1. In Bi-Monthly Monetary policy RBI left the repo unchanged at 6.75% as widely expected, following the 50-basis-point cut in September, making no alterations in the reserve or cash requirements. The RBI has revised its forecast for inflation to 5% by March 2017. However, it retained the 7.4% GDP forecast.
   a. Bank Rate – 7.75 % (Unchanged)
   b. Cash Reserve Ratio – 4 % (Unchanged)
   c. Statutory Liquidity Ratio – 21.5 % (Unchanged)
   d. Repo Rate – 6.75 % (Unchanged)
   e. Reverse Repo Rate – 5.75 % (Unchanged)
   f. Marginal Standing Rate – 7.75 % (Unchanged)

2. Former Defence Secretary Radha Krishna Mathur was appointed as Chief Information Commissioner of India.

3. Senior revenue service officer Arun Kumar Jain was appointed Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes.

4. Ministry of External Affairs appointed Mumbai Police Commissioner Ahmad Javed as the Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

5. Mauricio Macri Blanco was sworn in as the President of Argentina.

6. Justice Tirath Singh Thakur was sworn in as 43rd Chief Justice of India (CJI) by President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Thakur succeeded incumbent Justice H L Dattu.

7. Dominica-born British lawyer Patricia Scotland was appointed as the Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations. With this, Patricia become the first British citizen and first woman as well to hold the role in the 66-year history of 53-member Commonwealth.

8. Sunil Kanoria was appointed as the President of The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

9. Miss Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach was crowned Miss Universe 2015 at the final of 64th edition of Miss Universe held in Las Vegas, the USA.

10. Miss Spain Mireia Lalaguna Royo was crowned Miss World 2015 at the Beauty of Crown Theater in Sanya, China.

11. The West Bengal Government honoured music composer Bappi Lahiri and singer Kumar Sanu with Lifetime Achievement Awards.

12. Indian-origin Tamil writer Jamaludeen Mohamed Sali was declared as the winner of the prestigious South East Asian Write Award for Singapore.

13. Dilip Kumar was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honour.

14. Global software giant Wipro announced that it won the 2015 Aegis Graham Bell Award for developing a solution for the Internet of Things.

15. India-born author Salman Rushdie was awarded the prestigious Mailer Prize for lifetime achievement.

16. Naseerudin Shah was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 12th edition of Dubai International Film Festival in Dubai.

17. Two Indians, Kartik Sawhney and Neha Swain, have won the 2016 Queen's Young Leaders award in the United Kingdom which will be presented by the British monarch in Buckingham Palace in June 2016.

18. Frank Islam, an Indian-American entrepreneur and philanthropist, will be conferred with Uttar Pradesh Ratna Award.

19. The Delhi Development Authority was awarded with the E-India Award for adopting technology to serve the public better and using resources efficiently through mobile applications.

20. Hinduja Brothers were honoured with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Asian Business Leadership Forum (ABLF) Series in Dubai.
21. President Pranab Mukharjee presented Dr APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE awards 2015.
22. President of France Francois Hollande will the Chief Guest at 67th India’s Republic Day celebrations.
23. British Novelist Peter Dickinson passed away following a brief illness in Winchester, Hampshire.
24. Renowned economist, agriculturist, prolific journalist and stalwart farmer leader Sharad Joshi passed away.
25. Renowned sarangi player Ustad Sabri Khan died in New Delhi.
26. Eldar Ryazanov, one of the most popular Russian film directors of the Soviet era, died.
27. The Australian association football player Joe Marston.
28. Noted litterateur and Professor Surendra Upadhyay passed away due to cardiac arrest.
32. World Economic Forum released the Global Gender Gap Report 2015. Out of the 145 countries surveyed, while Iceland topped the Gender Gap Index for the seventh year in a row, India stood at the 108th position.
33. 2nd World Internet Conference was concluded at Wuzhen in China.
34. The two-day 14th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Governments of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (CSO) Member States was concluded in Zhengzhou, China.
35. 5th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process was concluded in Islamabad, Pakistan. The event was jointly inaugurated by Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani. Indian delegation was headed by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
36. The 10th East Asia Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Theme was Our People, Our Community, Our Vision. The 11th East Asia Summit will be held in Laos.
37. Union Government requested the states and Union Territories to start Operation Smile-II from 1 January 2016. Operation Smile-II is a campaign to rescue/rehabilitate the missing children.
38. Storm Desmond wreaked havoc in parts of Northern Ireland, north Wales, southern Scotland and north-west England in the first week of December 2015.
40. Two Indian cities, Varanasi and Jaipur, have made it to the Creative City Network of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the first time ever.
41. The book titled The Bose Brothers and Indian Independence – An Insider’s Account authored by Madhuri Bose was released.
42. Life On My Terms: From the Grassroots to the Corridors of Power, an autobiography of Sharad Pawar was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
43. The Union Government appointed Justice L Narasimha Reddy to head the Judicial Committee which will look into the implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme for the ex-servicemen.
44. The Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian led panel submitted its report on GST. The commission recommended standard rate for GST at 17 to 18 percent, the rate at which most products would likely be taxed. The Committee has suggested doing away with a proposal to levy a one percent inter-state tax on transfer of good. The committee excluded real estate, electricity and alcohol and petroleum products while calculating tax rates but has suggested bringing them under the ambit of GST soon. It recommended a

range of 12 to 40 percent for various products and services. Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) proposed at 15-15.5% (Union and states combined). It included petroleum and alcohol in GST regime.

45. The Defence Acquisition Council approved the purchase of 5 units of Russian advance S-400 Triumf Air Defence Missile Systems from Russia at an estimated cost of 40000 crore rupees.

46. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the combined Commanders Conference, an annual tri-services event held on board INS Vikramaditya about 50 kms off Kochi coast, Kerala.

47. Indo-Russia bilateral maritime exercise Indra Navy 2015 commenced in Vishakhapatnam.

48. Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile was successfully flight-tested for the first time from an Israeli Naval Platform. The missile is co-developed by India and Israel. LRSAM is also called Barak 8 missile in Israel.

49. The South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise (SAADMEx) 2015 was concluded by the Union Government in Delhi.

50. Search engine giant Yahoo on 21 December 2015 named Cowas the Personality of the Year 2015. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal were among the top newsmakers of 2015.

51. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released two commemorative coins of 125 rupees and 10 rupees, as part of the 125th birth anniversary year celebrations of Dr. Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

52. World Robot Olympiad 2015 was held in Doha, Qatar. This time Indian students were able to win three medals (1Gold & 2 Silver) and one position (Eighth).


54. The Lok Sabha passed the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Bill, 2015. The Bill will help bring in big foreign investments into the country and improve India's global image on ease of doing business. It will help set up commercial benches in select high courts to settle high value commercial disputes.

55. The Lok Sabha passed the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015.

56. The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the revised Model Text for the Indian Bilateral Investment Treaty.

57. The World Bank approved a 1.5 billion US dollar loan for the ambitious Clean India Campaign (Swachh Bharat Mission).

58. The Lok Sabha passed the landmark Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 2015. The bill seeks to overcome difficulties encountered in the setting up of new nuclear projects and enhancement of nuclear power generation. The amendment will pave the way for Atomic Energy Units, including Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) to enter into joint-ventures with other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and government sector companies.

59. The Union Government signed MoU and documentation for establishing three Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) at Ranchi, Nagpur and Pune. These IIITs are operated on a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model.

60. The Union Cabinet approved a 4000 crore rupees proposal for introducing measures to encourage Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Industry in India.

61. The Supreme Court asked the Union Government to operationalise the Organised Crimes Investigating Agency (OCIA) by 1 December 2016. OCIA will probe human trafficking cases across the nation.

62. The Union Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave its approval to carry out official amendments in the National Waterways Bill, 2015. The amendments provide for enacting a Central Legislation to declare 106 additional inland waterways as the national waterways.

63. The Supreme Court directed State and Union Territory Governments to consider acid-attack victims under the disabled quota.

64. The Lok Sabha passed the Bureau of Indian Standards Bill 2015 to establish the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as a National Standards Body.
65. The Union Cabinet approved setting up of six new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jammu, Kerala and Karnataka.

66. The Union Government launched the injectable Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) as part of its commitment to the Global Polio Endgame Strategy.


68. RBI released the final guidelines on computing interest rates on advances based on the Marginal Cost of Funds Methodology. The guidelines will come into effect from 1 April 2016. The new methodology is aimed at bringing uniformity among BRs of banks so that they will be more sensitive to any changes in policy rates of the RBI like Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), etc. Existing loans and credit limits linked to the Base Rate may continue till repayment or renewal, as the case may be. Existing borrowers will also have the option to move to the MCLR linked loan.

69. Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas appointed a single-member committee headed by Ajit Prakash Shah to look into the dispute between Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Reliance Industries Limited on Krishna Godavari gas fields.

70. Union Government slashed the Minimum Export Price of onions to 400 US dollars per tonne from 700 dollars a tonne.

71. Afghanistan will become the 163rd WTO member.

72. Singapore replaced Mauritius as top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India during April-September of 2015-16 financial year.

73. RBI announced revised Priority Sector Lending norms for Regional Rural Banks. Among other things, the PSL target was increased to 75 percent of total outstanding from the existing 60 percent. The revised target will be effective from 1 January 2016. Loans to individual farmers, for the purpose of PSL, was increased to 50 lakh rupees from the present 10 lakh rupees against pledge/hypothecation of agricultural produce (including warehouse receipts) for a period not exceeding 12 months.

74. CSO announced that India’s Gross Domestic Product grew by 7.4 percent in the second quarter (July-September) of 2015-16. The high growth rate became a possibility due to 10.6 percent registered by Trade, hotels and Transport and communication and services related to broadcasting sectors. The manufacturing sector also grew by 9.3 percent compared to 7.9 percent in Q2 of FY 2014-15.

75. The Reserve Bank of India decided to grant in principle approval to the National Payments Corporation of India to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU) in Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

76. Government of Nepal decided to amend the Constitution to address two key demands of agitating Madhesis regarding proportional representation and constituency delimitation.

77. The European Union extended its economic sanctions against Russia for six months over its involvement in the Ukraine crisis.

78. 10th World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference concluded on 19 December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference concluded with the adoption of the Nairobi Package that is aimed at benefitting organization’s poorest members. India was represented by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry Nirmala Sitharaman.

79. The Senate of United States ratified reforms to boost the representation of emerging economies at the International Monetary Fund as part of Budget Bill. China’s voting rights will rise to 6 percent from 3.8 percent and the nation will become the third-largest shareholder. As China’s voting rights rise, the US will see its share drop from 16.7 percent to 16.5 percent. India’s voting rights will also rise to 2.6 percent from the current 2.3 percent.

80. The UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution to increase sanctions against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq (ISIS) group and other terrorist groups.

81. The Federal Reserve System, the central banking system of the USA, increased interest rate by 0.25 percent. With this, the interest rates in the US are now in the range of 0.25 – 0.50 percent as compared to zero to 0.25 percent range earlier.

82. Pension fund regulatory body PFRDA has started using PAN instead of Aadhaar for validation of new customers who can now be registered online under the National Pension System (NPS) scheme.

83. The IMF approved nearly $500 million in its latest tranche of financial assistance to Pakistan.

84. Uttar Pradesh government became the first state to give its approval for turning around its ailing discoms by joining the Centre’s ambitious UDAY (Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana) scheme. So far, seven other states have given an in-principle approval for the
scheme. According to the scheme, loans of Rs 47,700 crore (till September 30, 2015) would be converted into bonds.

85. Housing prices increased by 13.7 per cent during July-September of this fiscal compared with year-ago period but the annual growth rate has slowed down, according to RBI report. Delhi witnessed the maximum rise with nearly 22 per cent increase in prices during the quarter over the last year.

86. US lawmakers have decided to increase the quota for H-2B visas meant for unskilled foreign workers by nearly 400 per cent.

87. The government lowered the economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7-7.5 per cent from previously projected 8.1-8.5 per cent mainly because of lower agricultural output due to deficit rains.

88. India has been ranked a low 97th out of 144 nations, behind Kazakhstan and Ghana, on Forbes’ annual list of the best countries for doing business in 2015.

89. The US Congress has imposed a special fee of up to USD 4,500 on the H-1B and L-1 visas popular among Indian IT companies.

90. The Supreme Court banned registration of diesel-run SUVs and cars having engine capacity beyond 2000 cc in Delhi and National Capital Region till March 31.

91. The Finance Ministry said banks will disburse credit to tune of Rs 1.22 lakh crore to small and marginal entrepreneurs during the current fiscal under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).

92. The Goa government has approved the Rs 981.11 crore proposal for Panaji Smart City which would be submitted to the Union Urban Development Ministry.

93. Retail inflation scaled a 14-month high of 5.41% in November, while wholesale price inflation touched -1.99% during the month.

94. The Union Cabinet has cleared the Bill to regulate the real estate sector while mandating that developers must deposit 70 per cent of the project cost in a separate account.

95. A landmark climate change deal was clinched with the approval of India, China and the US, after days of tough negotiations with the legally-binding pact seeking to limit global warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius and committing USD 100 billion a year from 2020 to help developing nations.

96. India and Japan signed an agreement to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement which will help in reducing tax avoidance and act as a deterrent against tax evasion as well as accumulation of black money.

97. The National Green Tribunal has ordered the closure of Bhushan Steel and Strips Limited, declaring it to be a polluting industry.

98. National Green Tribunal directed that diesel-run vehicles will not be registered in Delhi with immediate effect and asked the central and state government departments not to purchase diesel vehicles. There will be no renewal of registration of diesel vehicles which are more than 10-year-old.

99. Govt imposed five-year anti-dumping duties on stainless steel imports from China, the European Union and the United States, as the government tries to help local companies suffering from cheaper imports.

100. Delhi recorded the highest per capita income among all states in the country at Rs 2,40,849 during financial year 2014-15, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

101. A mechanism known as SETU to support all aspects of start-up businesses and other self-employment activities has been set up by the government.

102. Finance Ministry wants EPFO to retain 8.75 per cent rate of interest on PF deposits for 2015-16.

103. The Delhi Government announced a series of measures to curb the alarming rise in pollution in the national capital, including a proposal to close down the Badarpur Power plant which runs on coal.

104. The telecom wing of the Indian Railways, RailTel, has signed an agreement with the subsidiary of Google India to provide Wi-Fi facilities at 400 stations across the country.

105. The Arvind Kejriwal led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has raised Delhi MLA’s salaries by a whopping 400%.

106. The Asian Development Bank kept its economic growth forecast for India unchanged at 7.4 per cent
for the current financial year and 7.8 per cent for the next fiscal.

107. Bihar has emerged as the fastest growing state in terms of gross state domestic product, clocking a growth rate of 17.06 per cent in FY 2014-15.

108. The government has collected Rs 16.69 crore as taxes and penalty till November 26 from those who have disclosed illegal wealth under the black money compliance window. 635 declarations worth Rs 4,160 crore of illegal wealth were made in the three-month compliance window, which ended on September 30.

109. The Asset Under Management under the National Pension System has crossed Rs one lakh crore, Pension fund regulator PFRDA said.

110. The growth rate of eight core sectors industries slowed to 3.2 per cent in October from a year earlier on account of a sharp drop in crude oil and steel production.

111. India and Japan exchanged notes for Japan's Official Development Loan Assistance (ODA) worth Rs 5,536 crore for Chennai and Ahmedabad metro rail projects.

112. The gold bond scheme has evoked “excellent response” with the government receiving 63,000 applications for purchase of bonds worth Rs 246 crore for 917 kg. Gold in the first tranche.

113. Indian companies could raise up to USD 5 billion over the next three years through issue of offshore rupee or masala bonds. In September, RBI had allowed non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and other corporates to issue masala bonds. Masala bond is used to refer to an instrument through which Indian companies can raise overseas funds in rupees, not foreign currency.

114. India is likely to see a jump of 11 per cent in imports of the metal to 1,000 tonnes this year, says All India Gems and Jewellery Trade Federation.

115. The finance ministry has cut its ambitious disinvestment revenue target by 57% to Rs 30,000 crore for the current fiscal as ‘strategic’ sales have failed to take off.

116. Vladimir Putin ordered state-of-the-art air defence missile systems to be deployed at a Russian air base in Syria following the downing of a Russian warplane by Turkey.

117. Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi declared a nationwide state of emergency and a curfew in the capital after a bomb attack on a presidential guard bus killed at least 12 people.

118. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh told Parliament that the government was considering 33 per cent reservation for women in the paramilitary forces.

119. The government has extended the usage criterion of the RuPay debit cards in order to avail of the in-built insurance cover. Earlier, cardholders had to use the card within 45 days prior to claim the insurance claim. This has now been extended to 90 days.

120. A Japanese television channel has arrived to make a documentary on how students from the underprivileged sections of society aspire to be at the Indian Institutes of Technology under the guidance of mathematician Anand Kumar and his Super 30 team.

121. Sri Lanka, India, Malta and Mauritius have come together to establish a Commonwealth Trade Finance Facility to boost trade and investment flows, particularly for developing nations of the Commonwealth.

122. The government said it has advanced the date for implementation of the roll out of Bharat Stage (BS) stage V and VI norms for four-wheelers by three years. Now Ministry has decided to implement BS-V norms from April 1, 2019.

123. In a dramatic turn, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistan counterpart Nawaz Sharif met and spoke on the sidelines of the UNFCCC main event in Paris, shaking hands and sharing a sofa as they chatted easily for a few minutes in private.

124. India launched an International Solar Alliance at the CoP21 Climate Conference, with an announcement by Prime Minister Modi that the revolution in the field would bring power to all citizens, and create unlimited economic opportunity.

125. Russia has begun building two modern military compounds on the far eastern Kuril islands.

126. President Pranab Mukherjee has given assent to the contentious Labour Laws Bill of Gujarat, which has provisions to ban strikes in public utility services for up to one year.

127. Faulty equipment and the crew's "inability to control the aircraft" caused an AirAsia A320 to crash into the Java Sea last year, killing all 162 people onboard, an Indonesian report said.

128. Pakistani ghazal maestro Ghulam Ali will perform at two venues in Kerala State in January next year.

129. Vladimir Kazbekov, the Vice-President of the New Development Bank (NDB) of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping, has welcomed the inclusion of the Chinese yuan in the IMF basket of reserve currencies Special Drawing Rights.

130. The government's electronic intelligence monitoring system, the Central Monitoring System (CMS), will become operational by March 2016.

131. Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook an aerial survey of the affected regions in Chennai and...
announced an additional Rs. 1,000-crore relief package.

132. Tamil star Dhanush's song 'Kolaveri di' has surpassed 100 million views on Youtube since its release.

133. A three-day international festival on birds begins at the National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS) in Agra. As many as 25 international bird experts and over 80 Indian ornithologists are expected to attend.

134. Lawmakers approved plans for Germany to take on a direct role in the battle against the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria.

135. Securities and Exchange Board of India will soon put in place norms to help entrepreneurs raise funds through 'crowdfunding'. A SEBI-constituted committee, headed by Infosys co-founder N. R. Narayana Murthy, to suggest ways for raising of funds through crowdfunding.

136. U.S. magazine Time named German Chancellor Angela Merkel as its "Person of the Year 2015," hailing her leadership during Europe's debt, refugee and migrant crises, as well as Russia's intervention in Ukraine.

137. Bombay High Court acquitted him of all charges in the 2002 hit-and-run and drunk-and-drive case that killed one and injured four persons.

138. Pakistan successfully test-fired the medium-range Shaheen-III surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can carry nuclear warheads up to 2,750 km, bringing many Indian cities within its range.

139. India and the U.S. have identified 17 new areas for potential cooperation under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

140. Indian-origin writer Jamaludeen Mohamed Sali has been declared the winner of this year’s prestigious South East Asia Write Award.

141. Country’s largest lender State Bank of India will issue EMV chip and pin based debit cards to its new customers to ensure enhanced secure transactions.

142. Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear capable ballistic missile Shaheen-1A with a range of 900 kilometres.

143. India's exports fell for the twelfth consecutive month in November, virtually shrinking by a quarter from a year earlier to $20 billion.

144. The government has made it mandatory to quote PAN for all transactions in excess of Rs.2 lakh. The new rule, effective from January 1, will cover purchases of all goods or services. In the case of immovable property, where quoting PAN is currently required for transactions of Rs.5 lakh, the government has decided to raise the monetary limits to Rs.10 lakh.

145. Annoyed with the lack of consensus among constitutional authorities in Uttar Pradesh, the Supreme Court invoked its extraordinary powers to assume authority and appointed former high court judge Justice Virendra Singh as Uttar Pradesh's Lokayukta.

146. Supreme Court imposed a ban on the registration of diesel-run private cars of the capacity of 2000 CC and above and SUVs.

147. The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched PSLV C-29 rocket with six Singapore satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

148. The National Highway Authority of India plans to raise funds up to Rs.1,000 crore through public issue of tax-free, secured redeemable non-convertible bonds.

149. China has summoned the U.S. envoy to protest Washington's sale of warships to Taiwan, as part of a massive $1.8 billion arms package, Beijing said.

150. The Bihar government will ban liquor sale and consumption in phases from April 1.

151. A Delhi court granted unconditional bail to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and vice-president Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case of cheating and misappropriation.

152. State Bank of India will raise up to Rs.12,000 crore by issuing bonds that are Basel-III complaint.