

Monthly Newsletter

1. TRADE NEWS

A) ENGINEERING EXPORTS TO CHINA, UAE PLUMMET

India's engineering shipments to key markets like Sri Lanka, UAE and China plummeted amid a 19% decline in the sector which slipped in terms of its contribution to the country's overall export basket. Engineering exports to Sri Lanka witnessed a degrowth of over 90%, falling to mere \$63 million in April 2016 from \$648 million in the same month last year, marked by a huge fall in exports of aircraft and spacecraft parts. Shipments to UAE fell by 46% to \$331 million from \$613 million in the face of the Middle East witnessing a major slump in investment in oil and infrastructure sectors.

B) INDIA'S COTTON EXPORTS DROP ON THIN SUPPLY

Cotton exports from India, the world's biggest producer, have nearly halted as local prices have rallied due to tight supplies because of drought, forcing key importers like Bangladesh, Pakistan and Vietnam to turn to other suppliers. The freeze in Indian export will prompt Brazil, Australia and United States to raise shipments and has pushed global prices to near their highest. The price rise could subsequently push up fabric and clothing prices and put pressure on the margins of garment makers. The landed cost of Indian cotton for buyers in Pakistan and Bangladesh is 76 cents per lb compared to around 73 cents for Brazilian cotton. Pakistan and Bangladesh prefer Indian cotton due to lower freight charges. India may produce about 34.1 million bales of cotton in the 2015/16 season, down from last year's output of 38.3 million. India has exported around 6.5 million bales of cotton so far during the 2015/16 season, with Bangladesh and Pakistan accounting for more than half of the total exports.

C) AFRICAN CASH CRISIS HITS INDIAN EXPORTERS

The fall in global commodity prices, especially oil, has hit India's exports to Africa as a currency crisis has shut out some of the market for products such as automobiles and auto components. It has also put exporters in a tight spot with some of them complaining of delayed payments. The uncertainty has prompted the government to begin discussions on an alternate payment mechanism to ensure that the dues of Indian exporters are protected. The ministry of external affairs is discussing the possibility of opening an escrow account with countries such as Nigeria, where the exporters will have the first charge on oil dues that are paid to the African country. The mechanism may be similar to the window like the rupee-ruble account of the 1980s or the recent mechanism with Iran, where payments were hit by sanctions imposed by the US. Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, is on the brink of a recession - oil production has dropped to the lowest in three decades, budget deficit has widened to a record and the economy contracted. Foreign currency reserves have dropped to \$26 billion, the lowest in more than a decade. Exporters are also

complaining of problems in other countries such as Angola, Ethiopia and Ghana. The payment problems which has resulted in some trade getting routed via Dubai, has also pushed up default risk premium. Africa accounts for around a third of India's vehicle exports, which includes two-wheelers, three-wheelers, cars, utility vehicles and trucks and buses. Exports of vehicles to Africa were estimated at around \$3 billion last year. The crisis comes at a time when India is trying to deepen its ties with Africa to reduce the influence of China, which has had a first-mover advantage.

D) 80% DRUGS TO COMBAT AIDS SUPPLIED BY INDIA

80% of the drugs used globally to combat the deadly AIDS are supplied by Indian pharmaceutical firms and the low-cost generic medicines have helped scale up access to HIV treatment across developing countries. Around a million people affected by AIDS are currently on antiretroviral therapy. The low cost generic medicines produced by the Indian pharmaceutical industry have been instrumental in scaling up access to HIV treatment not only in India but in other parts of the world.

E) LATIN AMERICA PIPS AFRICA TO BE INDIA'S LARGEST AUTO EXPORT MARKET

Latin America, has overtaken Africa to become the largest export market for vehicles shipped out of India. As much as 90% of Volkswagen's and 29% of Hyundai's exports out of India were to Latin America. Vehicle exports to Africa declined for the first time in a decade by 21.5% to \$2 billion last fiscal year. Falling crude oil and commodity prices helped rev up demand and improve profitability of auto companies in the domestic market. It has hit exports to African countries which are dependent on income from crude exports. Falling oil and commodity prices, which helped auto makers improve sales and profitability in the Indian market, are blamed for the distress in Africa, where commodity dependent economies such as Ethiopia, Angola, Algeria and Nigeria are hit badly by the price plunge. The fall in crude oil prices has hit the dollar revenue of many countries in Africa.

F) ONION EXPORTS CLIMB 33% TO RS 2,362 CR

India's onion exports went up 33% to Rs 2,362 crore in the first 11 months of 2015-16 on higher realization of sales. Onion exports stood at 9,80,566 tonnes during the 11 months of 2015-16 as against 9,70,442 tonne in the same period of the previous financial year. The exports increased to Rs 2,362 crore from Rs 1,771 crore. The average price realization worked out to Rs 28,215 per tonne in 2015-16 as against Rs 18,507 for the whole of 2014-15. The government has scrapped minimum export price to push exports. Also the increase in onion output has given an impetus to exports.

G) PANGAON GETS PREFERENCE

While the Indo-Bangla coastal shipping between Krishnapatnam Port and Chittagong Port started with a lot of applause and fanfare, the Bangladeshi traders prefer Pangaon terminal instead of Chittagong for carrying out coastal trade with India. The ideal and designated port for the coastal trade in Bangladesh is Pangaon terminal, not Chittagong and the traders are also looking forward to this terminal to start the coastal operation between Indian east coast ports. However coastal shipping from this terminal is yet to commence as the operators involved in the coastal trade are not getting a favourable response from the Main Line Operators (MLOs) in providing the boxes for the trade. Handling charges for a container at Pangaon terminal is \$12 and once the Finance Ministry in Bangladesh gives its nod, it would reduce to \$3 and with that the traders would be able to start using this terminal for their EXIM with Indian east coast ports. Pangaon is the preferred port for doing coastal trade with India as it has the minimum distance to the textiles hubs of Bangladesh and which is being fed mostly by the raw cotton from India. According to traders, it is just a distance of 50 kilometers via road from Pangaon to the textile hubs and it is almost 350 kilometers via road between Chittagong and the main textiles hubs here. On an average Bangladesh imports 6 million bales of raw cotton from India annually and almost 50% of it comes

via road, which is time taking, risky and costly. Apart from customs delays, other procedural delays and tariff, traders have to shell out a lot on non-tariff charges. But once the coastal trade starts all of this can be avoided.

H) JAGUAR LAND ROVER BEGINS OPERATIONS AT BRAZILIAN PLANT

Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover announced the opening of its 240 million pounds (around Rs 2,280 crore) manufacturing facility and education business partnership centre at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The new facility will build both Range Rover Evoque and Land Rover Discovery Sport for Brazilian customers. JLR's new factory at Itatiaia in Rio de Janeiro is the first wholly-owned overseas facility outside of Britain pursuant to its global expansion strategy. As of now, the company operates a Chinese joint venture factory set up in 2014. Land Rover is already Brazil's market leader for mid-sized premium SUVs, accounting for over 30% of sales in that segment.

I) TEA EXPORT TOPS 230 MILLION KG FOR FIRST TIME IN 35 YEARS

India exported 232.92 million kg of tea, valued at Rs 4,493.10 crore, in 2015-16, breaching the 230-million kg mark after 35 years. In quantity terms, the shipment was 17% higher than a year ago, while in value terms, it was an increase of Rs 669.46 crore, or 17.51%, according to data from the Tea Board. The increase was mainly on account of higher quantities bought by Russia, Iran, Germany, Pakistan, Bangladesh, UAE and Poland. In 2015-16, the country produced 1,233.14 million kg of tea—the highest so far. As compared with 2014-15, it was up by 35.96 million kg, or 3%. In 2015-16, the country produced 1,233.14 million kg of tea—the highest so far. As compared with 2014-15, it was up by 35.96 million kg, or 3%.

2. FDI

A) FDI EQUITY FLOW JUMPED TO \$60 BN BETWEEN JUNE '14 & JAN '16'

The country's FDI equity flow jumped to \$60.04 billion between June 2014 and January 2016, up 53% from \$39.19 billion during the preceding 20 months. Gross FDI inflows hit a record in excess of \$51 billion in 2015-16. Gross FDI inflows hit a record in excess of \$51 billion in 2015-16.

B) GOVERNMENT MULLS UP TO 49% PHARMA FDI WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL

Government is considering a proposal to relax FDI norms in existing pharmaceutical companies with a view to attracting more overseas inflows. FDI up to 49% should be allowed through the automatic route and anything beyond through approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), sources said. Currently, FDI up to 100% is permitted in new projects in the pharmaceutical sector, but in Brownfield ones -- the existing companies -- the foreign investment is permitted through FIPB approval. FDI in the sector is a contentious issue as concerns have been raised over some mergers and acquisitions of Indian pharma companies by foreign giants. In the wake of acquisition of companies such as Ranbaxy and Piramal, the government had stipulated that existing ventures will face scrutiny with a ban on "non-compete clause". The government feared that takeover will result in drying up of supplies of generic drugs and thrust on high cost patented medicines by overseas pharma companies. India is recognized as a major generic medicine hub of the world. The market size of the country's pharma industry is estimated at over \$20 billion.

C) FIPB CLEARS FDI PROPOSALS WORTH RS 710 CRORE

Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approved four FDI proposals entailing overseas investment of about Rs 710 crore. The proposals approved included Advanced Enzyme Technologies' foreign investment worth Rs 480 crore. The Board also cleared proposals of Corona Remedies, Macmillan Publishers International and Ordain Health Care Global. Three proposals, which were rejected, included that of Flag Telecom Singapore Pte Ltd and Star Den Media Services Pvt Ltd. Also, eight proposals, including that of IBM India Ltd, were deferred. FDI in most sectors

are allowed through an automatic route but in certain sectors proposals have to go through the FIPB.

D) GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES 100% FDI IN DEFENCE, CIVIL AVIATION

The government announced fresh liberalization of FDI rules throwing open food retail, airlines and private security firms to higher overseas investment. Other sectors in which FDI norms have been relaxed include e-commerce in food products, broadcasting carriage services, private security agencies and animal husbandry. It also tweaked rules to allow companies such as Apple to open their own stores in the country by exempting them from local sourcing requirements for three years under the single brand retail segment for entities with cutting edge technology. Now most of the sectors would be under automatic approval route, except a small negative list. With these changes, India is now the most open economy in the world for FDI. Changes in FDI: * Upto 100% FDI in defence sector * Upto 74% FDI in brown field pharmaceuticals under automatic route * 100% FDI in brown field airport projects under automatic route * 100% FDI in civil aviation * FDI upto 49% in civil aviation under automatic route, beyond 49% through govt approval * Local sourcing norms for FDI in single brand retail for products having "state of art" and "cutting edge" technologies * 100% FDI under automatic route for cable networks, DTH and mobile TV.

3. ECONOMY

A) INDIA'S GROWTH TO RISE TO 8% IN FY2019

India's economic growth rate will slowly accelerate to 8% by fiscal year ending March 2019, driven by the gradual implementation of structural reforms, higher disposable income and improvement in economic activity, according to global rating agency Fitch. Fitch expects India's GDP to grow 7.5% in fiscal year ending March 2016 and improve to 7.7% in the current fiscal year and further to 7.9% in the fiscal year ending March 2018. The agency sharply cut its forecast for US private investment growth and forecasted that the US economy will grow at 1.8% in 2016, the first sub-2% growth since 2013. Growth expectations for China have been revised up to 6.3% in 2016 and 2017, from 6.2% and 6% previously. India remains the fastest growing country across the world with GDP in 2016 estimated to grow at 7.55% year on year compared to global GDP which is likely to grow at 2.5% .

4. PAN INDIA

A) INDIA AMONG TOP 5 DESTINATIONS FOR INNOVATION CENTRE

India is becoming a new innovation destination of choice, doubling the number of innovation centers since July 2015 and seeing brands such as Apple, Airbus and Visa locate there. The top 10 locations for innovation centers - with Silicon Valley, London and Paris holding on to the top three slots, Bengaluru entering for the first time straight in at number five.

B) INDIA AMONG TOP 5 IN 2015 IN GREEN ENERGY SPENDING

India was among the top five countries in 2015 in terms of investment in renewable energy, solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar water heating capacity, wind and hydropower capacity. India was fifth in terms of investment in renewable power and fuels in 2015 after China, US, Japan and Britain. In wind power capacity addition too, India was fifth in 2015, behind China, US, Germany and Brazil. Investment in renewables in 2015 reached \$286 billion worldwide.

C) INDIA CLIMBS TO 41ST SLOT ON COMPETITIVENESS RANKING

India has moved up three spots from last year to 41 on the IMD World Competitiveness Scoreboard, 2016. The country's ranking had fallen to 44 in 2015, from 35 in 2012. Hong Kong replaced the US as the world's most competitive economy. Switzerland, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Canada have got slots in the top 10. India's

improvement is in sharp contrast to the sagging fortunes of other Asian countries. According to the report, Asia's competitiveness declined since last year's ranking with Taiwan, Malaysia, Korea Republic, Indonesia and China falling from their 2015 positions.

D) BOON FOR BENGALURU

A bi-weekly container train from ICD Whitefield, Bengaluru, to Krishnapatnam port, Andhra Pradesh, has been launched by the Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR). This is expected to significantly reduce the transit time of export commodities. The newly launched service will radically reduce the transportation time to a mere 48 hours for both import and export transits post discharge of the vessel. This will immensely benefit the heavy cargoes which otherwise face regulatory issues due to the weight restrictions via road transport. In addition to reliability and time efficiency, this is also expected to help the customers to save on each container and also eliminate the chances of pilferage which has been a major issue in case of road transits. Unlike the road transport which involves multiple examinations even after taking prior Customs clearance of the containers, the train can directly enter the Port without any further examination which makes it the fastest transit from Bangalore to any gateway Port. The last mile train connectivity at Krishnapatnam is also congestion free and dedicated only for container trains which acts as an added advantage.

E) SHRIMP FARMING IS BIG CATCH FOR SEAFOOD EXPORTERS

Higher global prices for smaller-sized shrimps may lead to better production of aquaculture shrimps, which are the mainstay of the Rs 33,000-crore Indian seafood exports, this year. Farmed shrimps now account for around 70% of marine products export from the country. Though the stocking was slightly delayed by prolonged hot weather, harvest has started in farms, mostly in Andhra and Tamil Nadu. Unlike last year, prices for smaller size shrimps have gone up prompting farmers to harvest early. Instead of waiting for 140 or 150 days, they can harvest in 90 days, which helps in better survival rate as mortality rate could be higher if the shrimp grows bigger. Prices for smaller sizes of 60, 70 and 80 counts per kg have increased by 30% to 40% from last year hovering in the range of Rs 260 to 310 per kg. With the trawling ban in Kerala, the catch of squid and cuttlefish could come down. Globefish under FAO that provides information on world fish trade says that despite lower output, India was the lead supply source exporting 3,83,000 tonnes of shrimp in 2015. Lower shrimp prices helped producing countries increase exports beyond traditional markets, especially to Vietnam, China and other markets in Asia.

5. GOVERNMENT CIRCULARS AND POLICIES

A) ANTI-DUMPING DUTY IMPOSED ON IMPORT OF CHEMICAL FROM US, CHINA

Anti-dumping duty of USD 0.277- 0.404 per kilogram has been imposed on a compound, used in the pharmaceutical industry, imported from the US and China to protect domestic makers from cheap shipments. Anti-dumping on import of Methyl Acetoacetate has been imposed from the two countries for five years. Methyl Acetoacetate is used in industries like pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and polymers, among others.

B) GOVERNMENT SLAPS 20% EXPORT DUTY ON SUGAR

Government today imposed 20% customs duty on sugar exports to boost domestic supply and check prices which are ruling high at Rs 40/kg. A decision has been notified by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC). The duty has been imposed to restrict exports following sharp rise in global prices. The duty is, however, lower than 25% proposed by the Food Ministry. India, the world's second largest sugar producer after Brazil, has exported 1.6 million tonnes of sugar so far in the 2015-16 marketing year (October-September). Further exports are unlikely to take place with this decision. With imposition of export duty, the exports have become unviable. An increase

of 50% in global sugar prices in last three months due to disruption in supply from Brazil had made exports viable.

C) FSSAI BANS USE OF POTASSIUM BROMATE AS FOOD ADDITIVE

The government banned use of potassium bromate as a food additive following a CSE study that found its presence in bread as causing cancer. FSSAI has banned potassium bromate. A notification has been issued in this regard. As far as potassium iodate is concerned, it has been referred to a scientific panel. These two food additives are banned in many countries and listed as "hazardous" for public health.

D) FSSAI PROPOSAL ON JUICE IN FIZZY DRINKS

The food regulator's proposal to relax norms for carbonated juices, allowing a lower threshold for their juice content, will trigger more launches in the fizzy drinks category. FSSAI said in a draft notification that "in case the quantity of fruit juice is below 10% but not less than 5% (2.5% in case of lime or lemon), the product shall be called carbonated beverage with fruit juice."

6. WORLD NEWSWRAP

A) WORLD'S COSTLIEST SMARTPHONE UNVEILED AT \$14,000

Israeli start-up Sirin Labs has officially unveiled its high-end \$14,000 (over Rs. 9 lakh) Android smartphone that promises chip-to-chip 256-bit encryption similar to what the military uses to protect communications. Dubbed as the 'Rolls Royce of smartphones', the device called Solarin is activated via a physical security switch on the back. Dubbed as the 'Rolls Royce of smartphones', the device called Solarin is activated via a physical security switch on the back. According to Sirin Labs, it wanted to "create the most advanced mobile device that combined the highest privacy settings, operated faster than any other phone, built with the best materials from around the world.

B) GOTTHARD TUNNEL, WORLD'S LONGEST, OPENS IN SWITZERLAND

The world's longest and deepest rail tunnel has officially opened in Switzerland, after almost two decades of construction work. The 57km (35-mile) twin-bore Gotthard base tunnel will provide a high-speed rail link under the Swiss Alps between northern and southern Europe. It stretches for 57 km, making it the longest rail tunnel in the world. In addition, at 2,300 m (7,546 ft) below the surface of the mountain in places, it is also the world's deepest rail tunnel. Gotthard base tunnel will provide a high-speed rail link under the Swiss Alps between northern and southern Europe. It runs from Erstfeld in the central canton of Uri, to Bodio in the southern Ticino canton. The work took 17 years at a cost of more than 12 billion Swiss francs (\$12 billion, 11 billion Euros). According to the Swiss rail service, it also took 43,800 hours of non-stop work by 125 labourers rotating in three shifts to lay the tunnel's slab track.

C) EMIRATI BUSINESSMAN PAYS US\$4.9M TO BE 'NUMBER ONE' MOTORIST

A car registration plate bearing just the number 1 fetched US\$4.9 million at auction in the United Arab Emirates. The winning bidder, Emirati businessman Arif Ahmed al-Zarouni, told: "My ambition is always to be number one." His bid was 18 times the reserve price but is not the highest sum that has been paid for a collector's registration plate in the UAE. In 2008, US\$14.2 million was paid at auction for the number one plate of the richest of the UAE's seven emirates, Abu Dhabi. Zarouni's plate is for Sharjah, the third-richest emirate.

D) SINGAPORE BLOCKING NET ACCESS ON GOVT COMPUTERS

Singapore confirmed it would cut off Internet access for government work stations within a year for security reasons, a surprise move in one of the world's most wired countries. The decision will not disrupt government operations, the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) said after local daily The Straits Times reported that some 100,000 computers would be affected. The IDA said that they have started to separate Internet access from the work stations of a select group of

public service officers, and will do so for the rest of the public service officers progressively over a one-year period. Industry sources said the measure was aimed at preventing cyber attacks and spread of malware that might enter the government email network through Internet-enabled work stations.

E) CHINA IS PLANNING SEA LAB 10,000 FEET UNDERWATER

China is speeding up efforts to design and build a manned deep-sea platform to help it hunt for minerals in the South China Sea, one that may also serve a military purpose in the disputed waters. Such an oceanic "space station" would be located as much as 3,000 meters (9,800 feet) below the surface, according to a. The project was mentioned in China's current five-year economic plan and ranked number two on a list of the top 100 science and technology priorities. Such an oceanic "space station" would be located as much as 3,000 meters (9,800 feet) below the surface. The project was mentioned in China's current five-year economic plan released in March and ranked number two on a list of the top 100 science and technology priorities.

F) CHILE'S EMBATTLED SALMON INDUSTRY INTENSIFIED ANTIBIOTIC USE

The increase of antibiotics in salmon in Chile in 2016 has put salmon producers in the country under the limelight of environmentalists. The government, under legal pressure from environmental groups, also published the amount of antibiotic use per company for the first time ever in its annual report, revealing significant differences between producers operating in the world's No. 2 salmon exporter. Chile's salmon industry, which faces calls to clean up its environmental act and has suffered huge losses in 2016 due to algal blooms. Among large seafood companies, Australis Seafoods reported the most intense use of antibiotics, using 1,062 grams per tonne of fish. Cermaq, owned by Japan's Mitsubishi Corp, reported the lightest use, with 391 grams per tonne. High antibiotic use among Chilean salmon producers was driving some U.S. retailers, including Costco Wholesale Corp, to turn to antibiotic-free Norwegian salmon.

G) BELGIUM OPENS WORLD'S BIGGEST LOCK

Belgium inaugurated the world's biggest lock at the port of Antwerp. The new lock was under construction for almost five years and took up to a week to fill with water. The port's economic activity will rely heavily on the ability of large cargo ships to reach the docks behind the lock. A 34,000 tonne container ship, the Grande Lagos, made its way out of the port through the lock. The new structure is 500 metres long, 68 metres wide and 18 metres deep, allowing container vessels to fit easily. Antwerp is Europe's second busiest port, handling millions of tonnes of cargo annually.

H) WORLD'S 10 BEST RESTAURANTS

Italy's Osteria Francescana was crowned the world's best restaurant of 2016 at an award ceremony in New York, the first Italian establishment to win the annual accolade. Run by chef Massimo Bottura, Osteria Francescana pipped last year's winner Spain's El Celler de Can Roca. **1.**Osteria Francescana, Modena, Italy, **2.**El Celler de Can Roca, Girona, Spain, **3.**Eleven Madison Park, New York, USA, **4.**Central, Lima, Peru, **5.**Noma, Copenhagen, Denmark, **6.**Mirazur, Menton, France, **7.**Mugaritz, San Sebastian, Spain, **8.**Narisawa, Tokyo, Japan **9.**Steirereck, Vienna, Austria, **10.**Asador Etxebarri, Axpe, Spain.

I) CALIFORNIA PIPS FRANCE, IS 6TH LARGEST ECONOMY

California has overtaken France as the world's sixth-largest economy, fuelled by strong growth and the dollar's gains against foreign currencies. The most-populous US state, with a gross domestic product of \$2.5 trillion, has also eclipsed recession-plagued Brazil. California grew by 4.1% in 2015, compared with a 2.4% increase for the US and 1.1% for France. Last year, California created the most jobs of any state, more than the second and third-most-populous states of Florida and Texas combined. Four of the world's 10 largest companies are based in California, including Alphabet and Facebook.

7. INTERESTING FACTS

A) 29% OF SAN FRANCISCO'S AIR POLLUTION COMES FROM CHINA

The country has serious smog and air pollution problems and shares them with the world. China is considered the number one polluting country in the world. China generates about 70% of its electricity with coal-fired power plants, creating large amounts of particulate pollution. Dust storms crossing China pick up these particles and carry them across the Pacific to the U.S.

B) THE OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL ISN'T MADE OF GOLD

The Olympic gold medal consists of around 1% gold. The rest of it roughly comprises 92% silver and 6% copper. The last time solid gold medals were handed out at the Olympics was 1912.

C) COFFEE RANKS SECOND IN GLOBAL DEMAND LIST

Coffee was originally discovered in Ethiopia. Now, 90% of the world's coffee production takes place in developing countries. The top-three producers of coffee are Brazil, Vietnam and Columbia. After crude oil, coffee is the most sought after commodity in the world. Coffee is worth over \$100 billion worldwide. That puts it ahead of commodities like natural gas, gold, Brent oil, sugar and corn. Worldwide people drink over 500 billion cups of coffee every year.

D) TRINIDAD - LAND OF HUMMINGBIRDS.

The earliest settlers of Trinidad called it the Land of Hummingbirds.

E) STRAWBERRY MOON

The summer solstice is the longest day of the year, a day falling around late June when there are approximately 17 hours of light. But 2016 is a special year, because the solstice coincides with the Strawberry Moon, a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. It is a full moon, which occurs in June, named by early Native American tribes. It is a full moon like any other, but marks the beginning of the strawberry season. The two events coincide once every 70 years.

Disclaimer: This information has been collected through secondary research; IICCI is not responsible for any errors in the same.

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