CURRENT AFFAIRS TONIC FOR BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

INDIA IN NEWS

PM Narendra Modi has launched national Schedule Castes/Schedule Tribes hub in Ludhiana. With an initial outlay of Rs 490 crore, the hub will work towards strengthening market access/linkage, monitoring, capacity building, leveraging financial support schemes and sharing industry-best practices.

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

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated India’s first centre for international arbitration in Mumbai. The Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA) will initially be located at Express Towers.

The Union Cabinet has approved "mini Ratna" public sector undertaking HLL Lifecare to sub-lease its land for setting up the country’s first medical devices manufacturing park.

India formally joined the Paris Climate Change Agreement by submitting its instrument of ratification in New York (UN Headquarter). India became the 62nd country to ratify the agreement. Main Motive of the COP summits is to monitor & encourage countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. COP22 will take place at Marrakech in Morocco, 2016.

The Indian government has invited the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to be the next Chief Guest at India’s Republic Day parade of 2017. This is the first time that a leader of the United Arab Emirates will be honoured with the invitation of being the Chief Guest at India’s Republic Day parade.

STATES IN NEWS

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated 3 hydro-electric projects with a generating capacity of 1,732 MW in Himachal Pradesh. The three hydropower projects are:

- 540 MW generation capacity third phase of Parbati hydropower project of NHPC in Kullu district.
- 412 MW Rampur project of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd in Shimla.
- 800 MW Kol Dam power project in Bilaspur district.

Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (with i/c) for Petroleum & Natural Gas launched the National Seismic Programme (NSP) on Mahanadi basin (onshore) in Odisha.

India’s 29th state, Telangana’s map was redrawn on 11 October 2016 with the creation of 21 new districts. With these, the total number of districts of the youngest state of India went up to 31.

With an aim to make Madhya Pradesh anaemia-free, the state government has decided to launch a scheme 'Lalima Abhiyan'- that will be effective from November 1. Under the campaign, free iron folic acid tablets will be provided in aagan wadis’, academic institutions & hospitals.

Playback singer K J Yesudas has been roped in by the Kerala government as the brand ambassador of its ambitious ‘Haritha Keralam’ project. ‘Haritha Keralam’ (Green Kerala) project, a massive initiative envisaged for a garbage-free & clean state.

Jharkhand has become the first state in the country to implement Direct Benefit Transfer in Kerosene.

Delhi Police has launched a mobile application for senior citizens to enable them to reach out to the police quickly in emergency situations. The application 'Delhi Police Senior Citizen' was launched by Delhi Lt. Governor Najeeb Jung & Police Commissioner Alok Kumar Verma.

Gujarat’s 900-year-old Rani ki Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) has been named as the 'Cleanest Cultural Heritage Site' in the nation. Further, Surat was named as the cleanest railway station, & Chandigarh’s Post Graduate Institute of Medical Research & Education was named the cleanest hospital. Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district was named the cleanest district in hilly areas, while Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district was named the cleanest in plain areas.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu flagged off a 10-member all-women Mt Gorichen Expedition led by Anshu Jamsenpa. It will be the first all women team attempting to summit the second highest peak of Arunachal Pradesh (6488 mtr).

Sikkim's capital Gangtok has been conferred with the title of the 'Cleanest Tourist Destination' in India by...
the Ministry of Tourism. Further, Chandigarh & Mysore were felicitated as ‘Clean Cities’ in the ‘million plus population’ category.

**BANKS IN NEWS**

- According to the data released by the RBI, India’s banking system reported total deposits of Rs. 100 lakh crore for the first time ever in September month of this year. With demand deposits crossing Rs10 lakh crore & time deposits crossing the Rs 90 lakh crore mark, the month saw the highest-ever monthly rise of Rs 5.32 lakh crore.
- State-run Bank of Maharashtra has renewed its corporate agency tie-up with United India Insurance Company.
- Standard Chartered Bank has announced a tie-up with Uber under which its credit cardholders, across six countries, will get a cash-back of up to 25 per cent for hailing cabs from the app.
- Jammu & Kashmir Bank appointed Parvez Ahmed as Chairman & CEO of the bank. He replaced Mustaq Ahmad.
- State Bank of India has become the first domestic bank of India to open 54th foreign branch, in the capital city of Yangon, Myanmar. Ghanshyam Srivastava will be the Chief Executive Officer of the SBI Yangon branch.
- State Bank of India (SBI) declared Silchar as its 5th zone in North-East India. This zone will cater to the banking needs of the people of Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur along with the Barak Valley.
- RBI’s 24th Governor Urjit Patel, who has been recently appointed, has announced his first & country’s 4th Bi-monthly Policy Statement for the year 2016-17. The RBI has reduced the policy Repo Rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 6.5 per cent to 6.25 per cent with immediate effect. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, & the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate & the Bank Rate to 6.75 per cent.
- Arundhati Bhattacharya will remain the chairperson of the State Bank of India (SBI) for another year. She will oversee the merger of 6 smaller commercial banks into the country's largest lender.
- The Centre has appointed R Subramania Kumar as Executive Director (ED) of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).

**ECONOMY NEWS**

- The pound saw a sudden collapse in intra-day trade on 08 October 2016, plunging over 6% to $1.1841 in two minutes, to hit a fresh 31-year-low.
- The Union Ministry of Urban Development has approved projects worth Rs.114 crore under HRIDAY scheme for improving infrastructure facilities around core heritage sites in five cities. These five cities are: Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Amritsar (Punjab), Dwarka (Gujarat), Puri (Odisha) & Warangal (Telangana).
- India's foreign exchange reserves scaled a new high of USD 371.99 billion. The reserves had risen by USD 1.166 billion to USD 370.766 billion. Previously, they had touched a high of USD 371.279.
- The government has integrated 250 mandis in 10 states with the electronic national agriculture market (e-NAM) in the first phase. The target was to integrate 200 mandis by September this year & total 585 by March 2018.
- International Monetary Fund projects the global growth at 3.1 per cent in 2016, with slight increase to 3.4 percent in 2017. India's gross domestic product is projected to expand 7.6 percent in 2016 and 2017.
- CCEA approved the acquisition by ONGC Videsh Ltd. of 11% stake in the Russian state-run Vankor oil fields from Rosneft Oil Company for $930 million, which will take OVL's overall ownership in the project to 26%.
- The Government has decided to raise the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) investment in Exchange Traded Funds (ETF) from present 5% to 10%.

**BUSINESS NEWS**

- Government has formally granted a license to British Petroleum ‘Petroleum industry company’, headquartered in London, England, Europe’s third-biggest oil company, to set up 3,500 petrol pumps in India.
Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC) beat India's second largest software exporter Infosys Ltd to become the fifth most valuable company in India by market capitalization. TCS is India's most valuable company followed by Reliance Industries Ltd, HDFC Bank Ltd & ITC Ltd.

Valvoline Cummins India has signed up India Test captain Virat Kohli as its ambassador. Valvoline is the world's first & most enduring lubricant brand.

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Luo Zhaohui appointed as the China’s Ambassador to India. He replaced Le Yucheng.

Senior diplomat Navdeep Singh Suri has been appointed Ambassador to United Arab Emirates. He is currently serving as Indian High Commissioner in Canberra. Suri had served in India’s diplomatic missions in Cairo, Damascus, Washington, Dar es Salaam & London & as India’s Consul General in Johannesburg.

Indian Revenue Service officer Sushil Chandra as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He will take over from the current CBDT Chairperson Rani Singh Nair.

Kersti Kaljulaid elected as the President of Estonia by the parliament. With this, she will become Estonia’s first female president.

Amandeep Singh appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva.

The Mizoram government & the Mizoram Journalists’ Association declared Lalbiakthanga Pachuau as the “oldest working journalist in the country”.

Senior IAS officer Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed as the Director General of Foreign Trade. He has been appointed to the post in place of Anup Wadhawan.

Vice Admiral S V Bhokare assumed office as the Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala in Kerala.

India’s largest Public sector lender, Bank of Baroda has sealed a principal sponsorship contract with badminton Olympians P V Sindhu & K Srikanth.

The 193 member states of the General Assembly adopted the resolution by acclamation, appointing 67-year-old Mr. Guterres as the 9th U.N. Secretary-General to take over from Ban Ki-moon, whose tenure will end on December 31, 2016.

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

Abdelilah Benkirane, the leader of Morocco’s Islamic Justice & Development Party, has been appointed for another term as the country’s PM.

Former Indian Foreign Service officer Ms. Renu Pall has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Austria. It was announced by Ministry of External Affairs.

China’s President Xi Jinping appointed Luo Zhaohui, a senior diplomat with previous assignments in Pakistan & Canada, as China’s new ambassador to India. He will take over from former Chinese ambassador to India Le Yucheng who left New Delhi in April.

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

Former PM of Portugal, Antonio Guterres is poised to become the next Secretary-General of the United Nations after the Security Council declared him to be the unanimous choice in the sixth straw poll.

Jawhar Sircar has resigned as the Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati Corporation.

Reliance Nippon Life Insurance has a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in Ashish Vohra.

Shri R Ravindra, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guinea.

M.S. Sahoo, a financial markets expert, was appointed as IBBI (Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board) Chairperson for a period of five years.

Rajeev Sharma has taken over as the Chairman & Managing Director of state-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC) with immediate effect. Sharma succeeds M K Goel.
**OBITUARIES**

- Kigeli V Ndahindurwa (80), the last king of Rwanda, has recently passed away in United States.
- Thailand’s King Bhumibol Adulyadej - the world’s longest-serving monarch - has died aged 88. King Bhumibol, the ninth king of the 234-year-old Chakri dynasty.
- Parmeshwar Godrej, philanthropist & wife of Godrej group chairman Adi Godrej passed away in Mumbai at the age of 70.
- American boxer Aaron Pryor died at the age of 60 after a long battle with heart disease.
- Manipur-based theatre legend Heisnam Kanhaiyalal passed away following a brief illness in Imphal. He was 75.
- Eminent contemporary artist Yusuf Arakkal passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was 71.

**AWARDS**

- The Film Society of Lincoln Center has named Robert De Niro the recipient of its 44th annual Chaplin Award, which honors major industry talents. De Niro will take home the 2017 trophy for a four-decade acting career.
- Bollywood Actress Sonam Kapoor has been bestowed with the 2016 ET Panache Trendsetter Award in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Eminent writer C Radhakrishnan has been selected for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award in recognition of his contribution to the field of literature.
- Kirtiraj Kundlik Gaikwad, an Indian scientist with the Department of Packaging, has been awarded the prestigious IAFP Young scientist scholarship award for his research work on “development of novel oxygen absorbing package in the field of active packaging for oxygen sensitive food products”.
- Satish Pathak, a Pune-based innovator, has been awarded for 'Excellence in Technical Innovation' by the International Society of Automation. The innovation, called Digital Controlled Valve for Precise Liquid Dispensing by Gravity flow.
- Former Uttarakhand chief minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been conferred with a prestigious award by the Ugandan government for promoting human values through his literature.
- Veteran actor Ian McKellen was honoured at the UK Theatre Awards that took place in London for his individual contributions to British theatre.
- Sprinter Srabani Nanda has bagged the 24th Ekalabya Award for the year 2016 in recognition of her sporting excellence. Srabani won gold in 200m, silver in 100m & 4x100m relay in 12th South Asian Games held in Guwahati.
- Nayanjot Lahiri, Professor of History at the Ashoka University, has been awarded the 2016 John F. Richards Prize for her book Ashoka in Ancient India.
- Film-maker & elephant researcher Prajna Chowta has been appointed Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Mérite (Knight in the National Order of Merit), one of the highest civilian recognitions of the French government.
- Famous British statistician Sir David Cox was awarded with the first recipient of the International Prize in Statistics. He is honoured for Survival Analysis Model Applied in Medicine, Science, and Engineering.
- A 16-year-old Indian-origin South African teen Kiara Nirghin has won a $50,000 scholarship, the grand prize at the annual Google Science Fair for her work using orange peel to develop a cheaper “super-absorbent material” that helps soil retain water.
- Young filmmaker Katyayan Shivpuri, from Maharashtra, has won the first prize at the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival (SBSFF) for his work "Murga".

**DEFENCE NEWS**

- US Navy has commissioned its largest, most expensive & technologically advanced destroyer, Zumwalt. The 610-foot-long ship, commissioned in Baltimore also has an advanced power plant & weapon systems.
- Dassault Aviation of France has entered into a partnership with Reliance group to execute offsets for the recently concluded deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets.
This is the largest offset contract to be executed by any defence company in India till date.

The fast attack craft 'INS Tihayu' was commissioned by India recently. This craft is an improved version of Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC).

The Indian and Chinese armies began the second joint exercise named Sino India Cooperation 2016 in Ladakh. The aim behind this is to enhance interaction and cooperation between India and China.

**RANKS & REPORTS**

According to the report of World Economic Forum (WEF) on 'Safety & Security,' Finland is the safest place in the world with Qatar & UAE ranked second & third respectively. At the bottom of the survey ranked Nigeria, followed by Colombia, Yemen, Pakistan & Venezuela, as the least safest countries to live. India ranked 13th as the least safe countries in the world.

Actress Priyanka Chopra has joined media mogul Oprah Winfrey & pop star Jennifer Lopez in Variety magazine's 'Power of Women Impact' List.

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

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

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

China launched the two-man Shenzhou 11 space mission, which is its longest-ever manned space mission. The two astronauts will spend about a month in China's recently-launched experimental space lab, Tiangong 2.

India's latest communication satellite GSAT-18 has been successfully launched by a heavy duty rocket of Arianespace from the spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana. GSAT-18, built by the Indian Space Research Organisation, aims at providing telecommunications services for the country by strengthening Isro's current fleet of 14 operational telecommunication satellites.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

The first elephant sanctuary in Latin America has opened in Brazil to provide a home for an estimated 50 circus animals from across the region. Guida & Maia, both over 40 years old, are the first residents.

Russian & Turkish leaders have agreed to intensify military & intelligence contacts after a meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. After his meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, they have agreed on the need for aid to get to the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. The two countries have also signed a deal to construct two pipelines to send Russian gas under the Black Sea to Turkey.

The Milan city council bestowed honorary citizenship on the Dalai Lama. However, China has strongly opposed another award given to him.

Maldives government decided to leave the 53-member Commonwealth of Nations.

Israel suspended co-operation with the UN's cultural agency, UNESCO, accusing it of denying Judaism's connections to the religion’s holiest sites.
France become the first country in the world to ban disposable plastic cups and plates.

BOOKS & AUTHORS
Actress-turned-author Twinkle Khanna has shared the first look of her second book titled 'The Legend Of Lakshmi Prasad'. Her first book was 'Mrs Funnybones: She's Just Like You & a Lot Like Me', which was published in 2015.

Nearly, 20 years after her Booker prize-winning novel 'The God of Small Things' was published, Arundhati Roy has announced the release of her next novel titled "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" in June 2017.

The Sleepwalker's Dream which is written by Dhruabajyoti Borah launched recently.

The book titled Modi’s Midas Touch in Foreign Policy which is authored by Ambassador Surendra Kumar was launched by Naidu.

IMPORTANT DAYS
United Nations’ (UN) International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on October 17 each year since 1993. This year theme is Moving from humiliation & exclusion to participation: Ending poverty in all its forms.

On 21st October, Police Commemoration Day was observed across India.

International Day of Rural Women is observed across the world on 15 October. The theme for the year 2016 is Climate is changing. Food & agriculture must too.

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

First Monday of October is always observed as World Habitat Day. This year the theme was Housing at the Centre.

World Standards Day is observed annually on 14 October. The theme for World Standards Day 2016 is "Standards Build Trust".

International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed annually on 13 October. This year theme is Live to Tell: Raising Awareness, Reducing Mortality.

Government of India will be observing the First World Tsunami Awareness Day on November 5. It will be observed during the upcoming Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016.

The Second Thursday of October is always observed as World Sight Day. This year the theme was Stronger Together.

International Day of the Girl Child is observed annually on 11 October; it is also called the Day of the Girl. The theme for this year’s International Day of the Girl (11 October) is "Girls’ Progress = Goals’ Progress: What Counts for Girls".

World Mental Health Day is observed annually on 10 October. This year theme is ‘Psychological First Aid’.

World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital Bern. The theme for this year 2016 is Innovation, Integration & Inclusion.

Air Force Day 2016 is observed annually on 8 October across India. This year is the 84th celebration of the Day which began in 1932.

World Teachers' Day (WTD) 2016 is being observed across the world on 5 October. The theme for the World Teachers' Day 2016 is Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status.

World Space Week is an annual event that is observed from 4 - 10 October every year in various parts of the world including Europe & Asia. World Space Week, 2016 is being observed with theme, Remote Sensing: Enabling our Future.

The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

Every year 1st October is observed as International day of Older Persons (IDOP). This year, the theme is “Take a Stand Against Ageism.”.

SPORTS NEWS
Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic retained the top spot in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings.

Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma clinched the men's singles title at the Chinese Taipei Open badminton.

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

Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt has confirmed that he is going to retire after the 2017 World Championships in London, & also informed that the Racers Grand Prix later this year will be his last race on Jamaican soil.

India's ODI against New Zealand at Dharamshala on 16th oct 2016 is the team's 900th making it the world first side to achieve a milestone.

Kochi became the first Indian city to be officially declared as one of the venues for hosting the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup.

Poland’s Agnieszka Radwanska won the 2016 China Open Women's Singles at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China.

Brazil has lifted the 1st BRICS U-17 Football Tournament 2016 held at Goa after defeating the South Africa in the title clash with 5-1.

Australian Former Formula One driver Mark Webber will retire from professional racing at the end of the world endurance season in Bahrain in November.

International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) has awarded ace shooter, Jitu Rai, the 'Champion of Champions' title for pistol shooting in 2016.

The Arena by TransStadia in Ahmedabad, venue of the ongoing Kabaddi World Cup, is India's first convertible stadium. The Rs. 550 crore project converts an outdoor stadium into an indoor arena in 6 minutes at a touch of a button.

The world’s first Cybathlon Championship for Athletes with Disabilities organised by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH Zurich at the SWISS Arena in Kloten, canton Zurich. Popularly known as 'Bionic olympics', it differs from the paralympics as it sees participants compete against each other using the latest assistive technologies in terms of their ability to help users navigate the tasks & challenges of daily life.

Indian Boxing Council (IBC) was inducted into the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) with voting rights.

Indian Railways won the World Railway Shooting Championship Cup which was held in Saint Mandrier, France.

Poland’s Agnieszka Radwanska defeated British tennis player Johanna Konta 6-4, 6-2 to win the China Open Women's Singles at Beijing, China.

India’s 19-year-old shuttler Ruthvika Shivani Gadde won the women’s singles title at the Russian Open in Vladivostok. Pranaav Jerry Chopra & N Sikki Reddy added to India’s tally by winning the mixed doubles title at the event.

British tennis player Andy Murray beat Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov in straight sets to win the China Open.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), the corporate entity of Vizag Steel, has roped in top ranked Indian Badminton Player PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador.

India's Harika Dronavalli defeated World No. 1 Hou Yifan of China to be at joint fourth position in the Isle of Man International Chess tournament.

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

India's Aakanksha Hagawane has won the girls' U-16 title at the World Youth Chess Championship in Russia. Aakanksha sealed the title by defeating Alicja Sliewicka of Poland.

Australian racing driver, Daniel Ricciardo has won the 2016 Malaysian Grand Prix held at the Sepang International Circuit in Selangor, Malaysia.

Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won his 6th Asian Tour title, winning the Korea Open 2016 in Incheon, South Korea.

Union Finance Ministry has decided that sports infrastructure will be included in the harmonised master list of infrastructure sub-sectors.

Bengaluru's Kieren Dsouza has become the first Indian to complete the Spartathlon, widely described as the "world’s toughest race". The 23-year old completed the 246.6 km distance in 33 hours, one minute & 38 seconds. The Spartathlon is an annual run between Athens & Sparta in Greece.

Javelin thrower Annu Rani broke her own national record & in the process became the first Indian woman to cross the 60m mark.
SCHEMES/APPS/PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in Maharashtra to provide free LPG connections to BPL households.

Maharashtra Government launched Kaushalya SETU (Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation) initiative. This initiative, is a skill development programme for students, is likely to generate employment for as many as 7.5 lakh people in state.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

The Oxford English Dictionary has included "Aiyoh" & "Aiyah" in its latest edition. The word has defined as, "In southern India & Sri Lanka, expressing distress, regret, or grief; 'Oh no!', 'Oh dear!'".

Telangana government organised the traditional state festival of 'Bathukamma' on at the Lal Bahadur stadium in Hyderabad. The event, attended by about ten thousand women, found a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. The Telangana government has declared 'Bathukamma' as a state festival.

Not only men, but women can also be prosecuted under the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence (DV) Act.

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

Railways Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu flagged off the newly manufactured 'Guard Van of Goods (Freight) Train', in New Delhi. The newly manufactured 'Guard Van of Goods Train' is equipped with the Solar powered Light for the first time.

Polythene banned at all national monuments from October 2, the 2nd anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission which coincides with Gandhi Jayanti.

Airport Authority of India's Tirupati Airport has been awarded as "Best Tourist Friendly Airport" under the category for "State Annual Excellence Awards (2015-16)" by Andhra Pradesh Tourism.

Human rights activist Irom Sharmila announced the formation of her political party named Peoples Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA).

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

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IMPORTANT CURRENT EVENTS

NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS 2016

Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) Established the Nobel Prizes "for the Greatest Benefit to Mankind". Since 1901, the Nobel Prize has been honoring men and women from all corners of the globe for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, Economics, literature, and for work in peace. The foundations for the prize were laid in 1895 when Alfred Nobel wrote his last will, leaving much of his wealth to the establishment of the Nobel Prize.

The 2016 Nobel Prize winners are:

**Economics**
Two U.S-based economists, Oliver Hart (U.K) of Harvard University and Bengt Holmstrom (Finland) of MIT have been awarded the 'Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel' for their contributions to contract theory.

**Peace**
Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end the 52-year conflict with left-wing rebels. The Nobel committee in Norway praised him for his peace agreement with FARC rebels, signed last month after four years of negotiations.

**Medicine**
Japan's Yoshinori Ohsumi, a cell biologist specializing in autophagy, has received the 2016 Nobel Prize for Medicine. He has received the award "for his discoveries of mechanisms for autophagy". Ohsumi is a professor in Tokyo Institute of Technology’s Frontier Research Center.

**Physics**
The 2016 Nobel Prize in physics was awarded to three physicists who used advanced mathematical methods to study exotic states of matter. The prize goes jointly to David J. Thouless of the University of Washington in Seattle, F. Duncan M. Haldane of Princeton University in New Jersey, and J. Michael Kosterlitz of Brown University in Rhode Island. The three physicists discovered a mathematical framework in the field of topography, to explain unexpected properties of solid materials.

**Chemistry**
The Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2016 has been awarded to Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L. Feringa for developing the molecular machine. The three scientists will equally share the prize of 8 million Swedish kronor, or about $930,000.

**Literature**
American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 2016 "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition". Dylan, 75, has won numerous awards, including twelve Grammys and one Academy Award.

Fourth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy announced

Based on an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to:
• reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 6.5 per cent to 6.25 per cent with immediate effect.
Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.75 per cent.
This was done with the objective of achieving consumer price index (CPI) inflation at 5 per cent by Q4 of 2016-17 and the medium-term target of 4 per cent within a band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth.

Facts to look at:
• Retail inflation measured by the headline CPI had been elevated by a sharp pick-up in the momentum of food inflation overwhelming favourable base effects during April-July.
• The level of foreign exchange reserves rose to US$ 372 billion by September 30, 2016 – an all-time high.
• The projection of growth of real gross value added (GVA) for 2016-17 is retained at 7.6 per cent, with risks evenly balanced around it.
• The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled on December 6 and 7, 2016 and its resolution will be announced on December 7, 2016.

8th Brics Summit 2016 Concluded In Goa

8th BRICS summit, Goa, India Chaired by: Narendra Modi
The eighth BRICS summit which is an international relations conference & attended by the heads of country or heads of government of the five member countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It was held at the Taj Exotica hotel in Benaulim, Goa, India.
The theme for the summit was “Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions”. The next summit will be held in 2017 in China.

The representatives of Member Countries:
- Brazilian President: Michel Temer
- Russian President: Vladimi Putin
- India’s PM: Narendra Modi
- China’s President: Xi Jinping
- South Africa’s President: Jacob Zuma

**Note:**
- The meet of agriculture ministers of BRICS nations concluded in New Delhi.
- The first trade fair of the BRICS countries, was held at Pragati Maidan exhibition ground, New Delhi.
- The first BRICS U-17 Football Cup was held at Goa.

**Goa Declaration**
In this year BRICS summit, a statement was issued for the member states "strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there can be no justification whatsoever." The members also agreed to set up a credit rating agency.

They also called on the BRICS’ New Development Bank to focus on funding specific development priorities and to create a network of angel investors. Other agreements included to set up research centres in the fields of agriculture, railways and a BRICS sports council. The final communiqué focused on promoting "international norms that promote stability and inclusion in common spaces."

Besides this, first-ever BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit was also held on side-lines of 2016 BRICS Summit. Leaders from both forums planned to jointly explore possibilities of expanding ties between them on issues such as terrorism, economy, trade and connectivity. BIMSTEC stands for Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation. BIMSTEC member countries are Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.

**GSAT-18 launched from Kourou in French Guiana**
India’s latest communication satellite GSAT-18 successfully launched by a heavy duty rocket of ArianeSpace from the spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana. It is built by the Indian Space Research Organisation+ (Isro), aims at providing telecommunications services for the country by strengthening Isro’s current fleet of 14 operational telecommunication satellites.

It was inducted into the INSAT/GSAT system on October 06, 2016 from Kourou, French Guiana by Ariane-5 VA-231. Weighing 3404 kg at lift-off, GSAT-18 carries 48 communication transponders to provide Services in Normal C-band, Upper Extended C-band and Ku-bands of the frequency spectrum. GSAT-18 carries Ku-band beacon as well to help in an accurately pointing ground antennas towards the satellite.

GSAT-18 is designed to provide continuity of services on operational satellites in C-band, Extended C-band and Ku-bands. GSAT-18 was launched into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) by Ariane-5 VA-231 launch vehicle. After its injection into GTO, ISRO’s Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan took control of GSAT-18 and performed the initial orbit raising maneuvers using the Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) of the satellite, placing it in circular Geostationary Orbit. The designed in-orbit operational life of GSAT-18 is about 15 years.

**ISRO’s PSLV C-35 placed the SCATSAT-1 weather satellite in orbit**
India’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its thirty-seventh flight (PSLV-C35), launches the 371 kg SCATSAT-1 for weather related studies and seven co-passenger satellites into polar Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO). Co-passenger satellites are ALSAT-1B, ALSAT-2B, ALSAT-1N from Algeria, NLS-19 from Canada and Pathfinder-1 from USA as well as two satellites PRATHAM from IIT Bombay and PISAT from PES University, Bengaluru.

SCATSAT-1 was placed into a 720 km Polar SSO whereas; the two Universities / Academic Institute Satellites and the five foreign satellites will be placed into a 670 km polar orbit. This is the first mission of PSLV in which payloads were launched into two different orbits. PSLV-C35 was launched from the First Launch Pad (FLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

**Cabinet approves amendments in the FDI Policy**
Union Cabinet has given its ex-post-facto approval for the FDI policy amendments announced by the Government. This will liberalise and simplify the FDI policy so as to provide ease of doing business in the country. The new limits for the FDI are as follows:
- FDI in the defence sector is now permitted up to 100%, while earlier 49% FDI was permitted under the automatic route.
- For single-brand retail trading, norms of local sourcing have been relaxed for up to three years.
FDI ceiling in sectors like teleports, Direct to Home (DTH), cable networks, mobile TV and Headend-in-the-Sky Broadcasting Service (HITS) has been increased to 100%.

For the pharmaceutical sector, new liberalised norms allow 74% FDI under the automatic route for brownfield pharmaceuticals, while FDI beyond 74 per cent would be permitted through the government approval route.

For the private security agencies, FDI up to 49% is now permitted under the automatic route, and beyond that and up to 74% by way of government approval.

Food: It has now been provided that 100% FDI under automatic route for trading.

Civil Aviation Sector: The earlier FDI policy on Airports permitted 100% FDI under automatic route in Greenfield Projects and 74% FDI in Brownfield Projects under the automatic route. FDI beyond 74% for Brownfield Projects is under government route.

Indian projects and investments in Vietnam. India has also granted $5 million to set up a software park in the country.

Along with setting a bilateral trade target of $15 billion by 2020, the Prime Minister also sought facilitation of ongoing Indian projects and investments in Vietnam. India has also granted $5 million to set up a software park in the country.

The 12 MoU’s signed ranging from health to defence to space. India’s L&T will build offshore high speed patrol boats for Vietnamese Coast Guards, while an agreement was signed on programme of cooperation in UN peacekeeping matters.

Indian Navy and Vietnam Navy will cooperate in sharing of white shipping information. The pacts included agreement on exploration and uses of outerspace for peaceful purposes, agreement on avoidance of double taxation, health cooperation, IT cooperation, cyber security and agreement on contract and design, building of boat in India, equipment supply and technology transfer.

In addition, MoU between Vietnamese Academy of Social Science and Indian Council of World Affairs, MoU between BIS and STAMEQ for mutual recognition of standards, agreement on setting up of sustainable IT Infra for advanced IT training and protocol between Vietnam and India on celebrating 2017 as 'The Year Of Friendship' were also signed.

Being the fourth Indian Prime Minister to visit Vietnam in over five decades, PM Modi was greeted with a ceremonial welcome in front of the Presidential palace in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi. Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang welcomed him.

PM Modi also paid homage to national heroes and martyrs at their monuments along with laying wreath at the war memorial located across the Ba Dinh Square.

The 11th Summit of the Group of Twenty (G20) concluded in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou. The theme of 2016 G20 Summit was Toward an Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected & Inclusive World Economy. The chair of the summit was Xi Jinping, President of China.

Leaders of G20 members, guest countries and international organizations exchanged in-depth views on topics such as more efficient global economic and financial governance, robust international trade and investment, as well as inclusive and interconnected development, and jointly discussed other prominent issues affecting world economy such as climate change, refugees, anti-terrorism financing and global public health, reaching broad consensus.

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, presidency of the G20 in 2017 introduced visions and plans in hosting the Hamburg Summit. The summit adopted the G20 Leaders’ Communiqué of the Hangzhou Summit.

Important Points to be look out for from the Summit

- Strengthen macro-policy communication and coordination, work in the spirit of partnership to promote mutual help and win-win cooperation and concentrate our mind and energy to pursue strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.
- Determined to break a ne path for growth and instill new dynamism into the world economy.
- The G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth was adopted.
- Determined to improve global economic and financial governance to enhance the resilience of the world economy.
- Determined to revitalize international trade and investment as key engines of growth and build an open world economy.
- G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth and the G20 Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policymaking which lays out the first global framework of multilateral rules governing international investment. Determined to
promote inclusive and interconnected development so that G20 cooperation will deliver benefits to the whole world.

- Devised a groundbreaking Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Weather Satellite, INSAT-3DR launched by ISRO**

India’s space odyssey crossed a milestone again when a locally made cryogenic engine helped power a rocket that carried an advanced weather satellite to space. Indian Space Research Organisation’s (Isro) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F05 (GSLV-F05) lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, carrying with it the INSAT-3DR weather satellite.

“GSLV-F05 is the tenth flight of India’s Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). GSLV-F05 is the flight in which the indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) is being carried on-board for the fourth time during a GSLV flight,” Isro said in a statement after the rocket launch.

The 2,211-kg rocket has three stages, and the last stage is fitted with the cryogenic engine which provides a thrust 1.5 times greater than in vehicles propelled by conventional liquid rocket engines.

INSAT-3DR has a Data Relay Transponder as well as a Search and Rescue Transponder to assist search and rescue operations of security agencies including all defence forces, the Coast Guard, and in shipping.

The INSAT-3DR joins KALPANA-1 and INSAT-3D meteorological satellites currently orbiting in space. INSAT-3DR will be capable of imaging in two thermal infrared bands for estimation of sea surface temperature with better accuracy.

**Emmy Awards for the year 2016 announced**

The 68th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards was announced in Los Angeles, California, U.S. *The Game of Thrones won best drama series at the 2016 Primetime Emmy Awards*, while Veep took home the top comedy award. The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story also earned several awards, while Julia Louis-Dreyfus won her fifth consecutive Emmy in the lead comedy actress category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding drama series</td>
<td>Game of Thrones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding comedy series</td>
<td>Veep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding limited series</td>
<td>The People v OJ Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best television movie</td>
<td>Sherlock: The Abominable Bride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding lead actor in a drama series</td>
<td>Rami Malek - Mr Robot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding lead actress in a drama series</td>
<td>Tatiana Maslany - Orphan Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding lead actor in a comedy series</td>
<td>Jeffrey Tambor - Transparent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding lead actress in a comedy series</td>
<td>Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Veep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series</td>
<td>Louie Anderson - Baskets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series</td>
<td>Kate McKinnon - Saturday Night Live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding supporting actor in a drama series</td>
<td>Ben Mendelsohn - Bloodline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding supporting actress in a drama series</td>
<td>Dame Maggie Smith - Downton Abbey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding television movie</td>
<td>Sherlock: The Abominable Bride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding reality competition series</td>
<td>The Voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding variety talk series</td>
<td>Last Week Tonight with John Oliver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stan Wawrinka won his first US Open Title**

US Open is the fourth and final events that make up the annual Grand Slam of tennis (the other tournaments are the Australian Open, the French Open, and the Wimbledon Championships). Angelique Kerber and Stan Wawrinka has won the women’s and men’s singles US Open titles 2016 and with that they will be taking home record $3.5 million each.

Let’s look at the results of the last Grand Slam of the year 2016:

- **Men’s Singles**: Switzerland’s Stan Wawrinka defeated Serbia’s Novak Djokovic. This was Wawrinka’s first appearance in the final of the tournament.

- **Women’s Singles**: Germany’s Angelique Kerber defeated Czech Republic’s Karolina Plíšková.

- **Men’s Doubles**: United Kingdom’s Jamie Murray & Brazil’s Bruno Soares defeated Spain’s Pablo Carreño Busta & Guillermo García-López.

- **Women’s Doubles**: US’s Bethanie Mattek-Sands & Czech Republic’s Lucie Šafářová defeated France’s Caroline Garcia & France Kristina Mladenovic.

- **Mixed Doubles**: Germany’s Laura Siegemund & Croatia’s Mate Pavić defeated US’s Coco Vandeweghe & Rajeev Ram.
Paralympics 2016 Concluded in Brazil

Rio Paralympics 2016
The 15th Rio 2016 Paralympic Games 2016 (7-18 September) is over now and this time we have witnessed some of the world record-breaking performances by the athletes. The 2020 Summer Paralympics, the 16th edition of the international multi-sports event, will be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 25 August to 6 September 2020. The Paralympic Games are an attempt to provide an equal platform for athletes with disabilities to showcase their skills at a stage that lets them represent their countries.

India's flagbearer in Paralympic Opening ceremony - Devendra Jhajharia
India's flagbearer in Paralympic closing ceremony - Mariyappan Thangavelu

India capped off a successful Paralympic Games campaign in Rio de Janeiro by procuring their best ever haul of four medals, including two golds and a silver and bronze medal apiece. The Nineteen Indian competitors (16 Men & 3 Women) participated in Rio 2016 paralympic games for India in Five sports.

MEDAL TABLE PARALYMPIC GAMES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>81</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>41</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights:
Ankur Dharma:
Ankur Dharma is the India’s first blind athlete in 30 years to participate at Paralympics this year in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. At the age of six, Ankur became completely blind when he was in Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh.

Mariyappan Thangavelu Strikes Gold, Varun Bhati Gets Bronze In Paralympics
Indian high jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu became only the third Indian ever to clinch a Paralympic gold, while Varun Bhati secured a bronze as the duo scripted history for the country in the men’s T42 high jump event of the Rio Games.

Archers Pooja Khanna finishes ranking round in 29th place
Indian archer Pooja Khanna has finished the ranking round at the 29th spot in the Women’s Individual Recurve event of the Rio, weightlifter Le Van Cong’s final attempt in the men’s 49kg paralympic weightlifting competition made history for Vietnam as he has secured the country’s 1st ever paralympic gold medal at the 2016 Rio Paralympics in Brazil.

Deepa Malik becomes 1st Indian woman Paralympic medallist
A historic silver medal ensured Deepa Malik scripted history; she won second place in the women’s shotput F53 event at the Rio Paralympics, with a personal best throw of 4.61m.

Devendra Jhajharia wins gold medal in javelin throw at 2016 Rio Paralympics
India’s Devendra Jhajharia bettered his own world record to win gold in the men’s javelin throw F46 event at the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

New Zealand sprinter Liam Malone broke the men’s 200-metre T44 Paralympic Games record held by South Africa’s Oscar Pistorius.

An Iranian Para-cyclist has died after a crash during the men’s C4-5 road race at the Rio Paralympics.
The Iranian flag has been lowered to half-mast in the Paralympic Village and a period of silence will be observed during Sunday’s closing ceremony.

Indians in Paralympians, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deepa Malik</td>
<td>Shot-put</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karam jyoti Dalal</td>
<td>Discus Throw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amit Kumar Saroha</td>
<td>Power Lifting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suyash Narayan</td>
<td>Shooting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naresh Sharma</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>Pooja Khanna</td>
<td>Archery</td>
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<td>Ankur Dhama</td>
<td>Athlete</td>
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<td>Dharambir</td>
<td>Club Throw</td>
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<td>Virender Dhankar</td>
<td>Javelin Throw/Shotput</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundar Singh Gurjar</td>
<td>Javelin Throw</td>
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<td>Rinku Hooda</td>
<td>High Jump</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ranbir Narender</td>
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<td>Sandeep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mariyappan Thangavelu</td>
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<td>Varun Singh Bhati</td>
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<td>Sharad Kumar</td>
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<td>Ram Pal</td>
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