


THE HINDU-NEWS REVIEW (OCTOBER 2015)

1. Fourth bi-monthly monetary policy statement 2015-16 was announced on 29 September 2015 by RBI. The monetary policy cut the repo rate, the rate at which RBI lends to commercial bank, by 0.50 percent from 7.25 percent to 6.75 percent with immediate effect.
 - a. Bank Rate – 7.75 % (Decreased 0.5%)
 - b. Cash Reserve Ratio – 4 % (Unchanged)
 - c. Statutory Liquidity Ratio – 21.5 % (Unchanged)
 - d. Repo Rate – 6.75 % (Decreased 0.5%)
 - e. Reverse Repo Rate – 5.75 % (Decreased 0.5%)
 - f. Marginal Standing Rate – 7.75 % (Decreased 0.5%)
 2. US President Barack Obama designated veteran Iraq expert Brett McGurk as Special Presidential Envoy to the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State for Iraq and Syria (ISIS).
 3. Canada's Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau was elected as the Prime Minister of Canada.
 4. Indian-origin Ashok-Alexander Sridharan sworn in as the mayor of Bonn in Germany.
 5. Former Water Resources Secretary Alok Rawat was appointed as the first male member of the National Commission for Women (NCW).
 6. The Union Government named veteran sports administrator Vijay Kumar Malhotra as the President of the All India Council of Sports.
 7. MK Surana was appointed as the CMD of state-run oil marketer Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd.
 8. Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) candidate Onsari Gharti Magar was unanimously elected as the first female House speaker of Nepal.
 9. PS Jayakumar took over the charge of MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda. He has taken the charge when the bank is under the scanner for an alleged black money transactions worth over 6000 crore rupees.
 10. IAS officer Alkesh Sharma was appointed as the CEO and MD of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation.
 11. Sekhar Basu was appointed as the chairman of Atomic Energy Commission.
 12. AR Rahman was named as the Cultural Ambassador of Seychelles for his contribution in enhancing the country's Art and Culture Development.
 13. Hoesung Lee, a Korean professor was elected as the Head of the Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) at its 42nd session in Dubrovnik, Croatia.
 14. Ashish Bahuguna, the Chairman of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was given an additional charge of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FSSAI.
 15. Shashank Manohar was elected President of Board of Control for Cricket in India. He was elected unopposed during a special general meeting called by the BCCI following the demise of Jagmohan Dalmiya.
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16. Dr Anup K Pujari assumed additional charge as the CMD of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
17. Matthias Muller was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Volkswagen Group.
18. Two mountaineers Arjun Vajpai and Bhupesh Kumar in third week of October 2015 created history by becoming first people to climb 6180 meter high unnamed peak in Himachal's Spiti Valley. The duo named the peak as Mout Kalam, in honour of former President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam.
19. Metro Man Elattuvalapil Sreedharan was appointed to serve the United Nations' High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport (HLAG-ST).
20. Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe was awarded with the 2015 Confucius Peace Prize by China.
21. Nobel Peace Prize winner of 2014 Kailash Satyarthi was conferred with the 2015 Humanitarian of the Year Award. The award is given annually by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations of the Harvard University.

22. Jamaican writer Marlon James won the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction for his novel A Brief History of Seven Killings.



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23. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was chosen as 'Finance Minister of the Year, Asia' by London-based publication Emerging Markets in October 2015.
24. Micro economist born in Edinburgh Angus Deaton won the 2015 Nobel Prize in Economics. He was awarded for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare.
25. Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet won the Nobel Peace Prize 2015. It was awarded for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of Jasmine revolution of 2011.
26. A R Rehman was chosen for the 2015 Hridaynath Mangeskar Award.
27. Belarusian author Svetlana Alexievich was awarded with the 2015 Nobel Prize in Literature for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time.
28. Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sancar were jointly awarded with the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for having mapped how cells repair damaged DNA and safeguard the genetic information at a molecular level. Tomas Lindahl is from the Francis Crick Institute, UK; Paul Modrich is from Duke University School of Medicine, USA and Aziz Sancar belongs to University of North Carolina School of Medicine, USA.
29. Japan's Takaaki Kajita and American Arthur B. McDonald jointly won the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics for their discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass.
30. Veteran Bollywood actor Shashi Kapoor was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award during the closing ceremony of the 6th Jagran Film Festival in Mumbai.

31. The Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine announced the recipients of the 2015 award. The 2015 prize was divided, one half jointly to William C Campbell (Ireland) and Satoshi Omura (Japan) for their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites and the other half to Youyou Tu (China) for her discoveries concerning a novel therapy against Malaria.
32. Prince Charles of Britain awarded Indo-British van driver Dee Patel with the Pride of Britain Award. Patel had risked his life to save others.
33. Mathematician Jacob Tsimerman of the University of Toronto, Canada was chosen for the prestigious 2015 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize.
34. President Pranab Mukherjee concluded his 3-nation tour to Jordan, Palestine and Israel.
35. President Pranab Mukherjee is the first Indian head to visit Palestine. During his visit, Mukherjee met with President Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine in Ramallah.
36. President Pranab Mukherjee visited Jordan. Mukherjee met with His Majesty King Abdullah and senior Jordanian officials.
37. German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited India between 4 October and 6 October 2015. Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Merkel held discussions on a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including deepening bilateral engagement in defence, security, education, renewable energy, skill development and agriculture. Indo-German Summit 2015 was held in Bengaluru on 6 October 2015.
38. Bollywood singer and songwriter Labh Janjua was found dead.
39. Legendary Tamil actress Gopishantha, popularly known by her stage name Manorama, died.
40. Renowned music director and lyricist Ravindra Jain passed away on.
41. The 16th Governor of Manipur and member of Congress, Syed Ahmed passed away in Mumbai due to cancer.
42. Swami Dayanand Saraswati died in his ashram in Rishikesh.
43. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conference 2016 will be held in New Delhi from 8 January to 10 January 2016. Beside this, the Union Government also announced that it will organise the 9th Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (RPBD) at Los Angeles

- California, USA on the 14 November and 15 November 2015.
44. Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping was held at the UN headquarters in New York, the USA.
 45. Union Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad released a commemorative postal stamp on Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. The government is celebrating 125th birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar in the year 2015.
 46. Operation Sophia: Naval operation launched by the European Union against human smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean Sea.
 47. Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India or TAPI natural gas pipeline project was in news as the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is expected to take 10 percent stake in the project.
 48. Google's flagship Project Loon was in news because Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the ambitious project and believed that it has multiple uses like long distance education, rural schools and telemedicine. Loon uses high-altitude balloons placed in the stratosphere at an altitude of about 32 km to produce an aerial wireless network with up to 3G-like speeds. Each balloon can provide connectivity to a ground area about 40 km in diameter using a wireless communications technology called LTE.
 49. The country's prestigious DRDO Missile Complex in Hyderabad was renamed as Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex on the occasion of the 84th Birth Anniversary of Dr Kalam, the Missile Man.
 50. The Navies of India, United States and Japan began the five-day Malabar exercise 2015 on the Eastern Coast in which several warships, aircraft carriers and fast attack submarine will be participating.
 51. The third India-Sri Lanka joint training exercise, named Mitra Shakti-2015, culminated at Aundh Military Camp, Pune.
 52. Fifth joint military exercise between India and China, named Hand-in-Hand 2015, started at Kunming Military Academy, Yunnan Province, China.
 53. The Defence Research and Development Organisation inaugurated an Extreme Altitude Research Centre at Chang La, Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir at 17600 feet above mean sea level. It is the world's highest terrestrial research and development centre.



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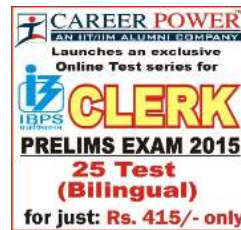
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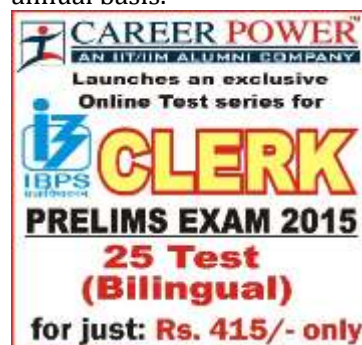
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54. 26th edition of the Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between India and Indonesia began in the Andaman Sea.
55. Expert committee was constituted to revisit the civil services examination pattern. The seven member committee is headed by B S Baswan.
56. The book Dreaming Big: My Journey to Connect India was launched. It is the auto biography of Sam Pitroda written with the help of David Chanoff, an American author.
57. The book titled Smita Patil: A Brief Incandescence authored by Maithili Rao was launched.
58. The book titled Ruled or Misruled: Story and Destiny of Bihar authored by the Assistant Editor of the Indian Express' Santosh Singh was released.
59. The book titled The Clintons' War on Women authored by Roger Stone and Robert Morrow released.
60. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Shri Venkateswara Mobile and Electronics Manufacturing Hub in Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.
61. The Union Ministry of Urban Development gave its nod to the first batch of state level Action Plans under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). The approved Action Plans have a total of 143 projects in 89 AMRUT cities in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan.
62. The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters between India and the Maldives.
63. The Union Cabinet gave its nod to sign an agreement between India and Egypt on Maritime Transport.
64. The Karnataka and Gujarat Governments lifted the ban on manufacturing and sale of Nestle India's popular instant food brand Maggi noodles.
65. Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare modified National Blood Policy, 2002. This is

- permitting the transfer of blood from one blood bank to another in case of shortage.
66. Union Minister of Urban Development M Venkaiah Naidu declared that former President Dr. Abdul Kalam's birth place Rameswaram has been included in Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for providing basic urban infrastructure.
 67. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs introduced a scheme called Central Victim Compensation Fund with an initial amount of 200 crore rupees. The scheme aims at enabling support to victims of various attacks, such as rape, acid attacks, human trafficking and women killed or injured in the cross border firing.
 68. The Union Government approved a MoU between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India and Mozambique.
 69. Jammu and Kashmir High Court ruled that the provisions under Article 370 are beyond amendment, repeal or abrogation.
 70. The Union Cabinet approved the construction of National War Memorial and a National War Museum at Princess Park near India Gate, Delhi.
 71. The Union Cabinet approved the Protocol between India and Israel and between Indian and Vietnam for avoidance of double taxation and for prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital.
 72. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the setting up of three new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY). These three new AIIMS will come up at Nagpur in Maharashtra, at Manglagiri in Andhra Pradesh and at Kalyani in West Bengal.
 73. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the IDFC Bank in New Delhi. IDFC Bank Limited has started its operations on 1 October 2015.
 74. Union Government raised the basic customs duty on wheat to 25 percent from 10 percent.
 75. The Controller-General of Accounts (CGA) in the second week of October 2015 announced that India's fiscal balance turned from deficit to surplus for the first time in 8 years. Fiscal deficit-difference between revenue and expenditure excluding borrowings for August 2015 was pegged at 15808 crore rupees that indicates surplus of revenues over expenditure.



76. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India made it mandatory for mobile service providers to compensate consumers call drops with effect from 1 January 2016. Credit the account of the calling consumer by one rupee. However, such credit in the account of the calling consumer will be limited to three dropped calls in a day.
77. RBI formed a single Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) with a corpus of 2000 crore rupees. The fund was formed by merging the Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund (FITF). The new FIF will be administered by the reconstituted Advisory Board constituted by Union Government and will be maintained by NABARD.
78. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development projected that India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2015.
79. UCO Bank registered the highest increase in gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in percentage terms against total loans in the 2014-15 fiscal year. The Gross NPA to gross advances ratio of UCO Bank increased to 8.05 percent at the end of March 2015 from 4.47 percent, accretion of 3.58 on an annual basis.
80. Price of domestic natural gas was slashed by 18 percent to 3.81 US dollars per mmBtu. The new price that came into effect on 1 October 2015 will be operational for six months till 31 March 2016. As per the policy, the government revises the price every six months on the basis of a weighted



- average of rates in the gas-surplus economies such as Canada, the USA, Russia and Mexico.
81. Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari launched Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance) Policy, 2015. The Green Highway Policy will make it compulsory for road developers to set aside 1 percent of the Total Project Cost (TPC) for Highway Plantation and Maintenance.
 82. India signed a 123.51 million US dollar loan agreement with Asian Development Bank to upgrade tourism infrastructure and services in Punjab, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
 83. Russia announced on 22 October 2015 that it will permanently station a military unit in the Arctic by 2018.
 84. Russia and United States inked a Memorandum of Mutual Understanding (MoU) on preventing incidents and providing for aviation flights during operations in Syria.
 85. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and partner nations launched the Alliance's Trident Juncture military exercise at the Trapani air force base in Italy.
 86. United Nations General Assembly elected Egypt, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay to serve as non-permanent members on the UN Security Council. These members will serve the UNSC for two-year terms beginning on 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017.
 87. Pakistan and Russia signed an agreement to build a 1100-km gas pipeline stretching from Karachi on Arabian Sea to the eastern city of Lahore.
 88. Portugal became the first European country to sign MoU on the establishment of Nalanda University.
 89. China operationalised the Zam hydropower station on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet Autonomous Region. It is considered to be the highest-altitude hydropower station in the world.
 90. Alexander Lukashenko won Belarusian presidential elections.
 91. India granted a cheque of 5 million US dollars to the Palestinian government as a budgetary support.
 92. India signed a deal, worth 105.5 crore rupees, with Pipistrel, a Slovenian firm, for 194 micro-light aircraft to be used by Indian Air Force, the Navy and the National Cadet Corps (NCC).

93. The 5th meeting of the India-Maldives Joint Commission was held on 11 October 2015 in Male, the capital of Maldives.
94. Fiji's Parliament elected Jioji Konrote as the country's next President.
95. KP Sharma Oli was elected as the Prime Minister of Nepal.

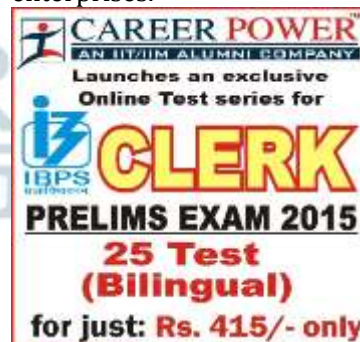


96. The Joint Declaration of the Heads of the Migration Authorities of the BRICS nations was released after the first BRICS Ministerial meeting on Migration. The meeting was held in Sochi, Russia. The Indian delegation to the meeting was led by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju.
97. Government of India and Federal Republic of Germany signed two loan agreements worth 125 million Euros for financing two projects under the Green Energy Corridor programme. These two projects are in Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
98. The United States, Japan and 10 other Pacific Rim countries signed the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement to lower trade barriers, bolster worker protections and set standards for a raft of other industries.
99. India and Germany signed 18 MoUs in various sector including renewable energy, skill development and culture. The MoUs were signed at the end of third Indo-German Inter-governmental Consultations in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel co-chaired the meeting.
100. Palestinian flag was raised for the first time at United Nations headquarters in New York on 30 September 2015.
101. The first-ever US-India-Japan Trilateral Ministerial dialogue was held on 29 September 2015. It was held on the sidelines of the 70th UN General

Assembly session in New York. The trilateral meet was attended by the Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

- 102.** Japan has offered to finance Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor estimated to cost about Rs 90,000 crore at an interest rate of less than one per cent.
- 103.** The foundation stone laying ceremony for the new Amaravati city, the greenfield capital of Andhra Pradesh, was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with AP chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu.
- 104.** Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has announced that the Railways would soon start country's first-ever double decker Shatabdi Express that would ply between Mumbai and Goa.
- 105.** Reserve Bank issued guidelines for the Gold Monetisation Scheme that allow banks to fix their own interest rates on gold deposits. Banks will be free to set interest rate on such deposit, and principal and interest of the deposit will be denominated in gold. The designated banks will accept gold deposits under the Short Term (1-3 years) Bank Deposit (STBD) as well as Medium (5-7 years) and Long (12-15 years) Term Government Deposit Schemes. While the former will be accepted by banks on their own account, the latter will be on behalf of Government of India. The short term bank deposits will attract applicable cash reserve ratio (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR). There is no bar for maximum deposit but the minimum deposit should be equivalent to 30 grams.
- 106.** Government approved induction of women fighter pilots in the Indian Air Force.
- 107.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new integrated terminal building at Tirupati Airport in Andhra Pradesh.
- 108.** The United States is preparing to sell eight new F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan.
- 109.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the first ever 'India gold coin' bearing Ashok Chakra and other schemes on November 5. Besides launching Ashok Chakra bearing coins of 5 gm and 10 gm, Modi will also launch Gold monetisation and Sovereign Gold Bond schemes.

- 110.** Supreme Court extended use the Aadhaar card on voluntary basis for welfare schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana as also the Employees' Provident Fund and pension schemes. This is in addition to the two schemes — the public distribution system (foodgrain and kerosene) and LPG — where the use of Aadhaar on a voluntary basis for cash transfer to beneficiary bank accounts was allowed by the apex court.
- 111.** Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014, and restored the over-two-decade-old collegium system for appointment of judges to the higher judiciary.
- 112.** Indian Railways agreed with Adani Power Ltd for purchasing 50 MW power under its new policy of competitive bidding based procurement, dropping its practice of buying from state-owned enterprises.



- 113.** Wholesale Price Inflation continued to remain in the negative territory for the eleventh straight month, at -4.54% in September, but slightly higher than the -4.95% in August.
- 114.** A total of Rs 14,672 crore is saved in LPG subsidy in a year as a result of direct benefit transfer, the government said.
- 115.** Light duty vehicles would have to pay Rs 700 and three-axle vehicles Rs 1,300 for entering Delhi in addition to the toll tax from November 1, with the Supreme Court imposing the 'Environment Compensation Charge' in a bid to check high pollution levels in the city.
- 116.** Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to sell subsidized 5 kg LPG cylinders in rural India in an effort to increase usage of clean fuel for cooking.
- 117.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of an ambitious project which will more than

double the capacity of the country's largest container port Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in next two years.

118. The National Housing Bank has granted permission to six new entities to become housing finance companies. These six companies are Supreme Housing Finance, Nivara Home Finance, Khush Housing Finance Private, Bajaj Housing Finance Capri, Global Housing Finance Pvt Ltd and Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd, NHB said in a release.
119. The number of subscribers to the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) together have crossed the landmark 1-crore mark.
120. CRISIL, KPMG, McKinsey and Mott MacDonald are among the 37 consulting firms which have been assigned for preparing action plans for the 88 cities proposed to be developed as Smart Cities.
121. India and Germany inked 18 MoUs, including one for setting up a fast-track system for German companies in India.
122. The US and 11 other countries reached a landmark deal on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which aims to become the world's largest free-trade zone linking 40 per cent of the global economy and would also have implications on India's foreign trade.
123. A deal to fast track clearances for German investments in India and Euro 1 billion fund for solar sector by Germany were among key takeaways from talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chancellor Angela Merkel as a raft of 18 pacts were signed to expand bilateral ties.
124. India has pledged to cut its carbon emission intensity by 33-35 per cent and increase the share of renewable energy by a massive 40 per cent in its total energy mix by 2030. The announcement was made by India in its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) on Climate Change in Bonn for a global climate pact ahead of the climate change summit in Paris later this year.
125. Government received an amount of Rs 3,770 crore from 638 declarations under the one-time black money compliance window that closed.

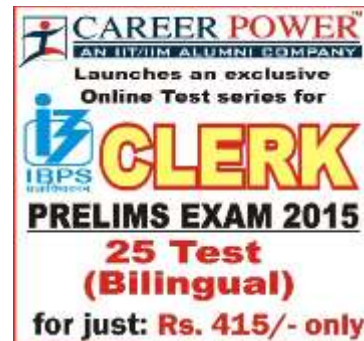
126. The eight core sector industries grew an annual 2.6% in August compared with 5.9% in the corresponding month last year.
127. The United States, Britain and France reaffirmed their support to India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council as text-based negotiations to expand the most powerful wing of the world body begins in November.
128. India signed a nearly \$3 billion deal for purchase of 22 Apache attack helicopters and 15 Chinook heavy-lift choppers with American aviation giant Boeing and the US government. The first helicopter is likely to be handed over to India in the next three to four years.
129. India's largest missile systems manufacturing and integration facility with an investment of Rs. 500 crore is being set up on a sprawling 900-acre site at Palasamudram, Gorantla in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh.
130. Maharashtra government has finally acquired the London bungalow where B.R. Ambedkar lived as a student.
131. Facebook has renamed what it had termed its Internet access enabling platform, "internet.org", as Free Basics by Facebook. Internet.org will remain as a wide and overarching entity, which includes the provision of free basic services apart from other projects such as enhancing connectivity and an innovation lab.
132. The merger of the FMC with SEBI is slated for September 28, which will create a unified regulator.

133. The Government has set up a committee, headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya, to oversee the revival of three urea plants.
134. Leaders of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan called for urgent reforms of the United Nations "in a fixed time frame".
135. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said his company would take low-cost broadband technology to some five lakh villages across the country.
136. Indian Space Research Organisation launched its first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory Astrosat into space, besides six satellites for Canada, Indonesia and the United States. Though the national space agency has

launched satellites for Indonesia and Canada earlier, this is the first time ISRO is launching satellites for the United States.

137. A few hours before Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Barack Obama met in New York, the two sides signed final agreements for the purchase of two of the most advanced American helicopters in a deal worth about \$3 billion.
138. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Google CEO Sundar Pichai unveiled a proposal to provide superfast Wi-Fi broadband connectivity in 500 key railway stations across India that see a daily traffic of 10 million people.
139. Russia launched air strikes in war-torn Syria, its first military engagement outside the former Soviet Union since the intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.
140. After five years of decline, India has moved up 16 positions to 55th place on a global index of world's most competitive economies for the year 2015-16, with Switzerland topping the table for the seventh consecutive year.
141. Foreign investors would now be able to invest up to 100 per cent equity in white label ATM operations with the government notifying the regulations for the same.
142. A team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) will go to Bangladesh to investigate the trail of a huge consignment of fake Indian currency notes (FICN) seized at Chittagong port on September 21.
143. Facebook remains the most popular social networking site in India with 51 per cent of users logging on daily, while WhatsApp tops the list of instant messaging (IM) apps.
144. French government has shown great interest in Smart city mission with AFD — French Development Agency — rolling out a whopping loan of 2 billion Euros for three cities: Puducherry, Nagpur and Chandigarh.
145. The Supreme Court ushered dance back into beer parlours and hotels in Mumbai by staying the operation of a Maharashtra law banning it, agreeing with the contention that there are alternatives to a ban on dance performances to ensure the safety of women.
146. After years of waiting to return home, Geeta, the deaf and mute girl in Pakistan, who is believed to have crossed the border by mistake after being

separated from her family in 2003, is heading back to India.



147. Nirbhay, the subsonic cruise missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), failed again when it lost control after about 12 minutes of flight and fell into the Bay of Bengal.
148. Nestle India said all samples of Maggi have cleared tests conducted by three laboratories, as mandated by Bombay High Court.
149. The Reserve Bank of India opened a sub-office in Imphal, which will have separate departments for financial inclusion and development, consumer education and market intelligence.
150. An Indian short film, An Old Dog's Diary, directed by Shai Heredia and Shumona Goel, has won the best short film award at the 2015 London Film Festival (LFF).
151. Telecom services provider Vodafone said it will start offering fourth generation (4G) communications service that will make surfing the web on mobile phones and tablets much faster than 3G, in Delhi NCR area by December 2015.
152. China's central bank cut interest rates for the sixth time since November. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said that it was lowering the one-year benchmark bank lending rate by 25 basis points to 4.35 percent, effective from Oct. 24.
153. Public broadcaster Doordarshan claimed that it has emerged as the most watched Hindi channel in terms of time spent per viewer ahead of top General Entertainment Channels.
154. Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has announced that the Railways would soon start country's first-ever double decker Shatabdi Express that would ply between Mumbai and Goa.
155. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has partnered with about 30 Public Sector

- Undertakings (PSUs) to jointly tackle and mitigate man-made or natural disasters or emergencies.
156. Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off Vigithon marathon in Mumbai to sensitise people for a fight against corruption at the grass-root level. Vigithon was a run for corruption free India and was organised by public sector lender Union Bank of India.
 157. World Polio Day was observed on 24 October 2015. The day was observed to create awareness about the hazards of the crippling disease.
 158. Sin Tax has been included under the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) law that will be effective from 1 April 2016. GST is being seen as one of the biggest tax reforms in the country.
 159. Renowned Irish-American actress and singer Maureen O'Hara passed away in Boise, US. She was 95. She was one of the last living stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood of the 1940s and 1950s.
 160. Bengali film, television and stage actor Pijush Ganguly passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal.
 161. Indian archer Abhishek Verma 24 October 2015 created history by winning a silver medal in the Archery World Cup Final medal in the compound section held in Mexico City. With this, he became the first ever Indian to bag Archery World Cup Final medal.
 162. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton on 25 October 2015 won the 2015 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix title. It was the third title for Hamilton at the Circuit of the Americas in Elroy, Texas of the USA where championship is being held annually.
 163. The third India-Africa forum summit (IAFS) began in New Delhi on 26 October 2015. The four day summit (from 26 October to 30 October 2015) is one of the largest gatherings of African countries outside Africa as all 54 nations of the continent have participated.
 164. The Department of Heavy Industries (DHI) came out with draft national policy on capital goods. This is the first time that such a policy is being framed after active consultation with industry associations.
 165. Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare enhanced delegated financial powers of designated Central Government Hospitals and institutes under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme. After the enhancement, only cases for financial assistance beyond 5 lakh rupees would now be required to be referred to the Ministry from the earlier upper limit of 2 lakh rupees per patient.
 166. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 26 October 2015 notified that the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)/Registered Foreign Portfolios Investors (RFPIs) can now invest up to 74 percent of the paid up capital of DEN Networks Limited under the Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS).
 167. Jimmy Morales, a former TV comedian, swept to power in Guatemala's presidential election. He will take the office on 14 January 2016. In the presidential election, Morales won more than 67 percent of votes.
 168. China successfully launched the Tianhui-1C mapping satellite into its designated orbit from Jiuquan satellite launch centre in the north-western province of Gansu.
 169. BlackBerry today said it has appointed Narendra Nayak as the Managing Director of its India operations to steer the Canadian handset maker's restructuring efforts. He replaces Sunil Lalvani, who had quit the organization in June.
 170. The Reserve Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh Bank for exchange of supervisory information.
 171. Reliance Industries today became the first corporate to sign the revised listing agreement with the BSE as mandated under the newly introduced Listing Regulation notified by SEBI.
 172. Indian-American farmer is among 12 individuals from across the country who will be recognised as White House Champions of Change for sustainable and climate-smart agriculture at an event in the US.
 173. South African batsman Hashim Amla has broken yet another record held by India's ODI vice-captain Virat Kohli.
 174. Indian archer Deepika Kumari on bagged the silver medal in the Archery World Cup Final held in Mexico City. Kumari went down 2-6 in finale to South Korea's Chou Misun.
 175. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed non-resident Indians (NRIs) to subscribe to the National Pension System (NPS) enabling them access old age income security.
 176. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted permission to the Indian corporate to issue offshore rupee-denominated bonds outside India.

177. China, world most populous country has announced to abandon its three decades-long one-child policy and changed it two-child policy. The ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) in this regard has issued an official communiqué at the end of party's 4 day plenary session headed by President Xi Jinping in Beijing.
178. Saudi blogger Raif Badawi has been selected for European Union's prestigious Sakharov Prize for human rights for year 2015.
179. John Pombe Magufuli of ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party has won the 2015 Tanzanian Presidential election.
180. China's first lunar rover, Yutu, has set the new record for the longest stay by a rover on the lunar surface.
181. Sociologist and founder of Sulabh International Bindeshwar Pathak on 29 October 2015 was selected for the prestigious New York Global Leaders Dialogue Humanitarian Award for his contribution to sanitation and improving the quality of life for millions of manual scavengers.
182. Indian para-athlete Amit Kumar Saroha on 28 October 2015 won silver medal in men's club throw F51 event in the IPC Athletics World Championships in Doha. With this, Amit sealed a berth for 2016 Rio Paralympic Games.
183. The Asia Pacific region is the most disaster prone part of the world as it had suffered around 1,625 disasters in the decade through 2014.
184. Union Government has appointed a 5 member committee to review the research grants offered by University Grants Commission (UGC). The Review Committee will submit its report to the Ministry by December 2015.
185. Indian and France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conserve, develop and publicize written heritage at the National Library in Kolkata, West Bengal.
186. Madhya Pradesh government has decided to provide 33 percent reservation to women in government jobs. Decision in this regard was taken by state cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
187. Bidhya Devi Bhandari of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist)-CPN-UML has been elected as first female President of Nepal.
188. Senior IRS officer Najib Shah was on 28 October 2015 appointed as Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), apex body on Indirect Taxes. His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC).
189. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 27 October 2015 overwhelmingly approved the Resolution condemning an economic embargo imposed by the US on Cuba. It stated that existence of such restrictions undermines multilateralism and credibility of the UN.
190. Hockey India (HI), the top body governing the sport in the country, on 28 October 2015 signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sports Authority of India (SAI) to help regain hockey its position as the top sport of the country.
191. World Bank on 27 October 2015 announced that India ranked 130 out of the 189 countries surveyed in terms of ease of doing business for domestic firms. It was revealed in the report entitled Doing Business 2016: Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency.
192. The Union Government on 27 October 2015 constituted RV Easwar Committee with a view to simplify the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The committee will be headed by Justice RV Easwar (Retd.), former Judge of Delhi High Court and former President of ITAT.
193. The fourth edition of Sri Lanka-India bilateral naval exercise SLINEX 2015 began off Trincomalee coast, Sri Lanka.
194. Luxembourg ambassador to the United Nations (UN), Sylvie Lucas on 27 October 2015 was appointed as the Chair of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on UN Security Council (UNSC) reforms. Lucas, who was appointed by 70th UN General Assembly session President Morgens Lykketoft, replaced Ambassador Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica.
195. The Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on 27 October 2015 launched the e-Sahyog pilot project of the Income-Tax Department to facilitate taxpayers by reducing their need to physically appear before tax authorities. The e-Sahyog project is aimed at reducing compliance cost, especially for small taxpayers.
196. Troubled British bank Barclays announced the appointment of former JP Morgan investment banker James Staley as its new chief executive.
197. Tata Trusts and Harvard University South Asia Institute (SAI) today announced collaboration on

- knowledge creation and capacity building for social and economic empowerment in India.
- 198.** Citibank on 27 October 2015 announced that it has appointed Samiran Chakraborty as Chief Economist for India.
- 199.** K Gupta will be elevated as Managing Director of country's largest lender State Bank of India in place of Corporate Banking head P Pradeep Kumar, who is superannuating this month-end.
- 200.** Pune-based realty developer ABIL (Avinash Bhosale Group) is partnering with Versace to develop a new exclusive residential project in Hughes Road, South Mumbai.
- 201.** Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Youth Services and Sports Molvi Imran Raza Ansari on 27 October

- 2015 announced that Kashmir Valley will host South Asian Rugby 7'S Championship in 2016.
- 202.** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Thomas Bach on 26 October 2015 announced that all the highly qualified athletes who are refugees will be allowed to compete in the Olympic Games. This is for the first time that refugee athletes will be competing in any Olympic Games.

