India Ranks 92 In The Global Talent Competitiveness Index

India has slipped 3 places to 92nd rank on the global index of talent competitiveness that measures how countries grow, attract and retain talent, a list topped by Switzerland. India's ranking is worst among the five BRICS countries.

While China was ranked at the 54th place, Russian Federation was placed at 56th, followed by South Africa at 67th and Brazil 81st.

Switzerland topped the overall index, followed by Singapore and the United Kingdom in second and third places respectively, in the list released on Monday by INSEAD Produced in partnership with The Adecco Group and the Human Capital Leadership Institute of Singapore (HCLI).

Others in the top 10 include the United States (4th), Sweden (5th), Australia (6th), Luxembourg (7th), Denmark (8th), Finland (9th) and Norway (10th).

Last year, India came in at 89th on the index. The report noted that the BRICS countries are not getting stronger and both China and India have slipped from their year-ago rankings. While India stood on a relatively solid pool of global knowledge skills compared with other emerging markets, the country is not able to retain and attract talent.

In terms of retaining and attracting talent, India was ranked at a lowly 104th and 114th, respectively.

"This is not likely to improve until India boosts performance in its regulatory (94th) and market (99th) landscapes," the report said.

It further said that overall, a challenge for countries such as China and India is to attract talent from abroad, particularly in the context of large emigration rates of high-skilled people.

Donald John Trump Become 45th President Of The United States

Donald John Trump (born June 14, 1946) is an American businessman, television personality, politician, and the 45th President of the United States. President Donald Trump signed his first executive order as president, ordering federal agencies to ease the burden of President Barack Obama's sweeping health care law.

Before leaving for a set of inaugural balls that capped his festive day, Trump also signed two executive orders confirming the appointments of Defense Secretary James Mattis and Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly; new Vice President Mike Pence later swore in both Cabinet members.

About Trump

Born: 14 June 1946 (age 70), Jamaica Hospital Medical Center
Height: 1.91 m
Party: Republican Party
Spouse: Melania Trump (m. 2005), Marla Maples (m. 1993–1999), Ivana Trump (m. 1977–1992)
Children: Ivanka Trump, Tiffany Trump, Eric Trump, Donald Trump Jr., Barron Trump

THE 65th ANNUAL MISS ★ UNIVERSE COMPETITION

Miss Universe 2016, the 65th Miss Universe pageant, was held on 30 January 2017[a] at the Mall of Asia Arena, Pasay, Metro Manila, Philippines. Pia Wurtzbach of the Philippines crowned her successor Iris Mittenaere of France at the end of the event.[8][9] This is the second time in the history of the competition that the pageant skipped the entire year, following the 2014 pageant which was held in January 2015. The victory of France ended the country's 63-year title drought, the longest in Miss Universe history. Mittenaere is the first European Miss Universe in 14 years, the last being Russia's Oxana Fedorova who originally won in 2002 before being dethroned.

In her farewell remarks as outgoing winner, a smiling Wurtzbach thanked Harvey for making her "the most popular Miss Universe." Harvey, laughing, thanked her for making him the "most famous" Miss Universe host.Mittenaere's victory was the first by a French contestant in more than 60 years.

Judges initially selected a dozen candidates, with a 13th picked through online balloting which drew 100 million votes worldwide.The contest was widely followed by Filipinos, known for their fascination with beauty contests, but their country came under the spotlight at a tough time. A deadly government crackdown on illegal drugs is underway and a major offensive against Muslim extremists in the south prompted extra tight security for the pageant.

Centre, States Reach Consensus Over GST Dual Control, Will Effect On July 1,17

India will likely be able to roll out the goods and services tax (GST) from July 1 following a breakthrough on Monday over the seemingly intractable issue of tax administration after the Centre accommodated states' concerns.India will likely be able to roll out the goods and services tax (GST) from July 1 following a breakthrough on Monday over the seemingly intractable issue of tax administration after the Centre accommodated states' concerns.

This division of tax administration had been holding up the finalisation GST tax laws, making it difficult for the government to stick with the April 1deadline. The GST Council, which has Jaitley as chairman and state ministers as members, resolved to share the entire taxation base between the assessment machinery of the Centre and the states. Both will have intelligencebased assessment powers, Jaitley said. The Centre has also given leeway to states on integrated.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a proposed system of indirect taxation in India merging most of the existing taxes into single system of taxation. It was introduced by The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act 2016. "Goods and Services Tax" would be a comprehensive indirect tax on manufacture, sale and consumption of goods and services throughout India, to replace taxes levied by the central and state governments. Goods and Services Tax would be levied and collected at each stage of sale or purchase of goods or services based on the input tax credit method. This method allows GST-registered businesses to claim tax credit to the value of GST they paid on purchase of goods or services as part of their normal commercial activity. Taxable goods and services are not distinguished from one another and are taxed at a single rate in a supply chain till the goods or services reach the consumer. Administrative responsibility would generally rest with a single authority to levy tax on goods and services. Exports would be zero-rated and imports would be levied the same taxes as domestic goods and services adhering to the destination principle.

The introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) would be a significant step in the reform of indirect taxation in India. Amalgamating several Central and State taxes into a single tax would mitigate cascading or double taxation, facilitating a common national market. The simplicity of the tax should lead to easier administration and enforcement. From the consumer point of view, the biggest advantage would be in terms of a reduction in the overall tax burden on goods, which is currently estimated at 25%-30%, free movement of goods from one state to another without stopping at state borders for hours for payment of state tax or entry tax and reduction in paperwork to a large extent.

What changes there would be if India launches GST- "The tax rate under GST may be nominal or zero rated for the time being. It has been proposed to insulate the revenues of the States from the impact of GST, with the expectation that in due course, GST will be levied on petroleum and petroleum products." The central government has assured states of compensation for any revenue losses incurred by them from the date of introduction of GST for a period of five years.

Bengaluru Set To Host 14th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2017

The 14th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) convention will on 7th Jan 2017 begin in Bengaluru. The three-day event will kick start with the Youth PBD, the theme of which is 'Role of Diaspora Youth in the Transformation of India'.

Vice President of Suriname, Michael Ashwin Adhin, will deliver a keynote address in the inaugural session. Minister of State for External Affairs General V K Singh and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will also address the session, which will be chaired by Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel.Three plenary sessions are scheduled to be held in Youth PBD.

The first will be on reaching out to Indian Students abroad, NRIs and overseas Indian Community Students in India. The second one will be on start-ups and innovations and the third on start-up ecosystem in Karnataka.The main convention will be inaugurated tomorrow by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief guest of the event, Prime Minister of Portugal Dr Antonio Costa.President Pranab Mukherjee will confer Pravasi Bhartiya Samman.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention is a very important platform for engagement of the central and state governments with the Overseas Indian Community.Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has been held traditionally on 9th January every year to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi as a Pravasi from South Africa to India.

United States Election 2016 Interference By Russia

A declassified U.S. intelligence report claims that Vladimir Putin ordered a campaign to influence the U.S. presidential election against Democratic Party candidate Hillary Clinton.

A declassified U.S. intelligence report released Friday directly accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of ordering a campaign to influence the U.S. election and hurt Hillary Clinton's candidacy – findings made public after officials briefed President-elect Donald Trump.

The report said: "We assess with high confidence that Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the US presidential election, the consistent goals of which were to undermine public faith in the US democratic process, denigrate Secretary Clinton, and harm her electability and potential presidency. We further assess Putin and the Russian Government developed a clear preference for President-elect Trump."

Convert PIO Cards To OCI By June-End, PM Modi Tells

Government is working to put in place procedures for making descendants of the indentured labour living in Fiji and other countries eligible for OCI cards, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on 8th Jan 2017. "Starting with Mauritius, we are working to put in place procedures so that descendants of Girmitiyas could become eligible for OCI Cards. We remain committed to addressing similar difficulties of PIOs in Fiji, Reunion Islands, Suriname, Guyana and other Caribbean States," he said in his address at the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas at Bengaluru.

Girmityas are descendents of indentured Indian labourers who were brought to Fiji to work on sugarcane plantations in mid-1800s. The Prime Minister also urged the People of Indian Origin (PIO) to convert their cards into Overseas Citizen of India cards, reiterating the government's decision to extend the deadline for these card conversions from December 31 last year to June 30, without any penalty.

Modi also said the government will launch skill development programme, Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojna, for Indian youth who seek employment overseas. Persons of Indian Origin Card (PIO Card) was a form of identification issued to a Person of Indian Origin who held a passport in a country other than Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

On 9 January 2015, the Person of Indian Origin card scheme was withdrawn by the Government of India and was merged with the Overseas Citizen of India card scheme. All currently held PIO cards are treated as OCI cards. PIO card holders will get a special stamp in their existing PIO card, saying "lifelong validity" and "registration not required", thus making them equal to existing OCI cards.

Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) is a scheme that was introduced in response to demands for dual citizenship by the Indian diaspora, particularly in developed countries. It was introduced by The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2005 in August 2005. It was launched during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention at Hyderabad in 2006. Indian authorities have interpreted the law to mean a person cannot have a second country's passport simultaneously with an Indian one — even in the case of a child who is claimed by another country as a citizen of that country, and who may be required by the laws of the other country to use one of its passports for foreign travel (such as a child born in the United States or in Australia to Indian parents), and the Indian courts have given the executive branch wide discretion over this matter. Therefore, Overseas Citizenship of India is not actual citizenship of India and thus, does not amount to dual citizenship or dual nationality.

NEWS UPDATE

Edappadi Palaniswami Takes Oath As 13th Chief Minister Of Tamil Nadu

Edappadi K Palaniswami was sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 16 Feb., 2017 by Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao.Palaniswami took oath first, followed by 30 ministers in four batches. The swearing in ceremony was held at Raj Bhavan around 4.30pm. This is the third ministry in the last 10 months since AIADMK won the assembly election in May 2016. Almost simultaneously, police protection given to O Panneerselvam at his official residence was withdrawn. The chief minister's emblem and beacon on his car (TN 04 AX 2345) were removed.

Palaniswami has kept the portfolios of public, police, home, finance, PWD, highways and minor ports and personnel and administrative reforms.Party presidium chairman K A Sengottaiyan is the only new face in Palaniswami's cabinet. Sengottaiyan has replaced K Pandiarajan who was the schools education minister in the Panneerselvam cabinet. Pandiarajan is the only minister who joined the O Panneerselvam camp after war broke out between OPS and party general secretary V K Sasikala.

The others ministers have retained the same portfolios:C Sreenivasan (forests), Sellur K Raju (cooperation), P Thangamani (electricity, prohibition and excise), S P Velumani (municipal administration \), D Jayakumar (fisheries), C Ve Shanmugam (law, court and prisons), K P Anbazhagan (higher education), V Saroja (Social Welfare), M C Sampath (Industries), K C Karuppanan (environment), R Kamaraj (food and civil supplies), O S Manian (handlooms and textiles), K Radhakrishnan (housing and urban development), C Vijaya Baskar (health and family welfare), R Doraikkannu (agriculture), Kadambur Raju (information and publicity), R B Udhyakumar (revenue), N Natarjan (tourism), K C Veeramani (commercial taxes), K T Rajenthra Bhalaji (milk and dairy development), P Benjamin (rural industries), Nilofer Kafeel (labour), M R Vijayabaskar (transport),M Manikandan (information and technology), V M Rajalakshmi (adi dravidar and tribal welfare), G Baskaran (khadi and village industries board), S Ramachandran (Hindu religious and charitable endowments), S Valarmathi (backward classes and minorities welfare) and P Balakrishna Reddy (animal husbandry).

PIL moved to restrain Sasikala's swearing-in

A petition was moved on Monday in the Supreme Court to stay the swearing-in ceremony of Sasikala Natarajan as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. A former aide of Ms. Jayalalithaa, Ms. Natarajan is poised to take over the reins of the State from O. Panneerselvam, who resigned as Chief Minister of the State on Sunday.

The petition filed by a Tamil Nadu-based lawyer, Senthil Kumar, has made the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary, AIADMK General Secretary and Ms. Natarajan as respondent parties in the writ petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution.

APPLE, GOOGLE, UBER, FACEBOOK JOIN FIGHT AGAINST DONALD TRUMP'S TRAVEL BAN

Dozens of tech companies, including behemoths like Apple, Google, and Facebook, are siding with Washington state and Minnesota as they fight President Donald Trump's ban on refugees and travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States. The companies filed briefs late Sunday with a federal appellate court saying the Trump executive order hurts their businesses.

In their court filing with the San Francisco-based 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals, a total of 97 companies said Trump's travel ban "hinders the ability of American companies to attract great talent; increases costs imposed on business; makes it more difficult for American firms to compete in the international marketplace."

The travel ban would prompt businesses to build operations outside the United States, said the companies. The long list of enterprises looking to join the fight against Trump are among the country's biggest, most high-profile businesses like Uber, eBay and Netflix.

The businesses are looking to help Washington and Minnesota as they sue Trump. The states

have said the ban harmed residents and effectively mandated discrimination. The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals this weekend denied the administration's request to immediately set aside a Seattle judge's ruling that put a hold on the ban nationwide.

Trump's order applied to Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen — countries the administration said raise terrorism concerns. The order sparked nationwide airport protests and caused confusion for many foreigners trying to reach the United States.

Trump has said he's trying to protect Americans. The government says the president has the authority to decide who can enter the country.

However the companies, in their court filing, said Trump's executive order would destroy the entrepreneurial spirit that fuels American businesses.

Immigrants make many of the nation's greatest discoveries, and create some of the country's most innovative and iconic companies," the court filing said. "The experience and energy of people who come to our country to seek a better life for themselves and their children_to pursue the 'American Dream' — are woven throughout the social, political, and economic fabric of the nation."

H-1B visa row: India monitoring developments, to hold meet with industrialists, says Nirmala Sitharaman

In the aftermath of United States President Donald Trump's crackdown on the H1-B visa, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said they are monitoring developments with the Ministry of External Affairs to take a call on the issue soon. The minister also said that she will hold a meeting with all the industries, which have their presence in the United States, once Parliament Session is over.

The delegation will highlight and share information with the new US administration on direct jobs being created by Indian IT companies in the US, and contribution of Indian IT firms in making the US economy competitive.

India had recently said it has conveyed its concern to the US over a bill being introduced in the Congress to change rules on H1-B visas which is likely to impact the Indian IT industry and Indian techies working in the US. "India's interests and concerns have been conveyed both to the US administration and the US Congress at senior levels," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup had said.

According to the IANS, three bills have been introduced to Congress which reportedly seek to restructure the H1-B visa programme, including one that would raise the salary threshold, making it more expensive for Indian firms to send employees to America.

The High-Skilled Integrity and Fairness Act of 2017, introduced in House of Representatives by California Congressman Zoe Lofgren, calls for doubling the minimum salary of H1-B visa holders to $130,000 from the current minimum wage of $60,000 — a move that could impact Indian techies.

The bill, likely to be signed by Trump, would make it difficult for firms to use the programme to replace American employees with foreign workers, including from India, with lower wages. India's IT outsourcing industry is worth around $108 billion, according to industry body Nasscom, the National Association of Software and Services Companies, with almost four million people employed in the sector.

Indian IT sector, which contributes 9.3 percent of the country's GDP, is one of the largest private sector employer at 3.7 million people. Nasscom president R Chandrashekhar told AFP that restrictions would create uncertainty and leave US businesses short of the skilled workers they need.

According to some reports, analysts say the issue also threatens to sour Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's burgeoning relationship. The leaders have extended mutual invitations to visit their respective countries but are heading for a clash on visas.

SC orders attachment of Sahara's Aamby Valley property worth Rs 39,000 cr

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the attachment of Sahara group properties in Aamby Valley (near Pune), estimated to be worth Rs 39,000 crore, to secure sums due to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). A bench of Dipak Misra, Ranjan Gogoi and A K Sikri ordered the group to give a list of properties "without any encumbrance" that could be auctioned to recover the principal sum due to Sebi — Rs 14,000 crore. Sebi says total dues, with interest, exceeds Rs 47,000 crore. Of this, the group has remitted Rs 11,477 crore, Sebi counsel Pratap Venugopal informed the court.

The bench also extended the interim parole of group chief Subrata Roy till February 27, date of the next hearing, after Rs 600 crore was remitted in a combination of bank drafts and online transfers into the Sebi-Sahara account on Monday.

Last month, the court had refused to extend the time given for this deposit and allowed a transfer of £35 million (about Rs 295 crore), raised out of the group's foreign assets. The whole amount went into Monday's deposit.

Spread over 10,600 acres on the Pune-Mumbai highway, off Lonavala, Aamby Valley, a "planned hill city", boasts a private airport, hospital and luxury resorts. It has received investments from various group entities at different points of time. In 2010, Sahara India Real Estate Corp and Sahara Housing Invest Corp, the two entities which fell foul of Sebi regulations, had invested Rs 6,700 crore in the shares and debentures of Aamby Valley Ltd, the company which owns the property.

Subsequently, the firms told the Supreme Court they had sold these investments to Sahara Credit Cooperative Society and Sahara Q Shop. Company records showed that a month after being released from custody to attend his mother's funeral in May, Roy had been appointed an additional director of Aamby Valley.

The move to dispose of Aamby Valley to raise funds had been vehemently resisted by the group in the past. It has said this would hamper its efforts to shore up resources for repayment. On Monday, too, objections were made by group

counsel Kapil Sibal but the court decided to go ahead. The court, however, stopped short of appointing a receiver for the property.

All the other interlocutory applications, including one by the Enforcement Directorate to issue provisional attachment orders on the overseas properties for alleged violation of foreign exchange regulations, were posted to the next date. The bench also made it clear that the condition of "without encumbrance" on the list to be given was absolute and the properties should not have litigation or claims.

Earlier, Sibal sought time for about two hours to present his case on the review petition, citing an income tax (I-T) tribunal order. However, the bench said such time could be given only after the principal dues were paid.

Both Sebi counsel and the amicus curiae were not comfortable with the earlier road map suggested by Sibal, which stretched the repayment schedule till July 2019.

Shekhar Naphade, the amicus curiae, said, "This has gone on for too long. Whatever can be fixed as a reasonable time should be decided on." He drew the court's notice to claims of various other parties such as the Reserve Bank of India and the I-T department.

At this stage, Sibal said the I-T department has passed an order saying 85 per cent of the investors were genuine and that he should be given time to explain the errors in the earlier orders. Judge Misra said the bench was not sitting on appeal over the earlier judgements and the money had to be paid before any review could be considered.

CBSE Exam Date Sheet 2017: Here is the revised and final schedule for CBSE Class 12th Board Exams

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had released the final date sheet for class 10 and class 12 in January 2017. The board examinations for class 10 and 12 will begin on March 9, 2017. Class 10 will end on April 10 while the class 12 exams will continue till April 29. The exam dates have been delayed this year due to assembly elections in five states- Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Manipur. This year, there are 10,98,420 students appearing for the class 12 exam, with 10677 schools having registered to the board.

Here is the final CBSE Exam Date Sheet 2017:
Thursday, March 9, 2017
English Elective – Ncert
English Elective – Cbse(Functional English)
English Core
Friday, March 10, 2017
Dance – Kathak
Dance- Bharatnatyam
Dance – Odissi
Dance- Kathkali
Creative Writing & Translation Studies
Sindhi Office Communication
Information Storage & Retrival

Integrated Transport Operation
Front Office Operations
Travel Agency & Tour Operations Business (NSQF)
Salesmanship-Ii
Capital Market Operations
Banking-II
Wednesday, March 15, 2017
Physics
Persian
Secretarial Practice & Accounting
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration – Iii
Optics –II
Radiography-I General
Electrical Machine
Clinical Bio-Chemistry (MLT)
Child Health Nursing
Garment Construction –II
Traditional Indian Textile
Thursday, March 16, 2017
Business Studies
Basic Horticulture-Ii
Beauty & Hair -II
Operation & Maintenance Of Communication Devices
Saturday, March 18, 2017
Urdu Elective
Punjabi
Tamil
Manipuri
Malayalam
Assamese
Kannada
Urdu Core
Monday, March 20, 2017
Mathematics
First Aid & Emergency Medical Care
Clinical Bio-Chemistry & Microbiology-Ii
Microbiology (MLT)
Health Centre Management
Opthalmic Techniques-Ii
Radiography-Ii (SPECIAL Investigation Imaging Radiography)
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Shorthand English
Shorthand Hindi
Fashion Studies
Agriculture
Odia
German
Russian
Engineering Science
Database Management Application (NSQF)
Thursday, March 23, 2017
History
Retail Services-Ii(Nsqf)
Logistice Operation & Supply Chain Management –II
Business Operation & Administration –II
Laboratory Medicines (CLINICAL Pathology Hematology & Histopathology –II (MLT)
Friday, March 24, 2017
Food Production Iii
Introduction To Hospitality Management(Nsqf)
Saturday, March 25, 2017
Chemistry Applied Physics
Food & Beverage Cost & Control
Floriculture
Cost Accounting
Biology Opthalmic-Ii
Radiation Physics
Monday, March 27, 2017
Informatics Practices
Computer Science
Advanced Front Office Operations
Olericulture – Ii
Insurance –II
Basic Pattern Development
Wednesday, March 29, 2017
Accountancy
Bakery-Ii
Holistic Health –II
Security(Nsqf)
Thursday, March 30, 2017
Food Production Iv
Friday, March 31, 2017
Engineering Graphics
Heritage Crafts
Human Rights & Gender Studies
Library And Information
Science
Tibetan
Japanese
Spanish
Mechanical Engineering
Marketing- Ii
Textile Chemical Processing
Web Application – Ii (NSQF)
Saturday, April 1, 2017
Knowledge Traditions & Practice Of India
Legal Studies
Graphic Design
Health Education, Communication And Public
Relations & Public Health
The Creative & Commercial Process In Mass Media-Ii
Printed Textile
Typography & Computer Application(Eng.)
Monday, April 3, 2017
Political Science
Laboratory Medicine-Ii
Retail Operations-Ii(Nsqf)
Financial Accounting-Ii

ISRO Successfully Launches Record 104 Satellites By PSLV-C37 Rocket

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 15 Feb 2017 set a new precedent when it comes to launching satellites. It has successfully launched the PSLV-37 rocket which put in to orbit a record 104 satellites from seven countries. Using the time-tested and popular Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), ISRO surpassed its personal best of sending up 20 satellites in one go. The bar, however, was previously set by Russia in 2014 when it launched 37 satellites in a single mission.

PSLV first launched the 714 kg Cartosat-2 Series satellite for earth observation, followed by the INS-1A and INS-1B, after it reached the polar Sun Synchronous Orbit. It then went on to inject 103 co-passenger satellites, together weighing about 664 kg, in pairs.

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PSLV-C37 / Cartosat -2 Series Satellite

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its thirty ninth flight (PSLV-C37), launches the 714 kg Cartosat-2 series satellite for earth observation and 103 co-passenger satellites together weighing about 663 kg at lift-off into a 505 km polar Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO). PSLV-C37 was launched from the First Launch Pad (FLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota. This was the sixteenth flight of PSLV in 'XL' configuration (with the use of solid strap-on motors).

The co-passenger satellites comprised of 101 nano satellites, one each from Kazakhstan, Israel, The Netherlands, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and 96 from United States of America (USA), as well as two Nano satellites from India. The total weight of all these satellites carried on-board PSLV-C37 was about 1377 kg.

PSLV-C37 also carried two ISRO Nano satellites (INS-1A and INS-1B), as co-passenger satellites. These two satellites carry a total of four different payloads from Space Applications Centre (SAC) and Laboratory for Electro Optics Systems (LEOS) of ISRO for conducting various experiments.

The 101 International customer Nano satellites were launched as part of the commercial arrangements between Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), a Government of India company under Department of Space (DOS), the commercial arm of ISRO and the International customers.

The space organisation had launched the Mars Orbiter Mission in 2013, for example, at a small cost of $78 million which is one-tenth of what NASA spends to develop its own mission to Mars. ISRO also successfully launched the navigation satellites to aid the development of navigation system, IRNSS which would make our country only the fifth country in the word who have an indigenously developed navigation system. ISRO, apart from its own achievement, also showcases the power and importance of the public sector in India. DRDO is another example who have been doing great work in the defence sector with its missile launches, but it has a long way to go. Similar efforts should be made by other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to replicate ISRO's success.

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Similarly, there have been other efforts backed by the Indian government towards various innovations in technology, including Aadhaar, National Stock Exchange (NSE), National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), or National Securities Depository Limited. Interestingly, National Dairy Organisation in Karnal was the first to create an IVF buffalo and clone a buffalo, which got recognised the world over for cheap technology. While, such efforts, demonstrate that many of the PSU's are on a good path to replicate the humongous achievements which ISRO has been managing, there is a lot that needs to be done.

There is a dire need to free public sector companies from bureaucratic control and rise above what they are generally perceived as- slothful and slow. The more they incorporate technology in their own work, the more innovations they are capable of. Additionally, the government needs to spend more on the PSU's if it wants them to attain their true potential. ISRO is a fine example which showcases that despite the professionalism and revenues of the private sector, the public sector is also capable of great things based on path-breaking innovations.

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Biology
Taxation-Ii
Derivative Market Operations
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration-Iv
Thursday, April 6, 2017
Geography
Biotechnology
Library Systems & Resource Management
Monday, April 10, 2017
Theatre Studies
Tangkhul
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
Physical Education
Monday, April 17, 2017
Economics
Trouble Shooting & Maintenance Of Electronic Equipment
Tuesday, April, 18, 2017
Home Science
Wednesday, April 19, 2017
Painting
Graphics
Sculpture
Applied Arts-Commercial Arts
Electrical Appliances
Confectionery
Friday, April 20, 2017
Sociology
Saturday, April 22, 2017
Hindi Elective
Gujarati
Nepali
Limboo
Lepcha
Bhutia
Hindi Core
Monday, April 24, 2017
Psychology
Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Music Karanataka (VOCAL)
Music Karanataka Instrumental (MELODIC)
Music Hindustani Vocal
Music Hindustani Instrumental Melodic
Music Hindustani Instrumental Percussion
Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Mass Media Studies
Food Service-Ii
Thursday, April 27, 2017
Sanskrit Elective
Bengali
Telugu
Marathi
Arabic
French

Telugu-Telangana
Mizo
Sanskrit Core
Understanding The Evolution And Forms Of Mass Media-Ii
Auto Engineering-Ii(Nsqf)
Friday, April 28, 2017
National Cadet Corps(Ncc)
Multimedia & Web Technology
Autoshop Repair & Practice-Ii Nsqf
Fabric Study
Typography & Computer Application(Hindi)
Saturday, April 29, 2017
Philosophy
Enterpreneurship
Office Procedure & Practices
Basic Concept Of Health And Disease And Medical Terminology
Geospatial Technology
Midwifery

LATEST JOBS

UP 12460 Assistant Teacher Recruitment 2016 Online Correction Form 2017

Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Board Parishad Are Invited to Online Application Form for the Assistant Teacher AT 12460 Post in UP Various District Those Candidates Are Graduate with BTC with TET Passed and Interested to the Following UP Teacher Vacancy Can Read the Full Notification Before Apply Online.

Vacancy Details Total : *12460 Assistant Teacher posts*

Important Dates
- Notification Issued : 15/12/2016
- Application Begin : 28/12/2016
- Last Date for Registration : 12/01/2017
- Last Date Fee Payment : 16/01/2017
- Last Date Complete Form : 18/01/2017
- Merit List Announced : Notified Soon
- Online Correction : 31 January to 07 February 2017

Application Fee
- General / OBC : 500/-
- SC / ST : 200/-
- PH Candidates : 0/-
- Pay the Examination Fee Through SBI I Collect Debit Card, Credit Card, Net Banking or E Challan Fee Mode

Eligibility (as on 15/12/2016)
- Bachelor Degree in Any Stream
- 2 Year BTC / SBTC / D.Ed Special OR 4 Year B.LEd Degree
- UPTET / CTET Primary Level Passed   Age Limit as on 01/07/2017
- Minimum Age : 21 Years
- Maximum Age : 40 Years
- Age Relaxation Extra as per 12460 AT Teacher Recruitment Rules

CRPF Constable Technician and Tradesman Recruitment Online Form 2017

Central Reserve Police Force CRPF India Are Invited to Online Application Form for the Recruitment Post of CT Constable Technician and Tradesman Vacancy 2017 Those Candidates Are Interested to the Following Vacancy and Completed the All Eligibility Criteria Can Read the Full Notification and Apply Online.

Vacancy Details Total : *2945 posts*

Important Dates
- Application Begin : 31/01/2017
- Last Date for Apply Online : 01/03/2017
- Last Date Offline Payment : 20/02/2017
- Last Date Part I, II, III : 01/03/2017
- Written Exam Date : 14/05/2017
- Admit Card Available : Notified Soon

Application Fee
- General / OBC : 100/
- SC / ST / EXs : 0/- (Nil)
- Pay the Examination Fee Through Online Fee Mode Debit Card, Credit Card, Net Banking or Pay Offline E Challan Mode Submit Fee at SBI Any Branches

Eligibility
- CT/Driver Post : Class 10 Exam with Driving License (Heavy)
- IT / Technical Post : Class 10 Exam Passed with ITI Certificate in Related Post
- For More Details Must See the Notification

Physical Eligibility
- Running 1.6 KM in 10 Min for Male Candidates, Female Candidates 12 Minutes
- Height Male : 170 CMS and Female : 157 CMS
- Chest Male Only : 80-85

Age Limit as on 01/01/2017
- For CT / Driver : 21-27 Years
- For Other Post : 18-23 Years
- Age Relaxation Extra as per Rules

BHU Post Graduate PET Admission Online Form 2017

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Varanasi are invited to online application form for the Post Graduate PET Various Master Degree Courses 2017. Those Candidates are interested to the Admission in BHU Varanasi and Completed the All Eligibility Criteria Can Read the Full Notification Before Apply Online.

Important Dates
- Application Begin : 02/02/2017
- Last Date of Apply Online : 04/03/2017
- Exam Held on 16/05/2017 to 30/05/2017
- For Course Wise Exam Date : Click Here

Entrance Exam Center
- Allahabad, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Kolkata, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi, Jaipur, Bhopal

BHU Under Graduate UET Admission Online Form 2017

Banaras Hindu University BHU Varanasi Are Invited to Online Application Form for the Under Graduate UET Various Courses 2017 Those Candidates Are Interested to the Admission in BHU Varanasi and Completed the All Eligibility Criteria Can Read the Full Notification Before Apply Online.

Important Dates
- Application Begin : 02/02/2017
- Last Date for Apply Online : 04/03/2017
- Last Date for Fee Payment : 04/03/2017
- Exam Date : 09/04/2017 to 14/05/2017
- Admit Card Available : April 2017
- Answer Key Available : After Examination
- Result Declared : May 2017 (Tentative)
- Counseling Begin : June 2017

Application Fee
- General / OBC : 500/-
- SC / ST : 250/-

- For Shashtri : Other : 200/-, SC / ST : 100/-
- Add-on Course Gen/OBC : 200/-
- Add-on Course SC / ST : 100/-
- Pay the Examination Fee Through Online Debit Card, Credit Card, Net Banking Fee Mode Only.

Entrance Exam Center UET 2017
- Allahabad, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Kolkata, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi, Jaipur, Bhopal, Vadodara, Guwahati, Dimapur, Jaipur, Bhubneshwar Only.

UP 4000 Urdu Assistant Teacher Recruitment 2016 Online Correction Form 2017

Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Board Parishad Online Are Invited to Online Application Form for the Urdu Assistant Teacher AT 4000 Post in UP Various District Those Candidates Are Graduate with BTC Urdu, AMU Diploma Passed and Interested to the Following UP Urdu Teacher Vacancy Can Read the Full Notification Before Apply Online.

Vacancy Details Total : *4000 Posts*

Important Dates
- Application Begin : 30/12/2016
- Last Date for Registration : 10/01/2017 upto 05:00 PM Only
- Last Date Fee Payment : 11/01/2017
- Last Date Complete Form : 13/01/2017
- Last Date Correction Form : 09/02/2017 Till 05:00 PM Only

Application Fee
- General / OBC : 500/-
- SC / ST : 200/-
- PH : 0/-
- Pay the Exam Fee Through SBI I Collect Fee Mode Only, E Challan Fee Mode

Eligibility
- 2 Years BTC Urdu Exam Passed OR
- Moallim E Urdu Degree Passed Before 11/08/1997 OR
- Diploma in Teacher (Urdu) from AMU, Aligarh University

Age Limit as on 01/07/2017
- Moallim E Urdu Degree Candidates Maximum Age : 62 Years
- AMU Diploma in Teacher & BTC Urdu Candidates Age Limit : 21-50 Years
- Age Relaxation Extra as per Rules

Complete District Wise Vacant List

District Name	Total Post	District Name	Total Post
Firozabad	45	Badaun	40
Mainpur	80	Fatehpur	98
Aligarh	75	Pratapgarh	140
Etah	56	Kaushambi	42
Kasganj	98	Varanasi	14
Hathras	165	Chandauli	84
Mathura	84	Jaunpur	42
Hardoi	112	Mirzapur	70
Sitapur	364	Sonbhadra	84
Raibareilly	49	Bhadohi	126
Unnao	49	Deoria	126
Maharajganj	140	Siddhartha Nagar	98
Basti	126	Lalitpur	14
Jalaun	28	Gonda	196
Chitrakoot	112	Balrampur	56
Banda	105	Bahraich	28
Mahoba	49	Rampur	168
Hamirpur	14	Bijnour	70
Faizabad	42	Amroha	28
Barabanki	14	Kanpur Dehat	56
Sultanpur	112	Auraiya	11
Amethi	56	Farrukhabad	70
Ambedkar Nagar	28	Kannauj	56
Ballia	280	Total	4000

OPINION - EDITORIALS
South China Sea disputes

C.S. Rajput

South China Sea disputes involve both island and maritime claims among several sovereign states within the region, namely the Nation of Brunei, the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Republic of China (Taiwan) (ROC), Malaysia, Indonesia, the Republic of the Philippines, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. As a high proportion of the world's trade passes through the South China Sea, there are many non-claimant nations that want the South China Sea to remain as international waters, with several nations (e.g. the United States of America) conducting *"freedom of navigation"* operations to promote this situation.

The disputes include the islands, reefs, banks and other features of the South China Sea, including the Spratly and Paracel islands, and the various boundaries, including those in the Gulf of Tonkin. There are further disputes, including the dispute in the waters near the Indonesian Natuna Islands which, by most definitions, are not part of the South China Sea. The interests of the nations include retaining or acquiring the rights to fishing areas; the exploration and potential exploitation of crude oil and natural gas under the waters of various parts of the South China Sea, and the strategic control of important shipping lanes.

In July 2016, an arbitral tribunal constituted under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) ruled against the PRC's maritime claims in Philippines v. China, although it is not enforceable. The PRC does not acknowledge the tribunal, nor abide by its ruling, insisting that any resolution should be through bilateral negotiations with other claimants. The disputes involve both maritime boundaries and islands. There are several disputes, each of which involves a different collection of countries:

- The nine-dash line area claimed by the Republic of China, later the People's Republic of China, that covers most of the South China sea and overlaps the exclusive economic zone claims of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam.
- Maritime boundary along the Vietnamese coast between China, Taiwan, and Vietnam.
- Maritime boundary north of Borneo between China, Malaysia, Philippines, and Taiwan.
- Islands, reefs, banks and shoals in the South China Sea, including the Paracel Islands, the Pratas Islands, Macclesfield Bank, Scarborough Shoal and the Spratly Islands between China, Taiwan, and Vietnam, and

parts of the area also contested by Malaysia and the Philippines.
- Maritime boundary in the waters north of the Natuna Islands between China, Indonesia and Taiwan.
- Maritime boundary off the coast of Palawan and Luzon between China, the Philippines, and Taiwan.
- Maritime boundary, land territory, and the islands of Sabah, including Ambalat, between Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.
- Maritime boundary and islands in the Luzon Strait between the China, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

2011 agreement
On 20 July 2011, the PRC, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam agreed to a set of preliminary guidelines which would help resolve the dispute. The agreement was described by the PRC's assistant foreign minister, Liu Zhenmin, as "an important milestone document for cooperation among China and ASEAN countries". Some of the early drafts acknowledged aspects such as "marine environmental protection, scientific research, safety of navigation and communication, search and rescue and combating transnational crime", although the issue of oil and natural gas drilling remains unresolved.

United States reaction
The United States and China are currently in disagreement over the South China Sea. This disagreement is exacerbated by the fact that the US is not a member of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Nevertheless, the US has stood by its manoeuvres, claiming that "peaceful surveillance activities and other military activities without permission in a country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)," is allowed under the convention. Additionally, a South China Sea free to access is in the US's economic and geo-political interests. In relation to the dispute, Secretary Clinton voiced her support for fair access by reiterating that freedom of navigation and respect of international law is a matter of national interest to the United States. Her comments were countered by China's Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi as "in effect an attack on China," who warned the United States against making the South China Sea an international issue or multilateral issue.

Clinton testified in support of congressional approval of the Law of the Sea Convention, which would strengthen US ability to support countries that oppose Chinese claims to certain is-

lands in the area. On 29 May 2012, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry expressed concern over this development, stating that "non-claimant Association of South East Asian Nations countries and countries outside the region have adopted a position of not getting involved into territorial disputes." In July 2012, the United States Senate passed resolution 524, initially sponsored by Senator John Kerry, stating (among other things) the United States' strong support for the 2002 declaration of conduct of parties in the South China Sea, reaffirms the United States' commitment to assist the nations of Southeast Asia to remain strong and independent, and supports enhanced operations by the United States armed forces in the Western Pacific.

In 2014, the United States responded to China's claims over the fishing grounds of other nations by saying that "China has not offered any explanation or basis under international law for these extensive maritime claims." USN CNO Jonathan Greenert then pledged American support to the Philippines in its territorial conflicts with the PRC. The Chinese Foreign Ministry asked the United States to maintain a neutral position on the issue. In 2014 and 2015, the United States continued freedom of navigation operations, including in the South China Sea. Sources closer to the Pentagon have also said that the US administration is planning to deploy some naval assets within 12 nautical miles of the Spratly Islands. In response to this announcement, Beijing issued a strict warning and said that she would not allow any country to violate China's territorial waters in the name of "Freedom of Navigation". In May 2015, U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter warned China to halt its rapid island-building. On 27 October 2015, the US destroyer USS Lassen navigated within 12 nautical miles of reclaimed land in the Subi Reef as the first in a series of "Freedom of Navigation Operations". This is the first time since 2012 that the US has directly challenged China's claims of the island's territorial limit. On 8–9 November 2015, two US B-52 strategic bombers flew near artificial Chinese-built islands in the area of the Spratly Islands and were contacted by Chinese ground controllers but continued their mission undeterred.

The United States itself has not signed UNCLOS, but has accepted all but Part XI as customary international law.

In response to Rex Tillerson's comments on blocking access to man-made islands in the South China Sea, the Communist Party-con-

trolled Global Times warned of a "large-scale war" between the U.S. and China, saying: "Unless Washington plans to wage a large-scale war in the South China Sea, any other approaches to prevent Chinese access to the islands will be foolish."

Independent analysis
The position of China on its maritime claims based on UNCLOS and history has been ambiguous, particularly with the nine dash line map. *For example*, in its notes verbales in 2011, the first phrase stated that China has undisputed sovereignty over the islands and the adjacent waters, suggesting China is claiming sovereignty over its territorial waters, a position consistent with UNCLOS. However, the second phrase in its notes verbales stated that China enjoys sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the relevant waters along with the seabed and subsoil contained in this region, suggesting that China is claiming sovereignty over all of the maritime space (includes all the geographic features and the waters within the nine dash line). The third phrase indicates support for basing their claims on historical basis as well. Recently in its notes verbales in 2011, China has explicitly stated that it claims the territorial waters and all of the islands in which each island has its own exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. A major problem with this claim is that it fails to distinguish between geographic features considered as "islands" or "rocks" under UNCLOS. The vast majority of international legal experts have concluded that China's claims based on historical claims are invalid. Many ambiguities arise from the notion of historical claims as a basis for claiming sovereignty and is inherently ambiguous.

Japanese scholar Taoka Shunji criticised Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for trying to falsely portray China as a threat to Japan and that it was invading its neighbours like the Philippines. He pointed out that the Spratly islands were not part of the Philippines when the US acquired the Philippines from Spain in the Treaty of Paris in 1898, and the Japanese-ruled Taiwan itself had annexed the Spratly islands in 1938, a move that was never challenged by the US-ruled Philippines, which never asserted that it was their territory. He also pointed out that other countries did not need to do full land reclamation since they already controlled islands and that the reason China engaged in extensive land reclamation is because they needed it to build airfields since China only has control over reefs.

Rohingya People

The Rohingya people in the northern Rakhine State of Myanmar have been described as the world's most persecuted minority group. They describe themselves as descendants of Arab traders who settled in the region many generations previously. Scholars have stated that they have been present in the region since the 15th century. However, they have been denied citizenship by the government of Myanmar, which describes them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. In modern times, persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar dates back to the 1970s. Since then, Rohingya people have regularly been made the target of persecution by the government and nationalist Buddhists. The tension between the various religious groups in the country was often exploited by the military rulers of Burma.

According to Myanmar state reports, on 9 October 2016, armed individuals attacked several border police camps in Rakhine state that left nine police personnel dead. Weapons and ammunitions were also looted. The major attack took place in Maungdaw town of the state. The identity of the attackers remained unknown, though it was believed to be a splinter group of the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation.

The 2016–17 Rohingya persecution in Myanmar refers to the ongoing military crackdown by Myanmar's armed forces and police on Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State in the country's northwestern region. The crackdown was in response to attacks on border police camps by unidentified insurgents and has resulted in wide-scale human rights violations at the hands of security forces, including extrajudicial killings, gang rapes, arson, and other brutalities. The military crackdown on Rohingya people drew criticism from various quarters including the United Nations, human rights group Amnesty International, the US Department of State, and the government of Malaysia. The de facto head of government Aung San Suu Kyi has particularly been criticized for her inaction and silence over the issue and for doing little to prevent military abuses.

Refugees crisis
An estimated 92,000 Rohingya people had been displaced due to the violence by January 2017; 65,000 had fled from Myanmar into neighboring Bangladesh between October 2016 and January 2017, while 23,000 others had been internally displaced.

In February 2017, the Government of Bangladesh announced that it intended to relocate the new refugees, and another 232,000 Rohingya refugees already in the country, to Thengar Char, a sedimentary island in the Bay of Bengal. The island first appeared around 2007, formed from washed down from the Meghna River. The nearest inhabited land, Hatiya island is around 30 km away. News agencies quoted a regional official describing the plan as "terrible". The move has received substantial opposition from a number of sources. Human rights groups have described the plan as a forced relocation. Additionally, concerns have been raised about living conditions on the island, which is low-lying and prone to flooding. The island has been described as "only accessible during winter and a haven for pirates". It is nine hours away from the camps in which the Rohingya currently live.

Related incidents
In January 2017, at least four policemen were detained by government authorities after a video emerged online of security forces beating Rohingya Muslims in November 2016. In the video, Rohingya men and boys were forced to sit in rows with their hands behind their head, whilst they were beaten with batons and kicked. This was the first incident in which the government punished its own security forces in the region since the beginning of the crackdown. On 21 January 2017, the bodies of three Muslim Rohingya men were found in shallow graves in Maungdaw. The men were locals who had worked closely with the local administration, and the government believes they were murdered by Rohingya insurgents in a reprisal attack.

Criticism
The military crackdown on Rohingya people drew criticism from various quarters. Human rights group Amnesty International and organizations such as the United Nations have labeled the military crackdown on the Rohingya minority as crimes against humanity and have said that the military had made the civilians a target of "a systematic campaign of violence". In November 2016, a senior United Nations official, John McKissick, accused Myanmar of conducting ethnic cleansing in the Rakhine state to free it from Muslim minority.[6][30] John McKissick is the head of a UN refugee agency based in Bangladeshi town Cox's Bazar. Later that month, Bangladesh summoned the Myanmar envoy in its country to express 'tremendous concern' over the Rohingya persecution.

In December 2016, the United Nations strongly criticized the Myanmar government for its poor treatment of the Rohingya people, and called its approach 'callous'. The United Nations also called on Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor of Myanmar (de facto head of government) and a Nobel laureate, to take steps to stop violence against the Rohingyas. In its report released in February 2017, the UN stated that the persecution of the Rohingya had included serious human rights violations. The UN Human Rights Commissioner Zeid Raad Al Hussein stated "The cruelty to which these Rohingya children have been subjected is unbearable - what kind of hatred could make a man stab a baby crying out for his mother's milk?" A spokesperson of the government stated that the allegations were very serious, and would be investigated.

Padma Awardees 2017

Suraj S. Rajput

Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year. This year the President of India has approved conferment of Padma Awards to 89 persons as per the list below. The list comprises of 7 Padma Vibhushan, 7 Padma Bhushan and 75 Padma Shri Awardees. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 5 persons from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs and 6 Posthumous awardees.

Padma Vibhushan
Sharad Pawar Public Affairs; Murli Manohar Joshi Public Affairs; P.A. Sangma (posthumous) Public Affairs; Sunder Lal Patwah (posthumous) Public Affairs; K.J.Yesudas Art - Music; Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev Others - Spirituality; Udipi Ramachandra Rao Science & Engineering
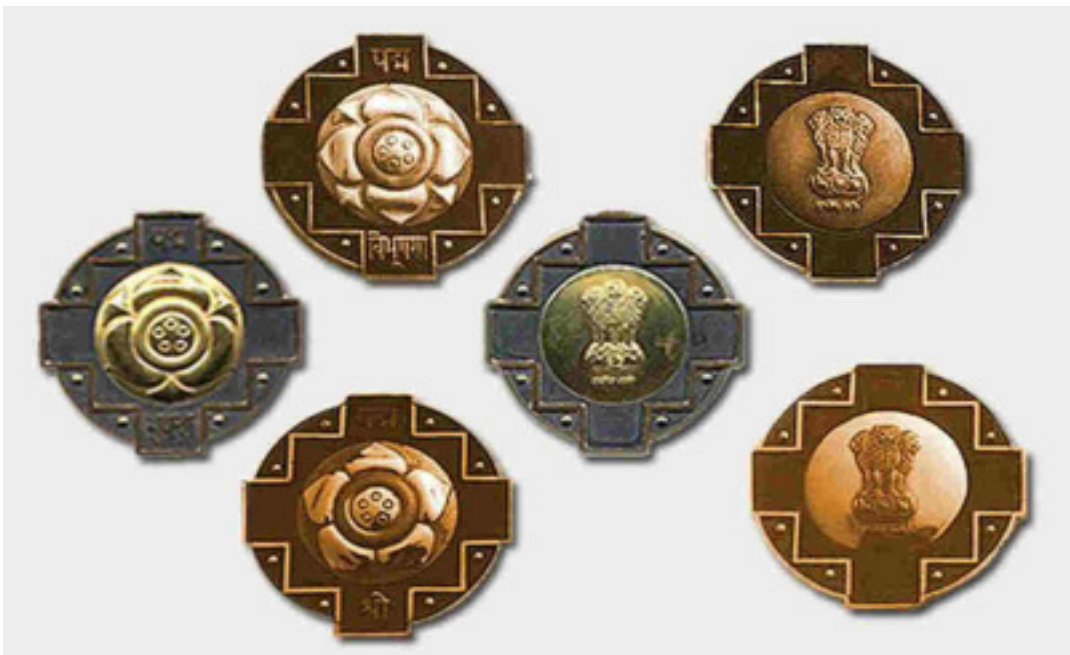
Padma Bhushan
Vishwa Mohan Bhatt Art - Music; Devi Prasad Dwivedi Literature & Education; Tehemton

Udwadia Medicine; Ratna Sundar Maharaj Others-Spiritualism; Swami Niranjana Nanda Saraswati Others-Yoga; H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Foreigner) Literature & Education; Cho Ramaswamy (Posthumous) Literature & Education–Journalism

Padma Shri
Basanti Bisht Art-Music; Chemanchery Kunhiraman Nair Art-Dance; Aruna Mohanty Art-Dance; Bharathi Vishnuvardhan Art-Cinema; Sadhu Meher Art-CinemaT K Murthy Art-Music; Laishram Birendrakumar Singh Art-Music; Krishna Ram Chaudhary Art-Music; Baoa Devi Art-Painting; Tilak Gitai Art-Painting; Aekka Yadagiri Rao Art-Sculpture; Jitendra Haripal Art-Music; Kailash Kher Art-Music; Parassala B Ponnammal Art-Music; Sukri Bommagowda Art-Music; Mukund Nayak Art-MusicPurushottam Upadhyay Art-MusicAnuradha Paudwal Art-MusicWareppa Naba Nil Art-TheatreTripuraneni Hanuman Chowdary Civil ServiceT.K. Viswanathan Civil ServiceKanwal Sibal Civil ServiceBirkha Bahadur Limboo Muringla Literature & EducationEli Ahmed Literature & EducationNarendra Kohli Literature & EducationG. Venkatasubbiah Literature & Education Akkitham Achyuthan Namboothiri Literature & EducationKashi Nath Pandita Literature & EducationChamu Krishna Shastry Literature & EducationHarihar Kripalu Tripathi Literature & EducationMichel Danino Literature & EducationPunam Suri Literature & EducationVG Patel Literature & EducationV Koteswaramma Literature & EducationBalbir

Dutt Literature & Education-JournalismBhawana Somaya Literature & Education-JournalismVishnu Pandya Literature & Education-JournalismSubroto Das MedicineBhakti Yadav MedicineMohammed Abdul Waheed MedicineMadan Madhav Godbole MedicineDevendra Dayabhai Patel MedicineHarkishan Singh MedicineMukut Minz MedicineArun Kumar Sharma Others-ArchaeologySanjeev Kapoor Others-CulinaryMeenakshi Amma Others-Martial ArtGenabhai Dargabhai Patel Others-AgricultureChandrakant Pithawa Science & EngineeringAjoy Kumar Ray Science & EngineeringChintakindi Mallesham Science & EngineeringJitendra Nath Goswami Science & EngineeringDaripalli Ramaiah Social WorkGirish Bhardwaj Social WorkKarimul Hak

Social WorkBipin Ganatra Social WorkNivedita Raghunath Bhide Social workAppasaheb Dharmadhikari Social WorkBaba Balbir Singh Seechewal Social WorkVirat Kohli Sports-CricketShekar Naik Sports-CricketVikasa Gowda Sports-Discus ThrowDeepa Malik Sports-AthleticsMariyappan Thangavelu Sports-AthleticsDipa Karmakar Sports-GymnasticsP. R. Shreejesh Sports-HockeySakshi Malik Sports-WrestlingMohan Reddy Venkatrama Bodanapu Trade & IndustryImrat Khan (NRI/PIO) Art-MusicAnant Agarwal (NRI/PIO) Literature & EducationH.R. Shah (NRI/PIO) Literature & Education-JournalismSuniti Solomon (Posthumous) MedicineAsoke Kumar Bhattacharyya (Posthumous) Others-ArchaeologyDr. Mapuskar (Posthumous) Social WorkAnuradha Koirala (Foreigner) Social Work

CURRENT UPDATE

India In Red Zone On Transparency List

The annual index of Transparency International issued on 25 Jan, 2017. A major international index of corruption and transparency has placed India on the watch list for its inability to curb mega corruption scandals and petty bribery. The annual index of Transparency International issued on Wednesday for 2016 placed India with Brazil and China in the 40th position. India's condition showed growth with inequality, it said.

"India's ongoing poor performance with a score of 40 reiterates the state's inability to effectively deal with petty corruption and large-scale corruption scandals," said Transparency International. The impact of corruption on poverty, illiteracy and policy brutality showed that not only was the economy growing but so was inequality.

India's current ranking, putting it in the high corruption zone, has drawn critical observations from transparency campaigners. Nikhil Dey of People's Campaign for Right to Information said the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not done enough on the issue of Lokpal and whistleblower protection.

"A lot of scams in the previous government were unearthed with the help of the right to information that the government itself allowed. But the present government has done nothing to boost the anti-corruption structure. The demonetisation process is the latest indicator of the lack of transparency in the system, where even the Reserve Bank of India is not able to spell out the exact details of the operation," Mr. Dey said. "Growth with inequality is disastrous on its own. But in the case of India, such a growth also legitimises corruption," he warned.

South Asia had performed poorly. Bangladesh at 27th and Nepal at 29th positions were slotted in the highly corrupt section. Pakistan, at 32, also came in the red zone. Afghanistan ranked 15th was in the "highly corrupt" list with South Sudan, North Korea and Libya.

The organisation recognised China's recent anti-corruption campaign under President Xi Jinping which had been targeting 'tigers and flies' and slotted it alongside India. China's latest score was an improvement of three points. India, though it improved two ranks, remained in the same red-zone of corruption.

Curtain Raiser- Republic Day – 2017

The Nation's military prowess and achievements in different fields, state-of- the-art defence platforms, its diverse cultural and social traditions, and the government's emphasis on self-reliance and indigenisation will be showcased before the public at the historic Rajpath when the country celebrates its 68th Republic Day tomorrow.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE armed forces, will be the Chief Guest at this year's Republic Day parade.

The highlights of this year's Parade will be, a 149-member UAE Presidential Guard, the Air Force, the Navy and Army contingent led by a UAE band consisting of 35 musicians marching on Rajpath and presenting a ceremonial salute to the President of India. The UAE military contingent is led by Lt Col Abood Musabeh Abood Musabeh Alghfeli.

This year's parade will also see some of the firsts to its credit. For the first time a contingent of the National Security Guard (NSG) popularly known as the Black Cat Commandoes will march-past the Rajpath. The parade will also see the fly-past of three LCA Tejas Aircraft flying at a height of 300 m from ground in 'Vic' formation and the Airborne Early Warning & Control System (AEW&C) developed by DRDO.

Sticking to the 67 years tradition of the Republic Day Celebration, the colourful BSF Camel Regiment led by Deputy Commandant Kuldeep Seervi will take part.

The Indian Army's missile firing capability, T-90 'Bhishma' tank, Infantry Combat Vehicle BMP-2K, Mobile Autonomous Launcher of the BrahMos Missile System, Weapon Locating Raddar 'Swathi', Akash Weapon System, CBRN Recconnnaisance Vehicle and Dhanush Gun System will be the main draw in the mechanised columns.

An Indian Air Force Tableau will roll down the Rajpath with the theme "Air Dominance Through Network Centric Operations". The Tableau will display the scaled down models of Su-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, AWACS, UAV, Apache and Communication Sattelite.

This year the Indian Navy's Tableau will have the theme 'Indian Navy – Professional Force-Anchoring Stability, Security and National Prosperity'. The tableau showcases the lethal Marine Commandoes proceeding for action, the indigenously built Kolkata Class Destroyer and the Kalvari Class next generation attack submarines. The tableaux also displays a model of the P-8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

The parade ceremony will commence at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate where the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will lead the nation in paying homage to the martyrs by laying a wreath. An eternal flame burns at the Amar Jawan Jyoti to commemorate the indomitable courage of our Armed Forces personnel who have made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the motherland. The Amar Jawan, the immortal soldier, is symbolised by a reversed rifle standing on its barrel and crested by a soldier's helmet.

As per tradition, after unfurling the National Flag, the national anthem will be played with a 21 gun salute. The parade will then commence and the President will take the salute. This year's Chief Guest in the parade will be His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Armed Forces. The parade will be commanded by Lt. General Manoj Mukund Naravane, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area. Major General Rajesh Sahai, Chief of Staff, Headquarter Delhi Area will be the parade Second-in-Command.

Param Vir Chakra winners Subedar Major & Honorary Captain Bana Singh (Retd), Subedar Yogendra Singh Yadav, 18 Grenadiers and Naib/Subedar Sanjay Kumar, 13 JAK Rifles and Ashok Chakra winners Major General Cyrus A Pithawalla (Retd), Lt Col Jas Ram Singh (Retd), Shri Hukum Singh and Shri Govind Singh of district Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh and Shri Bhure Lal of district Guna also from Madhya Pradesh will follow the Deputy Parade Commander on Jeeps.

The marching contingents of Army will include horse-mounted columns of the 61st Cavalry, the Machanised Infantry Regiment, the Bihar Regiment, the 39 Gorkha Training Centre, 58 Gorkha Training Centre, the Madras Engineering Group and Centre and 103 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) Sikh LI.

The marching contingent of Navy comprising 144 young sailors will be led by Lieutenant Aparna Nair, while the Indian Air Force contingent comprising 144 men will be led by Squadran Leader Attal Singh Shekhon. The Paramilitary and other auxiliary civil forces will include the Border Security Force Camel Contingent, Indian Coast Guard, Central Reserve Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Delhi Police, National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme.

Tableaux from 17 States and UT, six Central Ministries and Departments will present the varied historical, art and cultural heritage of the country. They will also showcase country's progress in different fields, particularly floats from Goa, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and Jammu & Kashmir with their varied themes, which will be of special attraction. The floats of Central Board

of Excise and Customs, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Allevation will showcase the rapid development of some of the flagship programmes of the Government. The floats of Council of Scientific and Industial Research (CSIR) and Ministry of Skill Development & Enterprenurship will highlight the significant progress in the scientific and technological growth in the country as well as our efforts to promote skill development and enterprenurship to achieve the vision of "Skill India".

Twenty one of the Twenty five children selected for the National Bravery Award–2016 will also participate in the parade. Four children have got the award posthumously. In the children's pageant section, about 600 boys and girls drawn from three schools in Delhi and a group of school children from South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur will perform colourful dances on varid themes. The splendid driving skills of 'Dare Devils'- the motorcycle display team of Corps of Military Police will be a major attraction of the parade. They will perform different stunts like Salute to President, Ladder, Double Bar, Lotus, Christmas Tree, Aircraft, Sudarshan Chakra, Flower Pot, Pyramid and Wheeling on moving motor cycles.

The grand finale of the parade will be a spectacular flypast by the IAF. The flypast will commence with the 'Chakra' formation, comprising three Mi-35 helicopters in 'Vic' formation, followed by the 'Hercules' formation comprising three C-130J Super Hercules aircraft in 'Vic' formation. Trailing them will be the 'Netra' which is an Airborne Early Warning and Control System Aircraft also known as "Eye in the Sky". It will be followed by the 'Globe formation' comprising one C-17 Globemaster flanked by two Su-30 MKIs. Next in line will be the fighters, where five Jaguars will fly in Arrowhead formation, another five MiG-29 Air Superiority Fighters will fly in Fulcrum style. Then the breath-taking 'Trishul' formation comprising three Su-30 MKIs of No. 24 Squadron would fly over the Rajpath, and once in front of the saluting dais, the Su-30 MKI aircraft will split upwards, making a Trishul in the sky. The flypast will conclude with another Su-30 MKI carrying out a 'Vertical Charlie' manoeuvre over the saluting dais.

Donald Trump Signs Order To Start Construction Of US-Mexico Border Wall

President Donald Trump moved aggressively to tighten the nation's immigration policies Wednesday, signing executive actions to jumpstart construction of a U.S.-Mexico border wall and block federal grants from immigrant-protecting "sanctuary cities."

As on 25th Jan, 2017 afternoon, the White House had not circulated copies of the documents or briefed reporters on the details, as has been typical practice in past administrations. But Trump cast his actions as fulfillment of his campaign pledge to enact hard-line immigration measures, including construction of a wall paid for by Mexico. U.S. taxpayers are expected to pay for the upfront costs, though Trump continues to assert that Mexico will reimburse the money through unspecified means.

Trump said, "There will be a payment; it will be in a form, perhaps a complicated form." While Trump has repeatedly said the border structure will be a wall, his spokesman Sean Spicer said more generally Wednesday the president was ordering construction of a "large physical barrier."

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, who has insisted his country will not pay for a wall, is to meet with Trump at the White House next week.

The orders Trump signed Wednesday also increase the number of border patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to be hired. And the president ordered the end of what Republicans have labeled a catch-and-release system at the border. Currently, some immigrants caught crossing the border illegally are released and given notices to report back to immigration officials at a later date.

Later in the week, Trump is expected to sign orders restricting the flow of refugees into the United States. His current proposal includes at least a four-month halt on all refugee admissions, as well as a temporary ban on people coming from some Muslim-majority countries, according to a source from a public policy organization that monitors refugee issues. The person was briefed on the details of that proposed action by a government official and outlined the plan to The Associated Press.

The public policy organization source insisted on anonymity in order to outline the plans ahead of the president's official announcements.

Trump campaigned on pledges to tighten U.S. immigration policies, including strengthening

border security and stemming the flow of refugees. His call for a border wall was among his most popular proposals with supporters, who often broke out in chants of "build that wall" during rallies.

Five challenges Trump may face building a border wall

Below are five notable challenges to building the wall that we observed along the journey.

1. The terrain is very rough in some areas : The nearly 2,000-mile border features a variety of climates, vegetation and terrain. Most of the current border fence exists west of El Paso, Tex., where the border switches from relatively straight lines to the winding path of the Rio Grande.
2. Unlike the Western border states, most of Texas is privately owned : A significant amount of border land in Arizona and New Mexico is owned by the federal government. But most Texas land is privately owned, thanks to its terms of entry into the Union 200 years ago.
3. Most of the border is natural, but a human-made barrier is not : The southern border of Texas is technically somewhere in the middle of the Rio Grande. The river has changed course in the past, creating boundary disputes between the United States and Mexico.
4. Surveillance makes the barrier effective : Security experts say that border barriers are merely obstacles to would-be crossers unless they are watched. Former homeland security secretary Janet Napolitano famously remarked, "You show me a 50-foot wall, and I'll show you a 51-foot ladder." Fencing is just one part of the effort by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to secure the country's borders. The number of Border Patrol officers has doubled in recent years. Checkpoints strategically line roads along the border. Where no fencing exists, cameras and sensors do.
5. Migrants are determined and often have few options : Increased violence in some Central American countries has pushed migrants and asylum seekers to the U.S. at a breakneck pace. Apprehensions of unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have doubled in the past three years, according to Border Patrol figures.

India Improves On Transparency Corruption Index

India has marginally improved its ranking in the graft watchdog Transparency International's corruption perception index for 2016, a list topped by New Zealand and Denmark which are jointly ranked as the world's least corrupt nations. The Berlin-based anti-graft organisation has used World Bank data, the World Economic Forum and other institutions to rank 176 countries by perceived levels of corruption in public sector.

The score runs from zero, which is highly corrupt, to 100, which is very clean. India, China and Brazil with a score of 40 each figured in the 10 key economies in the mid-range. India's score has improved by two points as in 2015 the country had scored 38.

The latest rankings put New Zealand and Denmark in joint first place with a score of 90, followed by Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Singapore, Netherlands and Canada.

At the bottom of the index, Somalia was ranked the most corrupt country. Other countries with lower rankings - which typically point to badly performing public institutions, bribery or corruption - were Syria, South Sudan, North Korea, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

No country got close to a perfect score in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2016. Over two-thirds of the 176 countries and territories in this year's index fall below the midpoint of the scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

The global average score is a paltry 43, indicating endemic corruption in a country's public sector.

"India's ongoing poor performance with a score of 40 reiterates the state's inability to effectively deal with petty corruption as well as large-scale corruption scandals. The impact of corruption on poverty, illiteracy and police brutality shows that not only the economy is growing – but also inequality," the anti-graft body said.

The majority of Asia Pacific countries sit in the bottom half of the Corruption Perceptions Index 2016. 19 out of 30 countries in the region scored 40 or less out of 100, it said.

"Poor performance can be attributed to unaccountable governments, lack of oversight, insecurity and shrinking space for civil society, pushing anti-corruption action to the margins in those countries. High-profile corruption scandals, in addition to everyday corruption issues, continue to undermine public trust in government, the benefits of democracy and the rule of law," the organisation said.

India, UAE Sign Comprehensive Strategic Partnership And 13 Other Agreements

An umbrella agreement on elevating bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership is among 14 agreements signed by India and the UAE following delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan here on Jan 25, 2017.

"New vistas for futuristic partnership! #IndiaUAE sign 14 agreements in varied fields for enhancing bilateral cooperation," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup tweeted. Though it was already agreed that the relationship between the two countries would be elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Wednesday's agreement is a general framework agreement which highlights the areas of bilateral cooperation identified under the comprehensive strategic partnership as agreed upon in the high level joint statements issued in August 2015 during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and in February 2016 during Sheikh Mohamed's visit to India, according to information released by the External Affairs Ministry.

A second agreement was signed between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) on storage and management of oil at strategic facilities in India. This agreement aims to establish a framework for the storage of crude oil by ADNOC in India and to further strengthen the strategic relationship between the two countries in the field of energy.

These apart, both sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of defence industry.

This MoU aims to establish cooperation in the identified fields of defence manufacturing and technology, including through studies, research, development, innovation and cooperation between public and private sector institutions of the two countries. The two sides will cooperate in areas of armaments, defence industries and transfer of technology.

Another MoU was signed on institutional cooperation on maritime transport which provides a framework for enhancing bilateral maritime trade ties through facilitating maritime transport, free transfer of monies between contracting parties and reciprocal recognition of ships' documents.

A third MoU on mutual recognition of certificates of competency aims to deepen the maritime economic activities in general by establishing a framework for Mutual Recognition of Certificates of Competency of marine officers, engineers and crews.

Other MoUs signed are on bilateral cooperation in road transport and highways sector, cooperation in preventing and combating human trafficking, cooperation in the field of small and medium enterprises and innovation, agriculture and allied sectors, mutual exemption of entry visa requirements to the holders of diplomatic, special and official passports, trade remedial measures to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest, cooperation in energy efficiency services, cooperation on programme exchange between Prasar Bharati and Emirates News Agency (WAM), and on technology development and cooperation in cyberspace.

Sheikh Mohamed, who arrived here on Tuesday on a three-day visit to India, will attend the Republic Day celebrations as the chief guest.

Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016

Over two-thirds of the 176 countries and territories in this year's index fall below the midpoint of our scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The global average score is a paltry 43, indicating endemic corruption in a country's public sector. Top-scoring countries (yellow in the map below) are far outnumbered by orange and red countries where citizens face the tangible impact of corruption on a daily basis.

With the launch of Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2016 just five days after Donald Trump's inauguration as US President, it's timely to look at the links between populism, socio-economic malaise and the anti-corruption agenda. Indeed, Trump and many other populist leaders regularly make a connection between a "corrupt elite" interested only in enriching themselves and their (rich) supporters and the marginalisation of "working people". This year's results highlight the connection between corruption and inequality, which feed off each other to create a vicious circle between corruption, unequal distribution of power in society, and unequal distribution of wealth.

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68th Republic Day Parade 2017

India celebrates its 68th Republic Day today. The Parade, held every year at Rajpath in Delhi, concluded earlier today. On January 26, 1950, the Constitution of India came into force, and Republic Day is celebrated to honour that day. On this day in 1950, the first President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad took oath.

President Pranab Mukherjee started the ceremony by hoisting the Indian flag, following which the Republic Day Parade began from Rajpath. The parade, held annually on January 26, starts from Rajpath and ends at Red Fort in Delhi.

Every year on Republic Day, India invites a visiting head of state, who is the state guest of honour (chief guest) for the ceremony.

This year's **guest of honour was the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who personally received the Prince at the airport, said that United Arab Emirates is India's valued partner and close ties between the two countries are important for the entire region. India and UAE have signed 13 agreements, including one on strategic cooperation. Though Republic Day is celebrated on January 26 with the Parade on Rajpath, the celebrations are spread over three days and ends with the Beating Retreat ceremony on January 29.

Usain Bolt Loses Olympic Relay Gold Medal Due To Teammate's Doping

Usain Bolt lost one of his nine Olympic gold medals after one of his Jamaican 4x100m relay teammates, Nesta Carter, was stripped of his 2008 Olympic participation for doping by the International Olympic Committee. "The Jamaican team is disqualified from the men's 4x100m relay event," the IOC said on 25th Jan, 2017. "The corresponding medals, medalist pins and diplomas are withdrawn and shall be returned."

Carter, part of winning 4x100m relay teams with Bolt in 2008 and 2012, failed retests of Beijing Olympic doping samples for a banned stimulant in 2016. The prohibited substance was the stimulant methylhexaneamine.

In Rio at his final Olympics, Bolt tied Carl Lewis and Paavo Nurmi for the most Olympic track and field titles at nine. Now, he falls one below the record. The IOC decided last year to retest 2008 Olympic samples, with better testing advancements, to possibly detect banned substances that weren't identified by 2008 testing methods.

In all, 80 athletes from the Beijing Olympics have been disqualified for doping, according to Olympic historians. More than 40 medals have been stripped. The Jamaican 4x100m relay team took gold in a then-world record time in Beijing, capping Bolt's breakout Olympics with three world records in three events.

The other members of the relay were Asafa Powell and Michael Frater, plus Dwight Thomas in the qualifying heat. Trinidad and Tobago took silver, Japan bronze and Brazil was fourth in the 2008 Olympic 4x100m. The IOC has requested that track and field's international governing body modify the results after Jamaica's disqualification. Also on 25 Jan, 2017, the IOC stripped Russian Tatyana Lebedeva of her 2008 Olympic long jump and triple jump silver medals for a positive retest of a doping sample from the Beijing Games.

Scientists Creates World's First Stable Semi-Synthetic Organism

Scientists have created the first stable semi-synthetic organism a single-celled bacterium that may play important roles in drug discoveries.In a breakthrough, scientists have created the first stable semi-synthetic organism – a single-celled bacterium – that may play important roles in drug discovery and other applications.Life's genetic code has only ever contained four natural bases.

These bases pair up to form two base pairs – the rungs of the DNA ladder – and they have simply been rearranged to create all life as we know it, from bacteria to humans.Building on earlier research in which they synthesised a DNA base pair, scientists at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) in the US created a new bacterium that uses the four natural bases (called A, T, C and G), which every living organism possesses, but that also holds as a base pair two synthetic bases called X and Y in its genetic code.

Researchers have now shown that the single-celled organism can hold on to the synthetic base pair as it divides. Researchers said the work could be used to create new functions for single-celled organisms that play important roles in drug discovery and much more. They had earlier showed that E coli bacteria could hold a synthetic base pair in their genetic code.

However, they could not keep the base pair in their code indefinitely as they divided.The X and Y base pair was dropped over time, limiting the ways the organism could use the additional information possessed in their DNA. Researchers developed the means for the single-celled organism to retain the artificial base pair. They optimised a tool called a nucleotide transporter,

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which brings the materials necessary for the unnatural base pair to be copied across the cell membrane. The researchers discovered a modification to the transporter that that made it much easier for the organism to grow and divide while holding on to X and Y. They then optimised their previous version of Y, creating a chemically different molecule that can be better recognised by the enzymes that synthesise DNA molecules during DNA replication. This made it easier for cells to copy the synthetic base pair.

Researchers then used gene editing tool CRISPR-Cas9 to design their organism to see a genetic sequence without X and Y as a foreign invader. A cell that dropped X and Y would be marked for destruction, leaving the scientists with an organism that could hold on to the new bases.

UAE, India To Finalise Talks On $75bn Fund, Oil Reserves

The UAE and India are expected to sign an agreement to finalise the framework for the $75 billion investment fund today with India offering to "ring fence" some investments made by UAE companies facing legal problems.His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces commenced his official three-day visit to India on Tuesday, as the chief guest for the 2017-Republic Day celebrations.

Indian foreign ministry official in-charge of economic relations Amar Sinha said on Tuesday that the two countries were expecting to sign a memorandum of understanding on the $75bn investment fund, putting in place a framework on how the fund will be administered and sectors where it will invest.UAE Ambassador to India Dr Ahmed Al Banna said earlier the fund will be investing over a period of 10 years in areas such as roads, highways, logistics centres, and railroads.

India, which imports about 80 percent of its oil needs, is building emergency storage in vast underground caverns to hold some 36.87 million barrels of crude as it seeks to hedge against energy security risks.

ISRO Successfully Tests C25 Cryogenic Upper Stage Of GSLV MkIII

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully ground tested its indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage for GSLV MkIII on January 25, 2017. The cryogenic stage designated as C25 was tested for a duration of 50 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri demonstrating all the stage operations. The performance of the Stage during the test was as predicted. This is the first test in a series of two tests. The next test is planned for flight duration of 640 seconds.

The 50 second test is a significant milestone in the development of indigenous cryogenic propulsion technology. The successful hot test of the stage in the first attempt itself demonstrates ISRO's ability to work in new areas like cryogenic technology.

The development of C25 cryogenic stage began with the approval of GSLV MKIII, the next generation launch vehicle of ISRO, capable of launching 4 ton class spacecraft in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The vehicle consists of two solid strap-on motors (S200), one earth storable liquid core stage (L110) and the cryogenic stage upper stage (C25).

The C25 stage was conceptualised, designed and realised by Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre

(LPSC), ISRO's lead Centre for Propulsion, with support from various System Development Agencies from other three Centres of ISRO – Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) and Sathish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR. The fabrication of various subsystems of the engine and the stage was carried out through Indian Industries.

The C25 stage is the most powerful upper stage developed by ISRO and uses Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) propellant combination. The stage carries 27.8 tons of propellants loaded in two independent tanks.

C25 D- Stage on Test Stand

Development of a cryogenic stage has unique design challenges, with liquid Hydrogen stored at -253 deg C and liquid Oxygen stored at -195 deg C in its tanks. To store these cryogenic fluids, special multi-layer insulation is provided for the tanks and other structures.

The first flight stage for GSLV MkIII-D1 mission is in advanced stage of realisation. The flight engine has been successfully tested in the High Altitude Test (HAT) facility and integrated with the flight stage.

GAAR Will Be Effective From April 1, 2017

Addressing investors' concerns ahead of GAAR implementation from April 1, the tax department today said it will not interplay with their right to choose a method of transaction and won't apply if routing of funds through a jurisdiction is "based on non-tax commercial considerations". The General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR), which seek to prevent companies from routing transactions through other countries to avoid taxes, can be invoked through a two-stage process involving a nod at the level of principal commissioner of income tax and a panel headed by a high court judge.

Seeking to assuage concerns of investors, CBDT said GAAR provisions shall be effective from assessment year 2018-19 onwards and "shall not be invoked merely on the ground that the entity is located in a tax efficient jurisdiction". "If the jurisdiction of FPI is finalised based on non-tax commercial considerations and the main purpose of the arrangement is not to obtain tax benefit, GAAR will not apply.

President Appoints Banwarilal Purohit As Governor Of Meghalaya

President Pranab Mukherjee appointed Banwarilal Purohit, the Governor of Assam to execute the functions of the Governor of Meghalaya after accepting the resignation of V. Shanmuganathan, as Governor of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. President Mukherjee also appointed P. B. Acharya, the Governor of Nagaland to discharge functions as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

Image result for President appoints Banwarilal Purohit as Governor of Meghalaya

Former Meghalaya Governor V Shanmuganathan resigned on January 26 after nearly 100 members of his staff alleged in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he had "compromised the dignity" at the Governor's House and turned it into a "young ladies club".

GAAR will not interplay with the right of the taxpayer to select or choose method of implementing a transaction," the CBDT said in a statement. In a clarification on implementation of GAAR, CBDT said the provisions will not apply if the tax benefits obtained are permissible under the limitation of benefits clause provided in tax treaties. Investments made by way of convertible instruments, bonus issuances or split/consolidation of holdings prior to April 1 will be grandfathered, it said.

CBDT said that adoption of anti-abuse rules in tax treaties may not be sufficient to address all tax avoidance strategies and they are required to be tackled through domestic anti-avoidance rules. "However, if a case of avoidance is sufficiently addressed by Limitation of Benefits (LoB) provisions in the tax treaty, there shall not be an occasion to invoke GAAR," it said.

The proposal to apply GAAR will be vetted first by the Principal Commissioner of I-T/Commissioner of I-T and at the second stage by an Approving Panel headed by a judge of High Court. "The stakeholders have been assured that adequate procedural safeguards are in place to ensure that GAAR is invoked in a uniform, fair and rational manner," CBDT said, adding that the government is committed to providing certainty and clarity in tax rules.

Supreme Court Appointed A Four-Member Panel Of Administrators

On 30 Jan 2017 the Supreme Court appointed a four-member panel of administrators, headed by former comptroller and auditor general Vinod Rai, to run the affairs of BCCI after its president and other top office bearers were barred following sweeping changes ordered by the court.In keeping with norms set by the court-appointed Lodha panel, SC named historian Ramachandra Guha, Infrastructure and Development Finance Company CEO Vikram Limaye and former India women's captain Diana Edulji as other panel members.

A bench of Justices Dipak Misra, A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud said the panel will supervise BCCI's management, with the board CEO reporting to it. SC selected the panel from names suggested by senior advocates Gopal Subramaniam and Anil Divan, who are assisting the court, and state associations. The bench turned down the Centre's plea that secretary of the sports ministry be also nominated as an admin istrator, citing its earlier verdict that had barred ministers and bureaucrats from holding any post in BCCI.After nearly three years of legal proceedings during which the apex court urged BCCI and state cricket associations to reform cricket administration, the court finally entrusted the task of injecting transparency and accountability in to the panel led by Rai, who is currently chairman of the banks board bureau.The court began hearing the case on cricket reforms in March 2014 when allegations of betting and spotfixing in IPL 2013 came to light, but soon expanded the ambit of the hearing and appointed Justice RM Lodha as head of a panel to recommend measures to overhaul cricket administration in the country.

The apex court had on July 18 last year ordered a comprehensive revamp of BCCI, based on recommendations of the Justice Lodha committee which barred ministers and bureaucrats from the board, set an age limit of 70 years for office-bearers and sought to implement a `one-state-one-vote' principle.The cricket body resisted implementation of several reforms leading to the court freezing its accounts and finally replacing its office-bearers to ensure compliance of its order. It turned down the plea of the Centre, BCCI and other state associations which contended that the court should first decide their petition for recall of the July order.Making it clear that the court order on cricket reforms must be complied with, the bench asked the committee to file a status report in four weeks.

The court also appointed Amitabh Chaudhary, Anirudh Chaudhary (as suggested by BCCI) and Vikram Limaye to represent the board in the ICC executive meeting to be held in February first week. The court, however, made it clear that accepting BCCI's names did not mean that it had approved their continuance in the management of the board's affairs and their task was only limited to represent it at the ICC meeting.Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi told the bench that the Centre's application for recall of the July order should be decided by the court before it passed an order on appointment of administrators. The state associations also supported his contention but the court remained firm and passed the direction.

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