

## Jan 2016

- Country's first underwater tunnel to be come up in Andhra Pradesh
- Government decides to merge Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with MEA
- Telangana become first state to accept e-motor insurance policies
- India-Nepal friendship bus service resumes after gap of 27 years
- 5 key bills assented by President Pranab Mukherjee
  - a. Atomic Energy (Amendment) Act
  - b. Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Act, 2015
  - c. Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015
  - d. Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015
  - e. Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act
- Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the first River Information System of India
- The Government of India has decided to nominate Ahmedabad for the UNESCO world heritage city tag this year.
- No UK financial aid to India from January 1 2016
- Saudi Arabia-led coalition announces end of Yemen ceasefire
- US, Jordan signed JAP on cooperation to counter Nuclear Smuggling
- Nepal designated to UNICEF's executive board member
- WHO declares world's worst ever Ebola outbreak over
- US lift nuclear sanctions on Iran
- UN appoints Barcelona and Argentina captain Lionel Messi and pop sensation Shakira to promote world's body objective of eradication of poverty by 2030
- India ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> among world's best countries
- 2015 Sangita Kalanidhi Award bestowed upon Sanjay Subrahmanyam
- Flipkart wins Website of the Year India 2015
- Delhi Police enters Limca Book of Records for solving India's biggest cash heist case
- 2015 Costa Novel Prize conferred on Kate Atkinson's "A God in Ruins"
- People's Choice Award bestowed upon Priyanaka Chopra for "Quantico"
- Central Banker of the Year Award 2016 bestowed upon Raghuram Rajan
- Entrepreneur of the Year conferred upon Snapdeal's Kunal Bahl
- 2016 FIFA Ballon d'Or award bagged by Lionel Messi

- Air Marshal Bhadauria takes over as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) of Indian Air Force (IAF)
- Atul Sobti assumes charge as BHEL CMD
- Wipro names Abidali Neemuchwala as it's new CEO, TK Kurien to be Vice Chairman
- Mary Barra – First Woman to chair GM as CEO
- LinkedIn names Akshay Kothari it's India head
- Odisha Govt designated Sam Pitroda as its Technical Advisor
- Amitabh Bachchan and Priyanka Chopra replace Aamir Khan as 'Incredible India' ambassador
- Airtel acquires 100 percent stake in Augere Wireless
- Paytm acquires Shifu for \$8mn to enrich customer experience
- Nokia completed acquisition of Alca-Lucent for 15.6 Billion Euros
- Apple takeovers educational startup LearnSprout
- Quickr to acquire Commonfloor
- Bengaluru to get India's first Space Park
- 7<sup>th</sup> row of periodic table completed with addition of 4 elements – Element 113, Element 115, Element 117, Element 118
- Sukanya Chkrabarti, Indian-American professor develops method to hunt dark matter
- Nissan successfully tested driverless car using at NASA Centre, California
- Zinnia : The first ever flower grown in space
- Chinese scientists develop new bio-artificial liver
- India to build a satellite tracking station in Vietnam
- Bajrang Punia, Ritu Phogat win Gold at National Wrestling Championship
- Qatar Masters Open chess tournament title clinched by Magnus Carlsen
- Wayne Rooney named 2015 England Player of the Year
- Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis start off 2016 with Brisbane title
- Marat Safin inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame
- Virat Kohli breaks De Villiers' record to reach 7000 ODI runs

## Feb 2016

- India was ranked 37 out of 38 countries, with only Venezuela scoring lower, in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce International Intellectual Property Index.
- Economic Survey 2015-16 projects that the real GDP growth for the current financial year and for 2016-17 will be in the range of 7-7.75 per cent. The survey was prepared by the finance ministry's chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian. Following are the highlights of the report:
  - **Fiscal Deficit**
    - 2016-17 expected to be challenging from fiscal point of view; time is right for a review of medium-term fiscal framework
    - 2015-16 fiscal deficit, seen at 3.9 per cent of GDP, seems achievable
    - Credibility and optimality argue for adhering to 3.5 per cent of GDP fiscal deficit target
  - **Inflation**
    - CPI inflation seen around 4.5 to 5 per cent in 2016-17
    - Expect RBI to meet 5 per cent inflation target by March 2017
- India has won the 2015 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) championship for record seventh time.
- Former Cricketer Syed Kirmani was honoured with the Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Pro-Independence Opposition candidate of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Tsai Ing-wen (59) has been elected as first female and 14th President of Taiwan.
- Union Government has signed 250 million dollars Financing Agreement with World Bank for Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project.
- India ranks 76th out of 168 countries in the 2015 Corruption Perception Index (CPI). Denmark ranks 1st, Finland 2nd and Sweden 3rd.
- China is the largest exporter of Rice. 2nd spot goes to Vietnam. While India replaced Thailand to become 3rd largest exporter.
- South Indian classical vocalists Sanjay Subramanyam has conferred with prestigious 2015 Sangita Kalanidhi award.
- Jharkhand has become first state in country to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme with Union Government.

- 15-year-old cricketer Pranav Dhanawade created a world record by scoring 1009 runs (not out) in HT Bhandari Cup, an under-16 inter-school tournament held in Mumbai (Maharashtra).
- Kumar Sikri is new Chairman of Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- Barcelona FC forward Lionel Messi from Argentina has won the 2016 FIFA Ballon d'Or Award.
- Indian writer Anuradha Roy has won the on the prestigious \$50,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature for her novel 'Sleeping on Jupiter'.
- Lance Naik Mohan Nath Goswami (Posthumous) receives Param Vir Chakra award.
- List of Oscar Awards: 88th Academy Awards

<b>Best Picture</b>	Spotlight
<b>Best Actor</b>	Leonardo DiCaprio (The Revenant).
<b>Best Actress</b>	Brie Larson (Room)
<b>Best Supporting Actor</b>	Mark Rylance (Bridge of Spies)
<b>Best Supporting Actress</b>	Alicia Vikander (The Danish Girl)
<b>Best Director</b>	Alejandro G. (The Revenant).
<b>Most awards</b>	Mad Max: Fury Road (6 Awards) followed by The Revenant (3) and Spotlight (2).
<b>Most nominations in 88th Academy Awards</b>	The Revenant (12), Mad Max: Fury Road (10) and The Martian (7)

- Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Ranveer Singh chosen for 2016 Dinanath Mangeshkar Award
- Stan Wawrinka wins 2016 Dubai ATP Tennis title
- Dinesh Sharma elected as Chairperson of IFAD(International Fund for Agriculture Development)
- 28 February: National Science Day
- President Pranab Mukherjee declares Kerala as first digital state
- India's Oldest Cricketer BK Garudachar passes away
- Ex-DRDO DG Dr Avinash Chander awarded Aryabhata Award
- Gianni Infantino elected as President of FIFA
- Lok Sabha passes Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016
- Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on 25 February 2016 presented the Railway Budget 2016-17 in the Parliament. This was the the second railway budget for Suresh Prabhu and third rail budget of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government.
  - Theme of the Budget:
    - 'Chalo, Milkar Kuch Naya Karen' for overcoming challenges – Reorganize, Rejuvenate, Restructure Indian Railways
    - Three pillars strategy: Nav Arjan – New revenues, Nav Manak – New norms, Nav Sanrachna – New Structures.
- Alphabet Inc overtakes Apple as world's most valuable company
- Yoichiro Ueno appointed as President and CEO of Honda cars India
- Brendon McCullum hits fastest Test century: New Zealand Captain and Skipper had smashed the fastest ever Test century off only 54 balls.
- Veteran singer Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan passes away
- Google's Project Loon begins its operations in Sri Lanka
- Japan launches ASTRO-H satellite to study black holes
- Novak Djokovic wins 2016 Australian Open Men's Singles Title of Tennis
- World's Largest Concentrated Solar Plant Opened in Morocco
- Japan to set up plant for US-2 amphibious aircraft in India

## March 2016

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has retained the world's number 1 position for the second consecutive year in 25-40 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category. The rankings were announced by the Airports Council International (ACI).
- Former Chief Justice of India H L Dattu took charge as the Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). He is the 7th Chairperson of the NHRC.
- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will raise the proposed Rs 10,000 Crore corpus for 'Stand Up India Fund' from Reserve Bank of India. The Fund will be disbursed to Dalit and women entrepreneurs.
- Mukesh Ambani Reliance Industries chairman again topped 84 Indian billionaires in Forbes 2016 list of the world's richest people once again headed by Bill Gates with a net worth of \$75 billion.
- Aditya Birla Group firm UltraTech has announced the acquisition of debt-ridden JP Group's cement plants for Rs 16,500 crore, making it the biggest deal in the sector
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading IT services company has been recognized as a Global Top Employer by the Top Employers Institute.
- Sanjiv Kapoor has been appointed as the Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer of Vistara Airlines.
- RBI unlocks Rs.40000 crore additional capital for banks. At the time when public sector banks are facing pressure on their profitability due to a sharp rise in non-performing assets, which is eroding their capital base.
- NASA(National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronaut and Expedition 46 Commander Scott Kelly and his Russian counterpart Mikhail Kornienko returned on Earth. After a historic 340-day mission aboard the International Space Station.
- India has been ranked at the 90th place in a list of 126 countries in terms of Energy Security compiled by World Economic Forum (WEF). The list is topped by Switzerland.
- A total of 183 self cleaning public eToilets have been installed in the Chennai City. Chennai is the 1st city in India to get smart Toilets. These toilets are free for Public use.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Rs 50,000-crore "Setu Bharatam" programme to build bridges for safe and seamless travel on National Highways. With this the government aims to make all national highways free from railway crossings by 2019.
- Government of Kerala has taken first of its kind initiative by launching the Air Ambulance in Kerala launched by the Chief Minister Oommen Chandy.

- Leading e-commerce company Flipkart launched its own advertisement platform, Brand Story Ads, with over 50 leading brands on board.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Indian Army and Hinduja Grouped IndusInd Bank on the Defence Salary package.
- Independent investor Sunil Sabharwal has become the first Indian American to occupy a key administration post as Alternate Executive Director at the IMF.
- Amazon World's largest e-retailer is India's most trusted online shopping brand followed homegrown Snapdeal and Flipkart.
- Maria Sharapova provisionally suspended after failing drugs test at Australian Open.
- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited has appointed Indian Cricketer and Captain MS Dhoni as the Brand ambassador for its top selling health supplement Revital H.
- Digital payments platform FreeCharge has partnered with Mexico-based chain of movie theatres, Cinepolis, that aims to provide its customers an easy to use and secure way of making payments
- Five healthcare ATMs have come up in four states. Those states are MP, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- Gujarat has topped the list among the 21 cities in a race to be the best state in India having an investment potential, according to the report submit by economic think tank NCAER
- The NITI Aayog (GOIs premier think tank) has launched the Women Transforming India initiative on 8th March the International Women's Day in partnership with the UN in India and MyGov.
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has entered into a 4 year partnership with Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) as an associate sponsor for all international matches at home. Hyundai is a Korean car maker.
- The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016, was passed by a voice vote after a brief debate, during which Finance Minister Arun Jaitley assured the House that details provided for the card will not be misused in any manner.
- Union Power Ministry has announced name UJALA for the LED based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP). UJALA is acronym for Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All.
- World Consumer Day is celebrated across the World on 15th March 2016.
- ICICI Bank on 15 March 2016 announced a new mobile payment solution Touch & Pay. This solution is based on Near Field Communication (NFC) technology and will enable the bank's customers to make secure contactless payments at retail stores using smartphones.

- Surat is the cleanest railway station in the country, followed by Rajkot and Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), according to an Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) survey released.
- India's largest telecom operator by subscriber base, Bharti Airtel, said on Thursday that it has acquired Videocon Telecom for Rs 4,428 crore
- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan on 17 March 2016 launched the Online Depot System in New Delhi to automate all the operations of Food Corporation of India (FCI) depots.
- FC Barcelona's player Lionel Messi has been named as Huawei global ambassador.
- Arvind Kejriwal has been named among the world's 50 greatest leaders by Fortune magazine with the Delhi Chief Minister being the sole Indian leader on the list topped by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos.
- Paytm, India's mobile payment and commerce platform has appointed ex-head of Alibaba Group Holding's wholesale business, Bhushan Patil as the company's new President. He will now focus on building Paytm's cross border commerce
- India and China have led the developing countries in investments made in renewable energy in 2015. It was revealed by the 'Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment' Report published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The government permitted 100% FDI in the marketplace format of e-commerce retailing with a view to attract more foreign investors.
- UNICEF launched a series of animated films to help frame positive perceptions towards the tens of millions of children and young people on the move globally, Called Unfair Tales.
- Asia's biggest telescope has been launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel. This is built by the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) with the assistance of Belgian.



## April 2016

- Former bureaucrat and parliamentarian Nand Kishore Singh has been selected for prestigious 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver', Japan's highest civilian award.
- IT major Mindtree co-founder Subroto Bagchi has been appointed as head of the Odisha Skill Development Authority.
- Pakistani women's rights activist from Swat valley Tabassum Adnan has won prestigious 2016 Nelson Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Award. She won the award for the individual activist category on April 28, 2016 in Bogota, Colombia.
- Indian academician Radha Kumar was appointed as United Nation's University Council.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully launched India's 7th navigation satellite IRNSS 1G of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).
- 28th April is being observed as the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.
- Lobsang Sangay re-elected as PM of Tibetan Government-in-exile.
- IIT scholar K Ashok Kumar wins International Plant Nutrition Scholar Award. The award is given by the US-based International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI).
- Indian automobile giant Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. has become the first Indian company to sign up for "EP100", a global energy productivity campaign. A core requirement for any business signing on to the campaign is to double their energy productivity by 2030.
- India is going to host the 2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- Congo's President Denis Sassou Nguesso has appointed Mouamba Clement as the new Prime Minister of the central African country.
- 175 nations including India have signed the historic Paris Climate Agreement at United Nations Headquarters in New York along marking a significant step to combat global warming.
- Chad's incumbent President, Idriss Deby (63) has won a fifth term in office.
- *The Sympathizer*, a debut novel of Vietnamese American professor Viet Thanh Nguyen has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.
- India ranked 133rd out of 180 nations surveyed worldwide in terms of press freedom in 2015.
- Novak Djokovic from Serbia has won the 2016 Laureus Sportsman of the Year Award.
- The federal grand jury in the US State of Wisconsin has slapped 940 million US dollars fine against two companies of India's Tata group – Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Tata America International Corp. They were fined in a trade secret lawsuit.

- Dipa Karmakar became first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for Olympics.
- National Capital of India, Delhi has been ranked 44th among the world's 50 'future-ready economies cities' that are embracing technology for growth.
- Mary Kom named as AIBA ambassador for Women's World Boxing Championship
- The co-founder of Hero Cycles group Satyanand Munjal passed away in Ludhiana, Punjab.
- Union Government appoints Susmita Pande as chairperson of National Monument Authority.
- MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga appointed as member of US cybersecurity body.
- India ranks 44th in 2016 Global Connectivity Index report compiled by Chinese telecom giant Huawei.
- The Republic of Nauru, a tiny South Pacific island nation in Pacific Ocean became the 189th member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank
- The Constitutional Council of Nepal has selected Justice Sushila Karki (63) for the post of Chief Justice (CJ) of the Supreme Court of the country.
- Viswanathan Anand conferred with 2016 Hridaynath Mangeskar Award.
- Dogri Poetess and novelist Padma Sachdev (76) has been chosen for the prestigious Saraswati Samman for the year 2015.
- Aishwarya Rai Bachchan wins 2016 Global Indian of the Year award. Sania Mirza was honoured the 2016 NRI of the Year Award.

## **MAY 2016**

- Indian Railways has conducted the first ever trial run for high-speed Talgo trains of Spain on the 90-km Bareilly-to-Moradabad stretch in Uttar Pradesh.
- Indian Railways, PEC sign MoU to set up Kalpana Chawla Chair on geospatial technology.
- Union Ministry of Railways and PEC University of Technology have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of Kalpana Chawla Chair on Geospatial Technology for Indian Railways at the University. The MoU was signed in the backdrop of Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu's Budget announcement in this regard.
- India's own submarine assembly workshop inaugurated at Mazgaon. Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar a state-of-the-art submarine assembly workshop at the Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully deployed the first experimental inflatable room attached to the International Space Station (ISS).
- Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) has won the ninth edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). It is their maiden IPL title.
- 29 May: International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was observed on 29 May 2016 to honour the work of UN peacekeepers.
- India's first integrated web portal to promote Net Zero Energy Buildings launched. The Union Ministry of Power and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched India's first integrated web portal designed to promote and mainstream Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) in India.
- Lakshadweep became first Union Territory (UT) in the country to sign 24x7 Power for All document.
- Indian-American scientist Arnab De has received the prestigious Springer Theses Award. He was nominated by New York's Columbia University for his PhD thesis.
- Indian author Aditi Krishnakumar has won the prestigious 2016 Scholastic Asian Book Award. She has won the award for her 32,000-word manuscript titled Codex: The Lost Treasure Of The Indus. The manuscript will be now published by Scholastic Asia.
- India and Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance research and development (R&D) capabilities in biotechnology by launching a joint funding call.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired a land-attack version of the supersonic cruise missile, BrahMos at the Pokaran field firing range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- Pakke Tiger Reserve in East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh has won the 'India Biodiversity Award 2016'. The tiger reserve was selected in the conservation of threatened species category for its Hornbill Nest Adoption Programme.
- Mamta Banerjee was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal for second successive five-year term at oath taking ceremony held on Red Road.
- Bharti Enterprises founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal (58) was bestowed with 2016 Harvard Business School Alumni Achievement Award.
- The Union Ministry of Railways has launched Rail Humsafar Saptah, a week-long initiative to highlight significant achievements made by Indian Railways in all spheres.
- China has signed two agreements with Sudan, its close ally in Africa to build 600-megawatt (MW) atomic reactor. It was the first of its kind project to be built by China in African country.

- As per recent study conducted by Assocham-KPMG, India has emerged as the world's fifth largest electronic waste (e-waste) producer. India discards roughly 18.5 lakh tonnes of e-waste each year and telecom equipment alone accounts for 12% of it.
- Bioengineer Frances Arnold from United States (US) has won the prestigious 2016 Millennium Technology Prize.
- Prime Minister approves retirement age of doctors of Central Health Services to 65 years.
- Govt to rename 'Mission Indradhanush', adds four new vaccines to immunisation drive.
- Delhi Government Launches 'DVAT M SEWA' Mobile App.
- Number of gram panchayats in Odisha to increase by 500 to 600.
- India's single emergency number '112' to be active from Jan 1.
- Railways launch Bharat Darshan Tourist train for pilgrims.
- Gujarat Government announced its "Agri Business Policy 2016".
- Govt opens Tatkal window for faster patents to startups.
- After liquor, Bihar government bans gutka and pan masala.
- Odisha Official Language (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 promulgated.
- NITI Aayog Launches 500 Tinkering Labs for Schools and 100 Incubation Centres.
- FSSAI bans potassium bromate, cancer-causing chemical found in bread.
- Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 comes into force after 8 yearlong efforts.
- Lok Sabha passed Compensatory Afforestation Fund bill, 2015.
- Parliament passes bill on potable alcohol.
- Rajya Sabha passes The Indian Trusts (Amendment) Bill.
- Rajya Sabha passes the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill 2016.
- 42nd G7 summit held in Japan.
- Wipro, partners set up Saudi Arabia's first all-women biz park.
- South Korea, Japan, China agree to put joint efforts to ensure financial stability.
- Celebrating 155th birth anniversary: Five day Tagore Festival in Egypt.
- World's largest cargo plane AN-225 Mriya lands in Hyderabad.
- Singaporean and Hong Kong terms join Oxford English Dictionary.
- World's first robot lawyer hired by US firm Baker Hostetler.
- First metro line to the sea opens in Los Angeles.
- World's first 3D-printed office building opens in Dubai.
- President Pranab Mukherjee visited China from May 24 – 27.
- ICICI Bank signs MoU with BRICS Grouping-promoted New Development Bank.
- HDFC among world's top 10 Consumers Financial Services Firms.

- 56 Indian firms feature in Forbes 'Global 2000' .
- Paytm ties up with Wipro for payments bank.
- Kotak Bank opens international unit in Gujarat's GIFT City.
- NASSCOM, Facebook ink MoU to engage with India's entrepreneurs.
- Indian economy to grow 7.7% in FY17: FICCI Survey.
- India ranks on 5th Place in forge goods trade, China on Top in the list.
- Uber ties up with Alipay globally.
- Capgemini launches digital literacy centre in Navi Mumbai.
- BHEL commissions 500 MW thermal power unit in Jharkhand.
- Reliance Power to setup plant in Bangladesh.
- Flipkart launches its map services, ties up with MapUnity.
- Snapdeal ties up with UrbanClap to offer personal services on its Android app.
- Ola signs MoU with govt. to benefit 'Safai Karamcharis'.
- Apple announces opening of its map development centre in Hyderabad.
- PM Narendra Modi to launch Solar Powered Boats at Assi Ghat in Varanasi.
- Telangana to set up Spices Park in Nizamabad.
- World's largest Single Rooftop Solar Power Plant inaugurated in Amritsar.
- Two out of top 5 world's most polluted cities in India, Delhi ranks 11th.
- A.R Rahman conferred with Japan's Fukuoka prize 2016.
- Pope Francis Awards Medals to Richard Gere, George Clooney, Salma Hayek.
- Guinness record for Maharashtra Man With 'Gold Shirt'.
- Mukesh Ambani honored with Othmer Gold Medal for Entrepreneurial Leadership.
- Abhinav Bindra becomes Rio olympics goodwill ambassador.
- Rohit Sharma Signs as Brand Ambassador for Hublot Watches.
- Kishore Biyani appointed as MD of Bharti Retail.
- Apple elevates Sanjay Kaul as new India head.
- Google acquires business technology start-up Synergys.
- Snapdeal acquires Targeting Mantra.
- CarDekho acquires virtual reality startup Volob Technologies.
- Quikr acquires beauty services provider Salosa.
- Snapdeal opens data sciences centre in California.
- World's smallest thermometer created from DNA.
- World's first holographic flexible smartphone developed.
- World-First Scanning Helium Microscope Built In Australia.

- Google launches group-sharing app Spaces on iOS, Android.

## June 2016

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the first ever National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) to make nation disaster resilient and considerably reduce the loss of lives and assets.
- UP Govt. approves detailed project report of Varanasi Metro Rail.
- Cabinet approved higher Minimum Support Price and bonus for pulses, oilseed, and sesame.
- Odisha becomes first state to give social welfare benefits to transgender community.
- Sachin Tendulkar's name to be used in Kerala Government's Anti-Drug Campaign.
- IIT Kharagpur Research suggests Indus Valley Civilization is 8000 years old.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghanistan President Dr Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the Afghan India Friendship Dam or Salma Dam.
- India, Singapore agreed to enhance scale of Military interaction.
- Assam Assembly passes Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2006.
- Haryana Government launches Asia's first Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme.
- HP becomes first state to have State Data Centre.
- Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje Launches Mobile App on Air Quality Index.
- Bihar CM Nitish Kumar launches Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act.
- Narayanasamy sworn in as Puducherry CM.
- Dia Mirza named ambassador for Swachh Saathi programme.
- Delhi Government issues First Solar Policy.
- Gujarat Government announced new policy for IT-based start-ups.
- Gangetic River Dolphin to be City Animal of Guwahati.
- GOI and ADB sign \$120 Million Loan Agreement to Modernize Irrigation and Improve Water Management in Odisha.
- Shri Piyush Goyal Launches "SURYAMITRA" Mobile App.
- Union Government to introduce International Yoga Award Scheme.
- Google, Tata Trusts launch 'Internet Sathi' in West Bengal to empower rural women.
- Maharashtra to observe 21st of every month as Yoga Day.
- Suresh Prabhu flags off Champaran Satyagrah Express train in Bihar.
- Delhi CM sets-up committee to look into matters related to water bodies.
- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS).

- Railways launched the Optional Catering Scheme as well as Janani Sewa on test mode.
- First Meeting of National Committee on Ramayana Circuit & Krishna Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme held in Uttar Pradesh.
- Government Sanctions Rs. 164 Crore for Rajasthan, Rs. 156 Crore for Telangana for Compensatory Afforestation.
- Government approves Rs 2,070-crore highway project in Punjab.
- Union Government approved India's Membership of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program.
- Assam Government launched Maitree Ek Gyan Yatra initiative to link primary schools to colleges.
- Union Government allowed 100% FDI in Civil aviation, Defence and Food processing.
- Union Government approved auction of 2300 MHz spectrum and Rs 10000 crore fund of Funds for Startups.
- Union Defence Ministry gives nod for purchase of 145 Ultra Light Howitzers guns from the US.
- Govt to constitute Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- Andhra Pradesh government inks deal for Rs 10,000 crore gas-based fertilizer project.
- The world's longest tunnel opens in Switzerland.
- India-born Neerja Sethi, who is a co-founder of IT consulting and outsourcing firm Syntel with her husband Bharat Desai ranked 16th on 'America's Richest Self-made Women' list while president and CEO of Arista Networks Jayshree Ullal is ranked 30th.
- India among top five in 2015 in green energy spending.
- US returns 200 artifacts worth \$100 million to India.
- Thailand becomes first Asian country to eliminate mother to child HIV: WHO.
- India to provide Rs 48 mn aid for college building in Nepal.
- India and Bangladesh initiated trans-shipment operations at Ashuganj Port.
- Britain votes to exit EU in historic referendum.
- Virat Kohli launches new startup Stepathlon kids to promote fitness.
- Argentina's marque Football Player Lionel Messi announced his retirement from international football after his side crashed to an upset defeat against Chile in the title clash of the Copa America League.

- Indian shooter Jitu Rai has settled with a silver medal and Brazilian sport shooter Felipe Almeida Wu of Brazil who clinched gold at the Men's 10m Air Pistol Event at the ISSF World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- US Golfer Dustin Johnson clinched his maiden Major golf title US Open registering a three-stroke victory in the 116th US Open in the fourth and final round at Oakmont Country Club in Pennsylvania.
- India settles for Silver medal at Archery World Cup in Antalya.
- Serena tops Sharapova as world's highest paid sportswoman.

### July 2016

- SBI signed an MoU with Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, IIT Bombay's technological business incubator, to promote innovation by start-ups in the financial sector.
- The Ministry of External Affairs, launches operation '**Sankat Mochan**' to evacuate 300 Indian national from the war torn South Sudan.
- Theresa May, leader of the New Conservative Party, is sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- The Government of India has allocated Rs. 12,000 crore for the skill development of 1 crore people over the next four years under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- Rudraneil Sengupta authored the book 'Ringside with Vijender', which throws light on Beijing Olympics Bronze medallist boxer Vijender Singh's life, post his transition to the world of pro boxing.
- Sushila Karki becomes the first woman Chief Justice of Nepal. Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari conducted the oath of office and secrecy ceremony.
- Maharashtra Police launched 4 apps for timely intervention in emergency situations – PratisaadAsk, Police Mitra, Vahanchoritakrar and Railway helpline.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Affairs launched the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2016.
- China Navy conducted Combat Drills in the South China Sea, on the heels of the announcement by the United States and South Korea to deploy a THAAD Missile Defence System in South Korea.
- Since 2013, July 12<sup>th</sup> is being observed as Malala Day.
- HDFC Bank becomes the first issuer of 'masala bonds', which are rupee-denominated borrowings by Indian entities in overseas markets.



- PR Sreejesh and Sushila Chanu have been named captains of the Indian men and women's hockey teams respectively, ahead of the Rio Olympics.
- Costa Rica nominated former United Nations climate chief Christiana Figueres to be the next U.N. Secretary-General, making her the 12th candidate to enter the race ahead of the first Security Council secret ballot.
- Reserve Bank of India permits foreign investors to buy Punjab National Bank shares, by removing the 7 year old restriction on the same.
- India's Jinson Johnson qualified for the Rio Olympics in the men's 800-metre sprint, at the Indian Grand Prix in Bengaluru. Johnson clocked 1:45.98 seconds, with the qualification mark for Rio being 1:46:00 seconds.
- SIDBI and YES Bank signed an MoU under the partial risk sharing facility (PRSF) for financing energy efficiency projects programme sponsored by the World Bank. As per the terms of the agreement, Sidbi will guarantee 75% of loans of up to Rs 15 crore extended to the energy efficiency projects.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with IIT-Bombay and Madras to establish a bi-nodal 'Centre of Propulsion Technology' (CoPT) at the two institutions.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> biannual summit of NATO was held in Warsaw, Poland, for a period of two days, which concluded on 9<sup>th</sup> July.
- Andy Murray won the Wimbledon Men's Singles Title for the second time.
- Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the British Grand Prix for the third year in a row.
- India and Mozambique have signed three agreements in the area of drug trafficking (1st), pulse trading (2nd) and youth affairs & sports (3rd).
- The newly-elected Left Democratic Front government in Kerala has imposed a 'fat tax' of 14.5% on branded restaurants that sell junk food like burgers, pizzas, and pasta.
- Captain Radhika Menon will become the first ever woman in the world to receive the Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea from the International Maritime Organisation.
- Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to introduce minimum wages for part time workers.
- Bengaluru para-swimmer Niranjan Mukundan has won eight medals including 3 gold medals, at the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports (IWAS) U-23 World Games in Prague, Czech Republic.

- Indian Gymnast Dipa Karmakar has scripted history by becoming the first Indian to be named as 'World Class Gymnast' by the Federation International de Gymnastique (FIG). She is also the first ever Indian female gymnast to qualify for the Olympic Games.
- Noted scientist MV Dhekane has assumed the office of Director, ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU), Department of Space.
- The US space agency has successfully put a new probe, Juno, in orbit around Jupiter.
- Prakash Javadekar was appointed the Human Resource Development Minister, replacing Smriti Irani from the post after the Union Cabinet reshuffle.
- Arun Jaitley has been replaced by Venkaiah Naidu as the Information and Broadcasting Minister. Arun Jaitley will remain as the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port becomes the first port in the country to implement logistics data tagging of containers, which will help importers/exporters track their goods in transit through logistics data bank service.
- Holland has become the world's first country to have a nationwide low-range or LoRa network for enabling Internet of Things (IoT) applications.
- Emirates was named the world's best airline at the prestigious Skytrax World Airline Awards 2016.
- UNESCO declared the Nalanda University in Bihar a World Heritage Site.
- India has ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> on Business Optimism Index.
- Former RBI Governor D Subbarao has authored a book titled 'Who Moved My Interest Rate?'
- United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) declares India as a Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus free country.
- India's first 'Women's Entrepreneurs Park' to come up in Uttarakhand to attract women to business and encourage them to initiate start-ups in the state.
- Indian-origin UK MP Priti Patel has been appointed as the International Development Secretary in PM Theresa May's cabinet reshuffle.
- Paul Romer has been appointed as the Chief Economist and Senior VP of the World Bank.
- Malcolm Turnbull is the new PM of Australia.
- Guruprasad Mohapatra has been appointed the chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- Sikkim's Khangchendzonga National Park has been designated as India's first "Mixed" site on the UNESCO World Heritage List, by fulfilling the criteria under both natural and cultural heritage.

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance will be India's first insurance sector has filed for an initial public offering of shares.
- India's first paperless court was inaugurated at the Hyderabad High Court by Justice Madan B Lokur, who heads the Supreme Court's e-Committee.

## August 2016

- Bihar government-led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has lifted the Ban on the toddy (palm wine) consumption and selling in the state.
- Lok Shaba has passed two bills favoring the National Eligibility cum Entrance Exam (NEET) examination, for its constitutional status as promulgated by the government of India, which is to be mandated from next academic year.
- In the evolving financial sector, Government leaped into the next step for collecting the bad debts and bad loans by passing two key bill amendments in the Lok Shaba namely Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, and the debt recovery tribunal (DRT) Act.
- Lok Shaba passes The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016 for the betterment of transgender which attempts to define a transgender person and also to prohibit the discrimination against the transgender.
- Lok shaba passed The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2016 to establish the renowned National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Andhra Pradesh.
- A rigorous Bihar Excise and Prohibition Bill, 2016, was passed in the state Assembly of Bihar by voice vote.
- The Tamil Nadu State Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution asking the union government to rename it as the High Court of Tamil Nadu. The Decision from the state is against the centre, as it proposed High court of Chennai is been passed by the assembly.
- The UP Police launched 'Operation Vishwas' in Lucknow following a slew of rape cases, including the horrific Bulandshahr gangrape, on 5 August. The month-long operation will run in 10 cities including Lucknow.
- Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister, Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the Indian Institute of Technology transit campus in Jammu. In the inauguration function the Minister earmarked Rs 100 crore for NIT, Srinagar under a special plan this year to

facilitate research and development.

- The Two day long first technology meet under the targets of the ambitious Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for Northeast India started in Guwahati Assam.
- The four day long Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) Summit 2016 conducted in Bali, Indonesia with cream of experts to collectively develop regional solutions to critical terrorism financing issues and risks.
- The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-VI) was held from 27 to 28 August 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) is currently working closely with all the other TICAD co-organizers and the Government of Kenya towards a successful organization of the momentous TICAD-VI Summit.
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe committed to provide \$30 billion as public and private support for infrastructure development, education and healthcare expansion in the African Continent.
- Turkey has launched a major military intervention in Syria as a part of Operation Euphrates, sending tanks and warplanes across the border in a coordinated campaign with Syrian opposition fighters, who seized an Islamic State-held village in the area in the first hours of fighting.
- SBI unveiled a new cheaper home loan scheme for defense and other government employees. New Housing Loans:-
- SBI Privilege Home Loan – government employees,
- SBI Shaurya Home Loan – defence personnel.
- The government employees are relaxed with installment tenure extending up to 75 years of age and lower EMI burden post retirement and 0.05 percent concession over the home loan interest.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked to grand loans to Women Self-Help Group (SHG) up to Rs 3 lakh at 7 per cent interest rate per annum. The Revised Scheme comes from RBI after it got approval from Rural Development Ministry.
- Drug pricing regulator -National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has revised the ceiling prices of drugs used for cancer, HIV, bacterial infections, anxiety and cardiac conditions by 25% in average under Drugs (Price Control) Amendment Order, 2016.
- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, DIPP, will launch a nation-wide awareness campaign on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

- Murugappa Group owned Carborundum Universal (CUMI) announced the inauguration of
- its Research and Development centre at its industrial ceramics division in Hosur Tamilnadu. However the Firm was tightlipped about the investment details.
- North Korea blasted off a ballistic Missile for the first time that landed in Japanese-controlled waters posing a grave threat to the Japan. The tested ballistic missile was launched off the North's east coast that landed in Japan Sea after travelling about 1,000km.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman A S Kiran Kumar inaugurated the C Band Polari metric Doppler Weather Radar to be installed in the southern states at the Vikram Sarabahi Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. This is the first of its kind.
- In order to cheer up the Olympic mood in India, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Vijay Goel along with the renowned sports star Mary Kom unveiled the 'Wall of Wishes' at India Gate Lawns.