

INTERNATIONAL

1. El Salvador declares drought emergency for first time ever

The Central American country of El Salvador has declared a water shortage emergency

- ❖ It was the first drought emergency in its history.
- ❖ Residents near by the capital city of San Salvador have protested because of water shortages in recent weeks
- ❖ River and water reserve levels have reached a critical state.

El Salvador

- ☞ Capital: San Salvador
- ☞ Currency: US Dollar
- ☞ President: Salvador Sanchez Ceren

NATIONAL

2. India, US to collaborate on tackling offshore tax evasion

India and the US have agreed to enhance collaboration on tackling offshore tax evasion and increase cooperation in sharing of cross-border tax information.

- ❖ Union Finance Minister, ArunJaitleyand US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew told in a Joint Statement that we are committed to continued collaboration and sharing of experience in tackling offshore tax evasion and avoidance, including joint tax audits and tax examination abroad.
- ❖ The statement was issued after MrJaitley and Mr.Jacob Lew co-chaired the 6th US-India Economic and Financial Partnership (EFP) in Washington on the sidelines of the annual Spring Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank.

3. PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Maritime India Summit 2016

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Maritime India Summit 2016 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

4. PM launched E-National Agriculture Market

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Agriculture Market portal ENAM to connect e-mandis in several States.
- ❖ ENAM is an online inter-connectivity of e-mandis, aimed at ushering in much needed agriculture marketing reforms to enable farmers to get better price of their produce.

5. India to get \$250m for renewable from New Development Bank

- ❖ The New Development Bank, the latest multilateral funding institution in the financial world, has sanctioned a \$250 million loan for India to fund its ambitious scheme on new and renewable energy.

6. Google, Rail Tel expand free Wi-Fi service to 9 more railway stations in India.

- ❖ Google in collaboration with Rail Tel, the telecom arm of the Indian Railways, has rolled out free Wi-Fi service at 9 more stations, taking the total to 10 where it will offer high-speed Internet to an estimated 1.5 million passengers and visitors.

7. Delhi ranked 44th Among world's 50 'future ready cities'

- ❖ National Capital, Delhi has been recognised as one of the 50 future-ready cities around the world that are embracing technology to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing and globalised future.

8. Super Computer Param Kanchenjunga launched at Sikkim NIT

- ❖ The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Sikkim secured a rare distinction of having a super computer which is said to be the most powerful and fastest among all the 31 NITs and also in the entire North East region.

TRADE / BANKING

9. NDB sanctions \$ 250 million for India's renewable energy scheme

India gets a loan from the BRICS's China based New Development Bank (NDB) which gave a \$250 million funding to Canara Bank for a renewable energy project.

- ❖ The Development Bank has approved four green renewable energy projects from India, China, Brazil and South Africa entailing Bank financing of \$811 million.

IACE – INDIAN ACADEMY OF COMPETITIVE EXAMS

10. RBI cuts maturity of masala bonds to three years

RBI has reduced the minimum tenure of Masala bonds to make it more attractive.

The term “Masala Bond” is used to refer to rupee-denominated borrowings by Indian entities in overseas markets.

- ❖ The minimum maturity period for the rupee-denominated bonds issued overseas reduced to three years from the previously stated five years.
- ❖ The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank issued a 1,000 crore bond to fund infrastructure projects in India that were listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE).

APPOINTMENTS

11. Ukraine appoints Groysman new Prime Minister

Ukraine’s parliament has appointed Volodymyr Groysman as the country’s new prime minister. He was voted in by MPs 257 to 50 as the 16th Prime Minister of Ukraine.

- ❖ MPs voted to approve Mr. Groysman’s appointment and accept the resignation of his predecessor, Arseniy Yatsenyuk.
- ❖ Groysman will succeed Yatsenyuk, after serving as his deputy during the latter’s first government, in the aftermath of the toppling of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich in 2014.

Ukraine

- ☞ Capital: Kiev
- ☞ Currency: Hryvnia
- ☞ President: Petro Poroshenko

12. Ajay Banga appointed as member of US Cyber Security body

- ❖ US President Barack Obama has nominated MasterCard’s Indian-American CEO Ajay Banga as a member of the Commission on Enhancing National Cyber security.

13. Government appoints Susmita Pande as National Monument Authority (NMA) Chairperson

Susmita Pande, a professor at Ujjain’s Vikram University, has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Monument Authority (NMA) for a three-year term.

- ❖ She would succeed Himanshu Prabha Ray, the professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- ❖ NMA, under the Union Culture & Tourism Ministry, is responsible for the protection and preservation of centrally protected monuments and sites.

AWARDS

14. Bernie Sanders wins Time reader poll of 100 most influential people

American Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders won the TIME 100 reader poll with 3 percent of the vote, ahead of Hilary Clinton who was 25th with 1 per cent of the vote.

- ❖ Bernie had finished with 3.3% of the total votes on the poll, edging out the South Korean boy band Big Bang’s 2.9%, Burmese leader Aung San SuuKyi’s 2.2%, and President Obama’s 2%.

DEATHS

15. British playwright Arnold Wesker died

British playwright Arnold Wesker, has died at the age of 83. He had Parkinson’s disease.

- ❖ London born prolific political writer who produced more than 40 plays, as well as books of essays, poetry and short stories. His work also included children’s fiction and a first novel, Honey, which was published in 2005.

16. Punjab lokpal Justice J.S. Sekhon passes away

Punjab lokpal and former Punjab and Haryana High Court Judge, Justice Jai Singh Sekhon passed away.

- ❖ Sekhon, elder brother of Punjab cabinet minister Janmeja Singh Sekhon, had been fighting cancer for more than a year.
- ❖ He started his career as a lawyer at the Ferozepur district and sessions court and before being elevated as high court judge, he worked as district and sessions judge in several courts of the state.

17. Hero group co-founder Satyanand Munjal dies at 99

Co-founder of Hero Cycles group Satyanand Munjal, died at the age of 99 in Model Town, Ludhiana.

- ❖ Munjal was popularly known as ‘mahatma’ Satyanand Munjal for being devoted to several social causes related to the Arya Samaj.
- ❖ Hero Honda started in 1984 as a joint venture between Hero Cycles of India and Honda of Japan by Dr. Brijmohan Lall Munjal