

## AWARDS & HONOURS

Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo beat rival Lionel Messi to win the prestigious **Ballon d'Or award** for a fourth time. The 31-year-old is now one behind Barcelona's Messi, who took the honour for a fifth time last year. Ronaldo helped Real Madrid win last season's Champions League and scored three goals as Portugal won Euro 2016. FIFA Ballon d'Or Award is annual football association award given by FIFA to the male player who has performed the best in previous calendar year.

The President of India presented the second ICCR '**Distinguished Indologist' Award** to Prof. Yu Long Yu of the People's Republic of China. The annual 'Distinguished Indologist' Award has been instituted by ICCR to recognize eminent Indologists working abroad who have made outstanding contribution to the study/teaching/research of India's philosophy, thought, history, art, culture, languages, literature, civilization, society etc. The Award amount is US\$ 20000/-. The first 'Distinguished Indologist' Award was presented to Prof. Heinrich Freiherr Von Stietencron of Germany last year.

UAE based Indian environmental activist Kehkashan Basu won the prestigious **International Children's Peace Prize 2016** for her fight for climate justice and combating environmental degradation.

## BUSINESS & CORPORATE

Budget passenger carrier **AirAsia India** announced the appointment of Amar Abrol as its Managing Director in addition to his role as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Currently, AirAsia India flies to 11 destinations with its two hubs in Bengaluru and New Delhi.

After launching in major markets such as the US and the UK, American ecommerce giant **Amazon** unveiled its Launchpad programme in India in order to help Indian startups sell not just here but also in global markets. For a fee of Rs 5,000 a month, startups can get access to Amazon's seller support services such as account management, marketing and warehouse management among others.

Telecom operator **Bharti Airtel** announced top level changes by appointing Sunil Taldar as CEO & Director of its DTH arm -- Airtel Digital TV -- and moving incumbent Shashi Arora as MD & CEO, Airtel Payments Bank.

The European Union approved **Microsoft's** \$26 billion acquisition of LinkedIn Corp. Microsoft announced its deal with LinkedIn in June this year. The EU's clearance was the final barrier to closing the deal, following approvals in the U.S., Brazil, Canada, and South Africa. The EU's approval strikes a blow to Salesforce.com Inc., which lost out to Microsoft in the bidding for LinkedIn.

Arunachal Pradesh State Cooperative Apex Bank launched mobile banking service named SIMsePaY, in collaboration with **YES Bank**.

## BILLS / ACTS / COMMITTEES / SCHEMES / POLICIES

- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for Signing of an Agreement between India and Kyrgyzstan on cooperation in the field of agriculture and food related industry.
- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to India's approach to Climate Change Negotiations at the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Marrakesh, Morocco during November 7-18, 2016. Approval to India's Approach to Climate Change Negotiations at the COP is intended to safeguard the interest of poor and vulnerable groups by emphasizing on adaptation, loss and damage, and protecting the development space.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to improve the effectiveness of rural development programmes in India and to facilitate knowledge sharing. The MoU will facilitate South-South cooperation mechanisms around Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)'s experience through exchange visits and dialogues, and establishment of a good-practice Learning Centre. It will strengthen the vertical upscaling of the livelihoods of rural populations that are supported by DAY-NRLM, help to develop inclusive and sustainable value chains for key crops and agro-industrial products, employment diversification, skills development, especially for rural youth, strengthening of social protection, risk management mechanisms and enhanced resilience building, especially in arid and disaster risk-prone districts.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of the revised Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and Nigeria. The updation of the Agreement is as per latest International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) template keeping in view of latest developments in civil aviation sector and with an objective to improve the air connectivity between the two countries.
- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the MoU between India and Vietnam on Cooperation in the field of IT. The MoU aims to develop a long-term and sustainable cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual interest in the areas of IT in line with each country's laws and regulations.
- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the MoU between India and Afghanistan on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The MoU envisages cooperation between the two countries for application of space technologies in education, agriculture, weather forecasting, telecommunications, rural health, sanitation, urban development, resource mapping navigation, remote sensing and any other areas mutually agreed upon.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the MoU between India and Thailand in controlling narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their precursors and chemicals and drug abuse.
- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the MoU between India and United Kingdom (UK) for Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property (IP). The MoU seeks to establish a wide-ranging and flexible mechanism for developing and furthering the cooperation in the development of automation, new documentation and information systems in IP.

## ECONOMY & FINANCE

- The Reserve bank of India (RBI) in its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy review for year 2016-17 kept key rates unchanged.
  - ❖ Repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) was unchanged at 6.25 percent.
  - ❖ Reverse repo rate under the LAF was unchanged at 5.75 per cent
  - ❖ Marginal standing facility (MSF) and Bank Rate were unchanged at 6.75 per cent.
  - ❖ Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of scheduled banks was unchanged at 4.0 per cent of net demand and time liability (NDTL).
  - ❖ Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) was unchanged at 20.75 per cent.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed additional factor authentication (AFA) norms for online transactions up to Rs. 2,000 in a move to save time for customers amid the government's push for digitization of payments. Banks have to bear the full liability in the event of any security breach or compromise in the authorised card network, according to the RBI.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to issue new currency notes of Twenty and Fifty rupees denomination in the Mahatma Gandhi Series-2005. All old previous currency notes of old Rs. 20 and Rs. 50 denomination issued by the Bank will continue to be legal tender.
- The fifth edition of the India-Arab Partnership Conference was held in Muscat, Oman from December 14 to 15, 2016, with the theme 'Partnership towards innovation and cooperation in IT'.
- The Union Government launched Lucky Grahak Yojana to encourage consumers and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana to encourage merchants for transition to digital payments. These schemes were launched by the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, government's policy think-tank. The primary aim of these schemes is to incentivize digital transactions so that electronic payments are adopted by all sections of the society, especially the poor and the middle class.
- India broke into the world top-five defence spenders' club. Asia's third-largest economy spent \$50.6 billion in 2016, up from \$46.6 billion last year. It now has the fourth-largest defence budget, followed by Saudi Arabia and Russia, according to the 2016 Jane's Defence Budgets Report, released by research firm IHS Markit. The US, China, and the UK remained the top three, IHS Jane's data shows. The report says that by 2018 India will become the third-largest in the group, surpassing the UK.
- The Government announced a slew of incentives and measures for promotion of digital and cashless economy in the country; some of them are as under:-
  - ❖ Petroleum companies will offer a discount of 0.75% on diesel and petrol to consumers who pay through digital means.
  - ❖ 0.5% discount will be given to people who will buy monthly seasonal tickets in the Suburban railway networks through digital payment mode.
  - ❖ Passengers will get 10 lakh rupees free accident insurance cover on booking of Railway ticket through online mode.
  - ❖ Payments through digital mode for railways catering, accommodation, retiring room will also attract 5% discount.

- ❖ People will be get 10% discount on General Insurance and 8% discount on new life Insurance policies of PSUs purchased online.
- BRICS nations, including India, pledged to share tax information automatically and adopt global standards on tax transparency to check cross border tax evasion. The two day meeting of the heads of Revenue of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) also resolved to support other developing nations in increasing their tax administrations' capacity to implement the OECD/G20 standard on Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI).
- India crossed the \$300 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) milestone between April 2000 and September 2016, firmly establishing its credentials as a safe investment destination in the world. Thirty three per cent of the FDI came through the Mauritius route, apparently because the investors wanted to take advantage of India's double taxation avoidance treaty with the island nation. The other big investors have been from Singapore, the US, UK and the Netherlands.
- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the MoU between India and United Kingdom (UK) to support Ease of Doing Business in India. The MoU shall enable exchange of officials from both the Governments to facilitate sharing of best practises, offering technical assistance and enhanced implementation of reforms.

## PEOPLE IN NEWS

Former Portuguese Prime Minister **Antonio Guterres** was sworn in as the 9th UN Secretary-General. The UN Secretary-General is the head of the United Nations Secretariat and leader of the UN.

Veteran journalist **Cho S Ramaswamy** passed away at 82. He was a lawyer, actor, journalist, commentator and a political interlocutor. He was founder and editor of Thuglak, a Tamil political magazine known for its withering satire and fearless criticism of political figures.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, leader to many Tamils and 'Amma' to millions, **J Jayalithaa** passed away at the age of 68. Ms. Jayalithaa was a reluctant entrant into films as well as politics but she succeeded in both; her film career began in 1965 with her first film 'Vennira Aadai'. Ms. Jayalithaa was Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister for 6 terms and has been in politics since 1982 when she joined the AIADMK and made her first speech on "Pennin Perumai" (The Greatness of a Woman). Her political life was marred by corruption allegations. She was convicted in four corruption cases and had to step down from chief minister twice but higher courts acquitted her and she was able to come back to power.

Justice **Jagdish Singh Khehar** will be the next Chief Justice of India (CJI). He will be the 44th CJI and shall succeed Chief Justice TS Thakur who retires in January 2017.

**John H. Glenn**, a decorated combat veteran and test pilot who gained worldwide fame as the first American to orbit the Earth, went on to become a U.S. senator and, in the autumn of his life, returned to space aboard the shuttle Discovery, died at the age of 95.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was placed at 9th position among 74 of the world's most powerful people list released by the Forbes Magazine. The list was topped by Russian President Vladimir Putin for the fourth consecutive year. Donald Trump, the first billionaire President of the United States, was ranked second in the list. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was ranked 3rd.

AIADMK leader **O. Panneerselvam** was sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu following death of Chief Minister Jayalithaa. This is for third time he has sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Earlier he had served CM for two brief periods from 2001-02 and 2014-15

**Rakesh Asthana**, a 1984 batch IPS officer of Gujarat Cadre, was given additional charge of the post of Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), following the retirement of Anil Sinha.

## SPORTS

Ethiopian distance runner **Almaz Ayana** was crowned the IAAF athlete of the year (female). Ayana produced a stunning run on the first day of athletics in Rio when she shattered the 10,000-metres world record that had stood for 23 years. Her time of 29 minutes, 17.45 seconds smashed the mark of 29:31.78 that was set by Wang Junxia of China in 1993. She becomes the third Ethiopian woman to win the IAAF award, following Genzebe Dibaba in 2015 and Meseret Defar in 2007.

Grandmaster **Magnus Carlsen** of Norway won the 2016 World Chess Championship for the third consecutive time after defeating Sergey Karjakin of Russia.

Jamaica's **Usain Bolt** was crowned as the IAAF's athlete of the year (male). Bolt completed his amazing Olympic "triple triple" of 100metres, 200metres and 4x100m relay golds at the Rio Games in August despite missing much of the season through injury and took the award for the sixth time. He clocked season's bests of 9.81 and 19.78 to win the 100m and 200m in Rio and then anchored the Jamaican team to a world-leading 37.27 when winning the 4x100m. He also went undefeated throughout the whole season at all distances, including heats.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### World

- China successfully launched Fengyun-4 satellite, first of its new generation weather satellites into geostationary orbit.
- The Human Rights Day was observed on 10th December to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The theme this year was: "Stand up for someone's rights today".
- English was ranked first in the top 10 most powerful languages in the world according to the 2016 World Power Language Index (PLI). It is followed by Mandarin (2<sup>nd</sup>) and French (3<sup>rd</sup>). Hindi was ranked at number 10.
- The South American economic bloc Mercosur suspended Venezuela from it for violating the bloc's democratic principles and failing to meet its basic standards.

### India

- Punjab Government launched country's first amphibious bus project at the Harike wetland near Amritsar. The project cost the state government over Rs 11 crore.
- Madhya Pradesh Government launched five months long Narmada Seva Yatra to turn the Narmada river pollution free.
- Kerala Government launched Haritha Keralam Mission, a comprehensive programme for creating new sustainable development perspectives in the state.
- Andhra Pradesh Government launched AP Purse mobile application to promote digital transactions among the people.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

Veteran Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh was selected for 2016 **Jnanpith Award** - India's highest literary award. Ghosh is considered to be a stalwart in modern Bengali literature and a leading authority on Rabindranath Tagore. The 84-year-old author was conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2011 and the Sahitya Akademi award in 1999.

Mumbai-based writer Jerry Pinto, Tamil author Vannadhasan, Hindi writer Nasira Sharma were among 24 others declared the winners of the **Sahitya Akademi awards** for 2016. Sharma's Hindi novel *Paarijat*, Pinto's *Em and the Big Hoom* and Vannadhasan's *Oru Sru Isai* won them the literary honour. Sahitya Akademi Award is conferred annually on writers of outstanding works in one of the twenty-four major Indian languages (22 Scheduled Languages+ English and Rajasthani).

Kaisa Matomaki and Maksym Radziwill were jointly awarded the 2016 **SASTRA-Ramanujan award** for mathematics for their 'revolutionary' collaborative work on short intervals in number theory.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and ISRO Chairman AS Kiran Kumar were conferred the prestigious **SIES-Kanchi Seer awards** in Public Leadership and Science & Technology respectively. The other two recipients were eminent UK-based Tamil, Sanskrit and Telugu scholar-cum-musician John Ralston Marr and Hari Katha exponent from Tamil Nadu Kamala Murthy. The SIES-Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswati National Awards carry a cash reward of Rs.2,50,000 each, a citation, a shawl and an ornamental lamp. The awards were instituted in 1998 in memory of the late Kanchi Seer Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswati who passed away in 1994 aged 100.

## BUSINESS & CORPORATE

**ICICI Bank**, India's largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, announced the launch of 'Eazypay', a mobile application to enable merchants, retailers and professionals to accept instant cashless payments on mobile phones from their customers through multiple digital modes.

## BILLS / ACTS / COMMITTEES / SCHEMES / POLICIES

- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the proposal of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) for ratification of ISA's (International Solar Alliance) Framework Agreement by India. ISA was launched jointly by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 at Paris on the side-lines of the 21<sup>st</sup> CoP meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The ISA will strive to bring together more than 121 solar resource rich nations for coordinated research, low cost financing and rapid deployment.
- The Committee on Digital Payments, headed by former Finance Secretary Ratan P. Watal, submitted its final report suggesting measures to boost cashless transactions in the medium term, to the Finance Minister. The report recommends inclusion of financially and socially excluded groups and assimilation of emerging technologies in the market, while safeguarding security of digital transactions and providing level playing to all stakeholders and new players who will enter this new transaction space.
- The state government of Assam launched Atal Amrit Abhiyan to provide health insurance to the poor people of the country. Atal-Amrit Abhiyan aims to make quality health care affordable to every individual member of a family in the state. This scheme is claimed to be the biggest health care initiative undertaken by any State Government in the country. Its financial outlay of the scheme is around Rs 200 crore. Under the scheme Both Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families with annual income below Rs 5 lakh are eligible to avail benefit.
- Heading towards a digital era, Haryana government connected 100 villages with Wi-Fi services and decided to rename all common service centres (CSCs) opened in urban and rural areas as well as E-disha centres as "Atal Seva Kendras" at district headquarters.
- The Odisha Government announced to launch Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran (malaria control in inaccessible areas) DAMAN, a new malaria control programme for five years. This programme will be implemented in 8 thousand villages of all 79 blocks of eight high malaria endemic southern districts of the state.
- The centre has provided additional Rs. 450 crore as special assistance to Telangana for the development of the backward areas in the state, with a cumulative assistance of Rs. 900 crore so far.
- The Odisha Government launched the Biju Sishu Surakshya Yojana, a scheme to nurture the orphan and HIV-infected children residing in different child care institutions and orphanages.
- Rajasthan Government launched Annapurna Rasoi Scheme to provide quality meal at cheap price to poor and needy. The tagline for the scheme is: "Sabke liye bhojan, sabke liye sammaan (Food for all, respect for all)". The food under this scheme will be provided at.



## ECONOMY & FINANCE

- The World Bank approved a USD 235 million credit for the Bihar Rural Roads Project to improve and effectively manage rural road network. The Project will help improve and effectively manage the state's rural road network. It will support the construction of about 2,500 km of rural roads under the Mukhiya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana (MMGSY). The roads will be constructed using cost-effective designs and will incorporate engineering measures that ensure road safety.
- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated Sagarmala Development Company's (SDC) office in New Delhi to promote port-led development in the country. The SDC has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013. The company would help in structuring activities, bidding out projects for private sector participation, identifying suitable risk management measures for strategic projects across multiple states, regions and obtaining requisite approvals and clearances.
- In order to promote cashless transaction, the first 'Digi Dhan' mela was organised in Gurugram on December 26. This was the first such fair in the country since demonetisation for educating masses on how to use mobile phones for making purchases.
- Japanese funding agency JICA signed a tripartite consultancy pact with Railway Ministry and National High Speed Rail Corporation for the high-speed railway project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The high speed railway line between the two important cities in Western India is expected to cover 508 km in about two hours, running at a maximum speed of 350 km/h and operating speed of 320 km/h.
- India and Singapore signed a Third Protocol to amend DTAA (Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement) for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- The Government approved the re-designation of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project Implementation Trust Fund (DMICPTF) as National Industrial Corridor Development & Implementation Trust (NICDIT). NICDIT will be the apex body to oversee integrated development of all industrial corridors across the country.
- According to a report published in Forbes magazine, India has surpassed United Kingdom to become world's sixth-largest economy in GDP terms for first time after nearly 150 years. India's economy now stands behind the United States, China, Japan, Germany and France.

## PEOPLE IN NEWS

President Pranab Mukherjee appointed former bureaucrat **Anil Baijal** (70) as the 21st Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. Mr. Baijal, a 1969 batch IAS officer of UT cadre, was the Home Secretary in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government. He is currently associated with the Vivekananda International Foundation.

Chief Minister Harish Rawat unveiled the statue of renowned Tamil poet and philosopher **Thiruvalluvar** on the premises of Mela Bhawan in Haridwar. Thiruvalluvar is a celebrated poet believed to have lived between 3rd Century BC and 1st Century BC.

The Union Government appointed senior IPS officer **Anil Dhasmana** as new chief of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's external intelligence agency.

The Union government appointed senior IPS officer **Rajiv Jain** as the new chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB).

The Union Government appointed Air Marshal **Birender Singh Dhanoa** as the next Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to succeed Arup Raha who retires on December 31, 2016.

Samajwadi Party Chief **Mulayam Singh Yadav** expelled his son and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and his cousin Ram Gopal Yadav from the party for six years. Mulayam said he had taken the action against Akhilesh and Ramgopal to save the party which he had built through hard efforts.

## SPORTS

Five-time Olympic champion **Sir Bradley Wiggins** announced his retirement from cycling aged 36. Wiggins became Britain's most decorated Olympian in August 2016 when he won the team pursuit gold on the track in Rio, his fifth gold and eighth Olympic medal. He secured eight world titles on the road and track and set the world record for the furthest distance ridden in one hour, at the London Olympic velodrome, at 54.526km.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) accepted **Meghalaya's** bid to host the National Games for 2022. From among the northeastern states, Manipur and Assam have hosted the National Games in 1999 and 2007, respectively.

Gujarat's 26-year-old opening batsman **Samit Gohel** broke a 117-year-old record in first-class cricket by notching up the highest score while carrying his bat through the innings of 359 not out during his team's Ranji Trophy quarter-final against Odisha.

**Virat Kohli** was named skipper of Cricket Australia's ODI team of the year. Kohli, who was earlier also picked captain of the ICC's ODI team of the year, was preferred over Australia's very own Steve Smith.

In a controversial decision, 2010 Commonwealth Games scam accused and former Congress leader **Suresh Kalmadi** was appointed the life president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Abhay Chautala, another corruption-tainted official, was also made the life president by the IOA.

**India** dished out a clinical performance to beat hosts Sri Lanka by 34 runs and lift the Asian Cricket Council Under-19s Asia Cup title in Colombo.

India's first Winter Olympian **Shiva Keshavan** braved an injury to win gold at the Asian Luge Championship in Nagano, Japan. The 35-year-old Shiva Keshavan dominated the event and finished the Asian Luge Championship race with a time of 1 minute, 39.962 seconds to clinch the title.

**R Ashwin** became the third Indian to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy after being named the International Cricket Council Cricketer of the Year 2016, thus joining two legendary Indian cricketers Rahul Dravid (2004) and Sachin Tendulkar (2010). Ashwin was also named the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year, making him only the second Indian player after Dravid (2004) to bag the two coveted prizes in the same year.

**India** outclassed South Korea to finish with the bronze medal at the 4th Women's U-18 Asia Cup 2016 hockey tournament.

**Jeje Lalpekhlua** was named the 2016 AIFF Player of the Year. The striker from Mizoram had a wonderful season with Mohun Bagan and Chennaiyin FC as well as with the Indian national team.

**Atletico de Kolkata** were crowned the Indian Super League champions for the second time in three seasons after defeating Kerala Blasters.

**Vijender Singh** defended his WBO Asia-Pacific Super Middleweight title with an emphatic Technical Knockout win over Tanzania's Francis Cheka.

**India** created history by winning the FIH Junior Hockey World Cup after a gap of 15 long years with a clinical 2-1 victory against Belgium in the final.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### World

- Colombia's Congress passed a law granting amnesty to Marxist FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) rebels as part of historic peace deal reached between rebels and Government.
- China successfully tested the latest version of its fifth-generation stealth fighter jet J-31 (now renamed the FC-31 Gyr Falcon).
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched a solid fuel rocket named Epsilon-2.
- The UN cultural body UNESCO accorded world heritage status to Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro (nicknamed as Marvelous City).

### India

- Assam government initiated a project to make river island Majuli the country's first ever Carbon Neutral district by 2020.
- Gujarat Government announced its 'Biotechnology Policy-2016' to establish state as a preferred destination for manufacturing of biotechnology products. It aims to take annual turnover of biotechnology products to Rs 15,000 crore from current f Rs 4,500 crore turn over within next 3-4 years and make Gujarat top state in this sector in the country.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Char Dham highway development project or Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The project's main objective is to develop around 900 km of national highways. These highways will be built at an approximate cost of Rs 12,000 crore.
- The Madras High Court banned all unauthorised Sharia courts in mosques across Tamil Nadu, saying centres of worship were only to be used for religious purposes.