, Beno had cleared her exams last year securing **343rd rank** but according to IFS parameters, 100 per cent blind people were not considered for the job. She was informed by external affairs ministry on Friday that she has earned the entry to the 69-year-old service. Beno is one of more than 100 candidates from Tamil Nadu who made it to the civil services this year.
- Beno cleared her exams while working as a **probationary officer with the State Bank of India** and pursuing her PhD in English. It was a tough few years of work, but Beno, 24, enjoyed it and has secured an all-India rank of 343 in the UPSC exams. "Preparing for the civil services made it easy for me to clear other competitive exams," she said.
- Instead of Braille books, Beno used Job Access With Speech (JAWS), a software that allows visually challenged to read from a computer screen, to scan Tamil and English books. She got a few books Brailled, but much of her preparation was done with the help of her father and friends.

BSNL to set up 40,000 WiFi hot spots across India

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) will set up 40,000 Wi-Fi hotspots across the country over the next three years through the public-private-partnership mode.
- The tender for the project is likely to be floated by early July and about Rs. 6,000 crore will be required to complete the project. "The project is likely to be completed by 2018," Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters.
- However, Wi-Fi services will be free only for the first 30 minutes. Later, one can purchase coupons from stalls nearby. After 30 minutes, a customer can continue using the service on paid basis for which subscription plans are available in the denomination of Rs. 20, Rs. 30, Rs. 50 and Rs. 70 for validity of 30 minutes, 60 minutes, 120 minutes and one day, respectively.
- Once expansions happen, not only tourists, but locals too would utilise services for doing business and attracting more tourists.

Centre to come up with agriculture income insurance scheme

- The Centre will soon come up with an overhauled version of agriculture insurance scheme, which would be termed 'Agriculture Income Insurance Scheme' to ensure minimum income to farmers in case of crop loss.
- The government would soon shell out a considerable fund for Rs 50,000 per hectare under newly floated "Traditional Agriculture Development Scheme."
- The Central government would also provide fund for soil health management to all states, Singh added.
- Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan suggested formation of a corpus known as

“Kisan Kalyan Kosh’ (Farmers Welfare Fund) in case the Centre delayed on the proposed alternative crop insurance scheme.” Each year, the state government shells out Rs 2,000-3,000 crore to mitigate losses under crop loss scheme or otherwise,” Chouhan said, adding, “the Centre and the state government would contribute to this fund.”

- Chouhan stressed that the scheme must be based on revenue-model instead of yield-based model. “To provide almost 100% cover to the farmers, we need to adopt revenue-based model of agriculture income insurance scheme, if launched,”

Cabinet approves ‘Housing For All by 2022’ scheme

- Cabinet approved the ‘Housing for All by 2022’ programme for slum rehabilitation in urban areas. Cabinet also approved a substantial increase in interest relief on loan for the urban poor to promote affordable homes.
- The cabinet also accepted to increase interest subvention to 6.50 per cent on housing loans to beneficiaries belonging to economic weaker section (EWS) including slum- dwellers and low income groups (LIGs).

World Bank funded sanitation project launched in Punjab

- World Bank funded sanitation project worth Rs 2,200 crore is launched by Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal.
- The aim of this project is to improve the water and sanitation services in the state.
- CM said the focus of the new project is to provide a toilet and water connection in all the households within next three years (2015-2018).

Northern Command celebrates 44th Raising day in Udhampur

- The Northern Command of Indian Army celebrated its 44th Raising Day today in Udhampur.
- Northern Command is popularly known as “Dhruva Command” and its chief is its chief Lt Gen DS Hooda.
- At a solemn ceremony at Udhampur-based Dhruva War Memorial, Lt Gen Hooda, paid homage to the martyrs
- who have sacrificed their lives in the service of the nation.

V IT Park gets platinum rating

- The V IT Park by Ascendas located within HITEC City, Hyderabad has been awarded platinum rating by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- The platinum rating has been given on achieving all prerequisites under five environmental categories namely site and facility management, water efficiency, energy efficiency, health & comfort and innovation.

Govt. plans 20 million houses for urban poor

- The Union Cabinet approved on Wednesday the launch of the “Housing for All by 2022” programme for the rehabilitation of slum-dwellers and promotion of affordable housing for the urban poor. The target is to provide nearly 20 million houses over seven years.
- The programme is a key promise in the Bharatiya Janata Party’s manifesto for the Lok Sabha

election in 2014 — a “pucca” house for every family by the 75th year of Independence.

- An average Rs. 1 lakh would be available for a house under the slum rehabilitation programme. But the State governments could exercise flexibility in spending the grant for any slum rehabilitation project using land as a resource for providing houses to slum-dwellers.
- Under the credit-linked interest subsidy component, an interest subsidy of 6.5 per cent on housing loans availed up to a tenure of 15 years will be provided to economically weaker sections/lower income group (EWS/LIG) categories.
- The proposal cleared by the Cabinet only dealt with urban areas and the rural component would be introduced later.
- The scheme would cover all urban areas consisting of 4,041 statutory towns with initial focus on 500 Class I cities. The programme would be implemented in three phases: Phase I (April 2015 to March 2017) to cover 100 cities to be selected from willing States and Union Territories; Phase IIA (April 2017 to March 2019) to cover additional 200 cities; and Phase III (April 2019 to March 2022) to cover the remaining cities.

Govt order seeks to reduce number of Antyodaya beneficiaries

- At a time when the Centre is pressing states to quickly adopt the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the Public Distribution System (PDS) control order 2015 seeks to slowly reduce the number of people who would get additional benefits for being the poorest of the poor.
- The order states that no new beneficiaries would be added to the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) to replace those who become ineligible due to either migration or improvement in their status or death.
- The order also states that census data of 2011 will be used till 2022-23 by the Centre for allocation of foodgrain under the Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS) and no new beneficiaries could be added on to list based on four-year old data. The state would have to bear the cost of additional population added to the beneficiary list.

Cabinet revises solar power target to 1 lakh Mw by 2022

- The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the revised target of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) to generate 100,000 Mw by 2022 — five times the previous target.
- The target will comprise 40 Gw power generated through rooftop units and 60 Gw through large and medium scale grid connected solar power projects.
- The total investment in setting up projects with capacity of 100 Gw will be around Rs 6 lakh crore.
- In the first phase, the Centre will provide Rs 15,050 crore as capital subsidy to realise solar power capacity addition. This subsidy will be provided for rooftop solar projects in various cities and towns, for viability gap funding (VGF)-based projects to be developed through the Solar Energy Corporation of India and for decentralised generation through small solar projects.

Election Commission suspends recognition of PA Sangma-led National People’s Party

- The Election Commission has suspended recognition of the P A Sangma-led National People’s Party (NPP) , a recognised state party in Meghalaya for its failure to file the election expenditure statement for last year’s Lok Sabha elections.
- Since the elections to the Lok Sabha and elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim, were completed on 28th May last year, the political parties were required to submit their election expenditure statements by 26th of August 2014.
- The Commission had issued two reminders to the NPP to submit the required statement after the

due date had long expired.

India third in global doping report for 2013 by WADA

- India has been ranked 3rd in a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report for 2013. Russia and Turkey are ahead of India in this list.
- Russia has maximum number of dope offenders with 212 testing positive for using banned substances. The figures for Turkey and India were 155 and 91 respectively.
- The report compiled by the WADA based mainly on the information received from National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs). The comprehensive report, which dealt with testing of 207513 samples, covered 115 nationalities and 89 sports.

Gujarat to introduce compulsory voting in local body polls: CM

- Gujarat is all set to introduce compulsory voting in the upcoming local bodies elections, which are likely to be held in October.
- Chief Minister Anandiben Patel said, "We are in the process of notifying rules for compulsory voting bill. It will be implemented in Gujarat in corporation and the district Panchayat elections."

Visa requirements for diplomatic passports holders between India, Spain to be abolished

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of an agreement on the abolition of visa requirement for diplomatic passports holders between India and Spain.
- The agreement will ease visa-free travel for diplomatic passport holders of one country while entering into, transiting through, exiting from or staying for up to 90 days in the territory of the other country with additional safeguards.

Diplomatic passport

- It is a type of passport issued to diplomats of a country and their accompanying dependants for official international travel and residence.

ASCI launches mobile app to curb misleading advertisements

- Advertising Standard Council of India (ASCI) launched its consumer complaint mobile application – ASCIonline, to provide consumer complaint services on a mobile app besides providing the facility online.
- The mobile app is currently available on android and iOS platforms.

Union Agriculture Minister Launched Nowcast and Insurance Web-Portals For Farmers

- Union Government has launched NOWCAST weather alert system and Crop Insurance web portal for the benefit of farmers. The new initiatives were launched by Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh at a function held in New Delhi.
- The Mission Mode Project in Agriculture under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP-A) aims to achieve rapid development of agriculture in India through the use of ICT by ensuring timely access to agriculture related information for the farmers of the country.
- NOWCAST weather alert system will provide free SMS service alerts on extreme weather conditions over their mobiles.

- The free SMS alerts will be sent in Hindi, English and regional languages as per farmers' request. It will be issued to farmers whose mobile phones are already registered on the government's mKisan portal.
- NOWCAST service will be taken from India Meteorological Department's (IMD's) 146 weather stations. Apart from these stations, 17 doppler radars of IMD will also provide information in this SMS service.
- A new web-based Portal (www.farmer.gov.in/insurance) will be used to create awareness and encourage farmers to insure their crops by 4 scheme.

Modified National Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).
 National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS).
 Weather based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS).
 Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS).

Tighter Norms for NGOs to Track Foreign Funds

- Non-governmental organisations will soon have to start furnishing details of foreign funds received and utilised by them for 'civil rights advocacy'.
- 'Civil rights advocacy' is a new category created by the home ministry to ascertain whether NGOs are using funds specifically for issues such as human rights, democratic rights, natural resources and religious discrimination.
- In addition to this, every NGO in the country will have to put out details on its website within a week of getting foreign contribution of any value while banks will have to report all such receipts to the government within 48 hours of the transfer from abroad.
- The ministry has created yet another category, 'Research', under which NGOs will have to specify spending of foreign funds on research, seminars, conferences, publications and lectures.
- NGOs will have to also submit details of any social media account on Facebook or Twitter that it is operating, an apparent effort to keep tabs on social media campaigns.

India Shares Saarc Satellite Concept with Regional Nations

- Stepping up efforts to launch a dedicated satellite for the region, India has shared a concept note for a SAARC orbiter.
- This orbiter is being proposed to bring telemedicine, emergency communication and even television services to cooperation partners.
- India is proposing that the satellite be controlled from ISRO facilities at Hassan or Bhopal and be managed by an inter-governmental space cooperation consortium.
- Major roles of the SAARC satellite would include providing tele medicine links within member nations as well as setting up of e-classrooms for skill development.
- Among the other tasks planned are enabling emergency communication for disaster situations and enabling inter-governmental networks.

Mumbai continues to be India's most expensive city

- Mumbai, the financial capital of the country, held its position as the most expensive city in India and is ranked above Dallas, Frankfurt and Vancouver.
- India's most expensive city, Mumbai (at 74th place), climbed 66 places in the ranking due to its rapid economic growth, inflation and services basket and a stable currency against the U.S. dollar.
- New Delhi (132) and Chennai (157), Bengaluru (183) and Kolkata (193).

- Mumbai is ranked higher and more expensive than cities like Dallas (77), Munich (87), Luxembourg (94), Frankfurt (98) and Vancouver (119).
- Luanda, the capital of Angola, has been rated the world's costliest city to live in, for third consecutive year, as per Global HR firm Mercer's "Cost of Living Survey 2015".
- Hong Kong (2), Zurich (3), Singapore (4) and Geneva (5) top the list of most expensive cities for expatriates, while Bishkek (207), Windhoek (206) and Karachi (205) are considered world's least expensive cities for expatriates.

India offers Tanzania expertise in natural gas sector

- India on Friday offered its expertise to Tanzania in development of its potentially rich natural gas sector and decided to extend e-tourist visa to people of the African nation even as the two countries signed eight MoUs to expand engagements in diverse areas.
- During extensive talks Prime Minister Narendra Modi had with Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, both the countries also decided to establish a Joint Working Group to strengthen cooperation in counter terrorism.
- The MoUs signed included a loan agreement between Exim Bank and Tanzanian government on a line of credit for \$ 268.35 million for extension of a pipeline project and cooperation in the field of hydrology, tourism and agriculture. India is the largest trading partner of Tanzania in Africa with bilateral trade in 2013-14 being more than \$4 billion.

Haryana launches Village Mentoring Project to uplift villagers

- The government of Haryana has launched a **Village Mentoring Project (VMP)** to improve healthcare and education of the villagers with a special emphasis on girl child.
- The aim of this project is to create awareness among the villagers about various issues including educating girl child, health, financial matters etc,
- Deputy Commissioner of Panchkula Vivek Atray launched the project from Rajjipur village of Panchkula district in association with **Indian School of Business (ISB)**.

Union Ministry of Finance released Draft Outline of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- The Union Ministry of Finance released draft outline of sovereign gold bond scheme which is aimed at reducing demand for gold and control trade deficit.
- The sovereign gold bond scheme would help in shifting part of the estimated 300 tonnes of physical bars and coins purchased every year for investment into 'demat' gold bonds.

India's 1st A/C DEMU train launched in Kochi

- India's first diesel electric multiple unit (DEMU) train service with an air-conditioned coach is launched in Kochi.
- Railway minister Suresh Prabhu on Sunday flagged off the Angamaly-Ernakulam-Tripunithura-Piravom train service.
- Railways is planning to introduce more number of Air Conditioned DEMU trains.

State government initiative to make Arunachal organic state

The state government of Arunachal Pradesh has decided to launch “**State Soil Health Mission**” to make it **100% organic state**.

About the Program

- Proper documentation of soil health and preparation of soil map.
- Distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers so that they are guided for scientific nutrient managements.
- To check overuse or no use of fertilizers and its adverse effect and help in increase of crop production through its sustainable soil management.

India slips to 61 place on Swiss money list; Pak 73rd

- India has slipped to 61st spot in terms of foreigner’s money in Swiss Banks. It now accounts for a 0.123 per cent of the total global wealth worth USD 1.6 trillion in Switzerland’s banking system.
- UK and US are in the top two positions in the list while Pakistan is at 73rd place.

First translated version of Hindu scripture Bhagavad Gita released in China

The sacred ancient **Indian Scripture Bhagavad Gita** translated in Chinese language was released in China. It is the first time a well known Hindu ancient religious text got published in the country of China. During an international yoga conference, this book was released by the Indian Ambassador to China Ashok K Kantha.

- Shanghai’s Zhejiang University Professors Wang Zhu Cheng and Ling Hai translated the book in Chinese language.
- The book was published by Sichuan People’s Publications.
- Nagaraj Naidu, who worked as consulate general at the Indian Consultate in Guangzhou city of China, had written foreword for the book.
- Some India’s ancient like Buddhist Scriptures introduced to China by famous Chinese traveller Huen Tsang in 7th century are well known.
- In 2014, an encyclopaedia on close cultural relations between India and China was published by the scholars of both India and China that exhibited the 2000 year old history.
- 21 famous yoga teachers provided training to about 700 enthusiasts all over the world under the first India-China (chengdu) International Yoga Festival.

Jharkhand Government bans sale of thermocol plates

- Chief Minister of Jharkhand Raghuvar Das today imposed a ban on the sale of thermocol plates with the move aimed at the promotion of leaf plates in the state.
- This will help in generating employment for the poor and tribal who are engaged in making leaf plates.

Punjab celebrates 350th years of foundation of Sri Anandpur Sahib

- Punjab is celebrating the 350th years of foundation of **Sri Anandpur Sahib** which was founded by the Ninth Guru Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji in 1665.

- This city is the birth place of Khalsa. To mark the occasion whole town has been painted white.

UPSC allows scribes for visually challenged

- In news that will bring cheer to **visually challenged** and those with **locomotor disability** and **cerebral palsy**, UPSC has decided to allow them to use scribes to help them write Civil Services and Indian forest service examination.
- UPSC, the constitutional body has released a notification detailing this progressive step to provide **equal opportunities** for the disabled.
- The notification says that the Blind candidates and candidates with locomotor disability and cerebral palsy where dominant (writing) extremity is affected to the extent of slowing the performance of function (**minimum of 40% impairment**) will be allowed to write the examination with the help of a scribe in both the civil services (preliminary) as well as in the civil services (main) examination.

India sets two Guinness world records on International Yoga Day

- The first ever International Yoga Day celebration in New Delhi broke two world records.
- The event at Rajpath broke the record for the **largest number of participants** with **35,985** people.
- The second record was the **largest number of nationalities**, **84** in number, in a yoga event.

De-addiction cum rehabilitation centres to come up in Punjab

- The Central government will start **26 de-addiction cum rehabilitation centres** across Punjab to **curb** the menace of **drug abuse**.
- The first type such centre will start from Hoshiarpur on **June 26** on the occasion of **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**.
- The people of Punjab especially youths have fallen in the trap of drug abuse and this initiative is to bring them back to mainstream.

FSSAI orders recall of four protein supplements

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has ordered recall of four protein supplements — Mulmin Pro, Mulmin Syrup, Mulmin Plus Capsule and Mulmin Drops with immediate effect.
- This decision has been taken on the basis of recommendations made by the scientific panel for functional foods, nutraceuticals, dietic products and other similar products.

Rajasthan topped the list of States commissioning grid connected Solar Power projects

- Rajasthan topped the list of states commissioning grid connected solar power projects in the country with an installed capacity of 1147 megawatt. The list was released by the Union ministry of New and Renewable Energy on 4 June 2015.

Top 5 states commissioning grid connected Solar Power Projects

1. Rajasthan – 1147 Megawatt

2. Gujarat – 1000 Megawatt
3. Madhya Pradesh – 563.58 Megawatt
4. Maharashtra – 363.7 Megawatt
5. Andhra Pradesh – 248.4 Megawatt

Kerala declares June 22 as 'Snake Bird Day'

- Kerala government has declared **June 22** as the '**Snake Bird Day**' as part of a campaign to protect the endangered species.
- Snake bird is a large slender long-necked water bird and is mostly black with silver wing markings

Maharashtra declares Blue Mormon as state butterfly

Blue Mormon whose scientific name is *Papilio polymnestor* has been declared as the 'State butterfly' by the Maharashtra government. It is the only state in India to have a 'state butterfly'.

About Blue Mormon:

- It is a large, swallowtail butterfly found primarily in Sri Lanka and India, mainly restricted to the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, South India and coastal belts. It may occasionally be spotted in the Maharashtra mainland between Vidarbha and Western Maharashtra. It is a beautiful species having exquisite velvet-like black wings with bright blue spots
- It is the second largest butterfly found in India, after the 'southern birdwing' which is endemic to peninsular India. The government has decided to name it as state butterfly to bring awareness about this much neglected species of butterfly.

EPFO makes Universal Account Number mandatory for employers

- The Retirement fund body, **Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has notified an order to make the **Universal Account Number (UAN)** mandatory for all employers covered under the **Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952**.
- The UAN remains portable throughout the lifetime of an employee and he or she does not have to apply for provident fund transfer claims while changing jobs. It is even more beneficial for workers in the construction sector, who often change their contractor after short spans of time, finish contracts and take up new jobs.
- The deadline for completing the formalities is August 25 after which action can be taken against those failing to comply with the order.

Maharashtra tops in Patent filing in India: CGPDTM Report

The Controller-General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM) have recently released its annual report. CGPDTM works under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Controller General supervises the working of the Patents Act, 1970, the Designs Act, 2000 and the Trade Marks Act, 1999 and also renders advice to the Government on matters relating to these subjects. It also administers the Geographical Indications Registry.

The report contains interesting statistics about filing of patents in India:

- Among states, Maharashtra (2,892) filed the most patents during the year 2013-14. The other top 5 states in the number of patents filed are: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh.

- Interestingly, Karnataka (1639) has seen 40% increase in the number of patents filed by it, overtaking Tamil Nadu from behind. This is being attributed to the growth of global R&D centres being set up in the state
- Among cities, Bangalore tops the list, again because of the presence of top class IT industry which is focussing on R&D
- The top companies who contributed the most from Bangalore: Samsung R&D Institute (84 patents), Infosys (83 patents), Wipro Ltd (59 patents) and Samsung India Software Operations Pvt. Ltd (66 patents)
- Among institutions: Indian Institute of Science (IISc) (32 patents), Siddaganga Institute of Technology (24 patents), Tumakuru and Indian Space Research Organisation (12 patents)

With global manufacturing companies like Huawei, which is planning to invest \$170 million in an R&D campus, and similar plans by Xiaomi and Twitter, the number of Patents filing will grow exponentially in the coming years.

Lucknow zoo renamed after last Nawab Wajid Ali Shah

- The Prince of Wales Zoological Gardens, popularly known as Lucknow Zoological Gardens, was established in the year 1921 to commemorate the visit of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales to Lucknow. The idea of establishing Zoological gardens at Lucknow emanated from Sir Harcourt Butler, the then Governor of the State
- Now Uttar Pradesh Government renamed the Lucknow Prani Udyan, popularly known as Lucknow zoo, as Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Prani Udyan, Lucknow.
- Shah was the last Nawab of Oudh under whom the province was annexed by the British under the policy of Doctrine of Lapse in 1856.
- Besides, the state government also renamed Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary of Unnao district as Shaheed Chandra Shekhar Azad Pakshi Vihar, Nawabganj.
- The sanctuary was named after revolutionary freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad because of Azad's parental ties with Unnao district.

Bhuvan Ganga Mobile Application launched to aid National Mission for Clean Ganga

- To aid National Mission for Clean Ganga, the Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti launched Bhuvan Ganga mobile application and a web portal.
- Bhuvan Ganga portal is an exclusive Web portal deployed in Isro Bhuvan's geoportal with all geospatial layers related to river Ganga.
- The app will allow people to upload pictures of pollution sources of river Ganga for further action by the concerned authorities.
- The application and web portal was launched after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Mission for Clean Ganga and the National Remote Sensing Centre (ISRO).

Cabinet Approves Jayaprakash Narayan Memorial In Bihar

- The Union Cabinet on June 24, 2015 approved a JayPrakash Narayan or JP National Memorial at his birth place Lala Ka Tola, Sitab Diara, district Chhapra in Bihar.

- The memorial will house a virtual museum and an institute to undertake study and research on democracy .It will also house the Lok Nayak Khadi Gaurav Samvardhan Kendra for making national flags by women clusters.
- He was an Indian independence activist, social reformer and political leader in mid 1970s.
- In 1965, he was awarded with Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service and in 1999 he was awarded Bharat Ratna (Posthumus) for Public Affairs. Bharat Ratna is the highest Civilian award given by Indian Government.

Rishikesh to host Yoga Maha Kumbh next year

- Rishikesh is seen as the “unofficial yoga capital of the world”, where people from around the world come to the holy place to learn Yoga and practice it among pristine mountains.
- Now Uttarakhand has decided to make its status official by hosting the first Yoga Maha Kumbh in Rishikesh next year. The Chief Minister Harish Rawat has decided to make it mandatory for star hotels to have yoga in their packages.
- Among other decisions, Fourteen places, including Haridwar and Rishikesh, would be developed by the Tourism Department as yoga centres. In these ‘zones’, the government will start a pilot project on yoga and wellness in 150 government schools by July-end.
- Sixty-eight Ayurvedic hospitals would start offering daily yoga workouts within 15 days. In 25 important tourist destinations, parks would be developed within a week with ‘yoga corners’ for the people to practise yoga.
- These moves will help further cement Rishikesh’s place as the destination for Yoga enthusiasts and will bring more tourism for Uttarakhand.

BHEL Commissions 250 MW Unit of NTPC’s Bongaigaon Power Plant

- State-run equipment maker BHEL today said that it has commissioned a 250 MW unit of NTPC’s Bongaigaon thermal power plant in Kokrajhar district in Assam.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has achieved one more milestone by successfully commissioning a 250 MW coal-based thermal plant in Assam. The unit has been commissioned at the upcoming Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (TPS) in Assam.

India among top 10 FDI recipients

- In a statistic, that will bring cheer to the Modi government which is trying to kick start the investment cycle in the country, India after many years broke in to the top 10 FDI destinations of the world in 2014, according to UNCTAD in its World Investment Report 2015.
- The last time India came in the top 10 list was in 2008. India ranked 9th in 2014, with FDI inflows of \$34 billion, a 22 per cent rise. India was at the 15th position in the previous two years.

Govt. nod for revised cost estimate of freight corridor

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the revised cost estimate of Rs. 81,459 crore for the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project. The Cabinet had in February 2008 approved the construction of the freight corridor.

- The revised estimate includes Rs. 73,392 crore of construction costs and Rs. 8,067 crore of acquisition costs.
- This cost does not include the cost of the 534 km Sonnagar-Dankuni section (in Eastern DFC), which is to be implemented through a Public Private Partnership (PPP).

PM launches smart cities, AMRUT, housing for all by 2022 schemes

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **Smart Cities, AMRUT and Housing for All By 2022** in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- He said, "The country will now look to public private partnership model and innovative ways of financing to make these schemes successful".

The funds allocated for these schemes are:

- Smart Cities – Rs 48000 crore
- AMRUT – Rs 50000 crore
- Housing for All by 2022 – Rs 14000 crore

Union Cabinet approved setting up of six Indian Institutes of Management (IIM)

- The Union Cabinet on 24 June 2015 approved setting up of six new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in the country. The cabinet meet was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- These new IIMs will be located at Amritsar (Punjab), Bodh Gaya (Bihar), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Sambalpur (Odisha), Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh) and Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
- These IIMs are intended to commence their first academic session from 2015-16. Each Institute will start with an intake of 140 students in the Post Graduate Programme (PGP) courses.

I-T refunds will soon be redited into your accounts

- The Income Tax department has decided to begin a process that will see the refund due to an individual directly transferred to a bank account of his/her choosing as soon as the sum is processed. This move is done to simplify the income tax refund process and reduce errors.
- The IT department is looking to replace current method of refunds via cheques by banking services.

India pledges \$1 billion to quake-hit Nepal

- India has promised **assistance of \$1 billion** to earthquake-hit **Nepal** for its huge reconstruction programme.
- This announcement was made by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at the **Donors' Conference** in Kathmandu. She said the developmental assistance of another one billion US dollars over the next five years.

India ranks number one in embracing automation: Thornton

- According to a survey by Grant Thornton India is number one in terms of embracing automation. 83% of companies are either using automation practices or may do so in a year.
- The companies are switching to automation for lower costs, greater accuracy and increased flexibility to increase or decrease production.

Petroleum Ministry to invest Rs.1,300 crore in Telangana

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan said The Petroleum Ministry will invest over Rs.1,300 crore in Telangana on the new projects as well as on expansion of the existing ones this year.
- Two new LPG bottling plans in northern Telangana will be set up and the capacity of two plants of IOC with over Rs. 300 crore will be doubled and there will be strengthening CNG/PNG supply facilities in Hyderabad.

Sunil Hitech commissions 5MW solar project in Maharashtra

- **Sunil Hitech** has commissioned **5 MW** solar power project at **Solapur** in Maharashtra.
- The company said it is committed to the green initiatives in the power sector.
- This will give boost to the government's vision to commission 100 GW of solar power projects by 2022.

Union Cabinet gives nod to rename SECI as Renewable Energy Corporation of India

- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) gets a new name as **Renewable Energy Corporation of India** after Union Cabinet gave its nod. Government has decided to overhaul SECI by enlarging its scope to cover all renewable energy sources.
- It will now provide optimized and comprehensive solutions for generation of renewable energy by integrating various renewable energy sources.

Other changes:

- SECI will convert into a Section 3 Company from being a Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013.
- With this SECI, from now RECI will be a self-sustaining and self-generating organisation. It can own solar power plants for generating and selling power, participate in solar sector activities like manufacturing of solar products and materials.

Union Government launched the first modernised Anganwadi centre

- Union Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi, has inaugurated the first modernised Anganwadi Centre in Hasanpur village, Sonapat, Haryana. Government plans to build 4000 such modern centres in coming years, which may change the fate of Anganwadi scheme.
- This centre has been built in partnership with private mining firm Vedanta at a cost of 12 lakh rupees, while the land was provided by the Gram Panchayat.

Mhara Gaon-Jagmag Gaon scheme for supplying uninterrupted power

- The Haryana government will launch “Mhara Gaon-Jagmag Gaon” scheme.
- The aim of which is to supply uninterrupted power to rural consumers besides strengthening distribution network and realising outstanding payments.
- The scheme will be launched on July 1, according to which 83 constituencies out of the 90 all over the state, with rural domestic supply (RDS) feeder will be benefited and the power supply of the selected village will be immediately increased from existing 12 hours to 15 hours.

Doordarshan partners with IB to produce serial on police martyrs

- Doordarshan has entered into an alliance with the Intelligence Bureau (IB) to produce a 13-part serial on police martyrs.
- For the first time in the country, a public service broadcaster and an intelligence agency will be collaborating.
- Five incidents chosen for the 13 episodes — the Mumbai siege in 2008; the Parliament House attack on December 13, 2001; the attack on the Akshardham Temple in Gujarat and the attack on the Raghunath temple in Jammu in 2002; and the killing of 10 CRPF personnel by the Chinese Army in Ladakh on October 21, 1956.
- Modi earlier said that media should project good image on police and security forces.

Centrally sponsored schemes likely to be reduced to 30

- A Chief Ministers’ Sub-Group of NITI Aayog reached a broad consensus on reducing the number of centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) to 30 from 72.
- The panel also recommended to increase the share of flexi funds to 25 per cent from the current 10 per cent.

Swaraj arrives in Thailand for World Sanskrit Conference

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived at Bangkok for the **16th World Sanskrit Conference** beginning tomorrow in which over 600 scholars from 60 countries will participate.
- She will be the guest of honour during the inaugural ceremony and will deliver her speech in Sanskrit.
- The two countries will also sign an MoU on establishment of Nalanda University.

India ranked best for investment

- India has been ranked as the best country for attractiveness to foreign investors among 110 countries. The same list ranks China at 65th position and the U.S. at the 50th. The same index, ranked India at the sixth position and while Hong Kong was number one.
- The ranking is based on an index for baseline profitability which shows how the value of the principal and the return will change depending only on where the investment is made.

Mumbai is fifth ‘best value city’ globally: Report

- According to a survey, **Mumbai** has been ranked as the **fifth most budget-friendly city** among 40 key tourists countries of the world.

- Mumbai is after Hanoi (Vietnam), Warsaw (Poland), Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt) and Bangkok (Thailand) in the list.
- Cancun, Mexico is the most expensive destination in the world and Zurich in Switzerland is the second followed by New York City (USA), London (UK) and Punta Cana (Caribbean).

Bank of Maharashtra, MUDRA seal pact to finance small business

- Bank of Maharashtra and MUDRA Bank have sealed a pact to finance new entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- Under **MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency)** scheme the central government aims to facilitate credit up to Rs 1 lakh crore to provide credit facilities to small business.

There are three categories of loans under MUDRA scheme

- **Shishu** (loan of up to Rs 50,000),
- **Kishor** (loan above Rs 50,000 up to Rs 5 lakh)
- **Tarun** (above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh)

Indian envoy quits New Zealand after wife accused of assault

- **High commissioner to New Zealand Ravi Thapar** was recalled by India after allegations that his wife had assaulted a kitchen staff member, have surfaced.
- The High commissioner denied these allegations. The kitchen staff member apparently told the police that he was “kept in slavery” and the diplomat himself threatened the staff member with assault.
- There have been such incidents in the past where diplomats ill-treated their service staff. Most recent example was the Devyani Khobragade incident in 2013. Previously, Prabhu Dayal, the consul general in New York, was charged in 2012 with paying much less than due to his domestic help. In 2010, a US court awarded \$1.5 million in compensation to the maid of diplomat Neena Malhota, who faced similar charges.

Indian Railways, Army among world’s biggest employers: Study

- A research study published by the World Economic Forum places Indian Railways and Indian Army at 8th and 9th largest employers in the world, respectively. They together employ a whopping **2.7 million people (IR-1.4 m + Army-1.3 m)**.
- The **US department of defense** is the world’s biggest employer having 3.2 million employees on its roster.
- Second is People’s Liberation Army (the Chinese military) with 2.3 million, and in third is the US supermarket giant Walmart with 2.1 million workers though 1,75,000 of Walmart’s staff work for UK supermarket chain, Asda.
- McDonald’s is the 4th biggest employer with 1.9 million employees, however, as the majority of its restaurants are franchises, this figure falls to 4,20,000 when they are excluded, the report said.

Rail line to link Jaigarh Port to Konkan Railway

- **JSW Jaigarh Port Ltd.** has signed a concession agreement with Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) for developing the **33.7-km railway corridor, connecting Jaigarh Port to the Digni station** of Konkan Railway.

- The port operator had won the competitive bidding to develop the project under a **public-private partnership model**. The special purpose vehicle executing the project has been named Jaigarh Digni Rail Ltd. The port operator holds a 63 per cent stake in the company, and the KRCL and the Maharashtra Maritime Board hold the rest.

NITI Aayog to push India's cyber defence system

- NITI Aayog will give a policy push to build the country's cyber defence system for enhancing national security.
- Former chief of DRDO, Saraswat said, "India needs to develop tools and software which have to be produced in-house. Now all are being imported from China and other countries."

Infosys launches business management solution for banks' SME customers

- Infosys has launched a mobile-based financial and business management solution '**Finacle SME Enable**' to help banks enhance support and service for their Small and Medium business Enterprise (SME) customers.
- Finacle SME Enable is designed to help SMEs to experience banking services on the move and to manage their business operations efficiently.

Yoga made compulsory for 10-lakh central forces

- The Union Home Ministry has asked 10 lakh-strong paramilitary forces of the country to include Yoga in their daily physical drills.
- The Home Ministry has asked to implement these directives on priority and to ensure the yoga practice even at active duty areas.
- The directives have been issued to the six CAPFs like Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, National Security Guard and the Assam Rifles which work under the command of the Union Home Ministry.

Jaya flags off first phase of Chennai metro

- Chief Minister Jayalalithaa flagged off the first phase of the Chennai Metro.
- The route which is an elevated structure will cover a distance of 10.15 km, consisting of Alandur, Ekkathuthangal, Ashok Nagar, Vadapalani, Arumbakkam and Koyambedu Railway stations.
- The 45 km Metro Rail project is estimated to cost Rs 14,600 crore and would cover two routes– the 23.085 km Wannarapet to Airport section– and the 21.961 km stretch from Chennai Central to St.Thomas Mount.

Airtel becomes 3rd largest mobile operator in world

- **Bharti Airtel** has become the **world's third largest mobile operator** with 303 million subscriber.
- Sunil Mittal-led Airtel operates in 20 countries.

- According to the latest data published by World Cellular Information Service (WCIS), Airtel has over 303 million mobile subscribers across its operations and has moved up one position in the global rankings.
- **China Mobile** is the **top mobile operator** in the world with **626.27 million subscribers**. **Vodafone Group** of UK ranks **second with 403.08 million subscribers**.
- The **fourth** in the list is **China Unicom** with **299.09 million subscribers**, followed by **America Movil** with **274.14 million users**.

IndiGo, Infibeam, Teamlease files for IPO

- **Indigo, Infibeam and Teamlease** have filed a draft prospectus for an **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** to list on the domestic stock market.
- The draft papers of all three IPOs were submitted to SEBI.
- **IndiGo** is looking to raise **Rs. 2,000-2,500 crore** through the IPO while **Teamlease** is looking to raise **Rs. 450-500 crore** and **Infibeam** about **Rs. 400 crore**.
- **Indigo** – It is the biggest airline company by market share. Its parent company is **InterGlobe Enterprises**.
- **Teamlease** – It is a leading recruitment consultants, human resource outsourcing and staffing company in India.
- **Infibeam** – It is an e-retailer involved in Online Retailing, E-Commerce Software and Internet Services

International Affairs

Mauritius designates Ameenah Gurib-Fakim as its first women President

- The government of Mauritius has designated Ameenah Gurib-Fakim as the new president of the island nation. She is the first woman to hold the Presidential post of the country. Gurib-Fakim is an internationally- renowned scientist and biologist.
- Former president Kailash Purryag has stepped down as the island's figurehead. He had served as president since July 2012.

India, Sweden ink six agreements on Pranab Mukherjee visit

India and Sweden inked six agreements, during the visit of President Pranab Mukherjee to Sweden, key Arctic Council member. It should be noted that Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is the first Indian President to visit Sweden.

1. MOU on Co-operation in sustainable urban development
2. MOU on Co-operatipon in the field of Micro Small and Medium enterprises
3. Agreement on Visa extension for diplomatic passports

4. Memorandum of Intent between the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Swedish research council for health working life and welfare
5. Memorandum of intent between India's Central drugs standard Control organization(CDSCO) and the Swedish medical products agency(MPA)
6. Letter of Intent between India's earth system organization(ESSO) and the Swedish Polar research secretariat(SPRS) on collaboration in polar and ocean research.

US remove Cuba from its list of state sponsoring terrorism paving the way for restoration of diplomatic ties

- In a landmark decision, the United States has removed Cuba from its list of State Sponsor of Terrorism, paving the way for normalizing ties frozen for more than half a century and lifting of additional sanctions against the communist country.
- The US State Department spokesperson Jeff Rathke said that the removal of Cuba's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism reflects their assessment that Cuba meets the statutory criteria for rescission.

90 % of global chemical weapons stockpile destroyed: OPCW

- Nobel peace prize winning organisation OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) has achieved major milestone of destroying 90 per cent of the global chemical weapons stockpile.
- OPCW has mentioned that around 65,000 metric tonnes of declared chemical weapons, mostly from US and Russian arsenals of cold war era have been destroyed in a safe manner.
- It also includes total of 1,300 metric tonnes of chemical weapons removed from Syria in 2014.

India ranks 59th in the rule of law index

- According to new study that ranks countries on how the rule of law is experienced by the citizens, India comes in the top 50 countries for effective criminal justice system. But when it comes to the civil justice, India is one of the worst performing countries.
- USA based World justice project that released rule of law index 2015, analysed 102 countries world over by using a survey of over 1000 respondents from three big cities, along with local legal experts, in each nation.

WJP Rule of Law index— India's overall rule of law performances places it in 3rd position out of six in South Asian region based countries 10 out of 25 in lower middle income countries and 59th out of 102 nations world wide. Denmark is the top over all performer. Nepal came on top in South Asia region.

Criminal justice— India is placed at 44 rank globally, number 1 in South Asia and number 4 among lower middle income groups . The surveys analysed whether criminal investigation and adjudication is effective, whether it was impartial and free of corruption and whether the rights of the accused were protected.

Civil justice— India is placed at 88 globally, 3rd in South Asia and 19th among lower middle income group countries.

Six agreements to boost co-operation signed between India and Belarus

To enhance bilateral co-operation between the countries, India and Belarus recently signed 6 agreements in presence of India's President Mr Pranab Mukerjee on his visit to Belarus. President is on 2 day tour of Sweden and Belarus.

Signed agreements are as follows

- **Roadmap for India-Belarus cooperation**— aimed to strengthen bilateral relations and co-operation in trade, economy, culture, political, defence, people- people contacts etc.
- **Protocol to amendment**— To amend the agreement between the 2 nations for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Property(capital) of September 1997.
- **MoU on cooperation in the field of Standardisation and Information Support**— signed between Bureau of Indian Standards BIS and State Committee For Standardisation of Republic of Belarus.
- **MoU For Manufacturing and Marketing of Light industry Goods**— signed between Union Ministry of Textiles of India and Belarusian State.
- **MoU for cooperation on Broadcasting**— signed between Prasar Bharati PB and National State Television and Radio company of the Republic of Belarus(Belteleradiocompany)
- **MoU on bilateral cooperation** between Securities and Exchange Board of India SEBI and Ministry of Finance of Belarus

2015 Framework for India-USA defence relationship signed by India and USA

- India and USA signed 2015 Framework for the India-US Defence Relationship by Manohar Parrikar of India and Ashton Carter , US Secretary of Defence.
- Dr Carter who was on three day official trip to India, signed the framework which forecasts joint development and production of defence equipment and technology.

Salient features of the 2015 India-USA Defence Framework

- It stresses on building of previous defence framework and successes to help in bilateral and strategic partnership for the next ten years.
- Avenues for high level strategic discussions, continued exchanges between armed forces of both the nations and strengthening of defence capabilities.
- Transformative nature of Defence Technology and Trade Initiative DTTI is recognised .

Project agreements — For joint development of Mobile Electric Hybrid Power Sources and Next Generation Protective Ensembles, have also been finalised between India and USA .

- Both the leaders also agreed to quicken the discussions to take forward cooperation on jet engines, aircraft carrier designs and construction etc.
- Co-development and co-production projects that would give substantial opportunities for American Defence Industries to build Defence partnership with Indian industries including in manufacturing under the " Make in India" initiative.
- Discussions to enhance strategic and defence interest also took place when Mr Carter met PM Modi , External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and National Security Advisor Ajith Doval .
- Carters trip comes as USA re-balances itself to AsiaPacific.
- In March, Pentagon officials termed China's ongoing territorial disputes with Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and Philippines over South China sea as provocative.

India and Netherlands signed agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation

Recently, Intergovernmental agreements between India and Netherlands have been signed in New Delhi in order to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two nations. The agreements were signed in the presence of Indian PM Mr Narendra Modi and PM of Netherlands Mr Mark Rutte after the discussions held between the leaders regarding regions and the world in general.

- Netherlands PM Mark Rutte is on two day visit to India.
- Indian PM Modi said both the nations are going to be benefitted from bilateral and multilateral collaboration in terrorisms, defence, maritime security and cyber security etc..

Various agreements signed are

- Agreements on manufacturing of dredgers at the Cochin Shipyard.
- Agreements in the production of Measles and Rubella vaccines in India with technology transfer from Netherlands.
- Agreements in the development of coastal roads and metro lines in India.
- Joint Working Group on skill development agreement.
- Developing Joint pilot project for electric vehicle ecosystem in India in the renewable energy is another agreement.
- Setting up centres of excellence in areas like animal husbandry and horticulture etc agreement.
- Agreement on setting up Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism .
- A dutch team would be visiting India sooner for drawing a roadmap for collaboration in National

Fortune released 61st edition of list of top 500 companies

The 61st edition of the annual list of top Global 500 companies was released by **Fortune Magazine**. Retail chains goliath – **Walmart topped the list, with total revenue of \$ 485.6 billion**. It was followed by Exxon Mobil, Chevron and Berkshire Hathaway at the 2nd , 3rd and 4th position respectively. Mobile-maker giant **Apple, settled in on the 5th spot**.

- The top five spots of 2015 list remains unchanged from that of 2014 and Apple was the most profitable company with an annual profit of \$ 39.5 billion followed by Exxon Mobil (\$ 32.5 billion).
- Facebook witnessed the highest leap in rankings (from 341 to 242). Some of the new players to enter the list includes : Salesforce.com, Netflix,Expedia.
- Microsoft, Google, IBM, Intel and Oracle are some of the companies, who are included in the top 20 in terms of profit but not in terms of revenue.
- The total revenue of the Fortune 500 companies increased by 2.6 percent in 2014-15. The total profits however were down by 12.6 per cent to 945 billion US dollar. These Fortune 500 companies report for \$ 12.5 trillion in revenues, \$ 945 billion in profits, \$ 17 trillion in market value, alone. They employ 26.8 million people worldwide.

South Korea Tests New Ballistic Missile

- South Korea test-launched a new ballistic missile, a month after North Korea said it has test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile. This missile has a range which can cover whole of North Korea.

- It was developed under a new agreement with the United States that lets Seoul extend the weapon's **range to up to 800 km (500 miles)**.
- President **Park Geun-hye** was present during the launch.

Modi announces \$2-bn credit to Bangladesh

- PM has announced a new \$ 2 billion line of credit for Bangladesh and promised quick implementation of the previous line of credit of \$ 800 million and full disbursement of **\$ 200 million**.
- Modi also oversaw the exchange of documents related to the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), to settle the 41-year-old border dispute, under which 111 border enclaves will be transferred to Bangladesh in exchange for 51 that will become part of India.
- Indian Missions would be opened in Khulna and Sylhet while Bangladesh Mission will be opened in Guwahati.

India, Bangladesh launch 2 bus services

- To bolster connectivity and augment people- to-people contact, **two bus services, Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala and Dhaka- Shillong-Guwahati** , connecting key cities in the two countries, were **flagged off** during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** maiden visit to Bangladesh. This was flagged off by Mr. Modi, his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
- During the flag off ceremony, Modi handed over a symbolic ticket of the Agartala- Dhaka-Kolkata service to Hasina and in return, she handed over a symbolic ticket of Dhaka-Shillong-Guwahati service to him. Banerjee gave Hasina a symbolic ticket of the Kolkata- Dhaka-Agartala service.
- There will be two buses on the Kolkata-Agartala-Dhaka route, one of which is to be run by the West Bengal government and the other by the Tripura government. While, the bus in the Dhaka-Shillong-Guwahati route will be run by the Bangladeshi government. Buses on this route will run three days a week each from Guwahati and Dhaka, respectively.
- At present, only two separate bus services between Dhaka-Kolkata and Dhaka-Agartala are operational. The new service will link West Bengal to three North Eastern states of India via Bangaldeshi capital Dhaka.

Adani, Reliance sign deals for power generation in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh signed two MOUs with the two major Indian companies, Adani and Reliance to set up **4,600 MW** power plants in the country.
- **Adani Power** will invest **\$2.5 billion** to set up a coal-based power plant with a capacity of 1,600 MW.
- The **Reliance Power** will invest **\$3 billion** to set up an imported liquefied natural gas-based power plant in Bangladesh with a capacity of 3,000 MW.

Doctors from Texas State of US successfully perform world's first skull-scalp transplant

- The doctors of Texas, US, have attained a remarkable achievement by successfully performing the

world's first skull-scalp transplant on a man who suffered a large head wound from cancer treatment.

- The recipient is James Boysen, a software developer from Austin. He underwent three transplants, the craniofacial tissue transplant, kidney and pancreas transplant at Houston Methodist Hospital in surgeries that lasted nearly a day.
- This triple transplant surgery is first of its kind in the world. Also, the skull and the scalp transplant has been reported for the first time.

India imposed anti-dumping duty for certain stainless steel products imported from China, Malaysia and South Korea

- The finance ministry of India imposed anti-dumping duty for some stainless steel products imported from China, Malaysia and South Korea.
- This is done to protect the interests of domestic suppliers who were affected badly by such imports. The duty has been levied for five years. The stainless steel industry is plagued with imports from countries like Malaysia, Korea and Japan under the Free Trade Agreement.

Anti Dumping Duty

It is a penalty imposed on suspiciously low-priced imports, to increase their price in the importing country and to protect local industry from unfair competition.

Mauritius regains top slot as source of FDI in India

- Mauritius has regained the position as top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India by pushing Singapore to the second slot in 2014-15.
- Mauritius accounted for about 29% of the country's total FDI inflows last fiscal. In 2013-14, Singapore had replaced Mauritius as the top source of FDI into India.
- India attracted \$9.03 billion in FDI from Mauritius in 2014-15, whereas it was \$6.74 billion from Singapore, according to the data of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

ADB appoints two vice-presidents in different roles

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed **Diwakar Gupta** and **Bambang Susantono** as vice-president in two different roles.
- Diwakar Gupta is appointed as vice-president for **Private Sector and Co-financing operations** and Bambang Susantono as vice-president for **Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development**.

11 Indo-Canadians honoured with ICCA Annual Awards 2015

- Eleven Indo-Canadians have been honoured in Toronto with '**ICCA Annual Awards 2015**' for strengthening bilateral ties and their business achievements apart from their contributions to the economy.
- ICCA stands for **Indo-Canada Chambers of Commerce**.
- The winners are Avinash Mehra, Nisha Agnihotri, Prashant Pathak, Neeru Gupta, Manjul Bhargava, Hargurdeep Singh, Avish Sood, Rajiv Manucha, Asim Ghosh, Jag Parmar and Venkatesh Mannar.

Iran arrests former Vice-President under Ahmadinejad

- Iran arrested its former Vice President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a second of its kind arrest of the officials of former administration.
- Earlier in January, Iran's Supreme Court convicted and sentenced former Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi to five years in prison and fined him 10 billion rials (\$300,000).
- The foes of Mr. Ahmadinejad repeatedly alleged his government of massive corruption.

41st G-7 nations agree to space out fossil fuels by 2100

- Group of seven wealthy democracies had agreed that the world should phase out the fossil fuel usage by the end of this century, as according to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "Decarbonise the global economy in the course of this century" was the commitment given by G-7 nations.
- The **41st G7 summit** was held in Schloss Elmau, Krün, Bavaria, Germany on June 7–8, 2015

Indian-origin scientist Manu Prakash developed World's first water-based computer

- **Manu Prakash**, an Indian-origin scientist, who is also credited with the discovery of the paper microscope, only last year, has once again stunned the world by developing the **World's first water-based computer** along with his team, as published in the journal **Nature Physics**.

Trios of 3800-year-old statuettes found in Vichama, Peru

- Researchers have discovered a trio of statuettes in **Peru**. These are believed to be created by ancient Caral civilization about 3800 years ago.
- The statuettes of mud were found inside a reed basket in a building at the ancient city of Vichama in northern Peru, which is an important archaeological site today.
- The Caral civilization used to live in Peru's Supe Valley about 5,000 years ago. They had left behind impressive architecture including pyramids and sunken amphitheatres.

African leaders signed 26 nation Tripartite Free Trade Area TFTA agreement

African leaders in order to create a common market that would span half the continent from Cairo to Capetown, had signed signed 26 nations free trade pact.

The Tripartite Free Trade Area TFTA, signed in Egypt, will help in easy movement of goods across the 26 nations.

- It could have great impact on the African economies, that is responsible for just 2% of global trade in spite of strong growth.
- President of Egypt Abdel Fattah al- Sisi , Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and Sudanese President
- Omar al-Bashir were among those who signed the pact at a summit.
- Jim Yong Kim, President of World Bank stated that by launching TFTA the African nations were clear that it is open for business.
- The pact requires ratification in national parliaments by 2017 for its implementation.

US becomes biggest oil producer in 2014, surpasses Saudi Arabia

- The US overtook Saudi Arabia as the world's biggest oil producer in **2014 by producing 15.9%** more oil at 11.6 million barrels of oil per day to **surpass Saudi Arabia's** 11.5 million bpd production.
- **Russia was on third place** with 10.8 million bpd oil production, according to **BP Plc's Statistical Review of World Energy**.
- The US surpassed Russia as the world's largest producer of oil and gas by producing 1,250.4 million tons of oil and oil equivalent natural gas as compared to Russia's 1,062 million tons in 2014.

Zimbabwe dumps its currency

- Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe said government lead by **President Robert Mugabe** has decided to discard its virtually worthless national currency.
- In 2008, Zimbabwean dollar was ruined by **hyperflation** which reached 500 billion per cent. Since 2009 Zimbabwe started using foreign currencies like US Dollar and South African rand.
- In 2008, RBZ printed 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollars bank notes. The RBZ said customers who still have stashes of old Zimbabwean dollar notes can walk into any bank and get \$1 for every 250 trillion they hold.
- This means **USD \$1 will cost 35, 000,000,000,000 Zimbabwean dollars**

Moldova's Prime Minister Chiril Gaburuci resigned

- Moldova's prime minister resigned after state prosecutors questioned him over his school certificates. He accused the prosecutors of moving slowly over the disappearance of \$US1 billion (\$1.29 billion) from the country's banks.
- Gaburuci's resignation has to be formally accepted by President Nicolae Timofti.

TCS, Infosys face US probe for H-1B visa violations

- The US government has opened an investigation against two of the biggest Indian outsourcing companies for possible violations of H1-B visa rules, according to a media report.
- The Department of Labour has opened the investigation against Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys for possible violations of rules for visas for foreign technology workers under contracts they held with an electric utility Southern California Edison
- The power company had recently laid off more than 500 technology workers amid claims that many of those laid off were made to train their replacements who were immigrants on the temporary work visas brought in by the Indian firms
- The move by the Labour Department comes days after the NYT had reported that hundreds of employees at entertainment giant Walt Disney were laid off and replaced with Indians holding H1-B visas.

China launches freight train service connecting Europe

- China today launched a freight train service between its northeastern city of Harbin and Europe, opening a new trade route to Europe covering a distance of nearly 10,000 kms.
- The train left Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang province, carrying 49 containers of domestic goods

such as electronic products and auto parts worth US\$ three million from northeast and north China, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Robin soars as Britain's choice of national bird

- The red chested bird, **Robin**, has been selected as **Britain's National Bird**.
- In an online voting, Robin emerged as winner with 34% votes among 60 birds of the list.

International Criminal Court asks South Africa to arrest Sudan president

- The International Criminal Court has asked South Africa to arrest Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. Sudan's President is in South Africa for a summit of African Union.
- Bashir is wanted over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Darfur conflict in 2003.

V K Singh inaugurates first India-China Yoga College at Yunnan Minzu University, China

- Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs V K Singh inaugurated first India-China Yoga College at Yunnan Minzu University in Kunming, China.
- This is first Indian government institution related Indian spiritual art form i.e. Yoga in China inaugurated ahead of the first UN Yoga Day to be observed on June 21.
- The Yoga College was established in lines with the MoU for establishing the Yoga College signed during the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China in May 2015.

South Korea Reports 16th Mers death and five new cases

- South Korea today reported the 16th death in an expanding MERS outbreak and announced financial aid to the tourism industry, warning earnings could be slashed by up to \$2.3 billion as thousands cancel travel plans.
- More than 100,000 foreign travelers, mostly from China, have already cancelled trips to South Korea since the beginning of June and more are expected to follow suit.
- MERS broke out in South Korea less than a month ago. Hospitals at Centre of Outbreak.

India inks landmark cross border pact

- India signed Motor Vehicles Agreement with Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh enabling seamless transit of passenger, cargo and vehicles.
- Myanmar and Thailand have also agreed to develop a motor vehicle pact similar to the draft SAARC Motor vehicle agreement, which will pave the way for greater economic cooperation in the ASEAN region.
- The MVA looks at regulation of passenger, personal and cargo movement, thereby facilitating trade and investment in the sub-region which was developed with the support of **Asian Development Bank** (ADB), under its South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation programme.

Mahindra bags multi-million dollar Airbus deal

- The Mahindra Group today bagged a multi-million dollar aerospace contract with European consortium **Airbus** at the Paris.
- The deal will involve a variety of Mahindra produced metallic components, in excess of a million parts per annum, to be fitted into several Airbus aircraft programmes as part of assemblies produced by Premium Aerotec.
- The parts will be produced at the new Mahindra Aerostructures facility located at Narsapura, near Bengaluru, and deliveries will be made to Premium Aerotec's facilities in Germany.

India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh Sign a landmark Motor Vehicles Agreement

- India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh signed a landmark Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) for the Regulation of Passenger, Personnel and Cargo Vehicular Traffic among the four South Asian neighbours in Thimpu, Bhutan.
- The MVA agreement between sub-grouping of four SAARC nations, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) will pave the way for a seamless movement of people and goods across their borders for the benefit and integration of the region and its economic development.
- Mentioning about the initiative to strengthen connectivity of the sub-region to ASEAN, the Minister said, "In this regard a major breakthrough has been achieved between India-Myanmar and Thailand. Three nations have agreed to develop a similar framework motor vehicle agreement on the lines of draft SAARC Motor vehicle agreement. On conclusion of this Agreement, our sub-region will get access to the larger ASEAN market through seamless passenger and cargo movement."
- Transforming transport corridors into economic corridors could potentially increase intraregional trade within South Asia by almost 60% and with the rest of the world by over 30%.
- A BBIN Friendship Motor Rally is planned to be held in October 2015 to highlight the sub-regional connectivity and the scope and opportunities for greater people-to-people contact and trade under the BBIN initiative.

SIPRI report 2015: India, Pakistan upgrading nukes despite disarmament

- India and Pakistan are reportedly expanding their nuclear arsenal, despite a global trend towards disarmament, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has said.
- The SIPRI on Monday published the findings in its 'Yearbook 2015', which assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security in the world.
- The disarmament report prepared by the Swedish institute said that though the number of warheads fell from 22,600 to 15,850 between 2010 and 2015, India (90 to 100 warheads) and Pakistan (100 to 120 warheads) undertook "extensive and expensive long-term modernisation programmes".
- According to the report, at the start of 2015, nine states – the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea — possessed approximately 15,850 nuclear weapons, of which 4,300 were deployed with operational forces.
- The total number of nuclear warheads in the world is declining, primarily due to the US and Russia continuing to reduce their nuclear arsenal, albeit at slower pace compared with a decade ago, the report says.

Mohamad Morsy gets life imprisonment

- Former Egypt's President Mohamad Morsy gets sentenced to life in prison. An Egyptian court

- sentenced him to 25 years in jail,
- Total 17 people were given life sentence.

Russia to add 40 ballistic missiles to nuclear arsenal

- President Vladimir Putin said, "Russia will add more than 40 new intercontinental ballistic missiles to its nuclear arsenal this year."
- These **40 new intercontinental ballistic missiles** are designed to tackle even the most advanced anti-missile defence system.

United Kingdom celebrates 800 years of Magna Carta

- **United Kingdom** is celebrating 800 years of **Magna Carta**. Queen along with top officials were at Runnymede, the place where **King John** was forced to seal historic document that supports modern democracy and human rights.
- **Magna Carta** is a charter agreed by King John of England at Runnymede to make peace between the unpopular King and a group of rebel barons, it promised the protection of church rights, protection for the barons from illegal imprisonment, access to swift justice, and limitations on feudal payments to the Crown, to be implemented through a council of 25 barons.

GADL, OAMC sign deal on Salalah airport transfer

- GMR Airport Developer Limited (GADL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Oman Airport Management Company (OAMC) under which it would provide services ranging from programme management, testing and commissioning of airport systems to development of aeronautical and non-aeronautical revenue streams.
- This deal will help Oman Airport authorities in the smooth take over of the new terminal at the Salalah International Airport.

India rejects Kazakh offer for Abai oil field

- ONGC Videsh Ltd has rejected Kazakhstan's offer of an alternative mid-sized Abai oil block in Caspian Sea.
- OVL, the overseas arm of state explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has studied the field data and found it not attractive enough.
- In 2013 Kazakhstan had blocked OVL's USD 5 billion deal to buy an 8.4 per cent stake in the Kashagan oilfield.

Japan lowers voting age to 18

- Japan passed legislation to lower the voting age to 18 from 20 years allowing teenagers to vote for the first time.
- About 2.4 million 18 and 19 year old people are expected to cast their first votes in the upper house election which will be held in 2016.

India ranked 143 out of 162 countries on 2015 Global Peace Index

- Out of 162 countries, India has been ranked a lowly 143 in terms of peace index. The research: "Vision of Humanity" was done by Institute of Economics & Peace which tried to measure national peacefulness based on several quantitative and qualitative parameters. India is ranked number 4 out of 159 countries in the Global Terrorism Index."

- The Middle East is spiralling into deepening violence India ranks 5 out of 7 countries in South Asia Violence impacted India's economy by US\$341.7 billion in 2015, 4.7% of India's GDP or US\$273 per person.
- The impact of violence on the global economy reached US\$14.3 trillion or 13.4% of global GDP in the last year, equivalent to the combined economies of Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Spain and the UK.
- Middle East & North Africa's (MENA) peace now the lowest since 2008, as the region falls to the bottom of the Index for the first time.
- **Top 10 peaceful countries:** Iceland (1st), Denmark (2nd), Austria (3rd), New Zealand (4th), Switzerland (5th), Finland (6th), Canada (7th), Japan (8th), Australia (9th) and Czech Republic (10th).
- **Top 10 least peaceful countries:** North Korea (153rd), Pakistan (154th), Congo (155), Sudan (156), Somalia (157), Central Africa (158th), South Sudan (159th), Afghanistan (160th), Iraq (161st) and Syria (162nd).

South Korean lawmakers approve new premier

- The National Assembly of South Korea approved the appointment of Hwang Kyo-ahn for Prime Minister.
- He was the choice of President Park Geun-hye.

Russia, Saudi Arabia to discuss broad oil cooperation agreement

- Russia and Saudi Arabia plans to discuss a broad cooperation agreement at an economic forum in St Petersburg.
- Saudi Arabia is the top producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the world's top oil exporter, while Russia, which is not an OPEC member, is the second biggest oil supplier to the global markets.

Japan May Allow India to Reprocess Spent Nuclear Fuel

- In a significant development that could have positive bearing on proposed Indo-Japan civil nuclear deal, Tokyo is likely to change its policy to allow reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from Japanese-made reactors.
- Tokyo for the first time has approved reprocessing of nuclear fuel by a country using Japanese-made reactors.
- Since the 2011 Fukushima tragedy, Japan had concluded civil pacts with six countries including Jordan, Russia, Turkey and Vietnam, but has not approved reprocessing of spent fuel generated by Japanese-made nuclear reactors.
- Indo-Japan civil nuclear deal has remained elusive despite several rounds of negotiations since 2010.
- Japan has been consistent on its position on India's non-NPT status and tougher safeguards on reprocessing of spent fuel supplied to Indian reactors.
- Indian considers NPT as discriminatory and has signed nuclear deals with NPT signatories like USA, Canada and Australia.

Money held by Indians in Swiss banks dips by 10% to Rs 12,600cr

- Money held by Indians in Swiss banks fell by over 10% last year to 1.8 billion Swiss franc (Rs 12,615

crore), amid an enhanced clampdown against the famed secrecy wall of Switzerland's banking system by Indian and other governments.

- This is the second lowest amount of funds held by Indians in Swiss banks. In 2012, Indian money in Swiss banks had fallen by over one-third to its lowest ever level of 1.42 billion Swiss franc (Rs 8,530 crore).
- In contrast, the money held in Swiss banks by their foreign clients from across the world surprisingly rose during 2014 to 1.5 trillion Swiss franc (\$1.6 trillion or Rs 103 lakh crore), from about Rs 90 lakh crore at the end of 2013 -the record low level so far.

Indian-origin MP Keith Vaz re-elected as chairman of UK Parliament committee

- Britain's longest-serving Indian-origin MP Keith Vaz, has been re-elected as Chairman of Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) in House of Commons of UK Parliament.
- He was re-elected as Chairman of HASC for third time by receiving 412 votes compared to 192 votes secured by his opponent Labour Party MP Fiona MacTaggart.

China and Australia signed Free Trade Agreement

- China and Australia signed the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) at Canberra in Australia. The agreement was signed by China's Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng and Australia's Trade Minister Andrew Robb.
- The ChAFTA will ensure 85 percent of all exports of Australia to China tariff-free that will rise to 93 percent by 2019.

India and Tanzania sign agreement for cooperation in various fields

Agreements for cooperation in the field of statistics, hydrography, agricultural science and tourism have been signed between India and Tanzania. In New Delhi, in the presence of **Indian PM Narendra Modi and President of Tanzania Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete**, these agreements were inked. In addition to signing these agreements, both the nations also agreed to set up joint working group on countering terrorisms and increase gas exploration cooperation in the east African country.

- The President of Tanzania is on a five day trip to India and he is the first head of state from Africa to come to India, after Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014.
- Tanzania being important component in Indo-African relationship, PM Modi said India will extend e-tourist visa scheme to tourists of Tanzania.
- Tanzanian President stated that India deserves to be a permanent member of United Nations UN

Various agreements inked are—

- **MoU On establishing a collaborative programme in official statistics**— Capacity building staffs of EASTC staff and other African nations in official statistics.
- The parties that signed the agreement are India's National Statistical Training Academy NSSTA and East Africa Statistical Training Centre of Tanzania.
- **MoU on Co-operation in the field of Tourism**— To increase bilateral co-operation in tourism and hospitality sectors.

- **MoU on Co-operation in Agricultural Statistics, Computer Applications and Bioinformatics**— For capacity building in Staff of Tanzania EASTC and other African countries in Agricultural Statistics, Computer Applications and Bioinformatics.
- The parties that signed the agreement are EASTC and Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute IASRI, Indian Council of Agricultural Research ICAR.
- **Loan Agreement to operationalise the LoC**— for the extension of the Lake Victoria pipeline project, loan agreement on LoC USD 268.35 million dollars.
- Agreement signed between Exim Bank and Government of Tanzania(GoT).
- **MoU for Co-operation in the field of Hydrography along with Protocol on exchange of Hydrographic data**— Promote development and co-operation in the field of hydrography through capacity buildings, conducting surveys, exchange of data and infrastructural strengthening .
- **Agreement for appointing former as PMC**— The agreement would help in preparing Detailed Project Report DPR for Lake Victoria pipeline project.
- Agreement inked between Water and Power Consultancy Services WAPCOS, PSU under the Ministry Of Water Resources of Union Government and Government of Tanzania

Bangkok airport WiFi world's fastest

- The **Suvarnabhumi Airport of Bangkok** has the world's fastest wifi service according to a survey was conducted by internet speed-test watchdog RottenWifi in over 130 airports all over the world.

Brightest Galaxy in Early Universe named after Cristiano Ronaldo as CR7 (COSMOS Redshift 7)

- Scientists have named a newly discovered galaxy after the Portuguese football player Cristiano Ronaldo. The galaxy has been labeled as CR7 (COSMOS Redshift 7).
- Cristiano Ronaldo is also known as CR7 after his initials and his jersey number.

Print edition of Wikipedia to sell for USD 500,000

- A New York Artist Michael Mandiberg is creating a print edition of Wikipedia in 7,600 volumes and is priced at \$500,000.
- Michael Mandiberg has written software that analyses the entirety of the English-language Wikipedia database and programmatically lays out 7,600 volumes, complete with covers, and then uploads them to print-on-demand site Lulu.com.

Nathu La opens for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

- Nathu La opens a new route for Indian pilgrims travelling to Mansarovar. Previously, pilgrims used to trek along a difficult path to reach Manasarovar. Now through the Nathu La Pass, they can reach their destination by bus. The other path goes through Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand.
- China expects to attract Indian tourists by making it easier to travel to Manasarovar. India likewise expects Chinese Buddhist tourists to travel to tourist places in Sikkim and neighbouring states.
- It also expands road connectivity between the two countries. This route could have dramatic impact on the trade of goods between the two countries as well.
- In future, the pass could allow Indian and Chinese railway systems to meet, making it possible for people to travel on train between the countries and beyond.

Commemorations of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo held in Belgium

- A huge re-enactment of the **Battle of Waterloo** took place in the same Belgian fields where Napoleon's army was defeated.
- The volunteers dressed as soldiers, with 300 horses and 100 cannon, carefully re-enacted the battle for a crowd of 60,000 spectators.

Battle of Waterloo

The battle was fought on 18 June 1815 (Sunday) near Waterloo i.e. in present-day Belgium, then part of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands. A French army under Napoleon was defeated by the armies of the Seventh Coalition. After this Napoleon was exiled to the island of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean, where he died in 1821.

Philippines begins naval drills with US, Japan amid China sea row

- The Philippines began naval exercises with the United States and Japan, amid shared and growing concern at Chinese island-building in the disputed South China Sea.
- Philippines has been holding naval exercises with US since 1995 but this was its second exercise with Japan.

World Bank pledges USD 500 million for quake-hit Nepal

- The **World Bank** promised **USD 500 million** to help **Nepal** rebuild after two earthquakes killed nearly 9,000 people there in April and May.
- The World Bank will contribute \$200 million to rebuild homes in rural areas and \$100 million directly to Nepal's government.
- Nepal said reconstruction work would cost some \$6.6 billion over five years, and is seeking help from international donors.
- The World Bank said, "Another \$100 million to \$200 million can be redirected from existing projects in Nepal to focus on reconstruction."

Sri Lanka, China begin joint military training exercise 'Silk Route- 2015'

- The armies of Sri Lanka and China will engage in a three-week training exercise Programme beginning from 22nd June in Sri Lanka at Colombo. Major General Jagath Dias as the Chief Guest inaugurated the training exercise at the Army Headquarters.
- This programme consists of 2 stages, 1st stage of the 'was conducted in China from March 29 -April 17 with 42 Commandos from Sri Lanka.
- 2nd stage of 'Exercise – Silk Route – 2015,' organized by Directorate of Training in Sri Lanka -43 commandos from China under three phases.(20 days)

Typhoon Kujira hits south China's Hainan Province

- Typhoon Kujira, 8th typhoon of 2015, made landfall in south China's Hainan Province on Monday evening-22nd June.

- The province has displaced more than 40,000 people in advance, and over 20,000 fishing boats have been called back to harbor.
- Strong gales and heavy rains hit the northern, central and eastern parts of the island, ranging from 50 mm to 150 mm.
- 30% of the tropical island affected and causing drinking water shortage for 130,000 people and drying up 119 small reservoirs.

New UK rules will hit Indian Nurses

- UK is making changes to its **immigration rules**. According to which, persons from outside the European Union **should be earning £35,000 or more** in order to be able to stay in the UK after six years.
- This is going to particularly hit hard for nurses from non-EU countries working for UK as Nurses do not make such kind of money. **Indian nurses make up second largest in that group** after Filipinos. Now they will have to leave UK within 2 years. Last year, Indians made up 40 per cent of foreign nurses recruited from non-EU countries.
- This will affect UK too as one in four nurses in the **NHS**(National Health Service) are recruited from abroad and have spent millions of pounds to train the foreign nurses who now have to be sent back.

Iran MPs pass bill to safeguard nuclear 'rights

- The parliament of **Iran** passed a bill obliging the **government to safeguard** the country's "**nuclear rights and achievements**," despite talks with global powers on curbing the country's disputed atomic programme.
- This was met by anger from President Hassan Rouhani's government which said the draft law was unconstitutional as it contravened the country's defence and security policies.

EU launched Operation EU NAVFOR Med against migrant-traffickers

- European Union launched the EU naval operation against human smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean called "**EUNAVFOR Med**".
- The operation's mission is to identify, capture and dispose of vessels and enabling assets used or suspected of being used by migrant smugglers or traffickers.

Japan marks 70th anniversary of Battle of Okinawa

- Japan marked the 70th anniversary of the end of the **Battle of Okinawa** which killed a quarter of its population. More than 100,000 Okinawans and 80,000 Japanese troops died in the 82-day battle for the strategically placed island chain.
- This battle is believed to be the bloodiest episode of the Pacific War.

Russia and Saudi Arabia ink nuclear energy agreement pact for first time

Russia and Saudi Arabia have for the first time signed an agreement on **cooperation in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes**. The agreement was signed in Russia during St Petersburg International

Economic Forum (SPIEF) last week. The document was signed on behalf of two governments by general director of the state corporation **ROSATOM Sergey Kiriyyenko** and president of the **King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (KACARE) Hashim Abdullah Yamani**.

The agreement is the basis for cooperation between the two countries in the field of nuclear energy on a wide range of areas that include- the design, construction, operation and decommissioning of nuclear power and research reactors, the provision of nuclear fuel cycle services, including nuclear power plants and research reactors; the management of used nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management; the production of radioisotopes and their application in industry, medicine and agriculture; and, the education and training of specialists in the field of nuclear energy.

Although, Saudi Arab has not developed nuclear power reactors yet, It is ambitious and has plan to construct 16 nuclear power reactors over the next 20 years.

Bobby Jindal becomes the first Indian-American to run for president of US

- Bobby 'Piyush' Jindal, the governor of the state of Louisiana, USA has announced that he is joining the presidential race, becoming the 13th Republican to do so this election cycle. He is also the first Indian-American ever to run for president of US. He was earlier the second Indian American ever to get elected for Congress.
- Though Bobby Jindal was born to immigrants from Punjab, India, he does not embrace his cultural roots. In fact he converted his religion to Christianity from Hinduism. That might probably be the reason for lack of cheer among Indian-Americans even though running for the post of president of USA is a great achievement. After announcing his campaign, the twitter hashtag #BobbyJindalisSoWhite began trending on Twitter.

US spied on FRENCH presidents: Wikileaks

- Documents released by WikiLeaks shows that the U.S. National Security Agency eavesdropped on the last three French presidents. The recent expose' of U.S. spy programmes demonstrated that USA had been using the digital spying agency to intercept the conversations of allied politicians
- Previously the documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden showed in 2013 that the NSA had been eavesdropping on the cellphone of Angela Merkel.
- The spying revelations have caused diplomatic embarrassment for the Americans and seemed to strain relations with other nations, including Brazil and Germany. Now these new revelations might affect relations with France.
- Mr. Obama had earlier ordered a halt to spying on the leaders of allied countries, if not their aides. The French government has termed the present revelation that US is spying on its allies as unacceptable.

India, US ink MoUs on health infra, research and technology

India and **USA** have signed **MoUs on health**, to enhance cooperation in areas such as cancer research, infrastructure development, training, capacity building and better assessment and application of new diagnostic technologies.

The collaboration will be in the areas for conducting research and training on development of low-cost technologies, diagnostics of existing medications against common cancers and development of existing therapies related to oncology.

The official said, "The MoU will focus on cancer research, projects on population-based cancer control and implementation science, projects in epidemiological research, pre-clinical model development, clinical research, oncology care delivery, E-health and M-health."

The agreement is signed among the NCRI (AIIMS), ICMR (DHS), the Department of Biotechnology, (MoST), NCI (NIH) and the US' Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on cancer research, prevention, control and management

There is another agreement which was signed between the CDC, DHHS (USA) and the ICMR (DHR) on collaboration in environmental and occupational health and injury prevention and control.

The aim is to further the cooperation in the fields of environmental and occupational health and injury prevention and control research, education and training, infrastructure development, and capacity-building for their reciprocal and mutual benefit.

The second Letter of Intent (LoI) on anti-microbial resistance research was signed between the ICMR, Department of Biotechnology (MoST) and US's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health and DHHS.

The aim of this strengthens cooperation between the two countries in anti-microbial resistance research.

Vatican signs historic accord with Palestine

- The Vatican signed a historic first agreement with Palestine, after officially recognizing it as a state two years ago.
- The agreement, a treaty will cover the activities of the Church in the parts of the holy land under Palestinian control.

BRICS bank to start by April

- The **BRICS Bank** also known as **New Development Bank (NDB)** is expected **start operations** and start financing projects by **April 2016**.
- Its first President K.V. Kamath said this at the CII National Council Meeting.

- New Development Bank was founded by the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), has now decided to expand its scope of operations to other member nations as well.

Same-sex marriages legalised across the US

- The U.S. Supreme Court declared that same sex couples have a right to marry anywhere in the United States.
- In 36 states Gays and Lesbians couples can already marry and now by this ruling of court remaining 14 states will have to lift bans on same sex marriage.
- The court will give the losing side about three weeks to ask for reconsideration due to which the ruling will not take effect immediately. But some state officials and county clerks might decide there is little risk in issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples.
- In US there are an estimated 390,000 married same sex couples, according to Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, which tracks the demographics of gay and lesbian Americans.
- Roughly 1 million same sex couples, married and unmarried, live together in the United States, the institute says.

Sri Lankan Parliament dissolved

- The Seventh Parliament of Sri Lanka has been dissolved with immediate effect.
- It lasted for a little more than five years. General elections will be held on August 17.
- The dissolution took place 10 months ahead of the completion of the present House.

Australia to join China led AIIB

- **Australia will join Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** by contributing 930m Australian dollars equivalent to USD \$718.5m over five years.
- This will make Australia the sixth biggest shareholder of the China led Infrastructure Bank.
- AIIB is widely seen as a rival of US led World Bank and now more than 50 members have signed up for it.
- The US and Japan have refused to join raising concerns over the bank's standards of governance. The US is also concerned that China could use AIIB to extend its political influence.
- Australia's Treasurer Joey Hockey said that this decision of joining AIIB is coming after extensive discussions between the government, China and other key partners around the world.

INS Teg in Seychelles for surveillance

- In a sign of India's **deepening maritime security cooperation** with Indian Ocean littoral nations, INS Teg a **stealth frigate** of the Indian Navy has docked at **Port Victoria in Seychelles**.
- This is part of its **mission to carry out joint surveillance in the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** in areas selected by Seychelles Coast Guard, with SCG personnel embarked onboard.

- This mission corresponds with India's national objective of ensuring a **secure and stable regional environment** to allow unhindered economic and social development, not just in India, but also in the entire Indian Ocean Region.

Iran nuclear talks enter final phase

- The talks over Iran's nuclear program are entering their final phase but it is expected to go beyond the June 30 deadline.
- Negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 (United States, Russia, China, France, United Kingdom and Germany — plus the European Union) began in 2006, to assure the P5+1 world powers that Iran would not develop nuclear weapons.

First 3-D heart printed using imaging techniques

- Researchers have successfully produced the first 3-D anatomic model of a patient's heart using two common imaging techniques
- The aim of this research is to enhance diagnosis and surgical planning.
- This is the first time the integration of computed tomography (CT) and three-dimensional transesophageal echocardiography (3DTEE) has successfully been used for printing a hybrid 3D model of a patient's heart.

Mozambique scraps colonial-era homosexuality ban

- Mozambique has scrapped the ban on homosexuality when a new penal code came into force that swept away old Portuguese colonial laws, in a victory for campaigners for gay rights in Africa.
- Recently the US Supreme Court legalised the same sex marriage. After which in New York, hundreds of thousands of people attended the annual Gay Pride march on Sunday.

Afghan prez Ghani nominates first female judge to Supreme Court

- Afghan President Ashraf Ghani nominated a female judge to the Supreme Court on Tuesday in an unprecedented move that has angered some Islamic conservatives.
- Anisa Rasouli, the head of the Afghan Women Judges Association and a former juvenile court judge, was the only female nominated to the nine-member bench after the announcement was delayed due to opposition by a group of Islamic conservatives earlier this month.
- President Ghani's wife Rula stepped into the limelight during the presidential election last year and has been actively campaigning for women's rights since then.

Awards

Former U.S. NSA Security Analyst wins Bjornson Prize for Freedom of Expression

- **Edward Snowden** is a former Security Analyst at the **United States National Security Agency**. The administration branded him “a hacker and a traitor” who endangered many lives by revealing the extent of the NSA spying program.
- The **Norwegian Academy of Literature and Freedom of Expression** awarded Snowden the **Bjornson Prize**—named after a Norwegian Nobel literature laureate—“for his work protecting privacy and for shining a critical light on US surveillance of its citizens and others.” The award includes **prize money of 100,000 kroner**(US\$12,700 or 11,500 Euros).

Shah Rukh Khan and Priyanka Chopra named King and Queen of Social Media

- BollywoodLife.com, a digital portal for Hindi cinema news, has declared Shah Rukh Khan and Priyanka Chopra as the king and queen of social media respectively, at the Social Media Film Awards 2015 held in New Delhi.
- An online poll was conducted by the website in May to select the winners in 16 different categories in which more than 13 million people from India and abroad voted.
- Sonakshi Sinha won Selfie Queen while Varun Dhawan was named Selfie King, . Fitness Icon Male award went to Tiger Shroff and Fitness Icon Female to Jacqueline Fernandez .
- Best Social Media Movement of the Year, Most Witty Celeb, Craziest Fan Following, Instagrammer of the Year, and Most Motivational Celeb are among other categories.

Suresh Kalmadi honored with Asian Athletics Association President’s Award

- Suresh Kalmadi, former member of the Indian National Congress (INC), former Member of Parliament of India, senior sports administrator and former president of the Asian Athletics Association (AAA)—a post he held for 13 years (2000–2013)—has been conferred the **Asian Athletics Association President’s Award for his initiatives on the development of athletics in the Asian continent**.
- **Adille Sumariwala, President, Athletics Federation of India**, received the award on behalf of Mr. Kalmadi from current AAA President Dahlan Al-Hamad of Qatar, UAE, at the function held last night ahead of the start of Asian Athletics Championships. Al-Hamad succeeded Kalmadi as the new president after defeating him in the AAA presidential elections held in Pune in 2013.

IREDA awarded Miniratna (Category-1) status by the Department of Public Enterprises

- Recently, IREDA or Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, was presented with the Miniratna(category-1) status by the department of public enterprises under the Union Ministry of Heavy industries and Public Enterprises.
- Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy MNRE recommended the proposal of conferring miniratna status for IREDA.For IREDA, the ceiling on equity investment for the establishment of JV and subsidiaries in India will be 15% of its networth in one project limited to 500crore rupees.

UK Author Ali Smith won 2015 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction

- UK Author Ali Smith won the 2015 **Baileys Women's Prize** for Fiction for her novel **How to be Both**. Her work has already made her winner of the prizes including the Costa novel award and the Goldsmiths, Saltire Literary Book of the Year and shortlisting for the Man Booker.
- How to be Both depicts the stories of a teenage girl in modern-day Cambridge and a 15th-century Italian artist,. It is divided in two parts – 1st part is told from the point of view of George, a 16 year-old girl grieving for her mother; another is told by a 15th century Italian painter, Francesco del Cossa, of talkative sort who has fallen to earth, or shot through time, to look down on her in spirit.

ISRO bags Space Pioneer Award for its Mars mission

During the **34th Annual International Space Development Conference** held at Toronto,Canada recently,Indian Space and Research Organisation ISRO was given **Space Pioneer Award** in the Science and Technology field as according to website statement. **National Space Society NSS** of USA pesented this award to ISRO, for its stupendous efforts in accomplishing Mars Mission .

- On 24th September 2014, India placed its low cost Mars spacecraft in orbit around Mars in the first attempt itself.
- By this India joins other three Russia, Europe,USA in successfully undertaking its mission to Mars.
- On 5th November 2013,ISRO spacecraft was launched on a home grown PSLV rocket from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, escape earths gravitational field on 1st December 2013.

IT Bellwether Wipro Wins Award

- Indian IT bellwether Wipro has won the Best Outsourcing Thought Leadership Award for 2015 from a US based leading institute.
- The business process leadership awards the Wall Street technology innovation showcases the most innovative work from providers' across the outsourcing industry

Parkash Singh Badal conferred with 2015 Sant Namdev National Award

- The Chief Minister of Punjab Parkash Singh Badal was on Wednesday was conferred the prestigious 14th Sant Namdev National Award- 2015 for promoting peace, communal harmony and universal brotherhood.

Indian-Origin Surgeon General Vivek Murthy Presented With Pride of Community Award

- Indian-origin US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has been presented with the Pride of the Community Award by Hindu American Foundation at its 12th Annual Day reception.
- HAF also awarded Anantanand Rambachan with Dharma Seva award; Harpreet Singh Mokha with the Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Pluralism; and senator Mark Kirk and Rep Joe Crowley with HAF's Friend of the Community awards.

Devika wins Queen's Young Leaders Award

- **Para-athlete, Devika Malik** has been selected as one of the winner of **Queen's Young Leaders Award** from across all the Commonwealth Nations.
- She is a multiple medal winners in para-athletics and co-founder of **Wheeling Happiness foundation**.
- The foundation works to enhance the emotional health of people living with physical, emotional and social challenges in India.

Indian Piracy Survivor Chirag Bahiri Won Award For his Efforts To Rescue Victims

- Indian maritime expert Chirag Bahiri has won prestigious Dr Dierk Lindemann Welfare Personality of the Year Award for his efforts in rescuing and supporting victims of piracy on the high seas.
- Bahiri who is a survivor of maritime piracy, was among the five individuals shortlisted for the prize. He is regional director for South Asia of the Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme (MPHRP).

Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships, awards for 2014 announced

- Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships for the year 2014 has been announced. The chosen ones are Musicologist S R Janakiraman, filmmaker M S Sathyu, Indian classical singer Vijay Kichlu and musician Tulsidas Borkar.
- This award was decided by the General Council of 'Sangeet Natak Akademi', also known as the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama.

Three Indian- origin youths shortlisted for White House fellowship programme

For the prestigious White House fellow programmes , three Indian-origin youngsters have been named. The programme offers first hand experience for working at the **highest levels of USA federal government**. Presidents commission on White House Fellowships would evaluate the finalists, who were selected through a highly competitive selection procedure,

- Payal Patel, Luxme Hariharan and Anil Yallapragada have been shortlisted for White house Fellows programmes.
- The programme was founded in 1964 by the President Lindon B Johnson.
- Programme gives first hand experience on working at the highest levels of federal government.
- **Luxme Hariharan**— She is a paediatric cataract, glaucoma, cornea and international health fellow at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, University of Southern California Eye Institute.
- **Payal Patel**— Is an infectious diseases fellow, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre, Harvard Medical School, Houston.
- **Anil Yallapragada**— is a medical director, South Carolina Stroke Institute,, Grand Strand Medical Centre .

Saudi blogger lawyer wins human rights prize

- Saudi lawyer **Waleed Abu Al-Khair** won the prestigious **Ludovic Trarieux Prize** for his work defending human rights. He is defending a blogger sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in jail for insulting Islam.
- The award which is one of the world's oldest is presented to lawyers who through their work, activities or suffering defend the respect for human rights.

9-year-old non-resident Gujarati wins writers' award in UK

- Priyam Kamble, a nine-year-old non-resident Gujarati (NRG), having roots in Aant village near Navsari, has won the United Kingdom's (UK) Young Writers-2015 creativity award. It is a national merit award for talent in writing.
- Priyam's short written story piece was selected by the Young Writer's jury from among 26 lakh students of primary schools in the UK who took part in the writing competition

Hindi writers Babusha Kohli, Upasana won 10th Navlekhan Award of Bharatiya Jnanpith

- 10th Bharatiya Jnanpith Navlekhan Price was awarded to writers Babusha Kohli and Upasana 16 June 2015. They were recognized for poem "Prem Gilhari Akhrot Dil" and novel "Zindagi Ek Ek Ek Script Bhar" respectively.
- The awards ceremony was held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi .Navlekhan award was established with a goal to award young authors writing in Hindi.
- The Jnanpith Award (also spelled as Gyanpeeth Award) is a literary award in India. Along with the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, it is one of the two most prestigious literary honours in the country. The award was instituted in 1961. Eligibility is restricted to any Indian citizen who writes in one of the 22 languages listed in Schedule Eight of the Indian constitution.

Japan's Fukuoka Prize for historian Ramachandra Guha

- For Japan's most coveted prize **Fukuoka Prize in academics category**, India's famous Historian **Ramachandra Guha** has been selected. Others who got this prize are Thant Myint-U(Grand Prize) and Minh Hanh (Arts and Culture).
- This Fukuoka Prize honors persons who had made outstanding contributions in the fields of arts and culture,academics in Asia.

Swathi Puraskar given to Ustad Amjad Ali Khan

- **Ustad Amjad Ali Khan** has been awarded this year's **Swathi Puraskar**, to for his outstanding contribution to Indian music. This is Kerala Government's highest honour for music.

Carnatic Singer Selected For Sangita Kalanidhi Award For 2015

- The Music Academy meeting held at 21st June, 2015 at Chennai, the Executive Committee of the Music Academy has chosen the outstanding & acclaimed Carnatic musician Shri Sanjay Subrahmanyam for the prestigious award “SANGITA KALANIDHI”.
- He will be conferred the “SANGITA KALANIDHI” award at the 89th annual conference of the Music Academy-“SADAS” on 1st January 2016.

UK NRI philanthropist chosen for VK Krishna Menon Award

- **Benni Joseph Mavelil** has been chosen for the **VK Krishna Menon award** in recognition of his outstanding professional and selfless achievements, contributions and services to the community and wider multicultural society.
- He is a UK-based **philanthropist**.
- The V K Krishna Menon award is given to outstanding Indian patriots who have served in the Diaspora and made themselves distinguished in fields like science, literature, business, politics, diplomacy and philanthropy.

NUSI Gets Best Welfare Organization Award-2015

- National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) has been honoured with the ‘Best Welfare Organization of the Year – 2015’ award.
- NUSI is India’s oldest and largest shipping trade union. NUSI has got around 80,000 seafarers as members working aboard Indian as well as foreign cargo ships.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar to Receive Colombia’s Highest Civilian Award

- **The founder of Art of Living foundation** and spiritual leader **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar** will receive **Columbia’s highest civilian award** for his contribution in spreading the message of peace in society, inter-mediation in war, reducing stress and combating violence through yoga and breathing exercises.

Sahitya Akademi announced Bal Sahitya Puraskar for the year 2015

- The Sahitya Akademi announced the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for this year, in which five novelists, four writers of short stories, and three authors of poetries have been awarded for their contribution to children’s literature.
- The award consists Rs 50,000 and a casket containing an inscribed copper plaque and a citation.

Nadia gets U.N. pat for achieving total sanitation

- The district Magistrate of Nadia, **P.B. Salim** along with chief of Nadia Zilla Parishad, **Banikumar Roy** in West Bengal was presented the **United Nations Public Services Award 2015** for **eliminating open defecation in the district**.
- Nadia was recently declared as the first “open defecation free” district in country. Hooghly and Burdwan districts have bagged the second and third positions which are also in West Bengal.

Famous Writer Vishwanath Tripathi chosen for 28th Moorti Devi Award

- Noted Hindi writer Vishwanath Tripathi is chosen for the 28th Moorti Devi Award for his work “Vyomkesh Darvesh”.
- ‘Vyomkesh Darvesh’ is the fictional biography of noted Hindi critic Hazariprasad Dwivedi.

President conferred Punyabhushan Award on Prataprao Pawar

- President Pranab Mukherjee presented the ‘**Punyabhushan**’ award to media personality **Pratap Pawar**.
- Punyabhushan means Jewel of Pune is awarded every year to an eminent personality from the field of arts, music, culture, science, industry, social service, or sports.

Appointments & Resigns

George Yeo is the new Chancellor of Nalanda University

The **Ministry of External Affairs** announced that, former Foreign Minister of Singapore **George Yeo**, will be the **new chancellor of Nalanda university**. Mr Amartya Sen, a Nobel Laureate, who withdrew his candidature for a second term Chancellor of the Nalanda University, Bihar in Feb 2015, would be replaced by George Yeo as the next Chancellor.

- Mr George Yeo was given Padma Bhushan in 2012 for his contributions in “public affairs”.
- Yeo being an integral part of the Nalanda Mentor Group, has played important part in the revival of the ancient university.

BCCI's newly-constituted cricket advisory committee

- BCCI nominated **Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman** as the first ever members of the newly created Cricket Advisory Committee of the BCCI. Their inclusion in the panel was announced by BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur through a tweet.
- This Cricket Advisory Committee will advise the BCCI on various progressive steps needed to enable Indian Cricket to be better prepared for the challenges of the future. It will also guide the Indian team to enhance their performance on overseas engagements and also help nurture talents.
- First and foremost on the agenda is the appointment of a new coach or team director. it will have its first meeting on June 6 in Kolkata.
- President of the **BCCI : Jagmohan Dalmiya**

Birender Singh Dhanoa Appointed New IAF Vice Chief

- Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa, a Kargil war veteran, is the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force. He will succeed Air Marshal Ravi Kant Sharma.

- Prior to being appointed as Vice Chief of the Air Staff, he was the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the South Western Air Command. He has also served as Chief Instructor (Air) at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington in Tamil Nadu, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Intelligence) at Air Headquarters and Senior Air Staff Officer of two operational Commands.
- Dhanoa was commissioned in the IAF in 1978 as a fighter pilot. He is an alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College, the National Defence Academy and the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He is a Qualified Flying Instructor.

Sanjay Gupta is the new chairman of EIL

- Sanjay Gupta took over as chairman and managing director of Engineers India Ltd, the state-owned Engineering and consultancy, Procurement and Construction (EPC) company in hydrocarbons and petrochemicals, and will have a term till June 2017. He replaced A K Purwaha who retired yesterday.
- He is a passout from IIT Roorkee, and has about 34 years of experience in the company ranging from planning to implementation of mega grassroot projects in the refineries and petrochemical sector.
- Prior to this, he was Director (Commercial) in EIL.

Meena Hemchandra appointed as new Executive Director of RBI

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) , has appointed Meena Hemchandra as its executive director and she would be in charge of the department of banking supervision. She would also be in charge of department of non- banking supervision and department of co-operative banking supervision.
- The previous in charge of these departments Mr Chandan Sinha executive director of RBI, from now be in charge of department of information technology, department of payment and settlement system, foreign exchange department, and financial market regulations department including market intelligence.

P Kunhikrishnan appointed as Director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR

- Mr P. Kunhikrishnan was appointed as Director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR recently. He took over the charge from MYS Prasad who retired in May 2015. Kunhikrishnan was the Deputy Director at SSC, Thiruvananthapuram.
- His contributions in the fields of System level Quality Assurance of avionics , Electrical Integration and Checkout systems for various launch vehicles of ISRO in his three decades of his career are well known.
- He was also a Project Director of PSLV Project in June 2010 and has accomplished 13 PSLV Missions as Mission Director.

K.Sivan appointed as new Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

- Recently, famous scientist , ISRO, K.Sivan took charge as the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre VSSC. He took over the office of the Director from M. Chandradathan who retired from the

service. Sivan is a Distinguished Scientist and Director at Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre LPSC, Trivananthapuram.

- In 1982, Sivan joined ISRO for Polar Satellite Launch vehicle PSLV and has made rich contributions towards end to end mission planning, mission integration and analysis which have become the foundation of ISRO launch vehicles Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV, GSLV Mk-3 and Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Director (RLV-TD).
- MR Sivan is also chief architect 6-D trajectory simulation software SITARA, backbone of real time and non real time trajectory simulations of all ISRO launch vehicles.

Pawan Munjal, new chairman of HERO MotoCorp

- Pawan Munjal took over as the chairman of the Hero Moto Corp, replacing his father Brijmohan Lall Munjal, who will turn 92 next month, he will have no further executive role in the company. Brijmohan had been the chairman of the company since its inception in 1984.
- Pawan Munjal, was elevated as the vice chairman in August last year, who had been the managing director and CEO of the firm since 2001.
- Hero has remained the world's largest two-wheeler manufacturer in terms of unit volumes sold in a calendar year by a single company, since 2001. The Munjals holds 34.64% stake in the company they had founded in collaboration with Japan's Honda Motor Corporation, from which Honda exited in December 2010.

Syed Asif Ibrahim appointed as PM's Special Envoy on Countering Terrorism and Extremism

- Syed Asif Ibrahim, former Intelligence Bureau Chief has been appointed as the PM's 'Special Envoy on Countering Terrorism and Extremism'.
- He will be reporting to NSA Ajit Doval and work from the National Security Council Secretariat. He will have the charter to coordinate with governments in West Asia, Afghanistan-Pakistan and South East Asia.
- He has negotiated with the top leadership in Saudi Arabia and Malaysia on terror cooperation in the past. Ibrahim had retired as the I.B. Chief in 2014.

Volvo India appointed Tom von Bonsdorff as Managing Director

- **Tom von Bonsdorff** is the new Managing Director of Volvo Auto, India **replacing Tomas Ernberg**, who is being posted back to Sweden for a new role.
- Bonsdorff is the Market Area Director, Asia Region presently. He has a career of 17 years in Volvo, working in various operational and managerial positions in countries like US, Sweden and Finland.
- Volvo Auto India sells five luxury models —— Volvo S80, Volvo S60, Volvo XC60, Volvo V40 Cross Country and Volvo XC90 in Indian market presently.
- Volvo Cars Group, Vice President, Asia—Pacific : **Jari Kohonen**

Infosys appoints Seshasayee as its Chairman, Kamath steps down

- **Software giant Infosys**, announced that the company's board had approved the appointment of **Mr Seshasayee** as **Non-Executive Chairman of the Board** with immediate effect. KV Kamath, due to

his nomination as the **President of BRICS bank, New Development bank**, would step down from his position as Infosys Chairman of the Board according to a press statement.

R C Tayal appointed as new Director General of National Security Guard

- The 1980 batch senior IPS officer, **Ramesh Chand Tayal** has been appointed as the new chief of the **National Security Guard**. This post was held previously by **J N Choudhary** who retired on May 31.
- R C Tayal is at present serving as the Special Director General in paramilitary CRPF and is heading its formation in Jammu and Kashmir.

K C Chowdary appointed new CVC

- K C Chowdary has been appointed the new **Central Vigilance Commissioner**.
- He is the 1978 IRS officer currently serving as the advisor to the Supreme Court-appointed special investigation team on black money.
- He was the former chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Vijai Sharma is the new Chief Information Commissioner

- Vijai Sharma, a 1974 batch IAS officer has been appointed as the new Chief Information Officer.
- He has been serving as Information Commissioner in the commission since 2012.

ICICI Bank to appoint MK Sharma as non-executive Chairman

- ICIC bank has appointed MK Sharma as new non-executive Chairman of the ICICI Bank Board for period of 5 years.
- MK Sharma was former Vice Chairman of Hindustan Unilever Ltd.
- Mr Sharma will take place of KV Kamath who stepped down from the board to become the first President of New Development Bank, created by BRICS nations.

Indian diplomat appointed as head of UNITAR

- A senior Indian diplomat to the United Nations, **Nikhil Seth**, has been appointed as the head of UNITAR, a specialized UN agency catering exclusively to the training and research purposes of the nations. T
- he appointment was made by UN **Secretary General : Ban Ki-moon (South Korea)**.
- He will serve as the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). He will **take the title from serving Ex. Dir. Sally Fegan-Wyles of Ireland**.

Naveen Srivastava appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Kingdom of Cambodia.

- Naveen Srivastava (IFS: 1993), presently Consul General of India in Shanghai, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Kingdom of Cambodia.
- He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

Sajeev Babu Kurup appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Guatemala

- Shri Sajeev Babu Kurup presently Counsellor, Bogota has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Guatemala.

Rahul Chhabra appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Hungary

- Shri Rahul Chhabra (IFS: 1987) presently Joint Secretary, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Hungary.

Padmasree Warrior Steps Down As CISCO CTO

- India-born Padmasree Warrior stepped down from her post of **Chief Technology Officer** at global IT giant **CISCO** after a significant restructuring of top management under incoming CEO Chuck Robbins
- She is one of Silicon Valley's high-profile female executives. She was ranked **84th** in this year's **Forbes list of 100 Most Powerful Women in the world**.
- She will now move into a strategic advisor role effective immediately and will stay on in this new role through the transition until September, said Cisco.

Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar appointed as Director of CSIR-IICT

- **Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar** was appointed as the Director of CSIR – **Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT)** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is the president of the **CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)**.
- He is **presently working as Chief Scientist at the IICT since 2010**. He has more than 250 publications credited to his name, along with 5000 citations. He is also the fellow of all the three science academies in the country namely, National Academy of Sciences, Indian Academy of Sciences and Indian National Science Academy.
- Dr. Chandrasekhar is also the **first synthetic chemist**, to be the honourable **recipient of the Infosys Prize**. He was awarded in 2014 in Physical Sciences category.

Steel secretary Rakesh Singh given additional charge as SAIL CMD

- The decision was taken after the Appointments Committee of Cabinet denied an extension of tenure for the former Chairman and Managing Director C S Verma.

Prof S Bandyopadhyay appointed as Director of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)

- Prof Sanghmitra Bandyopadhyay was appointed as the Director of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).
- She is the first woman to lead the institute and replaced **Dr Bimal K Roy** who was removed on charges of indiscipline.

Pawan Kumar Sain appointed PS to MoS I&B

- Pawan Kumar Sain, a 2005 batch IAS officer has been appointed as Private Secretary to Minister of

State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore. He has been has been appointed for a period of five years or on co-terminus basis with the Minister's tenure.

Twitter's Dick Costolo to step down as CEO

- Twitter's CEO, Dick Costolo has resigned because of increasing scrutiny of the company's slow user growth and inability to attract advertisers at the same rate as its competitors.
- Co-founder Jack Dorsey will replace him on interim basis. He had served as Twitter's president and CEO from May 2007 to October 2008.

BlackBerry India MD Sunil Lalvani quits

- Sunil Lavani head of BlackBerry India has quit the company. He was the Managing Director and has left the company to explore the opportunities outside BlackBerry.
- He was working with BlackBerry India since 2009 and was heading its enterprise business before being promoted to Managing Director post.

C.S Verma steps down as SAIL CMD

- Steel Authority of India CMD C S Verma has completed his tenure. Meanwhile, Rakesh Singh, Steel Secretary has assumed the charge.
- Mr Verma was appointed as CMD of SAIL in 2010 by the UPA government. His tenure could have been extended by the NDA government denied it.

Ameising Luikham takes over as New Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises

- Shri Ameising Luikham, IAS (MN:1981) today took over as Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises in the M/o Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises . Prior to this he was working as Secretary, North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.
- Shri Luikham's appointment is vice Shri Kapil Dev Tripathi, IAS (AM:1980) who already have been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Denmark's Mogens Lykketoft elected as President of UN General Assembly

- Mogens born 9 January 1946) is the only nominee to become President of the United Nations General Assembly. He will be formally appointed on June, 2015 and will preside over the 70th session of the General Assembly beginning 15 September 2015.
- He has been Presidents of the Parliament of Denmark since 2011. In the Cabinets of Poul Nyrup Rasmussen I, II, III and IV which governed from 1993 to 2001, he held positions as Finance Minister and Foreign Minister.
- In December 2002 he succeeded Poul Nyrup Rasmussen as party leader of the Social Democrats (Socialdemokraterne). After losing the 2005 Danish parliamentary election he resigned as leader of his party.
- Mogens Lykketoft from Denmark was unanimously elected as President of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). He was only the nominee put forward by the Western Europe and other group (WEOG). Mogens Lykketoft succeeds Uganda's Sam Kutesa who was President of 69th session of

UNGA.

- He will preside over the 193-member UNGA in its upcoming 70th session for one-year term. Presently, Lykketoft is President (speaker) of Denmark's Parliament since 2011. Earlier he had served as Cabinet Minister in Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen led government and had held portfolios such as Finance Minister (1993 to 2000) and Foreign Minister (2000 to 2001).

Vinita Bali appointed as Chair of Board of Directors of GAIN

- **Vinita Bali** has been **appointed Chair** of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition's (**GAIN**) **Board of Directors**. Vinita will take over from Jay Naidoo.

Vinayak Bahuguna is Arcil's new CEO

- **Vinayak Bahuguna** has been appointed as **Arcil's new CEO and MD**. Arcil is India's first Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).

Archana Ramasundaram out of CBI, appointed Director of NCRB

- Senior IPS officer Archana Ramasundaram has been moved out of the CBI and appointed as Director, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- Archana, a 1980 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, was appointed as Additional Director in CBI in February last year amid controversy.

Gurucharan Gets Additional Charge Of Bureau Of Indian Standards As DG

- Senior IAS officer G Gurucharan gets additional charge of Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for three months.
- He is presently Additional Secretary in Department of Food and Public Distribution.
- He will hold the additional charge till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders.

Aakar Patel new head of Amnesty International India

- Aakar Patel has joined Amnesty International India as its new Executive Director from today.
- Journalist and writer Aakar Patel will head Amnesty International India's operations.

Nagendra Kumar Saxena appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea

- Nagendra Kumar Saxena (IFS: 1982) presently Joint Secretary has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.
- He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

Nikesh Arora appointed SoftBank President

- **Nikesh Arora** has been appointed the president of Japan's telecommunications giant **SoftBank Corp.** He was former Google executive whom Softbank paid USD 135 million for the financial year 2014.
- Mr. Arora was appointed company president and chief operating officer.

Boeing names Muilenburg as new CEO

- The world's largest aerospace company Boeing Corp. has elected Dennis A. Muilenburg as its new chief executive officer (CEO).
- Muilenburg, 51, will succeed W.James McNerney as the new CEO as from July 1. McNerney continues as the chairman of the board.

Paytm adds Ruchi Sanghvi, Neeraj Arora, Naveen Tewari to board

- Mobile payments platform provider Paytm has roped in Ruchi Sanghvi, Facebook's first woman engineer, ex-WhatsApp global business head Neeraj Arora and InMobi founder Naveen Tewari to its Board.

Steffi Graf is Kerala's Ayurveda brand ambassador

- In a surprising move, Kerala has roped in Tennis legend Steffi Graf as the Ayurveda brand ambassador of Kerala. According to Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, this move is part of Kerala Tourist department's 'Visit Kerala Scheme'.
- Kerala has already been on the world tourist map for long, the state is hoping to attract medical tourists with the Ayurveda campaign.

About Steffi:

- Known for as much for her good looks as for her talent in tennis, she won 22 Grand Slam singles titles altogether in her career, which is the second highest number of titles won, just behind Margaret Court's 24 titles. She is from Germany and is a former world No: 1 female tennis player.
- She has the record for most Major wins by a tennis player (male or female) since the introduction of the Open Era in 1968
- She retired in 1999 and married former World No. 1 men's tennis player Andre Agassi in October 2001.

SBI appoints Anshula Kant as CFO

- **State Bank of India** has appointed **Anshula Kant** as **Chief Financial Officer** and **Deputy Managing Director**. She will take place of P K Gupta. She joined SBI as PO in 1983 and worked under various departments.

Ericsson appoints Paolo Colella as India Head

- **Ericsson** has appointed **Paolo Colella** as **India Head**. He will succeed Chris Houghton who will assume the role as Head of North East Asia region.
- Colella had worked as Executive VP Sales and Marketing at Ericsson UK. He joined Ericsson in 2001 as Vice President – Global Services at Ericsson Italia and since then has held different positions within sales and marketing, services and key account management.

Ramesh V. Katti elected DCC bank president

- Ramesh V. Katti was elected as president of District Central Co-operative Bank, Belagavi.
- Mr V Katti who is a former Lok Sabha member from Chikkodi, is elected for five years.

Mboweni heads for Brics bank

- The former Reserve Bank governor of South Africa **Tito Mboweni** has been appointed as the **non-executive director** to the board the Brics **New Development Bank (NDB)**.
- The New Development Bank is expected to start functioning by the end of the year.

Lenovo names Rahul Agarwal as India MD

- **Lenovo** has appointed **Rahul Agarwal** as **managing director** for Lenovo India.
- He takes over from Amar Babu, who will now become COO, Lenovo, Asia Pacific and Chairman, Lenovo India

Suzuki Motor CEO names son to succeed him as president

- Suzuki Motor Corp's CEO Osamu Suzuki named his eldest son Toshihiro Suzuki as the new president of the company.
- Executive Vice President Toshihiro Suzuki took over as president and chief operating officer.
- Osamu Suzuki will remain CEO and Chairman of the company.

Anshu Jain resigns as Co-CEO of Deutsche Bank

- India origin, head of Germany's biggest lender, **Deutsche Bank: Anshu Jain**, has resigned as the co-CEO, along with **Juergen Fitschen**.
- Former UBS banker **John Cryan**, who is replacing Jain will serve as the co-CEO along with Fitschen (who has been asked to remain in his current role until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on May 19, 2016, to help ensure a smooth transition), and will take complete authority after May 19, 2016, as the sole CEO.

Bhasin moves out of Indian Bank

- Managing director and CEO of **Indian Bank**, **T M Bhasin** quits to take up new responsibility as Vigilance Commissioner in Central Vigilance Commission.
- **Mahesh Kumar Jain**, Executive Director, is given the additional charge of the Managing Director & CEO of the Bank for a period of three months or till a regular MD & CEO is appointed or until further

Acquisitions & Mergers

Kellton buys ProSoft Group

- Kellton Tech Solutions Limited, Hyderabad-based publicly listed IT services and solutions company, has acquired US based enterprise solutions and business integration services provider ProSoft Group(Prosoft Technology Group Inc, Intellipeople Inc, Cyber-World Solutions Inc and Prosoft Business Solutions LLC) for \$14 Mn as its eighth acquisition.
- This acquisition will add \$40 Mn to Kellton Tech's top line, taking the combined revenue to \$80 Mn by March 2016. ProSoft will continue to function as an independent entity under the Kellton. On the other side, ProSoft founder and CEO Raj Gupta will continue to head its operations, and will also be part of Kellton Tech's board.
- It will reinforce Kellton's expertise in WSMAC (web, social, mobile, analytics and cloud), and its capabilities in ERP-EAI (enterprise resource planning and enterprise application integration) arena, and will further give Kellton annuity revenues through maintenance contracts that ProSoft has with its clients. He further added that they have maintenance contracts with 12 of its 75 active customers, with annuity revenues of \$500,000 to \$1 Mn.

Intel to buy Altera for \$16.7 billion

- Intel Corp is to buy Altera Corp, based in San Jose, California, for \$16.7 billion, the third big deal in the chip industry this year. It seeks to make up for slowing demand from the PC industry by expanding its line-up of higher-margin chips used in data centres.
- By combining with Altera, Intel will be able to bundle its processing chips with the smaller company's programmable chips, which are used, among other things, to speed up Web-searches, although Intel will continue support and development of Altera's ARM-based and power management chips.
- Intel would offer \$54 per share in cash, a 10.5 per cent premium to Altera's closing price on Friday. It is Intel's biggest since it bought security software maker McAfee in 2011 for \$7.7 billion.

Emami Limited acquired hair care brand "Kesh King"

- Emami Ltd. , a Kolkata based consumer goods company will be buying the ayurvedic hair oil brand Kesh King from SBS Biotech, a Himachal Pradesh based company. The deal stands at Rs 1,651 crore, which will be funded by a mix of surplus funds and debt.
- Emami will own the entire Kesh King's array of products, including shampoos, conditioners, capsules and hair oil. This will be Emami's fourth acquisition in the past year, including organic personal care company : Fravin, edible oil brand : Rasoi and sanitary napkin : She. Whereas Emami's own portfolio includes Emami 7 Oils and the therapeutic Navratna Cool Oil.
- Emami's Director : Harsh Agarwal, N H Bhansali : Chief Executive (Finance, Strategy and Business development), Emami.

Infosys completes acquisition of digital solutions Skava

- IT giant Infosys has completed the acquisition of Kallidus Inc. (working under the name of "Skava"), a digital experience solutions provider, including mobile commerce and in-store shopping

experiences to large retail clients, in an all-cash deal which included retention bonus and deferred component.

- The acquisition is in accordance with the agreement announced concluded on April 24, 2015 and as advised to Infosys by Deutsche Bank.
- Skava, founded by Arish Ali and Sudha K.V. , provides a host of solutions which include developing and hosting mobile websites, apps and other digital shopping experiences across desktop, tablet, mobile, in-store and emerging channels.

Cairn India to Merge with Vedanta

- Vedanta group led by Anil Agrawal plans to merge Cairn India Ltd with Vedanta Ltd. The purpose of this merger is to help ease the group's debt.
- The merger will help cut Vedanta's Rs. 37,636 crore gross debt by using Rs.16,870 crore cash lying with Cairn as well as over Rs. 14,000 crore of cash the firm generates every year.
- Cairn India is an oil and gas exploration and production company and Vedanta Ltd is a metals and mining company.

Snapdeal acquires Letsgomo Labs

- Snapdeal has acquired Letsgomo Labs, a mobility solutions company.
- Letsgomo work across mobile technologies, design and strategy; consults businesses right from building mobile strategies to conceptualization of applications and mobile sites to implementation and hosting

Aerospace firm Aequs buys US-based T&K Machine

- Karnataka-based aerospace start-up Aequs Aerospace has acquired US-based T&K Machine, a company that makes aircraft parts for global aerospace firms like Boeing, Spirit AeroSystems and UTC Aerospace Systems.

SunEdison Inc acquired Singapore-based Continuum Wind Energy Ltd

- Solar technology firm SunEdison India has acquired Singapore-based Continuum Wind Energy for an undisclosed sum.
- SunEdison has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Continuum Wind Energy, Singapore with assets in India,

Hello Curry acquires tech start up firm Fire42

- Food delivery firm **Hello Curry** has acquired startup **Fire42**.
- Fire42 has developed a cloud and mobile based POS system that provides management and analytic tools, marketing tools and operational tools for restaurants.
- The Hyderabad-based Hello Curry which was launched in 2014 recently expanded to Bengaluru and looking forward to go to other cities.

Bharti Enterprises buys minority stake in OneWeb

- Bharti Enterprises has acquired a strategic minority stake in a global consortium initiative **One Web** aimed at providing affordable internet access to all.
- The aim of One Web is to build is to build a communication network with an initial constellation of 648 Low Earth Orbit satellites that will provide connectivity to billions of people around the world.

Business

Reliance power to Invest \$ 3 Billion in Power Plants in Bangladesh : Modi

- Anil Ambani-led Reliance Power signed an agreement to invest \$ 3 billion in Bangladesh, for setting up a **3,000 MW mega power plant** and a 2 million tonnes floating LNG import terminal in Bangladesh, which is severely power short, during PM Narendra Modi's two-day visit.
- The power plant will be set up in three years from the date of signing power purchase agreement (PPA) and the equipments used will be under appropriate warranties from General Electric (GE), USA and the other global suppliers.
- **Sameer Gupta** : Executive vice president of Reliance Power.

India to sign free trade pact with EAEU

- India will sign a free trade agreement with Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) to boost trade and economic ties with the region.
- The agreement will be signed at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum.

About EAEU

EAEU is an international organisation for regional economic integration. The member states of the union, which started operation on January 1 are Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia.

SoftBank, Bharti, Foxconn's 20 BN solar project

- SoftBank, Bharti Enterprises and Foxconn Technology Group have formed a joint venture, SBG Cleantech which will invest around \$20 billion over 10 years into green energy projects.
- SoftBank will be the majority stakeholder while Bharti and Foxconn will be minority stakeholders in the renewable energy project.

SBG Cleantech

- **Headquarters** – New Delhi
- **CEO** – Raman Nanda
- **Executive Chairman** – Manoj Kohli

SBI partners with MakeMyTrip for travel business

- India's largest bank **State Bank of India** partnered with online travel company **MakeMyTrip.com** to take advantage on the business opportunities of the booming e-commerce and m-commerce ecosystem.
- The partnership includes EMI on purchase of holidays & international travel, customized travel products like Forex cards and travel products that inspire SBI customers to travel.
- SBI Chairman – **Arundhati Bhattacharya**
- MakeMyTrip Chairman & Group CEO – **Deep Kalra**

Banking & Finance

Service tax to go up to 14 percent

- Service tax will go up to 14 percent from tomorrow. Some of the key services that will attract higher tax and hence become costlier are railways, airlines, banking, insurance, mobile, advertising, architecture, construction, credit cards, event management and tour operators.
- According to railway ministry officials, fares for First Class and AC classes in passenger trains, besides freight charges, will go up by point five per cent. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget had proposed to raise service tax from 12.36 per cent, including education cess, to 14 per cent. The tax is levied on all services, except a small negative list.

LIC of India to operate in Bangladesh as LIC Bangladesh Ltd

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has got the approval from Bangladesh's insurance sector regulator to operate in Bangladesh. It will work under the name of LIC Bangladesh Ltd, which will be a joint venture entity with the paid-up capital of one billion taka (around \$13 million). LIC will own half of this paid-up capital while the other half will be owned by the Bangladeshi partners.
- LIC had previously applied to get itself registered in Bangladesh in 2013, which was turned down by the Bangladeshi authorities, for low capital base.
- LIC chairman S.K. Roy may accompany the Prime Minister during his Dhaka visit on June 6 and 7. Bangladesh Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) chief : M. Shefaq Ahmed.

Kotak Mahindra, ING Bank ink MoU for cross-border business

- Kotak Mahindra Bank and ING Bank signed an agreement for exploring opportunities arising from **cross-border business, investments and trade flows**.
- Co-operation in areas such as trade, finance, remittances and services related to non-resident Indians, funding to counter-parties' corporate relationships, fee-based products, direct banking and digital strategy, and cross-border debt capital markets and M&A are in the list.
- ING Bank, will give clients from The Netherlands(where it is based) and other 39 countries, where it is active in commercial banking, access to Kotak's services in vast Indian market while Kotak will offer the combined clients in India, the opportunities of ING's international network.
- **Mark Newman** : CEO of ING Commercial Banking Asia.

- ING Bank holds 6.5 per cent stake in the country's fourth largest private sector lender : KOTAK MAHINDRA.

RBI to issue first set of small and payment bank licences in next two months

- Reserve Bank is all set to issue first set of licences for small and payment banks in the next two months, a move aimed at promoting financial inclusion.
- The RBI had received 72 applications for small finance bank licences and 41 applications for payment bank licences.
- The applicants include Department of Post, Tech Mahindra, Videocon Group and stock exchange NSE, besides big corporates like Ambanis and Birlas.

RBI issued Draft Framework on Issuance of Rupee linked Bonds Overseas

The Reserve Bank of India proposed a framework to be put in place for issuance of rupee inked bonds overseas by the Indian corporates and international financial institutions which are eligible to raise external commercial borrowings (ECB).

A. Indian Corporates:

- Indian corporates eligible to raise ECB are permitted to issue Rupee linked bonds overseas. The corporates which, at present, are permitted to access ECB under the approval route will require prior permission of the Reserve Bank to issue such bonds and those coming under the automatic route can do so without prior permission of the Reserve Bank.
- The bonds may be floated in any jurisdiction that is Financial Action Task Force (FATF) compliant.
- The subscription, coupon payments and redemption may be settled in foreign currency. The proceeds of the bonds can be parked as per the extant provisions on parking of ECB proceeds.
- Amount and average maturity period of such bonds should be as per the extant ECB guidelines. The call and put option, if any, shall not be exercisable prior to completion of applicable minimum average maturity period.
- The coupon on the bonds should not be more than 500 basis points above the sovereign yield of the Government of India security of corresponding maturity as per the FIMMDA yield curve prevailing on the date of issue.
- End use restrictions will be as applicable under the extant ECB guidelines.
- For USD-INR conversion, the Reserve Bank's reference rate on date of issue will be applicable.

B. International Financial Institutions:

- International Financial Institutions of which India is a shareholding member intending to deploy the entire proceeds of the issuance in India shall not require prior permission for the issuance of Rupee bonds overseas irrespective of amount of issuance.
- In other cases, where an International Financial Institution (of which India is a member) wishes to retain the freedom to deploy the issue proceeds in any member country shall require prior permission from the Reserve Bank / Government of India.

C. Hedging:

- Any investor in these bonds will be eligible to hedge both the foreign currency risk as well as credit risk through permitted derivative products in the domestic market.
- Banks incorporated in India will not have access to these bonds in any manner whatsoever.

RBI announced Strategic Debt Restructuring Scheme

The Reserve Bank of India announced **Strategic Debt Restructuring Scheme**. The RBI issues guidelines on Joint Lenders' Forum (JLF) and Corrective Action Plan (CAP). These measure provides a more flexible process for lenders to recover bad loans.

RBI has made clear that this scheme is meant to be used when a company's turnaround is being held up by the inefficiency or failure of the existing management.

The guidelines are:

- Banks that wants to remodel their company's debt under strategic debt restructuring scheme must hold **51% or more** of the equity shares issued by the company.
- The Joint Lenders' Forum (JLF) must approve the SDR conversion package within 90 days from the date of deciding to undertake SDR
- The conversion price of the equity shall be determined by Market value (for listed companies) and Break-up value.
- Lenders who acquire shares of a listed company under a restructuring will be exempted from making an open offer, as per rules from capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- Equity shares acquired and held by banks under the scheme shall be exempt from the requirement of periodic mark-to-market for the 18 month period.

RBI allows NRIs to invest in chit funds

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted NRIs to subscribe to the **chit funds without limit on a non-repatriation basis**.
- However the subscription to chit funds should come through the normal banking channel, including through an account maintained with a bank in India, said the RBI.

RBI issued final guidelines for 6-year and 13-year Interest Rate Futures

The Reserve Bank of India today released the final guidelines for introduction of 6-year and 13-year cash settled Interest Rate Futures (IRF).

These guidelines settled IRF on Government of India Securities with residual maturity of 4-8 years and 11-15 years respectively.

The **10-Year cash settled IRF contracts** shall have two options as follows:

- For a coupon bearing Government of India security of face value Rs.100 and residual maturity between 8 and 11 years on the expiry of futures contract.
- For coupon bearing notional 10-year Government of India security with a face value of Rs.100. For each contract, there shall be basket of Government of India securities, with residual maturity between 8 and 11 years on the day of expiry of futures contract, with appropriate weight assigned to each security in the basket.

The **6-Year cash settled IRF contracts** shall have two options as follows:

- For a coupon bearing Government of India security of face value Rs.100 and residual maturity between 4 and 8 years on the expiry of futures contract.
- For a coupon bearing notional 6-year Government of India security with a face value of Rs.100. For each contract, there shall be basket of Government of India securities, with residual maturity between 4 and 8 years on the day of expiry of futures contract.

The **13-Year cash settled IRF contracts** shall have two options as follows:

- For a coupon bearing Government of India security of face value Rs. 100 and residual maturity between 11 and 15 years on the expiry of futures contract.
- For a coupon bearing notional **13-year** Government of India security with a face value of Rs.100. For each contract, there shall be basket of Government of India securities, with residual **maturity between 11 and 15 years** on the day of expiry of futures contract, with appropriate weight assigned to each security in the basket.

SEBI Board may finalise detailed e-IPO norms this month

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is expected to come up with a detailed guidelines on electronic Initial Public Offers (e-IPOs), where investors can bid for shares through internet.

State-run banks put Rs 14,000-cr bad loans on the block

- Public Sector Banks are putting **Non Performing Assets (NPAs)** worth **Rs 14000 crore** for sale which is to be purchased by Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).
- Punjab National Bank with 5000cr, UCO Bank with 2700cr, State Bank of Patiala with 1500cr, Oriental Bank of Commerce with 1400cr and State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur with 1100cr are the banks which will be selling their bad loans.

WPI-inflation dips further to (-) 2.36% in May

- Wholesale price index (WPI) inflation remained in the negative for seventh consecutive month in May at – 2.36%.
- Downtrend in WPI is considered as positive signal towards price stabilisation which will help in economic activity.
- WPI inflation—in the negative zone since November 2014—stood at 6.18 percent in May last year and (-) 2.65 percent in April 2015.

Capital infusion in state-run banks would be need-based

- The government has decided to infuse capital in public sector banks (PSBs) based on the requirement of individual lenders — which is a departure from the precedent set last year..
- The government has asked PSBs to make detailed presentations on their capital requirement for the current financial year. If the government is convinced that a bank needs funds, then it will infuse capital.
- The government has earmarked Rs 7,940 crore for capital infusion in PSBs in 2015-16.
- Last year, the finance ministry decided to infuse capital in nine PSBs depending on their performance. Two parameters were applied for identifying the banks. First the weighted average of return on assets for all PSBs, for the last three years put together, was arrived at and all those who were above the average were considered. The second parameter used was return on equity (ROE) for these banks for the last financial year. Those who had performed better than the average had been rewarded.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been telling the government to allocate more capital for the banks as they need to clean up their balance sheet and should be well capitalised to fund growth when it picks up.

NPCI to roll out RuPay credit cards next year

- The National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) is going to roll out **RuPay Credit cards** from next year.
- RuPay which is India's own card payment system is expected to give tough competition to Visa and Mastercard with the launch of credit cards.

SBI Launches Online Forex Platform

- Country's largest lender State Bank of India today said it has launched SBI eforex, an Internet-based platform that enables customers to book their foreign exchange transactions online.
- The customers will be able to obtain forex rates without having to visit the branch. "The SBI eforex is an innovative platform incorporating robust security features and is designed to be user-friendly, fast and convenient.

Govt proposes tax benefits for credit and debit card payment

Proposals:

- To provide income tax benefits for people making payments through credit or debit cards
- Doing away with transaction charges on purchase of petrol, gas and rail tickets with plastic money
- Mandatory to settle high-value transactions of more than Rs 1 lakh through electronic mode
- Tax rebates to shopkeepers to incentivize them to accept a significant value of sales through debit or credit cards

Benefits:

- First step towards becoming a cashless economy, which has many benefits

- Digital money gives the government better data about the currency levels in the economy, which helps in framing economic and monetary policies with more confidence
- It also reduces tax-avoidance as every transaction will be on record. This reduces the black money problem
- It also aims to build a transactions history of an individual to enable improved credit access and financial inclusion
- Reduces fake notes menace. Reduces the cost of currency printing, storage and physical transfer.

Challenges:

- Majority of people in India do not have debit and credit cards
- This can be viewed by some as giving incentives to rich and middle classes who have debit or credit cards
- As internet access is low and internet costs are high in many parts of the country, it is difficult for shopkeepers to operate ecash-transfer machines
- Some might even argue that access to credit cards will push people towards materialistic life

RBI opposes finance ministry plan to use gold deposits as bank CRR

- Reserve Bank of India has written to the finance ministry opposing a plan to use gold deposits as bank Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR). This can become a hurdle in centre's plan to monetize gold lying with Indian households.
- In support of its move the RBI said **banks may hoard excess gold** if it is included in CRR and also said **the existing rules do not permit usage of gold** as bank CRR.
- Using gold as CRR will weaken its effectiveness as monetary policy tool and this may expose RBI's reserves to risk from commodity prices.
- CRR reserves are usually used to stabilize the financial system but allowing gold as CRR will expose the central bank's reserve to commodity risk.
- The finance ministry believes that gold available in the Indian financial system should not be unaccounted. Their argument is that if gold is allowed as a part of SLR, it should also be allowed as CRR.
- This scheme may not be impactful for retail depositors, but for large institutional holders of gold such as temples and trusts, it will be useful.
- The government need to make amendments to both Banking Regulation Acts and RBI Acts to continue with this plan.

India to more than double capital injection in state banks to \$3 billion

- This fiscal year India is planning to inject about **\$3 billion** into state-owned banks and could double that amount next year. This step is taken to boost capital and help lenders meet the global Basel III regulatory requirements.
- The planned capital infusion into the banks is more than double of an earlier estimate of \$1.25 billion made in this year's budget.

SEBI relaxes the IPO norms for technological start-ups to raise funds from capital market

- Capital markets regulator SEBI simplified its norms governing the IPO of companies in an attempt to encourage internet startups to raise funds domestically, rather than going abroad.
- Under the new norms approved by SEBI's board yesterday, the stock exchanges would have a separate institutional trading platform (ITP) for listing of start-ups from the new age sectors, including e-commerce firms, while the minimum investment requirement would be Rs 10 lakh.
- Apart from this, the SEBI has also cut listing time for companies from 12 days from date of IPO to 6 days, and expanded the ASBA facility for IPO investments that would do away with cheque payments, which will help in fast-tracking the process of raising funds. ASBA (Application Supported by Blocked Amount) refers to an application mechanism for subscribing to IPO where the bid amount is blocked in a bank account and it would be now applicable to all kinds of investor category across all IPOs.
- For their listing, Sebi has relaxed the mandatory lock-in period for promoters and other pre-listing investors to six months, as against three years for other companies
- To prevent misuse of funds raised from public, Sebi said companies will have to keep the money in scheduled commercial banks till the amount is utilised for specified purposes.

Sebi bans three firms from raising money from public

- Three firms -Matribhumi Projects, Jugantor Realty and Waris Finance and Investment- and their directors were banned by SEBI from mobilising money from investors through the issuance of securities. SEBI banned them for allegedly violating public issue norms.
- SEBI received many complaints from investors about these companies regarding non-repayment of amount in respect of Non-Convertible Secured Redeemable Debentures (NCDs).
- The charges include, going for a public issue, without fulfilling the requirement of compulsory listing on a recognised stock exchange. And they have also not filed prospectus, among others, violating SEBI norms
- This shows the intent of the capital market regulator in dealing with violators without any leniency.

India emerges as UK's 3rd largest FDI source in 2014-2015

- India has emerged as the 3rd largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for United Kingdom (UK) after United States (US) and France in terms of number of projects.
- It is the Inward Investment Report 2014-15 of UK Trade and Industry (UKTI).
- US has remained as 1st source of UK -564 projects, followed by France -124 projects and India -122 projects.

Reliance, ICICI to manage Rs 60,000-cr coal PF corpus

- Reliance Capital Asset Management Company (RCAM) and ICICI Securities Primary Dealership have been selected to manage Rs 60,000 crore provident fund corpus of coal industry workers.
- RCAM and ICICI have out-bid the other participants: SBI, UTI. There are 4.5 lakh members under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO). Previously, a parliamentary panel has expressed its reservations about CMPFO not parking the funds in "an appropriate manner" and even suggested referring the matter to a central investigating agency. CMPFO functions under the Ministry of Coal, it is an autonomous organisation governed by the Board of Trustees.

RBI extends deadline for exchanging pre-2005 currency notes

- Reserve Bank of India extended the deadline for exchanging pre-2005 currency notes of various denominations, including of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000, by six months till December 31, 2015. Till then these notes would remain as legal tender.
- Previously in December 2014, RBI had set the deadline as end of June
- To exchange the old notes, people can either deposit the old design notes in their bank accounts or exchange them at a bank branch
- Pre-2005 notes are being removed as they have less security features and to bring out black money

Difference between pre and post 2005 notes:

- The currency notes issued before 2005 do not have the year of printing on the reverse side
- In notes issued post 2005, the year of printing is visible at the bottom on the reverse.

United Bank of India tops list with highest bad loans among PSUs

- **United Bank of India** is at the **top in the list** of public sector banks with **maximum bad loans** including restructured assets as a percentage of total advances.
- United Bank of India's 21.5 per cent assets are either bad or have been restructured to save them from turning non-performing assets (NPAs).
- According to the data provided to the Finance Ministry by the RBI the other banks that have significant amount of NPAs and restructured loans are:
 - Central Bank of India – 21.30 per cent
 - Indian Overseas Bank – 19.40 per cent
 - Punjab & Sind Bank – 18.74 per cent
 - Punjab National Bank -17.94 per cent

State Bank of Patiala, Allahabad Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, UCO Bank and Dena Bank all have **more than 15 per cent** NPAs and restructured loans.

Fifty nations, including India, sign agreement on China-led AIIB

- India along with other founding countries signed an agreement providing the legal framework for the China-led USD 100 billion multilateral Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- The agreement specified each member's share as well as governance structure and policy-making mechanism of the bank. Seven more countries are due to sign by the end.

Science & Technology

ISRO's GAGAN to provide navigational support to Railways

- 'GAGAN' (GPS-Aided Geo-Augmented Navigation) system developed by ISRO will provide navigational support to Railways.
- ISRO will provide satellite-generated information which will provide safety at unmanned level crossings.
- About GAGAN
 - GAGAN is indigenously developed navigational system developed by ISRO similar to GPS system of US.
 - GAGAN was jointly developed by the ISRO and Airports Authority of India (AAI) to provide assistance in accurate landing of aircraft.
 - GAGAN signal is broadcasted by two Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellites — GSAT8 and GSAT10.

China confirms test of new hypersonic strike vehicle 'Wu-14'

- The Chinese Defense Ministry confirmed the fourth test of a hypersonic nuclear delivery vehicle, which the US called an "extreme maneuver," amid rising tensions between the two powers in the South China Sea.
- The test of the hypersonic glide vehicle, which the US has dubbed the "WU-14", was carried out on June 7 and is the missile's fourth test in 18 months.
- The strategic strike weapon is extremely advanced and can travel at 10 times the speed of sound, or 12,231.01kph.

Comet probe Philae wakes up from hibernation

- Philae awoke overnight and sent home its first message in nearly seven months.
- "Hello Earth! Can you hear me?" the washing machine-sized lander tweeted.

China launches world's first electric plane

- China has made the world's first electric passenger aircraft that could be used in pilot training, tourism, meteorology and rescue operations
- The BX1E has a 14.5-meter wingspan and a maximum payload of 230 kgs. It can fly at an altitude of 3,000 meters.
- The charging is completed within two hours, allowing a flight time of 45 minutes to one hour, at a maximum speed of 160 km per hour.

Immunogen eOD-GT8 60mer can stimulate immune system to block HIV/AIDS infection in mice: Study

- Till now, scientists have not been able to find a vaccine to fight the **Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** which causes **AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome)**. This is because the normal immunization process used against other diseases does not work against HIV.

HAL delivers Orbiter Craft Module Structure of Chandrayaan-2 to ISRO

- Defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has delivered 'Orbiter Craft Module Structure' of Chandrayaan-2, India's second lunar exploration mission, to ISRO Satellite Centre
- The Orbiter Craft Module is a three-tonne category bus structure made out of a central composite cylinder, shear webs and deck panels
- Chandrayaan-2 will be launched by a Geo-Stationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-MKII) during the next two to three years.

Europe Launches Satellite To Give Observation In Colour Vision

- **European Space Agency (ESA)** launched a satellite that will give its ambitious Copernicus Earth observation project "**color vision**," by delivering valuable images that could help forecast crop harvests and respond to humanitarian crises.
- The spacecraft will collect environmental data required to help policymakers craft legislation and react to emergencies, such as natural disasters.

Indian Mars orbiter scores 100 rounds

- In a significant milestone for Indian space programme, the Mangalyaan spacecraft completed its 100th orbit around Mars.

The blackout:

- The spacecraft experienced a blackout phase for 15 days earlier this month during which communication with the spacecraft was not possible. This was because of sun blocking Mars from earth- Mars were moving behind Sun as viewed from Earth, resulting in solar activities interfering with the signals. It is now gradually coming out of the blackout and the payloads on the spacecraft would be re-started in a few weeks.
- The Orbiter on an average take about 3.2 earth days to go around Mars.

Undo your sent mail on GMAIL: new feature

- Bringing relief to people who regret sending emails to unintended recipients or sending the wrong emails to the right recipients, Google has added a new feature to its GMAIL service.
- From now, this feature gives you the option to take back a message you just sent. But, we have to note that, the time limit to 'undo' a mail is very limited-a maximum of 30 seconds. To give you time to undo, Gmail delays sending the message for a few seconds. So if you don't select "Undo" within the time limit, your message will be sent.
- To enable the 'undo', go to settings and click 'Enable' "Undo Send". Set the cancellation period (the amount of time you have to decide if you want to unsend an email). And click save changes at the bottom of the page.

Project Sidekick: NASA and Microsoft joint project

Project Sidekick is a collaborative project between Microsoft and NASA to use augmented reality devices such as Microsoft HoloLens to aid in space exploration. NASA plans to launch the first pair of HoloLens aboard the SpaceX CRS-7 launch to the International Space Station on June 28, 2015.

Currently the project plans to use Microsoft HoloLens to aid astronauts on the International Space Station, but it will also be used on the Aquarius laboratory and in Mars exploration.

The project has two modes of operation:

- **Remote Expert Mode:** Through this, astronauts will be able to communicate their first-person perspective (others can see what astronauts in space are seeing) and receive instruction over Skype.
- **Procedure Mode:** It allows NASA to relay instructions to astronauts more effectively. The instructions would be projected on top of objects allowing the user to learn procedures more quickly. These instructions can be animated and will be holographic with applications including assisting repairs, scientific experiments, and construction.

UK plans world's first artificial blood transfusions soon

- **UK is set to do world's first human trials of artificial blood grown in lab from stem cells by 2017.**
- National Health Service of UK has announced that the manufactured blood will be used in clinical trials with human volunteers within two years.
- Researchers used stem cells from adult and umbilical cord blood to create a small volume of manufactured red blood cells.
- If these trials are successful then it will offer an alternative to patients with blood disorders such as sickle cell Anaemia and Thalassemia who require treatment with regular transfusions and for whom it is difficult to find compatible donors.
- The clinical trial of manufactured red blood cells is designed to compare the survival of red cells manufactured from stem cells with that of standard blood donor red blood cells.
- Dr Nick Watkins, NHS Blood and Transplant's assistant director of research and development said, "Scientists across the globe have been investigating for a number of years how to manufacture red blood cells to offer an alternative to donated blood to treat patients".
- We are confident that by 2017 our team will be ready to carry out the first early phase clinical trials in human volunteers, he added.
- These trials will not replace blood donation but will provide specialist treatment for specific patient groups.

First-ever potential treatment for MERS identified

- Scientists have identified two promising drug candidates to prevent and treat the deadly **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)** disease.
- The two antibodies, **REGN3051** and **REGN3048** have shown an ability to neutralise the virus.
- MERS can cause severe respiratory symptoms and has a death rate of 40 per cent. Researchers discovered and validated two remedies that show early promise in preventing and treating the disease.

Environment

India richer by 349 new species

On the brink of extinction of species of the today's world, the news of newly founded 349 species of plants and animals has created a sense of happiness for the nature lovers. The Scientists have discovered 349 new species of flora and fauna in the last one year, **173 species of plants** and **176 species of animals** to be specific .

- On World Environment Day, **Botanical Survey of India BSI** and **Zoological Survey of India ZSI** had released the list of newly discovered species.
- According to the BSI Director Paramjit Singh, Nine new taxa of wild musa(bananas) , four species of black plum (jamun), three species of wild ginger and ten species of orchids.

India Fourth Largest Carbon Emitter: WRI Analysis

- A global research organization, **World Resources Institute (WRI)** has come out with its latest analyses of the country-wise emissions of climate damaging greenhouse gases.
- According to which **India is the fourth largest emitter of Carbon** but it is far behind the other three top big emitters in terms of per capita emission.
- India's **greenhouse gas** emission accounts for **6.96%** of the world
- Developing countries like China, Mexico and Brazil are way ahead of India in terms of their per capita contribution to the overall emissions.
- According to the figures, the largest emitters contribute a majority of global emissions as the top 10 emitters contribute over 72 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions .On the other hand, the lowest 100 emitters contribute less than 3 per cent.
- In terms of greenhouse gas emissions the top three are China (25.26%), US (14.4%) and European Union (10.16%) followed by India (6.96%).
- While in terms of per capita emissions top three are US (19.86), Russia (16.22) and Japan (10.54) whereas these figures for India are 2.44 ton of emission per capita.
- **Energy sector** is the major source of greenhouse gas emissions. It contributes more than **75 per cent of global emissions**.

First species of Yeti crab named Kiwa Tyleri found in Antarctica

- A team of **British scientists** have discovered the first species of **Yeti crab** in Antarctica.
- The species **Kiwa Tyleri** is named after world-renowned British deep-sea and polar biologist professor Paul Tyler.

Researchers develop eco-friendly oil spill solution

- Researchers have developed an eco-friendly biodegradable **green "herding" agent** that can be used to **clean up light crude oil spills** on water.
- The new substance would potentially replace chemical herders used currently. It is **derived from the plant-based small molecule "phytol"** abundant in the marine environment.

- The best known chemical herders are chemically stable, non-biodegradable, and hence remain in the marine ecosystem for years.
- The goal of the researchers was to develop an eco-friendly herding molecule as an alternative to the current silicone-based polymers.

Sports

Lalit Bhanot Elected Asian Athletics Association Vice-President

In the polls held in **Wuhan,China** former IOA secretary general Lalit Bhanot was elected as **Vice-President of Asian Athletics Association AAA.**

Recommended by the Athletics Federation of India AFI, Lalith Bhanot forced his way through 14 strong challenge in the election to be picked as one of the five vice-presidents during the AAA council on the eve of Asian Championships in Wuhan,China.

- As per the statement of AFI director ML Dogra, Mr Lalit was elected as vice-president of AAA after having won easily in the elections.
- Mr Bhanot was secretary of AFI for more than a decade and was also the secretary general of IOA.
- He is now chairman of AFI's planning committee.

92-year-old Harriette Thompson to become oldest woman to finish marathon

- A 92-year-old cancer survivor is seeking a place in the record books as the oldest woman to finish a marathon.
- Harriette Thompson of Charlotte, North Carolina, was running in today's Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in San Diego.
- The oldest woman to complete a marathon was Gladys Burrill, who was 92 years and 19 days old when she finished the 2010 Honolulu Marathon.
- Thompson will be 92 years and 65 days old today, according to race organizers.

India to host AFC U-16 final

- India will be hosting the 2016 AFC Under-16 Championship as confirmed by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) on Tuesday, after All India Football Federation (AIFF) first expressed its interest in hosting the continental championship in May, 2014.
- While India as a host nation has already qualified, the Indian Under-16 national team will also be participating in the AFC Under-16 qualifiers in September 2015, the draw for which will be held on June 5 in Malaysia.
- India is also hosting the 2017 Under-17 football World Cup. Kushal Das : AIFF, general secretary.
- Bahrain will host the 2016 AFC U-19 Championship.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter resigns

- FIFA president, since 1998, Sepp Blatter resigned from his post on Tuesday, just four days after he was re-elected to a fifth term as president, as a consequence of a U.S.-led corruption investigation

alleging widespread financial wrongdoing stretching back for years.

- This announcement, at a press conference in Zurich, came six days after the FBI raided a hotel in Zurich and arrested several FIFA officials. There were widespread calls for him to quit, mostly from Western nations.
- FIFA Secretary-General Jerome Valcke, was also implicated in a \$10 million payment scandal which is central to a U.S. bribery investigation against FIFA.

Ravi Shastri to continue as Director of Team India for Bangladesh tour

- Ravi Shastri, former Indian captain will continue as Director of the Indian cricket team for the tour of Bangladesh starting June 10, as confirmed by the BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur. This is a temporary arrangement as the chief coach Duncan Fletcher's tenure had ended earlier this year after the World Cup and the board is yet to name a permanent coach for the team.
- India will play the one off Test against Bangladesh on 10 June in Fatullah, followed by three ODIs in Mirpur (June 18, 21, 24). Among others Mr. Sanjay Bangar, Assistant Coach (Batting), Mr. B. Arun, Assistant Coach (Bowling) and Mr. R. Sridhar, Assistant Coach (Fielding), will assist Mr Shastri during the tour. Mr. Biswarup Dey will be the Administrative Manager. Mr. Rishikesh Upadhyaya has been appointed as Logistics Manager for the tour.
- Ravi Shastri had served as the Team Director during the tour of Australia and the subsequent World Cup earlier this year. He had also travelled with the Indian team to Bangladesh in 2007 as cricket manager after Greg Chappell resigned from the coach's post. He has represented India in 80 Tests and 150 ODIs for India and was part of the 1983 World Cup winning team.

India Jumps up six spots to 141 in new FIFA Rankings

- India has climbed up six places to the 141st position from 147th, in the latest rankings released by FIFA.
- India is at the 22nd position among the Asian countries. Iran (41) leads the pack, followed by Japan (52) and South Korea (58).
- FIFA Champions Germany continued to lead the list, while Belgium jumped to the second place (highest position ever) followed by Argentina. Five-time world champions Brazil is fifth, a spot behind Colombia, and is followed by the Netherlands, Portugal (seventh), Uruguay (eighth), and France (ninth).

Inderjeet Singh won gold in shotput at 21st Asian Athletics Championship

- 27-year-old left-handed shot-putter from Haryana, Inderjeet Singh bagged a gold medal in men's shot put event on the first day of the 21st Asian Athletics Championships being held in Wuhan, China. He made a new championship record of 20.41m in his fourth attempt.
- Chang Ming-Huang of Chinese Taipei came second with a throw of 19.56m, while Tian Zizhong of China won the bronze with a throw of 19.25m. This was the first medal for India in the tournament so far.
- He had finished fourth in the last edition held in Pune in 2013. He is a bronze medal winner in the 2014 Asian Games, held in Incheon and a silver medal holder in World University Games, 2013. He has already qualified for next year's Rio Olympics.

Poovamma, Joseph win silver medals in Asian Athletics Championships

- Machettira Raju Poovamma and Liksy Joseph secured silver medals for India on the second day of the 21st Asian Athletics Championships, going on in Wuhan, China.
- Poovamma finished behind China's Yang Huizhen (52.37) in women's 400m finals taking 53.07 seconds and was followed by Kazakhstan's Anastasiya Kudinova (53.41). Liksy won the second position in 800m race, taking a time of 2:13.44, while former Asian junior champion Purnima Hembram got the bronze.
- Among others, G Lakshmanan got a bronze medal in men's 5000m race. The men's 4x100m relay team finished sixth, while the women's relay team finished fourth.

De Villiers crowned South African cricketer of the year

- AB de Villiers won as many as five awards, including the South African Cricketer of the Year for a second consecutive time at a gala function, hosted by Cricket South Africa (CSA) in Johannesburg.
- The 27-year-old batsman was named the ODI Cricketer of the Year, Cricketers' Cricketer of the Year, SA Fan's Cricketer of the Year and also got the 'So Good Award' for scoring the fastest century in the history of ODI cricket against the West Indies in December 2014.
- Morne van Wyk won the T20 Cricketer of the Year, Dale Steyn received the Delivery of the Year and Rilee Rossouw was named the SA Newcomer of the Year.

Serena wins third French Open and 20th Grand Slam title

- Serena Williams won her 3rd French Open and 20th Grand Slam title at Roland Garros on Saturday. She defeated Czech Lucie Safarova by 6-3, 6-7 (2-7), 6-2.
- The American is now two short of Steffi Graf, the open era leader, and four off Margaret Court, the all-time leader. Having won the Australian Open at the start of the year, Williams is also halfway to the coveted calendar year grand slam.
- Serena's win over Safarova was her fifth three-set victory of a tournament that was a struggle almost from day one. She willed herself to victory against Safarova, who was appearing in her first grand slam final.

Dravid named India A, and U-19 coach

- Rahul Dravid, former Indian head, was appointed as the coach of the **India A and Under-19 cricket teams** at the first meeting of the newly formed BCCI's advisory committee.
- The panel - comprising legends Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman - met at the Cricket Association of Bengal office at the Eden Gardens with BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya for their first meeting.
- Dravid has played 164 Tests and 344 ODIs, he was also being considered for the post of national coach, but he stated his inability to do take up this post, personal commitments being the reason.

Lalita Babar, Vikas Gowda bag a gold each in Asian Athletics Championships

- India's **discus thrower** Vikas Gowda and woman steeplechaser Lalita Babar won gold medals, while India's G. Lakshmanan won the silver medal at the Asian Athletics Championships, going on in Wuhan, China.
- This was a second consecutive gold, for Gowda who achieved a distance of 62.03 meters to seal the top spot.
- Lalita outclassed China's Li Zhenzhu and Zhang Xinyan, to top the women's 3,000 metres steeplechase in 9:34.13 minutes, a competition record.
- Lakshmanan completed the 10,000 metres race in 29:42.81 minutes, to finish second, only behind Bahrain's Elhassan Elabbassi, who won in 28:50.71 minutes.

Barcelona lifts fifth Champions League crown

- Barcelona won the champions league trophy for the fifth time after they outclassed Juventus (3-1) at the Olympic Stadium.
- The three goals were from Ivan Rakitic after four minutes, Luis Suarez in the 68th minute and Neymar in stoppage-time.
- Although Alvaro Morata of Juventus had equalised after 55 minutes, they weren't able to stop the two goals coming, which sealed the deal for Barca.
- Barca also won La Liga and the Spanish King's Cup this year.

Dodig, Melo beat Bryans Brothers to win French Open doubles final

- The duo of Ivan Dodig of Croatia and Marcelo Melo of Brazil have defeated Bryan Brothers in the 2015 French Open Doubles Finals, claiming their Maiden Grand Slam title.
- Dodig and Melo defeated Bryan brothers by 6-7(5) 7-6(5) 7-5.
- With this victory, Dodig became the first Croatian and Melo the second Brazillain to win French Open title.

Qatar is likely be stripped of its chance to host the 2022 World Cup

- According to Phaedra Almajid, a FIFA whistleblower, Qatar may loose its chance to host the 2022 World Cup. The whistleblower has said that the evidence of the wrongdoing in Qatar's bid would force the FIFA to relieve Qatar of the responsibility of hosting the tournament in 2022.
- Almajid is an Arab-American based in the United States who worked for Qatar's 2022 bid till early 2010.
- Qatar shocked the world in 2010, by winning the right to host the 2022 World Cup. Since then, allegations of bribery and wrongdoing about their bid have been dominant within FIFA.

Wawrinka wins French Open

- Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland defeated Serbia's Novak Djokovic by 4-6, 6-4, 6-3,6-4 to become the winner of the 2015 French Open title.
- Wawrinka who is 30 yrs. old became the oldest winner of French Open in 25 yrs. This was his

second career grand slam after Australian Open in 2014.

Safarova & Mattek-Sands wins Women's Doubles French Open

- After losing to Serena Williams the other day, **Lucie Safarova** paired with America's **Bethanie Mattek-Sand** to win the **women's double** title with a 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory against Casey Dellacqua and Yaroslava Shvedova.

Lewis Hamilton wins Canadian Grand Prix

- The world champion, **Lewis Hamilton**, won his fourth **Canadian Grand Prix** on Sunday in **Montreal**. The Mercedes driver finished first while Rosberg and Valtteri Bottas finished with second and third spot respectively.

Luka strikes gold as India finish third in Asian Athletics Championship

- Indian sprinter Tintu Luka wins her first ever international gold medal in women's 800m finals as India finished third on the last day of the 21st Asian Athletics Championships.
- She completed her race in 2:01.53 ahead of China's Zhao Jing and Sri Lanka's Nimali Klarachchige

Japan's Momota wins Indonesia Open Men's title

- Kento Momota of Japan emerged victorious over the defending champion Jan O Jorgensen of Denmark at the men's singles finals to win the men's singles Indonesia Open title by 16-21, 21-19, 21-7.

Ratchanok Intanon bags Indonesia Open Women's title

- The 20 year old Thai Badminton star won the women's singles event in the Indonesia Open SuperSeries Premier tournament in Jakarta. She defeated Yui Hashimoto of Japan by 21-11 and 21-10.

India gets 3rd Spot at 21st Asian Athletics Championship

India finished with **3rd spot** in the final medal's tally of 21st Asian Athletics Championship. Overall India bagged 13 medals including **4 Gold, 5 Silver and 4 Bronze**. The list was topped by China followed by Qatar. Japan and Bahrain finished with 4th and 5th place respectively.

The Asian Athletics Championships is an event organized by the **Asian Athletics Association**.

The Gold medallists from this event qualifies for 2016 Rio Olympics. Lalita Babar, Vikas Gowda, Inderjit Singh and Tintu Luka of India qualified for Olympics from this championship

List of Winners

Gold Medal

- Lalita Babar -3000m steeplechase
- Vikas Gowda – Discus Throw
- Inderjit Singh – Shot put
- Tintu Luka – 800m sprint

Silver Medal

- MR Poovamma – 400m Sprint
- Lakshmanan Govindan -10,000m
- Liksy Joseph – Heptathlon
- Jinson Johnson – 800m
- Jisna Mathew, Tintu Luka, Debashree Majumder, MR Poovamma – 4x400m relay women's

Bronze Medal

- Dharambir Singh – 200m
- Lakshmanan – 5,000m
- Purnima Hembram – Heptathlon
- Sarbani Nanda – 200m

Winners of 2015 French Open title of Tennis

The **114th** edition of the [French Open](#) event took place at the Stade Roland Garros from 24 May to 7 June. It is **the second Grand Slam event of the year.**

Men's Singles

- **Stanislas Wawrinka** of Switzerland **defeated Novak Djokovic** of Serbia (4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4), his fourth win in 21 meetings against the Serb.
- It is his first French Open title and second grand slam title after Australian Open 2014.
- He is the only the second Swiss to win French Open men's single title after Roger Federer.
- Wawrinka became the oldest champion in Paris since Andres Gomez in 1990.

Women's Singles

- **Serena Williams** of United States defeated **Lucie Safarova** of Czechoslovakia (6-3 6-7 (2) 6-2)
- This was her third French Open title (earlier wins in 2002, 2013) and overall 20th Grand Slam title.

Men's Doubles Title

- The pair of **Ivan Dodig** of Croatia and Marcelo Melo of Brazil defeated Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan of US (6–7(5–7), 7–6(7–5), 7–5).

Women's Doubles Title

- The pair of **Bethanie Mattek-Sands** of US and **Lucie Šafářová** of Czech Republic **defeated Casey Dellacqua** of Australia and **Yaroslava Shvedova** of Kazakhstan (3–6, 6–4, 6–2).
- For Mattek-Sands it's her 16th career doubles crown and third with Safarova.

Mixed Double's Title

- **Bethanie Mattek-Sands** and **Mike Bryan** pair from United States **defeated Lucie Hradecká** Czech Republic and **Marcin Matkowski** of Poland (7–6(7–3), 6–1).
- Bryan won his fourth grand slam mixed doubles title; he won the other three with American Lisa Raymond (2002 US Open, 2003 Roland Garros, and 2012 Wimbledon).

7th International junior shotgun: Anantjeet wins skeet gold

- **Anantjeet Naruka** became the star performer by winning two gold medals, one individual and other team gold medal for India in the **7th International Junior Shotgun Cup** in Orimattila, **Finland**.
- He won his medals in junior men's skeet category. In Skeet Team Junior category he teamed up with Angadvir Bajwa and Arjun Mann.

Goa to host 5th Youth Delphic Games in Feb 2016

- Goa will be hosting the fifth Youth Delphic Games from February 1 to 14 in 2016.
- This event is expected to attract 125 countries with over 7000 participants, six art categories and over 70 sub-categories, with many parallel artistic and fun events and activities for everyone.
- The youths between the age of 15 – 25 years will participate under the motto "Celebrating Arts and Cultures".

7th International Junior Shotgun Cup: Anantjeet wins skeet gold, India wins other medals

Shooter **Anantjeet Naruka** clinched the gold medal, in the junior men's skeet match, at 7th International junior shotgun cup that concluded in **Orimattila, Finland**. He overcame Finland's Lari Pesonen (12-11). He emerged as the country's star performer by winning an individual gold medal as well as a team gold in the skeet event. In the individual category, he shot a combo of 110 and 12, and in the junior men's team category, along with Angadvir Bajwa and Arjun Mann, they scored 110, 119 and 102 respectively, beating Russia by seven points, to get the gold.

Fellow Indian, **Angadvir Singh Bajwa**, won the bronze medal, in the same category (skeet), 6-5 against Matteo Chiti of Italy, with a total of 119 and 13 respectively.

The Indian junior men's trap team (**Akash Saharan, Kismat Chopra and Lakshay**) with scores of 107, 101 and 99 respectively, won the silver medal in the junior men's trap event. And the double trap team (**Jaisal Singh, Ahvar Rizvi and Priyanshu Pandey**) sealed the second spot, after Russia, to bag the silver medal in the junior men's double trap event. Finland finished third. Jaisal Singh shot the second best score of 128 in the qualification phase of individual double trap event but finished at a distant 6th place with a dismal score of 18 in the semifinals.

Indian Basketball Players Association launched in New Delhi

- Indian Basketball Players Association launched at the Indian Medical Association hall in New Delhi. Well known basketball legends of the country were present.
- Sajjan Singh was nominated as the president, while Jayasankar Menon, will be the general secretary and Ashok Sharma, national player and FIBA commissioner, will be the treasurer.
- Abbas Moontaisar will be the chairman while Manmohan Singh and Suman Sharma will be vice chairmen.

Shah Rukh Khan acquired CPL T20 team Trinidad & Tobago

- Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan** has purchased franchise in Caribbean Premier League's team **Trinidad & Tobago**.
- His company Red Chillies Entertainment Pvt Ltd -along with KKR co-owners **Juhi Chawla** and her husband **Jay Mehta** -has invested in the T&T franchise.
- He is the first owner of IPL to own an overseas cricket franchise.

MS Dhoni is among Forbes magazine's 100 highest-paid athletes in the world

- Mahendra Singh Dhoni is among Forbes magazine's 100 highest-paid athletes in the world. He is the only Indian sportsperson in the list.
- American boxer **Floyd Mayweather** is number **1** in the list. The other noted sports personalities in the list are golfer Tiger Woods, tennis star Roger Federer and soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo.

Former England wicketkeeper Prior retires

- Matt Prior has retired from all forms of cricket on medical advice. The former England wicketkeeper has been suffering with an Achilles tendon injury and has not played since last year.
- Prior, also an aggressive middle order batsman played 79 tests for England. He played his first match in 2007 against West Indies when he made 126 not out and the last against India at Lord's last year.

N Srinivasan re-elected as TNCA President

- Former BCCI chief and current ICC Chairman N Srinivasan was unanimously re-elected President of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association in its 85th Annual General Meeting Friday.
- Srinivasan, who was forced to step aside from BCCI President's post and later withdraw from a possible re-election, has been elected in the TNCA for a one-year term.
- The other office-bearers took charge include Kasi Viswanathan as Secretary and Vice-Presidents

including K S Aghoram, U Prabhakar Rao, P S Raman.

Legendary West Indies fast bowler Sir Wesley Hall inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of fame

- Legendary West Indies fast bowler **Sir Wesley Hall** is the latest cricketer to be inducted into the **ICC Cricket Hall of Fame**.
- Hall, played 48 Tests from 1958-69 and took 192 wickets at 26.38. He was presented with a commemorative cap from fellow ICC Cricket Hall of Famer, Courtney Walsh, at Sabina Park, Jamaica,

ITF women's tennis: Sowjanya wins doubles in China

- Sowjanya Bavisetti, in partnership with Ai Wen Zhu of China, won the doubles title with a 7-6(8), 0-6, 10-7 victory over Ao Gai and Yuqi Sheng of China in the final of the \$10,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Anning, China.

Harbhajan becomes 9th highest wicket-takers in tests

- **Harbhajan Singh** reached another milestone by becoming **9th highest wicket-taker** in **Test matches**. The Indian off-spinner surpassed Pakistan's Wasim Akram to reach this landmark.
- The "Turbantor" took 3 wickets for 64 runs in the test against Bangladesh which ended in a draw. Harbhajan has now claimed 416 wickets in 102 Test matches.

India Bangladesh Test match ends in a Draw

- The only test between India and Bangladesh ended in a draw. This match was interrupted by rain on all five days and more than 250 overs of game was lost.
- In reply to India's 426/6 in first innings Bangladesh managed only 256 all out and couldn't avoid follow-on. In their second innings they managed to score 23/0 in 15 overs.
- Ashwin with figures 5/87 was the most successful bowler for India.

New Zealand beats England takes 2-1 lead in ODI series

- New Zealand defeated England in third ODI by 3 wickets. In an another high scoring game England managed to score 302 runs. In reply New Zealand's Ross Taylor and Kane Williamson made centuries and secured victory for their team.

Guam beats India 2-1 in 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier

- Guam defeated India by 2-1 in 2018 World Cup Qualifier match. Guam is ranked 33 places below India in FIFA rankings. This embarrassing defeat has put India's third position in the tournament in jeopardy.

Chhetri becomes 1st Indian to score 50 International goals

- Indian football star **Sunil Chhetri** became the first Indian footballer to score **50 international goals** during his team's 2018 World Cup qualifying match against Guam.

Rafael Nadal won Stuttgart Open

- **Rafael Nadal** won **Stuttgart Open** by beating Victor Troicki in straight sets. It was his **66th ATP Tour title**.

Brazil beats Senegal 5-0 to reach U20 WC final

- Brazil thrashed Senegal by 5-0 to reach finals of Under-20 World Cup.
- Brazil will face the winner of the second semi-final between Serbia and Mali in the finals.

Two Indians at U.S. Open

- Two Indian golfers Anirban Lahiri and Shiv Kapur will play at the prestigious U.S. Open for the first time at the Chambers Bay course, Washington.

Sunil Chhetri became first Indian footballer to score 50 international goals

- Sunil Chhetri became the first Indian footballer to score 50 international goals. He achieved the feat during India's second match of the second round of qualifiers for 2018 football World Cup qualifying group match against Guam at the Guam National Football Stadium.
- In the match, Guam defeated India 2-1. Earlier, India lost their first match of the group 1-2 against Oman.

List of International goals scored by Indian footballer

- Sunil Chhetri: 50 goals in 87 matches
- Bhaichung Bhutia: 42 goals in 107 matches
- IM Vijayan: 40 goals from 79 games

AIBA constituted Ad-hoc committee chaired by Kishan Narsi for boxing in India

- The International Boxing Association (AIBA) on 16 June 2015 constituted a five-member ad-hoc committee to manage the process of finding a group to organise and run boxing in India.
- Kishan Narsi, an international referee who officiated in four Olympics was appointed as the Chairman of the committee.
- He has been the Vice-Chairman of Executive Committee of AIBA.
- Other members of the committee include Jay Kowli, Manisha Malhotra and Injeti Srinivas. The fifth member of the committee will be appointed by AIBA on the recommendation of the ad hoc committee and would be a national coach.

Sharad Pawar re-elected as President of Mumbai Cricket Association

- Veteran leader of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Sharad Pawar was on 17 June 2015 re-elected as the President of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).
- In the biennial polls held for the post, Pawar defeated Vijay Patil by 34 votes to retain the president's post. Former Indian cricketer Dilip Vengsarkar along with Ashish Shelar was elected as Vice-President of the MCA.

- He defeated Pratap Sarnaik who got 124 votes compared to 195 seats secured by Vengsarkar. Nitin Dalal was elected as Treasurer who defeated Mayank Khandwala for the post.

ECB to pump £3m into Women's Cricket Super League

- Cricket is one of our most favorite sports for us mostly boys. But in England, Today marks a major step for the women's game in England said ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) chief executive Tom Harrison.
- The new tournament is set to come out the Women's Big Bash League, which begins in Australia
- The plan is to attract the world's women's Cricket player to England's leading female. For this £3m funding will pay for coaching and facilities as well as promotion of the competition and prize money.

Prannoy grabs World No. 12 position in BWF ranking

- Indian shuttler HS Prannoy grabbed his career-best world number 12 spot after improving a place in the latest men's singles ranking, announced by BWF.
- Indonesian Masters winner Prannoy is now the third best-placed Indian after K Srikanth (World No. 3) and Parupalli Kashyap (World No.10).
- In women's singles, Saina Nehwal retained her World No. 2 position, while P V Sindhu held on to her 14th place.

Indian paddlers won team titles at South Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships

- India's junior boys and cadet girls won the team championship titles at the South Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships at the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi.
- To retain the title in junior boys section, the Indian paddlers won all the four matches without dropping a set. Similarly, cadet girls won all their matches without a hiccup.

Silver and Bronze medals in the two categories

In Junior Boys category

- Sri Lanka's Junior Boys won Silver
- Pakistan, who finished third and Maldives behind them, got the bronze

In Cadet Girl's category won silver

- Sri Lanka's Cadet Girl's won Silver
- Nepal, who finished third and Pakistan behind them, got the bronze

Nico Rosberg wins Austrian Grand Prix

- **Nico Rosberg** defeated his Mercedes team-mate and series leader Lewis Hamilton to win **Austrian Grand Prix**.

Roger Federer trumps Andreas Seppi for 8th Halle title

- Roger Federer beats Andreas Seppi by 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 to win an eighth title at **the ATP Halle tournament**.

- This was his 8th title of the season and 86th of his career.

Andy Murray outclasses Kevin Anderson to take fourth Queen's title

- Andy Murray won the Aegon Championships at Queen's Club by beating Kevin Anderson by 6-3, 6-4 in a one-sided final.

Serbia won 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup by defeating Brazil 2-1

- **Serbia** defeated Brazil by 2-1 in extra time in the final of **U20 World Cup** final. Nemanja Maksimovic scored a 118th minute goal to end the match in a winning note for his team.

China won 2015 Nongfu Spring World Cup of Snooker

- China's Zhou Yuelong and Yan Bingtao won the **Nongfu Spring World Cup** of snooker by beating Scotland 4-1 in the final in Wuxi, China. This is the second consecutive time China has won the event.

India slip one place to 4th spot in Test ranking

- India have slipped to **4th spot in ICC Test rankings** after a draw against Bangladesh. Before the match India shared 3rd spot with New Zealand on 99 points. Now India have 97 points and sharing the same spot with England and Pakistan also having 97 points each.

Former Brazil skipper Lucio signs for FC Goa

- Lucio , former Brazil skipper and 2002 World Cup winner has signed up with FC Goa for the second season of Indian Super League.
- Lucio who is 37 years old is a former Bayern Munich and Inter Milan defender.

Russia won European Team Athletics Championships 2015

- Russia on 21 June 2015 won the European Team Athletics Championships by winning 10 of the 40 events on the program. The championships were held in Cheboksary, Russia.
- This is the fourth time that Russia won the title since the inception of games in 2009.
- In totality, Russia won the 368.5 points, 22 points ahead of Germany which secured second place. France had their best finish at the championships, coming third by winning 319.5 points.

US Open 2015: Jordan Spieth wins historic title for second major

- Jordan Spieth won the US Open at Chambers Bay on 21 June 2015.
- The win was his second straight major title of 2015 after he won the Masters Tournament at Augusta National, US in April 2015.
- He closed with a 69 for a five under total of 275, one shot ahead of fellow American Dustin Johnson (70) and South African Louis Oosthuizen (67).

- He is also the youngest champion of the US Open since the legendary Bobby Jones in 1923 and the youngest player to win two career majors since Gene Sarazen in 1922.

India-Bangladesh Cricket series

India avoided suffering a 'Banglawash' by winning the last ODI in the tri-series which it lost to its smaller neighbour. The series highlights the emergence of Bangladesh as a serious cricketing nation which was evident when it defeated England in the World cup and won all the three ODI games in its home series with Pakistan.

Important highlights:

- Bangladesh, for the first time, have won two consecutive ODIs vs India
- With two consecutive victories in the current series, Bangladesh have won ten ODIs in succession in ODIs in Bangladesh — five vs Zimbabwe, three vs Pakistan and two vs India
- With their aforesaid wins, Bangladesh have qualified for the ICC Champions Trophy 2017
- Bangladesh, for the first time in ODIs, has won a bilateral series vs India
- The debutant Mustafizur is the first bowler to capture eleven wickets (ave.8.45) in his first two ODIs.
- Mustafizur won both man of the match awards in the first two ODIs
- The series included a test match, played at Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium, Fatullah. The match was declared a draw because of rain. Shikhar Dhawan was the man of the match
- All the three ODIs were held in Shere Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur.
- Suresh Raina was the Man of the Match in the 3rd The debutant bowler Mustafizur Rahman won the Man of the Series Award.

Tendulkar voted best Test player of 21st century

- India's batting legend **Sachin Tendulkar** has been voted the '**Best Test player**' of the 21st century in an online poll conducted by Cricket Australia's website.
- **Kumar Sangakara** of Sri Lanka received **second** highest votes followed by Australia's **Adam Gilchrist** in the **third** position.

R Ashwin breaks into top 10 of ODI bowlers' rankings

- **Ravichandran Ashwin** enters into the list of top 10 bowlers in ODI. The off-spinner took 6 wickets in three matches against Bangladesh. Ashwin has jumped two places to reach **10th** spot in the list.

Zaheer Abbas confirmed as ICC president

- Former Captain of Pakistan cricket team, **Zaheer Abbas** has been appointed as the **ICC President**. He is appointed for one year term.
- Zaheer Abbas has played 78 Tests and 62 ODIs from 1969 to 1985, in which he scored 5,062 and 2,572 runs respectively. He also played in the 1975, 1979 and 1983 ICC Cricket World Cups and captained Pakistan in 14 Tests and 13 ODIs.

Inderjeet Singh, Jinson Johnson won gold at Asian Athletics Grand Prix

- Inderjit Singh and Jinson Johnson of India bagged gold at the first leg of the Asian Athletics Grand Prix in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Inderjit won the gold in Shot Put by throwing 19.83 meters while Johnson won the gold in 800 meter event with a time of 1:48.52.
- This was Inderjeet's second gold in an international event in June 2015, having won the shot put event at the Asian Championships in Wuhan, China on 3 June 2015.

ICC amends ODI rules; suspends USA Cricket Association

The changes made by ICC are:

- **No catchers in the first 10 overs**
- **No batting powerplay**
- **Five fielders outside the 30-yard circle in the last ten overs**
- **All "no balls" and not just over-stepping by the bowlers will result in a free hit** in both ODIs and Twenty20 Internationals.

During its Annual Conference the ICC board adopted these recommendations made by the ICC's cricket committee headed by the former India captain Anil Kumble in Mumbai this May.

ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said, "We have thoroughly reviewed the ODI format after a very successful ICC Cricket World Cup. There was no need to make any radical changes to what has proved to be a vibrant and popular format but we wanted to take this opportunity to make the format simpler and easier to follow for the public as well as maintaining a balance between bat and ball."

The ICC have tried to ensure that ODI cricket retains the attacking, aggressive and thrilling brand in making these adjustments. This has recently become the hallmark of 50-over cricket and sets us on a positive path to the next World Cup in England in 2019.

The **ICC Board** has also decided to **suspend the membership of the USA Cricket Association (USACA)** with immediate effect.

This decision was made after considering the findings of a recently constituted Review Group report to the ICC Board on the Status and Activities of USACA.

Satnam Singh: First Indian to be drafted by an NBA team

- **Satnam Singh Bhamara** became the first Indian player to be drafted in the **National Basketball Association (NBA)**.
- Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar and Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan congratulated the 19-year-old Punjab lad Satnam for his achievement.

Kumar Sangakkara to Retire From International Cricket After Second Test Against India

- Sri Lankan batsman **Kumar Sangakkara** has decided to call it a day and will retire during the home test series against India in August.
- The 37 year old batting great is the current world leading Test run-getter. He has scored 12,305 runs and 38 centuries which is most by any batsman still playing Tests.

Anand comes second in Norway Chess 2015 title

- Veselin Topalov from Bulgaria won the Norway Chess 2015 title in Stavanger, Norway
- Viswanathan Anand had to contend with runnerup position as the title clash resulted in a quick draw.
- World champion and Norwegian Magnus Carlsen had a disappointing tournament, finishing in the distant 7th
- Another Indian Anish Giri finished 4th

Jwala-Ashwini pair wins Canada Open

- The third seeded Indian Badminton duo **Jwala Gutta** and **Ashwini Ponnappa** won the **Canada Open** women's doubles title after beating the top-seeded Dutch pair of Eefje Muskens and Selena Piek in the finals.
- Indian shuttlers defeated their opponents by 21-19 21-16.
- This was Jwala and Ashwini's first title since their reunion after the 2012 London Olympics.

Winners of other events

- Men's singles – Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia) by defeating Ng Ka Long Angus (Hong Kong)
- Women's Singles – Michelle Li (Canada) by defeating Kaori Imabeppu (Japan)
- Men's doubles – Li Junhui & Liu Yuchen (China)
- Mixed doubles – Lee Chun Hei & Chau Hoi Wah (Hong Kong)

Harbhajan back in ODIs, most seniors rested for Zimbabwe tour

- **Harbhajan Singh** is making his way back to the **ODI team** for the **Zimbabwe's tour**.
- Selectors have rested most of the senior players. The **Indian team will be lead by Ajinkya Rahane**.
- Robin Uthappa, Manoj Tiwary, Sandeep Sharma and Karn Sharma are also included in the team.

Rossi takes tight duel with Marquez to win Assen MotoGP

- **Valentino Rossi** won a close contest with reigning world champion Marco Marquez to win **Motul TT Assen**.
- This was Rossi's seventh MotoGP victory on Assen track.
- Valentino Rossi is a **nine time world champion** and rides for **Yamaha**.

Vargas double takes hosts Chile into Copa final

- Eduardo Vargas scored two goals to take his team Chile one step closer of winning Copa America Cup.
- Chile defeated Peru by 2-1 in the semi-finals. Chile will face the winners of the other semi-final between favourites Argentina and Paraguay.

Obituary

“Friday the 13th” actress Betsy Palmer dies

- **Betsy Palmer**, best known as Jason’s murderous mother, Pamela Voorhees — the original killer in the iconic horror flick Friday the 13th , has passed away at 88.
- Palmer appeared in a number of films, TV and stage shows throughout the 50s, including quiz show I’ve Got a Secret, iconic musical South Pacific and war flick Mr. Roberts. She took on the role of Mrs. Voorhees in 1980 to pay off her car.

Olympian Prem Nath passes away

- Prem Nath, a gold medallist at the 1974 Christchurch Commonwealth Games, breathed his last on Monday evening. He was 64. He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter.
- He finished fourth in the freestyle bantam weight category, in the 1972 Munich Olympics. Two years later, he bagged the 57kg gold title in the Commonwealth Games, New Zealand. He got the Arjuna Award in the year 1972. Prem Nath, a President’s Medal-winning retired Delhi Police official, was a student of the legendary Guru Hanuman.
- He took over an akhara, now known as the Guru Prem Nath akhara (established by Guru Baijnath in 1948) in the Kamla Nagar area of Delhi in 1976, and ran it for a long time before handing it over to his son Vikram Kumar, who is now a Indian coach, in 2004.

Irwin Rose-Nobel Prize winner in chemistry passed away

- At the age of 88, Irwin Rose a famous biochemist, who won the Nobel Prize for his discovery of molecule’ **Ubiquitin**, breathed his last. He shared this Nobel Prize with Avram Hershko and Aaron Ciechanover. Irwin Rose died in his sleep in Deerfield, Massachusetts as according to spokeswoman Janet Wilson , University of California,UCI, Irvine.
- As per UCI , chancellor Howard Gillman’s statement Irwin Rose always had good intellect and unwavering eagerness about the fundamental chemical and biological process which are basics of life.

Hollywood actor Hiroshi Koizumi dies

- Hollywood actor of Japanese origin, **Hiroshi Koizumi**, famous for his string of monster film appearances such as in Mothra vs Godzilla, Ghidorah, the Three-Headed Monster and Dogara, the Space Monster, passed away at the **age of 88**.

- He was Born in 1926, Koizumi graduated from Tokyo's Keio University and joined public broadcaster NHK as an announcer. He made his **Hollywood debut in 1951**.

Legendary Telugu writer Dasaradhi Rangacharya died

- Famous Telugu poet **Dasaradhi Rangacharya** passed away. He was a winner of the **Sahitya Akademi Award**.

Former Test cricketer Hemant Kanitkar no more

- Former Test cricketer Hemant Kanitkar from Maharashtra died at his residence in Pune. Hemant Kanitkar who was a batsman played two tests for India in home series against West Indies in 1974-75.
- He had a first class career of 15-years.

Spiritual leader Sivananda Murthy dead

- Noted spiritualist Sadguru Kandukuru Sivananda Murthy who was 87 passed away.
- He has huge following among Telugu people around the world.
- He was awarded honorary doctorate by the Andhra University in recognition of his services.

Actor Richard Passed away

- British actor Richard Johnson died at the age of 87. He was a founding member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and played several lead roles, including Romeo and Mark Anthony in "Julius Caesar".
- He featured in well-known films like "The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas", "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" and "Khartoum".

Vincent Musetto Dies

- Vincent Musetto, the editor of **New York Post** died at the age of 74. He was the author of the most famous headline, "Headless body in Topless Bar".
- The headline was inspired by the late Charles Dingle, who shot the owner of a topless bar, Herbert Cummings, and took four women hostage.

Dracula' star Christopher Lee dies at the age of 93

- Legendary actor Sir Christopher Lee has died at the age of 93 due to respiratory problems and heart failure.
- He was best known for roles including Dracula and Saruman in the Lord of the Rings franchise.
- He was knighted in 2009 for services to drama and charity, and was awarded the Bafta fellowship in 2011.

Nek Chand, Creator of Chandigarh's Rock Garden, Dies at 90

- Nek Chand who created world famous Rock Garden of Chandigarh died at the age of 90.
- He created sculptures from discarded materials in a garden by clearing a forest patch near Sukhna Lake. The garden was inaugurated as a public space in 1976.
- The Rock Garden is now acknowledged as one of the modern wonders of the world and receives over 5,000 visitors each day.
- Nek Chand made best out waste by using materials like broken glass, bangles, crockery, mosaic and iron-foundry slag.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1984.

Oliver! actor Ron Moody dies aged 91

- Actor Ron Moody, who played Fagin in the hit film version of Oliver!, has died aged 91
- The British character actor was nominated for an Oscar and won a Golden Globe for his performance in the 1968 Charles Dickens adaptation.

Big-Band leader James Last passes away at 86

- James Last, the German-born big-band leader, has passed away in Florida, at the age of 86.
- The composer sold more than 100 million albums worldwide by translating popular hits into a big band sound, branded Happy Music.

Singer-actress Monica Lewis dies at 93

- American singer-actress Monica Lewis has passed away at the age of 93. She was best known for voicing popular cartoon series "Chiquita Banana".

Veteran Congress leader Sheila Kaul no more

- **Shela Kaul**, a former Union Minister, a sister-in-law of Jawaharlal Nehru and oldest surviving Parliamentarian has died. She was 101 years old.

Architect Charles Correa passes away

- India's well known architect and urban planner, Charles Correa, passed away. He was 84.
- Correa was winner of several national and international awards. He was also known for adapting his designs to local climates and building styles.
- He was the chief architect of Navi Mumbai, the satellite suburb of Mumbai.
- He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1972 and Padma Vibhushan in 2006.

Former Turkish President Suleyman Demirel dies

- Former Turkish President Suleyman Demirel has died. He was 90.
- Demirel, who was popularly known as "Baba" or "Dad", served as Prime Minister seven times through the 1960s to the 1990s and was President from 1993 to 2000.

Kirk Kerkorian, billionaire Las Vegas mogul passes away

- Kirk Kerkorian, the son of Armenian immigrants who became a billionaire Las Vegas mogul, has died at the age of 98.
- The veteran US businessman was the largest shareholder in MGM Resorts International, which owns the MGM Grand and Bellagio hotels in Las Vegas.

Former hockey skipper Shashi Bala dies

- Former Indian women hockey skipper **Shashi Bala** and her son died in a road accident in Punjab.
- Bala made her international debut in 1987 and was a part of the national team in the 1998 FIH Women World Cup in the Netherlands.
- She captained Indian during the 1997 FIH Women World Cup qualifier held in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Veteran Journalist Praful Bidwai Passes Away

- Senior journalist and well-known columnist Praful Bidwai has died at the age of 66 due to cardiac arrest in Amsterdam on Tuesday evening(23 June)- during a visit to the Netherlands.
- He was born in Nagpur, Bidwai had been a Professorial Fellow at the Centre for Social Development a Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.
- He was a regular contributor to magazines and newspapers and also wrote a number of books, including the 1999 New Nukes: India, Pakistan and Global Nuclear Disarmament.
- He received the Sean MacBride International Peace Prize 2000.
- He working as a senior editor for the Times of India for a number of years, after that he was a staunch critic of the Narendra Modi-led ruling NDA government.

BJP MP from Madhya Pradesh Dileep Singh Bhuria passes away

- Senior Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) leader and Lok Sabha MP Dileep Singh Bhuria passed away in Gurgaon, Haryana after a brief illness. He was 71.
- He was Lok Sabha MP from Ratlam-Jhabua constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Bhuria was born on June 19, 1944. He was first elected in 1972 as MLA of state legislative assembly from Petlawad seat.

Legendary Ghazal singer Vithal Rao dead

- Legendary Ghazal singer D. Vithal Rao passed away.
- Vithal Rao was among the few living legends of Ghazals and the last court singer of Nizam of Hyderabad. He popularised the Ghazals written by Hyderabad writers.

Former Russian PM Yevgeny Primakov dies

- Former **Russian** Prime Minister **Yevgeny Primakov** has died. He was 85.
- He became famous for turning around his US-bound plane over the Atlantic upon learning of NATO's bombing of Serbia in 1999.

'Titanic' music composer James Horner dies

- James Horner, who won the Oscars for the music of 'Titanic' died at the age of 61 in a plane crash near Santa Barbara.
- Horner won the Oscar award for Original Dramatic Score and another academy award for Original song "My Heart will go on", performed by Celine Dion.

Mother Teresa's successor Sister Nirmala dies

- Sister Nirmala Joshi who was the successor of Mother Teresa as the head of Missionaries of Charity died at the age of 80.
- Nirmala expanded the organisation's reach to 134 countries by opening centres in nations such as Afghanistan, Israel and Thailand.

Books & Authors

PM Narendra Modi launched book titled Education of Muslims by Professor JS. Rajput.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 June 2015 launched a book titled Education of Muslims: An Islamic Perspective of Knowledge and Education – Indian Context edited by Professor JS Rajput. The PM's outreach so far has been usually limited to meeting community members and clerics. This book launch was the first such meeting where Modi hosted high commissioners of Muslim countries for an informal tea.
- The book is aimed at informing and educating policy-makers, scholars and readers about **role of Islam in pursuit of education and knowledge**.
- The book **contains 16 articles** written by various scholars and historians including JS Rajput on wide ranging issues related to understanding of Islam religion, role of Islam and its educational institutions (madrasas) in dissemination of knowledge and educational status of Muslim children in India among others.

Flood of fire written by Amitav Ghosh released

- This is the third instalment of the trilogy. First was 'Sea of Poppies' while the second instalment was 'River of Smoke'.

Sourav Ganguly: Cricket, Captaincy and Controversy written by Saptarshi Sarkar

- The book, "*Sourav Ganguly: Cricket, Captaincy and Controversy*" is written by Saptarshi Sarkar, a digital marketing professional and a huge fan of Sourav Ganguly. This book was released in April 2015.
- This is a biography of former Indian Cricket Captain Sourav Ganguly. It deals with the various aspects of his cricketing career.
- Previous books published on Sourav Ganguly are: Ganguly – Sourav Ganguly by Vinod Tiwari in 2005 and Sourav Ganguly, the maharaja of cricket by Debashish Datta in 2007.

Book: Charting a New path: Early Years of the NFIW

- The book named "Charting a New path: Early Years of the NFIW", co-authored by famous women's rights activist Gargi Chakravarty and Supriya Chottani, shows significant aspects of silent period in the history of women's movement.
- A book was launched recently that was seeking to trace the history of women's movement, with the authors representing the role of the leaders like Aruna Asraf Ali in raising problems faced by the women in economic, social and political spheres.

The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy: Daniel A. Bell

- The book seeks to understand the ideals and the reality of Chinese political system.
- In his book, Bell discusses the advantages and pitfalls of political meritocracy of China; he distinguishes between different ways of combining meritocracy and democracy, and argues that China has evolved a model of democratic meritocracy that is morally desirable and politically stable.

Vice President Presented with a Book 'Bikhare Khyalat' Based on Iqbal's Writings

- The Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari was presented with a book entitled "Bikhare Khyalat" by Prof. Abdul Haq.
- The book is the Urdu Translation of Mohammed Iqbal's writing in English titled 'Stray Reflections'. The Vice President congratulated Prof. Haq for his valuable contribution.
- This book contains old jottings based on Iqbal's impressions of the books he was reading at that time, his thoughts and feelings about the environment in which he lived, and reminiscences of his student days.

Vice President Releases the Book 'K.G. Saiyidain – A Life in Education'

- The Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari released a book entitled "K.G. Saiyidain – A Life in Education" edited by Ms. Zakia Saiyidain Zaheer and Dr. Syeda Saiyidain Hameed at a function.

Vice President Receives the Book on 'Prime Minister Modi' in Chinese by Shri Tarun Vijay, MP

- The Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari received a book entitled 'Modi – Incredible emergence of a star' in Chinese language written by Shri Tarun Vijay, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha).
- Dr Lokesh Chandra, President of ICCR and Prof. S.K.Sopory, Vice Chancellor of JNU and Mrs Vandana Bisht Vijay, author's wife were present on this occasion.
- The book is based on the life and economic vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. It has been published in Chinese language by Sichuan University's South Asia Study Centre.

PM's Remarks at the release of the book: Red Tape to Red Carpet... and then some

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today highlighted the importance of changing mindsets, saying the "industry of red tape" thrives on doubt, while the "road with red carpet" is built on trust.

- This remarks came at the book release of this book held in NewDelhi.
- This book was written by Mrs.Gina Rinehart the chairperson of Australian mining company Hancock Prospecting Group.

Transcendence: My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji written by Abdul Kalam

- Transcendence: My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji, a book written by former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and Arun Tiwari was released on 15 June 2015.
- In this book the authors have mapped a journey of self-realization reflected in the eyes of Pramukh Swamiji, painting a delightful fusion of spirituality, science and leadership.

Important Days

June 1,2015

Remember Day:World Milk Day.

Organization:SAMPRO.

Purpose: It is celebrated to increase the common public awareness about all aspects of the natural milk such as its natural origin,milk nutritional value and various milk products including its economic importance throughout the globe.

Theme: “Milk is the First Food for Human” and “World Class Nutrition”.

Remember Day: Global Day of Parents

Organization: UN

Purpose: To honor parents and their commitment to children worldwide.

June 2,2015

Remember Day: International Sex Workers Day (International Whore's Day)

Organization: Nicaraguan HIV/AIDS Commission.

Purpose:The International Whore's Day is a celebratory day, which remembers the discrimination of prostitutes and their often exploitative living and conditions of working.

Remember Day: Kailash Saga Dawa Festival.

Organization:India.

Purpose: Saga Dawa Festival celebrates the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death, or attaining of Nirvana. It is the most important religious festival observed by the entire Buddhist world.

June 4,2015

Remember Day: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.

Organized: UNHCR.

Purpose: Acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world,who are the victims of physical,mental and emotional abuse.

Theme: To protect the rights of children.

June 5,2015

Remember Day: World Environment Day.

Organized: UNEP.

Purpose: Raise global awareness to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth.

Theme: Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.

June 7,2015

Remember Day: National Cancer Survivors Day

Organized: US

Purpose: Communities honor cancer survivors for their strength and courage and recognize the contribution of families and friends.

Theme: Strike Out Cancer, Give Cancer the Boot.

June 8,2015

Remember Day: World Oceans Day.

Organized: UNESCO.

Purpose: To honor the world's ocean, celebrate the products the ocean provides and also to appreciate it's own intrinsic value.

Theme: Healthy oceans, healthy planet.

June 12,2015

Remember Day: Anti-Child Labour Day.

Organized: International Labour Organization

Purpose: To provides an opportunity to gain further support of individual gov and social partners to campaign against child labour.

Theme: "NO to child labour – YES to quality education"

June 13,2015

Remember Day: International Albinism Awareness Day

Organized: UN

Purpose: To raise public awareness of albinism and prevent attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism.

June 14,2015

Remember Day: World Blood Donor Day.

Organized: WHO, WBBDD.

Purpose: To raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products, and to thank blood donors for their voluntary, life-saving gifts of blood.

Theme: Thank you for saving my life.

June 15,2015

Remember Day: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Organised: WHO.

Purpose: To raise the visibility of elder abuse by sharing information about abuse, neglect and exploitation in later life.

Theme: Back to the future.

June 17,2015

Remember Day: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

Organized: UNCCD.

Purpose: To promote public awareness relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought.

Theme: Attainment of food security for all through sustainable food systems.

June 20,2015

Remember Day: World Refugee Day.

Organized: UNHR.

Purpose: To raise the public awareness about refugee's situations throughout the world

Theme: With courage let us all combine.

June 21,2015

Remember Day: 1st International Yoga Day – 21 June 2015

Organization: UN

Purpose: Aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

Remember Day: Father's Day.

Purpose: To celebrates fatherhood and male parenting.

June 23,2015

Remember Day: Public Service Day

Organization: UNPAN

Purpose: It recognizes that democracy and successful governance are built on the foundation of a competent civil service and aims to celebrate the value and virtue of service to the community.

Theme: Proudly Serving Candians.

Remember Day: International Widows Day

Organization: UN

Purpose: To address poverty and injustice faced by widows and their children in many countries.

June 25,2015

Remember Day: World Vitiligo Day

Purpose: Aims to increase awareness about vitiligo and raise funds needed for research and education.

Remember Day: Day of the Seafarer

Organization: International Maritime Organization

Purpose: To remember the importance of seafarers for our world.

Theme: "A Career At Sea"

June 26,2015

Remember Day: International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Organization: IRCT

Purpose: To give us the opportunity to stand united and remind the world that torture is a cruel violation of human rights.

Theme: Right to Rehabilitation.

Remember Day: International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Organization: UNODC.

Purpose: To raise awareness about the global drug problem. Health is the ongoing theme of the world drug campaign.

Theme: Let's Develop Our Lives, Our Communities, Our Identities Without Drugs.

June 29,2015

Remember Day: Statistics Day

Organization: India

Purpose: In recognition of the notable contributions made by Late Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of economic planning and statistical development.

Theme: Labour and Employment Statistics

June 30,2015

Remember Day: International Mango Festival.

Organization: Delhi Tourism

Purpose: To create awareness about the versatility of the fruit, its rich varieties, gourmet value, and importance as an ingredient in appetizing dishes in both its raw and ripe forms

Theme: Wildlife Conservation.

All the Best

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS!!!

Suggestions are welcomed; Contact us any time at

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