

2015 NOVEMBER

1st November

AROUND THE WORLD

Refugees Stranded on Arctic Path to Norway

- More than 500 refugees from Syria and other countries have been stranded in the tiny town of Nickel on Russia's far northern edge, where they have encountered problems trying to cross into Norway.
- Most of the migrants had tried to enter Europe by flying to Moscow on tourist or other visas. They then travelled above the Arctic Circle, where Russia borders Norway. The lure of this unlikely route is that it bypasses unfriendly border guards, barbed-wire fences and cluttered refugee camps that migrants bound for Germany and Scandinavia often encounter in Central Europe.
- Norway, while not a member of the European Union, is part of the Schengen Area, which gives people who enter unfettered access to most other European countries.

EARTH MATTER

Some Ice Sheets in Greenland Slowing Their Movement

- In the face of decades of increasing temperatures and surface melting, the movement of the southwest portion of the Greenland Ice Sheet that terminates on land has been slowing down.
- The results were derived by tracking ice sheet movement through Landsat satellite images taken from 1985 to 2014 across a roughly 3,088-square-mile (8000-square-kilometer) region in southwest Greenland.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

Carborundum Q2 Profit Zooms

- Carborundum Universal Ltd reported a significant rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs. 39 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 when compared with Rs. 17 crore in the same period previous year. Consolidated net sales for the July-September 2015 quarter stood at Rs. 514 crore when compared with Rs. 541 crore, a drop of five per cent.
- Profit before other income and finance costs stood at Rs. 56 crore as against Rs. 29 crore. Profit before tax was Rs. 66 crore when compared with Rs. 30 crore.

INFOTAINMENT

Sania and Hingis Secure No.1 Doubles Ranking

- IndoSwiss pair of Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis secured the year-end WTA No. 1 doubles ranking. The duo also received a trophy in acknowledgment of their feat presented by Dubai Duty Free.
- Dubai Duty Free congratulates Serena, Sania and Martina on reaching the No. 1 spot in singles and doubles of the 2015 WTA year-end ranking.
- Saina and Hingis are 81 in finals this season, with two Grand Slam titles (Wimbledon, US Open), five WTA Premier titles (BNP Paribas Open - Indian Wells, Miami Open, Family Circle Cup - Charleston, Dongfeng Motor Wuhan Open, China Open - Beijing), and one WTA International title (Guangzhou International Women's Open).

- The pair also reached their 10th final of the year together at WTA Finals overcoming Chinese Taipei's Chan Hao-Ching and Chan Yung-Jan and extended their winning streak to 21 matches with the win. Their last loss was against the Chan sisters in the semi-finals at Cincinnati.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft and Outlook Online Add Skype Voice

- Microsoft has announced that it is planning Skype integration directly into Office Online and Outlook.com which will allow the users to communicate by voice and video with their contacts while working on a document.
- According to The Next Web, this will make it easier to communicate when actively making modifications to a file. But, if the users do choose to use messages, then Skype will connect their message history to the document, so the users can pick up from where they left off last time they opened a document.

2nd November

AROUND THE WORLD

Tayyip Erdogan's AKP Wins Critical Elections

- Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) won back parliamentary majority, paving way for it to form the next government on its own.
- The AKP gained nearly 49 percent of the votes, and received 315 seats in the 550-member parliament, securing parliament majority as 98 percent of ballots were counted.
- Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu declared AKP victory in his initial statement after the polls.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

India World's Seventh most Valued Nation Brand

- India has moved up one position to become the world's seventh most valued 'nation brand', with an increase of 32 per cent in its brand value to USD 2.1 billion.
- The US remains on the top with a valuation of USD 19.7 billion, followed by China and Germany at the second and the third positions respectively.
- The UK is ranked fourth, Japan is at fifth position and France is sixth on the list.

SEBI Attaches Bank, Demat Accounts of Four Companies

- Markets regulator SEBI has ordered attachment of bank and demat accounts of four companies to recover dues worth over Rs. 6 crore.
- The companies are Sun Plant Business, RCS Vanaspati Industries, Platinum Finance and Sanderson Industries.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India had penalised the four after they were found violating capital market regulations.
- The regulator has power to attach properties and bank accounts, among other things, of persons and entities that fail to comply with its directions involving payment of penalties and other dues.

INFOTAINMENT

Roger Federer Claims 88th Career Title

- Roger Federer defeated his greatest rival Rafael Nadal to claim his 7th Swiss Indoors and 88th career title in Basel.
- Roger Federer survived a stern test from Nadal as the title match went all three sets.

3rd November

AROUND THE WORLD

Switzerland Still Top Tax Haven

- As per the financial secrecy index 2015, unveiled by the Tax Justice Network, Switzerland has retained its top spot. Switzerland is followed by Hong Kong, the US, Singapore and the Cayman Islands. The biggest surprise is the US, which has climbed to third place from sixth place in FSI-2013.
- Countries such as Switzerland, the US, Singapore and Germany that figure in the top 10 in the list of FSI-2015 are also among the top 10 FDI investors to India.

EARTH MATTER

Dinosaur Fossil with Preserved Feathers and Skin Found

- Researchers have discovered fossilised remains of an ostrich-like dinosaur with preserved tail feathers and soft tissue, a finding that throws more light on the linkages between dinosaurs and modern birds.
- This is the first report of such preserved skin forming a web from the femoral shaft to the abdomen, never before seen in non-avian dinosaurs.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

Indian Banking Sector Outlook to Stable

- Moody's Investors Service upgraded its outlook for India's banking system to 'stable' from 'negative' on expectation that a gradual improvement in the operating environment for lenders will lead to lesser growth in bad loans in future.

- In November 2011, Moody's had assigned a negative outlook to the Indian banking system as it was of the view that the asset quality of the lenders was deteriorating.
- Moody's rates 15 banks in India that together account for around 70 per cent of system assets. Four are private-sector banks and the remaining 11 are PSU banks.

Core Sector Growth up 3.2%

- Because of sharp pick-up in fertiliser production and electricity generation, the growth in eight core sectors rose to 4-month high of 3.2 percent in September.
 - The eight core industries-- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity, comprising nearly 38 percent of India's total industrial production had grown at 2.6 percent in the same month of last year.
 - The growth rate in September was highest since May when it was 4.4 percent.
- The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India reported a 29.1 per cent rise in total sales in October at 1,34,209 units as against 1,03,973 units in the same month a year ago.

- The company's domestic sales increased by 24.7 per cent during the month to 1,21,063 units as against 97,069 units in October 2014.

INDIA – OTHERS**Hashim Abdul Halim Passes Away**

- Former West Bengal Assembly Speaker Hashim Abdul Halim passed away due to cardiac problems.
- Halim, had created a record of serving as the Assembly speaker for 29 long years from 1982 to 2011 during the Left Front rule.
- A member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), he was elected as an MLA for the first time in 1977, when the CPI(M)-led Left Front came to power. He was elected to the state Assembly for seven consecutive terms till 2011.

Lionel Messi as Global Brand Ambassador

- Tata Motors has signed up the four-time winner of the best football player of the world and Argentine captain Lionel Messi as global brand ambassador to promote and endorse passenger vehicles globally.
- The contract with Messi is for two years, which can be extended.
- This is the first time ever that the company's passenger vehicle business will be undertaking an overall brand association campaign.
- The company looks to expand its footprint across the globe and Messi's unique ability to appeal globally, transcending geographies, makes him an ideal person to represent Tata Motors' brand, internationally

4th November**AROUND THE WORLD****Angela Merkel Calls for Solution to Refugee Crisis**

- German Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed the importance of a European solution for the refugee issue.
- She called on approximately 1,200 representatives in politics and business in Germany to promote a common response overseas to the challenges of the refugee movement.
- She again pleaded for a more equitable distribution of refugees in Europe.
- Merkel also stressed that the abolition of internal borders in Europe and the relocation of border guards at the EU's external borders would only be achievable with the help of Europe's neighbours.

EARTH MATTER**Arctic Ocean to Have Less Ice, more Water**

- A new study has projected that the entire Arctic coastline and most of the Arctic Ocean will experience an additional two months of open water each year by the 2050s.
 - The Arctic is warming and the sea ice is melting, with impacts on Arctic people and ecosystems.
- By the end of this century, assuming a scenario of continued business-as-usual greenhouse gas emissions, the Arctic will be in a new regime with respect to open water, fully outside the realm of what we have seen in the past.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**R-Power Q2 Net Rises**

- Reliance Power reported a 36.57% jump in its net profit at Rs. 345.63 crore in the quarter ended September on higher electricity generation against a net profit of Rs. 253 crore in the year-ago period.
- The total income increased to Rs. 2,856.01 crore for the quarter under review against Rs. 1,884 crore in the same quarter last year. The company's consolidated net profit during the first half of the current fiscal (April-September) also rose by nearly 39% to Rs. 690 crore compared to Rs 497 crore in the year-ago period.

5th November**AROUND THE WORLD****Canada's New Prime Minister**

- Justin Trudeau was sworn in as Canada's 23rd Prime Minister, almost 50 years after his father took on the job.
- For the first time ever, the Canadian public was officially invited to witness the swearing-in ceremony in person.
- Trudeau is the nation's second youngest prime minister after Joe Clark in 1979.
- Trudeau was first elected to the House of Commons in 2008.

US Has the Largest Number of Refugees

- As per the Refugee Admissions Office of the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the European countries struggling to come to terms with refugees from middle-eastern countries and accepting them, the US has come out as the country which has settled the largest number of refugees. In the fiscal year 2015, the nearly 70,000 refugees arrived to the US and have settled.
- The European Union has been criticised by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for being slow in accepting refugees. The number of arrivals currently stands at between 6,000 and 8,000 a day on Greek islands alone. The European Union has the capacity to manage this crisis, but for that to happen, a united and comprehensive regional approach is essential.

EARTH MATTER**West Antarctica Snow Accumulation**

- According to a new study, annual snow accumulation on West Antarctica's coastal ice sheet increased dramatically during the 20th century. The last three decades saw more snow build up on the ice sheet than at any other time in the last 300 years.
- The new study used ice cores to estimate annual snow accumulation from 1712 to 2010 along the coastal West Antarctic. Until 1899, annual snow accumulation remained steady, averaging 33 and 40 centimetres (13 and 16 inches) water, or melted snow, each year at two locations.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Services sector Hits 8-month High**

- Indian services sector touched an eight-month high in October driven by a significant rise in new business orders.
- The Nikkei Business Activity index climbed to 53.2 in October, from 51.3 in September.
- The seasonally adjusted Nikkei India Composite PMI Output index, which maps both manufacturing and services sectors, rose to 52.6 in October from 51.5 in September.

Adidas First to Get 100% FDI Approval for Stores

- Adidas AG has become the first multinational sportswear company to get government nod to open 100% foreign-owned stores in India.
- Adidas operates around 760 Adidas, Adidas Originals and Reebok franchise retail stores in the country.

Ratan Tata Puts Money in California

- Ratan Tata's latest pick has been Sabse Technologies, a California based WiFi carrier, founded by Hotmail.com's co-founder Sabeer Bhatia. This deal comes days after Tata's investment in US-based virtual currency company Abra.
- Tata, through his investment company, RNT Associates, invests anywhere between a few lakhs and Rs 10 crore in promising startups. Some of his investments such as Ola Cabs, Snapdeal, Xiaomi and Paytm today are worth billions of dollars. Tata looks at the quality and intelligence of the entrepreneurs while making investments.

INDIA – OTHERS**Next Chief Justice of India**

- Justice T.S. Thakur, the seniormost judge after Supreme Court Chief Justice H.L. Dattu, will become the next Chief Justice of India and would be at the helm of the country's judiciary till January 4, 2017.
- It is in continuation of the practice of the seniormost judge taking over the reins of the apex court from the outgoing Chief Justice.
- Justice Thakur, who would be having a tenure of one year and one month and will be sworn in as the CJI in December 2015.
- He became the acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court in April 2008 and the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court in August 2008 and continued to serve in that capacity till he was elevated as the judge of the apex court and joined the bench of the top court in November 2009.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**Massive Galaxy Cluster Spotted**

- Astronomers have discovered a giant cluster of galaxies in a very remote part of the universe that is touted as the most massive structure yet found at such great distance.
- The galaxy cluster is located 8.5 billion lightyears away.

6th November**AROUND THE WORLD****EU Predicts 3 Million more Migrants by 2016 End**

- The European Union has predicted that 3 million more migrants could arrive in the 28-nation bloc by the end of next year.
- More than 700,000 people have come to Europe seeking sanctuary or jobs so far this year.
- EU autumn economic forecasts show that based on current migrant entries and a technical assumption about future flows, arrival rates are unlikely to slow before 2017.

EARTH MATTER**2000-year Old Greek Fort Unearthed**

- Israeli archaeologists have found the remains of the ancient Greek fort of Acra.
- Archaeologists believe they have found the precise location of the Acra, a fortified Hellenistic citadel erected in the heart of Jerusalem by the Seleucid conquerors, after they first destroyed the city in 168 BC.

Earth Heading for Decade-long Mini Ice Age

- Scientists have warned that the earth could head for a mini ice age as a result of decreased solar activity.
- Researchers have created a new model that predicts the solar cycles more accurately than ever before.
- Predictions from the new model suggest that solar activity will fall by 60 per cent between 2030 and 2040.
- The prediction is based on what's known as the sun's 11-year cycle or 'heartbeat'.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Tata Steel Q2 Net up**

- Tata Steel reported 22 per cent increase in the second-quarter consolidated net profit to Rs. 1,529 crore after a one-time gain from selling shares in group companies.
- The net profit was reported despite an 18 per cent fall in revenue to Rs. 29,305 crore. The company has taken a non-cash impairment charge of Rs. 7,772 crore on account of some of its U.K. and European divisions.

Future Retail Q2 Net Profit at Rs. 14 crore

- Future Retail reported a standalone net profit of Rs. 13.66 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2015.
- The company had posted a net loss of Rs 8.04 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal.
- Net sales during the period under review stood at Rs. 3,048.94 crore as against Rs. 2,484.85 crore in the year-ago period, up 22.7 per cent.

INFOTAINMENT**Latest FIFA Rankings**

- India's slide in the global football rankings continued as they dropped five places to be 172nd in the latest FIFA rankings.
- Belgium created history by grabbing the top spot for the first time.
- Last month India ranked 167th. The dip follows poor performances in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers where India lost all three group matches played so far.
- India was at the bottom of Group D in the World Cup qualifiers and now have virtually no chance to even qualify for the Asian Cup by finishing third.

7th November**AROUND THE WORLD****France to deploy largest warship in mission against IS**

- France is sending its largest warship to join operations against Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq.
- The Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier has already been deployed against IS.

INDIA - BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Union Government launched Three Gold Schemes**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three gold related scheme viz Gold Monetization Scheme (GMS), Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme (SGBS) and Indian Gold Coins (IGC).
- These ambitious schemes were launched to reduce the physical demand for gold and fish out 20,000 tonnes of the precious metal lying idle with households and institutions.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**Scientists developed 3-D printing method to make embryonic stem cells**

- Scientists from China and United States have developed a 3D printing method to produce highly uniform 'blocks' of embryonic stem cells.
- The method was developed by the researchers from Beijing based Tsinghua University (China) and Philadelphia based Drexel University (US).
- The new method used extrusion-deposition based 3-D printing technology to produce a grid-like 3-D (three dimensional) cell structure to grow embryoid body.

INDIA - OTHERS**IMPRINT India Initiative of IITs and IISC Launched**

- President Pranab Mukherjee launched Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India to boost research in the country.
- The initiative is joint venture of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISC).

8th November**AROUND THE WORLD****Nepal to Import Fuel from Bangladesh**

- Nepal has come an agreement with a private supplier to fly in fuel from Bangladesh to ease crippling shortages that have sparked fears of domestic flights being grounded.
- Protesters seeking changes to Nepal's new Constitution have blocked a key checkpoint bordering India for more than six weeks, cutting off vital supplies and forcing fuel rationing across the landlocked Himalayan nation.
- As per Nepal Oil Corporation, an agreement with a private company, Petromax Nepal, was reached who will airlift ATF from Bangladesh in the next three to four days.

INDIA - BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Foreign Exchange Reserves Increase**

- According to latest data from RBI, foreign exchange reserves registered an increase of \$2.09 billion and stood at \$353.64 billion during the week ended October 30, mainly due to a significant increase in foreign currency assets.

Sun Pharma Second Quarter Net Profit Dips

- Due to lower sales growth, volatile currency movements and supply constraints, Sun Pharma reported a 46.02 per cent dip in its consolidated net profit at Rs. 1,106.66 crore for the quarter ended September 30. The company had posted a net profit of Rs. 2,050.22 crore for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

□ Consolidated net sales of the company declined to Rs. 6,803.31 crore for the quarter under consideration as against Rs. 7,979.31 crore for the same period a year ago.

INDIA – OTHERS**BrahMos Supersonic Missile Successfully Test-fired**

□ The Army successfully testfired the land attack variant of the 290-km range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile at the Pokhran test range.

□ BrahMos, a joint effort between India and Russia, is the only supersonic cruise missile in the world capable of flying at 2.8 times the speed of sound and can be launched from land, sea and air.

BJP, Sena End Rivalry

□ Despite engaging in a bitter election campaign for the KalyanDombivli Municipal Corporation, BJP and Shiv Sena have now chosen to join hands for the sake of power.

□ The relations were strained to such an extent that Uddhav Thackeray had warned of pulling out of the alliance to which BJP leader and Chief Minister replied in equal measure.

□ However, the poll results, which did not give a clear majority to any of the two, have forced the warring parties to „adjust “ with each other. The Sena emerged the largest party in the KDMC with 52 seats, falling short of the majority by nine. The BJP came second with 42 seats. Sensing that attempts to woo the nine independents and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena members would not succeed, both parties decided to join hands for the “development” of the area.

9th November**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****Foreign Investors Take out Rs. 4,300 crore**

□ Foreign investors have pulled out more than Rs. 4,300 crore from Indian capital markets in the past five trading sessions due to muted quarterly earnings and fears of a possible rate hike by the US Federal Reserve.

□ As per data compiled by the depositories, net outflow in equities stood at Rs. 2,667 crore in the first week of November, while it was Rs. 1,689 crore for debt, translating into a total of Rs. 4,356 crore.

TVS Tyres Q2 Net Nearly Doubles

□ TVS Tyres, posted a nearly twofold year-on-year leap in net profit to Rs. 48.66 crore for the September quarter from Rs. 26.04 crore reported last fiscal.

□ Total income from operations for the second quarter rose to Rs. 522.35 crore from Rs. 490.64 crore during the yearago period.

□ This has been possible through reduction in material cost with judicious inventory management, finance cost coming down through better working capital management and operational cost also being brought down.

INDIA – OTHERS**Nitish Kumar Led Grand Alliance Trumps BJP in Bihar**

□ The scale of victory of the Grand Alliance in Bihar Assembly Elections left the BJP-led NDA scrambling for cover. The saffron party was also stunned by its poor showing and that of its allies.

□ The Grand Alliance (JD(U), RJD and Congress combine) swept Bihar, winning 178 seats.

□ The RJD made a spectacular comeback winning 80 seats after ten years of hibernation.

□ With Grand Alliance securing two-thirds majority in the 243-member House, Nitish Kumar is all set to form a third term in office as the Chief Minister.

The most Powerful Woman in the Indian Business Sector

□ According to fortune India, Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairperson of SBI, remains the most powerful woman in the Indian business sector.

□ ICICI Bank's Chanda Kochhar and Shikha Sharma of Axis Bank follow Bhattacharya at the second and third place, respectively.

□ HPCL Chairperson and Managing Director (MD) Nishi Vasudeva has bagged the fourth position, while AZB & Partners Co-Founder Zia Mody and Aruna Jayanthi Chief Executive of Capgemini India shared the fifth rank.

INFOTAINMENT**India on Top of Medal Standings**

□ India jumped on top of overall medal standings at the 13th Asian Shooting Championship with six more medals to their kitty on Day 6 of competitions.

• India went ahead of China with a total of 12 gold, 8 silver and 8 bronze for a total haul of 28 medals with three more days left. China has 11 gold, 8 silver and 9 bronze medals.

10th November

AROUND THE WORLD

Ruling Party Chief Concedes Defeat

- The acting chairman of Myanmar's ruling party conceded defeat to Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition. As per reports, the ruling party's acting chairman would accept the result of the country's first free national election in 25 years.
- The vote count is still under way and no result have been officially announced, but preliminary reports from around the country indicate a wide margin of victory for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

Slovenia to Tighten Border

- As per reports, the Slovenian government would take urgent measures to strengthen control of its Schengen border with Croatia, fearing an expected new wave of migrants would be scarcely manageable.
- As per reports, 20,000-30,000 migrants heading towards Western Europe could flock on Slovenia's border - the passport-free Schengen area's external frontier - later this week.

- If necessary, the measures will be implemented in the next few days.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

Andhra Bank Q2 Net up

- State-run Andhra Bank reported a 74% rise in the net profit during the second quarter ended September 30, 2015, at Rs. 251.26 crore as against Rs. 144 crore in the year ago period. This was on a 7% rise in the total income during the second quarter of FY16 at Rs. 4,744.16 crore as compared to Rs. 4,423.62 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

INDIA – OTHERS

N. Srinivasan Removed as ICC Chairman

- N. Srinivasan has been removed from his post of ICC chairman.
- This decision was taken by the Indian board during its AGM in Mumbai.
- Shashank Manohar's name has been proposed by the Indian board to take over N. Srinivasan.
- The tenure of Srinivasan, who took over in June last year, was to end next year in the same month and the remainder of the term would be completed by Manohar as it is India's turn to hold the top position.

Parliament's Winter Session

- The Winter Session of the Parliament is set to commence from 26th November and end on 23rd December.
- The NDA government is keen to take up important legislations to be passed in Parliament like GST bill, land bill, the real estate regulation and development bill and negotiable instruments arbitration bill.

11th November

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

Tata and Boeing Join Hands

- Tata Advanced Systems and American aircraft manufacturer Boeing has established a joint venture to build aero-components in India. The joint venture will initially produce fuselages for the AH-64 Apache helicopter. In future, the two companies intend to strengthen the partnership by exploring integrated systems development opportunities.
- Boeing has been sourcing aero-components from India but the deal with Tata Advanced Systems will see the US company manufacturing those in the country.

INDIA – OTHERS

Defence Minister Commissioned Samarth

- Largest Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel, Samarth, was commissioned by Defence Minister.
- The ship is equipped with sophisticated technology, sensors, navigation, communication and weapon systems. Samarth is first in the series of six 105m offshore patrol vessels and has been built by Goa Shipyard.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India's Satellite GSAT-15 Launched Successfully

- GSAT-15, India's latest communications satellite, was launched successfully by the European Ariane 5 VA-227 launch Vehicle.

- The 3164 kg GSAT-15 carries communication transponders in Ku-band and a GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) payload operating in L1 and L5 bands.

12th November

AROUND THE WORLD

Myanmar's President Pledges Peaceful Power Shift

- Myanmar's President congratulated Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition after it swept national elections, and promised a smooth transition of power.
- The country has been dominated by the military for half a century through direct junta rule and, since 2011, a quasi-civilian government run by its allies.
- Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) is on the verge of tipping the balance of power after capturing more than 85 percent of seats declared so far.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

FIPB Allowed to Clear FDI up to Rs. 5k crore

- According to the changes in the FDI rules, Apple and other "high technology" retailers will no longer be required to compulsorily source 30% of their goods from India to comply with conditions related to single-brand retail.
- While the rules have been eased and investment limit raised for several sectors, a lot of attention has been paid to making it easier to get clearances. For instance, FIPB has now been allowed to clear FDI proposals of up to Rs. 5,000 crore, compared to Rs. 3,000 crore earlier.

INDIA – OTHERS

First Indian VC of Bank for International Settlements

- Raghuram Rajan has become the first Indian central banker to be appointed as vice-chairman of the Bank for International Settlements, the bank for central banks.
- Rajan was elected to the number two position for a period of three years from November 2015 at a meeting of the BIS board. Rajan had joined the BIS board in December 2013. As vice-chairman, Rajan will work with BIS chairman Jens Weidmann, who is also President of Germany's Bundesbank.

INFOTAINMENT

ATP Awards

- Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and the Bryan brothers are the winners of the ATP's top awards for 2015.
- Djokovic, who won three Grand Slam titles this year, will receive the ATP World Tour No. 1 award for the second straight year and fourth time overall.
- Federer has been selected by his peers as winner of the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award for the eleventh time.
- Bryan brothers receive the Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award for their offcourt work with their charitable foundation.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Phobos is Slowly Falling Apart

- Phobos, the larger of Mars' two moons, is being pulled apart by tidal forces and scientists expect it to be destroyed in 30 to 50 million years.
- As per a new study, the long, shallow grooves lining the surface of Phobos are early signs of the structural failure that will ultimately destroy this moon.
- Orbiting a mere 3,700 miles above the surface of Mars, Phobos is closer to its planet than any other moon in the solar system.

13th November

AROUND THE WORLD

EU Free Travel Zone in Danger

- European leaders scrambled to keep their passport-free travel zone from collapsing, after Germany, Sweden and Slovenia acted on their own to tighten borders or erect fences to slow the relentless influx of people marching into Europe.
- A two-day summit held was meant to focus on how to send back to Africa those who don't qualify for asylum and discourage others from attempting the risky journey.

- But the gathering of European Union and African leaders quickly became overshadowed by fears that one of Europe's prized benefits the ease of travel through its Schengen passport-free area was unravelling.

EARTH MATTER**Collapsing Greenland Glacier**

- A major glacier in Greenland that holds enough water to raise global sea levels by half a metre has begun to crumble into the North Atlantic Ocean.
- The huge Zachariae Isstrom glacier in northeast Greenland started to melt rapidly in 2012 and is now breaking into large icebergs where the glacier meets the sea.
- The calving of the glacier into chunks of floating ice will set in train a rise in sea levels that will continue for decades to come.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Six Significant Agreements Signed Between India and the UK**

- Vodafone to invest £1.3 billion in upgrading and expanding its network in India; creating new tech centres in Pune and Hyderabad and creating new data centres and a new payment bank.
- Light Source to invest £2 billion in India to design and manage 3GW of solar power over next five years.
- Intelligent Energy signed a £1.2 billion contract to provide clean energy to 27,400 telecoms towers in India and towards the deployment of hydrogen fuel cell power.
- King's College Hospitals Foundation Trust and IndoUK Healthcare to set up the first of 11 new India-UK hospitals in India in Chandigarh.
- India Bulls to invest £66 million in British start-up bank Oaknorth.
- Yes Bank and London Stock Exchange (LSE) signed a bond and equity issuance deal in green infrastructure finance and have future plans to issue a green bond to the tune of £300 million.

Industrial Production Growth Slows

- Industrial production growth fell to four-month low of 3.6 per cent in September due to subdued performance by manufacturing and non-durable consumer goods segments.
- Industrial output growth, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production, was also revised slightly downwards to 6.2 per cent for August from provisional estimate of 6.4 per cent released earlier.
- The manufacturing sector, which constitutes over 75 per cent of the index, grew by 2.6 per cent in September, 2015, against 2.7 per cent expansion in the same month last year.

INFOTAINMENT**Saina Nehwal Wins**

- Defending champion Saina Nehwal emerged as the lone Indian survivor at the USD 700,000 China Open Super Series Premier after P. V. Sindhu suffered a close defeat in the pre-quarterfinals of the women's singles competition.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**Oldest Stars in the Universe Found**

- Astronomers have discovered what they believe to be the oldest stars ever seen, dating from before the Milky Way Galaxy was formed, when the universe was just 300 million years old.
- The nine stars, found near the centre of the Milky Way, are surprisingly pure but contain material from an even earlier star, which died in an enormous explosion called hypernova.
- These pristine stars are among the oldest surviving stars in the Universe, and certainly the oldest stars we have ever seen.

14th November**AROUND THE WORLD****120 dead in Paris attacks, worst since World War II**

- A series of attacks targeting young concertgoers, soccer fans and Parisians enjoying a Friday night out at popular nightspots killed at least 120 people in the deadliest violence to strike France since World War II.

□ The worst carnage was at a concert hall hosting an American rock band, where scores of people were held hostage and attackers ended the standoff by detonating explosive belts.

Pakistan, China kicked off ambitious CPEC Project

- Pakistan and China kicked off their ambitious 46 billion US Dollar China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) project.
- It was kicked off after China successfully acquired over 2,000 acres of land in restive Balochistan to develop the strategic Gwadar port.
- CPEC seeks to connect the Gwadar port in Pakistan to the Xinjiang region in China by means of highways, airways and railways and also deploy pipeline to transport oil and gas.

INDIA - OTHERS**Subir Gokaran appointed as Executive Director of IMF**

- Renowned economist Subir Gokaran has been appointed as an Executive Director on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- He will replace Rakesh Mohan whose 3 year tenure ends in November 2015.

15th November**EARTH MATTER****Fast-melting Glacier Can Change World's Coastlines**

- A new study has revealed that a vast ice sheet in northeast Greenland has begun a phase of speeded-up ice loss, contributing to destabilization that will cause global sea-level rise.
- A team of scientists have found that since 2012 warmer air and sea temperatures have caused the Zachariae Isstrom ice sheet to "retreat rapidly along a downward-sloping, marine-based bed."
- The Zachariae Isstrom glacier holds enough water to trigger a halfmeter rise in ocean levels around the world.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Forex Reserves Decline by \$1.9 Billion**

- Due to a fall in foreign currency assets by \$2.4 billion. Latest data from RBI showed that the foreign exchange reserves fell \$1.9 billion to \$351.7 billion for the week ended November 6.

NCAER Lowers GDP Forecast

- NCAER marginally lowered the GDP forecast at 7.4 per cent because of slowdown in agriculture due to deficient monsoon.
- As per NCAER, the industrial growth continues to gather strength while the outlook for the services remains mixed.
- The Finance Ministry had pegged the growth rate for the financial year 2015-16 at around 8.1-8.5 per cent.

INFOTAINMENT**Russia Pays Doping Price**

- Russia has been provisionally suspended from track and field over accusations of state-sponsored doping as the IAAF scrambled to salvage the sport's credibility just nine months out from the Rio Olympics.
- Russia will not be entitled to host the 2016 World Race Walking Cup (Cheboksary) and 2016 World Junior Championships.

16th November**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****Tata Steel Gets Green Nod for Sand Mining**

- Tata Steel has received a clearance for mining of mineral sand, used in coal production, from the riverbed of Gowai in Purulia district, West Bengal with a proposed production capacity of 0.2 million tonnes per annum.
- The company said it requires three million tonnes (MT) of sand annually for its coal production of 1.91 MT from five coal mines in Jharia coalfields.
- The clearance is subject to certain conditions, including compliance of the latest guidelines on sustainable sand mining practices.

INFOTAINMENT**Saina Nehwal Fails to Defend China Open Title**

- Ace Indian shuttler and defending champion Saina Nehwal lost the final of the China Open Superseries to Li Xuerui.

- This is Saina's third loss in five final appearances this year.

17th November

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

Inflation at (-)3.81% in October

- Deflationary pressure eased a bit with inflation rate moving up slightly to (-)3.81 percent in October.
- This is 12 month in a row when the inflation at wholesale level remained in the negative territory.
- The Wholesale Price Indexbased inflation was (-)4.54 percent in September. In October last year, it was 1.66 percent.

Apollo Tyres Acquire Reifencom GmbH

- Apollo Tyres has acquired Reifencom GmbH, one of the largest tyre distributors in Germany, for euro 45.6 million.
- This acquisition will enable the company to improve its mix of distribution channels in Germany and Europe and aid in increasing the visibility of Apollo and Vredestein tyres in the offline and especially the fast growing online retail space.

INDIA – OTHERS

NSCN (K) Declared as Terrorist Organization

- Under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 196, the Government declared the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) (NSCNK), all its formations and front organizations as a terrorist organization.
- NSCN (K), a militant outfit, came into existence in 1988 and is active along the Indo-Myanmar border.

India's New Envoy to the United Nations

- Syed Akbaruddin has been appointed as the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at New York.
- Akbaruddin will replace Asoke Kumar Mukerji as the Permanent Representative of India at the UN.
- Currently an Additional Secretary in the MEA, Akbaruddin served as the ministry's official spokesperson from 2011 to April 2015.

INFOTAINMENT

Ratnakar Shetty to Replace Sundar Raman

- The BCCI has appointed Professor Ratnakar Shetty to take over as Indian Premier League's administrative head.
- Shetty will take over the vacant post of IPL COO, which until recently was held by Sundar Raman.
- Shetty is a veteran cricket administrator and enjoys a relatively clean image.
- Sundar Raman was appointed COO of the IPL by Lalit Modi in January 2008.

Mitchell Johnson Announces Retirement

- Regarded as one of the best leftarm pace bowlers of his generation, Aussie Mitchell Johnson announced his retirement from international cricket.
- He made his Test debut in November 2007, against Sri Lanka. He took 311 wickets in his test career and 239 wickets in ODI. He made his One-Day International debut in December 2005 against New Zealand.

18th November

EARTH MATTER

Climate Change Biggest Threat to Polar Bear Survival

- According to a new study by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, global warming is now the single most important threat to the survival of the polar bear with retreating sea ice set to decimate populations.
- The study found a "high probability" that the polar bears will suffer a 30% decline in population by 2050 due to the loss of their habitat, which is disappearing at a faster rate than predicted by climate models.
- There is a high risk of extinction and the threat is serious.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

KKR Inks \$105m Deal

- Global investment powerhouse KKR has signed a definitive agreement to acquire over 70% stake in homegrown investment bank Avendus Capital, valuing the Mumbai-based firm at \$175 million. The deal will help Avendus, which emerged as India's top deal advisory firm last fiscal, to scale up its services in wealth management and private equity, besides expanding into NBFC offering credit solutions.

□ KKR will initially buy a 60% stake and has a road map to increase it to 70% in the next 12 months. Middle East investor Eastgate Capital, Spain-based Harish Fabiani and several HNIs are exiting as part of the transaction pegged at around \$105 million. KKR will invest \$70 million as fresh capital in Avendus.

Exports Decline for Eleventh Month

- Exports contracted for the eleventh month in a row, but a sharper decline in imports helped narrow the trade deficit.
- The fall in exports was largely due to fall in petroleum product exports, again a function of international oil prices. While overall exports fell by \$4.5 billion, \$3.25 billion was accounted for by oil products such as petrol and diesel. The other contributors were gems and jewellery and engineering goods with total shipments in October valued at \$4.6 billion.

INDIA – OTHERS**VHP Leader Ashok Singhal Passes Away**

- Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Ashok Singhal passed away, after he was admitted to private hospital Medanta in Gurgaon following complaints of breathlessness. He was 89 years old.
- Ashok Singhal born on 15th September 1926 was an international working president of the Hindu organisation Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) for over 20 years.
- Singhal was at the forefront of the Ram Temple movement.

19th November**AROUND THE WORLD****Ecuador Declares State of Emergency**

- Ecuador braced for a destructive season of weather caused by the El Nino phenomenon by declaring a 60-day state of emergency in its most vulnerable provinces.
- Government data indicate that the water level along Ecuador's Pacific coast is abnormally high, which puts infrastructure near the shoreline at risk.
- The emergency is in effect in 17 of the country's 24 provinces.

EARTH MATTER**Penguin Numbers on the Rise**

- Shrinking glaciers are leading to the birth of more Adelie penguins in the East Antarctica region.
- The findings show that in the last 14,000 years, the population of Adelie penguins has seen a 135fold increase as additional breeding sites become exposed by retreating glaciers.
- This population explosion suggests that current environmental conditions are more favourable for Adelie penguins than they were at the end of the last ice age.

Ice Cap in Iceland Gaining Mass

- According to a glaciologist, the visible snow cover is typical for this time of the year, compared to conditions during the past 15-20 years. Compared to the reference period of 1961-1990, snow cover is almost certainly less than average in the highland and mountain regions above 400 meters in elevation.
- The melting of seasonal snow cover accentuates the boundaries of Iceland's permanent ice caps.
- All ice caps in Iceland have been retreating rapidly and losing volume since 1995. In October 2015, scientists showed that the Hofsjökull ice cap had gained mass according to their ground-based measurements.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Cabinet Approves 10% Stake Sale in Coal India**

- The Cabinet approved 10 percent stake sale in Coal India and initial public offer of Cochin Shipyard amid growing concerns over meeting Rs. 69,500 crore disinvestment target in the current fiscal.
- The government's expectations from the stake sale in the CIL, is around Rs. 20,000 crore.
- At current market capitalisation, 10 percent stake sale could fetch about Rs. 21,137.71 crore. Government holds 79.65 percent stake in Coal India.

Govt Approves Subsidy for Cane Farmers

- In the first ever direct subsidy payment to farmers, the government decided to pay sugarcane growers Rs. 4.50 per quintal for the cane they will sell to loss-making millers, a move that will cost Rs. 1,147 crore to the exchequer.
- The Cabinet decided to give a production-linked subsidy directly to cane growers, as export subsidy, which was provided in the last two sugar seasons 2013-14 and 2014-15 to millers, was questioned by many countries at the WTO.
- India, the world's second largest sugar producer, is all set to produce surplus sweetener for the sixth straight year at 26.27 million tonnes in 2015-16.

INFOTAINMENT**Mary Kom Picked for AIBA's Olympic Test Event**

- Olympic bronzemedallist M. C. Mary Kom is the lone woman boxer in a six-strong Indian team which has been selected by the International Boxing Association to compete in its Test event for next year's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.
- The Indian boxers have been selected by International Boxing Association AIBA to participate in the Test Event to be held at Rio De Janeiro, Brazil from the 4-6 December 2015.
- The Team: Rohit Tokas, Manoj Kumar, Devanshu Jaiswal, Parveen Kumar, Satish Kumar and M. C. Mary Kom

20th November**AROUND THE WORLD****4 European Nations Shut Their Borders**

- Four nations along Europe's Balkan refugee corridor shut their borders to those not coming from wartorn countries such as Syria, Afghanistan or Iraq, leaving thousands of others seeking a better life in Europe stranded at border crossings.
- Macedonia was not allowing in people from Greece, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Liberia, Congo or Pakistan.
- On the Serbian border with Macedonia, the Serbs were only letting in migrants from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. And on the Croatia-Serbia border, Croats were only accepting people from those three countries plus Palestine.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Religare Exits Mutual Fund Business**

- Financial services group Religare Enterprises has decided to exit mutual fund business with sale of its controlling 51 percent stake in Religare Invesco AMC to the foreign partner Invesco.
- A number of foreign fund houses have exited the Indian mutual fund industry, there have not been many cases where Indian entities have sold the asset management business.

Central Govt. Employees Get 23.55% Hike in Salary

- A 23.55 percent hike in salary, allowances and pension has been recommended to central government employees and pensioners by the 7th Pay Commission.
- The recommendations that will benefit 47 lakh central government employees and 52 lakh pensioners, which will impact the Central Budget by Rs. 73,650 crore and the Railway Budget by Rs. 28,450 crore.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**Alien Planet Caught in Birth Act**

- For the first time ever, a team of astronomers has directly observed a planet in the process of being born.
- A star known as LkCa 15, located 450 light years from Earth, has been observed exhibiting all the trappings of an expectant parent: it is surrounded by a vast disc of dust and gas, making an ideal environment for planets to grow from; the dust shows distinct signs of disturbance - something within has eaten away part of the disc.

21st November**EARTH MATTERS****Ocean 'Dead Zones' Begot by Warming**

- A new study has linked lowoxygen 'dead zones' in North Pacific to the past ocean warming.
- The study has found a link between abrupt ocean warming at the end of the last ice age and the sudden onset of low-oxygen, or hypoxic, conditions that led to the vast marine dead zones.
- This work tackles a longstanding debate about what causes expansion of Oxygen Minimum Zones, also known as dead zones, in the oceans and the results demonstrate a link between warming surface temperatures and dead zones at great depths.

INFOTAINMENT**India's Aditi Chauhan Asian woman footballer of the year in England**

- India's Aditi Chauhan added another feather to her cap, as she won the Woman in Football Award at the third Asian Football Awards in London.
- Three months ago, Aditi became the first Indian to feature in a FA Women's Premier League club when she was signed up by West Ham Ladies.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ground-breaking Find to Challenge Big Bang Theory

- A recent groundbreaking research has been published that can challenge the underlying principles of physics.
- University of Southampton's Christopher Sachrajda has helped to devise the first calculation of how the behaviour of kaons differs when matter is swapped out for antimatter, known as direct "CP" symmetry violation.
- Groundbreaking Find to Challenge Big Bang Theory
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22nd November**AROUND THE WORLD****Former South Korean President Dies**

- Former President Kim Youngsam, who formally ended decades of military rule in South Korea and accepted a massive international bailout during the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, died due to severe blood infection and acute heart failure.
- Kim was an important figure in South Korea's pro-democracy movement and opposed the country's military dictators for decades. As President, Kim laid the foundation for a peaceful power transfer in a country that had been marked by military coups.
- He was the 7th President of South Korea from February 1993 to February 1998.

EARTH MATTER**Amazonian Trees at Risk of Extinction**

- A new study has revealed that more than half of the 15,000 species of tree found in the Amazon rain forest are now on the brink of extinction.
- Forests in the Amazon have been declining since the 1950s.
- A study concluded that the Amazon could harbor more than 15,000 tree species, of which 36 to 57 percent likely qualify as being globally threatened under IUCN Red List of Threatened Species criteria.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Fourteenth E-auction of Iron Ore**

- Over 2.3 million tonnes of iron ore would be e-auction during the 14th e-auction which is expected to take place next month.
- So far the government of Panaji has e-auctioned around 9 million tonnes of iron ore and collected over Rs. 900 crore revenue.
- The directorate of mines and geology has identified over 2.3 tonnes of iron ore for 14th e-auction which is lying at different location across the state.

INFOTAINMENT**Pankaj Advani Wins World Title**

- Pankaj Advani added another feather in his cap by winning the IBSF World Snooker Championship after defeating his Chinese opponent Zhuang Xintong in the final to take his world title count to 15.
- This victory comes just after he clinched the IBSF Billiards crown in September. He is also the first person in history to take the short (6-Red) and the long snooker format in the same calendar year.

23rd November**AROUND THE WORLD****Mauricio Macri Wins Argentina's Presidential Election**

- Opposition candidate Mauricio Macri has won Argentina's presidential election, marking an end to the left-leaning and often combative era of President Cristina Fernandez, who along with her late husband dominated the country's political scene for 12 years.
- With 75 per cent of the vote counted, Macri had 53 per cent support compared to 47 per cent for Daniel Scioli.
- The victory by the business-friendly Macri comes after he did better than expected in the first round in October, forcing a runoff with Daniel Scioli.

INFOTAINMENT**Novak Djokovic Wins ATP Tour Finals Title**

- Novak Djokovic defeated Roger Federer to win the ATP Tour Finals title for a record fourth successive year.
- Djokovic is the first player in the tournament's history to take home the trophy four years in a row and he joins Pete Sampras and Ivan Lendl on five victories at the season-ending event.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**Dead Galaxy Harbors Dark Matter**

- A new study has identified a dead galaxy that seems to be densely packed with dark matter.
- By measuring the mass of a nearby dwarf galaxy called Triangulum II, the highest concentration of dark matter in any known galaxy has been found.

24th November**AROUND THE WORLD****Pfizer to Buy Allergan**

- Pfizer Inc, the maker of Viagra and Lipitor, has struck a deal to buy Botox-maker Allergan in a transaction valued at about \$160 billion, creating the world's biggest drugmaker.
- The deal, the biggest ever in the healthcare sector, will allow Pfizer to shift its legal base to Ireland in a so-called "inversion" that would reduce its tax rate.
- Allergan, best known for its anti-wrinkle treatment Botox, also makes Alzheimer's drug Namenda and dry-eye medication Restasis.

Putin Lifts Ban on Nuclear Cooperation with Iran

- Vladimir Putin lifted a ban on Russian firms from working on Iranian enrichment sites as he travelled to Tehran for his first visit since 2007.
- A decree Putin signed today enables Russian firms to work with Iranian companies on the Fordo enrichment site and help Tehran in redesigning its Arak nuclear reactor.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**FPIs Take Out \$1bn from Cap Markets**

- Overseas investors have pulled out more than \$1 billion from the Indian capital markets since the beginning of the month due to lacklustre quarterly earnings and concerns over a possible rate hike by the US Federal Reserve.
- Earlier, FPIs had made a net investment of Rs. 22,350 crore last month, making it the highest investment by investors since March, when they had poured in Rs. 20,723 crore into the Indian market.
- The huge inflows during October also reversed the outflows seen during the last two months.

INFOTAINMENT**Novak Djokovic Maintains Top Spot**

- Novak Djokovic continues to lead the Association of Tennis Professionals world rankings.
- There were no changes in the top 10 positions. Following is the list of top 10 rankings:
 - Novak Djokovic (Serbia), Andy Murray (Scotland), Roger Federer (Switzerland), Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland), Rafael Nadal (Spain), Tomas Berdych (Czech), David Ferrer (Spain), Kei Nishikori (Japan), Richard Gasquet (France) and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (France).

25th November**AROUND THE WORLD****Europe to Deport Illegal Pakistani Migrants**

- With tens of thousands of migrants pouring into the continent from war-torn Syria and Afghanistan, Europe has firmed up plans to deport tens of thousands of illegal Pakistani migrants who have been seeking asylum in various countries of the region.
- As per a report, the main reason behind the move against Pakistanis is to free up space and resources for the more deserving refugees.
- It is not the first time Pakistanis are being pushed out by the EU- about 168,000 illegal Pakistani migrants were ordered to leave EU region between 2008 and 2014.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Nippon Acquires 23% Stake in Reliance Life**

- Japan's Nippon Life Insurance has acquired another 23 percent stake in Reliance Life Insurance for about Rs. 2,265 crore.
- When the deal comes through, the stake of Nippon will increase to 49 percent, the upper limit for a foreign player in the private sector insurance firm.
- In line with the new shareholding structure, the name of the company will also be changed to Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited.

INDIA – OTHERS**BJP Loses MP Seat to Congress**

- BJP lost its first parliamentary seat after the party's spectacular 2014 Lok Sabha victory when it failed to retain the Ratlam-Jhabua constituency in a bypoll in Madhya Pradesh losing to Congress in a setback coming close on the heels of its Bihar drubbing.
- The defeat in a BJP-ruled state that helped Congress increase its tally to 45 in the Lower House reverses the trend in the six earlier Lok Sabha bypolls where the incumbent parties had retained their seats. The strength of BJP comes down to 281 in the 543-member House.

26th November**AROUND THE WORLD****Tunisia Closing Border with Libya**

- Tunisia is closing its border with Libya, a hotbed of Islamist unrest, a day after a deadly suicide bombing claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group.
- Authorities would "take urgent measures regarding people returning from hotbeds of conflict, in line with the anti-terrorist law.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**Companies under ASCI Scanner for Misleading Ads**

- Advertising industry watchdog ASCI upheld complaints against 87 advertisements in August including those of HUL, Airtel and LG terming them 'misleading'.
- According to the Customer Complaints Council (CCC) of ASCI (Advertising Standard Council of India), out of 87 advertisements against which complaints were upheld, 37 belonged to the personal and healthcare category, followed by 41 advertisements in the education category and 9 advertisements from other categories.

Videocon Sells Spectrum in 2 Circles to Idea

- The fragmented and competitive Indian telecom industry is finally witnessing consolidation. Days after Anil Ambani's Reliance Communications took over Russian Sistema's Indian wireless business, Videocon has now signed a Rs. 3,310 crore deal for selling spectrum in two circles — UP (West) and Bihar — to Aditya Birla group-controlled Idea Cellular for launching 4G services.
- Videocon, which has telecom operations in seven circles, will part with lucrative mobile airwaves in the 1,800 MHz band (5MHz each in both circles) in the deal.

NBCC Bags Rs. 5,828 crore AIIMS Project

- Staterun NBCC has bagged a Rs. 5,828-crore redevelopment project from AIIMS which involves construction of 3000 flats.
- NBCC would be charging 10% of the final project cost as project management consultancy fee and 1% for marketing expenses. The MoU between AIIMS and NBCC will be signed after the Union cabinet's approval.

INDIA – OTHERS**West Bengal Tops Chart in Domestic Violence**

- Bengal now has the dubious distinction of topping the chart in domestic violence cases for the seventh consecutive year. It is second in cases of suicide due to dowry and fourth in dowry murder.
- Over the past 10 years, cases of marital violence in Bengal have increased by 235% against the 110% increase nationally. Of the 3,37,922 incidents of crime against women in the country, Bengal accounted for 38,299 cases.
- While a decade has passed since the enactment of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005, justice continues to elude victims in the absence of basic infrastructure like adequate number of protection officers and service providers.

27th November

AROUND THE WORLD

Russia Cuts Business Ties with Turkey

- Russia plans to retaliate against Turkey for the downing of a warplane by imposing sanctions, cutting economic ties and scrapping major investment projects.
- Russia has already restricted tourism, left Turkish trucks stranded at the border and announced the confiscation of large quantities of Turkish food imports.
- Dmitry Medvedev has ordered his government to also draft sanctions against Turkey within the next two days in response to the downing of the Russian Su-24.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

US FDA Warns Dr. Reddy's of Import Ban

- The United States Food and Drug Administration has warned homegrown pharma major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories that if the company fails to take corrective actions at three of its manufacturing facilities-Srikakulam, Miryalaguda and Duvvada-it may lead to imposition of an import ban on these units.

Five Bank Hired for Managing Coal India Stake Divestment

- Five Indian investment banks including ICICI Securities and SBI Capital have been hired to manage a 10 per cent stake divestment in state-owned Coal India.
- The stake sale, valued at about \$3.2 billion at the current stock price, is part of government's aim to raise Rs. 69,500 crore by March by selling minority stakes in government-owned companies.
- Other banks who have been hired to manage the offering are Axis Capital, JM Financial and Kotak Investment Banking.

INDIA – OTHERS

Dhanush Missile Successfully Test-fired

- India successfully testfired its nuclear capable Dhanush ballistic missile.
- Dhanush ballistic missile was testfired with a strike range of 350 km.
- It is a naval variant of India's indigenously-developed Prithvi missile.
- Dhanush missile is capable of carrying conventional as well as nuclear payload of 500 kg.
- The missile can hit both land and sea-based targets under 350 km range.

- It has already been inducted in the armed forces.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA to Replace Hubble with James Webb Telescope

- The US space agency has successfully installed the first of 18 flight mirrors onto the James Webb Space Telescope, beginning a critical piece of the observatory's construction to replace the Hubble Space Telescope by 2018.
- After being pieced together, the 18 primary mirror segments will work together as one large 21.3foot mirror.
- The James Webb Space Telescope will be the premier astronomical observatory of the next decade.

28th November

AROUND THE WORLD

Patricia Scotland Commonwealth's new Secretary General

- Dominicanborn British lawyer Patricia Scotland (60) has been elected as the new Secretary General of the Commonwealth.
- With this, she became its first woman and also first British citizen to be elected secretary general of the 53-member bloc's history.

INDIA - OTHERS

India-Israel Co-developed LRSAM Missile Successfully Tested

- Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) co-developed by India and Israel was successfully test-fired for the first time from an Israeli Naval Platform.
- The trial test was undertaken by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in the presence of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) scientists.

29th November

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

India among 4 Nations to Sign Trade Pact

□ Sri Lanka, India, Malta and Mauritius have come together to establish a Commonwealth Trade Finance Facility to boost trade and investment flows, particularly for developing nations of the Commonwealth.

□ The four countries have inked the document, Declaration of Intent, as anchor investors at the ongoing Commonwealth Summit in Malta. The facility, structured as a guarantee fund, will cover risk for providers of trade credit in financial institutions of Commonwealth countries. It seeks to stimulate lending by major banks to smaller banks in member states and reduce risk.

Forex Reserves Decline by \$149.7 mn

□ According to data from Reserve Bank of India, India's foreign exchange reserves declined \$149.7 million to \$352.4 billion during the week ended November 20, due to fall in foreign currency assets.

□ In the previous week, the reserves had increased \$781 million to \$352.5 billion.

INDIA – OTHERS

Russia Strikes Down India from its Safe Travel Destinations

□ Russia has asked its citizens to avoid traveling to India and Goa due to security reasons.

□ In its recent list of safe travel destinations, India has been struck off the list of safe travel destinations. This recent move is seen as a major blow to Goa's tourism industry. Goa has always been one of the favourite and an affordable destination for Russian tourists.

□ Russians constitute almost half of the total foreign visitor in Goa. Since 2002, the number of Russian tourists has been on the rise steadily.

30th November

AROUND THE WORLD

Saudi Women Began First Election Campaigns

□ Saudi women began their first ever campaigns for public office on Sunday, in a step forward for women's rights in the conservative kingdom.

□ More than 900 women are standing in the December 12 municipal elections, which will also mark the first time women are allowed to vote.

□ The country's first municipal elections were held in 2005, followed by another vote in 2011, but in both cases only men were allowed to participate.

INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

AirAsia India Net Loss Widens

□ Net loss of AirAsia India widens to nearly Rs. 65 crore in the three months ended September 2015 even as revenues rose during the same period.

□ A three-way joint venture between Malaysia's AirAsia Berhad, Tata Sons and Arun Bhatia's Telestra Tradeplace has been facing stiff competition in the domestic market.

INDIA – OTHERS

Shivraj Completes 10 Years as CM

□ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan completed 10 years in office, becoming the first non-Congress Chief Minister to do so.

□ With his two back-to-back terms, Chouhan broke the record of his predecessor and senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh

□ Shivraj Singh Chouhan was sworn in as the state's chief minister for the first time in November 2005.

INFOTAINMENT

P. V. Sindhu Seizes Macau Open Title

□ Two-time defending champion P. V. Sindhu completed a hat-trick of women's singles title at the USD 120,000 Macau Open Grand Prix Gold after defeating Japan's Minatsu Mitani in the finals.