

CLATGyan October 2016 Compendium – 16th October to 23rd October

16th October

- **China** has successfully launched its **longest-ever manned mission** by taking two astronauts **Jing Haipeng** (50) and **Chen Dong** (37) into the orbit. They were launched on board of **Shenzhou-11** (heavenly vessel) spacecraft from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre near the Gobi Desert in northwest China. Both astronauts will spend a month aboard an experimental space laboratory, **Tiangong-2** that was launched last month.
- A historic **global climate deal** was reached in **Kigali, Rwanda** at the **Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** (MOP28). The ‘Kigali Amendment’ which amends the 1987 Montreal Protocol aims to phase out Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a family of potent greenhouse gases by the late 2040s.
- The five-nation group of emerging economies **BRICS** has agreed to set up an independent **BRICS Credit Rating Agency** in its efforts to challenge western hegemony in the world of finance. It was announced during the **8th BRICS summit held in Goa, India**.
- The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is observed globally on **17 October** for eradication of poverty throughout the world.
- The eighth BRICS summit was held in Goa from 15 to 16 October 2016. The summit concluded with the adaptation of the **Goa Declaration**. The theme for the summit was “Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions”.
- **World Food Day** is observed globally on **16 October** to mark the foundation of **Food and Agriculture Organisation** (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945.
- After a decade-long struggle, athlete **Santhi Soundarajan**, who was stripped of her **silver medal** won at the **2006 Asian Games** because she failed a controversial gender test, is set to get a permanent job as a coach with the **Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu**.

17th October

- **India’s Ajay Jayaram** lost to second seed **Tzu Wei Wang of Chinese Taipei** at the final of the **Dutch Open badminton tournament**.
- **Sourabh Verma** clinched the **men’s singles title** at the **Chinese Taipei Masters**, after defeating **Daren Liew in the final** of the event.

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- Scientists at **Delhi's National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** have developed a novel way of producing **electricity from water at room temperature** without using any power or chemicals.
- Activist **Irom Sharmila** began her political journey by announcing a **new political party**. The party, **People's Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA)**, will contest the Assembly polls in Manipur in 2017. Sharmila (44), who broke her **16-year-long fast** demanding withdrawal of the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act** on August 9, had announced her decision to test political waters.
- **Senior IFS officer Amandeep Singh Gill** was appointed as **India's Ambassador to the UN Conference on Disarmament**.
- Eminent writer **C Radhakrishnan**, an eminent Malayalam writer and director was selected for the prestigious **Mathrubhumi Literary Award for the year 2016**.
- India has completed its **nuclear triad** by inducting the indigenously built strategic nuclear submarine **INS Arihant** into service. INS Arihant was formally commissioned by **Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba** in August. Arihant is capable of carrying nuclear tipped ballistic missiles, the class referred to as **Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear (SSBN)**. With this, India becomes fourth country to have a nuclear triad i.e. capable of delivering nuclear weapons by aircraft, ballistic missiles and submarine launched missiles. Other countries having nuclear triad are **Russia, United States and China**.
- The **Madras High Court Bench** refused to entertain a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by the secretary of a Muslim *jamath* seeking a direction to the State Government to declare the caste to which Dalit converts to Islam would belong and issue community certificates to them mentioning the appropriate caste.

18th October

- The **BIMSTEC** (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries have expressed commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In this regard, seven nations of BIMSTEC countries (**India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand**) have issues Leaders Retreat Outcome Document emphasising that there can be no justification for acts of terror.
- The **National Summit on Fortification of Food** was recently inaugurated in **New Delhi** to address interventions in combating **micronutrient malnutrition** in the country.

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- **Ashok Leyland** has unveiled its ‘**Circuit**’ series — comprising the **first 100 per cent electric bus made in India**.
- Four Indian wrestlers have won four medals individually including a gold medal, at the sixth edition of the **TAFISA World Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia**.
- **Serena Williams** has withdrawn from the elite **WTA Finals**, saying she was still working to recover from the shoulder problems that hampered her in 2016.
- **Stanford University** in the U.S. is aiming to meet 50 per cent of electricity needs with a solar plant now in the final stages of construction.
- The **21st Law Commission** in its first report, recommended a series of changes in the draft **Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Bill-2016**, proposed by the Women and Child Development Ministry, including one-year jail term for wrongful retention or removal of a child from the custody of a parent.

19th October

- The newly floated **Uttara Karnataka Horata Samiti**, headed by RTI activist **Bhimappa Gadad**, has launched a signature campaign to elicit public opinion on carving out a **new State of North Karnataka**, citing continued negligence of the region by successive governments.
- **Kakkathuruthu**, a tiny island in Kerala’s backwaters, has been listed in *National Geographic*’s ‘**Around the World in 24 Hours**’, a photographic tour of **travel-worthy spots in the world**.
- **Virendra Kumar Malhotra**, professor of economics at **Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut**, is set to be the next **member-secretary of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)**.
- According to the **System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR)**, national capital **New Delhi**’s **air quality** was recorded in the ‘**very poor**’ category. SAFAR was introduced by the **Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** for greater metropolitan cities of India to provide location specific information on air quality in near real time.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the **National SC/ST hub** and the **Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) scheme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** at Ludhiana in Punjab.
- The Union Government has proposed a **four-slab rate structure** for the new **indirect tax regime i.e. Goods & Services Tax (GST)** ranging from 0 to 26 per cent. The GST is proposed

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to be levied at **6% (lower rate), 12% (Standard 1 rate), 18% (Standard 2 rate) and 26% (Higher rates)** on the goods and services.

- A 40-year-old man wanted in connection with the **2002 Godhra riots in Gujarat** was sent back to India from the U.K., in the first such case since the two countries signed an extradition treaty in 1992. **Samirbhai Vinubhai Patel** was arrested by Scotland Yard in west London in August on a Red Corner Notice issued by India.
- **Data XGen Technologies**, a **Jaipur-based start-up**, has introduced an **email address service under 'DATAMAIL'** that allows people to create **email IDs in eight Indian languages**.
- **The Indian Navy** has commissioned **INS Tihayu**, a Car Nicobar Class water jet fast attack craft. It was commissioned by the Flag-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command Vice-Admiral H.C.S. Bisht in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal** has been appointed as a member of the **International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Commission**. The IOC Athletes' Commission is a body of sportspersons maintained by the IOC for the purpose of representing athletes.

20th October

- **Nayan Khanolkar** has won the **Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award** in the **Urban Wildlife category**, in a contest organised by the **Natural History Museum, London and BBC Wildlife**, regarded as the most prestigious in the world. Mr. Khanolkar's photograph, **'The Alley Cat'**, was taken in the Aarey Milk Colony, on the fringe of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP).
- **Delhi** now has a first-of-its-kind **'Election Museum'** to boast about. The museum promises to showcase India's historical electoral journey through artefacts, rare photographs, documents and archival film footage.
- **Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL)** has unveiled a vaccine to fight against **tapeworms in pigs**. **CYSVAX**, the vaccine, is the world's first such.
- **Bengaluru FC** beat **Johor Darul Ta'zim** at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore to become the **first Indian club ever to enter the final of the AFC Cup**. The first leg of the semi-final had ended in a draw (1-1) and in the second leg, the Indian team emerged victorious with a score of 3-1, 4-2 on aggregate. Sunil Chhetri scored two goals in the final leg of the semi-final.

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- **Kochi** was confirmed as a venue for next year's **under-17 football World Cup** with the delegation from the sport's world body **FIFA** making the announcement at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- **The World Bank** has pledged **2 billion US dollars aid package** to **Bangladesh** to tackle climate change over the next three years. The aid package is part of the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries.
- The **Election Commission of India** hosted the **first ever International Conference on Voter Education in New Delhi**.
- **India** has signed an agreement with **Russia** to lease the second **Akula-II class nuclear attack submarine (SSN)**. The deal is believed to be worth about \$2 billion.
- **India** and **China** have conducted their **second joint military exercise "Sino India Cooperation 2016"** in **Ladakh** along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The **Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal II (KWDT-II)** headed by **Justice Brijesh Kumar**, has decided to maintain status quo on the allocation of Krishna River water among all four riparian states – Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- The Union Ministry of Railways has declared the **Okha-Kanalus and the Porbandar-Wansjaliya** railway sections of **Gujarat** as **Green Train Corridors**.
- The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** is going to declare the **Kashmiri Red Stag** (also known as Hangul) as a **Critically Endangered species**.
- **Noted British statistician Sir David Cox** (92) was awarded the inaugural **International Prize in Statistics**. The International Prize in Statistics Foundation has bestowed this award upon him in recognition of the **Survival Analysis Model** (or Cox Model) applied in medicine, science, and engineering.
- **Google** announced that commuters would now be able to book cabs from **Ola and Uber**, straight from the Google Search application or the mobile search browser.
- South African struggle icon and **Gandhian activist Mewa Ramgobin** has died at the age of 83 after a prolonged illness. Ramgobin was the former president of the Natal Indian Congress which fought discrimination against Indians in South Africa. He was also an African National Congress member of Parliament until 2009, and was among the first supporters of the Release Mandela campaign.
- Australian archaeologists have announced plans to recreate **Laos' mysterious Plain of Jars** as a three-dimensional virtual reality experience, that could one day see museum visitors walk through remote dig sites.

21st October

- The **Maharashtra government** has launched '**Kaushalya Setu**', a skill development programme for students. It was launched by **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** and Union Minister of State Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) **Rajiv Pratap Rudy**.
- The **Union Government** has signed a **\$650 million loan agreement** with the **World Bank** for the construction of the **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor(EDFC)-III** project. The project aims to enhance rail transport capacity, improve service quality and boost freight carriage on the 401-km- long Ludhiana-Khurja section of the EDFC.
- In order to protect and increase the **wild tiger population**, nearly one million acres of protected habitat in **India** and **Bhutan** will be covered under a new private conservation effort. The '**Project C.A.T — Conserving acres for Tigers**' by Discovery Communications and NGO World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
- The **Indian football team** achieved its **best FIFA ranking** in over **six years** when it jumped 11 places to be ranked **137th in the latest list**.
- **China** will deploy the **world's largest outdoor air purifier** designed by a Dutch engineer in its smog-hit capital **Beijing**.
- **Pakistan's Supreme Court** issued notice to **Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif** and his family members in the '**Panama Papers**' leaks case, acting on petitions seeking his disqualification over alleged corruption and illegally possessing assets abroad.

22nd October

- **India** made a **hat trick** by **winning the Kabaddi world cup 2016**. The finals was played at the **Arena by TranStadia** at Gujarat, between India (Captain- **Anup Kumar**) and **Iran** (Captain- **Meraj Sheykh**) and India won this match by the score of 38-29.
- First time, in the mangrove forest situated near the **Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary**(Andhra Pradesh) a smooth-coated **otter (Lutrogale Perspicillata)** was sighted. Otter has been categorised as **vulnerable** in the red data book of International Union for Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**).
- The first ever global conference in order to **strengthen Arbitration and Enforcement** in India was held at **New Delhi**. It is a 3-Day event, inaugurated by Hon'ble President Pranab Mukherjee on 21st October, 2016.

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- **Aryaman** and **Atulya**, two Indian Coast Guard Ships (**ICGS**) were commissioned into Indian Coast Guard in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- **UDAN** (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme has been launched by the Union Government with a view to strengthen **regional air connectivity**. **Union Civil Aviation Minister Mr. Ashok Gajapati Raju** launched the scheme at New Delhi.

23rd October

- **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** recommended the Department of Telecom to impose a fine of INR 3050 crore on **Bharti Airtel, Vodafone and Idea cellular** for allegedly **denying interconnectivity to newcomer Reliance Jio**.
- The board of **Tata Sons Ltd** replaced **Cyrus Mistry** as Chairman of Tata Sons, India's largest conglomerate and named his predecessor **Ratan Tata as the interim chairman** for 4 months.
- **North Korea** wins the **2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup** by defeating **Japan** in the penalty kicks. North Korea has won the title **twice till date**, first time being in the year **2008**. The 2016 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup was held in **Jordan**.
- The parliament of **Iraq** passed a law banning the **sale, import and production of alcohol I the country**. Anything done in violation of the law will invite a fine of up to 25 million Iraqi dinars.