

Presents



Dear Readers,

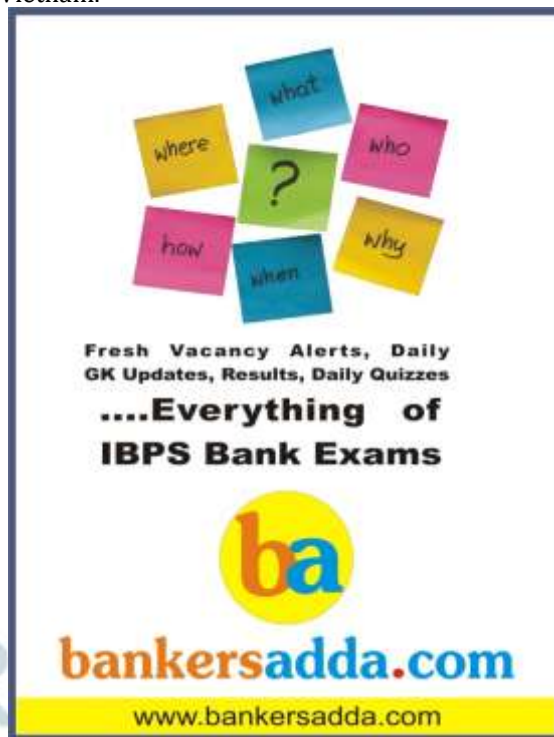
This is the new series which have been started by us in which we will provide you weekly compilation of the current affairs. Every Sunday we will publish our new document named **DOUBLE GA TONIC**.

We really hope that you all will like this new initiative by our team. This document contains the important current affairs from October 2015, i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> October.

## AGREEMENTS

- **ADB** is to help finance increased transmission capacity of a cross-border electricity **link between India and Bangladesh** which will allow Bangladesh to better meet sharply rising power demand and support increased power exchanges across South Asia. **ADB's loan of \$120 million to Bangladesh** will double the capacity of the existing interconnection system which links the power grid of western Bangladesh at Bheramara and the grid of eastern India at Bharampur.
- **India and Germany** signed a deal to fast-track business approvals, an arrangement to make it easier for German companies to operate in India. India and Germany also agreed to enhance ties in key areas of defence manufacturing, trade, intelligence and clean energy during wide-ranging talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel** here after which **18 MoUs** were inked.
- **Government of India and Federal Republic of Germany (KfW)** signed two loan agreements worth **125 million Euros** for financing two projects under the Green Energy Corridor programme. These two projects are in **Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh**. The programme seeks to facilitate the flow of renewable energy into the national grid.
- The Union Cabinet approved the **Protocol between India and Israel** and **between Indian and Vietnam** for avoidance of **double taxation** and for prevention of **fiscal evasion** with respect to taxes on income and on capital.
- **India and Ecuador** has signed a Protocol for the **establishment** of the India-Ecuador **Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)** to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations. It was signed by Mentor Villagomez, Ecuadorian Ambassador to India and Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary.
- **Malaysia** proposed to invest **30 billion US dollars for urban development in India**.
- **India, Israel signed 10 MoUs to enhance bilateral cooperation**.
- Union Cabinet approved **MoU with Mozambique** for cooperation in renewable energy.
- India, Israel signed pacts on Double Taxation Avoidance & Cultural Exchange. The pact on tax avoidance will help plug loopholes in tax evasion and ensure that the Indian or Israeli companies are taxed only where they have permanent establishments.
- **India funded 5 million US dollars grant to Palestine** as Budgetary assistance. The grant was handed over by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee during his visit to Palestine.
- **India, Jordan inked six MoUs to enhance cooperation**. Aimed at establishing an effective cooperation to strengthen and develop relations in merchant shipping and maritime transport, the two sides inked an agreement on Maritime transport.

- **US, Japan and 10 other Pacific Rim countries signed Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement**. The 10 other countries of the Pacific Rim which signed the agreement are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.



## APPOINTMENTS INDIA

- **V Shanmuganthan** has sworn in as the 17th Governor of Manipur after taking oath at ceremony held at Raj Bhawan in Imphal. He succeeded Dr. Syed Ahmed who died in September 2015.
- **Dr Anup K Pujari** assumed additional charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
- **Sumit Issar** appointed as the new Managing Director for Mahindra Intertrade Ltd (MIL) and Mahindra Steel Service Centre Ltd (MSSCL), a joint venture between Mahindra and Metal One Corporation, Japan.
- India's e-commerce giant, Flipkart appointed **Sriram Venkataraman** as the new Chief Finance Officer (CFO) for its commerce platform (CP).
- **Ashish Bahuguna**, the Chairman of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), was given an additional charge of **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FSSAI**.
- **Sekhar Basu** appointed as the chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). He will also occupy the office of secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). He will succeed RK Sinha who superannuates on 23 October 2015.
- India's second largest software services firm, Infosys has appointed **Ranganath D Mavinakere** as new

Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He will succeed Rajiv Bansal.

- Reliance Power on 13 October 2015 appointed **N Venugopala Rao** as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with immediate effect.
- **MK Surana** appointed as the CMD of Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd. He will succeed current incumbent Nishi Vasudeva who will retire in March 2016.
- **Alkesh Sharma** appointed as CEO and MD of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corp.
- **Tapan Ray** appointed to Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India. He succeeded Anjuly Chib Duggal.
- **Sarat Kumar Acharya** assumed office as CMD of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited.

## APPOINTMENTS WORLD

- Micro blogging site Twitter has appointed its co-founder and interim chief executive officer (CEO) **Jack Dorsey** as permanent CEO for second time. He will succeed Dick Costolo.
- **Hoesung Lee of South Korea** has been elected Chairman of Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC). He was elected in on-going 42nd session IPCC in Dubrovnik, Croatia. He succeeds environmentalist R.K. Pachauri of India.
- **Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman** was named as the Cultural Ambassador of Seychelles for his contribution in enhancing the country's Art and Culture Development.
- **Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli** of Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist)-CPN-UML was elected as new Prime Minister of Nepal. With this victory, he became first Prime Minister of Nepal.
- **Onsari Gharti Magar** elected as House speaker of Nepal. With this, Onsari Gharti became the first female Speaker in the parliamentary history of Nepal.
- **Omid Kordestani** appointed as Executive Chairman of Twitter. He succeeded Jack Dorsey.
- **Kundhavi Kadiresan** appointed as FAO Assistant Director-General. He will succeed Hiroyuki Konuma who retired from FAO earlier in 2015.
- **Alexander Lukashenko** won Presidential election of Belarus for the 5th time. With this, the 61-year-old, who has governed the former Soviet republic almost unchallenged for 21 years, will be in power for the fifth time.
- **Jioji Konrote** elected as Fiji's President.
- Ruling **Social Democratic Party**-led coalition won Portuguese general election. With this win, incumbent **Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho** is set to hold the post for next four years.

## AWARDS

- CSIR announced **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize for Science and Technology** 2015 for eleven

scientists in recognition of their work. The awardees were announced to mark the CSIR's 73rd Foundation day. The SSB Prize consists of a citation, a plaque and a cash prize of 5 lakh rupees.

- Renowned Malayalam filmmaker I.V. Sasi was awarded with the prestigious **J.C. Daniel Award** for the year 2014 for his contributions towards the Malayalam entertainment industry.
- Jamaican writer Marlon James won the **2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction** for his novel A Brief History of Seven Killings. With this, James became the first Jamaican author to win the prize in its 47-years of history.
- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was chosen as '**Finance Minister of the Year, Asia**' by London-based publication Emerging Markets in October 2015. Apart from this, Atiur Rahman, the Governor of Bangladesh Bank was named as **the Central Bank Governor of the Year, Asia 2015**.
- Nobel Peace laureate Kailash Satyarthi has been selected for the prestigious **2015 Harvard Humanitarian of the Year Award**. He has been awarded this award in recognition for championing the cause of child reform and ending all forms of violence against children.
- US University honoured Tibetan PM Sangay with **Presidential Medal** for promoting peace.
- Al-Quds University conferred **Honorary Doctorate** on President Pranab Mukherjee. Pranab Mukherjee at a ceremony held in Ramallah to confer the honorary doctorate on him, announced setting up of an India-Chair in the Al Quds University.
- A R Rehman chosen for 2015 **Hridaynath Mangeskar Award**. He was chosen for the award for his contribution to the Indian music in his career spanning over two decades.
- Indian firm Nualgi won **Popular Choice Award at Climate CoLab** of MIT. Nualgi became the first Indian company to win the annual MIT contest for its proposal to reduce power and fuel consumption for sewage treatment.
- Raif Badawi, James Fenton shared **2015 PEN Pinter Prize**. Badawi was named as the 2015 International Writer of Courage by Fenton himself during a public event held at the British Library in London.
- Shashi Kapoor honoured with **Lifetime Achievement award** at Jagran Fest. Shoojit Sircar was adjudged the best director for Piku, while Kaushik Ganguly's Bengali film Chotoder Chobi bagged the best feature film title.
- Trichy Corporation won **Skoch Award** for Effective Solid Waste Management.
- Portugal's Pinto won **Asia's premier Mountain Biking Race**.
- Laureates of 2015 **Right Livelihood Awards**. Tony de Brum (Marshall Islands), Sheila Watt-Cloutier (Canada), Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera (Uganda) and Gino Strada (Italy) were chosen for the prestigious



award that is also known as Alternative Nobel Prize.

- Ratan Tata honoured by UK city of Coventry. Indian-origin professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya, founder of the Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG), was also honoured with the title alongside Tata, at the University of Warwick in Coventry.
- Zenia Bhungara of India conferred with **Merlin Award** by International Magicians Association.



#### BANKS IN NEWS

- **ICICI Bank** has become the first institution worldwide to launch m-Visa, a card-less and device-less solution to make the payments. ICICI Bank has incorporated the m-Visa application in its Pockets app, which allows payments to be made by scanning a static QR code and entering the amount.
- **Private sector lender YES Bank** said it has got the RBI's approval to set up a mutual fund, asset management company (AMC) and a trustee company. In a regulatory filing, YES Bank said it "has received an approval from the RBI to sponsor a mutual fund, and to set up an asset management company and a trustee company."
- P S Jayakumar, the former chief executive of VBHC Value Homes, took charge as the new MD and CEO of the state-owned **Bank of Baroda** for three years.
- **UCO Bank** registered highest increase in gross Non-Performing Assets.

#### BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- The Courage to Act - A Memoir of a Crisis and Its Aftermath by Ben S. Bernanke released
- The Clintons' War on Women authored by Roger Stone and Robert Morrow
- Ruled or Misruled: Story and Destiny of Bihar authored by Santosh Singh released

#### BUSINESS NEWS

- **Alphabet** replaced Google as the publicly traded company that will house Google's search and Web advertising businesses, maps, YouTube and its "moonshot" ventures such as driverless cars.
- Baba Ramdev's **Patanjali Ayurved** announced a tie-up with the Future Group under which its products will be available at the Big Bazaar, KB's and EasyDay outlets.
- Norwegian telecom major **Telenor Group** announced restructuring of Executive Management team to represent all the 13 markets globally, a move aimed at ensuring faster execution of the Group strategy. Telenor, which has 189 million mobile subscriptions in these 13 markets, will see the India operations headed by Sharad Mehrotra.
- Real estate developer **Tata Housing** tied-up with social networking firm Facebook to sell its affordable homes online. For this purpose, Tata Housing launched the new campaign titled Social sell on Facebook. Through this new campaign Social sell, the company plans to sell around 250 units of its new five-acre residential project in Goa called Goa Paradise. The initiative is in line with the company's target to generate over 30 percent of its overall sales online in the next five years.
- **Dell Inc. and EMC Corporation** on 12 October 2015 signed a definitive agreement under which Dell, together with its owners will acquire EMC Corporation, while maintaining VMware as a publicly-traded company. This will be the biggest tech deal in history with a 67 billion US dollars acquisition of EMC Corp by Dell.
- Aditya Birla Group launched online fashion store **Abof.com**. Abof (all about fashion) is a one-stop fashion portal for apparel, footwear and accessories for men and women.
- **Etihad Airways** signed deal worth 700 million US dollars with IBM. The deal incorporates analytics of customer data and the development of technology that can forecast weather patterns to better manage the airline's flights at its Abu Dhabi centre.
- **Wipro and First Book** to provide 35000 new books to kids in need in 5 Cities in U.S. & Canada
- British researchers developed **mobile app ASCmeI.T** to help people with autism. It is a simple yet highly effective way to enable people with autism to get their voices heard and to allow the creativity of a previously neglected group to be realised.
- **Gannett Co** agreed to acquire Journal Media for 280 million US dollars. Under the terms of the transaction, Journal Media Group shareholders will receive cash of 12 US dollars per share in cash.
- **Cipla Medpro** partnered with Serum Institute India to provide Vaccines in South Africa.
- **Tata Power launched LED tube light** scheme in Mumbai. The scheme aims at encouraging the

residents in Mumbai to adopt energy efficient lights, thus, saving power.

- **GAIL** to take 10 percent stake in TAPI natural gas pipeline project. It is a 1735 km long transnational natural gas pipeline project from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan to Pakistan and to India.

### COMMITTEES

- High Level **Anil Bajjal Panel** suggested Uniform Tax Treatment for CSR Works. It suggests that under the Companies Act, 2013, certain class of profitable entities is required to spend at least 2 percent of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR activities.
- Three-member **Achary panel** recommended 400% hike in basic salary of Delhi MLAs. The basic salary of the MLAs of Delhi will increase from 12000 rupees to 50000 rupees per month, in addition to a slew of allowances for purposes ranging from travel to office furniture.

### DEFENCE NEWS

- **INS Sahyadri** entered Da Nang port in Vietnam as part of its operational deployment in the South China Sea. Around the time Navy Chief Admiral R.K Dhowan began his official tour of Australia, an Indian naval ship entered Vietnam waters on its way to Japan.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** 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.
- The Indian Navy commissioned the first indigenously-designed and built torpedo launch and recovery vessel **INS Astradharani** at the Naval Base in Visakhapatnam. This 50-metre twin-hulled warship is also the first to be built at a private yard with armament fixtures. The ship was collaboratively designed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of DRDO, Shoft Shipyard and IIT Kharagpur.
- The Union Cabinet approved the construction of **National War Memorial and a National War Museum** at Princess Park near India Gate, Delhi in memory of all Indian soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice for the country post-independence. The estimated cost of the project will be around 500 crore rupees and the total time for completion of the entire project is estimated to be five years.
- India-China Joint Military Training Exercise **HAND-IN-HAND 2015** will be conducted at Kunming Military Academy of Yunnan province in China from 12 to 23 October 2015. It will be the fifth joint military exercise.
- India signed a Rs 130 crore deal for 194 microlight aircraft from Slovenian company **Pipistrel Aircraft**, for use by its National Cadet Corps (NCC), Air Force

and Navy. The contract was inked by Pipistrel CEO, Ivo Boscarol with the MoD.

- The country's prestigious **DRDO Missile Complex in Hyderabad** renamed as Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar during an event at Research Centre Imarat on the occasion of the 84th Birth Anniversary of Dr Kalam, the Missile Man.
- **India, United States and Japan** navies have started 2015 Malabar Naval Exercise of the eastern coast in Bay of Bengal and India Ocean. The five-day exercise includes both ashore and at-sea training exercises, that would share knowledge on carrier strike group operations, anti-submarine warfare, maritime patrol etc.
- **India-Sri Lanka Joint Exercise 'Mitra Shakti-2015'** culminated. The 14-day joint training included understanding of transnational terrorism, developing interoperability and conduct of joint tactical operations controlled by a Joint Command Post.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

- **The International Day of Older Persons (IDOP)** was on 1 October 2015 observed across the world with the theme Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment.
- The **International Day of Non-Violence** was observed on 2 October 2015 across the world.
- United Nations on 5 October 2015 celebrated **World Habitat Day**. It is observed on first Monday of October every year to generate awareness about the state of human settlements and the future of cities.
- **World Egg Day** was observed on 9 October 2015 as it is being celebrated every year on second Friday of October as per the directives of International Egg Commission.
- **World Food Day** observed on 16th October with the theme Social Protection and Agriculture
- **Fourth International Day of the Girl Child** observed across the world on 11<sup>th</sup> October. The theme for the 2015 International Day of the Girl Child is The Power of Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030.
- **World Post Day** observed globally on 9<sup>th</sup> October.
- **World Sight Day** observed on 8 October with theme Eye care for all
- **83rd Air Force Day** observed across India on 8<sup>th</sup> October. This prestigious occasion was marked with celebrations at the Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad.
- **National Anti-Drug Addiction Day** observed on 2 October.
- **World Vegetarian Day** observed globally on 1<sup>st</sup> October. World Vegetarian Day initiates the month of October as Vegetarian Awareness Month, which ends with November 1, World Vegan Day, as the end of that month of celebration.

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- India's GDP to grow at 7.5 percent in 2015 according to UNCTAD.
- Union Cabinet approved **Framework for Cooperation in Blue Economy between India and Seychelles**. India and Seychelles signed the protocol for cooperation in the field of blue economy on 26 August 2015 during the visit of the President of Seychelles to India.
- Union Government **reduced domestic natural gas price by 18 percent** to 3.81 US dollars per mmBtu.

#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **China** launched the first phase of **China International Payment System (CIPS)**, a milestone in bolstering Yuan's global usage and furthering cross-border clearing of its currency from the Chinese mainland instead of offshore centres abroad.
- The Indian community in the **United Kingdom** launched a '**Modi Express**' bus that will take the travellers on a tour around iconic landmarks ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's maiden visit to the country in November. Over 400 community organisations have come together to launch the 'Modi Express' for 'Bus Pe Charcha' in London.
- **China** has operationalized the **Zam Hydropower Station** built on Brahmaputra River which has raised concerns in India over the likelihood of disrupting water supplies of River. The dam is considered to be the world's highest-altitude hydropower station and largest of its kind. Annually it will produce produces 2.5 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity. The power station is located in the Gyaca County of Tibet and is considered as the largest in this region.
- **Portugal** on 9 October 2015 became **the first European country to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of Nalanda University**. The MoU was signed in New Delhi by Portuguese Ambassador to India Ana Martinho and Dr Jitendra Nath Misra, the Ambassador of India to Portugal. With this, Portugal became the 17th country overall and the fourth outside the East Asia Summit to do so.
- **China, Indonesia signed 5.5 billion US dollars deal** to build high-speed railway in Indonesia. The project will be implemented by state-owned China Railway International and a consortium of Indonesian state companies.
- **Pakistan, Russia signed agreement to build 1100 km Gas Pipeline**. In this project, Russia will invest 2 billion US dollars and it will be built by Russian company RT Global Resources.
- **Australian Government** re-approved Carmichael Coal Mine Project to be built by Adani Group. The mine drew a significant controversy due to its potential impact on the Great Barrier Reef, groundwater at its site and its carbon emissions.

#### INDIAN ECONOMY NEWS

- Snapping its five-day falling streak, **Gold rebounded by Rs 660**, its biggest one-day surge this year, to trade at Rs 26,810 per ten grams at the bullion market.
- India's **foreign exchange (FOREX) reserves declined by \$2.04 billion to \$349.97 billion** in the week ended September 25, official data showed on 2nd October. The FCA constitutes the largest component of India's Forex reserves. It consists of US dollars, major non-dollar currencies, securities and bonds bought abroad."
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved implementation of the World Bank assisted National Watershed Management Project **Neeranchal** with a total outlay 2142.30 crore rupees. The project will be implemented at the national level as well as in the nine states of Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana. The government's share in the project is 50 percent and the rest cost will be borne by the World Bank.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the **Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of 2904.04 crore rupees for the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar**, to create a multi-modal mode of transport for cargo shipment from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar.
- **TRAI made mandatory for telecom operators to compensate for call drops** from 1 January 2016. It mandates the telcos to credit the account of the calling consumer by one rupee, however, such credit in the account of the calling consumer will be limited to three dropped calls in a day.
- Union Cabinet approved **MoU between ITA in Taipei and TECC in India**. The memorandum provides a structured framework and enabling environment to the MSME sector of the two parties to understand each other's strengths, markets, technologies, policies etc.



- **Myanmar signed National Ceasefire Agreement** with 8 armed ethnic rebel groups. With this, signing Myanmar government hopes that six decade long conflict may come to an end, and a road of peace will be followed.
- **Iran's Parliament approved Vienna Agreement** on Iran Nuclear Programme. The agreement allows Iran to develop its nuclear programme for peaceful purpose, on the other hand it lifts the economic sanctions on Iran.
- President Pranab Mukherjee visited **Jordan**. President Mukherjee inaugurated a **street named after Mahatma Gandhi in Amman** and planted an Olive tree in peace park.
- **CGPCS reconfigured piracy High Risk Area in the Indian Ocean**. As per the reconfiguration, the eastern limit of the HRA was reverted back to the 65 degrees east from the 78 degrees east longitude limit that has been in force since June 2010.
- **Amrita Sher-Gil** self-portrait sold for 17 crore rupees in London.
- **California signed Right to Die Bill** for terminally ill people into a Law.
- **Islamic State destroyed Arch of Triumph in Palmyra**. The iconic Arch of Triumph was situated at the entrance to Palmyra's historic colonnaded street which linked the Roman Empire to Persia.
- **Israel barred Palestinians** from entering Jerusalem's Old City

#### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IN NEWS

- Palestinian flag was raised for the first time at **United Nations headquarters in New York**. The flag hosting raising ceremony was attended by the President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas.
- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** on 6 October 2015 released World Economic Outlook (WEO) October 2015 Update titled Adjusting to Lower Commodity Prices. The report projects global growth for 2015 at 3.1 percent, which is 0.3 percentage point lower than in 2014, and 0.2 percentage point below the forecasts in the July 2015 World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update. India's growth is expected to strengthen from 7.3 percent 2015 and last year to 7.5 percent in 2016.
- **African Development Bank** to triple Annual Climate Financing to nearly \$5 billion by 2020. The Bank's announcement reflects the high priority it places on addressing climate change in its Ten Year Strategy 2013-2022, as well as massive new support for the energy sector.
- **EU launched second phase of Operation Sophia to fight traffickers in Mediterranean Sea**. Its aim is to undertake systematic efforts to identify, capture and dispose of vessels as well as enabling assets used or suspected of being used by migrant smugglers or traffickers.

- **V20 Group** launched by Vulnerable Nations to Foster Greater Investment in Climate Resiliency. With the launch of V20 in Lima, Peru, the Group's Finance Ministers also held their inaugural meeting which was chaired by Cesar Purisima, Finance Minister of the Philippines.
- **World Bank** released global poverty projections for 2015. As per the projections, the number of people living in extreme poverty around the world is likely to fall to under 10 percent of the global population in 2015.
- As per the **Annual report of WTO**, World Trade will grow by 2.8 percent in 2015 against 2.5 percent growth registered in 2014.



#### NASA/ISRO IN NEWS

- China launched a 20th new generation satellite into orbit that will support its global navigation and positioning network. The launch of the **20th satellite for the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)** has put China one step closer to providing an alternative to the U.S. operated Global Positioning System (GPS).
- **NASA released Plan outlining Next Steps in the Journey to Mars with an aim to establish colonies by 2030s.**

#### LIST/RANKING ANNOUNCED

- India has climbed a spectacular 16 places to the 55th position among 140 economies in this year's **World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Competitiveness Index**, ending five years of decline. The list was topped by Switzerland, followed by Singapore, the US, Germany and the Netherlands.

#### NATION IN NEWS

- Union Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad released a commemorative **postal stamp on Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar**. The government is celebrating 125th birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar in the year 2015.
- **Supreme Court** has refused to allow some states and statutory bodies like RBI, SEBI to **voluntary use of Aadhaar card for welfare schemes other than PDS and LPG schemes**. Ruling in this regard was given by SC bench headed by Justice J Chelameswar.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 7 October 2015 approved the **setting up of three new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** under Pradhan Mantri

Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY). These three new AIIMS will come up at Nagpur in Maharashtra, at Manglagiri in Andhra Pradesh and at Kalyani in West Bengal.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the **foundation stone of fourth terminal of country's largest container port – Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Mumbai**. The fourth terminal project will be carried out in two phases at estimated cost of 7,900 crore rupees and will be complete by the end of 2017.
- **Pranab Mukherjee became first Indian President to address Israeli Parliament Knesset**. He addressed the Knesset as last leg of his official visit to 3 countries of west Asia viz. Jordan, Palestine and Israel. He is also first Indian President to make a state visit Israel.
- The Supreme Court on 15 October 2015 allowed the use of **Aadhaar cards for all central and state schemes**, including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and employee provident fund and pension schemes, on voluntary basis. The order was passed by a Constitution Bench of five judges which was headed by Chief Justice HL Dattu.
- SC declared **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) unconstitutional**. It also upheld the Collegium system that existed before the NJAC as operative. Collegium System was established by the SC in 1993 for the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary.
- **Article 370 is beyond amendment, repeal or abrogation**, stated J&K High Court. The court ruled that Article 370 though titled as Temporary Provision and included in Para XXI titled Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions has assumed place of permanence in the Constitution.
- **German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited India**. Germany returned a 10th century Durga idol of Mahishasuramardini avatar, which had gone missing from a temple in Kashmir over two decades, back to India.
- **Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif proposed 4-point Peace Initiative with India**. The 4-point Peace Initiative with India is aimed at defining the relationship between the Asian countries as one of cooperation, not of confrontation.

## OBITUARIES

- **Renowned Telugu Cinema Producer Edida Nageswara Rao** passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was 81. He had produced numerous landmark movies Telugu Cinema (also known as Tollywood).
- **Renowned music director and lyricist Ravindra Jain** passed away on 9 October 2015 following a

multiple-organ failure in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was 71. He is survived by his wife and son.

- **Legendary Tamil actress Gopishantha**, popularly known by her stage name Manorama, died on 10 October 2015 due to multiple organ failure in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. She was 78.
- Admiral **Radhakrishna Hariram Tahiliani** (Retd) passed away.
- **Former British Finance Minister Geoffrey Howe** died.
- **Renowned Carnatic Flautist Natesan Ramani** died.
- Renowned Swedish crime writer **Henning Mankell** died.

## RBI IN NEWS

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on 6 October 2015 relaxed the **norms of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** of government debt and also announced higher investment limits in rupee terms in government securities with a view to bring in an additional 1.2 lakh crore rupees by March 2018. The RBI fixed the FPI investment limits in rupee terms and raised the limits in phases to reach 5 percent of the outstanding stock by March 2018.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 15 October 2015 **formed a single Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) with a corpus of 2000 crore rupees**. The fund was formed by merging the Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund (FITF). The RBI also finalised the new scope of activities and guidelines for utilisation of the new FIF in consultation with the Union Government. The new FIF will be administered by the reconstituted Advisory Board constituted by Union Government and will be maintained by NABARD.


## SCHEMES BY STATE GOVERNEMENT

- To help patients and pregnant women from inaccessible areas to reach nearest hospital, the **state government of Odisha** launched a healthcare programme named '**Amo doli programme**'. The programme was launched in naxal-affected Rayagada district of the state and will benefit people of 183 remote villages to reach the hospital. Under the Amo Doli programme, a stretcher has been designed as a sling to carry patients smoothly and with less effort. Each sling costs around 9000 rupees and the programme is being funded under the Integrated Action Plan which is meant for Maoist-affected districts.
- **The Odisha Government** on 11 October 2015 launched **Mission Abaas**, state's urban housing mission, to provide affordable houses to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Low Income Groups (LIG) and slum dwellers. The scheme aims at fulfilling the promise of protection and welfare of slum dwellers by providing affordable housing along with basic



amenities such as piped water supply, electricity, concrete roads, drainage and community centre.

- **The Delhi Government** on 13 October 2015 launched **Bill Banvao, Inaam Pao scheme** to encourage people to receive or demand proper bills for purchases. Citizens will be eligible for the scheme only on a bill or cash memo/retail invoice of not less than 100 rupees for purchases made from a registered dealer in Delhi. The maximum prize to be given under the scheme is 50000 rupees.
- **Uttar Pradesh government** on 13 October 2015 launched the **mobile app m-Sehat for health workers** to record maternal and infant data in real-time. M-Sehat is a cloud-hosted solution to facilitate remote access and enrolment from across the region through 2G-enabled mobile devices.



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#### SCHEMES BY UNION GOVERNMENT

- **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has launched the second phase of **Mission Indradhanush** to achieve full immunisation of children below two years. In the second phase, the week-long programme will be implemented in 352 districts of the country. Mission Indradhanush depicts 7 colours of the rainbow which aims to cover all those children by 2020 who are either unvaccinated or are partially vaccinated against 7 vaccine preventable diseases. These 7 diseases are Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Tetanus, Polio, Tuberculosis, Measles and Hepatitis B.
- Union Government has launched **KISAN (Crop Insurance using Space Technology and Geoinformatics) Project** to benefit farmers. This project will favour use of satellites, drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) and other geospatial technology to collect crop yield data and to assess damage from natural calamities. Drones will help to take high resolution imagery of crop assessment. It will be

collated with satellite imaging and other geospatial technology to get accurate data.

- Union Government also launched **Hailstorm App, an Android mobile phone** application to assess large-scale damage to crops from hail. Farmers by using this application on their smart phones can immediately send photos of their crop damage due to hailstorm to officials concerned for immediate relief.
- Union Environment Ministry has approved annual plans of **National Mission for Green India (GIM) of four states** viz. Kerala, Mizoram, Manipur and Jharkhand. In this regard, National Executive Council (NEC) has approved the Perspective Plans (PP) and Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) of GIM submitted by 4 states. The approval has been granted for alternative energy devices such as biogas, LPG, solar devices, biomass-based systems and improved stoves. These devices in turn will help to reduce pressure on forests and provide carbon emission benefits, along with health and other associated benefits.
- a) The government flagged off the **'Science Express Climate Action Special' train from Delhi**, as part of its initiative to sensitize the masses, especially children and the youth, about the issue of climate change, in the run-up to the global climate summit in Paris slated for December.
- b) The train will run till 7 May 2016 and during the course of these eight months, it would stop at 64 locations across India, covering over 19,500 kilometres.
- c) The Science Express—a joint initiative of the ministry of environment, forests and climate change (MoEFCC), the ministry of railways and the ministry of science and technology.
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on 14 October 2015 introduced a scheme called **Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF)** with an initial amount of 200 crore rupees. The scheme aims at enabling support to victims of various attacks, such as rape, acid attacks, human trafficking and women killed or injured in the cross border firing. States were asked to accordingly modify the State Victim Compensation Schemes to reduce inconsistency in quantum of compensation amount notified by them.
- Ministry of Shipping launched a programme **to develop 78 Lighthouses** as tourism centers. The identified lighthouses are in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Union Cabinet approved **Productivity Linked Bonus for railway employees**. It is estimated that the total payment of 78 days' PLB to railway employees will be around 1030.02 crore rupees.

#### SPORTS IN NEWS

- India's ace shooter **Heena Sidhu** has clinched a Gold medal in the **10-metre air pistol** event of the Asian Air Gun Championships in New Delhi. In the 2015 Asian Air Gun Championships held in New Delhi, India has emerged on the top with total medal tally of 17 medals, including 6 Gold, while Iran finished second.
- Ace Indian tennis star **Sania Mirza continued her superb run with Swiss partner Martina Hingis** as the duo clinched its seventh title together by winning the **Wuhan Open women's doubles trophy**. The top-seeded pair defeated the Romanian team of Irina-Camelia Begu and Monica Niculescu 6-2, 6-3 in the title clash.
- **Venus Williams** won her second title of the season at the **Wuhan Open** in central China after Garbine Muguruza retired in the second set.
- American world number one **Jordan Spieth** was named as the **PGA Tour's Player of the Year** after a stellar 2014-15 campaign highlighted by two major victories among his five wins.
- **Shashank Manohar** has been elected unopposed as **President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** for the second term.
- **China** on 3 October 2015 won the **International Basketball Federation (FIBA)** Asia Championship by defeating the Philippines by 78-67 in the final. The victory has won the nation a direct qualification for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- **Sergey Karjakin of Russia has won 2015 World Cup Chess Championship** held at Baku, Azerbaijan. In the final match he defeated Peter Svidler (Russia) by 6-4 score.
- **Indian cyclist Deborah Herold** bagged one gold, three silver and one bronze medal at the **2015 Taiwan Cup** held at the Hsin Chu Velodrome, Hsin-Chu city in Taiwan. With this, she became the first ever Indian cyclist to win in women's elite section.
- **Lewis Hamilton** has won the **Russian Formula One Grand Prix in Sochi**, taking a massive step toward winning the drivers' championship in the process.
- **Novak Djokovic** on 11 October 2015 won the **China Open Men's Singles** title by defeating Rafael Nadal of Spain.
- **Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis** lifted their eighth trophy of the season and fourth in a row, winning the **WTA China Open**. The top seeds faced stiff resistance from sixth seed Taipei girls Hao-Ching Chan and Yung-Jan Chan before winning 6-7 (9) 6-1 10-8 in the final.
- **Ajay Jayaram of India** on 11 October 2015 defended the **2015 Dutch Open Men's Singles badminton title**. In the summit clash held at Almere in Netherlands, the World Number 26 ranker defeated Estonia's Raul Must by 21-12 21-18.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** has received a record fourth **Golden Boot after topping Europe's goal scoring charts** for the 2014/15 season. It means Ronaldo becomes the first player in the awards' illustrious 47-year history to win the accolade four times.
- **Zaheer Khan**, one of India's finest pacers, on 15 October 2015 **retired from all forms of international and first-class Cricket**. However, he will continue to play in IPL for one more season. Zaheer, with 311 wickets, is the fourth highest Indian wicket-taker in Tests behind Anil Kumble (619), Kapil Dev (434) and Harbhajan Singh (417). He was also the third highest wicket-taker in international cricket among left-arm pacers.
- **Shweta Rathore** became first Indian female **bodybuilder** to win silver in Asian body.
- **Punjab National Bank won Beighton Cup of Hockey**.
- **FIFA suspended President Sepp Blatter, VP Michel Platini and Secretary General Jerome Valcke**. Issa Hayatou, head of Africa's football confederation (Caf), will act as the interim FIFA president during Blatter's ban.
- **Russia retained 2015 Women's European Volleyball Championship**.
- **ICC Women's Team Rankings** launched. In the new list, Australia was ranked number one while India was placed at fourth place.

#### STATES IN NEWS

- Nearly fifteen months after dry run, **the Odisha police launched its ambitious 'e-FIR' system** under the Centre-sponsored Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) project. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the system, which enables tech-savvy people to send their complaints to police in all districts through online.
- Narendra Modi inaugurated county's **first solar powered district court in Khunti, Jharkhand**. Making an appeal to stop wastage of electricity, the Prime Minister said that like solar energy, we also need to focus on energy conservation.
- In its bid to empower rural women, **Utkal Alumina International Limited (UAIL)**, a unit of Aditya Birla Group, has launched a unique project for the welfare of communities living in the vicinity of its project area in Odisha. Christened 'Project Saksham', the new initiative involves an advanced training-cum-garment manufacturing unit at Tikiri in Rayagada district to help unemployed rural women engage in a sustainable livelihood and become self-reliant, said Vijay Sapra, Unit Head and President, UAIL.
- **Government of Andhra Pradesh on 9 October 2015 launched Andhra Pradesh State Enterprise Architecture (APSEA)**. It is alternatively called as e-Pragati project. It was launched by the state Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at a function held in Visakhapatnam. It aims for a transformational change in the way government services are conceived, designed, delivered and consumed.
- **The Kerala government on 9 October 2015 launched the Operation Valsalya** project to trace, rescue and reunite the missing children with their

family. This ambitious programme is envisaged to be implemented on the lines of the much acclaimed Operation Smile project in Ghaziabad.

- **Union Minister of Urban Development M Venkaiah Naidu** on 15 October 2015 declared that former President Dr. Abdul Kalam's birth place **Rameswaram has been included in Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** for providing basic urban infrastructure. The announcement was made on the occasion of 84th birth anniversary of Dr. Kalam at a programme organised at DRDO.
- **Jharkhand signed GCA with GAIL** for construction of Urja Ganga Jagdishpur-Haldia Pipeline. The pipeline will pass through six districts, Bokaro, Giridih, Hazaribagh, Dhanbad, East Singhbhum and Ranchi.
- **Rajasthan government signed 27 MoUs under Housing for All scheme.** Out of these 27 MoUs, 14 MoUs were for promoting housing projects with an investment of 9273 crore rupees.
- Tamil Nadu Government banned drug Ketoprofen to save vultures.
- **Gujarat proposed 15375 crore rupees AMRUT Plan to ensure basic infrastructure in 31 mission cities.** Out of this proposed amount, 42 percent will be spent on providing water supply connections to all urban households in 31 AMRUT cities.
- **Rajasthan Government unveiled Rajasthan Startup Policy 2015.** The policy was launched with an aim to establish 50 incubator organizations in next five years.
- **NGT directed commercial vehicles entering Delhi** to pay Pollution Tax in addition to toll.
- **Uttar Pradesh decided to implement National Food Security Act, 2013** in three phases. In the first phase, the scheme will be implemented in 24 districts, while in the second phase; it will be implemented in 26 districts. In the third phase it will be rolled out in 25 districts.

## SUMMITS

- **India to Chair G20 in 2018.** India is going to chair Group of Twenty (G20) nation forum in year 2018 and New Delhi could be the host of the prestigious annual G20 summit. Turkey will hand over the Chair for the next year i.e. 2016 to China and in 2017 Germany is going to chair it.
- 26th edition of the **Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between India and Indonesia began on 3 October 2015 in the Andaman Sea.** The expanded version of the 18-day long CORPAT that will conclude on 21 October 2015 will also see the first ever bilateral exercise between the two nations.
- The **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Conference 2016 will be held in New Delhi** from 8 January to 10 January 2016. The PBD Conference 2016 will be

organized with an objective for developing a new paradigm for engagement with the Diaspora over the next decade.

- **2015 Annual meetings of World Bank Group and IMF held in Peru.** The meetings saw the attendance of central bankers, finance ministers and development and private senior executives and academics from the member countries of both the World Bank Group and the IMF.
- **5th Meeting of the India-Maldives Joint Commission held in Maldives.** During the meeting, both the countries agreed to deepen the bilateral cooperation under India's Neighbours First and Maldives' India First policies.
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry inaugurated **Advantage Healthcare India 2015.** The summit aims at promoting healthcare services exports from India and is organised by the Department of Commerce.

## Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)

- India submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. These INDCs are for the period between 2015 and 2030.
  - iii. With the presentation of its INDCs, India set its tone for the Conference of Parties-21 (COP-21) in Paris that is scheduled to meet in December 2015 to adopt an environmental new protocol for post-2020 (post Kyoto Protocol) scenario. So far, 119 parties to the UNFCCC, out of 192 member countries, have formally submitted their INDCs.
- Some of the important points of the INDCs are
- To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level.
  - To achieve about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030, with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance, including from Green Climate Fund.
  - To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030 that will translate into increase of about 680 - 817 million tons of carbon stock.

## The President's 3 Nations Visit

- The visits to Jordan, Palestine and Israel were first ever visits by an Indian President. They reflect the importance that India places on enhancing our partnership with countries of this region, which is our extended neighbourhood. He got the opportunity to brief the leaderships of these countries on the initiatives of our Government in various fields and to explore possibilities of enhanced cooperation in bilateral, regional and international context.



### Jordan

- Jordan and India on Sunday signed six agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoU) in various fields of cooperation.
- The agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour and Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, covering cooperation in the maritime transportation sector and a memorandum between the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy and the Indian Foreign Service Institute.
- Another deal was signed between the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the Press Trust of India, in addition to signing the executive programme for cultural exchange between the Jordanian and Indian governments.
- Also, an MoU was signed between the ICT Ministry and its Indian counterpart to cooperate in ICT and electronics fields, and another between the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organisation and its Indian peer to cooperate in assessment techniques.
- In a related development, India's Ambassador to Jordan Anil Trigunayat told The Jordan Times that India has extended a line of credit of \$100 million to the Kingdom for promoting TRADE and economic cooperation.
- The ambassador made the remarks on the sidelines of a ceremony held at the University of Jordan to award the Indian president an honorary doctorate. The Indian president outlined the democratic experience in India, its constitution, parliamentary government, as well as the council of state, which consists of 245 members, and the 552-strong parliament.
- During the meeting, Mukherjee and Judeh discussed the importance of seizing the available opportunities to boost economic cooperation, increasing TRADE exchange, which currently stands at \$1.89 billion and is planned to be upped to \$5 billion in five years, in addition to establishing joint projects in various fields.
- Judeh and Mukherjee reviewed recent developments in Palestine, with focus on the continuous Israeli provocations. The minister stressed that the solution lies in implementing the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital.
- Discussions also covered developments in several countries, including Libya, Yemen, Iraq and Syria, with Judeh highlighting the importance of finding political resolutions that preserve the security and stability of these countries.
- Mukherjee praised the role Jordan is playing, under the leadership of King Abdullah, in achieving security and stability in region, voicing India's support for such endeavours.

### Palestine

- An important road and a roundabout here have been named after India, coinciding with the tour of

President Pranab Mukherjee, the first Indian head of state to visit Palestine. The Sharia-e-Al-hind (India road) and Midan-e-Al-hind (India roundabout) in Ramallah were named at a ceremony attended by Mukherjee and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and hundreds of Palestinians. The new road, which is close to the Mahatma Gandhi Road that houses the Indian mission, was unnamed so far and a Palestinian official said that it was given its name in honour of Mukherjee "whose visit reflects the strong bonding between the two people".

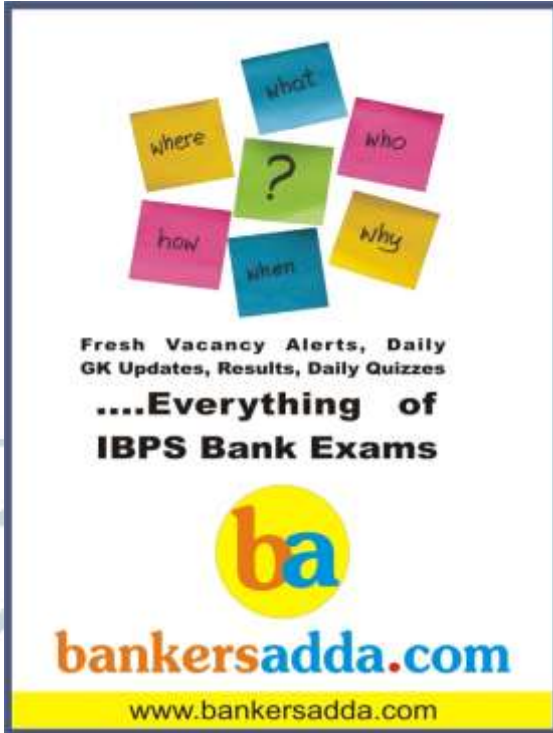
- "The visit of the Indian President, the highest official to visit Palestine from New Delhi, is a historic moment and the naming and inauguration gives it a sense of history," an official of the Beitunia municipality, Yazan, said. A lotus structure mounted on a raised platform at the roundabout was laid with the Indian national flower in mind, he said.
- Earlier, Mukherjee laid a wreath on the mausoleum of iconic Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Delegation-level talks were also held between the two sides to review bilateral issues.

### Israel

- In the first-ever official visit by an Indian head of state to Israel, President Pranab Mukherjee arrived in Jerusalem this week to discuss a wide range of issues including the negotiation of an extensive free-trade agreement, bilateral cooperation in agricultural and other technologies, and expanded counter-terrorism coordination. Israel President Reuven Rivlin described the visit as deepening "the friendship between our states in the fields of economy, science, medicine and agriculture." Relations between India and Israel have recently undergone a major shift. In 1947, India voted against Israel joining the United Nations and did not establish official relations with Israel until 1991. This was mainly out of concern over how this would affect India's diplomatic relations with Muslim countries, as well as India itself hosting "the world's second-largest Muslim population in raw numbers," according to a 2013 report by the Pew Research Center.
- During Mukherjee's visit, India and Israel signed a double taxation avoidance pact as well as a number of accords promoting cultural and technological exchange between the two nations. Mukherjee and his delegation reserved 70 rooms in Jerusalem's King David Hotel and another 30 rooms in the nearby Dan Panorama. Celebrity chef Reena Pushkarna was hired by the King David Hotel to prepare Indian dishes for the delegation and some 300 members of Israel's Indian community.
- Further illustrating the growing ties between the two countries, Israel is India's second-largest arms supplier after Russia. But relations are not limited to military ties and a mutual commitment to fight terrorism. Vijeta Uniyal, founder of Indian Friends of Israel, described how Israel's commitment to

developing the desert “extends to the Thar Desert, Gangetic Plain and Wetlands of Bengal.”

- Bilateral TRADE between Israel and India grew from \$200 million in 1992 to \$4.39 billion in 2013, with both countries importing and exporting precious stones, metals, machinery, minerals, plastics, chemical products, textiles, agricultural products, and transport equipment.
- Ties between the two countries are expected to strengthen considerably as a result of Mukherjee’s visit, signifying the solidification of a strong alliance between India and Israel.



The advertisement features a central graphic of seven colorful sticky notes arranged in a circle. The notes are labeled: 'what' (blue), 'who' (pink), 'why' (yellow), 'when' (blue), 'how' (pink), 'where' (yellow), and a green note with a question mark. Below this graphic, the text reads: 'Fresh Vacancy Alerts, Daily GK Updates, Results, Daily Quizzes', followed by '....Everything of IBPS Bank Exams'. At the bottom, there is a logo with the letters 'ba' in a yellow circle, the website name 'bankersadda.com' in orange and blue, and the URL 'www.bankersadda.com' on a yellow background.