INDIAN AFFAIRS

- Union government’s Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) agreed to set up India’s first defense industrial park at Ottappalam - 231.25 crore
- 30th Surajkund International Crafts Mela celebrated at Faridabad in Haryana
  - Theme State - Telangana
- Tamil Nadu CM Jayalalitha laying the foundation stone for the state’s first 800-MW supercritical coal-based power plant at Athippattu in Tiruvallur district
- Meghalaya becomes the India’s fastest-growing state with a growth rate of 9.7% in 2013-14 and MP – 9.5%
- Government set up a Tax Policy Research Unit (TPRU) and Tax Policy Council by replacing Tax Research Unit and Tax Policy and Legislation
- 2016 National Pension System (NPS) - 11,459,555 subscribers with total corpus of Rs. 90,327 crore.
- India’s first underwater restaurant Real Poseidon(20 feet below ground level) initiated in Ahmedabad
- Union Health Ministry issued detailed guidelines for fighting against Zika virus
- Mumbai Metropolitan Metro- highest potential for modern retail in the country at Rs 1.05 lakh crore - “Think India. Think Retail. 2016” report
- President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Counter-Terrorism Conference 2016 at Jaipur
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 3rd edition of Global Ayurveda Festival at Kozhikode, Kerala
- Instrument of Ratification of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, 1997 submitted by India to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - Rajiva Misra
- Invest Karnataka 2016, the first Global Investors Meet (GIM)
  - Theme “where the future is made” at Bengaluru.
  - 147 projects with a commitment to invest Rs 1.33 lakh crore.
- Ministry of Finance in partnership with SBI Caps is organized an India Investment Summit in New Delhi
- Maharashtra rolled out a deradicalisation programme for the minority community in wake of IS threat
- Odisha government lifted the restrictions on visit of foreign tourists to certain tribal areas in the State after 3 years
- Gov approved highway projects worth Rs 17,000 crore for 9 states.
  - Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Punjab.
- Union Government to set up National Organic Farming Research Institute in Sikkim
- PM Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation - Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, a petrochemical complex at Lepetkata.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visit to Sri Lanka
  - 9th session of Joint Commission meeting was co-chaired by Sushma Swaraj and Sri Lankan foreign affair minister Mangala Samaraweera.
  - Both Nations signed MoUs on education and health sectors
  - Both Nations agreed to find an innovative and lasting solution to the fishermen issue.
  - Right of Minority Tamils
  - India offers succored to Sri Lanka in IT sector
- Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, urban development ministry given its stamp of approval to the projects worth of Rs. 12 crore.
- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Project Sunrise on for prevention of AIDS in the 8 North-Eastern states
- Kerala Literature Festival – Kozhikode, key topics like spirituality, social media, women’s issues, Dalit issues, freedom of expression, environment issues and media activism
- National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) at Bhubaneswar, Odisha dedicated to nation by PM Modi.
- India has more than 15 lakh registered companies but only 10.7 lakh of them were active -
Corporate Affairs Ministry

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav launched a new UP Revenue Code - code 39 Acts
- India’s first fully solar-powered educational institute by Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education Puducherry.
- GOI global development agencies launch a programme to eliminate malaria in 11 years
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) raising a squad of 162 dogs for their specialised Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) tasks
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 15 million tonne per annum Indian Oil Corporation 11th refinery at Paradip, Odisha.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, PM Narendra Modi approved Rs 1 lakh crore loans to small entrepreneurs
- India will host the first Global Maritime Summit in April announced at the International Fleet Review 2016 by the president of India.
- TRAI issued the Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services Regulations, 2016.
  - To ensure that consumers get an unobstructed and non-discriminatory access to the internet.
- Mumbai plans to set up India’s first international arbitration centre
- Home minister Rajnath Singh approved new norms on disaster management to take care of all emergencies arises
  - Very harsh type of disaster is categorised as Red, moderate type is categorised as Orange and low type is designated as Yellow.
- Petroleum and Natural Gas minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the North East Hydrocarbon Vision-2030 in Guwahati.
  - State covered under Vision – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
  - 5 Pillars of Vision: People, Policy, Partnership, Projects and production
- Internet Readiness Index Maharashtra followed by Karnataka, Gujarat, Telengana and Tamil Nadu
- Ministry of External Affairs and Railway will lay the Rail Line to connect Agartala with Akhaura in that country by 2017
- GOI is easing rules for real estate business by giving construction permits around airports and monuments by developing colour-coded maps.
- Indian Railways Launched 3 IT enabled projects
  - Paperless unreserved ticketing mobile application.
  - Hand Held Terminals for TTEs.
  - E-booking of disposable linen on trains.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change finally notified wild pig as vermin for a year in Uttarakhand
- Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi unveiled a draft document Vision Assam 2030.
  - Theme - 'Everything for Everyone'
- Sikkim gov will construct Mini Sikkim for showcasing the state’s diverse and rich culture - fifteen ethnic communities
- The Tithal beach in Valsad district of Gujarat - India’s first disable friendly beach in the country - Rs.5 crore
- Elephanta Island to get electricity from Independence Day 2016 - Rs 25 crores.
- Madhya Pradesh gets its First Mega Food Park promoted by M/s Indus mega Food Part Pvt. Ltd - Rs. 127.70 crore
- Dr Jitendra Singh and Shri Kiren Rijiju inaugurate the festival ‘Destination North-East-2016’ - Mumbai and Bangalore
- Gujarat Gov announced a new IT Policy and Incentive Scheme (2016-21), -Rs. 25 crore
  - To promote the sector by providing subsidies to investors and create 10 lakh new jobs.
- States can clampdown mobile internet access under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) as ruled by the Supreme Court.
- Vizag port in Hyderabad will be the first major port to run on solar energy - Rs. 60 crore
- PM Narendra Modi instigated “Make In India” Week at MMRDA ground in Mumbai on 18 February.
  - India is blessed with three Ds: Democracy, Demography and Demand
  - Maharashtra signed MoUs with 3 companies worth Rs.21, 400 crore.
- Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has completed its 100 years of foundation –
  - Established in 1916 by freedom fighter Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.
- The national bird of India Peacock termed as vermin and collected in Goa.
J Jayalalithaa CM of Tamil Nadu inaugurated a series of projects worth Rs 1,002.02 crore - five bridges and five railways over bridges.

Minister of Urban Development M.Venkaiah Naidu released the results of “Swachh Survekshan-2016” of 73 major cities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State/UT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mysore</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tiruchirapalli</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>New Delhi Municipal Corporation</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Visakhapatnam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Surat</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Rajkot</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gangtok</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pimpri-Chinchwad</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Greater Mumbai</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GOI sanctioned Rs 4,100 crore as a disaster relief fund to seven states.
- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

Uttar Pradesh amended the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reform Act, 2015.

BHEL commissioned a 101 MW gas-based Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCPP) in Tripura.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are collaborating for joint research, exchange of faculty and students.

Ravi Shankar Prasad announced to increase the number of common service centres in the country to cover 250,000 gram from 150,000.

GOI unveiled the National Capital Goods Policy - first ever policy for the capital goods sector - 230,000 Cr in 2014-15 toRs. 750,000 Cr in 2025.

Food Processing Sector in Jharkhand gets its first Mega Food Park in the State - 114.73 crore.

Ministry of Culture with Nehru Memorial Museum and Library organized a Special Lecture and a National Conference as part of “Commemoration of Tatya Tope’s 200th Birth Anniversary”.

Union Cabinet given its stamp of approval to ink a concord in the area of Traditional Medicine between Ministry of AYUSH, GOI and World Health Organization, Geneva.

Samej village in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh becomes smokeless by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

International Cricket Council (ICC) and United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) launched the Team Swachh clinics in partnership with BCCI.

Cabinet on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the construction of 6 railway lines and a railway bridge at an estimated cost of Rs 10,700 crore.

Awas Yojana (Urban) - Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation accredited construction of 81,757 houses for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in urban areas in 7 states.
- West Bengal, Telangana, Bihar, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand.

Indian Railway Project Management Unit (IRPMU) initiated a computer-based signalling system at Khurja junction, a city famous for pottery in Uttar Pradesh.

Tamilnadu(Venkatamangalam) And West Bengal To Invest 150 crores In Waste Management under the Swachh Bharat mission.

Union Cabinet given nod to Election laws (Amendment) Bill 2016.
- Section 11 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 9 of the Representation of the People Act.

The first phase of Kerala’s dream project jointly initiated by state’s CM Oommen Chandy and UAE Minister of Cabinet Affairs Mohammad Al Gergawi - Rs 400 crore.

PM Narendra Modi gave its assent to the Amendments of Delimitation Act, 2002 - 100th Amendment.

Gov gave its approval for clearance of 8 highway projects worth 6000 crores. The total length of the project is about 350 k.ms.
- Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

Tricolour to fly high at all central universities - Smiriti Zubin Irani - 207 Feet high mast.

BHEL commissioned a 270-MW coal-based thermal power project of GVK Power & Infra Ltd in Tarn Taran District of Punjab.
• Maharashtra Gov decided to formulate policy on Green Corridor to transport organs within the stipulated time.
• Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh leading the charts in establishing the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) for the implementation of smart city plans.
  ➢ 200 crore for the 20 selected cities
• Gujarat Restricts Mobile For Women - Mehsana near Suraj has restricted unmarried women to use mobile – Rs 2100 fine
• Katni in Madhya Pradesh to have India’s longest railway bridge of 14 km - Rs.200cr
• President of Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) and BCCI secretary announced the launch of Swachh Himachal Campaign Padhai bhi, Safai bhi in Dharamshala.
  ➢ creating awareness and better understanding among youth about the current sanitation situation
• Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharati to inaugurate Jal Manthan 2 in New Delhi.
  ➢ Theme : Integrated Approach for sustainable water Management”
• Mahamaham - Hindu religious festival celebrated in Kumbakonam once in twelve years during the full moon of Tamil month Maasi (Feb-March)
• Kasaragod district of Kerala has been declared as the second zero landless district, after Kannur - Ramesh Chennithala
• The 42nd Khajuraho Dance Festival begun in Khajuraho, Chhatarpur District in Madhya Pradesh
• Exhibition on history of Indian coin & currency in the Great Hall of North Block, New Delhi - inaugurated by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley
• Assam Cabinet approved Mass Rapid Transit System and given green signal to Detailed Project Report of Guwahati Metro Rail Corporation Limited - 203 Km
• India to host 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation - April 12
• Mizoram launched National Food Security Act, 2013 - Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister John Rotluangliana at Aizwal
• India has shown a mounting in sex ratio from 933 females in 2001 to 943 in 2011 for every 1,000 males - Office of Registrar General of India(RGI)
• Union cabinet approved to incentivize cashless transactions by providing support in various ways
• President inaugurates India’s first gender park Thantedam Gender Park at Vellimadukunnu in Kozhikode
• Seismic Microzonation reports for Delhi and Kolkata has been released by Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan
  ➢ Entire country classified into 4 major groups from Zone-V (High intensity) to Zone-II (Low intensity).
• 13th world spice congress-an event conducted by spices board, the cochin
  ➢ Slogan: ‘Target 2020: clean, safe and sustainable supply chain’
• Kerala becomes India’s first Digital State in the country by President Pranab Mukherjee - Digital Empowerment Campaign
  ➢ Kerala E- Literacy, E-governance in Kerala, Digital Literacy Campaign and NOFN Project
• Government to mobilise Rs. 10 crore investment under Ambitious Sagarmala Project, the mobilization includes 4 crore in the Infrastructure alone
• Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru - first in the nation to receive Green-Co platinum certificate from Confederation of Indian Industries(CII) - Green-Co rating system
• President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated UL Cyber Park under the Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society in Kozhikode, Kerala.
• President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first phase of Kerala Tourism’s Muziris Heritage Project at the International Research and convention Centre, Kodungalloor.
• Punjab gov imposed a ban on the sale of Army uniform in the state without proper identification.
• Jharkhand State Budget 2016-17 publicized – to read more click here
  ➢ Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das presented Rs 63,502 crore budget for 2016-17 with strong focus on agriculture, curbing tax evasion and women.

Prabhu’s Era: Rail Budget 2016-17
On 25th February 2016, Railway Budget for the fiscal year 2016-17 has been presented by Union Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu.
• The key budget document dubbed “Annual Financial Statement” aka “Budget Statement”, showing estimated receipts and expenditure, has to be laid before Parliament in respect of every financial year which runs from 1st April to 31st March w.r.t Article 112 of the Constitution.
Here are the complete Highlights of Railway Budget

- Slogan for all – “Sabka saath sabka vikas”
- 3R’s of Budget – Restructure, Reorganize and Rejuvenate
- Capital expenditure – Rs 1, 21,000 crore
- Expected Operating Ratio – 92%
- Expected Revenues – Rs 1,84,820 cr next year
- Budgetary support from Govt – Rs 40,000 crore
- Saving from last year’s estimates – Rs 8,720 crore
- Innovation grants to start-ups – Rs 50 crore
- Head of innovative council of Indian Railways – Ratan Tata
- Insurance company agreed to fund Rs 1.5 lakh – LIC
- Expenditure on Modernization of railway infrastructure in 5 years – Rs 8.5 lakh crore
- Elimination of unmanned level crossing – By 2020
- Proposed freight corridors – Delhi-Chennai, Kharagpur-Mumbai, Kharagpur-Vijayawada
- Location of India’s first rail auto hub – Chennai
- New name for coolies – Sahayaks (will be trained in soft skills)
- North East India states to be connected through broad gauge – Mizoram & Manipur
- Cabinet approval for joint ventures with state govt – 6 MoUs signed with state govt
- Sub-quota for women in each of the reserved categories in catering – 33%
- Increase in seat quota for senior citizens – 50%
- Number of bio toilets & additional toilets in 475 stations – 17,000
- Publishing of magazine in all regional languages – Rail Bandhu
- Initiation of WiFi services – 100 stations this year
- Commissioning of new tracks – 2800 km
- Electrification – 1,600 km in this year and 2,000 km proposed for the next year.

For Unreserved Passenger:
- **Antyodaya Express** – A long-distance, fully unreserved, superfast train service to be operated on dense routes.
- Two to **four Deen Dayalu coaches** will be introduced in some long distance trains for unreserved travel to enhance our carrying capacity for the masses.

For the reserved passenger – Humsafar, Tejas and UDAY:
- **Humsafar** – Fully air-conditioned third AC service with an optional service for meals.
- **Tejas** – Will showcase the future of train travel in India by operating at speeds of 130 kmph and above, it will offer onboard services such as entertainment, local cuisine, Wi-Fi, etc.
- **UDAY** – Utkrisht DoubleDecker Air-conditioned Yatri (UDAY) Express on the busiest routes, expected to increase carrying capacity by almost 40%.

**SMART Coaches:**
- New **SMART (Specially Modified Aesthetic Refreshing Travel)** coaches would cater to emerging needs of customers and also ensure lower unit cost of operations due to higher carrying capacity.

**Ticketing facilities:**
Plan to introduce **bar-coded tickets** on pilot basis to tackle menace of ticketless travel.

**Ticket vending machines** – Initiating sale of platform tickets through ticket vending machines which would be made compatible with cash and credit/debit cards
- Intend sale of tickets through hand-held terminals for short-distance travellers.
- Introduced **1,780** automatic ticket vending machines.

**E-ticketing facility** – Railways will open the e-ticketing facility to foreign debit/credit cards for foreign tourists and NRIs.
- Enhanced capacity of e-ticketing system from 2000 tickets/min to **7,200/min**.
- E-booking ticket facility on the concessional passes available to journalists.
- Facility of cancellation of tickets through **139** telephone line.

**Improving customer interface:**
- **FM Radio stations** for providing train borne entertainment by installing PA systems in trains.
- **GPS based digital displays inside** coaches to provide real time information regarding upcoming halts.
- Wireless enabled “**Rakshak**” devices to intimate gangmen about approaching train.
- **Drones** to be used for remote monitoring of ongoing projects.
- **2,500 water vending machines** at railway stations have been provided.
**Swachh Rail:**
- **Clean my Coach Service** – A passenger can request cleaning of his/her coach/toilets on demand through SMS.
- Installation of additional **30,000 bio-toilets** in the next financial year.

**IRCTC services & food availability:**
- IRCTC will extending **e-catering services** from existing 45 large stations to all **408 ‘A-1’ and ‘A’ class stations**.
- **Local cuisine** of choice will be made available to passengers.
- Railways will look at pilot availability of **children’s menu items** on trains.
- **Baby foods**, **hot milk** and **hot water** would be made available on stations and **changing boards for babies** would be provided in train toilets.

**Rail Mitra Sewa & Accessible India:**
- Expanding of **Sarathi Seva** in Konkan Railway to help the old and disabled passengers requiring assistance at stations.
- To provide at least one **Divyang friendly toilet** at each platform in A1 class stations.
- To ensure availability of **wheelchairs** in sufficient numbers at A1 class stations.
- **Battery operated cars** and **paid porters services** for specially able people.

**Union Budget 2016 – 17**
On 29th February 2016, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented his third Union Budget for 2016-17 citing the acceleration of **GDP growth** to **7.6%**. **CPI inflation** has come down to **5.4%**.
- Union Budget comes into effect from **April 1**.

**Highlights of Union budget**
**Nine pillars of budget** – Governance and ease of doing business, fiscal discipline, tax reforms, Agriculture and farmers welfare , Rural sector with focus on employment, social sector with healthcare, Educational skills and job creation, Infrastructure and investment & financial sector reforms.

**Tax Proposals – No changes have been made to existing income tax slabs**

**Tax relief**
- Taxpayers with income **below Rs. 5 Lakh per year** – Relief of **3000 p.a.** under section **87A**.
- Taxpayers living in rented houses – **HRA deduction** up from Rs. 24,000 to **60,000 p.a.** under section **80 GG**.

**Corporate tax**
- **Corporate IT rate** for companies not exceeding Rs. 5 crore turnover has been **decreased** to **25%** plus surcharge.
- New manufacturing companies incorporated on or after **3.2016** to be taxed at **25% plus cess plus surcharge**.

**Start up**
- **100% deduction** of profits for 3 out of 5 years for startups setup during April, 2016 to March, 2019 except MAT.

**Affordable Housing**
- 100% deduction for profits to an undertaking in housing project for flats upto **30 sq. metres in four metro cities** and **60 sq. metres in other cities** approved during June 2016 to March 2019 and completed in three years. MAT will apply.
- First time home buyers get additional **Rs 50,000 deduction** for housing loans up to **35 lakh**, provided cost of house is not above Rs. 50 lakh.

**Service Tax Exemption**
- For **houses built** less than **60 square metres**.
- Services provided under **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana** and by Assessing Bodies empanelled by **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**.
- On **general insurance services** provided under **Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme** launched by National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability.
- Exemption from service tax for **Annuity services** provided by **NPS** and Services provided by **EPFO** to employees.

**National Pension Scheme**
- **40% of withdrawal** at the time of retirement under NPS to be **tax exempt**.

**Tax on rich**
- **Surcharge** on income tax for those with incomes exceeding **1 crore per annum** increased from 12% to **15%**.

**Tax on Car**
- **1 % infra cess** on small cars, **2.5% on diesel** and 4% high capacity tax for SUVs.
1% service charge on purchase of luxury cars over 10 lakh and in cash purchase of goods and services over Rs. 2 lakh.

MSME Category
- Increase the turnover limit under Presumptive taxation scheme under section 44AD of the Income Tax Act to 2 crores to bring big relief to a large number of assessee in the MSME category.

Others
- Rs 1,000 crore allocated for new EPF (Employees’ Provident Fund) scheme.
- Krishi Kalyan Cess @ 0.5% on all taxable services, w.e.f. 1 June 2016.
- Clean Energy Cess levied on coal, lignite and peat renamed to Clean Environment Cess and rate increased from 200 per tonne to 400 per tonne.
- Excise on readymade garments with retail price of 1000 or more rose to 2% without input tax credit or 12.5% with input tax credit.
- Excise duty of 1% without input tax credit or 12.5% with input tax credit on articles of jewellery.
- 10% rate of tax on income from worldwide exploitation of patents developed and registered in India by a resident.
- Non-banking financial companies shall be eligible for deduction to the extent of 5% of its income in respect of provision for bad and doubtful.
- Infrastructure and agriculture cess to be levied.
- Excise duty on tobacco increased by 10-15% except beedi.
- Basic custom and excise duty on refrigerated containers reduced to 5% and 6%.

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare – Rs 35,984 crore
Govt will reorganize agricultural policy to double farmer income in five years. Here is the allocation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agri credit</td>
<td>Rs 9 lakh crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Insurance Scheme (PM Fasal Bima Yojana)</td>
<td>Rs 5,500 crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest subvention for agriculture loans and creation of Accelerated Irrigation Programme Benefit (AIPB)</td>
<td>Rs 15,000 crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Irrigation Fund will be created in NABARD</td>
<td>Rs 20,000 crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable management of ground water resources</td>
<td>Rs 6,000 crore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enhancing of Dairy Farming – Rs 850 crore
4 new schemes – Pashudhan Sanjivani, Nakul Swasthya Patra, E-Pashudhan Haat and National Genomic Centre for indigenous breeds have been introduced to enhance dairy farming in India at Rs 850 crore.

Other Proposals under Irrigation
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana to be implemented in mission 28.5 lakh hectares will be brought under irrigation.
- Promote organic farming through Parmparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region.
- 5 lakh farm ponds and dug wells in rain fed areas and 10 lakh compost pits for production of organic manure will be taken up under MGNREGA
- Soil Health Card scheme will cover all 14 crore farm holdings by March.
- 2,000 model retail outlets of Fertilizer companies will be provided with soil and seed testing facilities during the next three years
- Unified Agricultural Marketing e-Platform to provide a common e-market platform for wholesale markets.

Rural Economy – Rs 87,765 crore
Below Poverty Line (BPL) Families – Rs 2000 crore allocated for 5 years
Government is launching a new initiative to provide cooking gas to BPL families with state support. LPG connections to be provided under the name of women members of family.

Other Proposals:
- 87 lakh crore will be given as Grant in Aid to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.
- Every block under drought and rural distress will be taken up as an intensive Block under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Mission.
- A sum of Rs 38,500 crore allocated for MGNREGS.
• **300 Rurban Clusters** will be developed under the **Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission**
  100% village electrification by 1st May, 2018.
• **District Level Committees** under **Chairmanship** of senior most Lok Sabha MP from the district for monitoring and implementation of designated **Central Sector** and **Centrally Sponsored Schemes**.
• A new **Digital Literacy Mission Scheme** for rural India to cover around 6 crore additional household within the next 3 years.
• **National Land Record Modernization Programme** has been revamped.
• New scheme **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan** proposed with allocation of 655 crore.
• Hub to support SC/ST entrepreneurs.

**Investments and Infrastructure – Rs. 2, 21,246 crore**

Total allocation for road construction including PMGSY – Rs 97,000 crore
• 27,000 crore to be spent on roadways.
• 65 eligible habitats to be connected via 2.23 lakh kms of road.
• 55,000 crore for roads and highways.

**Other Proposals:**
• 100% FDI in **marketing of food products** produced and marketed in India.
• Shops to be given option to remain open all seven days in a week across markets.
• New Greenfield ports to be developed on east and west coasts
• Revival of underserved airports – Centre to Partner with States to revive small airports for regional connectivity
• of Disinvestment to be renamed as Dept. of Investment and Public Asset Management.
• Govt will amend **Motor Vehicle Act** in passenger vehicle segment to allow innovation.

**Banking – Rs 25,000 crore towards recapitalization of PSBs**
• **Banking Board Bureau** will be operationalised.
• Target of disbursement under MUDRA increased to 1, 80,000 crore.
• Process of transfer of government stake in IDBI Bank below 50% started (currently its 80%).
• **General Insurance companies** will be listed in the stock exchange.
• Govt to increase ATMs, micro-ATMs in post offices in next 3 years.
• Amendments in the SARFAESI Act 2002 to enable the sponsor of an ARC to hold up to 100% stake.
• A **Financial Data Management Centre** to be set up.

**Nuclear Power Sector – Rs 3000 crore**
• Govt drawing comprehensive plan to be implemented in next 15-20 years for exploiting nuclear energy.
• Govt to provide incentive for deep-water gas exploration.

**Education and Skill Development**
• **Higher Education Financing Agency** to be set-up with initial capital base of Rs 1000 Crores.
• **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan** to increasing focus on quality of education.
• Scheme to get 500 cr for promoting entrepreneurship among SC/ST.
• **Digital repository** for all school leaving certificates and diplomas.
• 1,700 crore for 1500 multi-skill development centres.
• 62 new navodaya vidyalayas to provide quality education
• 10 public and 10 private educational institutions to be made world-class.
• **Digital literacy scheme** to be launched to cover 6 crore additional rural households.
• Objective to skill 1 crore youth in the next 3 years under the **PM Kaushal Vikas Yojna**.
• **100 Model Career Centres** to operational by the end of 2016-17 under National Career Service.
• **National Skill Development Mission** has imparted training to 76 lakh youth.

**Health**
• A new health protection scheme for health covers upto 1 lakh per family. Senior citizens will get additional healthcare cover of Rs 30,000 under the new scheme.
• **National Dialysis Service Prog** with funds through PPP mode to provide dialysis at all district hospitals.
• **PM Jan Aushadhi Yojana** to be strengthened and 300 generic drug store to be opened.

**Governance and Ease of Doing Business**
“Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” Programme
It will be launched to link States and Districts in an annual programme that connects people through exchanges in areas of language, trade, culture, travel and tourism.

Other Proposals:
- A Task Force has been constituted for rationalisation of human resources in various Ministries.
- Bill for Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services by using the Aadhaar framework to be introduced.
- **Automation facilities** will be provided in **3 lakh fair price shops** by March 2017.
- **Amendments in Companies** Act to improve enabling environment for **start-ups**.
- **Price Stabilisation Fund** with a corpus of **900 crore** to help maintain stable prices of Pulses.
- **Madhya Pradesh presented State budget of 2016-17** – click here to read more
  - Finance minister Jayant Malaiya proposed the Madhya Pradesh state budget in legislative assembly in Bhopal on Friday. The budget estimates for 1.58 lakh crores.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- City Momentum Index 2016: The Rise of the Innovation-Oriented City’, Bengaluru is ranked first in the Asia Pacific region
  - Top 3 : London, Silicon Valley Dublin, Bengaluru
  - Top 10 cities in Asia Pacific: Sydney, Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen, Tokyo, Nanjing, Hyderabad, Melbourne and Seoul.
- WHO declared the Zika virus outbreak as an International Emergency.
- Bangladesh gov given its clearance for a new law that will expand the scope for dual citizenship for Bangladeshis - ‘Bangladesh Citizenship Act 2016’
  - Bangladeshis cannot go for dual citizenship with SAARC countries and Myanmar.
- Nielsen’s consumer confidence index
  - India(131) is followed by Philippines (117), Indonesia (115), Thailand (114) and Vietnam (112).
- Vietnam initiated the world’s longest three-rope cable car system with a total length of 6,292.5 metres in the Northern Province of Lao Cai.
- Infosys is all set to build the world’s tallest free-standing clock tower at its 345-acre global education centre in Mysuru – 135meter
- Brand Finance’s Brand Strength Index - Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as the world’s most powerful IT services brand its
- India beaten the US to become the world’s second largest smartphone market in the world
  - Top brand of smartphone makers Samsung, Micromax and Apple
- 17th edition of Laureus World Sports Awards 2016 will be hosted by Berlin, Germany on April 18.
- European Union consented 3.3 billion Euros of succor for Turkey to cope with the issue of Syrian migrants.
- WHO accorded PQP (Pre-qualification of Medicines Programme) certification to the GreenSignal Bio Pharma Pvt. Ltd.
- Hamid Ansari visit to Brunei and Thailand
  - Brunei: 3 agreements have been signed between the two nations:
  - Defence Cooperation Health Cooperation and Youth Affairs & Sports Cooperation
  - Thailand - first visit by an Indian Vice-President to Thailand after a gap of 50 years confirmed India’s participation in the Cobra Gold 2016
- BHEL launched a 500 Mw Kosti thermal power plant in Sundan
- Indian to be on UN panel on women’s economic Renana Jhabvala, social worker from Ahmedabad had invited to serve as a panelist.
- United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) released a set of six dedicatory stamps on Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) issue.
- President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe declared rural parts of the country as state of disaster after being hit by draught.
- France become the first country in the world to ban food waste by supermarkets.
- Pakistan Hindu minority community have a marriage law as a parliamentary panel has unanimously approved the Hindu Marriage Bill after decades of delay and in action - Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk
  - Sindh become the first Pakistani Assembly to adopt the Hindu Marriage Bill by allowing the minority community to register their marriages.
US President Barack Obama unveiled a new cyber Security National Action Plan aims to increase security awareness - requested $19 billion

“One Humanity: Shared Responsibility” report publicized by UN
  ➢ For a global campaign on the sidelines of World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.
  ➢ Theme of the summit will be One Humanity: Shared Responsibility.

International IP Index - US Chamber of Commerce – India ranked 37th
  ➢ Top 3 – US, UK and German

3rd India- Australia energy security dialogue held in Australia
  ➢ Proposed to set up a virtual reality training centre at ISM, Dhanbad.
  ➢ coal mining sector will provide help to India in improving the safety, production and productivity of coal mines

The world’s largest concentrated solar power plant will be opened in Morocco - 760,000 tons per year.

Pakistan launched projects worth $500 million in Afghanistan covering different sectors including education, health and infrastructure.

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi visit to India
  ➢ Bilateral Meeting – UAE’s ADNOC to store crude in India
  ➢ Both nations have signed 9 agreements

Disaster hit countries of 2015 - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) – China, US and India

Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar summoned US Ambassador Richard Verma to expressed disappointment over US administration’s decision to sell eight F-16 fighter jet to Pakistan

Canada, the US and Mexico signed a MoU to cooperate on climate change in Winnipeg, Canada.

Malcolm Turnbull the Australian Prime Minister announced a cabinet reshuffle after the departure of five ministers in five months.

US state of Colorado had honored the life of Mahatma Gandhi.

The first Silk Road train arrives in Tehran to connect China and Iran arrived in Tehran - carrying 32 containers

World’s largest producers of oil, Saudi Arabia and Russia consented to freeze oil output at near-record levels but producer Iran and Iraq stood out of this agreement.

WHO Issues $56 Million Plan To Combat Zika Virus including fast-tracking vaccines and diagnostics.

U.S - Southeast Asian summit session held at the historic Sunnylands Center in Rancho Mirage, California.

UN and the Colombian government jointly launched the new trust for peace building activities especially in the conflict areas of FARC-EP – 8 million US dollar

South Korea decided to build an IT park in Islamabad - $50-million.

The Ontario Canada) delegates inked various agreements with India in diversified fields prominently the cleantech sector – 13 agreements – 300 cr

Pakistan parliament became the first of its kind to run entirely on solar power. It was inaugurated by Pakistan Prime minister Nawaz Sharif - $55 million

India to extend $1 million in immediate assistance to the Island Nation Fiji after Devasting cyclone Winston hits.

David Cameron led United Kingdom has been granted “Special Status” in the 28 Nation union.

Nepal PM KP Oli visit to India
  ➢ Both the nations has signed 7 agreements

  ➢ Indians list topped by Mukesh Ambani - $26 billion, followed by Sun Pharma’s Dilip Shanghvi ($18 billion) and Pallonji Mistry ($13 billion)

Indian Government’s Power purchase Agreements with solar firms were inconsistent with international Norms - World Trade Organization

Bolivian president Evo Morales lost his fourth term referendum to continue in office. He came into reign in 2006.

Anti-terrorism bill being passed in the South Korean Parliament the opposition party spoke continuously for more than 115 hours making it the longest filibuster.

Indian permanent representative to UN, Syed Akbaruddin approached New Zealand Ambassador Gerard Jacobus van Bohemen, the Chair of the 1267 al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee to include Masood Azhar in the list.

World’s Best City to Live In - 18th Mercer Quality of Life study
• Baghdad was named as the worst city in the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
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<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
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<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• An Independent report by Ernst & Young - Britain as the first among FinTech cities of the world.
  • Major FinTech cities: Australia, California, Newyork, Hong Kong, Germany and Singapore
  • Iranians will cast vote on February 26, 2016 to choose a new parliament and for the top clerical body Assembly of Experts

### BANKING & FINANCE

• Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launches its e-services to access policy related information
• RBI gives nod for the appointment of Independent Director B Swaminathan as the Non-Chairman of the Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) for three years.
• State Bank of India (SBI) launched a new home loan scheme for young working executives.
• 6th bi-monthly monetary policy review - repo and reverse repo rate unchanged at 6.75% and 5.75%and CRR – 4% respectively.
• HDFC bank is using its ATM network to clutch new customers by extending its branch services through ATMs - to sell loans to non-customers
• Gov infuse about Rs 5,000 crore capitals in the Public Sector Banks (PSB) in the current fiscal to strengthen balance sheet.
• BSE and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) jointly developed a corporate governance scorecard
• Mahindra Asset Management Company received a stamp of approval from SEBI to initiate its mutual fund business.
• RBI survey - The real Gross Value Added at basic price (GVA) is expected to increase to 7.8% in the next fiscal (2016-17) from 7.4% expected in 2015-16.
• CAMS launched Aadhar based eKYC for setting up an instant (MF) mutual fund account
• Bandhan Bank has instigated an international debit card in association with Visa also kicked off NRI banking services.
• Corporation Bank had signed a pact with Universal Sompo General Insurance Co Ltd for insurance cover
  - Death cover of Rs 10 lakh to its Corp Signature and Rs 5 lakh
• Reserve Bank of India released the Report of the Working Group on Introduction of Interest Rate Options in India - headed by PG Apte
  - Minimum lot size for IROs on exchanges will be Rs. 2 lakh.
  - In OTC, the minimum lot size will be kept at Rs. 5 crore.
• Indian economy will be growing at a 5-year high of 7.6 per cent in fiscal year 2015-16 as per the Central Statistics Office (CSO).
• Department of Electronics & IT (Deity) in a company with Canbank Venture Capital Fund is all set to initiate the Electronics Development Fund (EDF) in Mumbai – PM Modi
• RBI is changing the profile of the government securities (Gssecs), it is buying from bond investors under its open market operations (OMOs).
• Bank of Baroda publicized its net loss of Rs 3,342 crore for the December quarter in comparison with Rs 332 crore profit last year
• Monster Salary Index (MSI) report, Information Technology sector in
  - India is the highest paying sector with a median gross hourly salary of Rs 346.42.
• Reserve Bank of India announced the liquidity measures for March 2016 for a combination of appropriate instruments and for adequate additional liquidity infusion.
• India GDP likely to clock 7.8% growth in 2016 – Nomura
• Union Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreyu Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has marginally mounted the PF interest rate to 8.8% from 7.75%
State Bank of India (SBI) launched ‘Japan Desk’, a first-of-its-kind initiative to facilitate Japanese corporates looking to invest with banking and advisory services.

Punjab National Bank (PNB) declared United Breweries Holdings, Kingfisher Airlines and Vijay Mallya as willful defaulter.

Supreme Court directed the RBI that it seeks the list of companies, which have defaulted bank loans of over Rs. 500 crore.

Interest on short-term post office saving deposits was cut by 0.25 percent and the rate on employees’ provident fund was increased marginally to 8.8 percent.

Axis Bank made partnership with Suvridhaa to offer loan to urban poor.

 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) - India will go on with durable growth at 7.4% in the next financial year

Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd and Idea Cellular obtain payment bank license.

Our government is all set to proffer banking services in every village with the succor of technology and the network of Common Services Centres (CSCs).

World Bank pledged to lend to Rajasthan gov on energy reforms - meeting between World Bank’s country Director in India Mr. Onno Ruhl and Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje.

Public Investment Board (PIB) Clears Rs. 800 Crore proposal from India Post to set up Payment Banks.

Srei Ram winvest 2000 crores for India Vision Fund which will buy the stressed assets, loans & properties of corporate, NBFC’S and companies

RBI has extended the currency swap arrangement to SAARC nations till mid November 2017 - US $ 2 billion

Mr. Babul Supriyo informed in Lok Sabha that HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation) have sanctioned 90 Crores to APCRDA.

SBI launches new branch for e-commerce loans


In accordance with survey, Indian economy is growing at a pace of 7-7.5% and it is expected to accelerate at 8% in the next couple of years.

India’s macro-economy is sturdy and it is likely to be the fastest growing major economy in the world in 2016 as it shows an expansion from 7.2% in 2014-15 to 7.6% in current fiscal.

Deficit 3.9% ,Inflation -4.5 to 5% ,Current account deficit -1-1.5% of GDP.

India ranks first in milk production, accounting for 18.5% of world production.

RBI included the National Bank of Abu Dhabi PJSC (NBAD) in second schedule of RBI Act, 1934

Birla Sunlife Mutual funds officially launched 100 % paperless Aadhar based EKYC facility

EPFO has tightened norms for withdrawal of Provident Fund as well as investment in Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana – attain the age of 54 and wait up to 57 Years.

Govacquired a staggering 1, 131 Kg of gold that 3014 crore under the Gold Monetisation Scheme

SEBI has given its nod to IDBI bank to raise capital of 3771 crores by issuing shares through Qualified Institutional Players (QIP)

State Bank of India got approval from its shareholders to raise capital of 15000 crores by public issue or overseas assurance of shares.

BRICS Bank to provide its first loan to India on Solar project green projects

BUSINESS

Chinese energy company Sunshine Kaidi New Energy Group planned to invest about 1 billion euros ($1.1 billion) in a new biodiesel plant in northern Finland.

India exported six metro train coaches to Australia - 75 feet long and weighing 46 tonnes

Govt banned duty-free import of capital goods for power generation and transmission projects under the EPCG Scheme.

Vietnam had lifted the ban on import of groundnut from Indian after nine months.

Japan’s ShinMaywa Industries will set up a plant for the manufacturer of US-2 amphibious aircraft in India.

Chinese technology company ZTE has inked a pact with the Andhra Pradesh government to work on smart city projects in the state.

State Bank of India (SBI) tied up with Thomas Cook for ‘inflation proof’ holiday.
• SEBI instigated a task force to review the risk management norms for national-level commodity bourses following the suspension of futures trading for castor seed on NCDEX.
• Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) approved the Geographical Indications Registry (GI) tag.
• Gov imposed minimum import price (MIP) on 173 steel products ranging from $341 to $752 per ton.
• Chettinad cotton saree won the ‘India Handloom’ tag for its unique designs and identity.
• Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) tie up with a leading tea cafe chain Chaayos to provide tea and snacks in trains.
• India had topped the record of milk production which is of 146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15
  ➢ Top 3 : India, US, China
• YES Bank tied up with Smartbox Ecommerce Solutions for solving challenges related to last mile delivery for e-commerce players.
• IIT Madras partnered with Nokia to enhance broadband connectivity in rural India by enabling the government vision ‘Digital India’.
• HeyBiz announced its association with Su-Kam Power Systems Limited to digitise its dealers and distributors network.
• India’s demand for gold recovered to increase by 2.5% in 2015 as reported by The World Gold Council (WGC).
• Coca-Cola India had stopped manufacturing in three Indian Plants.
  ➢ Jaipur, Vishakapatnam and Meghalaya
• Vedanta Group’s owner Anil Agarwal set up the country’s first LCD panel manufacturing plant in Maharashtra.
• Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) had approved a plan to transfer the agri-business of the company to its subsidiary.
• Apple will be going to set up its first technology development centre in Hyderabad India.
• Hyderabad
• Kstart had announced to have technology partnership with Google for its seed-stage portfolio companies.
• Tata Teleservices announced that its subsidiary mRUPEE tied up with e-commerce IRCTC to provide an additional payments gateway.
• Big Bazaar Direct had tied up with Oxigen Services a payment service provider.
• Tata Motors-Bharat Forge Tie Up For $ 11 Billion FICV Bid – replace 2,610 Russian designed Sarath BMP-II
• Terra Motors launched an electric rickshaw for the Indian market – Rs.1.5lakh
• Gujarat State Fertilizers Commission proposed to set up a manufacturing unit of Nylon -6 Plant near Baroda at an estimated cost of Rs.140 Crores.
• US Department of Commerce decided to initiate Antidumping and Countervailing duties investigations on imports from Pneumatic off-Road Vehicle tyres from India, China and Sri Lanka.
• 4 Bengali sweets to come into possession of GI tag
  ➢ “Moa” of Jainagar, “Sarpuria” of Krishnagar and “Sitabhog”and“Mhidana” of Burdwan.
• MoU signed between CII and Dubai exports will simplify the export process between the countries
  ➢ Top 3 : India, China and Australia
• Ricoh India,Japan got an order worth Rs.344 Crores from Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation to supply hardware for Government schools in Odisha.
• Google is winding down operations of unfamiliar tool called Compareand will terminate the services by March 23 from U.S and UK services.
• FINO Paytech has tied up with Reliance Commercial Finance to provide credit to rural areas of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
• Johnson & Johnson to pay fine of $ 72 million in the case of ovarian cancer that cost a woman life who used a company’s talcum powder.
• Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh yadav Signed Pact with Taxi Giant OLA to create over 50, 000 entrepreneurs’ opportunities across the state.
• Times Internet enters into a strategic partnership with Investopedia.com to create a blend of local and international information, knowledge to grow the brand in India.
• Vedanta Limited wins India’s first-ever auction of a gold mine to curb the overseas purchase of the metal that cost $36 billion last year in Chhattisgarh.
• Gov decided to raise the Minimum Support Price of Raw Jute by 18.5 % to Rs.3200 from Rs.
2700 for 2016-17
- 42% of the illicit medicines supplied to Swiss are from India - Swiss customs officials

**AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

- Forbes “30 under 30 Asia” - 56 Indians feature in the list
  - Sports – Apart from Sania Mirza, Virat Kohli and Saina Nehwal, Arunima Sinha
  - Entertainment – Chaitanya Tamhane (28) Shraddha Kapoor (26)
  - Retail and e-commerce category – Raghav Verma (29), Nitin Saluja and Mehul Agrawal (29).
  - Social entrepreneurship – Kanika Tekriwal (27)
  - Consumer tech category – Ritesh Agarwal (22)
- Avinash Chander Former Director General of the DRDO honored with Aryabhata Award of Astronautical Society of India
- Yes Bank received prestigious Green Bond Pioneer Award Ceremony held in London.
- Alphabet Inc. becomes the world’s most valuable company after overtaking the Apple.
- Indian filmmaker Kanu Behl won the Best First Foreign Film Award conferred by the French Syndicate of Cinema Critics 2016 (FSCC) for his directorial film “Titli”.
- Kerala University conferred with first-ever chancellor’s award with a prize money of Rs 5 crore.
- Golden Conch Award for the best documentary has been conferred upon Manipuri documentary film “Phum Shang” at 14th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF).

### Other Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Movie</th>
<th>Director</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dadasaheb Phalke Award for Best Debut Film of a director</td>
<td>Far From Home</td>
<td>Nitesh Anjan (Based in Denmark)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animation category</td>
<td>Chhaya</td>
<td>Debanjan Nandy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best short fiction film</td>
<td>Agli Baar</td>
<td>Devashish Makhija</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best student film</td>
<td>Going Home</td>
<td>Niranjankumar Kujur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Sarangi maestro Pandit Ram Narayan selected for the prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Classical Music Award 2015-2016.
- Kerala’s all-women taxi cab service “She-Taxi” bagged the prestigious Chief Ministers Award for Innovation in Public Policy 2014.
- The Reserve Bank of India awarded with the extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) International Award
- UNESCO Medals conferred upon the 8 eminent scientists to recognize their contribution in the development of nanoscience and nanotechnologies in Paris

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor Isamu</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Lei Jiang</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Philippe Pernod</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Nicholas Kotov</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academician Gennady</td>
<td>Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Igor Ashurbeyli</td>
<td>Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor Mikhail Dubina</td>
<td>Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor Natalya Mikhaylova</td>
<td>Russia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) conferred English singer and songwriter Adele with its global artist of the year prize
- Indian Martial Arts trainer KJ Joseph set a new world record for the most pushups in a minute - 82 pushups in a min.
- Karnataka mobile One m-governance model won the gold medal at world Government Summit in Dubai UAE
- Pharmaceutical company Lupin’s CEO and MD bestowed with EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 award - Vinita Gupta and Nilesh Gupta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
• India’s Anirban Lahiri has been voted as the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of Year
• Lionel Messi named as La Liga player of the month for January. For the first time he has won the award.
• Bollywood actress Vidya Balan awarded with the ‘Pride of Kerala’ award by the World Malayalee Council and Kairali TV.
• 2016 BAFTA Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academy Fellowship</td>
<td>Sidney Poitier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema</td>
<td>Angels The Costumiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EE Rising Star Award</td>
<td>John Boyega</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Film</td>
<td>The Revenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Documentary</td>
<td>Amy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Animated Film</td>
<td>Inside Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Short Film</td>
<td>Operator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Film Not in the English Language</td>
<td>Wild Tales – Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Director</td>
<td>Alejandro G. Inarritu (The Revenant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actor in a Leading Role</td>
<td>Leonardo DiCaprio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actress in a Supporting Role</td>
<td>Kate Winslet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actress in a Supporting Role</td>
<td>Mark Rylance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Cinematography</td>
<td>Emmanuel Lubezki (The Revenant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding British Film</td>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Original Music</td>
<td>The Hateful Eight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Sound</td>
<td>The Revenant – Lon Bender, Chris Duesterdiek, Lon Bender, Chris Duesterdiek, and Ben Beal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Costume Design</td>
<td>Mad Max: Fury Road – Jenny Beavan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Makeup and Hair</td>
<td>Mad Max: Fury Road – Damian Martin and Lesley Randell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Editing</td>
<td>Mad Max: Fury Road – Margaret Sixel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer</td>
<td>Naji Abu Nowar (Writer/Director) and Rupert Lloyd (Producer) – Theeb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• “Nagaland is changing. But…” a documentary movie clinched the Golden Beaver Award at 6th National Science Film Festival in Mumbai.
• President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the Infosys Prizes in New Delhi for the year 2015.
  ➢ Umesh Waghmare, Jonardon Ganeri, Amit Sharma, Mahan Maharaj, G. Ravindra Kumar and Srinath Raghavan.
• 58th Grammy awards – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record of the Year</td>
<td>Uptown Funk (Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Album of the Year</td>
<td>1989 (Taylor Swift)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song of the Year</td>
<td>Thinking Out Loud (Ed Sheeran &amp; Amy Wadge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best New Artist</td>
<td>Meghan Trainor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Solo Performance</td>
<td>Thinking Out Loud (Ed Sheeran)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Duo/Group Performance</td>
<td>Uptown Funk (Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Traditional Vocal Album</td>
<td>The Silver Lining: The Songs of Jerome Kern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Vocal Album</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dance/Electronic**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Dance Recording</td>
<td>Where Are U Now (Skrillex and Diplo with Justin Bieber)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Dance/Electronic Album</td>
<td>skrillex and Diplo Present Jack U (Skrillex and Diplo)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rock**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Rock Performance</td>
<td>Don’t Wanna Fight (Alabama Shakes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Metal Performance</td>
<td>Cirice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Music Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Rock Song</td>
<td>Don’t Wanna Fight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Rock Album</td>
<td>Drones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>R&amp;B</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best R&amp;B Performance</td>
<td>Earned It (Fifty Shades of Grey) – The Weeknd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Traditional R&amp;B Performance</td>
<td>Little Ghetto Boy (Lalah Hathaway)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best R&amp;B Song</td>
<td>Really Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best R&amp;B Album</td>
<td>Black Messiah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Urban Contemporary</td>
<td>Beauty Behind the Madness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rap</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Rap Performance</td>
<td>Alright (Kendrick Lamar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Rap/Sung Collaboration</td>
<td>These Walls (Kendrick Lamar featuring Bilal, Anna Wise &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Rap Song</td>
<td>Alright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Rap Album</td>
<td>To Pimp a Butterfly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Others</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best World Music Album</td>
<td>Sings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Children’s Album</td>
<td>Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Comedy Album</td>
<td>Live at Madison Square Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Musical Theater Album</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Music Video</td>
<td>Bad Blood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Music Film</td>
<td>Amy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Contemporary Instrumental</td>
<td>Sylva</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### “Swachh Sarvekshan-2016”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State/UT</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mysore</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Overall best performing city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>Best performer in North Zone and Best in Citizen feedback category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tiruchirapalli</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Best performer in behavior change communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>New Delhi Municipal Corporation</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>Best performer among Smart Cities and Best in Service Level Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Visakhapatnam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Best Performer in South Zone and Best in Independent Observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Surat</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Best Performer in West Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rajkot</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Best performer in door-to-door collection and transportation of Solid waste and sweeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gangtok</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>Best performer in North-East and Best performer among capitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pimpri-Chinchwad</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>Best performer among satellite cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Greater Mumbai</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>Best Performer among mega cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Allahabad</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Top mover in North Zone (improved the rank by maximum number)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nagpur</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>Top mover in West Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Visakhapatnam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Top mover in South Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bhubaneswar</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>Top mover in East Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Imphal</td>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>Top mover in North-East</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Professor David Shulman, the renowned Indologist, awarded the prestigious Israel Prize for his infiltrate studies in fields like religion and philosophy.
- Indian-origin Ishaan Patel honoured in the US for his charity work.
- Lyricist Sameer Anjaan (Shitala Pandey) had been entered in the Guinness Book of World Records for writing the most inexhaustible number of songs in Bollywood - 3,524 songs.
- Command Hospital (Eastern Command) Kolkata gets Raksha Mantri’s Trophy for Best Service Hospital.
- Karnataka Bank Ltd bagged ‘IBA Banking Technology Award’ in the category of ‘Best Risk and
Fraud Management Initiative Runner Up among the small banks.

- Fashion designer Manish Arora conferred with the Chevalier de la Legion d’Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honor) France’s highest civilian honor.
- US President Barack Obama will confer 6 Indian-Americans with the highest US government prize for young independent researchers
  - Vikram Shyam, Milind Kulkarni, Kiran Musunuru, Shwetak Patel, Rahul Mangharam, Sachin Patel
- World Press Photo of the Year 2015 award conferred upon Australian photographer Warren Richardson during the 50th annual World Press Photo Contest.
- Sachin Tendulkar’s autobiography Playing It My Way entered in Limca Book of Records.
- Robin Chaurasia the founder of NGO kranti in the top 10 finalist for Global teacher award
- Malayalam film “Ottal (The Trap)” directed by Jayaraj Rajasekharan Nair bestowed with Crystal Bear award in the “Generation KPlus” section during Berlin International Film Festival.

India Sports Awards 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best company promoting sports (public sector)</td>
<td>Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best company promoting sports (private sector)</td>
<td>YES Bank Pvt Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best professional services company</td>
<td>Technology Frontiers (India) Pvt Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best NGO promoting sports</td>
<td>STAIRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best sports start-up</td>
<td>HotFut Sports Infrastructure Pvt Ltd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best national sports federation</td>
<td>Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sportsperson of the year</td>
<td>Lalita Babar (Athletics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakthrough sportsperson of the year</td>
<td>Dipa Karmakar (Gymnastics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach or support staff of the year</td>
<td>Kuldeep Handoo (Wushu)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime achievement award</td>
<td>Balbir Singh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best state</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Kanavu Variyam, a Tamil movie directed by a Chennai based techie Arun Chidambaram selected for Remi Award in the US 49th WorldFest Houston International Film Festival
- The rice Bag of India Gate’s Classic Basmati Rice weighing 550 kg has recorded as Heaviest Bag of Rice.
- Indian Origin Ismail Mahomed from South Africa has been conferred with Knighthood by French government.
- GVK Biosciences conferred with the Global CSR Excellence & leadership Award by world CSR Congress on World CSR Day.
- Federal Republic of Germany’s prestigious “Cross of the Order of Merit” bestowed upon the Padma Shri awardee Goverdhan Mehta - researcher in Chemical Sciences & former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad.
- Afghanistan’s National Cyclist team nominated for Nobel Peace prize by members of Italian Parliament according to Total cycle team.
- Dinanath Mangeshkar prize conferred upon filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali and actor Ranveer Singh.
- Greater Noida based Father Agnel School is awarded with India’s greenest School in the Nation.
  1. Father Agnel School – Greater Noida
  2. Queen’s Valley School– Delhi.
- Indian Express listed PM Narendra Modi as the lead of 100 most powerful Indians 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Amit Shah (50)</td>
<td>BJP President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mohan Bhagwat (64)</td>
<td>RSS chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arun Jaitley (62)</td>
<td>Finance and I&amp;B Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sonia Gandhi (68)</td>
<td>Congress President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pranab Mukherjee (79)</td>
<td>President of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Arvind Kejriwal (46)</td>
<td>Chief Minister (Delhi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rajnath Singh (63)</td>
<td>Union Home Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sushma Swaraj (63)</td>
<td>External Affairs Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>H L Dattu (64)</td>
<td>H L Dattu (64)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- TripAdvisor, three Indian beaches have been listed in the top 10 “Asia’s Travellers Choice Award Winning Beaches”.
• Agonda beach (Goa), Palolem beach (Goa), Radhanagar Beach (Andaman)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Beach Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ngapali beach</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nacpan Beach</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kata Noi</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Agonda beach</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yapak beach</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nai Harn beach</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sunrise beach</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Palolem beach</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nai Harn beach</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Radhanagar</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Academy Awards aka Oscar Awards 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Picture</td>
<td>Spotlight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actor</td>
<td>Leonardo DiCaprio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actress</td>
<td>Brie Larson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Direction</td>
<td>Alejandro G Inarritu for “The Revenant”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Original Song</td>
<td>“Writing’s on the Wall” from Spectrex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Original Score</td>
<td>Ennio Morricine for “The Hateful Eight”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Foreign Language Film</td>
<td>Son of Saul (Hungary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Live Action Short Film</td>
<td>Benjamin Cleary and Serena Armitage for “Stutterer”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Documentary – Feature</td>
<td>Asif Kapadia and James Gay-Rees for “Amy”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Documentary – Short</td>
<td>Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy for “A Girl In the River: The Price of India”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Supporting Actor</td>
<td>Mark Rylance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Animated Feature</td>
<td>Pete Doctor and Jonas Rivera for “Inside Out”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Animated Short</td>
<td>Gabriel Osorio Pato Escala for “Bear Story”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Visual Effects</td>
<td>Andrew Whiteburst, Paul Norris, Mark Ardington and Ara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Sound Mixing</td>
<td>Chris Jenkins, Greg Rudloff and Ben Osmo for “Mad Max: Fury Road”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Sound Editing</td>
<td>Mark Mangini and David White for “Mad Max: Fury Road”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Film Editing</td>
<td>Margaret Sixel for “Mad Max: Fury Road”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Cinematography</td>
<td>Emmanuel Lubezki for “The Revenant”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makeup and Hairstyling</td>
<td>Lesley Vanderwalt, Elka Wardega and Damian Martinfor “Mad Max: Fury Road”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Production Design</td>
<td>Colin Gibson and Lisa Thompson for “Mad Max: Fury Road”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Costume Design</td>
<td>Jenny Beavan for “Mad Max Fury Road”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actress In A Supporting Role</td>
<td>Alicia Vikander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Adapted Screenplay</td>
<td>“The Big Short” for Charles Randolph and Adam McKay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Oscar winner Resul pookutty won the Global Reel Award for his sound design work in the film ‘India’s Daughter’ – first Asian

**APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS**

• Atulesh Jindal was appointed as the Chief of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) – successor of A K Jain.
• Kalikho Pul sworn in as 9th Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh – successor of abam tuki
• Actress Kajol appointed as part time members of Prasar Bharati Board
• Datta Padsalgikar IPS named as Police Commissioner of Mumbai – successor of Ahmed Javed
• J K Garg appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Corporation Bank – successor of S R Bansal.
• Archana Ramasundram is appointed as the Director General (DG) of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K Durga Prasad</td>
<td>Director Generals of CRPF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K K Sharma</td>
<td>Director Generals of BSF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M K Singla</td>
<td>Special Secretary, Internal Security Home Ministry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Arvind Mediratta appointed as the Managing Director of German wholesale major Metro Cash & Carry India – successor of Rajeev Bakshi
• Saroj Kumar Jha appointed to a key position in the World Bank with President Jim Young Kim.
• Virender Sehwag was appointed mentor of the Kings XI Punjab team for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL).
• S N Prasad designated as the Director (Marketing), Coal India Ltd – successor of B K Saxena.
• Major General Jai Shanker Menon of India is appointed as the Head United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
• Government designated Aruna Sethi as the head of Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS), becoming the first lady ICoAS officer.
• Amit Singhal Google search chief Singhal to replaced by AI head John Giannandrea
• Satender Kumar concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to Saint Lucia
• D J Pandian appointed as the vice-president and chief investment officer of the newly-created Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
• IDFC Mutual Fund has designated the Anoop Bhaskar as its head of equities – successor of Kenneth Andrade.
• Army Lieutenant General John Nicholson has been designated as the commander of the NATO forces in Afghanistan- successor of US General John Campbell
• GOI has accredited World Bank’s water and sanitation specialist Parameshwaran Iyer as the new Secretary of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department.
• Singapore Airlines has designated David Lim as the General Manager India successor of David Lau.
• Tea Association’s national committee re-elected Ashok Kumar Bhargava, Azam Monem and Vivek Goenka as chairman, vice-chairman and additional vice-chairman respectively of the association.
• Yogeshwar Sangwan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Armenia - succeedor of Dr. T. Suresh Babu
• Indian-origin Singaporean Vishal Mehta appointed as the President of the International Grown Diamond Association (IGDA).
• Brijbhushan Sharan Singh appointed as the president of the South Asian Wrestling Federation
• U.S. National Academy of Engineering (NAE) has primed the 4 Indian-Americans to be a part of its new list of 80 members for their valuable contributions to the society.
  ➢ Anil K. Jain, Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Ganesh Thakur, Dr. K.R. Sridhar
• Indian-origin lawyer in Singapore Davinder Singh named as vice-chairman of International Chamber of Commerce Commission (ICC).
• Indian-origin Harinder Sidhu appointed as the country’s next Australian High Commissioner to India.
• Mukesh Bansal the head of commerce and advertising business at Flipkart, co-founder Binny Bansal’s and Chief Business Officer Ankit Nagori resigned from Flipkart
• Tamar Hahn of Israel appointed as the Director of United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
• Justice Dhirendra Hiralal Waghela appointed as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
• Former Forwards Markets Commission (FMC) chairman Ramesh Abhishek appointed secretary in the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP).
  ➢ Succeedor of Amitabh Kant.
• GOI designated Nagendra Kumar Saxena as the High Commissioner of India to Solomon Islands
• Facebook India Managing Director Kirthiga Reddy stepped down from her current role and will relocate the headquarters to US.
• Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) designated Vilas A. Tonapi as its director.
• The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) board had sent its Executive Vice Chairman Dr RK Pachauri on indefinite leave.
  ➢ Ajay Mathur as the new Director General
• Assistant Chief of Air Staff in charge of the air warfare strategy cell Air Vice Marshal Rajiv Dayal Mathur has been promoted to the rank of Air Marshal
• Devaraja Reddy as appointed as the president of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
• Chad’s president appointed a new prime minister, Albert Pahimi Padacke – successor of Kalzeube Pahimi Deubet
• Sri Srinivasan become the first Indian-American to be on the bench of the US Supreme Court – succeedor of Justice Antonin Scalia
• PM Narendra Modi given its approval to nomination of Chief Executive Officer NITI Aayog as part-time member of the Telecom Commission
• Nitin Seth appointed as India’s biggest online marketplace Flipkart Chief People Officer.
• Senior IPS officer Alok Kumar Verma will be the next Commissioner of Delhi Police – successor of B S Bassi
• MRF Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) K.M. Mamman elected as the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers’ Association (ATMA) Chairman.
• National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) designated railway officer Vinay Kumar Singh as its Managing Director.
• Jayant Misra appointed as Director General of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
• Sujan R Chinoy appointed as India’s Ambassador to republic of the Marshall Islands, presentely he is serving ambassador to Japan.
• Dr. Ketan Shukla is appointed as the new High Commissioner to the Republic of Botswana successor of Ms. Hemalata, C. Bhagirath
• Former Prime Minister of Central African Republic and Mathematics Professor Fausti-Archange Touadera of National Convergence party.
• Amar Singh from Indian-origin Sikh Community has been appointed the Police Commissioner of the Capital city of Malaysia.
• Ri Myong Su appointed to head the Korean People’s Army general staff after his predecessor Ri Yong.
• Justice Vineet Saran appointed as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court by the President of India Pranab Mukherjee.
• Justice Handayala Lakshminarayanamswamy Dattu designated as the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for a period of 5 years – successor of K G Balakrishnan.
• United Nations Development Programme announced Mashrafe Bin Mortaza as its National goodwill ambassador for Youth in Bangladesh.
• Shri K. N. Vyas Eminent Scientist and Associate Director, Reactor Projects Group of BARC on - successor of Dr. Shekar Basu.
• Infosys named Michael Pesch as CEO of consulting business arm
• Japanese Car major Honda India removes CEO Katsushi Inoue from office one year his induction into the company.
• NDA led Centre appointed three retired civil servants as Information Commissioner of Central Information Commission they are,
• Japanese Car maker Nissan announced a new line-up of cricket talent in partnership with the International cricket Council as Global Ambassadors.
• Rahul Tanveja is appointed as the new Chief People Officer of Jet Airways India
• Justice Dinesh Maheshwari will be the new Chief Justice of the Meghalaya – successor of Uma Nath Singh
• Gov appointed Rajendra Singh as the Director General of Coast guard- first person to be appointed not from a Navy background. ‘
• Vijay mallya resigned from Chairman of United Spirits Limited and Mahindra Kumar Sharma an Independent Director of the Firm to replace him.
• Subbro Kamal Mukherjee took oath as the Chief Justice of Karnataka High court in the presence of Governor Vajubhai Vala at Raj bhavan
• European Football Administrator Gianni Infantino as FIFA president – Succeedor of Swiss Sepp Blatter
• Dinesh Sharma accredited as the Chairperson of the Governing Council of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Rome.
• Banks Board Bureau all set to have its first Chairman Vinod Rai, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the appointment
  - N Sinor (Former ICICI Bank’s Former Joint Director)
  - Anil Khandelwal (Former Chief of Bank of Baroda)
  - Rupa Kudwa (Chief of CRISIL).
• Ashwini Nangia appointed as Director of CSIR- National Chemical lab, Pune.
• Ajay Kumar Sharma currently the Indian ambassador to the Republic of Mali concurrently accredited to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
• Tsewang Namgyal presently the Ambassador of Cuba is concurrently accredited as the Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti
• Odisha CM, Naveen patnaik elected as the president of Biju Janata Dhal for the seventh
• Rozle Prezelj elected as the new chairman of the International Association of Athletics Federations Athletes Commission.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

• CraftsVilla an online marketplace for Indian products acquired the on-demand shipping service provider Sendd for $4.5 million
• Cabinet approves JV with states for rail projects – initial 100 crore
• Microsoft acquired software keyboard and SDK application maker SwiftKey - 250 million USD.
• Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Entertainment joint venture with film-maker producer duo Neeraj Pandey and Shital Bhatia’s Friday Filworks for production of movies.
• Cisco Systems Inc publicized to acquire Jasper Technologies that connect devices to internet for $1.4 billion in cash and equity awards.
• Anil Ambani-led Reliance Infrastructure inked a concord to sell its cement business wing Reliance Cement to Birla Corporation for Rs. 4,800 crore.
• Chhattisgarh govt will be forming a joint venture company with the Ministry of Railways.
• MoU signed between Ministry of Railways and State Government of Telangana
• Wipro signed an agreement to acquire the US-based HealthPlan Services from Water Street Healthcare Partners for $460 million
• Railways joined hands with the Chhattisgarh govt for laying of 762 km-long rail line in the state as part of the rail infrastructure development plan.
• Kedaara the local private equity firm partners with American fund Partners Group JV to buy the Au housing finance for Rs 950 crore.
• Google owned YouTube acquired BandPage for $8 million - delivering photos and band info for more than 500,000 artists.
• Time Inc. acquired the social networking ghost town Myspace, by taking ownership of Myspace as part of a larger acquisition of parent company Viant.
• HCL Technologies had acquired the Volvo Group’s external IT business. 
  $1.75 billion (Rs 11,900 crore).
• Cipla has acquired two US Drug companies namely InvaGen and Exelan Pharmaceuticals for $550 million
• Gov decided to divest 5% of its share that raised Rs. 5030 crore in NTPC through the Offer for Sale route as per the disinvestment plan of 2015-16.

SCHEMES

• Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) completed its ten years of achievement - US$15 billion.
• Maharashtra State Cabinet announced the Babasaheb Ambedkar Special group Incentive Scheme for the economically backward Dalit entrepreneurs
• Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) has completed 10 lakh enrolments
  ➢ States with maximum enrolment under scheme – Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh
• Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched ‘Udyam Aakansha’ Scheme for promoting micro, small and medium enterprises in the state.
  ➢ Facilitating online registration and self-certification
• Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje launched the mobile ‘library-cum-school on wheels’ – NGO, Tabar Society
• Jayalalithaa the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had announced ‘Amma Kudineer Thittam’ a new scheme for supplying drinking water - 20 liters of pure water every day.
• Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has released funds under its ambitious Target Olympic Podium Scheme – NSDF
• West Bengal government launched the Utkarsh Bangla Scheme for school dropouts at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata
• Odisha government introduced a self-certifying scheme for non-hazardous industries to set up units.
• Tamil Nadu government announced free bus travel for senior citizens in Chennai metropolitan
• Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana’s guidelines released at Kisan Mela
  ➢ 2% for Kharif crops and 1.5% for Rabi crops and annual commercial and horticultural crops will be 5%
• PM Narendra Modi launched the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission to transform the rural areas to get an urban look - 5100 crore 300 clusters in next 3 years
  ➢ Slogan - “Rural Soul, Urban Amenities”
• Bihar is the sixth state to join this UDAY scheme - 3110 crores
  ➢ To save 9000 crores in the next 3 years
• Atal Innovation Mission and Self Employment Talent Utilization set up National Institution for Transforming India Rs 500 Crore and Rs. 1,000 crore
• Gov will extend the e-tourist VISA to 37 more countries - total 150 countries
• Karnataka government announced housing scheme for transgenders - 600 houses
• National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) which is now renamed as “Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-NULM” - 4,041 statuary urban local bodies
  ➢ Components - Employment through Skill Training and Placement, Social Mobilisation and Institution Development, Subsidy to urban poor and Shelters for urban homeless
• Atal Pension Yojana replaced the National Pension System now will be eligible for the tax benefits as it was provided for National Pension System.
  ➢ Tax benefits comes with additional deduction of Rs. 50,000 - gained 20 Lakh beneficiaries

**MoUs**

• Haryana government signed an agreement with Indo-UK Healthcare Private Limited with proposed investment of Rs 1,000 crore.
• Haryana and Ontario in Canada had signed a Pact to enhance commercial and cultural ties.
• Haryana and South Korean state of Chungcheongbuk agreed to collaborate on technology and development.
• Union Railway ministry instigated the Personalised take away bedrolls scheme for Chennai Central Railway Station and Thiruvananthapuram Central Railway Station of Southern Railway.
  ➢ Type 1 - Rs.140 and Type 2 - Rs.110.
• Israel and Turkish energy firms signed an agreement to sell $1.3 billion worth of gas to Edeltech
• Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Indo-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR) signed between Indian Navy and Myanmar Navy.
• National Investment and Infrastructure fund (NIIF) the India’s maiden sovereign wealth signed MoU with Russia’s Rusnano OJSC to set up high technology private Equity fund in India.
• Labour Ministry signed agreements with employment & career activities orgs
  ➢ 8 agreements with Uber, Quikr, Monster, Tech Mahindra, Babajobs, India Staffing Federation, Buzzmatic Ventures and GoldFish
• MoU signed between the ministry of railways on and the gov of Sweden on technical cooperation in Rail Sector for getting best international technology along with investment
• India signed an agreement with the United Kingdom (UK) on exchanging information about criminals.
• Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for signing of a MoU between India and Singapore
• Cabinet apprised about signing of MoU with on cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and innovation (STI).
• Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) and Andhra University had signed a MoU to start the IIPE sessions during the academic year 2016-17.
• India and Armenia ratified MoU on Agricultural Cooperation- trade and investment prospects also sharing Knowledge that both countries gained erstwhile.
• The Department of bio-technology of Ministry of Science & Technology and UK’s top research institute signed a MoU for collaboration for research on Crop Sciences
  ➢ Establishment of Indo-UK plant science centre in India
• The cabinet approved $150 million for development of Chabahar port in Republic of Iran which will facilitate trade route to Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.
• Rajasthan Govt has inked 51 memorandums of understanding worth Rs 11,531.21 crore with various companies - Rs 3.21 lakh crores
• Prasar Bharati signed a MoU with Empressa de comunicacao to the broadcast related endeavors Exchange of News Programmes and co-production.
BML Munjal University had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Axis Bank.

- Aims to aware the students about Banking Sector

National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) signed MOU with Indian Institute of Chemical Biology to promote entrepreneurship.

- Jharkhand gove and Adani Group inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up a 1600 MW capacity thermal power plant for investment of 15000 crore rupees

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signed two bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with United Kingdom.

- India and US signed an agreement to improve the system at Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) - fund $808

National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) had inked Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) in Kolkata for technology Transfer at IACS.

Union Cabinet approved the proposal for notification of commitments under the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

- Part of the WTO’s Bali ministerial package of 2013

PM- Narendra Modi and his cabinet approved the agreement which will avoid double taxation for International airline enterprises in Maldives and India.

- India and United States of America has set up bilateral mechanism for sharing information for tracking movements of satellites, avoiding collisions and identifying potential threats to space and ground assets.

The world’s biggest multinational trade deal signed by 12 member nations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TTP) in Auckland, New Zealand

- Cover 40 percent of the world economy

- India and Afghanistan inked a pact for visa-free travel for diplomatic passport holders of the two countries.

- India signs an Agreement to Become an Associate Member State of (EMBO) Associate Member State European Molecular Biology Organisation

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) had signed an agreement on cyber defence to improve cooperation.

- US and Russia enter into a New deal to stop Bloodshed in Syria came as a joint statement from US and Russia.

- This ceasefire excludes Islamic state, al-Nusra Front and the other deemed terrorist groups.

- Manipal University had signed a MoU for academic cooperation with University of Chicago USA in Manipal.

**COMMITTEES**

- Empowered Group of State Transport ministers Headed by Rajasthan Transport Minister Yunus Khan formed to suggest measures on ailing transport sector.

- Companies Law Committee submitted its report to the Government for examining and making recommendations on changing of the Companies Act, 2013.

- Committee formed in Nashik to Rejuvenate Godavari - Deepak Naik(Head), Rekha Somalia, Deepak Naik - rejuvenated nearly 78 rivers

- Committee framed under T.S.R Subramanian to evolve the New Education Policy

- Consider the various suggestions received from online portal, various educational pioneers and experts and frame a Draft of the New Education Policy

- Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)’s expert committee

- To examine the possibility of replacing multiple prior permissions with pre-existing regulatory mechanism has submitted its recommendations aimed at promoting ease of doing business

- Headed by Ajay Shankar

- Economist and West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra appointed as the chairman of empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers on Goods and Service tax.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- French space agency Centre National d’études spatiales (CNES) signed a letter of intent with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in the next Mars mission – 2018.
- Smartphones app ‘MyShake’ turns the Android phones into an earthquake detector.
- World’s first fully automated farm with robots handling almost every step of the process from watering seedlings to harvesting crops will be open in Japan announced by Kyoto-based Spread
- India and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) joined hands to explore the environment of Ladakh under NASA’s Spaceward Bound programme.
- The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) launched India’s first ayurvedic anti-diabetic drug named BGR-34 for type two Diabetes mellitus.
- Reliance Defense has announced to set up Dhirubhai Ambani centre for research, development and innovation in aerospace technology.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched the official YouTube channel for the Ministry of finance.
- CRMNEXT had launched India’s first cloud based digital CRM platform to provides commutable cloud CRM solutions.
- The first artificial graphene-like structure had been created by the University of Arkansas. The team of researchers was headed by an Indian-origin researcher.
- Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has initiated an EMI scheme which will help them in their continuation of the treatment and meet the high cost of medication.
- The first machine harvestable chickpea variety, NBeG 47 has been released in Andhra Pradesh suitable for the state’s variable climate.
- Paper waste is turned into the non toxic green Aerogel for the first time by the experts of the Singapore.
- Dr. Mahesh Sharma launched the 24×7 Toll Free Tourist Infoline in 12 International Languages including Hindi and English.
- HCL had launched an Internet of Things (IoT) Incubation Center with Microsoft which will be stationed at Redmond Washington, USA.
- North Korea successfully launched the Kwangmyongsong-4 a communications satellite into space.
- The Crime Mapping, Analytics and Predictive System (CMAPS) is being operationalised by Delhi Police in partnership with ISRO - predictive policing” mechanism
- International physicists association detected gravitational waves for the first time in the world
- YouTube launched its first original movies and series for YouTube Red subscriber
- Indian Space Research Organasion (ISRO) launched the Cryogenic mark-III based GSLV satellite launch vehicle in December.
- US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is going to launch a smooth 132-foot unmanned ocean drone from Portland on 17 April - 140-tonne Anti-Submarine
- RailYatri.in launched a medical emergency app. It will enable train travelers to check for vital information regarding medical facilities in the surrounding area of their location.
- Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) launched a mobile application for cargo operations that will help reduce paper work and track movement of shipments on real time basis.
- Indian-origin scientist Ashutosh Tiwari with his team had discovered a fast Tin Monoxide conductor to replace silicon.
- Arun Jaitley the Union Finance Minister inaugurated the Non-Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP).
  - Developed by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) office - Rs 2 lakh crores.
- Minister of Information and Broadcasting Javadekar launched a website and mobile application for integrating its Environment Information System(ENVIS) centres -69
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ‘in principle’ approval to the LIGO-India mega science proposal for research on gravitational waves – 8km
- Amazon announced the launch an initiative that enables small and medium businesses (SMBs) to go online and sell products ‘Amazon Tatkal’.
- Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari launched a website dedicated to the union government’s Maritime India Summit 2016
- Ringing Bells Pvt Ltd a Noida based company had launched Freedom 251 possibly the world’s cheapest Smartphone – Rs.251
- Japan space agency Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched ASTRO-H space observation satellite to study the black holes.
- Scientists have discovered five new exoplanets coining them hot Jupiters
  - WASP 119b, WASP 114b,WASP 126 b, WASP 129 b and WASP 133 b.
- Google’s “Project Loon” had crashed down in Sri Lanka in a tea plantation - crashed during
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its first test flight.

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) had found a super-Earth with an atmosphere for the first time.
- Indian Space Research Organisation successfully hot tested “Cryo CE 20” Engine for flight duration of 640 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- The union minister for science and technology Harsh Vardhan dedicated the Ksheer Scanner system for people
  - Used to detect Adulteration in Milk. It was developed by CSIR-CEERI.
- Ministry of Tourism initiated the “Swachh Parayatan Mobile App” by Mahesh Sharma
  - Google Search Engine as “Swachh Paryatan”
- **Haryana to become the first state in India to have Aquifer mapping** -to find out the exact location of the Aquifer rocks
- US Inter Continental Ballistic Missile Minuteman 3 was launched from Vandenberg Air force Base in California.
- Rabishield –the first monoclonal antibody drug that is a fast acting anti-rabies vaccine is launched in India.
  - Developed by Serum Institute of India and US-based Mass Biologics of the University of Massachusetts Medical School.
- Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDT) issued an order excluding software patents in its revised guidelines for Computer Related Inventions (CRI) - Patents Act, 1970
- ISRO has planned to launch the first solar mission Aditya-L1 in this year - first solar mission and known as Aditya-L1
- Scientists at McGill University created an energy efficient model Biological Super computer that can process the information using very little energy.
  - It use energy from Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP)
- New Doppler radar to be commissioned in the cyclone prone eastern coast in Gopalpur district of Odisha by the Indian Meteorological Department next month.

**DEFENCE**

- India has participated in the 35th edition of “Cobra Gold” multilateral exercise as an observer plus country hosted by Thailand.
- India and China held their first joint tactical exercise (JET) codenamed “Sino-India Cooperation 2016” in the Chushul-Moldo, Jammu and Kashmir
- 9th Indo-Nepal Combined Battalion level Military Training Exercise **Surya Kiran** has been started off today at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- “IBSAMAR” is a joint naval exercise between India, Brazil and South Africa - Exercise to commence from Goa Coast
- Indian Army and Seychelles People’s Defence Forces (SPDF) had joint the 7th joint military exercise in Victoria.
- The Indian Navy conducted an International Fleet Review (IFR) at Visakhapatnam.
- The state government had decided to set up the country’s first Aviation Park in Gujarat.
- Indian Coast Guard planned to induct 38 more aircraft and helicopters into navy by 2020
- INS Viraat an Aircraft carrier will be developed as a tourism centre in the Navy, Andhra Pradesh.
- Ishapore Rifle factory in west Bengal - designed India’s lightest revolver’ Nidar” weighing 250gm
- India’s indigenously developed Prithvi-II missile had been successfully test-fired from the Chandipur, Odisha.
- Captive flight trials of an advanced state-of-the-art Anti-Radiation Missile (ARM) are planned for April-May this year – 100 to 125km

**ENVIRONMENT**

- Birds of 11 rare species have been found in Jharkhand during a survey of the water bodies.
  - 25 dams, in the state is nearly about 71,134 as recorded by the Asian Bird Survey 2015.
- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) had released seven new varieties of field crops
  - wheat, rice, chickpea, pigeon pea and mustard.
• The first global greenhouse gas emissions standard for aircraft has been recommended by United Nations panel.
  - International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), the plan could diminish the fuel consumption in new aircraft by an average of 4%
• Central Pollution Control Board’s (CPCB)” has released its latest report “National Air Quality Indices (AQI)”
  - Delhi is not the pollution capital of India but still it has been ranked with “very poor” score of 362.
  - Varanasi and Muzaffarpur are leading the list with severe pollution
• Parts of southern Britain lashed by heavy rain and winds of up to 96 mph after storm Imogen swept.
• New species of Hydroid Polyps emitting green fluorescence in the Red Sea discovered by international team of biologists
  - Hydroid polyps are also called hydrozoas.
• Google will launch a public flood alerts feature in India. The feature will be available through Google Public Alerts.
• Neem extract may help treat Pancreatic Cancer - scientists from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso).
• The Department of forest and Animal Keepers at Arignar Anna Zoological Park has carried out long day census of birds and came to the conclusion that 31 species of birds in Vandalur’s Otteri Lake.
• Greenpeace analysis data taken by NASA satellites alarmed that the average particulate matters of population increased in India overtaking China for the first time in 21st century.
• Birders in Goa sighted rare Falcated Duck in Goa - verity in Goa’s Bird list.
• High sediment mercury levels reported in Arctic region - Kottayam Kerala school of Environmental sciences – Kongsfjorden
• A group of scientists from Massachusetts Institute of technology have discovered that sea sponges were the first animal to have appeared on earth
• Government comes out with draft norms for Euro VI emission standard - Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2016 as the draft of certain rules aims at amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

SPORTS

• 2016 Syed Modi Badminton Title – Lucknow
  - Men’s singles category - Indian Kidambi Srikanth defeating Huang Yuxiang the chines player
  - Women’s singles category - Sayaka Sato from Japan by defeating Sung Ji Hyun from South Korea
  - Men’s doubles category - Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong from Malaysia Indian pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Akshay Dewalkar
  - Women’s doubles category - Jung Kyung-eun and Shin Seung-chan from South Korea defeating Eefje Muskens and Selena Piek from Netherlands
  - Mixed Doubles Title - Indonesian pair Praveen Jordan and Deby Susanto defeated Thai pair Puavaranukroh Dechapol and Sapisree Tairattanchai
• Japanese city of Fukuoka will host the 2021 World Aquatics Championships
• Pietro Fittipaldi Brazil racing driver has won the 2015 MRF Challenge Formula 2000 held in Tamilnadu
• Virat Kohli rewarded for his stupendous performance in India’s clean sweep against Australia in the T20 internationals as he replaced Aaron Finch
• National Snooker Championship Aditya Mehta won 2016 Championship by defeating Manan Chandra by 6-3 in the men’s final round – Indore, MP
• Rajkot franchise has been named as “the Gujarat Lions” after an online survey – Suresh Raina
• Kerala won the 61st National School Athletics championship - held at Olympian Rahman Stadium in Kozhikode, Kerala.
• BWF Ranking
  - K Srikanth sat again on World No. 9 and P V Sindhu dropped a place to be No. 12.
  - In men’s double pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Akshay Dewalkar World No. 34, while Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy ranked at World No. 20.
  - P Kashyap slipped to World No. 15 while H S Prannoy ranked at 27th spot.
The duo of Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa ranked at 13th.

- ICC removed India, England and Australia as the permanent members of its decision-making executive committee.
- Yasir Shah Pakistan leg-spinner banned for three months for breaching the International Cricket Council’s (ICCs) anti-doping code.
- New Zealand captain Brendon Barrie McCullum had been retired from all forms of international cricket
- Quinton De Kock the wicketkeeper and batsman of South Africa became the fastest to make 10 One Day International (ODI) centuries.
- The hallowed Lord’s will host the final of the Women’s Cricket World Cup in 2017 in London.
- Brendon McCullum skipper of New Zealand cricket team had played record 100th consecutive Test - 153 successive tests
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had banned Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf was for five years.
- Sania Mirza the Indian tennis star and Martina Hingis from Swiss won the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- West Indies had won the ICC Under-19 World Cup 2016 in Mirpur against India.
- India has won the three match Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka at Visakapatnam
- 12th South Asian Games 2016 title clinched by India, which were held at Guwahati and Shillong

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</table>

- Dominic Thiem an Austrian tennis player wins the Buenos Aires Title over the Nicolas Almagro a Spanish professional tennis player in the Argentina Open.
- Sridhar of Short Dena Bank’s had been selected as Umpire (Table Tennis) for the coming Rio Olympic Games 2016.
- Indian Railways won The National Chess team Championship for the first time at the 36th Championship was held at Bhubaneswar.
- India’s leading denim brand Numero Uno will be the official clothing supplier of ICC World Twenty20.
- Rio Haryanto becomes Indonesia’s first Formula 1 driver after signing a deal with Manor Racing going to be held in Melbourne, Australia.
- Suhaania lohi created history when she was ranked 6 among her co-players in chess.
- Brendon McCullum the New Zealand skipper sets a new record with his 54 ball ton in his farewell innings against Australia.
- Punjab Warriors defeated Kalinga Lancers to win 2016 Hockey in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- India Bags 9 medals at the Asian Wrestling Championship held at Bangkok, Thailand.
  - India – 7th and Iran – 1st
- Former world No. 4 Francesca Schiavone from Italy won her 7th WTA career title in Rio de Janeiro beating Shelby Rogers of America.
- 36th edition of the Sait Nagjee Football Tournament was held at Kozhikode, Kerala. FC
  - Dnipro Reserves of Ukraine had grabbed the tournament’s trophy by defeating Atletico Paranaense Reserves of Brazil.
- Australia Reclaims No.1 in ICC Test rankings after defeating the Kiwi’s in Christchurch test match won the series
  - India – 2nd position and South Africa – 3rd position
- Gurmeet Singh from Uttarkhand created record that he clocked 1:21:24:57 to clinch Gold Medal against the Rio Olympics Qualifying Standard in Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Mumbai won the Ranji trophy title beating Saurashtra by an innings and 21 runs winning the title for 41st time.
- 2016 Qatar Total Open
Singles – Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia has clinched the title by defeating Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain.

Doubles – Taipei Chan Hao-ching / Taipei Chan Yung-jan of China defeated Sara of Italy/ Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain.

- Dubai ATP title of 2016
  - Swiss tennis great Stan Wawrinka defeated Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus to claim Dubai ATP title of 2016
  - Women’s Singles: Sara Errani from Italy won 2016 defeated Barbora Strýcová of Czech Republic.
  - Men’s Doubles: Simone Bolelli and Andrea’s seppi from Italy defeated Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez pair from Spain to Clinch the Title.
  - Women’s Doubles: Chuang Chia – Jung from Chinese Taipei and Darija Jurak from Croatia defeated French pair of Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic.

OBITUARY

- The British actor Frank Finlay who nominated as Oscar winner in 1966 passed away.
- The world’s best Chef Benoit Violier passed away at 44.
- Dan Hicks America’s singer-songwriter had passed away.
- A theatre-turned-cinema-actor Kollam G K Pillai is known for his character and comedy roles in dramas, movies and TV serials passed away.
- S.S. Tarapore, an economist and former Central Bank Deputy Governor passed away in Mumbai at 80.
- Former Lok Sabha speaker and Congress veteran Balram Jakhar passed away at the age of 92.
- Famous Urdu fiction writer, novelist, columnist and poet Intizar Husain passed away.
- Padma Shri awardee, eminent cartoonist Sudhir Tailang passed away.
- Edgar Mitchell - one of 12 men and sixth man to walk on the Moon passed away.
- The leading Urdu poets Nida Fazli had passed away.
- Sushil Koirala the former Prime Minister of Nepal passes away.
- Veteran film director Aurobindo Mukherjee passed away.
- Leslie Bassett, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer known for his lush sonorities and ecumenical instrumentation passed away at 93.
- Slachen braveheart Lance Naik Hanamanthappa passed away.
- Soviet football legend Anatoly Ilyin died at the age of 84.
- India’s Ambassador to Tajikistan Biraja Prasad passed away.
- Padma Vibhushan awardee, eminent Malayalam poet, lyricist, professor and environmentalist O N V Kurup passed away at 84.
- Popular southern composer Rajamani has passed away at 60.
- Boutros Boutros-Ghali, a veteran Egyptian diplomat, who helped negotiate his country’s landmark peace deal with Israel passed away at 93.
- Noted Malayalam novelist and short story writer Akbar Kakkattil passed away at 62.
- The former West Indies cricketer Andy Ganteaume passed away.
- Veteran singer Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan had passed away.
- Andrzej Zulawski, Polish director who spent most of his professional life in France passed away at 75.
- Harper Lee American novelist whose first novel ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ passed away at 89.
- The famous Odissa singer Bhubaneshwar Mishra passed away at the age of 67.
- Umberto Eco, the philosopher cum novelist who is renowned for his work ‘The Name Of The Rose’ passed away at 84.
- B K Garudachar the oldest living cricketer of India passed away at 99.
- Socialist leader Nihal Ahmed Maulavi Mohammed Usman died at the age of 90.
- The famous Malayalam director Rajesh Pillai passed away at the age of 41.
- Legendary Actor – comedian Kumarimuthu passed away at 77.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Sentinels of Raisina Hill authored by Mohan Joseph (Controller General of Accounts) Dhirendra Singh (former Home Secretary).
• "Indian Paper Money" penned by Shri Razack
• "Transendence" - Former President APJ Abdul Kalam
• Amar Chitra Katha has launched its first romance title “A Kingdom For His Love” the fiction co-authored by Vani Mahesh and Shinie Antony
• Information & Broadcast Minister (I&B) had released the 'India 2016' and 'Bharat 2016 Reference Annual' books
• “Anything but Kamosh: The biography of Shatrughan Sinha” - Shatrughan Sinha biography

IMPORTANT DAYS

Feb 4: World Cancer Day – “We can I can”
Feb 6: International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation.
“Achieving the new Global Goals through the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation by 2030”
Feb 7: 68th ‘Nowshera Day’
Feb 13: World Radio Day - “Radio in Times of Emergency and Disaster”
Feb 21: International Mother Language day – “Quality education, language(s) of instruction and learning outcomes”
Feb 22: World thinking day – “Connect Activity Pack”
Feb 24: Central Excise Day
Feb 28 National Science day – “Scientific issues for Development of the Nation”

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