Sub.: Summary (No.-7) to the Cabinet on the significant activities of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for the month of July 2016.

The significant activities / events relating to this Ministry for the month of July 2016 are outlined below:

- Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Information & Broadcasting, chaired the meeting of Consultative Committee of the Ministry on 15th July, 2016 to discuss Publications Division. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of State for I&B was also present in the meeting. During the meeting, members were apprised of the digitization and e-initiatives of the Publications Division including the e-version of 100 volumes of Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi. The Committee while appreciating the initiatives of Publications Division, suggested that efforts should be made to further enhance the visibility of rich and diverse collection of books at DPD.

- Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurated the Iranian Film Festival on 16th July, 2016 at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi. Mr. Gholam Reza Ansari, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran was also present at the inaugural function. The festival was organized as a part of cultural exchange programme between Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) and Iran Cultural House, to mark the 60 years of India-Iran Cultural ties. The festival held from July 17th – 19th, 2016, showcased 14 films of the acclaimed and award winning film makers from Iran.

- Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting addressed all officials of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and its media units at National Media Centre on 29th July, 2016 wherein the expectations from officials such as focus on Results, Transparency, Accountability, Discipline and Enabling work environment were impressed upon.

- Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurated European Union Film Festival on 30th July, 2016 at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi. A delegation of European Union including ambassadors from European Union member states was also present on the occasion. The festival was organized by DFF in collaboration with the delegation of the European Union of India. The festival, from 30th July to 6th August, 2016, featured the screening of 23 films.

- During the month, five new books under the ‘Rashtrapati Bhavan series of books’, published by Publications Division were released at a ceremony in the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 25th July, 2016. The books were released by the Hon'ble Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari and the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri
Narendra Modi, and the first copy of each book was presented to the Hon'ble President Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The Hon'ble President opined these books as an effort to bring Rashtrapati Bhavan closer to the public. The title of these books are "A Work of Beauty: The Architecture and Landscape of Rashtrapati Bhavan", "First Garden of the Republic: Nature in the President’s Estate", "Around India’s First Table: Dining and Entertaining at Rashtrapati Bhavan", "The Arts and Interiors of Rashtrapati Bhavan: Lutyens and Beyond" and "Discover the Magnificent World of Rashtrapati Bhavan".

- A pre-bid conference with prospective bidders was held on 11.07.16 to clarify on their queries in response to Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for 2nd batch of Private FM Phase-III auction. A meeting of Inter-Ministerial Committee was also held on 18.07.16 to finalize the replies to queries of prospective bidders as well as amendment No. 1 proposed for NIA. The replies to the queries as well as amendment has been uploaded on Ministry’s website.

I&B Initiatives on Minimum Government Maximum Governance-

- During July, 2016, Ministry issued permission to 4 Private satellite TV channels (1 TV channel under News and Current Affairs category and 3 TV Channels under Non-News and Current Affairs category), taking the total permitted channels for uplinking from and/or downlinking into India to 886 (399 News and Current Affairs category and 487 Non-News and Current Affairs category).

- Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) issued Eligibility Certificates to about 66 different publications during the month, making them eligible to import Standard and Glazed newsprint on the basis of Actual User Condition.

(Mihir Kumar Singh)

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