

JULY 2016

- Satish Mathur appointed DGP of Maharashtra Police
- Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari sworn-in as Chief Justice of Patna High Court
- Pashudhan Bima Yojana launched in Haryana
 - Under the Yojna, Insurance cover will be provided at a premium of 100 rupees for cows, buffaloes, bulls, camels and at 25 rupees for sheep, goat and pig for a period of three years.
- International Day of Friendship 2016 observed globally
- United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2016 observed
- AAI confers Lifetime Achievement Award 2016 on Srinivasan Swamy
 - At present, Srinivasan Swamy, popularly known as Sundar, is the chairman of R K Swamy Hansa, a marketing communications Group.
- Great Red Spot storm heating Jupiter's atmosphere: Study
- T Nanda Kumar resigns as Chairman of National Dairy Development Board
 - T Nanda Kumar had submitted his resignation on 29 June 2016. His resignation was accepted by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet on 27 July 2016.
- Rajya Sabha passes Compensatory and Afforestation Fund Bill, 2016
 - The Bill establishes the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India, and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state.
- IMD to use supercomputer to forecast monsoon with Dynamical Model
 - The dynamical model is also known as the Coupled Forecast System. It collates data on local as well as global weather patterns to simulate a forecast for a specific duration.
- Union Government forms 'Disha' for timely implementation of Central Schemes
 - Disha was created for effective development and coordination of Central Government's programme, whether it is for infrastructure development or Social and human resource development.
- Eminent writer, social activist Mahasweta Devi passes away
 - In her 90-year-long life, Devi won the Sahitya Akademi award (1979), the Padma Shree (1986), the Jnanpith (1997), the Magsaysay award (1997) and the Deshikottam award in 1999.
- James Alan McPherson, first black writer to win Pulitzer Prize in fiction, dies
 - In 1978, James Alan McPherson won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his short story collection Elbow Room, becoming the first African-American to win the Pulitzer for fiction.
- International Tiger Day observed
 - The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.
- Veteran tabla maestro Pandit Lacchu Maharaj dies
 - Lacchu Maharaj has been described as one of the frontline tabla players in the world. Other than his professional performances all over the world, he played the tabla in many Bollywood films.

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- India, US discover major Natural Gas Reserve in Indian Ocean
 - The international team of scientists was led by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited of India in cooperation with the US Geological Survey (USGS), the Japanese Drilling Company.
- Union Cabinet clears changes to GST Bill, drops 1% additional tax on inter-state sales
 - It decided that any dispute between states and the Centre will be adjudicated by the GST Council, which will have representation from both the Centre and states.
- Lok Sabha passes Lokpal and Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2016
 - The bill amends section 44 of the 2013 Act and says that every public servant shall make a declaration of his assets and liabilities in such form and manner as may be prescribed.
- Union Cabinet approves setting up of AIIMS in Bhatinda
- India signs \$1 billion deal with US for procuring four Poseidon-81 aircraft
 - The contract is a follow-on order to eight P-81 planes worth 2.1 billion dollars deal inked in 2009, already bought by India in a direct deal with the firm. These aircrafts were inducted by the Navy between May 2013 and October 2015.
- Muralitharan, Lohmann, Morris and Rolton to be inducted into Cricket Hall of Fame
 - With the announcement, off-spinner Muralitharan becomes the first Sri Lankan player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The four iconic cricketers were voted by the ICC Cricket Hall of Famers as well as members of the media.
- Lok Sabha passes Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Bill, 2015
 - The bill provides for rigorous imprisonment of one year up to seven years, and a fine which may extend to 25% of the fair market value of the benami property.
- Father of Hybrid Sorghum Neelamraju Ganga Prasada Rao passes away
 - Due to his efforts, sorghum hybrids CSH1 CSH5 and CSH9 became popular and were cultivated in over 8 to 10 million hectares
- IOC to launch Olympic Channel on August 21
 - The channels original programming will include short-form and long-form content, focusing on elite athletes, their quest for success and sport around the world.
- European Commission appoints Michel Barnier as Chief Brexit Negotiator
 - Barnier was appointed under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. He will be a prominent figure in the negotiations over Britain's exit from the union.
- Bezwada Wilson, Thodur Madabusi Krishna win Ramon Magsaysay Award 2016
 - Bezwada Wilson was recognized for asserting the inalienable right to a life of human dignity. While, TM Krishna was recognized for ensuring social inclusiveness in culture.
- East Bengal to honour Milkha Singh with Bharat Gaurav Award
 - Singh will be honoured with the prestigious award on the East Bengal Foundation Day (1 August 2016). Along with the award, a cheque of 2 lakh rupees will also be presented to him.
- India's CSIR ranked World's 12th Best Government Institute
 - In 2016, the ranking of the CSIR jumped to 12th spot after being at 14th spot for three consecutive years. The overall global ranking of CSIR also improved from 110 to 99th position.

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- Lok Sabha passes Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016
 - The official amendment seeks to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) (CLPR) Act, 1986 and allows children below the age of 14 years to work in select non-hazardous family enterprises.
- World Health Organisation declares Brazil free of measles
 - From 1985 to 2000, Brazil saw no domestic cases of measles, although it broke out in 2013 in the northeastern states of Pernambuco and Ceara.
- Former diplomat Arundhati Ghose passes away
 - Arundhati Ghose is remembered for her services to the nation, including her role as head of the Indian delegation at the CTBT negotiations.
- Flipkart acquires online fashion portal Jabong
 - Global Fashion Group has been on the lookout for a buyer of Jabong for the last few months. The company was in touch with Snapdeal as well as Future Group and Amazon, but a deal failed to pass through.
- Second phase of the Feed the Future-India Triangular Training Programme launched
 - Under this 32 Training programme of 15 day-duration will be conducted in India and 12 Training programs of 10 days duration will be conducted in selected African and Asian Countries during 2016-20.
- Brazilian scientists discover another type of Zika-transmitting mosquito
 - The scientists found the presence of the Culex quinquefasciatus mosquito infected by the Zika virus in three out of 80 groups of mosquitoes analysed up until now.
- India's first green rail corridor launched between Rameswaram and Manamadurai stretch
 - Trains on the stretch have been equipped with bio-toilets ensuring zero discharge of human waste on the rail tracks, which will help in ensuring zero toilet discharge on rail tracks.
- India becomes first contributor to UN Trust Fund for sexual abuse victims
 - The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women awards grants to initiatives that demonstrate that violence against women and girls can be systematically addressed, reduced and eliminated.
- Solar Impulse 2 completes first round-the-world journey
 - The Solar Impulse 2 has travelled 26744 miles since setting off from Abu Dhabi. The aircraft has racked up 558 hours of flight time.
- Lok Sabha passes Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2016
 - The Bill seeks to add six new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, Palakkad in Kerala, Goa, Dharwar in Karnataka, Bhilai in Chhattisgarh, and Jammu.
- India's first Water Metro launched in Kochi
- German Development Bank, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) is funding 85 million euro for the project. The German bank has inked an agreement with the Kochi Metro Rail Limited for the project worth 747 crore rupees.
- CSIR-CMERI develops Solar Power Tree for generation of electricity
 - The Solar Power Tree harnesses solar energy for producing electricity with an innovative vertical arrangement of solar cells. Therefore, it reduces the requirement of land as compared to conventional Solar Photovoltaic layout.

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- Nepal Prime Minister KP Oli resigns ahead of a no-confidence vote
 - Oli, 64, who became prime minister of Nepal in October 2015, has been facing a no-trust motion after the Maoists withdrew support from the coalition government.
- A Kanyakumari becomes first woman violinist to receive Sangita Kalanidhi Award
 - Sangita Kalanidhi is the first woman violinist to get the award in the history of the Music Academy. She will preside over the 90th annual conference of the Academy to be held between 15 December 2016 and 1 January 2017.
- Bappi Lahiri conferred Mahanayak Samman of West Bengal
 - Goutam Ghose, a critically-acclaimed filmmaker, was honoured with the award for best director, while Paran Bandyopadhyay and Jishu Sengupta received Best actor (male) awards.
- Feliciano Lopez wins 2016 Swiss Open Gstaad
 - The 2016 Swiss Open Gstaad was the 49th edition of the Swiss Open, and a part of the ATP World Tour 250 Series of the 2016 ATP World Tour.
- Neeraj Chopra becomes first Indian to win gold in World Athletics championships
 - His 86.48m effort helped India in bringing its first world record as well as the country's first-ever gold in any World athletics championships.
- Facebook's Aquila Internet drone completes first test flight
- Facebook hopes to have a fleet of Aquilas that can fly for at least three months at a time at 60000 feet and communicate with each other to deliver internet access.
- Kerala Tourism wins Gold at PATA Awards
- The awards were in the categories of Travel Advertisement Broadcast Media and E-Newsletter, which were grabbed by the successful Visit Kerala television commercial campaign and the popular Kerala Tourism E-Newsletter, respectively.
- Virat Kohli becomes first Indian captain to score double century outside India
 - Virat Kohli is the fifth Indian captain to score a double century in a Test match after Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (2013 vs England), Sunil Gavaskar (205 vs West Indies), Sachin Tendulkar (217 vs New Zealand) and MS Dhoni (224 vs Australia).
- Ganesh Singh appointed Head of Joint Parliamentary Committee for Land Acquisition Bill
 - Singh replaced S S Ahluwalia, who became Minister of the State for Parliamentary Affairs in reshuffle of the council of ministers on 5 July 2016. After the appointment, Singh will have to move a resolution in the Lok Sabha seeking the seventh extension of the term of the panel.
- Lok Sabha passes Bill to establish new NIT in Andhra Pradesh
 - The bill seeks to establish a new National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Andhra Pradesh as an institute of national importance under the NITSER Act, 2007 with an effect from August 2015.
- Sustainable Development Goal Index released; India ranked 110th
 - The index that measures performance against set 17 SDGs has been topped by Sweden and India is followed by Lesotho on 113th position, Pakistan (115), Myanmar (117), Bangladesh (118) and Afghanistan (139).
- Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina inaugurate Petrapole Integrated Check Post
 - Petrapole-Benapole is an important land border crossing for India-Bangladesh trade as more than 50% of the India-Bangladesh trade passes through Petrapole.

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- 2016 set to be world's hottest year on record: WMO
 - The WMO stated that Arctic Sea ice melted early and fast, which is another indicator of climate change. In addition, Carbon dioxide levels have also reached new highs.
- 2016 Fortune Global 500 list released: India's India Oil Corporation ranked at 161st Place
 - Seven Indian companies figure in the Fortune Global 500 list with state-run Indian Oil Corp (IOC) ranked highest at 161st with revenues of 54.7 billion US dollars.
- Union Cabinet approves Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016
 - The Bill will benefit a large number of transgender persons, mitigate the stigma, discrimination and abuse against this marginalized section and bring them into the mainstream of society.
- Oldest and last Babri litigant Hashim Ansari passes away
 - Ansari, born in Ayodhya, was one of the seven main litigants from Muslim side in the 1949 Babri Masjid case regarding placing of Lord Rama idols in the premises.
- Turkey declares three-month state of emergency after a failed military coup
 - A coup was attempted by a faction within the Turkish Armed Forces under a council calling itself the Peace at Home Council against the incumbent Justice and Development Party in Turkey.
- Union Cabinet approves amendment in the Benami Transactions
 - The legislation is intended to effectively prohibit benami transactions and consequently prevent circumvention of law through unfair practices.
- Neeraj Chopra becomes first Indian to win gold in World Athletics championships
 - His 86.48m effort helped India in bringing its first world record as well as the country's first-ever gold in any World athletics championships.
- Nelson Mandela International Day 2016 observed
 - In November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly declared 18 July as Nelson Mandela International Day in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.
- Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Saurav Ghosal clinches 73rd Senior National Squash Championship
 - In the finals, Dipika dethroned defending champion Joshna Chinappa to win the women's title, while, Saurav Ghosal defeated Harinderpal Singh Sandhu to claim the men's title.
- 11th Asia–Europe Meeting Summit issues Ulaanbaatar Declaration
 - The Ulaanbaatar Declaration focuses on fight against terrorism and greater connectivity among the Asia and Europe. It has reaffirmed ASEM's commitment for greater partnership through informal political dialogue and initiatives in economic and socio-cultural fields.
- Vijender Singh defeats Kerry Hope to clinch WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title
 - Singh also became the country's first-ever professional boxing title holder. The win also helped him to climb to 15th in the world in his category.
- Pema Khandu sworn-in as Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister
 - With this, Khandu who succeeds Nabam Tuki also became the youngest chief minister of India. He is the son of former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh late Dorjee Khandu.
- Terrapin 3 Acquisition Corporation acquires Yatra Online for \$218 mn

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- Yatra in its statement said that it intends to be listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol "YTRA" following completion of the transaction.
- Madhya Pradesh becomes first state to approve setting up of Happiness Department
 - The department will work as knowledge resource centre on the subject of happiness. At present, Bhutan is the only country to have Happiness Index to measure happiness of its people.
- World Youth Skills Day 2016 observed globally
 - On the occasion, United Nations organised the event facilitated by the UN Envoy on Youth Ahmad Alhendawi based on the theme Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment.
- WHO declares India as Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus free
 - Previously in May 2016, WHO certified India yaws-free after a team of experts verified interruption of disease transmission in the country.
- Misbah-ul-Haq becomes oldest captain to score Test hundred
 - The previous oldest was Somachandra de Silva of Sri Lanka, who was 42 years & 73 days old when he played against England at Lord's in 1984.
- Justice Shah headed SIT on black money recommends ban on cash transactions above 3 lakh rupees
 - The Justice MB Shah led SIT was constituted in 2014 to look into the ways to curb generation of black money, unaccounted, untaxed wealth, and bring back funds stashed away overseas.
- Time schedule for making payments under Income Declaration Scheme 2016 revised
 - As per the revised schedule, a minimum amount of 25% of the tax, surcharge & penalty can be paid by 30 November 2016 and further amount of 25 % by 31 March 2017. The balance amount can be paid on or before 30 September 2017.
- Peru declares Zika emergency in 11 states
 - The Zika emergency in Peru was declared after 102 people have been confirmed to be infected with the virus, 34 of which are pregnant women.
- Supreme Court ordered restoration of Nabam Tuki government in Arunachal Pradesh
 - For this purpose, it also quashed the Kalikho Pul government that came into power on 19 February 2016 after Governor J P Rajkhowa ordered dismissal of Nabam Tuki led government of the state.
- Union Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
 - PMKVY will impart fresh training to 60 lakh youths and certify skills of 40 lakh persons acquired non-formally under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- Union Government notifies Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016
 - The Union Government has also separately notified the UIDAI (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2016. The Act will pave the way for appointment of its chairperson and members.
- Theresa May appointed Prime Minister of United Kingdom
 - With this appointment, she became the second women to assume the office of Prime Minister of the UK. The first women prime minister was Margaret Thatcher.
- ICC releases Test, ODI, and T20I Rankings

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- India held the second position in the latest ICC Test rankings with 112 rating points followed by Pakistan and England. Australia leads the Test rankings with 118 rating.
- Forbes released the list of World's Highest-Paid Celebrities of 2016
 - Forbes' Celeb 100 list also included the name of two Bollywood actors. They are Shahrukh Khan and Akshay Kumar. Shahrukh Khan was ranked 86th in the list while Akshay Kumar was placed at the 94th position.
- Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba commissions Marine Commandos' base INS Karna
 - INS Karma is a dedicated base for Marine Commandos (MARCOS), which is a Special Operation Forces of Indian Navy. Captain Varun Singh will be the Commanding Officer of INS Karna.
- President confers 51st Jnanpith Award on Dr. Raghuveer Chaudhari
 - He also became the fourth Gujarati literary artist to receive the prestigious award. Other Gujarati recipients of the award are poet Umashankar Joshi (1967), novelist Pannalal Patel (1985) and poet Rajendra Shah (2001).
- World Population Day 2016 observed with theme Investing in teenage girls
 - The World Population Day aims at increasing people's awareness on various population issues such as the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights.
- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant attains criticality
 - Once the reactor starts generating 400 MWe of power, it is likely to be connected to the grid possibly within 45 days from the date of criticality. Generation of power will be raised to 500 MWe, 750 MWe, 900 MWe and 1000 MWe in stages.
- Sushila Karki confirmed as Nepal's first woman Chief Justice
 - The Judicial Council on 10 April 2016 had recommended her for the top judicial post. However, her appointment was pending owing to delay in formation of the PHSC. She has been taking charge of the Supreme Court as the Acting Chief Justice since 14 April 2016.
- Shinzo Abe's party attains majority in Upper House of National Diet
 - This win in the upper house will allow Abe to revise Japan's pacifist constitution that bars its military from participating in joint military endeavors abroad.
- Tathagata Roy sworn-in as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
 - His oath of office and secrecy was administered by the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Ajit Singh. He is the 18th Governor to be sworn in as Governor of this Himalayan State.
- Radhika Menon becomes first woman to bag IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea
 - Radhika Menon has been selected for the prestigious award for her role in the rescue of seven fishermen from a sinking fishing boat in the Bay of Bengal in June 2015. The award will be presented to Menon on 21 November 2016 at IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom.
- 2016 Wimbledon concluded
 - Men's singles title was won by Andy Murray and the women's title went to Serena Williams. The women's doubles went to Timea Babos and Yaroslava Shvedova.
- Portugal wins Euro 2016 football championship; defeated France 1-0

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- Substitute Eder scored in extra-time to give Portugal a win at their first major international title despite losing captain and talisman Cristiano Ronaldo to injury.
- Lewis Hamilton wins 2016 British Grand Prix
 - The 2016 British Grand Prix is Hamilton's overall fourth British Grand Prix title after winning it in 2008, 2014 and 2015. He also became the first driver to win the British Grand Prix three times in a row.
- Andy Murray won men's singles title of 2016 Wimbledon
 - Murray, 29, also became the first British man to win multiple Wimbledon singles titles since Fred Perry in 1935.
- NATO Summit 2016 concluded in Warsaw
 - The summit was attended by Heads of State and Heads of Government of NATO members including the USA President Barack Obama, Polish president Andrzej Duda and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.
- Kerala Government proposed 14.5 per cent fat tax on junk food
 - The proposed 14.5 percent tax will be imposed on pizzas, burgers, sandwiches and tacos sold through branded outlets. The tax is primarily aimed at dissuading children from eating a lot of energy dense foods.
- Kevin Turner resigns as Chief Operating Officer of Microsoft
 - Being the COO, Turner was handling Microsoft's enormous sales operations. He had been at Microsoft for 11 years. He would now be joining Citadel Securities as Chief Executive Officer.
- Dipa Karmakar named World Class Gymnast by International Gymnastics Federation
 - In April 2016, Karmakar became the first female Indian gymnast ever to secure an Olympic berth by garnering a total score of 52.698 points. She received the Arjuna Award in August 2015.
- SBI launches social media banking platform SBI Mingle
 - The platform was launched by SBI Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya, on the occasion of 61st State Bank Day that is observed on 1 July every year.
- TRAI launches Myspeed App to measure real time mobile internet speed
 - The idea behind the app is that customers should know about the experience of their as well as other networks in order to select the best mobile operator in their locality.
- Rajasthan becomes first state to introduce minimum wages for part-time workers
 - As per the notification, it becomes mandatory to pay 50% of the prescribed a day minimum wage to a person who works for less than four hours in a day. With the notification, part time workers now come under the Minimum Wages Act 1948.
- NASA's Juno Spacecraft successfully enters Jupiter's orbit
 - Juno's main aim is to understand the origin and evolution of Jupiter. The spacecraft will also investigate the existence of a solid planetary core, map Jupiter's intense magnetic field, measure the amount of water and ammonia in the deep atmosphere and observe the planet's auroras.
- Union Cabinet approves The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016

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- The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 will facilitate the changing of the names of Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court and Madras High Court as Chennai High Court respectively.
- Lewis Hamilton wins 2016 Austrian Grand Prix
 - Hamilton started the race from pole and went on to win the race after colliding with Nico Rosberg on the final lap. As a result, Rosberg finished fourth behind Red Bull Racing-TAG Heuer's Max Verstappen and Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen.
- Kerala government decided to ban 'electronic cigarettes'
 - After Punjab, Maharashtra and Karnataka, Kerala became the fourth state in India to ban e-cigarettes. Punjab was the first state to ban the e-cigarettes in the state.
- India's first Integrated Defence Communication Network launched
 - The network enables the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the Special Forces Command to share situational awareness for a faster decision-making process. It is the first tri-service communication and IT network of the Armed Forces.
- National Doctors' Day 2016 observed across India
 - The day is observed to honour legendary physician, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy whose birth and death anniversary falls on the same day. The day gives an opportunity to raise the awareness about the doctor's role in daily life.
- Lesbians, gays and bisexuals are not third gender: Supreme Court
 - A bench comprising Justices A.K. Sikri and N.V. Ramana refused to modify the 2014 ruling on transgender rights. The apex court also clarified that its 2014 judgment clearly mentioned that lesbians, gays and bisexuals were not transgender.
- Rodrigo Duterte sworn in as Philippines' president
- Writer and futurist Alvin Toffler dies
 - Famous works of Alvin Toffler are The Third Wave, Powershift: Knowledge, Wealth and Violence at the Edge of the 21st Century, Future Shock, and Revolutionary Wealth.

Compiled from online sources / refer to sources to update information as and when required