

# 2015 OCTOBER

## 1st October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Russia Carries out First Air Strikes in Syria

- As President Vladimir Putin won parliamentary permission to use force abroad, Russia launched its first air strikes in war-torn Syria.
- It was Moscow's first military engagement in a distant theatre of war since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

#### WTO Cuts 2015 Trade Growth Forecast

- WTO lowered the global trade growth forecast for 2015 to 2.8%, from 3.3% projected in April. WTO cited multiple factors, from lower global crude petroleum and other commodity prices, to fluctuations in exchange rate and weak import demand in China, Brazil and several other emerging markets, for cutting its forecast.
- Economists at the Geneva-based agency also reduced their estimate for 2016 to 3.9% from 4%.
- If current projections are realized, 2015 will mark the fourth consecutive year in which annual trade growth has fallen below 3% and the fourth year where trade has grown at roughly the same rate as world GDP, rather than twice as fast, as was the case in the 1990s and early 2000s.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### Banks Cut Interest Rates

- A number of banks lowered lending rates, a day after RBI surprised with a larger-than-expected policy rate cut.
- However, the reduction in lending rates of the banks is so far less than RBI's 0.5 percent cut, with staterun SBI and Punjab National Bank (PNB) leading the charts with cuts of 0.4 percent each in its base rate.
- The base rate is the minimum rate of interest at which a bank lends to its borrowers.

#### Exports Dive in August

- Exports from India are still not out of the woods, with 23 key sectors, including petroleum, engineering and leather, declining in August mainly due to a fall in global prices and demand downturn. In all, 23 out of 30 sectors monitored by the commerce ministry were in the negative zone last month.
- India's exports declined 20.7% in August to \$21.3 billion, pushing up trade deficit to \$12.5 billion.
- India aims at taking exports of goods and services to USD 900 billion by 2020 and raising the country's share in world exports to 3.5 per cent from 2 per cent.

### INDIA – OTHERS

#### INS Kochi Commissioned

- Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar commissioned naval warship INS Kochi, the stealth guided missile destroyers.
- The warship is designed by the Navy's in-house organisation, Directorate of Naval Design, and it is constructed by Mazagon Dock Ship builders Ltd in Mumbai.
- The ship is one of the few warships of the world and the second in the Indian Navy to have Multi-Function Surveillance and Threat Alert Radar to provide target data to Long Range Surface to Air Missile system.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### First Optical Rectenna

- A team of engineers and researchers has demonstrated the world's first optical rectenna, a device that combines the functions of an antenna and a rectifier diode to convert light directly into DC current.
- The optical rectennas can provide a new technology for photodetectors that would operate without the need for cooling, energy harvesters that would convert waste heat to electricity and ultimately a new way to efficiently capture solar energy.

## 2nd October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Refugees Face New Diversion

- A small gap in coils of newly laid razor wire is all that remains of the Zakany-Botovo border crossing between Hungary and fellow European Union member Croatia, as Budapest prepares to close off another route for refugees flocking to Europe.
- Heavy machinery is clearing trees and a 3-metre-high fence is taking shape along the line of the razor wire.
- The border, still traversed by thousands of refugees daily en route to Austria and Germany, could be

sealed in a matter of minutes, potentially diverting the refugees into tiny Slovenia or stranding them in Croatia, where authorities are struggling with the scale of the influx.

**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****Maruti Sales Rise in September**

- Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest carmaker, reported 3.7 per cent rise in total sales in September at 1,13,759 units as against 1,09,742 units sold in the same month last year.
- Domestic sales increased by 6.8 per cent during the month to 1,06,083 units as against 99,290 units in September, 2014.
- Exports during the month declined by 26.6 per cent to 7,676 units as compared to 10,452 units in September last year.

**India's Manufacturing Output Slips to 7 Month Low**

- India's manufacturing sector output slipped to a seven-month low of 51.2 in September, as order flow turned sluggish amid difficult economic climate.
- The Nikkei India Manufacturing PMI -- a composite monthly indicator of manufacturing performance, stood at 51.2 in September, down from 52.3 in August.
- A figure above 50 represents expansion while one below that level means contraction.

**INDIA – OTHERS****Indian Air Force Signs Deal with Bharat Electronics Limited**

- Indian Air Force (IAF) signed a nearly Rs. 8,000 crore deal with state-run Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the extension of its programmes integrating all civil and defence radars across the country.
- The IAF has already established five nodes of the IACCS (Integrated Air Command and Control System) in the western sector, bordering Pakistan.
- Under the proposed expansion phase, four new nodes and ten subnodes will come up. While three nodes will be in eastern, central and southern India, the fourth will be for the strategically important Andaman and Nicobar Island.

**Aeronautical Development Establishment Gets New Chief**

- MVKV Prasad has been appointed as Director of Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), which is a key aeronautical systems design house under DRDO.
- Prasad joined DRDL, Hyderabad in 1984 as Scientist 'B' and served in DRDL at various capacities for a period of 28 years until 2012. From May 2012, he had taken over as Director, ITR Chandipur and is now heading ADE.
- In recognition of his significant contributions and achievements while serving with DRDO, he had been deputed as Joint Development Team Leader for foreign assignment to Israel for three years.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****Asteroids Moon's Main Water Supply**

- Water reserves found on the moon are the result of asteroids acting as "delivery vehicles" and not of falling comets as was previously thought, new research has found.
- Using computer simulation, the scientists discovered that a large asteroid can deliver more water to the lunar surface than the cumulative fall of comets over a billion year period.
- At the beginning of the space age, during the days of the Apollo programme, scientists believed the moon to be completely dry.
- However, in the 1990s, obtaining data from NASA's Lunar Prospector probe, scientists found signs of the presence of water on the moon.

**3rd October****AROUND THE WORLD****Germany completed 25 years of unity**

- Germany celebrated 25 years of reunification marking the day in 1990 when communist East Germany and capitalist West Germany reunited country.
- Currently the re-unified Germany has emerged as a leader and economic powerhouse of Europe.

**INDIA - OTHERS****Government test showed 12.5% food items contain unapproved pesticides**

- Union government has found residues of pesticides in vegetables, fruits, milk and other food items collected from various retail and wholesale outlets across the country.
- These harmful residues of unapproved pesticides were found in 12.50 per cent of the 20,618 samples collected nationally as part of the central scheme Monitoring of Pesticide Residues.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****Google Inc. now officially Alphabet Inc.**

- Google Inc. completed the move to reorganize as Alphabet, and its stock will begin trading as Alphabet on the Nasdaq under the same tickers "GOOG" and "GOOGL".

- Google had said earlier that it would create a new company that would oversee both its highly lucrative Internet business and its growing flock of other ventures like building self-driving cars and researching ways to prolong human life.

## **4th October**

### **AROUND THE WORLD**

#### **Hamas rejects Blair's proposal on truce with Israel**

- Hamas rejected a proposal by Tony Blair on reaching a long-term truce with Israel.
- As per Hamas leader Mahmoud al-Zahar, the group does not have a new truce deal, but an implementation of the ceasefire agreement announced by Egypt in August last year.
- In August Hamas confirmed for the first time that it has conducted a meeting with Mr. Blair to stabilise the ceasefire with Israel in the Gaza Strip.
- As per Hamas officials, these talks were still in the making and have not reached a final stage, while various media reports said the talks reached a dead-end.

### **INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**

#### **More PSBs, Private Banks Join Rate Cut**

- State-run Syndicate Bank and United Bank of India cut their benchmark lending rates by up to 0.30 percent.
- Other banks which have or have announced to cut rates are:
- Karur Vysya Bank, United Bank of India, United Bank of India.
- The rate cut has been triggered by Reserve Bank revising downward its benchmark short-term lending (repo) rate by 0.50 percent in its fourth bimonthly monetary policy review.
- Following this about 20 banks from public and private sectors have cut interest rates by up to 0.40 percent. Market majors like SBI, ICICI Bank, PNB, BoB have cut rates.

#### **CIL Misses September Output Target**

- State-owned Coal India recorded an output of 37.17 million tonnes in September, missing the target by 4.1 per cent. The target for September was 38.77 million tonnes, Coal India. The government has set one billion tonne production goal for this public sector undertaking by 2020. The corresponding figure for the current fiscal is 550 million tonnes. Coal India missed the production target for 2014-15 by three per cent, recording an output of 494.23 million tonnes. It accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal production.

### **INDIA – OTHERS**

#### **Local Body Polls in Kerala in November**

- Elections to local self-government institutions in Kerala will be held in two phases, on November 2 and November 5.
- As many as 21,871 wards in 941 grama panchayats, 152 blocks, 14 district panchayats, 86 municipalities, and six Corporations will go to the polls in two phases.
- As per reports, the election schedule is as follows:
- Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Idukki, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur, and Kasaragod districts will go to the polls on November 2 and Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, and Malappuram on November 5.

### **INFOTAINMENT**

#### **Sania -Martina Win Wuhan Open**

- Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis clinched the Wuhan Open women's doubles trophy.
- They defeated the Romanian team of Irina-Camelia Begu and Monica Niculescu in the title clash.
- With this win, the Indo-Swiss pairing has seven WTA doubles titles together this year – Indian Wells, Miami, Charleston, Wimbledon, the US Open, Guangzhou and Wuhan.

## **5th October**

### **AROUND THE WORLD**

#### **Russian Failure in Syria Would Destroy Mideast**

- As per the Syrian President the success of Russia's military intervention in his country's civil war was vital for the whole Mideast.
- According to a broadcast by Iranian television, the alliance between Russia, Syria, Iraq and Iran must succeed or else the whole region will be destroyed.
- Russia launched air strikes in Syria, a move which Moscow insists is aimed at fighting the Islamic State group.
- But opponents including the United States claim Russian bombing raids are mainly targeting Westernbacked moderate opponents of Assad.

### **EARTH MATTER**

#### **Remains of Woolly Mammoth Discovered**

- A farmer found the partial skeleton of a woolly mammoth, which may have lived about 12-13,000 years

ago.

- Experts from the University of Michigan were able to retrieve about a fifth of the animal's bones during an excavation.
- As per reports, there are only 10 similar sites in Michigan where a significant portion of a woolly mammoth skeleton was found. He said this one was likely 40 years old when it probably was killed by humans.

#### **INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**

##### **Adani Group Takes over Port near Chennai**

- Adani Ports and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) inked a pact to oversee operations of Kattupalli Port.
- Adani Ports has entered into a non-binding MoU with L&T Shipbuilding (L&T) for evaluating the operations of the port at Kattupalli, with effect from October 2015 for one month.
- Adani shall be responsible for EBIDTA gains and losses arising from the port operation for this period.

#### **INDIA – OTHERS**

##### **World's Highest Terrestrial Centre**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation has established the world's highest terrestrial centre at 17,600 feet above sea level at Changla near Pengong Lake in Ladakh.
- The centre will serve as a natural cold storage for preserving rare and endangered medical plants for generations to come.
- According to reports, the centre will act as an important utility for research work in frontal areas of food and agriculture and bio-medical sciences for the well being of the soldiers deployed in high altitude cold desert.

## **6th October**

#### **AROUND THE WORLD**

##### **UN Asks Iran to Help Peace in Syria**

- United Nations chief has urged Iran to pressure its ally Syria to reach a peaceful resolution of the brutal civil war there.
- During a meeting, Ban restated that there is no military solution to the conflict and asked Iran to exercise its influence in promoting a political solution.

##### **Thai Junta Appoints New Committee to Write New Constitution**

- Thailand's military government appointed a new committee to write a post-coup constitution after an unpopular earlier draft was rejected last month in a move that has delayed elections until at least 2017.
- The new 21-member committee has six months to write its draft charter, which needs approval from the legislature before being submitted to a national referendum.
- The committee includes lawyers, academics and civil servants.

#### **EARTH MATTER**

##### **Chile Creates Largest Marine Reserve**

- The Chilean government has created the largest marine reserve in the Americas by protecting an area roughly the size of Italy.
- The new area, called the Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park, constitutes about eight percent of the ocean areas worldwide that have been declared off-limits to fishing and governed by no-take protections.
- The Pac-Man-shaped marine protected area (MPA) encompasses roughly 115,000 square miles of ocean around San Ambrosio and San Felix islands. Together, they're known as the Desventuradas (or Unfortunate in Spanish) Islands, which are part of the underwater Nazca Ridge, which runs southwest from Peru to Easter Island.

#### **INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**

##### **GDP to Exceed 7.5%, Taxes to Fall Short of Target**

- As per the government, the revenue collection will fall short by Rs. 50,000 crore but the economic growth will exceed 7.5 percent, with fiscal deficit remaining within the budgeted target.
- The total tax revenues are likely to be around Rs. 14 lakh crore in the current fiscal, as against the budget estimate of Rs 14.5 lakh crore.
- With regards growth, there are indications that it will exceed 7.5 percent in the current financial year.

##### **Government Looks to Ease FDI Rules**

- As per the economic affairs secretary, the government is looking to simplify foreign direct investment (FDI) rules, aimed at removing some of the conditions that investors need to fulfil while investing in the country as it looks to further ease procedures to attract more investment, including domestic, at a time when the RBI has cut rates too.
- Every 10 days the government is taking a major decision and all these things, put together with the rate cut, will have a positive impact on the economy.

#### **INDIA – OTHERS**

##### **Narendra Modi is 13th most Influential Person**

- According to Bloomberg Markets Most Influential' list, Narendra Modi is the 13th most influential person in the world.
- The Bloomberg list has the highest number of Asian representatives in the Top 50 for the first time ever.
- The top five in the list are: Janet Yellen, Xi Jinping, Tim Cook, Larry Fink and Warren Buffett.

## 7th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Emirati Rights Activist Wins Nobel Prize

- An Emirati human rights activist barred from leaving his home country was named the 2015 winner of an award often dubbed the Nobel Prize for human rights.
- The design of the Astradharini is a collaborative effort of NSTL, M/s Shoft Shipyard and IIT Kharagpur and has a unique design of a catamaran hull form that significantly reduces its power requirement and is built with indigenous steel.

### INFOTAINMENT

#### Shoaib Malik Recalled after Five Years

- Veteran Pakistan all-rounder and former captain Shoaib Malik made a comeback to the national Test squad after a gap of five years.
- Malik had been inducted into the Test squad for the series against England as the 16th player.

## 8th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Real Truce has Begun in Ukraine

- According to President Petro Poroshenko, a "real truce" has begun in eastern Ukraine but a long-lasting peace with pro-Kremlin insurgents would still take some time.
- This is still not peace. This is not the end of the war.
- The end of war will come when every patch of Ukrainian soil is liberated from the enemy, the occupant, the aggressor. But this is not simply a ceasefire, this is a real truce.

#### Nobel Prize 2015 in Chemistry

- The Nobel Prize 2015 in Chemistry jointly went to Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sancar.
- Sweden's Tomas Lindahl, American Paul Modrich and Turkish-born Aziz Sancar won the prestigious prize for their work on mapping how cells repair damaged DNA, giving insight into cancer treatments.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### Walmart Plans to Open Five Stores in Himachal

- Retail giant Walmart plans to open five stores with an investment of around Rs. 65 crore in Himachal Pradesh.
- Walmart has some collection centres already functioning in the state but now it proposes to expand its network and explore investments to set up five Walmart stores with an investment of USD 10 million generating employment to 2,000 persons.
- The company has proposed to set up stores in districts like Shimla, Solan, Mandi, Hamipur and Kangra.

#### E-commerce Increases Business for SMEs

- According to a report, online marketplaces are fuelling growth for small and medium enterprises in India. SMEs contribute about 17% to India's GDP (gross domestic product) and the report highlighted that the scale of businesses and profits have increased after they embraced e-commerce platforms.
- As per the report, 46% of SMEs reported an increase in business through listing on online marketplaces, while those using internet for business saw 51% higher revenues and 49% more profit.
- About 85% of the SMEs who adapted to the e-commerce model realized that it was a cost-effective medium to grow sales and a majority of them reported 60-80% reduction in distribution, marketing and sales spend to get incremental business.

### INFOTAINMENT

#### Sania and Martina in China Open Quarterfinals

- The Indo-Swiss tennis pair of Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis earned a hard-fought victory to move into the women's doubles quarterfinals of the China Open.
- The Indo-Swiss tennis pair took an hour and 17 minutes to edge past experienced Italian pair of Sara Errani and Flavia Pennetta.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### NASA Completes Heat Shield Testing

- NASA has successfully completed key heat shield tests for the future exploration spacecrafts that will scout the Red Planet for signs of life.
- NASA's Adaptive Deployable Entry and Placement Technology (ADEPT) is a mechanically-deployable heat shield concept using carbon fabric, a flexible heat shield that expands to open like an umbrella.
- During the tests, the surface temperatures on the test article reached 1,704 degrees Celsius.

## 9th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Alexis Tsipras Government Wins Key Parliament Vote

- The government of Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras won a crucial vote of confidence vote, bolstering the left-wing leader as he gets down to implementing reforms demanded by creditors.
- The governing coalition of the premier's left-wing Syriza party and the nationalist Independent Greeks (ANEL) used their 155-strong majority to pass the motion through the 300-seat parliament.

### EARTH MATTER

#### World's Oceans Facing Biggest Coral Die-off

- Scientists have confirmed the third-ever global bleaching of coral reefs is under way and warned it could see the biggest coral die-off in history.
- Since 2014, a massive underwater heat wave, driven by climate change, has caused corals to lose their brilliance and die in every ocean. By the end of this year 38% of the world's reefs will have been affected. About 5% will have died forever.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### 14 Indian Families in Asia's Richest List

- As many as 14 Indian families have made it to the inaugural list of Forbes' 50 richest families in Asia, led by the Ambanis, who were ranked third on the list.
- Indians hold 14 of the 50 spots, the most from any jurisdiction.
- Other Indian families in the top ten richest Asian business dynasties include the Premji family, ranked seventh and the Mistry family at the tenth.
- The overall list was topped by Lees of Samsung Group.

#### mVisa-based Mobile Payment Service

- ICICI Bank has launched of a service that enables customers to make electronic payments from their smartphones at traditional stores, e-commerce sites, deliveries made at home, radio taxi and utility bills among others.
- To start with, this facility has been introduced in Bengaluru with 1,500 merchants.
- With this service, users of 'Pockets' app can make cashless payments from their smartphones using their debit card by simply scanning a 'mVisa' quick response (QR) code at a merchant location without swiping the card at an EDC machine.
- To use this facility, a customer is simply required to click on the 'mVisa' icon on the home screen of the 'Pockets' app.

### INDIA – OTHERS

#### Women Pilots in Fighter Stream

- As per the Indian Air Force Chief, women will be inducted as fighter pilots soon.
- Presently they women pilots are flying transport aircrafts and helicopters.
- The idea of women as fighter pilots was rejected by Air Chief last year.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### Blue Skies, Water Ice on Pluto

- In a significant finding, the first colour images of Pluto's atmospheric hazes returned by NASA's New Horizons spacecraft revealed that the planet's hazes are blue.
- The haze particles themselves are likely gray or red, but the way they scatter blue light has gotten the attention of the New Horizons science team.
- New Horizons has detected numerous small, exposed regions of water ice on Pluto.

## 10th October

### INDIA - OTHERS

#### India's first Dolphin Community Reserve to come up in West Bengal

- To protect the endangered Gangetic river dolphins, West Bengal will soon have the country's first community reserve for the mammal.
- Direct killing, habitat fragmentation due to construction of dams and barrages, indiscriminate fishing and pollution of rivers are some of the major threats affecting the species.

### INFOTAINMENT

#### Shekhar Basu Appointed as Atomic Energy Secretary

- Renowned scientist Shekhar Basu was appointed as Atomic Energy Secretary and Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission.
- Basu, who is presently Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and chief executive of the Nuclear Recycle Board (NRB), will replace R. K. Sinha who superannuates on October 23.

#### Veteran Music Director Ravindra Jain Passed Away

- Veteran music director Ravindra Jain, who had been admitted to Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai following ill health, passed away.
- Jain composed music for hit films like 'Chor Machaye Shor', 'Geet Gaata Chal', 'Chitchor' and 'Ankhiyon Ke Jharokhon Se', in the 70s.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****Scientists Recovered First Genome of Ancient Human from Africa**

- A team of scientists recovered the genome from a 4,500-year-old human skeleton in Ethiopia — the first time a complete assemblage of DNA has been retrieved from an ancient human in Africa.
- The DNA of the Ethiopian fossil is strikingly different from that of living Africans.

**11th October****AROUND THE WORLD****Thousands Demonstrate in Berlin against EU-US Free Trade Deal**

- Hundreds of thousands of people rallied in Berlin against the massive free-trade accord being negotiated by the European Union and the United States.
- Talks on the pact between the US and 28-nation EU -- which would be the world's biggest trade deal if completed -- began in 2013 and the two sides aim to conclude them by 2016.
- Campaigners are particularly angered over Washington's insistence that as part of the pact, private companies be allowed to sue governments before special tribunals.

**EARTH MATTER****Sea Turtles Face Deadly Risk**

- As per researchers, increasing plastic pollution, all species of marine turtles face the grave risk of losing their population.
- When turtles ingest plastic, they can suffer intestinal blockage that can result in malnutrition which can in turn lead to poor health, reduced growth rates, lower reproductive output and even death.
- As per a study, the annual global plastic production has grown from 1.5 million tonnes to 299 million tonnes in the last 65 years and as a result plastic pollution is increasing, both on land and at sea.

**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****Indirect Tax Revenue Reflects Robust Growth**

- Growth in collection of indirect taxes in the first half of the current fiscal shows robust GDP expansion.
- Indirect tax collection increased by 35.8 percent in the April-September period of the 2015-16 fiscal to Rs. 3.24 lakh crore, hitting more than 50 per cent of the annual target.
- The collection also reflects hike in excise duty on diesel and petrol, withdrawal of tax exemptions for motor vehicles, increase in clean energy cess and hike in service tax rate in June.

**Nokia Slapped Fresh Tax Notice**

- The income tax department has slapped a fresh tax notice on Nokia India. The Finnish telecom firm, however, wants the fresh demand to be included in the ongoing negotiations between India and Finland to resolve the Rs. 2,000-crore tax dispute.
- As per reports, the fresh notice was for a "dispute relating to other assessment years, apart from the one being contested currently in ITAT.
- Nokia's mobile unit has now been sold to Microsoft, but the Chennai factory, which is involved in the tax dispute was not included in the deal.

**INDIA – OTHERS****Literary Icons at Sahitya Akademi Resign, Return Award**

- Joining the protest over rising communal violence cases in the country, Malayalam and English poet K. Satchidanandan quit the Sahitya Akademi, becoming the latest literary icon to do so.
- Earlier, Malayalam author and activist Sarah Joseph returned the prestigious Kendra Sahitya Akademi award protesting against the 'communal policies' of the central government.
- Noted writer Nayantara Sahgal, the niece of former Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, has also returned the prestigious award.
- Writer Shashi Deshpande resigned from the Sahitya Akademi General Council.

**Karnataka Waives Interest on Crop Loans**

- The Karnataka government announced waiver of interest and penal interest on crop loans from cooperative banks for the current fiscal and a hike in compensation from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh to families of farmers who had committed suicide.
- The government would also increase monthly widow pension from Rs 500 to Rs 2,000 and bear educational expenses of children up to post-graduation level in the families of farmers who had committed suicide.

**INFOTAINMENT****Sania-Martina Win China Open**

- The Indo-Swiss pair of Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis added another trophy in its collection after winning

the China Open final.

- They beat Chan sisters Hao-ching and Yung-jan in three grueling sets.
- This is the eighth title for the Mirza-Hingis pair of the year.

## 12th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Russia Will Not Conduct Ground Operation in Syria

- As per Vladimir Putin, Russia would not deploy ground troops to Syria, where it has been conducting air strikes against what it says are Islamic State targets.
- The Russian President had last month received parliamentary approval to launch an air campaign in the war-torn country, but authorities have staunchly denied they would send any ground troops.
- Russia has bombed command posts and training camps of what it says are radical "terrorists," backing a ground offensive by the forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### SEBI Fines 34 Companies

- Market regulator SEBI has imposed a fine of close to Rs. 50 lakh on 34 companies in the first half of the current fiscal for allegedly failing to resolve investor complaints.
- The regulator imposed the monetary penalty of Rs. 49.50 lakh in April-September of 2015-16 through adjudication proceedings.
- SEBI had fined 40 firms about Rs. 66 lakh on the same count a year ago.

### INDIA – OTHERS

#### Bihar Minister Quits after Sting Operation

- Ahead of the first phase poll, a cabinet minister of the Nitish Kumar government resigned after he was seen taking bribe in a sting operation on a video which went viral on social media.
- After the alleged sting operation captioned "X-files", Minister for excise and prohibition Awadhesh Kumar Kushwaha was asked to resign by the Chief Minister.
- The Minister faxed his resignation which was forwarded to the Governor for acceptance.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### Scientists Create Virtual Rat Brain

- Scientists have created a virtual rat brain made up of 30,000 neurons, 55 layers of cells and 207 different neuron subtypes.
- For 10 years, a global initiative called the Blue Brain Project - hosted at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) - has been attempting to digitally create a section of juvenile rat brain.
- Getting a full, high-resolution picture of all the features and activity of the neurons within a brain region and the circuit-level behaviours of neurons is a major challenge.

## 13th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### 12,220 Migrants Enter Austria in 36 Hours

- A total of 12,220 people entered eastern Austria in the past 36 hours as the migrant flow from the Balkans to northern Europe continued.
- On Sunday, 8,540 people entered the country via the Nickelsdorf crossing point with Hungary, followed by another 3,680 between midnight.
- The crisis has exposed deep divisions within the 28-nation European Union over how to distribute the new arrivals and stemming the flow.

#### K. P. Sharma Oli 38th Prime Minister of Nepal

- Just three weeks after a democratic Federal Constitution was promulgated in Nepal, Communist leader K. P. Sharma Oli took oath as the 38th Prime Minister of Nepal forming a small cabinet consisting eight members.
- Oli was elected in the Parliament with support from smaller parties.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### Aon to Exit Indian Market

- Aon, one of the world's largest insurance brokers, has decided to exit from the Indian market due to regulatory issues.
- The Netherlands-based company holds 26 percent stake in the Indian joint venture Aon Global.
- Global, owned by Thakker family, has been functioning in the country's insurance broking market for more than three decades successfully.

#### 'Money2World' Online Service Launched by ICICI

- ICICI Bank has launched 'Money2World,' a fully online outward remittance service for resident Indians. With this, non-account holders of ICICI Bank can now transfer money online from any bank account in



India to any bank account overseas in 16 major currencies.

- To avail this service, a user has to carry out a simple, one-time online registration on [www.money2world.com](http://www.money2world.com) by uploading her/his KYC documents, thus avoiding the hassle of visiting a bank branch to fill and submit documents for every money transfer.
- Users can remit up to an equivalent of \$25000 in a financial year through this online platform.

#### **Retail inflation Rises in September**

- Retail inflation rose to 4.41% in September due to dearer food items in general and beverages and pulses in particular.
- Government data showed that the Consumer Price Index based inflation in August stood at 3.74% on cheaper vegetables, fruits and protein rich items.
- Food inflation during the month rose to 3.88% from 2.20% in August.
- Retail inflation in pulses and products category rose to 29.76% in September.
- While the price rise in the food and beverages category almost doubled from a month earlier to 4.29% in September, inflation in cereals and products was also higher at 1.38%.

#### **INDIA – OTHERS**

##### **Infosys CFO Rajiv Bansal Resigns**

- Rajiv Bansal resigned as Chief Financial Officer of Infosys.
- M. D. Ranganath, who has been with the company for nearly 15 years, will replace him.
- Since October 2012, Rajiv Bansal has been the Executive Vice President and the Chief Financial Officer of Infosys.
- Bansal will continue as an advisor to the CEO and the Board till December 31, 2015 to provide a smooth transition.

#### **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

##### **Aging Star Waving Goodbye**

- The Hubble Space Telescope has captured a stunning image of a dying star's final moments.
- The curving structure of Menzel 2 resembles a last goodbye before the star reaches its final stage of retirement as a white dwarf.
- Planetary nebula PK 329-02.2, otherwise known as Menzel 2, is located in the constellation of Norma in the southern sky. It is sometimes referred to as Mz 2 and is named after the astronomer Donald Menzel who discovered the nebula in 1922.

## **14th October**

#### **AROUND THE WORLD**

##### **Migrants into EU This Year**

- According to the EU border agency Frontex, 710,000 migrants entered the European Union in the first nine months of this year, compared to only 282,000 in all of 2014.
- Urgent assistance is needed, especially for Greece and Italy, to help register and identify the new arrivals, as the EU gears up for an October 15-16 summit focused on migration.
- The crisis has exposed deep divisions within the 28-nation European Union over how to distribute the new arrivals.

##### **China Operationalises Biggest Dam on Brahmaputra**

- China operationalised the USD 1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet, built on the Brahmaputra River, which has raised concerns in India over the likelihood of disrupting water supplies.
- All six of the station's units were incorporated into the power grid.
- The dam considered to be the world's highest-altitude hydropower station and the largest of its kind will produce produces 2.5 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity a year.

#### **INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**

##### **Tata Consultancy Services Q2 Net Profit Up**

- Country's largest IT services exporter TCS met market expectations with an over 16 percent rise in net profit at Rs. 6,084.66 crore for the quarter to September, backed by strong performance of its digital platform and recovery in Latin America and the home market.
- Tata Consultancy Services order book grew 30 percent in the quarter, the highest ever for the company.

##### **Factory Growth in India High in August**

- The country's factory output growth accelerated to a near three-year high in August, led by a rebound in manufacturing and mining sectors, while retail inflation inched up in September but remained within the comfort level of the policy makers.
- Data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Monday showed growth in industrial output was 6.4% in August, higher than previous month's downwardly revised 4.1% and 0.5% in August 2014.

#### **INDIA – OTHERS**

##### **Czech Republic Nuclear Power Deal with India**

- The Czech Republic is trying its best to clinch a nuclear power agreement with India even as the bilateral

trade between the two nations is poised to hit USD 3 billion in the next two years.

- The Czech Republic is trying its best to pull off a nuclear power agreement with India and looking to boost cooperation in steel, pharma and technical sectors too.
- The issue of nuclear power cooperation between Indian and the Czech Republic is being debated and deliberated upon for over two years, but not conclusive as yet.

#### **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

##### **Pluto's Smallest Moon Styx Located**

- NASA has released a stunning image of Pluto's smallest moon 'Styx' captured by the New Horizons spacecraft from a distance of 391,000 miles (631,000 km).
- Styx is the faintest of Pluto's five moons.
- This tiny moon has a highly reflective, icy surface, similar to what was previously found for two of Pluto's other small moons, Nix and Hydra.
- Styx was discovered using the Hubble Space Telescope in 2012, when New Horizons was more than two-thirds into its voyage to Pluto.

## **15th October**

#### **AROUND THE WORLD**

##### **Iranian Council Approves Nuclear Deal**

- A senior council of Iranian clerics and lawyers approved the implementation of the landmark nuclear deal with world powers, sealing the final required step in the process despite hard-liners' efforts to derail it.
- The Guardian Council's vote, while apparently not unanimous, marks a major victory for the administration of moderate President Hassan Rouhani, which has campaigned on easing tensions with the West.

##### **The US Looking at Long Term Presence in Afghanistan**

- Barack Obama is looking at the possibilities of a long-term presence of American troops in Afghanistan beyond 2016, in the backdrop of the temporarily takeover of Kunduz city by the Taliban.
- Under the current policy, American troops are scheduled to be reduced to embassy level presence by the end of 2016.
- Currently there are about 10,000 US troops mainly engaged in training, aid and advise mission in Afghanistan.

#### **EARTH MATTER**

##### **Baby Dinosaur Fossils Found**

- A handful of baby dinosaur fossils complete with fragments of eggshells have been uncovered in Mongolia.
- They are the youngest ever discovered of a type of giant hadrosaur that lived about 70 million years ago, known as Saurolophus angustirostris.
- Their discovery adds to knowledge about how dinosaurs developed and grew, from birth to adulthood.

#### **INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY**

##### **India to be Global Manufacturing Hub for Maruti**

- More than three decades after it started operations, Maruti is all set to export a 'Made in India' vehicle to Japan, which will be sold by its parent Suzuki. Japan's Suzuki, which controls 56% stake in Maruti, has decided to make India a global manufacturing hub for its upcoming premium compact car 'Baleno', which will be exported to over 100 countries.
- Baleno will be Maruti Suzuki's first attempt in the premium compact segment and will make a debut in India on October 26.
- This will be the first instance of Maruti - which contributes 40% to Suzuki's global sales volume and one-third to its revenues - supplying a car to its parent for sale in Japan.

#### **INDIA – OTHERS**

##### **Navy Pitches for Women Pilots**

- The Indian Navy ruled out combat role for women for the time being citing government rules but has pitched for inducting them as pilots for its fleet of maritime reconnaissance aircraft.
- Women serve in the Navy in various fields, from air traffic controllers to observers on board aircraft, training, legal and even overseeing various aspects relating to construction of ships among others.

#### **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

##### **New Changes in Jupiter's 'Great Red Spot**

- NASA's Hubble Space Telescope's planetary portrait has captured new changes in Jupiter's Great Red Spot.
- The new images confirm that the Great Red Spot continues to shrink and become more circular, as it has been doing for years.
- The Great Red Spot remains more orange than red these days, and its core, which typically has more intense color, is less distinct than it used to be. An unusual wispy filament is seen, spanning almost the

entire width of the vortex. In Jupiter's North Equatorial Belt, the researchers found an elusive wave that had been spotted on the planet only once before.

## 16th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Ukraine, Japan, Egypt Win UN Security Council Seats

- Ukraine, Japan and Egypt won seats at the UN Security Council as world diplomacy is overshadowed by tensions with Russia and bloodshed in the Middle East.
- The five countries ran unopposed for the non-permanent seats after regional groups put them forward as their choice.
- Japan picked up 184 votes, Egypt won 179 and Ukraine 177 in the 193-nation assembly.

#### Japan Restarts Second Nuclear Reactor

- Japan restarted a second nuclear reactor after a shutdown triggered by the 2011 Fukushima crisis, as the government pushes to return to a cheaper energy source despite widespread public opposition.
- Utility Kyushu Electric Power restarted the number-two reactor at Sendai.
- Engineers will now spend several days bringing the newly restarted reactor up to operational level before running it commercially from November.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### Adani's Coal Mine Project Gets Re-approval

- Indian mining giant Adani's plan to build one of the world's largest coal mines got a new lease of life, after the Australian government gave its re-approval to the 16.5 billion controversy-hit project but with "strictest conditions" amid environmental concerns.
- The approval would be subject to 36 of the strictest conditions in Australian history.
- The conditions imposed take into account issues raised by the community and ensure that the proponent must meet the highest environmental standards.

#### Hindustan Unilever's Q2 Net Dips

- Price cuts and the phasing out of excise duty benefits impacted Hindustan Unilever's September quarter (Q2) performance with the consumer products major's net profit declining 2.6% to Rs. 962 crore from Rs. 988 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.
- According to the chairman, the deflationary commodity cost environment is likely to continue in the near term.

### INDIA – OTHERS

#### Sikkim to Have an Airport by December 2016

- Sikkim will get its first airport operational from December 2016, which will provide a direct connectivity to the land-locked state and help boost tourism.
- The airport will come up at Pakyong which is 35 km from Gangtok.

### INFOTAINMENT

#### Zaheer Khan Retires from International Cricket

- Indian speedster Zaheer Khan announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. In the statement, the 37-year-old said that he was not fit enough to deal with the rigours of the modern game.
- Khan, is India's fourth highest wicket taker in test cricket.
- He made his Test debut against Bangladesh and ODI debut against Kenya in the year 2000.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### Bizarre Star Spotted

- Astronomers claimed to have spotted a bizarre star that looks like something an alien civilisation would have built.
- The star named KIC 8462852 lies just above the Milky Way between the constellations Cygnus and Lyra.
- The star first attracted the attention of astronomers in 2009.

## 17th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Sweden to become the World's First Cashless Society

- Sweden is on track to becoming the world's first cashless society, thanks to the country's embrace of information technology as well as a crackdown on organized crime and terror, according to a new study.
- The widespread and growing embrace of the mobile payment system, Swish, is helping hasten the day when Sweden replaces cash altogether.

### INDIA - OTHERS

#### SC Bench struck down NJAC Act

- Declaring that the judiciary cannot risk being caught in a "web of indebtedness" towards the government, the Supreme Court rejected the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act and the 99th

Constitutional Amendment which sought to give politicians and civil society a final say in the appointment of judges to the highest courts.

- The Bench in a majority of 4 : 1 rejected the NJAC Act and the Constitutional Amendment as 'unconstitutional and void'.

**INFOTAINMENT****Kailash Satyarthi got 'Harvard Humanitarian of the Year Award'**

- Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi has been conferred with Harvard University's prestigious humanitarian award for this year, in recognition of his continuing contribution to the cause of child rights.

**18th October****AROUND THE WORLD****Migrants Pour into Slovenia**

- Nearly 3000 migrants trying to reach northern Europe crossed into Slovenia from Croatia, having been forced to change their route after Hungary closed off another border with razor wire.
- After registering them at border checkpoints, Slovenian authorities were to transport them to the Austrian frontier from where they could continue to Germany, the preferred destination for many.
- A majority of the migrants were from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****RIL Posts Record Rs. 6,720 crore Net in Q2**

- Energy-to-retail giant Reliance Industries' second quarter consolidated profit rose 12.5% to a record \$1 billion (Rs. 6,720 crore), boosted by a record high refining margins. The company's refineries earned \$10.6 per barrel of crude processed, the highest in seven years, as against \$8.3 a year earlier. RIL's gross profit increased 6.4% to a record \$1.9 billion (Rs. 12,636 crore).
- Refining business performance was notable as it benefited from a combination of high utilization levels, advantageous crude market opportunities and strong global fuels demand.
- Reliance Retail achieved a Rs. 5,000-crore quarterly turnover mark for the first time, reflecting continuing growth momentum in physical retailing.

**INFOTAINMENT****P. V. Sindhu Enter Maiden Super Series Final**

- P. V. Sindhu defeated two-time World champion Carolina Marin of Spain in the first semi-final of women's singles in Odense.
- Sindhu will play the winner of second semi-final between third rank Sung Ji Hyun of Korea and sixth rank Li Xuerui of China in the final.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****Scott Kelly Longest-living US Astronaut in Space**

- US astronaut Scott Kelly, commander of the current Expedition 45 crew on the International Space Station, has become the longest-living US astronaut on the orbiting laboratory.
- Kelly crossed 383 days living in space, surpassing US astronaut Mike Fincke's record of 382 cumulative days.
- Later this month, Kelly will break another record on his 216th consecutive day in space, when he will surpass astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria's record for the single-longest spaceflight by an American. Lopez-Alegria spent 215 days in space as commander of the Expedition 14 crew in 2006.

**19th October****AROUND THE WORLD****Implementation of Nuclear Deal**

- Iran's Foreign Minister and European Union (EU) foreign affairs chief have issued a joint statement, announcing the start of the implementation of the nuclear deal reached between Iran and the six world powers in July.
- Now, Iran will start implementing its obligations pertaining to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and the UN nuclear watchdog will prepare the means to monitor Iran's measures.
- According to the nuclear agreement between Iran and the world powers, Iran would improve the transparency of its nuclear plan, downsize its capacity for uranium enrichment and do changes in the structure of its heavy water reactor in exchange for international and Western sanctions relief.

**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****India among Top 10 Acquirers in the US**

- India has been ranked among the top 10 acquirers in the US market this year with 16 deals valued at USD 1.7 billion.
- Majority of these deals were in the pharma sector, with six transactions totalling USD 1.5 billion.
- Most of these acquisitions are funded internally as Indian companies are generally cash rich.

- India is witnessing more cross border M&A deals and beyond 2015, the country could become a sweetheart for US dealmakers, as the Indian government continues to pursue reforms to open the economy to foreign investors.

**Banks Face SEBI Scrutiny for Disclosure Lapses**

- As a multi-agency probe continues in the alleged forex-based black money case involving thousands of crores of rupees, capital markets regulator SEBI and stock exchanges have now begun a scrutiny of several banks for any violation of the disclosure norms for listed firms.
- State-run Bank of Baroda and Oriental Bank of Commerce are among those facing the scrutiny, while stock exchanges have also sought clarifications from top private sector lenders - HDFC Bank and Axis Bank.

**INDIA – OTHERS****Urdu Poet Munawwar Rana Returns his Award**

- Urdu poet Munawwar Rana was added to the list of litterateurs to have returned the Sahitya Akademi award. Rana announced his decision during a television show in New Delhi.
- He has returned the award through the channel and given a blank check to return the cash prize.
- Prior to him, writers like Kashi Nath Singh, Ghulam Nabi Khayal, Nand Bhardwaj and Katyayani Vidmahe have also returned their awards.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****NASA Spacecraft Spots Giant Hole in Sun**

- NASA's orbiting Solar Dynamics Observatory has mapped an enormous coronal hole, a gap in the sun's outer layer and magnetic field, which is the size of 50 Earths and is releasing an extra-fast solar wind in Earth's direction.
- The gap in the Sun's magnetic field lets out a stream of particles travelling at up to 800 kilometres per second.
- If aimed toward Earth, it could result in a geomagnetic storm, a phenomenon that can affect power and navigation for satellites orbiting the Earth as well as radio communication.

**20th October****AROUND THE WORLD****Power-sharing Proposal Rejected by Libyan Government**

- Libya's internationally recognized government has rejected a UN proposal for a power-sharing arrangement with rival Islamist-led authorities that was intended to bring peace to the North African nation.
- The internationally recognized parliament will not sign the agreement to form a unity government because the UN refused to exclude amendments added by the Islamist authorities without its consent.

**Jack Ma Appointed Business Adviser to UK Prime Minister**

- Alibaba founder Jack Ma, has been appointed by British Prime Minister David Cameron to advise him on business.
- The announcement came the day before a four-day state visit to Britain by Chinese President Xi Jinping and as Britain seeks to boost its business ties with the world's second-largest economy.

**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****HCL Technologies Q1 Net Profit Dips**

- India's fourth-largest software services provider HCL Technologies reported a drop of 2.7 per cent in consolidated net profit at Rs. 1,823 crore for the first quarter ended September 30, 2015.
- The company had posted a net profit of Rs. 1,873 crore in the year-ago period.
- HCL had already warned of a tepid September quarter on account of adverse currency impact and a client-specific issue.

**RBI, Central Bank of UAE Sign Information Sharing Pact**

- The Reserve Bank of India signed an information sharing pact with the Central Bank of UAE.
- With this, the Reserve Bank has signed 29 such MoUs, one Letter for Supervisory Co-operation and one Statement of Co-operation.

**INDIA – OTHERS****Fund Donation to AIIMS Made Tax Free**

- The Finance Ministry has declared fund donation to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences as tax-free to encourage more donors in the country for the apex health institution.
- According to the ministry of finance, those who donate fund to AIIMS will now get 100 percent income tax deduction of donated amount from their taxable income.
- The decision was taken after AIIMS was notified as the institute of national eminence by income tax authority.

**INFOTAINMENT****Novak Djokovic Leads ATP Rankings**

- Novak Djokovic held on to his No.1 place in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) men's singles rankings, after winning the Shanghai Masters, extending his current winning record to 17 consecutive matches.
- The Shanghai Masters is Djokovic's ninth title this year and the 57th of his career.
- The top-10 rankings:
  - Novak Djokovic 16,785 points, Andy Murray 8,750, Roger Federer 8,430, Stan Wawrinka 6,630, Tomas Berdych 4,840, Kei Nishikori 4,705, Rafael Nadal 4,330, David Ferrer 3,805, Milos Raonic 2,820, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 2,590.

## 21st October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### US, Russia Sign Memo on Safe Flight Operations

- The US and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding on safe flight operations over Syria as they carry out separate airstrikes against militant groups in the country.
- The department of defence and the Russian ministry of defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding measures to minimise the risk of in-flight incidents between coalition and Russian aircraft operating in Syrian airspace.
- The US and Russian militaries would also form a working group to discuss any implementation issues that would follow.

#### Justin Trudeau Wins Canada General Election

- Canada's Liberal leader Justin Trudeau, the son of a popular former Prime Minister, won the general election, television networks projected -- a stunning defeat for Stephen Harper's Conservatives.
- Mr. Trudeau was elected Liberal leader only two years ago, coming after two past leaders failed to unseat Harper in 2008 and 2011 and subsequently resigned.

### EARTH MATTER

#### Europe's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Fall to Record Low

- Greenhouse gas emissions in Europe have plunged to the lowest level ever recorded after the EU's member states reported an estimated 23% drop in emissions between 1990 and 2014.
- The bloc has now overshot its target for 2020 of cutting emissions by one-fifth – at the same time that its economy grew by 46%.
- The new figures show that eight countries are on track to miss their binding renewable energy targets for 2020 – including the UK, Ireland and Spain.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### Infosys Buys Noah Consulting

- Infosys has acquired Houston-based Noah Consulting, which provides information management services for the oil and gas industry, for \$70 million (Rs. 455 crore). This is Infosys's third acquisition this year.
- Earlier this year, it bought US-based digital experience provider Kallidus for \$120 million and US-based automation technology company Panaya for \$200 million.

#### S&P Retains BBB- Ratings for India

- Global ratings agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) retained India's long-term sovereign credit rating and the outlook as stable, citing reforms measures and the country's economic strength.
- The agency retained the 'BBB-' long-term rating on India, which is the lowest investment grade, but comes at a time when the government is unveiling reform measures to bolster growth and revive investment and is expected to be a shot in the arm for policy makers.

### INFOTAINMENT

#### Sehwag Retires from International Cricket, IPL

- A day after he hinted retirement from international cricket, Virender Sehwag hung up his boots as he issued a statement on Twitter.
- Sehwag has represented India in 104 Tests and 251 ODIs.
- Virender Sehwag would continue his association with the game of cricket either as a commentator or an academy coach.

## 22nd October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Biden not in race for President

- Ending months of speculation, the US Vice President Joseph Biden declared that he was not in the race for the Democratic nomination for President. The US will elect a new President in November 2016.
- Biden would focus on the unfinished agenda of the current administration for the next 15 months. He also declared his intention to stay engaged with his party's presidential campaign.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

**Bajaj Auto Q2 net up 58%**

- Bajaj Auto, India's largest two-wheeler exporter, posted a better-than-expected 58 per cent increase in net profit for the September-ending quarter, in part due to higher realisation from exports and commodity prices as volume growth was marginal.
- Net profit for the second quarter rose to Rs 933 crore from Rs 590.90 crore a year earlier.
- The profit was boosted by higher realisation, both in domestic and export markets, and a richer product mix which led to additional gains of around Rs. 180 crore in the company's profit before tax.

**RCAM to Acquire Goldman's India Fund Unit**

- Reliance Capital Asset Management, a part of Anil Ambani-led Reliance Capital, has entered into definitive agreements to acquire Goldman Sachs Asset Management's onshore business in India for Rs. 243 crore in an all-cash deal.
- RCAM has agreed to acquire all onshore mutual fund schemes, including exchange traded funds of GSAM India.
- As part of the transaction, RCAM will retain substantially all of GSAM India's employees dedicated to supporting the ETF business.

**INDIA – OTHERS****First Male Member of NCW**

- Former Cabinet Secretary Alok Rawat has been appointed as the first male member of the National Commission for Women, filling the fourth seat in the five-member body.
- Rawat has served as Director/Joint Secretary in Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; Secretary (UPSC); Secretary (Coordination and Public Grievances) in the Cabinet Secretariat and Secretary in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

**23rd October****AROUND THE WORLD****Israel Accuses UN of Fuelling Flames**

- Israel accused the UN's cultural body of fanning tensions in the region by approving a resolution that criticised the Jewish state for "aggressions" against Muslims seeking access to a Jerusalem holy site.
- As per a statement, the UNESCO resolution "aims to transform the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into a religious confrontation" in an abuse of the UN agency's mandate.

**EARTH MATTER****New Giant Tortoise Species Discovered**

- Researchers have discovered a new species of giant tortoise on the island of Santa Cruz in the centre of the Galapagos Archipelago.
- There are two populations of giant tortoises on the island, a large population on the west side in an area known as the Reserve and another on the lower eastern slopes around a hill named Cerro Fatal.
- Until the recent discovery, researchers believed that these populations belonged to the same species of tortoise.

**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****Banks Free to Fix Interest Rates on Gold Deposit**

- Reserve Bank has issued guidelines for the Gold Monetisation Scheme that allow banks to fix their own interest rates on gold deposits.
- The RBI notification in this regard comes ahead of the formal launch of the scheme.
- The gold deposit scheme is aimed at mobilising a part of an estimated 20,000 tonnes of idle precious metal with households and institutions.
- As per the guidelines, banks will be free to set interest rate on such deposit, and principal and interest of the deposit will be denominated in gold.

**HDFC Bank Net up 21% on Retail Loans**

- HDFC Bank, the country's second largest private sector lender, reported a 20.5% jump in net profit to Rs. 2,870 crore in the three months to September, helped by robust performance in retail loans segment and a rise in other income.
- The overall set of numbers was also driven by net interest income and operating profit as also stable asset quality despite higher provisions and tax expenses.

**Anti-dumping Duty on 4 Chinese Items**

- The impact of excess capacity in China following an economic slowdown is showing in India with the government rushing in to impose anti-dumping duty on at least four products from across the border as well as some other countries.
- Definitive anti-dumping duty has been levied on imports of "plain medium density fibre board of thickness 6 mm and above" originating in or exported from China, Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. A similar levy has been imposed on "front axle beam and steering knuckles meant for heavy and medium commercial vehicles" shipped from China.

- Then, definitive anti-dumping duty has been levied on imports of "hexamine" from China and the UAE as well as on "all fully drawn or fully oriented yarnspin drawn yarnflat yarn of polyester (non-textured and non-POY)" originating in or exported from China and Thailand. The duties would be valid for five years.

## 24th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### **Nasser Khan Janjua Appointed as National Security Advisor of Pakistan**

- Retired Lieutenant General Nasser Khan Janjua has been appointed as the new National Security Advisor (NSA) of Pakistan.
- He will take the charge from Sartaj Aziz who was earlier holding dual offices of NSA and Adviser on Foreign Affairs with status of a federal minister. Now Mr. Aziz will only concentrate on foreign affairs.

### INDIA - BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### **Union Government Imposes Anti-dumping Duty on Chinese Auto Parts**

- The Union Finance Ministry has imposed anti-dumping duties on imported Chinese auto parts used in commercial vehicles for a period of five years.
- Decision in this regard was taken following recommendations of the Directorate-General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD).

### INDIA - OTHERS

#### **India's first Paragliding World Cup began at Himachal Pradesh**

- India's first Paragliding World Cup has begun at Bir Billing near Baijnath town in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. Snow leopard is the official mascot of this World Cup.
- It is for the first time that Paragliding World Cup is being organised in a South Asian country.

### INFOTAINMENT

#### **Robert Mugabe awarded 2015 Confucius Peace Prize by China**

- Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has been awarded 2015 Confucius Peace Prize by China. The Prize is dubbed as Chinese equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize.
- He has been chosen for this edition of prize for his inspirational leadership and service to pan-Africanism and African independence.

## 25th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### **Maldives Vice President Arrests**

- Maldives Vice President Ahmed Adeb was arrested over last month's alleged attempt to assassinate President Abdulla Yameen in a bomb blast.
- Yameen had appointed Adeb as his deputy three months ago after impeaching his original running mate Mohamed Jameel on charges of treason.
- He had changed the Maldives' constitution to reduce the permissible age of a vice president from 35 to 30 so that Adeb could be given the job.

#### **China Bank Cuts Interest Rates**

- As per reports, China's central bank has cut interest rates for the sixth time in a year and reduced the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) for all banks.
- The People's Bank of China, (the central bank), lowered the one-year benchmark bank lending rate by 25 basis points to 4.35 percent and the benchmark rate for one-year bank deposits by the same margin to 1.5 percent, with immediate effect.
- The bank also cut the RRR by 50 basis points for all banks, taking it to 17.5 percent for the country's biggest lenders.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### **Ashoka Buildcon Bags Rs. 277 crore Deal**

- Highway developer Ashoka Buildcon has bagged a Rs. 277 crore project from the National Highways Authority of India.
- The company has received Letter of Award from NHA in respect of the development of 4-lane Islampur Bypass of 10.31 km on NH-31 in the state of West Bengal under NHDP Phase-II on EPC Basis.
- It is also active in the power transmission and distribution sector with various power projects in Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Bihar.

#### **Godrej Consumer Products Reports 22% Growth**

- FMCG major Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) reported a 22.44 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs. 287.16 crore for the second quarter ended on September 2015.
- The company had reported a net profit of Rs. 234.53 crore in the same period last year.
- GCPL's total income from operations on consolidated basis was also up 8.97 per cent at Rs. 2,244.94 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs.2,060.12 crore of July-September of the last fiscal.



**INDIA – OTHERS****Govt Approves Induction of Women Fighter Pilots**

- The Ministry of has given its nod for the induction of women into the combat stream of the Indian Air Force.
- Women would soon be flying fighter jets of the Indian Air Force.
- As per a Defence Ministry, the first women pilots in the fighter stream of IAF will be selected from the current batch at the Air Force Academy.

**26th October****AROUND THE WORLD****Refugee Flow Unabated**

- As thousands of Syrians, Afghans and others kept up their relentless march through the Balkans, European leaders held an emergency summit to find ways of easing the plight of those caught up in the continent's greatest immigration crisis in decades.
- The leaders were looking to shore up Greece's porous border with Turkey and slow the flow of people heading north toward the European Union's heartland.
- As per some Balkan officials say the 28-nation EU needs to get control of the migrant flow at the bloc's external border between EU-member Greece and Turkey.

**Tony Blair Sorry for Iraq War Mistakes**

- Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has apologised for aspects of the Iraq war and admitted that the conflict played a role in the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).
- Blair's apology has sparked claims of attempted "spin" before the Chilcot inquiry findings.
- Blair expressed regret over the failure to plan properly for the aftermath of the toppling in 2003 of Saddam Hussein and the false intelligence used to justify it.
- When asked if the Iraq war was the main cause of the rise of ISIS, Blair said that there were "elements" of truth in the statement.

**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****FPIs Net Inflow Tops Rs. 19,000 crore in Oct**

- Foreign investors have pumped in a staggering over Rs. 19,000 crore in the Indian capital markets in October so far, the highest level in six months, buoyed by RBI's rate cut and positive macro numbers.
- This is the highest investment by FPIs since April, when they had poured in Rs. 15,333 crore.
- Prior to October, FPIs pulled out over Rs 23,000 crore from the capital market (equities and debt) in the past two months on fears of an economic slowdown in China, which triggered a global sell-off.

**GDP to Grow at 7.4% in FY16**

- As per DBS, India is expected to clock 7.4 percent growth rate this fiscal with a downside risk amid weak exports, slow pace of structural reforms and investment spending.
- According to the global financial services firm, though better production numbers and improved discretionary spending are encouraging for the country's growth prospects, the capex cycle is yet to takeoff convincingly and this could affect the economy's return to high growth rates.
- India clocked a GDP growth of 7.3 percent for financial year 2015.

**INFOTAINMENT****Abhishek Verma Bags Historic Silver**

- Abhishek Verma has bagged India's first ever 'Archery World Cup Final' medal in the compound section when he won a silver after being pipped by Turkey's Demir Elmaagcli in the summit clash.
- Verma an Asian Games individual silver medallist capped an impressive campaign when he dealt a perfect 150 on giant killer Mario Cardoso in the semifinals but only to go down 143-145 in the gold medal match against Elmaagcli to settle for a silver.

**Young Gymnast Dipa Karmakar Makes History**

- Young Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar made history becoming the first ever Indian to qualify for the finals of World Gymnastics Championships.
- Dipa scored a total of 14.900 points in the women's Vault qualification at the 2015 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Glasgow.
- In 2014 Commonwealth Games, Karmakar won bronze medal in the same event, becoming the first Indian woman Gymnast to do so. This August, she also won bronze medal at the Hiroshima Asian Championships.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****New Methane Organisms Discovered**

- Scientists have discovered two new methane-metabolizing organisms whose role in greenhouse gas emissions and consumption is not yet known.
- Traditionally, these types of methane-metabolising organisms occur within a single cluster group of microorganisms called Euryarchaeota.

## 27th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Polish Opposition Party Sweeps Parliamentary Polls

- According to the exit polls, the main opposition party Law and Justice got an absolute majority in the Polish parliamentary elections.
- The party headed by former Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski, has managed to get 39 percent of the votes polled and it has trounced the ruling Civic Platform which has been ruling the country since 2007 by a clear margin of 16 percent.
- For the first time in the Polish parliamentary election since 1989 women have dominated the election.

### EARTH MATTER

#### Pig-snouted Turtle Discovered

- Scientists have discovered a new species of extinct turtle with a weird pig-like snout that lived alongside dinosaurs 76 million years ago.
- It is one of the most complete skeletons of a turtle found from the age of dinosaurs.
- The extinct turtle was about 2-feet-long from head to tail. Its streamlined shell was adapted for living in a riverine environment.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### Bharti Airtel Q2 Net Profit Jumps 10%

- The country's top telecom operator Bharti Airtel reported 10.1 percent jump in net profit to Rs. 1,523 crore for the quarter ended September.
- It had reported net profit of Rs. 1,383 crore on consolidated basis for the July-September quarter of the last financial year.
- The total revenue rose 4.3 percent to Rs. 23,836 crore during the second quarter of the current fiscal.

#### RBI, Bangladesh Bank ink MoU

- The Reserve Bank of India signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information with the Bangladesh Bank.
- With this, RBI has signed 30 such MoUs, one Letter for Supervisory Cooperation and one Statement of Cooperation.

### INFOTAINMENT

#### Deepika Kumari Bags Silver in Archery

- Deepika Kumari bagged the silver medal at the Archery World Cup Final.
- Eyeing her first gold medal in five attempts at the showpiece season-ending event, Deepika won her quarters and semifinals easily but lost against the reigning world number one and top-seeded Misun.
- Thus, India concluded its campaign with two silver medals with Abhishek Verma opening the account for the country in the compound section.

## 28th October

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Poland's Law and Justice Party Gains Majority

- As per the state election authority, the right-wing and anti-migrant Law and Justice party has won a majority of seats in Poland's parliament and can govern alone.
- The party got 235 seats in the 460-seat Lower House of Poland's Parliament and also won a majority in the Senate, the strongest position any single party has ever enjoyed in post-communist Poland.
- The Law and Justice party also has the backing of President Andrzej Duda.

#### Iran Invited to Next Round of Syria Talks

- Iran has been invited to participate for the first time in international talks over Syria's future. A shift in strategy for the United States and its allies as they seek to halt the four-year civil war and eventually ease President Bashar Assad out of power.
- The next diplomatic round will be held in Vienna, with Secretary of State John Kerry, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and several top European and Arab diplomats attending.

### INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY

#### India Ranks 130th in Ease of Doing Business

- According to a World Bank report, India now ranks 130th out of 189 countries in the ease of doing business, moving up 12 places from last year.
- A forward movement of 12 spots in the ease of doing business by an economy of the size of India is a remarkable achievement.
- The list of World Bank's annual report 'Doing Business 2016' is topped by Singapore, followed by New Zealand, Denmark, South Korea, Hong Kong, Britain and the US.

#### eSahyog and PAN camps Launched

- Two taxpayer friendly measures, eSahyog and PAN camps, were launched with a view to streamline the taxation procedure.
- The e-Sahyog is aimed at reducing compliance cost, especially for small taxpayers. It is to provide an online mechanism to resolve mismatches in I-T returns of taxpayers whose returns have not been selected for scrutiny, without visiting the I-T Office.
- The PAN camps are aimed at expanding the coverage of number of people through Permanent Account Number (PAN). While 23 crore PAN card have been issued, only 5 crore people file income tax returns.

**Maruti Suzuki Q2 Net Profit Up**

- Maruti Suzuki India reported a 42.1 percent jump in net profit at Rs. 1,225.56 crore for the September quarter, driven by strong sales growth, lower material cost and favourable foreign exchange.
- Net sales of the company rose 13.2 percent to Rs 13,574.8 crore during the second quarter as against Rs 11,996.33 crore during the same period year ago.
- During the second quarter, the company sold 3,53,335 vehicles, a growth of 9.8 percent, over 3,21,898 units in the second quarter of 2014-15.

**INDIA – OTHERS****India, Sri Lanka Begin Naval Exercise**

- India and Sri Lanka began their bilateral naval exercise off Lanka's Trincomalee focusing on anti-piracy exercises, gun firings, cross-deck helicopter operations and anti-surface operations.
- SLINEX series of bilateral maritime exercises were initiated in 2005 and since then three successful engagements have been conducted.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****Lighter, Long-lasting Batteries from Silicon**

- Researchers have developed a new silicon-based anode that could pave the way for lighter and longlasting lithium-ion batteries which could be used for everything.
- The new silicon battery technology promises a 40 to 60 per cent increase in energy density, which is important for consumers.
- The technology could allow an electric car to be driven up to 500 kilometres between charges.
- Current lithium-ion batteries normally use graphite anodes.

**29th October****AROUND THE WORLD****Nepal's First Woman President**

- Vidya Devi Bhandari from the ruling CPN-UML was elected as Nepal's first woman President after she defeated her rival from Nepali Congress by more than 100 votes.
- She will succeed incumbent Ram Baran Yadav who was elected as the first President of Nepal in 2008 after the country was declared a Republic.
- With the promulgation of the Constitution in September 2015, it was required to elect a new President within a month of the commencement of the Parliament session.

**EARTH MATTER****Global Temperature to Rise by Three Degree Celsius**

- If the countries stick to the climate efforts that they have now committed, these could lead to long term temperature increase to around three degree Celsius, a notch above the goal of limiting global warming to two degree Celsius.
- Researchers have projected that global emissions would peak in 2020 and decline afterwards to 10 percent below 2010 levels by 2030.
- Assuming countries would keep on their efforts after 2030, these could limit the long term temperature increase to around three degree Celsius.

**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****Flipkart Enters into Offline Market**

- Online shopping portal Flipkart has ventured into offline sales model wherein the company will have designated stores for displaying products across various genres.
- Customers can walk into the offline stores and use the products before placing the order on the Flipkart app.

**Axis Bank Net Profit up**

- Axis Bank reported a 18.9% increase in its net profit at Rs. 1,915.6 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The bank's net profit in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal stood at Rs. 1,610.7 crore.
- Total income has increased to Rs. 12,001 crore during the quarter under review, from Rs. 10,549.9 crore earned a year ago.

**INDIA – OTHERS****FTII Students Call off 139-day Long Strike**

- Agitating FTII students, who were protesting against the appointment of actor Gajendra Chauhan as the institute's chairman, called off their 139-day long strike.
- Student leader Rakesh Shukla confirmed that the strike has been called off, but they would continue to protest in a democratic and peaceful manner.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****Oxygen on Comet**

- Scientists announced the unexpected discovery of large quantities of oxygen on a comet which streaked past the sun in August.
- Measurements suggested that oxygen molecules in the comet's gassy halo must have existed before or at its formation.
- The comet is being tracked on its deep space journey around the Sun by the European Space Agency's Rosetta spacecraft.

**30th October****AROUND THE WORLD****China Scraps One-child Policy**

- China finally scrapped its controversial decades-long one-child policy, allowing all couples in the world's most populous nation to have two children.
- This is the first time China has done away with its one-child policy in over three long decades. The policy was considered controversial as it forced many abortions and continued to be criticised by rights groups and activists.
- China introduced its family planning policy in the late 1970s to rein in population growth by limiting most urban couples to one child and most rural couples to two, allowing the birth of a second child only if the first child was a girl.

**INDIA – BUSINESS/ECONOMY****MRF September Quarter Net up**

- Tyre maker MRF reported a 45.38 per cent surge in its net profit at Rs. 460.73 crore for the quarter ended September 30.
- The company had posted a net profit of Rs 316.91 crore during the same period of the previous fiscal.
- Net sales of the company declined to Rs 3,327.21 crore during the June-September period.

**Power Mech Bags Rs. 60 crore Order**

- Power Mech Projects Ltd has bagged two orders worth about Rs. 60 crore from Lanco Infratech to complete expansion works at its Ennore power plant.
- According to the statement, first Lol is for erection, testing & commissioning and providing assistance for PG test for boiler - A&B Package worth Rs. 50.96 crore.
- The second work relates to erection, testing and commissioning and providing assistance for PG test for electro static precipitator (ESP) package worth Rs. 8.87 crore.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY****New Milky Way Component Discovered**

- A team of astronomers has discovered a previously unknown component of our home galaxy, the Milky Way, a thin disc of young stars in the central region of the galaxy buried behind thick clouds of dust.
- The centre of the Milky Way galaxy, a region previously thought to consist of vast numbers of old stars actually has young stars, the study showed.

**31st October****EARTH MATTERS****Greenland Ice Sheet Movement Decreasing Despite Warming**

- A newly published study from the University of Edinburgh shows that the movement of the southwest portion of the Greenland Ice Sheet that terminates on land has been slowing down despite decades of increasing temperatures and surface melting.
- Researchers derived their results 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.
- The finding is contrary to the widely held view that a greater amount of surface melting will result in faster moving ice sheets, as the movement of both ocean- and land-terminating ice sheets is caused in part by surface meltwater, which makes its way to the bedrock through openings in the ice and acts as a lubricant.

**INFOTAINMENT****Sania and Hingis in WTA Semi Finals**

- Reigning Wimbledon champions Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis earned their third consecutive win to top the red group and enter the semifinals of the year-ending \$7 million WTA Finals being played at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.
- Following their victories in the opening two round robin matches earlier this week, the Indo-Swiss tennis combine came up with another top-class performance to beat Hungarian-French fourth seeds Tímea Babos and Kristina Mladenovic 6-4, 7-5 in one and a half hours.