

## AWARDS & HONOURS

West Bengal was selected for the **All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project Award 2015**. The state was selected for the award for its achievement in four key areas that include scientific research for seeds.

Translator and artist Anita Gopalan was awarded the 2016 **PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant** for her English translation of Hindi novel " *Simsim* " by Geet Chaturvedi. Ms. Gopalan, who is based in Bengaluru, is the second Indian translator to be selected for the grant. PEN America is a renowned literary organisation of the United States.

Hindustani classical singer Shubha Mudgal was selected for the **Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award** for her outstanding contribution towards the promotion of communal harmony, peace and goodwill. The award carries a citation and cash award of Rs 10 lakh. The award is given on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister. This will be the 23rd edition of the award. Congress president Sonia Gandhi has been presenting the award ever since it was constituted.

## BUSINESS & CORPORATE

Russia's anti-monopoly watchdog announced that **Google** would have to pay a 438 million rouble (\$6.8 million) fine for pre-installing applications on mobile devices running its Android operating system.

The Board of Directors at **Hero Moto Corp Ltd** reappointed Pawan Munjal as the Chairman, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the company for a period of five years with effect from 1st of October, 2016.

Former RBI Deputy Governor Anand Sinha was appointed to the Board of **IDFC Bank** as an Additional Director in the category of Independent Director on the board.

Online legal documentation startup **LegalDesk.com** announced the launch of its electronic signing feature, eSignDesk, which allows people to sign documents from remote places. Built on the Aadhaar platform, eSign is an initiative of the Government of India and meant to save money and time for citizens. Users need to have a registered mobile number associated with the Aadhaar card. The service will be available through the website [www.eSignDesk.com](http://www.eSignDesk.com) and will be offered free of charge to the first 1,000 users. Documents signed electronically using it will be legally valid in the country.

Anant Maheshwari was named as the President of **Microsoft India** by the parent company Microsoft Inc. Maheshwari will succeed Bhaskar Pramanik, who retires in March 2017.

Deepak Iyer was appointed as Managing Director of **Mondelez International's** India Business. Mondelez International, styled Mondelēz, is an American multinational confectionery, food, and beverage company.

## BILLS / ACTS / COMMITTEES / SCHEMES / POLICIES

- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and South Africa for cooperation in the field of Tourism. The main objective of the MoU is to expand bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector
- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 by introducing the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in Parliament. The maternity benefit Act 1961 protects the employment of women during the time of her maternity and entitles her of a 'maternity benefit' - i.e. full paid absence from work - to take care for her child. The act is applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more persons. The amendments will help 1.8 million (approx.) women workforce in organised sector. The amendments to Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 are as follows:
  - ❖ Increase Maternity Benefit from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for two surviving children and 12 weeks for more than two children.
  - ❖ 12 weeks Maternity Benefit to a 'Commissioning mother' and 'Adopting mother'.
  - ❖ Facilitate 'Work from home'.
  - ❖ Mandatory provision of Creche in respect of establishment having 50 or more employees.
- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for amendments to Section 44 and consequential amendments of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 by introducing the Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in the Parliament. The approved amendments will address concerns and apprehensions expressed by different categories of public servants and addresses the difficulties being faced in implementing the provision of section 44 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for amendment of Section 64 and section 65 and consequential amendment of section 115 of the Factories Act, 1948 by introducing the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in the Parliament. The approved amendments will give boost to the manufacturing sector and facilitate ease of doing business with an aim to enhance employment opportunities. These amendments relate to increase in overtime hours from the existing 50 hours per quarter to 100 hours (Section 64) and existing 75 hours per quarter to 125 hours (Section 65).
- Union Cabinet on 3 August 2016 gave its approval to Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2016 that seeks to improve road safety in the country
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Yaad Karo Kurbanī celebrations at birthplace of freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad at Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh. It is a 15-day programme aimed to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement and 70 years of Independence.

## ECONOMY & FINANCE

- Consequent to India's ratification of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation(TFA) in April 2016, the National Committee on Trade Facilitation(NCTF) has been constituted. The establishment of the Committee is part of the mandatory, institutional arrangement of the TFA. This prime, inter - ministerial body on trade facilitation will be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. The defined objective behind setting up the NCTF is to have a national level body that will facilitate domestic co-ordination and implementation of TFA provisions. It will play the lead role in developing the pan-India road map for trade facilitation. It will be instrumental in synergizing the various trade facilitation perspectives across the country and will also focus on an outreach programme for sensitization of all stakeholders about TFA.
- The government announced to set up a committee to look into all issues including foreign direct investment norms pertaining to the fast growing e-commerce industry in the country. The committee would suggest ways to further promote the growth of the sector. The committee will be headed by the NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant. The other members in the panel includes officials from commerce and industry ministry and department of electronics and IT among others.
- In a move that would reduce litigation in cases of disputes arising over compensation to workers, the Lok Sabha passed the Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2016 that would raise the cap on amount of compensation to be taken up by high courts. Section 30 of the Employees' Compensation Act 1923 provides for appeal in high courts whenever the disputed amount of compensation is more than Rs 300. The bill seeks to raise this to Rs 10,000, which may be further increased through a notification later. The bill also provides for increase in penalty for contravention of the Act to Rs 50,000 from the current Rs 5000 that may be later raised to Rs 1 lakh.
- The Parliament passed The Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill, 2014 after it was unanimously passed by the Lok Sabha by approving all the amendments made by Rajya Sabha earlier. The bill now will go to states (15 out of total 29 states) for approval.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to amend regulation for foreign investment in the Non- Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs). The amendment in the existing Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by the Person Resident Outside India) regulations on Non- Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) will enable inflow of foreign investment in "Other Financial Services" on automatic route provided such services are regulated by any financial sector regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA etc.) / Government Agencies. Foreign investment in "Other Financial Services", which are not regulated by any regulators / Government Agency, can be made on approval route.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing and ratification of an Agreement between India and Croatia on Economic Cooperation. India and Croatia had earlier signed an Agreement on trade and economic cooperation in September, 1994 with an aim to promote and develop bilateral trade and economic relations. Signing of the new Agreement between India and Croatia would be a step in continuity as the existing Agreement expired in November, 2009. India's bilateral trade with Croatia during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 were US\$ 152.01million, US\$ 148.86 million and US\$ 205.04 million respectively. The average bilateral trade growth was 17.44% during the last three years.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of new Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The Agreement is expected to spur greater trade,

investment, tourism and cultural exchange between the two countries bringing it in tune with the developments in the civil aviation sector.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up a committee to look at the various facets of household finance in India and to benchmark the country's position vis-à-vis both peer countries and advanced countries. The committee will benchmark the current depth of household financial markets in India vis-a-vis those in other major world markets and identify areas of priority for growth and change and characterise and evaluate households' demands in financial markets for assets such as pensions as well as liabilities such as home loans over the coming decade. The panel will consider whether, how, and why the financial allocations of Indian households deviate from desirable financial allocation and behaviour, such as why a large portion of household allocation goes to gold. The committee will evaluate the design of new systems and the redesign of existing systems of incentives and regulations to encourage and enable better participation by Indian households in formal financial markets. The committee will be chaired by Tarun Ramadorai, professor of Financial Economics, University of Oxford, and will have representation from all financial sector regulators in India.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched Sachet portal, [sachet.rbi.org.in](http://sachet.rbi.org.in), to check illegal money collection. The portal will help anyone can obtain information regarding entities that are allowed to accept deposits, lodge complaints and share information regarding illegal acceptance of deposits by unscrupulous entities.

## PEOPLE IN NEWS

Egyptian-born Nobel-winning scientist **Ahmed Zewail** passed away at 70. He had won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1999.

American ice hockey Olympic champion **Angela Ruggiero** was elected as the new chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC's) Athletes' Commission.

**Dinesh Kumar Khara** was appointed Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI).

The Iron Lady of Manipur **Irom Chanu Sharmila** (44) ended her 16-year-long hunger strike for repealing of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) of 1958 from Manipur.

**K M Hanumantharayappa** assumed charge as the 25th Chairman of Central Silk Board (CSB), for a period of three years. CSB is a statutory body established by the Central Silk Board Act, 1948 under the aegis of Union Ministry of Textile.

Noted Assamese litterateur **Mahim Bora** passed away at the age of 92. He was an eminent short story writer & a poet and had received the Sahitya Akademi award as well as the Padma Shri.

Justice **Manjula Chellur** was selected as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. Currently, she is the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

Noted Tamilian poet and lyricist **Na Muthukumar** passed away at the age of 41. He was known for his critically acclaimed literary work and had also won two national awards.

Founder chairperson of Reliance Foundation, **Nita Ambani**, was elected as an individual member of International Olympic Committee (IOC), thus becoming the first Indian woman to join the prestigious body which governs Olympic sports in the world.

Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Chairperson **Pushpa Kamal Dahal** was elected as the 39th Prime Minister of Nepal.

Senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer **Rani Singh Nair** was appointed as Chairperson (Chairman) of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Renowned Yoga Guru **TKV Desikachar**, known for transforming the way of practising yoga, passed away at the age of 78.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Governors unanimously reelected **Takehiko Nakao** as President of ADB for a further 5 years beginning on 24 November 2016. Mr. Nakao is the ninth President of ADB. ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, ADB in December 2016 will mark 50 years of development partnership in the region. It is owned by 67 members—48 from the region. In 2015, ADB assistance totaled \$27.2 billion, including cofinancing of \$10.7 billion.

**Vijay Rupani** was sworn in as the 16th Chief Minister of Gujarat after Anandiben Patel resigned from the post. He was inducted as minister in the first cabinet expansion by Chief Minister Anandiben Patel in November 2014.

## SPORTS

Grandmaster and former world junior champion **Abhijeet Gupta** won the 20th Commonwealth Chess Championship 2016 held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Gymnast **Dipa Karmakar** created history by becoming the first Indian gymnast to qualify for the apparatus finals of artistic Gymnastics at the Rio 2016 Olympics.

India's top squash player **Dipika Pallikal** won the prestigious PSA Australian Open when she defeated Mayar Hany (World no 8) of Egypt.

Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** from Great Britain won the 2016 German Grand Prix title of Formula One.

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) gave a clean chit to wrestler **Narsingh Yadav** in the doping case, thus allowing him to participate in 2016 Rio Olympics.

**Novak Djokovic** (World no 1) from Serbia won the 2016 ATP Toronto Masters (also known as the Rogers club) title in the men's single category when he defeated Kei Nishikori (World no 6) of Japan.

The 31st edition of Summer **Olympic Games** opened in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, with the theme "World peace and Environment". The 2016 Rio Olympics games are scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 5 to 21 August 2016 and Brazil is hosting it for the first time. India fielded its biggest ever contingent of 120 sportspersons and was led by flag-bearer and Olympic Gold medalist Abhinav Bindra.

Jamaica's **Usain Bolt** won the Gold medal in 100 meters final event at 2016 Rio Olympics by sprinting at recorded time of 9.81 seconds, thus retaining his title as the "Fastest man alive on the planet".

## MISCELLANEOUS

### World

- The US authorities designated a Pakistan-based Islamist organisation, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, as a "global terrorist" organization.
- The 7th meeting of SAARC Interior Minister's Conference was held in Islamabad.
- Chinese scientists will perform the world's first genetic editing trial on humans in an attempt to find a cure for lung cancer.

### India

- West Bengal Cabinet cleared a proposal to rename the state as - "Bengal" in English and "Bango" or "Bangla" in Bengali.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

Noted Dogri language Poetess and novelist Padma Sachdev was awarded the prestigious **Saraswati Samman** for the year 2015 for her autobiography 'Chitt-Chete' written in Dogri language.

Senior DRDO scientist Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy was awarded the first **IEI-IEEE Award** for Engineering Excellence-2015 for his significant national contributions towards missiles and aerospace technologies. The award has been constituted by the Institution of Engineers (India) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Asia Pacific region to mark IEI's 50th anniversary.

Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo won the **UEFA Best Player in Europe Award** after winning both last season's Champions League and Euro 2016 with Portugal.

Hindi scholar and writer Sunita Jain was conferred with the prestigious 25th **Vyas Samman 2015** for her poetry collection Kshama.

**National Sports Awards** are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sports person over a period of four years; Arjuna Award is given for consistently outstanding performance for four years; Dronacharya Award for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events, Dhyan Chand Award for life time contribution to sports development and Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is given to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development. Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy.

### Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ranta 2016

S. No.	Name of the awardee	Discipline
1.	Ms. P.V. Sindhu	Badminton
2.	Ms. Dipa Karmakar	Gymnastics
3.	Shri Jitu Rai	Shooting
4.	Ms. Sakshi Malik	Wrestling

### Dronacharya Awards 2016

S.No.	Name of the awardee	Discipline
1	Shri Nagapuri Ramesh	Athletics
2	Shri Sagar Mal Dhayal	Boxing
3.	Shri Raj Kumar Sharma	Cricket
4.	Shri Bishweshwar Nandi	Gymnastics
5.	Shri S. Pradeep Kumar	Swimming (Lifetime)
6.	Shri Mahabir Singh	Wrestling (Lifetime)

### Arjuna Awards 2016

S. No.	Name of the awardee	Discipline
1.	Shri Rajat Chauhan	Archery
2.	Ms. Lalita Babar	Athletics
3.	Shri Sourav Kothari	Billiards & Snooker
4.	Shri Shiva Thapa	Boxing
5.	Shri Ajinkya Rahane	Cricket
6.	Shri Subrata Paul	Football
7.	Ms. Rani	Hockey
8.	Shri Raghunath V.R.	Hockey
9.	Shri Gurpreet Singh	Shooting
10.	Ms. Apurvi Chandela	Shooting
11.	Shri Soumyajit Ghosh	Table Tennis
12.	Ms. Vinesh	Wrestling
13.	Shri Amit Kumar	Wrestling
14.	Shri Sandeep Singh Mann	Para-Athletics
15.	Shri Virender Singh	Wrestling (Deaf)

### Dhyan Chand Award 2015

S. No.	Name of the awardee	Discipline
1	Ms. Satti Geetha	Athletics
2	Shri Sylvanus Dung Dung	Hockey
3	Shri Rajendra Pralhad Shelke	Rowing

## Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar, 2016

S. No.	Category	Entity recommended for Rashtriya Khel ProtsahanPuruskar, 2016
1.	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent	1.Hockey Citizen Group 2.Dadar Parsee Zorostrian cricket club 3.Usha School of Athletics 4. STAIRS
2.	Encouragement to sports through corporate social responsibility	India Infrastructure Finance Corporate Limited
3.	Employment to sportspersons and other welfare measures	Reserve Bank of India
4.	Sports for Development	Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society

### Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2015-16 : Punjabi University, Patiala

Eminent film actor Kamal Haasan was selected by France for its prestigious **Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters** for his high level artistic excellence and distinguished career achievements.

President of the Indian Olympic Association N Ramachandran was awarded the **Olympic Order** for his outstanding services to the Olympic movement. The Olympic Order is the highest award of the Olympic Movement and is awarded for particularly distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement, that is, recognition of efforts worthy of merit in the cause of sport. It was established in May 1975.

Oscar-winning music maestro A.R. Rahman was honoured by the America Tamil Sangam with its **Tamil Ratna Award**.

## BUSINESS & CORPORATE

- Reliance Cement Company Private Limited (RCCPL) was acquired by the Birla Corporation Limited for 4800 crore rupees. RCCPL is a subsidiary of the Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra).
- Unilever, the parent company of Hindustan Unilever (HUL), acquired Swedish firm Blueair for an undisclosed sum. Blueair is a leading player in mobile air purification technology.
- Mukesh Mehta was appointed as the President of India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). He is also a Director on the Board of IBJA. IBJA is a 97 year old apex organization for bullion dealers and jewelers.

## BILLS / ACTS / COMMITTEES / SCHEMES / POLICIES

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for introduction of the "Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016". The Bill will regulate surrogacy in India by establishing National Surrogacy Board at the central level and State Surrogacy Boards and Appropriate Authorities in the State and Union Territories. The legislation will ensure effective regulation of surrogacy, prohibit commercial surrogacy and allow ethical surrogacy to the needy infertile couples. All infertile Indian married couple who want to avail ethical surrogacy will be benefited. Further the rights of surrogate mother and children born out of surrogacy will be protected. The Bill shall apply to whole of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The major benefits of the Act would be that it will regulate the surrogacy services in the country.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of new Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and Fiji. The Agreement is for updation of the existing Air Services Agreement (ASA) between the two countries. The updation keeps in view the latest developments in civil aviation sector with an objective to improve the air connectivity between the two countries.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked all commercial and Co-operative banks to provide loans to women self-help groups (SHGs) in rural areas at 7 percent per annum. The loans will be provided for the financial year 2016-17 under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in 250 districts.

## ECONOMY & FINANCE

- Cabinet gave its approval to the “radical” changes in the foreign direct investment regime that had sought to increased FDI to 100 per cent in defence and liberalised the policy for several other sectors. On June 20, the government had “radically liberalised” the FDI regime with the objective of providing major impetus to employment generation in India. This was the second big reform after some major changes announced in November 2015. The changes introduced in the policy included increase in sectoral caps, bringing more activities under automatic route and easing of conditionalities for foreign investment.
  - ❖ As per the liberalised norms, foreign investment in defence sector is now permitted up to 100 per cent.
  - ❖ With a view to aid in modernisation of the existing airports to establish a high standard and help ease pressure on the existing airports, 100 per cent FDI under automatic route has been allowed in brownfield airport projects.
  - ❖ In case of single brand retail trading, the government has relaxed local sourcing norms for up to three years, with prior government approval, for entities undertaking trading of products having ‘state of art’ and ‘cutting edge’ technology.
  - ❖ For private security agencies, FDI up to 49 per cent is now permitted under automatic route and beyond that and up to 74 per cent, government approval is required.
  - ❖ 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 per cent.
  - ❖ Norms for foreign investment in pharmaceutical sector too have been liberalised. Also, 100 per cent FDI under automatic route for trading, including through e-commerce has been permitted in respect of food products manufactured and/or produced in India.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to create a Project Development Fund (PDF) with a corpus of Rs 500 Crore for catalysing Indian economic presence in the Cambodia, Laos Myanmar and Vietnam.
- The Union Cabinet approved the scheme for grant of Permanent Residency Status (PRS) to foreign investors subject to the relevant conditions as specified in the FDI Policy notified by the Government from time to time. The scheme is expected to encourage foreign investment in India and facilitate Make in India Programme. Under the Scheme, suitable provisions will be incorporated in the Visa Manual to provide for the grant of PRS to foreign investors. The PRS will be granted for a period of 10 years with multiple entry.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine. The MoU will provide structured frame work for cooperation between the two countries for promotion of AYUSH/Traditional Systems of Medicine in Myanmar. It will boost the importance of AYUSH systems of medicine and conservation, production and standardisation.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of an Agreement and the Protocol between the India and Cyprus for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income. This step follows the recent amendment of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with

Mauritius. As in the case of Mauritius, the treaty with Cyprus had provided for residence-based taxation of capital gains. With the revision of the treaty now approved by the Cabinet, capital gains will be taxed in India for entities resident in Cyprus, subject to double tax relief. In other words, India will have the right to tax capital gains arising in India. The provisions in the earlier treaty for residence-based taxation were leading to distortion of financial and real investment flows by artificial diversion of various investments from their true countries of origin, for the sake of avoiding tax.

- India moved closer to a cashless future with four banks introducing unified payments interface-based (UPI-based) apps that will make it possible for customers to make everyday payments with just a few taps on their smartphones. Axis Bank Ltd, Union Bank of India, Federal Bank Ltd and Bank of Maharashtra went live with National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI's) UPI apps on the Google Play Store. The UPI system will allow customers to safely and instantaneously transfer funds almost as easily as they send a text message. The system uses a single identifier that eliminates the need to exchange sensitive information such as bank account numbers or credit card details during a financial transaction.
- The Union Ministry of Mines launched a web portal for star rating of major mineral mines. The main objective of the system is to bring all mines to a minimum standard of Star Rating in the shortest possible time frame to adopt sustainable practices.
- The India Post Payments Bank Limited received the Certificate of Incorporation from the Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs under the Companies Act 2013. This would be the first PSU under the Department of Posts. With the incorporation, the Board of the India Post Payments Bank Limited is likely to be constituted soon. The incorporation of the IPPB Ltd is a significant step forward as this also paves the way for the bank to begin hiring of banking professionals to set up the bank and begin its operations in 2017. The Department of Posts is expected to complete the roll out of its branches all over the country by September 2017. This could be the fastest roll out for a bank anywhere in the world. The aspiration for the India Post Payments Bank is to become the most accessible bank in the world riding on state of the art banking and payments technology. Coupled with the physical presence across 1.55 lakh post offices and the reach of "The Dakiya", the India Post Payments Bank aims to become a powerful and effective vehicle of real financial inclusion in the country. It is poised to create a national payments architecture riding on a modern payments platform and ubiquitous information and communication technologies that can be accessed by all users and service providers like never before.

## PEOPLE IN NEWS

Noted filmmaker and actor Rajinikanth's daughter **Aishwaryaa Dhanush** was appointed United Nations Women's Advocate for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in India.

Country's largest paramilitary force CRPF announced the appointment of Olympic silver medalist **PV Sindhu** as its brand ambassador and bestowed the honorary rank of Commandant on the ace badminton player.

National Sports Day was observed on 29 August to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player **Dhyan Chand** who was born on 29 August 1905. Dhyan Chand is considered as one of the greatest field hockey players of all time. He is known for his extraordinary goal-scoring feats, in addition to earning three Olympic gold medals (1928, 1932, and 1936) in field hockey, during an era where India was the most dominant team in Hockey. Known as "The Wizard" for his superb ball control, Chand played his final international match in 1948, having scored more than 400 goals during his international career.

Wrestler **Sakshi Malik** was named as Haryana's brand ambassador for 'Beti Bachao, Beti Pado' campaign in Haryana. Sakshi Malik had won bronze medal in wrestling at 2016 Rio Olympics in the 58 kg category, thus creating history by becoming first woman from India to win Olympics medal in wrestling.

**VP Singh Badnore** was sworn in as the new Governor Punjab and also as Administrator of Chandigarh, succeeding Kaptan Singh Solanki. Badnore, who belongs to Bhilwara, was a four-time BJP legislator in the Rajasthan assembly. He was an MLA from 1977-80, 1985-90, 1993-98 and 1998-99. During his last term as MLA, he was the state Irrigation minister. He was a member of the 13th and 14th Lok Sabha from 1999-2004 and from 2004-09.

Justice **Manjula Chellur** was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

Singapore's former President, the Indian-origin **S.R. Nathan** died at the age of 92. He was the sixth and longest-serving President of Singapore and served two terms from 1999 to 2011. He officially stepped down as President on August 31, 2011 after announcing that he would not seek a third term.

Noted scientist **P D Gupta** was appointed as the new Vice Chancellor of Mumbai-based Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI).

Dr. **Najma Heptulla** was sworn-in as the 18th Governor of Manipur. She was a five-time member of the Rajya Sabha between 1986 and 2012 and a former vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

**Urjit Patel** was appointed as the 24<sup>th</sup> Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Mr. Patel served as Deputy Governor of the central bank for more than three years. Mr. Patel holds a Doctorate (Ph.D) in Economics from Yale University. He is also a graduate of the University of London and Oxford University. He is known as an expert on inflation and has also been with the IMF and the Boston Consulting Group.

Noted Odia actor and director **Gobind Tej** passed away at the age of 88.

Padma Shri awardee Punjabi writer **Gurdial Singh** died at the age of 83. An author of many memorable novels in which he exploited his local Malwai dialect to full advantage, his 1976 novel 'Anhey Ghore Da Daan' was made into a feature film by Gurbinder Singh; something for which the younger generation and a wider audience know him



today. The film won four national awards, besides the Golden Peacock Award at the International Film Festival of India and the Black Pearl Trophy at the Abu Dhabi film festival.

**Joao Havelange**, former president of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the global governing body of football passed away at the age of 100. He had served as president of FIFA for two decades.

## SPORTS

Indian wrestler **Yogeshwar Dutt's** bronze medal from the 2012 London Summer Olympics was upgraded to silver, after second-place finisher and silver medalist late Besik Kudukhov from Russia was stripped off his medal for failing a dope test. With this, India's silver medal tally in Olympics went up to five.

Mercedes driver **Nico Rosberg** from Germany won the 2016 Belgian Grand Prix of Formula One.

India's first and only individual Olympic gold-medallist **Abhinav Bindra** was named chairman of a five-member review committee to probe the shooters' Rio Games debacle. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) said the mandate of the committee was to "examine and identify in a cold and ruthless manner" the causes behind shooting not securing any medals at the Rio Olympics.

India's ace shuttler **Pusarla Venkata Sindhu** won the silver medal in women's singles badminton event at 2016 Rio Olympics when she lost to Spain's Carolina Marín. With this, Sindhu became the first Indian woman to win silver medal in Olympics and the fifth woman player from India to win a medal in Olympics.

Indian wrestler **Narsingh Yadav** was banned from all competitive sporting events for four years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) based in Lausanne, Switzerland following an appeal by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) announced that 2016 **Kabaddi World Cup** will be hosted in Ahmedabad, Gujarat between October 7 and 22, 2016.

The 31st **Summer Olympics** (or 2016 Rio Olympics) ended after 16 days of sporting activity. United States ended the Games at the top of the medals tally with 46 Gold, 37 Silver and 38 Bronze. Great Britain finished on second spot with 27 Gold, 23 Silver and 17 bronze. China finished on third position with a tally of 26 Gold, 18 Silver and 26 Bronze. India finished at joint 67th position in the medals tally with two medals. They were won by Sakshi Malik (Bronze medal in 58 kg weight class of Wrestling) and PV Sindhu (Silver medal in Badminton).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### World

- In a significant decision that could have far-reaching implications for India's military posture, India and the U.S. have agreed "in principle" on a logistics support agreement — Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) - the first proposed in 2004 and resisted by the UPA government for a decade — that would make it easier for both militaries to share each other's facilities.
- The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft released the World Risk Report 2016, that analyzes the role of infrastructure in shaping a country's disaster risk. Vanuatu is the country with the highest risk of disaster among the 171 countries included in the World Risk Index 2016. India ranks 77 on the World Risk Index, marginally better positioned than Pakistan which is placed at 72nd position.

### India

- To control crime, the Andhra Pradesh Police on Saturday launched the DNA Index System (DIS), the first-of-its-kind initiative that allows generation of DNA profiles from live samples like saliva and blood stains within 90 to 120 minutes. This system uses the latest DNA technology tool developed by IntegenX, Inc., USA known as RapidHIT DNA System.
- The Government of Telangana issued a draft notification for the creation of 17 new districts in order to minimise the hassle for people in commuting to the district headquarters and to enhance the efficiency of the administration.