

1ST TO 31ST OCTOBER CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT

1st OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. World Maritime Day : 29 September

The **World Maritime Day** is observed across the world on **29 September** to highlight the importance of shipping safety, maritime security and the marine environment.

- 2016 Theme is “**Shipping: indispensable to the world**”.

2. WHO declares Region of the Americas as Measles free

The World Health Organisation (**WHO**) declared the Region of the **Americas** as **Measles free**.

- With this, the Americas became the first in the world to have eliminated measles, a viral disease that can cause severe health problems, including pneumonia, blindness, brain swelling and even death.

3. Cuba and Russia sign agreement on Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

Rosatom, Russian state nuclear agency, and **Cuba's** Ministry of signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of **peaceful atomic energy use**.

- The deal was signed on the sidelines of the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna**.

NATIONAL

4. PMUY

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which was launched by the Prime Minister on **1st May 2016 at Ballia (Uttar Pradesh)**, is a scheme to provide clean cooking fuel to the women belonging to the ‘Below Poverty Line’ (BPL) households across the country.
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to provide LPG connections to **5 Crore BPL households by 2019**.

AWARDS

5. Telugu writer Prof Kalakaluri Enoch conferred 29th Moortidevi Award

Noted Telugu writer Prof. Kalakaluri Enoch was conferred with **29th Moortidevi Award** of **Bharatiya Jnanpith** for the year **2015** at function in New Delhi. The award was given for his novel **Ananta Jeevanam**.

- This is the first time a Telugu writer was selected for the award.
- Books written in English and all Indian languages are considered for the Prize.

DEATHS

6. Renowned Bangla writer Syed Shamsul Haq passes away

Syed Shamsul Haq, one of Bangladesh’s best known writers passed in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2nd OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Pakistan postpones SAARC summit

Pakistan has officially postponed the 19th SAARC Summit to be held in November in Islamabad.

- Pakistan's decision to postpone the SAARC meet has come in the wake of five South Asian countries, including India, expressing their inability to participate in the summit.
- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka had already pulled out of the SAARC summit indirectly blaming Pakistan for creating an environment which is not right for the successful holding of the meet.

NATIONAL

2. Indira Gandhi International achieved carbon neutral status

The Delhi International Airport Limited announced that the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has become the first airport in the AsiaPacific region to achieve carbon neutral status.

TRADE / BANKING

3. Google to set up data centre in India by 2017

Google will set up its first India data centre in Mumbai by 2017, hoping to take on global incumbents such as Microsoft and Amazon, who have a presence in the country, and allow local customers to host their applications on the internet.

4. Kotak Mahindra Bank acquires BSS Microfinance

Kotak Mahindra Bank, the country’s fourth largest private sector lender, has acquired BSS Microfinance in an all-cash deal for Rs 139.2 crore.

APPOINTMENTS

5. Shakti Sinha to head Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

Retired IAS officer Shakti Sinha was appointed as the Director of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML). His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

SPORTS

6. India beat Bangladesh to lift U-18 Asia Cup hockey

The Indian men's hockey team lifted the 4th U-18 Asia Cup after defeating hosts Bangladesh 5-4 in a pulsating summit clash in Dhaka.

3rd & 4th October 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. India home to highest number of poors, Najria second: World Bank

A recent World Bank report said that in the 2013, the highest number of people living below poverty line were in India.

- It was said in a report titled 'Poverty and share Prosperity'.
- The report says, 'India is a country where most number of people are living below the international standard of \$1.90 per day. Number of people living below poverty line is calculated to be 22.4 Crore.
- It's almost 2.5 times the Nigerian number of Poor people which is 8.6 Crore. Nigeria Finished second in terms of number of people below poverty line.

2. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince to be 2017 Republic Day chief guest

The crown prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will be chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January.

- Mohammed bin Zayed said, "Our strong relations are deeply rooted in history; our strategic cooperation has increased, driven by our mutual aspirations to develop it."
- The Republic Day chief guest in 2016 was French president Francois Hollande.

3. International day of Older Persons: 1st October

Every year 1st October is observed as International day of Older Persons.

- The significance of Day is to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly and to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.
- This year, the theme is "Take a Stand Against Ageism."

4. International day for non violence: 2nd October

The 8th International Day of Non-Violence was observed on 2nd October.

- The day that falls on October 2 has been declared unanimously by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2007, in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The day is being celebrated against terrorism and violence since 2008.

NATIONAL

5. Arunachal CM flags off all-women Mt Gorichen expedition

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu flagged off an all-women Mt Gorichen expedition here.

- This will be the first all women team attempting to summit the second highest peak of the state, which is considered as a technical peak and only seasoned climbers can make it to the top (6,488 m).
- Anshu Jansempa, who climbed Mt Everest twice, will lead the team of ten members.

TRADE/ BANKING

6. Government decides to raise EPFO investment in ETF

The Government has decided to raise the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) investment in Exchange Traded Funds from present 5 per cent to 10 per cent.

- Announcing this Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, the Minister of State(IC) for Labour and Employment said that the decision has been taken considering the good returns in ETF investment.
- Accordingly, for the last one year, the EPFO has invested 6,577 crore in ETF for the financial year 2015-16. This investment has yielded a good return of 13.24 per cent.

APPOINTMENTS

7. Arundhati Bhattacharya Gets Year-Long Extension as SBI Chief

Government has given one-year extension to SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya amid the lender's consolidation with its associate banks.

- Earlier this year, the Cabinet gave its nod for merger of State Bank of India (SBI), its associate lenders and Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) that would make the state-owned lender a global-sized bank.
- SBI has five associate lenders — State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Hyderabad.

8. Somesh Sharma is INS President

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Somesh Sharma of Rashtrdoot Saptahik was elected as president of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) on Friday for 2016-17. He succeeds P V Chandran of Grehalakshmi of Mathrubhumi Group.

- Akila Urankar of Business Standard was elected as the new deputy president of INS at its annual general body meeting. K Balaji of The Hindu Weekly has been elected vice-president while Sharad Saxena of Hindustan Times is the new treasurer.
- V Shankaran will continue to be the secretary general.

9. Rajeev Sharma takes over as Power Finance CMD

Rajeev Sharma has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC) with effect.

- Sharma succeeds M K Goel who retired on September 30, 2016 on attaining the age of superannuation.
- Prior to joining PFC, Sharma was the CMD of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

AWARDS

10. Gangtok conferred Cleanest Tourist Destination honour

The Union Ministry of Tourism has conferred Gangtok, capital of Sikkim, the 'Cleanest Tourist Destination'.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 30 handed over the award in New Delhi. The award was received by the Commissioner of Gangtok Municipal Corporation.
- Chandigarh and Mysore were awarded as 'Clean Cities in million plus population category'.
- Urban Development and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation responsible for implementing the flagship programme, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban and Gramin), had organised a workshop at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi.

11. Gujarat world heritage site: Rani Ki Vav bags 'Cleanest Iconic Place' award

Gujarat's 900-year-old World Heritage Site Rani ki Vav bag an award for the "Cleanest Iconic Place".

- The monument was felicitated at the conference, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Rani ki Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) was built as a memorial to a king in the year 1063 by Queen Udaymati and is located in the north Gujarat district of Patan.
- It was added as part of the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2014.

12. 'Murga' wins first prize at Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival

Young filmmaker Katyayan Shivpuri, from Maharashtra, won the first prize at the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival for his work "Murga".

- Minister of Information and Broadcasting, M Venkaiah Naidu awarded Katyayan with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakhs.
- Vani Tripathi, filmmaker Gitanjali Rao, and Prahlad Kakar served as the jury to select the best 20 short films.

SPORTS

13. Daniel Ricciardo wins F1 Malaysian Grand Prix

Daniel Ricciardo has claimed maiden Formula One Malaysian Grand Prix win.

- Max Verstappen and Nico Rosberg finished second and third respectively.
- Malaysian Grand Prix is a part of World Championship.
- It is being organised at Sepang Circuit since 1999.

14. Kieren Dsouza becomes the first Indian to complete World's toughest race, Spartathlon

Bengaluru's Kieren Dsouza has become the first Indian to complete the Spartathlon, widely described as the "world's toughest race".

- The 23-year old completed the 246.6 km distance in the 2016 edition, in 33 hours, one minute and 38 seconds.
- The Spartathlon is an annual run between Athens and Sparta in Greece, with a reported success rate of 50%.

5th OCTOBER 2016

NATIONAL

1. Jharkhand becomes first state to implement Direct Benefit Transfer in Kerosene

Jharkhand on 1 October 2016 became India's first state to implement Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Kerosene.

- The scheme is being implemented in four identified districts of the State namely Chatra, Hazaribagh, Khunti and Jamtara.
- This initiative is aimed at rationalizing subsidy and plugging the leakages.

2. Delhi Police launches mobile app for senior citizens

Delhi Police launched a mobile application for senior citizens to enable them to reach out to the police quickly in emergency situations.

- On the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, the app 'Delhi Police Senior Citizen' was launched by

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Delhi Lt Governor Najeeb Jung.

- It will serve as an aid to the elderly in times of distress or in case of medical emergencies.

3. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis declares Nagpur first digital district of India

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis declared Nagpur as the first digital district of India.

- At a function in Mumbai, he said all 29,000 gram panchayats across Maharashtra would be digitally transformed by December 2018.

TRADE / BANKING

4. SBI opens branch in Yangon after 53 years

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, expanded its overseas footprint by entering Myanmar, opening a branch Yangon after 53 years, the former capital and the largest city of that country.

- With the opening of this branch, SBI has extended (its) global presence to 37 countries through 198 offices

APPOINTMENTS

5. Kersti Kaljulaid elected as first female President of Estonia

Kersti Kaljulaid was elected as the President of Estonia by the parliament.

- With this, Kaljulaid will become Estonia's first female president.
- Kaljulaid won vote 81-0, with 20 members absent or abstaining.

Estonia

- Capital: Tallin
- Currency: Euro

6. S Sivakumar appointed as full time member of 21st Law Commission of India

The Union Government has appointed S. Sivakumar as a full-time Member of the 21st Law Commission of India (LCI). He is the professor at the Indian Law Institute (ILI) in New Delhi.

- He hails from Kerala and has authored several books on law.
- Former Supreme Court (SC) judge Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan is Chairman of the commission.
- The first commission was constituted in 1955 and since then various commissions were re-constituted every three years.

7. R Ravindra concurrently accredited Ambassador to Guinea

R. Ravindra (IFS: 1999) has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guinea, with residence in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire).

- Presently he is serving as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire. He will now serve as the ambassador for the both countries.

AWARDS

8. Japan's Ohsumi wins Nobel Prize in medicine

Yoshinori Ohsumi of Japan won the Nobel Medicine Prize for his work on autophagy -- a process whereby cells "eat themselves" -- which when disrupted can cause Parkinson's and diabetes.

- Autophagy is a fundamental process in cell physiology with major implications for human health and disease. The process is essential for the orderly degradation and recycling of damaged cell parts and its failure is believed to be responsible for ageing and cell damage.
- Ohsumi, 71, received a PhD from the University of Tokyo in 1974. He is currently a professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology.
- He is 23rd Japanese to win a Nobel and 6th Japanese to win it for Medicine. The prize comes with eight million Swedish kronor (around \$936,000 or 834,000 euros).

9. Indian-origin teen wins Google Science Fair prize

A 16-year-old Indian-origin South African teen Kiara Nirghin has won a \$50,000 scholarship, the grand prize at the annual Google Science Fair for her work using orange peel to develop a cheaper "super-absorbent material" that helps soil retain water.

- Kiara Nirghin submitted her project titled 'No More Thirsty Crops' which was aimed at tackling the severe drought plaguing South Africa.
- The Google Science Fair is a programme for budding scientists between the ages of 13 to 18, who are invited to solve the world's biggest challenges using science and technology.

SPORTS

10. India's Gaganjeet Bhullar wins Korea Open

India's Gaganjeet Bhullar ended a long trophy drought with a one-stroke victory at the Shinhan Donghae Open in South Korea for his sixth title on the Asian Tour.

- The 28-year-old carded a final round four-under-par 67 for a tournament total of 15-under 269 at the Bear's Best Cheongna Golf Club in Incheon.

- Tour rookie Scott Vincent (69) of Zimbabwe and local favourite Kim Tae-woo (71) finished a stroke behind.

6th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. India, Singapore sign three agreements

India and Singapore have signed three agreements (MoUs) in the fields of skill development and IPR to boost bilateral relations between them.

- These agreements were signed in New Delhi during Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's official state visit to India. Signed MoUs are
- MoU in the field of Industrial Property Cooperation: It was signed between Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Singapore
- MoU on collaboration in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training: It was National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and ITEES Singapore.
- MoU on collaboration in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training: It was signed between Government of Assam and ITEES Singapore.

NATIONAL

2. Prasar Bharati CEO Jawhar Sircar resigns

Prasar Bharti CEO Jawhar Sircar resigned. His term was to end in February next year.

- An UPA appointee and an expert of culture, Sircar is also a writer who has a regular column in some newspapers.
- Sircar has served as secretary of the Ministry of Culture for over three years from 2008 to 2012 after which he was posted at Prasar Bharati.

TRADE / BANKING

3. RBI announces 4th Bi-monthly Policy Statement

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut the short-term lending rate, or repo rate, by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent from 6.50 per cent earlier.

- This was the first exercise by the monetary policy committee (MPC), chaired by Governor Urjit Patel.
- The central bank has maintained status quo on cash reserve ratio (CRR), which stands at 4 per cent while statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) remained unchanged at 20.75 per cent.
- The marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate, meanwhile, has been adjusted to 6.75 per cent from 7 per cent earlier.

New RBI Rates are:

- Repo Rate: 6.25%
- Reverse Repo rate: 5.75%
- Cash Reserve Ratio: 4%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%
- Bank Rate: 7%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio: 20.75%
- Inflation: 6%

4. IMF revises India's growth to 7.6% for FY17 and FY18

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised projections for India's economic growth by 0.2 percentage points to 7.6 per cent for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

- It, however, retained global economic growth at 3.1 per cent for 2016 and 3.4 per cent for 2017.

APPOINTMENTS

5. Roopa ganguly nominated for rajya sabha

Actress and BJP leader Roopa Ganguly has been nominated to fill the post in Rajya Sabha vacated by cricketer turned politician Navjot Singh Sidhu, who resigned earlier this year.

- She had portrayed the epic role of 'Draupadi' in TV Serial 'Mahabharata.' She has become the state president of Mahila Morcha few months ago.

6. Yesudas to be brand ambassador of 'Haritha Keralam' project

CPI(M)-led LDF government has roped in eminent Carnatic vocalist and playback singer K J Yesudas as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'Haritha Keralam' (Green Kerala) project.

- It is a massive initiative envisaged for a garbage-free and clean state.
- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan informed the state Assembly that the veteran singer had given his consent to be associated with the project.

AWARDS

7. British trio win Nobel Prize in Physics

The study of "strange states" of matter earned British scientists David Thouless, Duncan Haldane and Michael Kosterlitz

the 2016 Nobel Prize for Physics.

- The trio, all based in the US working in the highly-specialized mathematics field of “topology”, studied unusual phases or states of matter.
- Thouless won half of the eight million Swedish kronor (around \$931,000) prize, while Haldane and Kosterlitz share the other half.

8. France confers knighthood on elephant researcher

Film-maker and elephant researcher Prajna Chowta has been appointed Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight in the National Order of Merit), one of the highest civilian recognitions of the French government. The official ceremony is expected to be held later this year in Bengaluru.

- Ms. Chowta is the founder of Aane Mane Foundation, which has been researching and conserving wild Asian elephants.
- She has also authored the Elephant Code Book on captive elephant management as well as the French book *Enfant d'Elephant* (Elephant's Child) in 2014, which is based on the sketches of tribal and their relationship with elephants.

DEATHS

9. Noted artist Yusuf Arakkal passes away

Noted contemporary artist Yusuf Arakkal passed away on 4 October 2016 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was 71.

- He was born in Kerala in 1945 and got his Diploma from Karnataka Painting council.

7th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. France becomes first country to ban plastic cups and plates

France has become the first country in the world to ban disposable plastic cups and plates.

- The country has passed a law in September 2016 that will go into effect in January 2020. The law will require all disposable tableware to be made from 50% biologically-sourced materials that can be composted at home. That number will rise to 60% by January of 2025.
- The measure is an addition to France's Energy Transition for Green Growth Act, a wide-reaching law adopted in 2015 with the aim of mitigating the impact of climate change. In July 2016, France imposed a total ban on the distribution of lightweight plastic bags at supermarket checkouts.
- As per the French Association of Health and Environment, ASEF One hundred and fifty singleuse cups are thrown away every second in France, which counts to 4.73 billion per year.

2. World Teachers' Day: 5 October

The World Teachers' Day (WTD) 2016 is being observed across the world on 5th October.

- The theme for the World Teachers' Day 2016 is Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status

NATIONAL

3. GSAT-18 launched successfully on board Ariane-5 from Kourou

India's latest communication satellite GSAT-18 was successfully launched by a heavy duty rocket of Arianespace from the spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana.

- GSAT-18, built by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), aims at providing telecommunications services for the country by strengthening ISRO's current fleet of 14 operational telecommunication satellites.

4. Cabinet approves MoU between India and European Union on water cooperation

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the signing of MoU between India and European Union in the field of water resources.

- The MoU envisages strengthening the technological, scientific and management capabilities of India and the European Union in the field of water management on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

5. Nitin Gadkari launches Indian Bridge Management System

To make sure that the bridges across India remains safe, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari on 4 October 2016 launched the Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS) in New Delhi.

- IBMS is being developed to create an inventory of all bridges in the country and rate their structural condition so that timely repair and rehabilitation work can be carried out based on the criticality of the structure.
- IBMS is the largest platform in the world owned by a single owner, with database that could exceed one lakh fifty thousand bridge structures.
- So far one lakh and fifteen thousand bridges have been inventorized, of which eighty five thousands are culverts and the rest are bridges.
- At the time of creation, each bridge was assigned with a unique identification number or National Identity Number based on the state, RTO zone and whether it is situated on a National Highway, State Highway or is a district road.

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TRADE/ BANKINGS

6. Oil India Limited signs Memorandum of Understanding with University of Houston

Oil India Limited (OIL), an Upstream Oil & Gas PSU, with intent of augmenting its reserves base and maximising recovery from its aging oilfields, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Houston(USA), one of the leading universities on oil and gas of the world.

- The MoU was signed in presence of Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (I/C), Petroleum & Natural Gas in New Delhi.
- The MoU, amongst others, is focused to collaborate in the fields of Improved Oil Recovery & Enhanced Oil Recovery for production enhancement from matured fields, seismic interpretation & reservoir characterisation studies, improvement of drilling and well intervention practices and unconventional hydrocarbon studies.

APPOINTMENTS

7. Sushil Chandra appointed CBDT Chairman

The Government has appointed Indian Revenue Service officer Sushil Chandra as the next chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

- “The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Sushil Chandra, IRS (IT: 1980),” said an official statement.
- He will take over from the current CBDT Chairperson Rani Singh Nair, who will retire on October 31. Chandra is currently posted as Member, CBDT.

8. Mohan Reddy appointed Hon. Consul of Germany

Germany has appointed former Nasscom Chairman B V R Mohan Reddy as an Honourary Consul of that country in Hyderabad. Mohan Reddy will be the Consul for Germany in Telangana and Hyderabad.

- Mohan Reddy, who is also the Executive Chairman of Cyient Ltd, said that there was a need for collaboration between the two countries in science and technology and in vocational training.

9. Portugal's Antonio Guterres set to be UN secretary general

Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres is poised to be the next United Nations Secretary-General.

- It is expected to be formally recommended to the 193-member General Assembly for election by the Security Council, diplomats said.
- He will replace current Secretary General Baan Ki Moon, whose tenure is ending in early 2017.

AWARDS

10. Tiny machines win chemistry Nobel Prize

Chemists Jean-Pierre Sauvage of France, Scotland's Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Dutch Bernard L. Feringa won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on molecular machines.

- The winning paper was entitled "For the design and synthesis of molecular machines".
- Molecular machines are tiny molecules, a thousand times thinner than a strand of hair, with controllable movements, which can perform a task when energy is added.

11. Nayanjot Lahiri bags prize for book on Ashoka

Professor Nayanjot Lahiri (History) at the Ashoka University has been awarded the 2016 John F. Richards Prize for her book Ashoka in Ancient India

- The Richards Prize is awarded annually by the American Historical Association (AHA) to the best book in South Asian history

SPORTS

12. BRICS U-17 football tournament begins in Goa

The first edition of the BRICS Under-17 Football tournament begins in Goa.

- The tournament featuring Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) has been organised on the occasion of the 8th BRICS summit that will be held in Goa on the 15th of this month.
- The inaugural match will be played between Brazil and China.

8th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Three agreements between India and Switzerland

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh met the visiting Minister for Justice and Police of Swiss Confederation, Ms. SimonettaSommaruga. On the occasion, the two sides signed three agreements including

- Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement for Holders of **Diplomatic Passports**
- Technical Arrangements on Identification and **Return of Illegal Migrants** and Arrangement for Dependent Person of Diplomatic, Consular,
- Technical and Administrative Staff of Diplomatic and Consular Mission to **Perform Gainful Employment.**

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NATIONAL

2. Union Finance Ministry sets up Public Debt Management Cell

Union Finance Ministry has constituted a Public Debt Management Cell (PDMC).

- The cell was created to streamline government borrowings and better cash management with the overall objective of deepening bond markets.

3. Union Cabinet approves setting up of India's first Medipark in Tamil Nadu

The Union Cabinet approved setting up of a Medical Devices Manufacturing Park (Medipark) in Tamil Nadu through a special purpose Vehicle.

- The Medipark project will boost the local manufacturing of hi-end products at a significantly lower cost, resulting in affordable healthcare delivery to a large section of people.
- It will contribute to the development of medical devices and technology sector and allied disciplines in the country.

4. President inaugurated the first edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit on the theme 'Beyond 2015: People, Planet and Progress' organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi.

- On the occasion, the President presented the Sustainable Development Leadership Award to Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling, Chief Minister of Sikkim.

5. New Solar Powered Guard Van of Goods

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhu flagged off the newly manufactured Guard Van of Goods (Freight) Train at Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station.

- The newly manufactured Guard Van of Goods Train (8 wheeled) has been equipped for the first time with Solar powered Light, Fan, Mobile Charging Point along with the facility of Zero discharge Bio Toilet.

TRADE/ BANKING

6. EC collaborates with Facebook to register young voters

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, social networking site Facebook is partnering with the Election Commission of India in five states (Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand) going to polls next year to run a voter registration drive aimed at encouraging youth to participate in the democratic exercise.

- With over 155 million people in India on Facebook, the 'Register to vote' button is designed to encourage citizens across these five states to exercise their vote in the upcoming elections.
- From October 6 to 9, Facebook users in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand who are 18 years and above will receive a reminder in their News Feed to register to vote.

APPOINTMENTS

7. J&K Bank appoints Parvez Ahmed as Chairman & CEO

Jammu and Kashmir Bank appointed Parvez Ahmed as Chairman and CEO of the bank.

AWARDS

8. IAF inducts renowned space scientist UR Rao in Hall of Fame

The International Astronautical Federation's renowned space scientist U.R. Rao has been inducted into its Hall of Fame for his contribution to development of India's space technology.

SPORTS

9. Shooter Jitu Rai bags silver at World Cup in Italy

Indian shooter Jitu Rai clinched a silver medal in the 50 meter pistol event of the ISSF World Cup Final at Bologna, Italy.

BOOKS

10. Venkaiah Naidu releases book titled Modi's Midas Touch in Foreign Policy

M. Venkaiah Naidu, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, released the book titled Modi's Midas Touch in Foreign Policy.

- The book is authored by Ambassador Surendra Kumar.

9th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. US lifts economic sanctions on Myanmar

The U.S. lifted sanctions against Myanmar that have been in place for nearly two decades.

2. Pakistan passes long-awaited anti-honour killing and anti-rape legislations

Pakistan Parliament in a joint sitting unanimously passed two bills, one seeking to curb murders in the name of honour and the other to punish rapists by use of modern technology of DNA testing in probes involving rape cases.

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NATIONAL

3. 84th Air Force Day observed across India

The Air Force Day 2016 was on 8 October 2016 observed across India. This is the 84th celebration of the Day that began in 1932.

➤ The Air Force Day was officially celebrated for the first time on 8 October in the year 1932 as an auxiliary air force of Indian Empire.

4. IGIA's T3 becomes first Platinum rated green airport terminal building in India

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced that the Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) achieved Platinum rating from Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

5. Arjun Vajpai scales Mt. Cho Oyu

Arjun Vajpai, a 23-year-old professional mountaineer from Noida, became the youngest in the world to scale the Mount Cho Oyu, the 6th highest mountain peak in the world at 8,188 metres above sea level.

APPOINTMENTS

6. GautamLahiri elected PCI president

Senior journalist GautamLahiri was elected president of the Press Club of India.

AWARDS

7. Nobel Peace Prize for Colombia's Juan Manuel Santos

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos won the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for FARC agreement.

Santos has promised to revive the peace plan even though Colombians, in a referendum, narrowly rejected the accord. Many voters believed it was too lenient on the FARC guerrillas.

➤ Last year, the award was given to the Tunisian organization 'National Dialogue Quartet'.

SPORTS

8. Kabaddi World Cup kicks off in Ahmedabad

The 2016 Kabaddi World Cup kicked off in the presence of captains of the 12 competing nations, including hosts India.

DEATHS

9. Freedom fighter Ramesh Kulkarni passed away

Freedom fighter and Congress leader Ramesh Kulkarni passed away here following a brief illness.

10. Manipur theatre legend Kanhailal passed away

Manipur-based theatre legend HeisnamKanhailal passed away on 6 October 2016 following a brief illness in Imphal.

10th & 11th October 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. World Post Day: 9th October

World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.

➤ The theme for this year 2016 is **Innovation, Integration and Inclusion**

NATIONAL

2. Union Power Minister assures electricity for all by May 2017

Union Power Minister PiyushGoyal assured that India would have 100 per cent electrification for all by May 1, 2017.

➤ He also launched the **Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Mobile (Urja) app**, developed by the state-run Power Finance Corporation, to enhance consumer connect with the urban power distribution sector.

3. Rs.114 cr approved for HRIDAY projects

The Union Ministry of Urban Development has approved projects worth Rs.114 crore under HRIDAY scheme for improving infrastructure facilities around core heritage sites in five cities.

➤ These five cities are: Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Amritsar (Punjab), Dwaraka (Gujarat), Puri (Odisha) and Warangal (Telangana).

4. India to host conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

India will host the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) next month.

➤ The three-day conference, to be held from November 3, is being organised in collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

5. Doordarshan, IGNOU sign agreement for telecast of Gyan Darshan channels

Doordarshan and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have entered into an agreement for transmission of four GyanDarshan educational channels.

6. India's first international arbitration centre inaugurated by DevendraFadnavis

Maharashtra CM DevendraFadnavis inaugurated India's first centre for international arbitration in Mumbai.

7. Bathukamma Event Enters Guinness Book of World Records

The Telangana government organised the traditional state festival of 'Bathukamma' on at the LalBahadur stadium in

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Hyderabad.

- The event, attended by about ten thousand women, found a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.
- The Telangana government has declared 'Bathukamma' as a state festival.

TRADE/ BANKING

- 8. Indian Pharma companies rank 19th in Biopharmaceutical Competitiveness & Investment (BCI) Survey**
Indian pharmaceutical companies have ranked low at 19th position with an overall score of 59 out of 100 among in the Biopharmaceutical Competitiveness & Investment (BCI) Survey.

SPORTS

- 9. Sprinter Srabani Nanda wins Ekalabya Award**
Sprinter Srabani Nanda has bagged the 24th Ekalabya Award for the year 2016 in recognition of her sporting excellence.
- 10. Andy Murray wins 2016 China Open Men's Singles**
Andy Murray won the 2016 China Open Men's Singles title at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China.
- 11. Agnieszka Radwanska wins 2016 China Open Women's Singles**

12th & 13th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

- 1. World Mental Health Day: 10 October**
World Mental Health Day is observed annually on 10 October.
 - This year theme is 'Psychological First Aid'.
 - The day is annually observed with an aim to raise awareness about mental health issues around the world and mobilising efforts in support of mental health.
- 2. International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October**
International Day of the Girl is observed annually on 11 October; it is also called the Day of the Girl.
 - The theme for this year's International Day of the Girl (11 October) is: "**Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress What Counts for Girls**".
 - On December 19, 2011, United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.
 - The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.
- 3. India-Indonesia Bilateral Maritime Exercise Commence at Belawan, Indonesia**
India and Indonesia has kicked off their bilateral Maritime exercise at Belawan, Indonesia. It aims for Cooperation in the field of Maritime security.
 - In a demonstration of India's commitment to its ties with Indonesia and to the maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, **Indian Naval Ship Karmuk**, an indigenously built missile corvette, based under the Andaman and Nicobar Command, along with a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, is participating in the 28th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol and Second Bilateral Maritime Exercise

NATIONAL

- 4. Telangana redraws its map by adding 21 new districts**
Telangana on 11 October 2016, had redrawn its map by creating 21 new districts. With these, the total number of districts of the youngest state of India went up to 31.
 - Telangana, which came into existence on 2 June 2014 as the 29th State of India, started out with 10 districts.
 - Besides, the state government also created 25 new revenue divisions, 125 new mandals, four new police commissionerates, 23 new police subdivisions, 28 new circles and 91 police stations.
- 5. MP to launch 'Lalima Abhiyan' to make state free from anaemia**
With an aim to make **Madhya Pradesh** anaemia-free, the state government has decided to launch a scheme-'Lalima Abhiyan'- that will be effective from November 1.
 - Under the campaign, **free iron folic acid tablets** will be provided in aaganwadis', academic institutions and hospitals.

TRADE / BANKING

- 6. Standard Chartered Bank forms tie-up with Uber**
Foreign lender Standard Chartered Bank has announced a tie-up with Uber under which its credit cardholders, across six countries, will get a cash-back of up to 25 per cent for hailing cabs from the app.

APPOINTMENTS

- 7. Morocco: Abdelilah Bekirane appointed for another term as PM**
Abdelilah Bekirane, leader of Morocco's Islamic Justice and Development Party, was appointed as country's Prime Minister. This will be his second term as Prime Minister of Morocco.
 - Mohammed VI, the king of Morocco, made the announcement after Benkirane's PJD party emerged with the most

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number of seats in the 395-seat lower house of parliament.

AWARDS

8. Nobel Prize in Economics 2016 awarded to Oliver Hart and Bengt Holmstrom

British-born Oliver Hart and Finland-born Bengt Holmstrom won the 2016 Nobel Economics Prize for their **contributions to contract theory**, helping the understanding of issues like the performance-based pay for top executives.

- The economics prize, officially called the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize** in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was established in 1968.

SPORTS

9. Virat Kohli presented with ICC Test Championship mace

Indian captain Virat Kohli was presented with the ICC Test Championship mace for leading his team to the top of the Test Team Rankings.

10. Indian shooter Jitu Rai named 'Champion of Champions' by ISSF

Ace shooter Jitu Rai has been awarded the 'Champion of Champions' title for pistol shooting in 2016 by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

11. Nico Rosberg won the Japanese Grand Prix

Nico Rosberg of Germany and Mercedes GP won the Japan Grand Prix at Suzuka Circuit.

DEATHS

12. Former boxing champion Aaron Pryor dies at 60

14th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Global hunger index 2016

India ranked 97th out of 118 countries on the **International Food Policy Research Institute's (IFPRI) Global Hunger Index (GHI)** in 2016, behind Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, among others.

- It was positioned at 80 out of 104 countries the previous year.
- Besides, the country was still rated **with 'serious' hunger levels** in the 2016 Index.
- Overall, the Central African Republic, Chad, and Zambia fared the worst while Argentina fared the best among the countries included in the study.

NATIONAL

2. First World Tsunami Awareness Day to be celebrated at AMCDRR

The First World Tsunami Awareness Day will be celebrated on November 5, 2016. To commemorate the occasion, an event will be organised with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Champions at the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016.

- The Conference is being organised from November 3-5, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi by the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

3. First BRICS Trade Fair and Exhibition begins in Delhi

The first BRICS Trade Fair and Exhibition began in the national capital, ahead of the BRICS political summit in Goa.

- The fair is a platform for respective BRICS countries, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to exhibit state-of-the-art technologies and advances made in industrial development.
- The theme of the fair - BRICS- cooperation for innovation.
- **Haryana** is the state partner of the fair.

4. Kabaddi WC venue is India's 1st convertible stadium

The Arena by Trans Stadia in Ahmedabad, venue of the ongoing Kabaddi World Cup, is **India's first convertible stadium**.

- The Rs. 550 crore project converts an outdoor stadium into an indoor arena in 6 minutes at a touch of a button

TRADE / BANKING

5. ICICI Bank first Indian lender to execute Blockchain transaction

ICICI Bank has become the first Indian lender to complete a banking transaction using Blockchain technology.

- This remittance transaction has been completed in partnership with Emirates NBD, a lender from the West Asia.
- Block chain technology simplifies the process and drastically reduces duration of the transaction to few minutes.

AWARDS

6. Sir Ian McKellen honoured at UK Theatre Awards

Veteran actor Ian McKellen was honoured at the UK Theatre Awards on for his individual contributions to British theatre.

SPORTS

7. R Ashwin regains No. 1 spot in Test rankings

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin reclaimed the number one spot in Test rankings for bowlers following a career-best match haul of 13 for 140 in the third Test against New Zealand in Indore.

15th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. International Day for Disaster Reduction: October 13

International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed annually on 13 October.

- This year theme is Live to Tell: Raising Awareness, Reducing Mortality.
- Initially, in a meeting of UNGA, it was decided to observe the day on every second Wednesday, but in a proposal in 2009, it was decided to observe the day on 13th October.

2. India donates Rs. 9.3 million to Mandela Foundation

India has donated Rs. 9.3 million to the Nelson Mandela Foundation to help it in its welfare work for the people of South Africa.

- The Nelson Mandela Foundation was established in 1999 after the then President Nelson Mandela stepped down as the President of South Africa.

NATIONAL

3. Cabinet approves setting up of IIM Jammu

The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of an Indian Institute of Management school in Jammu among other approvals that were cleared.

TRADE/ BANKINGS

4. Cabinet approves pact between EXIM Bank, NDB

Union Cabinet approved a pact between Export-Import Bank of India and BRICS promoted New Development Bank, along with other development financial institutions of member nations, with an aim to strengthen trade and economic ties.

- The New Development Bank (NDB) aims to mobilize resources for development projects in BRICS, emerging economies and developing countries.

APPOINTMENTS

5. Govt appoints G Mahalingam as Sebi whole-time member

The government has appointed Reserve Bank's Executive Director G Mahalingam as a Whole-Time Member of markets regulator Sebi.

- Apart from the Chairman, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) can have three Whole-Time Members (WTMs).

6. Bank of Baroda signs brand endorsement with Sindhu, Srikanth

Public lender Bank of Baroda sealed a principal sponsorship contract with badminton Olympians P V Sindhu and K Srikanth.

AWARDS

7. Bob Dylan wins 2016 Nobel prize in literature

The American lyricist, musician and activist has been awarded this year's Nobel Prize in Literature "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition".

- He is the first songwriter to win this prestigious award.

8. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank awarded by Ugandan govt for his literary work

Former Uttarakhand chief minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been conferred with a prestigious award by the Ugandan government for promoting human values through his literature.

DEATHS

9. Thailand king Bhumibol Adulyadej passes away

Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch, has died after 70 years as head of state.

10. Italian playwright and Nobel Literature Prize winner Dario Fo passes away

Italian playwright and actor Dario Fo, who won the Nobel prize for literature in 1997, has died at the age of 90, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi announced.

16th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Maldives leaves Commonwealth after warnings over democracy

Maldives has announced its decision to leave the saying it was treated unjustly and unfairly by the Commonwealth.

- Commonwealth is an intergovernmental organization of 52 member states that were mostly territories of the former British Empire.

2. List of most unsafe countries in the world released

Global Travel and Tourism Report released by the World Economic Forum ranked India 13th while Pakistan the 4th most unsafe country in the world.

- Nigeria was ranked as the most unsafe country.
- Finland (6.7) is followed by Qatar (6.61) as the safest countries in the world.

3. World Standards Day: 14 October

World Standards Day is observed annually on 14 October.

- The theme for World Standards Day 2016 is "Standards Build Trust".
- The aim of World Standards Day is to raise awareness among regulators, industry and consumers as to the importance of standardization to the global economy.

NATIONAL

4. CCEA approves revision of ethanol prices for supply to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the mechanism for revision of ethanol price for supply to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to carry out the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.

- The administered price of ethanol for the Programme will be 39 rupees per litre for the next sugar season from 1 December 2016 to 30 November 2017.

APPOINTMENTS

5. Amrit Lugun concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the State of Eritrea

Amrit Lugun, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of the Sudan, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the State of Eritrea, with residence in Khartoum (Sudan).

- Eritrea officially the State of Eritrea, is a country in the Horn of Africa.
- Its capital at Asmara and Currency is Nakfa.

6. Softbank names Rajeev Misra as head of \$100 billion tech fund

Japanese telecom and internet major Softbank Corp has named India born Rajeev Misra as head of its ambitious \$100 billion fund which will invest in technology companies across the world.

- Misra joined Softbank Group in 2014 as head of strategic finance and also works with SoftBank Internet and Media Inc, which Nikesh Arora headed as CEO.

7. Ajay Kumar Bhalla appointed as Director General of Foreign Trade

Senior IAS officer Ajay Kumar Bhalla was appointed as the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). He succeeds Anup Wadhawan, who was appointed as Additional Secretary in the commerce ministry.

- Bhalla, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, is presently an Additional Secretary in the Commerce Ministry.

AWARDS

8. R.A. Mashelkar conferred award by Centre for Organisation Development

R. A. Mashelkar, former Director-General of CSIR, has been conferred the V Krishnamurthy Award for excellence by the Hyderabad-based Centre for Organisation Development.

- The former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Governor of Tamil Nadu, K Rosaiah, presented the award at a function in Hyderabad.

SPORTS

9. Mark Webber announces retirement from racing

The Formula-F1 driver from Australia Mark Webber will retire from professional racing at the end of this year in Bahrain.

- Webber won the World Endurance Championship (WEC) title in 2015.

DEATHS

10. Renowned writer and litterateur Dayanand Anant passed away at 88

17th & 18th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. World Student Day: October 15

October 15th, Dr. Abdul Kalam's birthday is observed as World Student Day by United Nations Organization annually.

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- In India, he is highly respected as a scientist and as a great personality.
- He was the 11th President of India.

NATIONAL

2. BRICS summit concluded with adoption of Goa-declaration

The eighth BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit was held from 15 to 16 October 2016 in Benaulim city of Goa, India. It was held under the theme Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions.

- The summit was attended by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Brazilian President Michel Temer, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Jacob Zuma.
- At the end of the summit, Goa Declaration was released by the leaders saying it is the responsibility of all states to prevent terrorist actions from their territories. In the 109 point Declaration, the leaders called upon all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism.

3. Rajnath Singh inaugurates 10 days long 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav - 2016'

Continuing its endeavour to promote India's Heritage, Ministry of Culture has organized 10 days long diversified cultural carnival 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav - 2016' at the premises of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Janpath, New Delhi.

- The festival was inaugurated by Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Minister for Home Affairs in the presence of Dr Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism and Shri Padamanabha Acharya.
- The inaugural day witnessed fusion performances from 400 artists, highlighting different dance forms including folk and tribal, accompanied with glorious aerial acts.
- The celebrated festival will continue to connect people with India's rich culture till 24th October, 2016.

4. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Shaurya Smarak in Bhopal

PM Narendra Modi unveiled the war memorial 'Shaurya Smarak' in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- The 'Shaurya Smarak' was constructed by the state government in honour of those who laid down their lives for the country.
- Participants of the event were Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and the three Service chiefs.

5. Union Government has launched Mining Surveillance System

The mines ministry came out with mining surveillance system (MSS), a pan- India surveillance network using latest satellite technology, to check illegal mining.

- MSS is a satellite-based monitoring system, which aims to check illegal mining activity through automatic remote-sensing detection technology.
- The Indian Bureau of Mines, on behalf of the mines ministry, has developed MSS, in coordination with the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar, and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY).

TRADE/ BANKING

6. In the First, Bank deposits cross Rs 100 lakh crore

According to the data released by the RBI, India's banking system reported total deposits of Rs 100 lakh crore for the first time ever in September month of this year.

- With demand deposits crossing Rs 10 lakh crore and time deposits crossing the Rs 90 lakh crore mark, the month saw the highest-ever monthly rise of Rs 5.32 lakh crore — more than the total deposits in the banking sector 20 years back.
- Banks' deposits grew at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 12.88% in the last five years, they had grown at a CAGR of 19.9% in the previous five years.

APPOINTMENTS

7. Valvoline ropes in Virat Kohli as brand ambassador

Valvoline Cummins India has signed up India Test captain Virat Kohli as its ambassador.

- As part of the association, Kohli will be the face of Valvoline engine oils and lubricants range.

AWARDS

8. Indian-origin scientist bags young scientist award in US

Kirtiraj Kundlik Gaikwad, an Indian scientist with the Department of Packaging, has been awarded the prestigious IAFP Young scientist scholarship award for his research work on "development of novel oxygen absorbing package in the field of active packaging for oxygen sensitive food products".

9. Mizoram's Pachuau declared India's oldest working journalist

The Mizoram government's Information and Public Relations department and the Mizoram Journalists' Association (MJA) declared Lalbiakthanga Pachuau, the editor of 'Zoram Tlangau', a Mizo language daily, as the "oldest working journalist in the country".

SPORTS

10. Brazil lifted Inaugural BRICS U-17 Football Tournament Championship

Brazil has lifted the 1st BRICS U-17 Football Tournament 2016 held at Goa.

In the Finals they defeated South Africa 5-1.

- Earlier in the match for the 3 rd place between Russia and China, Russia defeated China 2-1.

➤ Ten-day BRICS tournament was held in Goa.

11. India becomes first team to play 900 ODIs

When India walked out to the middle for the first match of the five-match series against New Zealand, it was the 900th time the team took field in the format. No side has played more ODIs than India.

➤ India played its first ever ODI in 1974 against England at Leeds which ended in a victory for the hosts.

12. Usain Bolt to retire after the 2017 World Championships

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt will be running his last race at June's Racers Grand Prix before taking retirement from competition two months later.

➤ Bolt is widely considered as the greatest sprinter of all-time and is the first man to hold both the 100m and 200m records as well as the record being a part of the 4X100m relay.

19th October 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. India, Brazil ink 4 MoUs in Goa

India and Brazil signed four Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on investment cooperation and facilitation treaty, on cattle genomics and assisted reproductive technologies, on genetic resources, agriculture, animal husbandry, natural resources and fisheries and on pharmaceutical products regulation.

2. MoU between India and Hungary on water management

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Hungary on cooperation in the field of water management.

3. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: October 17

The United Nations' International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on October 17 each year since 1993.

➤ This year's theme is 'Moving from humiliation and exclusion to participation: Ending poverty in all its forms'.

4. World Food Day 2016 – October 16 2016

The World Food Day—a day to heighten public awareness about the interconnection of agriculture, food security and world hunger was observed on 16th October.

➤ This year's theme is "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too."

5. BRICS to set up credit rating agency

The five-nation group of emerging economies BRICS has agreed to set up an independent BRICS Rating Agency in its efforts to challenge western hegemony in the world of finance.

➤ It was announced during the 8th BRICS summit held in Goa, India. BRICS comprises five emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

NATIONAL

6. Ashok Leyland launches first India-made electric bus

Hinduja Group flagship Ashok Leyland today launched - Circuit - the first "Made in India" electric bus.

➤ The bus with a minimum seating capacity of 35 to a maximum of 65 can run up to 120 kilometres on a single recharge under standard test conditions.

TRADE/ BANKING

7. Essar Oil inks Rs 86,100 cr deal to sell 98% stake to Rosneft

Essar Group sealed a \$13-billion (Rs 86,100 crore) deal to sell 98% stake in its flagship 20 million tonnes per annum refinery to a consortium led by Russia's state-owned energy giant Rosneft.

APPOINTMENTS

8. Navdeep Singh Suri is India's New Envoy to UAE

Senior diplomat Navdeep Singh Suri was appointed Ambassador to United Arab Emirates, a strategically important nation country which is a major supplier of oil to India and is home to around 2.6 million-strong Indians.

➤ Mr Suri, a 1983 batch Indian Foreign Service official, is expected to take up the assignment shortly, the External Affairs Ministry said.

➤ He is currently serving as Indian High Commissioner in Canberra.

9. Amandeep Singh appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the UN Conference

Former IAS officer Amandeep Singh Gill was appointed as the next Ambassador/PR of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva.

➤ The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is a forum established in 1979 by the international community to negotiate multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements.

10. Sanjay Singh appointed Member Secretary, Law Commission

Former legislative secretary Sanjay Singh has been appointed as Member Secretary, Law Commission of India.

➤ President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Singh to the post for a period upto August 31, 2018, an official order said.

➤ Singh, a retired officer of Indian Legal Service, was in August 2014, appointed as legislative secretary.

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11. Saina Nehwal appointed member of IOC's Athletes' Commission

In a rare honour for an Indian sportsperson, star shuttler Saina Nehwal has been appointed as a member of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Commission.

- Saina has received a letter to the effect from the IOC President Thomas Bach.
- The Athletes' Commission is chaired by Angela Ruggiero and it comprises nine vice presidents and 10 other members.

AWARDS

12. C Radhakrishnan selected for Mathrubhumi Literary award

Eminent writer C Radhakrishnan has been selected for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award in recognition of his contribution to the field of literature.

SPORTS

13. Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat retains WBC Asia welterweight title

Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat outpunched Australia's Ben Kite to retain the WBC welterweight Asia title.

20th OCTOBER 2016

NATIONAL

1. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates three mega hydro projects in Himachal Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated three hydro-electric projects (HEPs) with a generating capacity of 1,752 MW in Himachal Pradesh.

2. PM Modi launches National SC/ST hub in Ludhiana

For the welfare of SC/ST entrepreneurs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched national SC/ST (Schedule Castes/Schedule Tribes) hub in Ludhiana. He also launched the Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) scheme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- Besides, he also gave away national awards to MSME entrepreneurs. He distributed 500 spinning wheels (spinning wheels) to women of weaker sections of Punjab to make them able to earn their livelihood.
- National SC/ST hub has been set up under Prime Minister's Employment Generation scheme to provide support to entrepreneurs from the SC/ST community. The hub was started with an initial outlay of 490 crore rupees.
- Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) scheme denotes high quality manufacturing with a minimal negative impact on environment.

3. Kashmiri Red Stag to be declared as 'Critically Endangered'

As the Kashmir Stag popularly known as Hangul is on the verge of extinction, the International Union for Conservation of Nature is all set to declare it a 'critically endangered' species to protect this beautiful animal from disappearing from the earth.

- Hangul has been hunted over centuries and its habitat destroyed, leading to its wild population shrinking to 150.

APPOINTMENTS

4. BCCI president Anurag Thakur part of powerful ICC sub-committee

BCCI president Anurag Thakur has taken charge as the member of the ICC's powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs committee.

- Anurag Singh Thakur is a member of Lok Sabha from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh.

AWARDS

5. Robert De Niro to Receive Chaplin Award

The Film Society of Lincoln Center has announced Robert De Niro as the recipient of the 44th Chaplin Award.

- He is also the high-profile co-founder of the Tribeca Film Festival, launched in the wake of 9/11 in an effort to boost the economic prospects of lower Manhattan.

21st OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Second Joint tactical Exercise held by Indian and Chinese army in Ladakh

As part of the ongoing initiative to enhance interaction and cooperation between India and China, under the provisions of Border Defense Cooperation Agreement, 2013, the Indian and Chinese armies held Second Joint Exercise "Sino India Cooperation 2016" today, as a sequel to the first Joint Exercise held on 06 Feb 2016 in the area of Border Personnel Meeting Hut at Chushul Garrison of Eastern Ladakh, along with Chinese troops of Moldo Garrison.

2. India, Myanmar signed 3 MoUs

Including Cooperation in the field of Power Sector India and Myanmar signed three agreements to boost the bilateral relations between the two nations. Keeping in view the sensitivity of each other's strategic interests, the two nations also

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agreed for close security coordination in border areas.

- The MoUs were inked in New Delhi after delegation level talks with the visiting State Counsellor of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi.

MoUs Signed:

- MoU for designing an academic and professional building programme for insurance industry of Myanmar. • MoU on Cooperation in the field of Power Sector
- MoU on Banking Supervision between RBI and Central Bank of Myanmar

NATIONAL

3. India completes nuclear triad by commissioning INS Arihant

India has completed its nuclear triad by inducting the first endogenously built strategic nuclear submarine INS Arihant into service.

- With this, India becomes sixth country to have a nuclear triad i.e. capable of delivering nuclear weapons by aircraft, ballistic missiles and submarine launched missiles.

TRADE / BANKING

4. RBI asks banks to replace 17.5 lakh debit cards

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to replace debit cards whose security is suspected to have been compromised after being used in some automated teller machines (ATMs).

- The total debit card base in the country was 697 million as of July 2016.

5. Russia to lease another nuclear-powered submarine to India

Russia has quietly signed an agreement with India to lease out a second Russian Akula-2 class nuclear-powered submarine to the Indian Navy a cost of Two billion dollars.

APPOINTMENTS

6. Environmentalist Rajendra Shende unanimously elected to UN expert panel

One hundred and ninety-seven countries have unanimously approved India's nomination of Rajendra Shende as a senior expert to the United Nations Environment Programmes Technology and Economic Assessment Panel of the Montreal Protocol — the most successful global treaty aimed at protecting the ozone layer.

- The Technology and Economic Assessment Panel is the UNEP's overarching body of that assesses emerging alternative technologies in five main industrial sectors that safeguard the ozone layer and climate system.
- It provides the cost benefit analysis and policy relevant information for the countries to take transformative decisions towards sustainable development.

7. Geeta Phogat appointed DSP in Haryana Police

Haryana Government has appointed international woman wrestler Geeta Phogat as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in Haryana Police.

AWARDS

8. State Bank of Patiala gets special award for excellence in MSME lending

State Bank of Patiala has been conferred "Special Award for Excellence in MSME lending" for its performance in lending to the MSME sector during the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 with a growth of Rs 2597 crore (annualized 23%) and Rs 994 crore (annualized 7.10%) respectively, covering the entire range of services.

9. International Prize in Statistics awarded to Sir David Cox

Noted British statistician Sir David Cox on 19 October 2016 was named the inaugural recipient of the International Prize in Statistics.

DEATHS

10. South African struggle icon Mewa Ramgobin passes away

BOOKS

11. Book on Virat Kohli launched

A book penning the life of India's Test skipper Virat Kohli has been launched in the presence of several high-profile cricketing personalities.

- The book, named "Driven: The Virat Kohli Story" has been written by senior journalist Vijay Lokapally and published by Bloomsbury India.

22nd OCTOBER 2016

NATIONAL

1. Maharashtra govt launches 'Kaushalya Setu' skill-development programme

Maharashtra government launched 'Kaushalya Setu', (SETU - Self- Employment and Talent Utilisation) its skill development programme for students on 19th October 2016 in Mumbai.

- It will create around 7.5 Lac employments.

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- Under the Kaushalya Setu initiative, students of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education, who fail to clear Class X or SSC exam, would be accommodated in the skill development courses, so that they do not lose a year.
2. **EC hosts first ever International Conference on Voter Education**
The Election Commission of India hosted the first ever International Conference on Voter Education in New Delhi. The three day (from 19 to 21 October, 2016) conference was inaugurated by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Dr Nasim Zaidi
- The topic of the first of its kind conference is Voter Education for Inclusive, Informed and Ethical Participation.
 - It has been organized with an aim to share best practices, initiatives and policies of voter education by election management bodies.
 - 27 countries and 5 international organizations are participatedg in it.
 - Ambitious VoICE.NET project, a Global Knowledge Network on voter education was also launched in the Conference

TRADE/ BANKINGS

3. **SBI declares Silchar as its 5th zone in North East**
The State Bank of India (SBI) has declared Silchar as its 5th zone in North East after Guwahati, Shillong, Dibrugarh and Jorhat.
- Earlier, Silchar was under Guwahati zone and it was tough on the part of the bank to address the complaints and issues of the customers with such a difficult terrain.
4. **Railways, Urban Development Ministries sign MoU to redevelop stations under smart city plans**
The Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Railways signed a MoU under which railway stations and adjoining areas will be redeveloped on smart city lines for enhancing passenger amenities, easy access to stations, enabling optimal utilization of land at railway stations.
5. **Wipro acquires US firm Appirio**
IT-major Wipro has acquired US-based consultancy firm Appirio, a services firm with a large offshore firm that helps corporates implement cloud applications such as Salesforce, said reports.
6. **RBI decides to allow FDI up to 100% in other financial services**
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to allow foreign investment up to 100 per cent under the automatic route in 'other financial services'.
- However, sectors such as insurance, which already have pre-defined FDI limit (49 per cent in insurance), will continue to follow that.
 - Other financial services' will include activities which are regulated by any financial sector regulator, including the Reserve Bank of India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, National Housing Bank.
7. **HSBC to wind up P-note business in India**
HSBC is planning to wind up participatory notes (P-notes) operations in India, as tightening of regulatory framework has made the business unviable.
- Participatory Notes commonly known as P-Notes are instruments issued by registered foreign institutional investors (FII) to overseas investors, who wish to invest in the Indian stock markets without registering themselves with the market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India - SEBI.

SPORTS

8. **FIFA gives nod to Kochi, Navi Mumbai for U-17 World Cup**
Football's world governing body FIFA has ratified Kochi and Navi Mumbai as a venue for the Under-17 World Cup to be held in India next year.
- Kochi became the first Indian city to be officially declared as one of the venues for hosting the U-17 World Cup after it received a green signal from a high-level delegation of football's world body.

23rd to 25th OCTOBER 2016

NATIONAL

1. **PM Narendra Modi announces India's first Railway University in Vadodara**
Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the integrated terminal building of Vadodara's Harni Airport on 22nd October 2016.
- He also announced to set up nation's first railway University here.
2. **Aviation scheme UDAN(Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) takes off**

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The Centre unveiled a regional connectivity scheme, known as UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik), with flights priced at Rs.2,500 for one hour of flying time to and from regional airports.

3. **INS Viraat, World's Oldest Aircraft Carrier, Retires From Navy**

INS Viraat, the world's oldest aircraft carrier, was accorded a grand sendoff from the port in Kochi, after over five decades of its service to the Navy.

4. **PM launches #Sandesh2Soldiers campaign**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a campaign through which people can send their Diwali greetings and messages to the soldiers to boost their morale.

TRADE/ BANKING

5. **2,000 notes will be in circulation soon**

Banknotes of the denomination of Rs.2,000 will be in circulation. The Reserve Bank of India has very nearly completed preparations for introducing this new high-value currency.

➤ The notes have already been printed and their despatch from the currency printing press in Mysore has commenced.

6. **India, Algeria mull fertilizer Joint Venture**

India's plan for a joint venture arrangement with Algeria for a multi-billion dollar fertilizer plant located in the North African country seemed to have been initiated on following a meeting between Algerian Minister for Industry and Mining and the Indian Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh L. Mandavia.

7. **Finance Ministry announces fresh tranche of gold bonds**

The Finance Ministry announced the **sixth tranche** of sovereign gold bonds. The duration of the bond will be for a period of **eight years** with exit option **from the fifth year** to be exercised on the interest payment dates.

➤ A person is allowed to invest a minimum of 1 gm while a maximum of 500 gm gold in a financial year.

8. **World Bank pledges \$2b aid to Bangladesh to tackle climate change**

The World Bank has pledged 2 billion US dollars aid to Bangladesh to tackle climate change.

SPORTS

9. **FIFA unveils mascot for 2018 World Cup**

Russia have unveiled their mascot for the 2018 World Cup – Zabivaka the wolf.

➤ The wolf's name, according to FIFA means "the one who scores".

10. **India beat Iran to win 2016 Kabaddi World Cup**

A brilliant second half performance saw India stage a memorable comeback as they beat Iran in the title clash to lift the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup in Ahmedabad.

➤ India has also beat Iran in last two WC finals and Asian games.

11. **North Korea won 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup**

North Korea won the 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup after defeating Japan on penalties in the final of the tournament.

➤ North Korea, who were the champions of the tournament's maiden edition in 2008, became the first team to win the tournament twice.

12. **Lewis Hamilton wins United States Grand Prix**

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the 2016 United States Grand Prix. The race was held at the Circuit of the Americas, Austin, Texas, United States.

DEATHS

13. **Qatar: Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani passes away**

Former Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani passed away

Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani was the grandfather of the current leader of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

14. **First Woman to conquer Mount Everest has passed away**

First Woman to conquer Mount Everest Junko Tabei passed away in Tokyo. The Japanese mountaineer was 77 years old.

➤ She conquered the Everest in 1975 at an age of 35. By 1992, she'd conquered the Seven Summits.

26th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. **United Nations Day: 24 October**

24 October is celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

➤ This year's UN Day will be used to highlight concrete actions people can take to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

➤ UN is headquartered in New York and currently it has 193 members.

TRADE/BANKING

2. **Microsoft Launches Cybersecurity Engagement Centre in India**

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Microsoft has launched its first cybersecurity engagement center in India in the heart of Delhi, which will help the government and the private sector organisations to deal with cyber attacks.

- An initiative like this is especially important at a time when India is dealing with large-scale cyber attacks on four leading banks' debit cards that have affected as many as 3.2 million customers.

APPOINTMENTS

3. Ratan Tata replaces Cyrus Mistry as Tata Sons chairman

In one of the biggest upheaval in the corporate sector, the Tata Sons Board has appointed Ratan Tata as the interim chairman of the group, replacing Cyrus Mistry.

AWARDS

4. Indian Army team wins gold medal in gruelling Cambrian Patrol exercise

A team from the Indian Army's Gorkha Rifles has won a gold medal at one of the most gruelling exercises in the world.

5. AIIMS, Ganga Ram doctors chosen for Dr. B C Roy award

Two doctors Randeep Guleria and CS Yadav have been selected for the prestigious Dr. BC Roy Award for excellence in the field of medicine.

- The Bidhan Chandra Roy Award was instituted in 1976 in the memory of renowned physician and freedom fighter BC Roy by Medical Council of India.

SPORTS

6. Tom Hayden, famed anti-Vietnam war activist, dies at 76

Tom Hayden, a 1960s anti-war activist and one of the era's most prominent, counter-culture radicals who went on to serve in the California state assembly and senate, has died aged 76.

27th October 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise Mitra Shakti 2016 begins in Ambepussa, Sri Lanka

The fourth edition of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'MITRA SHAKTI 2016' is being conducted at Ambepussa, Sri Lanka from 24 October to 06 November 2016.

- Exercise with Nepal is termed as 'SURYAKIRAN'. The military exercises with neighboring Bangladesh will be conducted between 5 -18 November.

NATIONAL

2. PM launches 7 schemes worth Rs 5000 cr in Varanasi

PM Modi has announced several schemes in Varanasi worth around an investment of 5,000 Crore rupees.

- The schemes launched includes "Urja Ganga".
- Released a commemorative postage stamp on Varanasi City

TRADE/ BANKING

3. Ease of doing business: India ranks 130 out of 190 countries

India is ranked 130 out of 190 countries in World Bank Group's annual report on the ease of doing business, 'Doing Business 2017: Equal Opportunity for All'.

- Last year India was ranked 131st .
- New Zealand topped the World Bank ranking for ease of doing business, followed by Singapore, Denmark, Hong Kong, South Korea, Norway, UK, US, Sweden.

4. Flipkart CFO Sanjay Baweja quits

Flipkart chief financial officer Sanjay Baweja has quit the company, just under two years of joining India's largest e-commerce marketplace.

AWARDS

5. Portugal's Renato Sanches wins 2016 European Golden Boy Award

Portugal's Renato Sanches was awarded the 2016 European Golden Boy award.

6. U.S. author Paul Beatty wins Man Booker Prize

Paul Beatty has become the first US author to win the Man Booker Prize for his novel "The Sellout". With this, he has become first American to win this prestigious prize.

- The jury behind the world's most prestigious English-language literary award said the novel was a "shocking and unexpectedly funny" portrayal of Beatty's native Los Angeles, using satire to explore racial equality in a fictional neighbourhood.
- The Man Booker was launched in 1969 and has awarded writers including Iris Murdoch and Salman Rushdie.
- This Prize is different from Man Booker International Prize, which was awarded this year to Han Kang of South Korea.

7. World Bank award for Almatti dam

Almatti dam, one of the largest reservoirs in Karnataka, was chosen for the World Bank's Award of Excellence for best

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utilisation of funds for renovation to enhance the strength of the dam.

AWARDS

8. Former Uruguayan president Jorge Batlle passes away

Former Uruguayan president Jorge Batlle passed away after suffering a head injury from a fall on October 14 in the city of Tacuarembó.

28th OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. India up 21 places in WEF gender gap report: WEF

India has climbed 21 spots to rank 87th on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2016.

- With this jump in ranking, India has now overtaken China which is ranked 99th out of 144 countries.
- Iceland tops the latest rankings followed by Finland, Norway and Sweden. The World Economic Forum is a Swiss non-profit foundation, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. India, New Zealand Sign Three Agreements

India and New Zealand signed three agreements in the areas of double taxation avoidance, food security and sports to carry forward the ties between both sides.

- The agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart John Key after the delegation level talks.

3. Disarmament Week observed

Disarmament Week is an annual event that is observed from 24 October to 30 October in various parts of the world. The annual observation of the Week starts on the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, which is observed as the United Nations Day.

- On the occasion, the United Nations invites states to highlight the danger of the arms race, propagate the need for its cessation and increase public understanding of the urgent tasks of disarmament.

NATIONAL

4. Haryana to observe 2017 as Garib Kalyan Varsh

Haryana Government has decided to observe 2017 as the "Garib Kalyan Varsh". The announcement was made by Chief Minister Manohar Lal.

5. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates first National Tribal Carnival

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first National Tribal Carnival in New Delhi to promote a sense of inclusiveness among the tribals.

- The main purpose of this four-day carnival is to promote a sense of inclusiveness among the tribals.

APPOINTMENTS

6. International Hockey Federation appoints Jason McCracken as new CEO

The International Hockey Federation has appointed New Zealand's Jason McCracken as its Chief Executive Officer.

AWARDS

7. Antoine Griezmann named best player in La Liga

Antoine Griezmann has been named as the best player in La Liga at an awards ceremony in Valencia. He defeated Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo in the race.

8. G Balakrishna won Mr Asia title

G Balakrishna has won the Mr Asia title at a recently concluded 5th Phil-Asia bodybuilding championships in the Philippines.

DEATHS

9. Legendary Kashmiri singer Raj Begum dies

Celebrated Kashmiri singer Raj Begum passed away in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. She was 89.

- She was also referred to as the Nightingale of Kashmir.

29th OCTOBER 2016

NATIONAL

1. Justice Reddy committee on One Rank One Pension submits report

The one-man judicial committee on One Rank One Pension submitted its report to the Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar.

- The Central Government had appointed the committee under the Chairmanship of Justice L Narasimha Reddy retired Chief Justice of Patna High Court

TRADE / BANKING

2. MMTC ties up with major banks to retail gold coins

Public sector major MMTC (Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India) has joined hands with seven banks including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Andhra Bank to retail gold coins with a new buyback option.

- Besides its own outlets across the country, MMTC has tied up with Indian Overseas Bank, Vijaya Bank, Federal Bank, YES Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Andhra Bank to sell gold coins in denominations of 5 gm and 10 gm coin and 20 gm bar.
- MMTC has also announced a transparent buyback of gold coins made of recycled gold

APPOINTMENTS

3. Sunil Bharti Mittal elected as GSMA Chairman

Bharti Enterprises Founder and Chairman Sunil Mittal has been elected as GSMA (Global System Mobile Association) Chairman for a two-year period from January 2017 through December 2018.

4. Gavaskar appointed 'Stroke Ambassador'

Former Indian Cricketer Sunil Gavaskar has been named as 'Stroke Ambassador of India'.

- Stroke is a leading cause of disability and death worldwide.
- Gavaskar is happy to be "The Stroke Ambassador for India" to create awareness that strokes are treatable.
- World Stroke day is observed on 29th October in every year. This is the first time that India is hosting the WSC meeting.

5. Karnal Singh appointed as chief of Enforcement Directorate

Senior IPS officer Karnal Singh was appointed the chief of Enforcement Directorate(ED), the agency entrusted with probing money laundering cases.

- The appointments committee of the cabinet has approved the appointment of Singh as director, Enforcement Directorate (ED).

AWARDS

6. Nadia Murad and Lamiya Aji Bashar wins 2016 Sakharov Prize

Two Yazidi women, Nadia Murad Basee and Lamiya Aji Bashar, who escaped sexual enslavement by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Iraq, have won **Europe's top human rights award, the Sakharov prize.**

- The announcement of the year's joint laureates was made following a decision by European Parliament on 27 October 2016.

30th to 31st OCTOBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL

1. India ranks 133rd in Commonwealth youth index

India has ranked very poorly at 133 in a new Global Youth Development Index compiled by the Commonwealth Secretariat on the countries' prospects for young people in employment, education, health, civic and political spheres.

- India ranked 133rd in the index covering 183 nations, below neighbouring countries like Nepal (77), Bhutan (69) and Sri Lanka (31) and trailing behind the South Asian average.
- The top 10 countries on the index are largely from Europe - Germany (1), Denmark (2), Switzerland (4), United Kingdom (5), Netherlands (6), Austria (7), Luxembourg (8), Portugal (9) - with Australia (3) and Japan (10) as the two exceptions

NATIONAL

2. National Ayurveda Day being observed

The National Ayurveda Day is being **observed on 28 October 2016.**

3. Union Cabinet approves the establishment of National Academic Depository

- The Union Cabinet on 27 October 2016 gave its green signal for establishment and operationalisation of a National Academic Depository (NAD).
- The National Academic Depository aims at bringing another dimension and enhancement of the vision of Digital India.
- It will be established in next three months and will be operationalised simultaneously.

4. Himachal Pradesh becomes India's second open defecation free state

The State of Himachal Pradesh was declared Open Defecation Free (ODF), making it the second State in the country (after Sikkim) to achieve the feat.

5. NITI Aayog launches the first ever Agricultural Marketing & Farm Friendly Reforms Index

The Index is named as "Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index" and it has a score which can have minimum value "0" implying no reforms and maximum value "100" implying complete reforms in the selected areas.

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- **The state of Maharashtra achieved first rank** in implementation of various reforms. The state has implemented most of the marketing reforms and it offers best environment for doing agribusiness among all the states and UTs.
- Gujarat ranks second with a score of 71.5 out of 100, closely followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

APPOINTMENTS

6. World Bank appoints Kristalina Georgieva as chief executive
Kristalina Georgieva, appointed as chief executive of the World Bank.

AWARDS

7. 47th international film festival of India to be held in Goa in November
Seven Marathi films — including four feature and three non-feature films — have made the cut to be screened at the Indian Panorama of the 47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa from November 20 to 29.

SPORTS

8. Punjab wins NCC National Games
Punjab Directorate on 27 October 2016 won the 2016 National Cadet Corp (NCC) National Games.
9. India Wins Its First Ever International Medal in Roller Skating at Asian Championships in Lishui, China

DEATHS

10. Goa's first woman **CM Shashikala Kakodkar** passes away
Goa's first woman chief minister Shashikala Kakodar passed away after a brief illness.
 - Kakodkar was the daughter of Goa's first chief minister Dayanand Bandodkar. Following her father's death in 1973, Kakodkar was sworn in as the chief minister.
 - A prominent leader of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party, she was known as '**Tai**'.

***** ALL THE BEST *****