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A Quest Chronicle

CHRIST UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Business

1. 100 Crore deal between Mauritius government and HAL, India.



Hindustan aeronautics limited is known for its aircrafts and the innovation in aerospace industry worldwide. It is one of its kind designs that HAL provides. It has exported helicopters like Cheetah, Chetak and Dhruv and two Dornier aircrafts in maritime version to Mauritius in the past.

Mauritius government has signed an agreement with Hindustan aeronautics limited to acquire Dornier aircrafts for maritime surveillance from HAL for a bigger deal worth 100crore.

The inclusion of Dornier in the National Coast Guard, Mauritius Police Force, would result in an extensive enhancement of the present search and rescue capability and provide strategic depth to policing the extensive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The maritime aircraft was equipped with the combination of 360 degree Surveillance Radar, Forward Looking Infra-Red System, Traffic Collision and Avoidance System, Weather Radar and host of other customer specified sensors. HAL has stated that continuous efforts will be made through its strong research and design base to develop and integrate new modifications on such aircrafts.

2. Western India is blocked by YUM In KFC business



YUM, one of the world's largest restaurants having more than 40,000 outlets worldwide has closed its shutters of a store in KFC segment at western India due to low turnover and high overheads. Its well known food chains Pizza Hut, and Taco bell however are functioning but its KFC segment has seen high operating costs, real estate expense, declined sales was at 4% and loss of those stores stood at \$3million, which primarily led to closure of KFC stores in western India.

Yum has also reported 1% growth in worldwide sales, thereby taking steps to eliminate loss-making outlets. Its value offers and huge discounts are accounted to its low profitability. The market penetration however outlines healthy, but it is not the real picture for these restaurants to overcome such constraints. Other restaurants chains like Jubilant Food-works which runs Dominos Pizza, Dunkin Donuts and Hard castle that runs MC-Donald's, Costa Coffee also have posted declined sales and are planning to shut down their stores soon in western India.

3. Andhra Pradesh to become World-Class Capital city

Grow More Yen

Companies Ready to Invest:

- Sumitomo Corp – in power generation, food processing & capital city construction
- Isuzu Motors – a pick up truck plant at Sri City industrial city; already begun construction of utility vehicles plant there to bring more auto component makers to the state
- Mayawala Manufacturing – to set up cold chains in the proposed mega food parks
- Kubota Corp – in areas of farm mechanisation & agri productivity enhancement

Funding Institutions:

- Japanese International Cooperation Agency – to build road network connecting all seaports
- Japan Bank for International Cooperation – promises to help state in inter-city connectivity & water treatment; to fund Japanese cos to set up projects in the state

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandra Babu Naidu have signed Memorandum Of Understanding to make Andhra Pradesh, a smart city and develop the city with new investment opportunities and enable financial assistance and technical expertise in different fields. This is a positive move from Japanese government to explore and develop Indian city to an all new smart city. The ease of doing business in India, initiated by Modi is being carried forward by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to establish good trade and relation terms with Japan.

Various strategies have been adopted to develop the state with the prospective areas of energy, food processing and agriculture, develop a 4X1000 MW coal fired power station, aims to modernize agriculture in AP. A joint study team has been sent to explore opportunities of collaboration. The new production site will attract other units of accessories related to the automobile industry. Isuzu Motors India Pvt. Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Japanese auto maker Isuzu Motors Ltd, also plans to set up a light commercial vehicle (LCV) manufacturing plant in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs.1,500 crore.

The investments will boost the opportunities available in AP and make the state one of its kind by 2020.

4. RBI to set up small finance banks to cater to the needs of rural population.



The minimum paid-up capital for these banks will be Rs.100 crore each. The foreign shareholding will be in line with the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy for private sector

banks. According to the RBI, the objective of setting up of small finance banks will be to involve financial inclusion by provision of savings and supply of credit to small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and other unorganized sector entities, through high technology-low cost operations.

The payment banks can accept demand deposits and would initially be restricted to holding a maximum balance of Rs. 1,00,000 per individual customer. Payments banks, however, cannot issue credit cards. These banks would be allowed to distribute non-risk sharing simple financial products like mutual fund units etc. Apart from amounts maintained as Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), banks are required to invest minimum 75 per cent of its “demand deposit balances” in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).

5. RBI to withdraw the 20:80 schemes on importing precious metal Gold.



The RBI had prohibited the import of gold in the form of coins and medallions, earlier and also had imposed restrictions to ensure that at least one fifth, that is, 20 per cent, of every lot of import to be exclusively used for domestic usage and the balance for export purposes. It had also asked them to make gold available for domestic use, only to the entities engaged in jewelry business/bullion dealers and to banks authorized to administer the gold deposit scheme against full upfront payment.

The new guidelines issued by government will bring down the gold prices as well as ease the restrictions on gold imports and liberalizing incoming shipments of the precious metal from exports.

Under the 20:80 norms, 20 per cent of the imported gold has to be derogatorily exported before bringing in new lot. Initially under the 20:80 scheme, only state-owned firms and banks were permitted to import. The six private firms, which were given relaxation, accounted for 40 per cent of the total gold imports in April-September.

6. Dubai to invest \$32-billion to build world's largest airport.



The proposed new airport will become the world's largest aviation facility on completion. The Dubai International Airport is the world's second busiest airport after the London Heathrow . Dubai will be known as the world's aviation hub after the completion of this project. The new airport is designed with the size of seven football fields and have five runways which all will be simultaneously operational, all A380-compatible.

The other features include 200 aircraft stands for wide bodied aircraft, four concourses connected via six airport trains to two terminals, which in turn will be linked to the city's metro network. When complete, the mega-hub will have total annual capacity exceeding 200 million passengers and 12 million tonne of freight. The availability of cheap fuel is one of the main reasons for its rigorous advancement in economy and technology.

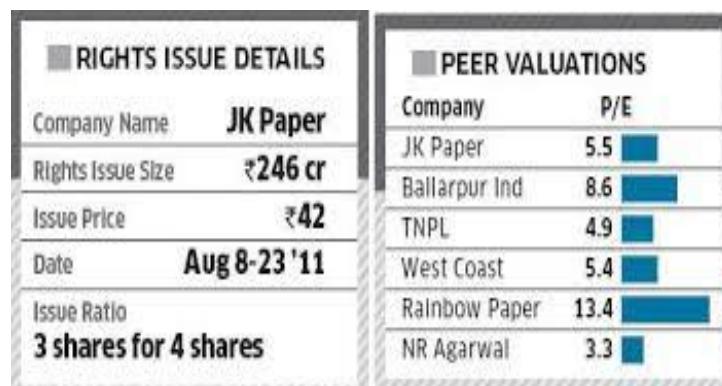
7. Cisco to invest \$1.7 billion in India this year and is said to partner Centre's digital drive.



Cisco, known for its niche technology advancement is now in India to make Indian cities smart and develop e-model in the emerging economy. Cisco India accounted for less than 2% contribution to its parent company. Now, with the undertaken project India's accountability will raise further. Cisco Chairman & CEO John Chambers said he will "bet big on India", the world's biggest computer networking company detailed plans to invest around \$1.7 billion in a year. It is the first multinational to make such a commitment in the country since the Narendra Modi government took over. Cisco is investing \$1.7 billion this year into the India operations. The investment includes a \$40-million innovation fund and investments into R&D.

Cisco is now approaching the new government opportunity by carving out a new division called the Growth Vertical, which will focus on areas such as eHealthcare, eEducation, smart cities and national broadband project.

8. Companies raise Rs 5,000 crore via rights issue.



In a rights issue, shares are issued to existing investors at a pre-determined price, normally at a discount, in proportion to their holdings. Most of the funds raised this year were for expansion and to support working capital requirements.

There was a large gap between the capital raised through right issue and funds garnered via IPO routes. A total of Rs 1,522 crore mopped up via initial public offerings (IPOs) during the January-October period. Rights issue lasted till 4180 crores for the previous year 2013 and 2014 has seen the mark to rise above 5,000 crore.

9. Indian economic growth slows to 5.3%



India's economy grew by 5.3% in the July-to-September period from a year earlier, down from a rate of 5.7% in the previous quarter.

Although the rate was slower than earlier in the year, the rate of growth is positive note for the economy. Both the service sector and agriculture performed better than anticipated. However manufacturing sector is yet to perform in the upcoming quarters. Investors were also encouraged by the news that the government is to cut its holdings in state-run banks, such as State Bank of India.

Overall, the economy has bottomed out and there is a slow and modest recovery. The right measures taken by the government and RBI will put forth India as the maximum growth among the emerging economies. The interest rate cut policy which will discussed be discussed on 2nd

December 2014 which will have an impact with the RBI governor's decision regarding the rate cuts. The benchmark interest rate has been kept at 8% since last January in an effort to curb inflation.

10. SEBI norms for research analysts and Stock Market Advisers to come into effect on 1st December.



Securities Exchange board of India, an authority to protect interests of investors in investing in capital market instruments is taking a step ahead to safeguard investors from unauthorized advice coming from non registered resources and entities, a new set of regulations for research analysts in capital markets would come into effect from Monday 1st December 2014.

With the new regulations, which are first of its kind, SEBI has said that no person or entity would be allowed to act as research analyst or research entity without obtaining a certificate of registration from it under these regulations.

Under the new regulations, every individual or entity who wants to work as research analyst would need to get registered with SEBI after meeting the prescribed criteria regarding qualifications, capital adequacy, establishment of internal policies and procedures, firewalls against conflict of interest, sufficient and timely disclosures, among others. Accordingly, all the persons seeking registration as Research Analyst have to file their application with SEBI.. However, registered Investment Advisers, Credit Rating Agencies, Portfolio Managers, Asset Management Companies, fund managers of Alternative Investment Funds or Venture Capital Funds need not be registered under these regulations.

National

1. Manmohan Singh received the Grand Cordon of the Order of Paulownia Flowers

Former Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh on 3rd November 2014 received Japan's top national award -The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers 2014. He was awarded for his contribution to the enhancement of relations and promotion of friendship between Japan and India for past 35 years. Manmohan Singh became the first Indian to receive this rare honor. He is among other 57 foreign recipients who are also named for the Order of the Paulownia Flowers 2014.



About the award the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers

- In 1888, Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers was established as the highest award under the Orders of the Rising Sun.
- The medal features rays of sunlight radiating from the rising sun wreathed by Paulownia flowers. It is worn on the left chest.
- It is a high level National Order and a rare honor awarded to those who are recognized for their distinguished contribution.

2. PM Narendra Modi adopted Jayapur village in Varanasi under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5th November 2014 adopted Jayapur village in Varanasi under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY). Varanasi is the Lok Sabha constituency of PM Narendra Modi. Jayapur village is located 32 km from Varanasi city centre in the Rohaniya assembly segment. The village has a population of 4000. Of them, 2700 are voters.



The Rashtriya SwayamSevak Sangh (RSS) under its ideal village scheme already adopted the village in 2002. Sangh has focused on planting trees and promoting animal husbandry. Under the SAGY project, each MP is supposed to adopt a village and develop it as a model village.

3. Darjeeling Zoo received The Earth Heroes Award 2014

The Darjeeling Zoo or the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park was selected for the prestigious International Award ‘The Earth Heroes Award 2014’. It has become the first zoo in India to be receiving this award. It competed with 300 zoos across the world. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park is largest high altitude zoo of India. It is located in West Bengal.



The Royal Bank of Scotland in collaboration with the Government of United Kingdom annually awards the Earth Heroes award. Darjeeling Zoo was established in 1958 and has played a key and proactive role in promoting the conservation and preservation of Himalayan fauna and flora. Darjeeling Zoo is one of the very few places on earth that has successfully bred some of the rare animals in the world including the majestic Snow Leopards, the Tibetan Wolf and the cute Red Pandas.

Darjeeling Zoo ranks as one of the foremost centres for conservation of endangered animals not only in India, but also across the world. The zoological park falls under the category of small zoos according to Central Zoo Authority's classification but is the largest high altitude zoo in the country.

4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expanded Council of Ministers with 21 new faces

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9th November 2014 expanded his Council of Ministers and added 21 more ministers to his government. This is the first expansion of cabinet for the Modi led government since it came into power on 26 May 2014. The 21 new ministers include four Cabinet Ministers, three Minister of State (Independent Charge) and 14 Minister of State.



With this expansion, the total number of ministers under different ranks including the Prime Minister has gone up from previous 45 to 66. The expanded council of ministers was from two parties, 20 from BJP and one YS Chowdary was from TDP, Andhra Pradesh.

The President Mr. Pranab Mukherjee administered the oath of office and secrecy to the above twenty-one members of the Council of Ministers at a swearing-in ceremony held in the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Cabinet Ministers

Name	Party	Allocated Cabinet
Manohar Parrikar	(Goa, BJP)	Defence Ministry
Suresh Prabhu	(Maharashtra, Shiv Sena) now inducted in BJP	Railways Ministry
Jagat Prakash Nadda	(Himachal Pradesh, BJP)	Health & Family Welfare Ministry
Chaudhary Birender Singh	(Haryana, BJP)	Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministry

Bandaru Dattatreya, Rajiv Pratap Rudy and Dr Mahesh Sharma took oath as Minister of State with independent charge. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Giriraj Kishore, Babul Supriyo, Jayant Sinha, YS Chowdhry, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Mohanbai Kundaria, Ram Kripal Yadav, Sawar Lal Jat, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Vijay Sampla, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, Ram Shankar Katheriya and Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhury were sworn in as Minister of State.

5. Gujarat Governor signed Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Bill 2009 for compulsory voting

Governor of Gujarat OP Kohli in first week of November 2014 signed the Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Bill 2009 and gave his sanction for its implementation. According to the bill, voters will have to compulsorily vote in local body elections. The bill also provides 50 percent reservation for women in all local body's elections. With passage of this bill, Gujarat became the first state of the country to make compulsorily voting in local body elections.

The legislative assembly passed the bill twice in 2009 and 2011 when Narendra Modi was Chief Minister of the state.

Provisions of the Bill say that any person who fails to vote during the local body elections is liable for punishment and will be penalized. However the nature of penalty that would be taken against defaulters has not been disclosed.



Earlier, the bill was withheld by the then Governor Dr. Kamla Beniwal who said that the provision of compulsory voting is violation of Article 21 of the Constitution and forcing voter to vote is against the principles of an individual liberty. Later the Bill was cleared by the House in December 2009 and was returned for reconsideration in April 2010. It was again passed in March 2011, but didn't succeed in getting approval from Kamla Beniwal.

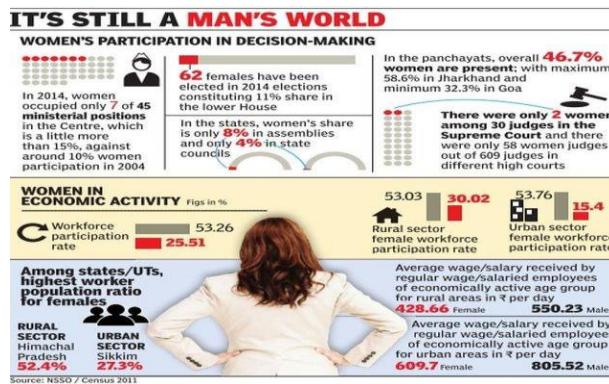
6. Central Statistical Office released the Women & Men in India 2014 Report

The Central Statistical Office on 2nd November 2014 released the Women & Men in India 2014 Report.

Population and related statistics

- As per Census 2011, the population of India is more than 121 Crore with 48.5 percent females, which states the fact that there are 949 female to 1000 males in rural India against 929 in urban India.
- The State of Kerala, Puduchery, Manipur, Goa and Chhattisgarh have more females than males whereas Daman & Diu and Chandigarh are home to less than 80 females to 100 males.

- The Sex Ratio is least for the Girl Child (0-19 Years) but 103 females per 100 males in the age group of 60+ indicates a threat of less economic activity by a sizable population.
- The economically active age group (15-59) has 94 females to 100 males. Sex ratio at birth is 908 in 2012, which has marginally decreased as compared to the last year.
- The mean age at marriage for females stood at 21.2 years in 2012 with urban mean age at 22.4 and rural mean age at 20.8.
- As per National Sample Survey 68th Round (2011-12), 1.5 percent of total households in rural and 12.4 percent in urban were female headed households as compared to 9.7 percent in rural and 10.6 percent in urban during 1993-94.



Literacy and Education

- As per 2011 census, literacy rate in India stands at 74.04 percent with a 14 percent increase to that of 2001, whereas the hike is maximum for rural women at 26 percent in the last decade. The female literacy levels according to the 2011 census are 65.46 percent whereas the male literacy rate is over 80 percent.
- Kerala is the state with highest literacy rate of 94 and Bihar with the lowest literacy rate at just 63.82.
- The adult literacy rate at the age of 15+ for male has increased from 73.4 to 78.8 whereas increase in adult literacy is more in case of females from 47.8 to 59.3 from 2001 to 2011. Overall adult literacy is increasing over decades.
- The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females at the primary level stood at 102.65 compared with 100.20 for males in 2013-14.

- There were 93 girls per 100 boys in primary classes, 95 in middle classes and 90 in secondary classes during 2013-14.
- The drop-out rates were observed to be 4.66 and 4.68 in the classes I-V, 4.01 and 2.3 in classes I- VI for females and males respectively.

7. Union Government relaunched Kisan Vikas Patra scheme to encourage small savings

The Union Government on 18th November 2014 relaunched Kisan Vikas Patra scheme (KVP) in New Delhi to encourage the habit of small savings among the citizens. The scheme will soon be made available through designated branches of nationalized banks across the country.

PROP FOR SMALL SAVINGS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certificates available in denominations of Rs 1000, 5000, 10,000 and 50,000 ● Investment to double in 100 months (8 years 4 months) ● No upper ceiling on investment ● Initial lock-in of 2 years and 6 months ● Investors can encash after initial lock-in and thereafter in any block of 6 months on pre-determined maturity value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certificates can be issued in single or joint names with nomination facility ● Can be transferred from person to person and from one post office to another ● Certificate can be pledged as security to get bank loans ● Initially to be sold through post offices. Later also through designated branches of nationalised banks 

Highlights of the Kisan Vikas Patra scheme (KVP):

- The scheme will provide facility of unlimited investment by way of purchase of certificate from post office in various denominations.
- The KVP will be available to the investors in the denomination of 1000, 5000, 10000 and 50000 rupees with no upper ceiling on investment.
- The certificates can also be issued in single or joint names and can be transferred from one person to any other person. The investment made in the certificate will double in 100 months.

- The facility of transfer from one post office to another anywhere in India and of nomination will also be available under the scheme.
- Kisan Vikas Patra scheme has unique liquidity feature, where an investor can encash his certificates after the lock-in period of 2 years and 6 months and thereafter in any block of six months on pre-determined maturity value.
- With a maturity period of 8 years 4 months, the collections under the scheme will be available with the Union Government for a fairly long period to be utilized in financing developmental plans of the Centre and State Governments.

8. Union Government launched the nationwide Bal Swachhta Mission

The Union Government on 14th November 2014 launched the National Bal Swachhta Mission in New Delhi. 14th November is the birthday of first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru and is celebrated as Children's Day in India.

On the occasion, Union Minister of Women and Child Development Maneka Sanjay Gandhi also released a book on Bal Swachhta Mission prepared by NIPCCD. Apart from this, Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Smriti Irani, who launched the Bal Swachhta Mission at the National Bal Bhavan and also **Udaan programme for girls**.



About Bal Swachhta Mission

The Bal Swachhta Mission is a part of the nationwide sanitation initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission that was launched by the Prime Minister on 2 October 2014. The nationwide Bal Swachhta Mission will have the following six themes:

- Clean Anganwadis
- Clean Surroundings like Playgrounds
- Clean Self (Personal Hygiene/Child Health)
- Clean Food
- Clean Drinking Water
- Clean Toilets

Apart from this, Bal Swachhta Week was observed from 14 November to 19 November 2014.

Udaan programme for girls

The Udaan programme for girls is designed to provide a comprehensive platform to girl students to pursue higher education in engineering and assist them in preparing for the IIT-JEE while studying in Classes XI and XII. There is no financial burden as the entire programme is free for the beneficiaries.

For the purpose, 946 girl students from across the country have been selected to be part of the programme, of which 117 are from the north-eastern states. Maximum of these girls come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The yearly income of the parents of 305 of them is less than 1 lakh rupees.

9. SC disclosed names involved in IPL spot fixing probe done by Mudgal Committee

Supreme Court (SC) on 14 November 2014 disclosed the names of persons involved in the Indian Premier League (IPL) spot-fixing probe done by Mudgal Committee. The SC disclosed the names of seven persons. These names include BCCI incumbent president N

Srinivasan, Gurunath Meiyappan, Rajasthan Royals team co-owner Raj Kundra, Chief Operating Officer of IPL Sundar Raman and cricketers Samuel Badree, Owais Shah and Stuart Binny.



The SC from carrying out his duties as the BCCI president already has barred Srinivasan, but he continued to be chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC). The Supreme Court on 16 May 2014 had given a task to Mudgal committee to conduct a probe against ICC Chairman Srinivasan and 12 players. Mudgal committee on 29 August 2014 filed its interim report in a sealed cover before the Supreme Court on allegations of spot-fixing and betting in the 2013 edition of the IPL.

10. Farhan Akhtar appointed as UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia

Bollywood Actor Farhan Akhtar was appointed as UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia. Farhan is the first male ever to be chosen as a Goodwill Ambassador in the organization's history.

Farhan will dedicate his efforts as UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia towards the empowerment of women and girls and will serve as an advocate for UN Women's newly launched "He For She" initiative in advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment.



UN Women's other Goodwill Ambassadors include British actress Emma Watson, Academy Award winner Nicole Kidman and HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand.

About UN Women

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to accelerate progress on meeting women needs worldwide.

The main roles of UN Women are

- To support inter-governmental bodies in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms.
- To help Member States to implement these standards and to forge effective partnerships with civil society.
- To hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

International

1. Ferguson protests target Black Friday shoppers



Demonstrators sought to catch the attention of shoppers looking for good deals today, going to major retailers around the St. Louis area to speak out about a grand jury's decision not to indict the white police officer who fatally shot Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old.

Other protests were planned at shopping centers around the nation, though attendance was seemingly sparse aside from in Chicago, where about 200 people gathered near the city's Magnificent Mile shopping district. Early Friday in the St. Louis suburb of Manchester, about two dozen people chanted "no justice, no peace, no racist police" and "no more Black Friday" after police moved them out of a Wal-Mart.

2. Ebola crises boosts business for US Company



The Ebola scare has subsided in the United States, at least temporarily, but an Alabama manufacturer is still trying to catch up with a glut of orders for gear to protect against the disease. Located in north Alabama, the family-owned Kappler Inc. typically gets only a few orders annually for the type of suit needed by health workers who are in contact with Ebola patients.

Quickly, orders were flooding in for thousands of the company's Provent 10,000 coverall. Other U.S. manufacturers also have reported seeing spikes in orders for protective gear, including surgical face mask manufacturer Kimberly-Clark. In China, Weifang Lakeland Safety Products has said it is doubling capacity to meet the demand for coveralls.

Kappler is the only company making protective suit entirely in the United States, Sanders said. Its product works because of a special method for sealing seams and APTRA, a plastic film that protects against blood and body fluids that could carry the Ebola virus, he said.

3. High toll feared after bomb blast hits mosque in Nigeria city

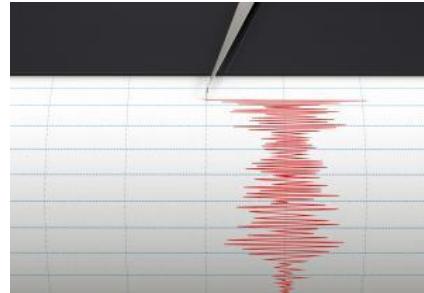


An explosion has torn through the central mosque in Nigeria's second-largest city and officials feared the casualty toll will be high. The blast occurred at the main mosque in the city of Kano where hundreds had gathered to listen to a sermon in a region terrorized by attacks from the militant group Boko Haram. Witnesses say heavy smoke could be seen billowing in the sky from a long distance away. Immediately after the blasts, hundreds of angry youths took to the streets in riots, throwing stones, brandishing sticks and shouting at security officials.

The palace of the Emir of Kano is near the central mosque but palace officials said the Emir, one of the highest ranking Islamic figures in Nigeria, is currently out of the country. The militant group Boko Haram has carried out numerous such attacks in northern Nigeria and Kano has been repeatedly hit. In September, two suicide bombers killed at least 15 students at a government college. In July, five suicide bombings were carried out over the course of a week. More than 1,500 have been killed this year in the insurgency.

Meanwhile, a police anti-bomb squad defused six bombs planted near a mosque and a market in Maiduguri, according to Borno state Police spokesman Gideon Jubrin.

4. No tsunami after strong quake rocks Indonesia



An earthquake has shaken Indonesia in an area where there has been a series of recent shocks. The 6.8-magnitude quake struck at a depth of 41 kilometres under the Molucca Sea, 161 kilometres northwest of Kota Ternate, in the Maluku Islands, the United States Geological Survey said. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue a tsunami warning and there were no immediate reports of damage.

Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where continental plates collide, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

5. Tiger set free by Vladimir Putin prime suspect in goat-killing spree



A Siberian tiger released into the wild by Russian President Vladimir Putin is the main suspect in a series of goat deaths in China's northeast, Chinese media report. Siberian tiger experts say Ustin, one of three tigers freed by Putin, is the prime suspect in the killing two goats, the official Xinhua news agency said. Three goats are still missing. Xinhua quotes a witness as saying the dead goats' skulls had been crushed, and had teeth mark holes "the size of a human finger". Ustin crossed into China in October with another tiger Putin had set free. Both carry tracking devices.

6. Tony Abbott against gay marriage because it will 'cause Government problems'



A key Senate crossbencher says Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott counseled him against introducing a same-sex marriage bill because it could cause more trouble for the government. "His argument was that the government's got enough troubles without this one coming along," Liberal Democrat Leyonhjelm told reporters.

Mr Abbott had made plain his opposition to legalizing gay marriage during a recent meeting with the senator about his private bill due to be introduced to parliament today. The prime minister's

preference was for the bill to be abandoned, rather than allow it to proceed once coalition MPs were allowed a conscience vote, Senator Leyonhjelm said.

Mr Abbott conceded no ground on allowing a conscience vote during the meeting. But Senator Leyonhjelm thinks there's enough support inside the coalition for one to occur.

7. Hunger Games 'inspiring animal cruelty' in Queensland



Films and TV shows like Hunger Games and the Walking Dead have inspired reckless wannabe hunters to use bows and arrows to maim animals, many of which die in agony over several days. The RSPCA in Australia says there has been a rise in the number of animals shot with arrows across Queensland over the past year.

The most recent incident - a pelican spotted with an arrow in its side at Lake Tinaroo, inland from Cairns - was reported to police on Tuesday morning. Spokesman Michael Beatty suspects popular TV shows and films that have hunting themes such as Hunger Games, the Walking Dead and Game of Thrones may have inspired amateurs to take up the sport.

At least 10 animals, including possums, magpies, wallabies, a kangaroo and even a horse, have been killed or maimed in Queensland in this way over the past year. Most cases have been in the southeast and there is generally a spike over the school holidays.

8. Australian cricketer Phil Hughes dies after 'freak accident'



The 25-year old, who had been hoping to regain his place in the team for next week's Test match against India, passed away on Thursday after failing to recover from an induced coma at a hospital in Sydney. The South Australia batsman, who would have turned 26 on Sunday, was fatally injured when hit by a "bouncer," a short ball that bounces up towards the batsman's torso, near his left ear, the ball somehow evading the cricketer's helmet as he swiveled to play a shot.

Australian team doctor Peter Brukner told a press conference Thursday that Hughes suffered a "massive bleed into his brain" during the game on Tuesday afternoon. He said the ball hit the side of his neck and, "as a result of that blow, his vertebral artery was compressed by the ball. That caused the artery to split and for bleeding to go up into the brain. And he had a massive bleed into his brain. This is frequently fatal at the time."

But he said doctors on the scene, including a specialist who had been in the crowd, managed to resuscitate him. He was later taken to hospital where they made "an intervention" to release pressure on his brain. He was then put in an induced coma but failed to recover. His death has triggered an outpouring of emotion in Australia and among cricket enthusiasts the world over.

A statement from the office of Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott read: "Phillip Hughes was a young man living out his dreams. "His death is a very sad day for cricket and a heartbreakng day for his family. What happened has touched millions of Australians.

9. US Appeals WTO Ruling against National Meat Labels



The United States is appealing a World Trade Organization decision that would make it harder for U.S. consumers to know where meat in the grocery store came from. The WTO in October rejected U.S. rules requiring labels on packaged steaks, ribs and other cuts of meat identifying where the animals were born, raised and slaughtered. The WTO said the "country of origin labeling" requirements put Canadian and Mexican livestock at a disadvantage.

U.S. farmers who compete with Mexican and Canadian ranchers welcomed the appeal. National Farmers Union President Roger Johnson called it "the right thing to do for American family farmers, ranchers and consumers." But meatpackers oppose the labeling requirements, saying they impose costly paperwork. Originally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture allowed the labels to say simply "Product of U.S." or "Product of U.S. and Canada." The WTO rejected that approach in 2012. So USDA made the labels more specific in an attempt to win WTO approval.

10. OPEC Holds Production Unchanged, Prices Fall



The oil cartel OPEC decided on Thursday not to cut petroleum production, despite the plunge in prices in recent months that has indicated the diminishing clout of the organization.

On news of the decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, the price of Brent crude oil, a global benchmark, fell an additional \$4 to a four-year low of about \$73. American crude dropped below \$70, an even more significant threshold.

A more than 30 percent decline in prices in recent months has shaken the 12-member group. For three years, OPEC had little trouble keeping prices in the \$100-a-barrel range that many of its members consider satisfactory.

But markets have spun out of OPEC's control of late. Prices have come under pressure as global output of crude oil outstripped demand this year. Analysts forecast excess supplies of crude to continue to build in 2015.

Science & Technology

1. Scientists developed a new drug Staphefekt to replace antibiotics

Scientists for the first time developed antibiotic-free drug named Staphefekt as an alternative to antibiotics. This new drug will aid in the fight against the antibiotics-resistant superbugs such as MRSA (Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*). The drug was proven to eliminate MRSA in five out of six patients with skin infections.

About Staphefekt

Staphefekt is based on a naturally occurring enzyme called endolysins produced by viruses. Unlike antibiotics, it does not destroy the harmless bacteria that live in the body. Endolysins (enzymes) exist in nature but the scientist made a modified version that combines the bit that is best at binding the bacteria with another bit so that it is best at killing it. Conventional antibiotics need to reach the inside of the cell to work, and certain strains of bacteria such as MRSA, have evolved impenetrable membranes so that it becomes less effective. Besides, Endolysins is less prone to resistance induction than antibiotics and it will destroy only their target bacterial species.

Staphefekt is already used as a cream to treat skin infections and researchers hope to create pill and injectable forms in future. Healthcare experts are looking for an alternative for antibiotics because 5000 deaths in a year are linked to drug resistance diseases.

2. Suzlon Energy installed world's tallest hybrid wind generator turbine in Kutch



The largest wind turbine manufacturer Suzlon Energy on 6 November 2014 installed the world's tallest hybrid wind generator turbine in Kutch, Gujarat. The turbine will generate 12-15 percent more energy. The 120-metre hybrid turbine is taller than conventional wind turbine towers by 40 meters.

With this new turbine, the installed wind energy capacity at the Kutch region of Gujarat has gone up to 1100 MW. It makes it the Asia's biggest wind energy park at one location. This tower is ideal for low wind areas and the potential is huge. In the next three years, this region will have 2000 MW of wind energy capacity. In 2008, Suzlon Energy had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Gujarat Government to set up 2000 MW of wind energy capacity in the state.

Suzlon Energy

Established in 1995, Suzlon is a leading wind power, products and services company with a global footprint. Suzlon is credited with developing one of the world's largest wind farms in Gujarat and Rajasthan. The company has presence across six continents: North and South America, Asia, Australia, Europe, and Africa. The Suzlon Group has built its presence in over 31 countries and has achieved a milestone by crossing over 25000 MW of wind power installations globally.

3. Scientists at II-B developed hollow –fiber membrane to cut dialysis cost and time

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) on 20 November 2014 have developed a hollow-fiber membrane that cuts the cost and time required in dialysis procedure by almost 50 per cent. The research was conducted under the leadership of Jayesh Bellare at the Chemical Engineering Department of (IIT-B). The product has completed laboratory tests and awaits pre-clinical trials.

The researchers are expecting that their product will be available in market in the next three years. The newly discovered membrane is a key component of the filter and removes impurities from the blood during the dialysis process. The hollow-fiber membrane provides faster, efficient dialysis with less side affects at low cost. Each dialysis session lasts two-three hours and a patient requires the treatment two-three times in a week. The process of dialysis involves artificially removing excess water and waste from blood in a patient.

Experts say that filter developed in India will indeed help decrease the cost and more people will be able to afford it. Scientists claimed that they have formulated a special material, which improves performance and permitting faster treatment. They also claimed that the membrane shows superior biocompatibility .The treatment according to a study conducted by AIIMS, is costlier and thus around 90 per cent kidney related patients in India die within months because of lack of proper treatment. Annually two lakh people in India develop advanced kidney failure. A recent study stated that the number of Indians with diabetes is predicted to reach 101 million by 2030.

4. First 3-D printed object developed in space by NASA and Made In Space Inc.



The first 3D-printed object was on 25 November 2014 developed in space by world's first zero gravity 3D printer which was created by NASA and Made In Space Inc on the International Space Station (ISS). The printer was delivered to the space station in September 2014 via a Space X Dragon capsule.

NASA astronaut Barry Butch Wilmore, Expedition 42 commander installed the printer on 17 November 2014 at the International Space Station and conducted the first calibration test print. Based on the test print results, the ground control team sent commands to realign the printer and printed a second calibration test on 20 November 2014.

These tests verified that the printer was ready for manufacturing operations. Made In Space engineers commanded the printer to make the first object while working with controllers at NASA's Payload Operations Integration Centre in Huntsville. The first object 3-D printed in space is the print head faceplate that is engraved with names of the organizations that collaborated on this space station technology demonstration: NASA and Made In Space Inc. As the first objects are printed, NASA and Made In Space engineers are monitoring the manufacturing via downlinked images and videos. The majority of the printing process is controlled from the ground to limit crew time required for operations. The first objects built in space will be returned to Earth in 2015 for detailed analysis and comparison to identical ground control samples made on the flight printer. The goal of this analysis is to verify that the 3-D printing process works the same in microgravity as it does on Earth.

Zero Gravity 3D printer

The 3D printer was developed under a contract with the firm Made In Space Inc based in California. The purpose of the 3D printer is to experiment with the possibility of manufacturing crucial replacement parts on the station foregoing the expense of shipping them via rocket. The 3-D printing in Zero-Gravity Technology Demonstration on the space station aims to show that additive manufacturing can make a variety of 3-D printed parts and tools in space.

The 3-D printer uses a process formally known as additive manufacturing to heat a relatively low-temperature plastic filament and extrude it one layer at a time to build the part defined in the design file sent to the machine.

5. Potential Drug Target for Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes mellitus discovered

A team of scientists led by Satish Kumar, Chief Scientist and Group Leader at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) discovered a potential drug target for the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes mellitus. The findings were published in the journal Diabetologia on 23 November 2014. The team of scientist's genetically deleted Wdr13 gene in a mouse afflicted severely with Type 2 diabetes and demonstrated that the absence of the gene corrects the pathology of the disease. It was found that the destruction of beta cells in severely diabetic model would be corrected with removal of the gene.

The deletion of the gene not only increased insulin production, but also showed better glucose clearance and reduced inflammation and triglycerides. The significant reduction was noticed in the expression of genes involved in inflammation of pancreas, liver and adipose tissue. In a previous study, the team had created a mutant mouse strain lacking Wdr13 gene and showed that the mutant mice had increased islet mass due to beta cells proliferation leading to enhance insulin production. This study provides evidence that loss of WDR13 protein in the mouse model of diabetes is beneficial. Based on these findings, WDR13 may be a potential drug target for ameliorating hyperglycemia and inflammation in diabetic conditions.

Type 2 Diabetes mellitus

Type 2 Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disorder that is characterized by hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) in the context of insulin resistance and relative lack of insulin. The classic symptoms are excess thirst, frequent urination, and constant hunger. Type 2 diabetes makes up about 90 percent of cases of diabetes. Obesity is thought to be the primary cause of type 2 diabetes in people who are genetically predisposed to the disease.

With diabetes emerging as a global epidemic and around 350 million suffering from the condition, the WHO has projected that deaths due to diabetes would double by 2030 and it would be the seventh leading cause of death by then.

6. Stanford university engineers discovered multilayered material for cooling surfaces

The engineers of Stanford University discovered an ultrathin multilayered material, which can reflect sunlight from buildings and thereby can lower the temperature of the building. The findings were published in the Journal Nature on 26 November 2014.

Integrated Photonic Solar Reflector and Thermal Emitter

Stanford University engineers experimentally demonstrated the radioactive cooling to nearly 5 degrees Celsius below the ambient air temperature under direct sunlight. Using a thermal photonic approach, they introduced a material named integrated photonic solar reflector and thermal emitter. The material consists of seven layers of hafnium oxide and silicon dioxide.

At a thickness of about 1.8 microns, the material is thinner than an aluminum foil. It is designed to reflect both infrared light and visible sunlight. The material reflects 97 percent of incident sunlight at the frequency, which is not absorbed by atmospheric gases. This is known as the atmospheric window. When exposed to direct sunlight exceeding 850 watts per square metre on

a rooftop, the photonic radioactive cooler cools to 4.9 degrees Celsius below ambient air temperature and has a cooling power of 40.1 watts per square metre at ambient air temperature.

Need of this ultrathin multilayered material

Cooling is a significant end-use of energy globally and a major driver of peak electricity demand. Air conditioning accounts for nearly fifteen percent of the primary energy used by buildings in the United States. A passive cooling strategy that cools without any electricity input could have a significant impact on global energy consumption. To achieve cooling one needs to be able to reach and maintain a temperature below that of the ambient air.

At night, passive cooling below ambient air temperature has been demonstrated using a technique known as radioactive cooling in which a device exposed to the sky is used to radiate heat to outer space through a transparency window in the atmosphere between 8 and 13 micrometers. Peak cooling demand, however, occurs during the daytime. Daytime radioactive cooling to a temperature below ambient of a surface under direct sunlight has not been achieved because sky access during the day results in heating of the radioactive cooler by the Sun.

Conclusion of the study

- These results demonstrate that a tailored, photonic approach can fundamentally enable new technological possibilities for energy efficiency.
- Further, the cold darkness of the Universe can be used as a renewable thermodynamic resource even during the hottest hours of the day.
- The entire goal of the discovery is to harness the effect on the surface specifically during the day and not to cool the atmosphere itself in anyway.

7. Scientists at Katholieke university found new method to turn sawdust into petrol

Scientists at Katholieke University in Belgium have found new method to convert sawdust into building blocks for petrol. The research was published in the September 2014 issue of journal

Energy & Environmental Science. The new method to derive these hydrocarbon chains from cellulose was developed by researcher Beau Op de Beeck.

The process used

Cellulose is the main substance in plant matter and is present in all non-edible plant parts of wood, straw, grass, cotton and old paper. With the right temperature and pressure, it takes about half a day to convert the cellulose in the wood shavings into saturated hydrocarbon chains, or alkanes. These hydrocarbons can be used as an additive in gasoline, or as a component in plastics. In order to turn sawdust into hydrocarbon chains or high liquid alkane yields, scientists used a new chemical process to convert the cellulose.

Firstly, they converted cellulose to glucose and then to HMF by gradually heating the reactor. Secondly, they adopted a proper hydrothermal modification of commercial Ru/C to tune its chemo selectivity to furan hydrogenation rather than glucose hydrogenation. Finally, they used a biphasic reaction system with optimal partitioning of the intermediates and catalytic reactions.

The result is an intermediary product that requires one last simple step to become fully distilled gasoline. The green hydrocarbon can also be used in the production of ethylene, propylene and benzene - the building blocks for plastic, rubber, insulation foam, nylon, coatings and so forth.

8. CERN scientists discovered two subatomic particles belonging to the family of baryon

CERN scientists on 19 November 2014 discovered two new heavyweight subatomic particles belonging to the family of baryon. The sub-atomic particles were discovered at Large Hadron Collider (LHC) beneath the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva, Switzerland.

These two new particles belonging to baryon family are six times as massive as protons. These baryons are made up of three strongly bound elementary particles called quarks like protons. These quarks are some of the smallest units of matter. The two baryons are heavy weight due to their spins in opposite directions in which their quarks configure. Scientists deliberately crashed two

particles into each other in a 17-mile tunnel -Large Hadron Collider to see what they can discover about the makeup of the universe and its tiniest particles. They found these two sub atomic particles never seen before and these can widen the understanding of the universe.

The finding will help physicists narrow down the different ways that quarks can be arranged, which provides clues into understanding the forces that keep them and the most basic building blocks of matter held together.

9. Earth's most abundant mineral named as Bridgmainite

The most abundant mineral on earth was named as Bridgmanite by a team of American geologists. The findings were published in the Journal Science on 28 November 2014. The team of American geologists extracted a sample large enough to analyze the most abundant mineral that allowed them to name it as bridgmanite. The mineral is named in honor of Percy Bridgman, a physicist who won the 1946 Nobel Prize in Physics for his fundamental contributions to high-pressure physics. Percy Bridgman pioneered the use of high-pressure experiments to understand how many geological formations can come about. Up to now, the mineral was referred to as perovskite because according to rules set down by the International Mineralogical Association, a mineral cannot be given a formal name until a specimen has been found that can be examined first hand.

The study

The researchers looked at a meteorite that had fallen inside Australia in 1879 as a likely candidate for samples. They used a test that involved the use of a micro-focused X-ray beam in conjunction with electron microscopy. The researchers noted that the sample had more sodium and ferric acid than had been expected. Their discovery is expected to aid future geological research and could offer clues about what goes on when celestial bodies collide and potentially also about the formation of the universe.

10. Researchers identified that Brain has weak spot for Schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease

The team of British researchers led by Gwenaelle Douaud of Oxford University identified that brain has weak spot for schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease. The findings were published in Journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PANS) on 24 November 2014.

The Study

Researchers from the University of Oxford used Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans to observe brain structure in 484 healthy people between ages 8 and 85. The scans revealed a sort-of brain network within grey matter that is the last to develop and also the first to show signs of age-related decline.

This brain network of nerve cells or grey matter co-ordinate high order information coming from the different senses such as sight and sound. This complex region shows heightened vulnerability to unhealthy developmental and aging processes as shown by schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease even though these two diseases have different origins and appear at very different times of life.

When the team compared their study scans to those done on Alzheimer's and schizophrenia patients, they found significant similarities between the three. This would suggest certain areas of the brain play a role in the emergence of these diseases. This large-scale and detailed study provides an important link between development, aging, and disease processes in the brain.

Sports and Entertainment

1. Pankaj Advani is the World Champion in Billiards

Namma Bengaluru boy Pankaj Advani clinched the World Billiards title at Leeds, United Kingdom. He is a professional player of Billiards and Snooker. He is nicknamed as the “Prince of India” or “The Golden Boy”. He has been the World Champion 10 times. He has also represented India at the Asian games and won Gold medals in 2006 and 2010.

He was the youngest player to win the ISBF World Snooker championship at the age of 18 years. He has won many tournaments and accolades. Some of the awards and honors he has received are Padma Shri, Rahiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Rajyotsava award, Ekalavya award, Arjuna award and others.



It was truly a special win for Pankaj Advani since his Mother’s birthday was on the same day of the title tournament. He dedicated his win to his Mother. This is his 12th World title.

2. India wins the Cricket series against Sri Lanka

India won the Cricket series against Sri Lanka by winning all the 5 ODI's. It was a series whitewash in the limited over's format of Cricket. It was supposed to be West Indies playing against India, but they withdrew from the bilateral series and Sri Lanka came in place of them.

With the form that the Indian Cricket team was in, no team could have stood against them. Rohit Sharma was commendable in his blistering knock of 264 and created a World record. The Indian team was in every way better than the Sri Lankans and this really showed in their performance.



The Indian team would move onto the Australian tour after this series and hope we play well and win against Australia too. This series has helped the team to gain confidence and will hope to give their best in Australia. It will certainly help the team to understand the fast and bouncy pitches in Australia and act as a good practice tournament for the World Cup next year.

3. Djoko retains Numero Uno position

Novak Djokovic has retained his Number one position in International tennis by winning the Paris title. He became the first person to defend his title at the Paris Open by defeating Milos Raonic with 6 -2, 6-3 victory. Former World No.1 Boris Becker said that he would continue to coach Novak Djokovic and help him retain his No.1 position. The Serbian athlete has retained his place as the number one in the ATP rankings.



He has been practicing hard to retain the titles he has won last year and he has been quite successful in that aspect. He was competing with Tennis legend Roger Federer for the Number 1 position. He surpassed him by winning the China Open.

4. Archana Kamath wins Junior titles

North Bengal's Akash Nath and Karnataka's Archana Kamath developed champions in the sub-lesser area, while Rounak Majumdar and Swastika Ghosh appended titles in the cadet classification at the ONGC Cadet and Sub-Junior National Table Tennis Championships at the MC Chowhan Indoor Stadium.

What made Nath's lady win extraordinary was the way he battled from the verge to grab the crown from PSPB Academy's Manav Thakkar. Nath won 4-3 in one of the finest finals lately. Just as the lady title for Archana, who beat Maharashtra A's Shruti Amrute 4-0, was sweeter as she turned into the first young lady in 13 years to win the sub-lesser crown. The last win for a Karnataka young lady took on at Kozhikode in 1999.



Archana, kept her phenomenal energy that she picked from the prequarterfinals, where she removed No. 1 seed Moumita Dutta. Proceeding with her extraordinary structure, the Karnataka young lady made a wonderful rebound in the elimination rounds. Down 1-3, the Karnataka young lady caught rival Mansi Chhajed in her protective diversion. Archana was picking up in certainty, playing some surprising forehand victors, while the Maharashtra young lady was losing her balance. In the decider, Archana was heading 7-1 and from that point permitted Mansi

come closer. Several administration return blunders saw Archana losing grasp yet the young lady from the south close her rival out when Mansi sent the ball out.

5. Vishy- Carlsen at Sochi, Russia

Any World Championship match pulls in the incredible and the benefit of world chess, and there was a feeling of the players being sort of eclipsed. Anand said that "Some way or another I did a few lax moves and got shaky in the center, on the 34th move I got into a spot of trouble and the time was pressing as well".



On a lighter note about the opening function where a mystical performer bailed the players to draw out the pieces, Anand flippantly answered, "In 1998 chess Oscars the conjurer stole my watch, this time it was better." The World champion is Magnus Carlsen.

6. Lady Gaga

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta better known by her stage name Lady Gaga, is an American vocalist, lyricist, and on-screen character. She at first performed in theater, showing up in secondary school plays and learned at Cap21 through New York University's Tisch School of the Arts before dropping out to seek after a musical vocation. In the wake of leaving a rock band, taking an interest in the Lower East Side's cutting edge execution workmanship circuit, and being dropped from an agreement with Def Jam Recordings, Gaga filled in as an issue for

Sony/ATV Music Publishing. There, Akon recognized her vocal capacities and helped her sign a joint manage Interscope Records and his Konlive Distribution.



Lady Gaga wears a bright streaming dress while pushing a truck loaded with goods to her auto in the wake of halting by Vintage Grocers on November 29 in Malibu, Calif. The 28-year-old performer stacked her trunk up with the assistance of a more established man of honor. She got a cluster of things, including tin container and a yummy baguette. The day preceding, Gaga looked new confronted as she made an impression on her fans in an adorable Instagram feature with sweetheart Taylor Kinney.

7. Koyal Rana

Koyal Rana was delegated the champ of Femina Miss India on April 5, 2014. She is as of now doing her undergrad program in Bachelor of Business Studies from Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, University of Delhi.

The coordinators published the main three champs of the World Designer Fashion, yet the victors of Top Model and Beach Beauty challenge will be uncovered later. In the World Designer Fashion Competition, the challengers were judged on the premise of their dress. The competitors strolled the slope wearing dresses made by originators from their nations of origin, as indicated by the authority site of the Miss World.



India's Koyal Rana won the World Designer Fashion Award, emulated via Scotland's Ellie Mckeating at second spot and Dominican Republic's Dho Moreno Romero in the third position.

8. Interstellar

In Earth's future, a worldwide yield scourge and second Dust Bowl are gradually rendering the planet dreadful. Educator Brand (Michael Caine), a splendid NASA physicist, is chipping away at arrangements to spare humanity by transporting Earth's populace to another home through a wormhole. Yet to start with, Brand must send previous NASA pilot Cooper (Matthew McCaughey) and a group of scientists through the wormhole and over the world to discover which of three planets could be humankind's new home.

In Earth's future, a worldwide yield scourge and second Dust Bowl are gradually rendering the planet appalling.



Around four years back – before individuals began to voice questions about paying over the chances to create a disabling migraine while viewing a cloudy blockbuster play out through a scratched-up pair of sunglasses.

9. Ali Zafar's philanthropy

A devoted humanitarian, performing artist, Ali Zafar who has constantly taken to the online networking stage to voice his backing towards the reason for instructing and enabling ladies and kids was welcome to a philanthropy supper facilitated by Hollywood's fabulous Goldie Hawn a month ago. The school was granted the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IBPYP) status on October 20 in the not so distant future, making it the sixth general IB yard in the nation and the second one at essential level with 700 understudies.

At the event, the on-screen character imparted that the school gives quality training to underprivileged understudies at an exceptionally sponsored charge charging Rs1,000 every month, while different schools charged Rs35,000 to Rs5,0000 every month notwithstanding different expenses. "I am enchanted to augment my backing to this noble purpose by affirming grants for 50 understudies at higher optional level, which will assuredly empower them to get their secondary school certificate as well as will provide for them an opportunity to seek after a more profitable and subjectively better life," Ali said.



Reacting to an inquiry regarding his most recent film, Ali said, "Let this event be for these children and not me. I get the spotlight constantly, let the spotlight be on them and this reason. The purpose behind this is to motivate and persuade more individuals to offer once again to society."

10. Sitara Devi passes away



Famous Kathak danseuse Sitara Devi passed away in Mumbai. She was 94 and was on ventilator. A beneficiary of prestigious recompenses like Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Padma Shri and Kalidas Samman, she was conceived Dhannolakshmi in the group of Brahmin "kathakar" Sukhdev Maharaj in Kolkata in 1920. When she turned 11, the family moved to Mumbai, where she awed Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore with a three-hour solo presentation. Through the following six decades, she turned into a Kathak legend and Narendra Modi mourned the passing of Sitara Devi.

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